THE ERA

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Miss JULIA KENT.
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Miss JULIA KENT.
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Miss JULIA KENT.
Miss JULIA KENT.
Miss JULIA KENT.
Miss JULIA KENT.
Miss JULIA KENT.

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Miss JULIA KENT.
Miss JULIA KENT.
Miss JULIA KENT.
Miss JULIA KENT.
Miss JULIA KENT.

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Miss JULIA KENT.
Miss JULIA KENT.
Miss JULIA KENT.
Miss JULIA KENT.
Miss JULIA KENT.

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Pantomime, "Dick Whittington,"
BROADWAY THEATRE,
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MR. FRED WALTON,
THEATRE ROYAL,
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Disengaged Spring.

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Specially Selected London Company.
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Tour starts March 27.
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Music by Hamish M'Cunn,
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"COUNTRY GIRL"	(N.),	Jan. 9, Coleraine, L'nd'nderry.
"COUNTRY GIRL"	(S.),	Jan. 9, Gainsborough, Mansfield.
"CHINESE HONEYMOON"	(N.),	Jan. 9, Inverness, Elgin.
"CHINESE HONEYMOON"	(S.),	Jan. 9, Oswestry, L'onminst'r, Hereford.
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Proprietor and Manager, T. R., COLCHESTER.
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All Scenery, Costumes, Properties, and Effects, including the Dresses worn by Mr Wilson Barrett.
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Seven Sets of Scenery carried.
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The Revival of the Powerful Romantic Play,
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Adapted by Edward Rose from the celebrated Novel by Stanley Weyman.
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Miss BEATRICE WILSON as RENEE DE COCHEFORET.
This Revival has been entirely successful, and is as complete as possible. Special Scenery carried. Special Music by Gustav Von Holst. Dresses have all been copied from Models of the period. Printing by Three leading Firms. The enormously Successful Comedy,
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Special Production of
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Played over a Thousand Times.
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Monday, Jan. 9, THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.
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Company includes
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Forty People on the Stage.
Manager, J. MILNE TAYLOR.
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Dainty, exceedingly pretty. From the opening scene the magnificence of the stage equipment almost carries the breath away. The acting is superb in the true sense of the word.—Liverpool Daily Post.
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The Most Thrillingly Interesting Play ever Written.
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PANTOMIME.
Required, Feb. 6,
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Refer Resident Manager, J. W. Maloney, Esq.
All previous records beaten here.
For full particulars of cast, &c.,
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Cast includes:—
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Mr GERALD CLARK, Mr EDMUND O'GRADY,
Miss DOROTHY SIDNEY, Miss INA ROZANT,
&c., &c., &c.
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Company Complete. Silence a Polite Negative.

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Vacant March 13
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"MERELY MARY ANN,"
Feb. 20, March 20.

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The Greatest of all Drury-lane Dramas. Vacant Jan. 23 and 30 (?), between T. R., Hull, and London. Also Feb. 6 and 20. Wire for Jan. 23. Printing ready.
The great spectacular effects which are characteristic of Drury-lane plays are found in plenty in "The World," the shipwreck, the raft, the exhibition, and a fancy ball affording ample scope for big sets. The nine tableaux were managed with such care as to ensure freedom from any hitch. Mr Arche has gathered together a company of sound efficiency.—Evening Standard, Dec. 14. ARCHE, GRAND, BLACKPOOL.

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"THE ORCHID"	(N),	Grimsby,	Jan 9.
"THE GIRL FROM KAY'S"	(N),	Brighton,	Jan. 9.
"DUCHESS OF DANTZIC"	(N),	Reading,	Jan. 9.
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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERTILLERY.

THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Messrs Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General and Resident Manager, Mr Geo. W. Ventom.—Mr Wentworth Croke's No. 1 company is here in the drama *The Christian*. Mr Hilliard Vox plays the Hon. John Storm with remarkable dignity; Mr Chas. Hill does well as Parson Quayle; Mr Stanley Radcliffe scores as Father Lamplugh; as also does Mr Chas. E. Dering in the rôle of Archdeacon Wealthy. As Lord Robert Ure Mr Char. B. Bodells soon ingratiates himself into the good graces of the audience; Mr Jackson Wilcox plays the part of Horatio Drake in good style; Mr Oswald Marshall is responsible for a good delineation of Mr Lorimer; Miss Gertrude Homeward gives a pathetic rendering of the much-wronged Polly Love; Miss Bella Moody, Miss Dorothy Clifton, and Miss Molly Hayden as Betty, Letty, and Netty are very charming; Miss Clara Nicholls plays the part of Mrs Callander in good style; and Miss Grace Chalmers renders Glory Quayle excellently, and scores a great success.

ALDERSHOT.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr George E. Williams.—*Alice in Wonderland* is being played here by Mr Trevor Lowe's company. The staging is tastefully carried out and the scenery and effects employed are, from a spectacular point of view, a source of attraction. The company, which is as follow, work hard and their efforts are successful:—Misses Lina Nazeby, Rosie Dane, Florrie Bevan, Winnie Luker, Maude Murray, Milly Cockerell, A. Grace, Messrs Frank Lincoln, Lewis Gilbert, Jas. Hussey, Jas. Worley, Thos. Pauncefort, F. Forbes-Robertson.

ALTRINCHAM.

NEW PAVILION OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs Budd, Howe, and Taylor; Acting-Manager, Mr Arthur Gilman.—The management continues to give considerable satisfaction by providing enjoyable entertainments. The engagement of Calvo, a double-voiced vocalist, has proved quite an attraction; Irene Herbert, a comedienne and vocalist; and Gilbert Serony, a burlesque comedian and comic conjuror, also appear. The other artistes include Joe Phillips and Eddie Howe, comedians; and Fred and Florence Budd, vaudeville artistes. A complimentary benefit was given to Eddie Howe on Friday evening.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr Armstrong Fairbairn.—The pantomime, *Little Bo-Peep*, has been fairly launched here, and is now sailing smoothly.

ASHTON HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr Chas. Revill; Director of Entertainments, Mr F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr L. Campkin.—This week's bill includes Tom M'Inerney, wrestler; Tennyson and Wallis, popular comedians; Henri Bekker, conjuror; the Brothers Ambey, clever speciality artists; Tom Johnstone, actor-vocalist and mimic; Wood and Merrion, American vocal entertainers; Willie Walker, ball puncher; the Three Sisters Adrienne, burlesque artistes, sand dancers, and whistlers. New and amusing pictures continue to make the Bioscope a popular part of the programme.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr Wm. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr W. Leech.—Numerous pleasure-seekers were attracted by the programme for the present week, which includes Ginnett's *Rejected Remounts*; Chard's dogs and collies; Eddie Stidder, trick musical eccentric; the Ettenas, with their globe speciality; the Bell, Pearl, and company, male and female artistes, in their musical vaudeville *A Bit of String*; the Provenie Family, cyclists; H. Tomlinson, character vocalist; Cribb and Cribb, in the burlesque *After the Ball*; Harry Gray, comedian; and Jack Horsley, novelty bag puncher. The Cinématograph pictures are part of the programme.

ATTERCLIFFE.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Resident Manager, Mr Claude Seaton.—*The Belle of Haslemere* is the attraction here this week, the present tour being under the direction of Mr Charles A Chandler, who has got together an excellent company. As the hero, Frank Beresford, Mr Leonard Yorke gives a forcible interpretation. Mr C. A. Chandler as Captain Vere, Mr Montague Turner as John Silkstone, and Mr Fred F. Allen as Joseph Thorndyke render excellent service, and form a trio sufficiently villainous for all melodramatic purposes. Mr Douglas Hamilton is very good as Matthew Brookfield and Mr Charles Cecil a breezy Rueben Armstrong, and with Miss Stafford Smith, a clever Dorothy Tremble, win appreciation for their comedy. Mr Charles Clark is seen to advantage in the small part of Patrick Desmond; Miss Harrietta Polini plays with care and finish as Evelyn Brookfield; and Mary Northcote finds an able exponent in Miss Mary Hardacre. Miss Florence Chandler is a winsome Nora Desmond.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr T. Allan Edwards; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr W. Massey Baker.—Another good list of attractions is provided for the present week, one of the chief items being that presented by Texas Hattie, a clever juvenile, who gives a startling performance on the tight wire, at the same time playing a violin. Blake and Adams have an amusing sketch, *The Man in Possession*; Master Henri proves himself a smart juggler; Gertrude Moore contributes a novel singing and dancing transformation scene; and other contributors are the Venola Brothers, gymnasts; Caselli and James, banjoists; and Charles Russell, comedian and vocalist.

AYR.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr Harry W. Day.—Very appropriate to the New Year festive season is the visit of Mr Fred Karno's comedians in *His Majesty's Guests*, for the musical, panto-farce nature of the production makes it very acceptable. The laughter created by the antics of Sergeant Lightning, Mr R. H. Kitchen, is merry and prolonged. Mr Charles F. Howard and Miss Jessamine Newcombe represent Lord and Lady Easem; Mr W. Smith is successful in the part of Mr Miffin; and Mr James Ross as Selina and Mr C. Leoville as Bunker are exceedingly funny.

BACUP.

NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr Richard Nightingale.—Messrs J. K. Murray and J. M. Dawson's company in the pathetic drama *Driven from Home* is here this week. Mr A. J. Williams wins favour as the old servitor Jabez Mr Cyril Harrison skilfully undertakes the part of Geoffrey Waring, the villain. Mr Sydney Grant gives an excellent and pathetic representation of Willie, an outcast. Mr Jack Dawson as Walter Hatherleigh does full justice to the character. Mr C. Standhope as the kind-hearted lawyer, Marley, achieves distinction. Mr Fred Hadskis as the cold and cruel Anthony Raybrook plays with a finish and intensity that are fully appreciated. Miss Ella Sennett submits a sympathetic rendering of Laura Raybrook, and Miss Gladys Murray appears to advantage in the dual rôles of Barbara Ashdown and Walter Hatherleigh the younger. Mr Algy Spalding as John Anderson and Miss Emile Dawson as Margaret keep the house fully amused. Mr Edwin Turner as a bad sample of a British workman is decidedly good, and the "Nipper" is well represented by Miss Ida Murray.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr George Stone.—Mr Walter Melville's combination in *A Girl's Cross Roads*, under the author's management, is the New Year attraction here this week. Miss Hilda Beverley in the rôle of Barbara Wade displayed great histrionic ability, and the artist was fully entitled to the success she achieved. Mr Charles Franmore's interpretation of John Meddows was excellent; the part of Constance Cornell was charmingly rendered by Miss Grace Richardson; Mr Cecil A. Melton was remarkably good as Jack Livingston, as also were Mr Charles Terry as Dr. Weston, Mr Barry Lewars as Cuthbert Lumley, Mr Fred Ingram as Tobey Turvey, Miss Lila Norden as Tilley Vane, all of whom contributed very considerably to the success of the play.

TIVOLI THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr Wm. Whiting.—The Stavordale Quintet of banjoists and harpists are the star turn here this week. The Bensons, American speciality artists, are a popular turn; Kisbey is successful in his unique speciality, his patter being greatly amusing; a novel turn of rope-spinning and manipulation is given by the Buffaloes; Mayon and Marle in their comedy sketch cause roars of laughter; Mabelle May is a comedienne and dancer of a high order; and Blanche Haddon has a pleasing voice and sings some nice ballads.

BATH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr Lewis A. Long.—*Goody Two Shoes* has entered upon the second week of its short run with every sign of success. Always smart from the first, it now, if possible, plays even closer together, the artistes having settled down to their respective parts. Several new songs, dances, and jokes have been introduced since our last visit. The popular numbers, "Bluebell" and "Could you be true to eyes of blue?" are well sung by Miss Nell Richardson as Crispen; Miss Eva Bevington, the smart Margot, gives the ear-haunting "Sammy" with capital effect; Mr Harry Buss continues to be the life and soul of the production as Dame Durden; and Mr F. G. Thurstans (Godiva) and Mr Will Gane (Peeping Tom) also add their share to the fun-making. Miss Jessica Deane remains a charming heroine, and her cultured vocalism is still a delightful feature. Miss May Hart, the sprightly Chevalier, has become a prime favourite, her rendering of a "Shoeblack" song proving quite successful.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr W. Trussell.—The programme offered this week would be hard to improve upon. We have the Magic Kettle, and the marvellous experiments with liquid air are watched with keen and close attention. After a lengthy absence the Wartenburg Brothers return to perform their wonderful foot feats, and meet with a capital reception. The banjo playing of the Clarkes surpasses anything of the kind that has been heard locally; Lauri Wylie and his mimicking mannikins are highly amusing; Marco continues to improve rapidly; Stanert and Yondi present a versified comedy and musical act that wins much applause; Martine and Son, American song illustrators, readily gain the goodwill of the house; and Jennie Reeve, comedienne, opens the ball in an acceptable manner.

BELFAST.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr James M'Cann.—*Puss in Boots* is running merrily here, and it is readily admitted that no more brilliant spectacle has ever feasted the eye than the "Procession of Silver Warriors." Cinquevalli's fame as a juggler is enough to make the fortune of any pantomime; and the other principals are fast becoming immense favourites. In addition to other capital songs, Miss Minnie Jeffs sings "Angeline," with its catchy chorus, and dances admirably, being doubly encored nightly. Mr Martin Adeson, the principal comedian, is even funnier than ever, his item on the "Soldier's Life" being especially mirth-provoking. Mr Adeson has every reason to feel proud of his success. Miss Florence Esdaile's vocalism enraptures all; and Mdlle. Stella sings "Navaho" and dances capitally. Mr Fred Lyne's Dame is worthy of all commendation. It is wonderfully clever. The Ceolian Glee Singers are deservedly encored for their sweet and cultured vocalism, and the Superbas' saltatorial display is remarkable. We congratulate Mr Warden on the undoubted success of this remarkably attractive pantomime.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr John P. Beardmore.—The celebrated Dayton Troupe head the bill here, and their startling acrobatic feats have been enthusiastically received. Mr and Mrs Neil Litchfield stage a very humorous sketch, *Down at Brook Farm*, which is well acted and has had a capital reception. A novelty is supplied by Mons. Slippere, the blind pianist, who is assisted by Miss Ramsay, his performance being extremely clever. Another feature of the programme is the entertainment entitled *Jimson's Pets at Home; or, the Burglar's Surprise*, the feats of some well-trained dogs being surprisingly clever. Sinclair and Parr, actor-vocalists, have been loudly and deservedly applauded for their latest success, *An Appointment*, and Mr George Penn moves all to uncontrollable mirth by his up-to-date patter. As a musician he is excellent. Messrs Tate and Tate, acrobats, and Mr Bert Holmes, vocalist, also appear.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Brock.—Mr Tom Edmonds, an exceedingly clever ventriloquist, heads the bill here, and creates roars of laughter by his most acceptable act. Hugh Stanton and company, including the charming actress Miss Jessie Burgwitz, return with their attractive satire *For Reform*, and a capital reception has been extended to Griff, whose witty and up-to-date patter, combined with a most amusing juggling act, has kept the audience delighted beyond measure. The Sarnthalers, a splendid troupe of national singers and dancers, gain hearty approval by their clever performance, and Vesper, facial mimic, commands success by his unique and realistic impersonations. Also appearing are Mr Jimmy Shields, one-legged comedian; Miss Fanny Robins, burlesque actress; Mr Tom O'Neill, comedian; and Miss Florrie Cooper, juvenile actress, who made a big hit on Monday.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr Henry T. Downs.—The Four M.P.'s (the Musical Palmers) head the list and delight all with their musical performance, which is certainly first class. Mdlle. Haydee provides a very smart performance with a mannikin theatre, and well deserves the huge reception accorded. The latest and most remarkable animated picture, "Whirling the World," has been exhibited here this week by Weisker Bros. with great success. Miss Daisy Almer is a talented dancer, and the comedy acrobatism of Adrim and Oram is well calculated to please any audience. Prof. Ted Heaton, assisted by Sacha, furnishes a splendid exhibition of trick and fancy swimming in a glass tank; and Hurman, an expert juggler and hoop manipulator, astounds the audience with his marvellous feats. Also appearing are Mr Frank Whiteley, patter vocalist, who was most successful on Monday; Louis Murray, character vocalist; and Miss Alice Oakley, balladist.

IMPERIAL HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS.—Proprietors, Messrs Carter and Bosco; General Manager, Mr Irving Bosco; Assistant-Manager, Mr Geo. Dobler.—Messrs Carter, Bosco, and Dobler have achieved success here with *Siberia*. The proprietors have reverted to the one-house-a-night system, and the change has been very satisfactory. Frequent matinées were given last week, and were all largely patronised. A capital variety company has been secured, including M'Cann's wonderful performing Irish terriers, whose feats are certainly remarkable, and their performance has been loudly cheered nightly. Les Bois, comedy jugglers, are certainly very smart, and Mr C. Weimer, Lord Roberts's trumpeter, submits a unique wire act, which is worthy of much commendation. Others on the programme are the talented Sloan Family of equestrians; Princess Annie, in her daring jockey act; and Burgess, the exceedingly droll clown.

BILSTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. Batteraby.—A couple of pantomimes in successive weeks by Gus Levaine's companies are something to go on with for holiday-makers. *The Babes in the Wood* finished on Dec. 31, and was succeeded on Monday by *Sinbad the Sailor*. The story of the last-named is presented in ten scenes of the usual description, Miss Kitty Bishop proving a capital principal boy for the title-rôle. She sings and dances well, and finds a suitable companion in Miss Marie Harding, a charming Princess. Another well-matched couple are Misses Elsie Ide and Flo Richardson as Prince Izon and Fatima, who contribute much that is vocal and saltatory. Miss Letty Young is well chosen for the Fairy Queen. In Messrs Ernie Clyde, Charlie Howard, Edward Haswell, Charles Arnett, and Tom Ashby we have a rare quintet of funny men, who keep the house in continual laughter. In addition to the lady dancers, the specialities include the clever Zola Troupe of acrobats; Alberts, on the wire; and the Bros. Loyal, on the high perch.

BIRKENHEAD.

THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee, Mr W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Pell.—Mr Howard Hinton's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, is in the second week of a successful season. Miss Kitty Phelps, the Dick of the production, continues to increase the number of her admirers, and Mr Harry Renior is well established in favour as Idle Jack. A brisk harlequinade is a leading feature.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Pell.—Mr Gus C. Livesey's capable combination is presenting *The Crimson Club* with excellent results. A telling impersonation of Richard Fenton by Mr Livesey is popular. Mr Lionel Thompson is a capital representative of Sir Philip Garside, Bart.; and Mr Percy Shaw is effective as Reginald Adolphus Garside. Miss Lily Day as Sophonisba Garside is excellent; Julia Marsden is well played by Miss Bertha Cousins; and remaining parts are in good hands. The piece is carefully staged.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr D. J. Clarke.—A company of Mr Fred Karno's comedians, headed by Mr Harry Roxbury, are continuing a highly-successful engagement in *His Majesty's Guests*. The Brothers Dixon, eccentric comedians of merit, give an interesting musical turn; the Rushforths, in their illustrated songs, are popular; and Mr Julian Mack is a comedian of ability. King Leo, a smart ventriloquist; Mr Harry Cotton, character comedian; Mr Fred Elton, in a similar line of business; and a good display of the Bioscope are also included in the programme. Mr Ernest Denney is musical director.

BIRMINGHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr Philip Rodway.—*The Babes in the Wood* continues to elicit the warmest admiration for its manifold and manifest beauties as a production, while the full strength of the cast is now exploited to the extent of its capacity. Mr Bert Gilbert leads as the Baron, throwing all his energies into his part, and Mr Fred Walton as the Toy Soldier, albeit an extraneous rôle, is the delight and admiration of young and old. Miss Lily Iris succeeds in her sprightly assumption of Robin Hood, and Miss Gladys Ward in her dulcet singing and graceful acting as Mariam; the Misses Phyllis Dare and Maidie Andrews are the most successful of Babes; Miss Mabel Lait as Will Scarlett and Miss Monica Sayer as Dorothy, with Mr J. F. M'Ardle as that weak, but indubitably droll woman Flossie, score well.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr Henry Johnston.—*The Forty Thieves*—save that for one or two performances the popular and versatile manager, Mr J. F. Graham, has impersonated Mr Wilkie Bard's rôle of Ali Baba—pursues the course indicated in our last week's issue. This course promises a long run, and Mr Bard, restored to his part and in excellent form, is aided by a cast with the heart and the ability to please all dispositions. Mr George Le Clerq as the little fellow of infinite jest has a most successful foil in Big Ben Brown. Mr John Brabourne strikes a capital vein of humour as Cogia; Mr Ainslie Burton is comic and dramatic as Cassim; and Mr Phil Smith is successful among the comic element as Hassarac.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr V. Turner.—The Turner opera company is meeting with deep appreciation and good patronage on its present visit. On Monday *Faust* occupied the bill, when Mr J. W. Turner in the title-rôle was accorded a veritable ovation. Miss Alice Boaden in the rôle of Margaret displayed rich vocal charm and sympathy; Mr Sydney Clifford was powerful as Mephistopheles; Mr Tom Griffiths did good service as Valentine; and Miss Jessie Dennis as Siebel once more gained enthusiastic plaudits. *The Lily of Killarney* and *Hansel and Gretel* are also in the repertory.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Lester Collingwood.—*Dick Whittington* is one of those productions which improve on acquaintance. Miss Florence Burns has stepped into popularity with her mellifluous singing and prepossessing bearing as Dick; Miss Nelly Valentine as the dainty Alice scores with her popularly rendered songs, including "The Airship," with its effective "Fiscal" verse; Miss Hilda Corelli as Algernon De Mashe is perfect in every movement, singing "My Honey Girl" and dancing her way into favour with a celerity and skill wonderful to behold; and Miss Gertie Douglas acts as the Captain in a vivacious manner and sings capitally.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Walter Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Ugliest Woman on Earth* is fulfilling a most successful engagement here.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr Ben Sydney.—*The Blind Foundling* appeals most successfully here. Miss Amy Dalby as Fairy, the Foundling, presents a pathetic figure which moves all hearts. Miss Florence M. Daly expresses all the charming attributes of the heroine, Viola; and Miss Florene Lloyd acts well as the "other woman," Isabel. Mr Lawrence Brien stands out in bold relief as Parson Ray; Mr Hubert Humphreys creates much exasperation by the clever way in which he enacts the rôle of Mark Redman. Mr Chas. H. Phelps is successful as Gerald Dalton, and the comedy parts, Dick and his wife, are excellently rendered by Mr Arthur Ferris and Miss Ethel Ashbury.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr Charles Barnard; Manager, Mr Dan Barnard.—*Florodora* receives excellent justice here, the performers being highly proficient in their parts and the public enthusiastic in its praise. Mr Albert Bruno as Tweedlepunch displays a rich store of fun; Mr T. Ellis-Buxton as the "proprietor" plays an invaluable part in the success; Mr Cyril Dane as Frank Abercoed appears to advantage both as actor and singer; and Mr Derick Knowles fills the part of Captain Arthur Donegal also to advantage. Miss Rene Steadman displays the effervescent spirit of Lady Holyrood; Miss Daisy Byford is successful as Angela; and Miss May Desmond is vocally and dramatically strong as Dolores.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr A. W. Matcham.—Winona Winter and W. H. Banks are presenting their comedy playlet, *When I Help Ma Do the Washing*, to packed houses. Staley's transformation company remains another week; the popular comedian, Charles Coborn is well receive; and Charles Stevens, Horace White, and Johnny Gilmore evoke roars of laughter. Some remarkable contortionism is displayed by Nello. Carl and Mary Ohm, with their trained animals; the Three Donalds, Continental athletes; and Lillian Lowe add to the attractions of the bill.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr Albert Bushell.—An exceptionally good programme is submitted here this week. Cruickshank is making a big impression by his general eccentricities. The M'Connell Trio, in their operetta, *A Musical Mistake*, are far above the average, and are loudly applauded. The Three Sisters Finney, in their clever aquatic entertainment, are interesting; Haidee Lee and Wallace Kingston have a good sketch; and Haig and Novel, in their speciality; Edie Gray and her white coons; Grace Merton, vocalist; Eily Adair, comedienne; the Terras Brothers, acrobats; and Harry Clifford, comedian, complete the bill.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—An acrobatic display of a most daring nature is performed here by the Yulians, who prove themselves experts. Mr and Mrs 'Gene Hughes, in their American sketch *A Matrimonial Substitute*, are applauded for their smart acting and funny business. Leo Dryden displays all his old attributes to popularity, his songs being repeatedly encored. Other popular items are Mdlle. Marvelle's cockatoos and macaws; Nellie and Nora, society musical entertainers; Henri Abdy's canine hippodrome; George Collins; Stanley and Vandyke, comedians; E. F. Reynard, ventriloquist; and a series of up-to-date animated pictures.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr Edward Foster.—The principal item this week is the Japanese Guards, whose exhibition of lightning cavalry drill is very smart. Most expert acrobats are the Wolpert Trio; the Vasilescu Troupe perform some difficult feats on the horizontal bar; Preston and Balmaine render their illustrated songs and duets with effect; Harry Lawson, Harry Morris, and Little Ulpts are clever comedians; and Flo Melville and the Loro Quartet add to the success.

CURZON HALL.—The Harry H. Hamilton's Excursions continue to draw packed houses; the Watson Trio have an excellent sketch, *The Tramp in Trouble*; and Urma, the jester, and Hoppitt, Tony, and Terry are amusing.

BLACKBURN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr Harry Yorke; Business-Manager, Mr Reginald Yorke.—*The Silver King*, under the direction of Messrs Polini and Melford, is paying another visit this week. The piece is well played, and has evidently lost none of its drawing powers. Willrid Denver is portrayed by Mr Herbert Ford, and Nellie Denver by Miss Lillian Bethell. Mr Edward J. George repeats his familiar impersonation of Jaikes; Mr Charles Levey appears as the Spider; Mr James L. Power is amusing as Corket; Miss Phyllis Dailley as Olive Skinner and Mr Arthur Rooke as Coombe are both good.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr E. H. Page.—*As Midnight Chimes* is the attraction this week. The company is under the direction of Mr Edward Marris, and includes Mr Melville Bickford as Luke Dezzard, Mr Frank E. Petley as Dave Stannard, and Mr James Salter as Tat Spavvin.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr F. Macnaghten; Genral Manager, Mr Will Murray; Acting-Manager, Mr Harry Drury.—The pantomime of *Aladdin* is still running here with great success. Messrs Bishop and Vale have been added to the other attractions.

EXCHANGE HALL.—Lessee, Mr William Kenyon.—For the first time in twenty years we have received a visit from the Royal Carl Rosa opera company. On Monday night was given a fine performance of *Lohengrin* before a crowded and delighted audience. Mr E. C. Hedmondt appeared as Lohengrin, and Miss Lizzie Burgess as Elsa. *Faust* was presented on Tuesday, and on the following evenings *Rigoletto*, *Maritana*, *Tannhäuser*, and *Carmen* were staged. A fine band and full chorus lend brilliancy to the performances. Mr Kenyon deserves every praise for his plucky enterprise.

BLACKPOOL.

HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General Manager, Mr J. R. Huddlestone.—*Dick Whittington and his Cat* is still the attraction here, and the various artistes referred to last week continue to give pleasure and delight. The pantomime is produced under the direction of Mr John Tiller.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr T. Sergenson.—Miss Daisy De Roy's *Sinbad the Sailor* company is still here.

PALACE.—General Manager, Mr G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr Fred Waller.—The company here includes Beatty and Blanche, clever duettists and dancers, and Angeline supplies some remarkable juggling feats. Clark and Gold are expert banjo players; Cheevers and Kennedy do exceedingly well as quick-change artists; the Jackley Wonders supply an acrobatic turn; Marzello and Millay score a huge success with their grotesque business on the cross bar; the Motramos contribute a musical act; and Fatmah Diard is a pleasing vocalist.

BLYTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr George E. Good.—*The Grip of Iron*, now played by Messrs E. H. Knight and George Denham's company, continues to be a popular favourite here. Mr Fred Powell retains his old place as Jagon, alias Simmonet, a part he has made his own, and as of yore holds his audience spellbound by his wonderful delineations of the central figure of the drama. Mr Denham gives a manly rendering of Paul Blanchard, whilst the Cora of Miss Georgie De Lara affords satisfaction, and to Miss Helena Walbran praise is due for a fine performance of Sophie Blanchard. As the detectives, Messrs Harry Agar Lyons and John Brittain are prominent.

BOLTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Hermann.—For the new year's holidays Mr W. H. Kirby's company is appearing here in the musical comedy *The New Mephisto*. The chief characters are in the hands of Mr Albert Weston (Mephisto), Mr W. H. Vernon, Mr Clarence Lindon, Mr Herbert St. John, Mr Arthur Randal, and Miss Nellie Burdette, Miss Marion Armitage, and Miss Dorothy Cecil. More than a word of praise is due to Miss Marion Armitage for her clever and original impersonation of Becky Pilgrim. The Thalian glee singers are with the company.

GRAND THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr Harry Kenyon.—There is a good holiday programme submitted here, comprising the Mackweys, who appear in an original wire act, and are well received; Dora Clifford, comedienne and dancer; Arthur Page, comedian; Les Bollingers, "the Paris rag-pickers," who go through a pleasing performance; Mdlle. Victoria Dagmar, on the trapeze, and clown; Emilie Alvena, vocalist; T. W. Barrett, "the nobleman's son," eccentric vocalist; Carr and Rose, in a vocal comedy act; Captain Alphonso Gerard, with his highly trained African lions and tiger dogs; Edie and Harry Finden, variety artists; and the Imperial Bioscope.

OHMY'S CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—This popular place has had a busy time during the holidays, the items on a good programme comprising Bellong and Brennabor, cyclists and gymnasts; Mons. Rentreag, in a juggling and globe performance; Claude Ohmy, wire-walker; the Two Weltons, triple bar performers; Mons. Zasma, gymnast; Mr Swallow, Miss Daniels and Claude Ohmy, equestrians; and *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*.

BOSCOMBE.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr F. Mouillot; Manager, Mr Rowland Stewart.—Mr Mouillot's company is paying a return visit here this week with *A Message from Mars*. Though there have been several changes in the cast since the last visit, Mr Mouillot has been fortunate in retaining for the two principal rôles such able players as Mr Rawson Buckley and Mr Wm. H. Brougham. Mr Rawson Buckley as Horace Parker is particularly happy in skilfully interpreting the vein of humour which does so much for the success of the piece, while Mr Brougham lends to the rôle of the Messenger a fitting dignity and impressiveness. Mr Bruce Lindley gives an eminently interesting study of the Tramp, and plays the part in a manner which reflects the greatest credit on his ability. Mr Frank G. Duun impersonates Arthur Dicey in a satisfactory manner, and Mr W. Maxwell is effective as the Policeman. Miss Flora Hastings is wisely retained for the rôle of Miss Parker, and Miss Joan Meredith is seen to advantage as Mrs Clarence, while Miss May Saker combines ability with charm of manner in her rendering of Minnie Templer.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr Mouillot; Manager, Mr Rowland Stewart.—Mr Mouillot's *Cinderilla*, written by F. Leslie Moreton, and composed by Frank Barrett, opened here on Boxing night, since when it has been playing to good business. Mr Mouillot, through his able and courteous manager, Mr Rowland Stewart, has provided his patrons with an entertainment full of fun and novelty, without a suspicion of vulgarity to offend even the most refined taste. We cannot remember a more delightfully droll impersonation than the Baron Hardup of Mr Lionel Braham, who kept his audience in fits of laughter from start to finish, and was a source of great strength to the production. Quite a hit was made by Miss Florrie Saunders as Cinderella, a part which gave her admirable opportunities for the display of a charming figure and voice. As Baroness Fly-by-Night Mr F. P. Wilford was excellent, and as the two ugly sisters Mr Fred Pollard and Mr Edward Pollard extracted plenty of fun, much to the amusement of the younger generation. Miss Mary Thorne looked and held herself well as Prince Paragon, and scored successes in both her songs. She was excellently supported by Miss Lena Willard as her more or less confidential valet, Dandini. Mr Edward Carlton as Buttons, a page from a fairy book, was most humorous, and we should have liked to have seen more of him. There was a very clever turn by the Neros, who as contortionists gave quite an unique display, both being clever comedians as well. As Cinderella's Godmother Miss Violet Kenyon was good, and as the Footman Mr Bay Russell made the most of his part. The admirable grouping and singing of the chorus helped materially to make up a very strong show. To J. B. La Fane as stage-manager great praise is due for the admirable manner in which he, in conjunction with Mr Rowland Stewart, has been responsible for the production of one of the best pantomimes seen in Bournemouth for many years.

BRADFORD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr Jno. Hart; General Manager, Mr J. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr F. Pemberton.—*Cinders* is now running smoothly, and it bids fair to rank as one of the best of Mr Hart's successful efforts. Mr J. W. Rowley is quite at home in his part of the Yorkshire Baron; Mr J. E. Nightingale is diverting as his wife; and charming Katie May wins all hearts in the title-rôle. As the two Ugly Sisters Miss Marie Daltra and Miss Irene Verona are much in evidence. Mr Frank Calvert works hard as Chump, and so does Mr Fred Fowler as Dandini. As the Prince Miss Leonora Grieve is very smart and attractive. Messrs Harry Grell and Fred Grey are a source of great amusement as the nimble Flunkeys. Carlton's "spoofing" elicits very hearty laughter, and the lovely scenery and electric effects elicit great applause.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr N. Hepworth.—There is a marked improvement in the pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe*, which is running merrily, and the company works with praiseworthy energy. Miss Adele Roze is bright and animated in the title-rôle; and very charming is Miss Lily Black as the heroine Polly Perkins. Mr H. A. Gribben as Will Atkins, Mr Tom Fancourt as Dame Crusoe, Mr Ernest Stevens as Friday, and Messrs Elliott and Conroy as Drymasth and Sackless respectively keep the fun going.

EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Resident Manager, Mr J. J. Kelly.—Mr Peter Eland's merry pantomime *Red Riding Hood* has proved a source of delight to matinée audiences, and the evening programme provides plenty of enjoyment. Hagedorn's wonderful Fairy Grotto is very beautiful, and a perfect blaze of light and colour. The Two Butterflies are a clever pair of juvenile gymnasts. Geoffrey and Benson are most entertaining in their sketch *Spoofed*; and Barney Vox gives an amusing ventriloquial entertainment. In a clever acrobatic performance Keno, Welsh, and Montrose do some novel feats. Prince Kokin, the Japanese juggler, is wonderfully clever; Frazer and Mac's musical comedy is diverting; the Four Burnellys give a clever performance on stilts; Harry Bent, comedian and mimic, contributes an acceptable turn; and Florrie Gallimore, comedienne, renews her acquaintance with her admirers here with her usual success.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr J. W. Berry.—"Dida" is the novel sensation here this week, a performance that is clever and perplexing in the extreme; Percy Hannan has an excellent voice; Gintaro, Japanese juggler, is expert; *A Daughter of Pleasure* is a dramatic sketch well performed by Zerlina Harrington and G. Grahame; the Rozells are clever and funny in a bar act; the Marconis give some wonderful experiments in wireless telegraphy; Alf Levarni's wire act is smart; a good comedy sketch, *Saucy Maud*, is submitted by Mr and Mrs Clifford Bronte; and Astley's American Circus introduces some cleverly trained animals.

BRIGHOUSE.

ALBERT THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr T. Morton Powell; Business-Manager, Mr M. Manley.—Miss Mary Austin and company have had a hearty welcome here this week in *The Cotton Spinner*. Mr John S. Haydon is excellent in the title-rôle. His imitation of the Lancashire dialect is perfect. He is supported by Messrs E. Vivian Edmonds, Edwin F. Fysher, Ernest C. Edwards, Frank Eaglesfield; and Misses Mary Austin, May Grimshaw, and Bella Power. A special attraction in the evening's entertainment is the Bioscope, which is shown between each act.

BRIGHTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr George Dance's company entered upon the second and closing week of their engagement here last Monday, and, repeating their admirable performance of *Veronique*, have attracted crowded and delighted audiences. The charming singing and acting of Miss Maud Boyd as Agatha, Miss Ruth Lincoln as Veronique, and Mr Scott Russell as Florestan; and also the humorous portrayals by Mr Leslie Holland as Mons. Coquenard, Mr Ivan Berlyn as Loustot, and Mr Tom Shelford as Seraphin have been warmly appreciated. The duties of conductor have been ably carried out by Mr Victor Champion.

AQUARIUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. Bernhardt; Acting-Manager, Mr H. De Groot.—The fairy play, *The Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe and the Spelling Bee* is doing good business here. Little Miss Decima Brooke as Beatrix, Mr Arthur St. George as Mistress Shoe (the old woman) and Mr J. G. Forde as Sir Balfy Goff are great favourites; and the special engagement of Mr Arthur

Hill, who gives ventriloquial and living Lilliputian sketches, proves very popular.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr W. F. Crowe.—The pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, is attracting crowded and enthusiastic audiences, and its complete success is well deserved, for it is not only bright and humorous, but refined and free from vulgarity. Every praise must be awarded to Miss Blanche Vincent (Prince Peerless), Miss Madge Campbell (Miss Muffit), Miss Rosie Campbell (Red Riding Hood), Miss Irene Rose (Fairy Sunshine), and to the fun-makers—Mr Dave O'Toole (Dame Trott), the Tally-Ho Trio (W. Doust, Eric Farr, and E. Chester), and Messrs Sandford and Lyons (Johnny Stout and Jimmy Green).

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr J. L. Graydon; General Manager, Mr Ernest Lepard.—The following are here this week:—John Grun Marx, the modern Hercules; Paul Martinetti's American pantomime company, in *Robert Macaire;* Unthan, the armless wonder; Post Mason, in his song-scena *Son of the Desert am I;* Minnie D'Aubyn, burlesque artiste; Esmond and Evelyn, in the comedy sketch *Her Ladyship;* Fred Terry, comedian; Boyd and Gilfain, in *Mixed Drinks;* Frank Maura, "the Mexican wonder;" Tiny Arnold, "the queen of all midgets;" and the Alhambra pictures.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—The following are here this week:—Alexander, trick cyclist; Lily Flexmore, comedienne and legmania dancer; Ed. and Nettie Masse, comedy jugglers, in "Frolics in a Dining-room;" the Bennecelli Troupe, gymnasts; Nellie Wallace, eccentric comedy artiste; Lew Wells, in a novel musical comedy act; Addie Dorina, in her latest success, *How She Did It;* Browning and Wally, in their acrobatic and strong teeth act; T. Nelson Downs, "King of Koins"; the Falcons, in a new comedy act, humorously expounded; and animated pictures.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr A. D. Norman.—*Bluebell in Fairyland* is drawing crowded and delighted audiences here. Miss Rosalie Jacobi as Bluebell, and Mr Walter Cranch as Dickie and the Sleepy King achieve conspicuous successes; and they are ably supported by the remaining members of the company. The fascinating extravaganza seems destined to have a long and prosperous career.

NEW PALACE PIER THEATRE.—Under the personal direction of Mr Drew Mackintosh.—Mr Henry Eglington's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, is enjoying well-deserved popularity here. Mr Henry Eglington as Dame Tabitha Durden is a host in himself; he is humorous but acts with artistic restraint. Miss Florence Brandon sings charmingly as Maid Marian, and Mdlle. Ella Rose as the Fairy Glowworm displays artistic vocalisation. Genuine fun is provided by Mr Harry A'Ban and Mr Angie A'Ban as Dusty Rhodes and Casual Warde respectively. The specialities by the Three Geronds, lady vocalists and dancers, merit praise.

COLISEUM.—Licensee and Director of Entertainments, Mr Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr C. Smith-Wilkes.—The following are here this week:—Fannie Leslie, burlesque actress; La Paloma, vocalist and operatic dancer; Annie Albon, comedienne; the Three Cliffords, lady mandolinists and vocalists; Lavater's Canine Kilties Band; Harry Brett, comedian; Fred W. Newham and company in their repetition of a good old English harlequinade; and the Coliseum Pictures.

BRISTOL.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr James Macready Chute.—*The Sleeping Beauty* is attracting large houses at each performance, and has done so since the opening night. The pantomime plays very smoothly under the experienced stage-management of Mr Henry Turner, and all the leading members of the capable company are highly effective in their respective parts. Miss Lil Hawthorne presents an excellent portrayal of Prince Florizel. She has several good songs, including "Tessie" and "Radium," both of which are popular. Miss Zena Dare is in every way pleasing as Beauty. She dances gracefully and scores with her songs "The Owl and the Moon" and "Karama;" and Miss Maud Darling is smart and vivacious as Trixie, and both sings and dances well. The comedians, Messrs Lionel Victor, W. H. Rawlins, George Miller, and Albert Le Fre are all capital in their respective parts; in fact, the whole company do full justice to their various characters. The scenic effects are again quite up to Mr Chute's high standard; perhaps the final scene, "The Butterflies' Ball," an elaborate full set with most tasteful colouring, is the most exquisite display ever attempted here. The costumes worn in the grand procession of butterflies are charming, the colours blending admirably, and at the close a giant moth descends from the flies, its wings and body being artistically illuminated with coloured electric light. From all appearances a very prosperous run may be anticipated for *The Sleeping Beauty*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Ernest Carpenter.—*Robinson Crusoe* appears to suit the popular taste, judging from the large attendance each evening. The pantomime plays closely, and concludes in good time. It is certainly a pretty and amusing production, nicely staged, and well played by a very competent company. In the way of scenery Mr Carpenter has been very liberal this year. The final set, The Sultan's Palace, is a fine example of Moorish architecture, the decorated pillars receding to a raised terrace, beyond which is seen an Oriental garden. Miss Ethel Campbell is highly popular in the title-rôle; she plays the part excellently, and sings pleasingly. Miss Margery Moore is a capital exponent of Polly Perkins; she is bright and vivacious, and can both sing and dance in good style. The Sisters Warner are well placed as Billie Taylor and Nancy Lee, and their specialities of song and dance are much appreciated. Miss Florence Melville acts well and "looks" the part of Captain Mayne Brace; and Miss Minnie Love is refined and pleasing as the Princess Carina, she also having some pretty song and dance specialities. The comedians, Messrs Rob King, Walter Kooney, Harry Karr, Edgar Budder, Tom Risto, and Will Risto are all amusing; and Mr Ernest Laws displays dignity as the Sultan and sings well. The pantomime was produced by Mr Ernest Carpenter, the libretto being also by him and Mrs Ernest Carpenter.

PALACE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs Livermore Bros.; Resident-Manager, Mr Horace Livermore; Secretary, Mr F. J. V. Welchman.—An equestrian sketch, *The King's Highway*, heads the programme, the company being under the direction of Mr Frank Gerald. The sketch is founded on "Rookwood," and a clever mare is introduced. The Ragamuffins do a musical turn of quartets, duets, &c., with success; the Jumas Ostoroons, miniature Christie Minstrels, present a pleasing entertainment, the interlocutor being Miss Amy Tilley, a lady a few years ago very popular here both in pantomime and on the music hall stage; Peter Kelly amuses as a character comedian; the Jalvans do some good Oriental juggling, &c.; Alf Chester, comedian, does a good turn; Russell and Roper amuse as vocal speciality artists; Ellis and Watts entertain with song, patter, and dance; Clyo and Rochelle have a good speciality; Miss Amy Elvira, comedienne, both interests and pleases; and some good Animated Pictures (Vernon's) conclude the entertainment.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—Miss Lizzie B. Raymond heads the programme with a pleasing turn of serio-comic and coon songs, obtaining much appreciation. Charles Baron's burlesque menagerie causes a lot of fun, his ferocious-looking lions, &c., being but dogs capitally made-up and excellently trained. The Carina Sisters present a pleasing and refined instrumental turn far above the average; the Brothers Ashley have a good sketch, *Next, Please*, in which boxing is introduced; Charles R. Whittle, comedian, is successful with some good songs; the Sandor Trio are expert gymnasts; the Schutzenliesel's, a quartet of lady singers and dancers, present a pleasing turn; Alphonso Silvano does many clever equilibristic feats; and Reddick Anderson is successful with some good songs. The entertainment concludes with some good animated pictures.

COLSTON HALL.—Mr Charles W. Poole's Myriorama is attracting a large attendance. There is a good band under the direction of Lieut. G. Howard, and a strong variety company.

BROMLEY.

LYRIC THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Arthur Carlton; Resident Manager, Mr F. B. Woolstenhulme.—Mr Carlton who has taken over the lease of the Grand Hall from Mr William Morton, reopened the hall as the Lyric Theatre on the 29th ult., with Mr Ben Greet's company in *La Poupée*, and the popular comic opera proved a great attraction. Mr Algernon Lee as Launcelot made a capital unsophisted novice; Mr Joseph A. Brull sang and acted well as Father Maxime; as Hilarius Mr Bert Danson was very amusing and original; Mr Harry Bishop as Loremois and Mr Stanley White as Baron Chanterelle were both capital representations. Miss Cissie Wade in the part of Alesia was a charming doll, her singing and acting being much admired. Miss Alice M'Farlane was a dignified Madame Hilarius; and Miss Eva Ellis was quite a pert Henri. The theatre has been entirely redecorated and fitted with electric light by Mr Carlton, and possesses a capital orchestra under the direction of Mr H. H. Shaw.

BROUGHTON.

VICTORIA LTD.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr James W. Haworth; Manager and Secretary, Mr James M. Hardie, jun.—The sensational drama, *When Woman Hates*, had a good reception on Monday. Miss Nettie Ware as Dora Daintry and Mr Oscar Adye as Godfrey Lawson gave an excellent performance. Mr John B. Shinton was capital as Lieut. Fred Rokeby, Miss Louise Brandon was successful as Edith Rokeby, while Miss Jennie Hughes as Marie Rokeby and Little Ivy Herrigan as Nellie Rokeby did well. General Sir Henry Rokeby, Bart., and Colonel Hiram B. Vancutson were in the safe hands respectively of Mr Wm. Yates and Mr Maurice Drew. A large amount of comedy runs through the play, and Mr Will Percy as Constable Patrick O'Brien, Miss Ethel Tinsley as Miss Sally Potts, Mr Murray Yorke as Alphonse Picolot, and Mrs Edgar Colona as Mrs Sally Potts kept the house in excellent humour. As Bill Smasher Mr Eric Campbell was very droll.

BURNLEY.

GAIETY.—Proprietress, Mrs Culeen; Manager, Mr Jas. E. Culeen.—On Monday a large audience welcomed the production of *The Sledge Hammer*, as performed by Messrs Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company. Mr Alfred Northway submits a thoroughly successful depiction of Everard Derrick; a capital portrayal of Jacob Derrick comes from Mr W. V. Garrod; Mr H. Barrington plays with vigour as Simon Derrick; Mr Chas. Halling renders good service as Tom Walker; Mr Frank Dallas is a diverting Sammy Shaw; Miss Martha Kingston gives a charming impersonation of Rose Maywell; and Mr Lawrence Conrad shows exceptional ability as John Merlo.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr W. C. Haines.—A capital programme has been provided here this week. The Apollo Prize Quartet obtain an enthusiastic reception. Miss Lue Laid is a pleasing turn; the Bros. Zampah give a good performance; Vernando, ventriloquist, is greatly appreciated; Mysto, the handcuff king, performs some difficult feats successfully; the St. John's, comedy musicians, are very good; the Empire Biograph shows a capital variety of pictures.

BURY (LANCS).

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling.—Mr John Wainwright's company is playing *It's Never Too Late to Mend*. On Monday Mr Wainwright was unable to appear, having sprained his ankle at Rochdale last week. His part of Tom Robinson was played remarkably well by Mr Davies. The other characters are in good hands.

OLYMPIA CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling.—The great attraction here this week is the mysterious trio, Servais Le Roy, Mdlle. Talma, and Leon Bosco, undoubtedly great magicians. Other artistes include Matt. Wilkinson and company in a funny sketch; Violet Beatrice, vocalist; Percy Farrimond, the Wigan collier; Herbert La Martine, vocalist and dancer; and the Brothers Babusian, Continental acrobats.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr W. Broadhead.—The good programme provided here includes the Four Maisanos, musicians; Stoll Brothers, comedy wrestlers; Curtis Leo, ventriloquist; Harry Wenburn, comedian; Wood and West, comedy mélange; Fred Balham, Rivington and Gordyn, and Chris Masters, comedians. The Cinématograph pictures are very good.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.

NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr John Waller.—Mr Frank Wilson's company occupies the boards here this week with *The Marriage of Kitty*, a dainty little piece which is well played by a good cast. Miss Vera Fordyce is quite at home as Katherine Silverton and proves herself a finished actress. Miss Kate Harwood acquits herself with distinction as the injured Madame De Semiano. Sir Reginald Belsize, Bart., finds a vigorous exponent in Mr Leslie Tyler; and Mr Frank Wilson as John Travers gives a masterly conception. Mr J. F. Leighton as Norbury and Miss Elsie Savile as Rosalie both do well and appear with success in the curtain-raiser, *Jerry and a Sunbeam*.

CAMBRIDGE.

NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—The pantomime is always looked for eagerly here, and the management have provided an entertainment eminently suited to the audience in Milton Bode's *Cinderella*. Miss Hebe Bliss as Prince Brilliant deserves great praise, being gifted with a good appearance and nice voice. Miss Florence Beech has made a particular success of Cinderella, having a charming personality. The two ugly sisters are well played by Mr John Nolan and Mr Percy Dawson. Mr Leo Sterling works very hard and with great humour as Baron Balmy. Miss Marie Reeves merits praise for her impersonation of Dandini, her dancing being especially noticeable. Miss Blanch Marion is a dashing Rosie Romp. Mr George Antill by his antics as Capers causes amusement. The variety items introduced are of excellent quality, Miss Maud Dewey scoring a success as a lady whistler. Leo Sterling, in his musical speciality act; Major Harry Sitherland, rifle and baton manipulator; and Bert Woodward, coon trick cyclist, are all remarkably clever in their various acts.

CARLISLE.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME.—Proprietress, Mrs P. E. Veitch; Manager, Mr C. Algie.—The management have secured strong attractions for the New Year holiday week, and excellent houses are the rule. One of the most taking items is Melita, a graceful and clever little lady, whose exhibition of step and character dancing brought down the house on Monday. Rozel, aerial gymnast, creates quite a sensation by his daring act; the Lulaine Darrell Troupe, described as Roman ring artists, contribute a novel and pretty performance; as laughter-makers the Two Leons are bad to beat; a quite uncommon turn is provided by the Jetneys, coloured comedians; Herr Blumenfeld's troupe of dogs is a big attraction; and Miss Lulu Valdez, lady baritone; Miss May Young, descriptive vocalist, and some amusing pictures on the Biograph complete a programme of quite unusual excellence.

CANTERBURY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr H. Bernard.—Mr Graham Falcon's Christmas pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, opened here on Monday, and has already secured good bookings for the week. The play is well put on, and goes with a swing, some good variety business by the Raynors, and by Mr and Miss Cyrus, filling the unavoidable intervals in the representation of the well-known story. Several of the performers are old favourites at Canterbury, notably Miss Frances Manners (the Dick Whittington of last year), who figures well as Abdullah, but unfortunately has temporarily lost her voice. Her lieutenant, Miss Mildred Vaughan, sings capitally, and has done much to fill the gap, while the Ganem and Morgiana of Miss Amy Randolph and Miss Cissie Harcourt are extremely sprightly and pleasing representations. Mr W. Cyrus as Ali Baba contributes largely to the success of the piece. Mr Hyam Good takes the part of Cassim, and his dramatic burlesque in the Cave scene, notably his imitation of the miser in, *Les Cloches de Corneville*, is well done, and tells. Mr Arthur R. Carlton as the Dame is as amusing as ever with his witty sayings and topical hits, the credit of which he shares with Mr Willie Kloof, with whom he is largely associated. Mention must also be made of Mr George Dix, Miss Minnie Parker, Miss Rosa Charles, and Mr B. Albert.

CARDIFF.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Robert Redford.—After a weeks' hard work *Dick Whittington* has settled down into shape, and the artistes are now quite at home in their respective parts. Universal praise is heard of the scenery and costumes, it being the opinion that Mr Bode has never before produced a pantomime so lavishly staged. Perhaps the artiste who is becoming most popular is Miss Madeline Rees, who gives such a fine dashing performance of Dick. Miss Minnie Duncan can hardly gain fresh laurels, her reputation as a clever artiste having long been established, yet by her excellent delineation of Alice she is winning the hearts of all. Mr Bob Hutt has become a great favourite, the crowds that throng the theatre looking forward with the greatest impatience for his appearance as Alderman Fitzwarren. Mr Arthur Godfrey's Idle Jack is undoubtedly a successful impersonation, and his duets with Miss Duncan form one of the best features of the pantomime. Messrs Alfred Lester and Clifford Morgan as Captain Soupper and Bill Oakum are responsible for a good deal of the fun, Mr Morgan being encored night after night for his finely rendered bass songs. Mr Fred Dark is also doing well and causing much laughter. Miss Florence White, Miss Janet Reynolds, Miss Nelly Lauraine, and Dainty Lillian Graham are all now in perfect trim.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Frank Bateman; Business-Manager, Mr Robert Sawin.—The interesting drama played by Miss Olga Audré's company, entitled *The Mockery of Marriage*, occupies the boards here this week. Miss Audré cannot be too highly praised for her capital portrayal of Alva Kenyon. Mr Arthur Winpenny as Dick Kenyon acts with artistic vigour. Mr Charles Boult displays much ability as Jack Stanley, and Seth Pearce finds a truthful exponent in Mr James Dalton. Mr Will Skelton is decidedly funny in his impersonation of Toby Wright, and he is ably supported by artists of exceptional merit. A great attraction is the appearance of the Four Aces in their marvellous acrobatic performance.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr W. Lea.—A capital performance is given this week by the following artists:—Mark Melford and company, in *Black and White;* the Szarvasi-Ferencz Troupe of Hungarian singers, dancers, and acrobats; the Alaskas, jugglers and comic tumblers; Burke, Audrus, and Frisco, in a funny sketch; the Levinos, in a musical sketch; John Alexander and famous company in the sketch entitled *Troubles of a Tourist;* the Three Ronay Sisters, lady clowns; the Picquays, acrobats; Clown Ferreros, assisted by his dog musician; and Burke, Moller, and Teller, in the farce-comedy sketch entitled *The Professor and His Pupils*.

CHATHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr Geo. G. Ridley.—Chatham playgoers are having the advantage of witnessing *Sergeant Brue* at the beginning of its provincial tour. The company is sent out by Mr Frank Curzon, who is to be congratulated upon the judgment exercised and the completeness of the general staging of the piece. Mr Willie Freear is a big favourite in the title-rôle; Michael being capitally played by Mr Percy E. Rogers. Miss Constance Leigh makes a delightful Aurora. Miss Eliza Earle is a lively little Daisy, and Miss Lillie Maxwell a pleasing Mabel. A good study is Mr Cecil Burt's Mr Crank. Miss Violet Dene scores as Lady Bickenhall, and is recalled in several songs, and a very clever impersonation is the Crookie Scrubbs of Mr George Barrett.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr L. B. Barnard.—A great local favourite, Marie Kendall, tops the bill here. She is supported by Tom Yorke, coster comedian; Ranji Sanga, illusionist; Zaro and Arno, in a comedy bar act; Steve M'Carthy, the Irish coon; Lal Atlee, ballad vocalist; Lacy's Erascope; and Leonard Mortimer's sketch combination.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; General Manager, Mr Frank J. Donne.—Captain Davis announces a good engagement in Datas, the living almanack. James Shingleton, the singing collier, and Grant and Allen, comedians, are on a return visit. Other attractions in the bill are Alice Maple, serio and dancer; Lord, Murray, and Lord, in a comedy athletic act, *The Intruder;* Herry Maynard, actor-vocalist; the Edisonograph; and the Sutcliffe Troupe of acrobats, pipers, and dancers.

CHELTENHAM.

OPERA HOUSE.—General Manager, Mr H. Oswald Redford.—Mr John Walter's pantomime company opened a three weeks' engagement here on Boxing Day in *Robinson Crusoe*. Mr Bert Albert Rutley has written an excellent book, and Mr E. W. Vaughan (the musical director) and Mr Geo. Sheldon have composed and arranged the music in an admirable manner. The scenery is new, Mr T. E. Ryan being responsible for most of the scenes, notably The Palace of Treasure. Miss Rose Harvey as Robinson adds nightly to her popularity; Miss Fannie Adamson as Polly Perkins charms all beholders; Miss Katie Major is a "taking" barmaid; Mrs Crusoe, in the hands of Mr Shaun Glenville, is a great favourite; the Brothers Obo as Julius Cutpurse and Ebenezer Gongeye keep the house in a roar; the "Two Daniels" are great as King One Lung and Hoop-de-Do-Do, his general; and one of the best turns of the evening is supplied by the Eight Little White Coons.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr G. T. Sante; Secretary, Mr J. Clay.—Messrs Collins and Stevenson's pantomime company opened here on Monday to two exceptionally large houses. The pantomime entitled *Sinbad the Sailor* is nicely mounted and dressed. Included in the cast are Miss Gertrude Rowan, who undertakes Sinbad with excellent results. The Fairy Enterprise is charmingly rendered by Miss Emmie Westcroft. Miss Florence Goldstone plays successfully as Zaza. Messrs Fred Lake as Tinbad; Billy Moore, Capt. Scuttleum; Eddie Clay, Davy Jones; Dan Harley, Baoca Stopper; and George Casey, Mrs Sinbad, sustain the various humorous characters with distinct ability. The specialities include the Zaza Girls, acrobatic dancers; Percy Victor's clever dog minstrels; Dan Harley, acrobatic clog exponent; Billy Moore, gun and mace expert; and Eddie Clay, the tramp musician.

CASTLEFORD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman.—Miss Marie Dagmar's company, in *A Life's Revenge*, is drawing good houses this week. The play is capitally presented throughout. Miss Marie Dagmar is a charming Princess Vanda Ivyala, and she sustains the part with confidence and ability. Miss Amy Eliam is responsible for a clever delineation of Marcia Vittoria. A fight with swords in the second act between these two ladies is exceedingly realistic. As the cowardly and villainous Prince Boris Strogoroff Mr Fred C. Somerfield shows a care for detail which stamps him as an actor of more than ordinary ability. As Michael Orloff Mr Walter Roberts supplies a portrayal which is full of lifelike and convincing touches. The part of Paul Staroritch is played by Mr John F. Traynor. Manly, convincing, and at times pathetic, it is throughout a praiseworthy performance. Mr T. G. Vane is excellent as Maurice Trevor. As Colonel Tumbleoff Mr Charles E. Warne causes much fun. Clarence Chesterfield finds a capable representative in Mr George Clive Hall. The comedy part of Daphne Dashaway is in the safe keeping of Miss Maudie Grayson, who ably assists Mr Sidney Ernest in relieving the more thrilling parts of the play. Mr Edwin Cheetham makes a capital General Mikhaloff, while Miss Amy Hughes is seen to advantage as Accoulina.

CLYDEBANK.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Wilson.—The attraction here this week is Mr Arthur Rose's company, in *The Follies of Youth*. Mr Walter Bentley, the well-known Scottish actor, undertakes the character of Captain Ronald Druce, and displays histrionic ability; Miss Violet Macaree in the part of Gwendoline Murdock is highly successful; and Mr Arthur Rose gives a careful reading of that of Ralph Murdock. Bob Roberts is smartly enacted by Mr Fred Haming; Miss Laurie A. Pardy makes a charming Dorothy Dornton; Miss Ena Russell is a sprightly Kitty Hawthorne; Mr Carter Lingford is a good Colonel Druce; Nat Thistle is satisfactorily portrayed by Mr David Beattie; Mr Bert Wallace is amusing as Matthew Merryweather; Mr F. Johnson as P. Constable Smart does not belie his name; and Little Ruth is cleverly delineated by Miss Bertha Hanbury.

COLCHESTER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr Chas. Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr F. Graham Macdona.—Mr W. H. Hallatt and company are presenting *Two Little Sailor Boys* this week, and drawing good houses in the cheaper parts of the theatre. Mr Hallatt himself impersonates Captain Tom Yorke in a thorough manner. Miss May Day and Miss Ethel Frances as the two sailor lads are excellent. The part of Ben Baxter is capitally taken by Mr Tom Sinclair; also that of Jack Jolly, A.B., as presented by Mr Oscar Power. A capable pair of villains are Mr Leonard Booker as Lieutenant Redstone and Mr Ambrose Horton as the burglar. Miss Blanche Steele is clever as the adventuress, and Miss Mabel Scudamore does well as Mildred Grey. The part of the hero is ably impersonated by Mr W. H. Sams.

COLNE (LANCS).

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Gerald Harding.—*A Woman's Redemption* is being admirably presented here by the Ruggles and Rees company. Mr Frank Graham in the rôle of Bernard Sutcliffe is exceptionally clever; Mr J. Leighton Leigh as the Rev. Granthony is capable; and Miss Elizabeth Ruggles as Ruth and Miss Gladys Rees as Mary Griffiths also do well.

CORK.

OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr John Horgan.—Messrs Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell's company produced here on Monday night for the first time in Cork *Little Mary*. Miss Evelyn Neilida as Moira Loney was most effective, her acting, both in the humorous and pathetic parts, being artistic and refined. Miss Henrietta M. Leverett as Eleana Gray, Miss Alice Beresford as Lady Milly, and Miss Elspeth Dudgeon in the part of Countess of Plumlaigh were successful in their respective parts. As the Earl of Carlton Mr Arthur Holmes-Gore was admirable; Mr Arthur Kightley was very good as Lord Rolfe; Mr George A. Brandram made a dignified Sir Jennings Pyke; Mr Malcolm Wilson gave a clever rendering of the part of Terence Reilly; as Dr. Topping Mr Ean M'Donald was all that could be desired; Mr G. H. Thomas filled the part of Dr. Deighton; and Mr Lewis Edgard made a capital Earl of Plumleigh. *Little Mary* was preceded by a curtain-raiser called *The Bugle Call*.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Henry Kemble.—There is an excellent programme here. The Cee Mee Troupe of aerial gymnasts remain over from last week. Their performance is most attractive. The Werners, cyclists, in their turn, circling the circle, are clever; as a conjurer Costello greatly pleases, and is warmly applauded; Clarice Netta, who possesses a sweet soprano voice, is heard to advantage in two songs; Royal Best, character mimic, pleases; and Bessie Hemming, comedienne; and Dan Maxford, comedian, also contribute.

CREWE.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Henry Taylor.—Mr Henry Swinerd's No. 1 company in the musical comedy *Dare-Devil Dorothy*, is here this week. Mr Arthur Verne as Silas Crump is the mainstay of the piece, and his cake walk, assisted by Miss Nellie Harcourt and ten local children, has proved a great success. Miss Kathleen Garnon as Ruth Montrose is greatly appreciated, and Miss Marjorie Cecil, and the Sisters Blake, acrobatic and speciality dancers, are well received. In act four a variety scene is introduced, and much appreciated by the audience.

CROYDON.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Lawson Lambert; Acting-Manager, Mr Reginald Lawrence.—Mr George Dance's company in *The Cingalee* has proved a great Christmas attraction, the bookings for the fortnight having been exceptionally heavy.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr Newman Maurice.—*Sinbad the Sailor* is in full swing and has fairly caught on. The smart comedians, Messrs Jack M'Kenzie, Dan O'Connor, Sid Morton, Dale, and O'Malley, have elaborated their parts, and are responsible for never-ending fun. The ladies are very good, and much credit is due Miss Daisy Silcott, Miss Ethel Dove, and others who are in the cast. The harlequinade, which was hurried on the first night, is now well worth seeing, and makes the youngsters shake with laughter. Mr Charles Sando is great as clown; Miss Nancy Chaplin is a nimble harlequina; Mr Con Silo a droll pantaloon; Mr Bob Graham a smart policeman; and Miss Violet Hurley a pretty columbine.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Resident General Manager, Mr Eustace H. Jay.—The entertainment here has again been carefully selected. Mr Fred Eustace and powerful company are excellent in the sensational sketch *Our Curate*, in which Miss Mary Eustace acts with skill as Mary Neville and Mr Fred Eustace shows histrionic ability as Jack Russell. Stanley and Greenop are very good in speciality banjo act; Queenie May submits an interesting turn; Miss Alice Yorke and company are delightful in the duologue entitled *A Yacht for Sale;* and Mr Maynard Dakin, comedian, is well up to his business. The following also deserve mention:—Miss Preis, ballad vocalist; Miss Kitty Chandon, burlesque actress; Kuroki, Japanese conjuror; Miss Flo Banks, comedienne; Mr Ernie Williams, comedian; Mr Trevylin David's Ye Merrie Peasants, in operatic sketch *Country Courtship;* and the Sisters Gilbert. Mr Eustace H. Jay has a keen insight into the requirements of visitors to this house, and is a successful manager.

CONSETT.

NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr Lloyd Clarance.—Mr Frank E. Burdett's company is providing the holiday attraction here this week with *The Indian Mutiny*. Mr H. Ryeland Leigh is an excellent Lieut. Manley, and as Capt. Manley Mr Reginald Fox does well. Major Ingleby is in the capable hands of Mr W. S. Tindall; Mr J. Hignett is excessively funny as Terry O'Brien; and Mrs Major Ingleby by Miss Kate Bruce is equally good. Miss Agnes Kingston is an attractive Kate Ingleby; Mr Ernest Keand gives a striking portrayal of the part of Ba Goonga; and as Ghuznah Miss Maud Digby is a thorough success.

COVENTRY.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr Wm. Bennett.—Mr George Dance's company, in the musical play *A Country Girl*, is proving a great attraction here. Mr Cyril Thompson makes a capital Geoffrey Chaloner; Mr H. C. Morton as Sir Joseph Verity is a typical country squire; Mr St. John Hamund is very good as the Rajah of Bhong; Miss May Glen shows ability as Nan, her singing being excellent; Miss Maud Harvey makes a capital Marjory Joy; Miss Addie Lennard is great as Madame Sophie; Miss Nina Carlton as Princess Melaneh leaves little to be desired; and Mr J. Osborne as the redoubtable Barry is very good indeed.

CROOK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr Wallace Davidson.—Mr Fred J. Kirke opened on Monday with *The Naval Detective*. In the title-rôle Mr Kirke was good; Miss Louie Fountaine in a dual-rôle won admiration; and Mr Hy. Ray, a capable Captain Hustle, reminded one of the famous Captain Kettle.

DARLINGTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manageress, Mrs T. W. S. Jennings.—The attraction here this week is *Sherlock Holmes*, presented by Mr Charles Frohman's company. Mr Kenneth Rivington as Sherlock Holmes plays the cool, resourceful detective in excellent style. Mr Arthur B. Murray scores as Professor Moriarty. The James Larrabee of Mr Ernest Gray is a well-played character. As Doctor Watson Mr Fred Inwood is seen to advantage, as is also Mr Clive Ross as John Formad. Messrs Howard Laing, Harry G. Wright, William Wilson, and Charles Chaplin fill other parts in a capable manner. Miss Florence Radcliffe is much admired as Alice Faulkner, and Miss Carrie Lacey is successful as Madge Larrabee.

DARWEN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr E. L. Ormsby.—Mr and Mrs F. G. Kimberley's company is the attraction here this week in a sensational sporting drama, *Bound to Win*. Mr F. G. Kimberley gives a masterly portrayal of the part of Harry Lyndon, and is ably supported by Mr James Hont as Ned Oakley and Mr Sydney Rennef as Squire Forbes. Mr H. Custins is good as Willie Wilkins, and Mr F. Strickland makes a capital Philip Ayr. The part of Gladys Orme is cleverly impersonated by Miss K. Eckhart, and Miss Nina Blake Adams is a capable Marion Forbes. Miss Edie Macklin and Mr E. Morgan contributed largely to the merriment of the piece as Winnie Oakley and Horatio Buffet respectively. A pleasing feature of the piece is the introduction of a couple of thorough-bred horses in act four.

DEAL.

ODDFELLOWS' HALL.—On Saturday *Dick Whittington*, produced under the direction of Mr Cecil Clayton, was a great success. Miss Millie Beckett played the part of Dick, and made herself a general favourite. Miss Gertie Lovedale was an ideal Alice, singing and dancing bewitchingly. Mr J. Glover as Idle Jack made a hit with his songs and dances; Mr Tom Kenealy as Angelina, the cook, was very funny; and Mr Albert Evremond scored in the part of the Alderman. The Cat was well acted by Mr Clayto. The specialities included Clayto, gymnast and contortionist; Eddie Sidder, musical clown; the Gaiety Girls, acrobatic dancers; and Hercules, the strong man. The pantomime has a pretty transformation scene, Blue Bells in Fairyland.

DERBY.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr T. Allan Edwardes.—The Sisters Petram, with their marionette circus, form the star turn here this week, and are warmly received; the Seltina Troupe prove themselves capable acrobats, and their efforts are heartily appreciated; Clarke's Nippers are as deserving of commendation as ever in a clever club manipulating, ball-punching, and boxing act; Brothers Vance are decidedly amusing instrumentalists, and have also some smart patter; Haldyne Duo, comedy couple, cause any amount of amusement; Will Bacchus, actor-vocalist, meets with general acceptation; Brothers Levette, chair vaulters and tumblers, are both clever and amusing; and the Bioscope is also responsible for a number of interesting pictures.

DONCASTER.

NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr J. W. Chapman.—Mr Charles R. Stone's musical comedy company opened the new year here on Monday with two distinct and complete performances of *What Became of Mrs Rackit?* and *My Sweetheart*, and in each signal success was scored. Mrs Racket was well played by Miss Edith Madelle, who had the advantage of the valuable support of Miss Emily Kelsey as Mrs Talman. Miss Daisy Stone, an engaging Katy, gave distinct emphasis to the rôle. Mr Charles Ross, who essayed the representation of Timothy Talman, was exceedingly smart and alert, and Mr J. F. Hayward was in happy vein as Obadiah Dawson.

DOVER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Limited; Managing Director, Mr F. C. Dew.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr Mark Blow's company is appearing here this week in *Under Two Flags*. Miss Emelie Polini makes a capital Cigarette. Miss Hope Mayne combines womanly dignity with charm of manner in her impersonation of the Princess Venetia; Miss Lucy Carr is graceful as Lady Beatrice Guinevere; Miss Joan Stean is excellent as the Countess Olga; and Miss Daisy Carlton is a dainty and captivating Lavinia. To Mr Mark Blow must be given the honours of the evening for his powerful impersonation of Bertie Cecil. Mr Reginald Harley-West, too, is excellent as Barkile. The rôle of Lord Rockingham is forcibly and naturally rendered by Mr Walter Thornton. Mr Will Hook scores an emphatic success by his vivacious impersonation of Rake. Mr Charles Brook is impressive as Lord Royellieu, and Mr Charles D. Pitt is responsible for a clever portrayal of Colonel Chateauroy. Mr Albert Rogers submits a humorous character sketch of the money-lender, Ezra Baroni, and Mr Sydney Richards is good as Captain De Chanrelion. The play is preceded by an amusingly acted farce, entitled *Aunt Rebecca*, in which parts are upheld by Messrs Will Hook, R. Harley-West, Walter Thornton, and Miss Lesley Wynne.

DUBLIN.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Limited; General Manager, Mr Charles Hyland.—The pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty*, entered on its second week on Monday, and is drawing crowded houses.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr A. Armstrong.—The Moody-Manners opera company continues to attract large and appreciative audiences. On Monday Bizet's charming opera *Carmen* was excellently played. Mdlle. Zelie De Lussan gave a delight

was particularly good, and sang the Toreador song with great success. Miss Kate Anderson was most effective as Michaelo, and Miss D. M'Carthy as Mercedes and Miss N. Childs as Frasquito were admirable. On Tuesday night *The Jewess* was performed, when Madame De Vere in the title-rôle, Mr Chas. Manners as Cardinal De Brogni, Mr Joseph O'Mara as Eleazar, Mr Wilson Pembroke as Prince Leopold, Miss K. Anderson as Princess Endossia, and Mr Chas. Moppett as Ruggero were all successful in their respective rôles. *Faust*, *Il Trovatore*, *The Puritan's Daughter*, *La Traviata*, and *The Lily of Killarney* are also in the week's bill.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. W. Whitbread; General Manager, Mr Kennedy Miller.—Mr Kennedy Miller's company entered on its second week here on Monday with J. W. Whitbread's successful Irish drama *Sarsfield*, which continues to draw excellent houses.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr A. S. Figgis.—The leading feature here this week is Vasco, the mad musician, whose selections meet with deserving applause. The acrobatic feats of the Five Olracs are appreciated, as is also the aerial act of Alexandra and Bertie. Mabel Hind, comedienne, has many admirers, and Barton Howard is a capital mimic. Sybil St. Elmo is a comedian of no mean order, and Lyane and Gek are successful contortionists. Charles Cardow, comedian, has scored, and the Empire pictures are also good.

TIVOLI.—General Manager, Mr Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr H. A. Murphy.—There is a capital bill-of-fare presented here this week, the premier position being allotted to Widger and Ware, whose comedy cable act, "A Dry Job," is well received. Appearing also with success are Collins and Croft, song illustrators, and Barney Armstrong, comedian. Unita and Paul, in their stage aerial act, make a decided hit, and Marie Winsome, male impersonator, also scores. Hector and Paulus are clever comedy acrobats, and Winnie Scott is an excellent comedienne and dancer. Ormond Penstone gives an interesting pot-pourri act, and Jenny Love is a pleasing vocalist. Ben Hur, the undefeated athlete, is warmly applauded, and Geo. Mackintosh is an expert clog-dancer.

PAVILION, KINGSTOWN.—Manager, Mr John H. Stevenson.—The following artistes are appearing here:—Mr J. Wellesley Lynn, who gives a very mystifying entertainment, including the "Flying Lady;" the Mona (Welsh) Ladies' Orchestra, who appear in national costume, also contribute some excellent selections; and the electric Bioscope is worked with success.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr C. A. James.—The company engaged here include Messrs Pettigrove and Son's Imperial Marionettes, in the pantomime *The Babes in the Wood*; Eugenie, palmist; and Geo. Harcourt, descriptive vocalist

DUDLEY.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr J. W. Tilley.—Pantomime still holds the sway here, Mr A. E. Smith supplying another well-mounted one in *Aladdin*. The "immortals" form a bevy of fair ladies remarkable for their beauty and physique. Miss Rita Resdan is a bonny and vivacious Aladdin; Miss Elsie Douglas, a pretty and engaging Princess, sings sweetly; Mr J. H. Maxwell scores well as Abanazar; and Mr Fred Ramsell is highly diverting as Widow Twankey.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Tom Prichard.—Cameron, the conjuror, is proving a great attraction here this week, as also is Miss Rose Elliott, a favourite comedienne with some good songs; Mozzetto, the boy juggler, performs some very smart tricks; and A. P. Boswell is very droll. Very good turns are also given by Bob Pearson, comedian; Lily Pinder, in "An Irishman's Adventures;" Tom Hayes, comedian and mimic; and M. P. Bentley, patter comedian.

DUNDEE.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Robert Arthur; General Manager, Mr Sandon Perkins.—The pantomime opened here on Monday, and was well received by a house completely crowded in every part. The subject chosen this year is *The Babes in the Wood*. Everything went without a hitch, and with a really first-class company of principals a really admirable entertainment is given. The scenery and dresses are excellent, and the music is catchy and up to date. Much credit is due to all concerned in the production.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Will Parker; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr Alf Ross.—The top of the bill this week is assigned to a sketch entitled *The Children's Party*, and is largely composed of local children, who acquit themselves very creditably in song and dance. Sinclair and Whiteford present a laughable comedy sketch, which is greatly relished by the audience. The remainder of the company are up to the usual high-class standard.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Will Percival.—A strong dramatic attraction is here this week entitled *The Guilty Man*, and is played by a really good company, who do justice to the requirements of the drama.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Dobell Lyle.—The pantomime *Aladdin* runs merrily on here, and continues to attract large attendances. The whole show goes along with a delightful smoothness, and new business is being continually introduced.

KINNAIRD HALL.—Hamilton's Excursions are paying their annual visit. A capital variety show is given by a talented company.

DUNFERMLINE.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr W. E. Potts.—Miss Lillie Mowbray's fifth pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe and his Man Friday*, was presented here on Dec. 30. The pantomime is written specially by Arthur Lee Tod, with original music by J. W. Harrison. Miss Mowbray makes a capital Robinson Crusoe; Miss Louie Rodney is a fascinating Dolly Mayflower; Miss Maggie Mowbray is good as Tom Trunnion; Miss Alice Campbell makes a sweet Polly Hopkins; Mr A. L. Tod scores as Captain Teapot; Mr Claude Morton is exceptionally clever as Mrs Crusoe; Mr Anthony Gordon as Blizzard was a great success. The specialities, the Eight Sunbeams, special dancers; Vic Verney, the marvellous whistler; Chump and Chant, comedy artistes; the Ver Vains, the famous coon and buck dancers; Frank Le Sewell, the great American Tramp pianist; Mantell and Ward, contortionists, are all excellent in their respective business. All the other parts are in capable hands.

EASTBOURNE.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr A. Standen Triggs.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr Percy Hutchison's company was here on Monday in *Cousin Kate*. Capable work was done by Miss Edith Walker, an effective and attractive Kate Curtis; Mr Walter Ringham was an interesting Heath Desmond; Miss Nina Cressy was a delightfully homely and pleasing Mrs Spencer; and Miss Hilda Honiss, a refreshing and girlish Amy. Miss Betty Castle made the most of her limited opportunities as Jane. Mr Donald Maclean did very effective work as the precise Rev. James Bartlett, and Master Vyvian Thomas as Bobby was boyish and animated. *A Case for Eviction* preceded. Mr J. Bannister Howard's company appeared here on Thursday in *The Darling of the Gods*.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr George Hayes.—A good variety programme is being carried out here this week. The Oallaw Trio give a clever and daring exhibition of strength, equipoise, and tumbling, and with the aid of wire very novel feats are performed Signor Almasio is an accomplished juggler and jumper, effective help being given by a companion; Mr Morris Harvey, a realistic mimic and capital elocutionist, gains deserved encores; Mr Will Cornish returns with his hand-bell solos; Silent Tait is a most amusing wizard; the Victorian Troupe of dancers are pretty and smart exponents of their art; Messrs Ryan and Hall are extremely clever in their eccentric and contortion act; Mr Arthur Gilbert is a comedian of much ability; Miss Phyllis Yorke is a dainty little vocalist and dancer; and Mr Joseph Hennessy an expert club manipulator.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Samuel Lloyd.—A capital programme is offered here and business continues good. The Mezzettis are exceptionally clever in their triple-bar act. The Bros. Andreassen exhibit great strength and skill in their novelty acrobatic act. Miss Rosie Lloyd remains from last week, and her gay songs again please. Mr Thomas E. Finglass, assisted by a lady, contributes a good turn as a Negro comedian and dancer. Miss Lottie Albert is a bright comedienne; Mr Charles Somers and Mr Harry Sheldon are both good comedians in different styles; the Sisters Leigh are expert skipping-rope dancers; and the Hippodrome pictures conclude the entertainment.

ECCLES.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Potasch and Wardle; Manager, Mr P. Potasch; Acting-Manager, Mr P. Ryan-Smith.—Local playgoers have this week their first opportunity of seeing *Sherlock Holmes*. Mr Charles Frohman's company gives a capital representation; Mr H. A. Saintsbury essays the title-rôle, and plays it with conspicuous ability; Mr W. F. Stirling is effective as Professor Moriarty; and the part of Dr. Watson is in the capable hands of Mr Lawrence Leyton. Miss Vera Longden is an admirable Alice Faulkner; and others who should be mentioned are Messrs Leslie Carter, Pelham Rayner, Marc M'Dermott, and Miss Maud Linden.

EDINBURGH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs Howard and Wyndham, Limited; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter Hollister.—This has been a busy week here, *Jack and the Beanstalk* having been played twice daily to immense audiences. The pantomime goes with wonderful effect, and the principals are warmly praised for their spirited performances.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs Howard and Wyndham, Limited; General Manager, Mr G. T. Minshull.—*The Cingalee* continues to run splendidly, and is greeted with hearty favour by crowded houses nightly, the daily matinées, of which several have been given, also drawing an overflowing attendance.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr H. E. Moss.—The attraction on Monday was Mr Fred Karno's company of comedians in the lively pantomime, *Early Birds*, which has gone as well as ever. There was a big holiday crowd present on Monday afternoon, and the performance was received with hilarious delight. Of the rest of the company, the experienced Mr George Bohee pleased with his enjoyable banjo playing, and Miss Alice Simmons made an excellent impression as a ballad vocalist, her singing being cultured and effective. The Three Mascotte Sisters performed a number of daring feats on the rings and high trapeze; and Joko and Koko, a couple of highly-trained monkeys, were introduced in an interesting equestrian act. Mr Charles Vincent's comic songs were effectively delivered and cordially received; and the plantation singing and dancing of Clive and Clark was warmly applauded. The Raies danced cleverly; and the Three Victorias, vocalists and dancers; and Miss Rose Archer, lady mimic, complete the company.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Eade Montefiore.—*Cinderella* is in full swing, and has been well patronised all the week, the pantomime being played twice daily, to the full satisfaction of appreciate audiences.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Tom Ellis.—Mr Auguste W. B. Kingston's engagement continues at this house, his répertoire performances being most attractive. The management opened the new year auspiciously with an afternoon entertainment specially designed for children on Monday, and in the evening played drama to two houses, an admirable arrangement for preventing overcrowding. As it was, two big audiences assembled, the earlier one being regaled with a fine representation of Mr Garrow's interesting drama, *Robert Burns*, and the second with the four-act play, *Old Edinburgh*, dealing with the joint career of the notorious Burke and Hare, a piece that never fails to draw. Mr Kingston and the members of his well-organised company scored all round, and were the recipients of much well-merited applause.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr John Henry Cooke.—*Aqua Wreck* increases in popularity with each succeeding representation. Of these there have been twenty-one this week. Surely a record for a full circus programme, and a sensational spectacle embracing water effects of so stupendous a character as this. New features on Monday were a trapeze display by La Belle Lily and Albert, Clown Domino's performing donkey, the Dunvilles, musical experts, and the Yoricks with their mechanical statue. The hat throwing of the Leotards was also well received.

WAVERLEY MARKET.—This busy centre of attraction has been thronged daily from dawn to dark by crowds of delighted visitors, who have thoroughly enjoyed the feast of novelty provided for their amusement by the marvellous Mr H. E. Moss.

EXETER

THEATRE ROYAL.—Secretary and Manager, Mr Fred Pollard; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy M. Dunford.—Crowded houses are witnessing *Robinson Crusoe*, and there is no doubt this year's pantomime in Exeter has established a record. Mr Percy Cahill as Will Atkins proves even more amusing than on first acquaintance, and comes in for a large share of applause. A characteristically funny creation is the Dame Crusoe of Mr Mat Melrose; and the quips and cranks of Mr Charles Stephenson as Billy Crusoe keep the house in continual merriment. Miss Rose Helene makes a vivacious and sprightly principal boy, several solos being rendered by her in capital style. In the popular song "Sammy" Mr Percy M. Dunsford, the ubiquitous and genial acting-manager, adds to the effect by appearing in costume. Polly is played with verve and charm by Miss Mary Conroy; hearty laughter is evoked by the antics of the Almonte Troupe; and the Floro dora Girls have enhanced their popularity. The music, composed and arranged by Mr W. J. Damant, is well played. The augmented orchestra is under his personal direction.

FALKIRK.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr Horace W. Ebbutt.—The pantomime *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves* has had a most successful run at this theatre, where it was played by Messrs Little and Darcy's company. This is the second week of the production, and the business at the beginning of the week was quite unprecedented. The Sisters Silcott have made a hit with their catchy song "Blue Bell." The fun of the *Forty Thieves* has found great favour with young and old, and the pantomime from first to last has proved a brilliant success.

TOWN HALL.—Walker's Cinématograph exhibition has been given to crowded audiences, beginning last Saturday, for four days. The show is one of the best of its kind on the road. In addition to a variety of capital pictures, there is a most enjoyable concert programme.

FOLKESTONE.

PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr H. W. Rowland.—Mr J. Bannister Howard's company, in *The Darling of the Gods*, was here for the first part of the week. Mr D. Lewin Mannering as Zakkuri was exceptionally good; Mr Alfred Goddard gave a satisfactory rendering of Kara; Mr L. St. George Lowther as Inu, the dumb slave, proved himself a most capable actor; Miss Edith Anton Laing as Rosy Sky rendered good service; and Miss Inez Bensusan as Yo-San acted in the best possible manner. Mr and Mrs Calvert Routledge and company, in *The Cricket on the Hearth*, was the attraction for the latter end of the week.

FARNWORTH.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr T. Morton Powell.—This week Mr T. Morton Powell's company is paying a farewell visit in *Honour Thy Father*. Mr J. W. Evelyn gives an excellent performance as Gabriel Garth; Jack Halyard is a manly character in the hands of Mr Douglas B. Watson; and the crafty Duncan Bly of Mr Juan De Alberti is an outstanding feature of the performance. The humorous element is well looked after by Mr W. H. Melrose and Mr W. Dale as Ned Pennycomequick and Mike Copplestone; Gertrude Garth has a capable exponent in Miss Kate Newton; and Miss Kitty Russell as Mercy Merry gives an artistic and natural representation.

GAINSBOROUGH.

KING'S.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton.—Miss Lena Stanton's pantomime company occupies the theatre this week with *Whittington and His Cat*. Miss Stanton is a dashing Dick. Miss Marie Gerrard appears as Alice. Alderman Fitzwarren, the Cook, and Idle Jack are played by Messrs Geo. James, Bruce Green, and Alf Brooks. Some clever speciality turns are introduced by Pauletti, cyclist; Levall, acrobat; Jay, ventriloquist; Little Keeno, juvenile comedian; and the Cecil Troupe of lady acrobatic dancers. Mr Alf Morn is successful as the Emperor.

GATESHEAD.

METROPOLE THEATRE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Resident-Manager, Mr J. Straughan.—The Royal Tokio Troupe of acrobatic Japs provide the principal turn here, which is of a most interesting character. Mike Gray with his performing dog is responsible for much amusement; the blind musician Martin Henderson submits a good turn, as also does Gerald Mount, vocalist and mimic. Les Rubens, society entertainer, and Will Dalton, comedian, are responsible for good business, while other entertaining shows are provided by Sidney Lee, magician; Wal Croft, Scotch comedian; and Robins and Collier, who provide a good sketch.

GLOUCESTER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Owners, Messrs C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr W. H. Weller.—Miss Beatrice Isaacson's company is playing the drama *A Great Sensation* this week. Mr Sydney N. Hallows presents the hero Jack Damer capably; Mr Tom V. Mustoe realises the villainous Henry Escombe in approved style; Miss Beatrice Isaacson as the persecuted Eva Dale wins sympathy; Sidonie is powerfully enacted by Miss Madge Devereux; and Mr William Ames is humorous as "Whiley" Jones. Comedy is introduced by Mr Cecil Morand as Peter the postman and Miss Marion Mayne as Ria. Mr George Collinson is noticeable as Bruce and Miss Maud Hetherington does well as the Waif.

GOOLE.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr John E. Tomlinson.—This week the drama, *The Anarchist Terror*, is being played by Miss Lole Esmond's company, under the direction of Mr Edward Neville, who infuses much villainy into his performance of Karagoon. Mr C. T. E. O'Connor as Lieut. Armstrong and Mr Gus Bowerman as Ishmael play well. Mr Harry Rose creates plenty of amusement as Mikey Doolan; Miss Lole Esmond puts all the "go" necessary into her acting as Kitty Malone; Mr J. Nelson-Turner is an excellent Silas Washington Goldstraw; Miss V. Hammersley is a charming Columbia Goldstraw; Miss Cecile Byrne scores as Zara; and Miss Annie Brunette ably sustains the difficult rôle of Morita. *The Sorrows of Satan* is announced for the latter part of the week.

GRANTHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Edward Marris.—Local playgoers invariably have had to wait for a pantomime until somewhat late in the season, but, thanks to the energy and enterprise of Mr Marris, they have had the pleasure of seeing *Dick Whittington* this Christmastide. The book has been expressly written by Stanley Rogers, Harry Lowther, Edward Marris, and W. H. Kirby. Dick is impersonated by Miss Winifred Preece, who makes a really smart principal boy. Miss Mamie Iris as Alice acts with a due appreciation of her part, and is also responsible for an effective sand dance. Miss Cordelia Knight makes a charming fairy, with pretty songs; as Idle Jack Mr W. H. Kirby is uncommonly droll, being ably assisted in the humorous element by Mr Dickie Clare as Alderman Fitzwarren and Mr H. A. Griffiths as Betsy. The scenery is decidedly good, the costumes are effective, and the songs and music are tuneful and pleasing. The specialities include Lillian Sivado, trapeze performer; the Dunlops, comedy cyclists; the Three Rays, dancers; and Messrs Ryde and Beeman, acrobats.

GRAVESEND.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr David Hart.—Holding premier position in this week's bill is the Great Northern Troupe of International dancers, who are clever artists. The Denmark Pair are bright duettists; Fred Alsopp is a droll comedian; My Fancy is an unique sand dancer; Charles Harvey, comedian, does well; Flo D'Orville, versatile artiste, is highly appreciated; and Florrie Beckwith, comedienne, meets with considerable applause. Johnny Holland and company in their comedy, *The Looking Glass*, cause roars of laughter.

GRIMSBY.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr S. Tolfree.—A new musical comedy, *Miss Mischief*, has been seen here this week. It embraces a number of attractive songs, and the dancing is also a pleasing feature. Kitty Malone is represented by Miss Evelyn Hughes, who gives an excellent idea of the madcap heiress. Mr Cecil Curtiss is satisfactory as Captain Jack Bethune, but has not a great deal to do. Mr T. E. Conover is responsible for a large share of the comedy, but plenty of fun is also caused by Mr John Sandy as the millionaire and Mr Frederick Mantell as Lord Percy Fitz-Sherry. Miss Crissie Francess makes a sprightly Mary Anne, and mention may also be made of Mr Harold Stanley as Admiral Bethune, Miss Eileen Guilbert as Lady Orrery, and Miss Ida Canpioni as Frau Schmutts.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr T. Allan Edwardes; General Manager, Mr H. F. Millar; Assistant-Manager, Mr H. H. Watson.—The pony that has been exhibited here this week by Mr James De Voye is far in advance of the educated pony usually seen on the stage and elsewhere. It not only solves arithmetical problems and indicates the time of day, but is an adept at playing "Nap." Weiland, an American artist, has presented a series of novel juggling feats, and has combined a lot of amusing business with them. Very smart gymnastics have been performed by the Fitzroys. The Sylvesters have proved themselves clever equilibrists, whilst the Woolhafs have occasioned much fun with their songs and patter. Others who have contributed to the programme have been Frank Hope, trick cyclist; Harry Zetter, comedian; and Deller and Oxford, comedy artistes.

NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr Steuart Cecil.—Carl Hertz has considerably astonished the audiences here this week. As an illusionist he excels, materialising all manner of articles from apparent nothingness. The turn given by Martinetti and Grossi is also full of surprises, they manufacturing music out of the most unlikely mediums. Ada Fawn, a favourite burlesque actress, has again proved highly popular. Good dancing and acrobatic work was accomplished by the Three Novells, and an amusing speciality, *Dry Comedy and Wet Paint*, was presented by the M'Kays. Other artists appearing were Read and Write, dancers and duettists; Clarke and Argyle, dancers and pipers; Flo Deighton, vocalist; and Cissie Reece, dancer and comedienne.

GREAT YARMOUTH.

ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr J. W. Nightingale.—Messrs Forge and Dalton's pantomime, *Cinderella*, has increased in attractiveness, and delighted audiences applaud the pretty songs and dances, and admire the picturesque and handsome scenery and the bright and dainty dresses. Miss Chummie La Mara as Prince Paragon and Miss Lizzie Primmer as Cinderella continue first favourites, and other artistes as enumerated last week help greatly to secure success.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr Geo. Gilbert.—The services of the Savonas have been retained this week, and their brilliant musical entertainment delights the large audiences which assemble to hear them. Miss Flora Platt pleases as a song illustrator; Prince Fee Lung gives an extraordinary conjuring turn; Zenora and Foden contribute a clever turn as equilibrists; the Three Rickards astonish with their wonderful acrobatic feats; Mr William Tudor's performing ponies give a pleasing display; the Elliotts repeat their last week's success as cycling wonders; and fun is afforded by Little Rabbit.

GREENOCK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, the Executors of the late Mr Alex. Wright; Managers, Messrs A. B. Wright and J. J. Wright.—Mr George Dance's *A Chinese Honeymoon* company is proving a strong attraction here, and large holiday crowds are being nightly delighted by the vivacious acting, singing, and dancing of an unusually capable company.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. L. Skivington.—Atroy, hoop roller and juggler, heads the bill here, and gives an excellent turn. Lily Turner is a charming comedienne; Tony Iveson, the versatile "ragman," is very amusing; Allis and Cassatti are seen in a funny comedy act; Mr and Mrs Paul Knox are retained for another week, and are loudly applauded for their novel entertainment; Hilton and Hilton perform amusingly on the horizontal bars; and Violi, lady instrumentalist, plays a number of weird musical instruments tunefully. The Cinématograph, with new pictures, completes an excellent performance.

TOWN HALL.—Poole's Myriorama is proving a great attraction here. All the latest pictures are shown and are interesting large audiences. In addition, a first-class variety company performs, which includes Mr Frank Freeland, the favourite guide and vocalist; Mr Harry Sullivan, an amusing comedian; Telsa, lady instrumentalist, who is very clever; Sulli and Saroni, pleasing dancers and duettists; Captain Howlett's Marionettes, who are very good; Walloween, the comedy man, who gives an amusing turn; and the Magnet Sketch Party in a funny piece entitled *In a Looking Glass*.

GUERNSEY.

ST. JULIAN'S HALL.—Director, Mr C. Robb Perkins.—This week *A Message from Mars* is here on a return visit. That capable and popular actor, Mr Rawson Buckley, cleverly represents Horace Parker. Minnie is delightfully played by Miss May Saker, a charming actress; a consistent and excellent performance is the Tramp of Mr Bruce Lindley; Mr W. H. Brougham gives a scholarly rendering of the Messenger; Mr Frank G. Dunn as Arthur Dicey submits an admirable portraiture; Miss Flora Hastings appears as Miss Parker, Mr W. Maxwell is an ideal Policeman, and Miss P. E. Yeoman is of signal service as Bella.

HALIFAX.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr William Robinson; General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling.—The New York Nippers are here again, and are enjoying a well-deserved popularity; Imro Fox, a clever and humorous artist in the mystifying line, gives a clever performance; the Three Henriques do a neat acrobatic act; Nellie Martell finds favour; Carlile and Walker, vocalists and dancers, do a good turn; a farcical sketch entitled *Three Husbands* is well performed by Frank Purcell's company; Rose Endon, comedienne, wins applause; and Sydney James does a good musical turn.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Frank Macnaghten.—A varied and versatile performance is given here this week by Dinah Morris and her smart company of ten artists; the Langdons, song illustrators, are popular; the Four Burnells do a musical comedy act which causes much hilarity; Mr and Mrs Prosper Benn have a musical sketch which is enjoyable as well as cleverly worked; Frances Haskoll introduces an electrical musical novelty; Carne Curre has a well-trained and intelligent dog; the Five Bon-Bons do an acrobatic and pantomimic sketch, in which traps are cleverly worked with dexterity and skill; and the Tom Davis Trio repeat their wonderful cycling performance on the elevated miniature track.

VICTORIA HALL.—Manager, Mr Henry Drake.—Mr Charles Harrington's company is here in the ever-popular play *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The part of Uncle Tom is played with sympathy and feeling by Mr J. Carr; Mr G. P. Ellis does well as George Harris; Legree has a good exponent in Mr J. H. Rodgers; Mr Harrington plays Phineas admirably; and Marks, the lawyer, is made a most amusing character by Mr F. Charles. Topsy is admirably portrayed by Miss S. Stella, and the Eva of little Minnie is an intelligent and faithful portrait.

HARROGATE.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr Smith.—Mr John Tully's company opened here on Monday in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The piece was smartly staged, and included some tuneful Negro ditties, clever dancing, and an abundance of the comic element. The characters were ably interpreted by the members of Mr Tully's company.

HARTLEPOOL.

EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg.—Houses filled in every part are nightly appreciating the holiday fare submitted here. The bill is headed by the Mannings Entertainers, in a brisk sketch, *A Turkish Bath Rubber*, into which some clever acrobatic tumbling is introduced. Bessie Travis is certainly the best lady ventriloquist that has been this way; a double encore is awarded to Fred Land; and old favourites are represented by Marie Yorke, comedienne; Mdlle. La Roland, and Dan Noble, who are maintaining a well-deserved reputation. Burns's Bioscope completes the bill.

HASTINGS.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Geo. H. Gaze.—That very amusing comedy *Saturday to Monday* is on a return visit, and was performed on Monday by the capable company organised by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr Percy Hutchison. Mr Stuart Champion gave a good performance as Lord Culvert of Alcester. Miss Frances Vine retained her rôle of Mrs Wendover, and submitted a refined and clever impersonation. Mr Dallas Welford was very effective as Stanley Pidding. Miss Adeline Lester again presented a good performance as the Lady Diana Porchester. Mr Jack Hampton as Probyn Dyke proved very successful. Miss Madge Burton as Miss Ursula Toop added considerably to the success achieved, and Miss Charlotte Mead again appeared with marked effect as Miss Skeet. Able assistance was also rendered by Mr Edward Ling as the Rev. Lemuel Toop. Miss Olive Loftus Leyton as Thompson and Mr Augustus Davenport as Jarvis complete the bill. The performance was preceded by *Judged by Appearances*.

HASTINGS PIER PAVILION.—Pier Manager, Mr R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr J. D. Hunter.—Mr Hunter's pantomime *Aladdin* is still attracting large audiences. Mr Hunter as the widow Twankey is funnier and more amusing than ever. The sweet-voiced operatic vocalists sing harmoniously, and the Verona Quartette of ladies trip it gracefully and lightly.

ST. LEONARDS KURSAAL.—Pier Master, Mr Elvey Thomas; Entertainment Manager, Mr Drew Mackintosh.—The concerts of the Kursaal orchestra are daily given here during the season, and this week Mr Percy Banks, a baritone of considerable power and expression, has made his appearance. His songs are much appreciated.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr Harold Penny.—The entertainment provided here this week is the means of drawing a host of admirers. Miss Ena Richards is an attractive comedienne. The express vocalist, Mr Will Farrell, is quite a novelty. Very smart card manipulation is shown by Valan, the newsboy. Muir and Bartlett join in a laughable clerical combination. A performance by skilfully trained ponies and dogs is given by Mdlle. Yvette. The Sisters Albert, duettists and dancers, are warmly welcomed. Mr Leslie Race proves himself an excellent comedian. The evolutions of the comedy gymnasts, the Brothers Doran, are much enjoyed.

HAWICK.

NEW THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr W. Payne Seddon; Lessees, Messrs W. Payne Seddon and Gordon Starkey.—On Monday Mr Herbert Fuller's company commenced a week's engagement in *Fiends of London*. Mr Herbert Fuller in the part of the jockey, Bob Archer, met with great success; Mr Hugh Carmichael gave an admirable impersonation of Captain Crawley; and Mr E. H. Gibbons was sinister as Peter Shark. Mr Francis Everard did well as Sir Horace Bream; Mr Harold Weston was well placed as Joe Ormerod; Laurie Christie found a capital representative in Miss Agnes Collier; Miss Emily Lewis acted in a capable manner as Flossie; and Sophie Shade was well played by Miss Nelson Ramsey.

TOWN HALL.—A welcome visit is being paid by Mr Chas. Macdona's company in *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Mr Bert Monks causes much amusement as Mr Pineapple; Miss Alice Cheshire as Fi-Fi is exceedingly clever; Miss Nellie Groves makes a charming Soo-Soo; Mr Arthur Bishop gives a good representation of Tom Hatherton; Mr Edmond T. Sayers plays with taste as the Emperor; Miss Kitty Kirwan gives a capital study of the official mother-in-law; Mr Pineapple is in the capable hands of Miss Dorothy Payn; and the Lord Chancellor is cleverly portrayed by Mr Fred Pollard.

HEBBURN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr W. A. Jackson; Acting-Manager, Mr Thomas Robson.—The excellent variety company submitted here this week includes the Goldini Trio, who exhibit wonderful skill in their acrobatic novelties and carpet spinning; the Bransbys, clever character duettists; Russell Hatton, who is responsible for some attractive Dickens sketches; Dave Hallie, a comedian of considerable ability; Dock Watson, the American coloured comedian; Doyle and Gibson, eccentric comedians; the Fordyces, clever juvenile vocalists and dancers; Mable Comley, comedienne; Otto Roseno, Continental novelty artist; and James Foy, the local tenor.

HEREFORD.

GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton; General Manager, Mr Louis Karpe; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank J. Pitt.—This week a change has been made, drama giving way to a Biograph exhibition of Colonel Cody's (Buffalo Bill) Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World. During the evening variety turns are given by Mr Tom Carrick, comedian; Gilroy, ventriloquist; and Miss Lily Carrick. Every item is well received.

HORWICH.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Sandiford.—Horwich is enjoying the first pantomime that has been produced here for two years. Madame Willoughby's *Babes in the Wood*, under the stage-management of Mr B. Gardner, is the attraction. The various scenes, painted by Mr W. H. Bankes (formerly manager here), are very elaborate and picturesque, and the dresses exceedingly handsome. Mr Gardner as Demon King and Wicked Uncle is quite a host in himself, being gifted with a fine physique and a telling voice. Messrs Brown and Harker as the two Ruffians have plenty of scope, their songs, dances, and cross talk being most entertaining. Mr J. A. Halma as Friar Tuck has a very good part, his speciality juggling in the Palace scene being very smart and clean. Mr Alf Foy as the Dame is extremely diverting, his songs and dances being a great feature. Miss Beatrice Dudley's Robin Hood is a capital performance, and Miss Winnie Wentworth is a very fascinating Maid Marion. Misses Violet and Daisy Mottley as the Babes are excellent, their songs and their acrobatic and step-dancing creating quite a furore. The Sisters Allen give a fine exhibition of international dancing, Miss D'Alberte's Fairy Queen is a very pretty performance, and the singing and marching of the Amazon Army could not be beaten. The whole show is bright and melodious, and the musical numbers, under the direction of Mr Percy Woodroffe, are thoroughly up to the mark.

HOYLAND.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Owner, Mr Arthur Carlton; Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Geo. S. King.—For the New Year's attraction we have Mr R. Abbott's company here in *A Wife's Triumph*. Mr E. R. Abbott as Robert Dewhurst evokes applause, and in the title-rôle Miss Ada Abbott is deserving of the highest praise. Mr G. C. Doughty as Frank Wilton plays his part with skill, and Ellis Gordon is well played by Mr W. H. Garbois.

HUDDERSFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy G. Arthur.—The play *Sunday*, which is being presented during the week by Mr Louis Calvert's company, is one of the most acceptable productions seen here for a long time. Miss Jean Stirling Mackinlay in the title-rôle held her audience in thrall by her interpretation of the sweet-minded, pure-hearted treasure of the mining camp. In less skilful hands the part of Colonel Brinthorpe might easily have been wrecked, but Mr J. Edward Pearce never lost his grip or allowed pathos to lapse into bathos. Mr Frederick Powell gave a grimly, honest presentation of the fine spirited, rough miner, Towzer; Mr John H. Manley as Davy and Mr T. Norman Walter as Lively providing cleverly varied contrasts as his comrades. Mr Whitford Kane as Jacky, their young associate, played with fine appreciation of his opportunities. Mr Charles B. Vaughan as Arthur Brinthorpe, Mr Ernest A. Douglas as Tom Oxley, and Miss Elizabeth Watson as Mrs Naresby upheld fully the high standard of the piece, which was very effectively staged.

HULL.

EMPIRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Jno. Sylvester Sage.—Alvanti, on the slanting wire, is the principal turn here, and Mark Anthony is also successful.

CIRCUS.—Manager, Mr E. Emerson.—Jasper Redfern's animated pictures are concluding a successful visit. Amongst the variety artists Apollo gives a clever musical turn, and Fred Hudson, vocalist and mimic, also appears.

HYDE.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr Joseph W. Maloney.—Mr Peter Thompson's pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, which broke all previous records at this house on Boxing Day, is still having a most successful run. Everyone has now settled down to work, and, thanks to the spirited endeavours of the principal performers, the interest is never allowed to flag for one moment. Several new songs have been introduced, including "Bull and Bush," which is rendered in capital style by Miss Maude Beaumont, who, in the rôle of Robin Hood, has made herself a great favourite here; "Accidentally Done," by Mr Willy Barrett (Simple Pimple); "Queen of the Earth," by Miss Kate Lever (Bluebell); and "The Old Sun Dial," by Miss Minnie Moran.

ILKESTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr L. F. A. Rogers; Musical Director, Mr C. Keith Smith.—The boards are occupied this week by Mr Ian Maclaren and company, who play the drama entitled *The Prince of Rogues*. Miss Ruby Maclaren (Winifred Harwood) and Mr James F. Frith (Frank Farrell) are capable exponents of the rôles entrusted to them; Mr Johnny Fisher as Josh Buggins provides much amusement; and Miss Kythe Mackenzie as Polly Dibbs gives suitable support. Mr Henry Howard is praiseworthy as Richard Harwood, and the same may be said of Mr A. P. Wilson as Gilbert Kenry. Mr C. O. Scott as P.-C. Wykes creates a good impression with his abnormal stature; Mr Maclaren himself appears as the evil genius, Geoffrey Flint, and is ably helped by Miss Dorothy Mackenzie as Rita Congeire.

IPSWICH.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Manager, Mr G. W. Fisk.—Mr Charles Macdona's *Three Little Maids* company has been playing here this week. Miss Vera Vallis sang and acted with much vivacity as Ada Brancombe, and the other two Little Maids had charming representatives in Miss Nellie Groves and Miss Mabel Lavelle. Madame Iima Norina was excellent in the part of Lady St. Malory; and other female parts had efficient representatives in Miss Laura Wright, Miss Mabel Garl, and Miss N. Cunningham. Mr G. Arthur Longley was a humorous Lord Cheyne, and Mr W. Piercy a satisfactory Vicar. Messrs Sidney Lindon and Gus Oxley also rendered good aid to the cast.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr G. Barrett.—Some attractive novelties were engaged here for the New Year week, and the two performances a-night have been well attended. Fred Dunstone made a decided hit as a comic singer; Long Amos, another eccentric comedian, was amusing; Miss Rosa Gilbert's singing and dancing was well received; and the Three Schaffers are clever equilibrists. Onda and Leon were nimble on the triple bar; a couple of young ladies, called the Solaro Duo, pleased as instrumentalists; the Leopold Leglere Troupe proved to be exceptionally good acrobats; and some living pictures pleased immensely.

JARROW.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Hugh Robertson.—This week Messrs W. Howard and Alfred Paumier's company is paying a welcome visit with *Under the Russian Flag*. Mr F. W. Freeman gives a perfect rendering of the part of Ivan Romanoff; Mr Eric Mayne is a powerful Michael Romanoff; Mr Walter Howard an excellent Captain Demetrius; Mr Alfred Bennett is well placed as Alexis Skopolophi; Mr Hal Forde does well in the part of Peter Poluski; Mr Charles Liddon is effective as Wolf Marischla; Miss Ellen Snow is a striking Luka Marischla; Miss Ada Champion a winsome Vera Vassiloff; and Miss Agnes Howard makes the most of Ogarita.

JERSEY.

OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr C. Robert Perkins.—Mr Mouillot's company, in *My Lady Molly*, is paying a return visit here. Miss Zoe Gilfillan is a captivating Alice Coverdale. Miss Beatrice Edwards is admirable as Lady Molly Martingale, her handsome presence and fine voice being greatly appreciated. Miss Madge Carr as Hester and Mdlle. Ella Darcier as Madeline Mirabeau do justice to their respective parts. Mr Ernest Morgan plays well as Lionel Bland. Mr George M'Closkie as Micky O'Dowd adds much to the merriment of the audience, and his dancing is excellent. Mr H. Hearder as Captain Romney and Mr H. Goodwin Hunt as Sir Miles Coverdale ably sustain their rôles, and Mr Frederick Silvester appears as Reuben Oates. The remaining characters are in safe hands.

KENDAL.

ST. GEORGE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr R. F. Chorley; Manager, Mr J. W. Butler.—Mrs Bandman-Palmer, supported by a clever company, has been welcomed here this week. The répertoire consists of *Sapho*, *East Lynne*, *Mary, Queen of Scots*, *Hamlet*, and *Jane Shore*. The first-named was presented on Monday, and Mrs Bandman-Palmer gave a powerful study of the title-rôle. Mr F. Skein's Jean Gaussin is marked by care and conscientiousness, and a sound performance of Dechelette comes from Mr A. St. Aubyn. Other important parts are satisfactorily played by Mr Sydney Bland, Mr E. Fenton, Miss Newman, Miss K. Herbert, and Miss Irene Hodgson.

KIDDERMINSTER.

NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr R. C. Gudgeon, jun.—This week we have a return visit of the American-Indian actress Go-Won-Go-Mohawk and American company in the sensational drama entitled *Wep-ton-no-mah*. Go-Won-Go-Mohawk in the title rôle is clever, and Mr C. W. Charles impersonates the part of Colonel Stockton in an artistic manner.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors, Messrs Lester Reekie and Howard Stephens.—Another really excellent company is attracting large audiences here. The Radium Girls sing and dance in an artistic manner; Walter Gurney is a versatile comedian; Alex and Cole present a laughable sketch; Miss Dorothy Alexander's songs are catchy; Miss Lillie Mason is popular; and Mr Lister Reekie's monologue, "Scrooge," is powerful.

KING'S LYNN.

NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Bannister Howard; Business Manager, Mr Herbert Leonard.—Messrs Edward Marris and W. H. Kirby's pantomime *Dick Whittington* opened here on Monday. Miss Winifred Preece makes a dashing Dick, acting and singing gracefully. Alice is charmingly played by Miss Mamie Iris. Mr W. H. Kirby is very droll in the part of Jack. Mr Dickie Clare works hard, and keeps the house in good humour as Alderman Fitzwarren. Messrs Ryde and Beeman are capable knockabouts. The specialities are the Two Balzens, Japanese balancers; Mamie Iris, sand dancers; the Dunlops, comedy cyclists; and Lilian Sivado.

LANCASTER.

ATHENÆUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Hy. Wilkinson.—This week *When London Sleeps* occupies the boards, and is exceedingly well played by Mr C. Finch-Hatton's company. Miss Mabel Cleur is quite a success in the sympathetic part of Queenie Carruthers; the character of Hilda Carode is in the capable hands of Miss Hilda Clyde, who plays her part well; Mr Tom Ronald as David Engleheart, the hero, does credit to the character; Mr Walter H. Wilson scores as the scheming Capt. Haines; and the humour of the piece is contributed to by Darcy Kelway and Sammy Blythe. Other parts are ably filled, and the scenery is most effective.

PALACE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs W. J. Fergusson and John Porter.—The bill of fare at this bijou palace is this week headed by Miss Madge Grey, dialect comedienne, and right well is she received; Eno, the king of mimics, in his impersonations, brings down the house; as also does Miss Mabel Kessler, bugle soloist. Hughes and Elliott, in a dancing comedy act, are appreciated; and James Brady, comedian, merited a well-deserved encore; whilst Wilfred, a contortionist, was recalled again and again. Walter Payne's animated pictures are also an attraction.

LLANELLY.

ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr John Tully.—The attraction here this week is Mr J. H. Clyndes' company in *A Royal Revenge*. Mr James Willoughby gives an able representation of Nicholas Vargas; Mr John Cecil cleverly enacts the part of Count Urio Uzeda, the Hunchback; and Azen Ben Musid, a Moor; Miss Bessie Elma as Angela, the Unknown, is pathetic; Miss Evelyn Shannon as Cora, the Gipsy girl, is charming; Miss Jessie Roberts as Eulalie is also very pleasing.

LEAMINGTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr Harry Esden.—On Monday Mr Ben Greet's excellent company in *La Poupée* made a welcome appearance, and the piece, which has not been seen here for some years, instantly renewed all its former success. Miss Cissie Wade in the rôle of Alesia gave an entertaining and dainty study, and Mr Edward Thirlby's Hilarius was a most effective sketch.

LEEDS.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr John Hart; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Richardson.—Under the energetic supervision of Mr Cadman, the grand production of *Robinson Crusoe* is amply realising the favourable impression made on our first visit, and promises to rank high in the annals of Mr John Hart's pantomime successes at this theatre. The principals are one and all imbued with a rare enthusiasm, whilst the numerous and efficient ballet and chorus also revel in their heavy work. Mr J. R. Hale, Mr Mike S. Whallen, Mr Lionel Rignold, and Mr Harry Dent are a quartet of prolific funmakers. The charming vocal work of the ladies, notably Miss Georgina Delmar, Miss Daisy Wallace, and Miss Beryl Somerset, constitutes a big feature, and the clever speciality of the Haytors also comes in for due appreciation.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr R. Ernest Liston.—Record crowds are the rule here nightly to witness Mr Macnaghten's sumptuous pantomime *Cinderella*, and all things augur well for a long and successful run. The principals have settled well to their parts, and provide a feast of fun, whilst the intricate and gorgeous stage display is a much-admired feature. Some clever specialities are in evidence, notably Mr John Kurkamp, the singing conductor, who from his chair renders solos in good style. Miss Ivy Lane's dancers find opportunity for effective work, and Lorenzi's performing animals provide an amusing interlude.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Dottridge and Longden; General Manager, Mr C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Bush.—Mr J. G. Kiddle's admirable pantomime *Cinderella* is doing well here.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr T. Gerald Morton.—Chas. R. Sweet, the musical burglar, heads the bill here, and presents a smart and entertaining turn, combining clever business and patter with conspicuous musical ability. A return visit of the renowned violinist Jan Rudenyi arouses great interest; and the presentation of an effective dramatic sketch entitled *V.C.* is a popular and pleasing feature. A trained dog show by Mdlle. Emmy finds great favour; that popular song and dance artist, Daisy Mayer, is enjoying good success; the Sisters Jonghmanns enjoy a big local reputation for harmonious vocal work; the Nelson Sisters are clever speciality dancers; and some very fine acrobatic business is done by the Four Melons and the Three Georgis. The bill also contains an exhibition of expert trick cycling by the well-known Tourbillon Troupe.

TIVOLI.—Proprietor, Mr Thomas Barrasford; Managers, Messrs Charles Weldon and Edgar C. Waller.—This popular hall still presents a holiday appearance at every performance, and an enjoyable bill is topped by Charles Morritt, the magician, in a remarkably clever turn. Expert acrobatics by the Sulima Matrapa Troupe are a feature; and Michele and Sandro also do clever things in equilibristic acrobatics. The screaming farce *Nicodemus*, by Chas. Vandyke and company, is thoroughly enjoyed; a fine vocal turn is submitted by the Young American Quintet; and two excellent comedy duos are here in Starr and Jerome and Fielding and Hall. Further contributions in the acrobatic line are done by the Cattaneos; whilst Florence Hill, burlesque actress, and Ida Ross, comedienne, complete the bill.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr F. W. Wood; General Manager, Mr J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr S. Jones.—The strongest feature of the City bill for this week is a farcical comedy sketch entitled *The Silly Burglar*, smartly presented by the Waldrons. A fine vocal turn by the Crown Trio is deservedly successful; Onda and Artell do gymnastic feats in expert style, and the Laure Brothers are comic acrobats of ability. The comedians include Wake and Dean and Larry Lewis, both very entertaining; and other successful turns are submitted by Herbert Maden, character vocalist, and the Sisters Redfern, speciality artists; whilst the animated pictures are a most interesting lot.

LEICESTER.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; Acting-Manager, Mr C. D. Leigh.—Messrs Charles and Frederick Renad and company entered on the second and final week of their engagement here on Monday in the musical pantomimical comedy, *The Swiss Express*. As James and John Messrs Charles and Frederick Renad continue to extract fun and laughter from their parts; and Mr Wilford Bailey as Dr. Gull and Miss Dolly Doyle as Virginia, the bride, are both good. Other parts are capitally played by Mr George Martin, Rob Rollingstone; Mr Alec Wylie, Dudley Green; Mr George Power, Rhino; Mr H. Alexander, Mr Septimus Squeeze; and Miss Nellie Fern, Mrs Septimus Squeeze. The Four Brighton Girls are smart vocalists, dancers, and lance and sword experts. The novel stage effects are well worked, and the various songs and dances introduced prove attractive.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General Manager, Mr John H. Clarke.—*The Fatal Wedding*, presented by Mr Bert Coote's company, is the attraction here. Mr Ernest Owttrim is an excellent representative of Howard Wilson, and Miss Helen Russell is admirable as Mabel Wilson. Mr Cecil Collins as Robert Curtis is well placed, and as Cora Williams Miss Beatrice Whitney is capital. Miss Gladys Rose Jones is to be highly complimented on her embodiment as Jessie, Miss Carrie Fenton as Bridget, Mr J. Carl Lyle as Toto, Mr Shirley Lea as Peter Schwartz, and Mr Jack Waring as O'Reilly are all deserving of special mention. In the third act specialities are introduced by Miss Gladys Rose Jones, who proves a clever reciter, and the songs by Miss M. Barber and Little Emmie are popular. Another feature which calls for special praise is the song and dance entitled "The Cake-walk in the Sky," sung by Miss Annie Shirwell and arranged by Miss Ada Russell.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr Leonard Vidal.—A great attraction this week is Horace Goldin, an ingenious magician. It is always a pleasure to watch Goldin's show, his remarkably clever tricks being done with a smartness and deftness that prove quite bewildering. He is assisted by Miss Jean Fransiola, and has quite an ovation at the end of his turn; Richard List's performing and wrestling bears display great sagacity in their various performances; Harry Champion, a popular and versatile comedian, is scoring a success; the Labakans, acrobatic grotesques, with the wonderful dog, Folly, give a clever show; the Bostons, novelty showmen, are causing merriment with a very good turn. Little Nelusco is an adept at conjuring, and other artists entertaining with success are Miss Kitty Bell, vocalist and speciality dancer; L. B. Athol, character comedian; and Charlie Baymar, eccentric Negro comedian.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter Lapworth.—Max Sterling, illusionist, gives a good show here. The Darrell Trio appeared with an enjoyable and refined musical act; Miss May Darrell displaying exceptional cleverness on the banjo. Florence Gwynne, in her scena "The Stage-Struck Servant," is seen to advantage. Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, singing cardboard box makers, are popular. The Three Sisters Lee, acrobats, vocalists, and dancers, are smart, and other turns are contributed by Walter Wallis, comedian; Leslie Murray, magician and card manipulator; and Cecil Blanchard, character vocalist.

LEIGH.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr W. Dewhurst.—Mr Will Hebden and company are here this week in a musical comedy, entitled *A Day in Paddy's Market*. Mr Will Hebden in the many rôles he undertakes is the life and spirit of the play, and displays some good character acting as Johnny Kelly, Ellen Golightly, Maggie Dooley, and Dr. Quakerino Philphaker. Mr L. Maitland as William Henry Percy Fitztalbot, a dude, is very good; Mr Charles Lyndon is well suited as Daft Jimmy; and Michael O'Hennessy is in the capable hands of Mr Charles Locke; and Miss Jennie Clare plays with much force as Mary Manners; and as Mrs O'Hennessy Miss D. Fairley is well suited.

LIMERICK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr Robert Fogerty.—Mr F. R. Benson's North Shakespearian company opened here on Monday in *Twelfth Night*. Mr T. A. Shannon acted with great histrionic power the rôle of Orsino, and as Sebastian Mr Alex. Begbie was most impressive. Mr James Annand looked the part of the sea captain, Antonio, and as Valentine and Curio Messrs Courtenay Foote and Guy Leigh were excellent. Mr F. Owen Chambers was a capital Sir Toby Belch, and as Sir Andrew Aguecheek the acting of Mr C. H. Croker King was cleverly artistic. Mr Henry Herbert scored as Malvolio; Mr Arthur Fayne was an admirable Jester; Miss Maud Garth was Attendant on Duke of Illyria, and also sustained the rôle of Maria with great ability; the rôle of Olivia was finely acted by that brilliant artiste Miss Roxy Barton; and Miss Catherine Boyce was graceful and pleasing as Viola.

LIVERPOOL.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr Arthur Lawrence.—After a week's run the pantomime has settled down into a smooth groove, and rattles along quite merrily. Mr Walter Groves seems to grow funnier as the days roll on, and his Mrs Dessicated Edwards is perhaps the best character of its particular type on the Liverpool stage. Mr Horace Mills, who was indisposed for a few days last week, is back again, creating great laughter with his idle apprentice, a rôle which contributes largely to the fun of the evening. Miss Hetty King's Dick Whittington continues to grow in popularity, and Miss Fanny Dango is an acceptable companion as Alice, the principal girl. Large contributors to the fun are Mr Edward Lewis as Alderman Fitzwarren, Miss Amy Height, and Messrs Alexandre and Hughes. The beautiful scenery and dresses are much admired.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr J. M. Hardie; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Gaffney.—In addition to the spectacular merits of the pantomime here the array of leading artists is a strong one. Mr George Graves scores largely with his Widow Twankey, and provokes continuous laughter, having as a valuable companion Mr Frank Danby, the Abanazar. As Aladdin Miss Carrie Moore has earned golden opinions, and it would be difficult to improve upon her excellent embodiment.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. H. French; Acting-Manager, Mr Sidney Beltram.—The children's pantomime of *Little Red Riding Hood* continues to interest the younger members of the public. The work runs very smoothly, and the little performers exhibit a large amount of ability for their ages. Master Paddy Mills is a youthful comedian with a keen sense of the ludicrous; and his Sunny Jim makes even grown-up people laugh. Dame Trott, performed by Master Dan Dougherty, is also extremely funny; and Miss Molly Rafferty has earned popularity with her dainty Little Red Riding Hood. Her singing and dancing are very creditable for one of her age.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr M. Montgomery; Licensee, Mr J. G. Howard; Acting-Manager, Mr M. Montgomery, jun.—The pantomime of *Little Aladdin* has received considerable patronage, the north-end house being crowded nearly every evening. The production is certainly very bright and entertaining, while its mirth-provoking qualities are great. Witty Wattie Walton creates much laughter with his Widow Twankey, and Miss Marie Beresford's assumption of the part of Aladdin is very charming. The scenery is picturesque, and the latest topical songs are introduced.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs T. Barrasford and F. Willmott; Acting-Manager, Mr Fred Coles.—This week's attraction was originally headed by Peggy Pryde, but unfortunately this artist, through an attack of bronchitis, could not appear. The management happily were able to secure the services of Nellie Adams, whose songs were so well received last week. Barton and Ashley, who now top the bill, are again accorded a hearty reception. T. W. Royal is an expert dancer and is loudly applauded for his efforts. Coram is without doubt a clever ventriloquist and his originality is very laughable. Barton and Franklin are clever musicians and dancers. Hannah and James are smart and original foot equilibrists. Stylo is always worth watching manipulating his hoops. The Athlones as athletes come in for a good share of the applause, Harry Haytor has a good song.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr H. Fineberg; Acting-Manager, Mr M. Simmons.—After an absence of nearly a year, *The Traitor* has paid a visit. Mr Harris Fineberg's No. 1 company has played the drama during the week to crowded houses. Each artiste shows high capabilities, particularly Mr Stephen E. Scanlan, "the traitor" and "No. 1"; Mr John C. Carlyle as Prince Rudolph and Colonel Nervi; Miss Isabel Hunt, who undertakes with success the man's part of Lieutenant Nicholas; Miss Anena Walton, a neat little Japanese; Mr Edwin Jenner, a capital type of a naval captain; Miss Lily Roselle, a dignified Countess; and Miss Hettie Senior, whose rôle of a Frenchwoman was played with success. Miss Ruth Shepherd, a clever young actress, is to be congratulated upon her assumption of the somewhat difficult part of Zula, the avenger.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs Carson and Granville; Manager, Mr Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr F. L. Arthur.—A good attraction has been here this week in *Defending His Honour*, from the pen of Mr Lingford Carson, author of several successful plays. The company, which is that of Messrs Carson and Granville, is a numerous and capable one, principal among them being Mr John Davidson, who presented a capital Douglas Bryce; Mr Clifton Boyne, Mr Fred L. Arthur, who proved himself a host in the lighter side of the drama; Miss F. Melrose-Millett, Miss May Smart, Miss Dienley Dainton, and Mrs Edmond Lyons.

EMPIRE THEATRE, LIMITED.—Acting-Manager, Mr T. A. Cook.—The company engaged here for New Year week is a strong one. At the head is Fred Karno's sketch *Saturday to Monday*, which played by a numerous array of comedians creates uproarious laughter. Mr Fred Kitchen as John Willie Jorgs, the reluctant bridegroom, is highly diverting. M'Phee and Hill present a number of new tricks on triple horizontal bars; Bijou Russell is a comedienne and sand dancer of ability; B. F. Gallagher and Irene Wild submit a neat comedy turn, the former proving himself a capital dancer; Sid Moody and Edie Wright are a couple of smart comiques; some clever acrobatic work is performed by the Brothers Damm; and Walter Munroe renders several Irish songs which have catchy choruses. Others in the programme are George Adams, baritone; Ella Retford, comedienne; and Pia Carozzi, harp virtuoso.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—Heading the bill here this week are Walton and Ella, with their dog show. The turn is a very neat one, the animals being made to go through cake-walks, looping the loop, &c., in an astonishing style. The Hilgart Arkas Troupe present a capital all-round entertainment, entitled *Scenes in a Restaurant*, in which are introduced some excellent acrobatic feats, combined with humour. The Vaudeville Trio of vocalists, comedians, and dancers submit an acceptable turn, harmony and amusement being pleasingly combined; Miss Nellie Ganthony's humorous and musical sketches are very agreeable; Keen and Waller keep their audience in a continuous state of laughter with their eccentric acrobatic act, "Parson and Sport"; and others on the programme are Nancy St. John, comedienne and dancer; Harry Leybourne, comedian; Alix Lukos, with his "Pictures in the Fire"; and the Brothers Teviotdale, Scottish athletes.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr F. O'Toole.—Miss Madeline Clifford's sketch company is here this week with *When Rogues Fall Out*, written by J. K. Murray and Rex Pole. Miss Clifford, Mr Harry Tresham, Mr Gordon McLeod, and Mr Raymond Thomas play the chief rôles. Variety turns are given by J. W. Howley, a smart juvenile comedian and sand dancer; Houston Bros., who present a laughable turn; and Frank Mulvan, swell comique. The cake walk competitions continue to attract.

NEW PARTHENON.—Proprietor, Mr Edwin W. Smith.—This popular little place has an excellent bill-of-fare this week. The Violas, with their mysterious thought transmission act, are at the top, and create a deal of interest; the ever-welcome Johnny P. Dane brings a budget of old and new songs; Charles Best is a smart comedian, his M'Bunker, the mountebank, being very funny; Walter Adams renders a number of amusing songs; Hart and Rudd are a pair of expert dancers and comedians; George Edney sings very agreeably; and Millie Henshaw is a graceful comedienne and dancer.

PADDINGTON PALACE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr J. Kiernan.—The Gregson Comedy Trio are at the head of the bill with their laughable trifle *The Dummy*, which proves very diverting; Smith and Johnson, a popular pair of coloured duettists, bring some new songs; the Delamere Trio of comedy equilibrists submit a neat turn; Sam Dalton has some capital topical songs; and the Two Gems are able comediennes and character duettists. Others in the programme are Lily Lever, burlesque actress; Henriette, 'cellist-vocalist; Lilian Travellie, soubrette and vocalist; and Arthur M'Nab, juvenile vocalist.

WESTMINSTER.—Proprietor, Mr M. Montgomery.—A strong attraction is here this week in the person of Charles Matthews, described as the human kangaroo, who performs some wonderful jumps; Field and Acres, a pair of eccentric comedians, provoke great laughter with their trifle, *Keep Off the Grass*; the Brothers Hannaway are amusing with their patter; Harry Naylor is a man with a funny voice, and sings funny songs; Speeks and Thorne are a couple of clever comedians and dancers; and the remainder of the bill is occupied by Connie Lane, comedienne and dancer; Lilian Rigby, vocalist and dancer; and George Goldburn, comedian.

PARK PALACE.—Director, Mr James Kiernan.—George Pitt, the collier strong man and instrumentalist, is in big type here this week, and performs great feats of strength; Cambo, the musical man monkey, has an interesting speciality act; Alec Swann and Elsie Stanley provide some clever impersonations of well-known people; Bill Bailey, a quaint comedian, sings several funny songs; and others who appear are Maisie Pelham, comedienne; T. E. Gilbey, with his rocking ladder; Lil Gorman, vocalist and dancer; Bert Lytton, swell comique; Kid Johnson, club manipulator; and Little Beattie child artiste.

LONDONDERRY.

OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr W. Payne Seddon.—Mr Edmund Tearle is here this week, and is appearing in *Jeanie Deans*, *Three Musketeers*, *Ingomar*, and *Under the Red Robe*. In the first-named piece as Counsel for the Defence Mr Tearle is very good, Mr T. W. Benson plays Dumbledyke capitally, and Mr W. Raynham is a clever David Deans. Miss Kate Clinton acts Jeanie Deans with great power, and Effie Deans is finely portrayed by Miss M. Campbell.

LONG EATON.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr T. Meakin.—For the first time *The Manxman* has been produced in Long Eaton, and Mr Alfred B. Cross and his company have met with a pleasing reception this week. Mr Cross has a big share of the acting as Pete, and Miss Minnie Watersford has the difficult rôle of Kate. Amongst others prominent in the cast are Mr Richard Vane as Philip, Mr Henry Heller as Cregeen, and Miss Rosie Kearns as Nancy.

LONGTON.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr H. S. Howard.—*The Drama of Life* is being presented here by Messrs Carson and Granville's company. Mr Jerold Ord is all that can be desired as Harry Beech. Mr John J. Hooker sustains the character of Walter Beech with telling force. As Count De Fol Mr Vernon Dalby must be commended. Both the Jack Lawton of Mr Bulwer Pitt and Dave Crane of Mr Leonard Thackery are good. Miss Marie Murray fills the rôle of Master Robert Beech most satisfactorily. As Betty Black Miss Nellie Daly gives a finished performance, and Miss Cissie Bellamy plays well the sympathetic part of Sylvia Beech.

LOWESTOFT.

MARINA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr E. A. Smith.—This week we have here the annual pantomime, which is presented as usual by Mr Peter Davey. The subject this season is *Goody Two Shoes*, which was received on the opening night with much appreciation by a large audience. The chorus work thoroughly well together, and the fun is well sustained. Miss Lily Lingard, in the title-rôle is favourably received, and Miss Maud Nichols is well placed as the principal boy. Great praise is due to Mr J. G. Taylor, jun. (an old Lowestoft favourite) for his capital rendering of the wicked Earl, and others deserving of special mention include Miss Ethel Beech and Messrs Harry Calden, T. C. Haverly, and Graham Morrison.

LUTON.

GRAND.—Proprietor, Mr E. Graham Falcon; Acting Manager, Mr Louis J. Beard.—*My Lady Molly* made her first appearance here on Monday, and met with an enthusiastic reception. This opera is ably interpreted by Mr Arthur Hart's talented company. Miss Agnes Tondy in the title-rôle sang and acted charmingly; Mr Edmund Sherras scored an immediate success as Captain Harry Romney. Much praise must be bestowed upon Miss Maude Thorne for her vivacious acting as Alice Coverdale; Mr Stuart Alexander was a distinct success as Lionel Bland; and as Sir Miles Coverdale Mr Frederick Hobbes did well. Miss Florence Wakeman acquitted herself admirably as Mdlle. Mirabeau, and the same may be said of Miss Sybil Thorne as Hester. Micky O'Dowd was most divertingly undertaken by Mr Arthur Powell. On Thursday Mr John Restall's company presented the pantomime *Little Cinderella*.

MACCLESFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager Mr W. K. Gatley.—As a holiday attraction we have on the boards here this week Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr J. Leicester Jackson's company, in *The Penalty of Crime*. Mr Sam Arthur as George Gibbons is capable; Mr V. Stacey as Mr Glendinning does well; Mr Harold B. Ford as Michael O'Reilly is quite successful; Mr J. Leicester Jackson's portrayal of Bertie Chumbley is effective; Mr Charles Lambert as Martin Norris is powerful; Mr Fred Hodson as Guy Glendinning is responsible for a good portrayal; Miss Blanche St. Albans as Elsie Norris is a big favourite; and Miss Nellie Lambert as Peggy and Miss Phyllis Damar as Joe win favour.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Lessees, Messrs H. Bendon and J. Loader.—A good programme is presented here this week by Owen Cash, comedian; Levani and Elliott, comedy duo; H. E. Haigh, skate dancer; Miss Florence Wood, comedienne; Harry Slade, comedian; Young Igo, the boy wonder; and Dwight and Son, vocalists and dancers.

MANCHESTER.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr W. H. Broadhead; Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs Mathew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company is the attraction here this week in the well-known American drama *The Still Alarm*, which has plenty of interest and sensation for lovers of this kind of fare. Mr Glenville himself sustains the heroic rôle of Jack Manley with considerable success, Miss Mary Lovett acting well in the corresponding part of Elinore Fordham. Mr Lewis Gordon also shines in a strong part; and agreeable humour is contributed by Mr Paul Lovett and Miss Connie Meadows, the latter of whom sings and dances well. The big sensation of the play is the scene in which the New York Fire brigade turns out, but all the staging is good.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—The Three Romas, gladiatorial marvels; Max Gruber, with his elephants and horses; Tom Skeers, entertainer at the piano; and Emmie White, comedienne and dancer, are the most conspicuously successful turns here this week in a capital programme, which is completed satisfactorily by Fred Clifford, operatic baritone; Fred Horsfall, humourist; Davis and Davis, in a comedy act; Ray and Les, comedy gymnasts; Will Soule, laughing comedian; and the Sisters Bartholomew, duettists and dancers.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—Mr Jordison's pantomime *Babes in the Wood* is here this week from the Osborne Theatre, repeating its success before crowded houses.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr M. Potasch.—A recent attraction at the Queen's Theatre, *The Lady's Maid*, occupies the stage here this week, played by Mr Gore Ouseley's principal company. The cast is practically the same, Miss Maggie Bowman, however, being in the place of Miss Isa Bowman in the part of Jane Taylor, the maid. Mr William Pringle maintains his success as Spriggs, the waiter; Mr Carr Shirley also scoring as Biffin, while other prominent parts are well rendered by Mr Stenson Liddard, Mr Harold Eden, Mr Harry Askham, Miss Pauline Hague, and Miss Geraldine Bruce.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr Berry.—M. Auguste Van Biene's performance in *The Broken Melody* (here this week) needs no eulogy at this time of day. The play is familiar to local playgoers, but continues to attract big houses. M. Van Biene is supported by a capital company, Miss Kate Hallam as Mabel and Miss Miriam Lewes as the Duchesse de Verviers being particularly successful.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Manager Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—At the head of a good bill here this week are the Eight Lancashire Lads, whose singing and dancing are excellent. They prove a most popular turn, and are deservedly applauded. The Aeronauts are decidedly original, introducing a clever acrobatic performance with an airship setting, and their patter is highly entertaining. The Three Delanis are exceedingly smart on the trapeze and horse-shoe rings; Percy Handel gives a pleasing and meritorious performance on several wind instruments; Fred Weston is a capital comedian of the eccentric order; Charles Dixon has some funny business; and Aga, the suspended maiden, is a most bewildering mystery. Others who contribute enjoyable items are Kate Lynd, ballad vocalist; Charlton Howarth, tenor; and Kellino and Pope, in their circus act. An extra turn by an unnamed artiste proves highly successful, introducing some capital singing to banjo accompaniment, trick piccolo playing, and clever, sound mimicry.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—The items here this week include Hy. Carlton and company, in an amusing sketch entitled *One Night Only*; and the Coloured Troubadours, who contribute some pleasing glees and instrumental playing. A good turn is supplied by the Wiltons, duettists and dancers; Andy Higginson, vocal comedian, sings well; the Donas supply a clever equilibristic and acrobatic act; Alba and Amba are exceptionally smart jugglers; and Percy Vere and Edith Royal are responsible for some good singing and comedy. Eric Graham wins applause for his delineations of coster life, as does also Millie Harris for her pleasing singing of "sensible songs;" and Otto and Olga, in a musical comedy sketch, are well received.

TIVOLI.—Managing Director, Mr Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr Arthur B. Wilkes.—The programme is particularly good here this week, and packed houses have been the rule. Madame Ada Colley, the charming Australian prima-donna, is the chief attraction, her marvellous top-notes and delightful singing being greatly appreciated. Another excellent item is that of Madame Collard with her cleverly-trained dogs in a new and sensational act; George Daunton, actor-vocalist, sings in capital style; Gus Barra, the musical motorist, is decidedly funny; and Childie Stuart charms with her pleasing songs. Some excellent dancing is contributed by Les Sprays; Rick and Laurel are first-rate comedians and dancers; Juan and M'Que are amusing knockabouts; Flo Cecil sings a coon song with an effective dance added; and Herbert Cyril is aptly described as "Six feet six of mirth."

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr Oswald Stoll Acting-Manager, Mr W. Collins.—A strong programme is provided here this week, the principal turn being the Gatling Guards, well described as the smartest-drilled body of men ever collected. W. H. Clemart, the well-known ventriloquist, also figures prominently, and equally successful are the Leonards in an entertainment comprising comedy, vocalism, and dancing; Lennie and Hast, in a high-class humorous sketch; and James Finney, assisted by Marie Finney, in their popular aquatic exhibition. Other good turns are Warden-Reed and company, in a farcical duologue; the Pass-parts, speciality dancers; the Sisters Pine, in an amusing comedy act; and a series of pictures on the Bioscope.

GRAND.—Lessees, Messrs Thomas Barrasford and Will Sley; Manager, Mr H. C. Arnold, jun.—Michael Nolan, Irish comedian, who heads the bill here this week, did not appear on the occasion of our visit, his place being taken by Gus Harris, who contributed several capital songs and was warmly received. Will Hall is an exceptionally clever animal mimic; Charles Stewart and company cause some amusement with their farcical trifle, *The Water Cure*; and Oswald, hand-balancer and pyramidist, contributes an exceedingly clever turn. Other good items are those of Jack and Evelyn, who execute some smart sand-dancing; R. Judge's

eccentric acrobats and trick jumpers; Mollie Doon, a pleasing serio; Flo Atkins, in a musical act; and Duncan, club juggler and manipulator. The programme is further strengthened by the inclusion of some interesting animated pictures.

PALACE.—Manager and Secretary, Mr P. Watson; Assistant-Manager, Mr J. H. Stringer.—The newcomers here this week are the Black Troubadours, who sing in excellent style; Vasey and Ramsey, who dance exceedingly well; and Fred Fox, the quaint American comedian. Austin and Cowan on the night of our visit did not appear. From last week remain the big turns of the Six Brothers Luck in *The Babes in the Wood*, which is proving a successful draw, and Rousby's beautiful electric review, "In Paris."

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr E. P. Morgan; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr H. Hall.—The current week's programme here includes La Loie Fuller, the greatest of dancers, in a beautiful performance with magnificent scenic effects; Leonard and François, the Toreadors, in their burlesque bull-fight; Harry Lamore, "the silent one," on the slack wire; the Barowsky Trio's humorous gymnastic scena, *In the Wood*; the Sisters Trentanovi, three charming and clever trapeze artists; Elsie Clare, vocalist; Arabella Allen, one of the most artistic impersonators of Dickens' characters; a second week of the great equestrian sketch, *Tally-Ho!* and a Bioscopic entertainment entitled "The Mistletoe Bough."

MAIDENHEAD.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Edgar Dereve and F. L. Schmitz.—The proprietors have their own company this week playing *A Desperate Crime*, *The Soldier's Trust*, and *On the Brain*. In the first-named piece Frank Mayne is fairly represented by Mr Philip Gilbert, and Sir Richard Thornton by Mr Harry Sims; while Mr Tom Roydan does capitally as Gilbert Trevor and Mr Albert A. Wade fills well the part of the Trainer. Miss Constance Errington is graceful and capable as Grace Thornton. The comedy relief, supplied by Mr Edgar Dereve and Miss Katie Lennox, is very amusing, and keeps the house in roars of laughter.

MARGATE.

GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr C. F. Bawtree.—Mr Charles Collette, when he appeared here on Monday with his clever associates, under the direction of Mr Lilford Arthur, in *Jones's Jaunt*, met with a very cordial reception. Mr Collette as Stanley Jones is, of course, the central figure of the play, and gives, as might be expected, a vivid and brilliant piece of work. Another admirably filled rôle is that of Catesby Duff, the broken-down actor turned journalist, which is capitally played by Mr Albert Fowler. Mr Ernest Wintour gives a pleasing character sketch of Smith, the friendly valet, and Mr David Sellar is excellent as Tom Breeze, particularly when disguised as the terrible King of the Wam Wams. The important part of Dollie Bond is filled with discretion and tact by Miss Ruby Chester, whose singing is much appreciated. Miss Rosamund Bury is fresh and pleasing as Kate Jones, whilst Miss Irene Ross makes a vigorous and appropriately objectionable Birdkins. Miss Mabel Luxmore is quite demure as Beadle, and Mr Edmund Beresford plays well as Percy. The comedy has been preceded each evening by the one-act comedietta *The Lady Wrangler*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr E. Macknight; Business-Manager, Mr C. E. Hardy.—Mr Herbert Barrs' pantomime, *Aladdin; or, The Wonderful Lamp*, has been the attraction here this week. The production is well-staged, effectively dressed, and the music is bright and tuneful. Miss Kitty Clayton makes a charming Aladdin. Miss Nelly Dyson is a graceful and captivating Princess Badroulbadour, and Miss Ethel Condor is sprightly as Pekoe. Mr Eric Lealie is capital as the Emperor of China and Mr Karl Bernardo excellent as Yu-go-hang, the grand vizier. Widow Twankey finds an amusing impersonator in Mr Billy Jackson, and in conjunction with Mr Herbert Grapho as Abanazar, a tricky magician, is responsible for some hearty laughter. Mr George Harvie evokes merriment as Washee, and other characters, all ably sustained, include Genii of the Ring, Miss Ada Marjutti; Genii of the Lamp, Mr H. Barton; So-shi, Miss May Greville; Naw-tee, Miss Marie Walsh; Chee-kee, Miss C. Rose. There is a good chorus and ballet, special turns including the umbrella and fan ballet, a statue ballet; Miss Ada Marjutti, the flexible Venus; Marti and Julietta, in their flying spar act; Bernardo, comic tramp juggler; Travella, wire walker; and Grapho and Jackson, in their comic interludes. In addition to these there has been some attractive dancing by the Empire Troupe of acrobatic dancers.

MELTON MOWBRAY.

EXCHANGE HALL.—Lessee, Mr George Andrews.—Picturesque scenery, costumes, and popular music are the predominating feature of Mr George Egerton Burnett's *Forty Thieves* pantomime, which was well received on Monday. One and all of a well-selected company worked hard to ensure success, and their efforts met with a flattering reception. The political song-parody on "Where are you going to, my pretty maid" proved to be the hit of the evening.

MEXBOROUGH.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. H. Melton.—Mr Harry Starr and company are this week playing here in *Otto the Outcast*. Mr Harry Starr is exceptionally good in the title-rôle; as Vidocq Mr R. Harris plays with distinction; the Daddy Bruneau of Mr Wm. Miller is a capital effort; Mr C. Clerke scores as the Marquis De Laporte; Mr J. Turner does well as Augustine Carotte; Miss Queenie Fraser Brunner gives sympathetic treatment to the character of Zara; the Corinne Jarbeau of Miss Rita Roselyn is a commendable effort; and Miss E. Lester is interesting as Susette.

MIDDLESBROUGH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Theatres, Limited; Managing-Directors, Messrs George and Charles Imeson.—Mr J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, has caught on here. On all sides the production is praised, and regret is expressed that its run is necessarily a short one.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Grand Opera House, Ltd.; Licensee and Manager, Mr T. Hopcutt.—Mr Humphrey E. Brammall's company with *Cinderella* continues to play to large audiences. Unfortunately, Miss Marie Loftus has been unable to appear at one or two performances through cold.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr John Brill; Manager, Mr J. W. Thornborrow.—Mr Joe Peterman's company in *The Belle of the Orient* is the great attraction here. The company is a capital one, and meets with great favour. Otto Schuman and his wonderful ponies are a great hit. The Vivians in *Life's Reverie* provide a capital turn, and the Royal Korries in their pot-pourri act create a good impression. The Davenports are smart illusionists, and Ada Parker, coon impersonator, finds much favour. Frank Boyce sings some capital songs, and Harry Luck, comedian, is good. "The Lost Child," shown on the Bioscope, is most laughable.

OXFORD.—Lessee, Mr Wm. Peacock; Manager, Mr Wm. Ainsworth.—The Imperial Boys' Orchestra give a delightful performance; Martin Conway is as successful as ever; and the Earles are a great hit in their banjo solos. The Three Seabornes provide a smart equilibristic turn; Miss Cissie Cutler sings good songs; Sinclair Mearns is a finished dancer; and King and Delane in a comedy sketch, *At the Club*, find appreciation. The Alakarno Trio of Risley acrobats, Mdlle. Roseltha, dancer, and the Bioscope complete a good programme.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr Will Smithson; Assistant-Manager, Mr Albert J. Lewis.—Messrs Dottridge and Longden's company, under the direction of Mr James Willard, is here, in *The Midnight Mail*. Mr George Havard makes a robust Harry Steyne, and Mary Steyne is pathetically depicted by Miss Ada Oakley. Miss Mildred Carr is lively and energetic as Nancy Brewer, and Lady Phyllis Eustace is in the capable hands of Miss Violet Clayton. Mr Fred C. Evison creates roars of laughter as Billy Brewer; Hassan Padisha is effectively played by Mr Arthur Gilroy; Mr Alec Alves as Leonard Royle gives a clever reading of the part; and Mr Chas. M'Cann as Donald Graig, Mr R. Bosco as Jasper Thornleigh, and Mr M. O. Wills as Sergt. O'Lynn are alike capable.

MOTHERWELL.

NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Resident Manager, Mr W. Gillespy.—The special attraction here for the holiday season is Mr C. P. Leviliy's company in *Amorette*. Mr Leon Simkin is most amusing as Dr. Napoleon Bonaparte Crow, and is ably seconded by Miss Carlota Blondin as Marina. Mr Arthur Elwyn is good as the Count of Cideaux; and Alphonse is well represented by Mr Horace Manger. Miss Adah Grey is seen to advantage as Lesbia, her singing being greatly appreciated. Jules is in the capable hands of Mr Arthur Cozens, and Mr Edward Granby plays François with good effect. In the title-rôle Miss Dot Stephens is attractive, and her clever singing and dancing are highly appreciated.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

TYNE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr Fred C. Sutcliffe.—*Cinderella* is delighting crowded holiday audiences at each performance.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr F. Tearle Lingham.—Here also packed houses have been attracted by Mr Arthur's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr T. W. Rowe.—For the opening week of the year *Sapho* is the attraction, and the manner in which the play is staged calls for praise. Miss Annie Bell makes a success in the title-part, and she is well supported.

NEW EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Director, Mr Richard Thornton; General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr E. Leslie Conroy.—The leading item in the bill here is the performance of the sketch, *Lord Harkaway*, in which a glove fight occasions plenty of excitement in the audience. George Newburn is again well to the fore in his imitations of well-known singers, and Mendel, the blind pianist, gives further proof of his skill. Acrobatic cyclists in the Aurora Troupe are well received, and acceptable contributors to the programme are also Margaret Ashton, the American girl; Harry Martell, comedian and dancer; Mueller and Coyne, variety entertainers; Leona Dare, in her trapeze speciality; Rastus and Banks, in a sketch, *The Major and the Maid*; and Tambo and Tambo, tambourinists.

OLYMPIA THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Thornton and Bacon; General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr Nelson Barry.—Mr E. J. Lampard's melodrama, *Between the Lights*, is being played here. The piece is acted by a good all-round company, and particular mention is due to Messrs George Lyttleton, Herbert Pearson, Charles H. Fenton, Misses Kate Froude, Nesta Sandford, and Florence Barnes for their meritorious impersonations.

GRAND THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Business-Manager, Mr Ernest W. Bacon.—*In Dahomey* remains here for another week, and crowded houses continue to be attracted by the many entertaining features of the popular Negro musical comedy.

PAVILION THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr Thos. Barrasford; Business Manager, Mr Will H. Boardman.—The Six Brothers Luck's company is appearing here in the melodramatic pantomime, *The Hermit*, the performance of which provides capital entertainment. Another lively sketch is that of the Densmores, entitled *Early Morning in the Kitchen*. Brinn displays strength and cleverness in his manipulation of cannon shells, gun carriages, &c. The Paxton Trio are very smart acrobats and head-to-head balancers; and other noteworthy turns are those of the O'Learys, in their Oriental Burlesque Act; the Toreadors, in a burlesque Spanish bull fight; Sid Bandon, character comedian; Maud Caswell, speciality dancer and barrel jumper; and Adolph Ernest, in his speciality.

NEWPORT.

LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Sidney Cooper.—D'Oyly Carte's No. 1 company is here for another week and on Monday *The Yeomen of the Guard* was the attraction. Miss Jessie Rose played Phœbe Merrill with a humour that was bright and fascinating, Miss Norah Maguire was winsome as Elsie Maynard, and Mr Fred Billington in the grim humour of Wilfred Shadbolt was an interesting figure. Mr C. H. Workman in his impersonation of Jack Point, the stuttering jester, was everything that could be desired. Other parts are in capable hands and the opera is very prettily mounted and dressed.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr O. Stoll.—Tilly Bebe, with her performing bears, is the star turn here. Hardeen, the expert handcuff manipulator, is accorded a warm reception. Morton and Elliot introduce some clever results of paper manipulation and a very clever troupe of trick cyclists are the Seltina's, who are warmly applauded. Other turns are Wilson Hallett, Auto and Mobil, in a funny motoring sketch; Virto and his daughter Irene, in a musical act; Lily Marney, and the Bioscope.

NORTHAMPTON.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr W. J. Andrews.—The Brothers Lavelle, comic acrobats, are the special line of this week in the pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe*.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr Robert Barton.—Reba Kaufman is one of the cleverest little dancers that our energetic proprietor has brought here, and Jean Seul, the Indian mystery, fairly astounds everyone with his marvellous tricks. Franz A. Crisp achieves success as an actor-vocalist; Bob Stephenson is a good comedian and dancer; George Helm and Emmie Cozens furnish an amusing act, entitled *The Doctor and the Patient*; and Lade Henderson, descriptive and character comedian; J. H. Bowman, a tricky dancer; and the Moxons, hand-balancers and equilibrists, complete a good programme.

NORTH SHIELDS.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Arthur Jefferson; General Manager, Mr Horace Lee; Secretary, Mr Gordon Jefferson.—Mr E. Hill-Mitchelson's company, with *Revenge*, has proved a great holiday attraction here this week. As Prince Orloff Mr E. Hill-Mitchelson is seen to advantage, Mr Wellesley Draper as Captain Loris Vanessa is clever, Mr Theo Balfour scores heavily as the King, Mr Arthur M'Cullock makes the most of the part of Count Massant, and Mr Fred Yarnold is well placed as Jim Jennings. Miss Violet Carlyle as the Queen is worthy of high praise, Miss Frances White is smart as Draga Vanessa, Miss Lelgarde Atheling does well as Luska, and Miss Ada Douglas as Olga and Miss Alice Barber as Cora Brook play their parts satisfactorily.

NEW CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Wm. Mould.—Mr J. W. Hall, comedian, is the great attraction here and his reception has, as usual, been a very cordial one; Musical Silvo is clever; and Kavados is a smart juggler. Miss Beattie Worth, comedienne; Mr Sam Shipley, comedian; and other attractions are received with favour.

NORTHWICH.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs S. Golden; Manager, Mr Percy Webb.—Mr Gordon Starkey and company paid us a welcome return visit for the first three nights of this week in *A Message from Mars*. Mr Cyril Austin-Lee stands out pre-eminently successful in his admirable delineation of the part of Horace Parker, and the Tramp of Mr Percy Tyler is distinguished by its naturalness. Mr A. Collins-Ralfe does good work as Arthur Dicey, and Dr. Chapman was well presented by Mr G. R. Peach. Mr Lockhart's Messenger being a fine performance. Miss Violet Auberies played the part of Miss Parker with acceptable dignity; Miss Florence Heather was seen to advantage as Mrs Clarence; and Miss Edith Cuthbert displayed quiet strength and pathos as Minnie Templars.

NORWICH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr Fred Morgan.—Mr J. F. Elliston's company, under the direction of Mr Charles Hermann, is here this week with *In Old Kentucky*. Mr J. George Steel as Frank Harley is very successful; Mr Alfred G. Baukes is good as Colonel Pebley Beauchamp; Mr Eric Hudson's interpretation of Joseph Grafton is commendable; whilst Mr Gerald Kennedy acts with force as Joe Lorey. Mr Harry Leander as Neb is very good. Mr Charles Gibbs as Ephraim and Mr George Perkins as Tom Tinman are responsible for a great deal of fun, and with Jimmie James as Bastus and Will Whittaker give a capital variety entertainment, and receive well-merited applause. Miss Edith Halford is very pleasing as Alethea Harley; Miss Beatrice Shirley is good as Barbara Grafton; Miss Ethel Smith appears as Mrs Van Astor; and Miss Amy F. Herman scores a great success in the part of Madge Brierley. The representation of the great race is most exciting and very realistic.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr F. W. Fitt.—A capital programme is presented this week, and heading the bill are Woolford's circus of performing ponies, dogs, and comical donkey, Sam Sly, who give a very neat performance. Mr and Mrs Edward Lucas find much favour in their impersonation of various Dickens characters. The Bros. Edgar, comedians, are amusing; the Vernon troupe are very smart xylophone performers; the Avrignys are clever Japanese jugglers; Miss Agnes Molteno is a charming ballad vocalist; Dave Wallace, eccentric comedian, and Marie Tilley as a comedienne and dancer, have good receptions; the Bros. Veroney are also attractive for their sketch, *The Lazy Coalman*.

NOTTINGHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Managing, Mr Howard Finney.—*Robinson Crusoe* now works smoothly and well, and large audiences testify their appreciation of Mr Arthur's production. A new song is introduced by Miss Madeline Du Val entitled, "John Bull and his sweethearts."

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Charles P. Cooke.—*Goody Two Shoes* has caught on here, and all the artists are warmly applauded for their efforts.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, A. W. Bull.—Messrs George Mitchell and John Belton's company is presenting *The Conscript* here. Mr Mitchell gives a deep and powerful performance as Karl Truevitch. Miss Mary Dawson is an artistic Nadia, and shows much dramatic intensity. Mr Howell Travers depicts with energy the character of Ivan Manloff, and Mr John Belton plays well as Doggervitch. Miss Elizabeth Doone makes a pathetic Catherine Silka, and Miss Ivy Chandos as Wanda offers a welcome diversion with her song. Mr F. H. Constable is duly severe as Count Hardiski, and good work is done by Miss Bella Tilbury, and Messrs Harry Tilbury, Frank Harvey, and Harold Holmes.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr Hatton Wharton.—*The Fighting Parson* is as attractive as ever here. Mr George Gray again portrays the popular cleric, and his fine acting shows a thorough grip of the part. He is capitally supported by a large company. Alf Gibson's quiet method and humorous ditties are exceedingly taking, and he has an uproarious welcome. A clay modelling turn by Dome is both clever and humorous. Nellie Coleman's character impersonations cause amusement, and hearty laughter is evoked by Phillips and Terry in the sketch *A Hundred Years Hence*. The Howards demonstrate their smartness by skilful cornet playing; the Lumars provide some very creditable acrobatic novelties; and the Sisters Devona submit a charming aerial act. Alice Maydue, comedienne, and Gardiner, eccentric comedian, contribute songs successfully.

NUNEATON.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, the Theatre and Entertainments Company, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr Lawrence Brough is supported by an excellent company in *The Lady of Ostend*, which is bristling with humour and full of amusing situations. Mr Brough as the volatile Frenchman submits a delightful character study; the unfortunate Dick Whortles is represented by Mr Harry Hampson; and the amusing father-in-law is taken by Mr Percy Marshall; the prize-fighting husband being excellently presented by Mr Edmund Gurney. Interest is naturally centred in the character of Dorothy Whortles, a part very ably impersonated by Miss Kate Milford. On Friday *The Cruise of the Saucy Sally* was given.

OLDHAM.

ROYAL, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr George Knowles.—An excellent variety company is at this popular place of entertainment. The Karno Trio create much merriment and laughter by their funniosities in a sketch, *The Travellers' Rest*. Billy Richardson, stump orator, is one of Oldham's old favourites. A smart and novel turn of hand-balancing is submitted by the Three Laurels. A novel juggling entertainment is given by Valoni. Lieut. Aibini is well received in his smart illusion, "The Lady in Black." The Original Zaros give a clever display of tumbling and balancing, for which they are heartily appreciated. Arthur Elvy is successful as a singer of rollicking songs, while Slade Murray is a vocalist of much merit. Maud Clifton is an excellent soprano vocalist.

EMPIRE, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr Hulme.—The pantomime, *Aladdin*, is still being played with great success at this theatre. Mr Fred Carey, Mr Fred Graham, Miss Mimi Fisher, Miss Cassie Walmer, Miss Harriet Fawn, Brothers Brookes, and Les Belles Americaines have become very popular, as their respective receptions indicate.

GAIETY, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr E. J. Dexter.—An excellent programme is submitted here this week. Boswell's Circus occupies premier position with his educated ponies, donkey, and dog. Walter Whitney is an up-to-date comedian; Carl Howard, the crazy conjuror, is well received; Akbar is successful in a gymnastic entertainment; Miss Beatie Foster, serio, scores; Miss Bella Leaburn does well with her répertoire of popular songs; and Raymond's Bioscope is also an attraction.

OXFORD.

NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr C. C. Dorrill.—Mr Arthur Carlton and Mr H. Armitage's company is here this week with the popular play *In the Ranks*. Mr Edward Lloyd gives a powerful performance of Ned Drayton; Mr Herbert Cecil is excellent as the villainous Gideon Blake; Mr Archie W. Chappell is an interesting and effective Captain Holcroft; Mr J. E. Page is a realistic and convincing Richard Belton; and Mr Arthur Byron is highly amusing as Joe Buzzard. Miss Harriet Russell causes much laughter as Mrs Buzzard; Miss Daisy Norman does well as Barbara Herrick; and Miss Edith Blair-Staples gives a powerful and realistic rendering of Ruth Herrick.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr H. G. P. Wells.—Mr C. Watson Mill's company, including Miss Rosalind Tate, is occupying these boards with *A Wrecker of Men*. Mr C. Watson Mill is to be congratulated on his fine performance as Jim Murley; Mr Percy Horton plays in good style as Guise Strange; Mr J. W. Ryder is a Jew of the best type as Ezekiel Isaacs; and Mr George Harvey is self-possessed as Railton. Miss Victoria May portrays Doris Melville with feeling, and Miss Gracie Garside makes a sprightly Vavasole Slopper. Miss Rosalind Tate is admirably adapted to the title-rôle.

PENTRE.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Owners, Messrs Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr Eugene Hardie.—Miss Winifred Maude's company is here this week in *The Sins of a City*. Mr Ivan Gore is effective as the old salt, Donald M'Ivor; Sandy M'Donald is in the capable hands of Mr Horace E. Herbert; the dual-rôle of Joe and Jasper Woodleigh is cleverly interpreted by Mr J. W. Baxter; Mr Leslie Beaufort as Ralph Blackwater gives a powerful delineation; and Mr Victor Du Cane is exceedingly good as Isaac Levi. Miss Marie Lyons as Lesbia gives a capital impersonation, and Miss Winifred Maude deserves praise for her charming portrayal of Seaweed.

PENZANCE.

ST. JOHN'S HALL.—*The Gay Parisienne* paid its first visit here this week. Mr Chas. Macdona's company, under the able direction of Mr R. E. Sullivar, proved itself thoroughly capable in every particular. The audience testified its unbounded delight in loud shouts of laughter and continuous applause. Miss Alexina Glenroy as the Gay Parisienne captivated all by her chic, her singing, dancing, and winsome mannerisms being perfectly delightful. Miss Madge Soutter as Ruth was exceedingly funny throughout. Miss Hazel Hood was capable as Mrs Honeycombe, and Miss Ethel Wade as Norah looked her part and sang her numbers very sweetly. Miss Florence Brewster, Miss D. Macmahon, Miss Doris Cammell, and Miss Freda Welbourne as Major Forsdyke's daughters were a dashing and up-to-date quartet. Owing to the indisposition of Mr Tom May, the character of Ebenezer Honeycombe was undertaken at short notice by Mr Cecil Lloyd, the hard-working stage-manager, and he acquitted himself in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. Mr Tom Kennard lent a smart appearance and a capital voice to the rôle of Tom Everleigh, whilst Mr Charles Maynard as M. Pompier worked remarkably hard. The reception of his clever dancing, good singing, and general conception of the volatile Frenchman left no room for doubt as to his ability. A notable feature of the production was the introduction of the Imperial Glee Singers, Messrs Jones, Reid, Kennard, and Fitz-James, their cultivated voices blending so harmoniously as to elicit frequent encores. A good word must be said for the able musical direction of Mr H. Larence.

PERTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Aldridge.—*The New Barmaid* is proving an attraction here this week. Mr Leslie Austin is the Captain Lovebury, and his singing and acting are much appreciated. Mr Arthur Rodney does well as Colonel Claymore. Mr Joseph B. Montague is the cause of great merriment in the rôle of Bertie White. Mr Alexander Loftus proves himself a clever entertainer in the rôle of William White. Mr Frank Melroyd as Monr. Bonsor succeeds entirely. Mr Norman Bowyer as Braddy and Miss Winnie Preston as Gussie are seen to advantage. Messrs George Roslyn, F. Clinton, and E. Lockings, in their respective parts of inspector and the club waiters, James and Henry, aid greatly the success. Miss Jean Gilmour as the dignified Lady Moulton is excellent. Miss Violet Osmund is capital as Dora Heather, Miss Hilda Blanche impresses the audience favourably as Brenda Louth, and Miss Nance O'Neil is charming as Ethel Joy.

PLYMOUTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Langdon Lee.—*Dick Whittington* is drawing good houses, and the second week of its production witnessed an all-round improvement. The harlequinade, which is run on the good old-fashioned lines, is a feature which the public much appreciated. All the principal characters have established themselves favourites, and encores are plentiful nightly. Miss Margaret Ruby is one of the most popular pantomime "boys" who has visited the west, and Miss May Augus-Young is as pretty as she is clever. Fun fast and furious is provided by Mr Pat Waddock and Mr Frank Weir.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy Williams.—*The Earl and the Girl* is still running here this week, and Mr William Greet's company is full of good qualities. Both Mr Reginald Schwitz and Mr Alec Fraser are prominent, and their songs take capitally. Miss Mary Fraser, Miss Maud Aston, and Miss Cynthia Carey contribute greatly to the success of the piece.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton.—The pantomime of *Sinbad the Sailor* is full of good things in the way of up-to-date songs, dances, and other attractions. In the title-rôle Miss Rita Leslie is very effective, and is well supported by Miss Kate Holloway, comedy of the screaming order being supplied by Mr A. E. Andrews, Mr J. Payne, Mr H. Ugar, Mr L. Karno, and others.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs Livermore Brothers; Manager, Mr J. Field.—A strong programme is being submitted here this week. Ahrensmeyer, the cowboy hypnotist, gives an extraordinary and amusing performance, his efforts attracting a lot of attention. From similar entertainments his differs materially. Zaid, the Spanish Moor, is certainly the greatest contortionist that has been seen locally. The Herald Comedy Four are capable vocalists; Spry and Monti are humorous and clever; and a like tribute must be paid to Cliff and Kean. Other good turns are Kit Keen, the copper-coloured comedian; Dan Conroy, comedian; and Vernon's animated pictures.

PLYMOUTH PALACE OF VARIETIES has a popular, painstaking, and progressive manager in Mr J. Field, who was this Christmas the well-deserved recipient of a handsome gold cigarette case, subscribed for by many of the patrons of the stalls, and presented to Mr Field as a mark of their appreciation of his ability and courtesy. With comparative youth on his side, an abundance of energy, a plentiful supply of ideas and tact, Mr Field should have a bright future.

PONTYPRIDD.

ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Milton Bode; Business-Manager, Mr Rex Dooley.—The attraction this week at the above theatre is Mr Fred Bulmer's company in *Sentenced For Life*. Lieutenant Roy Stillwell is finely taken by Mr Harry Lloyd. Mr Ernest Vaughan wins encomiums as Capt. Paul Derrick; Mr Richard A. Greene scores as the Rev. Martin Orris; Mr T. C. Glenville is worthy of praise as Sir Wm. Stillwell; Mr Frank Zara ably portrays Percy M'Gentle; and Messrs A. Marchant and Edward Finley create roars of laughter as Bill Sharkey and Toby respectively. Miss Florence Trevlor is decidedly good as Kate Rennel; Miss Madge Douglas impersonates Adele Grey admirably; and Lady Stillwell is ably portrayed by Miss Mary Dolby.

PORTH.

POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr W. Bynorth.—On Monday evening Messrs Perry and Stanton's company presented the sporting musical comedy drama in three acts entitled *The Sporting Girl*. Mr T. Gilbert Perry is a lively Mr Penton Hook; Mr Charles Sanders plays the part of Jack Garling with success; George Drewitt has a capital representative in Mr James H. Sterling; Mr Marcus Grey gives a decidedly good rendering of Marco Castellino; Miss Maggie Stanton is seen to advantage as Kitty Fitzroy; Miss Eloina Stuart is a pleasing Amy Bedoe; Miss Marjorie Tennant makes the most of the part allotted her as Mrs Owen; Mr H. Bolton is most amusing as Rev. John Bunyan; and Miss Jennie Hackett and Miss Betsy Brownlie are loudly applauded for their introduction of the cake walk in act three.

HIPPODROME AND UP-TO-DATE CIRCUS.—Sole Proprietress, Miss Ada Alexandra; General Manager, Mr E. Pryce.—The programme provided here this week is headed by Atlas and Vulcans, athletes, who give an excellent performance; R. C. Note, the swell comedian, is well received; the Four Rosaires contribute a capital turn; Florrie Claribell, tyrolean vocalist and top boot dancer, meets with a hearty reception; the Boleros, three bar comedians, score a success; Rabbie Greive, the singing ventriloquist, affords keen delight; Mdlle. Devena, the queen of clubs, meets with approval; the Three Darlans, aerial marvels, are decidedly clever; John Fossett, with his troupe of dogs, horses, and mules, give a pleasing performance; Daisy Devonport, serio, is a capital turn; the Devere Troupe are also very successful; Rabbit and Hairpin, the two clowns, are responsible for some genuine amusement.

PORTSMOUTH.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr T. E. Agate.—The pantomime *Dick Whittington*, of which a full notice appears in another column, has had another very successful week, and is running with great smoothness. New business having been introduced, there is every sign of its popularity continuing.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr Armstrong Bell.—*The Girl from Kay's* is still going strong here, full audiences being convincing evidence that the efforts of the artists are appreciated.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr W. Pratt.—The Seven Leopolds, in their acrobatic acts, top the bill here this week. The Brothers Ralston, character comedians, are good. The singing of Dora Lyrie, refined comedienne, is received with approval. Howard and Collinson, with their original absurdity, *The Porter and the Parcel*, are a capital turn. Millie Howell, comedienne, has had a cordial greeting for her well-rendered songs. Lee and Bentley, with their sketch, *Castles in the Air*, create roars of laughter. Included in the programme are Tom Parker, eccentric comedian; Julia Feavlour, burlesque actress and dancer; Sisters Hall, vocalists; and Payne's Bio-Photoscope.

PRESTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr Stephen Pritt.—Milton Rays' company is concluding a successful two weeks' engagement here in the pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, which moves along with inspiriting gaiety from start to finish. Miss Maidie Scott has deservedly become a favourite in the rôle of Silver Button. Miss Nellie Merton as Beauty and Miss Maude Jay as Prince Greatheart also fill their parts with distinct success. Mr Rolando Martin's impersonation of Sammy keeps the audience in a continuously merry mood. Mr George Rydon as Sir Macintosh Mizzletoe and Mr Edwin Garth as Wilhelmina contribute largely to the fun. The comic boxing of Fyne and Hurley evokes roars of laughter. The Four Eldorados are very popular in their special dances, and the Hayes Brothers, comedians and dancers, and Wallau, the boy juggler, gain unstinted applause.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Sawyer and Woodruffe.—Miss Daisy De Roy's gorgeous pantomime company in *Dick Whittington and His Cat* is occupying this theatre this week. As Alice Fitzwarren Miss Daisy De Roy is quite a charming favourite. Mdlle. Lucretia in the rôle of Dick Whittington contributes some capital songs and proves her ability as an expert top-boot dancer. Little Jupiter takes the part of Tommy (Whittington's cat) cleverly, and also excels in the trapeze act, assisted by Miss Beatrice Tiley. Mr Paul Courtney is a capable Alderman Fitzwarren. Jack, his idle apprentice, as taken by Mr J. C. Bland, is most amusing. Mr Joe Bond, in the character of Eliza, the cook, provides some mirth-provoking business; and Rose Walmsley's Star Quartet are greatly appreciated for their graceful dances. Captain Shipwreck and the Bo'sun (the Barrasford Boys) assist in creating laughter.

RADCLIFFE.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr Jas. Boothman.—Mr Bert Coote's company is here in *The Fatal Wedding*. Mr F. S. Herbert Humber plays the part of Howard Wilson in an excellent manner; and Mr Oliver Rogers is strong as Robert Curtis. Mr Charles Kenny as Toto and Miss Harriet Clifton as Bridget keep the house in a good humour. Mr Victor Widdicombe scores as Peter Schwartz; and the same remark applies to Mr Jack Waring as O'Reilly. The acting and singing of Miss Marjorie Lawrence, who plays Jessie, are much admired. Miss Nora Hoffe displays appropriate earnestness as Mabel Wilson; and Miss Gertrude Harrison is admirable as Cora Williams. The dancing and singing of a number of children well deserve a word of praise.

RAMSGATE.

AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General Manager, Mr Henry Bowman.—*In Dark Siberia*, the sensational Anglo-Russian drama, has been presented in capital form by Mr F. Jarman's company this week. Mr W. T. Rily is a successful and popular hero as Capt. Victor Gordon, and in very pleasing style Miss Carlotta Anson impersonates the rôle of Princess Orloff. The villainous element is well represented by Mr Wilson Howard as Major Waroff. Comedy is effectively infused into the play by Mr L. Weston as Petrovitch, a Sergeant, and by Miss Linda Riley as Ivanova, maid to the Princess. Miss Cecilia Ransome admirably fulfils the requirements of the part of the Messenger, Paul Gregorvitch, and Miss Ethel Bickham is a charming Sonia Gordon.

RAWTENSTALL.

GRAND THEATRE.—Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr J. Potter; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr J. Ellis Miller.—Messrs Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company opened here on Monday with *Why Men Love Women*, and gave a good interpretation of the play. As Violet Livingstone Miss Annie Saker showed exceptional talent; Mr Alfred Paumier as Gerald Fielding gave an excellent impersonation; Mr Bensley Evans as George Staniloff was sufficiently powerful as the villain of the play; and as Tommy Fitzherbert Mr W. S. Hardy submitted a hearty rendering of the character. Mr Edwin Lever as the Maharajah of Bolore was interesting. As Orlando Figgins Mr Harwood Roberts was distinctly successful, and he and Miss Marie Glynne must be credited with many comicalities.

REIGATE.

PUBLIC HALL.—Mr George Elmer's clever company presented *Dick Whittington* here this week to greatly pleased audiences. The principal characters were:—Dick, Miss Queenie Allnutt; Alice, Miss Freda Clare; Fairy, Miss May Nelson; Fitzwarren, Mr Arthur Danville;

READING.

ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr Reginald Taylor.—The pantomime of *Sinbad the Sailor* is having a successful run at this theatre. It has been produced in elaborate style by Messrs F. J. Little and Fred Darcy, this being their fourth annual production here. The "book" has been written by Mr Frank Ayiton, the well-known story being adhered to, with the interpolation of many topical allusions and whimsicalities; and the music, which is specially composed and arranged by Mr John Gregory, contains many bright numbers, including the inevitable "Blue Bell," which is sung with great taste by Miss Kitty Brewster, The scenery is specially painted by Messrs J. E. Davies and Alfred Whyatt, and is very effective. The costumes by Miss Ida M'Donald and Hetty Bass are rich and tasteful, and the mechanical effects by Mr J. W. Cane are well arranged. Miss Lily Beverley plays the title-rôle in a very spirited and engaging style, and her singing is highly appreciated. Miss Kitty Brewster is an attractive Zorilda; Mr A. G. Hart is highly amusing as Tinbad; Mr Willie Black as Mrs Sinbad and Happy Attwood as the diminutive Captain Cook are both very popular; the Warlocks create abundant amusement as the mate and bo'sun, Baccah and Stoppah; Mr Fred Dobito and Miss Flora Brixton play and sing well as the Emperor and Princess Zaidre; the Demon of the Deep is ably impersonated by Mr Victor Wallace; Tiny Tim appears as the Old Man of the Sea; Mr T. Warley as Davy Jones; Miss Cissie Conyers is graceful and pleasing as the Good Fairy; and a charming bevy of ladies appear as Sailors, Fishermen, Guards, and Slaves. The incidental attractions include the Brewster Quartet of dancers, who go through a very effective series of lance and sword exercises; the Wallys, in their wonderful comedy juggling act; and the Lavelle Brothers, the quaint comedy acrobats.

TOWN HALL.—Mr Joseph Poole's myrioramic entertainment is still doing first-class business here. The myriograph pictures are excellent, and an attractive variety show is given by a talented company of artistes.

REDHILL.

MARKET HALL.—The British Bioscope Company, presenting Buffalo Bill's Wild West Exhibition in animated pictures, occupied this hall the past week. The variety turns include Gilroy, lecturer and ventriloquist; Mr Tom Carrick, Miss Lily Carrick, and others.

ROCHDALE.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr W. Robinson; General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling; Resident Manager, Mr Charles Clucas.—*Home, Sweet Home*, is the attraction here this week. Mr Frank Lindo submits a telling portrayal of the honest and faithful Stephen Armitage; Mr Geo. Jervis makes a typical old sailor as David Armitage; Capt. Gerald Gambier is prominent with a capital impersonation of the Duke of Ancaster; and Mr Wilson Coleman cleverly acts the part of Lucas Lyle. Miss Gertrude Bingham is amusing as Sybil Fay, and Miss Marion Wakeford acts with power the rôle of Joan.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs Smith and Lee; Business-Manager, Mr S. L. Lee.—Mr John H. Tomkinson's Royal Gipsy Children are proving a strong attraction here this week. An excellent and varied programme is submitted, and specialities are introduced by Elsie Rubina on the wire; the Lizette Troupe of lady acrobats; the Florida Troupe; Fred M'Lean, comedian; the Musical Keiths; and the Mister Glee Party.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Hargreaves.—A capital programme is being presented to the patrons of this increasingly popular place of amusement. The Three Juggling Geraldos submit bewildering and clever club juggling; De Henau paints with his toes a remarkably clever landscape; and J. P. Carroll is a tambourine player of exceptional ability and effect. Other attractions are submitted by Richard Mentos, equilibristic trick mandolinist; Mabel La Blanche, descriptive vocalist; Mdlle. Bena Aladina with her trained cockatoos; Leighton and Mona, the tramp and the soubrette; and the Empire Bioscope.

ROTHERHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr W. Manning.—Mr Robert Perris's company is here this week for the first time with *A Fight for Millions*, a spectacular musical comedy. Mr V. Carlyle is smart as Tom Manley; Mr J. Newton Cowling is seen to advantage as Hudson Rivers; Mr Horace Booth is a capable Richard Dudley; and Mr Robert Perris as Willie Neverwork, a rough diamond, scores heavily. Mr Karl H. Edwards as Solomon Moses gives a capital rendition of the part; Mr Bert Goodfellow is deserving of mention as John Leveredge; and Mr Georges Hodges does well as Robert Mackenzie. Miss Eva Purcell is pleasing as Pearl Rivers; Miss Florence Lovell is an effective Mrs Hudson Rivers; Miss Elma Turner is seen to advantage in a sympathetic rôle as Helen Dudley; and Miss Lottie Pearce is sprightly as Betty and Mag Brady. Miss Dora Lyons is a merry Little Madge.

RUGBY.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr E. Parker Royston.—This week Mr Arthur Gibbons is presenting a pretty and well-mounted pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*. Miss Linda Keston as Beauty gives a graceful and vivacious rendering; Miss Gertrude Wright as the Fairy Amoroso is charming; Miss Marie Beaufort as Prince Charming wins much applause for her graceful acting and accomplished singing; Margaret Romney is very good as Malicia, the Spirit of Strife; and as Dandy Veller Miss Janet Lawton is excellent in every way. Mr Sydney Vereker is amusing in the part of Ko-Hop, and as Maude Hannah Mr Albert E. Mann provokes much merriment. Mr Will Holland and Mr Tom Banks as the twins give a clever and humorous representation, and Miss Fursy Mills, Miss Rosie Knott, and the Sisters Hula give a smart exhibition of acrobatic dancing.

FOSSETT'S HIPPODROME.—The entertainment this week is of the usual high order. Mr Robert Fossett, jun., Mr John Irvin, Mdlle. Fossett, Miss Marie, and Miss Pinder all repeat their former successes. The additional turns are a very amusing sketch, presented by the Brothers Smart and Miss Agnes Le Bland, and one called *Old Joe's Ghost*, both of which are much appreciated. Miss Agnes Le Bland is also very successful as a serio and dancer. Charles Beckett introduces several fresh items, as also does Monr. Otto.

RUNCORN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr H. W. Caddick.—Mr J. Rice Cassidy and company are here in *Dan the Rake*, meeting with the same huge success as heretofore. Mr J. R. Cassidy is, as usual, excellent as Dan; Mr Frank Copeland is still the ideal of a straightforward Britisher in his embodiment of Lieut. Charles Kavanagh; Mr Frank Orchard shows to considerable advantage as Colonel Flamer; Mr Chas. A. Crosby is quaint as Achille; Mr Stephen Crossley gives an entirely favourable study of General Lake; Miss Lilian Clare as Madge continues to obtain a very fair share of the praise bestowed; Miss Florence Halton scores as Helen Flamer; Miss Ada Roscoe is also to be commended on a painstaking Mrs Donelly.

SALFORD.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr Harold Goulden.—Messrs Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholls' company is presenting *The Life that Kills*. Kendal Croat is well played by Mr Fred Moule; Miss Cathleen Cavanagh cleverly presents Brenda Croat; Miss Marie Menzies is seen to advantage as Laura Linden; a very good study is that of the Rev. Theodore Rodney by Mr Francis Serle; Mr M. Maud deserves praise for his portrayal of Valentine Telford; Little Violet is good as the crippled child, May Linden; and Mr W. Drury as Samuel Flattoote, Mr A. Hall Menzies as Jack Jolliffe, and Miss Lucy Murray as Johanna Dicks combine successfully in the comedy business.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford; Licensee, Mr James M. Hardie; Secretary and Manager, Mr C. Shayler.—Stalg's motor sensation, looping the aerial circle in mid-air, heads the bill here, and some pretty fairy dancing is done by Lind? Miss Raffin's troupe of performing monkeys go through wonderful trapeze work; Gus Harris, Hebrew delineator, sings himself into great favour; "Fun at a Railway Station," is an amusing act by Farley, Rennie, and Farley; Marquis Iton is a clever equilibrist and strong-jawed man; there are some amusing animated pictures; and acceptable turns are also given by Dan Llewellin, tenor vocalist; Geo. Rennie, ventriloquist; and Amiel, a boneless contortionist.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr J. B. Taylor.—Gus Garrick, comedian, is an excellent turn in an excellent programme; Gladys Mavius, Canadian coon, obtains much applause for her efforts; Mdlle. Yetta is very clever in her graceful speciality wire act; the Herslebs, aerial comedians, are good; Almon, a hand balancer, does some smart work; and other successful turns are those by Harland and Rollinson, in their musical comicalities; Harry Thurston, in impersonations of leading artistes; Rice, Rose, Davis, and the Half, in their uproarious comedy act *Ferguson's Dog;* the Four Royal Welshmen, in excellent glees; and Beattie Kendal, dashing characteristic vocalist, concluding with the interesting animated pictures.

L. AND N. W. PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietress, Mrs S. A. Higham; Manager, Mr Sam Higham.—A pleasing entertainment here includes Mr Walter Dunn, comedian; Miss May Turner, comedienne; Madame Allas, lady baritone; and Mr Sam Higham, vocal comedian.

BRIDGE HOTEL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Tom Bradbury.—There is plenty of variety in the galaxy of talent here this week, including Mr John Chesney, concertina soloist; Mr Will Charlton, patter comedian; Mr James Conroy, comedian; and Mr Lester Lyons, baritone vocalist.

SHEERNESS.

COLISEUM.—Sole Proprietor, Mr T. C. Dorling; Manager, Mr Chas. Melvin.—A capital all-round company here includes the Four Estrellas, in their clever gymnastic entertainment. D. W. Watson, cornet soloist, has a hearty reception, and Miss Daisy Morrell, comedienne, is much admired. Johnny Hanson and company produce another of their favourite sketches, and are distinctly amusing. The Two Kays, vocalists, are very successful, and Chris Baker, comedian, is deserving of special mention. The programme concludes with an interesting display of animated pictures.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr P. Reymond.—The excellent company here includes the Daintons (Arthur and Eve), in the comedy sketch, *One Too Many*. Mr Chas. Osmond, tramp lightning cartoonist; Miss Lillie Martell, comedienne and dancer; Miss Kitty Neville, comedienne; Mr Harry Hilton, eccentric comedian; Miss Marie Roselle, balladist; and Pulo, the boy juggler, are also engaged.

SHEFFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr F. W. Purcell; Acting-Manager, Mr T. S. Carter.—The beautiful and funny annual, *Goody Two Shoes*, has fairly caught on with the pantomime-loving Sheffielders, and big business is the rule. The naive charm, pretty face, and refined manner of Miss Minnie Cunningham make her an admirable representative of the title-rôle; and Miss Georgina Leonard's fine presence and effective singing have secured her many admirers. Those admirable comedians, Langford and Downes, are great favourites. Mr Frank Lincoln provokes much hilarity as the Dame, and very successful are Mr Harry C. M'Clelland, Mr George French, and Mr Harry Rousbey. The scenery and dresses are much admired, and the exquisite spectacular scene, The Mystic Grotto, invented and produced by Mr Hagedorn, is the theme of universal approbation.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr John Hart; General Manager and Treasurer, Mr J. E. B. Beaumont.—Mr C. P. Levilly's company began the second week of its visit here on Monday, when a crowded house again roared at the comicalities of Mr Eric Thorne and enthusiastically applauded the fine singing of Miss Stella Gastelle in the delightful comic opera *Amorelle*.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr C. A Ramsay.—This spacious theatre has been packed nightly since Christmas Eve, and *Aladdin* can safely be added to the long list of spectacular successes for which this old local "home of pantomime" is noted. Miss Cissy Paris has become very popular as the gay and tuneful Aladdin, and a more graceful and piquant Balroulbadour could not be desired than Miss Esta Stella. A great and well deserved favourite is Miss Maud Esmond, a graceful and pretty young lady, who acts in a chic manner as Prince Pekoe, and whose well-rendered songs are a big feature in the annual. Miss Ida Worsley also sings well as Caramel. There is plenty of fun, thanks to the untiring efforts of those smart comedians, Mr George Delaforce, Mr O. E. Lennon, Messrs August and September, Mr Teddy Denham, Mr Bert Atherton, Messrs Royston and Royce, Mr J. W. Cawdery, and Mr Chas. Austin, the clever representative of Abanszar, who has made a great hit. The clever dances of the Magnets are enthusiastically applauded, and the whole performance goes with an exhilarating swing.

EMPIRE PALACE.—General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr A. W. Young.—Crowded houses continue to appreciate the generous policy of the Empire directorate, and this week the following artists have given much pleasure to the patrons of this fine temple of music, mirth, and wholesome amusement; Mons. Hermann Melot, French conjuror and illusionist; C. T. Fiske and Nelly M'Donagh in a sketch called *Brecky's Temptation;* Miss Florrie Robina, the dashing serio; the Knick-Knacks, duettists and dancers; Lily Tiso, a smart comedienne; Peppo's Monkeys; H. F. Wilson, a favourite tenor vocalist; Charles Diamond and Miss Beatrice, harpists and vocalists; the Baldwin Brothers, American acrobats; Will Newman, an amusing eccentric comedian; and the Trapnell Family in a clever and graceful acrobatic act.

GRAND PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr Beagle.—Under the energetic management of Mr Beagle the Grand maintains its prestige as a well-conducted and comfortable resort. This week the interesting biographic spectacle "Whirling the Worlds" has aroused much interest, and good turns have been contributed to the programme by Valvero in a novel act; Charles Bowker, Edith Sylvesto, Little Florrie, Clara Sefton, and George Foyle.

WONDERLAND.—Proprietor, Mr Victor Samson.—The pantomime *Sinbad* is the attraction here.

SHREWSBURY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Business Manager, Mr W. C. Dornton.—Tuneful music, good chorusses, and pretty dresses are the best features of *The Scilly Girl*, which is being played at this theatre during the present week by Messrs Frank Nelson and Chas. Cautley's company. Mr Chas. Cautley successfully fills the part of Cecil Trevelyan, and sings with power and expression; Mr H. E. Garden in the inane part of the Hon. Adolphus Delaware makes the best of his opportunities; Mr Milroy Cooper as Cyrus Wheeler acquits himself creditably; Mr Robert Rivers makes a good Duke of Ayreshire; Mr Alfred Donohoe is droll and lively in the low comedy part of Hiero; Miss Bessie Pelissier sings sweetly several songs and duets with Cecil Trevelyan; Miss Dorothy Vernon is pleasing and vivacious as Muriel, her dancing being graceful; Miss Susie Oak looks well and plays conscientiously the part of the Duchess of Ayreshire; Miss Ella Kitson merits praise as Madame Endora; and Miss Ada Palmer as Miss Catherine Wheeler acts satisfactorily.

SMETHWICK.

ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr C. Barnard; Manager, Mr E. Hewitson.—An interesting production from the pen of Max Goldberg, entitled *The Voice of the People; or, Workgirls of Birmingham*, is being played here this week by Messrs Harris Fineberg and John F. Preston's company. Mr John F. Preston as Barry Phelps, actor, bailiff, super, and sandwichman, introduces many Shakespearian and other popular quotations; Mr Ernest R. Allen as the Rev. Walter Mereditb, wins the hearts of the audience; Mr C. H. Pullen as Adolphus Green is well placed; Mr Arthur Hartley as Morris Morris, a sweater, gives a good interpretation; Mr W. Atherstone as Steve Morris is a vigorous and incisive scoundrel; Mr J. Rowe makes the most of his part as Captain Goodman; and Mr Syd Silvester as Tim Toosh, with excellent comedy and song, is quite successful. Miss Mara Collings is a stately Lady Longthorpe; Miss Hilda Shirley as Mary Maynard gives a praiseworthy portrayal; and the Liz of Miss Gertrude Godart is particularly noticeable.

SOUTHAMPTON.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Mr Bert Coote's company is this week presenting with great success *The Fatal Wedding*. As "the little mother" Miss Emmie Thomas is excellent, her singing and acting being admirable. She is well supported by a bevy of specially trained children, who have an opportunity of showing off their talent as entertainers in act three, "The cake walk in the sky" being a fitting finale to an exceptionally interesting scene. All the characters in the drama proper are well sustained, and Mr Percival Newman works hard as the musical director.

PALACE.—Topping the bill here we have Hadj Abdullah's Troupe of Arabs, whose acrobatic display is simply wonderful. Park's Eton Boys demonstrate their ability as vocalists of the highest class, and Willie Benn proves himself a clever pianist and patterer. Percy Honi scores in song, story, and music, his concertina playing being excellent. Terry and Bentley, a smart couple, sing and dance themselves into favour in their scena *The Hunt*, and Booker and Narbis win golden opinions in their sketch, *The Interviewer*. Albert Wyndham and company appear in a dramatic episode, *Prince Arthur*, and another excellent turn is that given by the Sisters Revenl, who sing admirably.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr W. Marlow, sen.; Manager, Mr W. Marlow, jun.—On Monday Mr C. St. John Denton presented for another week the pantomime *Babes in the Wood*, which is going a deal better than last week, the singing being much improved. Miss Ethel Karri makes a capital Water Lily, the good fairy; Miss Rosalind O'Ferral is good as Herne; Prince Charming finds a most capable and clever exponent in Miss Rose Dearing, whose singing is worthy of praise; Miss Eleanor L'Estelle as Phyllis is commendable; Mr Willie Scott as Charlotte provokes hearty laughter; Billy Buttons is well portrayed by Mr Densley Russell; and Mr Lauri Leslie makes a prominent Baron Bluster. Master Harry Pleon does well as Augustus; Gagem and Scragem, the ruffians, provide plenty of good fun; and the Four Olympian Stars are responsible for some capital dances. Steve Selby causes merriment with his mechanical donkey, and Dainez Circus of performing ponies, jumping dogs, and the celebrated donkey Smiler, add greatly to the amusement.

SOUTH SHIELDS.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs J. and F. Coulson.—*Robinson Crusoe* is being produced here under the personal direction of Mr Macnaghten and Mr Baugh.—Monday's house was packed, and general appreciation was bestowed upon the different artistes. Miss Louie Hurman is a picturesque Crusoe, and Miss Rose Bartlett becomingly enacts, both in song and dance, the charming Polly Perkins. Miss Flora Leonard sings well as Fairy Coral; Mr Percy Davidson appears successfully as Davy Jones; the fun is well maintained by the unflagging efforts of Mr Will Lytton, a quaintly spoken Will Atkins; Mr Jack Foley is a diverting Dame Crusoe with many witticisms; and Messrs Harris and Worth are a funny pair of knockabouts as Sammy Sackles and Dick Drymouth respectively. "The dearest girl in Dixie Town" is ably rendered by Miss Hurman and Mr Harry Morgan, an excellent exponent of Friday; Miss Daisy Reed dances well as Princess Pearlypet; and Miss Delia Cherry (Midshipman Merry) and Miss Dora Langham (Nancy Lee) creditably acquit themselves. Mr Chas. Cork, in the part of the Rajah Ram Jampotte also figures successfully. Miss Ivy Lane's Vaudeville Troupe of dancers are apt and pleasing.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Richard Thornton; General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr Geo. F. Thompson.—Excellent audiences are witnessing a clever entertainment by the Dandies, who excel in song and dance; the Emelia Sisters submit a suitable musical entertainment; the capital violin playing of the youngest of the quartet being vociferously applauded; Kyoto in a distinctly droll novelty act creates much mirth; Hugh Stanton's prophetic absurdity *Twenty Years from Now* is capably interpreted by Mr Tudor Williams and Miss Ella Dixon; and May Geraldine, the Haydens, Edie Veno, Little Lady Fauntleroy, and the American Bioscope are also appearing.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr Jos. Sweeney.—Mdlle. Florence globe walker, assisted by Mdlle Queenie, is drawing crowded houses by her admirable and refined act; J. W. Mills is a fine tenor vocalist; Sandy and Carl patter comedians, are responsible for laughter; and Kinrara and Rose, eccentric comedians, and Dillon, ventriloquist, are well applauded. The remaining turns are Copeland and Son and J. C. Heffron.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs Weldon Watts; General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr R. G. Elder.—The holiday attraction here is Mr H. J. Callan and Mr W. Croke's company in *Florodora*, which is being played to crowded houses nightly. As Cyrus Gilfain Mr C. Young Fixott is as good as ever; Mr W. Everard's Frank Abercoed is sung and acted very ably; Captain Arthur Donegal is undertaken by Mr Frank Grans with his customary skill; and Mr W. Roussell makes the most of Leandro. Mr Arthur Lenville causes much merriment as Tweedlepunch; Miss Cissie Sephton sings and acts cleverly as Lady Holyrood; Miss May Yates is a great success as Angela Gilfain; and the rôle of Dolores is acceptably acted and particularly well sung by Miss Maud Lake (late of this town), who has made great progress in her profession.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr J. Batty; Manager, Mr W. Batty.—Miss Bonnie Goodwin and her piccaninnies top the bill here, and are very successful. Other turns are taken by Len Lever, coon vocalist and clever sand dancer; the Three Sherrys, comedy acrobats; Sam Kelly, Irish comic; Brothers De Wynne, very smart equilibrists; Bert Weston, a good swell comique; O'Connor and Traynor, comics and dancers; and Payne's Bio.

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PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

"RED RIDING HOOD" AT DERBY.

Mr G. Brydon-Phillips's pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* was produced on Boxing Night with gratifying success at the Grand Theatre and Opera House, Derby. The book is by Mr Victor Stevens, and is much in advance of the average. Mr Alex Humphreys is responsible for the music, and he also ably acts as conductor. The pantomime is in two parts, which is an improvement on the ordinary continuous performance. There are four scenes in the first and three in the second portion. The first scene, which would well do, if it be not intended, for a depiction of the Derwent Valley above Ambergate, is very pleasing indeed, and the third scene, A Glade in Summer, is also a striking achievement. This is followed by a wonderfully effective transformation to A Glade in Winter, where a troupe of fairies, clad in daintiest gossamer and carrying lanterns, "trip it blithely as they go on the light fantastic toe" to a tuneful number. The final scene, a palace interior, is also an exceedingly charming effect. The piece goes with a swing from start to finish, the fun being as hilarious as it is harmless. Miss Florrie Forde, who is well known on the variety stage, is the Prince. She has a dashing figure and a generally acceptable presence. Miss Forde works hard and honestly for success and secures it. She has several taking songs, which are already in the streets. Among these may be specially mentioned "The Old Bull and Bush," "Onona," and "Bluebell." Miss Gertie Gitana in the nom-rôle is another distinct success. Alike as vocalist, actress, and dancer she ranks high. Her coon song, "My Queen Divine," is a truly excellent piece of work, while her acting as the heroine of the pantomime is highly intelligent and effective. Miss Marie West as the Fairy puts real life into what is ordinarily a somewhat invertebrate class of character, and sings a good song. Miss Florence Frederica figures agreeably as Cupid, and introduces a very pretty pas seul. Miss Nellie Cranbray does well as Dandini, and as Jack and Jill Misses Millie Denham and Doris Lillian both merit special mention. Granny has a capable and versatile exponent in Mr Frank Dunlop; Mr J. E. O'Connor is screamingly funny as Simple Simon; and equally so is Mr C. Brady as the Fat Boy. Mr Fred Hallam is thoroughly deserving as the Squire, and sings a couple of songs that go off capitally. As Lawyer Slyfox Mr Fowler Thatcher has a part that scarcely brings out his unquestionable ability and versatility as a comedian, but he makes the most of his chances and scores in all he has to do. The Wolf is well rendered by Mr J. W. Brighter, and Mr Charles Churton plays the Poodle to perfection. The Du Gros Trio of gymnasts head the specialities, and their smart and skilful turn is as clever as it is droll. The principal dancers are Misses Carrie and Alice King, whose saltatory efforts add not a little to the enjoyment of the whole. To other characters and their representatives reference may be made later; let it suffice here to state of the entire cast that there is observable an esprit de corps that is eminently satisfactory. The general manager of the production is Major George Stratton.

"THE SLEEPING BEAUTY" AT SOUTHAMPTON.

The first performance at the Grand Theatre of Mr Fredk. Mouillot's pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty*, on Boxing Day attracted two record audiences, who manifested appreciation of this pretty, merry pantomime. The libretto has again been written by Mr F. Leslie Moreton, who upon the slender story has based a most interesting book. The music, arranged and composed by the chef d'orchestre, Mr J. Warwick Moore, is bright, catchy, and pleasing; and the scenery and dresses excellent. Of the company it may be said that all do uncommonly well. First favourite is unquestionably Mr Charles J. Cameron, who is irresistibly funny, as the Royal nurse. He is full of quaint quips and cranks, which fairly convulse the audience, whilst his singing of "Short stories" and an original topical ditty "A lot of little things want looking into" cause continuous merriment. Mr Cameron is undoubtedly the mainspring of the show, and there could scarcely be a more humorous impersonation on the pantomime stage this season. He is ably assisted by Mr Chas. Penrose, who is a mirth-provoking Peter Piper, and proves himself a comedian of resource, acting with much dry humour and cleverness. He scores a huge success with his original song entitled "Oh! who says so?" which he renders in droll style. Mr Joe Hudson makes a capital King, playing with unction throughout, and Mr G. Villiers Arnold renders capable assistance as the Lord High Chamberlain. Of the ladies it must be said that the management have been exceptionally fortunate in their selection. Miss Florence Vie as the Prince plays with dash and spirit throughout, while her singing of "The sweetest girl in Dixie" catches on at once, and should become a great favourite. Miss May Davis is a dainty and charming Beauty, her principal song, "Under a Panama," being received with uproarious applause. The charming Sisters Morde are successful as the second boy and girl, singing and dancing particularly well. Miss Alice Farquharson is a stately Queen, and Miss Joan Ellis looks very pretty as the Fairy Godmother. The two woodcutters, Messrs Baroux and Bion, have a fine chance of showing off their clever acrobatic speciality, and other amusing business, which fairly brings down the house. Other excellent turns are given by the Stuart Trio of dancers; the Miltons, comical skaters; and Leo Ricoli, juggler. The chorus do excellent work, and Mr Harry Reynolds is seen to advantage in the somewhat exacting rôle of the Witch, in addition to being responsible for the stage-management, in which he appears to be an adept. The production was under the personal supervision of Messrs F. Leslie Moreton and Sydney Paxton, both of whom are entitled to congratulations for their very successful pantomime. Mr George Lindsay is the courteous acting-manager of the company.

"ALADDIN" AT PAISLEY.

On Christmas Eve Mr J. H. Savile produced his eighth annual pantomime at the Paisley Theatre, the subject being *Aladdin*. The management may be heartily congratulated on the efficient and beautiful manner in which the old story has been staged anew. Mr Fred Locke has again supplied the "book," and he has played no tricks with the text. But at the same time he has successfully introduced topical and local allusions and seasonable jokes, which are, as a rule, much appreciated. The various scenes (eight in number) reflect high credit on the artists, Messrs John M. O'Farrell and William M'Culloch. There are four principal scenes, of which the first represents the Market-place, Pekin. The second brilliantly pictures the Interior of the Cave of Precious Stones. Aladdin's Palace and Gardens are after the willow-pattern order, and are very effectively portrayed; while the final scene, the Flying Palace in Africa, is enhanced by a gorgeous pageant. The music has been carefully taken in hand by Mr Bert Stephens, and owes a good deal to his arrangement as well as to the discreet use of his bâton. Mr Michael Dwyer is responsible for several additional numbers. The dresses, &c., are of the very best, and the blending of the colours, so judiciously done, displays a cultivated taste. The company engaged is one of undoubted ability. A dashing pantomime boy is Miss Florence Wilton, who, as Aladdin, acts vivaciously, and sings with plenty of verve, being especially successful in her spirited rendering of "Bluebell." Miss Gertrude Branscombe is a most winsome and sympathetic Princess Badroulbadour. She has a pleasing, if not very powerful, voice, but is heard to advantage when singing her allotted numbers. Mr Willie Garvey is responsible for a vast amount of laughter, caused by his whimsical sayings and doings in the rôle of Widow Twankey. Abanazar is effectively embodied by Mr Will Sherlock, and a couple of clever knockabout artistes are found in the Boston Twins, who, as Hi-Spi and Li-Ying-Tung, take a large share in the numerous comic interludes. Miss Gladys Warren, who appears as Bohee, acquits herself in admirable style, her "Navaho" song being loudly applauded. Petti-Sing is played exceedingly well by Miss Florrie Somers. Mr Karl Mora makes the most of Ting-a-Ling, the Emperor of China, and Mr T. W. Kelly as So-Sh, the Vizier, is commendable. The part of M'Kazrac is played by Mr James Grant in a most amusing manner. Miss Kitty Jones as the Spirit of the Lamp is all that can be desired, her singing being particularly well received, and the Spirit of the Ring is impersonated in good style by Miss Ina Stirling. The dances by Miss Lottie Stone's troupe are graceful and particularly pleasing. The production has been under the entire control of Mr Savile, assisted by Mr Alec Flood, the latter also acting as stage-manager in a very capable manner.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT PORTSMOUTH.

Quite a typical holiday crowd invaded the Prince's on Boxing Night to witness the opening of the usual annual pantomime, *Dick Whittington*. The subject is likely to prove a great attraction. The title-rôle is undertaken by Miss Bessie Willow, and a very charming and imposing Dick she makes. She should prove a great favourite. Miss Leah Laurie is a dainty principal girl, singing her music in a sweet and captivating way; Miss Florence Hilton is a fascinating and vivacious Sir Algernon De Mash, her songs being received with rapturous applause; Miss Isabel Taylor as Captain Navycutte also does very well; Alderman Fitzwarren is carefully and judicially played by Mr Cyril Dundas; Mr Allan Carruthers as Idle Jack does full justice to the part, and makes the most of his opportunities; Amelia Florence, Fitzwarren's cook, the indispensable comic old woman, is most amusingly played and without vulgarity by Mr Harry Alberry; and Silly Peter and Lazy Lary, two comic rôles, are ably performed by Messrs Clifton and Gibson, and both are responsible for some quaint humour. Last, but not least, we come to the Cat, excellently played by Mr M. V. Vido. Miss Meta Anderson is an impressive and conspicuous Concordia, the Fairy of the Bells. Rodonto, King of the Rats, is very satisfactorily impersonated by Mr Archie J. Milne, who doubles the part with that of the Emperor of Morocco. Specialities are given by the Three Sisters Kilner, acrobatic dancers; Curtis and Vanity, cake-walk artists; and La Belle Troupe of Parisienne dancers. The book is by Mr Joseph L. Barry, who has followed the story fairly closely. The excellent and catchy music has been composed and arranged by Mr George Burton, L.C.M. The groupings and ballet are first-class, and reflect the greatest credit on Madame Newall. The scenery is also very good, notably scene two, Islington-green, and scene four, Highgate-hill, and has been designed and painted by Mr James Greenhalgh. The costumes, which are elaborate, are by Messrs Brady and Maine, the mechanical changes and effects by Mr Edwin Joner, and the wigs by Messrs J. H. Fyane and Co., Liverpool. The entire pantomime has been produced under the direct supervision of Mr James Kiddie (his second year); in fact, the whole production is a credit to all concerned, and goes without a visible hitch from start to finish.

COVENT-GARDEN BALL.

At the fancy dress ball at Covent-garden which took place on the night of the 30th ult. the attendance was, if anything, above the average, and although those present could not dance 1905 in, this made no difference to the general enjoyment. While dancing was in progress the scene was delightfully bright and full of ever-varying colour. The outstanding feature of the costumes, perhaps, was the predominance of the Japanese, and wearers of dresses suggesting our gallant allies in the Far East were invariably objects of interest and attention. Of course, too, there were costumes calling to mind the death of the old and the birth of the new year. One of the most attractive was appropriately entitled the "Dawn of the New Year," and was designed by Mr W. Clarkson. Skirt and bodice were of grey satin, and on the former were several painted panels. The cloak was composed on one side of leaves brown and dead, and on the other of bright green leaves or of young ones just beginning to shoot out. A clock, lighted with electric glow lamps, and with the hands nearing the hour of midnight, formed the head-dress. "A Persian Garden" was resplendent with silver butterflies and roses, and made a very pretty picture. "Winter," "Father Time," and a pert little Cupid were among a crowd of others that promenaded in hopeful anticipation of the judges' favourable verdict. As usual, excellent arrangements for the many visitors had been made by Mr Frank Rendle and Mr Neil Forsyth, and after the march past a number of handsome prizes was awarded. Two firsts were given, one for the best and the other for the most original costume. By the best costume the management means the most picturesque and at the same time the most practicable for one who is a dancer and not merely a promenader. Mr Dan Godfrey's excellent orchestra as usual supplied the music.

ILLUSTRATIVE INTERMEZZOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—A writer in a contemporary dealing, on the 29th ult., with Mr Tree's revival of *Much Ado About Nothing* made mention of an intermezzo illustrating the passage of time between midnight and dawn. Three years ago I wrote in collaboration a play which was set down for production, and all details were arranged, but the actress upon which the syndicate had set their hopes was unable to accept the part, so the production fell through. Between acts three and four of this play, in order to mark the passage of time, an intermezzo illustrating midnight and dawn was to be played, the curtain to rise sixteen bars previous to the note indicating dawn which was to be suggested by the piping of one single bird, the music to continue to the end of the act, which closes as the sun begins to appear above the horizon.

I shall be much obliged if you will kindly publish this statement, as negotiations are on foot for the production of this play, and I wish to avoid any accusation of plagiarising Mr Tree's excellent idea. At the same time I desire to acknowledge the source of my inspiration, which was Mascagni's Intermezzo to *Cavaleria Rusticana*. I think it is quite superfluous to add—however, I make the addition—that there is no suggestion in my mind of anyone having plagiarised my idea.

Yours faithfully, CHARLES LANDER.

Dec. 30, 1904.

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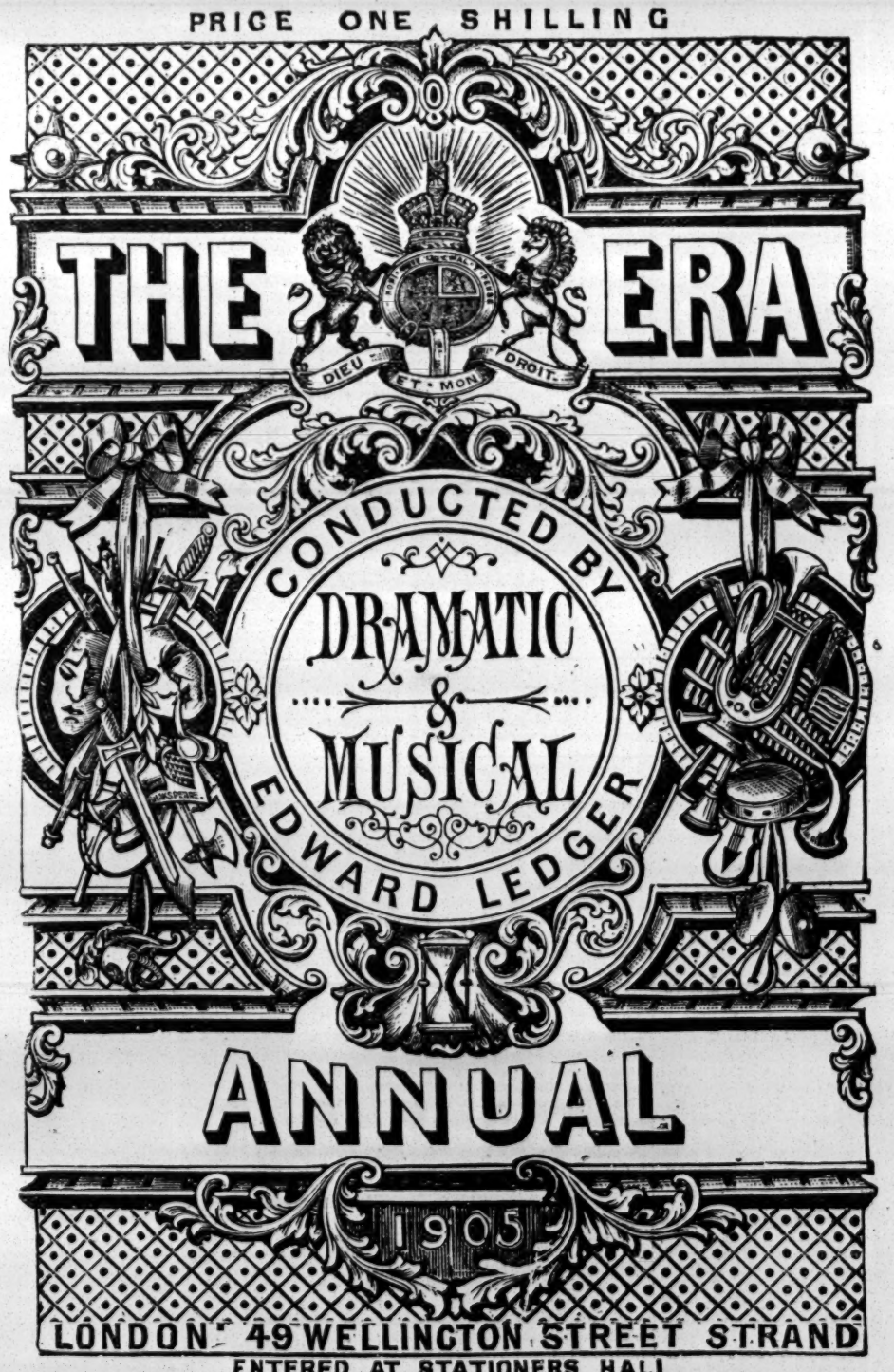

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"BELLS ACROSS THE SNOW."

A Drama, in Four Acts, by W. Bevan Robinson, Produced at the Greenwich Theatre on Monday, Jan 2.

Philip Craig	Mr VERNON TRAVERS
Edmund Vance	Mr EUGENE STERNE
Richard Argentine	Mr J. A. HILL
Erney Gurney	Mr ALEX. TAYLOR
Ralph Washington Jones	Mr DENIS CAMPBELL
Teddie	Master ARCHIBALD READ
Lillian Argentine	Miss NORAH BELLEW
Violet Craig	Miss DOROTHY HAIGH
Pompinette	Miss MARION MONKHOUSE
Mrs Argentine	Miss MARTHA MORE

Mr W. Bevan Robinson's drama, *Bells Across the Snow*, was produced with every sign of success at the Greenwich Theatre on Monday night. The new play contains plenty of the sensational incidents which appeal strongly to a popular audience, and the story is worked out by the author with a considerable amount of ingenuity. A prominent personage in the piece is Philip Craig, an unscrupulous individual who fills the important official position of a town clerk, and is a lawyer by profession. To him is entrusted a will by the terms of which a good young sailor, named Richard Argentine, is bequeathed Mapledene Hall and a large fortune. Craig, however, resolves to assume the rôle of the rightful heir to the property, and alters the wording of the will accordingly. Having committed this crime, he enters into possession of the old hall, and is welcomed by his neighbours as the new squire. Edmund Vance, a medical man, who has got into disgrace and been compelled to give up his profession, learns by some means of Craig's falsification of the will. When the young sailor puts in an apppearance Vance endeavours to persuade Craig to drug him in order to obtain possession of a valuable document Richard has in his possession, but Craig refuses, so Vance himself does the business, steals the paper, and carrying the inert body to a boat causes the latter to drift out to sea The first scene of the second act is a room in the hall at Mapledene. Craig does not seem very happy in the possession of his wrongly acquired wealth. Vance makes use of his knowledge to blackmail him, his demand for hush-money being emphasised by the production of a revolver. Craig's sister, a frank, honest girl, in love with young Argentine, discovers how her brother acquired the hall and money, and determines, after giving him a piece of her mind, to leave him. In the next scene we find her conveying food to her sweetheart's mother and sister, who have been turned out of house and home for failing to pay the rent and are living in extreme poverty. They are also uneasy at the non-arrival home from sea of Richard. However, the sailor eventually puts in an appearance and denounces Vance, but that villain is allowed to escape the penalties of the law. In the next act Craig, apparently tired of dwelling at the hall and uneasy in his mind as to his false position, takes to drink. He avows his intention of confessing his crime and making restitution; but Vance, in order to prevent this, does not hesitate to set fire to a café, hoping that Craig will perish in the flames. The intended victim, however, escapes after he and Vance have had a desperate struggle in the burning building. Vance makes further attempts to murder Craig, but is always thwarted, and eventually Craig makes full confession, and the rightful heir takes possession of Mapledene Hall. Mr Vernon Travers gave an excellent embodiment of Philip Craig, and won the favourable verdict of the audience. Mr Eugene Sterne portrayed the villain, Edmund Vance, in effective fashion. Mr J. A. Hill did well as the young sailor Richard Argentine. Mr Denis Campbell scored as Ralph Washington Jones, a showman, and Mr Alex. Taylor caused considerable merriment in the part of a medical student named Erney Gurney. Master Archibald Read made quite a hit in the part of Teddie, a potboy. Miss Norah Bellew was pleasing and graceful as Lillian Argentine, and Violet Craig had a thoroughly satisfactory exponent in Miss Dorothy Haigh. Miss Marion Monkhouse was a spirited Pompinette, the showman's daughter, and sang in effective style, and Miss Martha More was well placed as Mrs Argentine. The incidental music was by Mr A. M. Gates, the leader of the orchestra.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Jan. 2, the Drama, in Four Acts, by William Bourne, entitled "MAN TO MAN."

This well-known melodrama has paid numerous visits to Stratford, but it is very evident that the habitués of the Theatre Royal are far from tiring of the piece, for the holding capacity of the house was well tested on Monday night. An excellent cast has been engaged to interpret the play, which is mounted exceedingly well. As George Gordon Mr William Bourne submits an earnest and incisive performance, and renders the character highly popular. Mr Ellis J. Preston plays the villainous Richard Ellerton with admirable restraint and directness of method, his realistic portrayal making the miscreant an object of particular aversion to the more susceptible among the audience—a decided compliment to the actor's ability. Mr Arthur Rich has made the part of the hypocritical Bill Burkley essentially his own, delineating the burly convict with a most acceptable dry humour and unctuousness, and with such graphic power as to completely sink his identity in the character. Mr Frank Liston is a manly and impressive Rev. Philip Ormond; Mr Harry Ward is always amusing as Samuel Plumtree; and Mr A. Moore plays Mathew Ellerton appropriately. Mr D. Osborne and Mr Samuel Griffiths are excellent in the respective rôles of Forde and Turner. Miss Maud Buchanan makes a sympathetic and charming Ethel Maythorne; Miss Eva Griffiths plays naturally as Miss Lavinia Dove; and Miss Amy Vennimore, aided by a fine stage presence, delineates Gipsy Madge with ease and fluency. Miss Jenny Mayhew is very successful as Ned Doyle, and Miss Clara Murray plays brightly as Mary.

"ALADDIN" is still drawing crowded houses to the Brixton Theatre, for certainly there is not a more charming and dainty impersonator than Miss Emmeline Orford, nor a more fascinating Princess than Miss Constance Hamilton, who receives a well-deserved encore for a very pretty song, "Navaho," and a gracefully executed dance. Another noticeable addition since the first performance is the beautiful rendering of two ballads, "Brilliant" and "For Ever," by Miss Marion Macdonald. The first she sings partly in Italian, and the audience is thrilled by her melodious voice. The comedians have worked up their parts, and the performance goes with a bang from start to finish. Messrs Walton and Lester introduce a funny song entitled "We all went into the shop," and the "Mad Sick Kettle" still merrily boils every evening. Mr Edwin Brett introduces a pedlar song with patriotic verses, which, of course, goes well. Miss Kitty Harrold as So-Shi sings a very good song "The Bull and Bush," which evidently meets with the favour of the audience, as they take up the chorus with heartiness. Miss Eva Bayhurst is well received for her two dances, and praise must be given to this lady for the careful manner in which she has trained the ladies of the ballet. The harlequinade, which is arranged by the Brothers Phillips, causes the youthful members of the audience to laugh with childish glee. The sprightly dancing of Miss Elsie Dean as columbine and Mr Fred Flexmore as the harlequin brings the pantomime to a close, but mention must be made of the beautiful dresses by William Clarkson, the electrical effects by Mr H. Thorburn, and the properties by Mr Alf Clark, which all assist in their respective departments to make *Aladdin* one of the most popular and successful pantomimes in the south of London.

PANTOMIME AND CIRCUS AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

Mr Humphrey E. Brammall produced at the Crystal Palace on Christmas Eve the pantomime, by James H. Wolfe, with music by Herbert Godfrey, entitled

"THE BABES IN THE WOOD."

Robin Hood	Miss KATHLEEN GRAY
Maid Marion	Miss MIGNON TREMAINE
Dolly	Miss CONNIE LEON
Little John	Miss EDNA VIVERS
Bertie	Master CREWYS
Flossie	WEE MONA
Baron Ooffess	Mr G. WALFORD
Baroness	Mr J. T. MORTON
Adolphus	Mr WILL POLUSKI
Bill, Wally	The KIMBERLEY BOYS
King Richard	Miss JULIA VIVERS
Sir G. De Bathe	Miss KITTY IRWIN
Fairy Robin	Miss O'REILLY
Allan-a-Dale	Miss BRADFORD
Will Scarlett	Miss FOSTER

Fun is the predominant feature of the production, and the crowded theatre has resounded to peals of laughter, all the witticisms eliciting a willing response. The splendour of the dresses has contributed in no small degree to the success, singing and dancing also forming a pleasing part of the production. A lively chorus salutes the opening scene, the Village of Ooffess, on the wedding morn of the betrothed of the Baron, who sings of "The hand that rolls the pudding." The advent of the Robbers, Bill and Wally, is distinguished by a comic burglary, and a glimpse of the Babes is soon afterwards caught, the youngest of whom adds to "Lazy Maisey," a dance which secures an encore by its daintiness and skill, and which is succeeded by the song of "Pennies" by the boy Babe. With the arrival of Adolphus, the son of the Baroness, an addition to the fun is made. He makes immediate advances towards Maid Marion, the Babes' governess. She listens scornfully to his suit, but deigns to join him in a dance, a combination which is productive of a skilfully executed measure that wins a hearty recall. The arrival of Robin Hood dispates any chances that Adolphus might have with Marion, for Robin and the young lady swear eternal affection, despite the opposition of the Baron. Many comic episodes are introduced in the scene of the Baron's Kitchen, where a particularly expert troupe of acrobats are on the staff of cooks, and perform a neat variation of the "Risley" business, their somersaults and handsprings and their numberless tricks securing them repeated recalls. It is the Joe Boganny Troupe of Lunatic Bakers who thus distinguish themselves, and who keep the action of the pantomime in check while they obey the insatiable call for more. Scene four reveals the Courtyard of the Castle, when the famous compact between the Baron and the Robbers is made; but the scheme is not allowed to be put into execution until the Boy Babe has sung "My Havanah Queen" and his sister has done another captivating dance. The story speeds on its way in the Depths of the Forest, where Robin Hood obtains the King's pardon and the restoration of his title and estates. The safety of the Babes is eventually assured, and the betrothal of Robin Hood and Maid Marion leads up to a scene of rejoicing in the Palace, where the opportunity is taken to introduce the speciality "The Gibson Walk," as illustrated by Miss Kate Hardren and her fair companions, and a fancy-dress ball in which prize dresses from Covent-garden are used. The exponents of their parts fit their characters to a nicety. Miss Kathleen Gray makes a brave appearance as Robin Hood. Among her songs is "My Jersey Lily," which she rendered with graceful expression, and throughout her pleasant style and cheery bearing ensured success. A fair and fascinating Maid Marion is found in Miss Mignon Tremaine, who captivated chiefly by her dancing, of which she is a practised exponent. The comedy powers of Mr Will Poluski are well employed in the part of Adolphus, who treats the audience to an exhibition of drollery that never weakened in laughter-making. The Babes have charming and natural exponents in Master Crewys, who possesses a high soprano of remarkable power and flexibility, and Wee Mona, who as Flossie won the hearts of all by her precocity and roguishness. The Baron Ooffess is played in comic style by Mr G. Walford, who had a mock melodramatic scene with Dolly, a part played with charming tact by Miss Connie Leon, who rendered a song about "Another pair of stockings on the line" with particular point. The Kimberley Boys bear equally the brunt of the rôles of the Robbers. They have endless methods of mirth-making, and in every case their purpose is secured. Mr J. T. Morton as the Baroness has a dry humour that never fails; Miss Edna Vivers makes a fetching Little John; Miss Julia Vivers is a regal King Richard; and the other parts are excellently played. The band under the direction of Mr Herbert Godfrey acquits itself ably.

Thrice during the day the hippodrome is occupied by Mr H. E. Brammall's circus and carnival. The arena has been improved by the addition of three stages overlooking the ring, on which the various acts are given, including a Russian Imperial Troupe from St. Petersburg, with characteristic dances, and a Japanese Troupe from Tokio. The latter performers have a magnificent tapestry worked in gold as a background for their performances, which embrace the clever conjuring feats for which the nation is famous. A trio sung by three native girls proves interesting, but the sensation of the show comes with the walking of the slanting rope by a young Jap who ascends to a great height and slides down again. Excitement is also stimulated by the equestrian bareback act of Miss Powell and Master Henry Powell. Their leaps from the ground to the horse's back, their somersaults thereon, and their intrepid feats gain them well merited cheers, the lady proving as dauntless as her companion. The Boxing Horses, Charlie and Cigarette, give evidence of the perfection to which animal training can be brought, their sparring and manœuvring being a pretty display of equine intelligence. Ping-Pong, the clown, is irresistible in his comic entrées and his innumerable devices for creating mirth, of which he secures an abundance, and the other items of a well-varied performance are Miss Eva's steeplechase act and the trick mare, Duchess, introduced by Mr Powell. Mr Charles Jones, who hails from New Zealand, gives a cycling performance within a big wheel, pedalling in an opposite direction to which the wheel revolves, while at intervals the rider and his machine are illuminated by coloured electric lights.

Record attendances at the Palace have thoroughly tested the efficiency of Mr J. H. Cozens' admirable staff, who have emerged from their added duties with credit. Mr F. A Derry is an able and courteous manager of the Press Bureau.

OWING to the sudden indisposition of Mr J. J. Dallas, who is playing the dame at the Coronet Theatre in *Little Red Riding Hood*, Mr Alf Selby recently took up the part at short notice, and gave an excellent performance. Mr Alf Selby will be remembered as having been associated with Mr George Musgrove's *Belle of New York* company for several years. He is going to play one of the principal parts in *The Prince of Pilsen*, which is soon to go out on tour. Mr J. J. Dallas, we are pleased to hear, is well again, and has been able to resume his part.

MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, chaps, irritation, tan, &c., and KEEPS the SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE at all Seasons. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION. DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING and REFRESHING after dancing, cycling, motoring, &c. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM and SON, Cheltenham.—[ADVT.]

PROVINCIAL ACTING MANAGERS.

MR. C. D. LEIGH.

Mr C. D. Leigh, the popular and courteous acting-manager and scenic artist at Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley's premier Leicester theatre, the Royal Opera House, has all the attributes that go to make a successful acting-manager, having held every position in a theatre from call-boy. Mr Leigh, who has a commanding presence, and is never seen without a smile, in an interesting chat with our Leicester representative the other afternoon gave some particulars of his career.

Mr Leigh, who has been with the gallant colonel for the past eight years, was also at the Royal Opera House for a short period when it was under the proprietorship and management of the late Mr Elliott Galer, to whose enterprise, assisted by Mr T. T. Paget, late M.P. for a division of Leicestershire, it owes its foundation. The Leighs have for a very great number of years been connected with theatrical ventures. The subject of the present article first saw daylight at Balsall Heath, a suburb of Birmingham, both his parents, when this auspicious event happened, being then engaged at the Birmingham Theatre Royal. He received his education at King Edward's Grammar School, Birmingham, after which he had a short spell of commercial life at Liverpool, but this not being to his liking, his father, who was then at the Brighton Theatre, gave him his first position in a theatre by giving him an engagement as call boy. Ever since that time he has rapidly advanced in the profession, and the remarkable taste he displayed while as a boy so pleased Mr Henry Gilbert that he had him placed in the painting-room. After a short period he migrated to the Manchester Prince's, at which place of entertainment he served his time as a scenic artist. Like a good many more in the profession, his first engagement, which was at Rochdale, under a manager who shall be nameless, did not start very well with him, as his wages, which were fixed at thirty shillings per week, dwindled in the first week to ninepence, in the second to sixpence, and on the third he was left stranded. However, he was in luck's way, after all, as he secured an opening at the Prince of Wales's Rochdale, where the scenery for the pantomime was in a backward state. After this engagement he went to Messrs Thomas Grieve and Son, of London, executing while there a considerable quantity of painting for the now defunct Cremorne Gardens. Dundee and Aberdeen next claimed his attention, and Mr Leigh then toured for several years with *Pygmalion and Galatea*, under the management of Mr L. J. Sefton. He was next with Messrs Glover and Francis, who had the Royal Theatres at Newcastle and Glasgow. Afterwards he rejoined Mr

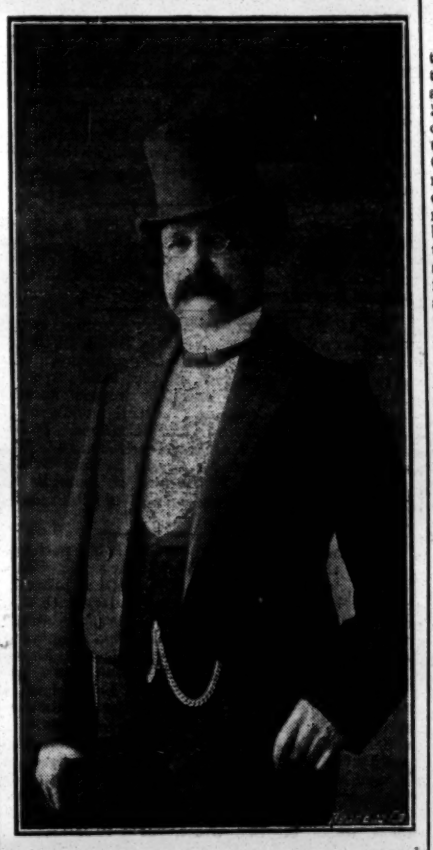

Photo by Ramsden

MR. C. D. LEIGH.

Sefton, who was then touring *Broken Hearts*. Then came what Mr Leigh describes as one of the greatest triumphs of his career. While at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Liverpool, he produced for the first time on that stage a moving transformation scene in pantomime, consisting of a series of pictures. So astonished were the audience at this artistic piece of work that they sat spellbound, and Mr Leigh, thinking that it had turned out a "frost," was leaving the stage in despair, when the stage-manager hurriedly brought him back. It appeared that the audience were so astonished with the production that they were compelled to restrain their applause till the final, when the house broke out with wild cheering, and Mr Leigh had to make his bow half-a-dozen times. Mr Leigh afterwards was at the Lyceum, Edinburgh; Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne; the Royalty, Glasgow; and at Hanley, Cork, Nottingham, and the Winter Gardens, Blackpool. At the latter place he painted the scene The Eldorado, which was subsequently seen in London, where the late Sir Augustus Harris was so delighted with it that he expressed his intention of having one for himself, but his untimely death prevented its fulfilment. Mr Leigh was present at the disastrous and lamentable fire at Exeter Theatre, and had his arm so injured in assisting in the work of rescue that he was unable to use it for a considerable time. While he was at the Grand Theatre, Derby, under Mr F. W. Purcell, Mr Leigh secured his appointment as scenic artist eight years ago from Colonel Winstanley, whose esteem, along with that of Mrs Winstanley, he has held ever since. He has also for a number of years been the stage-manager for the gallant colonel. Ever since Mr Leigh entered upon his duties in front of the house he has made great headway with the patrons of the theatre, as no trouble is too much for him to see after their comfort. Mr Leigh, who is versatile in his abilities, has considerable knowledge as a musician, having composed several waltzes, one of which, called "Bowerswood," named after Colonel Winstanley's residence near Blackpool, and which we noticed at the time of its first performance, being a favourite with the patrons of the Opera House. He also writes short stories and verse, two contributions from his pen appearing in this year's Opera House Christmas Annual, entitled "My Landlady's Story" and "He Bought a Typewriter." His chief hobby is photography, and a delightful specimen of his work is reproduced on the drop-curtain at the Theatre Royal, representing a scene in the historic Bradgate park. The curtain at the Royal Opera House is also another piece of artistic painting by Mr Leigh.

THE NEW ST. GEORGE'S HALL.

Messrs Maskelyne and Cooke have found a new home of mystery, and their entertainment—which has been presented to the London public for no less than thirty-one years—will for the future be enshrined at St. George's Hall, which was re-opened to the public on Monday evening. The hall has been wonderfully improved, and now presents more the appearance of an immense drawing-room than of a theatre. The stage has been brought forward, and its capacity thereby much increased. There are no wings, their place being taken by an inner and outer proscenium. The curtain of the inner is a clever painting of the exterior of the Egyptian Hall in Piccadilly, and what may be called the act-drop represents a pretty classic landscape. As the Messrs Maskelyne contemplate producing a series of important magical pieces, the machinery and lighting of the stage have become naturally matters of the first importance. Framing the outer proscenium are no less than 300 electric bulbs. This arrangement entirely disposes of unnecessary shadows, which are so difficult to get rid of. When the actor walks to the footlights he is surrounded by a ring of unseen lamps of which there are no less than two thousand on the stage, and the power can be lowered to the merest glimmer, or by insensible gradation increased to a potential glare. Thus all sorts of effects, from the feeble light of the breaking dawn to the blaze of noonday sunshine can be readily simulated. These results are obtained by the employment of Wirt dimmers, of which twenty-seven are required for the eight hundred lamps affixed to the battens, besides the movable lamps which will be used at special points.

In their new scheme of amusement the Maskelyne management come into line with the theatres, and in their production challenge criticism in serious drama with magical effects. For this purpose Lord Lytton's novel, "The Coming Race" has been fashioned into a play by Mr David Christie Murray and Mr Nevil Maskelyne. The following is the cast:—

OUR OWN RACE.

George W. Larcombe	Mr F. TOPHAM
Henry Wentworth	Mr THOS. SIDNEY
William Trenaman	Mr H. LESMERE
Jarge	Mr HORACE MORRHEN
Sandy	Mr W. M. MAYNE
Taffy	Mr J. B. HANSARD
Mrs Clattermore	Miss JOSEPHINE RAE

THE COMING RACE.

The Tur	Mr HERMANN VEZIN
Princess Zee	Miss VERA BERINGER
Taë	Miss CASSIE BRUCE
Barana	Mr H. LESMERE
Thor-Amet	Mr J. B. HANSARD
Tah-Mur	Mr W. M. MAYNE
Seph-Lin	Mr HORACE MORRHEN
Zuron	Mr GEORGE POWNALL
Almor	Miss IRIS LINCOLN
Zor	Mr E. S. ELTON
Hierophant	Mr LESLIE BURGISS

The piece is in a prologue and three acts, and the action mostly takes place in the depths of the earth, peopled by men and women possessing a magic power known as Vril. In the prologue two mining engineers, George W. Larcombe, of Massachusetts, and Henry Wentworth, learn that the depths of the Porthmorran mine in Cornwall have opened, and that mysterious noises have been heard by the miners. They determine to descend; and no sooner have they reached the new regions than Wentworth is seized by an antediluvian monster known in the book as the Krak, and to scientists as the pariesaurus. Larcombe is, however, saved, and interviewed by a curious assemblage of sages and elders of the unknown race. He is fortunate in inspiring affection in the beautiful Princess Zee daughter of The Tur, the ruler of Vril-ya, as the habitat of this peculiar people is called. Zee herself has quite the proper notions concerning the levelling power of love; but the "coming race" to which she belongs regards the proposed union of their princess with a common mortal as an insult to their kin, and demand the death of Larcombe. He has a bad quarter of an hour when brought before the Vril-ya tribunal, but the power of the princess saves him. Larcombe reviews matters with phlegmatic calm, and takes advantage of the "silent hours"—a period of the day when strange monsters float over the subterranean city—to have a refreshing sleep. While slumbering, the devoted princess flies through his window, and bears him away to the palace garden. There she proposes to return with him to this earth, and by her magic power to make him a king among men, she to be his queen. The closing of the fissure through which Larcombe originally descended presents no difficulty to the princess, and the two find themselves in the upper level of the mine. Larcombe thinks over the proposal, and guesses that it will not pan out satisfactorily. He therefore declines, and with a sorrowful farewell Zee returns to her subterranean home, the earth closing over her form as she descends.

The Krak, which looks like a huge saurian of the crocodile type, is destroyed in the fifth scene of the first act by Taë, the brother of Zee, a mere boy. The effect of the monster with great teeth munching the unfortunate engineer is quite creepy. Considerable amusement is caused by dummy attendants—cleverly invented automata—of which the working is shown to the audience. A well-constructed flying machine is another magical sensation, and the dramatic situation in the last act is much helped when the princess, inviting her lover to clasp her waist, carries him back to earth, managing shortly before this episode—by the aid of her vril-wand—a very realistic upheaval of the earth's crust, a remarkable stage effect that is arranged by most elaborate mechanism. The mysterious power of the race is reflected in gliding forms, rapid disappearances, and other marvels that are mostly due we believe to the inventive genius of Mr Nevil Maskelyne. Mr David Christie Murray has had of course a large share in the writing of the dialogue, and there is no lack of humour in the speeches of the American, Larcombe, who is regarded by the sages of the Vril-ya as an ethnological curiosity. There is no little drollery, too, in the episode wherein the contents of the engineer's cigar case are sampled by one of the wonderful beings, with an effect that entirely pertains to ordinary humanity. The characters, for the most part, however, are serious.

Mr Hermann Vezin's excellent elocution and dignified acting give due importance to the part of the ruler of Vril-ya; Miss Vera Beringer is altogether sweet and winsome as the Princess Zee; and Miss Cassie Bruce imparts dramatic effect to the part of the boy Taë. Mr Horace Morehen, who has designed the pretty fanciful dresses, imparts humour to the character of Seph-Lin and Mr W. H. Mayne and Mr J. B. Hansard, who double the parts of Tah-Mur and Thor-Amet with those of miners, do excellent work. Mr E. S. Elton also aids the affectiveness of the representation. Mr F. Topham makes the smart sayings of the American tell, and invests the engineer's love episodes with a sense of humour; Mr Thomas Sidney plays Henry Wentworth in good style; and Miss Josephine Rae makes the most of the voluble and irrepressible landlady, Mrs Clattermore. The scenery by Mr J. T. Bull is really very beautiful. The artist gives play to a most ingenious fancy in the architecture of the palace, which has somewhat the aspect of Mauresque, with a touch of the stately dignity of Norman. The colouring is delightful, and the brushwork should advance Mr Bull's already high reputation. The hand of Mr Nevil Maskelyne is seen in the many clever mechanical devices, the smooth working of the magical effects, and the effectiveness of the stage-management.

Before the curtain rose on the drama, Mr J. B. Hansard came through the inner prescenium, and in the dress of an ancient crier, addressed the audience as follows:—"Oyez, Oyez, Oyez! It having been decreed that the ancient, and at one time refined thoroughfare, known as Piccadilly, shall henceforth be devoted to the consumption of grub—where you may upset your little Marys from the modest sum of one and six—science and art are constrained to seek a pure atmosphere. We have therefore turned our backs upon the old and dingy Egyptian Hall—we have left Isis and Osiris to the flesh pots, and have turned to St. George, purity, and truth. Be it known, therefore, that this hall, dedicated to our patron saint, shall henceforth receive the sub-title, 'England's New Home of Mystery.' The lessee and his sons will continue to emulate St. George by giving death-thrusts to the dragon of superstition and imposture, in whatever guise he may appear, and by providing high-class, interesting, and wholesome amusement at reasonable prices they hope for a continuance of that patronage so liberally bestowed upon them for thirty-one years at the old home of mystery. Oyez, Oyez, Oyez! As loyal and dutiful subjects of his Majesty King Edward the Seventh, it is meet we inaugurate these proceedings by singing the National Anthem. Miss Iris Lincoln and Mr Leslie Burgess will therefore appear upon the auxiliary stage and sing, 'God save the King.' Let us all join in the refrain with heart and voice, for our Teddy's a good one, and don't you forget it!" Miss Lincoln and Mr Leslie Burgess then sang the soli, and the audience assisted with impressive cordiality. The small orchestra is under the direction of Mr Cramer, and the accomplished 'cellist, Mr Ivimey, and the clever violinist, Mr Denti, played some capital solos during the entr'actes.

ALEXANDRA PALACE.

On Boxing Day, the Pantomime, "LITTLE BO-PEEP."

Bo-Peep	Miss LILY ROULETTA
Boy Blue	Miss KENNA RUSSELL
Prince Pastorelle	Miss BLANCHE ALBINI
Margery Daw	Miss MAYZY OSMUNDE
Lord Lollipop	Miss ELLEN MARTIN
Dame Durden	Mr MARK STUART
Simon	Mr MEDLEY BARRETT
Baron Bluenose	Mr JACK WALLER
Bill Bash, Chris Crash	The M'NALLYS
Lemuel Lee	Mr HARRY MAYNARD
Sylvania	Miss VERA L. APPLEBY
Bluebell	Miss RUBY CARTER
Hyacinth	Miss HAIDEE FITCH
Tarantala	Miss LILY LENNIE
The Cat	Mr ALF FARREN
Mopsa	Miss VIOLET MORGAN
Dorcas	Miss ALICE MANTELL
The Cook	Mr HARRY WALKER

The book is by Mr Martin Byam, and is made to fit in with the more modern requirements of the well-worn nursery story with which we have been familiar from childhood. The poor village lass, who has been stolen by gipsies when a babe, is in reality the sister of a real live prince. The girl can be identified by a duplicate locket to that owned by her brother, and in order to prevent her reinstatement as a princess she is stolen by the gipsy king and his confederate. This charming maiden is beloved by the little shepherd, Boy Blue, and also by the wicked Baron. The usual opposing powers of good and evil are represented, the former, of course, predominating. The pantomime can and will claim to be placed in the front rank as an attractive and brilliant production. It is in three parts, and opens with a very pretty scene, the Harvest Home. Here Prince Pastorelle explains the secret of the loss of his sister, and the Baron and the gipsy, overhearing his remarks, resolve to obtain the reward offered for her recovery. Dame Durden inserts an advertisement in the *Daily Gridiron* for a shepherd. Boy Blue answers it and is engaged. The next scene is the exterior of Dame Durden's School, where a humorous skit on how Bill Bailey was killed by the Russian fleet is introduced. In the third scene—the Schoolroom—an exhibition of some genuine pantomimic antics is given. The Dame's pretty scholars assemble. A well-executed doll dance by Miss Haidee Fitch and Miss Ruby Carter deserves mention. The Baron and Lemuel Lee, the gipsy, appear. The latter summonses demoniac spirits, and some capital trap business is done. Next we arrive at the Long Lane that has No Turning. The opening event is a song entitled "The Witch Behind the Moon," by Lord Lollipop, with a chorus of six little children, which is rendered with pleasing effect. The good fairy Sylvania scores a success with her song of "Dreamland." Another pretty scene is a Wood in Summer-time, with an enlivening chorus by the ladies of the corps de ballet. A pas seul by the speciality dancer, Miss Lily Lennie, and a pas de deux by the two Sylphs both gained favour and redounded to the credit of their experienced trainer, Madame Sismondi. Bo-Peep and Boy Blue pleasingly render a duet, "If I had a girl as nice as you." An instantaneous mechanical change is then made from Summer to Winter, an excellent stage effect, and one of artistic merit. A humorous interlude is afforded by Dame Durden's proposal of marriage to the Baron and his rejection of it, the scene concluding with a merry chorus by the company. We next arrive at the Baronial Hall, where "I've a-waiting for yer, Josie," is sung with great taste and expression by Boy Blue. The Baron, who has made preparations for his marriage with Bo-Peep, introduces some good mimicry. In the scene representing the Elfin Wood Simon is well to the front in his skit on the Russian outrage. The Dame's song on accidents and occurrences was repeatedly encored. The scene which brings the pantomime to a close is The Palace of Blue and Silver, an exquisitely designed one, flashing with electric lights. The specialities introduced include a novel dance by Miss Lily Lennie, a well-executed violin solo by Miss Vera Appleby, a globe dance by Miss Lily Roulette, a clog dance by Miss Mazy Osmunde, the Sylphs' toe dance, and the Villions, in their comedy cycling act, which met with most flattering marks of approval. The baritone voice of Mr Harry Maynard was again heard in the successful rendering of "The Navy of the King," with chorus by the company. Miss Lily Roulette, who represents Bo-Peep, may be commended as a good all-round artiste, and nothing comes amiss to her. Her voice if not powerful is pleasing. Miss Kenna Russell as Boy Blue has plenty of verve and go. She is a vocalist of ability, and her dancing established her a favourite from start to finish. As Prince Pastorelle Miss Blanche Albini displayed grace, and her personal attractions made her a suitable representative of the rôle. Miss Mayzy Osmunde as Margery Daw delighted the house with her bright and charming appearance. Miss Ellen Martin was both vivacious and amusing as Lord Lollipop; and Mr Mark Stuart as Dame Durden was excellent, being both original and droll. Mr Medley Barrett, who was also responsible for the stage-management, appeared as Simon; as a comedian and dancer he won favour at once. He worked indefatigably throughout, and put in some smart business. Mr Jack Waller as Baron Bluenose proved to be an excellent mimic and a most entertaining and versatile performer. The M'Nallys as Bash and Crash were a pair of amusing knockabout comedians; Mr Harry Maynard as the gipsy Lemuel was both energetic and capable; Miss Vera L. Appleby as the Good Fairy played with ease and sang with arch expression; Miss Lily Lennie, the Demon Spider Tarantala, secored with her Terpsichorean contributions; Mr Alf Farren, Miss Violet Morgan, Miss Alice Mantell, and Mr Harry Walker, who played the clown, did well. Mr Graham Falcon deserves congratulations on the score of the splendour of the costumes, and for the well-arranged marches, with original and incidental music, Mr William W. Meadows earned the fullest commendation. The eighth pantomime at the Alexandra Palace Theatre may be catalogued amongst the successes of the season.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR HENRY IRVING, before leaving Bournemouth for London on Thursday, planted an evergreen oak and laid the first stone of a marble fountain in the grounds of the Royal Bath Hotel.

MR GEORGE ALEXANDER, at the conclusion of the run of *Lady Windermere's Fan*, will reappear at the St. James's Theatre in a new and original comedy, by Alfred Sutro, entitled *Mollentrave on Women*, which will be followed in due course by *John Chilcote, M.P.*, written by Mr and Mrs Temple Thurston. On a recent visit to Paris Mr Alexander arranged with Madame Le Bargy, the famous actress at the Gymnase, to appear with him later on in the season in an English version of Mr Alfred Capus's play *L'Adversaire*, prepared by Mr Harry Melvill. This will be the first time that Madame Le Bargy has acted in English.

MR HAYDEN COFFIN has now left the cast of *The Cingalee* at Daly's Theatre, and his part of Harry Vereker in that bright and attractive opera is admirably sustained by Mr Gordon Cleather, who acts and sings in a manner which wins for him complete success.

MRS BROWN POTTER was one of the guests at a large party at the Savoy Restaurant on New Year's Eve. It included the Sultan of Johore, the Earl of Kimberley, the Earl of Kilmorey, Lord Crichton, Lord Dalmeny, Lord Dalhousie, the Duc De la Rochefoucauld, Lord R. Innes-Ker, Sir Thomas Lipton, Baron and Baroness De Clay, the Duc and Duchesse Briune, Lord Brackley, Lord Kintore, Count and Countess Szapary, and the Marquis Spitalle. As midnight came on the picture of a huge clock-face, with the big hands moving slowly towards twelve o'clock, was thrown on a screen, and when the hour had struck all rose and sang "Auld Lang Syne." Mrs Brown Potter, attired in silver-grey velvet and bearing in her hand a large silver tray, made her appearance at the head of the crimson-carpeted stairs leading to the hall. By her side was a small table on which were large cards conveying the New Year's greeting, and bearing the words, "Remember the starving men, women, and children of Tottenham." Mrs Brown-Potter then said:—"I have been requested to ask you to drop a few pennies in this plate as you pass out for the starving men, women, and children of Tottenham. It will bring you good luck in the New Year." The first man to pass up the staircase put three pence in the plate, and underneath the third penny was a sovereign. When the Savoy Restaurant was empty, £53 2s. 3d. had been collected for the *Daily Express* food fund.

MR JAMES WELCH, the Prince Patter of *The White Cat*, at Drury-lane Theatre, is seriously ill; and he has been ordered by his doctor to give up work and go to the Riviera to rest and recruit for several weeks. His part has been undertaken by Mr W. Cummings.

MRS PATRICK CAMPBELL, we are sorry to hear, had an unfortunate accident on Tuesday evening. She was leaving her hotel to go to the theatre when she slipped on the pavement. As she held a favourite dog with one arm and with the other carried a book and her muff, she was unable to break her fall; her right leg struck the carriage and her knee-cap was fractured. Mrs Campbell was taken to the Pennsylvania University Hospital, where a successful operation has been performed on the fractured knee-cap, so that the actress will not be permanently lamed. The cancelling of her tour, involved by the accident, will cost Mrs Campbell 3,000 dollars a week, and her managers will lose a much greater sum. As she was afraid that her pet dog, which is blind, would not be fed properly elsewhere, she insisted upon having it in the hospital, where its food is prepared by the nurses.

MR AUSTIN MELFORD, whilst playing Appius Claudius to the late Mr Wilson Barrett's Virginius in Boston recently, had an amusing conversation at his hotel with a Negro waiter. It ran as follows:—"Say, Mr Melford, will Mr Barrett play *Virginius* again this week?" "No," replied Mr Melford. "We only do it once a week." "Waal, I'm real sorry," said the Negro. "I *did* want to see *Virginius*. You see, I come from Virginia myself."

MISS ISABEL JAY AND MDLLE GENÉE supplied an entertainment which was given on Thursday evening at Chatsworth, before the King and Queen, the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, and a distinguished house party. Miss Jay sang three songs, "My heart at your feet," from *The Cingalee*; the nightingale's song from Zeller's *Der Vogelhandler*; and "The jewel of Asia," from *The Geisha*. Mlle. Genée appeared first in an ordinary ballet dress, in which she danced a fantasia polka; in a half-length costume of blue and white she gave the familiar pas seul from *The Milliner Duchess*; and finally in a black riding habit went through the hunting dance in *High Jinks*.

MISS LOUIE FREEAR is actively studying and purposes producing in a few days an entirely new and novel character sketch of a familiar type of Cockney life entitled "A Cosy Cup of Tea." This has been specially written and composed for Miss Freear by Messrs John P. Harrington and George Le Brunn.

MR FRANK CURZON, who has a house near Watford, has arranged to give a matinée of *Sergeant Brue* at the Clarendon Hall there, shortly, in aid of the deserving poor of the district. The matinée will be under the patronage of the Earl of Clarendon, the Earl and Countess of Essex, Lord and Lady Ebury, Lord Hyde, Lord Malden, Lady Edith Villiers, and Mr T. F. Halsey, M.P.

MISS DOROTHY DRAKE, who looks very pretty in her blue satin brocade as Emily Pryor, in *Peggy Machree*, is one of the many girls who have graduated from a convent to the stage—Miss Cecilia Loftus and Miss Hilda Trevelyan being notable examples—and commenced to act about six years ago. One of her first engagements was in *Never Again*, at the Vaudeville, when her part as a stern old woman necessitated hiding her particularly pretty hair—Miss Drake is a perfect blonde—under a straight, black wig, but she hopes that this will happen "never again." Before the production of *Peggy Machree* she was on tour with *A Country Mouse*, in which her sister, Miss Dido Drake, played the chief part. Miss Drake's experiences in *The Worst Woman in London* were sufficiently trying to discourage any girl from attempting to play the part of an injured heroine of melodrama. At the end of the well-known fight between two women a plate was thrown at Miss Drake, and one night, aiming too well, the Worst Woman struck her on the cheek, inflicting a severe cut. Four stitches had to be put in, and she was out of the cast for a week. The plate incident was omitted on her reappearance. Miss Drake is a very quick study. She played Miss Mary Moore's part, at very short notice, in *My Lady of Rosedale*, and mastered Miss Mabel Terry-Lewis's lengthy scenes in the same piece in less than a day.

TWO important changes will be made—it is hoped to-night—in the cast of *Véronique* at the Apollo Theatre. Miss Lottie Venne has been engaged to take up the part of the aristocratic aunt, and Mr Aubrey Fitzgerald has been secured to sustain Mr Fred Emney's old character of M. Loustot.

MR LOUIS BRADFIELD is now playing at Daly's Theatre the part of Bobby Warren in *The Cingalee*. The rôle has been specially written up to render it worthy of Mr Bradfield's talent.

MR LAWRENCE ALMA TADEMA, R.A., will preside at the first annual dinner in aid of the Benevolent Fund of the Scenic Artists' Association at the Imperial Restaurant on Sunday evening, Feb. 19. In the first list of stewards, issued this week, are Messrs George Alexander, Oscar Asche, Edmund G. Banks, Arthur Bourchier, Richard Douglass, Albert Gilmer, Walter Hann, Gilbert Hare, Frederick Harrison, W. T. Hemsley, Julian Hicks, Wm. Elms Lester, Jas. A. Mathews, Cyril Maude, L. Nathan, H. W. Owen, L. N. Parker, Harry Potts, Wm. Raphael, T. E. Ryan, W. B. Spong, W. Telbin, Geo. Tweddell, H. Lewis Waller, and Sir Philip Burne-Jones, Bart. Tickets, one guinea each, may be had of any of the above gentlemen, or of the secretary of the association, Mr H. Lawrence Harris, at 5, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

MISS ISA BOWMAN is making a hit in *Red Riding Hood* at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, with "Cherokee Maid," a song that exactly suits her voice and manner, and a charming duet called "Honey Boy," which she sings with Miss Empsie Bowman. The clever work of the Bowman sisters is too well known as a whole to need describing, but as Miss Isa was the stage pioneer of the family, it is interesting to note that her present reputation as one of the smartest and most captivating principal boys is the outcome of experience, energy, and adaptability. As a tiny girl she played all the big child parts—including Willie Carlyle in eight different versions of *East Lynne*, Alice, in *Alice in Wonderland*, and Cinderella, at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, in the first pantomime where the character of principal girl was entrusted to a child—afterwards going in for all sorts of plays and parts as a "grown up." Her three sisters gradually followed suit, all being self-taught and equally ambitious. At the present time, while Miss Isa and Miss Empsie are the life and soul of Mr Mulholland's pretty pantomime, Miss Maggie is playing the title-rôle in *The Lady's Maid* on tour, and Miss Nellie is appearing in *Little Black Sambo and Little White Barbara* at the Garrick.

MISS BOWMAN has recently received a most tempting offer to make an Australian tour. Her prosperous season at Gibraltar, a little over a year ago, was an encouragement "to spread her conquests farther." It is an interesting fact that only on two occasions have the Bowman girls appeared on the stage together. It is doubtful whether Miss Eva Moore and her sisters have had even one similar experience, for although they are all professionals, Madame Bertha Moore is a concert vocalist, while Miss Jessie and Miss Decima have chiefly gone in for comic opera. Mr Charles Warner was often supported, some years ago, by his son and daughter. The Misses Berenger have frequently had the chance to play into each other's hands. Old playgoers will remember a time when the Terry sisters were to be seen acting together. The Vokes brothers and sisters will not readily be forgotten. Mr and Mrs Walter Reynolds (Miss Wallis) were recently members of Sir Henry Irving's company, Mrs Reynolds' daughter, Miss Nora Lancaster, being in the cast at the same time, but, as a rule, "family parties" are rare occurrences nowadays behind the footlights.

THE Windsor guardians decided on Wednesday not to permit the workhouse children to visit the local theatre at the invitation of the management to see the pantomime *Red Riding Hood*. On the other hand, the choir and congregation of one of the Brighton churches have just produced a pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, the vicar of the parish superintending the production, and eight public performances have been arranged for.

MR TREE, after his revival of *Much Ado About Nothing* at His Majesty's Theatre, will begin to rehearse Mrs Humphry Ward and Mr Louis N. Parker's new play, *Agatha*, with Miss Viola Tree in the title-part. The piece will be produced at a special matinée for the benefit of Princess Mary's Homes. Mr Tree will not be in the cast, which contains no part suitable for his talent.

MR E. S. WILLARD, with his company, including Mr Cooper Cliffe, Mr J. R. Crauford, Mr H. Cane, Miss Marie Linden, Miss Leila Repton, Miss Faith Reynolds, and Miss Alice Belmore, will sail from Liverpool on Wednesday for New York, where he will produce the late Wilson Barrett's play, *Lucky Durham*, on the 23 inst.

The costumes worn in *The Coming Race*, produced by Mr Maskelyne at St. George's Hall on Monday night, are striking and original, all the people of the Vril-ya being attired in vivid colours. Miss Vera Beringer wears a graceful robe of white and pale blue, with a jewelled belt from which hangs her shining vril-staff. One of her arms is bare, the other circled with blue stones, and strips of silk chiffon of the same shade are twisted into her long plait of golden hair. Her second dress is all white, with a beautiful wide scarf of silver gauze. Miss Cassie Bruce, as the boy Taë, is in bright purple, with wings on her shoulders and a cone-shaped, green-blue light in her hair. All the men wear soft, coloured boots, resembling Indian mocassins, rather full leggings, strapped with coloured bands, tunics to the knee, and short cloaks. The automatons that take the place of servants in the country of the coming race are wrapped in violet and red draperies.

AFTER the fall of the curtain at St. George's Hall on Monday Mr Maskelyne was presented with a handsomely illuminated and framed address from some of his friends and the staffs of the old and new Homes of Mystery. The presentation was made by Mr E. R. Reed, one of "our greatest magician's" oldest friends, and the stage was crowded with over a hundred others. Mr Maskelyne suitably acknowledged the gift, which was accompanied by an album, bound in Russia leather, with gold initials, the names of 170 admirers of his skill being engraved within.

THE address runs as follows:—"To John Neville Maskelyne, Esq.—We, whose names are contained in an album accompanying this address, desire to offer to you our sincere and hearty good wishes for the prosperity of your new and important undertaking at St. George's Hall, W., and on your taking leave of the 'Home of Mystery' in Piccadilly, where for an unbroken period of upwards of thirty years your matchless inventive power and able management have provided constantly varying and never-failing scenes of interest, of amusement, and of instruction. The delight you have given to so many thousands of your patrons is practically unprecedented in this country, inasmuch as your tenure of the Egyptian Hall has exceeded that of any other place of amusement in the metropolis. Whilst, as we believe, voicing and joining in the appreciation of the British public of all classes, we desire to add a permanent record of our high esteem of you as a man, a feeling which results from our long personal friendship. To Mrs Maskelyne and to your family, who are so well known to most of us, we also express most kindly feelings, and trust that they may be spared for many years to share in and sympathise with the love and honour entertained towards you.—London, December, 1904."

MRS LANGTRY'S season will commence at Terry's Theatre on the 18th inst. with *Mrs Dering's Divorce*. The cast will include Mr Leonard Boyne, Mr Frank Hollins, Mr Courtney Thorpe, Mr M'Guckin, Mr H. Tree, Mr N. Wrighton, Mr Frank Collins, Mr Pedro Tastani, Miss Keith Lytton, Miss Flora Bernhard, Miss Katherine Steward, Miss Kittie Davis, Miss Juan Morrison, Miss Beatrice Ferrar, and Mrs Langtry. Mr N. G. Appleby will be Mrs Langtry's business manager.

MR TREE'S production of *Much Ado About Nothing* at His Majesty's Theatre on Jan. 24 will have in its cast Mr Sydney Brough, Mr Laurence Irving, Mr Basil Gill, Mr Tree, Mr Henry Neville, Mr J. Fisher White, Master Thomas Sampson, Mr S. A. Cookson, Mr Julian L'Estrange, Mr William Haviland, Mr Louis Calvert, Mr Lionel Brough, Mr Francis Chamier, Mr Cecil Rose, Mr J. B. Fraser, Mr S. Yates Southgate, Miss Viola Tree, Miss Muriel Alston, Miss Alice L. Crawford, and Miss Winifred Emery.

MR GEORGE EDWARDES left Euston Station on Wednesday by the steamer train for Liverpool en route for New York by the ss. Majestic. The London and North-Western Railway Company, as a special compliment, placed at his disposal the Royal saloon carriage, which had been very prettily decorated with flowers. Mr Edwardes is going over to produce *The Duchess of Dantzic* at Daly's Theatre, New York, on Monday week.

AT the first performance at the Duke of York's of Mr Barrie's *Peter Pan* its two concluding scenes were omitted. One of these was laid in the Tree Tops, and in it some flying children were introduced. The scenes have now been replaced, greatly to the advantage of the general effect.

MR R. C. CARTON has written a farce in three acts, which has been secured by Mr Frank Curzon, who will shortly produce it at the Avenue Theatre.

MISS EDNA MAY'S divorce suit against her husband, Mr Frederick Titus, was concluded in New York on Wednesday. Miss Mona Desmond was named as co-respondent. No defence was offered by Mr Titus, and Miss May obtained a verdict in her favour. She states that she is not going to marry again, but intends to study and try to advance herself in her art. She wants to continue and to make a great name for herself.

THE Marquis and Marchioness of Zetland gave a performance of *Mice and Men* in their beautiful private theatre attached to Aske on Tuesday. Countess Fitzwilliam appeared as Peggy, and Major Owen-Lewis, D.S.O., as Mark Embury. There was a large attendance of neighbours and friends.

AT the fifth annual dinner of the O. P. Club at the Criterion, on Sunday, Feb. 12, Mr H. B. Irving will respond to the toast of "The Drama," which will be proposed by the president, Mr Algernon L. Collins, and Mr James Welch will answer for that of "The Visitors," proposed by the vice-president Mr J. M. Freshwater. Mr W. T. Stead will deliver an address to the members of the club on Friday, Jan. 13, at the Criterion, entitled "A Tyro's Impressions of the Theatre." Mr Carl Hentschel will occupy the chair.

MR CYRIL MAUDE in his new theatre will have outside the box-office a long, wide corridor, arranged as much as possible to resemble the spacious hall of some cosy country house. There will be a warmly carpeted floor, pictures on the walls, little tables here and there, big fires in the winter months, and plenty of space and seats everywhere, so that there need be no crushing and scrambling as the people come out.

MISS ELLIS JEFFREYS has kindly sent a gift of toys to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond-street. Amongst the toys distributed to the children in this institution during Christmas were some in memory of the late Corney Grain.

MR C. P. LEVILLY, on Sunday evening, entertained at a dinner at the Victoria Hotel, Sheffield, the members of his *Amorelle* company, who have recently appeared at the local Lyceum Theatre. After an excellent repast various toasts were honoured, and several members of the company contributed vocal selections. In the course of the evening occasion was taken to testify to the regard in which Mr Levilly is held by the ladies and gentlemen in the cast of *Amorelle* by presenting him with a handsome silver goblet and a pair of silver candlesticks.

MR LEWIS CASSON, whose remarkable performance of the Statue, in *Prunella*, at the Court Theatre, is attracting some attention, has just concluded a busy year. Starting in January with Don Pedro, in the Elizabethan Stage Society's suburban tour of *Much Ado*, he followed with a number of special performances as Romeo and Jaques, for Mr Chas. Fry, in the East-end. Then came an engagement at the Court, under Mr J. H. Leigh, first as Eglamour, in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, then as Ferdinand, in the Birthday celebrations, and later as Servilius, in *Timon of Athens*, with the understudy of the title-rôle. The Stage Society next claimed his services for Mr Joyce (a genial character part), and Fr. Aloysius, a young monk, in *Where There is Nothing*. A number of pastoral performances, under Mr Ben Greet, Mr Geo. Foss, and Miss Bessie, filled up the summer with Antipholus, Antonio, and Orsino, until Mr Otho Stuart opened at the Adelphi with *The Prayer of the Sword*, in which Mr Casson played Pico del Amare and understudied Mr Chas. Angelo. Mr Casson also understudied Mr Granville Barker's and other leading parts throughout the autumn series of matinées at the Court, and has been re engaged by Mr Vedrenne for similar work in the forthcoming series. In addition to all this Mr Casson has done a considerable amount of reading work for the British Empire Shakespeare Society, his Macduff having repeatedly attracted favourable notice.

THE first meeting of the council of the Actors' Association this year was held on Tuesday last. The honorary solicitors were requested to brief counsel to appear upon the hearing of a summons in an action pending to recover an amount due to a member; they were also requested to apply for the examination of a debtor in order to obtain evidence of means, with the view of enforcement of a member's claim under an award; they were also requested to advise a member as to her claim. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received. The council considered the question of holding the annual general meeting at an early date, and gave certain instructions in connection therewith. Four former members were reinstated.

THE Odéon, Paris, being subsidised by the State, the Fine Arts Ministry have taken a wise step in nominating that excellent artist M. Tarride "directeur de la scène." In other words, it is he who will in future attend to all matters connected with the stage, including also the selection of new plays. A few years ago M. Antoine held that position, but as he and M. Ginisty were always at loggerheads, M. Antoine threw up the post and started the theatre that bears his name. Since then, the Odéon has been going from bad to worse, and it is to be hoped that with M. Tarride's able assistance it will once more take up the position to which it can lay claim as our second Théâtre Français. M. Tarride intends to infuse fresh blood into this playhouse by engaging first-class artists. He has already signed an engagement with M. Gémier and that actor's talented wife, Madame Mégard, and the names of Mesdames Suzanne Despres, Yahne, and Blanche Toutain are also mentioned. M. Tarride lately married Mdlle. Marthe Regnier, a charming actress, who, however, will not follow her husband to the Odéon, but will remain with M. Porel at the Vaudeville.

MISS EVELYN MARTHEZE, sister to Miss Italia Conti, mourns the loss of her pet fox terrier Boykie. The dog was an exceedingly clever one, and was well known to members of certain touring companies. It had been the faithful companion of Miss Martheze for over eight years.

CAPTAIN ROBERT MARSHALL'S new piece, which is to be presented in February at Wyndham's Theatre, has only five principal characters. Mr Weedon Grossmith, Mr C. M. Lowne, Mr Vane Tempest, Mrs Theodore Wright, and Miss Nancy Price are in the cast.

MR LOUIS N. PARKER, at the London Institution, Finsbury-circus, on Friday, will read a paper explaining the historical pageant which is to be represented at Sherborne in June in celebration of the 1,200th anniversary of the founding by St. Aldhelm of the town, the bishopric, and the school. Mr Parker has, with the assistance of Messrs James Rhoades and Walter Raymond, written some dramatic scenes for the ceremony, and these he will recite at the London Institution on Friday.

THE sixtieth performance of *The Taming of the Shrew* will be given at the Adelphi Theatre on the evening of the 18th inst., when a souvenir will be presented to each member of the audience, and Mr Otho Stuart will make an interesting announcement as to his future plans.

MR O. E. LENNON, who is responsible for not a little of the uproarious fun of *Aladdin* at the Alexandra, Sheffield, is an actor who believes in physical culture. In height he is only—to quote his own words—"five foot nothing;" but he is, nevertheless, an accomplished athlete. Born in London, and one of the best animal actors in the profession, of the school of the late Charles Lauri, he started life as a business man, or rather boy, and went as far as Chicago to try his luck on the stage. Perhaps his best performances, not counting pantomime work, were in *A Country Girl*, in which he played Barry, on tour, and in *H.M.S. Irresponsible*, when he had the opportunity of introducing an eccentric dance on the deck of that happy craft.

MR EDWARD COMPTON took a benefit on the 30th ult., at the Theatre Royal, Leamington, when a large and enthusiastic audience witnessed a most successful performance of the new play *To-morrow*. Mr Compton was called upon for a speech at the close of the piece, and, reminding his hearers of the fact that he had now a special interest in the fortunes of the theatre, he expressed the hope that Leamingtonians would continue and increase their support of Mr Milton Bode and himself in the enterprise.

AT the last meeting of the committee of the Scenic Artists' Association the following gentlemen were unanimously elected honorary members on the nomination of the chairman, Mr Walter Hann:—Sir Squire Bancroft, Messrs Edwin A. Abbey, R.A., Geo. Alexander, Dion Boucicault, Gilbert Hare, J. Martin Harvey, and H. Beerbohm Tree.

MR ROBERT BROUGH and MR HERBERT FLEMING ask us to state that Mr George S. Titheradge has not been engaged by them for their forthcoming Australian tour. Much as they would have liked to have secured that clever artist, their present scheme of plays does not offer any adequate opening for Mr Titheradge, whose London engagements would also preclude the possibility of his accepting any offer that might have been made to him. Negotiations are, however, pending which, it brought to a successful issue, will enable Australian playgoers to renew their acquaintance with their old favourite under Messrs Brough and Fleming's management.

MR DENHAM HARRISON has been engaged to direct the smoking concert of the Scenic Artists' Association at the Caledonian Hotel on Monday next, and has prepared a long and interesting programme for the occasion. Among the artistes who will contribute to it are Miss Iris Vane, with a humorous song, "Just for the look of the thing," composed by Mr Denham Harrison; Miss Yvonne Lamor, Miss Edith Eatherley (with imitations of popular artistes), Miss Ivy Hemsley, Miss Violet Lisle, with a new song by Denham Harrison, entitled "A True Little Woman;" Miss Dolly Harmer, Mr Paul Glazer, violinist; Mr Robert Eadie, Mr Lewis Blackburn, Mr Joe Willis, Mr Shakespeare Stewart; Mr Harry Hemsley, in his sketch entitled *Imitations of Children*; Mr Edwin Henry, in a humorous sketch at the pianoforte; Mr H. W. Warner, in a flute solo; Kopski, in a pianoforte recital; Mr J. A. Bentham, with a story; Mr Leon Russell, with the prologue from *Pagliacci*; Mr Lewis Sydney, with a sketch at the pianoforte; Mr Groves Watson, with recitation; Mr G. T. Miles, with a harp solo; Mr Sidney Cooper, Mr Ambrose Thorn, Mr Broughton Black, Mr Hatton M'Cullah, Mr Johnny Banks, and Mr Ralph Lynn. Mr J. Athel Collings has been engaged as accompanist.

MR LAWRANCE GRANT AND MR MALCOLM BARRINGTON, who are touring *Joseph Entangled* this spring, will, in the week beginning March 6, at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, produce, in conjunction with Mr F. Mouillot, a new farce, in three acts, written by Judge Parry. The company includes Mrs Mouillot, Miss Claire Cavendish, Miss Maxwell, Mr Leveson Lane, Mr Arthur Bell, and Mr Lawrence Grant.

MR C. W. SOMERSET, who created such a deep impression as Zakkuri in *The Darling of the Gods* at His Majesty's Theatre, will shortly start a five months' tour with *The Sorrows of Satan*, introducing many new and extraordinary effects.

MR J. BANNISTER HOWARD was installed on Thursday night Worshipful Master of Lodge La Tolerance 538. Mr Howard has made the "record" of being Master of two lodges at the same time, as he already holds the position of Master of the Yorick Lodge.

"ALADDIN" is drawing large audiences at the Marlborough Theatre at each of the ten performances which are given weekly, and bids fair to establish a record in the matter of receipts, the hundreds of children who attend the matinées intensely enjoying the entertainment. A novel feature in advertising here is the erection on the handsome façade of the theatre of two large illuminated photolinol pictures of Harry Tate.

THE Abbey Theatre in Lower Abbey-street, Dublin, was opened last week, one of the plays performed being by Lady Gregory. The scene of this is laid in an Irish village in County Galway, and the plot turns upon the hasty conclusions to which the characters jump regarding a simple incident—the return of a mislaid hayfork to its rightful owner.

A GREAT feature of the German company's programme at the Great Queen-street Theatre next week will be the revival of the stirring military drama *Zapfenstreich*, which created such a sensation in German military circles. It will be given on the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. There will be three performances of *Die Weber*, on Monday, Tuesday, and a matinée on Saturday.

MR STRATTON, of Birmingham, who presided over the conference of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, at Manchester on Thursday, denounced the encore system as a blot on our concerts. He contended that singers and instrumentalists should be content with a recall, which was quite sufficient testimony to their success.

THE annual general meeting of the members of the Scenic Artists' Association will be held at the Caledonian Hotel on Monday evening, at 8·0 o'clock. Mr Hawes Craven will take the chair, and will be supported by Mr Joseph Harker, the vice-president, and Mr Walter Hann, the chairman.

MR GILBERT HARE AND MRS BROWN POTTER'S forthcoming novelty at the Savoy Theatre—the play by M. Jean Richepin, of which Madame Du Barry is the heroine—is in four acts. The scenery, which will be elaborate and picturesque, will be painted by Mr Walter Hann, Mr Joseph Harker, and Mr Julian Hicks. Mrs Brown Potter will appear as Madame Du Barry and Mr Gilbert Hare as Louis XV.

MR J. E. VEDRENNE, in consequence of the necessary preparations for the second series of "Vedrenne-Barker" matinées, which begins with a revival of Bernard Shaw's play, *John Bull's Other Island*, will discontinue the evening performances of *Prunella*. After to-night, matinées will, however, be given each day from Monday until Saturday next.

AT the last monthly meeting, on Tuesday, Jan. 3, of the directors of the Royal General Theatrical Fund, Mr George Alexander in the chair—Messrs Dillon Croker, A. H. Elliott, Hy. Evill, Hy. Loveday, Charles Rock, Bassett Roe, F. P. Stevens, and Hubert Willis—it was unanimously agreed that for the present the usual annual benefit should be discontinued. The chairman said it was a matter of extreme gratification to the committee that, owing to the generosity of the general public and the theatrical profession, together with the legacies the Fund had received, they were able to dispense with the benefit. Thus the dignity of the Fund was greatly increased. He felt assured, if evil times ever fell to the lot of the Fund, and it was necessary to again appeal for assistance, that those who had helped in the past would come forward and assist in placing it once more on a firm basis.

THE annual New Year's entertainment to the annuitants of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution in residence at Croydon was given on Wednesday, and in the evening the Playgoers Lodge (2,705) and Lodge of Tranquility furnished an interesting programme of music, which was contributed to by Miss Essie Andrews, Miss Bessie Freeman, Miss Florence Ogilvy, and Messrs Harrison Latimer, F. T. Daniels, James Godden, Philip Ritte, and Arthur Helmore. Mr C. E. Johnson was the accompanist.

MM. GEORGES GRISON AND PAUL BOUCAUT have written a sensational drama, in five acts and fourteen tableaux, called *Le Neveu de Tricoche*. The tenth tableau will represent the terrible catastrophe on the Paris Metropolitan Railway, at the Rue du Combat, when several people were burnt to death a few months ago.

AT the close of act one of *Sunday* on Monday evening an appeal was made to the audience at the Theatre Royal, Huddersfield, on behalf of the Huddersfield Infirmary and Victoria Nurses' Institute, after which nurses in uniform made a collection in the house, which realised close on £6. The gracious action of the managements, both local and of the touring company, in consenting to the appeal is another example of the fine generosity the profession ever shows in the cause of charity. Needless to say, it was highly appreciated by the directors of both appealing institutions.

MR W. SCOTT PHIPP appears to have struck lucky with his first pantomime production, *Babes in the Wood*, at the West London Theatre. He is not only general manager but is also responsible for the book and music, of which the London press have been unanimous and generous in their praise.

MR STANLEY ROGERS, the author and producer of *Aladdin* at the Brixton Theatre, has had a long and practical experience of pantomime work, having been connected with the production of nineteen of these Christmas entertainments. He is the author of thirty-two "books of the words," and in one season alone eleven of his librettos have been in use.

MR LEWIS WALLER will appear in *His Majesty's Servant* at the Imperial Theatre on Monday for the 100th time.—Mr Frank Sherlock, who has just concluded an engagement with Mr William Greet lasting over ten years, having played the part of Roberts, in *The Lady Slavey*, over 2,500 nights, has been engaged by Mr F. E. Philpott for the principal comedy part in *The Girl from Japan*, which starts on tour the first week in February.—Mr Wilfrid Compton, who has concluded a long engagement with Mr E. C. Stafford as Gibson, in *The Private Secretary*, has been engaged by Mr Macowan for his *Monsieur Beaucaire* tour.

MR RUSSELL WALLETT, in the course of a performance of *Red Riding Hood* at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, this week, introduced some telling lines referring to the fall of Port Arthur, mentioning General Nogi, and concluding:—

Though Port Arthur fell,
Let's honour brave Stoessel.
Both are first-class fighters—yes, they are!

Delivered with Mr Wallett's usual point and expression, the verses won enthusiastic applause.

MR CHARLES HARRINGTON'S *Uncle Tom's Cabin* company has been so successful at the New Victoria Hall and Opera House, Halifax, this week, that the management gave an extra matinée on Thursday, making nine performances during the new year week. Mr Harrington's company gave 384 performances of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in 1904.

WE regret to learn that Mrs J. W. Currans died on Christmas morning from heart failure, consequent on an attack of bronchitis. Mrs Currans was very popular as hostess at the old Occidental, and at other theatrical resorts under Mr Currans's control. She was well known in the profession, and assisted him greatly at the many West-end theatres with which he was connected in the course of a long business career. Mr Currans has been seriously ill for a long time, but is now recovered, and hopes soon to be at work again.

THE library presented to Shakespeare's town by Mr Andrew Carnegie was opened on Wednesday by the Mayor, Mr G. M. Bird. It will be remembered that the erection of the library on the proposed site was strongly opposed by Miss Marie Corelli, who lives at Mason Croft, Stratford-on-Avon. Miss Corelli brought a libel action against Mr Fred Winter, one of the local town councillors, who said that, "if the library had been going to bear the name of Corelli instead of that of Carnegie, she would have supported the scheme." She was awarded one farthing damages.

TEN children who appeared at Marlborough-street Police-court on Wednesday were granted licences to perform at theatres. Five girls appear at the Alhambra, two boys and two girls in *The Talk of the Town*, produced on Thursday at the Lyric Theatre, and one girl in *Peter Pan* at the Duke of York's Theatre.

MR HARRY YORKE, the proprietor of the Theatre Royal, Blackburn, has secured from Mr Charles Frohman the performing rights in Great Britain and Ireland — the West-end London theatres excepted—of *Sherlock Holmes*, and will take the ever-popular piece on tour in August.

THE pantomime of *Sinbad*, which was unfortunately burnt out at the Crouch End Opera House, will be presented with fresh scenery at the Dalston Theatre on Monday by Mr Geo. Brydon-Phillips's company, which includes Jessie Preston, Mr Walter Keen, the Maples, Snow and Farren, Miss Nellie Randall, and Mr Harry Gardner.

THE total number of pirated copies seized by the Musical Copyright Association's agents in 1904 was 913,252, in addition to 116 sets of photo zinco blocks and thirty-three sets of transfers.

"THE TALK OF THE TOWN."

A Musical Comedy, by Seymour Hicks.
Music by H. E. Haines, Lyrics by Chas Taylor,
Additional Numbers by Hamish M'Cunn and Evelyn Baker,
Produced at the Lyric Theatre on Thursday, Jan 5.

Jerry Snipe	Mr WALTER PASSMORE
Lieut. Reggie Drummond	Mr HENRY A. LYTTON
Lieut. the Duke of Topford	Mr ROBERT EVETT
Lieut. Dordell	Mr POWIS PINDER
Lieut. Raglan	Mr CHAS. CHILDERSTONE
Lieut. Logan	Mr J. M'GRATH
Lieut. H. St. George	Mr J. DAVIDSON
Lieut. Donnethorn	Mr ARUNDALE
Col. Sir Chas. Nightingale, Bart.	Mr TOM GRAVES
Lieut Richard Hambledon	Mr ARTHUR HARROLD
'Arry Biff	Mr AKERMAN MAY
Private Belsey	Mr REG CROMPTON
Ernest English	Mr M. R. MORAND
Frank English	Mr STANLEY BRETT
Cyril Slipp	Mr A. BOISELLE
J. Ochletree Ott	Mr FRANK ELLISTON
First Footman	Mr J. GORDON
Gwendoline Snipe	Miss EDITH JURMAN
Bert Snipe	Master J. HEALY
Imogen Snipe	Miss ALICE VALCHEZA
Jack Snipe	Master P. HEALY
La Pa Doo	Mr E. TORRENCE
Juddy Wuddy Ah	Mr RUDOLPH LEWIS
Madame Modiste	Miss MAUDI DARRELL
Ellaline Lewin	Miss AGNES FRASER
Lady Nightingale	Miss ANNIE ESMOND
Marjorie Nightingale	Miss GERTRUDE THORNTON
Mabel Nightingale	Miss LYDIA WEST
Geraldine Evelyn Snipe	Miss SYDNEY FAIRBROTHER
June	Miss OLIVE MORRELL

Mr Seymour Hicks has a quality which is very valuable in the author of a musical play—he has perfect faith in the good-nature of his audience. The patrons of this class of entertainment are not very exacting as to consistency, provided always that certain indispensable requisites for their enjoyment are supplied. Though *The Talk of the Town* has a plot and aims at a certain *vraisemblance*, the story is never allowed to stand in the way of the introduction, *à propos de rien*, of any effective item which may suggest itself. Like the lights on the stage, the plot is "switched off" again and again, that a milliner's shop may be temporarily turned into an Icelandic village, or that the chorus may move to and fro in swings lowered from the flies. Chartered libertinism is, however, one of the privileges of the musical play producer; and, when all the interpolations are acceptable, no one is likely to complain that they have been thrust in "head and shoulders." The hero of the "book" is Lieutenant Reggie Drummond, who has run through his money, and is about to be "sold up"—racehorses and all. The representative of the Brothers English, two moneylenders who have advanced Drummond large sums, is Jerry Snipe, a "man in possession," who comes to Drummond's place near Windsor, with a lackadaisical wife and four children. At the eleventh hour, Drummond receives a telegram from a rich friend, one Lieut. Richard Hambledon, who, it appears, has just inherited a large fortune, and who offers to get him—Reggie—out of his difficulties. Now, the real heiress to this fortune is Ellaline Lewin, the humble *protegée* of a certain Lady Nightingale. When Drummond learns that Hambledon has delayed his arrival in England for a week, he is in despair. The only expedient that suggests itself is for Snipe to impersonate Hambledon, and, by signing cheques and making promises, to gain time till the real man arrives to the rescue. It should now be mentioned that Drummond is engaged to Ellaline, who, like her lover, is ignorant of her inheritance. When Snipe, in a Lancer uniform, is received by Drummond's aristocratic friends as Hambledon, the fun which is created may be imagined. The "man in possession" loses his head, signs cheques *ad lib.*, and has a "good time" generally, till the real Hambledon, who has now discovered that he will not come into the fortune, turns up and discloses the actual state of affairs. Then the terrified Snipe is attacked by the big brother of a girl whom Hambledon has jilted, and is generally hackled and harassed until, by the disclosure of Ellaline's wealth and the winning of a valuable race by one of Drummond's horses, all is made to end happily.

The music, by Mr H. E. Haines and others, is always spirited and suitable, though it does not contain many "haunting" melodies, and neither pains nor expense have been spared in the dressing and mounting of the play. Mr Hawes Craven has painted two delightful scenes; Mr Percy Anderson has designed some very dainty dresses, and the supply of feminine loveliness is very large and liberal. The dresses and the chorus are, indeed, very strong points of the entertainment; and various agreeable dances have been invented and arranged by Mr Edward Royce, jun., who has stage-managed the production admirably. Miss Winifred Hart Dyke, the principal dancer, doing some graceful and captivating solos. The stage picture is constantly changing, and the costumes are in exquisite taste, their effect, combined with the personal advantages of their wearers, being most exhilarating. *The Talk of the Town* plays a little over the three hours, and the management may see its way to delete some of the more extravagant business in the second act in connection with the pursuit of the Dutch money-lenders by the Indian servants.

An entertainment of this kind resolves itself into a question of artists and of effects; and *The Talk of the Town* is well supplied with both. The mainstay of the production is, of course, Mr Walter Passmore, whose part of Jerry Snipe suits him exactly. With all his eccentric absurdity, Mr Passmore's "man in possession" is not an absolutely impossible impersonator of an eccentric officer; and Mr Passmore, while doing full justice to the extravagant drollery of the situation, never goes beyond the bounds of reasonable probability—or, at any rate, of probability sufficient in strength for that elastic entertainment, a musical play. Mr Passmore has a neat and natural song in the first act, "Me and my little brood," which he renders with all the necessary point and tact. The culmination of his comic triumph comes, of course, when the man in possession, after having "spent with both hands" money not his own, learns that he is likely to be liable to arrest and imprisonment. There is also the funny scene above alluded to when Snipe, furiously attacked by the ex-prize-fighter, receives the latter's blows on a milliner's "dummy," while returning them to the best of his ability. Mr. Passmore is also extremely amusing in the disguise of an old Scotch nurse; and his travesty of "Bonnie Dundee" sends the house into ecstasies, and evokes a unanimous encore. Mr Henry H. Lytton as Lieutenant Reggie Drummond acts and sings with his usual ability and earnestness. He renders a dashing ditty in the first act, in which the Lieutenant boasts that he has "always played the game," with just the reckless gaiety which is required; and his singing of "My Ellaline" in the second division of the entertainment is received with enthusiastic favour. Mr Lytton must also be praised for his very dramatic delivery of a monologue descriptive of a horse race. Mr Robert Evett is light, bright, and alert as the Duke of Topford, and gives the fullest swing to a Roulette number and to a pretty solo, "Two Eyes." Mr Arthur Harrold makes the most of his brief opportunity as Lieut. Richard Hambledon, and Mr Reginald Compton's vast proportions and broad, West Country comedy are employed with excellent results in the part of Private Belsey. Messrs M. R. Morand and Stanley Brett are curiously comical as the two Dutch moneylenders; Mr A. Boielle is efficient as Cyril Slipp; and Mr Frank Elliston is duly sharp and emphatic as the American solicitor, J. Ochletree Ott. Mr E. Torrence and Mr Rudolph Lewis do good work as the Indian servants. Very vivacious and active is Miss Maudi Darrell as Madame Modiste. She gives the best value to a neatly written song about trimming a hat, and in pretty Dutch costume sings about "Tina Schwartz" very nicely, and dances with great skill and smartness. Miss Agnes Fraser is a charming representative of Ellaline Lewin, and brings down the house by her dainty and spontaneous delivery of an "Early Closing Day" ditty. Miss Fraser's bewitching personality is a powerful factor of her success. Miss Annie Esmond gives a satisfactory little sketch as Lady Nightingale; and Miss Gertrude Thornton and Miss Lydia West are pleasing exponents of the parts of Marjorie and Mabel. An embodiment of genuine merit, conspicuous by its real artistic value, is Miss Sydney Fairbrother's Geraldine Evelyn Snipe. Every detail is carefully studied, and Miss Fairbrother shows distinct relish and appreciation of the humour of the rôle. She speaks "through music" some quaint verses about a young man who came whistling in the days of Mrs Snipe's youth and beauty; and, altogether, Miss Fairbrother's creation is intensely, though quietly, effective. Miss Olive Morrell as the gipsy girl, June, looks very handsome, and, aided by the accessories already mentioned, makes the most of her ballad in the second act about "A Little Laplander."

The piece was received at the Lyric Theatre on Thursday with demonstrative enthusiasm, those principally concerned in the production being called before the curtain and warmly applauded. Judged by the canons which apply to this particular class of entertainment, there appears to be no reason why *The Talk of the Town* should not be added to the list of popular successes of the same sort; and Mr William Greet may be warmly congratulated on his company and his costumes.

REOPENING OF THE HAYMARKET.

It is too early as yet to judge completely the comforts and conveniences of the altered Haymarket Theatre. The vestibule and corridors are, as yet, unpapered and undecorated; and the effect, of course, on entering is a little cold. When, however, the auditorium is surveyed, there is seen to be no want of warmth and splendour. The colour-scheme of the house is red and gold, used in broad masses. The propinquity of the dress-circle to stalls which gave the house, in its former state, its peculiar character has been eliminated. The pit goes back under the projecting dress-circle in the usual way, and there are only two tiers. The ornamentation of the proscenium, the boxes, and the front of the circles is in bold and lavish style. The stall seats are extremely comfortable, and under each, accessible from the back, are two convenient receptacles for hats and coats—an excellent arrangement. Not only are the exits numerous; their positions are marked by transparencies which are commendably conspicuous.

The reopening attraction on Monday evening was Messrs W. W. Jacobs and Louis N. Parker's farce, in three acts, entitled *Beauty and the Barge*, which was produced at the New Theatre on Tuesday, Aug. 30. No change has been made in the cast; and the performance of the laughter-evoking piece is as clever and complete as it was in St. Martin's-lane. Mr Cyril Maude repeats his quaint and humorous embodiment of Captain James Barley, having added to it many little droll embellishments. Mr Kenneth Douglas is the ideal of a hearty, resolute young naval officer; and Mr H. Marsh Allen, with his agreeable personality and quiet, natural method, is excellent in every way as Herbert Manners. Mr Edmund Maurice's Major Smedley is the same forcible and funny impersonation; and Mr Lennox Pawle's Tom Codd exudes absurdity and unctuous drollery at every pore. Mr Robert Bottomley plays the "third hand," Augustus, neatly; and Mr Frederick Volpé is ponderously characteristic as John Dibbs. Mr E. M. Robson as the fussy little landlord creates roars of laughter by his odd and original embodiment; and Miss Adela Measor's silky sweetness and plaintive polish as Mrs Smedley, form an excellent foil to the Major's intemperate energy. Miss Jessie Bateman is very sweet and winsome as Ethel Smedley, and employs also decisive acuteness which makes the part prominent. Miss Rita Jolivet is pretty, bright, and vivacious as Lucy Dallas. Miss Mary Brough gives a delightfully accurate depiction of a type familiar to all who, to use an old author's expression, "lye in ale-houses;" and Mrs Charles Calvert is simply irresistible as Mrs Baldwin, her well-known style suiting the part exactly. There was plenty of laughter in the course of the performance of *Beauty and the Barge* at the Haymarket on Monday, and the piece went as well as ever. It was preceded by *That Brute Simmons*, in which Mr Volpe, Mr W. Cheesman, and Miss Carlotta Zerbini acted with the same success as in the production of Messrs Morrison and Sargent's most diverting little piece at the New Theatre in August last.

THE GERMAN THEATRE.

The German theatre could not have given a more convincing proof of the amazingly wide range of its répertoire and the splendid versatility of its members than by producing, as it has just done, two such widely different plays as *Old Heidelberg* and *Die Weber* in one week. The German drama has been productive of many far more real, powerful, and original plays, but hardly of one which could be compared to *Alt Heidelberg* in delightful atmosphere, romantic interest, and natural charm. What could, for instance, be more lovable than the part of Dr. Juettner, especially if handled by an artist of Herr Andresen's rare accomplishment? Here is, indeed, an artist of a high order. A capital piece of acting was also done by Herr Walther as Lutz, and the performances of Herr Stock as Asterberg and Herr Wieburger as the landlord could hardly have been improved upon. Credit is also due to Herr Pabst for his singularly refined acting as Karl Heinz, and to Fräulein Grawz, whose Kaethie will long be remembered for its blending of spontaneous humour and pathos. Mention should also be made of Herr Leyrer's masterly performance as the Prime Minister. The play was greeted with enthusiasm.

It is a "far cry" from the idyllic environment of Alt-Heidelberg to the miserable dwellings of the Silesian weavers in 1840. It is now ten years since the play was performed first, but it has lost none of its attraction as one of the most powerful and human dramas of modern times. The realistic method in which the attack against the sweating of the weavers is driven home is, it is true, depressing, but far too vivid and forcible to be gloomy. The play, quite apart from its dramatic and literary qualities, is notable inasmuch as its production was greatly instrumental in improving the condition of the poor weavers. That the German Theatre, with its small cast and modest means, should have given us such an impressive performance, reflects credit upon the stage-management of Herr Behrend, who had only five rehearsals. The play does not contain any star-part, the hero being, like in the old Greek tragedies, the people. Mention should, however, be made of the realistic performances of Herren Andresen, Stock, Wieburger, Leyrer, and Behrend, and Fräuleins L'Arronge, Gademann, and Weiss, and all the representatives of the forty-three speaking parts discharged their duties in an earnest and artistic manner.

MR PAUL ARTHUR is now sustaining in *Lady Madcap* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre the part originally played by Mr Aubrey Fitzgerald.

CAPTAIN WELTON DALE, the popular lessee of the Tunbridge Wells Opera House, who is leaving England this month for South Africa on a starring tour in old English comedy, in a company in which he has an interest, was the recipient of several presentations on Saturday evening last at a valedictory performance. Prominent among them was a fitted travelling bag and an enlarged photo. of the theatre staff, which was presented on their behalf by the acting-manager, Mr F. E. Manaton.

"THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL."

A Romantic Comedy, in Four Acts, by Orczy-Barstow,
Played for the First Time in London at the New Theatre,
on Thursday, Jan. 5.

Prince of Wales	Mr RUDGE HARDING
Sir Percy Blakeney	Mr FRED TERRY
Sir Andrew Ffoulkes	Mr ALFRED KENDRICK
Lord Anthony Dewhurst	Mr MALCOLM CHERRY
Lord Grenville	Mr SYDNEY STIRLING
Chauvelin	Mr HORACE HODGES
The Comte De Tournai	Mr CHARLES A. DORAN
The Vicomte De Tournai	Mr LEON M. LION
Armand St. Just	Mr L. RAGE DUNROBIN
Hebert	Mr WALTER EDWIN
Jellyband	Mr D. J. WILLIAMS
Jimmy Pitkin	Mr CYRIL BALEINE
Harry Waite	Mr HORACE
Brogard	Mr HERMANN GRIFFITHS
Captain of the Guard	Mr J. CARTER-EDWARDS
Mr Hempseed	Mr ERNEST E. IMESON
Major-Domo	Mr ROBERT MIDGLEY
Aristocrat	Mr GEORGE DUDLEY
Chepy	Mr P. L. JULIAN
Citizen	Mr GERALD JORDON
Messenger	Mr JULIUS J. HAGEN
Sergeant	Mr CHARLES RUTHERFURD
The Comtesse De Tournai	Mrs WALTER EDWIN
Suzanne De Tournai	Miss MARY MACKENZIE
Sally Jellyband	Miss KATHLEEN DOYLE
Mère Brogard	Miss MARION STERLING
Lady Blakeney	Miss JULIA NEILSON

The Scarlet Pimpernel was first performed at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, on Oct. 15, 1903, where it met with a most enthusiastic first-night reception. The audience assembled at the New Theatre on Thursday night followed suit in the warmth of their welcome to the new play and the heartiness of their greeting when Miss Julia Neilson and Mr Fred Terry made their appearance. There were a few dissentients in the gallery, it is true, but they hardly counted in face of the hurricane of applause which broke out after the final fall of the curtain. Judging by this double favourable verdict, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* should have a long and prosperous run. And the secret of the success undoubtedly achieved lies in the fact that an interesting story is vividly presented, and that the opportunities for powerful and impressive acting are taken full advantage of by all concerned in the production. When the somewhat too noisy first scene has been toned down a trifle, and the last act has undergone some slight compression, there will be little cause for complaint. The period of the play is 1792, and the Scarlet Pimpernel is the name given to a mysterious being who is known to be the leader of a small band of English gentlemen whose object is to assist French Royalists to take refuge in England, and so escape the guillotine. Lady Blakeney, formerly a famous French actress, has, through the wiles and duplicity of a certain Mons. Chauvelin, unwittingly caused the downfall of the Marquis De St. Cyr. Her husband, Sir Percy, apparently only a fop of the period, without any serious interest in life, plays a double part. He is no other than the Scarlet Pimpernel, though his own wife is unaware of it. She complains that he has changed from the ardent lover to the cold, unsympathetic husband. The reason of this change is that he has discovered that she has acted as a spy, and he has a contempt for such conduct. Chauvelin arrives in London, ostensibly as the accredited envoy of the French Government, his real purpose, however, being to endeavour to discover who is the redoubtable Scarlet Pimpernel. He becomes possessed of certain letters, one being written by Armand St. Just, the brother of Lady Blakeney, in which he declares his detestation of the infamous doings of the Revolutionary party in France. Knowing Lady Blakeney's intense love for Armand, Chauvelin uses this as a means to compel her help in finding out who is the Scarlet Pimpernel. Sir Percy resolves to save Armand from the fate which his indiscreet letter is likely to bring about, and departs for France. The astute Chauvelin, always on the watch, has found out that Sir Percy and the Scarlet Pimpernel are one and the same. Lady Blakeney makes a similar discovery shortly after he husband's departure, and she is torn with remorse that by her action the lives of both Sir Percy and her brother are in jeopardy. She bravely resolves to follow, and is in time to witness the meeting of her husband and Chauvelin at Calais. The Frenchman is completely outwitted in spite of all his well-laid plans, and the play ends with the reconciliation of husband and wife.

Miss Julia Neilson has, perhaps, never been better suited than she is in the part of Lady Blakeney. The handsome dresses set off her tall, commanding figure to great advantage, and she has just the graceful walk and queenly bearing that fit in with the character. Her acting, sound and safe all through, is particularly effective in the third act, in the interview with Sir Percy and also when she learns that he is the Scarlet Pimpernel, and has apparently gone to his death. At the conclusion of this scene the curtain was raised again and again. Mr Fred Terry has by no means an easy task in portraying the part of a man who is assuming a rôle for a certain object, and only occasionally permits a glimpse of his real character. The light-hearted foppery and careless indifference of this supposed Court butterfly are admirably portrayed, and a refreshing briskness and spirit pervade the whole performance. Mr Horace Hodges supplies an exceedingly clever picture of Chauvelin—watchful, ever on the alert, and determined to win his object at any cost. The other characters are of no great importance. Mr Alfred Kendrick gives a good impersonation of Sir Andrew Ffoulkes, and Lord Anthony Dewhurst and Lord Grenville are carefully embodied by Mr Malcolm Cherry and Mr Sydney Stirling. Mr L. Rage Dunrobin plays with earnestness as Armand St. Just, and the Comte De Tournai and the Vicomte, his son, have able exponents in Mr Charles A. Doran and Mr Leon M. Lion. Mr D. J. Williams is well placed as the landlord of the Fisherman's Rest, and Mr Hermann Griffiths as mine host of The Lion D'Or is amusingly gruff and surly. Mr Rudge Harding is entitled to praise for his portrait of the Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV. Mrs Walter Edwin is a dignified Comtesse De Tournai, and Miss Mary Mackenzie a winsome Suzanne. Miss Kathleen Doyle as Sarah Jellyband and Miss Marion Sterling as Mère Brogard deserve credit for neat character sketches. Mr Cyril Baleine as Jimmy Pitkin and Mr Horace as Harry Waite lend efficient assistance. A minuet, arranged by Mr John D'Auban, is danced in the second act, the charming dresses of the ladies being greatly admired. The music for the play was specially composed by Mr Raymond Roze.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

Most heartily we wish many, many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Edith Sherwood—Saturday, Jan. 7.
Kate Paradise—Saturday, Jan. 7.
A. P. Kaye—Saturday, Jan. 7.
Cecil Thornbury, music hall artist—Jan. 7.
Harry Bransby—Sunday, Jan. 8.
Hilda Shirley—Sunday, Jan. 8.
R. Cowley-Polhill, actor—Sunday, Jan. 8.
C. H. Fullen—Sunday, Jan. 8.
Cris, music hall artiste—Sunday, Jan. 8.
Louie Bransby—Monday, Jan. 9.
E. S. Willard, actor—Monday, Jan. 9.
George Conquest, actor—Monday, Jan. 9.
C. B. Keston—Monday, Jan. 9.
F. C. Imbert—Monday, Jan. 9.
John Lawson, actor—Monday, Jan. 9.
Charles M. Daly—Monday, Jan. 9.
Jessie Bond, actress—Tuesday, Jan. 10.
Charles Rex, music hall artist—Tuesday, Jan. 10.
Sybil Lonsdale—Wednesday, Jan. 11.
Lady Bancroft—Thursday, Jan. 12.
May Lillian Levey, music-hall artist—Jan. 13.
John Strange Winter, authoress—Jan. 13.
Haidée Wright, actress—Jan. 13.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, DEC. 29, 1904.—The theatrical year has ended somewhat tamely. We were promised some new productions before Dec. 31, but these have been withheld, and will not see the footlights until 1905 is well launched. Fewer plays have been brought out during the last twelve months than in the preceding year; and we also note with regret that as regards quality these are much below the average. In fact, *Oiseaux de Passage* and *Armide and Gildis* are the only works produced during the year about whose literary merits our theatrical press has been unanimous. A few years ago one of our playwrights started working for "exportation," with his eye on England and America, and I understood that the man's industry proved lucrative. Unfortunately, he has had imitators, and a nice little syndicate was even formed to "work" the United Kingdom. As it turned out, however, the United Kingdom did not respond to the call, and showed a decided disinclination to acclimatise these efforts on English soil; and, if some of our French playwrights are not a little more careful, they will find what they term the highest "market" altogether closed against them. Much of our rubbish therefore finds its way into Germany, where it is readily taken—the German playgoer having apparently a stronger digestion than his colleague in other countries. The year which has elapsed will still be a memorable one on account of the trouble raised about the Theatrical Trust question, and which may deal a death blow to the Société des Auteurs. These gentlemen are now trying to smooth matters over; but they are not likely to succeed.

THE first novelty at the Comédie-Française will be *Le Duel*, a three-act comedy, by M. Henri Lavedan, the author of *Le Marquis De Priola*.

M. ANTOINE has blossomed into an ardent Shakespearian, and intends to give a whole series of Shakespeare's plays. The next work to be brought out at the Théâtre Antoine will be *Romeo and Juliet*, which M. Louis De Gramont is now translating into French.

AT the Bouffes-Parisiens M. Bour has put into rehearsal M. Georges Berr's new comedy *Les Berluchon*. The date of the première has, however, not yet been fixed, as *Rabelais* is still enjoying a good run.

M. MICHAUD, manager of the Nouveautés, is well supplied with novelties for the coming season. The first will be M. Zamacoïs' *Gigolo*, after which we are promised *L'Ange du Foyer*, a three-act comedy by MM. Robert De Flers and Armand De Caillavet, to be followed by *Le Mari de Loulou*, comedy-vaudeville in three acts by MM. Maurice Soulié and Henri De Gorsse.

M. GEORGES COURTELINE'S play *La Conversion d'Alceste* is to be brought out at the Comédie-Française on Jan. 15, the anniversary of Molière's birth, to be preceded by an "à-propos" by M. Ch. Gruyer. The cast will comprise M. Mayer, M. Dessonnes, M. Croué, M. Brunot, and Mdlle. Lara.

THE Bal Tabarin has inaugurated its season with a remarkable chorigraphic intermede by the maître-de-ballet, M. Eugenio, wherein Mdlles. Will Rys and the Sisters Mayo distinguished themselves greatly. The clever draughtsman Willette has ornamented the entrance of the Bal Tabarin with three remarkable frescoes, the one representing Eve and the Serpent gracefully skipping being particularly striking.

THE little Théâtre Des Mathurins scored a genuine success with M. Gaston Duthil's amusing comedy *Les Biftecks*, excellently interpreted by Mdlle. Alice Vamont and MM. Victor Boucher and Berthelier *fils*.

PARIS, THURSDAY, JAN. 5.—The beginning of the year is the time when our great music halls launch their "Revues," and the Folies-Bergère, the first in the field, has given us an entertainment specially manufactured for the frequenters of this establishment. The Parisian delights in "Revues," which suit his temperament. He knows that, from the Prime Minister to the policeman, everybody will come in for his share of chaff. He is ready to enjoy the amusing "couplets," and he will not blush at the highly spiced jokes that will fall on him like hail. But, in order to understand these jokes, and also the many political allusions, more than restaurant-French is required; for which reason the real Parisian "Revue" offers little interest to the stranger. The Folies-Bergère have fully understood this; and, as this place is chiefly frequented by English and Americans, with their wives and daughters, the management have placed before them a "Revue" which appeals more to the eye than to the intellect. M. Victor De Cottens, the well-know dramatist, has acquitted himself admirably of his task, and the Folies-Bergère management, on their part, have done things royally. As a rule, in a "Revue" there is a campère and a commère, who explain the different tableaux to the audience. In this instance we had not less than six commères—splendid women, covered in jewels. One of them, Miss Withney, an English lady, was particularly admired. Miss Withney's rôle consisted chiefly in looking beautiful, and this she did to perfection. Most of the jokes—all of them of a harmless nature—were within everybody's reach. Thus Fragson's clever song about the Spanish nobleman whom a set of adventurers tried to despoil of his title and wealth was very much appreciated. A most amusing tableau was also supplied in the Paris-Monte-Carlo Raid, where we see a royal personage, with his well-known beard, rushing in his motor-car through towns and villages, smashing up everything he comes across. Altogether, the new "Revue" proved a big success; and Mr Fragson made a great hit. Everybody is sorry at his leaving us to return to England, for he is not only a talented artist, but one of the most popular figures on the music hall stage.

WHEN *Resurrection* was brought out at the Odéon M. Andre Calmettes was to have impersonated Nekludoff. At the last moment, however, the rôle was given to M. Dumeny. Now that the work will be transferred to the Porte-Saint-Martin M. Calmettes' services have been secured; and Madame Berthe Bady will again appear as La Maslova.

AT the Sarah Bernhardt Theatre they are busy rehearsing Victor Hugo's well-known drama *Angelo, Tyran de Padoue*. Madame Sarah Bernhardt will, of course, play the principal part, that of La Tisbé; and the other rôles will be taken by Mdlle. Blanche Dufrène, Mdlle. Seylor, Mdlle. Kerwich, and MM. De Max, Pierre Magnier, Desjardins, Densubourg, and Krauss. The première has been fixed for the 12th inst.

"LE CRIME D'AIX" will soon be withdrawn from the bill at the Ambigu to make room for *La Conquete de l'Air*, an ultra-modern play, founded on an aërostatic discovery, which, a few months ago, gave rise to some discussion in scientific circles. The two clever actors, MM. Dieudonné and Séverin-Mars, have been specially engaged for the leading parts.

IT is the ambition of all playwrights to have their works accepted by the Comédie-Française; but even when this piece of good fortune has befallen them years may elapse before the plays see the footlights. M. Catulle Mendes, having got tired of working for the production of his comedy *Scarron*, has asked M. Claretie to return him his MS., and his comedy will be brought out at the Gaîté, with M. Coquelin in the title-rôle. The play is in five acts, and in verse.

IT was a curious coincidence that in the same week M. Antoine (at the Théâtre Antoine), M. Lucien Guitry (at the Renaissance), and Madame Le Bargy (at the Gymnase) should have met with an accident, from which, however, they have by now recovered. It was rather rough on M. Franck, who, on two consecutive nights, had to give back the money taken at the doors—£250—nearly the maximum at the Gymnase.

THE next novelty at the Théâtre Antoine will be *Le Meilleur Parti*, comedy, in four acts, by M. Maurice Maindron, which plays in the sixteenth century. As usual, M. Antoine will devote much care and attention to the staging and costumes.

WE are also promised the following premières:—At the Odéon, *Le Patrimoine*, by M. Ambroise Janvier; at the Vaudeville, *Petite Peste*; at the Renaissance, *La Massière*, by M. Jules Lemaître; and at the Théâtre Molière, *L'Instinct*, three acts, by M. Henry Kistemaekers, and *La Soutane*, three acts, by M. Arthur Bernède.

"L'ŒIL CREVE," revived at the Variétés, has not enthused the audience. The work, brought out in 1867, no longer suits the taste of the day, and both music and libretto seem woefully old-fashioned. M. Samuel, however, has done wonders in the way of scenery. What they want, however, at the Variétés are artists with voices.

DEATH OF MR. EDWARD ROSE.

Mr Edward Rose, dramatist and critic, died at his residence, 30, Lyndhurst-road, Hampstead, on Saturday night. He was not troubled with any serious illness during his life, but latterly a weakness of the heart made itself apparent, and he was advised by his medical man that he must avoid excitement, but no serious result of his ailment was anticipated in the near future. He was, however, suddenly taken ill on Saturday, and medical advice was at once sought. He rapidly became worse, and expired about ten o'clock. He leaves a widow and a daughter aged about fifteen.

The deceased was a son of Dr. Caleb Rose, of Swaffham, where he was born on Aug. 7, 1849, his father being, in his later years, a well-known resident of Ipswich. He became articled, on leaving school, to a local firm of solicitors, but his bent for the drama, thus early displaying itself, led him to write a comedietta, entitled *Our Farm*, and this was produced at the Queen's Theatre in 1872. It met with gratifying success, running for a hundred consecutive nights, and soon after he abandoned the pursuit of the law for the less prosaic career of a man of letters. Amongst his early friends were Mr Beerbohm Tree, before he went on the stage, Mr Bernard Shaw, and Mr Sidney Webb. After he took up his abode in London, he wrote a good deal for *The Era*, the *Illustrated London News*, and *Fraser's Magazine*. His first great success on the stage was a dramatised version of *Vice Versâ*, which ran for several months at the Strand, but his best-known plays undoubtedly were *The Prisoner of Zenda* and *Under the Red Robe*. *Agatha Tylden* was produced with success in 1892, at the Haymarket, at which theatre Mr Rose was himself on the stage as an actor. He also played at the Strand, Globe, and other theatres. Amongst his later plays were *In Days of Old* produced at the St. James's Theatre in 1899, and (in collaboration) *English Nell*. He wrote several plays for Mrs Langtry, for the American stage. For three years he acted as dramatic critic of the *Sunday Times*, and displayed qualities in this capacity which certainly enhanced his reputation as a writer. His knowledge of dramatic literature was most extensive, and his acquaintance with European languages enabled him to read the works of foreign writers in their mother tongue. He understood French, German, Danish, and two or three other languages. He did not neglect, however, the dramatic writers of his own country, and was a great student of Shakespeare, being president of the New Shakespeare Society.

After the loss in 1893 of his eldest daughter Lucy, Mr Rose ceased dramatic work for a time. The blow was a severe one (the child was nine or ten years of age), and it took him some time to recover from it. During the past year he wrote a Society play in collaboration with Mrs Craigie, and it was accepted by Mr Cyril Maude for production at the Haymarket. Within the past month he had arranged to write a play in connection with Mr Anthony Hope. Mr Rose was president of the Playgoers' Club some seven or eight years ago.

Of late years Mr Rose took an interest in education, and, in addition to founding a prize for political economy at Ipswich School, he founded, under the auspices of the London County Council, a scholarship for girls, called the Lucy Rose Exhibition, in memory of his daughter. He had also become an active member of the management of the King Alfred School at Hampstead, a school managed on the most modern lines. He was on the Council of the Garden City Association, and was a member of the Green Room Club and the National Liberal Club. Mr Rose was of a most genial amiable disposition, and his death will be regretted by a host of friends.

The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon at Ipswich, the chief mourners present being Mrs Rose (the widow) and Miss Dorothy Rose (daughter), Dr. C. S. Sherrington, and Mr W. S. and Mr G. S. Sherrington.

FUNERAL OF MR. FRANK CELLI.

The remains of the late Mr Francis Standing, professionally known as Frank Celli, were interred in the family vault at Highgate Cemetery on Tuesday afternoon. Here lie buried his father, James Standing (of H.M.C.S.), his mother, and a sister. The principal mourners were:—Gordon Standing, son; Miss Helen Standing (Mrs Clifford Standing), sister; Mr Clifford Standing and Mr James Standing, cousins; Messrs Percy, Aubrey, and Cecil Standing, nephews; Mr Currie and Dr. Philip Birch, executors; Mr Thomas Wright, brother-in-law; and Master Richard Standing, nephew.

There were also present Messrs Barton M'Guckin, William Booty, Stanley Patterson, Scott Dalgleish, Mrs Pierce and Miss Alice Pierce, and other personal friends of the deceased. The leaden coffin was enclosed in an oak case, with brass fittings, and the plate bore the name of deceased, the date of his death, and his age. Amongst the wreaths received was one from the Savage Club (of which he was a member); a lyre, composed of evergreens, "a tribute of affection from his old friend," Stanley Patterson; Dr. Philip Birch and family; Miss Alice Pierce, "With deepest sympathy;" Mr and the Misses Butterfield, Mrs Deane Brand, the family, and others. The funeral arrangements were satisfactorily carried out by Mr W. S. Bond, of Shepherd's-bush-green.

THE HENRY CRISP FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I wish to thank most heartily Mr Cyril Maude and *The Era* and all subscribers for raising the fund on my behalf, and which has yielded so successful a result. The remembrance of the kindness of the profession to me in my "days of darkness" will prove a great comfort to me.

Yours faithfully, HENRY CRISP.

MISS JULIA KENT is making a great hit as Robin Hood at the Grand Theatre, Islington, this season. Her performance is finished in every detail, her dresses are original in design and effect, and her song "The Millionaire" goes most merrily. This clever little lady is, indeed, the life and soul of the pantomime.

AT the Theatre Royal, Seaham Harbour, this week Mr F. S. Glibert and company opened on Monday in *Maritana*. Don Caesar was cleverly embodied by Mr Glibert. Don Jose was submitted by Mr Fletcher Sansome with telling effect; Mr H. Halpin as the King of Spain did meritorious work; Maritana was played in finished style by Miss Marie D'Alcourt; and the same remark applies to Miss Sara Marchant's rendering of Lazarillo.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DIE HERZMARKE,"
Play, in Four Acts, by Philipp Langmann,
Produced at the New Royal Opera, Dec. 29, 1904.

Dieterlin	Herr MATKOWSKY
Frau Dieterlin	Frau BUTZE
Rita	Fräulein VON ARNAULD
Erasmus	Herr CHRISTIANS
Henriette	Fräulein ARNSTADT
Otto	Herr STAEGEMANN
Aribert	Herr FORTCHER
Marie	Frau POPPE
Kupetz	Herr POHL
Felicie	Fräulein WACHNER
Schrimpf	Herr ZEISLER
Scheinegger	Herr KRAUSSNECK
Scheinegger, jun.	Herr WERRACK
Klempan	Herr HERTZER
Minna	Fräulein SPERR
Kommissar	Herr ARNDT
Fontheim	Herr LUDWIG
Querfeldt	Herr OBERLANDER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, JAN. 5.—This is an incredible mixture of Björnson, Ibsen, Mirbeau, and other well-known writers, and may be reckoned among the failures of the Royal Schauspiel Haus. It is a matter of astonishment that such an olla-podrida could be accepted and so much conscientious work thrown away upon the rehearsals. A few words will suffice for the plot, which is as follows:—The villain of the piece is Otto Dieterlin, a man of iron will and unscrupulous conscience. He is bent upon getting an important spinning and cotton factory, which is a limited company, into his own hands, and he makes use of every kind of trick to obtain his ends. Having managed successfully to hoodwink the shareholders Dieterlin proceeds to rob his own mother, who dies of heart apoplexy in consequence before our eyes. Dieterlin goes on his evil way, as the Germans express it, "over corpses;" he is a very bad villain indeed. Suddenly it becomes dark on the stage while a meeting of shareholders is proceeding; there is a great noise behind the scene, and we learn with proportionate horror that Dieterlin's son has been caught by a wheel and torn to pieces by the machinery. Thus Nemesis gradually overtakes the evil-doer, and by degrees we are enlightened—through a series of unskilfully arranged scenes and conversations—as to the antecedents of the Dieterlin family. Some twenty years ago, it appears, Otto Dieterlin had borrowed money from the cashier of a bank, Herr Eimbeck, who lent it for love of Otto's mother. Eimbeck, not being paid back, defrauded the bank and was sent to prison. When his time was over he returned home to find Otto Dieterlin had been consoling his young grass widow, and though the liaison was said to be platonic, Eimbeck takes poison and dies. Dieterlin proposed in course of time to Marie Eimbeck, but was refused and married Rita, a particularly unsympathetic lady who leaves him on the death of their son. Now that Dieterlin is entirely alone in the world, Marie Eimbeck comes to him. Although for twenty years they have not met she has cherished affection for him, and she tells him she will devote the remainder of her life to him on the condition that he gives up all claim to the ill-gotten factory. The lonely man is only too glad to do anything Marie desires, and we all trust he will—somewhat late in the day—turn over a new leaf. The piece is full of faults, and is crude and wearisome to excess. The only thing good about it was the acting, which, in the chief rôles, was unusually praiseworthy. Herr Matkowsky was applauded enthusiastically, even while others were hissing the piece. Frau Poppe and Frau Butze, Fräuleins Arnstadt, Wachner, and Von Arnauld gave admirable renderings of their respective parts; and Dr. Pohl acted the rôle of Dieterlin's old servant very cleverly.

HAUPTMANN'S amusing comedy *Der Biberpelz* has been revived at the Lessing, with some alterations from the original cast. The rôle of Frau Wolffen—played for so many years in this theatre by Frau Von Poellnitz, who died a short time ago—was given by Fräulein Lehmann in an equally masterly manner. Herr Sauer as Wehrhahn, the local magistrate, is well known for his faultless rendering, and the remaining parts were well sustained in the excellent manner for which this company is celebrated throughout the length and breadth of the land.

ON New Year's Eve *Gräfin Von Keck*, three-act farce "from the English," by Max Schoenau, was given at the Berliner Theatre, being favourably received. It is what the Germans expressively term a "tohnwabohn" of situations and jokes. The spirit of Sylvester Eve (the merriest night in all the year here) entered into the actors one and all, and those most worthy of commendation were Herren Kuhnert, Schindler—the latter always an amusing comedian—and Starnburg, Fräuleins Boettcher, Carlsen, and Rocco.

"DORNROSCHEN," a new fairy opera, in four acts, by August Weweler, words by Hans Eschelbach, met with a very cordial reception on its recent production at the National Theatre. The "book" is very poetic, the author being a well-known South German writer, and the music suits it admirably. In the first act the King and Queen are overjoyed at the prospect of a child; in the second we see the infant Princess in her cradle, the "Wise Women" appearing with their gifts. "Care" alone comes uninvited, and prophesies maliciously the Princess's death, but Love gets the sentences commuted into a sleep of a hundred years. The third act shows the tragedy, which takes place on Dornröschen's seventeenth birthday, and the fourth brings the breaking of the spell by the Prince. Thus we see the author has kept closely to the lines of the charming old fairy story, without seeking symbolical meanings, as another composer did not long ago. The music is pleasing without being striking; it is nowhere discordant, but it is sometimes trivial and monotonous. The interpretation was, with two exceptions, a poor one. The exceptions were Herr Melms as the King and Fräulein Rado as Sorge (care), both excellent renderings. Neither can it be said that the mounting was good, so that the success of the work would probably, under other conditions, have been greater.

A THREE-ACT burlesque-farce, *Der Grosse Stern*, by MM. Kren and Schoenfeld, music by Elnödshofer, was given for the first time at the Thalia on Christmas night. An indulgent audience found plenty of entertainment in the wild pot-pourri of nonsense, and the foremost artistes of the company, Herr Thielscher, Herr Helmerding, Fräuleins Abarbanell and Wannovius were applauded to the echo.

AT the Carl-Weiss Theatre the record in long plays was broken last week by the performance of D'Ennery's *Reise um die Erde in Achtzig Tagen*, an adaptation, of course, of Jules Verne's famous story. The piece lasted five and a quarter hours—a little too much even for a Christmas holiday audience. The adventures of Mr Phineas Fogg were followed, nevertheless, with close attention and much amusement, and the acting was so bright and vivacious throughout that in spite of the length of the piece it met with a most cordial reception.

MADAME CALVE is going on satisfactorily. After her successful début in our Royal Opera House, Madame Calvé, owing to indisposition, disappointed twice in appearing at concerts. Finally, at Vienna, the diva's health broke down utterly, and she was compelled to undergo an operation for appendicitis without delay.

HERR ADOLF VON SONNENTHAL, of the Imperial Burg Theatre, Vienna, celebrated his seventieth birthday last week. Artists in every land and several crowned heads united in showing honour to the famous actor.

MISS OLGA AUDER, the original Worst Woman in London, will shortly produce a new play, entitled *A Woman to Fear*.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

DAYTON.—Jan. 2, Mary Maus Dayton, wife of O. Maus Dayton (of the Dayton Family), of a fine boy. Both doing well. 43, Brighton-road, Darlington.

HENDERSON.—Dec. 30, 1904, at 19, Margaret-road, Whitley Bay, the wife of Martin Henderson, blind musician, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

ORMONDE—DANN.—At St. John's Church, Longford, Ireland, on Dec. 27, 1904, by the Rev. Mr Little, Fred Ormonde (professionally known as Dr. Ormonde), entertainer, to Emily Dann, second eldest daughter of W. T. Dann, proprietor of *Longford Journal*, Longford, Ireland. American, Australian, and Oroadian papers please copy.

REED—BOWMAN.—Dec. 31, at the Unitarian Chapel, Ipswich, Henry Frank Reed, only son of Frank Reed, London, to Mabel Edith, third daughter of Francis Bowman, of Ipswich.

DEATHS.

BARNES.—Jan. 4, at Buxton, E. S. Barnes, formerly music hall manager.

BENT.—Dec. 31, at South Shields, the beloved son of Mr and Mrs Bent, professionally known as Harry Bent, and Carlotta Lunn, age six weeks. Gone, but never forgotten by his loving parents. An angel in heaven. R.I.P. American papers please copy.

COLE.—Jan. 5, at her residence, The Chimes, Cathcart-road, Redcliffe-gardens, S.W., of diabetes, Madame Belle Cole, oratorio vocalist.

CROOK.—Jan. 1, 1905, suddenly at 99, Chatham-street, Liverpool, John Joseph Crook, the eldest son of Peter Crook, law stationer, and beloved brother of Lilian Russell (Sisters Russell), aged thirty-two years.

CURRANS.—Dec. 25, of heart failure, following an attack of bronchitis, the wife of J. W. Currans, theatrical manager.

ROSE.—Dec 31, suddenly, of heart failure, at his residence, 30, Lyndhurst-road, Hampstead, N.W., Edward Rose, aged fifty-five years.

IN MEMORIAM.

ANDERSON.—In affectionate remembrance of my dear aunt, Robina Anderson, who passed away Jan. 6, 1900. Always in thought of her devoted friends till death.—Mr and Mrs Reed Pinaud (née Florrie Robina).

GILBERT.—In loving memory of my dear mother, Madame Lizzie Gilbert (Mrs E. G. Savage), ballet mistress, who passed away at Nottingham, Jan. 13, 1904.

HALLOWS.—In loving memory of the late Edward N. Hallows, who died Jan. 4, 1887. "Thy will be done."

HARPER.—In loving memory of my life-long friend Charles Harper, of 3, Lidlington-place, N.W., professor of music (late of the Royal Academy, Sacred Harmonic, Covent-garden, and Savoy). Died Jan. 5, 1893. Interred in St. Pancras Cemetery, Finchley. Always thought of and ever grieved for by Elise.

HARRISON.—In loving memory of Frederick L. Harrison (of Fred and Lillie Harrison, variety artistes), who died on Jan. 9, 1904, after many months of suffering, bravely borne. "Do not forget me."

LLOYD.—In ever-loving memory of R. W. "Delarue" Lloyd (father of Amy Elvira), who died Jan. 4, 1899. Deeply mourned by his loving wife and children.

MACNALLY.—Jessie Macnally (Mrs W. H. M'Carthy), who died on Jan. 11, 1903. Never forgotten by her loving husband and children (Wally and Norah).

WENTWORTH.—In ever-loving and tender remembrance of my darling fiancée, Bessie, who passed peacefully to rest on Jan. 6, 1901.

Time but the impression stronger makes
As streams their channels deeper wear.

ALEC S. ROSS.

WENTWORTH.—In ever-loving remembrance of my dear friend, Bessie Wentworth, who died Jan. 6, 1901. S. Pincus, Leeds.

WENTWORTH.—In loving memory of Dear Bessie, who departed this life Jan. 6, 1901. Never forgotten by her brother-in-law, C. C. Chapman (Warner).

WENTWORTH.—In loving memory of my dear daughter Bessie, who passed away Jan. 6, 1901. Never forgotten by her loving mother.

MADAME BELLE COLE, the popular American mezzo-soprano, died on Thursday morning at her house in Cathcart-road, Redcliffe-gardens, S.W. Madame Cole was born in New York State. She received her musical instruction from her father, and began her career as a soloist in a church in Fifth-avenue, New York. That led to her engagement by Theodore Thomas, the American impresario, as one of the singers in his touring concert party; and after five years with him, it was in the year 1887 that she made her first important appearance in England, singing at one of the Crystal Palace concerts, in November of that year, in an operatic aria of Mercadante. In 1888 she sang in *Elijah* at Eton College under Sir Joseph Barnby, and was subsequently commanded by Queen Victoria to appear before the German Emperor at a Royal Albert Hall concert, where she sang in Sir Arthur Sullivan's *Golden Legend*. Madame Cole toured successfully in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

AT the Alhambra Theatre, Stourbridge, on Monday, *The Way of the World* was performed. As Adela De la Roche Miss Sidney Crowe was excellent, and her rendering was a very fine one. Mr Montagu Beaudyn proved capable in the character of Cecil Montagu; Mr W. Robertson Foulis acted creditably as Matthew Malyon; and Mr Herbert Skardon sustained the rôle of Captain Sende ably.

AT the Theatre Royal, Wednesbury, this week, Mr Gus Levaine's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, under the supervision of Mr Harry Levaine, is being performed with success. Miss Lily Ennis as Robin Hood does excellent work, and as Maid Marion Miss Beatrice Willmott is seen to much advantage; Mr E. E. Newbold as Baron Badlot creates roars of laughter; Miss Ivy Rochefort and Miss Daisy Rochefort as the Babes, Roy and Dorothy, are responsible for the success of the production to a large extent. Mr Harry Levaine, in the rôle of Dame Durden, is exceptionally smart and clever, his songs and dances being excellent. The specialities include the Two Zemblas, in their remarkable acrobatic and juggling feats; Leon and Leoni, musical experts; the Sylvan Quartet of lady dancers; the Rhondda Glee Party; and the Rizonis, paper manipulators.

MR GEORGE DANCE'S *Orchid* company remains for another week at the Grand Theatre, Hull. Most of the musical items are well received, "Little Mary" being repeatedly encored. Miss Ethel Bryant as Lady Violet Anstruther has completely won the favour of the Hull playgoing public. Mr Edmund Page and Mr Charles R. Waller well maintain the fun between them.

"HER FATAL PAST" is just the sort of play to meet the taste of the patrons of the Alexandra Theatre, Hull. As the heroine Miss Ward portrays the rôle of Honor Symes with sympathetic regard.

MR EDITOR.—Sir,—In your criticism of the Broadway pantomime, in last Saturday's issue, you mentioned the Eight Tiller Girls in the Highgate-hill Ballet. The ballet was invented and arranged entirely by myself, and the Tiller Girls do not appear in this scene. Yours faithfully, JOSEPH POME, Ballet Master. Broadway Theatre, New-cross, S.E., Jan. 2.

ON THE ROAD, JAN. 9.

ACTOR'S ROMANCE.—Falkirk.
AMORELLE (LONDON).—Grand Theatre, Hull.
AMORELLE (N.).—Grand Theatre, Falkirk.
AUSTIN, MISS MARY.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
BANDMANN-PALMER, MRS.—T. R., Darwen.
BELLE OF NEW YORK.—Ayr.
BENSON, MR F. R. (A).—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
BENSON, MR F. R. (B).—Town Hall, Tipperary.
BEST MUST WIN.—Alhambra Theatre, Stourbridge.
BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH.—Lowestoft.
BULMER, MR.—Metropole Theatre, Abertillery.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (M.).—Barrow.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (MACDONA) (N.).—Inverness.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (MACDONA) (S.).—Oswestry.
CHRISTIAN (CROKE).—T. R., Ton-y-Pandy.
CINGALEE.—Ipswich.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—T. R., Huddersfield.
CONSCRIPT.—Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.
COUNTRY GIRL (M.).—Burton.
COUNTRY GIRL (N.).—Coleraine.
COUNTRY GIRL (S.)—Gainsborough.
COUSIN KATE.—Bromley.
CRICKET ON THE HEARTH.—T. R., Leamington.
CRIMSON CLUB.—St. James's Theatre, Manchester.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—Pier Pavilion, Hastings.
DARLING OF THE GODS.—Wolverhampton.
D'OYLY CARTE.—Theatre Royal, Gloucester.
DUCHESS OF DANTZIC.—Reading.
DUKE OF KILLICRANKIE (LOVEL).—T. R., Preston.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—Theatre Royal, Worcester.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
FATAL WEDDING (N.).—Grand Theatre, Nelson.
FATAL WEDDING (M.).—New Theatre, Hyde.
FATAL WEDDING (S.).—Pentre.
FEMALE SWINDLER.—T. R., West Bromwich.
FIGHT FOR MILLIONS.—C. T., Saltley.
FLORODORA (CALLAN).—G. T., W. Hartlepool.
FLORODORA (DAVIS).—Theatre Royal, Aston.
FLORODORA (HOWARD).—Tunbridge Wells.
FORTY THIEVES.—Century Theatre, Motherwell.
FRIVOLITY.—Dunfermline.
GAY PARISIENNE.—Ilfracombe.
GIRL FROM KAY'S (N.).—Brighton.
GOLDEN LADDER.—Queen's Theatre, Longton.
GRIP OF IRON.—Court Theatre, Bacup.
HARVEST OF SIN.—Star Theatre, Swansea.
HER ONE GREAT SIN.—Theatre Royal, Colne.
INDIAN MUTINY.—West Stanley.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Bulford Camp.
LADDER OF LIFE.—Met. Theatre, Birmingham.
LADY OF OSTEND.—Colchester.
LA POUPEE.—Swindon.
LAUGHTER-LAND.—Theatre Royal, St. Helens.
LONDON FIREMAN.—Pavilion Theatre, Edinburgh.
MAN TO MAN.—Theatre Royal, Stratford.
MANXMAN.—Theatre Royal, Blackburn.
MARRIAGE OF KITTY.—Theatre Royal, Aldershot.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—Lyceum Theatre, Newport.
MOCKERY OF MARRIAGE.—New Theatre, Aberdare.
MOODY-MANNERS (A).—Theatre Royal, Dublin.
MOODY-MANNERS (B).—Grand Theatre, Swansea.
NAPOLEON THE GREAT.—T. R., Rotherham.
NEW MEPHISTO.—W. G. Theatre, Blackpool.
ORCHID.—Grimsby.
OTTO THE OUTCAST.—Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.
PRINCE OF ROGUES.—Oxford.
PROOF.—Opera House, Porth.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Theatre Royal, Lincoln.
ROYAL REVENGE (CLYNDES).—Neath.
SCHOOL GIRL (MACDONA).—York.
SILVER KING.—Court Theatre, Wigan.
SIN OF HER CHILDHOOD.—T. R., Blyth.
SLEDGE-HAMMER—Royal Theatre, Birkenhead.
STILL ALARM.—Junction Theatre, Manchester.
SUNDAY.—Public Hall, Barnsley.
SWISS EXPRESS.—Theatre Royal, Peterborough.
THREE LITTLE MAIDS (MACDONA) (S.).—Southend.
TRAITOR.—Theatre Royal, Jarrow.
TRIP TO CHINATOWN.—Opera House, Southport.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.—Warrington.
UNDER TWO FLAGS.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
VICTIM OF VILLAINY.—Queen's T., Fleetwood.
VERONIQUE.—Portsmouth.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—T. R., Barnsley.
WARNER, GRACE.—T. R., Middleton.
WAY OF THE WORLD.—T. R., Wednesbury.
WHEN WOMAN HATES.—T. R., Sunderland.
WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN.—Ashton-under-Lyne.
WORLD.—Grand Theatre, Blackpool.
10·30 DOWN EXPRESS.—G. T., Stalybridge.

DR. THEODORE THOMAS, Mus.D. (the founder of Thomas's orchestra), who was born in Hanover in 1835, died at Chicago a few days ago. When he was ten years of age his parents emigrated to the United States. He played first violin in the orchestras that accompanied Jenny Lind, Henrietta Sontag, Grisi, and Mario, and led that which accompanied La Grange, Piccolomini, and Thalberg through the country. In the early sixties he devoted himself to the organisation of his own orchestra, and in 1864-65 commenced a series of symphony concerts at Irving Hall, that came to be regarded as among the musical institutions of New York. In 1872 Mr Thomas was the leading spirit in founding the New York Wagner Union, established for the purpose of aiding in the festival performance of the *Nibelungen Ring* at Bayreuth in 1875. He left New York in 1891 for Chicago to conduct the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which he continued to do till 1901.

AT the Lyceum Theatre, Stafford, this week, Mr Charles March's play, *The Priest of the Temple*, is being presented. Valerius is enacted by the author with considerable vigour; Mr Percy Ballard displays exceptional ability as Decus Fronto; Appius Herdonius is impressively played by Mr Henry Moxon; Hermanus is carefully impersonated by Mr Stanley May; and Mr John Simpson as Camillus gives a few light touches to an otherwise rather sombre play. Miss Marie North carefully portrays the part of Præstantia, and Miss Violet Craufurd gives a powerful exposition of the Tiberian lady, Polita. *The Gamester of Metz* is billed for the latter part of the week.

"AMBITION," a four-act tragedy by D. Janitsch, has been copyrighted by the International Copyright Bureau, Limited, 34, Norfolk-street, Strand, both here and in Washington.

MR CLAUDE SEATON, the manager of the Theatre Royal, Attercliffe, inaugurated last September a "tax night" on one evening each week, when all passes were taxed to the extent of one penny. The result to the end of the year was highly satisfactory, and Mr Seaton has had the pleasure of handing over the sum of £3 5s. 6d. to the local hospitals.

AT the New Theatre Royal, Stockport, this week, Messrs Dottridge and Longden's pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, fully maintains its success. Mr Ernie Myers as Hassarac is the chief fun provider among the comedians, and the vocalism of Miss Lily Lonsdale (Morgiana) is a distinctly pleasing feature. Miss Dolly Elsworthy as Ganem is vivacious and charming, and sings and dances in a manner that commands much applause.

MR FRED GRANVILLE allowed collection boxes to be taken among the audience on Monday at the Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, by which means a good sum was realised for the local children's infirmary.

PRESENTATION.—At the end of the third act of *Rich and Poor of London*, on Friday evening, Dec. 30, at the Theatre Royal, Attercliffe, Mr Claude Seaton, the resident manager, was called on the stage, and presented by Mr Sidney Dench, on behalf of himself and Mr Sidney C. Cranston, with a silver-mounted pipe and case as a token of personal esteem and appreciation of his efforts to make their visit last week such a big success, the record for the week being the highest for the past three years. Mr Seaton feelingly replied.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS

Continued from Page 11.

SPENNYMOOR.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Harding Thomas; General Manager, Mr Herbert Vere.—The attraction provided this week is Messrs Marston and Buckstone's company in their pantomime, *Goody Two Shoes*. Miss Maude Western is smart in the rôle of Roland, and renders several songs in capital style. In the title-rôle Miss Marie Santley is excellent, and her songs and dances are well received. A clever exponent of the Fairy is found in Miss Connie Irwin, who is also an admirable vocalist. Miss A. D. Hender scores as the Demon. The comedy in the hands of Mr Syd Bazley as Simon, Mr Fred A. Marston as the Baron, Mr Ted Mac as the Dame and Mr Dan Hardie cannot be too highly praised. Messrs Yorke and Kelly are excellent in their daring feats on the trapeze. Other parts are ably handled by Mr R. Grant, Mr H. Varno, Mr Wilfred Hargreaves, and Mr J. Nano.

ST. HELENS.

THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr M'Leod Loader.—It must be highly gratifying to Messrs Haddon and Loader to find the public respond in such goodly numbers to the attraction held out in their first pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Miss Bessie Shelley acts with natural grace as Jack, and Miss Pattie Bella makes a lively and attractive Dora. Miss Sybil Viney (Charlie Bright) and Miss Cissie Trent (Nancy Smart) perform with spirit and vivacity. Mr Jay Laurier as Silly Billy proves himself an active and smart comedian; Mr Reg. Bolton is a typical Baron; and Mr Harry Harrop as the Dame does well. Messrs Kydd and Kydd as Dip and Dap are clever and amusing, and well merit the applause bestowed upon them. Mr W. S. Stevenson as the Giant, Miss Evelyn Robson as Discordia, Miss Walsh as Fairy Queen, and Mr George Harrie as the Cow all work hard to make the pantomime the success it is. The singing of the Cameron Quartet is heartily and deservedly appreciated. Special mention should be made of the clever star trap performance of Mr George Harrie, the dancing of the Continental Trio, the speciality dancing of Miss Cissie Trent, and also of the charming flying ballets. The band and chorus, under the conductorship of Mr Arthur Meredyth, contribute in no small degree to the success.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr A. V. Carnell.—Miss Lizzette Sutherland's sketch *Donnybrook* heads the bill here this week, and is proving a great attraction. Other good turns in an excellent programme include:—Sisters Marlon, duettists; Mr J. W. Bray, descriptive vocalist; Steel and Laing, speciality performers; Satsuma, Japanese wonder worker; and Mr Charles Serra, equilibrist.

SWANSEA.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs David Allen and Sons, Limited; Lessees and Managers, Messrs E. Oswald Brooks and J. W. Woodbridge; Resident Partner, Mr E. Oswald Brooks.—On Monday, the second week of the opera season, the Moody-Manners company gave an exceedingly good performance of *Carmen*. Miss Teify Davies repeated her excellent portrayal of Carmen, and her various numbers were warmly applauded. Miss Grace Nicoll, too, in the small part of Michaela, was capital, and won hearty appreciation. Mr Edward Arthur gave an exceptionally good rendering of Don José, and Mr Walter Barrett gave a fine interpretation of Escamillo. The operas announced for the week are *Lohengrin*, *La Traviata*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, *Faust*, *Il Trovatore*, and *The Bohemian Girl*.

NEW STAR.—Lessee and Manager, Mr T. Morton Powell; Acting-Manager, Mr William Coutts.—The attraction at this house for the week is the Oriental dramatic pantomime *The Rajah of Ranjapore*, played by Mr John H. Morton's company.

NEW EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr Albert Mitchell.—The programme here includes Grais' baboon prodigies; the Llewelyns, Australian operatic vocalists; Bros. Pueblo, cake-walkers; Albertus and Bartram, club jugglers; Resuas Trio, clever acrobats and equilibrists; the American Bioscope; the Jees, in *The Musical Smithy*; Milner Verren, a good tenor vocalist; and the Max Welson Four, rope performers.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr T. W. Grantham.—The engagements at this house for the current week are:—Luis Hardt, the boy Samson; Vivian Dell, speciality dancer; E. J. Sheldon, character comedian; Fred Herbert, topical vocalist; Ailsa Douglas, the Lancashire vocalist; Ada Vernon, burlesque artiste; Vernon's animated pictures; and May Lillian Levey, comedienne.

SWINDON.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Responsible Manager, Mr Alfred Manners; Musical Director, Mr F. H. Lucas.—Judging by the intense enthusiasm of the crowded audience on Monday, it was evident that in selecting *Florodora* for the New Year week the management has provided its patrons with a most popular attraction. The Ben Greet company, under the business direction of Mr J. Bannister Howard, is a good one, the tuneful piece being capitally staged under Mr J. R. Tate's supervision, and the well-balanced chorus and orchestra are ably conducted by Mr H. Bolton. Miss Daisy Lake endowed the part of Dolores with delightful charm and earnestness, being deservedly encored for her fine singing; and Miss Louie Danby made a pleasing and graceful Angela Gilfain. Mr Edward Crossland sustained the part of Frank Abercoed with marked ability, and Mr Morrice Holmes gave a bright and spirited embodiment of Arthur Donegal. Mr Gus Danby, a great favourite, is greeted with a genuine outburst of applause, and repeats his quaint conception of Tweedlepunch.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.—Secretary, Mr H. J. Southwell.—The three performances given by the local Amateur Theatrical Society, in the large hall, proved a great attraction. Planché's drama, *Not a Bad Judge*, was neatly staged and dressed, and each rôle was undertaken with distinct credit. This, with the popular operetta *Trial by Jury*, completed a bright entertainment, and it would be extremely difficult to speak too highly of the success attained.

TON-Y-PANDY.

ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs Carlton and Duckworth; General Manager, Mr Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr H. Counsell.—Mr Sanderson Moffatt and company are appearing here in *A Woman Adrift*. Mr Moffatt deals with the characters of Leo and Ferdinand Castro in a most able manner; Sir John Ingleby is capably played by Mr J. Millane; and Mr C. Wilson does well as Jibbs. Miss Phyllis Hamilton reveals considerable talent as Cora Leigh, and Stella Castro is safely entrusted to Miss Violet Keand.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs Carlton and Duckworth; Sole Lessee, Miss A. Alexandra; Managing-Director, Mr Dd. Taylor.—Foremost in the bill here is Caban, with his performing ponies and dogs; R. C. Note, vocalist, scores on a return visit; the Eugenes do some clever acrobatic business; the Etherdos gain applause in their unsupported ladder performance; and La Place is mirthful.

WAKEFIELD.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr Frank M. Thorne's company, under the direction of Messrs Carson and Granville, is here this week in *Napoleon the Great*. Mr Hugh Montgomery gives an excellent rendering of Napoleon, Mr Henry Earlesmere acts well as the villainous Colonel Levarennes, Mr Phil Harper scores as Col. Meuron, and Mr Frank M. Thorne is amusing as Pierre Pomponnet. Mr C. W. Spencer does justice to the rôle of Sergeant Choupin, Miss Chrissie Dunbar submits a charming portrayal as Marie Waleswka, Miss Maud Russell is good as Mdlle. Leonie; and Miss Marie Harcourt is able as Marcelle Choupin.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Wakefield Hippodrome, Limited; Manager, Mr D. G. Mooney.—Mr George Gilbey, comedian, heads the bill this week, and has scored a great success. The Five Royal Zerbinis provide a clever, interesting musical turn; the Two Leskyasyas perform some excellent feats of strength; Mr George Bernard, actor-vocalist, scores with a military song; and Mr Tom Vine, vocalist, is applauded for his smart topical songs. Other turns comprise Mr C. W. Selman, comedian; Miss Clara Nesbitt, comedienne; and Miss Mamie Cannon, juvenile vocalist.

WALSALL.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Company, Limited; General Manager and Secretary, Mr W. H. Westwood.—The pantomime *Cinderella* was produced here on Boxing Night by Mr John Walter's company. Miss Florence Drew as Cinderella acts well, and a very good Prince Charming is Miss Constance St. Bride. The Ugly Sisters are represented by Mr Arthur Hickman and Mr T. H. Solly; and the Baron and the Page are in the able hands of Mr Geo. Reeves and Mr Ally M. Benson. The O'Nates, Algerian jugglers; Omega, with a wire act novelty; the Lilly Trio; and the Garland ballet speciality dancers also appear.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Co., Limited; General Manager and Secretary, Mr W. H. Westwood.—*A Victim of Villainy*, played by Mr Walter Howe's company, is the attraction here. Mr Walter Howe as Frank Manton is exceedingly good; Mr Charles E. Wilton plays Stephen Cavanagh with ability; as Tommy Leckie Mr Harry Liddle is good; Mr John Wybrett is well placed as Arthur Lennox, M.D.; Miss Nellie Lawson makes a capital Mary Manton; Miss Muriel Dean ably undertakes the part of Alice Cavanagh; and able support is given by Miss Marjorie Carroll as Vera Diamond and Miss Blanche Nicholls as Maria Blobbaby.

WALTHAMSTOW.

KING'S THEATRE.—The best of good business has marked the beginning of the New Year at this popular house, and the fanny pantomime of *Little Red Riding Hood* still succeeds in eliciting uproarous laughter. Mr Robert Williams, has, if possible, elaborated his comical conception of Sir Goose Green, and Mr Bob Hall is funnier than ever as Master Goosey. Mr George Hayes is very droll as Jonathan Wisenut; and the Dame of Mr Billy Taylor is simply irrepressible. That charming child actress and vocalist, Miss Hazel Kirke, fascinates everyone with her singing, besides looking the Spirit of Good Luck to perfection. Mr Trixie Toole to her charming impersonation of Red Riding Hood has added a capital number. She sings her song, "Dreams," of which the chorus is taken up by a "magic kettle" containing a sweet-voiced boy. The effect is charming, and the "turn" goes with immense success. Miss Ruth Wallace is as sprightly and saucy as possible as Boy Blue. The grand transformation scene, the Birth of the Rising Sun, works very smoothly, and is a really most artistic effect. The whole production reflects the highest credit on all concerned, and Councillor George W. Crump is to be congratulated on the success that nightly attends his efforts as business-manager.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr G. Adney Payne; Manager, Mr Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr G. F. Slater.—Since the first performance on Boxing Day of Espinosa's pantomime, *Cinderella*, at Mr Barclay's palatial and popular house great things have been done to enliven and quicken an already capital entertainment, and it is not surprising to learn that business has been of a phenomenal character. Miss Eva Kelland, the daintiest of heroines, does full justice both to herself and her part. Miss Kelland's songs are all agreeably rendered, and her participation with clever Mr Arthur Medwin in a duet satirising various styles of singing is one of the successes of the evening. Miss Dora Harrison is still the prettiest conceivable Dandini. Messrs Benson Clever and Billy Farrell as the two ugly, and not too ugly, sisters, Iris and Sellcia, have worked up their business with happy results. A word of praise is due to Miss C. Stroud Wilson, who, as the fairy godmother, looks magnificent, and sings her "Good-bye" song with brilliancy. The harlequinade goes with the greatest of spirit, and sends the youngsters among the audiences to their homes with the happiest results. The "variety" portion of Mr Barclay's programme has not been forgotten as an attractive feature. An amusing duologue, *The Order of the Bath*, is cleverly played by Miss Lilieth Leyton supported by Mr J. G. Bentham. Fredo is a clever, quick illusionist; the Gladenbecks are well received in their ring act; and the Lannons, duettists and champion pedestal dancers, are decidedly popular. The overture for the week is the "Pot-Pourri" of Mr H. Petersen, brilliantly rendered by the orchestra under the bâton of the composer.

WARRINGTON.

ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr J. Potter.—Pantomime is the order here this week, and the Pardoes have scored a signal success in their spectacular display of *Cinderella*. The stage appointments are very effective, and special mention must be made of the setting of The State Ballroom, The Fairy Boudoir, and The Enchanted Wood. Miss Cissy Kedward, a charming Cinderella, sings several numbers excellently. Miss Lottie Holland is a dashing Prince; and equally successful is Miss Kate Moore as Dandini, both ladies being possessed of rich voices. Mr Tom Hulme scores as the Baron, and the Sisters, Eva and Maude, are in the safe hands of Miss Violet Rivers and Miss Ivey Leafe. Mr George Hyam as Scoot has ample scope for displaying his versatility; and Mr Harry Hanley and Mr Mike Hastings get through much good work as Blobbs and Blabbs. Mr Wright as James and Mr James Gordon as Harry are both well placed. Miss May Birkett is a charming Fairy, and Mr Tom Griffiths as Father Time sings capitally. Specialities are introduced by the Pardoes, acrobats; the Sultan Brothers, equilibrists; the Sisters Tyrell, dancers; the Drome trio of dancers; Capita and his marionette; and the Rainbow trio of acrobatic dancers, who are all popular.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr F. Willmot.—J. A. Wilson, a coloured artist, scores well here this week, and Baker Belphor also wins favour with descriptive songs. Craig, Rose, and Craig are exceptionally clever gymnasts, and Arthur Bromley and Lena Fontein are clever duettists. Andy Fagan, comedian; Saxo, musical marvel; the Brothers Esdale, comedians; and the Royal Bioscope complete a capital programme.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.

GRAND.—General Manager (for Mrs Weldon Watts), Mr Sidney Bacon; Resident Manager, Mr Fred Conneaux.—Mr Charles Macdona's company is here this week in the musical play *The School Girl*. The work is replete with brightness and charm, and throughout the cast is evenly balanced. Miss Nellie Hodson, a vivacious actress and a talented vocalist, is a great favourite. As Lillian Leigh Miss Kate Forster undertakes successfully the rôle of the Mother Superior; Miss Jennie Bonnie charmingly impersonates Cicely Marchant; and Mr Alec Chentrens makes an ideal Edgar Verney. Mr Chas. Adeson imparts humour to the character of the General, and the part of the Dude could not be in better hands than those of Mr Alfred Leslie. Mr Chas. Anson is also most successful.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr Frank Macnaghten.—Tom Grove's sensational feat of cycling the flying wheel is truly a "breathlessly thrilling" act as presented here. The Sisters Maginal-Mullini have a most enthusiastic reception for their clever manipulation of the horn, cornet, and drum;

Zarmo, an old favourite, serves up clever juggling with droll comedy; the fascinating fire dances of Effie White are greatly appreciated; the Sivronis, in their sketch, *Opera Gone Mad*, are productive of considerable merriment; and one of the cleverest and most highly trained dogs that have been seen here is Ben, introduced by Mdlle. Alice Lorette into some exceptionally well conceived statuesque poses; and a pleasing turn by Nellie Elder completes a programme that is thoroughly enjoyed by crowded houses.

WEST BROMWICH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr J. P. Moore,—*The Heart of a Hero*, played by Messrs Carson and Granville's company, is the attraction here this week. Mr Fred W. Goddard gives an admirable rendering of Jim Resdale, a Lancashire lad. Mark and Wilfred Marl are in the capable hands of Mr A. B. Mackay and Mr Charles E. Johnson. The Dave Prichard of Mr Eric Forth is all that can be desired, and roars of laughter are caused by the extremely funny rendering of the character of Timothy Heighno by Mr Hugh Brady. Miss Ida Mackay shares a great portion of the applause as Susie Slack. Miss Beatrice Hudson as Mrs Ryder is good, and the same can be said regarding Miss Lily Langley's May Ryder. Miss Cissie St. Elmo in the rôle of Nell Resdale gives an excellent performance, and Mr Harry Scatchard is clever as the miser, George Winston.

WEST STANLEY.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr M. H. Lindon.—Messrs Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is here this week with *The Village Blacksmith*. As John Strong Mr Sam Livesey does full justice to the part; Mr Joseph Carlton is most effective as Captain Leo; Mr Thos. E. Marshall is an excellent Parkins; Miss Livesey does well as Mrs Parkins; as Ruth Parkins Miss Maggie Edwards is very pleasing; and as Kate Strong Miss Ethel Kay is very attractive.

WIGAN.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company; Managing-Director, Mr John Worswick.—Overflow audiences have been the rule at the Wigan places of entertainment during the holidays. At the Court Theatre Mr J. Gar Kiddie's pantomime *Little Bo-Peep*, written by Geo. Burton, is again presented. The part of Bo-Peep is admirably played by Miss Lizzie Payne; Miss B. Frank as Margery Daw, Miss Ina Thornton as Gladys, and others sing and play well, notably Miss Nora Beverley as Fairy Moonbeam and Miss Flo Warner as Boy Blue. Baron Hardup is well represented by Mr E. H. Bertram, and rollicking fun is provided by Mr J. Gar Kiddie as Tommy Long; Mr J. Blarney as Johnnie Stout, and Mr Will Kennard as Jimmy Green. The pantomime is well mounted.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company; Managing-Director, Mr J. Worswick.—The bill is filled this week by the Craggs and powerful company in *Laughter Land*. In addition to marvellous acrobatic feats and endless comic business, a variety of capital musical numbers are excellently given by members of the company collectively and individually.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Manager, Mr W. Birchall.—Among the turns contributing to an excellent entertainment here are Duncan and Morton, comedy artists, in *Stage Chums;* Welda and Wynne, eccentric jugglers, with capital performances; Miss Alice Townend, who remains another week; Mr Fred Burnaby, descriptive vocalist; and Valvo, ventriloquist, in a return engagement. Sauterons, "springheel Jack;" Joe Conley, comedian and dancer; and Miss Alice Glenney, serio and dancer, are also well received.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr E. H. Bull and Mr Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy Percival.—The Compton comedy company, which is appearing here this week, is always highly appreciated by local playgoers, and there was a good audience to welcome the members of it on Monday last, when *Davy Garrick* was once more produced. Although so well known the play is always popular, and Mr Edward Compton, who appeared in the title-part, came in for a hearty reception. His acting throughout was characterised by the inimitable genius which he possesses and displays in this particular part. He was supported by a good company, chief of whom is Miss Haidee Gunn, whose charming and clever impersonation of Violet Gresham was well worth seeing. As Alderman Gresham Mr Henry Crocker played admirably and naturally. Mr A. B. Imeson did well as Tom Tallyhaut; Mr Charles R. Stone was a capital Rumbelow; Mr Arnold Lucy effective as Sowerberry; and Mr G. Wallace Johnston well filled the part of Simpkins. Miss M. Hassell as Mrs Rumbelow and Miss Mackenzie as Selina, both did justice to their respective parts. The performance was preceded by *Tom Noddy's Secret*. During the week *She Stoops to Conquer*, *School for Scandal*, and *To morrow* have been played.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr Chas. Barnard; General Manager, Mr W. H. Lennon.—The chief item in this week's bill is Auto Atlas, who performs some wonderful feats of strength by means of his teeth, &c. The Scottish Meisters are a good musical quartet. Other items in the bill are the Sisters Norrie, vocalists and dancers; the Cameron Troupe, pipers, dancers, &c.; Burnetti, a quick-change artist and musical entertainer; Golden Michalini, juggler; Rappo and Ella, vocalists and dancers; Charles Milner, comedian; and Ruffell's Bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Lessees, Mr Fred Benton and Mr Fred J. Little; Business-Manager, Mr Fred Benton.—The old Prince of Wales's Theatre having been converted into a hippodrome, this week's entertainment is provided by a circus and variety company, including Miss Flora, equestrienne; La Belle Tosca, wire performer; Clara Hastings, vocalist; Vanda, Kardoo, Miss Davies, Elenora, George Scott, Pongo, and Joe Hastings.

YORK.

ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr T. H. Barrow.—Mr E. A. Smith's pantomime company opened a six nights' engagement on Monday, when *The Babes in the Wood* was given with every promise of success. To Miss Edith Wallis nothing but praise can be given; she is a handsome and dashing Robin Hood, singing most tastefully. Miss Beatie Howard is sprightly and vivacious as Maid Marion, and Miss Lily White and Miss Cora Pleon are interesting as the Babes. Mr Arthur Slater carries off chief honours as the Baron; he is a comedian of great merit, and gives a genuinely amusing and diverting performance. Mr Charles Gladwell is quaint and mirth-provoking as the Dame, and some amusement is caused by Messrs Bob Padley and F. Wheatcroft as the Robbers. The pantomime is admirably staged, and specialities are introduced by the Edna Trio, the Colleys, and the Bluebell Quartet.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr Sidney Brooke.—*Cinderella* is, as was to expected, proving a great draw, the theatre being crowded nightly.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

VERA L. APPLEBY.—*You had better apply to the Actors' Association.*

T. ERSKIN.—*The news was sent by our Sydney correspondent, and in accordance with our usual custom we inserted the announcement under the "Deaths" heading.*

R. H. DUNNING.—*Erminie was first performed at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, in October, 1885, with Miss Florence St. John in the title-part, Miss Kate Munroe as Javotte, Miss M. A. Victor as the Princess De Gramponeux, Miss V. Melnotte as Cerise, H. Paulton as Cadeau, F. Wyatt as Ravannes, Henry Bracy as Eugene Marcel, Fred Mervin as the Marquis De Pontvert, and other parts were played by H. Bolini, J. W. Bradbury, Miss Edith Vane, Miss K Everleigh and Miss Ethel Selwyn. It was first seen in London at the Comedy Theatre on Nov 9 1885*

AUSTRAL.—*(1) Jan 10, 1866 (2) The steamship London, which was wrecked en route to Melbourne. (3) Miss Marianne Bray. (4) Principally as a Shakespearian tragedian. (5) At the Princess's Theatre, Nov 16, 1882*

B. S.—*The Black Statue was the title of the pantomime produced at the Britannia Theatre in December, 1874 A comic opera, in three acts, by H. P. Stephens, and composed by Florian Pascal, was produced at the Theatre Royal, Torquay, on Nov 5, 1896.*

J. P. C.—*Charles Kean made his last appearance on the stage at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Liverpool, on May 29, 1867.*

KATE B.—*Mrs John Carter, the actress, died Dec. 25, 1891.*

H. B.—*Dick Venables, a drama in four acts, by Arthur Law, was produced at the Shaftesbury Theatre on April 5, 1890.*

S. F.—*The Variety Theatre, Hoxton, was opened March 14, 1870.*

K. T.—*George Barnwell was revived at a matinée at the Gaiety on April 21, 1880.*

JOE.—*The Oxford Music Hall was rebuilt and reopened on March 16, 1879.*

T. J.—*(1) The comic opera entitled* Marjorie *was produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Jan. 18, 1890. (2)* La Cigale *was produced at the Lyric Theatre on Oct 9, 1890.*

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.
No Circulars admitted to this List.

Abel, Mr George
Agustin, Mrs
Aldersyde, Mr Charles
Alvar, Mr William
Amphlett, Miss Nellie
Andelott, Mr A.
Anthony, Mr F.
Arthurs, Miss E.
Artois, Mr J.
Ashwell, Miss Lena
Baimbridge, Mr Julian
Baird, Miss Dorothea
Baldry, Mr H.
Barham, Mr G.
Barnes, Miss E.
Baroni, Mr H.
Bathurst, Mr Jolf
Bayliss, Mr W. J.
Beere, Mrs Bernard
Benson, Mr G. J.
Benton, Mr Wilfred
Bensusan, Miss Inez
Beverley, Mr Arthur
Bon-Bon, Mr H.
Bovis, Mr Charles
Boyd, Mr Austin
Brampton, Mr Kenneth
Branscombe, Mr Arthur
Breeman, Miss Maude
Bristo, Miss Amy
Brough, Mr Robert
Burdett, Mr Francis
Butt, Miss Bessie
Cancellor, Mr Leyton
Cannon, Mr Tom
Casselo, Madame
Casson, Mr Frank
Chamberlain's Circus
Chipperfield, Mr
Church, Mr
Clayton Twins
Cole, Mr Horace
Compton, Miss
Conners, Mrs Nellie
Connor, Mr
Conway, Mr Martin
Cooper, Mr Harwood
Cremin, Mrs
Cubberley, Mr F.
Cuthbert, Mrs Robert
Dagmar, Miss Marie
Danby, Mr Charles
Dare, Miss Minnie
Dare, Mr Vernon
Dauncey, Mr E.
Daventry, Miss Dora
Deer, Miss Esther
Deer, Mr and Mrs J.
De Freece, Mr Walter
De Quincey, Mr Chris.
Denham, Miss Millie
Denton, Mrs H.
Digby, Mr Everard
Dodd, Mr Harry
Doherty, Sisters
Donnells, The
Doreen, Miss L.
Douglas, Mr John
Earle, Mr Fred
Eckert, Miss K.
Eldiablow, Mr
Ellicott, Miss Violet
Elliott, Miss Violet
Ellis, Mr Herbert
Elsie, Miss Lily
Elworthy, Mr W. T.
Emerson, Mr C. A.
Evans, Mr H. W.
Every, Mr J.
Fanning, Mr D.
Fleming, Mr Hugh
Ford, Mr W.
Freeman, Miss Dora
Gerard, Captain A.
Glover, Mrs Marion W.
Girards, Captain A.
Gog, Mr George
Gordon, Miss F.
Grahame, Mr Jack
Granville, Mr V. L.
Grove, Mr Chas. W.
Grovini, Mr James
Hall, Mr Albert
Hallam, Mr Henry
Hamilton, Miss Rose
Hanbury, Miss Lilly
Hare, Mr Arthur
Hartree, Mr Walter
Harwood, Mr Frank
Heathcote, Mr E.
Herbert, Mrs Kate
Herman, Mr H.
Hindell, Mr Gus
Hingston, Miss L.
Hoff, Mr
Holly, Miss Daisy
Horatio, Jean
Houdini, Miss Bessie
Housselin, Mr H.
Howard, Miss A.
Howard, Mr George
Howard, Mr Stanley
Howards, The
Hubner, Mr Leon
Hume, Ross, and Lewis
Hussey, Mr Austin
Inman, Mrs C.
Jalland, Mr H.
Jeffries, Miss Beatrice
Jepson Mr F. H.
Johnston, Mr T. W.
Karr, Mr H.
Kessamly, Miss Ida
Kingston, Miss Olga B.
Kirke, Mr F. J.
Kitchin, Mr Dick
Knight, Mr F. Hamilton
Knowles, Mr R. G.
Larne, Mr Mark
Laurel, Mr Albert
Laurel, Mr Fred
Laurel, Mr Sid
Lawrence, Mr A. C.
Lawrence, Mr N.
Learto, Mr
Leechman, Miss Kate
Lennon, Mr C. E.
Leonard, Miss Flora
Leonard, Mr Arthur
Leroy, Miss Daisy
Letto, Mrs A.
Letts, Miss Minnie
Levens, Miss J.
Le Voos
Lewis, Miss M. Jeffrey
Leyton, Miss Olive Loftus
Lingard, Mr H.
Lloyd, Miss Lillie King
Lovegrove, Miss Phillis
Lozelle, Mr David
Mac, Mr Ted
Maltby, Miss
Mannheim, Mr Carl
Manning, Mr Ambrose
Mapleson, Col. Henry
Martine, Miss Vera
Mayne, Miss Hope
Mead, Mr Harold
Merrick, Miss Rona
Micawber, Mrs Bob
Mills and Scott, Messrs
Milnes, Mr F. O.
Mitcham, Mr Will
M'Laren, Mr Ian
M'Neill, Mr W. A.
Moltena, Madame Agnes
Money, Mr A.
Montague, Mr Herbert J.
Moore, Miss Maggie
Morris, Mr M. A.
Myles, Mr Teddy
Neale, Mr W. V.
Nelson's Newsboys
Nerrey, Mr T.
Nicoll, Miss Yetta
Nix, Dr.
O'Connor, Mr D. B.
O'Connor, Mr Michael
Olive, Mr Mack
Olliver, Mr Arthur
Oliver, Mr J. C.
O'Neill, Mr Frank
Osborne, Miss Nina
Overton, Mrs Anna
Palmer, Miss Una
Parr, Mr Tom
Paull, Mrs William
Pearson, Mr Bob
Peatsons, Mr J. R.
Pinder Brothers
Pink, Mrs Wal
Pink, Mr Wal
Poivel, Mr Arthur
Polson, Mrs Mary
Pook, Mr T.
Primrose, Mr Harry
Pugh, Mrs Nellie
Purvis, Mr Walter
Ray and Beatie
Roben, Miss Rosie
Roibuck, Mr A.
Romer, Mr
Rose, Mr J. W.
Ross, Mr H. A.
Russell, Mr Fred
Sakere, The
Saro, Mrs
Sealby, Miss Mabel
Seaton, Dr.
Sharman, Mr John
Shipley, Mr S.
Simmons, Miss Edith
Somerfield, Mr F. C.
Somerville, Mr Will
Stanley, Miss Alma
Stephenson, Mrs Frank
St. John, Miss Florence
Strachan, Miss Queenie
Stratton, Mr Eugene
Strauss, Miss Rhoda
Street, Mr Fred
Stucholme, Mr Bob
Sutton, Mr James
Swallow, Mr John
Taft, Mr Harry
Tambo and Tambo
Tearle, Mr Edmund
Tempest, Miss Marie
Thompson, Mr A. G.
Thornhill, Mr A. C.
Thorpe, Mr C.
Tiller, Mr
Travers, Mr Hyram
Tyndall, Mrs Lewis
Vint, Mrs L.
Wakefield, Mr F.
Walker, Mrs Charles
Ward, Miss G.
Ward, Mr and Mrs Cecil
Warner, Mr H. B.
Webster, Mr G. H.
Weeks, Mrs
Weirs, The
Welch, Mr J. A.
Wentworth, Mr Bert
Whalley, Miss Norma
White, Mrs J.
Wilkes, Mr Charles
Willard, Mr F. J.
Wilmot, Miss Blanche
Wilson, Mr Ernest
Wilton, Mr George
Winterbottom, Mr John
Wright, Miss Hadie
Wynne, Miss Stella
Wynne-Matherson, Miss E.
Yates, Mr F. Danvers
Zaid, Mr
"Zarmo"

MR EDITOR.—Sir,—Your Ilkeston correspondent for the Queen's Palace has omitted in his report to mention the name of, yours faithfully, MYSTERIOUS MAY, female impersonator. Jan. 2, 1905.

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Chapter III.
INFRINGEMENT AND REMEDIES.
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INTERNATIONAL AND COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law" ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as "the Bermoothes" and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said, to state little more than that the contents include five chapters respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," "Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority, is not dry reading. The statutes, with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright" is dedicated to Mr A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman, July 31st, 1901

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr Albert A. Strong's new work entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his text-book on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases, what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee, July 23th, 1901

Mr A. A. Strong has published a book on "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" which should be in the hands of everyone who is obliged to know about this perplexing subject. Dramatic copyright in England is in a particularly unsatisfactory state, and it is much to be hoped that ere long some more rational method of securing protection for a play may be devised than the slovenly and sometimes costly "production for copyright purposes" which is at present required.—St. James's Gazette, Aug. 2d, 1901

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It is imperative that all Artistes should send in bill matter fourteen days beforehand, according to contract. Mr Sparrow invites all Artistes holding contracts at the Granville to compare dates with him, so that any mistakes can be rectified.

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The Two Champion Boxers, Ben Jordan and Pedlar Palmer, who recently competed at the National Sporting Club; Joe Peterman's Musical Scena, "The Factory Girl;" Spot! in his Unique Travesty, "The Cake-Walk Craze;" Rex Fox, Annie Lawrie, Walter Stockwell, the Three Sisters Chester, Walter Wallis, the Groves Duo, Dora Clifford, the Fitzroys, Jack Lorrimer, Emma Don and Company, T. C. Callaghan, the Edisonograph, Jack Charman, Tom E. Hughes, and Percy Murray and Company in the Dramatic Sketch, "One Too Many." Commence 7·30. Prices from 4d.
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All Artistes are notified that they must send their full bill matter in two clear weeks before opening. Rehearsal, 1·0 o'clock, Mondays. All Artistes engaged must attend. Artistes not complying with the above rules are subject to having their contracts cancelled at the option of the Management.

HAMMERSMITH PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr J. C. COX.—Monday Jan. 9, Grand Production of W. Selkirk's Juvenile Spectacle, "All Scotch," Performed by 100 Juveniles of the District; Sisters Pine, Johnny Worman, Tom Costello, Beattie Kent, Leo Tell, V. L. Granville, in Character Impersonations from Famous Plays; Tom Collins, Dot Hardy, Twin Sisters Anderson, Chas. Ulrick, Fanny Wentworth, Fred S. Peake and Company, Edwin Rutland, The Edisonograph, Sam Mayo, Two Whites, Stella Stanley, Ergotti and King Luis Troupe. Tele., 106, Hammersmith. Acting-Manager, Lewis Vincent.

BATTERSEA EMPIRE.
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Business Manager, Lennox Barry.
Monday, Jan. 9, 1905, and Twice Nightly, Johnny Holland and Company, in "The Looking Glass;" Ena Beryl, T. C. Callaghan, Ford and Hanson, Tom Brantford, Winnie Dare, the Merzettis, Louis Hardt, Private John Clarke, Albert Wyndham and Company, Exhibition of Photos.
Mr E. E. Giles will take his Grand Farewell Complimentary Benefit on Jan. 11.
All Principal Stars will appear.
Notice to all Artistes holding Contracts for Battersea Empire.—Special attention is drawn to Clause 14, which must be strictly adhered to.

ROYAL STANDARD MUSIC HALL (Facing Victoria Station).—Proprietor and Manager, Mr T. S. DUKIE.—One House Nightly. Monday, Jan. 9, Maurice Hoffmann and Company, Park's Eton Boys, Sam Mayo, Harry Freeman, Celeste, Harry Grey, King Leo, Sisters Hall, Jack Pleasants, the Rushforths, Henri, M. Hemsley, Richard Teasdale, Angie Montague, Edisonograph, and others. Doors open 7·30 (Saturdays 7 0 o'clock); commence 7 40 (Saturdays 7·20, with Augmented Company). Telephone, 503, Westminster. Assistant-Manager, Mr M. Voisy.

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QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES, HIGH-STREET, POPLAR. — Proprietors, Messrs TOM MALTBY and HENRY WICKES.—Edward Ranier, in "The Bank Robbery;" Watson Family, Sisters Northcroft, Sam Sutton, Les and Lovell, Clara Sefton, Callie and Walker, Captain Slingsby, Myra Stanfield, Walker and Johnson, Walter Stockwell, William Glenny and Company, Sarah Bernard, Carlotta De Vonson's Comedy Company, in "Apartments To Let," and Tom Leamore.
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The President, Sir HENRY IRVING, in the Chair.
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FRANCIS, DAY, and HUNTER'S LIST.

	Sung by
"A B C D" (James Hargreaves)	Wilkie Bard
"All the harm I wish you" (R. P. Weston)	H. Anderson
"All the little Ja-panny faces" (Harry Castling)	M. Sheridan
"All the Girls are Lov-er-ly-over-ly" (Harrington and Thurban)	R. G. Knowles
"Anywhere there will do" (Murray and Everard)	Frank Seeley
"A Warning to Single Men" (Bateman and Pether)	Arthur Reece
"Baby Mine" (Brown and Friedman)	Clarice Henry
"Blue-Bell" (Madden and Morse)	Hamilton Hill
[Above also sung by Miss Mabel La Blanche, Miss Dorothy L. Clark, Miss Florence Esdaile, the Sisters Jonghmanns, Miss Nellie Stratton, Miss Maud Esmond, Miss Nita Clavering, Miss Margaret Radcliffe, the Langdons, &c.]	
"Britannia's Babes" (Carter and Weston)	George Leyton
"'Come in!' said Widdy Malone" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Michael Nolan
"Conversations" (F. and W. Redmond)	Ambrose Thorne
"Delusions" (Phil Ray)	Phil Ray
"Doan' Cry, Little Coloured Coon" (S. F. Harrison and Neat)	H. Vernon
"Don't Stand There ——!" (Lawrance and Gifford)	W. Stanley
"Farewell, my little Yo San" (Mills and B. Scott)	T. Costello
"Frozen Meat" (T. W. Connor)	Alf Gibson
"Have you seen my girl?" (Mills and Scott)	W. Munroe
"He Kissed I Once" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Marie Loftus
"I did enjoy myself last night" (Lawrence and M. Scott)	W. Johnson
"I don't mind if it amuses you!" (Leigh and Pether)	Ben Albert
"If all the stars were mine" (Smith and Stromberg)	L. Doreen
"I'm a girl of Tennessee" (Eden and Byng)	L. Hawthorne
"I'm coming home to you" (Herbert Darnley)	D. L. Clark
"I'm going to sea (see)" (Leamore and Collins)	T. Leamore
"I'm round there to-night!" (Wincott and Leighton)	Dan Crawley
"Isn't that like a Man?" (Paul Mill)	Paul Mill
It's all right in the summer time" (Murray and Everard)	Miss Vesta Victoria
"It's the Poor that help the Poor" (Mills and Castling)	Miss Florrie Gallimore
"I Wouldn't Grumble Any More" (Harry Castling)	Harry Bedford
"I've been a Naughty Boy all Day" (Carter and Weston)	Miss Georgina Leonard
"Jolly Jarge" (Mills and Arthurs)	George Bastow
"Julia" (Robson and Hyde)	Miss Gladys Mavius
"Just a Girl" (Elton and Harrison)	Miss Minnie Cunningham
"Little Jap Horner" (F. V. St. Clair)	F. V. St. Clair
"Ma Havannah Queen" (Gifford and Lawrence)	G. H. Elliott
"Ma Dusky Rose" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Florrie Robina
"Maude! Maude!" (Barnes and Collins)	Miss Lottie Lennox
"My Little Black Pearl" (Leslie Stuart)	Eugene Stratton
"My Fiddle is My Sweetheart" (Harry Hunter)	G. H. Chirgwin
"My Japanese Girl" (Delmar and Parry)	Hal Forde
"My Lily of the Valley" (Frank Leo)	Miss Sable Fern
"Oh, Nancy Lee" (T. W. Connor)	Miss Millie Hylton
"One Little Cottage all Our Own" (J. F. Lambe)	Miss Dolly Harmer
"Revenges" (Dunlop and Pether)	Wallis Arthur
[Above also sung by Whit Cunliffe.]	
"She must have known!" (David and Scott)	J. E. Coyle
"She said, 'Baa! Baa! Baa!'" (Harrington and H. Allen)	Miss Florrie Forde
"Sit on 'em and keep 'em warm" (Wincott and Leighton)	Harry Champion
"That's him! That's him! That's him!" (Mills and Scott)	Harry Freeman
"The Angel of My Dreams" (Leigh and Pether)	Miss Millie Lindon
"The Coster's Christening" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Marie Lloyd
"The Gambling Man" (Jerome and Schwartz)	Miss Carlotta Levey
"The Garden Filled with Gold" (Bateman and Murphy)	Miss Marie Kendall
"The New Insurance" (Arthurs and Lyle)	Ernest Shand
"The New Perjarma 'At" (T. W. Connor)	Gus Elen
"The Playground in the Sky" (Bateman and Pether)	Milner Verren
"The Saftest o' the Family" (Lauder and Beaton)	Harry Lauder
"The Seaside Sultan" (C. W. Murphy)	Miss Vesta Tilley
"The Statue in Trafalgar-square" (Arthurs and Lyle)	George Lashwood
"The Truth or a Lie?" (Barnes and Weston)	George D'Albert
"The Ugly Duckling" (Murphy and Lipton)	Miss Edith Courtney
[Above also sung by Park's Eton Boys, Miss Ella Dean, and Miss Phyllis Dare.]	
"The Workhouse Gate" (Shelley and Philpot)	Herbert Shelley
"Then She Started Tickle-ing" (Mills and Carter)	Pat Rafferty
"Therein Lurks Unseen Danger" (E. W. Rogers)	Arthur Rigby
"There must have been a fire somewhere

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THE ERA
SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1905

MODERN SCENE-PAINTING.

There are certain professions in which the talent of the individual is obscured, in the eyes of the general public, by technical difficulties. One of these is scene-painting. The genius of the scenic artist has to develop under a number of adverse conditions. The "vehicle" in which he works—size—is deficient in many qualities. He has to reproduce immense pictures from a small sketch; and to work on such a large scale that he cannot, when he is painting, compare the portion of canvas on which he is engaged with the rest of his picture. Scene-painting, too, is one of the arts which have been made more difficult instead of easier by "modern improvements." Scenic art commenced at a high *artistic* level. The scenery for the early sixteenth century Mystery Plays was entrusted to artists of a high class. In those days a painter was a "man of all work," and considered it not beneath his dignity to leave the execution of a portrait and paint a banner, an escutcheon, or a scene. There being no painting-rooms of sufficient size available, the early scene-painter's studio was the open-air. If it rained, the work was covered with large pieces of parchment. The sketches, which were fine works of art, were treasured by the municipalities who gave the performances of the Mystery Plays. FRANCIS THEVENOT, who did a great deal of scenery for Mysteries, was a painter of acknowledged merit; and, in M. NATALIS RONDOT'S interesting work, "Les Peintres de Lyon," he mentions more than five hundred artists of credit, who, in the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries, were employed in scene-painting.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century, the scenery for the tragedies of CORNEILLE and RACINE was simple and conventional. The surroundings were "generalised"—a garden was a garden, and a palace a palace, without reference to period or place. The wings decreased, either in size or in proportionate design, as the back of the stage was approached, so that the actors had to keep to the front under penalty of appearing as giants. It was just the reverse with the "sky-borders," which grew bigger and deeper in the distance. At the extreme back of the stage were two flats, fastened together permanently. For the production of MOLIERE'S plays only six chairs and three candelabra were needed. But when the French Opera was established in 1645, scenery became important. A very valuable improvement was made by SERVANDONI. Before his time, if a tree or rock was painted on a wing, the whole of the object was always shown. SERVANDONI dared to exhibit only a part, thus greatly increasing the possibility of illusion. He also employed perspective on a grand scale. So fine were some of the sets of another scenic artist, PIETRO ALGIERI, that many of them were thought worthy of perpetuation by engraving; and WATTEAU himself painted many cloths for the French Opera productions.

As long as scenery was in the comparatively early stage of its development the artist's task was comparatively easy. A landscape painter who turned scenic artist had to do little more than reproduce his original design on a larger scale, and in distemper instead of in oils. The lighting of the stage by means of candelabra was not so very different from that of a picture gallery. The modern artist has to face immense difficulties. The system of building up foregrounds and making even middle-distances "practicable" adds a hundred obstacles to the scenic illusion. The moment a real object is placed alongside of a painted one the imposition is obvious. On a door in one of the apartments at Chatsworth a violin hanging upon a nail has been represented with such skill as to deceive the eye at the first glance. But the deception is aided by the shadowed position in which the "picture" is placed. The modern scenic artist has to carefully conceal the point at which the actual joins the imitated. His *papier-maché* foreground tree must weld in with his "profile" bushes in the middle distance; and these again must be in harmony and unity with the backcloth.

And the work of the modern scenic artist is shown under a blaze of illumination which can only be described as "merciless." The whole stage is flooded with light of the most penetrating and powerful kind, which searches out imperfections, and gives an air of unreality to many stage pictures. The old scenic artists, as we may see by designs which have been preserved, seem to have been rather "partial" to low tones and effects of darkness. This was the result of the moderate lighting of the stage and the conception of the actor, seen in the "focus" of the candelabra against a contrasting background of shadow. The modern scene painter prefers sunshiny views, to the effect of which excessive electrical illumination is rather an assistance.

The marvellous results achieved by our modern scenic artists, in the teeth of these difficulties, show what an immense amount of talent there is in a class whose modesty is only equalled by its ability. But, with the extension in the size of the profession, and the increase in the number of theatres, the business side of the scenic artist's calling has grown much more complicated. He is often asked to give credit for work which, if thrown on his hands, is practically useless and unsaleable. He has to embark on enterprises requiring outlay, both of labour and wages; and he therefore requires some systematic protection from imposition and consequent loss. The Scenic Artists' Association is an admirable and much-needed means of helping its members to form an opinion as to the wisdom of undertaking certain contracts, and of assisting them to obtain payment for "value supplied." It is impossible for any painter to do himself justice while he is harassed by the irritation which an artist always feels when he is obliged to descend into the business arena, and waste his time and energy in battling for his rights. We congratulate our English scene-painters on having formed a society of such indispensable value; and we trust that all of those clever craftsmen who contribute so much to the enjoyment of the public by their beautiful productions will join an Association which is certain to increase that *esprit de corps* which is so desirable in all professions—especially the artistic.

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"HOW TO HELP IT."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA

Sir,—I noticed in one of your issues an article in reference to the Actors' Benevolent Fund benefit on the Kenilworth Castle. If this will not occupy too much space in your valuable paper I think it will help the worthy cause. The Heyman Brothers send a company of from ten to fifteen people every three weeks to South Africa and the same number return every three weeks. I conceived the idea on the Kenilworth Castle of arranging a "professional concert," the entire receipts to be forwarded to the A.B.F. This can happen every three weeks, and should bring into the Fund an extra £200 or £300 per year. On our return voyage I shall arrange another "professional concert" for the Music Hall Fund. Hoping this will reach my fellow professionals booked for a tour of South Africa and that they will keep the ball a-rolling, I am,

Yours faithfully, WILLIAM GOULD.
Mount Nelson Hotel, Cape Town, Dec. 9, 1904.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 2, the Musical Play entitled "THE DUCHESS OF DANTZIC."

Mr George Dance's company, appearing this week at the Dalston Theatre in the musical play *The Duchess of Dantzic*, is meeting with a most favourable and even flattering reception. Miss Rita Presano in the title-rôle brings a wonderful amount of vitality and versatility to bear upon the representation. Whether as Sans-Gêne, the laundress, or as the Duchess she is equally zealous in imparting energy to the character, while in scenes which approach the dramatic, she is equally noticeable. Her vocalisation is very clear, and denotes an excellent range of voice. Mr Frederick Moyes, who first appears as Lieutenant Napoleon Bonaparte, and subsequently as Napoleon I., quite impresses the audience with the determined character of the personage he represents. Mr Thomas Maxwell's singing as Viscomte De Bethune is fully appreciated, and his acting is good. Quite a popular actor in the representation is Mr Makesay Cullin, who, first as Sergeant Lefebvre and afterwards as the Duke of Dantzic, aids materially in sustaining the interest of the piece. Some good comedy of the lightest kind is introduced by Mr Colin Mackay as Papillon, the court milliner, who also delights the audience with some finished dancing. Miss Lilian Drake makes a graceful Empress Josephine, and Miss Edith Carlyle and Miss Mary Harris as the sisters of Napoleon bring the necessary degree of hauteur to bear. Others in the capable cast include Miss Buena Sent, Miss Olive Goverick, Miss Grace Holmes, Miss Olive Noble, and Miss Amy Burthon; Mr Ralph Forster, Mr Burronston Williams, Mr J. H. Goldsworthy, Mr Fred Meyers, Mr Christie, and Mr L. Owen. The scenery by Joseph Harker is much admired. The orchestral accompaniment provided by the band of musicians under the direction of Mr B. J. Paterson is efficient, and the entire production is in every detail most enjoyable.

NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

LONDON.

DEC. 2. *Meredith Marriages*, an anonymous skit—Elephant and Castle.
,, 2. *A Gentleman of England*, romantic play, in four acts, by Ernest E. Norris and Fewlass Llewellyn—Elephant and Castle.
,, 5. *Fourchette and Company*, piece in one act, by Brandon Thomas—Comedy.
,, 5. *The Maid's Tragedy*, play, by Beaumont and Fletcher—Royalty.
,, 5. *The Housekeeper*, farce, in three acts, by Metcalfe Wood and Beatrice Heron-Maxwell (originally produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, on Nov. 29, 1904)—Camden.
,, 5. *The Fascinating Miss Kemp*, light comedy, in three acts, by Gordon Holmes (originally produced at the Grand Theatre, Margate, Nov. 7, 1904)—Opera House, Crouch-end.
,, 5 *Was She to Blame?* piece, in one act, by Henry Lewis Bedford—Opera House, Crouch-end.
,, 6. *Pagliacci*, dramatic version, by Charles Brookfield, of Leoncavallo's opera—Savoy.
,, 8. *Sein Prinzesschen*, comedy, in three acts, by Gerhard Schaetzeler-Perasini (German season)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
,, 12. *The Scilly Girl*, musical comedy, in two acts, book and lyrics by Athol Mayhew, music by William Neale—Grand Theatre, Woolwich.
" 12. *Ladyland*, comic opera, in two acts and three scenes by Eustace Ponsonby, music by Frank Lambert—Avenue.
,, 12. *Margot*, play, in three acts, adapted by May Pardoe from *La Menteuse* of Alphonse Daudet (originally produced at the Metropole, Camberwell, on May 25, 1903)—Court.
,, 12. *Die Lore*, comedietta, by Otto Erich Hartleben (German season)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
,, 12. *Die Sittliche Forderung*, play, by Otto Erich Hartleben (German season)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
,, 12. *Abschied Vom Regiment*, tragedietta, by Otto Erich Hartleben (German season)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
,, 12 *Militärfromm*, comedy, in one act, by Gustav Von Moser and Philo Von Trotha (German season)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
,, 14. *A Little Brown Branch*, comedy, in three acts, by Berte Thomas—Court.
,, 15. *Die Goldene Spinne*, comedy, in three acts, by Schoenthan (German season)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
,, 17. *Lady Madcap*, musical play, by Paul Reubens and F. Newnham Davies, music by Paul Reubens, lyrics by Paul Reubens, and Percy Greenbank—Prince of Wales's.
,, 19. *The Sledge Hammer*, revised version of the domestic drama, in four acts, adapted from the Flemish of Nestor Le Thiers, by the late Wilson Barrett—West London.
,, 19. *The Power of Darkness*, play, in five acts, by Leo Tolstoy, translated by Louise and Aylmer Maude (produced by the Incorporated Stage Society)—Royalty.
,, 21. *Little Black Sambo and Little White Barbara*, musical medley, in two acts, adapted from the two popular Dumpy Books by Rutland Barrington, and composed by Wilfred Bendall and Frederick Rosse, with extra numbers by Milton Wellings, Mary Watson, Jeanne and Ian Malcolm—Garrick.
,, 21. *Lady Jane's Christmas Party*, an old-fashioned episode, in one act, by Tom Gallon—Garrick.
,, 23 *Prunella; or, Love in a Dutch Garden*, play, in three acts, by Laurence Housman and Granville Barker, music by Joseph Moorat—Court.
,, 24 *Sweet Red Riding Hood*, pantomime, music by Julian Wilson—Coronet.
,, 24. *The Forty Thieves*, pantomime, in two acts—Grand, Fulham.
,, 24 *The Babes in the Wood*, pantomime, written by James H. Wolfe, music by Herbert Godfrey—Crystal Palace.
,, 24 *Robinson Crusoe*, pantomime, by Frank Dix—Camden.
,, 24 *Beauty and the Beast*, pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood—Grand Theatre, Woolwich.
,, 24. *Puss in Boots*, pantomime, by Ernest Norris—Elephant and Castle.
,, 24 *Cinderella*, pantomime, by Fred Bowyer—Crown, Peckham.
,, 24 *Aladdin*, pantomime—Kennington.
,, 26 *Rumpelstiltzkin*, children's play, adapted from a Grimm fairy story by Mrs Hugh Bell—Royalty.
,, 26 *Red Riding Hood*, pantomime—King's, Hammersmith.
,, 26. *Aladdin*, pantomime, by J. Cromo, with lyrics and music by Stephen E. Blythe—Ealing Theatre.
,, 26. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by George Dance, music by Ernest Bucalossi and Knight Pearce—Richmond Theatre.
,, 26. *Puss-in-Boots*, pantomime, produced by Mr Peter Davey—County Theatre, Kingston.
,, 26. *Bo-Peep and Boy Blue*, pantomime, by A. N. Chescoe—Public Hall, Forest Gate.
,, 26. *The White Cat*, pantomime, written and invented by J. Hickory Wood and Arthur Collins, music by James Glover—Drury-lane.
, 26. *Dick Whittington*, pantomime, by William Wade—Broadway, New Cross.
,, 26. *The Forty Thieves*, pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood—Borough Theatre, Stratford.
, 26 *Aladdin*, pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood—Marlborough, Holloway.
,, 26. *Cinderella*, pantomime, by Walter Summers—Alexandra, Stoke Newington.
,, 26. *Dick Whittington*, pantomime by James H. Wolfe—Shakespeare, Clapham.
,, 26. *Aladdin*, pantomime, by Stanley Rogers—Brixton Theatre.
,, 26. *Dick Whittington*, pantomime—Pavilion.
,, 26 *Babes in the Wood*, pantomime, by W. Scott Phipp—West London.
,, 26 *Goblin of the Sea*, pantomime, by Brian Daly and John M. East—Britannia.
,, 27. *Peter Pan; or, The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*, play, in three acts, by J. M. Barrie—Duke of York's.

REVIVALS.

DEC. 5 *Charley's Aunt*, farcical comedy, in three acts, by Brandon Thomas, originally produced at the Royalty Theatre, Dec. 21, 1892.—Comedy.
,, 10. *The Comedie of Errors*, Shakespeare's farce (revived by the Elizabethan Stage Society)—Terry's.
,, 26. *Snowdrop and Her Seven Little Men*, dramatised by Philip Carr from Grimm's fairy tale (originally produced at the Court, Dec. 23, 1903)—Royalty.

PROVINCES.

DEC. 10. *The Last Pitch*, dramatic episode—Theatre Royal, Croydon.
,, 10. *A Noble Revenge*, drametta, by Albert Ward—Theatre Royal, Croydon.
,, 10. *Ben*, piece, in one act, by Arthur Shirley—Theatre Royal, Croydon.
DEC. 14. *Miss Jack*, comedy, in three acts—St. James's, Manchester.
,, 16. *Caillette, Jester*, play, in one act, by Miss Edith Halford-Thompson—Theatre Royal, Exeter.
,, 19. *From the Land of Silence*, spiritualist play, in four acts, by Lloyd Clarance and Dugald Moore—New Theatre, Consett.
,, 19. *A Woman's Devotion*, domestic drama, in four acts, by George A. De Grey—Grand Theatre, Plymouth.
,, 26 *Earlsfield*, Irish historical piece, by J. W. Whitbread—Queen's Theatre, Dublin.

BERLIN.

DEC. 2 *Die Millionenbraut*, three-act operetta, by H. Berte—National.
,, 2 *Harte and Co.*, Christmas comedy, in five scenes, adapted by L. Ottomeyer from Dickens's "Christmas Carol"—Belle Alliance.
,, 8. *Helden*, three-act comedy, by B. Shaw, German by S. Trebitsch—Deutsches.
,, 8. *Die Stillen Stuben*, play, in three acts, by Sven Lange—Kleines.
,, 10. *Johannes Herkner*, four-act play, by E. Rossner—Lessing.
,, 10. *Herkul's Pillen*, farce, in three acts, by MM. Bilhaud and Hennequin, German by Max Schoenan—Residenz.
,, 13. *Der Roland von Berlin*, opera, in four acts, by R. Leoncavallo—Royal Opera.
,, 17. *Die Böse Prinzessin*, four-act fairy-play, by Gabriele Reuter—Lustspielhaus.
,, 22. *Die Glückliche Gilberte*, three-act farce, by MM. Bilhaud and Hennequin—Trianon.
, 23 *So Ich Dir*, play, in four acts, by Paul Lindau—Berliner.
,, 23. *Der Graf von Charolais*, tragedy, in five acts, by R. Beer-Hofmann—Neues.
,, 23. *Der Grosse Stern*, burlesque, in three acts, by MM. Kren and Schoenfeld, music by Einödshofer—Thalia.
,, 23. *Dornröschen*, four-act fairy-opera, by A. Wemeler, words by H. Eschenbach—National.
,, 27. *Die Reise um die Erde*, five act play, by D'Ennery—Carl Weiss.
,, 29. *Die Herzmarke*, four-act play, by P. Langmann—New Royal Opera.
,, 31. *Die Gräfin von Kick*, farce, in three acts, by M. Schoenan—Berliner.
,, 31 *Im Grünen Baum Zur Nachtigall*, comedy, in three acts, by Otto Erich Hartleben—Lessing.
,, 31. *Der Arzt Seiner Ehre*, grotesque, in one act, by P. Mongré—Lessing.

AMUSEMENTS IN GLASGOW.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KING'S, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr H. Macfarlane. —*The Duchess of Dantzic* is proving a first-class attraction at this house. The company provided by Mr Edwardes acquit themselves admirably in their different lines, the principal honours falling to Miss Amy Augarde in the title-rôle, Mr Matthew Brodie as Napoleon, Mr Herbert Clayton as Lefebvre, and Mr T. W. Volt in the part of Papillon.

METROPOLE, LIMITED.—Managing Director, Mr Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr John Dunbar.—Good houses each evening and at the matinées given have testified their appreciation of Mr Jefferson's strong play, *The World's Verdict*. Mr Alfred D. Adams gives a fine portrayal of the hearty old squire, Sir Geoffrey. George Ashford is acted with dash and vigour by Mr Charles Burdon, and Miss Stanley M. Burt is a sympathetic heroine as Nellie Ashford. Mr Riddell Robinson as the scheming Jasper Woodleigh gives a strong impersonation, and earns the execrations of the gods, as does his partner in crime, Cora Cassills, a part which Miss Marie De Roos makes most effective and striking. A strongly dramatic character is that of Nathan Black, the maniac, played with incisive effect and gruesome reality by Mr Talieayn G. Davies. Mr Percy Bell as the comic servant, Sammy Carrots, infuses a considerable deal of humour into every scene, and in this is ably seconded by Miss Amy B. Ellis as Sally Jenkins. Much of the fun is due to the treatment of the unfortunate land steward, Jeremiah Screw, played with good effect by Mr A. M. Carruthers. Miss Jessie Robertson gives a good account of the part of Jasper Woodleigh's deserted wife. A small part well done is the old postman of Mr Herbert Claremont.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr J. H. Oakden.—The engagement of *The Runaway Girl* as a holiday attraction has proved a happy hit. Mr Mouillot's company is an excellent one. First honours must be accorded to Miss Ethel Netherton for her charmingly vivacious rendering of Winifred Grey. Mr Archie Croft as Guy Stanley gave a clever and enjoyable performance. Miss Marie Shields acted and sang with much quiet humour as Carmenita. Brother Tamarind was played with clever emphasis by Mr H. Latimer. Mr Howard Cridland as the jockey Flipper and Miss Amy Edmonds as his lively sweetheart Alice both gave spirited performances, sang, and danced with unfailing energy. Mr J. Wilton Selby, in a clever make-up, was a striking Leonello; Mr Clifton Yates made a picturesque Pietro, and Miss Percival as a member of the brigand troupe played the mandoline well. Mr Alex. M. Shinnie as Lord Coodle, Mr Jake Fern as the entomologist, and Misses Kate Vivian and Violet Lingard as their respective ladies, all contributed their quota to the general effect.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss's Empires, Limited; Resident Manager, Mr Arthur Aldin.—Diane De Fontenoy in her beautiful poses as an "An Artist's Model" occupies a principal position in the holiday programme here. The honours of the evening are shared by that old favourite G. W. Hunter, Beattie and Driscoll's sketch, *Two Old Rogues*, provides many a hearty laugh. The Three Nevarros are clever equilibrists; Amber Austa as a coon singer and dancer proves highly successful; while Cole De Losse, comedian, and his partner provide a very smart turn. Will Haines, Frank Harwood, Tom Stuart, and Eugen Marrder, with his five horses, all contribute acceptable items.

TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr S. King Alexander; Acting-Managers, Mr T. J. Colquhoun and Mr F. Ewing.—The variety turns provided here include the Deer Family of Indians, George Formby, Verno and Voyce, Regal the Juggler, Bob Nicol, the Four Garganis, Charles Faning, Bendon's Bioscope, Ralston and Francis, Charles Rose, Bros. Hampson, Lil Hartley, Bill Walters, Comical Walker, Swingo, and Westland—truly a bumper programme.

PALACE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Rich Waldon and Thos. Barrasford; Assistant-Manager, Mr Harry M'Kelvie.—Harry Ford is the big draw here. Toch and Tard are clever burlesque artistes on the bars. That fine baroo Harry Drew is heartily encored for his various well-rendered songs. Emma and Victor in their acrobatic waltzing, &c., provide a novel turn. Ethel Yorke is a pleasing comedienne. Larola as a mimic and knockabout juggler is good. Mdlle. Rosela, gymnast; the Alesons, comedy acrobats; Rose Cabani, comedienne; and the animated pictures complete a first-rate programme.

BRITANNIA.—Lessee, Mr Jas. Anderson; Manager, Mr Geo. Saphrini; Assistant Manager, Mr Harry Hemfrey.—The doors of the "Brit." open at eleven a.m., and from that time patrons can drop in or out at any hour, on the principle so extensively practised in American vaudeville theatres. A good company has been engaged, including many local favourites, and the idea undoubtedly meets the wishes of many of the holiday makers.

THE MUSICAL YEAR.

The Royal Opera, Covent-garden, claims the first consideration in our record of the past musical year. The season has not been a long one, but much has been done for music; especially we have to recognise the Mozart and Wagner performances under Dr. Richter. The Mozart operas were not perhaps quite so successful as was expected, but this was easily accounted for. A certain conventional method has been associated with Mozart's works for years past, and opera-goers were contented with it, and hardly welcomed the change. Besides, the strict control of Dr. Richter naturally placed the vocalists under some restraint. Favourite prima-donnas unwillingly consented to the rule of the famous conductor, who in Wagner's works is supreme.

Two novelties were given at Covent-garden—Massenet's opera, *Hérodiade*, under the title of *Salomé*, and *Hélène*, by M. Saint-Saëns. Massenet's opera was originally produced at Brussels in 1881, and that of M. Saint-Saëns at Monte Carlo in February, 1904. Massenet's operas had never much vogue in this country, and the Biblical subject was against *Salomé*. The standard operas performed at Covent-garden might challenge comparison with any lyric establishment in Europe for excellence of ensemble and the high merit of the chief artistes. The engagement of the San Carlo company in the autumn proved the most successful of any autumn season we can remember for some years. Puccini's *La Tosca*, *La Bohème*, and *Manon Lescaut*, Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*, *Rigoletto*, *Aïda*, and in the last week of the season *Otello* were revived by the San Carlo company, and among the vocalists several artistes greatly distinguished themselves, especially Madame Giachetti, whose pure style and sympathetic voice made a great impression. Others displayed striking qualities, for instance, Signor Sammarco, who possessed admirable dramatic as well as vocal talent. To the San Carlo company we owe the production of Signor Cilèa's *Adriana Lecouvreur*, whose work suffered to some extent in the endeavour of the composer to musically illustrate the scrappy dialogue of Scribe, not at all suited for music. But there was much merit in Cilèa's opera, and frequently his orchestral effects are sparkling and original, while his melodies are agreeable and free from the exaggerated emotional passages so commonly met with in the modern Italian operas. But Cilèa is certainly less dramatic than Leoncavallo, whose *Pagliacci* opened up a new form of Italian opera, both dramatic and melodious. Puccini also has has been successful in the same school. On the whole, the San Carlo company succeeded best in operas of the modern Italian class. In *Carmen*, *Faust*, *Lohengrin*, &c., they were less in their element, although we can praise them without reserve in their chorus and orchestra, and the conductor, Signor Campanini, did wonders, and is quite worthy of a post as one of the regular conductors at Covent-garden.

The Moody-Manners company migrated to Drury-lane, but the financial results did not fulfil expectations. Possibly, while opera was in full swing at Covent-garden and other musical attractions made a strong rivalry, Mr Manners did not have quite a fair chance. But his pluck and the talent of his company demand the fullest recognition. The chorus in particular merited the highest commendation, and we trust the efforts of so spirited a manager will yet be crowned with the success they deserve.

The schools and colleges of music in London have reached a high standard of excellence. The Royal College of Music, in addition to frequent concerts of students, gave an admirable performance of Gluck's *Alcestis* at His Majesty's Theatre, most kindly lent by Mr Tree. The Royal Academy also gave an operatic performance of *L'Amico Fritz* and *Der Freischutz*, and the Guildhall School performed Auber's *Domino Noir*. Trinity College has also made considerable strides. Mr Ernest Palmer's splendid gift of £20,000 to the Royal College of Music to encourage native composers has already produced results, several young English musicians having composed works which were heard at a recent concert, and we hear that Messrs Ricordi, the celebrated Italian publishers, have offered a prize of £500 for the best opera in English by an English composer, the work to be produced next season at the Royal Opera, Covent-garden. It will, therefore, be seen that our native musicians are receiving encouragement hitherto unknown in this country.

Of concerts we have had the average quantity, and although there is not much to be said as to the quality, we may remark generally improvement in the programmes chosen, and more refined art in the individual soloists. There is the same craze for mere executive display, and performers like Kubelik always secure large audiences.

It is gratifying to find our managers are well disposed towards music, and any new drama invariably attracts composers to write incidental music. Some musicians think this department of music beneath them, but Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Weber, and other eminent composers have written incidental music for plays.

The Moody-Manners festival at Sheffield in November for the benefit of the proposed Sheffield University was a great success, and the musical festival of Dr. Elgar was a triumph for an English musician. Foreign critics have recognised the great merits of our native composer. The conference of the inaugurated Society of Musicians was held at Glasgow, and many interesting lectures were given by eminent musicians.

Chamber concerts appear to have lost their former popularity, and the "Monday Pops" no longer attract crowds to St. James's Hall. Professor Kruse tried bravely to continue them, but did not meet with sufficient support. The Royal Choral Society prospers under the direction of Sir F. Bridge, and the choir continues to maintain its high position. Recently, in the performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and other classic works, the choir was extremely fine.

The Promenade Concerts during the last season have been more important than ever, and in consequence have received extensive support. It is hardly possible to speak too highly of these popular concerts, so perfectly carried out, or to over estimate the services of conductor and orchestra. As to Mr Henry J. Wood, he has reached a position placing him on a level with the great conductors of the Continent. As a trainer of the orchestra he has shown uncommon skill. Inexperienced musicians who play under his direction for a brief period soon become efficient and able to deal with the most elaborate works, while those who are competent executants acquire under his control increased delicacy and brilliancy of style. We have only to compare the Promenade Concerts of the past with those of the present day to remark the vast improvement effected.

AT the New King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield, the drama, *Queen of the Night*, is being performed. Miss V. St. Lawrence gives an excellent portrayal of the difficult part of Pauline, and Mr Stanford scores as Philip Stoneleigh. Mr James Stillwell introduces much pathos into his rendering of Frank Cavendish. Old Briskett, who is addicted to the bottle, is excellently played by Mr F. Thorpe-Tracey, whilst Mr Stanley Douglas as Adolphus Briskett and Miss Evelyn Chester as Muriel Walford introduce plenty of humour into the play. Mr Paul E. Teulon deserves a word of commendation for his vivid portrayal of the miser, and Misses Irene Tracey and Kathleen Barnett do well in their respective parts. The drama is excellently staged, the scenic effects being particularly good.

MR ANTHONY DODE has completed a powerful play, in a prologue and three acts, entitled *From Over the Hills*, the entire rights of which have been secured by Miss Dora De Winton.

MUSIC HALL GOSSIP.

WHEN any high dignitary of the Church of England refers at all to the variety world, we may plume ourselves on the fact, but Dean Pigou, of Bristol—a broad-minded and kindly cleric—has done much more than this. He referred in his sermon on New Year's Day at Bristol Cathedral to the losses sustained by the stage, mentioning among others, Mr Charles Morton, Mr John Hollingshead, and Miss Nellie Farren. He concluded his remarks with a panegyric of the lamented Dan Leno, in whom he said was exemplified a wonderful instance of remarkable power, given to one individual to brighten the lives of thousands of others.

THE newest ventures of the Variety Theatres Consolidated, Limited, are new palaces at East Ham and Tottenham. Messrs Wylson and Long, the architects of the Oxford, Euston, Chelsea, and Walthamstow, have the plans in hand, and it is expected that both establishments will be opened by Christmas next. At the statutory meeting of the company held on the 30th ult. Mr Henry Tozer, after giving details of its formation, said the meeting was called primarily to comply with the Act of Parliament, and he took the opportunity of informing the shareholders that the policy of consolidation, so necessary in these days of keen competition, was amply justified by results.

THE "Yellow Peril," which is spreading at the music halls, threatens nothing but novel entertainment for the "barbarian" Londoner. The Chunchuses have invaded the Alhambra; Chung-Ling-Soo has quite a martial array wherewith to capture the appreciation of audiences at the Hippodrome; Ching-Ling-Foo asserts a genial form of "celestial" government at the Empire; and another "Chinese" wonder-worker, it is announced, will besiege the Palace stage. Mr Butt is giving out mysterious hints of the appearance of a mandarin of the Celestial Court, whose identity is concealed under the stage name of Gol-Din-Poo. Is this our old friend Horace Goldin?

MR ALBERT CHEVALIER, whose appearances at the London halls have been of late years all too few, is voyaging again to New York to fulfil a six weeks' engagement. It is some years since the comedian visited the Empire City, and made the New Yorkers learn something of the manners and language of the London coster, who is supposed to be first cousin to a Bowery "tough." The Yanks took most unmistakably to Mr Chevalier, who scored the greatest success that had up to that time been achieved by any dialect comedian. Since that day Mr Chevalier has enlarged his repertory somewhat by the introduction of English rustics, ancient and pathetic musical professors, racing touts, &c. These artistic character studies should be most interesting to our cousins "across the pond."

MR HARRY BAWN is to be again promoted. It is only a short time since he was called upon to take up the management of the Grand, Clapham, and now he has been drafted to the head office to take up the business control of the four halls directed by Mr Walter Gibbons. Mr Bawn makes himself exceedingly popular wherever he goes, and his commercial astuteness and business capacity—which he assiduously cultivated in a large drapery house in Knightsbridge before he was attacked by stage fever—have become almost proverbial.

MR WALTER MELVILLE, notwithstanding the continued campaign of the Theatrical Managers' Association, is by way of appearing on the boards of the halls in a couple of sketches from his pen. One is entitled *Six and-Eightpence*—which title has already been used on the theatre stage for a clever adaptation from the French—and the other *Our Baby*. They will be trifles, light as air, and in their representation the actor-author will be assisted by Miss Eva Dare, an actress very popular at the East-end theatres. We need hardly add that Mr Walter Melville is responsible for those successful dramas, *The Worst Woman in London* and *A Girl's Cross Roads*.

MRS JOHN LAWSON has made a pronounced success as Louie Faber, in *A Bride for a Living*, which is described as a "Bernhardic performance." The latest thriller—a murder by a mangle—is pursuing its successful career at the Middlesex this week, and will be seen on the 16th at the Grand, Clapham; also on the 23rd at the Royal, Holborn, and Walham-green. Whatever disappointment Mr Lawson may have felt in *Mr Todd of London* is amply repaid by the extraordinary success of *A Bride for a Living*.

MDLLE. ADELINE GENEE, who danced before the King and Queen Alexandra at Chatsworth on Thursday, celebrated her birthday on Friday of this week. The charming prima ballerina of the Empire appeared before Her Majesty some time ago in Denmark, and had the pleasure of being highly complimented on the perfection of her art. Yesterday was also the birthday of Mr Gordon Craig, whose work as a stage producer is so utterly unconventional. As an artist he is somewhat unequal, many of his water-colours being vague and puzzling, but his pen and ink drawings—especially with Sir Henry Irving for a subject—are always interesting and skilful.

MISS LALLA SELBINI, the daring and graceful cyclist, is playing a most successful New Year's engagement at the Krystall Palast, Leipzig. She is married to Mr Willie Pantzer, of the Pantzer Brothers, and shares her husband's enthusiasm for motoring. When the young couple find time to take a long holiday they hope to make a world's tour in their own car. Miss Selbini has been a trick cyclist from the time when she was so tiny that a special machine had to be made for her to ride.

MR BRANSBY WILLIAMS, who is making a hit at the Oxford and Tivoli in his widely divergent sketches of Whackford Squeers, the Yorkshire schoolmaster, and Dan'l Peggotty, the Yarmouth boatman, has just arranged with the management of those halls to produce an entirely new monologue at each place on Monday, the 23rd. At the Tivoli it will be an episode in the life of an officer on the North-West frontier; at the Oxford it will be a monologue from his own pen, dealing with the with the capture of Fagin, the Jew fence, in "Oliver Twist."

MR FITZROY GARDINER, who has been permanently appointed acting-manager at the Palace Theatre to assist Mr Alfred Butt, was formerly in the Indian Civil Service, and later became interested in the drama. For some time he was Mr Beerbohm Tree's representative at the Haymarket, and assisted at the opening of His Majesty's. Subsequently he became Mrs Langtry's lieutenant at the Imperial Theatre when she opened that house. Mr Gardiner is a well-known writer on theatrical matters.

MR "TEDDY" GILES, as announced in another column, will take a farewell benefit at the Battersea Empire on Wednesday evening next, the 11th inst.

SO instantaneous was the success of the new fairy entertainment, *The Dancing Doll*, at the Empire, on Tuesday, that the directors have decided to give it three matinées a week commencing on Monday, in addition to the usual evening performances. To further strengthen a programme specially devised for children the morning performances will include Ching Ling Foo, the wonderful Chinese magician, and the Biograph, varied with turns selected from the evening bill.

DR. WALFORD BODIE is again breaking all his previous records in London, the Paragon and Canterbury being packed to the doors nightly. It would seem there is no limit to his drawing powers. At both halls he receives an ovation nightly, being recalled again and again. At the Paragon he has a guard of honour in the form of a posse of police to keep back the crowd while he gets to his carriage, as over two or three thousand are waiting nightly outside to cheer him lustily as he drives away. He will be reluctantly compelled to leave London shortly to fulfil his provincial engagements, but returns for several weeks again at an early date.

OWING to indisposition La Petite Bella, the Yankee millionaire's daughter, will be unable to fulfil her engagements at the London and Gatti's next week. She, however, rejoins Dr. Bodie's company for a long tour, opening at the Empire, Wolverhampton, on Jan. 16, and returns to London at an early date.

THE Great Rubie (La Femme Mesmer), the only lady society hypnotist and electrician in the world, will make her bow to a London audience on Monday at the Grand Varieties, Clapham. Her show promises to be novel, instructive, and sensational, and as managers are always on the look-out for magnetic attractions, no doubt her début will be watched with interest. She has already booked several dates in London.

THE Pavilion Theatre of Varieties, Newcastle-on-Tyne, which has become a popular place of amusement in that city, celebrated the first anniversary of its opening on the 28th ult. To signalise the occasion a presentation of a handsome smoker's cabinet, subscribed for by the members of the staff, was made to the resident-manager, Mr Will H. Boardman, who has so worthily filled that position since the opening.

MR A. J. WEST writes:—"In your last issue in a notice of an alarming fire at Belfast mention is made of Our Army and Navy No. 1 Animated Photo. Company. I should be glad if you would kindly let it be known that this company is unknown to me, and has nothing to do with 'Our Navy and Our Army,' which I have been showing for the past six years at the Polytechnic, Regent-street. I have no company touring Ireland, and I may further add I have had no fires."

RUSSIAN and Japanese jugglers and acrobats are appearing in the circus at the Crystal Palace, and when the fall of Port Arthur was announced, the Russians entered the dressing-room of the latter and saluted them gravely, the Japanese replying with formal bowings. The Russians then invited the acrobats to tea, and the performers of both nations fraternised together. Two of the Japanese troupe are serving with General Nogi's forces at Port Arthur.

MISS MAY HENDERSON is prosecuting a successful tour on the Continent, and is just now at the Apollo Theater, Vienna. The Viennese are not taken in for a minute by her burnt cork, but speak of her on the bills as a "most beautiful white American girl, who drastically disguises herself for the mere purpose of Nigger parody."

THE Paragon matinée in aid of the St. George's and Wapping Relief Fund will be given on Thursday next. Mr H. H. Wells is working hard to make this a success, and he has the co-operation of Mr George Adney Payne, Mr Fred Miller, and Mr Charles Beecham. An excellent programme is promised.

MESSRS FRANCIS, DAY, AND HUNTER are just publishing a new song by J. Francis Barron, with music by J. Airlie Dix, entitled "Maureen of Ballinasloe." As indicated by the title, it is an appreciation in racy rhyme of the Irish colleen, and being set to a pretty and characteristic melody has every chance of success.

THE Prince of Wales's, Wolverhampton, has been transformed into the Hippodrome by Messrs Fred Benton and Fred J. Little. The house opened under its changed title on Monday, under the management of Mr W. H. Southern.

SOME measure of success has attended the reopening of the King's Theatre of Varieties in Roscommon-street, Liverpool, and Messrs Leckie and Waterhouse are to be congratulated upon the improvements which their lesseeship has brought about. A new stage has been erected, new scenery painted, the electric light introduced, and the accommodation improved. There is a capital little orchestra under the direction of Mr J. Keightley, and the programme is full of good things. Two peculiar features of the "King's" are that there are no early doors, and the programmes are given away.

THE numerous friends of Mr Harry Burns will be sorry to hear that this popular variety agent is laid up with an attack of influenza, and is confined to his bed.

MR WILL ELLISLIS has fulfilled a two weeks' engagement with Mr Quinton Gibson at the Hippodrome, Scarborough, commencing Dec. 6, to produce his pantomime sketches *Sinbad the Sailor* and *Babes in the Wood*, with five principal artistes, including Miss Florrie Bray as the principal boy, and supported by thirty local children. He has been re-engaged for another three weeks.

HENRY JOHNSON, once a famous acrobat, who celebrated his ninety-eighth birthday at Grantham on Christmas Day, has had a most interesting career. As a boy of fourteen he entered the service of the original Sangers, with whom he learnt his profession; and in 1830, while at Aylesbury with a Chinese juggler, he was honoured with a command to perform before King William IV. at Buckingham Palace. The King was so delighted that he presented the two with £50 each, and a Royal licence to perform in any market-place or town. Subsequently the pair performed before Queen Victoria when a girl, and later on before King Edward, when Prince of Wales. Mr Johnson only abandoned his acrobatic life about thirteen years ago.

HARRY KARDOC, who was described as being the king of handcuff kings, was charged at Stafford police-court, on Thursday, with maliciously damaging a coffin, the property of James Elphinstone, lessee and manager of the Lyceum Theatre, Stafford. Defendant was engaged at the theatre to do a handcuff manipulating turn, and challenged anyone to take a box to the theatre from which he could not escape. Prosecutor made arrangements for a coffin to be made, and the challenge was accepted. Prosecutor gave £1 for the coffin. The turn was done on Saturday night last, and defendant succeeded in getting out of the coffin. He then claimed the coffin as his own, but prosecutor would not let defendant have it, and the latter then jumped on the coffin, breaking the lid.

PROSECUTOR said before the theatre was opened on Saturday night the coffin was placed in the office, and during his absence defendant went into the office, and after examining the coffin, said to prosecutor's wife, "It is child's play to get out of this. I will put longer screws in." Defendant then took the screws out of the feet-end of the coffin, but instead of putting longer screws in, he put smaller ones which just clipped the wood.

DEFENDANT said he made it a condition, before he got in the coffin, that if he succeeded in escaping the coffin would be his property. What damage was done to the coffin he did trying to get out. Defendant was fined 2s. 6d. and costs, and ordered to pay 5s. damage.

MR THOMAS BARRASFORD, encouraged by his success at the Alhambra, Paris, intends in the near future to make a descent on Brussels, where he will run a variety theatre on the same lines as that in *La Ville Lumière*. Like the Parisians the Bruxellois dine late, and the entertainment will commence at 8·45, and there will be but one house. Mr Barrasford is one of those managers who disestablished that bad old custom of the comedian bantering the conductor of the band, a relic of the old days of the free-and-easy. He is a firm believer in good music, and his orchestras in the provinces are in strong contrast to those of ten years ago, when the bands of country music halls were a by-word among the profession. Nothing is left to chance, and the parts required from the artists are carefully set out in contracts, and insisted upon.

AT the Lyceum he will make a feature all the year round of operatic selections by first-class artists. The quartet at present engaged cost him about £260 a week, and he is now engaging a second company to take alternate nights. By this means he will sustain the high traditions of the old house for lyric performances, and raise music to a standard to which it has not hitherto reached in the halls. He works on the sound axiom that the public wants the best of everything, and he will see that it gets it.

IN some of his provincial halls the highest price is a shilling and the lowest twopence. At the Brighton Hippodrome—the old Eden Theatre—success has been attained at prices that range from sixpence to two shillings; at the Lyceum three shillings are charged for a luxurious stall; but a seat is to be had in the finest grand circle in London for two shillings.

MR WILKIE BARD may well sing "O—O! capital O!" for, in connection with his success in pantomime at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, such an exclamation of surprise is quite warranted. And yet those who have watched this young comedian's career at the halls have long since recognised the talent that "Brum" theatregoers are so heartily applauding. Mr Bard has certainly "arrived;" and if he does not appear at our leading pantomime theatre before he is much older it will be only because his services have been booked up years ahead by astute caterers who recognised the bright promise of his early efforts and acted accordingly.

MR FRED MILLER'S geniality is a well-known factor in his reign at the Canterbury, and he did not allow the last night of the old year to pass without a little ceremonial. Mr Bransby Williams was pressed into the service, and impersonated "The Departing Year," and Miss Peggy Pryde's little niece tripped on to the stage as 1905. Several old friends joined in the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

AT the Sadler's Wells Theatre, on Monday, Mr Julius Simpson, the energetic manager, was responsible for a successful production of a dramatic sketch, founded on the story of Jack Sheppard, entitled *The Road to Newgate*. No trouble or expense had been spared, and the five scenes in which the sketch was played were all most appropriate. The last scene, viz., the Well Hole, where an exciting explosion takes place, created a perfect sensation. The leading characters were played by Mr F. G. Brooke (Jack Sheppard), Mr J. C. Aubrey (Jonathan Wild), Mr Frank Beresford (Thames Darrell), and Miss Katherine Clarke (Mrs Sheppard, Jack's mother), who were one and all excellent in their delineations.

THE following is the full text of the judgment pronounced by Mr Cecil Chapman on Dec. 30, 1904, in connection with the sketch prosecution at the Southwark police-court:—"I am bound to say that after listening to counsel I have come to a conclusion which I am not quite sure is actually in accord with the conclusion I arrived at a year ago, but I was at the moment impressed that the two representative institutions were coming to an arrangement which seemed to me to be very nearly within reach, and it is a matter of disappointment that that has not yet been secured; and I think the arguments addressed to me by Mr Grain are extremely forcible. I do not like to say that it is very material that the prosecution is a trade prosecution, though in fact there can be no doubt about it. I do not think it is at all an unjustifiable thing for a trader to say when finding himself cut out by another in a way that breaks the law, 'I shall avail myself of that breach, and try to put a stop to it.'

"IT is a perfectly reasonable thing to do, and therefore he is not to be blamed for doing it, but, on the other hand, one must look at it when it comes into this Court as if he represented the public, and, in the public interest, I am bound to say I cannot conceive very much justification for a prosecution of this kind. In the private interest of the theatre I can see there is very considerable reason for bringing a prosecution of this kind, but in the public interest I see very little indeed. I consider they are practically at one in an agreement, and that the music hall people are really doing what is quite reasonable when they are putting on their stage sketches which last from thirty to forty minutes. The whole thing is reduced necessarily to a sketch in fact. Under these circumstances I regard with respect the words expressed in his considered judgment by my colleague, Mr Paul Taylor, and I think the only thing we can do is, we must enforce the law because it is the law, although I think it is now a matter for legislation rather than for the Law Courts. There will be a penalty of ten shillings for each day that the stage plays were performed, £6 in all, and £10 10s. costs."

MISS VICTORIA MONKS commenced her fourth visit to the Palace Theatre this week. Although it was an American song—"Bill Bailey"—which may be said to have made her name and fortune, she is an English girl, and makes her first tour in the United States next summer. Miss Monks passed her early childhood in a convent school in Warwickshire, and appeared before the public at the Empire, Blackpool, before she attained her twelfth year. Her London début was at the Oxford—where, by the way, she "topped the bill" just before Christmas—and her present list of bookings reaches far into 1912. Nearly all her stage dresses are made in Paris. On Monday she appeared in black satin, with very stiff underskirts of flame-coloured chiffon and silk, a smart black coat with a bold design of flowers and scroll work round the sides, and an enormous hat, with beautiful shaded plumes 36in. long. Next week she is going to wear a frock as dainty as a piece of Dresden china. It fades from deepest rose into palest pink, and is covered with cream-coloured lace that took first prize at the last Paris Exhibition.

MISS MONKS was married six months ago to Mr Karl Hooper, who is now appearing at the Hippodrome with his partner in "ridiculous and other juggling." He is an American, and hails from Pennsylvania. Both Mr Hooper and his young wife are fond of horses and dogs. Miss Monks possesses five Scotch terriers, three of them being named after her music hall favourites—Knowles, Marie, and Vesta, and two after race horses—Ziponia and Little Serio. All her songs are written and composed by Mr William Hargreaves, who will conduct at the Canterbury on the last night of her present engagement, in about three weeks' time. She remains at the Palace for six more weeks.

LEA AND LOVELL, American song illustrators, have just returned to town after a successful tour of the provinces for seventeen weeks, and open on Monday next at Poplar.

THE death on Wednesday at Buxton of Mr E. S. Barnes, late manager of the London and Collins's, will come as a surprise to London music hall circles, wherein the deceased was a popular figure a few years since. Mr Barnes, who was the brother of the late Mrs Herbert Sprake, of Collins's, had commenced a commercial career before he became business manager at the hall on Islington-green for Mr Sprake, who died on May last year. Energy, business tact and geniality were the distinguishing marks of the deceased gentleman, and his successful administration was beyond a doubt. At the opening of the London, at Christmas, 1893, Mr Barnes accepted the position of manager, much to the chagrin of Mr Sprake, who shortly afterwards sold Collins's to a syndicate of financiers and contractors, who rebuilt it.

AT that time combination had begun to be the order of the day, the Shoreditch and Islington halls were run under the same management, and the dual position was bestowed on Mr Barnes, who, we know, held originally a considerable number of shares in the London. This hall was so badly constructed that Mr Frank Matcham was called in, and the interior was completely transformed. Notwithstanding this set back, it flourished under Mr Barnes, and it is regrettable to think that his reign there as manager was put an end to owing to causes which became the subject of an action in the courts.

ON leaving London Mr Barnes took a hotel at Buxton, and afterwards went to Rotherham. Of late years he had seldom visited town. In conjunction with Mr Herbert Sprake the deceased gentleman, who was familiarly known as "Teddy," did much to promote the success of benefits in aid of the Music Hall Sick Fund, which were of yearly occurrence at Collins's. He was twice married, and leaves a widow to mourn his loss.

MR SYDNEY LEE, the young magician, who has so rapidly come to the front, has married a Lancashire lady. The ceremony took place on Friday, the 30th ult., at St. Hilda's Church, Manchester. The happy bridegroom received no less than sixty-three wedding presents from his friends in the variety world. One of the gifts was a gold charm in the form of a broken heart from an unknown donor, but addressed in a feminine hand. Mr Lee will open at the Palace in March.

CHIRGWIN'S success at the Palace induced Mr Alfred Butt to offer the White-eyed Kaffir a prolonged run, but bookings with Mr Oswald Stoll have prevented Mr Chirgwin from accepting the offer. He is, however, booked at the Shaftesbury-avenue establishment until the end of 1907.

MR MARTIN CHAPENDER'S season at Egyptian Hall promises to be very successful. The programme is specially adapted to suit children, including Mr Maskelyn's capital illusion, *Will I'm* ——, and the latest invention of Mr C. W. Locke, called the Astrometroscope. By means of this instrument many bewildering effects are obtained, spots of light on a black background being turned into numberless curves, angles, and intricate designs. Mr Walter Graham has greatly improved his clever Marionette performance by the introduction of a diminutive Pre-historic man, whose song is punctuated by the hoots of a small grey owl with flashing eyes. Miss Eileen Elycé illustrates the animated photographs with snatches of verse, Mr Nelson Jackson gives musical sketch, and Mr Chapender himself gives a series of card, coin, and billiard ball "sleights," concluding his turn with the old birdcage trick, using a couple of doves instead of canaries.

THE fourth annual dinner and dance to celebrate the eighth anniversary of the formation of the Music Hall Artistes' Railway Association will be held on Sunday, Feb. 5, at the Trocadero. The price of tickets will be 10s. 6d. single, and 15s. double (lady and gentleman). Further particulars will be given next week.

THE second house dinner of the Terriers' Association was held on Sunday at the Dover Castle hotel, Westminster-bridge-road. Mr Douglas White was in the chair, and Mr Walter Norman occupied the vice-chair. Among the Terriers present, in addition to these gentlemen, were Messrs W. F. Clark, A. Tysall, F. Hughes, Frank Weeks, R. Whiteley, B. Whiteley, Harry Wright, B. Woodyer, T. R. Burton, H. Hough, Harry Lester (secretary), T. W. Norman, R. Burnham, J. Alexander, T. Callaghan, Ernest D'Almaine, Jesse Sparrow, Edwin Giles, Walter Stockwell, J. Humphreys, Fred Neiman, Harry Earnard, A. Simmons, C. Pratt, H. Cory Woodrow, Dr. Walford Bodie, Norman Mills, Audie Caine, H. Kato, and V. Walker. During the evening Terrier Arthur Simmons was presented with the first gold jewel of the Association.

MR WALTER JOHNSON, musical conductor at the Hackney Empire, has a novelty in store for next week in the shape of a specially arranged overture, which will embrace selections from the chief musical performances heard on the Hackney Empire stage during 1904. The instruments used will embrace some instrumental novelties used by certain artistes, and will include two silver army bugles, a pair of coach horns, &c. The finale will comprise a new arrangement of "God save the King," simultaneously with which will be introduced a new coach-horn march.

MR HARRY CROCKER, the stage-director of the Lyceum, was for some years stage-manager of the Empire, Bristol, when that establishment was under the management of Mr Ernest Carpenter, and later of Mr Thomas Barrasford. The latter gentleman found a new sphere for Mr Crocker at the Hippodrome, Liverpool, and he has assisted in the inauguration of nearly every one of Mr Barrasford's numerous ventures.

MR W. F. FRAME, the Scottish comedian, has joined Messrs Walker and company's New Year's Carnival entertainment at the Music Hall, Aberdeen, which is being given twice a day. Mr Frame's extensive répertoire has been largely utilised, and his humour and pathos have delighted the festival folk. During his engagement Mr Frame will introduce his performing bear.

MISS EMMA DON'S new vocal scena, in which she introduces a black and white quartette of vocalists, has made a decided hit in London—last week at the Empress, Brixton, and this week at the Richmond Theatre. The quartette consists of two coloured boys and two white, all fifteen years of age, and the harmony they produce for so young a quartette is really most effective. Miss Don's business is chiefly looked after by her husband, Mr Walter F. Munroe, who was instrumental in so successfully introducing into London Harry Lauder, the Scottish comedian, and many other artistes.

THE numerous friends of Mr George Bandurria will feel a deep sympathy for that gentleman in the sad loss he has sustained by the death of his daughter Florence, who passed away at Bradford, after a very short illness, the week before Christmas. The deceased lady was a most accomplished instrumentalist and a cultured musician, and her death will be mourned by a large circle of friends, both professional and private.

CARL AND CARR are making a hit with their comedy act, *The Workhouse*, and as Chinese policemen, in the pantomime of *Aladdin* at the Ealing Theatre.

MR JAMES HOWELL has just returned to the Tivoli, having happily recovered from his sharp attack of influenza. He has been wisely recuperating at Brighton.

MR NELSON JACKSON is announced as a new humourist, but there are few people in the entertainment world who are not acquainted with his amusing songs and genial personality. With a style that occasionally recalls poor Mel P. Spurr in his quieter moments, Mr Jackson makes a great point of his Irish and Jew stories, and one of his latest features is the mock-serious recitation of nursery rhymes as Rudyard Kipling might have written them, the tragedy of "Jack and Jill" being described in "the poet of the Empire's" sardonic method, "Three Blind Mice" in the heroic descriptive, "Little Jack Horner" in "the big trombone," and "Tom Tucker" in the style of the "Barrack Room Ballads." Mr Jackson writes all his own "stuff," perhaps the best of his fifty published songs being the well-known ditty "How father laid the carpet on the stairs." His very latest is called "Inverary Mary," which he oddly describes as a Scotch coon song. He is also getting up an amusing tale of a party of Irishmen travelling in France, "Kilbarney's Trip to Paris."

NELSON JACKSON is a Cumberland man, and made his début as a society entertainer at the Spa, Harrogate, twelve years ago. His fee was a guinea and a half, and that was the only money he earned for the first eight months. It was not a brilliant start, but he liked the work too much to give up hope, and a couple of years afterwards may be said to have struck oil—thanks to new songs, experience and determination. After his present season at Egyptian Hall this popular man at the piano pays a visit to Liverpool, and returns to London next autumn, opening at the Palace Theatre the first week in October.

MR JACKSON has had, in common with all entertainers, many trying experiences. Some time ago he was engaged by a very rich—newly rich—Cheshire family, where he was treated with more patronage than politeness. Just after commencing his first sketch, the hostess beckoned her son, and said, in a loud whisper, "Monty, tell the young man to sing that funny comic song—what is it called?—'Our lodger's such a nice young man.'" Monty obediently crossed the room, and interrupted the entertainer in the middle of a sentence. "I say, do you know 'Our lodger'?" he asked. "No," said Mr Jackson, promptly, "Who is he?" Monty and his mother were speechless; but after a few seconds the latter gasped, "Monty, tell him to go on." Mr Jackson, however, made a quick end to his sketch, remarking that the "intellectual pressure of being suddenly asked for classical selections was more than he could bear."

A MORE recent experience of Mr Nelson Jackson's was equally embarrassing in a different way. He arrived in a small town just in time to drive to the hall for the entertainment. He was met at the door by a grave gentleman, who shook his hand with the cordial words, "You are welcome, brother." The idea flashed into his mind that the serious gentleman was a brother Freemason, and that might account for the fraternal greeting. "I hope there is a good audience," said Mr Jackson. "I don't think you should use the word 'audience' brother" was the stern reply. "Have you a good piano?" was his next question. "I'm sorry you expected a piano, brother. We have a beautiful harmonium," said the supposed mason. "But I can't possibly give my show without a piano!" exclaimed the puzzled humourist. "Your show! What do you mean?" cried the serious gentleman, "Are you not the Mr Jackson we expect to give us an address in the adjoining chapel?" "No, I'm the Mr Jackson whom somebody else expects to give a comic entertainment in the town hall." Tableau.

MR TOM LEAMORE'S latest success in parody is entitled "Heroes." It caught on the first night at the Tivoli, causing screams of laughter at every line. The singer has been specially engaged for a third week at the Queen's, Poplar, to sing this latest success.

MISS AMY CLEVERE'S charming new number, "You tell me that you're going to wed a white man," by R. P. Weston and Maurice Scott, has been purchased by Messrs Francis, Day, and Hunter.

MR ERNEST SHAND'S famous satirical song, "By kind permission of the *Daily Mail*," by Bennett Scott, is just now receiving much attention at those provincial pantomime houses where it is being sung, and particular attention at the Theatre Royal, Drury-lane.

MISS ROSE HAMILTON'S successful song, "The smartest boy on earth," by J. F. Lambe and George Everard, has been augmented and strengthened by extra verses by the author, who, in conjunction with T. Mellor, has supplied the same popular artist with a ditty entitled "The hoodoo landlord."

THE "sixpenny pops." of Messrs Francis and Day have been still further augmented by the addition of four fresh pieces, bringing the total up to no fewer than 138 numbers. They are:—"Bluebell," march, two-step; George Brooks's laughable song, by Tom Connor, "There's another one out of work;" Frank Leo's comic ditty, "What d'yer want to talk about it for?" and Walter Munroe's "Is your mother in, Molly Malone."

THE stirring march song, "Good-bye, little girl, good-bye, so magnificently produced at the Collseum, and so admirably sung by Miss Madge Lessing, has become the song of the moment. It is seldom that an author and composer are successful in evolving two "song epidemics," but Messrs Cobb and Edwards have duplicated their success with "Dolly Gray" by "Good-bye, little girl." In every pantomime where it is sung it is pronounced the hit of the show.

"PENNIES," the pretty song written for Mr Edgar Romaine by Nat Clifford, is among the first favourites in pantomime. It is being sung by Miss Claire Romaine, at the Borough Theatre, Stratford; by Miss Alice Lloyd, at the Crown Theatre, Peckham; and by Nellie Stratton, at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham.

THE delightful number, "In Dreamland," is a favourite this pantomime time with ballad vocalists. Miss Minnie Hunt has made an enormous hit with it at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham.

THERE are several strikingly pretty costumes to be seen on the stage of the Palace Theatre this week. Not the least effective in its graceful simplicity is the accordeon-pleated white crêpe de chine in which Miss Edith Courtney sings "The Star of Bethlehem." There are black velvet straps over the shoulders, and two bands of black lace round the skirt. The sleeves are formed by one full frill of white chiffon. The only ornament is a long string of pearls. For the turn given by Yamamoto and Koyoshi, Japanese equilibrists, the stage is hung with a scarlet background, decorated with a golden eagle, flags, and clusters of chrysanthemums. The little lady's costume is peacock-blue velvet, with white shoes and a cherry-coloured bow in her smooth hair; the little man wears a red tunic, elaborately embroidered in green and gold. Miss Eva Westcott's sketch, *Comedy and Tragedy*, gives her the opportunity to make two quick changes. She enters in a princess coat of turquoise blue velvet, edged with ermine, opening over a filmy lace skirt, her white hat being adorned with shaded blue ostrich feathers and a bunch of Parma violets. The comedy scene is played in a short white satin frock, with touches of pink tulle and a jaunty Pierrette hat, and for the tragic ending she wears a rich purple *negligé*, with angel sleeves.

THE LYCEUM OPENING.

There is one word to describe the spacious people's pleasure house in Wellington-street—magnificent; and Mr Thomas Barrasford, the managing-director, and Mr Bertie Crewe, the architect, were heartily congratulated at the opening of the house on Saturday afternoon, when the stalls and boxes were filled by the chief representatives of the music hall world. We have already described in detail the chief features of the beautiful auditorium; and the *coup d'œil* from the dress circle when every one of the handsome electroliers beamed with incandescence was superb. Just a word here about the lighting, for the scheme has been ably thought out and finely executed. The fittings have been designed by the General Electric Co., Ltd., of Queen Victoria-street, to suit the interior decorations of the auditorium, and have been made by them under the supervision of the architect. They are light and graceful in appearance, so as not to detract by an undue heaviness from the beautiful plastic decorations. The ceiling is lit by 20 9-light electroliers of a free Louis XV. style, and this same style has been adopted in the designs for the entrances, corridors, and other parts of the theatre. Special treatment has been accorded to the boxes by the use of fine characteristic Louis XV. appliques. On entering the auditorium one is at once impressed by the very charming scheme of decoration carried out by Messrs S. J. Waring and Co., whose colour scheme is ivory white and gold. That this gives a refinement and delicacy and cheeriness to the interior cannot be gainsaid, and the style adopted in the ornamentations—the Louis Quinze—is treated in particularly happy fashion, any possibility of monotony in hues being relieved by handsome paintings on the ceiling, the decorations contrasting most effectively with the crimson of the curtains and the seating. The Louis Quinze style lends itself to rich ornamentation, but the decorators and the architect have kept it in judicious control. The result is a thoroughly popular treatment, exactly suited to the purposes of the building, but invested with a distinctive artistic character.

While admiring the elaborate decorations the visitor will not fail to be impressed by the attention bestowed on arrangements for his personal comfort. At the entrance to the grand circle—surely the finest in London—is a nice cosy lounge, which would enable the visitor to realise the Parisian idea, so popular at the Opera there, of meeting and entertaining friends, were Mr Barrasford not so persistent in giving no time between the excellent turns. There is a beautiful, well-arranged and cushion-chaired gallery, so that the proletariat will be seated in luxury. The rows of stalls have sufficient space to allow of easy ingress and egress, and a very remarkable feature of this portion of the auditorium are the walls, which are wholly covered with looking glass, panelled. Gazing from any part of the house, it is seen that no columns interfere with the view, and although two circles are above the main tier, there are no columns to be seen except two, which are placed five feet from the side walls. The approach from the front entrance to the vestibule is up a fine staircase 23ft. wide formed of marble mosaic, for which Messrs Diespeker are responsible. The pattern is carpet-like, and these patent steps, which are being largely used in public buildings, are of great durability. The proscenium is decorated with some admirable work and the design on the pediment embraces fourteen figures, with a bust of Shakespeare. The stage is one of the largest and most up-to-date to be found. Measuring 60ft. by over 100ft., it is floored in teak, and the entire framework is of steel. The attention paid by Mr Barrasford to the comfort of the artistes is completely worthy of the spirit of modern luxury that pervades the house. There are about thirty large dressing-rooms, a ladies' reading-room, and a billiard room, so that the period of waiting between the two houses can be spent in comfort. The stage-manager has a raised platform from which to direct the lighting arrangements. The cinématograph chamber, which is made perfectly fireproof, is decorated in accordance with the rest of the auditorium. Electric fittings in brass water gilt form a most conspicuous feature of the decorations. Heating is obtained by the newest Plenum system. An even temperature of pure warm air is forced throughout the building, and this is converted into a cooling system for the warmer months. We have said enough, we think, to give some idea of the luxury of a house devoted to the twice-nightly form of entertainment, which has been encouraged by the approval of the people in all parts of the kingdom. In a word, Mr Barrasford is responsible for the building of a new Lyceum which has been erected with the object of upholding the traditions of the old as "premier place of entertainment." This is the right ambition, and with the necessary encouragement he is quite capable of attaining it.

A brilliant house had assembled on Saturday afternoon when Mr Louise De Reeder lifted his bâton to conduct his fine orchestra of forty through the Marche Triomphale, "Entry of the Gladiators," by Fucik and when the 3,000 lights were switched on the effect was in more senses than one "electric," and there was considerable applause. The overture to "The Bohemian Girl" immediately preceded the singing of "God Save the King," which was entrusted to the Lyceum operatic quartette. They battled bravely with accent, but without success, and they were heard to more advantage later. The Five Purroscopis provided the first turn in a pot-pourri of juggling. The chief lady of this clever troupe was principally concerned in laying a dining table—all the necessary china, fruit, dishes, lamps, &c., being absolutely "chucked" at her. She was quite equal to the task, and her table decoration—under the circumstances somewhat hurried—was entirely effective. Brooms, brushes, candlesticks were also pressed into the service; and the tricks with forks and fruit added to the humour of the show, which was presented most artistically and with a refinement that was heartily appreciated. The drawing room set in which the Purroscopis performed was a most elaborate and finely painted interior. The Freydos, who followed, soon demonstrated their right to the title of athletes. There was a good-humoured certainty about every portion of their exhibition, which is one of extraordinary strength and skill. The adroit way in which the smaller member of the pair used the arms of his more massive partner as a fulcrum to raise himself on high, head downwards, was wondrously adroit, and the seeming absence of effort throughout the performance had much to do with its attractiveness. Another exhibition of trained muscle was supplied by the Permane Brothers, but their chief claim to popularity was discovered in their quaint and clever imitation of the notes of the queen of songsters in an interlude entitled "The Nightingale's Courtship." The coyness of Mdlle Philomela was very emphatically expressed; and the persistency of Monsieur was no less roundly asserted. A fine exhibition of animal training was that of Taylor's elephants—patient and good-tempered pachyderms, who rode bicycles, played seesaw, and performed on musical instruments to the general wonderment and satisfaction; and after Miss Heloïsa Titcomb had displayed her beautiful figure in a perfect fitting costume of blue, and had sung a bravura song, the curtain rose on the production of *Enoch Arden*, a sketch in three scenes founded by Mr J. P. Harrington on Lord Tennyson's poem, the music being from the melodious pen of Mr Bennett Scott. Mr George Leyton appeared in the title-rôle, and told in recitative and lyrics the main points of the narrative. We see Enoch first on the Cornish coast, as he listens to a fishermen's chorus—a cleverly written item. He breaks into song in praise of "The Angel of my Home" and makes up his mind to sail away in search of fortune. In the next scene—a tropical island—Enoch is a bearded waif, who has reached the depths of despair. The pæan of hope is sounded, however, in another number, when a sail comes in sight; and the progress of events in the Cornish village is shown in a dream, and the back cloth being lifted, we see the marriage of Mrs Arden and Philip Ray. The wanderer starts from his sleep, and on his exclamation "I forbid the banns" the curtain falls a second time. The third scene shows the interior of Philip Ray's home. Enoch, listening outside, learns of the happiness of his wife, and steals silently away in the snow and to the sound of the joy bells of Christmas. The sketch will go better after a few performances. Mr George Leyton was a manly and picturesque figure as Enoch Arden, and sang with both spirit and pathos the incidental songs, which are most effective. Mr Bennett Scott has been specially happy in his melodious inspiration. The fine scenery has been specially painted by Mr Walter Hann. A great hit was made by the Harmony Four, a combination of excellent instrumentalists and vocalists, who, however, make music subsidiary to fun. A light tenor, with a really nice voice, was continually interrupted in the early part of his ballad; and the comedian of the quartet went in strongly for knockabout business as soon as the violinist started the Intermezzo from *Cavalleria Rusticana;* but the net result was laughter, and—when music was allowed to assert itself—applause. The comedian of the bill, Mr Phil Ray, is a strong favourite with Londoners, and his patter and nonsense kept the vast audience in a titter, his burlesque of a Dagonet ballad being voted screamingly funny. La Belle Wilma presented some most ingenious pictures, her only media being smoke and sand, of which she made most skilful use, her facility for producing pictorial effects being lightning-like. The great triumph of the afternoon came with the first appearance in London of an operatic quartet in a selection from *Rigoletto*, which was interpreted by M. Ansaldi (from the Grand Opera, Paris), as the Duke, Mdlle. Van Parys (from the Grand Opera, Paris), as Gilda, M. Rey (from the Grand Opera, Nice), as Rigoletto, and Mdlle. Dhasty (from the Royal Theatre, Brussels), as Maddalena. The performance was excellent, the magnificent quartet, "Un di si ben," rousing the house to an enthusiasm which compelled the fine lyric artists to repeat a portion of it. Other turns included Carl Reinsch, with his thoroughbred steed, on which he did an attractive manège act, and then, mounting a more prosaic looking animal, introduced his troupe of dogs—a most interesting combination that obeys his slightest word. A sensational wind-up to the opening programme was provided by Canadian Banker, who, after ascending a steep incline with his bicycle, came down on it at a terrific speed, and completed his act with a sensational somersault loop. It will be seen that novelty largely predominates in Mr Barrasford's opening scheme of amusement, and his generous estimate of the public demand for entertainment should certainly be rewarded with crowded houses.

Amongst those present in stalls and boxes were Mr Oswald Stoll, Miss Vesta Tilley, Mr Walter De Frece, Mr and Mrs Frank Allen, Mr Frank Macnaghten, Mr Leslie Stuart, Mr Fred Baugh, Mr Medley Barrett, Mr Hugh Astley and Mr Frank Glenister, of the London Pavilion; Mr Albert Gilmer, of the Oxford; Mr Edward Ledger, Mr Tom Shaw, Miss Madeline Barber, Mr Sydney Hyman, Mr Maurice Hyman, of the Britannia; Mr Philip Yorke, Messrs Emanuel and Richard Warner, Mr J. L. Graydon, Mr Laurie Graydon, Miss Lily Burnand, Miss Marie Kendall.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

The beginning of a new year finds the wonderful prosperity of this place of amusement unimpaired and the popular Mr Will Spearman still cheerfully engaged in an energetic management of affairs in front of the house. There have been quite record holiday audiences, and the bill-of-fare has been voted first-class. This week one of the principal attractions is Charles Prinz's forest-bred lions, whose performances are watched with the keenest interest. There is Liza, a lion who walks carefully along upon a row of large bottles, just as a cat can be taught to do. A singing lion emits a curious kind of cry which can scarcely be described as harmonious; whilst another of the troupe of twenty distinguishes himself as a sporting character. But perhaps the most sensational incident of the whole performance is the feeding of the animals. Prinz boldly enters the cage and throws in the air large lumps of meat, which the lions spring up and catch in their mouths; the successful competitors retiring to a quiet corner to enjoy the succulent prize. It is really remarkable how well the animals keep their tempers, considering the very keen competition which takes place; beyond an occasional growl there is nothing to indicate that the lions belong to a savage race. On Monday night Mdlle. Marcella's fire-dance in the den of lions was omitted, but the performance given contained quite as much sensation as would satisfy any ordinary sightseer. Lady Mansel and her juveniles are engaged here in "A Concert Rehearsal." The songs and dances given are interspersed with questions put by the head of the troupe and the smart replies of the juveniles. A boy and girl sing "The Sentimental Coon," concluding with a pretty dance which is much applauded. Another little girl scores with a skipping-rope performance and a big-boot dance, which is very cleverly managed. A comedian who has been before the public a good many years is seen in Mr James Fawn, who meets with the cordial reception due to an old favourite. A character that he is fond of embodying is that of a policeman, and he is now appearing as a genial guardian of the peace who takes quite a philosophic view of his responsibilities, and, with a broad smile and a knowing twinkle in the eye, explains his reasons for adopting an attitude of non-interference on certain specified occasions. Mr Fawn has another ditty on the subject of the ladies, and in this he introduces much humorous patter which causes considerable merriment. Altogether Mr Fawn is quite in his old form, and maintains his reputation as an excellent representative of the old school of comedians. Mr A. B. Houghton claims attention as a trick pianist. On the piano he gives an imitation of a clog dancer; he plays "Sweet Marie" by striking the treble notes with the tip of his nose; and while in an upside-down position manages to rattle off another popular melody. His eccentric musical performance evokes loud applause. Miss Sable Fern, who delights to be known as an "English singer of English songs," is here again, and her North London admirers are not slow in giving this charming little lady a right hearty welcome. She sings "You can't stop the sun from shining" and "Where is the heart" with much animation, and her continued success is beyond question. Mr Dan Filmer cuts a comical figure as he sings "I am a millionaire," a type of song, however, that has become somewhat stale. The Sisters Northcroft give a duet in which one of them represents a Girton girl and the other a grimy maidservant who has a contempt for her learned sister. They meet with a favourable reception, and so do De Vere and Konwiek, American comedy artistes, who with song, dance, and patter make their mark. They appeared on Monday as deputies for the Boccaccios; while Mr Charles Lilburn was present in place of Mr George Fairburn, and made a hit with a capital chorus song. Miss Maudie Ford wins favour with a song and dance, and the Hamiltons and Keir and Allen, comedians and dancers, also meet with success. The programme opens with the pretty overture "Bluebell in Fairyland," well played by the orchestra, under the able direction of Mr A. Petersen.

HARRY RANDALL,

AS

FAIRY ASBESTOS,

IN

DRURY-LANE PANTOMIME.

OPINIONS OF THE LONDON PRESS.

THE TIMES says:—

"THE VERY MAN FOR DRURY-LANE."

For the great Drury-lane pageant is this year as wonderful as ever, its fooling as lively as ever, and its duration longer than ever. Its new hero is Mr Harry Randall, an indefatigable worker, and the very quintessence of drollery. He is the Fairy Asbestos, guardian of the Princess Aurora, who is the sweetheart of the gallant Prince Peerless. But Mr Randall is not content with being a fairy, all spangles and pirouettes; he is also a barmaid, a much-admired barmaid, who is wooed by Prince Peerless's brothers, Patter and Plump, and, indeed, by several other gentlemen; and when Mr Randall has had enough of being a barmaid he becomes a landlady of the classic type—we mean the type that is classic in "the Halls"—the landlady who has "gentlemen lodgers," and is an expert in tariffs, domestic cookery, and local scandal. To see Mr Randall washing the baby—or rather scrubbing and polishing the baby—should be a liberal education for young wives and mothers. But we have not yet done with Mr Randall. He is at his very best when he frankly abandons his character and comes down to the footlights to sing a "topical" song ("Oh, what a happy land is England!"), or to burlesque a "coon" ballad, or to let loose a torrent of humorous "patter." We would say of him as of another famous character, that his face is his fortune—a variegated face, an indiarubber face, a whole Mercator's Projection of a face—if it were not for his agreeably (or at any rate, not disagreeably) strident voice and his extremely eloquent, versatile, and vivacious legs. In a word, Mr Randall is the very man for Drury-lane, all over the stage at once, and heard all over the house. Humour at Drury-lane must be laid on with a lavish hand; and Mr Randall is gloriously prodigal of it.

THE TELEGRAPH PAYS A TRIBUTE TO THE ROLLICKING HUMOUR OF HARRY RANDALL, AND SAYS:—

This will be the more easily understood when it is added that the Fairy Asbestos was, in reality, that immensely droll comedian, Mr Harry Randall. . . . Mr Harry Randall as Asbestos delivers a most effective parody of the celebrated "Panama" song, to a chorus composed of dustmen. Of the efforts of the principals mention has been made en passant, but tribute must still be paid to the rollicking humour and inexhaustible spirits of Mr Harry Randall.

Much of the success of the entertainment must be attributed to the remarkable drollery of Mr Harry Randall as Fairy Asbestos. Mr Randall, in parts of the "skinny matron" sort, is simply irresistible. He depicts—with graphic exaggeration, of course—a distinct Cockney type. He is the British female—care-worn, ironically cynical, but innately good-natured—who may be found by dozens in any of our "mean streets." When with this is "doubled" the absurd idea of an elderly fairy whose spells are growing stale, and whose fatal beauty has ceased to charm and fascinate, the result is most diverting. Of course, Mr Randall introduces a good deal of his famous "patter," and it sends the audience into ecstasies. To see him as the struggling ex-fairy, reduced to taking in a "nurse child" and lodgers, undressing a property baby with a ludicrous assumption of propriety and washing it down with a scrubbing-brush, is to laugh till one's sides ache; and then there is his topical song about "Happy England," which might easily be encored a dozen times, so eager are the audience for additional verses. Mr Randall's fun is so "clear cut"—if we may use the expression—his methods are so decided, and he is such a master of his work that he creates a first-rate impression without any effort or exaggeration.—The Era, Dec. 31, 1904.

Mr Harry Randall has a fine comic part in Asbestos, the retired fairy, and acted it for all it was worth. . . . and Harry Randall are, perhaps, a quaint combination, but last night it was a highly successful one, and the result was a tribute to the powers of both comedians. Mr Randall was, in fact, irresistibly comic, and the roars of laughter he aroused were quite in accord with Boxing Night traditions.—Daily Express.

In Mr Harry Randall a very capable successor has been found for Mr Leno, and he fully justifies his appointment. His style is somewhat broader than that of his predecessors, but he is equally at home in making his points, and the laughter which greeted him last night when he was engaged in the task of washing the baby will find its resonant echo for many weeks to come. The part he has to play is that of the Fairy Asbestos, who has been so prodigal of her charms in the past that her magic powers are reduced to a minimum.—Morning Advertiser, Dec. 27.

Easily first and foremost among the performers is Mr Harry Randall, the Fairy Asbestos, who has most of the fat, and works hard with patter, song, and dance to make things lively. His dresses will turn Paquin green with envy.—Morning Leader, Dec 27.

If there is a successor to Dan Leno, it is, of course—there is no use denying it—Mr Harry Randall, and a very excellent successor he is too. There are little speeches about husbands and similar topics that Mr Randall makes in his capacity as a matronly fairy that are as rich in humour as ever one could wish to see. — Daily Chronicle, Dec. 27.

Mr Harry Randall secured the chief honours among the men. He is exceedingly funny as Asbestos, an elderly fairy no longer able to fascinate except on a time limit. As a landlady who has to bath a nurse child and serve a pantomime dinner, and as a barmaid, he incidentally introduces an immense amount of broad and vigorous humour, which the audience found very acceptable.—Evening News, Dec. 27, 1904 (issued by the proprietors of the Daily Mail).

Mr Randall is genuinely funny and a treat to watch; he is clever without being coarse, and humorous without leaving a nasty taste in the mouth.—Echo, Dec. 27, 1904.

"THE DOLL."

There is a vast amount of detail in *The Doll* which was produced at the Empire Theatre on Tuesday last. The "fairy divertissement" is suggested by the Viennese ballet *Puppenfee*, but there can be little doubt that Madame Katti Lanner, who has arranged the action of the dances, has added many original ideas, and has introduced a great deal of novel business. The music is by Herr F. Bayer; and additional numbers have been composed and selected—in some cases from Audran's *La Poupée*—by Mr Cuthbert Clark. The action opens in Professor Marvel's doll emporium, where a variety of puppets are shown to visitors. The mechanism of the *bébé* doll breaks down, but a great Christmas tree at the back of the stage opens, and a dainty little fairy emerges. She gives the Professor a golden key, which at once restores the doll to "animation." The divertissement then resolves itself into a series of dances. There is a valse by undressed dolls wrapped in seeming tissue-paper. Then a large dolls'-house at the wing is opened, and the inmates issue forth and have a funny tea party. A review of wooden soldiers, accurately attired in imitation of the familiar toys of the early Victorian period, is held, and a troupe of white rabbits is also marshalled and drilled. A coon dance is done with great spirit, and a sailor's hornpipe is another attractive item. Very effective, indeed, is a dance in which the bodies of the ladies represent humming-tops, their skirts flying out centrifugally, to give the idea of spinning. In the "Dutch scene" which follows, clothes are washed in tubs by little Hollandaises, some ladies' petticoats, &c., being hung on a line at the back. Suddenly a number of "black-hosed" legs are protruded through the garments, and, after doing a quick step, disappear. The divertissement concludes with a grand waltz and galop.

The honours of the ballet were as usual carried off by Mdlle. Adeline Genée, whose vivacity and versatility were greatly in evidence. As Bebé she danced with her usual grace and agility. As the leader of the toy rabbit soldiers she played the drum smartly; and as a Polichinella in lilac she was full of life and spirit. A perfect imitation of the stiff and stolid movements of a mechanical figure was given by Mdlle. F. Zanfretta as a Spanish doll. She also did a very characteristic—but still "dollish"—Iberian *pas seul* later on in the course of the production. A strikingly quaint and curious item was an eccentric duo by Mr W. Vokes and Miss E. Clere. Attired as undressed dolls, they went through a *pas de deux* of the drollest and most "wooden" description. The scene which served as a background was very elaborate; and Mr Joseph Harker deserves great credit for his work in this connection. Herr F. Bayer's music is always bright and appropriate; and *The Dancing Doll* was received on Tuesday with every symptom of favour. A new and important item in the variety bill at the Empire is the appearance this week of Ching Ling Foo, a leading exponent of Chinese magic, said to be the first Chinese conjuror to appear on any foreign stage. After years of constant practice Ching was, on his twenty-fifth birthday, appointed one of the three magicians at the Chinese Court. In the course of his travels he has appeared in all of the principal cities in Ceylon, India, Burmah, the Straits Settlements, Cochin-China, and the Philippines. In 1897 Ching was engaged to appear at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition held in Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A., and it was while working in Omaha that his act was seen by B. F. Keith, the American vaudeville manager, who immediately entered into a contract with him. At the close of the Exposition in October he went to New York, where the act was such a success that it remained in Keith's Theatre until September, 1900, when he was obliged to return to China to look after his property in Tien Tsin, which had been destroyed by the Boxers. During his sojourn in China he received numerous offers for another tour, but it was not until he met Mr Mooser, his present manager, that he could be induced to again leave the flowery kingdom. The Empire management closed a contract with Ching on Jan. 10, 1904, for his appearance at the Empire with his company this year. Ching does some fairly familiar feats of conjuring, and does them exceedingly well, but his "speciality" is the production from under a clock of various articles, including a big bowl which, with the water it contains, weighs 85lbs. This would be easy enough if trap doors were employed, but we are assured that Ching does not use appliances of this class.

THE MUSIC HALL BENEVOLENT FUND.

MR JOSEPH LYONS' CHRISTMAS APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION.

As president for the year of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund I ask you to kindly send me a Christmas donation to help us carry on the good work with success.

I do so confident that my call to the profession will be responded to with the benevolent liberality for which it is noted. I do so in the belief that music hall artistes of every grade, those at the top-most rung of the ladder and those who are still climbing, will recognise that the cry for help which comes from their brother and sister artistes, who from accident, sickness, or dire misfortune have been compelled to seek assistance, should be answered first by the profession to which they once belonged. Charity may be welcome from whatever source it comes, but it must be doubly sweet when it comes from those with whom we have worked and played the game of life.

Apart from this I feel sure it would do immeasurable good to the status of the music hall profession if it could be shown that it recognised its duty in this respect, and was proudly striving to keep its Benevolent Fund in a state of financial prosperity without the necessity of urgent appeals to the general public. In every branch of professional and commercial life where this spirit has been fostered charities have been built up on sound financial foundations, and it is my aim and hope to see the same happy state of things effected for this Fund. I want it to be known to the world that members of the music hall profession take a pride in caring for their poorer members.

The line which divides success from failure is but a faint shadow; do please remember those who have struggled and fallen back beneath that shadow. Your success will be doubly sweet and their joy of receiving multiplied a hundredfold by the knowledge that the help comes from the profession they love with a fervour which none but "pros." can fully understand.

He gives twice who gives quickly, so please fire away and fill up the enclosed slip for as much as you can afford; the same will be duly acknowledged by me and by *The Era*, not to speak of those whose hearts will be made the brighter by your timely generosity.

Yours faithfully, JOSEPH LYONS.

FIRST LIST OF DONATIONS.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
"The Era"	5	5	0	Fred Eustace	0	10	6
L. C. J. Livermore	5	5	0	O. Mans Dayton	0	10	6
Daukes and Co.	5	5	0	Sutcliffe Troupe	0	10	0
Alfred Butt	5	5	0	The Bohemians	0	10	0
Alfred De Rothschild	5	0	0	Banks Winter	0	10	0
Richard Butler	2	2	0	Boris Fridkin	0	10	0
John and Leopold	2	2	0	Harry Alaska	0	5	0
Tom Honey	1	1	0	Willy Benn	0	5	0
G. H. Chirgwin	1	1	0	Miss Lily Seville	0	5	0
Tom Edwards	1	1	0	Rosa and Josepha (Bohemian Twins)	0	5	0
Jas. Chappell	1	1	0	Wedburns	0	5	0
Tom Shaw	1	1	0	Miss Pid Carazzi (Harpiste)	0	3	0
Carl Hertz	1	1	0	Billy Keene	0	2	6
K. Yamamoto and Miss Koyoshi	1	0	0	Jack Charman	0	2	6
H. Graham	0	14	6				

THE OXFORD.

Mr Albert Gilmer's holiday programme has been universally pronounced to be one of the best that has ever been seen at the typical music hall over which he exercises such a genial sway, and Mr Blyth-Pratt, his courteous manager in front, has been rejoicing with him at the packed houses that have filled up every corner. The chief novelty of the programme is an episode of a droll nature entitled *Fares, Please*, presented by Mr Joe Elvin and company. The popular comedian may be said to have taken up his winter quarters at the Oxford, where he is an immense favourite. A modern electric tramcar is the vehicle through which the inimitable Joe throws the shafts of his humour, always of an obviously cockney type, as it should be. Mr Wal Pink again has fitted Mr Elvin with a part that exactly suits him. He is a car conductor on the Tooting line, and his operations with the ticket punch are carried out in a very realistic and beautifully lit interior of one of the modern road cars of the London County Council. The fun arises from Elvin's comic colloquies with the various passengers. He is hastily entrusted with a baby while its mother descends to run after the thief who has taken her purse; and the behaviour of a sweep induces a young lady to seek the kind offices of the conductor, who agrees to become a temporary husband, and thus protect her. The situation for the worried L.C.C. official—at 4s. 3d. a-day—becomes therefore sufficiently complicated by the time that his "better half" arrives with his skirt and kidney pudding. Her state of furious jealousy is not allayed when the baby is abstracted from the locker in which it has hurriedly been thrust. The buffoonery is of the wildest kind—of the good old-fashioned pantomime order, and it fulfils its purpose most admirably, for the audience laughs consumedly during its progress. Mr Elvin is, of course, continually in evidence, and quite sustains his high and well-earned reputation as one of London's most successful mirth-providers. The generation has not yet arisen that cannot laugh at Joe. By securing the services of Miss Louie Freear, Mr Gilmer has robbed the theatre of one of its brightest stars. Miss Freear sings three songs—"Twiddly Bits," "She just walks on," and "John James Perkins," the last relating the experiences of a lady who has the misfortune to have a sober husband. In the first two Miss Freear is the character she has made her own—a little general servant. In the other number, as a middle-aged matron, the wife of a "manager of a dray," she deplores the fact that Mr Perkins has become quite a reformed character. Instead of a "little drop round the corner," he invites her to Lockhart's to take a cup of coffee. At home, too, he is quite a martinet, and actually expects her to "wash the kids." She never gets a black eye now. John James's sobriety does not lend itself to domestic incidents of an exciting kind, and life is much too monotonous. It is scarcely necessary to add that Miss Freear is artistically perfect in all she does, though on the night that we heard her she was suffering from a cold that handicapped her cruelly. Miss Vesta Tilley, fortunately for her London admirers, has not joined the ranks of pantomime this year, and the genuine delight expressed at her artistic contributions to a programme of good things is more than sufficient justification for the very fine salary paid her. Miss Tilley is not an artist of yesterday, though to look at her trim-built figure and at her girlish—or should we say boyish?—face one would think that she had not yet emerged from the twenties, and her popularity is greater than ever. Custom does not stale the infinite variety of her songs, and one of the latest is "A wise old owl," in which the music hall bard has followed the example of the older poets—Sir Walter Scott among the number—and written in praise of the bird who "whoops" out his song at night. Of course the wisdom of the owl is expressed in a topical verse, which concerns Joe Chamberlain, whose name is hailed with shouts of laughter. "The Seaside Sultan" and "Following in father's footsteps" are other favorite numbers that contribute to the singer's complete success. There is no need to say that Miss Tilley is immaculately dressed and looks a model of youthful elegance. Mr Gus Elen is among the comic stars of the bill, and he realises the responsibilities of his reputation in a song of qualatness, with a philosophic tinge. No temperance crank for this honest son of toil—no cocoa, coffee, or tea, but "half a pint o' ale." This is the beverage for breakfast, dinner, tea, and supper. It has been said that Waterloo was won by beef and beer. The character presented by Mr Elen would be quite of this opinion, and the song is capitally conceived and perfectly rendered. Mr Elen's cabby with conscientious scruples is another comedy creation that serves him well, and the heartiest applause is his. Mr Tom Leamore's ballet girl is in the most extravagant spirit of parody, and the get-up is exceedingly laughable; Mr Joe O'Gorman tells some excellent stories concerning Flanagan; Mr Norman French dances in the most eccentric fashion possible; and Nelson's Newsboys give cake-walks and concerted pieces with success. Mr Bransby Williams returns with his fine entertainment—characters from the novels of Charles Dickens. The latest is Dan'l Peggotty, the dear old boatman of "David Copperfield." The excerpt chosen from the story is the scene wherein Peggotty learns of the ruin of Little Em'ly, and promises himself a terrible revenge. The passage is one of the most pathetic in the whole range of fiction; and a more touching delineation of the character so beautifully drawn by the great novelist has not been seen within living memory. It is even a greater artistic success than Mr Williams's sketch of Nell's grandfather in "The Old Curiosity Shop." Eccentric comicality again reigns with the advent of Miss Vesta Victoria, who sings "It's all right in the summer time," the plaint of a down-trodden model, who has to pose in the "old back yard" for benefit of the artist-husband and for the upkeep of the happy home. There is daintiness in the pretty song of Miss Amy Clevere, who looks a picture of Anglo-Saxon elegance in blue; and there is an old-world charm in the Margery Daw of Miss Eileen Douglas. Mr Will H. Fox "imposes upon a piano" in his own quaint style, and his playing of a popular melody as a waltz, polka, schottische, and funeral march evokes enthusiastic applause. As a humourist at the piano he wants a lot of beating. Acrobatism of a comic kind speeds the clever Max Trevally Harley Troupe in the good graces of the public; Miss Ray Wallace imitates in her own clever way Ada Reeve, Kate Carney, Lil Hawthorne, and Marie Lloyd; and other turns on the bill include Jack Camp, a quaint comedian; Miss Lottie Lennox, Miss Lily Langtry, Miss Fanny Wentworth, the Five Whiteleys, and Talberto and Douglas.

MR AND MRS WILL KELLINO (Miss Bella Fothergill), who have returned from their honeymoon, tender their sincere thanks to Mr Fred Wood, of the City Varieties, Leeds, for his kindness in journeying to London to act as best man on the occasion of their wedding. The kindness of Mr and Mrs Goodwin, who travelled from Hull, is also highly appreciated, and they value deeply the hearty sentiments embodied in numerous wires and letters of congratulations.

THE friends of Ernest Percy will be sorry to hear that on Monday he met with a severe accident by slipping down the steps leading from his house. He is now an inmate of St. Thomas's Hospital with compound fracture of the leg.

MR F. BAUGH on Saturday evening presented Minnie, the clever little dancer, with a gold watch in appreciation of her talent. Minnie is the daughter of one of the Australian twin Sisters Anderson, whose skipping-rope dances are very popular.

THE LONDON MUSIC HALLS.

THE ALHAMBRA.

With all the new variety theatres which are being built in London, it becomes increasingly difficult to find anything original and striking in the way of turns; and Mr George Scott is to be congratulated upon several *trouvailles* for his present bill-of-fare at the Alhambra. The Shadow Brothers are really remarkable hand-to-hand equilibrists. They possess immense strength; and some of their feats must be seen to be believed. For instance, one of them, standing, and holding the hands of his companion, who is behind him, raises him right up and over his head to an inverted position, finally lifting and supporting him with one hand. Description cannot do justice to the marvellously muscular power and extraordinary adroitness of the Shadows. The audiences at music halls are good judges of excellence in athletics; and the patrons of the Alhambra reward each achievement of the pair with an enthusiastic outburst of applause. Though the Shadows come on quite early in the evening, they obtain the honour of a double recall after their very successful turn. Another "cute" and clever item is the introduction, by Miss Marie Casell, of her troupe of Mexican Chihuahua dogs. They are funny little creatures, and the things they do are both clever and amusing. Two actually do tricks on the triple horizontal bars, and their burlesques of a human performer in this line send the house into roars of laughter. A trapeze is then lowered, and one dog, hanging head downwards from it, holds in his teeth a strap, from which hangs, in a belt, another, canine artist, who is made to revolve rapidly on a swivel. The performance concludes with the introduction of a motor, in which all the animals ride off. They return after what has evidently been an "accident;" for the chauffeur dog has his head tied up in a handkerchief, while the whole force of the company is required to push the injured machine home. The Four Harveys win rounds of applause for their wire act. The ladies are models of grace and symmetry, and do their work with a daintiness and ease which are delightful. The Harveys' turn is bewitching by its beauty and astonishing by its cleverness. The cake walk on the wire with which it concludes is irresistibly smart and animated, and well deserves the warm commendation it evokes. The Tschin-Maa Troupe of Chunchusen conjurors and jugglers, from Liao-yang, have figured prominently in the war in the East. The troupe consists of six members. During the lull of battle up till October they were entertaining the Russian officers and men in their camp on the banks of the Sha-ho. Kuropatkin himself has watched their performances in an interval of repose. By the good offices of Kuropatkin they managed to leave Manchuria to come to Europe. Their passport, which they retain, is signed by the Russian Commander-in-chief. Before quitting the Far East they had many exciting experiences. More than once they were fiercely attacked as spies, and it was only through the intervention of the Chinese Ambassador at St. Petersburg that they succeeded in getting across the Trans-Siberian Railway in safety. Apart from the interest which attaches in this way to the Tschia-Maa Troupe, they are expert conjurors and jugglers, and do many interesting and difficult things. The Bogdany Troupe give an attractive and spirited military show. Eight ladies in the uniforms of the different European armies are marshalled by a stalwart commander, who rides in upon a gorgeously caparisoned steed. They march and sing in dashing style, and their officer drills them humorously in English. Miss Florence Yayman, with her quaint cries, eccentric dancing, and general oddity, is a warm favourite; and the names of Vanols, the American Antipodeste, and the Julianos in their musical act, are also in the bill at the Alhambra, where those beautiful ballets *All the Year Round* and *L'Entente Cordiale* are still immensely popular. The Urban Bioscope, with its excellent and "up-to-date" views, including a depiction in actual colours of Brock's fireworks at the Crystal Palace, is still ardently admired.

THE PALACE.

There is plenty to amuse as well as much to admire in the entertainment at present offered at Palace Theatre. "A hearty laugh is always worth a guinea," says a philosophical estimator of the value of merriment; and we defy the grimmest cynic not to shake his sides at the burlesque absurdity *Bill Bailey*, which is presented here by the Follies. These clever artists are "nothing if not critical," and they have prepared an elaborate "skit" on the old-fashioned provincial pantomime of a past period. Description is quite inadequate to give an idea of the extravagant fun of this concoction. Hit follows hit, and droll notions come quickly in succession until the whole house is in a roar. Messrs Pelissier, Davenport, and Wimperis have put the piece together smartly; and each and all of the troupe join most acutely and energetically in the fun. There is a huntsman's chorus, a corpulent fairy godmother, a may-pole dance by local children, a cat—who mentions the fact that he is a cat lest he should be mistaken for a goat or a dog—and a female vocalist, who sings "Dear Heart" till it becomes a contest between her efforts and the noise made by the carpenters who are setting up the Palace scene behind a cloth covered with advertisements. The whole concludes with a "Grand Procession of Nations," in which is introduced a song about "L'Entente Cordiale," very neatly written. Mr H. G. Pelissier's music is bright and lively; and Misses Gwennie Mars, Marjorie Napier, and Ethel Allandale, and Messrs H. G. Pelissier, Lewis Sydney, and Dan Everard all do excellent work. The great point in connection with the Follies is their vivid intelligence. They have a keen sense of humour, and they act, sing, and dance with admirable zest and appreciation. Very ludicrous, indeed, is the game of cricket which is played by De Gracia's Baby Elephants. One actually "stands up to" the wicket, holding a bat in his trunk, another bowling to him. When a hit is made, the "batsman" takes a run, the ball being promptly fielded by a third pachyderm. The show is not only a wonderful example of the art of animal training, but a most amusing "exhibit." Hardly less diverting is the shaving scene, in which one of the elephants lathers, scrapes, washes, wipes, and powders his patient companion. De Gracia's elephants are a most attractive item of the entertainment at the Palace. Mr Chris Davis's bright and clever sketch, *Jack*, is played with spirit by Mr Arthur Roberts and company. On the occasion of our visit Mr Roberts appeared to be suffering from a cold, so that many of his clever "gags" must have been lost to the occupants of the more distant parts of the house. This was a pity, as the jests were so droll that even the artists who appeared with Mr Roberts could hardly "keep their countenances." The piece is well mounted and capitally acted. Mr Charles Goold makes a bluff and simple-minded Colonel Bolder, Mr Stanley Damerell is a comical exponent of the character of the Rev. Septimus Sleek, and Miss Ruby Celeste is agreeably expressive as Enid, Miss Aynsley Cooke being a pleasing Janet, and Miss Lucy Webling quite acceptable as Millie. Earlier in the evening Miss Eva Westcott appears in a monologue, called "An Episode of Modern Life.' A frivolous wife, who thinks of nothing but folly and extravagance, talks for many minutes about fancy dresses and balls to her husband, who sits with his back turned towards her, perfectly motionless and silent. At the end of her talk the wife goes up to him and finds that he is dead, having poisoned himself after reading in the paper of the failure of his bank. Horrified, she falls in a swoon. As the loquacious wife, Miss Westcott is varied, animated, and expressive, and her concluding scream and "faint" are quite well done. Desroches and Bianca, with their electric lights and well-trained dogs, are well received. The Breens juggling performance is both droll and expert; and a warm word of praise is due to Mr Arthur Prince, a ventriloquist who does his work while smoking cigars and while drinking, his face being "clean-shaved." The excellence of his performance is obvious and undeniable. Also in the bill at the Palace are Miss Edith Courtney, vocalist; Yamamoto and Koyoshi, and that vivacious comedienne, Miss Victoria Monks. The Bioscope views, which are most artistic and interesting, include pictures of a Travelling Caravan passing through the Khyber Pass on its way from Cabul to Peshawar, of Mohammedans at Prayer on their Feast Day, and of German Battleships Manœuvring at Full Speed.

THE EUSTON.

This place of entertainment is essentially a people's theatre, and joyous throngs have expressed no half-hearted appreciation of the programme arranged by Mr George Adney Payne, and presented under the direction of Mr Frank M'Avoy. The name that looms large in the New Year's bill is that of Mr Harry Lauder, a canny Scot, who was a favourite on the banks of the Clyde before he was sped in the good graces of the London public by the favouring breezes of applause. Harry—surely his name should be Sandy—is a braw laddie, who becomes an irresistible optimist directly he arrives on the stage. He is quite equal to a "wee bit skirl" on the pipes; and when he sings of M'Kay of Tobermory he gives a picture of Scottish jollity that is quite at variance with the reputation for dourness that is commonly attributed to our kilted brethren north of the Tay. The laddie Lauder finds opportunity also to sing with depth of compass and no little taste the well-known melody "Rocked in the cradle of the deep." He becomes again the rollicking Glesca chiel when he chortles "Stop yer tickling, Jock," which on the night of our visit took the house by storm. Lauder is special Scotch; and Joe O'Gorman is special Irish, when he portrays the feelings of a gossoon who has fallen in love with Pepita, a senorita whom he wishes to become a colleen, and to give up her fandango for the national jig. The Duchess of Ballinasloe is another charmer to whom he addresses his song. And then there is Flanagan to set us in a roar with his anecdote concerning the gondolas in a Dublin park; and before we become tired of Flanagan's little *gaucheries* of speech the O'Gorman glides into an illigant taste of a jig—one of the "natest" to be seen anywhere between the Liffey and the Shannon. Music is another strong feature of the Euston bill; and the Norman and Leonard Trio present their selections on the harp, piano, violin, and mandoline in quite an interesting way. A half-frozen busker in shabby black is heard playing "The Angel's Serenade" in the street while the snow is falling; and is called in to listen to an excellent harp solo from another musician—in the evening dress of civilisation, and to be victimised by the mad pranks of an irrepressible page boy. The whole entertainment is particularly attractive, and the cake-walk and buck dance of the youngster make a lively wind-up to a most successful interlude. Lieutenant Travis's genuine ventriloquism is always popular; and the lively boy, the pretty little girl, and the nonagenarian are familiar friends to whom one may wish the compliments of the season, so realistically are they presented. Unconcernedly Mr Travis smokes a cigarette, and his figure sings just the same. It is a *tour de force* of his polyphony that always obtains its reward in the delighted appreciation of an audience always quick to catch the points of a show. The chief sketch of the bill is *Jail Birds*, played by Fred Karno's troupe of comedians in as brisk and droll a way as it is possible. The gentleman who plays the curate is as humorously idiotic as most of the "cloth" are supposed to be on the stage; and the make-up of the principal burglar and convict is one that would have satisfied Charles Dickens for Bill Sikes. The business is bustling and smart, and the generous enthusiasm of the audience is well deserved. A comedy trifle that is played earlier in the evening is entitled, we believe, *Little Charlie; or, the Twin Sisters*. It is presented by the Arthur Lloyd family, and the "farce of errors" has so much ingenuity and so many amusing misunderstandings that it is received with hearty laughter. Orpheus plays many instruments, and plays them very artistically; Miss Maud Courtney tells American stories well, and is very fascinating; Alexandra Edwin, who sings a ballad, might quicken the time with advantage; and Barnard's Marionettes afford much amusement. Mr Victor Opferman conducts a first-rate band, and Mr F. M'Evoy has a most courteous lieutenant in Mr Charles E. Welman.

THE SURREY.

Holiday crowds at every performance last week taxed the ingenuity of Mr Chris Wordsworth to the utmost, and on looking in on Monday at the second house we found nearly every seat in this vast theatre taken by an enthusiastic audience, who enjoyed to the full the fine programme compiled for their delectation. That the love of melodrama is still innate in the hearts of the Surrey clientèle is evidenced by the attention bestowed on the dramatic episode *Paris by Night*, in which we recognise a condensed version of a play that drew all London westward in the latter half of the past century. In the highly capable hands of Mr J. G. Johnson and company the fortunes of the poor blind girl Louise, whose honour is assailed by the blustering bully Jacques, and is so nobly defended by his brother, the cripple Pierre, loses nothing in its change of locale, for Mr J. G. Johnson gives the character of the cripple Pierre all the necessary pathos that easily wins sympathy. Louise is pathetically depicted by Miss Katherine Clarke; Mr Herbert Goddard gives a robust and forcible rendering of the bully Jacques; as the old harridan Frochaid Mrs W. Marchant brings out all the brutal characteristics of a coarse nature. As the kind-hearted doctor Mr W. S. Hartford acts with dignity and decorum. In direct contrast the bright and merry little scena by Miss Zeta Grey and her company of comedians entitled *A Lancashire Lass* kept the house in a ripple of merriment. The theme of the trifle is as old as the hills, but Miss Grey as the Lancashire Lass gives a character sketch full of clever points, and her vocal powers are cultured. The precocious page boy deserves a special word of praise for his vivacity and energy. The Three Missouris have added to their amusing and daring acrobatic act a most exhilarating burlesque wrestling match, with Captain Kettle as referee. Jordon and Harvey, Hebrew comedians, make a great hit with their genuinely funny cross-talk, their original methods, and eccentric and comical dances. Miss Vera Patey's shapely figure is set off to advantage in a tasty principal boy's costume, and her rendering of her numbers "Have you seen my girl?" and her contagious laughing song, "She answered him like this," are both artistic and pleasing. That Mahatma is gifted with second sight is demonstrated by her wonderful playing of a game of Nap blindfolded with two members of the audience. It is a smart and clever exhibition of the clairvoyant's art. The Australian Twin Sisters Anderson work hard for public favour, and get it in abundance, their song, "My Caroline," and their rag-time and novel skipping-rope dancing showing untiring energy. The Four Jumels are clever banjoists, who extract sweet melody from that popular instrument. Jack Pleasants is a quaint comedian, and his quiet, artistic style and methods in his songs, "Naughty Boy" and "The day I found a sovereign in the street," keep the house in a ripple of merriment. Miss Fanny Erris, in her clever satire on Society, "In the days gone by," is given with artistic finesse, and Payne's Bioscope is not the least of the good things in this enjoyable and varied entertainment.

MR. EDWIN E. GILES.

Mr Edwin E. Giles, when he, with all the sublime confidence of a youth in his teens, determined to go on the stage, had to contend with no unsympathetic and obdurate parents; and he speedily found alleviation for his attack of histrionicitis by becoming one of a quartet of Negro comedians, known as the Brothers Burcham. It was in the late seventies that he played a part with them in a then popular sketch known as *The Insurance Office*, the genesis of which might be discovered in the archives of Ethiopian minstrelsy in the States. He made his first appearance at the old Winchester Music Hall, which was then being run by Mr W. B. Fair, who was the original singer of "Tommy, make room for your uncle." The music halls had not then woke up to their responsibilities in the matter of public entertainment, though there were capital shows at the Winchester, and many of the stars of the day appeared upon its boards. Young Giles had the good sense to learn dancing, and became an apt pupil of Mr Fred Marlow, who in those days was a popular comic singer, afterwards becoming lessee of the Bow Palace, and is now proprietor of the Empire, Southend. It was the era of hornpipes. Every comique—with the exception perhaps of Leybourne—and every serio only considered their success quite complete when the vociferous encore—largely helped by the rattle of the chairman's hammer—resulted in their reappearance to give the audience a taste of their quality in a few steps. Scarcely less common than hornpipes were speeches from the stage, and on one occasion we remember a star held the stage so long with extra song, speech, and hornpipe that the following turn had to be cut out. The variety stage was then called "irregular;" it was in a transition state, in fact, and the encouragement given to young aspirants, unless they were veritable geniuses, was very meagre, the salaries being extremely small. Young Giles therefore sought other spheres for his energy, and he entered the theatres, and in various capacities in front of the house he was with Mr J. L. Toole at the little theatre in Chandos-street, Mr Chatterton, and Sir Augustus Harris at Drury-lane. He also catered at the Standard, the Olympic, and the Princess's, and managed the front of the house staff at Terry's during the run of *Sweet Lavender*. Mr Giles preserves many happy reminiscences of the theatrical celebrities he met in those days, when burlesque and the legitimate flourished side by side. By a lucky accident he returned to the halls, and went to the Trocadero when Mr Sam Adams took that hall over from the executors of Mr Bignell. It was thought that Mr Adams, who had been manager for Mr Edwin Villiers at the London Pavilion, would revive the fortunes of the "Troc," but the competition was too great, and there was little doubt that anxiety and harass had much to do with the popular Sam's early death. Mr Giles at the opening of the new Tivoli under the ægis of the Newson-Smith Syndicate transferred his services there, and became staff manager, a position he held for some years. His

Photo by C. Herman

MR. EDWIN F. GILES.

connection with the Grand, Clapham; Granville, Walham-green; and Camberwell Palace Syndicate commenced some five years ago, and he became manager of the last-mentioned hall about three years back. With his advent at the Battersea Empire—built by Mr George Washington Moore, and called originally the Washington—the two-houses-a-night system started at that popular house. Mr Giles is now resigning his position there, but such is the regard in which he is held by his proprietors that they have granted him the use of the hall on Wednesday evening next, the 11th inst., for a farewell benefit. The Empire on that evening will only have one audience; but it will, we feel sure, be a bumper, for the bénéficiaire has made a host of friends during his stay in Battersea, and they will be certain to turn up in regiments. A strong committee is working to make the night a record one. Among the names we find those of Messrs Jesse Sparrow (chairman), Arthur Yates, Frank Weeks, Harry Bawn, Nelson Francis, Fred Miller, Edward Swanborough, Pony Moore, J. J. Fruin, Eustace Jay, Fred Baugh, Tom Shaw, Joe Elvin, Dr. Walford Bodie, Fred Reeves, Tom Pacey, George Fuller, Sydney Hyman, T. W. Volny, Fred Higham, and many other influential men in the music hall world.

THE METROPOLE.

At the pretty little palace of varieties on Denmark-hill there is no falling off in the strong and varied programmes Mr Jack De Frece and his courteous and energetic acting-manager, Mr A. E. Parnell, provide. Although the bill does not scintillate with stars of the first magnitude, the entertainment is one of infinite variety of enjoyment, many of the turns displaying artistic gifts that entitle them to a place in the front rank of their profession. This is most noticeable in the case of Miss Eva Hope and Mr Jack Wayho, who in their duologues from the works of Charles Dickens display an artistic resource and finesse that wins them a well-merited series of curtains. The former, whether as Poor Joe or Nance, is thorough, and her embodiments are full of pathos; and Mr Wayho's Bill Sykes is instinct with brutal intensity. In direct contrast is the screamingly funny scena by the Forrest Comedy Sketch company in *My Friend the Enemy;* and although it develops into a regular rough-and-tumble, the roars of laughter that mark its progress fully testify to the keen enjoyment of the audience. As the names of this hard-working quartet do not appear on the programme they cannot be given, but a special word of praise is due to the gentleman who sustains the part of the husband and to the lady representing the wife, both being physically and artistically strong in their parts. The Two Erolls, in their amusing leaping act, combine fooling with acrobatic skill. The final leap of the gentleman over the head of the tall and graceful lady standing on a table is a daring feat that very few acrobats would care to attempt. Ernesto is a neat and clever juggler, and seems to give perpetual motion to footballs, candlesticks, plates—in fact, all he can lay hands on. His last feat is the balancing of a lighted lamp on his forehead while he plays a concertina with each hand, and at the same time ascends and descends a staircase. Vandinoff, an artist in oils, produces with lightning rapidity on opal glass, fitted into electric-lighted frames, a series of pretty floral pictures. Under his deft touch beautiful bunches of orchids, fuchsias, carnations, and roses gain a reality that is heartily recognised by the audience, who pay him abundant compliments for his final seascape. Miss Marie Blythe, in a rich, deep, and powerful contralto, raises a furore of applause with her catchy song, "The same girl the whole year round." The chorus, in rag time, is easily caught up by the audience, who are loth to part with such a gifted and capable artiste. Mr George W. Foster, in his character ditty, "The Playwright," has an original idea, which he handles carefully and well. Mr Hatton M'Cullah wins favour with his rendering of "Killarney;" Mr Charles Paver is a volatile and exhilarating patterer and comedian; and a most enjoyable evening is brought to a close with the exciting animated pictures on the Royal Metrograph, depicting the chase and capture of the Yegg Bank robbers.

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

There are a certain number of dramas and sketches which enjoy a perennial popularity. *Drummed Out*, which is the leading attraction in the current programme here, is one of the latter. It has been running for nearly a dozen years, and yet there is nothing to indicate that the piece has been so long before the public. The plot recalls to mind the famous Dreyfus case, and Mr Seymour Hicks's drama at the Adelphi, entitled *One of the Best*, had a similar *motif*. Private Roberts, of the 17th Lancers, is charged with theft by his sergeant, the stolen article being found in a pocket of the young soldier's overcoat. The charge is made publicly before the Colonel of the regiment, and the evidence against Private Roberts seems strong enough for a conviction. He earnestly asserts his innocence of the crime, and then comes the dramatic moment when the Colonel's little boy comes forward and declares that he saw the sergeant place the jewels in the pocket of the private's coat. Punishment summary and sure follows. The rascally sergeant's stripes are taken from him in the presence of the regiment, the sword he has disgraced by his dastardly conduct is broken, and he is drummed out. The two scenes are the Guard-room of the 17th Lancers and the Barrack Square, where we have presented a realistic picture of barrack life. A grand march past takes place, and the scene is enlivened by the performance of a full military drum and fife band. Miss Kitty Kirwan plays the part of the warm-hearted old Irishwoman who has a grandson in the regiment and who is so persistent in her inquiry, "Where's my Tommy?" The garrulous Irishwoman is an important character, and Miss Kirwan's portrayal is exceedingly good. Mr A. C. Lilley was in the original cast, and he continues to act the part of the wicked sergeant-major in such an earnest and forcible manner as to give due significance to the drumming-out scene. Mr N Watts Phillips does very well in the part of the falsely accused trooper Roberts, whose wife Ethel has a pleasing representative in Miss Leslie Warner. Satisfactory work is also done by Miss Ina Howard, as Bertie the Colonel's son, and Master Leo Gordon as Tommy, Mrs O'Flanagan's Amongst the single turns engaged here this week is Mr Walter Bellonini, who performs some wonderful balancing feats with billiard balls and other articles. He is also an adept as a hat-spinner, and introduces an intelligent little dog, which takes a share in the programme, cleverly balancing itself on its master's head. Kahn and Kahn are responsible for some neat conjuring tricks, which are watched with interest and evoke considerable applause. The lady and gentleman known as Starr and Leslie give a varied performance, of which their exercise with Indian clubs forms one of the principal features. In this they display an expertness which could only have been attained by long and patient practice. The couple also indulge in amusing patter, and the lady is a capital vocalist. Mr Harry Bedford, a droll comedian, who can always be sure of a hearty welcome, has a couple of good songs in "Where do you think I found her?" and "By the gay seaside." Another favourite is Mr Fred Poplar, who scores with the ditty, "Oh, if I could only lose her," and a parody on the popular song, "Bluebell." The only lady single turn is Miss Kitty Wager, who sings with complete success "One of the unemployed," which contains caustic references to the aliens who displace the British workman. Professor Dunning, ventriloquist, carries on an amusing conversation with his figures, the comic old man being of course prominent. The business department at this popular house continues to be well looked after by Mr Chas. W. Adams, the acting-manager; and the orchestra has an able conductor in Mr Thomas Gray.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

The endeavour to supply the best entertainment is happily achieved this week at Hackney, where the patrons of the palatial Empire are treated to a programme in which beauty, skill, and talent are to be found. All three qualities are combined in Miss Lily Burnand, who, with new songs and sumptuous dresses, which no male pen dare presume to describe, is adding nightly to her laurels. She is especially diverting in her allusions to the varieties of "cheek" which are to be found in many walks of life. Each line of the song has a humorous ring, and loud laughter waits upon the explanation by the cook of the discovery by her mistress of a stalwart guardsman in the kitchen cupboard. Miss Burnand overflows with gaiety and sparkle, and no handsomer pantomime prince in his gilded palace is to be found in all England than she presents in her song of "The Telephone Girl," in which a love-lorn youth rings up his sweetheart in order to express his affection over the wires. Miss Burnand commands the admiration of all, and recalls of an undeniable character are lavished upon her. Les Brunin put the billiard table to extraordinary uses. The gentleman plays a losing hazard with pockets fixed about his head, and with his fair partner standing behind him picks out a tune with the ball as it rebounds from the table on to a peal of bells attached to the forehead. Extinguishing a candle or discharging a pistol by the same means are performed with equal facility, the wonder of the audience growing greater as a series of clever feats proceeds. A hearty reception is assured to Mr F. V. St. Clair, whose voice and pen have been so long and successfully exercised in the cause of amusement. He touches on questions of the day in his first song, his theme embracing the cotton trust, and a sympathetic reference to "Fighting Mac." In his topical lay of "The Twentieth Century" interesting verses multiply at each recall, the lines bristle with clever satire, and the references to the Rev. Mr Campbell and the working-man, with a comparison with the Marquis of Anglesey, being received with approval, while the bringing in of the Baltic Fleet and Port Arthur is also a happy hit. Such was the nature of the applause on the occasion now referred to that Mr St. Clair returned under compulsion and recited a humorous poem, called "The Captain's Wife." Mr Arthur Gill, who appears in the smock and leggings of a country yokel, gives a number of clever imitations interspersed with amusing "patter." A mezzo-soprano singing "Dear Heart," and a duet between male and female voices are each in turn presented, while his satire of a glee-party singing "Hail, smiling morn," with the tenor out of tune, evokes a deal of laughter, which is increased by his imitation of a little girl reciting at a concert, in which he betrays the possession of ventriloquial powers. Astonishing feats of head balancing are done by the Wille Brothers, who seem to have reached the bounds of possibility in this class of entertainment, while the wonderful poising of the smart performer on a bamboo pole held up by a muscular companion makes him the object of demonstrations of approval. The Kellinos have an elaborate Venetian set and costumes to match in which to execute their variations on Risley feats. Their somersaults and leaps from feet to feet are performed with amazing surety, and feats which to many acrobats would be difficult on terra-firma are achieved by them on the pedal extremities of their companions. Their show is a brilliant and clever one, and as such is duly appraised. Athletic pursuits are turned to comic purposes by Burg, Haud, and Wise, who in their sketch, *The Brown Cow*, keep the house in constant hilarity, the exploits of the light-fingered tramp being excessively droll. Ross and Grayson contribute their sketch, *The Professor and the Pupil;* Baker and Balfe, in their operatic xylophone excerpts, are secure of appreciation; Miss Cora Caselli's dancing admits her at once to the favour of the audience; and contributions to the bill are also made by Princess Pauline, serio-comic, and Ambrose Thorne, light comedian. Mr John Christie is the acting-manager, and the fine orchestra, under the direction of Mr Walter Johnson, gives every satisfaction.

THE GRANVILLE.

The "Blue House" long familiar to the metropolis has hitherto been regarded as the place where linen is cleansed and shirtfronts and collars are made once more to shine; but Miss Kate Carney, in her new sketch *Our Laundry*, proves that it is the abode of reckless fun. The sketch, which is written by Harry Castling and George Arthurs, with music by George Le Brun, has caused a diversion at the Granville this week, where Mr Jesse Sparrow, with characteristic enterprise, has been amongst the very first to secure the latest production of the famous comedienne. The "Blue House" selected for the scena is the one at Camberwell, wherein a merry throng of washers and ironers are seen at work. It is an accommodating establishment, where washing is performed "while you wait," an inventory being also made of the bundles of laundry as they arrive, and the most informing revelations are the result. A topical song is attached to "The writing on the cuff," which contains a tribute to "Joe" and his tariff reform. It is a little unfortunate for the supporters of the "fiscal policy" that it should be put just where it is most likely to be washed out, but such are the exigencies of the song, and Miss Carney as Martha, the trim young forewoman, sporting a dainty cap and apron, sings it with infinite spirit. Fun is carried to the extreme point in the interviews with the various customers, for Martha has a quick tongue and mordant wit. She asserts in song that she is the "Pride of the laundry at Camberwell," the refrain being vigorously taken up by the young men who enter and ally themselves with the lasses of the laundry. Martha is not without her Arthur, and together they lead the revels in what is best described as the "Carney cakewalk." The medley has a captivating lilt and instantly won the popular ear on Monday, when the chorus and dance had to be repeated in answer to an undeniable recall. A pleasing feature of the strong bill is the Bandurria Troupe, whose playing on banjo and guitar is done with such command of expression, such skill and finesse, as to prove a source of delight to music lovers of every degree. From beneath their nimble fingers and facile touch proceed the familiar strains of the "Estudiantina Waltz," which in turn gives way to a mélange of the latest airs which have taken the fancy of the town, and rendered so melodiously that even "Bill Bailey" receives a welcome, the clever troupe being awarded an abundance of applause. Mr Ryder Slone makes a formidable appearance as a burglar in his song "Are yer 'sleep?" a query addressed to the slumbering householder or to the police-officer who has fallen beneath his bludgeon. Upon the reply he receives to this pertinent question depends the success of his mission, and the significant pauses in the refrain give a touch of the dramatic to the grim humour of the lines. Mr Slone gives an artistic portrayal of a burglar, and delivers the scena in a way that renders it impossible for it to escape popularity. A curiosity of the evening is supplied in Princess Nouma-Hawa, who, though but 26in. high and 15lb. in weight, possesses all the qualifications of a serio-comic. She has a babyish appearance despite her twenty-two years, and sings charmingly in English as "The Little Widow," also displaying a fair knowledge of the intricacies of the rag-time dance. Athas and Collins prove as funny as of yore in their burlesque scena, Miss Lizzie Collins being captivating as ever in "I want to shine in high society," while the drolleries of Mr Athas are also irresistible. Orvieto and Bray are a clever comedy couple, the lady doing a skilful skipping-rope dance, her partner varying some expert acrobatic tricks with numerous devices for creating mirth. Mr Tom Lloyd infuses humour into an undertaker's man, who assists at the burial of popular songs by means of a cleverly contrived medley, a parody of "The good old summer time" also furnishing a powerful means of mirth, which he utilises to the full. Miss Mabelle Fowler sings a couple of ballads with taste; Mr Frank Cass gains a favourable reception for his comic effusions; and the pictures displayed by the Edisonograph are thrilling and interesting. A "singing soldier" is found in Private Clarke; Professor Thornbury long since attained celebrity as a rapid painter and ventriloquist; Miss Florence is a lady with exceptional powers of mimicry; and the full score of attractions are added to by Mr James Fawn, the renowned comedian; Guy Rider, the boy whistler; Mr Edgar Romaine, of the melodious voice; Conway and Leland, whose one-legged display is nothing short of marvellous; Miss Maud Stanley, comedienne; Miss Ethel Loftus, a dainty mimic; and the Forrest Comedy Company in *My Friend the Enemy*. Mr Ernest A. Bridgen has reached a high position of popularity as acting manager, and the fine execution of the selections and accompaniments by the orchestra are due to the excellent leadership of Mr W. S. Bassett.

HOCKEY.

MISS CECILIA FOWLER'S LADIES ATHLETIC CLUB v. COTHAM AND REDLAND LADIES ATHLETIC TEAM.

Played recently near Clifton Downs. The Misses E. and N. Lewis, of Cheltenham very kindly assisted the second named team. The following were the players:—

Miss Cecilia Fowler's Ladies Athletic Club.—Miss E. Bowman goal; Miss E. Francis and Miss L. Carter, backs; Miss L. Belding, Miss C. Fowler (captain), Miss N. Bailey, half-backs; Miss T. Maynard, Miss G. Leonard, Miss M. Leonard, Miss B. Godfrey, and Miss G. Thomas, forwards.

Cotham and Redland Ladies Athletic Club.—Miss M. Fisher, goal; Misses N. Lewis and A. Gibbs, backs; Miss E. Lewis, Miss N. Lawrence, and Miss L. Norris, half-backs; Miss W. Bradley (captain), Miss F. Hooper, Miss A. Mitchell, Miss N. Davidson (of Bath), and Miss K. Montgomery, forwards.

Referee, Miss Ivy Bowman (of Miss Cecilia Fowler's team). Result, Miss Cecilia Fowler Ladies' Team, one goal; Cotham and Redland Ladies' Athletic Team, four goals. Misses N. Bailey, E. Lewis, K. Montgomery, and L. Norris (two) scored the goals for their their respective sides.

AN IDEAL NEW YEAR'S GIFT.—BELLIS' TURTLE OIL SOAP.—Ladies who have not used Bellis' Turtle Oil Soap have no conception what a luxury it is or its wonderful properties. Leaves the skin soft and velvety. Lasts twice as long as any other. Truth says:—Turtle Oil Soap is the nicest I have ever used. I have been recommending it to everybody. Price 2s. 6d. per tablet. On sale at all high-class chemists and stores, or T. E. Bellis Turtle Co., 15, Bury-street, London, E.C.—[ADVT.]

MUSIC HALL SKETCHES.

At the Southwark Police-court, on the 30th ult., before Mr Cecil Chapman, the New South London (Limited), the proprietors of the South London Music Hall, London-road, were summoned by Mr Henry Vassall D'Esterre, the freeholder of the Elephant and Castle Theatre, New Kent-road, in respect to the production of *Beneath Big Ben*, on Nov. 28, 29, 30, Dec. 1, 2, and 3 and *Don Cæsar de Bazan*, on Dec. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, both of which were alleged to be stage plays.

Mr Grain suggested that there should be an adjournment until an appeal case, which was pending, was settled, but as the appeal was against the amount of penalties imposed, the magistrate decided the case should proceed.

Mr Biron mentioned that a year ago the magistrate, Mr Cecil Chapman, fined the defendants £25 in a similar case, and since then they had been before Mr Paul Taylor at that court, and were ordered to pay 20s. In the present case, unlike the one brought to the notice of Mr Paul Taylor, one of the stage plays, *Don Cæsar De Bazan*, lasted forty minutes, and was adapted from one of Dicks' plays. Really, the adaptation was most impudent—using the word not in an offensive but a descriptive sense. Mr D'Esterre had recently spent £5,000 in altering his theatre to bring it within the requirements of the Lord Chamberlain, and it was absurd to suggest that because he took steps to protect himself he was a churlish person to interfere with music halls. The value of music halls had almost trebled in late years, while the theatrical speculations became more and more hazardous, and it did seem a time, if ever there was one, when the law should be strengthened rather than weakened in the interest of the legitimate drama. There were two acts and four scenes, and that it was a play of strong human interest would be appreciated by the magistrate when he was informed that the leading character was an elderly barrister.

Mr Grain—I am an elderly barrister.

Mr Biron—My friend need not fear any misapprehension as to identity. Continuing, Mr Biron said the elderly barrister seduced a young lady called Lucy and then, true to the traditions of the theatre, he refused to marry her, and left her in the lurch. That being so, it was absolutely inevitable that they should meet at midnight on Westminster Bridge, and then it was also inevitable that she should ask him to marry her, and that he should refuse, spurn her, and offer her money. Under these circumstances what was more natural than that Lucy's somewhat tottery father from the country should appear with a revolver? The barrister was shot by the father, but Lucy was given in charge, and in the next act there was a police-court scene in which the magistrate elicited the whole story from Lucy, and ordered the elderly barrister into custody for perjury. It all ended very happily by a young barrister who defended Lucy marrying her. *Don Cæsar de Bazan* was of a very different class, and was really a very fine play, with three scenes and elaborate scenery.

Mr Grain contented that the Act of 1843, under which these proceedings were taken, was never intended to apply to such music halls as existed today, and that several magistrates, while holding that the sketches were stage plays, imposed a nominal penalty only.

Mr Cecil Chapman—The last time this matter was before me I thought there was an understanding to be arrived at between the different Associations representing the theatres and music halls.

Mr Grain said the negotiations fell through. The parties agreed that the sketches should be of thirty minutes' duration, and that there should be six principal actors, but the dispute arose over the number of "supers"—the music halls wanted twenty-five supers and the Theatrical Association would consent to fifteen only.

Mr Cecil Chapman said the fact that it was a trade prosecution could not be overlooked. A person was not to blame in taking action against a rival, but in the public interest there was not very much justification for a case of this kind. The two parties were practically at one in an agreement, and music hall people were really doing what was quite reasonable in putting on sketches lasting from thirty to forty minutes. The law must be enforced; but, under the circumstances, he would impose a penalty of 10s. only in respect to each day on which these plays were performed—£6 in all, and ten guineas costs.

THE KATOS present a most novel entertainment. They perform on an elaborate and miniature stage which represents a bijou theatre with stage boxes filled with mechanical occupants who are apparently highly amused at the performance. The Chinaman knocks down his applause with his spectacles like an auctioneer with his hammer; and the ladies are vigorously fanning themselves. The Frenchman is smoking his Havana very complacently; the Indian with the elongated neck is trying to see and hear all he can, and appears to be on the best of terms with himself if we may judge by his broad smile. The fit-up of itself is a wonderful combination of plush, gems, and electric light, presenting a most dazzling and bewildering appearance. The Katos are accompanied by their own mechanical orchestra, led by a conductor in the usual evening dress. Neither money, labour, nor thought has been spared to make this show attractive. The puppets themselves are prettily dressed, with frequent changes, and, although only automata, their movements, their dancing, and their gesticulations are very lifelike.

AT Greenwich Palace of Varieties, under the energetic and capable management of the popular Mr Bert Dent, there was produced on Friday night, the 30th ult., a racy and amusing entr'acte bearing the title of *A Runaway Match; or, Bryant and May*. Mr Horace Starling, who proved himself a protean artist of marked ability, made his first appearance with the stock company at the Elephant and Castle in the spring of last year, and we have now to offer him hearty congratulations on the special success of his ubiquitous production. No fewer than six faithfully impersonated characters were disposed of in the space of fifteen minutes, and when it is realised that these characters made an aggregate of eleven entrances in all, our readers will understand this Starling is a somewhat lively bird. At the fall of the curtain the artist was warmly recalled, the applause the while evincing that not only a "safety" match, but more especially a highly appreciated "love-match," had been made by Bryant and May.

MESSRS CHAS. B. COCHRAN AND CO., LIMITED, are giving up their offices at 12, Henrietta-street, Covent-garden, W.C., from to-day. All communications in respect to the business of the firm should be addressed to Mr C. B. Cochran, care of Messrs Galenzi and Sherek, 4, Leicester-street, W.C.

MISS ALEXANDRA DAGMAR'S new scena burlesque on *The Duchess of Dantzic* has proved a most gratifying success. She is now on the Stoll tour, and returns to London on March 20 for a few weeks, afterwards resuming the Moss tour, and opening at Leeds on Easter Monday.

PRESENTATION.—At the Hippodrome, Ipswich, on Saturday night, before a crowded audience, Mr Fred Barrett, the general manager, made three presentations to Mr F. Reed, the musical conductor, on the occasion of his marriage that day to Miss Mabel Bowman. The management gave him a silver breakfast dish, the artists a silver breakfast cruet and tea pot, and the orchestra a Shakespearian album.

MR EDITOR.—Sir,—In your Coliseum notice you attribute the painting of the scene near Marlow for "The River Girl Song" to Mr Julian Hicks. It was done by, yours faithfully, CECIL E. HICKS. The Coliseum, Jan. 3.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

(SPECIAL TO THE ERA.)

THE Scenic Artists' Association's public dinner in aid of the Benevolent Fund will be held at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent-street, on Sunday evening, Feb. 19. Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, R.A., has kindly consented to take the chair, and will be supported by the following gentlemen, who have kindly volunteered to act as stewards:—Sir Philip Burne-Jones, Bart., honorary secretary to the Benevolent Fund Dinner; Messrs Arthur Bourchier, Garrick Theatre; Edmund G. Banks, scenic artist; Richard Douglass, scenic artist; Albert Gilmer, Oxford; Walter Hann, chairman of the Council of Management of the Scenic Artists' Association; Gilbert Hare, Savoy Theatre; Frederick Harrison, Haymarket Theatre; Joseph Harker, vice-president of the Scenic Artists' Association; W. T. Hemsley, scenic artist; Julian Hicks, scenic artist; James W. Mathews, Duke of York's Theatre; Cyril Maude, New Theatre; H. W. Owen, scenic artist; Harry Potts, scenic artist; W. Raphael, scenic artist; T. E. Ryan, scenic artist; Geo. Tweddell, scenic artist; and Lewis Waller, Imperial Theatre. Benevolent Fund dinner tickets are one guinea each, including wine, and may now be had from either the honorary secretary of the Dinner Fund, Sir Philip Burne-Jones, Bart., or from the secretary of the association, Mr H. Lawrence Harris, at 5, Robert-street, Adelphi.

THE Scenic Artists' Association's smoking concert at the Caledonian Hotel, from 9·0 to 12·0 on Monday, will be under the direction of Mr Denham Harrison, and Mr Athel Collings has been engaged as accompanist. Mr Denham Harrison is preparing a very strong programme, which will include the name of Miss Ivy Hemsley, the daughter of Mr W. T. Hemsley, who recently obtained the scholarship of the Savage Club for proficiency in music.

THE directors of the Empire Palace, Dublin, place of amusement, through the medium of their observant manager, Mr Arthur Figgis, were pleased to acknowledge the services of Mr John White, stage-manager, Mr Joseph White, electrician; and Mr C. Grimes, of the engine room, by handsome donations in the form of cheques and kindly worded letters, expressing, in the cases of the last two gentleman named, satisfaction at their expert efforts in the instance of the recent break-downs which occurred in their department.

MR ED. MILLS, who was recently electrician at the Tivoli, has sailed for India to work a system of novel advertisements by means of a Cinématograph for the Anglo-American Tobacco Company. This is Mr Mills's second visit to India. The employees of the Tivoli presented Mr Mills with a silver-mounted stick, bearing an inscription, and Mr G. H. Dyball, the stage-manager, and other personal friends gave him a silver match-box and cigar-case.

MR PAPWORTH has been appointed to succeed Mr Mills. He was for several years electrician in charge at the Southend Kursaal.

MR W. G. GLINDONI, who was master carpenter at the Britannia for a short period, was presented on leaving by the staff with an umbrella. Mr J. Summerfield made the presentation on behalf of the staff. Mr Glindoni, who suitably acknowledged the gift, has returned to his old position as master carpenter at the Grand Theatre, Fulham. Mr Holloway is now master carpenter at the Britannia; he was recently at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith.

THE second annual dinner of the No. 1 (General Staff) Branch of the National Union Theatrical Stage Employees will be given on Sunday, the 15th inst., in the Salisbury Hotel, St. Martin's-lane. The accommodation is limited, and owing to the success of the last dinner early application for tickets is advisable. They may be obtained from the secretary, Mr William Johnson, 29, Wellington-street, Strand. The annual general meeting of this branch will be held on the first or third Sunday in February. Nomination forms for the election of officers and committee may be obtained at the office.

IT is expected that the dissolution of the Dramatic and Musical Fund will take effect about the end of February.

AT the Vaudeville Theatre at Christmas each member of the staff was presented with a goose or turkey. Miss Rosina Filippi made the presentations on behalf of the management. The staff expressed their appreciation by cheers for the donors.

THE Fire-Resisting Corporation gave Christmas gifts to their employees. At His Majesty's Theatre the members of the staff received 4s. each. At the Theatre Royal, Drury-lane, the day men had handsome gifts.

MR R. L. CHILDS, the younger brother to Mr John Childs, died rather suddenly at the Salisbury Hotel, St. Martin's-lane, on Saturday last from heart failure. Mr Childs formerly acted as stage-manager for several tours of Mr William Greet's *Sign of the Cross* company. He also visited South Africa as stage-manager for one of Mr Holloway's touring companies. For the past five years Mr Childs was manager of the Salisbury Hotel for Messrs Thurston and Moore, by whom he was held in high esteem. Mr Childs was popular with the various members of the theatrical and music hall professions who visited the Salisbury. The funeral took place on Jan. 4 at Kensal-green Cemetery. Wreaths were sent by Mrs Childs, Mr Fred Childs, Miss J. Vernon Childs, Will and Minnie, Lester Connie, Mr and Mrs Cook, Mr and Mrs Thurston, Mr and Mrs Maynard, Miss Stokes, Miss Richards, Mr and Mrs Gurrod, Mr and Mrs Roberts, Mr A. W. Wadham, Mr Flack and friend, Messrs Perry and Co., Mrs Soloman and daughter, Mr Bull and friends, Mr Francis Dilwin, Mr Hubert Druce, the staff of the Salisbury Hotel, Mr R. Andrews (Criterion Theatre), Mr A. Palmer (Criterion Theatre), the stage staff of the Criterion Theatre, and the stage staff of Wyndham's and the New Theatres. The Society of Theatrical Carpenters sent a wreath representing a broken column, composed of white flowers, with the initials of the society in red flowers. The Criterion Theatre staff wreath represented a harp, with the words "Rest in Peace" composed of red flowers. There was a large attendance of friends at the funeral. The arrangements were admirably carried out by Mr Albert France, jun., of 42, Great St. Andrew's-street, St. Martin's-lane. Great sympathy is felt for Mrs Childs, who was married to Mr Childs only a year ago last Christmas Day.

AT the last meeting of the Society of Theatrical Carpenters, held in the Salisbury Hotel, St. Martin's-lane, Mr F. A. Munns was elected a member. It was resolved, on the motion of Messrs A. E. Wood and A. Spaull, that it was inadvisable to attempt to repeat the Royal Opera House joint concert in March. On the motion of Messrs Wood and Sly a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs A. Palmer, R. Andrews, and G. Hughes for their services as the representatives of the Society on the joint concert committee. It was agreed, on the motion of Messrs Jackson and M. Beer, that the society should co-operate with the other branches in organising a joint concert on Good Friday evening; and it was decided, on the motion of Messrs G. Hughes and J. Sly, that the date of the election of officers and committee be changed from December to February of each year. The consideration of application for grants from the funds for loss of tools was then dealt with, and the proceedings terminated. There was a good attendance.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

EAST LONDON, DEC. 1, 1904.—SHOW GROUND.—Sole Proprietor, Mr Frank E. Fillis.—Fillis's Grand Circus, Menagerie, and Hippodrome have been showing here to excellent houses. After a well-rendered overture by the orchestra conducted by Mr W. F. Foster, a daring vaulting act was given by Master Theodore, followed by Guido, the comic juggler. Clown Leopold then introduced his clever mule, and Miss Annie Clark gave a daring bareback trick act. A very amusing item was Bob, the baby elephant, and Joe, the comical monkey, introduced by Mr Frank Fillis, jun. Miss Lizzie, did a dashing leaping act. After the interval Mr Leslie Jenkins caused a great sensation with his European feat, "Fluming the Flume." Messrs Wheeler and Gibson, trick cyclists; Professor Dewar, with troupe of trained cats and dogs; and the American Bicycle Polo Teams (Red v. Blue) proved an excellent turn; while Mr Chas. Clarke as a somersault rider was highly diverting. The comic entrées of the renowned clowns, Guillaime and Baby, caused hearty laughter, as did the Alfredos. Eccentricities were given throughout the performance by Leopold Augouste. The greatest item of the evening is Lieutenant R. H. Staines with his four forest bred lions, who are put through their various tricks with marvellous assurance by their trainer. On the night of our visit Mdlle. Emerita performed a graceful Spanish tambourine dance in the cage. The whole is under the personal supervision of Madame and Frank Fillis, jun.

MR. ESPINOSA EXPLAINS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I read on Saturday last your correct and justified criticism of my pantomime at the Walthamstow Palace. The opportunities afforded to my artistes are indeed limited; but you have perhaps overlooked the fact that they must necessarily be so, considering that I am giving the public a *Cinderella* in five scenes, with about forty people, ponies, carriages, &c., in one hour. Re Miss Kelland as Cinderella your praise is well appreciated by her, but allow me to say that loss of voice in her song, "Laugh, and the world laughs with you," was not owing to nervousness, but to an emotional breakdown in her pathetic rendering of the chorus of the said song.

Yours faithfully, E. ESPINOSA.
Palace, Walthamstow, Jan. 4.

AT the Empire Music Hall, Wrexham, this week the good all-round company includes the Darktown Belles, two real Creoles, clever vocalists and sand dancers; Barney Noble, character comedian; the Summersons (Will and Maggie), comedy duettists and dancers; Billy Simpson, comic vocalist; Olive Poole, comedienne and clog dancer; and Sheila Deans, comedienne.

THE 387th meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Tuesday afternoon, Mr Joe O'Gorman, chairman of the committee, presiding. The secretary reported that the number of new members who had joined since the last meeting was seventy-two, and the total number enrolled since the commencement was 11,058. Mr T. W. Foster of the Man and Saddle Hotel, Dewsbury, and Mr C. Richardson, of the Ship Hotel, Harrogate, were appointed agents in those towns. Other business having been transacted, the meeting terminated.

THE Lyceum programme and the Lyceum posters are exceedingly artistic, and the walls of London are gay with blue bills, in which the Ionic columns of the Wellington-street house stand out in white under the broad expanse of a star-spangled sky. The programmes are similar.

IN consequence of severe hoarseness Miss Rachel Lowe was unable to appear at the Kennington Theatre on Thursday afternoon and evening, but happily was able to resume her part of Aladdin last night. The London press have been unanimous in pronouncing Miss Lowe one of the best principal boys of the year.

MR EDWARD RANIER, who was so successful with Mr Lawson's sketch, *Humanity*, on tour, has arranged with that gentleman to take out his other sketch, *Mr Todd of London*, on the Barrasford tour, starting the end of March at the Palace, St. Helens.

THE Ernestine Troupe of lady dancers and vocalists, who left England in July, have just completed a successful tour which embraces Geneva, Montpellier, Monte Carlo, Marseilles, Algiers, Tunis, &c., and are now specially engaged for the annual revue at the Casino Kursaal, Grenoble, for a season of two months.

SYMPATHY is being extended to Mr John Christie, acting-manager at the Hackney Empire, who has just lost his father-in-law, Mr Henry Newman, of Walthamstow. The death occurred on New Year's Day, and the funeral was on Thursday. Mr Newman was well known and highly esteemed by very many attending Smithfield Meat Market, where he had important business associations.

MISS FANNY ROBINA AND MISS FLORRY COOPER finish this week a highly successful Moss tour, and have been rebooked for Dec. 18. Fanny Robina's songs, "Don't fly away, Robin" and "Coming back home again," have been highly successful, and Miss Florry Cooper has added nightly to her legion of admirers.

THE friends of Miss Lottie Lonsdale (Mrs Tom Griffith) will be sorry to know that she is at present in Noble's Hospital, Douglas, with heart trouble. She will be pleased to hear from any friends.

MR HARRY G. NELSON, of Nelson and Thomas, has been compelled to cancel next week at the Metropole, Camberwell, in consequence of a sharp attack of influenza.

THE great attraction at the Palace, Hull, this week is the horse and cycle contest. The horse has for its rider Kreamer, whilst the well-known American cyclist, Walthour, operates on the wheel. This turn has been a triumph for the Palace people, and full houses have been the rule.

THE Duke and Duchess of Fife witnessed the performance of *Peter Pan* at the Duke of York's theatre last Monday evening.

AT the Theatre Royal, Worthing, this week Mr E. Oswald Brooks's No. 1 company is presenting *The Girl from Bond-street*. Miss Marie Vere as Lucy Harvey, the Girl from Bond-street, sings well; Miss Doris Regan ably enacts the part of Lottie Harvey; the Lady Fielding of Miss Ethel Russell is a realistic performance; Miss Maud Beard gives a bustling portrayal of Mrs Harvey; Miss Ivy Alberto successfully adopts the American twang as Edna Vandebilt; Mr Campbell Goldsmid and Mr George Watts are good as the Earl of Seacombe and Sir George Fielding respectively; unstinted praise is due to Mr F. R. Heaton for a successful presentation of the Hon. Archie Greene, his "Sleepy" song being greatly admired; and Mr E. De Vere supplies the necessary fun in the character of Mickey Mulvaney.

MR EDITOR,—Sir,—In your correspondent's report of the *Cinderella* pantomime at the Aquarium, Scarborough, last week, my name was erroneously mentioned as playing the Baron's Page. Yours faithfully, FRED LAKE, F.O.S., Tinbad, *Sinbad the Sailor* company, Grand Theatre, Chorley, Jan. 5.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

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(FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

NEWS, news from all over the kingdom. Fairs everywhere at Christmastide. From Birmingham we have news of seven fairs. On the Monument-road ground, under the banner of P. Collins, Limited, we have the excellent Cinématographe, theatre, and varieties of Mr F. Collins—a superb concern and always up to date; P. Collins, jun., with steam yachts and juvenile horses; C. Booth's grand exhibition of working model colliery, a coal siding, Ship Canal, a goods station, &c.—a marvellous exhibition; John Wright's fine art exhibition, shooting saloons, egg and globe shooters, cokernut sheets, &c.; and H. Scarfe's varieties. At Bordesley-street are Jones's roundabouts, swingboats, cokernuts, &c. At Ladypool-road, Parker's ghost show and Jones's stalls. At Kingston-hill, Shepherd Brothers' Venetian gondolas, galloping horses, &c. At Victoria-road, Handsworth, Mrs S. Shepherd's amusements, circular switchbacks, park swings, &c. At Taunton-road, Sparkbrook, we have P. Collins's, Limited, royal foxhunters, steam yachts, &c.; Cordwell's Lifeograph, Bob Burden's boxing booth, Ruby's X rays exhibition, G. Ford's and S. Dobson's juvenile roundabouts, Ford's and Dobson's shooting saloons and cokernut sheets, and other numerous attractions. At Leopold-street, Birmingham, are Mr S. Shepherd's steam roundabouts, park swings, shooting saloons, &c.

FROM Bristol we hear of the excellent fair under George Pruett's management running for a four weeks' season at Red Field, St. George's. Borlett's lion show, Pruett's electric bioscope, Professor Cullis with school of athletes and boxers, Turner's working model of a gold mine. Bennett's South African earth men and the great free sight, Chevalier Ponchery in his truly marvellous performance on the high rope. The excellent roundabout concerns include four sets by the Pruetts, flying ostriches, four-a-breast gallopers, and the African ostrich farmyard set; with big boats and over-boats by George Pruett, steam horse set by Tom Pruett. George Pruett, jun., exhibited coker and Emma sheets, and Miss Nellie Pruett had charge of the Winchester shooting range. Amongst the other exhibitors were Madame Ponchery with football game, Matthews with electric fish pond and striking machines; Thomas, Davies, and Dodlans with ring boards and throwing games.

A CAPITAL six weeks' season, under Gerald Lester's able management, opened for the Christmas holidays at the Engineers' Drill Hall, Portsmouth, under the well-deserved title—"Leslie's World's Fair and Carnival." Under Mr Leslie's direct control were the following shows, &c.:—The Imperial Bioscope, the unique collection of simians (apes and monkeys of the world), and the variety stage turns were by Toto, wire walker; Leveno, Arabian posturer and tumbler; Ali Ben Hassan, comedy juggler; and Madam and Professor Ella, second-sight and psychometric séances. Side shows, &c.—Doughty and Romilly's convict cell and bottle battery, Claude Lowe's topsy turvy garden seat, big boats and highflyers, Arthur Hope-Parker's Winchester ranges and bottle smashers, Emma sheets, dart boards, jockey scales, roll-up boards, and fish pond by Messrs Warne and Hughes; roll-up boards, billiard games, and boxers by Messrs F. Brookes and J. Brookes; and these, with Milton's Halls of Laughter, make up a truly world's fair for the West of England, visited by 20,000 people on Boxing Day.

HERE, too, at Portsmouth is the excellent Christmas Fair, under Mr Symonds's banner. Mr Symonds's fair ground novelties alone make a complete fair. Symonds's switchback, Symonds's gallopers, Symonds's steam swings, Paine's swings, Winchester range, Emma sheets, and roll-up board; Taylor's boxing booth and coker shies, Martin's fine art show, freak show, steam horses, and high-fliers; Pitt's Emma sheet, coker and roll-up boards, Conelly's Emma sheet, Wesser's Emma sheet, Stevens's cokers, and Burrough's roll-up board.

THE Glasgow Carnival for the New Year Holidays was this year on such a scale of completeness, and, withal, up-to-date variety, as to eclipse all former efforts of Messrs J. and G. Green, the proprietors. The grand military spectacle, "The Russo-Japan War," in three realistic tableaux, performed by a crowd of clever local children, 100 strong, was from the start an assured success. In the variety theatre the following world-famed artistes gave their special turns:—The Valadons, the Clarks, the Lorraine Sisters, Miss Reine, Herr Fricker, Carrie Ford, R. V. Donald, Henessey, Carrie Bernhard, and W. Hunter. On the stage in the open arena L'Oronti and St. Joel, the Starr Troupe, and Ballini and Rossini gave excellent proof of their ability. Green's well-known theatre Cinématograph, Prof. B. P. Burnett's tournament and expert swordmanship, Hayden's second sight mystics and mediums, the American laughing show, Green's switchback horses and the juvenile riding school, Howard's twin ships in the air, and the park swing range of the proprietors, Day's rifle saloon, bottle batteries and smashers by Messrs J. Day, A. Lawrence, and H. Irwin; Emmas, varieties, coker sheets, throwing games in great variety by Messrs Macintosh, Kelly, Wilson, Hughes, Anderson, Irwin, sen., the Brothers Smith, H. Irvin, jun., Blake, Blockley, Kelly, Green, and others. Mr George Green is to be congratulated for the eminently all-round good-class entertainment he has provided for the New Year holidays.

IT is a big jump from Geo. Green, of Glasgow, to his equally successful brother, John Green, of Preston's mammoth aggregation of talent and music at the Drill Hall, Bolton, Lancashire, yet we must make the journey if we would know all that showland has to tell us. Modelled on Royal Agricultural Hall lines of attractiveness and modernity, the Christmas and New Year Carnival for Bolton establishes a well-deserved record for Mr John Green and his able lieutenant and manager, Mr E. A. Ward, of circus management fame. The arena performances, with the Hannafords as the great attraction, have been a big hit from the start. The Dahomey Warriors (over twenty in number) add a weirdness to the carnival by their native songs, pom-pom and tim-tom music. The Dahomey Warriors are a wonderful crowd. Then pibroch music, with drums, is rendered by the Scottish pipers "fra Glascae." The equestrian turns were by Les Ethardos, Miss Victoria, Miss Scott, Miss Lillian, the Tudor Brothers, the Hannaford Quartet, Alvan, Sammy and Tommy, and the fun-makers, jesters, and clowns were Weary Willie, Handy Andy, Little Jimmy, Anderson, and Longfellow.

MR HANNAFORD introduced the performing pony King Edward, and also with his inimitable ability kept the fun alive as ringmaster. In the large covered annexe were John Green's racing cockerels and park swings, Robt. Hancock's rifle range and striking machine, and J. Ingham's coker shies. The side shows, stalls, &c., included Stewart's flying lady, Professor Terry's performing fleas, Tahmy, the fire king; Stewart's embroideries, and Byde's American candy stall. A considerable local attraction is the wrestling matches between Bolton men and outsiders. We witnessed a capital "impromptu grapple" between Henderson, one of the Scottish pipers, and James Swarbrick, a Bolton wrestler. It was keenly contested, amidst tremendous excitement, and ended with a victory hard won for the Bolton man.

BOLTON FAIR, without doubt the principal winter fixture in Lancashire, under the fostering care of the Market and Fair Committee, has grown in both popularity and importance. There are two grounds both under Corporation management, and the setting of the fair and the care taken in the good order of the grounds reflect the highest possible credit on Mr R. Pike, the Superintendent of Markets and Fairs. We visited the fair in a downpour of rain, yet the irresistible showmen were at work, and taking plenty of money. We cannot do more than record the shows, roundabouts, &c. On the grounds the Cinématograph theatres are Messrs Kemp's, Payne's, and Clarke's; menageries, Chipperfield's and Sedgwick's; peepshows, Farrar's and Wright's; halls of laughter, Farrar's and another; Sidney Braham's feathered marvels, and a ground booth (North's). Riding masters present with machines are Messrs John and George Green, the Mitchell Family, Hurst, and Whiting; the shooters of Messrs Cornwell, R. H. Williams, Jewell, Sedgwick, and Mrs John Cornwell; cokers, Emma, and throwing games by Messrs Sharrocks, H. and J. Taylor, the Forshaws, the Harringtons, the Jewells, the Wilsons, the Garlicks, the Inghams, and Longton. Refreshment booths were supplied by Butterworth, Bowsen, and Ingham; and pannum stalls by Holmes, of Manchester.

THE secretary of the British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union ("the Combine") writes to say that all members must give diligent attention to the advertisement of the annual meeting of the Combine at Manchester. See it this week.

MR HENRY STUDT, of roundabout and steam horses fame, entertained the children of the Swansea Cottage Homes (numbering ninety), together with about thirty inmates of the workhouse, on Monday afternoon. The little ones, in charge of the master, Mr Elliott, and their nurses, travelled from Cockett in three brakes, and the older people walked to the Winter Gardens on the Strand. The two large machines, with their horses and gondolas, were quickly taken possession of by the delighted youngsters, and kept in motion for over half an hour, when steam was temporarily shut off, in order that Mr H. A. Chapman might propose a vote of thanks to Mr Studt for his annual treat. Mr Chapman said that was the thirteenth year he had had the privilege of submitting the health of their generous donor, who was one of the largest-hearted men in the world, and was only happy when he was doing good and making those cheerful who were less fortunate than himself. Mr J. Harvey seconded, and Mr H. G. Solomon, in an enthusiastic speech, supported. He referred to Mr Studt's past acts of kindness, to the great assistance he had rendered to the hospital committee in providing funds towards the support of that noble institution, and he (Mr Solomon) understood that at that very moment Mr Studt had in his pocket a scheme whereby the debt on that institution would be speedily swept away. The vote was afterwards submitted, and the great crowd which had assembled manifested their approval by cheering loudly.

MR H. STUDT, who briefly acknowledged the compliment, was cordially received, and said he was never more pleased that when he was affording the poor some little enjoyment and cheer. The Mayor of Swansea then made his appearance, and in a hearty speech alluded to what Mr Studt had done in the past and what he was doing at present. There seemed to be some danger of the Studt Ward at the hospital being closed, and he (the speaker) wished to state that he was prepared to do what he possibly could in his capacity as mayor to prevent this coming about. He had spoken to the proprietor of the Star Theatre about the matter, and that gentleman had offered to place the theatre at his disposal for the organisation of a benefit performance at any time. Buns, oranges, and sweets were next distributed amongst the visitors, and the roundabouts were again set in motion.

THE annual Christmas and New Year's carnivals of Messrs Hy. Studt and Son at the Winter Gardens, Strand, Swansea, and the Recreation Grounds, Morriston, proved this year to be an unequalled success. At Swansea were their gondolas, zoological roundabouts, and aerial swings; John North's shooting jungle, mollies, cokernut sheets, and fisheries stall; Jimmy Day's striker and fish emporium; J. Doyle's stalls and electric bumper; and J. Wortley's fun factory and Parisian beauty show.

AT Morriston have been Messrs Studt and Son's No. 2 gondolas, park swings; Booth's shooter, mollies, stalls, &c.; D. Boswell, with cokernut sheets, mollies, and fish in globe game, and a host of smaller things.

THE question of the permission of Aunt Sallies on Tommy Field was discussed at a meeting of the Markets and Baths Committee of the Oldham Town Council on the 29th ult. Reference was made to the alleged gambling that was carried on at the game of "the iron cokernut," the penny on the billiard ball, and other "games of skill" where the chance was all on the side of the stall-holder. The superintendent said that "Aunt Sallies" were allowed on every fair ground in the country. After a long discussion it was eventually agreed that the Aunt Sally game be permitted for six months as a trial. The superintendent was instructed to watch closely the conduct of the business.

AT the Carnival, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne, were Messrs W. and B. Murphy's gondolas; H. O'Brian's animated photos.; and the travelling concerns of Messrs J. W. Gray, Walker, Newsome, and Carter.

AT Gateshead-on-Tyne were Mr Walker Hoadley's electrical jumping horses in full gallop; also Piniger's hobby-horses and aerial flights. Cinématography was well represented by such well-known concerns as Biddall's, Geo. Payne's, and Testo's living pictures exhibitions. Novelties were supplied by Messrs Slater, Sedgemore, Palmer, Black, Prundle, Piniger, Wood, Biddall, S. O'Briar, Stephens, Gray, and Steele.

AT the Redeugh-bridge, Gateshead, James Mander's gigantic cockerels were supplemented by the fair ground concerns of Messrs W. Strand, Smith, Lowther, and Newey. Johnson's circus of varieties was present on the same ground.

MR THOMAS HURST, the hon. secretary of the Guild and also secretary of the Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union, has written to us a letter enclosing a full report of certain recent proceedings of the Wigan Borough Council, when a vote "abolishing the local fair" was "snatched." The matter will be fully discussed and a campaign of defence arranged at forthcoming meetings in Manchester and London. The dates of these meetings will be found in our advertisement columns.

THE annual Christmas and New Year's Fair was held on the Chapel-fields, Belfast, and was very well attended. The attractions included Messrs Toft and Turnbull's switchback and jumping horses, Braham's bird and midget pony shows, Captain and Madame Texas, sharp shooters; Alf and Madame Hayden's second sight and mysteries, Charles Rigolo's troupe of French wrestlers, Messrs Mackintosh, Copley, Balshaw, Horne, Thompson, and Kelly's Emma stalls; Messrs Hiscoe, Balshaw, Copley, and Kelly's cokernut shies, bogies, and pipe breakers; Messrs Graham, Mapplebook, Mackintosh, and Wood's football boards; Messrs Toft and Turnbull, Mapplebook, Flint, and Palmer's shooting galleries; Martin's overboats, Clarke's park swings, Graham and Martin's striking machines, Messrs Gould, Mapplebook, Towers, Freeman, and Flint's ticket stalls; Dunleavy's roll-up boards, and Bridge's weighing and slot machines.

BRITISH SHOWS AND SHOWMEN.

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By the Rev. T. HORNE
(Hon. Chaplain, Showmen's Guild).

(SPECIAL TO THE ERA.)

Shows and showmen have flourished in all parts of the world. Shrewd observers have expressed the opinion that the popular shows and amusements of a people form an excellent index to their character and illustrate the growth of natural life. The sweet singer of the ancient civilisation, Homer, the poet, was an itinerant bard or minstrel, singing his songs of the people to the people. The greatest poet of all the ages, William Shakespeare, was a strolling player. He caught the passion of the drama from the strolling players who acted their plays to grammar school boys at Stratford-on-Avon in the schoolroom upon whose very walls quite recently scenery painted in Shakespeare's time has been found, covered with the Puritan whitewash of a later period.

We are, therefore, quite safe in saying that no period of reputable history, no phase of settled or normal life, but had its showmen and its shows. Let us try to picture the evolution of a fair. It would originate in the annual festival of the patron saint in whose honour the church had been named. Quite nine out of every ten fairs began in the way we now indicate. The church kept high festival on the martyr day of its saint, and a holiday would naturally follow. Neighbours and friends from far and near would at fair time mingle together in fellowship and comradeship. The stern rules of the workaday world would be relaxed. All would join in the festivities with song and dance and merry joke, and young and old, grave and gay, would "keep the feast."

Then behold the strolling players, the gleemen, the mountebanks, the pedlars, the dealers in foreign marvels, the itinerant doctors and astrologers—in fact all who need a crowd would come, and the people would welcome the mummers, the tumblers, and the quack doctors; the clown to make the welkin ring with laughter; and the swiftly improvised circus ring, wherein tightrope dancing, posturing, and conjuring would be done, the local gleemen and choir boys taking part, it may well have been in some Mystery Play. There would come the energetic purveyor of bright ribbons and other seasonable fairings crying the merits of his wares; the learned Hidalgo D'Espanolia, from Madrid, magician, astrologer, and doctor, with the safe and certain cure for all the ills poor flesh is heir to.

Of such was the man immortalised in the old mumming rhyme, "The Peace Egg; or, St. George and Seven Knights of Christendom;" "How far has thou travelled in doctrineship?" saith the fool. The learned doctor replies:—

> "From Italy-titley, High Germany, and Spain,
> And now I'm returned to O'd England again."

"What disease canst thou cure?"

> The itch, the pitch, the palsy, and the gout;
> If a man hath nineteen devils in his skull,
> I'll cast twenty of them out.

"I have spectacles for blind mice, pack saddles and panniers for lame ducks. I cured Sir Harry of a hang-nail nine yards long, and surely I can cure this poor man! Here, Jack, open thy mouth; take thee a swig from my magic bottle, and if thou bee'st not quite slain, rise, Jack, and fight again."

This is no fancy picture without historical warrant; for I find in an old illuminated manuscript of Anglo Saxon times, in the Harleian collection, a picture wherein a dancer is seen performing to the music of a fellow showman, and a third entertainer is exhibiting the antics of a performing bear. Here was the germ of the American combination of wild beast show and circus performance.

At a later period we find trained horses, tumblers, and jugglers portrayed in these old monastic illuminations. One shows a boy leaping through a hoop, and in the Cottonian collection we find old pictures of juggling with balls and knives. Just the same modus operandi that you marvel at in a circus or show to-day. The Sloane collection of ancient illuminated manuscripts depicts female as well as male acrobats and posturers.

In the Arundel Collection of MS S. in the British Museum we have a picture of our old friend the dancing bear, a trick horse performing on a tight-rope, and an ox standing on the back of a horse, a feat that might to day find a proud place on the Hippodrome programme of modern novelties.

From a learned book called the "Archeologia," quoted in Strutt's "Book of Sports," we learn of a wonderful Spanish rope-walker, who performed before King Edward VI. on a rope stretching from the battlements of old St. Paul's steeple to the ground below. After a rapid glide to terra firma from the heights above, he walked up the rope, and performed certain mysteries on it, such as tumbling and casting one leg from another. And the historian tells us "that the King and the whole Court were stayed a good space of time to see the show." Sir Walter Raleigh, in his "History of the World," mentions Banks, the showman—the Barnum of those days—in these words of eulogy, "If Banks had lived in olden times he would have shamed all the enchanters in the world, for whosoever was most famous amongst them could never master or instruct any beast as he did."

The animal that chiefly made the fame of Banks was a bay horse called Morocco. He could count up figures and indicate "the boy who stole the sugar, and the lady who kissed her sweetheart." An old print represents Morocco, under the direction of Banks, standing on its hind legs. Banks, like many modern showmen, was a world-wide traveller. We find stories of his fame in France and Germany. Of the end of his chequered career, the dramatist, Jonson, in a burlesque poem, speaks thus:—

> Old Banks, the Juggler, our Pythagorus,
> Grave tutor to the learned horse, both which
> Being beyond sea, were burned for one witch.
> Their spirits migrated into a cat—

the poet evidently accepting the traditional story of the showman's sorry end—that he was, together with his learned horse, burnt for witchcraft and black magic.

Sir Wm. Davenant, in a curious old ballad, called "The Long Vacation" in London, thus mentions the show folk of his days—the days of Queen Elizabeth—

> Now, vaulter good and dancing lass
> On rope, and man that cries, "Hey, pass!"
> And tumbler young that needs but stoop,
> Lay head to heel to creep through hoop;
> And man in chimney hid to dress
> Puppet that acts our old Queen Bess;
> And man that while the puppets play
> Through nose expoundeth what they say;
> And white oat eater that doth dwell
> In stable small at sign of Bell;
> That lifts up hoofs to show the pranks,
> Taught by magician, styled "Banks;"
> And ape led captive still in chain
> Till he renounce the Pope and Spain—
> All these on hoof now trudge from town
> To cheat poor turnip-eating clown.

In a book called "The Vaulting Master," published at Oxford in 1652, William Stokes, a famous circus master of that period, demonstrates by pictures and letterpress his methods of leaping over horses or leaping upon them, both on saddle or bareback. Mayfair, a once ultra-fashionable quarter of London, takes its name from the fair held in the open fields of that district. A bill of the entertainments at old Bartholomew fair, preserved in the British Museum, mentions various shows patronised by Queen Anne and most of the quality. Vaulters, posturers, performing dogs, tight rope performers, and conjurors. Hogarth's fine picture of "Southwark Fair" introduces us to many well-known showmen of Hogarth's time. The slack rope walker, Violante; Fawkes, the conjuror; Pinchbeck's show, Tyers' mumming booth, Cadman's Circus, Signor Nomora and Signora Rossi, in their feats of activity; and Chevalier Linges, in his wonderful show of balancing and conjuring.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century we have the advent into the circus world of London of Philip Astley, a man who passed from the battlefield to the show ground. He settled in the open fields between Westminster and Blackfriars at a spot famous as the "halfpenny bridge." Here, with some stakes and a rope, he made himself a ring, and displayed feats of horsemanship learnt in the army. He was a Hercules of a man, and had won fame by the capture of a standard at the battle of Emsdorf. With a horse given him on his discharge by General Elliott, and another one that he bought in Smithfield Market, he opened the afterwards world-famed Astley's Circus. The earliest bill of the play obtainable of Astley's show tells us that "the entertainment consists of feats of horsemanship by Mr Astley, Mr Taylor, Signor Markutchy, Miss Vangable, and other transcendental performers; a minuet by two horses in a most extraordinary manner; a comic musical interlude called *The Awkward Recruit;* and an amazing exhibition of dancing dogs from France and Italy and other genteel parts of the globe. N.B.—Mr Astley will also display the broad-sword, also ride on a single horse with one foot on the saddle the other on his head, and every other feat that can be exhibited by any other; with an addition of twenty extraordinary feats, such as riding at full speed with his head on a common pint pot, at the rate of twelve miles an hour."

Out of this circus sprang Astley's Amphitheatre in Holborn. Here Astley was ably assisted by Griffin, Miller, and Jones, equestrians, the clown being Funny Burt, and the tumblers, Nevit, Porter, Dawson, and Garmon. Horace Walpole in his famous letter says:—"London at this time of year (September) is as nauseous a drug as any in an apothecary's shop. I could find nothing at all to do, so went to Astley's, which, indeed, was much beyond my expectation. I do not wonder any longer that Darius was chosen king by the instructions he gave to his horse, nor that Caligua made his a consul. Astley can make his horse dance minuets and hornpipes." Astley died in Paris in 1814, the same year that witnessed the appearance of the celebrated Ducrow who carried to the highest point of perfection spectacular display in Astley's famed amphitheatre. With the rise of Ducrow we have others whose names we can only find time to mention, viz., Clarke and Bradbury, Barrymore, Davis, and Jean Bellinck on the flying rope; with Romo Samez, Miss Woolford, George Cooke, and Cline, the rope-walker. Most of us remember the wonderful procession and management of sixty horses in Barnum and Bailey's show. The lineal descendant of Ducrow was the man who controlled with a word that vast crowd of horses. Descendants of the Cookes, the Davises, and the Woolfords are now on the road.

We may bring the line down by including Sangers, Henglers, Newsomes, Pablo Fanques, Ginnetts, Myers, Cookes, Fossetts, Ohmys, and Alexanders. Then we come to the larger portable theatres, circuses, and menageries that travelled the Midlands, the West of England, and Wales, and also in the northern counties, Scotland and Ireland. Holloway's show, Bannister's show, Miltons, Saunders', Ords, Pinders, Samwells, Wilds, Thornes, Wombwells, Buckleys, Manders, Lloyd's, Reeders, Mackneys, Clarkes, Yeomans, and others; Bannister's show and Ords circus travelled in Scotland, Lloyd and Davies in Ireland, and are still on the road.

With regard to menageries the historic name, of course, is George Wombwell. The traditional story is that he commenced his collection of natural curiosities by carrying about—in a box—for exhibition a serpent. The actual first menagerie of a portable character was organised by a man named Cross, who bought a number of the animals when the Royal collection at the Tower of London was broken up. He located them at Exeter-change, then afterwards removed to Surrey-gardens. Hence the immediate source and origin of travelling menageries, was Royalty itself. It was George Wombwell who perfected the travelling menagerie. The only serious rival to the Wombwells was William Manders, whose concern ultimately became the premier menagerie on wheels in the world. Within living memory we have such giants of the road as the three Sangers, John, William, and George. Lord George Sanger is still amongst us, and his name is one to conjure with. He is a man honoured wherever the Saxon tongue is spoken.

The Wombwells are still a power in the wonderland of shows, perpetuated in the line of Bostock. James W. Bostock, now in America teaching the 'cute showmen of the American continent how to run shows; Frank Charles Bostock on the Continent, and now acclaimed as the man who made the Paris Hippodrome a success; and Edward H. Bostock, of the Glasgow Zoo and the Norwich Hippodrome—a trio of the most successful showmen of this or any age.

Then we have the Manders, a numerous tribe—unto the third and fourth generation; the Fossetts, Cookes, Pinder-Ords, Henglers, Hoglals, Powells, Lloyds, Davis, Samwells, Chipperfields, Haggars (Blissetts), Newsomes, Reeders, Clarkes, Williams (the Monti Bros.), Holdens, and Edward Lawrence, being also in the goodly company, in which the Purchase Family and the Biddalls are also included, as well as the Proctor Family, and the Bakers, of sawdust arena celebrity.

The giants of to-day in the cinématograph line are Kemp, Clarke, Taylor, Chittock, Payne, Collins (with Wall's Phantoscope), Proctor, Monte Bros., the Pedley-Relph show, Harry Ashington (also with marionettes), Bailey, Cordwell, Studt, Thurston, Creighton, Twigdon, and many others.

No review of showland would be complete without a notice of roundabouts, steam or electrically driven machines. The late William Sanger was the inventor of the steam roundabout, or perhaps it is more correct to say the originator of the germ idea of the application of steam as motive power to the ancient "dobby" or "hobby" horses. He took his ideas to the late John Savage, of St. Nicholas Engineering Works at King's Lynn, and the practical engineer developed the notion. The steam roundabout was a pioneer of rapid advancement in the world of shows. To-day the principal industry of King's Lynn is the making and the repairing of steam and electric roundabouts—"roundabout" being the generic name for steam horses, racing, jumping, galloping or kicking horses, switchbacks, Venetian gondolas, ostriches, farmyard sets, and racing cockerells, bike and other motor tracks. We have also steam tugs, steam yachts, flying ships, big and little wheels, and "sea on land," a fine example of which is at the famous Belle Vue Gardens, Manchester.

The Messrs Savage, of King's Lynn, are not the only makers of machines. Messrs Robert Tidman and Sons, Norwich, and J. R. Anderson, of Hotwell Bristol, are well-known makers and repairers of roundabouts. Many of the more important roundabout proprietors make and repair their own. Thomas Hurst, of Pendlebury, Manchester, is the owner of several important improvements—his own inventions—in roundabout figures, notably the three saddled birds, "ride-a-cock-horse sets," and also a patent grip for traction machine wheels. This list is not at all exhaustive. There are gondola works at Walsall—Messrs P. Collins, Limited; gondola works at South Wigston; and Messrs Mitchell, of Heywood, make and repair their own improvements on the old or time-expired patents. Over a quarter of a million pounds sterling are invested in this one branch of show enterprise alone, and thousands of people are engaged in the industry itself and its allied trades. Take, for example, the huge traction engines of Messrs C. Burrell and Sons, of Thetford; Fodins, Limited, of Sandbach; Fowlers, Greens, M'Larens, Savage Brothers, Limited, and other makers. Then we have the electric light installation and generating machines of Messrs F. W. Dickenson, of Leeds, and the Messrs Simpkin and Co., also of Leeds, are firms well-known in this line of showman supply and equipment.

The principal roundabout proprietors are the Brothers Collins and P. Collins, Limited, the Brothers Murphy, the Brothers Studt, the Wilmots, the Brothers Green, the Mitchells, the Twigdons, Warren and Hastings, Toft and Turnbull, the Richardsons, the Carls's, Hoadley, Swallow, Symonds, Barkers, Thurston, Hurst, White, Hancock, Marshall, Hill, and a hundred or more proprietors of single sets. Amongst these we place Whiting, Holmes, Manders, Hamilton, Farrell, Ravenscroft, Beach, Hodder, Walkers, Holden, Prewitt, Clarke, Strickland, Shepherd, Davies, Berry, Makins, Geoghan, Holland, the Danters, Asplands, Harniess, Shipley, Wingate, Wilson Bailey, Read, Barker, Baker, George Twigdon, Cox, Martin, the Marshalls, the Waddingtons, Wallis, Redfearn, Manders, Caris, Davies, and Humphreys. We thus see that roundabout section is a most important factor in the business of British fairs.

But what of the vast army of the rank and file of show life—the so-called small, or minor variety, entertainers? You could not conceive a fair without them. They may be numbered in hundreds at any really first-class fair. All these must needs be—they are all wanted to make the fair. The showman world in these islands of Great Britain and Ireland numbers at the least 70,000 persons, almost all directly employed in the show business; besides these there is a vast army of workers making and handling the goods sold or used upon the fair grounds of the Empire.

The modern showman has no need to be ashamed either of his work or his position in the national economy. To cater for a people's natural relaxation involves no slight share of responsibility in the nation's well-being. The strenuous toil of a highly developed industrial system demands frequent opportunities of recreation and change. Experience has demonstrated more than ever that the most complete provision of this natural demand is the healthy, all-absorbing, and ever-varying amusements of our fairs, feasts, and wakes. A mere casual study of the root conditions of life of the workers will be enough to show the reason for this. With the toilers at the loom, the machine bench, or in the mine, a prime necessity is that they shall not be expected to take too much trouble about the matter of necessary recreation. They cannot make a toil of a pleasure. With those whose work is less exacting it may be different. With the worn-out toiler it is essential that the amusement be brought to his very door. It is also necessary that a healthy, neighbourly tradition of interchange of hospitality—of paying friendly visits and entertaining distant friends and relatives—be maintained.

Above all the duty must be enforced by the supreme exigence of a local custom for all employers of labour to close their works and let their people go. To short-sighted people this surcease from productive industry may seem to be a waste of time and money, but it is not so. There is no sounder principle of true economy than that which is embodied in the old saying, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

We are beginning to find out that men and women, like horses, are all the better for a little time of rest. We can all rejoice that the close of the nineteenth century witnessed the return to the better mind of the employers of labour with regard to these things. Midway in the century the economists taught us that all abstention from work was an economic loss. Hence the crusade to abolish our fairs and local holidays, and to minimise as much as possible cessation from labour.

The new political economy, recognising more human and humane conditions, has produced a salutary reaction, and, except for a little of that old leaven of Puritanical prejudice that remains, the outlook for the new century is bright with the highest hopes for the men and women of the fair ground. The organisation for protective purposes and mutual help of a highly individualistic and specialised industry is at all times difficult. Especially is this true of open-air amusement caterers. To stand alone—well able to compete with all rivals in the open arena for public favour—is of the very essence of the enterprise. We can never expect, as an organisation, to include more than a representative proportion of the showman world.

This difficult work has been done, and with the greatest success. No feature of our age is more significant than the rise and progress of the Showmen's Guild. It is a fact that fully demonstrates the identity of the showman with the best enterprise and the most skilled and trained workers of the empire. British shows and British showmen are to-day making history, and that history is intimately bound up with the best life of the British people.

THE DRAMA IN ROTTERDAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ROTTERDAM, DEC. 21, 1904.—We have had a couple of new and orginal plays that have attracted much attention and drawn good audiences to the Grand Theatre, where Manager Van Eysden has brought them out, casting them to the full strength of his efficient company. The first of these pieces is *Kleine Menschen*, by a young Dutch author, Albert Van Waasdyk, who is winning his first laurels as a dramatist. The title *Kleine Menschen*, literally translated, means "Little People," but the term is used in Dutch to indicate narrow-minded persons; and, in this case, the purposed satire—a most scathing one indeed—is on "cant." The play, which is in four acts, is a clever piece of work. The parts fitted the members of the company at the Grand exactly, special praise being due to Messrs Poolman, Faassen, Van Kerckhoven, and De Jong; and Mesdames Van Kerckhoven and Mauhs.

THE other piece at the Grand Theatre is a comedy, in five acts, entitled *De Referendaris Titulair* (*The Titulary Referendary*), from the pen of Cornélie Noordwal, a Dutch authoress, whose novels have found much favour with the public. The comedy is a criticism on life at the Hague, where the tendency to make a show beyond one's income, and consequently run into debt, is most prevalent, especially among the would-be aristocracy. The title "Referendaris Titulair" is an honorary one conferred on some minor State officials in Holland. Mr Alex. Faassen as the official of the cast was in a very happy vein, and the same can be said of Mr Poolman as a plain, matter-of-fact plebeian. The rest of the cast was equally satisfactory.

THE Royal Dramatic Company of Amsterdam has given a couple of performances at the Tivoli Theatre, the programme of one of these consisting of Legouvé's tragedy of *Medea* and Coppée's one-act drama, *Pater Noster*, both in Dutch. Mrs Mann-Bouwmeester played Medea and Rosa, the leading part in *Pater Noster*, giving masterly interpretations of both characters.

ON one of the off-nights at the Grand Theatre we had a performance of *The Belle of New York* in Dutch, by the company of the Frascati Theatre, Amsterdam, where this up-to-date extravaganza had a long (for Holland) and profitable run.

A POPULAR Dutch writer, Justus Van Maurik, has passed away. He was a journalist, novelist, and a dramatic author, and his popularity was unbounded, his plays, particularly the farcical ones, such as *Janus Tulp*, always drawing well.

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WANTED, Important Attractions, for
STANDARD THEATRE,
Vacant Spring, various.
TERRISS THEATRE.
Feb. 27, March 6.
METROPOLE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM,
Big Attractions for March 20, April 3.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

WANTED, First-class Companies.
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE,
Feb. 20, March 6, on.
OLYMPIA THEATRE, NEWCASTLE,
Jan. 16, Feb. 20, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL,
May 8, 22, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON,
March 6, on.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Booked in conjunction, One Week each.
Musical Companies preferred.
Vacant Feb. 6, 13, 27, March 13, 20, 27, onwards.

THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Vacant March 2, 9, 30, April 6, onwards.

Address, E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Company, Jan. 30 (Three Nights only), for County Theatre, Bedford.
Address, F. GRAHAM-FALCON.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Good Drama, March 6.
The Theatre has just been thoroughly Renovated, a Scene Dock added, and a Full Electric Plant (Three Colours) installed. Address, HERBERT VERE.

GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy for Easter Week, April 24, in consequence of Booking for "Cherry Girl" falling through.
Address,
G. H. GAZE, Manager.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 1, 8, 29, and June 12 (Whit Week). Can Negotiate for First-class Pantomime for next Christmas.
Applicants please state where Production can be seen.
Address, T. A. EDWARDES.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, HARROGATE.
WANTED, First-class Company, Feb. 16, 17, 18.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.
WANTED, High-class Company, Jan. 23, Three Nights (through disappointment); also Vacant Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, May 1, 8 (Three Nights), May 29, June 5, 19, 26.
H. W. ROWLAND, Manager.

NEW THEATRE, CAMBRIDGE.
WANTED, First class Comedy or Musical Companies (no Dramas), Feb. 16, 23 and 27, and March 20. Silence a polite negative. W. B. REIFFERN.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only for Theatre Royal, Manchester, March 27, May 1, 22;
Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, Feb. 6, March 20, April 24 (Easter), Musical Piece preferred;
Theatre Royal, Bradford, April 10.
Apply, JOHN HART, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM.
WANTED, Companies, March 6, 20, April 10.

Apply to W. G. FISK.

NEW GRAND THEATRE, NELSON.
WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 27, March 13, 27, and Onwards, with Exceptions.
Musical Shows Preferred.
GEORGE E. MUDD, Business Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 13 and 27, March 6 and 13; also April and May, 1905, with Exceptions.
Address, HARRY YORKE, Pleasington, Blackburn.

WANTED, First-class Company, Jan. 23.
Musical Preferred.
Vacant through transferring.
Apply,
B. SHERDON.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLAYDON-ON-TYNE.
WANTED, Strong Variety Musical Drama and Comedy.
Vacant Weeks from JAN. 30.

GLADYS GILCHRIST.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies

EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
Vacant,
Feb. 27, March 13, April 24.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant,
Jan. 19 (Three Nights only), Feb. 6, 13.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant,
March 6, 13, April 17.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant,
Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 27.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant,
June 19, July 31, Aug. 7.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant,
April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant,
Jan. 12 (Three Nights only), 23, 30 (Three Nights only).

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant,
Jan. 16, 30, Feb. 6, 13, March 2 (Three Nights only).

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant,
Jan 30, Feb. 6, March 20, 27.

KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
Vacant,
Jan. 9, Feb. 9 (Three Nights only), 13, March 13.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant,
Feb. 6, April 6 (Three Nights only), 24.

THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
THEATRE METROPOLE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant,
Jan. 23, Feb. 6 (Three Nights only), 13, 27.

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.

All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Manor House, Hayes, Uxbridge.

Mr MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions,
QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH, BOLTON,
March 27, April 24, May 1, 8, 15, on.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
Feb. 20, March 20, April 17, 24, on.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA,
Feb. 13, March 6, 20, April 10, 24, on.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL,
SEAHAM HARBOUR.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Good Pantomime or Musical Show,
Feb. 27, April 3, 10, and 17.

G. C HARRISON.

VICTORIA THEATRE, BROUGHTON, MANCHESTER.
Managing Director, JAMES W. HAWORTH.
Manager and Secretary, JAMES M. HARDIE, Jun.
WANTED, First-class Pantomime, Musical or Dramatic Show, for Jan. 30, Feb. 6, and onwards, with exceptions.

Address,
Victoria Theatre, Broughton, Manchester.

NEW VICTORIA T., SACRISTON, near DURHAM.
WANTED, Good Musical Attractions or Dramatic, Jan. 23 and onwards.
Apply, J. C. LOWES.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies for Feb. 20, March 6, and onwards. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, for T. R., Windsor, First-class Attractions, Feb. 6, 13, 20, March 13, April 10. Musical Comedy preferred. FRED L. CONNYNGHAME.

WANTED, Big Attractions, Feb. 20, March 6, onwards. Grand, Radcliffe; also Feb. 27, March 27, on with exceptions, Grand, Chorley.
Address, SANTS, Opera House, Radcliffe.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 6 and 20; also Few Later Dates.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

THEATRE METROPOLE, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, First-class Attraction for Week of Feb. 6. Panto. or Musical Comedy preferred. Wire, to-day, KELLY, Public Hall, Barnsley; next, Theatre Royal, Lincoln.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple Companies, Two Nights. Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple, N. Devon.

WANTED, Good Companies, Jan. 19, Feb. 23, March 16. Last Three Nights of week only.
MANAGER, Victoria Theatre, Mansfield.

WANTED, First-class Pantomime for Christmas, 1905.
Apply, CHAS. E. ELPHINSTONE, Theatre Royal, Hanley.

THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKPORT, and THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic or Operatic Companies, for March 6, 20, 27, onwards, with exceptions. Address, CHARLES REVILL, Stockport.

THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKPORT, and THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.
WANTED, Two First-class Pantomimes to be Produced next Christmas at the above Theatres. Address, CHARLES REVILL, Stockport.

WANTED, Companies Vacant Jan. 23, 24, 25, Feb. 20, 21, and 22, and Dates on.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, for Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham, Entertainment, complete in itself, Jan. 16 and 23. Silence polite negative.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Company,
GRAND THEATRE, MARGATE,
Jan. 23 (?).
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Vacant April 10, 17.
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH,
Vacant March 13, 20, April 17.
GRAND THEATRE, BOSCOMBE,
Vacant Feb 6 (?).
Apply, FREDK. MOULLOT,
4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.
Wire, "Lutanist, London."

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LOUGHBOROUGH.
Proprietors, Messrs W. PAYNE SEDDON and GEO. ROBERTSON.
This Handsome New Theatre will be opened in January with "Monsieur Beaucaire."
WANTED, One or Two First-class Attractions in May.
Now booking Autumn.
OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
Vacant for Good Pantomime or Musical Show, Feb. 13, 20, or 27.
Now Booking Autumn.
NEW THEATRE, HAWICK.
March 27, April 3, and on.
Last Three Days of each Week only Booked.
All communications re Dates,
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Opera House, Londonderry.

WORTHING THEATRE ROYAL.
WORTHING THEATRE ROYAL.
Receipts going up Nightly, under the New Management.
Receipts going up Nightly, under the New Management.
Bookings include all the Latest Attractions.
Bookings include all the Latest Attractions.
Three Nights and One Matinée.
Three Nights and One Matinée.
WANTED, Companies for a Few Vacant Dates in February and March.
A Few Vacant Dates in February and March.
Now Booking Summer and Autumn.
Now Booking Summer and Autumn.
Splendid Orchestra and Staff kept.
Splendid Orchestra and Staff kept.
Managers of First-class Companies, Musical Comedies preferred, please write in to
Herr C. ADOLF SEEBOLD,
WORTHING THEATRE ROYAL.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
Vacant.
WANTED, First-class Musical Attractions, March 20, April 3, and May 8.

ROYALTY THEATRE, LLANELLY.
Booked in Conjunction with the NEW GRAND THEATRE, ABERAVON.
Three Nights each. Short Journey.
WANTED, Companies, Jan. 23, onwards.
Pantomimes First in both Theatres (Week each).
Address, JOHN TULLY, Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

STANLEY, DURHAM.—ROYAL, LIMITED.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 6 and 13 (through transferring), also April 10 for the above Up-to-date Theatre.
Stage equal to any Production.
Holds over £60.
Booked and Rebooked by the Best of Companies.
All Plays well Staged and Advertised.
No expense spared to ensure Success.
Address,
MARK H. LISDON, as above.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Drama or Pantomime, Jan. 23. Vacant through Breach of Contract. E. H. PAGE.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal (late Assembly Rooms), Neath, Jan. 23 and 30, and onwards, Good Drama, Opera, and Musical Comedies Good Panto. write, first in, A. W. JAMES, 6, Windsor-road, Neath.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, First-class Musical Attraction for April 24, also Good Attractions June 5 and 12, Aug. 7, on.
Address, FRANK KING.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Jan. 23, Feb. 20, March 6, and on. Address, W. E. POTTS

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity.
Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Onwards, with exceptions. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

TOWN HALL, WHITLAND, SOUTH WALES.
WANTED, Known, Vacant Dates now being Booked for Dramatic and Variety Companies, &c. Good opportunity, and every convenience Situate Junction, Pembroke, Tenby, Milford, and Cardigan Railways. Apply, PROPRIETOR, Whitland.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
WANTED, March 6 (?), April 17.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 14, Sept. 4.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A DISGRACE TO HER SEX."
WANTED, Important Theatres, Feb. 13, March 13, May 1, 8
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Feb. 13, April 10, May 29.
FREDK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, Feb. 13, March 20, 27.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, Feb. 27, April 3, 24.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 27, March 13, May 1, 22, and Whit Week.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 10, May 1, 22, 29. Full No. 1 Company. All the Original Scenery and Effects Bookings include:—Grand, Islington; Shakespeare, Clapham; Terriss Theatre; Alexandra, Hull; Liverpool, Jarrow, Brixton Theatre, Elephant, West London, Middlesbrough, Aston, Plymouth, Sunderland; Metropole, Birmingham; Junction and Osborne Theatres, Manchester; Broadway, Deptford; Newcastle, Chatham, Note.—The Entire Production will be under the Personal Direction of Walter Melville. Address DOUGLAS BRUCE, Standard Theatre, London, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE"
WANTED, for this Powerful Attraction. First-class Theatres for Weeks of Feb. 6, March 6 and 13. Wire, to-day, KELLY, Public Hall, Barnsley; next week, Theatre Royal, Lincoln.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 24, May 29, on, with exceptions.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Parr Hall, Warrington.

MR and MRS CHALMERS MACKEY'S TOUR,
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
No Vacant Dates until Nov. 20, 1905.
WANTED, Big Theatres only, then and on.
Queen's Theatre, Keighley, Six Nights, Jan. 9.

MR and MRS F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COMPANIES,
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, Feb. 6, Feb. 6, to Precede Newport; also Feb. 27, Feb. 27, for this Great Draw. All Scenery carried (Seven Sets), Horses, Jockeys, and Exceptionally Powerful Co. Parade of Horses and Jockeys in Colours Daily. F. G. KIMBERLEY, V., Broughton.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, May 1, on, with exceptions.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Metropole, Abertillery.

THEATRES WANTED

MR MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
Mrs MORTON POWELL
Mrs MORTON POWELL
and
Powerful Company
in
"A WOMAN'S DEVOTION."
"A WOMAN'S DEVOTION."
"A WOMAN'S DEVOTION."
by Geo. A. De Gray.

A Big Money-making Play.
A Big Outside Show.
A Strong Cast.
Ten Magnificent Sets
The Strongest Play of the Year.
Vacant,
Feb. 20, March 27,
April 24, May 1, 8.

MORTON POWELL,
QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH, BOLTON.

MR MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"HONOUR THY FATHER."
"HONOUR THY FATHER."

A Strong Cast.
Every Part admirably Played.

Production Second to None.
No Stint in Advertising.
Vacant,
Jan. 30, Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, on.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Important Theatres for
"THE WAY OF THE WORLD."
"THE WAY OF THE WORLD."

Production a triumphant success.

Mr Phelps writes:—
Dear Miss Crowe and Mr Beaudyn,—I must congratulate you on your perfect production. I expected something good, but the show you have brought me surpasses my highest expectations. The lovely scenery, magnificent dresses and costumes, high-class company, and supreme interest of the play itself give you a Drury-lane drama packed in practical compass for touring. I am certain you have a big money-maker.—Yours truly,
DOUGLAS PHELPS.

Miss Crowe and Mr Beaudyn beg to Thank Fifty-two Friends for Good Luck Wires.
Vacant Dates, Jan. 30, March 6 and 20.
Easter, Whit, August Bank Holiday.
MONTAGUE BEAUDYN,
this, Stourbridge; next, Wednesbury.

Fourth Year of Continuous Tour.
JOHN TULLY'S
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Feb. 6 and 13, for this truly Remarkable Revival, through Alteration in Route.
Address, JOHN TULLY, Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

ALFRED PAUMIER and WALTER HOWARD.
"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN."
"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN."
WANTED, Feb. 13, 27, April 3, May 1, Whit Week Vacant for Big Theatre.
ALFRED PAUMIER, T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.

"HOME, SWEET HOME."
Mr Frank Lindo, Miss Marion Wakeford, and Full Company.
WANTED, Good Theatres (North preferred), Feb. 6, 13, and 20; also Easter.
FRANK LINDO, 101, Sutherland-avenue, W.

MRS BANDMANN-PALMER'S TOUR.
WANTED, Feb. 6.
Address, Mrs BANDMANN-PALMER, T. R., Darwen.

WANTED, Jan. 16, and on (with exceptions), at Good Theatres, for "Under Two Flags," "Shadow of the Cross," or Repertoire. Wire, HILL and AYRTON, Drill Hall Theatre, Durham.

"BETRAYED; or, What Men call Love."
WANTED, March 20, 27, May 1, June 15.
Refer Lester Collingwood, Esq
CECIL DU GUE, Theatre Royal, Lincoln.

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
WANTED, Important Theatres, for this Strong Attraction,
Feb. 6, 13 (?) and March 13,
North or Mid ands;
April 10 and 17, London, South
HERBERT HOLLISTER, 160, Westgate, Wakefield.

"WHAT BECAME OF MRS RACHAEL?"
"MY SWEATHEART."
WANTED, Jan. 16, to follow Ayr; Jan. 23, Feb. 13 and 27.
Wire, STONE, Theatre Royal, Doncaster.
Next Week, Opera House, Perth; and N. G. T., Ayr.

WANTED, for "Life that Kills,"
Feb. 13, March 6;
"Grip of the Law," April 24, and on through Summer;
"Bigamy," March 6, and New Spring.
FRED MOULD,
Prince of Wales's, Mexborough.

"THE DESIGNERS."
A Screamingly Funny Farcical Comedy, by Fritz Zorn.
WANTED, Theatres, to Follow Brixton and Brighton, Feb. 23, 24, 25, 27, South or Midlands.
G. AUBREY HALL, the Touring Syndicate, Ltd, 14, St. Mary-axe, E.C.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN.
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Theatres. Only Vacant Spring Dates:—Feb 6 and 13 (Midlands), Feb. 27, April 10, and May 8. Autumn Rapidly Booking. Best Theatres Only.
Theatre Royal, Blackburn, Jan. 9, Six Nights.

"THE ANARCHIST TERROR."
WANTED, Jan. 23, Feb. 13, April 3, also "The Sorrows of Satan."
Jan. 23, Required between Manchester and Hastings, Either or Both Plays.
Wire To-day, LOIS ESMOND, T. R., Goole.
Jan. 9, Theatre Royal, Runcorn

WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 27, March 6, and Sept. 4, for A. Northway and W. V. Garrod's Revival of "The Sledge-Hammer."
W. V. GARROD, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

Mr GEORGE KIRK and Miss MARY NEIL'S COMPANY.
"JUDY."
WANTED, Jan. 23, Three Nights (South), Feb. 20 and 27.
GEORGE KIRK,
Prince of Wales's Theatre, Southampton.

"THE BEST MUST WIN" and "A STOLEN BIRTHRIGHT."
WANTED, Jan. 16, 30, Feb. 6 and 13.
Wire for Jan. 16.
Wire, CHARLES DRAYCOTT, A. T., Stourbridge.

"A MARRIAGE OF VENGEANCE" COMPANY.
WANTED, Jan. 23, 30, Onwards. Big Success, Southampton and Oldham. First-class Production. FRED BENTON, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
WANTED, Jan. 30, Feb. 13, 27, Precede and Follow Q., Dublin; March 13, a Few Later Dates, also Autumn. Twenty-second Week. Everything Carried. 125 Sheets Special Printing. WALTER HOWE, This, G., Walsall; Next, Q., Fleetwood.

F. BROOKE WARREN'S COMPANY,
"MYSTERIES OF THE THAMES."
WANTED, August Bank Holiday, and Onwards.
Address, F. BROOKE WARREN, Empire Theatre, Cradley.

PETER ELAND'S "LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
WANTED, Jan. 30, through Closing of Theatre. Terrific success, Empire, Bradford. Wire, to-day, Empire, Bradford; next, P.O.W., Salford.

MESSRS ARMADALE and WARREN'S COMPANY.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Jan. 30, March 6 and 20, also Easter and Whit Weeks.
Address,
F. BROOKE WARREN, Empire Theatre, Cradley.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"HONOUR THY FATHER,'
A Splendid Play,
Powerful Cast. Big Production.
Jan. 10, Feb. 6, 10, 27.

"GREED OF GOLD."
Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MR MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates for
"GREED OF GOLD."
"GREED OF GOLD.'
Well Played. Well Mounted.
Vacant
Feb. 20, March 6, 13, 20, on.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE SCILLY GIRL.'
Enormous success everywhere.
Two Entire New Sets.
New and Magnificent Wardrobe.
Floral Decorations.
Thirty in Company.
Everything carried.
WANTED, Jan. 23, to follow Manchester,
Jan. 30 and Feb. 6,
and on.
with exceptions.
Wire, FRANK NELSON,
Theatre Royal, Darlington.

"MISS MISCHIEF."
WANTED, Jan. 30, Feb. 6 (South), and
Various Spring Dates, on, for the New and Original
Musical Comedy, "MISS MISCHIEF."
by Mr Reginald Bacchus and Dr. F. Osmond Carr,
Unanimously acknowledged a great success.
Beautifully Dressed and Elaborately Staged.
All communications,
GODFREY LAMPLUGH,
to-day, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Grimsby;
next week, King's Theatre, Gainsborough.

MR NORMAN V. NORMAN'S TOURS.
WANTED, Theatres for the following:—
Jan. 30 (North),
Jan. 30 (North),
Jan. 30 (North),
Feb. 13 (North),
April 24 (South)
(See Companies' Columns.)

Address,
18, Wexford-street, Barry, Cardiff.

BEAUDYN and LIVESEY'S PLAYS.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
A New Oriental Play by G. A. De Gray.
WANTED, Jan. 16, 30, March 6, 20.
27, Whit.
"£1,000 Reward,"
a Grand Revival on an Elaborate Scale,
Wanted, March 6, on.
"The Race for Wealth,"
a Powerful Modern Play, by H. Lonsdale,
Wanted, May 22, on.
"A Beautiful Fiend,"
an Acknowledged Success, Wanted, June 12, on.
"The Days of Cromwell,"
by Chas. Rogers and E. Carter Livesey,
Wanted, January, on, 1906. Can arrange for Four Weeks,
July, 1905. Address, Theatre Royal, Consett.

"ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE."
WANTED, Jan. 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6.
Rebooked at Birkenhead, Croydon, Cardiff, Lancaster, Liverpool, Ramsgate, Greenwich, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Mr Carlton's Theatres. E. CLIFFORD, Theatre Royal, Attercliffe.

"THE SWISS EXPRESS."
WANTED, for this Unique Pantomimical
Attraction,
Feb. 6,
London or near
(to oblige Robert Arthur, Esq.).
Address, C. and F. RENAD, Theatre Royal, Peterborough

MR FRANK WILSON'S COMPANY,
"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
WANTED, Jan. 30 (South)
Wire, FRANK WILSON,
Theatre Royal, Aldershot.

"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
WANTED, Easter Week, also May 1, for
this Powerful Drama. Just secured by J. W.
Boughton for his August Bank Holiday Attraction at the
Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth. Autumn Dates fast
filling. EUGENE BEAUMAN, Gilmore-road, Lewisham, S.E.

WANTED, First-class Provincial Theatre,
end of February, for the Production, on share,
of the enormously successful Pantomime,
"Babes in the Wood,"
now running at the Grand Theatre, Islington.
Address, MANAGER.

"ALADDIN."
The Entire Pantomime Production from the Brixton
Theatre, London. Scenery, Costumes, Accessories,
complete. One of the Finest, and certainly the
Funniest, London Suburban Pantomimes.
WANTED, Jan. 23 and onwards.
FRANK STANLEY, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

"ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE; or, At Twelve
Midnight." Everything carried for Both Plays.
WANTED, Jan. 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6
C. CLIFFORD, Theatre Royal, Attercliffe.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Big Theatres,
March 20,
to follow Nottingham and precede Leicester.
Dec. 11, to follow Star, Liverpool (third Visit).
Only Vacant Dates in 1905.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, Royalty, Morecambe.

WANTED, Feb 6 and 20,
"The Conscript."
MITCHELL and FELTON, T. R., Chesterfield.

"HER ONE GREAT SIN."
WANTED, Feb. 27, and March (North)
J. LEICESTER-JACKSON, Theatre Royal, Colne.

"THE GRIP OF IRON."
WANTED, Feb. 6 and 13 (North).
GEORGE DENHAM, this, Theatre Royal, Blyth;
next, Gaiety, Leith.

WANTED, Jan. 30 and Feb. 27, for
"Sinbad the Sailor." Great Success at Grand,
Blackpool. Address, DAISY DE ROY, Prince's Preston.

"THE GOLDEN LADDER."
WANTED (through Transferring), Feb. 20,
between Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham junction,
and Manchester, also April 24, to follow Dalston
E. VIVIAN EDMONDS ("Cotton Spinner" Company),
Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

WANTED, Good Theatres, for Harry
Firth's Grand "Cinderella" Pantomime, Jan. 23,
between Wakefield and London; Feb. 13, between
Worthing and Ramsgate; also later Dates. Ad., this
week, A. T., Scarborough; next week, P., Bridlington.

"THE TRAITOR." Messrs MITCHELSON and FINEBERG'S MAGNIFICENT PRODUCTION.
WANTED, March 27, April 24.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, T. R., Stockton-on-Tees.

H. BARRS'S PANTOMIMES.
WANTED, for "Cinderella," First Theatres
for Next Season; for "Aladdin" Feb. 6 and 13
Follow Lyric, Bromley.
"East Lynne" Vacant March 27, April 17, May 1, on.

HERBERT PARRS,
Opera House, Torquay.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, Jan. 16, owing to Closure of
Theatre. BEAUDYN and LIVESEY, T. R., Sunderland.

MISS BONWIN CARLTON'S
"THE PLUCKY NIPPER" COMPANY.
WANTED, Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 27,
and on. EDWARD SURREY,
Theatre, Pontypool.

HENRY EGLINGTON'S PANTOMIME, "BABES IN THE WOOD." An Instantaneous Success. Press and Public Unanimous.
WANTED, Jan. 23, Feb. 6 (?). Open for
Production, 1905-6. H. EGLINGTON, To-day Palace Pier, Brighton; next, Pier, Eastbourne.

THEATRES WANTED.

"HEART OF A HERO."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 6 and 13.
Wire, CARSON,
Theatre, Keighley.

"A MODERN ADVENTURESS."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 30, Feb. 20, 27,
April 10.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 6, 20, and 27,
March 13.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"DEFENDING HIS HONOUR."
WANTED, Theatres, March 13 and 20,
April 3, 17, and May 1.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

The Melodramatic Masterpiece,
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
WANTED, Feb. 6 (between Hull and
Manchester),
Feb. 20 (between Manchester and Glasgow);
also Easter Week.
Clean Scenery, Dresses, Comedy, &c.
The first Submarine put on the British Stage.
Big Comic Opera Production in Preparation.
Sixty People Travelling. Star Cast.
ROBERT FERRIS, Carlton Theatre, Saltley, Birmingham.

"THE WORLD."
WANTED, Theatres, for Jan. 23, Jan. 23.
Printing Ready. Everything carried. Jan. 23,
between T. R., Hull, and London preferred. Wire, ASCHE,
Grand, Blackpool.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
First-class
Theatre Proprietors and Managers
to Know that the
Marvellous Craggs'
"Laughter Land" Company
are Breaking all Records at the
Grand Hippodrome, Wigan,
on their Second Visit,
notwithstanding a Pantomime at the
Royal Court Theatre
as the opposition Attraction.
Refer Messrs Worswick.
St. Helens, Liverpool, Leeds, Blackpool to follow.
Feb. 6 Vacant
through Misunderstanding.
March 27, April 3 and 10
only Open Dates
until the Spring of 1906.
Address,
Opera House, St. Helens.

WANTED, Known.—To Managers of
Theatres, Halls, and the Public generally. Important Notice. W. Hamilton's Excursions. Mr William Hamilton, who is the sole surviving Brother of the Original Hamilton Brothers, begs to inform the Public that his World-renowned Entertainment is still run on the Original Lines, and that the chief attraction lies in the Exhibition of those Splendid Paintings with which his name has been associated for over Half a Century.
Kinnaird Hall, Dundee,
Jan. 5, 1905.

To Managers, Agents, and others. Reappearance of Padey Pennington.
WANTED, First-class Theatres or Halls, for
Refined, Brilliantly Successful Variety Entertainment. Tremendous Success throughout United Kingdom and Australia. Can accept Single Engagements. PADEY PENNINGTON, 3, Hanover-crescent, Brighton.

WANTED, Theatres and Halls for Jansen's
Marvellous Mysteries, which includes Athaliah, the World-Renowned Lady Second Sight Seer, also Jansen, Police Baffler and Illusionist, supported by an Excellent High-class Variety Combination. Top of Bill. A Tremendous Drawing Number. Share, Guarantee, or Rental. Three or Six Nights. Wire for Jan. 16, 23, 30, and on, JANSEN, 42, Tidy-street, Brighton.

ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, for Production and Tour of New
Comic Opera, First-class Artists in all Lines, including a brilliant Soprano for Juvenile Part, to Star (must have an excellent reputation); a robust Tenor, for Juvenile Part; Chorus Ladies and Dancers. All must have powerful Voices, be Young, and of good Appearance. Age, Height, Photos. (Addressed Envelope), lowest terms, and two latest references, with addresses, for next Four Weeks, to BASIL HOSPALL, Grand Theatre, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Artistes for Musical Comedy,
Town and Tour. Must be Young, of Good Appearance, and Good Voice. Send full particulars to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street, W.

JOHN TULLY'S "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
Fourth Year of Continuous Tour.
WANTED, Gentleman, for George Harris,
also Character Actor for Haley. Second Heavy.
Both to Rehearse Immediately.
Lowest terms, references, no wires,
JOHN TULLY, Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

"OTTO THE OUTCAST" COMPANY.
WANTED, Really Good Responsible Man,
Capable of First Old Men and Second Heavies.
Age, height, photos, and fullest particulars to
HARRY STARR, Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Comedian for Marks, with
Musical Turn or other Speciality. Particulars, photo, height, terms, CHARLES HARRINGTON, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Parr Hall, Warrington.

WANTED, for Tour, Smart, Young Respon-
sible Age to look a Jockey, Slight Knowledge of Boxing. Rehearse Jan 12, Stratford; Open, 16th. Age, height, salary, references, E. R. ABBOTT, T. R., Stratford, E.

WANTED, for One Week, Jan. 9, for
Grand, Boscombe, Charlie Middlewick. Must have Played Part before. Wire terms, &c., RUSSELL ROSSE, Royal Hotel, Kilmarnock.

WANTED, Tall, Gentlemanly Amateur,
for First-class Tour. Small Salary after Two Months' Services. Apply, Box 1,009, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Two Tall, Smart Young Gents.
to Join Well-known Company. No Premium. Small Salary. Box 1,000, care of "The Era."

WANTED, to augment Chorus, a few
Young Ladies Must sing well and have Good Figures. Two Good Dancers can write to form Quartette. Rehearse at once. Address, with lowest terms, age, height, and photos., COLLINS, Theatre Royal, Tyldesley, Lancs.

WANTED, Professional Coach for Norwich
Amateur Operatic Company for "Dorothy," from Monday, April 3, to Saturday, May 6, inclusive.
Apply, stating terms and experience, to
JOHN DOBSON, Hon. Secretary,
25, Northcote-road.

WANTED, Boy, between Fourteen and
Fifteen years of age, with a good Soprano or Tenor Voice. Apply, noon, at
107, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, a Young Lady and Gentleman
as Pupils
in one of the best
Répertoire Companies Travelling.
Premium required,
which will be returned in Salary.
Address,
Box 1,021, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Dramatic Artistes who experi-
ence difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Actor of Good
Standing is willing to Invest in anything good, or to Pay a Bonus for Introduction Leading to a Good Engagement. Write, R. G. FREDERICKS, P.O., Charing-cross.

WANTED, Known, Responsible Gent.
seeks Engagement. Good references. Height, 5ft. 7in. Age, Twenty-three. K., 42, Tarn-st., London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Amateur will Give
Premium for Part in Sketch Company.
Salary necessary.
Letters only, ELLIS, 100, Glenparke-road, Forest-gate.

WANTED, Known, Madame Gilbert
Thomas, the well-known Soprano, is at Liberty to accept Engagements. 9, Upper Mall, Rivercourt-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, by Pianist, Solo, Brilliant
Vocalist, Humorous Songs, Sketches at Piano., Engagement. Write, Miss GABRIELLE HOPE, 25, High-road, Streatham.

Northern Theatrical School of Dancing.
LESTER CLIFFORD, Proprietor.
WANTED, Known, Six Marigny Girls,
Speciality Dancers and Vocalists. Conclude Gaiety Theatre, Dundee, Panto., Jan. 14. The Continental Four, Speciality and Novelty Dancers. Returned from Continental Tour. New address, 11, Rumford-street, Manchester, S.E.

PANTOMIME ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Small Principal Girl. Must
Sing and Dance. Fit-up Tour. Can join at once.
MANAGER, 53, Grosvenor-park-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, First-class Knockabout Panto-
mimists, also Good Animal Impersonator for Monkey Part. All must be Thoroughly Experienced in Dumb Show. Apply by letter only, stating terms and full particulars, JEFF VENDOME, 148, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, Immediately, Lady, with Good
Voice, for Fairy Queen. Age, height, references, photo., lowest terms, E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

PANTOMIME ARTISTES' WANTS

WANTED, Known, James Sadlier Charters
wishes to thank Mr and Mrs Martin Harvey for their most acceptable Christmas Box, containing Goose, Plum Pudding, Mince Pies, Preserved Fruit, Preserved Ginger, Box of Bon-bons; also for their kind congratulations on my work for the Production of "Hamlet," and is very pleased to say has been re-engaged for the Spring Tour.
Offers invited for next Panto. C. T., Kingston-on-Thames.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artist for Two or Three
Weeks. Join at once. State lowest terms,
HARRY FIRTH, Palace, Bridlington.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Scenery of every
Description Painted to Order. Large Stock of New and Secondhand Cloths, Flats, &c., on hand. New Cloths 18ft. by 24ft. from £4. High-class Work guaranteed. Sykes's Scenic Studio, 11, City-road, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, William Wells, R.B.A.,
Scenic Studio, Theatre Royal, Preston.
Cloths and Act Drops, Speciality.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Gentlemanly Assistant, Age
not above Twenty-five, to act as Representative to Old-established Company (Non-Dramatic), Now Touring Australia and New Zealand, to Sail about March with rest of Company. Note.—As this is a place of Trust, Applicants must have Financial Guarantee of at least £200, also Good References. Two Years' Tour and Good Salary to Suitable Applicant. Box 1,020, care of "The Era."

WAKEFIELD HIPPODROME.
WANTED, a General Manager, Must be
Thoroughly Experienced and Reliable.

Apply by letter to the Secretary,
WALTER EMMETT, Southgate, Wakefield.

WANTED, for a Few Weeks, Wardrobe
Mistress. Able Cut and Make. Also Agent. No Joint Engagements. NORMAN V. NORMAN, New Theatre, Cambridge.

WANTED, Engagement, as Acting-Manager.
Resident or Touring.
Fully Experienced. Excellent References.
Apply, CHARLES F. ARTHUR,
New Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

WANTED, Known, an American from
America, the Smartest Hustler in this Country, Management or Advance, at Liberty. Knowledge of every town, England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Offers invited. Salary and Commission. Known the World over. MARTIN COMSTOCK, Abercrombie, Bootle-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Advertiser seeks
Position of Trust. Permanent Management of Public Hall, Institution, or Sports Club preferred. Well up in Musical and Dramatic Business. Twenty Years' London experience. Good All-round Athlete. Highest testimonials. Country or Abroad not objected to. Address, Box 1,002, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Engagement, by Tall, Experi-
enced, Young Man (Twenty-six), Stage-Management. Anything. First-class references. HALLE, 148, Gipsy-hill, Upper Norwood.

WANTED.—Practical Electrician Wants
Engagement. Terms Low. Resident or Tour.
Own Tools. Good references.
HILL, 692, Seven Sisters-road, Tottenham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Electrician.
Thoroughly experienced, and combine Baggage. Good Carpenter. W., 160, Aslett-street, Wandsworth.

WANTED, by Married Couple, Situation as
Hallkeepers in Good Theatre or Music Hall. Age Thirty-six, Thirty-seven. No Encumbrance. Life-long Experience. Highest References. Address, GEO. PITCHER, 29, Padiham-road, Burnley, Lancashire.

WANTED, by Respectable Young Man,
Situation as Check Taker and Billing. References (London Preferred). J., 56 Tournay-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Known, Young Lady, thoroughly
experienced, good Correspondent, desires Post, Companion-Secretary. R., 3, Cobden-place, Leeds.

WANTED, by Leina Davis, to Tour as
Lady's Companion with Musical Artist. Age, Eighteen; Height, 5ft. 2in. 56, Mighell-street, Brighton.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Musical Conductor (Violinist),
for Six Weeks' Tour from Jan. 23. Please call any Evening on Mr SCOTT PHIPP, West London Theatre.

WANTED, Musical Conductor (Violinist)
for Accrington. Must be well up in Variety. Also Pianist. Vandy's Agency, Barnes, London, S.W.

WANTED, at Once, First Violin, Clarionet,
Flute. Only really First-class Men need apply to SOUTHWORTH, Palace Theatre, Swansea.

WANTED, First Violin, to open Monday
next at the Grand, Hanley. Also Double Bass for Theatre Royal, to open Jan. 23. Apply, stating terms, age, and references, to JAMES WYNES, Manager, Grand Theatre, Hanley, Staff.

WANTED, Lady to Play Second Violin
and Sing in Select Ladies' Orchestra. Long Engagement. JONES, 59, Alexandra-road, Wimbledon.

WANTED, First Violin (Good). Double
Bass, used to Variety. Wear Evening Dress. Refs., age, lowest terms, BATESON, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy, S. Wales.

WANTED, First Violin, capable of Leading.
Competent men only. Permanency. Terms and references to Capt. SELBY, Hippodrome, Norwich.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

West Riding Asylum, Menston, near Leeds.
WANTED, Violin Player, who will be
required to act as Attendant.
Must be able to read music at sight.
Salary Commences at £30 per year,
Increasing £2 10s. Annually to £55,
with board, lodging, washing, and uniform.
Apply to the
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, at the Asylum.

WANTED, First Violin, to Open at Once.
Well up in Variety Business. Lowest terms, refs., to W. DENTON, Hippodrome, Hastings.

WANTED, Wanted, First Cornet.
Write, with references and terms,
MUSICAL DIRECTOR,
Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, to complete Imperial Military
Band, First and Second Cornets and Drums. Terms, Shares. Apply, ALEXANDER, 3, Surrey-street, Worthing.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, also First Violin,
Used to Variety Work.
Apply, KNIGHT PEARCE, Theatre, Richmond.

ZOO-HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Bassoon (First-class), Variety
and Concert Work. Terms, £2 10s. Apply, stating age and recent Engagements, to SUMMERFIELD, Conductor.

WANTED, at once for Croydon Town Band,
E Flat Horn and Bombardon. Sobriety indispensable. WALTERS, 51, Waddon New-road, Croydon.

WANTED, 'Cellist, to Commence at Once.
Apply, SHERWOOD and COMPANY,
Opera House, Wakefield.

MOODY-MANNERS A COMPANY.
WANTED, Second Flute.
Write if Operatic Experience and lowest terms to LANGLEY WYATT, Theatre Royal, Dublin.

WANTED, Flute and Piccolo, to open
Monday, Jan. 16. References, terms, &c.,
A. C. MITCHELL,
Theatre Royal, Barnsley.

WANTED, Flute and Piccolo (Good), to
join Harpist. Must be steady. Reliable. Shares or salary. ALBERT WATERS, Smithfield-road, Shrewsbury.

WANTED, Pianist-Vocalist (Gent.), also
assist in Management of Small Music Hall. Permanent Engagement. Must be used to Professionals.
State Age, Experience, send Terms, Photo.,
CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin.

WANTED, Pianist (First-class), for
Madeira, Must be Good Accompanist, Young. Smart Business Men only need apply. Particulars, Box 1,012, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Pianist (First-class) to combine
Second Violin or Viola, Permanency to Suitable Man, Commence Jan. 9. Wire terms, &c.,
SYDNEY COOPER, Lyceum Theatre, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Pianist for First-class Portable
Theatre.
Terms, &c.,
HENRY RICH, Star Theatre, Cardenden, Fife, N.B.

WANTED, Double Drummer, Smart,
Experienced, with own Tympani and all Effects.
Must be Well Up in Variety Business.
Terms and References to
MUSICAL DIRECTOR,
Paragon Theatre of Varieties, Mile-end-road, E.

WANTED, Double Drummer (Good), for
Worthing Town Band. Terms, shares. Permanency to suitable man. Silence polite negative. WRIGHT, 62, High-street.

WANTED, Drummer, with Own Effects,
Immediately. Permanency to suitable man. Age, references, lowest terms, E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

WANTED, Mandolinists, Male and Female.
Must be Readers of Music. Applicants please state particulars before asking particulars. Box 1,001, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National
Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice. Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. WILLIAMS, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Telegraphic address, "Amuse, Manchester;" Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. JESSON, 96, Long-acre, London, W.C.; Telegraph address, "Amusologia, London;" Telephone, 9,827 Central. F. J. LEES, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-street, Glasgow; Telephone, 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

WANTED, Musicians who experience diffi-
culty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS

WANTED, by Musical Director (Piano,
First-class), Disengaged Shortly, Immediate Offers, Panto., or Mus. Com. Thoroughly Experienced. Terms moderate. J.R.GILLIES, Tyne T, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, by Conductor (Violin) or Leader,
Engagement. Any Business. Good references.
H. D. HURST, Leader, Opera House, Sunderland.

WANTED, as Kapelm., by Hugo Strauss
(lately in Scala, Copenhagen),
Engagement with Orchestra from May till October, 1905, or from Jan. 1, 1906.
Address, STRAUSS, Grand Hotel, Göteborg, Sweden.

WANTED, by Musical Director, Engage-
ment, any Business. Can Supply Good Band. Liberty Jan. 14. TIDSWELL, Conductor, Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, by Conductor-Pianist, Engage-
ment (Combine Cornet) Resident or Touring. Smart, steady. Good arranger. M. D., Raikes Hall Hotel, Blackpool.

WANTED.—Violinist (late Duchess,
Balham) at Liberty from Jan. 16. Any Business. London only. E. GALIONE, 14, Stanhope-street, N.W.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement in
London Theatre or Hall.
Address, Box 1,007, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Violin, Engagement. Any
Business. Disengaged Jan. 16. Good references. HOWARD KENNEDY, Municipal Band, Weymouth.

WANTED, by Violin (Experienced
Amateur), Engagement, in Theatre or Music Hall preferred. Second Violin. Low salary. Highest references. Box 1,004, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, by Violin (First or Second),
Experienced, Engagement, Theatre or Music Hall; refs. VIOLINIST, Bank House, Station-rd., Ilfracombe, Devon

WANTED, by Second Violin,
Engagement, any Business.
Address, H. ABRAHART, 87, Traffic-street, Derby.

WANTED, by First-class Solo Cornet,
Engagement. Liberty Jan. 14, Any Business. CORNET, Laburnum Cottage, Grove-road, King's-heath, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Solo Cornet (Experienced),
Re-engagement, Theatre or Varieties. Sight-reader and Transposer. SOLO CORNET, Pier Orchestra, Hastings.

WANTED, by Solo Cornet, Engagement
in good Theatre or Variety. Excellent references. TRIPP, 18, Wellington-street, Gloucester.

WANTED, by Solo Cornet, Situation.
Any business, or Leader of Circus. Choice Original Répertoire. References. BELMONT, 17, Bennett-rd., Bournemouth.

WANTED, by Cornet (Experienced),
Engagement. Disengaged through Closing. Good references. J. A., 25, Commercial-road, Lowestoft.

WANTED, by Solo Cornet Player (Good),
Engagement. First-class London experience and references. ESQUIRE, 271, New North road, Islington, London, N.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement in
London. Any Business. Experienced, Young, Reliable. Bass, 61, Imperial-aven., Victoria-rd., Stoke Newington.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement,
Any Business. Can Open at once. BEN MORRIS, 16, Devonshire-road, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, by Bassoon (First-class),
Engagement. London and Suburbs only.
Box 1,026 care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, by Solo Trombone (Combine
Double Bass), Engagement. Liberty Jan. 14.
HARRY SHARPE, Municipal Band, Weymouth.

WANTED, by Trombone, combine
Euphonium, Re-engagement. First-class references. Theatre or Music Hall preferred. C. DI-BENEDETTO, 158, Cottrell-road, Roath-park, Cardiff.

WANTED, Known, Miss Frances Toft
(MRS R. D. Livingstone), Solo Slide Trombone.
Permanent address, 120, Great Thornton-street, Hull.

WANTED, by Trombone (Soloist), Engage-
ment, combine Double Bass. MUSICIAN, 57, Shippenham-road, Paddington, London, W.

WANTED, by First or Second French Horn,
Engagements from Jan. 17 to Feb. 7. Deputising. Excellent experience and references. For terms apply, F. ADAMS, the Orchestra, Theatre Royal, Bristol.

WANTED, by Oboe, Engagement, any
Business. Disengaged Jan 16. Good Refs.
F. MADDISON, Municipal Band, Weymouth.

WANTED, by 'Cello Player, First-class
Engagement, any Business.
A. ROBBERS, Pier Pavilion, Southport.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, Suitable
for Little Girl on 'Cello.
Mr CASSELLS, 35, Granville-square, King's-cross-road.

WANTED, by Solo Harpist (Age Seventeen),
Engagement. 1904, Yarmouth, Three Months; Hotel Cecil, Three Times.
MAUD GRUNDY, 49, Haverstock-hill, Hampstead.

WANTED, by Accompanist (Experienced),
Re-engagement with Singer or Party. London and Suburbs.
Write, Miss RAY, 34, Abingdon-mansions, Kensington.

WANTED, by Lady Pianist, L.A.M.,
Good Accompanist, Sight-reader, MSS.; 25s. weekly, 5s. nightly. London. MUSICUS, 9, Jocelyn-road, Richmond, S.W.

WANTED, by Pianist, Good Sight-Reader
(Gentleman), Engagement. Any Business.
BALDWYN LLOYD, 7, Dempsey-street, Stepney.

WANTED, Known, Liberty Piano, First or
Second Violin, well up in Variety Business. Good Reader. Com., LEWIS, 163, Acre-lane, Brixton.

WANTED, by Pianist (First-class),
Engagement. Permanency preferred.
Box 1,017, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Double Drummer, and Effects,
Engagement. Young, reliable, any business.
J. C., 53, Mount Sion, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, by Double Drummer and
Tympanist, Engagement. Highest references. Music hall or theatre. TAMBOUR, 88, Sydney-street, Chelsea, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements, by Madame H. E.
Angless's Celebrated Pompadour Band. Great success and Re-engagement at Pier Pavilion, Southend. Return visit to Broadway Theatre, Grand Theatre, and Stratford Town Hall, National Sunday League. 78, Norwood-road, S.E.

A Renowned Band.
WANTED, Known, Herr Wilhelm
Morgana's Original Blue Hungarian Band
is open to good offers.
This Band has had the honour of performing before most of the Crowned Heads of Europe, and to record audiences at the Glasgow Exhibition, Cork Exhibition, Bradford Exhibition, Newcastle-on-Tyne Exhibition, Sheffield Exhibition, Southampton Exhibition, Middlesbrough Exhibition, Crystal Palace, Blackpool, Southport, &c.
All communications should be made to
Herr WILHELM MORGANN,
81, Albert-street, Regent's-park, London, N.W.

WANTED, Known, to Directors, Managers,
Committees, the Famous Old British Guards Band is open for High-class Summer Business, Seaside Engagement, or Exhibition Work. Enormous success last summer, Bradford Exhibition, &c., and at the Palace Pier, Brighton, where it was the most successful Band, succeeding late Lieut. Dan Godfrey. The Old British Guards Band, popularly known as "The Old Guards," numbers from Fifteen to Fifty, is the only genuine ex-Guards Band in England, and the most representative one in Great Britain. Every Member guaranteed late of crack Guards Bands. The Finest Band out of Army. Can be heard at N.S.I. Concerts. Latest Music. Most Popular Programmes. Smart, Handsome Uniforms. Everything to draw public and ensure great success. Conductor holds many Public and Official Testimonials.
A. HOLMES-DALLIMORE,
Dorville-crescent, Ravenscourt-park, W.

WANTED, by Methodios' Roumanian Band,
Engagement, on and after 8th inst. Now Performing with great success at Assembly Rooms, Bath.

WANTED, by the Loyal Westminster Band
(Thirty-one Professional Musicians), Engagements.
Conductor, Mr O. H. CARTER, 32, Tenison-st., London, S.E.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and
Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an Advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of 'The Era' Advertisement Dept.,
"49, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

CIRCUS ARTISTES WANTED.

KING OHMY'S GRAND ROYAL CIRCUS, BOLTON.
Complimented for the Seventh Time by
H.M. the King.
WANTED, the Talent of the World,
at once and for ever.
Write at once or it may be too late.
Address, KING OHMY,
Grand Circus, Bolton.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME,
CARLISLE.
WANTED, Equestrians, for Jan. 23 and on.
Also Specialities of Every Description, Few Turns.
Wire for Monday (no Music or Bikes),
Address, C. ALGIE.

Fêtes and Galas.
WANTED, Up-to-date Big Aerial Novelties
and Stage Acts for Fêtes, commencing Whit Week, June 12, 1905, and onwards. Turns Booked up to £50 per day. Must have Picture Posters. State lowest terms per day. Return Fares paid from London terminus. Sample Posters and permanent address (Letters only).
SYLVESTER, the Royal Caterer, 271, Clapham road, London.

WANTED, Big Animal Acts for Galas.
Sarema and Clown Caban Write. Hippodrome Agency, 11, Kennington-mansions, Lambeth, S.E.

WANTED, Good Equestrian Family and
First-class Attractions and Novelties for Paris by March 1 next.
Write, Rubini, Agency, Paris.

WANTED, Two Acrobats, one a Good
Top Mount.
Apply, Box 8,837, "The Era" Office.

CIRCUS ARTISTES WANTED

WANTED, Young Man, able to do Butterflies and Arab Tumbling. State Salary, JOE BOGANNY, Crystal Palace, London.

WANTED, a Good Tumbler for Comedy Act. All particulars, age, height, weight, &c., MITCHELL, care of "The Era."

WANTED, a Good Tumbler. Youth about Sixteen Years. Address, EDWARD DILLON, 238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Young Man at Once, who is able to do Hand Stand. State full particulars to BERG, 39, Teall-street, Wakefield.

WANTED, Boy between Sixteen and Seventeen. Perfect Head Balancer. Apply, by letter, with full particulars, WIELAND, 35, Whitcomb-street, W.C.

WANTED, Circus Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, W. Tudor's Performing Ponies, Riding Dog and Goat, also the Best Turpin Mare in the Business, at Liberty Jan. 16, on. Address, Hippodrome, Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Educated Lion Show, Vacant March 6, and four following weeks, London preferred, also Whit Week. For particulars, apply, L. JESSEN, Proprietor of Ella's Lions, Jan. 9, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen. Jan. 16, Palace Theatre, Dundee.

WANTED, Known, Miss Wynema, Coloured Lady Performer, with Siberian Wolves, also Reptiles. Care of Crouch's Waxworks, Argyle-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Lillian Davies, Dashing Bareback Equestrienne, Appearance and Wardrobe First-class, Appearing with great success, Hippo., Wolverhampton, at Liberty Jan. 23. Address, Hippo., Wolverhampton.

WANTED.—John Irvin and Miss Pinder, Bareback Equestrians, Six Acts, Horse and Flight of Pigeons. Liberty Jan. 23 Fossett's Hippo., Rugby.

WANTED, Known, Andrew Whelan, Jockey, Trick, and Bar Act, at Lib. Also for Tenting. Bowling-green Hotel, Cellar-head, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

WANTED, Known, Mr. and Mrs S Anderson, Equestrians and Clown, own Horse, shortly at Liberty. Address, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, Known, the John Scott Family of Male and Female Equestrians, &c. (Four in Number, with Six First-class Coloured Horses). Big success, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton. Lib. Jan. 30 for short season. Address, G. SCOTT, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Comical Walker, Talking, Knockabout Clown, with Good Entrées, Vacant. Monday. Wire, Tivoli Palace, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Ping Pong, the Circus Little Tich, now making a Big Success at the Crystal Palace. Vacant Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, for Building or Tenting. PING PONG, Crystal Palace, London.

WANTED, Known, Johnny Quinn, Extempore Talking and Singing Clown, Ireland's Greatest Jester, Market Hall, Airdrie. Liberty.

WANTED Known, Joe Pauletti, French Cycling Clown. Big success as Cat, in "Dick Whittington." This, Gainsborough; next, Royal, Goole. Look out for my One Wheel Staircase Act.

WANTED, Known, Pat Traynor, One-legged Irish Singing Clown, at Liberty for Tenting. Thanks to J. L. J. S. for offers. Address, P. TRAYNOR, 21, Winetavern-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, the Renowned Two Dominos, Clown and Educated Talking Donkey. Not a common Donkey; never made an Ass of himself. All on the nod. Liberty Easter. Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Jan 9, 16, Mayeno Trio (Two Ladies, One Gent.), Gymnasts, Acrobats, Wire Knockabouts, and Clown. Up-to-date Entrées. If you Want Anything Done on Earth or in Air, wire Iona-street Carnival, Edinburgh. After Sunday, for Monday, or tenting, The Sands, Carlisle.

WANTED, Jan. 16, through Hall Closing, by Alec Aubrey, Renowned Silver Chain Gymnast. Address, next week, Hippodrome, Tonypandy.

WANTED, Known, Flora Steckel, Graceful Gymnast and Wire Expert. Two Distinct Turns. Vacant Jan. 23, onwards. 12, Seymour-street, Belfast

WANTED, for Jan. 9, 16, and 30, 1905, Engagement for John Fredericks Troupe (Three Ladies, Two Gentlemen). Abnormal Champion Strength, Statue, Picture Acrobats. A New Act on a Revolving Apparatus. Address, FREDERICKS TROUPE, 108, Lambeth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Jan. 16 and 23, by Delamere Trio, the Original Comedy Equilibrists. Communications, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Smart Hand-to-hand Equilibrist, Light, would like to join Good Act, or Partner. Box 1,023, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Second Mounter and Catcher, Open to Join a Troupe; also Boy (Fifteen), can Bend and Tumble. Address, Box 1 024, "The Era"

WANTED, by Grotesque Knockabout and Ring Performer, Join any Dumb Act or Living Statuary. Splendid Figure. Experienced. Box 1,013, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Amateur Juggler, Position as Assistant to Good Juggler. Write, GIBSON, Tower Lodge, Riffel-road, Willesden-green, N.W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

ABERDEEN and DUNDEE
PALACE VARIETY THEATRES.
Booked in Conjunction with
Plymouth, Bristol, and Sunderland.

WANTED, Artistes Engaged to forward Bill Matter Two clear Weeks in advance. Always Vacancies for Star Turns. ERNEST SHELDON, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Variety and Speciality Artists, for small Hall, Monday, onward. No big salaries, but sure. PROPRIETOR, Wonderland, Sheffield.

WANTED, Variety Artistes, in all Lines. Hall small. Jan. 16, onwards. Address to ARTHUR TURLE, Alhambra Palace, Hope-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, for Portsmouth, West, and Wales, Variety Artistes, all Lines, Whit Week. Ground and Lofty Acts. GANNON, Victoria Hall, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Vartiety Artistes, Sisters doing Singles, Serios, also Boy Vocalists and Comedians. Lowest terms, DILLON, Post-office, Coxhoe, Co. Durham.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Immediate and Future Dates. Lessee and Manager, WM. MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artistes, Single and Double Turns, Feb. 27, March 13, Lady Balladist, Feb. 13. Lowest terms, Two Weeks, CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin. Can Book good Freak or Novelty at once.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, Jan. 16, onwards, for Manchester, Bury, Ashton, and Preston. WM. B. BROADHEAD, Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes, all Lines, Big Specialities, Novelties, Serios, Sisters, Comedians, Jan. 16, onwards. Nothing too big or small, but must be good. State terms, bookings, lithos., to Edgar Stebbings, Agent, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Star Artistes, every Description. Nothing too Big. Money no object. Immediate and Future Dates wanted for February and onwards. Artistes New to Manchester or other Well-known Acts free from other Halls. Pleased to hear from Elliotis, Celtic Comedy, Manhattans, Vasco, Bernard Stuart, &c. Lowest terms, and Artistes unknown to us, send full particulars, lithos., and where can be seen, Yates's Agency, 3, Oxford-grove, Manchester, S.E.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Jan. 16, onwards, for Liverpool, Ashton, St. Helens, and Warrington. F. WILLMOT, Haymarket Music Hall, Liverpool.

Wilder's Fêtes, 1905.

WANTED, First-class Artistes, Performances, and Latest Novelties, for Various Dates during Summer. Send lithos., picture posters, dates, and terms to W. and J. Wilder, 29, Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

H. Burrows-Smith's Variety Agency, 65, Claverton-street, Pimlico, London.

WANTED, Artistes, Provincial Performers of Repute New to London invited to communicate.

Samuell's Exhibition Palace, 6, Henry-street, Dublin. Open all the Year round.

WANTED, Artistes to write in for 23d, and Future Dates. Good Novelty write. MANAGER, as above. State lowest, Two Weeks.

PALACE, DERBY; PALACE, ATTERCLIFFE; HIPPODROME, GRIMSBY.

WANTED, Artistes of all Descriptions to Communicate at once their Immediate and Future Dates. Large and Small Numbers Required. Terms, lithos, &c., T. A. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

IMPORTANT CHARITY CONCERT for Jan. 23.

In consequence of the Acute Distress prevalent in the West Marylebone District, Mrs Crocker, of the Crown Hotel, Aberdeen-place, Maida-vale, has kindly consented to arrange a Charity Concert in aid of the Relief Fund for Ward III. of the Parish.
Sir Samuel Scott, M.P.; Sir Henry Johnston, G.C.M.G., Frank S. Turner, J.P.; and other Influential Gentlemen will preside and support the Undertaking.

WANTED, Artistes who will kindly volunteer their Services.

Please communicate to A. GLENISTER, Musical Director, above Address.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, from now, on. Apply, Mr SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, for Gala Season, Artistes in every Branch of the Profession. Nothing too Big. Lithos., Bills, Permanent Address, WOOD, Caterer, Easton, Bristol.

WANTED, Artistes and Novelties, Jan. 16 and 23. Please accept silence. Impossible to answer all. QUINTON GIBSON, Hippodrome, Scarborough.

WANTED, Artistes, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, Jan. 16 and 23. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest, Hall small.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes, all Lines, for Scotland, Jan. 23, 30. J. Anderson and Son, Variety Agents, 6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, Jan. 16, 23. Lowest to Hugh Dempsey, 42, Crowtree-road, Sunderland. Now Touring Cumberland.

HIPPODROME, MACCLESFIELD.

WANTED, Artistes, for Jan. 16 and On. Lessee and Business-Manager, HARRY BENDON.

CIRCUS and HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.

WANTED, Artistes, January, on. Rehearsal, Monday next, 2·0 o'clock, for Bros. Babu Lau, Harry Morris, Sock Pylades, the Percys, Charles Best, Florrie Claribell, the Findens, Sandy and Carl. Letters, S. L. LEE.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Jan. 30, North. Artists in Newcastle and District write, lowest terms, &c., E. C. JAZON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Artistes of Every Description, Jan. 9, 16, 23, and 30, onwards. State Lowest Terms, Bookings, &c. I can Place You. Jess Verno's Agency, 61, West Derby-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2,076 Royal. Representative, Mr Jesse Burton.

WANTED, for Valentine Valley Pierrot Co., Ltd., Manchester, Al Fresco Artistes in all Lines. Season Twenty-three Weeks. BERT WILLIAMS, Queen's-pk., Manchester.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. Apply, Barnard and Deetrich, 7, Clayton-square, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Hippodrome, Accrington, Jan 9, 16 (Barred by Blackburn), 4 Artistes in all Lines (Stage only. Must be New to Town, Vandy's Agency, Barnes, London, S.W. Wires, "Vandyking, London." 'Phone, 222 Putney.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager, H. L. SKIVINGTON.

WANTED, Star Artistes, in all Lines, for Immediate Dates.

WANTED, Star Artistes, in all Lines, for Immediate Dates.

WANTED, Artistes, Specialities, Stars, and Novelties, all Lines. State lowest terms, bookings, lithos, &c., Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, Morecambe, Late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c. Telegrams, "Value, Morecambe."

WANTED, Artistes all Lines, for Scotland and the North. Send full List of Bookings and actual lowest terms, GEO. SAPHRINI, 77, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.

WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin, All the Greatest Stars in the Profession. Acts New in Dublin for the above, the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland. Direct or through Agents. All communications to Will Sley, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester. Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester." Telephone, 09,144.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and particulars to Brooks, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Jan. 16, 23, 30, Stars in All Lines. Stars in All Lines. Full up for Smaller Items. State Towns at Liberty for. Can fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks. Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

IMPERIAL HIPPODROME, BELFAST.

WANTED, Turns of every possible Description, suitable for Circus Ring. Useful Turns Wanted for Monday. Wire, BOSCO, Circus, Belfast.

WANTED, Star Turns in all Lines for Jan. 16, 23, 30, and on. Fred Durham's Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, Star Turns and Good Comedy Acts, Jan. 9, onwards; also Artistes in all Lines. Send full list of dates, litho., terms, and full particulars to Harry Day's Variety Agency, Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, W.C. Telephone, 6,915, Gerrard. Telegrams, "Terpsichore, London." No connection with any other firm.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for Jan. 16, 23, and 30, and February, and all Dates through Summer of 1905, Star Turns, Tops of Bills, all the Finest and Biggest Acts Required, Price no object, for Manchester, Salford, Ashton, Bury, Preston, Liverpool, Oldham, Rochdale, Blackpool, Morecambe, Barrow, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen Belfast, Dublin, Newcastle, Hull, Leeds, Brighton, Bristol, Birmingham, Bolton, Middlesbrough, &c. New and Novel Acts can have Six Months' Solid Engagements. Send immediately. Terms, Photos, Lithos., &c., to WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester. Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester." Telephone, 09,144 Manchester.

Armstrong's Agency.

WANTED, First-class Turns for Immediate Dates. All Artistes holding Contracts for Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow, please communicate at once to Barney Armstrong or S. King Alexander, Armstrong's Agency, Under the Direction of Bernard Armstrong (Barney's Nephew), 353, Bath-street, Glasgow.

THE GLASGOW SYNDICATE HALLS.
TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S VARIETY THEATRES, GLASGOW.
One Performance Nightly at both Halls.

WANTED, Really Funny Acts of all Kinds, Comedians with Big Names, Comediennes to Top, and all Kinds of Novel Acts new to Glasgow; also High-class Society Turns and Big Sensational Shows Successful Artists can have Return Dates twice every year at their own price. Agents invited to send their Lists Weekly, and all Artists coming North should send their Immediate future Vacancies. Bill Matter Two Weeks in advance is imperative. S. KING ALEXANDER, General Manager, Head Office, Tivoli Palace Theatre, Glasgow.

AMERICA.
AMERICA.
AMERICA.

WANTED, Big Feature Acts. Lithos, Photos., Terms, Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

SYLVESTER'S EMPIRE, HULL.

WANTED, Talent of Every Description, especially Stock Sketch Artists. Address as usual, J. SYLVESTER PAGE, Lessee and Manager, as above.

GEO. ZALVA'S AGENCY.

THE HIPPODROME, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

WANTED, Jan. 16, 23, 30, onwards, Specialities, Variety Acts. Anything New and Novel can be Booked at once.

Notice.
On and after Feb. 1 the Head Office of Zalva's Agency will be The Scarborough Hippodrome, which will be transformed into one of the finest Variety Theatres in the Provinces.

Geo. Zalva's Agency, 83, Hartington-street, Barrow-in-Furness.

Stebbings's Fêtes and Galas, 1905.

WANTED, Big Specialities and Novelties, Big Aerial and Ground Acts, Whit Week, onwards. Lithos., Posters, terms, permanent addresses, Edgar Stebbings, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Pantomime Specialities, Disengaged Jan. 9, onwards, to send particulars and terms to Brooks, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Sensational Novelties, Big Tops of Bills. Money no object for Drawing Turns. Address, M'Askell, 25, Elizabeth-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Baritone, High-class Comedian, Musical Sketch Artist, some Refined Variety, and Instrumentalists-Vocalists, for Forty Weeks' Engagement. Double-handed Men Preferred. Artists, both Ladies and Gentlemen, Required for other Tours. Reply, with photograph, to R. NORMAN-CONCORDE, 82, New Bond-street, W.

WANTED, Comedy Male Quartette. Good Voices. Lowest terms. Letters only, MURPHY and LIPTON, 14, Walcot-gardens, London, S.E.

WANTED, Mandolinists, Male and Female. Must be Readers of Music. Applicants please state full particulars before asking particulars. Box 1,001, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Good-looking Young Lady, Age about Twenty, Height 5ft. 1 or 2in., can play Banjo, Mandoline, or Violin, also Sing and Dance. Permanent Engagement. Everything found. Apply, particulars and photos., C. BELL, 4, Campbell-road, Bow, London, E.

WANTED, Good Lady Serios and Dancers, Balladists, &c., to open Monday and onwards, for Free Hall. W. BAILEY, Bailey's Varieties, Buralem.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Star Comedians, Big Specialities. Dalton's agency, 5, Matlock-avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester.

WANTED, a Good Knockabout Comedian and Pantomimist able to speak Lines. Apply, Box 1,019, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Jan. 16, Star Comedian. Wanted, Jan. 16, Star Comedienne. Wanted, Jan. 16, Speciality Acts. Wanted, Jan. 30, Arab Troupe. Geo. Aytoun's Agency, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E. Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone, 1,949, Hop.

WANTED, Up-to-Date Comedians, Serios, Sisters, Big Sketches, anything with drawing power. Lowest terms, SYD BIRD, Agent, Gloucester-square, Kensington, Liverpool. Stars write.

WANTED, for Selkirk's Juvenile Spectacles, Boys and Girls. Vocalists, Instrumentalists, and Dancers. Letters, Palace, Hammersmith, London.

WANTED, for Children's Party, Jan. 14, a Ventriloquist. Terms, A. B, 14, Brookfield-road, Bedford-park, W.

WANTED, Trick Cyclist, Must be able to Fall. Letters only, stating experience, age, salary, enclose photo. if possible. BIKE, 106, Wilcox-road, South Lambeth, London.

WANTED, a Lady Cyclist, for Long Tour; also a Gentleman. State tricks, Photos., &c. Good Salary. CYCLO, Theatre Royal, Margate.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

PONTYPOOL
PARK FETE.
Whit-Monday and Whit-Tuesday, 1905.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, the Committee are prepared to receive Applications from Agents, Artistes, or anyone desirous of Engagements for this Year's Fête, both for Aerial and Stage Shows (Open Air). In all cases Complete Specifications as to Erections, Lithos., Showing Acts, and as far as possible, Cost of Fixing same, must be sent. None but Artistes of the First Rank need apply.

This Fête is visited annually by from 40,000 to 50,000 People.

Particulars to SECRETARY, Chamber of Trade, Pontypool.

WANTED, Young Lady, to Join Well-known Lady Juggler. Amateur not objected to. Box 1,022, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Girl or Boy, Fourteen, Small, Sing well. Tour Music Halls. Live in. Terms, height, TOM HERMAN, Grand Circus, Bolton.

WANTED, at Once, for Long Tour, a First-class Cinématograph. Must have a large Stock of Films of the latest. State Subjects and full particulars, also lowest terms in first letter. Three and Six Nights in a Town. R. CARR, Whitehaven, Cumberland.

WANTED, Operator (Good), Lime and Electric. Write particulars, references, and salary to M'KENZIE BROS., 39, Higher Ardwick, Manchester.

WANTED, Operator at Once, used to Lime and Electric Light, for Cinématograph. Long Tour. Week Towns. Must make himself useful. Terms low and sure. R. SILVESTER, Whitehaven.

WANTED, Lanternist Thoroughly Experienced, Lime, Electric. State lowest terms, with or without your own Lantern. M., 9, Manor-gardens, Holloway.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Flo Atkins, World's Champion Concertinist and Expert Mandolinist, this week, Grand, Manchester, at Liberty Jan. 9. Wire for Jan. 9, to 40, Chadwick-st., West Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Palmer, Vocalist, Liberty Jan. 9, 16, through mistake. Successful Everywhere. Offers, 11, Birches-ter., Old Basford, Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, Baby Lloyd, the most Wonderful Juvenile Artiste in the World. Just finished Thirty-two Weeks' successful Engagements. Big hit for Two Weeks, V. H., Sunderland. Monday, Town Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Liberty Jan. 16, 23, and Tour. Also Nellie Vann, Serio and Dancer.

WANTED, Engagement, in Good Quartette. Acrobatic Dancer. Address, RUBY HAZLEWOOD, 71, Oldfield-road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham.

THE GREAT MACCANN.

WANTED, 1905, Jan. 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6, by the Famous Concertina King, on his Patent Instrument, value £500. Concludes To-night, Jan. 7, Hippodrome, Accrington. 9th, Court Theatre, Bacup, Lancs.; Marston and Buckston's Panto, "Goody Two Shoes."

WANTED, Feb. 20, to precede Southport; also March 6, 13, 20, 27, Oct. 30, by Arthur Royce, Eccentric Comedian, Pianist. Seventy-two Inches of Clean Comedy at the Piano. All communications, Elephant and Castle Theatre, London, S.E.

WANTED, by Carl Verdi, the Musical Marvel, Monday next, also the 16th. Wire for Monday, Exhibition Hall, Newcastle.

WANTED, One Week, Jan. 16, by Fred Casburn, Quaint Comedian in a Dress Suit. This week, Hippo., Dewsbury; next, Parthenon, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Eugene Brant, Funny and Versatile Comedian, at Liberty for Halls or Tour. Address, 168, Arlington-road, London, N.W.

WANTED.—Picitt, the Muscular Master of Manacles. Handcuff Marvel without Faked Fetters or Trick Boxes. Searched from Head to Feet. Conjurors' methods impossible. The Originator of the Only Handcuff Act that has not been copied or exposed. Enormous Success of my Scotch Tour. Edinburgh and Aberdeen Press unanimous in praising the Graceful and Unconditional Manner in which I accept the most Severe Tests. Splendid Lithos. First Open Date, April 10. Wire, Trades' Hall, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Kardoc, the Handcuff King. This Act Speaks for itself. Free Jan. 9, 16, on. Conclude To-night, Hippo., Wolverhampton; Monday, 320, High-road, Chiswick, W. Wire. Wanted, to Purchase, the Coffin I escaped from Dec. 31, 1904. Owner cannot possibly have further use for it. I was a Terrific Success on above date, and still my head is not too big for my hat. Happy New Year to All,

WANTED, Engagements, by Cartoonist. Celebrities and Humorous Cartoons, 6ft. by 6ft., Tours, Piers, Con. Co., Cinémat. Box 1,014, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, by Carl Hershal, Conjuror and Bioscope Operator, Bookings, Jan. 16, onwards. This and next, 84, Katharine-street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Jan. 9 and 16, by Warton, Humorous Magician. Finishing To-night, Palace, Cork; after, 46, Torr-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Charley Dixon and Kate Lynd have booked Granville, Walham-green; Met., Camberwell; Grand, Fulham; Gatti's (Road), Pal., Tottenham, London; Hippo., Rochdale; Circus, Carlisle; Palaces, Hartlepool, Sunderland, Grimsby; Grand, Sheffield; Palaces, Bristol and Plymouth; Alhambra, Sandgate; Palaces, Halifax, Bradford, Blackburn, and Lincoln; Pavilion, Leicester; Hippo., Wigan; Empire, York; Oxford, Middlesbrough; Empire, Dudley, Palaces, Bath and Northampton; Hippodromes, Norwich and Ipswich; Gaiety, Birmingham; &c.

WANTED, Known, Charley Dixon, the Crazy Comedian, and Kate Lynd, Comedienne. See that you get the right article. Others working in the same name, from what we hear. Note address, 69, Roan street, Greenwich, S.E.

WANTED, Jan 9 and 16, by The Danvils (George and May), in Original Vocal Scenas and Illustrated Songs. Hippodrome, Bury.

WANTED, Monday next and Jan. 16, by Otto Ethardo, Quaint Juggler; and Mdlle. Pardoe, Speciality Dancer, &c Wire, Alhambra; or, 15, William Edward-street, Birmingham.

HIPPODROME, CASTLEFORD.

WANTED, Monday, Bob Hartley, Comedian, and Doris Dene, Quaint Comedienne. Big Hit here. Wire sharp, Hippodrome Varieties, Castleford.

WANTED, Jan. 9, Onward, by Lead and Lead (George and Marion), Comedy Duettists, Good Singles if required. 66, Clifton-street, Hull.

WANTED, Jan. 23, 30, March 6, April 3, 10, 17, the Great Kyoto, Original; also May Geraldine. Jan. 9, Circus of Varieties, Bury.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED.—Wire, for Jan. 9 and Onwards, by the Monckton, for their Laughable and Successful Duologue, "A Woman's Curiosity." Another success this week at Tivoli, South Shields. Also Nellie Monckton, Serio and Descriptive Vocalist. Letters, Tivoli Music Hall, South Shields. Good Songs Required.

WANTED. — Sterling and Cashen, American Specialty Artistes, Dancers, &c., Liberty Monday next; also Jan. 16, 23. Wire, 18, Springfield Liverpool

WANTED, Known, Droll and Dryan, Funny Comedians; and George Raper, Comedian, great success, F., Bridgwater. Wire, one or both, for Monday.

WANTED, Immediate Dates, for the Two Clarkes, in their Novel Globe Acrobatic Speciality Act. Letters, TWO CLARKES, 2 in 236, Gt. College-st., N.W.

WANTED, Jan. 9, and Later Dates, by Denton and Dale, Eccentric Vocal and Patter Comedians. Good Lithos. Wire, 124, Hampstead-road, London.

WANTED, by Demi and Semi, Musical Act, Patter and Dancing, Monday, 9th. This, Palace, Tottenham. Wire, 51, Canterbury-place, Lambeth, S.E.

WANTED, by the St. Johns, Comedy Musical Act and Dancers, Jan. 16, 23, 30. Enormous success, Empire, Burnley. Address, Palace T., Cork.

WANTED. — Comical Walker, Local Nippers; Mons. Reklaw, Globe Performer, Vacant Monday. Wire, Tivoli Palace, Glasgow.

WANTED.—Tom Hall's Nippers, Burlesque Acrobatic Dog and Monkey. Liberty Monday. Thanks for Offers. Wire, Albert Hall, Jarrow.

WANTED, Known, Les Freres Baptiste, in their Refined Comedy Juggling Act. Jan. 9, Barnard's, Greenwich. Vacant 16th, 23rd.

WANTED, by the Five Rhynes, Famous Speciality Artistes, Original German Band, and "The Academy," Great Laughing Sketch. Free Monday, Jan 9 and 16. Wire or write, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED.—Proprietors, Managers, Agents, and others wanting a good Top or Bottom of Bill should secure Spring and Spring, Rosie Carlo, World's Champion all-round Acrobatic Barrel Jumpers, at Lib. Jan. 23, 30; North preferred. Ohmy's Hippo., Bolton.

WANTED, Monday, 9, and 16, the Albyns, Vocal and Comedy Act. Three Ladies, Three Gents. See Card. Yates's Agency, Manchester, S.E.

WANTED, Six Nights, Jan. 9, by Lieutenant Albini, the Gentleman Showman, and Miss Marie Gautier, the Mysterious Lady in Black, through closing of Stockport. Wire, Theatre Royal, Oldham. Wanted, Jan. 9th, by the Mysterious Lady in Black. The Era says, Sept. 3:—

ROYAL, HOLBORN.—Lieut. Albini, the well-known and gifted illusionist, presents the Mysterious Lady in Black, a clever piece of deception that evokes much wonderment and appreciation. The success of his show is greatly enchanced by his easy manner and his many humorous remarks, and the cleanness, finish, and quickness of the illusion is something to marvel at. Chronicle:—Lieut. Albini, the King of Mystifiers, can always be relied upon to bring something really good. His latest mystery, the Lady in Black, is one of the smartest pieces of deceptive work yet seen on the music hall stage. In full view of the audience and in the presence of a small but genuinely impartial committee, Lieut. Albini and his fair partner perform a series of astounding feats calculated to baffle a Houdini. Lieut. Albini is to be complimented on his wonderful powers of deception.
Wire, Theatre Royal, Oldham, till Saturday Night. Jan. 16, Return,
MIDDLESEX and GRANVILLE, WALHAM-GREEN.

WANTED, Jan. 23, Four Weeks, by Grieve, Ventriloquist. Three Encores Nightly, Hippo., Porth. Jan. 9, Victoria Theatre, Neath, S. Wales. 16th, Birmingham. Robert Grieve contributes greatly to the success of the show by his ventriloquist performance, which is one of the best yet seen on the Lyceum stage.—Staffordshire Chronicle, Dec 31, 1904.

WANTED, Jan. 16, by Joe Cookson, the Ventriloquial Prince, to follow Scarborough. Funny Biz, Splendid Singing, Fine Figs. Sure Draw. Jan. 9, Hippodrome, Scarborough.

WANTED, R. J. Golding, Ventriloquist, and Romano, Conjuror, Feb. 6, onward. Permanent, 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow, London.

WANTED.—The Wonderful Miltons, Royal Illusionists, and Sheldons, Rifle Experts, Liberty Jan. 9, onwards. Great success, Pavilion, Kingstown, Ireland.

WANTED, Known, Harry Liston, Miss Lord Lumley, &c., will Tour any District on salary or share with Responsible Managers. Egyptian Hall, London.

WANTED, Jan. 16, for Matt Wilkinson's screaming Comedy Sketch, "The Registry Office." Wire, Circus, Bury; next, Hippodrome, Accrington.

WANTED, Known, Nautical Sketch, "Nailed to the Mast." One Scene (carried). Vacant Feb. 6, 13, 20. POLLARD, O. H., Chatham.

WANTED, Known, Mayon and Marle at Liberty Monday, with the Screaming Sketch, "Elizabeth and the Baby." Song, Dance, and Story. Wire, Tivoli, Barrow.

"FOR KING AND COUNTRY."

WANTED, Known, Tom Herman's Patriotic Juvenile Naval, Military Spectacle. Concluding Great Success, Hippodrome, Dewsbury. Next week, Grand Circus, Bolton.

WANTED, Dates for the "Russo and Japanese War," Juvenile Military Production. Everything First-class. Green's Carnival, Glasgow. Letters, CLARKE, 2 in 236, Gt. College-st., London, N.W.

WANTED, Jan. 9 and 23, by the Two Werners, Teacup Trackists, also Campkin, Tramp Cyclist. Till Saturday, Palace, Cork; after, 47, Wright-street, Egremont, Cheshire.

WANTED, Known, Spangeletti's Stage Circus Free Jan. 16 and 23. Always Successful, and keeps Audience in Roars of Laughter. Finishes To-night, Hippodrome, Southport. Next week, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Monday Next, onwards, for Troupe of Fox Terrier Dogs, the Marvellous High Leaping Dog. LE CLAIR, 16, Percy-street, Backworth.

WANTED, Engagement by Cinématograph Operator. First-class refs. Five Years' experience all kinds of Machines. W. DELL, Hippo., Gt. Yarmouth.

WANTED, Engagements, Cinématograph Operator, Own Machine. Take Locals. Do other Turn, Vocal, Instrumental, or Conjuring. LISLE, 5, Cut-hill-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, Known, Operator at Liberty Jan. 14. Just Finishing Twelve Months Lacey's Erascope, London Circuit. Sadler's Wells, Islington,

WANTED, Bookings for Walter Payne's Bio-photoscopes. Always up-to-date. Complete change of Pictures sent to every show. The pick of all leading firms. All communications, Empire, Portsmouth. Twelfth visit, and still here.

WANTED, Engagements, Immediate and Future Dates, for the Edison Paul Animated Pictures. All the latest, including "Whirling the Worlds" Films for Sale and Hire. Address, T. M. PAUL, Empire T., Shildon, Durham.

WANTED, Engagements, Britannia Bioscope, big success. George Saphrini, Agent, 77, Saltmarket-street, Glasgow.

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WANTED, Known, all kinds of Showmen's Property Insured against Fire, on Tour or otherwise, anywhere in the United Kingdom. For particulars apply to F. F. POPE, Abingdon-on-Thames.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Others to Know Simons is the Cheapest Place for Clocks, Bronzes, Field Glasses, and Cheap Jewellery. Best-class French Paste Stocked for the Profession. 117, Houndsditch.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.
President, Lord GEORGE SANGER.

WANTED, Known, Annual Meetings at Manchester,
in the Memorial Hall, Albert-square,
at 4 0 o'clock in the afternoon, Jan. 18, 1905.
At the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington,
on Jan. 25,
at 11 0 in the forenoon.
The President, Lord George Sanger, will preside.
See next week's "Era"
for details as to Speakers, Business, &c.

T. HURST, Hon. Sec.
H. B. HORNE, Secretary.

British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union.

WANTED, Known, Members are hereby summoned to attend (without fail)
Annual Meeting at
Manchester Black Lion Hotel,
10 0 a.m., prompt,
on Thursday, Jan. 19, 1905.

T. HURST, Secretary.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Handsellers to know Simons is the Man for
Cheap Second-hand Watches and Jewellery.
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29, Gibson-square, Islington, North London.
Two Minutes' Walk from the Agricultural Hall.
I also have for Sale just now Several Gavioli Barrel Organs, all in Thorough Good Order.
No Reasonable Price Refused.
J. WENTWORTH,
Managing-Director for Great Britain
for Charles Marenghie and Company, Paris.

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Write for price list or call,
Leete's Colour Works, 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Electrical Specialities.
SIMPKIN, WILKINSON, and GIBSON,
66, Kirkstall-road, Leeds,
Manufacture Dynamos, Arc Lamps, Switchboards, &c., Specially for Showmen. Also stock Cable, Globes, Carbons, Incandescents, and Every Requisite.

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Builders and Workers of Electric Launches at
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Glasgow Exhibition, and Cork Exhibition.

WANTED, Showmen to Please Note that H. Burman, the Original Show Builder, Carver, and Decorator, will be pleased to Estimate for Show Front Waggons, Parade Carriages, &c. I have Large Premises, and Good Plant of Machinery, &c. Established Thirty Years. 19, Kirby-street, Hatton-garden, E.C. Close to Farringdon-street Metropolitan Railway.

WANTED, Known, Auctioneers and Showmen, Dave Millward Books Shops on Commission throughout S. Wales. 16, Castle-street, Merthyr.

WANTED, for World's Fair, Side Shows and Novelties; also Space to Let. OWEN BAGAN, Proprietor, 66, Gallowgate, Glasgow.

WANTED, Novelties, on Sharing Terms, with own Paintings, Posters, &c., Can Open at Once. Also Waxwork Exhibition, Grand Position. HILL'S Shooting Saloon, opposite Prince of Wales's Theatre, Broad-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, for Hammersmith Exhibition, 201, King-street, Living Novelties every Week up to June. Please Book in. Terms, Shares.

WANTED, to Open Monday, Startling Novelties and Freaks of Nature, with Good Window Show. FRISCO, 4, Market-place, South Shields.

WANTED, Novelties, for the Best Shop in Chatham next to Gaiety.
R. J. LOVEGROVE, 51, High-street.

WANTED, to Open Monday next, First-class Novelties for First-class shops, Ryde and Portsmouth. Apply, 8, Bank-gardens, Ryde, Wight.

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WANTED, Good Freaks and Novelties, to open 23rd. Must have good flash. Lowest terms, MAXFIELD, 9, Mary-street, Dublin.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, and Attractions. Shares or Salary. For Two Weeks. To Open 16th. T. WALLSER, Wonderland Octagon, Plymouth.

WANTED, Good Marionette or Ghost Show, suitable for Shop Business. Room will hold 300 People. Apply, Professor LLOYD, 50, Holton-road, Barry Dock.

WANTED, Gentleman Phrenologist, Highest Qualifications, for absolutely Best Position in Manchester. Freer communicate. Oaston's Permanent Waxworks, Oldham-street.

WANTED, Smart Comedian. Funny on Planks, not in pubs. Piano Player preferred. Rennard write. BLOOM, 126, Freeman-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, at once, First-class Planksman-Comedian; also Watch Jobber, own tools; preference for Vocalist. MANAGER, Auction Mart, Shaw, Lancs.

WANTED, Auctioneer, must be used to Tent Business. Good Wages and Permanent Situation. Can join at once. Jack Pointon write if at Liberty. Address, AUCTIONEER, 122, Cleethorpes-road, Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Carl Harmon's Royal Punch and Judy and Marionettes, also Bioscope, open for Engagements. 101A, Penwith-rd., Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Bailey's Punch and Judy still at Crystal Palace, London, Fourth Week. Liberty all February. Address, Crystal Palace, London.

WANTED, Known, Lib. Jan. 16, Eagle Davis's Knife Throwers, Splendid Flash. Carter's Waxworks, Castle-place, Belfast. People we have been with before write.

WANTED, Monday, 9th, Miss Zona Bell, Coloured Lady Snake-charmer; Carl, Premier Rifle Shot. Note—Our New Act is already being Booked ahead. Mr Crouch says: I am well satisfied with your performance. Wire, Crouch's Waxworks, Argyle-st, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty Monday, Yydac, Yankee Lock King; and Mdlle. Flo Tattooed Lady. Wire, YDAC, Prize Model Exhibition, Long-row, Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, Marie De Vere, American Sword Swallower, Electric Light Swallowing, Lib. Jan. 16, 1905. 17, Gratton-rd., W. Kensington.

WANTED, Exhibitions, Shops, &c., for the Best Flying Lady Show in England. Elaborate Fit-up. Gentlemanly Doorsman. Terms, equal shares; or will Sell Lot complete for £4. Nearly new. Cost £9. Wire, MORPETH, Villa, Ashford.

WANTED, Capt and Madame Texas, World's Champion Rifle and Pistol Experts (the Man that Never Misses) the Modern William Tell, Liberty Jan. 16. Wire. Wanted, to Buy, Rail Waggon; also Novelties write in. Address, The Carnival, Paisley.

WANTED, by Planksman, Descriptive Vocalist, Situation. Write or wire,
BURNETT, 14, Deri-terrace, Tylorstown, South Wales.

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Dudley March Fair;
Quarry Bank, Cradley Heath, Stourbridge.
Also Three Good Easter Fairs, and usual Route to follow.
All applications to be made to
P. COLLINS, Limited,
Gondola Works,
Walsall.

WANTED, to Let Space and Part Window at 101, Bishopsgate Without, for Photos. Good Position. Apply, W. BARRON, as above.

KIDDERMINSTER ANNUAL PLEASURE FAIR,
Held on the Third Thursday in June.

WANTED, Known.—Notice is Hereby Given that the above Fair will in future be held on a Site in Green-street, Kidderminster, the property of the Corporation, and not in the Cattle Market.
Applications for space to be made to Mr A. C. HOLLOWAY, Market Superintendent, as heretofore.
By order,
JAMES MORTON,
Jan. 2, 1905. Town Clerk

WANTED, to Let, to Auctioneers, Exhibitions, &c., Large Shops, Pentre, Ferndale, and Bridgend, S. Wales. SHEPHERD, 77, Colum-road, Cardiff.

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Brass Trumpet Organs, with or without Drums;
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also at
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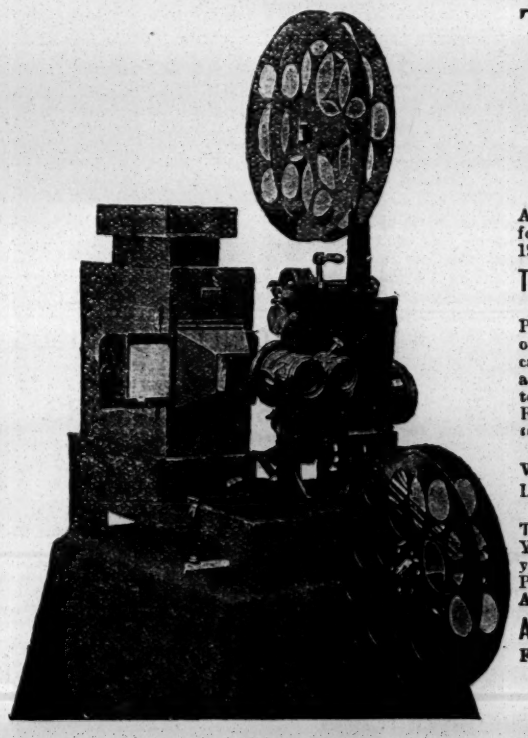

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O'Brien Brothers, Chas. Coborn.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Two Performances Nightly, at 6·50 and 9·0.
Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock, for
Rousbey's Electrolytes, Baldwin Brothers,
Daisy Mayer, Alexandre and Bertie,
Vatco, Katie Butler, Prince Kokin, Four Milons,
Sisters Jonghmanns, Jan Rudenyi.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Two Performances Nightly. Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock, for
The Dandies, H. F. Wilson, Walter Munroe,
Geoffreys and Benson, Coloured Meisters, Will Newman,
Lily Tiso, Fraser and Mac, George Newburn,
Florrie Gallimore.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW
Rehearsal, at 2·30 o'clock, for
Hugh Stanton and Co., in "For Reform;" Chas. Vincent,
George Bohee, Eugene Marrder,
Three Victorias, G. Cunningham and Co., in "V C.;"
Alice Simmons, Jimmy Shields, Rose Archer, Three Nevarros

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Resident Director, Mr R. THORNTON.
Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock, for
Diane De Fontency, in "An Artist's Model;"
Little Uno, Joko and Koko, Robertus and Wilfredo,
Arthur Lennard, the Sakers, Cole De Losse Duo,
Lizzie Fletcher, Mascotte Trio, Jackson Family.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal, at 10·30 o'clock, for
Fred Karno's Co., in "Mumming Birds;"
Edie Veno, Leona Dare, Chas. Adams,
Mueller and Coyne, Three Sisters Hayden, Tom Stuart,
The Korries, The Rales, Aurora Troupe.

EMPIRE THEATRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal, at 3·0 o'clock, for
Wille Bros., Newhouse and Ward, Morcaschani,
Duncan's Dogs, the M'Gregors, "Toile D'Araignee,"
Lily Lena, Maud Ross, Will Mitcham.

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Galatea, Magic Maze, Shooting Ranges.

EMPIRE THEATRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal, at 3·0 o'clock, for
Herr Grais' Baboons, Max Welson Four,
Alburtus and Bartram, Bioscope, The Jees,
Resuas Trio, The Llewellyns,
Pueblo Brothers, Milner Verren.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal, at 3·0 o'clock, for
Mark Melford and Company, Burke, Moller, and Teller,
Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, Johnny Alexander and Co.
Szarvasi-Ferencz Troupe, The Alaskas, The Picquays
The Ferreros, Three Ronay Sisters, Princess Pauline.

EMPIRE THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM
Rehearsal, at 3·0 o'clock, for
Chirgwin, List's Bears, The Selbinis,
Lily Marney, Morton and Elliott,
Bioscope, Wilson Hallett,
Virto and Irene, Auto and Mobil.

NEW PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.
Rehearsal, at 1·0 o'clock, for
Hagedorn's Fairy Grotto, Tom Carney, Burnellys,
Diamond and Beatrice, Mdlle. Emmy, Arthur Forrest,
Sybil St. Elmo, Major Newell, Jessie Burnett,
Trapnell Family.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY, LONDON, N.
Curtain rises Nightly at 6·50 o'clock. Artistes please note.
Rehearsal, at 1·0 o'clock, for
The Kellinos, Les Brunin, Burg, Haud, and Wise,
Lily Burnand, Ross and Grayson,
Baker and Balfe, F. V. St. Clair, Arthur Gill,
Cora Caselli, Ambrose Thorne.

EMPIRE, NEW-CROSS, LONDON, S.E.
Curtain rises Nightly at 6·40 o'clock. Artistes please note.
Rehearsal, at 1·0 o'clock, for
"Drummed Out," Starr and Leslie, Walter Bellonini,
Lizzie B. Raymond, Fred Poplar,
Harry Bedford, Prof. Dunning, Kahn and Kahn,
Kitty Wager.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD, LONDON, E.
Curtain rises Nightly at 6·45 o'clock. Artistes please note.
Rehearsal, at 1·0 o'clock, for
Happy Fanny Fields, Harriett Vernon, O'Gust,
Alf Gibson, Bros. Horne, Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten,
the Alfonso Trio, Ethel Ra Leslie,
the Bohemians, Charles Deane.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:—

EMPIRE PALACE, HACKNEY.
Managing Director, OSWALD STOLL.
Rehearsal, at 1·0 o'clock, for
Seeth's Lions, The Fourteen Musical Electrical Stars,
Bernar's Marionettes, Hereford's Dogs, Marie Collins,
Three Laurels, Sable Fern, Rumbo Austin,
Ida Heath, Baid.

NEW EMPIRE PALACE, SHEPHERD'S-BUSH.
Managing-Director, OSWALD STOLL.
Rehearsal, at 1·0 o'clock, for
Marie Lloyd, Bella and Bijou, Three Sisters Klos,
Alexandra Bagmar, Clown Zertho's Dogs, Syd May,
Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, Cabby and Shirker, Five Deleviner,
Ada Cerito, Ike Scott and Son.

PALACE THEATRE, LEICESTER.
Managing Director, OSWALD STOLL.
Rehearsal, at 2·30 o'clock, for
Lole Fuller, Harry Lamore, Nellie Coleman,
Sisters Devona, The Lumars,
Alice Maydue, The Howards, Phillips and Terry,
Dome, Chas. Gardiner.

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal, at 1·0 o'clock, for
Tom Edwards, Mabel Hind, Griff,
Ella Retford,
Little Barney, Vosper, Sinclair and Parr,
Tom O'Neill, Sarnthalers.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal, at 1·0 o'clock, for
G. W. Hunter, Lyans and Geks, Frank Harwood,
Amber Austa, Driscoll and Seattle,
Will Haines, Barton Howard, Five Olracs.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Proprietor, Mr R. THORNTON. Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock, for
Fred Maxwell and Co., in "Lord Harkaway;" Mersano,
Harry Martell, Brown and Robinson, Bioscope, Rastus
and Banks, Morris and Morris, Cline and Clark, Mendel,

EMPIRE, ARDWICK-GREEN, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2·0 o'clock for
George Gray, in "The Fighting Parson," Theo Hardeen,
Harry Champion, the Labakans, the Marconis,
the Levinos, Little Nelusco, L. B. Athol, Kitty Bell.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME, OXFORD-STREET.
The Four Lukens, Tschernoff's Dogs, "Tally Ho!"
Lethbridge and Mills in "A Dress Rehearsal,"
Barton and Ashley, Juno Salmo, Albert Voyce's Company,
in "Jack Sheppard," Theodor Hugo's "Fata Morgana,"
Bioscope, Hall and Earle.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
Proprietor, Mr GEORGE DANCE. Rehearsal at 2·0 o'clock for
Mr George Dance's "Cinderella" Co., Vernon's Imperial
Bioscope, Goldman Holles Trio, Wedburns, Zuro and Arno,
Three Sisters Finney. Matinées, Wednesday and Saturday.

MR H. E. MOSS' TWENTIETH ANNUAL CARNIVAL.
WAVERLEY MARKET, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal, at 10·0 a.m. o'clock, for
Yukio Tani, Lukushima Troupe, Princess Leah, Rossow's Midgets, Vicentinas,
Tambo and Tambo, Walthour and Kreamer,
Gatling Guards, Beppo's Monkeys, Noisset Troupe.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and specimens of Pictorials for Leicester, Cardiff, Swansea, Newport, Nottingham, Holloway, Stratford, New-cross, Hackney, and Shepherd's-bush must be sent to Mr OSWALD STOLL, Empire, Cardiff; and for the other Theatres to Mr FRANK ALLEN, the London Hippodrome, London, W.C., Two Weeks before Opening, or Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artistes must forward Copies of Songs to the Stage-Manager of each Theatre One Week previous to Opening, and Assignments for same must be produced at Rehearsal.
Artists will clearly understand that their Business must be Free from all Vulgarity.

N.B.—Silence in every case a Polite Negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelopes.
Telegraphic address, "Twigsome, London." National Telephone, 5,526 Gerrard.

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L. O. J. LIVERMORE,
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Proprietor, Mr P. COLLINS. Manager, FRANK EGERTON, to whom all communications must be addressed.
Twice Nightly, 7 0 and 9 0.
CALL, for Monday next, Jan. 9, Professor Inman Hocking, Bert Dansie, Gracie Logar, Five Leopold-Legleros, George Fairburn, Walter Adams, Cissie Heath, Les Kyasyas, Collins's Animated Pictures, Heraleb Bros. Rehearsal at 1 0 o'clock prompt.

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LONDON HAS SUSTAINED THE PROVINCIAL VERDICT.

BY THE OLD OAK-TREE
and
HONEYMOON HALL,
the First Night Hits in
"PEGGY MACHREE"
at WYNDHAM'S THEATRE.
Sung by
MISS MARIE DAINTON.

Daily Telegraph, Dec. 29, 1904.
The chief lyrical success of the evening was won by "The Old Oak Tree," a ditty of the Letty Lind type, which suggested American, rather than Irish, authorship. The song in question was very daintily sung by Miss Marie Dainton.

Pall Mall Gazette, Dec. 29, 1904.
One song, "Honeymoon Hall," beautifully sung by Miss Marie Dainton, arrested our attention at once, not only by its essential prettiness, but also by the ingenuity with which from a humorous point it was treated. . . . In this act occurs a charming little melody entitled "By the old oak tree."

St. James's Gazette, Dec. 29, 1904.
"Honeymoon Hall" is stated to be an interpolated number. It is likely to be immensely popular.

Evening News, Dec. 29, 1904.
"Honeymoon Hall," charmingly sung and acted by Miss Marie Dainton, made a great hit.

Enormous Success of
MISS MADGE LESSING,
in
GOOD-BYE, LITTLE GIRL, GOOD-BYE.
LONDON COLISEUM.
Absolutely the Finest Stage Setting ever given to a Single Song.
Instantaneous Hit at the
PRINCE'S THEATRE, BRISTOL,
of
TESSIE,
as Sung by
MISS LIL HAWTHORNE.

Bristol News, Dec 26, 1904.
There are at least two such which she now introduces, and it will be surprising if they are not soon being whistled by the man in the street, to say nothing of the small boy. "Tessie" is a decided novelty, for after the second verse the refrain is taken up by a male voice "off," the said male voice being reproduced by means of a powerful and clear-toned gramaphone. The third verse gives the band an opportunity to raise laughter, and they make the most of it.

Bristol Times, Dec. 26, 1904.
"Tessie," as sung by Miss Lil Hawthorne, is sure to establish itself as a favourite, and the village band chorus is one of the funniest items of the evening.

The Singer of Novelty Songs,
MISS RACHEL LOWE,
Scores at
KENNINGTON THEATRE
with
ANY RAGS?
WHAT'S THE USE OF THAT, HUH?
and
MY LUCKY DUCK.

St. James's Gazette, Dec. 27, says:—
Miss Rachel Lowe is Aladdin, and her singing captured the crowded house last night with a quacking refrain by a live pet duck. Her song "My Lucky Duck" is one of the most novel things in Panto. Land.

The North Quickly Responds to
MISS VERONICA BRADY,
HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, ABERDEEN,
when she is singing
GOOD-BYE, LITTLE GIRL, GOOD-BYE
and
I'LL BE YOUR DEW-DROP ROSY.

Catholic Herald says:—
Miss Brady made a hit with her first song, "Good-bye, Little Girl, Good-bye," and the large audience quickly caught up the chorus.

People's Journal, Aberdeen, says:—
"Good-bye, Little Girl, Good-bye," and "I'll be Your Dew-drop Rosy" are the most fetching ditties in the pantomime.

Bon Accord, Dec. 13, 1904, says:—
Miss Veronica Brady, one of the pleasantest of principal girls, soon won, and kept, the attention of the house. Her first song, indeed, "Good-bye, Little Girl, Good-bye," had to be repeated, and on its repetition, the stalls had learned the chorus. By the time the Christmas number of the 'Bon-Accord' appears this song, no doubt, will have passed the hardest test of popularity. Almost everyone will be whistling the tune

MISS MAY MARS
Captured her Audience at the
CROWN THEATRE, PECKHAM,
with
GOOD-BYE, LITTLE GIRL, GOOD-BYE
and
TIZAN.

MISS CLAIRE ROMAINE
Scores with
PENNIES,
BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

MISS ALICE LLOYD
Scores with
PENNIES,
CROWN THEATRE, PECKHAM.

MISS NELLIE STRATTON
Scores with
PENNIES,
PRINCE OF WALES'S, BIRMINGHAM.

MISS MINNIE HUNT
Scores with
IN DREAMLAND,
PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM,

MISS NITA CLAVERING
Scores with
IN DREAMLAND,
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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

ARTISTES (AND THEIR AGENTS) HOLDING OR SEEKING ENGAGEMENTS AT

THE CANTERBURY,
WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE-ROAD, S.E.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 11·0 o'clock.
Brilliant success of George Abel and Ethel Arden, in "Three of a Kind;" Elsa Joel, Clark and Hamilton Vesta Victoria, Joe O'Gorman, Ray Wallace, Norman and Leonard Trio, Abdullah's Arabs, Johnny Gilmore, Tray and Rich, Jessie Eplett, Herbert La Martine, Sutcliffe Family, Five Juliennes, Norman Mills, Victoria Monks ("Who has a way entirely her own").
Manager, FRED MILLER.

PARAGON,
MILE-END-ROAD, E.
Artistes are particularly requested to attend Band Rehearsals, Monday, 3·0 o'clock.
Dr. Walford Bodie,
Victoria Monks, The Findons,
James Fawn, Ethel Loftus,
Royal Six, Radie Furman,
Bros. Kroney,
Dandy George and Dog,
Rosie Lloyd,
Ella Lane, Dion Wade, Dolly Harmer,
Joe Elvin and Co., "Two for Three-Ha'pence."
Manager, CHARLES BERCHAM.

SOUTH LONDON PALACE,
LONDON-ROAD, S.E.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1·0 o'clock.
Fred Karno's "Mumming Birds,"
Cissie Heath, Frank and Free, Ella Lane,
The Gladenbecks, Ruffell's Bioscope,
Tony and Flo Vernon, Charles Paver,
Stewart and Morgan, Austin Rudd, Jack Lorimer.
Manager, FRANK WEEKS.

EUSTON,
EUSTON-ROAD, N.W.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12·0 o'clock.
Dr. Walford Bodie,
Bransby Williams, W. H. Fox,
Conway and Leland,
Boy Glen, Lee and Kingston, Elsa Joel,
Clarke and Argyle.
Manager, FRED M'AVOY.

THE EMPRESS,
BRIXTON-ROAD, S.W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1·0 o'clock.
The Marvellous Annie Abbott, the Living Magnet;
Edie King, Johnny Gilmore, Cissie Dryden,
Rosie Lloyd, Ian Colquhoun, Lady Mansell's Juveniles,
Raymond Iris, Conway and Leland,
Terry and Lambert, The Smythsons, Whit Cunliffe,
Abdullah Arabs, Ruffell's Bioscope,
Clark and Hamilton.
Manager, NELSON FRANCIS.

THE METROPOLITAN,
EDGWARE-ROAD, W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1·0 o'clock.
Annie Abbott, the Little Georgia Magnet;
Twin-formed Bohemian Sisters (Rosa and Josepha),
Joe Elvin and Co., in "Riding to Orders;"
Belle Davis and Piccaninnies, Phil Ray, Will English,
Dutch Daly, Lillie Langtry, Sam Mayo,
Tom White's Arabs, Lily Lasoah, Harry Atkinson,
Martine and Son, Bertha Vere, Fred Carey,
Moretti and Alice, Lottie Albert.
Manager, J. W. EDGAR.

GRAND PALACE,
CLAPHAM.
Two Houses Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 2·0 o'clock.
Madame Rubie, Jenny Lyan,
Maggie Rennie, Frank Seeley,
G. H. Elliott, Astley's Circus, Lozelle,
Herbert La Martine,
Maxwell and Francis,
Ruffell's Bioscope,
and the Harvey Boys.
Manager, HARRY BAWN

THE ROYAL,
HOLBORN.
Two Houses Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1·0 o'clock.
Mahatma, Alma Gray,
the Paytes, Frank and Free,
V. L. Granville, Burke and M'Voy,
Charles Beanland,
Charles Somers, Los Rupertos,
Sisters Hall, Tom Hughes,
Sisters Hayward, Will Godwin.
Matinées Daily, at 2·30.
Manager, H. KETTNMAN.

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Two Performances Nightly.
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Rehearsals on Mondays, at 1·30.
Harry Lauder, Stave,
Edie King, Fred Walker,
Terry and Lambert, Lily Simmons,
Agnes Hanson, Tom Costello,
Howe and Ardie,
Dora Martini, M'Connell Trio,
Will Evans.
Manager, W. SPEARMAN.

DUCHESS PALACE,
HIGH-ROAD, BALHAM.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1·30 o'clock.
Bohemian Twin Sisters, Ryder Slone,
Keir and Allan, Mdlle. Klee,
The Ashers, Leo Tell,
Lady Mansell and Juveniles,
Arthur Melrose, Charles Ashdowne, Belle Davis.
Manager, CLIFFORD KING.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE,
WALTHAMSTOW.
Band Rehearsal, which all Artistes must attend, on Mondays, at 3·0 o'clock.
Grand Fairy Pantomime, "Cinderella,"
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Ernesto,
Two Errolls,
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Two Performances Nightly.
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Fred Eustace and Company, in "Our Curate;"
Terry and Lambert, My Fancy,
Ruffell's Bioscope,
Charles Pastor, Ella Lane, H. Bancroft,
Arabella Allen, in Characters from Dickens;
and Emlyn Jones and his Ladies' Quartette.
Manager, EDWARD SWANBOROUGH.

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THOMAS BARRASFORD TOUR.

CALLS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 1905.

PAVILION, GLASGOW.
Leonard and Francis, Chas. B. Whittle, Maud Caswell, Miss Raffin, V. J. De Benau, Mdlle. Aladina, Clarus Bros., Browning and Wally, Pictures, Laares Troupe.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.
"The King's Hat," the Athlones, Bros. Ashby, Staig's Motor, Virginia, Alfonso Sylvano, Mons. De Marse, Pictures, Ed. F. Reynard.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
George Schilling, Lily Flexmore, Schutzenliesel's, M. Sandro Duo, Charles Steuart, Sandor Trio, Chas. Baron, Dusty Rhodes, Gardner, Griffin, and Gardner, Pictures, the Yiullans.

REGENT, SALFORD.
Six Brothers Luck, Kitty Campbell, Blind Man, Brothers Forrest, Mountford and Walsh, Starr and Jerome, Ida Hill, Pictures, Chas. Morritt.

HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
The Cattaneos, Fred Hutchings, Harry Drew, Will Onda and Company, Keen and Waller, The Passparts, Beddick Anderson, Bros. Teviotdale, Pictures, Akimotos.

ALHAMBRA, PARIS.
Les Heureux Pierrots, Mons. D'Musto, Les Ohio Girls, Mdlle Clothilde, Meier et Mora, Harry Allister, Abd'el Kader Trio, Grant et Grant, Les Kragg, Freres Walton, S. T. L. Krueger, Bioscope, Wills et August.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.
Hebburn Band, Ethel Yorke, Melaine, Pichel Troupe, Vaudeville Trio, Fred Earle, Emma and Victor, Alfred Barker, the Arleys, Alice Ormonde, Pictures, Hilgart Arkas.

ALHAMBRA, HULL.
Chas. Vandyke and Company, Florence Hill, Fielding and Hull, O'Learys, Sid Bandon, Fred Curran, Pictures, Brinn.

EMPIRE, BRISTOL.
Walton and Miss Ella, Alisa Douglas, the Two Falcons, Alexander, Nelson Downs, the Densmores, Marquis Iton, Stanley and Vandyke, Pictures, Nellie Wallace.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.
Alf Hurley, Ed. and Nettie Masse, the Toreadors, Henry Abdy, Leo Dryden, Carina Sisters, Madame Marvelle, Kweery, Pictures, Four Cliftons.

PALACE, GLASGOW.
Hayman and Franklin, Nancy St. John, Bob Hamilton, Lillian, Alix Lukos, H. Judge, Mdlle. Flora Lumiere, the Donatos, George Penn, Pictures, Lind.

TIVOLI, LEEDS.
Harry Ford, Lilly Seville, A. Aldridge, Farley, Rennie, and Farley, Bennecelli Troupe, Tooh and Tard, Amiel, Mons. Slippere, Pictures, Paxton Trio.

PALACE, MANCHESTER.
Bros. Luck, in Pantomime, "Babes in the Wood;" Howard and Collinson, Arthur Albert, Cyrus Dare, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, OLDHAM.
Due notice will be given of the Opening.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.
Geo. Gilbey, Harry Leybourne, Tom Johnstone, Stylo, Craig, Rose, and Craig, Sisters Russell, Ray and Miles, Bioscope, Barton and Franklyn.

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Due notice will be given of the Opening.

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HARRISON GREY FISKE, Editor and President.

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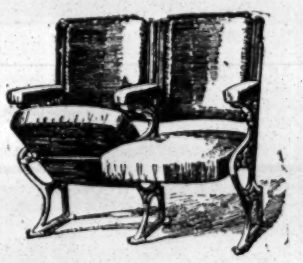

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Alphabetically Arranged—Limited to Three Lines

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ABDULLAH, ALMA, and LA SUPERBE. Permanent address, 155, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

ABEL and WELSH, Tivoli Theatre, Dublin. Vacant Jan. 16 Address as above.

ADAMS, WALTER, Pantomime Comedian. This, Parthenon, Liverpool. Next, H., Stoke. Jess Verno, the Energetic Representative.

ADRIENNE, THREE SISTERS, the Motor Girls, big success this week, Hippodrome, Ashton; next week, Tivoli, Manchester.

ALBANO TROUPE, Musical Speciality. 38, Macdonald-street, Wavertree, Liverpool.

ALBERT, MISS LOTTIE, the Bright Comedienne, this week, Hippodrome, Eastbourne; next, Metropolitan, London.

ALBERT, SISTERS, this Week, Encored Nightly, Hippodrome, Hastings Perm. add., 80, Katherine-road, East Ham, E.

ALBERTO, FRED, Character Comedian and Dancer. Hit as Will. Atkins, in "Robinson Crusoe" Panto., O. H., Cheltenham. Vacant March 6.

ALBINI, BLANCHE, Principal Boy, "Little Bo-Peep." Alexandra Palace.

ALBINI, LIEUT., the Gentleman Showman, and the Mysterious "Lady in Black." Jan. 16, Middlesex and Granville, Walham-green (Return).

ALETHEA, Contortionist. First Free Date September, 1906. London Pavilion, Dec. 26, Eight Weeks.

ALEXANDER'S, JOHN, Burlesque Company. Empire, Swnsea.

ALLEN, ARABELLA 'The Dickens Girl." This week, Stoll's Hip, Manchester, and Ardwick Empire. Next, Chelsea Palace, London.

ALMON and AIDA, Unique and Unrivalled Hand-Balancing and Jumping Act. This, Hippodrome, Salford. Next Week, Pavilion, Leicester.

ALMONTE, TROUPE, Pantomime, "Robinson Crusoe," Theatre Royal, Exeter.

ALVANTEE, King of the Slanting Wire, finishes To-night at Empire, Hull. Liberty Jan 16. Open at Circus, Ton-y-Pandy, Wales.

AMERICAINES, LES BELLES, this week and next, Empire Theatre, Oldham. Dottridge and Longden's Pantomime. Agent, H. Day.

ANDERSONS, AUSTRALIAN TWIN. Perfect wonder-workers with the skipping-rope.—Vide Oswald Stoll. Address, care of "The Era."

ANDYS, FOUR, Smartest of Risley and Double Somersault Artists. Jan. 9, Opera House, Northampton. Open Jan. 16 and 23

ARA, ZEBRA, and VORA, Monday next, Gaiety, Birmingham.

ARCHBUTT, GLADYS, Comedienne and Speciality Dancer. Jan. 9, New Hippodrome, Eastbourne.

ARIZONAS, FOUR, Acrobatic Tumblers Contortionist, and Staircase Workers Lyric Theatre, Liverpool.

ARLEYS, THE, England's Greatest Knockabout Cyclists. Gigantic success in New Act, Pavilion, Glasgow. Jan. 9, Pavilion, Newcastle.

ASHDOWN, PERCY, Author, Composer, Arranger. Going well and strong. Busier than ever. 7, Great Newton-street, Liverpool.

ASHLEY, BROS., "Next Please," Empire, Bristol. 9th, Hippodrome, Brighton. G. Barclay, and Fortune and Granville.

ATLAS and the Beautiful Miss Vulcana, the Society Athletes, World's Greatest Artistes. 9th, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy. Vacant, 23rd and 30th.

ATLEE, MISS LALI, Chic Comedienne and Ballad Vocalist. This, Barnard's Chatham; next, Barnard's, Woolwich. Day's Agency.

ATTILLA, BROS., Gladiatorial Act. February Vacant. This, Cambridge, London; Next, Middlesex, London.

AUBYN, ALF, Jan. 9, Hippodrome, Coventry. Communications direct; or, Geo Barclay.

AUSTIN, RUMBO, in his New Budget of Comicalities. Empire, Hackney.

AVRIGNYS, Great Jap Juggling Number. Most Versatile Act before the Public.

BABUSIAU, BROTHERS, Celebrated Acrobats-Antipodists. This Week, Circus of Varieties, Rochdale.

BAKER and BALFE, Including George M. Baker's Marvellous Dancing. Stoll Tour.

BANDONI, the Original Concertina King and One Man Band. Monday, Return, Empire, Paisley. At Liberty Jan. 23 and 30.

BANDON, SID. Alhambra, Hull. "Sez I to myself, sez I," Alf Ellerton.

BARCLAY, GEORGE, and CO., Variety Agents Telephone, 84 Streatham. 221, Brixton-hill, London, S.W.

BARD, GRACIE, Juvenile Character and Coon Speciality Artist and Dancer. Usual success this week, Circus, Rochdale; next, Garrick T., Hereford

BARNARD'S Life-like MARIONETTES, Originators of Rag Time Marionettes. Jan. 9, Empire, Portsmouth.

BAROUX and BION, a Success in "Sleeping Beauty," Grand Theatre, Southampton.

BARRETT and KNOWLES have made a hit that recalls the palmy days of Sweeney and Ryland.—Birmingham Owl. Tom Shaw

BARTHOLOMEW, SISTERS (VIOLET and DAISY), the Ideal Pair, Metropole, Manchester. Jan. 9, Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne.

BARTLETT, MISS ROSIE. This Week and Next, Theatre Royal, South Shields

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BAYMAN, CHARLIE, Negro Comedian, a Huge Success, Stoll's Palace, Leicester. Monday, Return, Empire, Dudley. Agents, Higham or Collins.

BEANLAND, CHARLES, a Natural Comedian, Monday next, Royal, Holborn. Agent, Harry Day.

BEATRICE, SISTERS, Duettists and Dancers. Next week, Coliseum, Sheerness. At Lib. Jan. 16. Perm. address, 35, Florence-street, Islington.

BEAUMONT, MISS MAUDE, terrific success, Robin Hood, Lyceum Theatre, Eccles.

BEES, THE TWO (HARRY and FLORA BLAKE), New Indian Scena by Albert Voyce, Esq. Middlesex and Hammersmith.

BEKKER, HENRI, Comedy Conjuror, big hit, this, Hipp., Ashton-under-Lyne; next, Pier, Southport. Always successful.

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BELROSE, GEO., and M. DE VELIN, Pantomime, Prince's Theatre, Bradford. Offers invited for Next Year for First-class Theatre.

BENET, HARRY, the Immaculate Comedian. Big Success of "Little Tommy Tit-Bit," by Fred Leigh. Palace, Dundee.

BENHAM, GEORGE, Band-box Clown, Prince of Wales, Prince's-square, Kennington-cross. Wines and Spirits, Finest Quality.

BENSON, ALLY M., Comedian and Whistler, terrific success as Buttons, in "Cinderella." Good Agent Required. All coms., H. M. T., Walsall.

BENT. HARRY, the Novel Mimic; also CARLOTTA LUNN. This week, E., Bradford; next, E., Sheffield. Agents, Fortune and Granville.

BERNARD, GEO., Whose Face Inspires Trust and Confidence. Next week, Scotch Concerts. All letters, 123, Tamworth-road, Newcastle.

BERNE, CONNIE, Serio-Comedienne and Expert Dancer, Disengaged Mon. next, and on Just finished Olympia, Bury. 12, Wesley-st., Barnsley, Yorks.

BEST, MR. CHARLES F. as M'Bunker, "The Mountebank," Circus of Varieties, Rochdale.

BISHOP and VALE, Tremendous Success as Ping and Pong, in "Aladdin," Blackburn. Next week, Halifax.

BLARNEY and KENNARD, great success as Jimmy Green and Johnny Stout, "Bo-Peep" Panto., Court, Wigan. Next, Opera House, Harrogate.

BLISS and BLISS, Refined Patter Comedians, Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

BODIE, ALBERT EDWARD WALFORD. Bohemia House, Bodie's-buildings, Macduff, Banffshire, N.B.

BOHEMIANS, THE (WILL and MADGE), Musical and Comedy Artists. This, Empire, Newcross; Next, Empire, Stratford. G Foster, 4, Garrick-st.

BON-BONS, THE FIVE. Harry Bon-Bon's Comedy Five.

BORELLI, SIGNOR and MADAME, Empire, Birmingham. Agents, T. Shaw and Co.

BOSANQUET, in his Illuminated Musical Séance. Address, Foresters', Camberwell Palace, Jan. 16.

BOSWELL, A. P., the Laughter Hit of the Programme. This week, Empire, Dudley. Return October next. Monday, home, Yarmouth.

BOWMAN, J. H., Anglo-American Humourist, Vocalist, Dancer, closes P., Northampton. Jan. 9, Hippo., Accrington. Vacant Feb. 6, 27.

BOYCE, FRANK, Vocal Comedian, Great Success, Empire, Middlesbrough. Monday, Palace, Dundee.

BRANSBYS, THE (HARRY and LOUIE), conclude Theatre Royal, Hebburn-on-Tyne. Next Week, Scotch Concerts. Address, Britannia, Glasgow.

BRASQUE, ALBERT; CORA DUNCAN, in a New Sketch, "A Dressing-room Romance." Address, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

BRENTON, SISTERS, Usual Success, Theatre Royal, Barnsley. Next Week, Theatre Royal, Brighouse.

BRETT, HARRY.—Sussex Daily News says: A comedian of far more than average ability. Vacant 9th. Wire, Coliseum, Brighton.

BREWSTERS, Theatre Royal, Reading, Messrs Little and D'Arcy's "Sinbad." Parts and Specialities. Miss KITTY BREWSTER, Principal Girl.

BRIGHTON GIRLS, THE, Lance and Sword Experts, Acrobatic and Speciality Artists. Next, T. R., Peterborough. "Swiss Express" Company.

BRITISH QUARTETTE, THE (JOHN BULL, SANDY, PAT, and TAFFY), Speciality Vocalists. Jan. 9, Palace, Dundee.

BRITTON, LITTLE, Eccentric Comedian and Comedy Dancer, Mr J. Tiller's "Ohio." Alhambra, Paris.

BROMLEY and FONTEIN conclude big Success, Warrington. Monday, Jan. 9, Lyric, Liverpool.

BROOKES, BERT, Comedian, Tinbad the Tailor, "Sinbad" Co. Great success, Grand, Blackpool. Next, Alex. T., Widnes. Offers invited for May.

BROOKLANDS, THE (ETHEL and BELLA), Dainty Comediennes and Dancers. Boy and Girl, J., Manchester. Jan. 9, Q. T., Farnworth.

BROOKS, BROTHERS, SISTERSBRAND, Fourth Season with Messrs Dottridge and Longden, Empire Theatre, Oldham.

BROOKS, GEORGE H., Musical, Dramatic, and Variety Agent. 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

BRUCE and ROSS, Great Australian Comedy Artistes, Vacant Jan. 16, Lancs preferred. All coms., Theatre, Tredegar, Monmouthshire.

BURG, HAUD, and WISE. "Ye Brown Cow Inn." Monday, Empire, Holloway, N.

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CAINE, ANDIE, Principal Comedian, Kennington Pantomime, "Aladdin."

CALDEN, HARRY, Enormous Success as Dame Durden, "Goody Two shoes" Company. This, Marina, Lowestoft; next, Pleasure Gardens T., Folkestone.

CAMBO, the Musical Monkey. First Vacant Date Feb. 13. Address, 9, Mary-street, Dublin.

CARL and CARR, Comedians, in Refined Act, "Workhouse." Audience kept roaring from beginning to end. Ealing Theatre till further notice.

CARLTON, HENRY, the Popular Comedian, supported by his Renowned Comedy Team. Metropole, Manchester.

CARNEY, TOM, London, Usual Success. Jan. 9, Moss's Palace Theatre, Bordesley. Address, en route.

CARR and ROSE (FRED and ADA), the Vocal Comedy Stars, in "Their First Quarrel." Big Success, Bolton. Next, Palace, Derby.

CARTER, LITTLE RUBY, Speciality Toe Dancer. "Bo-Peep" Company, Alexandra Palace Theatre.

CARY, FRED, Abanazar, Empire, Oldham.

CASEY, GEORGE, another great hit as Dame (Fourth Year), highly complimented, "Sinbad the Sailor," on Tour.

CAVALLOTTI BROTHERS, the World's Mystifying Musicians, in their Grand Musical Act. Bostock's Hippo., Box 1,040, Cape Town, South Africa.

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CHANT and CHANT (JACK and ALICE), Comedy Duettists, &c. Will Atkins, Polly Hopkins, "Robinson Crusoe." Miners' T., Ashington.

CHARD'S DOG CIRCUS. Hit of the Programme at Ashton. Monday next, Hippodrome, Salford.

CHARMAN, JACK, the Sweet-Voiced Youth, Jan. 9, Camberwell Palace. Agents, G. Barclay; or, Fortune and Granville.

CHARNLEY, SISTERS (ANNIE and EDIE), big success, Barnard's, Woolwich, and Albert, Canning-town. Monday, Return, Empire, Portsmouth.

CHATHAM, GEORGE, Character Vocalist. Smart, Clean Act. Agents Note. 25, Edge-lane-road, Oldham.

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CHIRGWIN, Empire, Nottingham. Friends kindly refrain from Copying.

CLARENCE and BELL, the Bailiffs, the Flunkies, in "Cinderella." Her Majesty's Theatre, Walsall.

CLARIBELL FLORRIE, Tyrolean Songstress, Enormous success this week at Hippodrome, Porth; next week, Circus, Rochdale.

CLARKES, THE, America's Sensational Banjo Duo. No Vacant Dates in 1905. Monday, Palace, Bradford.

CLEVELANDS, THE, C. W. Poole's Myriorama, Albert Hall, Swansea.

CLIFFE, TOM E., terrific success, Title-rôle, Milton Bode's "Puss in Boots," Royalty T., Chester. Offers invited for 1905-6. Direct or Agents.

CLINTON, MR. HARRY, Rigby's Hotel, Blackpool. Till Jan. 14 all letters, &c.

CLYDES, THE (AMY and EVIE) Vocalists and Instrumentalists, Big success, Brussels Feb. 20, Palace, Tottenham; 27th, Empire, Portsmouth.

CLYO, HARRY, and ROSE ROCHELLE, Palace, Bristol. Many thanks to D. Taylor, Esq., for offer Jan. 9, but had settled.

COLEMAN, ROSIE, and HARRY CONLIN, 99, Hill-street, Garnet-hill, Glasgow.

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COLLINS, MISS LOTTIE, at Liberty for Pantomime. Address, 363, Camden-road, N.

COLLINS, MISS MARIE Permanent address, 17, Albermarle-mansions, Holloway N.

COMELY, MABEL, Comedienne. Vacant Jan. 9. Wire, Theatre Royal, Hebburn-on-Tyne.

COMPTON, GRACEFUL GRACE, an Ideal Boy.—Vide Press. With Mr J. Gar Kiddie's "Bo-Peep" Pantomime. Monday, O. H. Harrogate.

CONWAY TOM W. Dame, Grand, Woolwich. at Liberty Jan. 23.

COOKE, STEVE, Comedian, Dame, in "Dick Whittington," Opera House, Wakefield.

COPELAND and SON, World's Greatest Dancers, thank Mr Harry Burns for Contracts. Tremendous success Tivoli, High Shields. Burns's Agency.

CORNISH, WILL, Unique Musical Bell Act. This Week, P. Pav., Eastbourne; Next, T. R., Woolwich, and Palace, Greenwich.

COVERDALE, CHAS., Telling Yarns, Singing Oddities, doing Imitations, at London Pavilion with emphatic success. Jan 9, London Pavilion.

COWPER, VERNON, Blueskin, "Jack Sheppard" Company. Monday, 9th, Ardwick Empire.

CRAIG, ROZE, and CRAIG, Trio of the World's Leading Athletes. Hippodrome, St. Helens.

CRAY, LITTLE MIKE, Comedy Juggler, and Acrobatic Dog Dooley. This Week. Big Success, Metropole, Gateshead; Next, Central P., North Shields.

CRESSER, MISS ADA, Staley's Transformation Company. Empire, Sheffield.

CREW, J. H., and "The Original" MAUD MARLOW. Big hit, this week again, Standard, Pimlico. Oliver and Holmes' Agency.

CRIS, Indisposed. Resume work shortly. Forth House, Tyldesley.

CROWN TRIO (E. Schofield, L. Davidson, W. Davidson), Speciality Vocalists. This, C. V., Leeds; next, T., S. Shields.

CROWSON, WILL, and CISSIE CONYERS, Friday, Fairy Queen, O. H., Northampton. C. T., Reading.

CRUIKSHANK, terrific success this week at Gaiety, Birmingham Next week, Argyle, Birkenhead. Coms., Pacey & Reeves.

CULLANE, FRED, TRIO, Versatile Entertainers. Next, Barnard's, Woolwich and Greenwich. Day's Agency, Effingham House, Strand.

CULLEN and CARTHY, Robbers "Babes in the Wood," Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

CUMMINGER, the Acknowledged World's Record Sand Dancer, Three Months' Tour, Provinces. All New Wardrobe. Agents, Macdermott and Day.

CURRIE, MISS LILY, Vocalist, Liberty Jan. 23 and onwards. Write, Palace, Dundee.

CURRY, PERCY, Pantomime, Grand, Edinburgh. Ugly Sister. Agent, Fioni.

CYCLO, Champion Trick Cyclist, just concluded Four Weeks with Mr Broadhead, Manchester. Next, Theatre Royal, Margate.

DAINEZ, E. R., Comedy Circus. Donkey Smiler, Clever Pony, and Troupe of Dogs, and his Wonderful Leaping Hounds. Panto., G. T., Derby.

DALE, MR. HARRY, Hippodrome Manager, Stage and Arena. General Manager and Ringmaster, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy.

DALE and D'ARGAN, on Tour with John A. Thompson's Panto., "Aladdin." Permanent address, 6, Dolly-lane, Leeds.

DALE and VALE
Specialité Dancers Extraordinary.
This week, Foresters'; next week, Palace, Bow.

DANBYS, THE,
big success as the Ruffians, "Babes in the Wood."
At Liberty for Next Season. Lyceum, Eccles.

DANDOE, ARTHUR,
with Messrs Howard and Wyndham.
Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.

DANE, J. P., Comedian, Starring,
Parthenon, Liverpool, in conjunction with his daughter MARIE, the Child Wonder. Address, above.

DANIELS, THE TWO,
as Cannibal King and Commander-in-Chief.
Continued Success, Opera House, Cheltenham.

DANVILS, THE (GEO. and MAY),
Original Song Scenas and Illustrated Songs, Great Success, Hippodrome, Bury. Vacant Jan. 9 and 16.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE, Australian
Trick Cyclists, Monarchs of the Wheel. New Act. Character Costumes. Next, Century, Motherwell.

DAVIES, CHARLES,
Stage-Manager, Disengaged.
The Orchards, Burnage, Didsbury, Manchester.

DAVIS, ALF,
Comedian and Actor-Vocalist.
Jan. 9, Coliseum, Sheerness. Vacant Jan. 16.

DAY and MORE, Acrobats; also SAVARO,
Bird Imitator and Siffleur, Vacant Jan. 16. Wire, People's Palace, Portsmouth. Monday, Bippo., Perth.

DAY'S, HARRY, VARIETY AGENCY,
Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, W.C.
Tel., 6,915, Ger. Tele., "Terpsichore, London."

DAY'S VARIETY AGENCY,
116, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London. S.W.
Always Vacancies for Stars and Specialities.

DAYTON FAMILY.
Jan. 9.
Palace, Blackpool.

DE DIO, THE PEERLESS,
Hansa Theatre, Hamburg,
Month of January.

DE HENAU and MDLLE. ALADINA,
Extraordinary Rapid Painter, &c., and Wonderful Cockatoos. Address, Pavilion, Glasgow.

DELAMERE TRIO,
the Original Comedy Equilibrists,
Jan. 9 Hippodrome, Grimsby.

DELEVINES, FIVE,
"Flirtation."
Empire Theatre, Shepherd's-bush.

DELLER and OXFORD,
Singing Dancing, and Pattering,
Palace, Attercliffe.

DENBY and DENT,
Captain and Mate, in "Sinbad," F. Mouillot's Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Aston, Birmingham.

DENMARK. DORA,
Principal Boy. Firth's "Cinderella."
Monday, Palace Theatre, Bridlington.

DENT, HARRY,
as Jim Crusoe. Always a success. Fully Booked for the Halls for Three Years. Graydon's Agency.

DE ROSE, MDLLE., and J. H. HAWTREY,
Principal Boy, Malvolio.
J. Kiddie's "Cinderella," Opera House, Bury.

DEVOVE, JIMMY, and BILLY,
the Educated Pony, great success Berlin and Paris.
Jan. 9, Palace Blackpool.

DIXON, CHARLEY; KATE LYND.
Big, Hippodrome, Manchester. Monday, Granville, Walham-green, London. See Wanted Knowns. Important.

DOBITO and BUXTON,
Operatic Duettists, Recalled Nightly,
County Reading, Mon., Lyceum, Crewe.

DODDY and BELLE,
the Great Comedy Couple.
Address, "The Era" Office.

DOILY, AGNES, and MAUD,
Singing Boxmakers, usual success. First Vacancies, April 3 10, and 17. This, P., Leicester; next, G., Sheffield.

DOME,
the Original Comedy Clay Man,
Empire, Leicester.

DOMINOS, TWO (Clown and Donkey),
Liberty Easter. In or Outdoor Show.
For terms, Cook's Circus, Edinburgh.

DOODY and WRIGHT,
Australian Comiques.
Jan. 9, Empire, Sheffield.

DORMER. DAINTY DAISY as principal
girl, in which direction the management have scored.—Vide Stage, Dec. 15. "Goosy Gander," P., Glasgow.

DORRETTA, LITTLE, a Charming and
Clever Little Acrobatic Song and Dance Artiste, Touring with C. W. Poole's Royal Myriorama.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH,
the Dainty Singing Maiden.
Full of Vivacity and Animation.

DOUGLAS, AILSA,
the Lancashire Soprano.
Big Success, Palace, Swansea; next week, Empire, Bristol.

DOVE, MISS ETHEL,
Big success, Principal Girl,
Theatre Royal, Croydon.

DOVER, CLIFFE,
Dame, Dottridge and Longden's "Forty Thieves."
Theatre Royal, Stockport, and doing well!

DRISCOLL, WILL,
Swell Comedian and Dancer. This week, London and Greenwich. Perm., 24, Thornhill-square, Barnsbury, N.

DRUM and MAJOR,
Pantomime,
Opera House, Cheltenham.

DRYDEN, CISSIE,
Vocal Character Actress.
Communications to Fred Higham, York-road, London.

DUBOIS, JAMES,
"Forty Thieves" Pantomime,
Theatre Royal, Stockport.

DUNMORE, TOM, the Essence of Quaint-
ness This week, Palace, Hammersmith, a success; next, Alhambra, Sandgate.

DUNNING and KAHN and **KAHN,**
Always Rebooked. Empire, New-cross.
London Coliseum shortly.

DURHAM'S, FRED,
Variety Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton.
1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

DU ROCHE, MDLLE.,
Principal Boy, "Dick Whittington" Pantomime.
Pavilion Theatre, Mile-end, E.

EILEEN and MAYNIE,
Versatile Novel Instrumentalists and all-round Dancers. Jan. 9, Victoria Hall, Sunderland.

ELCOCK, AMY, Comedienne; **FLORRIE**
ST. ROY, Comedienne and Acrobatic Dancer. Great success as Pekoe and Cheekie. New Gaiety T., Dundee.

ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast, also **LA**
BELLE TOSCA, Two or Three Acts. For Dates and terms, address, care of Post-office, Greenock.

ELGAR and GASKELL
in a New and Novel Act. High-class Music and Comedy. This, H., Liverpool. Monday, G., Manchester.

ELLA'S, MISS,
best existing Lion Show.
Jan. 9, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

ELLERSLIE, WILL, FLORRIE BRAY
another success this week. "Babes"
Next, "Red Riding Hood," Hippodrome, Scarborough

ELLERTON, ALF, Latest for Leamore,
Dunville, Leonards, &c. Band parts arranged.
19, Pulrose-road, Brixton, S.W.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS,
Musicians, Cyclists, &c.
Address, Hippodrome, Carlisle.

ELSWORTHY, MISS DOLLY,
Principal Boy (Third Year), Dottridge and Longden's "Forty Thieves" Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Stockport.

ELTONS, TWO, Triple Horizontal Bar
Comedians, big success, Milton Ray's Pantomime, "Bo-Peep." Monday, Grand, Halifax.

ELVIRA, AMY,
Burlesque Artiste, usual success, Palace, Bristol
Permanent address, 67, Swinton-street, London, W.C.

ELVY, ARTHUR, the Popular Vocal
Comedian. Usual Success, Theatre Royal, Oldham.
Address next week, Park Palace, Liverpool.

ENGIST and ORSA,
Comedians and Instrumentalists.
Communications, 17, Berwick-street, Manchester.

EPLETT, JESSIE, Character Vocalist, Solo
Drummer, and Speciality Dancer. Great success, Grand T., Islington. Address, 3, Ivy-lane, Hoxton, N.

ERNEST, THREE SISTERS,
Operatic Vocalists and Coon Impersonators, this week, Royal, Holborn. Coms., Fortune and Granville.

ERNESTINE TROUPE of Acrobatic and
Speciality Lady Dancers and Vocalists. Engaged for Revue, Casino Kursaal, Grenoble, France.

ESCALADERS, THREE,
Pantomime.
Jan. 9, Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.

ESDALE BROTHERS,
Comedians, Vacant Jan. 16. This week, Theatre Royal, Warrington. Monday, Palace, Lancaster.

EUGENE and WILLIE,
our Speciality the Hit of the Panto. Clean and Refined. Communications, County Theatre, Kingston.

EVANS, WILL,
Business-Manager, Harry Poole.
Tel., 165, Richmond.

FAME, PEGGY, concludes To-night
Standard, Pimlico. Monday, Barnard's, Greenwich. NELLIE GANNON, ditto, HARRY WRIGHT, indisposed.

FERRARIS, THE,
Modern and Cosmopolitan Dancers.
Grand Cirque Nouveau, Belgium.

FIELDING, ANNIE, and **BERT HULL,**
Vocal Entertainers,
Monday, Alhambra, Hull.

FIELDS and ACRES, Comedy Park-
keepers. Big Hit, Westminster, Liverpool. Next, Hippodrome, Salford. To give him time to find the soap.

FIONI'S, JAMES, AGENCY,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." Telephone, 1686 Royal.

FLORADORA GIRLS.
Enormous success. Third Season, F. Mouillot's Pantomime. T. R., Exeter. Agents, De Vere and Cass

FLORIZELL,
ahead of them all in a series of New and Startling Gymnastic and Contortionist Feats. Alhambra, Belfast.

FORD, RAY, Refined Comedienne, finish
to-night, Hippodrome, Accrington. Next week, coms to Palace, Blackpool "Oh, Mister Captain."

FORD and HANSON,
the American Musical Millionaires.
Empire, Battersea.

FORREST'S, EDGAR, Comedy Company.
Always a Hit. This week, Metropole and Granville, Address, 17, Kennington-park-road. Vacant Feb. 6.

FORTUNE and GRANVILLE,
Savoy House, 115, Strand, London, W.C.
Telegrams, "Waggishly." Telephone, 1,309, Gerrard.

FRANCE and FRANCIS,
Comedians and Acrobatic Grotesques,
Hippodrome, Stoke. Jan. 9, Tivoli, Manchester.

FREANS, THE (WILL and PETER),
the Irish Gentlemen, Comedians and Dancers.
Haymarket, Liverpool.

FREDERICKS, CARL, CORDELIA, and
YA PYN KETOS, Recalled Nightly,
Opera House, Torquay.

FREELAND, MR. FRANK,
Song and Sketch-Writer.
"Got to have it." Town Hall, Greenock, N.B.

FRENCH'S, GEORGE, TROUPE, and
the SNOW FAMILY, on Tour. For Vacant Dates, address, 14, Second-avenue, Queen's-park, London, W.

FRERE, EVA, Charming Characteristic
Vocalist, thanks Cavill and Co., for Return Dates. Required, Jan. 16, 23, and 30. Gaiety, Oldham.

FRIDKINS, BORIS, THE Great,
Cossack Troupe.
Opera House, York.

GARLAND and ANDERSON,
Vent. and Conjuror, great success, this week, Royal Albert Hall, Jarrow-on-Tyne. Encored Nightly.

GARRICK, MR. GUS,
Sole Inventor of the Living Postcard Album.
Hippodrome, Bury.

GEE, FRANK
Permanent,
40, Newington-crescent, Kennington-park, S.E.

GELDER, VAN, Humorous Magician.
A Great Act. Fast Booking Ahead. Usual Success at Burnley and Bolton. Mon., Return, Hippo., Wakefield.

GEMS, THE TWO (FLO and CISSIE),
Conclude To-night, Paddington, Liverpool.
Monday, Palace, Cork.

GERALDOS, THREE Juggling
This week, Top of Bill, Empire, Rochdale;
next week, Top of Bill, Palace, Lancaster.

GERTRELLA,
Dancer-Gymnast. New Act, "In Cupid's Garden."
Panto., Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.

GILBERT'S Dogs and Cats,
London Halls. Liberty Jan. 30. Perm. address, 74, Boyson-road, Camberwell. Musical Dunvilles write.

GILLIN,
Unique Ventriloquial Humourist.
Tivoli, South Shields. "Me 'At's Off."

GILMORE, ROBB,
the Talented Grotesque Comedian,
Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

GLADSTONE, IDA,
Principal Boy, Grand, Nottingham.
Sole Agent, Harry Day.

GOLD, HARRY, Versatile Comedian.
New Successful Song-Poems, "Cloudland."
Coliseum, Sheerness.

GOLDBURN, GEORGE, Comedian.
"The Pot-House Politician."
Success, Westminster, Liverpool.

GOLDING, R. J., Ventriloquist and Con-
juror, at Liberty Feb. 6, onward. Two Acts.
Permanent, 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow.

GRAHAM, ERIC, MILLIE HARRIS.
This Week, Hippodrome, Queen's-park.
Jan. 9 Hippo., Wigan.

GRANADAS, LOS
Electrifying Bounders.
238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

GRAPHO and JACKSON.
Screaming Success as Abanszer and Twankey.
Managers and Agents invited. Globe Theatre, Deal.

GREY and WELFORD,
Grotesque Boxing Comedians. Palace, Dundee.
Many thanks to Sidney Bacon, &c.

GROSVENOR SISTERS (THREE),
"Dick Whittington" Pantomime, Very Successful.
Next week, T. R., Brighouse, Yorks.

GWYNNE, FLORENCE. Smartest
Dresser. "The Stage-struck Servant." Mirth and Melody. Jan. 9, Palace, Bradford. Sydney M. Hyman.

HAIG and NOVEL, on Tour, Big Success,
Gaiety, Birmingham. Return to Town April.
The Palace and Paragon. Agent, Didcott.

HALDYNE DUO (MARK and ALICIA),
Usual Success, Palace, Derby. Next, T., South Shields. Fast Booking 1906-7.

HALL'S, TOM, Burlesque Acrobatic
NIPPERS, Dog, and Monkey. Thanks for offers. Wire for Monday, Albert Hall, Jarrow; or, Geo. Alstoun.

HALSEY and BOWERS, Celebrated
Comedy Act. Conclude T. R., Bedford Leigh. Lyceum, Stafford. Open for Panto and Comedy Duets.

HANDEL and LEE, Society's Musical
Entertainers. This week, Hippodrome, Hulme. Monday, Queen's-park Hippodrome, Manchester.

HANS and LUX,
Bombastic Bailiffs, Biff and Bang, Terrific Success, "Cinderella," G. O. H., Middlesbrough. Best Wishes.

HANSON, MISS AGNES,
Dainty Comedienne and Dancer,
Next week, Empire, Islington.

HANVARR and ANNA LEE,
"The Golfer and the Maid,"
Hippodrome, Eastbourne.

HARCOURT, FRED,
Jan. 9,
Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.

HARCOURT, HARRY, Baron and Stage-
Manager, Eglington's "Babes in the Wood," Panto. Twice Daily, Palace Pier Theatre, Brighton.

HARDEEN,
Stoll Tour.
Jan. 9, Ardwick Empire, Manchester.

HARDY, the American Blondin,
"King of the High Rope."
Address, Niagara Villa, Doggett-road, Catford, London.

HARLAND and ROLLISON,
Third Week, Broadhead Tour. Vacant February. Address, 16, Repton-street, Upper Brook-st., Manchester.

HARRIS, MISS FANNY, a Grand Success
as Alice, in "Dick Whittington," Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Business-Manager, Harry Dent.

HARRIS and WORTH,
Bigger Success than ever in Macnaghten's "Robinson Crusoe." Second Week, Theatre Royal, South Shields

HARROW, BERT,
that's me. Rajah, Pantomime.
To-day, Star, Swansea; next, Royal, Pontypool.

HART and CO.
Dramatic and Variety Agents, 7, Lancaster-house, Ardville-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 116, Brixton.

HARTLEY WONDERS
and MAGGIE WALSH,
London Hippodrome, great success.

HARVEY BOYS,
the Unrivalled Boxing Comedians.
Tivoli and Grand, Clapham. "The Fighting Dummy."

HASTINGS, GEORGE. KITTY GOWER,
Descriptive Vocalist, Lightning Change Artiste, Starring Montgomery Hall, Sheffield. Vacant Jan. 23, 30.

HASTINGS, JOE, Famous Jumper and
Popular Ringmaster, New Hip., Wolverhampton; also CLARA HASTINGS, Comedienne. Next, H., Norwich.

HAYDEE'S, MDLLE.,
Electric Mannikin Theatre,
Jan. 9, Tivoli, Dublin.

HAYTON, HARRY. Comedian, Terrific
Success of "Bluebell" Parody at Lyric, Liverpool. Next, Pier, Southport. Agents, Fortune and Granville.

HEATH, JACK, Comedian,
big success as Vizier, Macnaghten's Pantomime, "Aladdin." Next week, Palace, Halifax, big success.

HEATON, PROF. TED,
World's Greatest Diver and Swimmer, and SACHA, Queen of the Crystal Tank. Coms., 24, Alton-rd., Liverpool

HENDERSON, FAMOUS, Blind Musical
Genius and Concertina Soloist, usual success, Metropole, Gateshead. Monday next, T., South Shields.

HENDERSON, LADE,
Versatile Vocalist,
Big Success, Palace, Northampton.

HENDERSON and STANLEY
QUARTETTE, Eccentric Acrobatic Musical Act, at Lib. Jan. 9 and on. Wire, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley.

HENRIETTE, the Beautiful Young Musi-
cian. Always a success. Different from all Acts. Hear her Danse Italiane et Mazurka Brilliante. Verno.

HERALD COMEDY FOUR,
Palace, Plymouth.
Vacant 23rd. Must have our price.

HERBERT, FRED,
Premier Topical Vocalist.
Palace, Lincoln. R. Warner.

HERMAN, SYD,
the Original Hebrew Comedian. "Von't you come home, Sol Isaacs?" Monday, Return, T. R., Liverpool.

HILL, BARRY, and LANG,
Knockabout Comedians the usual Success,
Britannia, Glasgow. Liberty Feb. 13. Wire.

HILL, ROWLAND, Thanks Mr. Jordison
for offer of Re-engagement for next Christmas as Ye Dame. Monday, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

HILL and LANE,
in their Unique Speciality.
Jan. 9, Hippodrome, Hastings.

HILTON and HILTON,
Comedy Bar Comedians.
Jan. 9, Grand, Stockton-on-Tees.

HOLLOWAY, MISS KATIE,
"Navaho," enormous success, "Navaho,"
Principal Girl, Metropole, Devonport.

HOOK, WALTER W.
1,408th Consecutive Show, New Century Pictures.
This, Concert Rooms, York; Next, Town Hall, Barrow.

HOPE, F.,
Sensational Trick Cyclist. This, Hippodrome, Grimsby; next, Palace, Derby. Vacant Jan. 30.

HOWARDS, THE
(RALPH and NELLIE),
Palace Theatre, Leicester.

HOWARDS, THE MARVELLOUS, Sir
Thomas and the Beautiful Louie. Waverley Carnival, Edinburgh. Com., Marvellous Howards, Paisley.

HULA, SISTERS, Smart and Up-to-Date
Vocalists and Dancers, Liberty March 6, 13, onwards.
Address, Theatre Royal, West Bromwich.

HULBERT, Ventriloquist, and DE LIL,
Illusionist. Two First-class Acts. Vacant Jan. 16 and March 20. Monday, Grand, Manchester.

HUMBER, FANNIE,
on Tour. All communications,
Didcott, Limited, 6, John-street, Adelphi, London.

HUNTER, G. W.,
Comedian and Raconteur.
Jan. 9, Empire, Belfast.

HUNTLEY and PALMER, Comedians,
with Wrestling Donkey and Acrobatic Goat,
Hippo., Southport. 42, Milbourne-street, Blackpool.

HURST, W. G.,
the Wonderful Cat,
Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, London, S.W.

HYAM, GEORGE, and **NELLIE ROSE,**
big success as Scoot and Princess, Royal Court, Warrington. Monday, Muncaster Theatre, Bootle.

IRVIN, JOHN, Foot Equilibrist, Fossett's
Hippodrome for Five Weeks. Bros. Artois' Touring Agency. Address, "The Era" Office, London.

JAMES, GEORGE, Comedian, still going
great as Fitzwarren, Miss Lena Stanton's "Dick Whittington." Next, Theatre Royal, Goole.

JEROME, CHARLES, terrific success as
King Golliwog, in "Goblin of the Sea," Britannia, Hoxton. Sole Agents, Sidney Hyman, Limited.

JETNEYS, THE.
Best wishes for Lady Carbuncle's recovery. This Week, Hippo., Carlisle. Next Week, Palace, Dundee.

JOHNSON, T. W.,
the Dusky Dandy. Terrific Success, "Crusoe" Pantomime, Opera House, Northampton. All coms.

JOHNSTON, JOHNNY,
London's Star, the Musical Dandy, London Pavilion.
Exclusive Agent, George Barclay, 122, Brixton-hill.

JOHNSTONE, THOS.,
Actor-Vocalist and Mimic, this Week, Hippodrome, Ashton; next Week (Jan. 9), Hippodrome, St. Helens.

JUAN and M'QUE, Comedians.
This, Tivoli Theatre, Manchester;
Next, Tivoli, South Shields.

JUDGE, SISTERS, with their Marvellous
Performing Cockatoos, Parrots, and Macaws.
Jan. 9, Palace, Bow. Booked by Richard Cass.

JULIAN, Demon Contortionist, big success,
"Dick Whittington" Panto. Cat and Speciality.
All coms., 126, Nightingale-road, Hitchin; or, M'Askell.

KATHRENA, IDA,
Fairy Queen and Principal Dancer,
Theatre Royal, Croydon.

KATOS, THE,
Komikal Kidgets,
Hippodrome, Hastings.

KAVADOS, Juggler. Central Palace,
N. Shields; FLO MELVILLE, Burlesque Artiste, Palace T., Bordesley. Monday, Hippodrome, Bolton.

KAY, W. A., the American Lilliputian
Not Marionettes. With Ediscope and Barnum's Pictures. Next, T. R., Houghton-le-Spring. Edgar Forrest.

KEDWARDS, SISTERS, Comediennes
and Clog Dancers. At Liberty March. Principal Girl and Speciality, Pardoe's "Cinderella," C. T. Warrington.

KEENE, BILLY, and **JESSIE ADAMS,**
Duettists, Mimics, and Dancers.
The Finest Society Duo on the Variety Stage.

KEITH, G. H.,
the Popular Vocal Actor, Brilliant Success South London. New Songs in study by Paul Pelham.

KEITH and MERSON, the Great Comedy
Acrobats, continued success, Dottridge and Longden's "Aladdin." Address, Empire Theatre, Oldham.

KERNO, LOUIS,
the Neat Coon Vocalist and Dancer, the usual Success. Communications, Metropole T., Devonport.

KING and DELANE (GEO. and TOM),
Refined Vocal Comedy Act. Big success, Oxford, Middlesbrough. Monday, Empire, Burnley.

KIOTO, N. T.,
Original Japanese Equilibrist. Jan. 9, Lyceum Theatre, Eccles. Pantomime, "Babes in the Wood."

KIRK, HARRY,
Comedian,
Drury-lane Theatre.

KLOET MDLLE., the Original Artist's
Model, Topping Bill Again, Palace, Greenwich. Monday, Duchess, Balham. London.

KLOOF, WILLIE, a Great Laughing Hit
as Hassarac, "Forty Thieves." Communications for the few Vacancies, 1905 (Double Act). Theatre, Luton.

KNICK-KNACKS, THE
(Miss MATTIE CRONIN and HARRY OXBERRY),
this, Empire, Sheffield; Jan. 9, Empire, Liverpool.

KNIGHT, STAR, Mysterious Man in
Red. New Inimitable Spectacular Dumb Mystery Act. Elaborate Dresses, Properties. 93, Camden-street, N.W.

KYDD and KYDD, Comedians and
Dancers. Another week's success, "Jack and Beanstalk," St. Helens; next, K. T., Cardiff. Lib March.

KYOTO, the Only and Original Kyoto;
also MAY GERALDINE. Success, Empire, South Shields. Jan. 9, Circus of Varieties, Bury.

LAKE-GRANGE, GEO,
the Drury-lane Giant.
Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, Pantomime.

LAND, FRED,
Comedian, this week, Empress, Hartlepool;
next week, Tivoli, South Shield.

LANG, GENTLE, BROTHERS
Hippodrome,
Wigan.

LANG, REM, the Eccentric Wizard,
big success, Britannia, Glasgow.
Monday, Hippodrome, Scarborough.

LANNONS, THE,
London, Every Evening.
Private address, 116, New Church-st., Bermondsey, S.E.

LANTON and LANE,
Instantaneous Success. Perks and Pinchit,
"Cinderella," Milton Bode's Co., Opera House, Coventry.

LAROLA and ROSE CABANI,
Monday next, Argyle, Birkenhead.
Agents, George Barclay and Co.

LASSAH, LILLIE.
This week, Metropolitan and Queen's, Poplar;
next week, Jan. 9, Metropolitan (Third Week).

LAVELLE, BROS.,
Quaint Comedy Acrobats.
This, Opera House, Northampton; 9th, Palace, Lancaster.

LAWRENCE, JOE, Comedian and Original
Upside-down Dancer. Free Jan. 23.
Address, 17, Brook-street, Kennington, London.

LAYNE, GEORGE,
a Smart, Humorous Singing Comedian with a Big Voice. Perm address, 11, Cunliffe-st., Pendleton, Lancs

LEAFE, IVY, Screaming Success, Ugly
Sister, Pardoe's "Cinders" Company. This, Court Theatre, Warrington; next, Muncaster Theatre, Bootle.

LE BRETON, LILLIE, Graceful Gymnast.
This, Hippodrome, Southport. Big Success.
Next, Palace, Northampton.

LE CLERQ, GUS,
enormous success as Gertie, Ugly Sister,
Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.

LEE and ARDEN,
"The Lady and the Watchman."
Monday, Palace, Bristol.

LEE, THE Original THREE SISTERS,
Acrobats, big success, Pavilion, Leicester.
Next Week, Palace, Blackburn.

LEECH, ERNIE,
Ventriloquist, at Liberty Monday next.
Wire, Crewe; or, Jess Verno, Agent.

LEFRE, ALBERT,
Prince's Theatre,
Bristol

LE GRAHAM, THREE SISTERS,
finish To-night, Hippodrome, Accrington. Thanks Elliotts and Savonas. Hippodrome, Macclesfield.

LEIGH, THREE SISTERS,
This, Hippo., Eastbourne. At Liberty Monday.
All comes., 17, Osborne-terrace, Clapham-road, London.

LE-MAY, TOM,
the Real Musical Clown,
Hamilton's Excursions, Kenniard Hall, Dundee.

LEONS, TWO, and MITZI.
Great Success at Hippodrome, Carlisle. Monday, Scotch Concerts. Leo MELITA, 315, Argyle-st., Glasgow.

LEOVILLE, LILLIE,
in Pantomime, on Tour. London, Feb. 27, Empire, Bow, Sadler's Wells, Foresters', &c.

LES CARRES, ENIE,
Great Success
Palace, Bordesley.

LES KYASYAS, Limited.
Yes. Who are we?
See other Advertisement.

LESLIE BROTHERS,
Australia's Representative Musical Team.
London Hippodrome. Immense Success. R. Warner.

LESTER'S, LEO,
Miniature Pantomime Sketch, "Sports."
"Goody Two Shoes," Pleasure Gardens T., Folkestone.

LEVEY, "DEL," Songs a Hit, Gorgeous
Dresses, and Success Enormous. Vacant Jan. 9, 16, 23, and April. Wire, 35, North-street, Bridgwater.

LEVITES' Sketch Co.; also BELLE IDA,
the Charming Burlesque Actress and Dancer, in New Songs. Com., 103, Acre-lane, Brixton.

LEWIS, LARRY, an Original Comedian.
Big Success, this week, City, Leeds. Monday, Wolverhampton. No Vacant Dates. Agent, Harry Day.

LEYBOURNE, GEORGE,
General Manager, Alhambra, Sandgate.
Artistes communicate, Fred Durham's Agency.

LISTON, MARIE,
Success, Title-rôle, "Dick Whittington" Pantomime
Company, Launceston, Devon.

LITTLE and GOODE (ADA, LUCY),
Big Success, Palace, Dundee. Vacant Jan. 16, 30.
Address, 20, Hellidge-place, Hunslet, Leeds.

LIZZETTE, THE FOUR SISTERS,
Lady Acrobats; ELSIE RUBINA, Wire Dancer, on Tour. Garrick Theatre, Hereford.

LODDGE, BROS., Silver Chain Acrobats,
Success, Palace, Blackpool. Free Jan. 16
Wire or write, Palace Theatre, Cork. Agent, James Fioni.

LOYD, FRED,
"The Blind Spinster," Comedy Sketch.
Jan. 9, Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow.

LOGAN, DAINTY GRACIE,
finishes To-night Big Success, Hippo., Scarborough.
Monday next, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent.

LORRIMER, JACK,
the latest Scotch. Re-engaged Four Years, Palace T., London. Exclusive Agents, T. Shaw and Co. See Back Page.

LORRISONS, THE (FRED and LILA),
Eccentrics. Jan 9, Alhambra, Sandgate.
Day's Agency.

LOTTO, LILO, and OTTO,
Trick Cyclists.
2, Lambeth Palace-road, S.E.

LUCAS, MR. and MRS EDWARD H.,
in "Scenes from Dickens." This, Hippo., Norwich. Next, Grand, Hanley. Jan. 30, Lyceum, London.

LUMIERE'S, MDLLE., ELECTRICAL
FAIRY GROTTO, Cheered and Recheered Daily, Zoo, Glasgow. Mon, P., Glasgow. Coms. to Inventor, J. Biteno.

LYNCH, AGNESE and ARTHUR,
with American Picture Songs. Palace, Aberdeen.
Monday, Tivoli, Glasgow.

LYNN (the O.S.N.B.), Starring as usual,
Mdlle. La Tosca's Living Statuary, Grand New Act, Dec. 26, H., Accrington; this week, Hippo., Castleford.

LYONS, HARRY,
singing Auctioneer.
Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Ireland.

MACINTOSH, GEO.,
Champion Clog Dancer of the World.
This week, Tivoli, Dublin. Vacant Jan. 9 and 16.

MACS, THE NEW,
Comedians.
Theatre Royal, Hanley.

MAGNETS, THE FOUR,
Vocalists, Acrobatic, Buck, and Sand Dancers.
Big Success, Pantomime, Alexandra, Sheffield.

MALCOLM, FRED,
as Arthur, in Miss Carney's New Production,
"The Laundry." The London.

MALCOLM, GEORGE,
Comedian. Empress, Brixton, and Walham-green.
Agent, George Barclay.

MALONE and CONLEY.
Enormous success as Hasarac and Hasaric, Little's "Forty Thieves," Third Year. Next, T., Motherwell.

MALVA, Ventriloquist; **STANLEY**
HOPPS, Comic Conjuror. Liberty Monday. Wire, Brit., Glasgow, Sat.; after, 45, Carley-road, Sunderland.

MARCONIS, THE Great, Most
Wonderful Electric Act on Earth.
Next week, Stoll's Hippodrome, Manchester.

MARIES, ETHEL,
Great Success, Theatre Royal, Croydon. Disengaged Spring. 13, Theobald's-road, W.C.

MARIOTTI, ADA, the Flexible Venus;
MARTI and JULIETTA, H. Barrs' Pantomime,
"Aladdin." Globe Theatre, Walmer, Deal.

MARNEY, LILY,
Empire,
Nottingham.

MARTIN, MISS HELEN,
resumes work, Empire, Stratford, Jan. 16, 1905.
Letters, 8, Cambridge-road, Southampton.

MARTINO, the Man Frog.
An artistic performance.
Monday next, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

M'ASKELL, Comic Conjuror, Monday
next, Queen's and Tivoli. All communications to 25, Elizabeth-street, Ibrox, Glasgow.

M'AUBERS, THE,
Triple Bar Comedians, Vacant Jan. 9, 16.
Communications, 54, Aliwal-road, Clapham-junction.

MAXFORD, DAN,
Unemployed Jan. 9 and onwards.
102, Rusholme-road, Manchester.

MAXWELL and FRANCES.
TOM and (his Daughter) VIRGINIA.
Jan. 9, Grand, Clapham.

MAYF, PERCY.
Immediate dates postponed. Thanks managers.
134, Southbank-road, Southport.

MAYNALL, ALF,
Pilly "Beauty and the Beast."
Grand Theatre, Woolwich.

MAYNE, ALICIA,
Australian Dramatic Songstress, with Beautifully Coloured Photo-Illustrations. 12, Dover-mans., Brixton.

MAYNE, VERA, Principal Boy, Opera
House, Northampton. Big Success of "Bull and Bush," "Blue Bell," and "Where is the Heart."

MAYO, JOE, Lancashire's Favourite Come-
dian, Up-to-Date, the Original Lancashire Collier Lad. Sure success. Carmen-street, Ardwick, Manchester.

M'CANN'S Famous Irish Terriers and
Champion Leaping Dogs Vacant Jan 23 30
Address, Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth.

MEIER and MORA,
this Month big Success, Alhambra, Paris; next Month, Lyceum, London. See Advert. on other Page

MERRY, MISS FLO, Baroness, in
"Cinderella." Big success. Vacant March 20 for Good Character Part. Her Majesty's Theatre, Walsall.

MESSER, G. F.
The Enterprise, Coldharbour-lane, Camberwell, S.E.
H. O. C. Meeting Every Sunday. 8 30.

M'FALL, JOHN E., Gardeners' Arms, 10,
Market-street, and 5, Manse-lane, Greenock. Agent, M.H.A.R.A. "The Era" and other papers kept.

PHILLIS and TERRY.
Empire, Nottingham.
Monday, Palace, Leicester.

PLANTS, THE TWO, Vocal and Musical Act, Vacant 9th, on. Big success this week, T, Chester-le-street; next, Witton Park, Co. Durham.

POLLARD BROS. and KITTY GREY, in "Nailed to the Mast," by arrangement with Edward Cranston. Opera House, Chatham.

POOLE, DAVID, the Ventriloquist, thanks Harry Weldon for Beautiful Gold Repeater, Christmas Present. Palace, Blackpool. Booking 1907.

POOLE, SISTERS
(ADA and LETTA). On Tour.
Permanent, 29, King-street, Hull.

PRIMAVESI,
Unique Juggler,
Standard, Pimlico.

PRINELLAS, LES,
in their own Original Scena, "A Country Flirtation." Hippo., Acorington; next, Grand Pavilion, Altrincham.

PROSPER and MADAME BENN thanks W. Barker, Esq, Station Hotel, West Hartlepool, for handsome pipe. Monday next, E, Rochdale.

PRY, PAUL, The Page, tremendous success; MARIE ST. JOHN, Pretty Pet, "Cinderella," Opera House, Torquay.

RADIUM GIRLS (NANCY and AMY),
Jan. 9,
New Alhambra, Birmingham.

RAFFIN'S, MISS,
Incomparable Troupe of Monkeys,
Pavilion, Glasgow.

RALSTON BROTHERS, This Week, Empire, Portsmouth; Next, Gatti's (Road); 16th, Argyle, Birkenhead. "Blind Leading Blind." Bentley.

RAY, HARRY, and LILLIE CALDEN, the Cleverest and most Versatile Double Act. Gigantic success, Dundee. Next, Palace T., Aberdeen.

REDFERNS, THE (RUBIE and ELSIE), Premier Lady Banjoists, &c., City Varieties, Leeds. Monday, 10, Bremner-street, Stockport-rd., Manchester.

REED, MISS EVA,
Comedienne and Top-boot Dancer.
Address, 12A, Westbury-villas, Westbury-av., London, W.

REED and LERNE,
the Novel Comedians.
Successful Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

REEVE, MISS EDNA,
Big Success, A. A. P. M. Touring Company.
Knightstone Pavilion, Weston-super-Mare.

REGAN and RYAN, Princess's Theatre, Glasgow (Second Season). Originators of the business being done in "Oh! Argeline!" by so many.

RESDAN, RITA,
London's Favourite Male Impersonator. Scoring Big as Aladdin. Monday, Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury.

RESFORD and HUNT,
"The Widow and the Duke."
Jan. 9, Tivoli, Manchester.

REX and FORD, Eccentric Patter Comedians, also Musical Speciality. All communications, 1, Sharsted-street, Kennington-park, S.E.

RHODES, THE WILSON, TRIO,
in "Mixed Pickles."
Palace, Bordesley, Birmingham.

RICH and RICH,
the Slops, "Aladdin,"
Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, N.

RICHARDS, ARTHUR, having amassed a vast amount of wealth last year, is prepared to advance same. Stair's Motor Sensation, Lyceum, London.

RICK and LAUREL,
Comedians and Dancers, finish To-night, Tivoli, Manchester. Monday, King's, Liverpool. Stebbings' Agency.

RITTER, VICTOR,
Musical Clown.
Communications, care of "The Era" Office.

RIVERS, VIOLET, Lady Comedian, Ugly Sister, Pardoe's "Cinderella." Another Glorious success this week; next, Mucaster, Bootle.

ROBY, ELSIE,
Cheekee, "Aladdin,"
Marlborough Theatre, N.

ROSE, ELLA, Vocalist, Twice Daily, Eglington's "Babes in the Wood" Pantomime. Palace Pier Theatre, Brighton. Offers invited for October

ROSS, BILLY, and COMPANY, in Comic Absurdity, "The Hot Member," London Halls. Vacant Jan. 16, 23. Wire, 30, Morat-street, Brixton, S.W.

ROSE and ROSE,
Burlesque Artistes.
Jan 9, Empire, Kilburn.

ROSS-CLYDE COMEDY CO., THE, in their Laughing Hit, "I Must Have It!" Next (Jan. 9), Gatti's (Westminster-bridge-road).

ROULETTA, MISS LILY, Third Year with F. Graham Falcon as Bo-peep, Alexandra Palace. Perm. Address, 42, Falmouth-chambers, New Kent-rd., S.E.

ROUSBY, HARRY,
Comedian, "Goody Two Shoes" Pantomime.
Theatre Royal, Sheffield, every Evening.

ROWLEY, MR. J. W.,
Panto. Season, T. R., Bradford. Letters, 37, Salem-st.
Also for Miss ELLA DEAN.

ROYAL, TOM W, Winner of Champion Belt, defeating Twenty-five Competitors, Olympia, Bury, Dec. 10, 1904. Lyric, Liverpool; next, Parthenon.

ROYCE, MADAME MARIE,
Ballet Mistress,
Grand Theatre, Leeds.

ROZE and CALVERT,
Theatre Royal, Bradford.
Re-engaged by John Hart, Esq., 1905-6.

ROZEL,
Le Roi de L'Air,
Hippodrome, Carlisle; Next Week, Hippo., Southport.

RUSHFORTHS, THE, and KING LEO, Brilliant Success, Argyle, Birkenhead. Monday (Return), Standard, Pimlico, 8·5 and 9 0 o'clock.

RUSSELL, JACK,
Comedian and Instrumentalist,
Concludes To-night, Pavilion, Carnarvon.

RYDE and BEEMAN, Flip and Flop and Act. Great guns. Royal, King's Lynn. Next, Theatre Royal, Batley. Open for Galas.

RYLAND, CLIFF,
Will Sung Sing Loo or will Lung Fing Loo?
Working, thank you. Regards to "Forty Thieves."

SABINO, the Man of Many Instruments. Conclude to-night with Great Success, Circus, Hull. Monday, Montgomery Hall, Sheffield. Liberty Jan. 16.

SAKER, ALFRED.
Secretary, Leon Victor.
17, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

SALAMBOS, THE,
Touring the World, Enormous success.
Letters, Tivoli Theatre, Sydney, N.S. Wales, Australia.

SALAMONSKY'S FIRE HORSE.
Address, Eugene Marrder,
Jan. 9, Empire, Glasgow.

SALMON, W., Trick and Musical Cyclist, big hit, Kirkcaldy Carnival.
Next week, Empire, Hull. Vacant Jan. 30

SANDY and CARL.
Comedians of the First Water. Big success, as usual, Tivoli, Shields. Monday, Circus, Rochdale.

SAMBA, Dainty Little Jap, Juggler. Vacant Jan. 9 and 16
Address, Hall, Brixton, London.

SANTOI and her Merry Japs
thank Friends for their many Good Wishes.
Address, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

SCOTT, GREAT, King of all Ladder Equilibrists. Walham-green. Open time, January, 1906. America, Barrasford's, Paris, &c. Agent, Foster.

SCOTT, MISS WINNIE
This week, Tivoli, Dublin.
Monday next, Tivoli, Barrow.

SEABORNES, THREE,
the Great Sensational New Act, Oxford, Middlesbrough. Jan. 7, Empire, York. Pacey and Reeves.

SELBY and MYERS,
the Bailiffs, in "Little Bo-Peep."
Jan. 9, Opera House, Harrogate.

SELMAN, E. W., High-class Comedian, Palace, Swansea. Vacant Jan. 16 and 23. IVY GALLARD, Panto., Shields. Will buy funny songs.

SHAW, ALF,
Comedian. "Still walking."
This, Alhambra, Hope-street, Birmingham.

SHIELDS, JIMMY.
A Novel Act. Always goes great. J. H. Milburn send address. Empire Theatre, Glasgow.

SHIPLEY, SAM, and BEATIE WORTH.
Liberty Jan. 9, 16 Wire for good value.
Central Palace, North Shields. Wire.

SILBON'S Vaudeville Circus,
Pantomime, "Cinderella,"
Opera House, York.

SILCOTT, THREE SISTERS,
New Century Theatre,
Motherwell.

SILL and SILLCOTT,
Pantomimists. It is better to receive than to expect (replies). Success, Stanley. Add., 5, Shaw-st., Oldham.

SILVO, Gymnast; LOUIE DUVAL, Comedienne, Dancer. Monday, 83, Sunderland-st., Harpurhey. Hippo., Carlise, to follow. Liberty 23d.

SILVO, MUSICAL,
Inventor of the Silvochimes and Bamboo Bells.
Tivoli, Glasgow.

SINCLAIR, GEORGE, Agent and Author and Composer of Smart Up-to-date Songs.
Call, 12, Walcot-gardens, Kennington-road, S.E.

SIVANE and FEILDON, Comedy Parkkeepers. The Originators of this Act. This, Hippodrome, Macclesfield; next, Empire, Wrexham.

SLONE, MR. RYDER,
Granville, Standard.
Duchess, Balham.

SMARTE, BROTHERS,
Acrobatic and Legmania Grotesques; Miss AGNES LE BLAND, Serio and Dancer. Fossett's Hippo., Rugby.

SMITH and JOHNSON,
the Real "Navaho." Success, Paddington, Liverpool. Jan. 9, Royal, Warrington. "Navaho."

SMYTHSONS, THE
Metropolitan and Duchess, Balham.
Next (Jan. 9), Empress, Brixton.

SNOW and FARRON, in Negro-osities. Best of all Imitators of the American Coloured Lady and Gent. Dalston Theatre Pantomime.

SOLARI DUO, THE,
in their clever and refined Vocal and Instrumental Act. Hippodrome, Ipswich; next, Pier, Southport.

SOLO and MAYO.
F.S. . . . dancing . . . wonderful . . . a most suitable representative of the part. Panto., T. R., Nottingham.

SOMERS, FELIX,
Facial King, "People We Know."
Town Hall, Reading.

SPRAYS, LES
(MARIE and MINNIE).
This Week, Tivoli, Manchester; Next, Gatti's, London.

SPRING and SPRING, ROSIE CARLO, Champion Undefeated Acrobatic Barrel Jumpers, Ohmy's Hippo., Bolton. Happy New Year to All.

STACEY, ARTHUR, Eccentric Comedian and Speciality Top-boot Dancer, Empire, Dover. Agent, Tom Claxton, 7, New Coventry-street, W.C.

STAVORDALE QUINTETTE,
Absolutely Unique, Manager, Bernard Stavordale.
Free Jan. 30. Empire, Wolverhampton.

STEINWAY GLEE SINGERS.
Their singing affords much enjoyment.—The Times.
Grand Theatre, Fulham, S.W.

STEPHENS, MOUNT, and RENNIOR, HARRY, Great success, Fitzwarren and Idle Jack. Next week, Opera House, Wakefield.

STEPHENSON, BOB,
Comedian and Eccentric Dancer. "Get away, you boys, get away," by J. H. Barton. Palace, Northampton.

STERN and STERN,
"Cinderella" Pantomime.
Theatre Royal, King's Lynn; or, Didcott.

ST. JOHNS, THE, Comedy, Musical and Dancing Act, Enormous Success, Empire, Burnley. Mon., P., Cork. A Few Vacancies, Jan. 16, on.

STUART, MR. BERNARD (BARNEY), the Empire Palace Theatre of Varieties, Rochdale.

SUNDERLAND, MISS NELLIE,
Lady Conjuror and Humourist, now on Tour.
Letters, care of "The Era." "Isn't he nice?"

SWIFT, STIRTEVANT,
the Swell Coon, To-night (Saturday), Palace, East Ham
Permanent address, 790, Romford-road, Manor-park.

SYLVESTO, EDITH, Unique Lady Bender; This, Grand, Sheffield; next, Palace, Bradford. Thanks to Durham for Contract. Agents, Sley and Cass.

TAIT, "SILENT,"
Terrific Success, Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.
See Back Page.

TALBERTO and DOUGLAS,
Would you believe it?
In the Cards, too.

TALBOT, T. B., CARRIE LESLIE,
Eccentric Comedian. Sensible Songstress.
Monday, Return, Westminster, Liverpool.

TAYLOR and WHITE, Comedians, Patterers, Vocalists, and Expert Dancers. Continued success, Imperial Hippo, Belfast. At Liberty Jan. 16, on.

TELL and TELL,
Eccentric Equilibristic Marvels,
Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

TEXAS, CAPTAIN and MADAME, World's Champion Rifle and Pistol Experts. Liberty Jan. 16. Address, Carnival, Paisley.

TISO, LILY,
Jan. 9, Palace, Hull.
Agents, Warner and Co.

TOWEROGRAPH ANIMATED PICTURES and Continental Bioscope, Open for Bookings. O. T., Robinson, 27, Birley-street, Blackpool.

TRAVERS, VICTOR,
Pickles, the Page, in "Cinderella."
Opera House, Middlesbrough. G. Barclay.

TRAY and RICH,
Canterbury.
Foster, London, Agent.

TRENT, MISS CISSY,
the Original Dainty Dancing Doll.
King's Theatre, Cardiff. At Liberty March 6.

TROUBADOUR F
America's Famous Quartette.
Coliseum, London, until Jan. 14.

TUDOR, BROS., and MISS LILL
Teacup Experts, Vacant Monday. Great success, Carnival. Tudor, Drill Hall, Bolton.

TWIBELL, ADA,
at Liberty Monday next, Jan. 9; also 16th.
Wire, 27, St. Lawrence-road, Brixton, S.W.

UNITA and PAUL, Aerialistic Twirling, Sensational and Comedy Gymnasts. Great success, Tivoli, Dublin. Vacant 16th. 37, City-road, Liverpool.

URMA, THREE SISTERS,
Premier Triple Trapeze Artistes,
Hamilton's Excursions, Dundee.

VALDOS, LES,
Theatre Royal, Manchester.
Theatre Royal, Manchester.

VALVO, CHARLES,
Ventriloquist.
People's Palace, Bridlington.

VANDEAN, TESSIE, Prince, in "Cinderella." Great success of "Don't Judge a Man," "Bluebell," and "Navaho." O. H., Torquay, Devon.

VANDYKE'S, CHARLES,
"Sensations" and "Nicodemus."
Alhambra, Hull.

VARNO and NANO, Comedy Gymnasts. Success, Marston and Buckstone's Panto., Parts, Speciality. Vacant Feb. 20, on. Court Theatre, Bacup.

VELYANTI DUO, Acrobatic Comedy Jugglers. Great success, Cannibal King, "Robinson Crusoe." Few Weeks Vacant. T. R., Exeter, Devon.

VENTOR, ALBERT,
Comedian, "Robinson Crusoe" Pantomime,
Opera House, Cheltenham.

VERE and ROYAL, Comedy Duo. Knocking 'Em, Park Hippodrome, Fifth Turn, and following Four Double Acts. Monday, Hippo, Salford.

VERNE, SISTERS,
Vocalists and Speciality Dancers. Liberty Monday.
Wire, Olympia, Sunderland.

VERNO'S, JESS, AGENCY,
61, West Derby-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2,076 Royal.

VICTORIAS, THREE,
Usual Success, Empire, Edinburgh. Monday, Empire, Glasgow. Seventh Year of Moss's Tour.

VINCENT,
Jan 9,
London, Shoreditch.

VIOLAS, THE, Top Liners, Parthenon, Liverpool; Monday, Empire, Rochdale. Happy New Year to All. Sley, Manchester.

VIOLI,
Lady Instrumentalist,
Oxford, Middlesbrough.

VIVIAN'S VAUDEVILLE COMPANY,
Empire, Middlesbrough.
Jan. 9, Empire, Wolverhampton.

VOLBECQUE, SISTERS, Clever Comedy Duettists, big success, Second Boy and Girl. Lib. May and June. Address, Opera House, Northampton.

VOX, BARNEY, "Ireland's Own," Monday. Empire, Birmingham. Who said "Pike fishing?" Was it you, Albert? Bow-wow!

WAITE, TED, "the Long Comedian," Requires Jan. 20 Next week, write, Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow. Kind Regards to Ryde and Beeman.

WALFORD, MARIE (Mystic Marie), Dr. Walford Bodie's Real Trilby. Dover Castle Hotel, Westminster-bridge-road, London, S.E.

WALKER, COMICAL, Local Nippers. Mons. REKLAW, Globe Performer Two Good Turns. Vacant Monday. Wire, Palace, Glasgow.

WALKER, HARRY,
Enormous hit, Royal, Holborn.
Monday, Bedford, Camden-town.

WALLACE, DAVE, MARIE TILLEY, Finish to-night Hippodrome, Norwich. Enormous success. Encored Nightly. Monday, Hippo., Ipswich.

WALLACE, MISS RAY,
London Season, Three Months.
Agents, Didcott and Co.

WALLIS, W. H.
(Tennyson and Wallis), the Successful Song Writer.
Address, 7, Victoria-park-road, London, N.E

WAMBAS, TWO (Lady and Gent), Comedy Musicians. LA BELLE LILY and ALBERT, Trapezists. Terms and Dates, Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

WARDEN-REED,
Empire, Manchester; Jan. 23 Vacant.
Apply, Day's Agency, Effingham House.

WARNER, SISTERS, Duettists and Acrobatic Dancers, Theatre Royal, Bristol, Second Boy and Girl and Speciality. Agents, Pacey and Reeves

WATSON, D. W.,
the Clever Cornet Solcist, Vocalist, and Coach-horn Player. Monday next, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

WATSONS, of Vocal, Musical, and Comedy Fame, Terrific success, London Nightly.
Address, 35, Walcot-square, S.E.

WATTS, CLIVE,
Refined Vaudeville Artiste and World's Greatest Wooden Shoe Dancer. Agent, H. Day.

WEBB, THE BROTHERS,
Hippodrome,
London.

WELSHMEN, FOUR ROYAL, Original Rhondda Valley Glee Singers The Only Troupe Touring Open for Summer. Agent, T. Shaw, London.

WHITELEY, FRANK, and ALICE OAKLEY, great success, Belfast; Monday next, Tivoli, Dublin. Liberty Jan. 16, 23. Offers invited.

WHITNEY, W., BEATIE FOSTER, Comedian, Comedienne, Jan. 9, Hippodrome, Scarborough.

WILDER BROTHERS,
Pyrotechnic Artists, Gala and Fête Agents, &c.
29, Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

WILKINSON'S, MATT,
Comedy Sketch Company, "The Registry Office."
Hippodrome, Accrington, Jan. 9.

WILLIAMS, BERT.
Novelty Ventriloquist. Always successful. Vacant Jan. 16. Queen's-park, Manchester. Agent, W. Sley.

WILLIAMS and BROWN, the first to use the Title, "Cross-talk Comedians." Monday, Jan. 9, Palace, Swansea.

WILSON, J. A., Negro Comedian, "The Black Oracle," Argyle Varieties, Birkenhead. Look out for New Act. Agent, Tom Shaw.

WILTON, MISS VIOLET,
making the Business at Home.
Burlington House, Woodhouse-street, Leeds.

WINDER, BERTHA, the Dancing Marvel, Champion Clog and Big Boot Dancer.
Still improving. 82, Camden-road, N.W.

WINSOME, MISS MARIE.
This Week, Tivoli, Dublin.
Monday next, Tivoli, Barrow.

WOELLHAFS, THE, Splendid Success, H., Grimsby. New Dresses greatly admired. Liberty Monday. Address, 17, St. George's-road-buildings, S.E.

WOODFORD'S, KITTY, Canine Circus and Orchestra, also Latest American Illustrated Songs This and next, Albert Hall, Swansea.

WOODWARD, CHAS., another great success, Palace, Hammersmith. Thanks Mr De Frece for offer Monday, Palace, Lancaster.

WRIGHT and
Comedy Duologue, "The Lady"
Jan. 30. 76, King-street, Southsea.

WRIGHT, FRED, and MAUD GARLAND.
Monday next, Return, Royal Albert, Canning-town.
Communications, 118, New North-road, London, N.

YAMAMOTO and KOYOSHI, Celebrated Japanese Equilibrists, the Unique Feats. Palace Theatre, London. Perm. address, 10, Rue Saulnier, Paris.

YORICKS, THE,
in Two Volumes.
Letters, please, 15, Spittle-street, Edinburgh.

YORKE, MISS ETHEL,
the Successful Comedienne, Palace, Glasgow; 9th, Pavilion, Newcastle. Free 16th, 23d, 30th. Offers invited.

YORKE, ROLAND, and COMPANY.
"Napoleon."
Agents, Fortune and Granville.

ZAMPAH, BROS., World's Greatest One-Legged Marvels, terrific success, Empire, Burnley. Next week, Grand, Manchester. Re dates, Will Sley.

ZARELLS, THE, Great Comedy Bar Act, in Clean Comedy.
Communications, Palace, Lincoln.

ZARO and ARNO,
Comedy Bar Act, Barnard's, Chatham. Monday next, Richmond Theatre. Few Vacancies only for 1905.

ZAROS, THE Original,
Grand,
Bolton.

ZEDORAS, THE FLYING (Two Ladies, Two Gents), and ALAR, the Human Arrow. Stage or Auditorium. 90, Victoria-street, Ipswich.

ZERBINIS, THE Musical Electrical Five Royal, in Magnificent Scena, "Fairyland." Hippo., Wakefield. Next Two Weeks, Palace, Aberdeen.

ZETTER, HARRY,
Comedian and Grotesque Dancer.
Jan. 9, Palace, Attercliffe.

ZUILA, ELLA
the World-renowned Lady High-Wire Performer,
at Liberty. Address, "The Era" Office.

IN Case of the Non-Delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publisher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers with the time of delivery marked upon them.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES RAILWAY ASSOCIATION.
Offices,
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Entrance Fee, 5s. Annual Subscription, 5s. Telegrams, "Orchestrae, London." Telephone, 4,298, Gerrard.
C. DOUGLAS STUART, Secretary.

THE TERRIERS' ASSOCIATION.
Registered Office,
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Notice.
The Extraordinary General Meeting will be held at the Hercules, at 10 o'clock, on Friday, Jan. 27, when Terriers are requested to attend. Business most important.
All communications to HARRY LESTER, Secretary.

READY WEDNESDAY NEXT, JAN. 11.
THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION.
Price, ONE SHILLING; by Post, TWELVE STAMPS.
1905—THE ERA ANNUAL—1905
The Most Complete
DRAMATIC DICTIONARY OF DATES
and
THEATRICAL TREASURY OF KNOWLEDGE
ever brought before the Public
It will also be found to be the most Interesting Annual of the Year.
Office, 49 WELLINGTON-STREET, STRAND, W.C.

Perfection of Training.
DE GRACIA'S
ASSAM ELEPHANTS,
in their
Marvellous Sensational and Laughable Acts,
"CRICKET"
and
"LE COIFFEUR."
Great Success at the Palace Theatre.
Re-engaged for Another Month.
De Gracia, Owner, Trainer,
and Originator of the above Acts,
Thanks the Great London Papers for their Splendid Notices and Illustrations of his Acts.
PALACE,
SHAFTESBURY-AVENUE.
For terms and particulars apply Wieland's Agency.

DUNEDIN TROUPE,
World-famed Cyclists,
on Tour, SOUTH AMERICA.
Immense Success. Immense Success.
JAS. E. DONEGAN, Managing-Director.

THE ROZARE BOLLEROS TROUPE,
Great Comedy Acrobatic Three-Bar Act.
The only Act of its Kind. Away from all Others.
Vacant Monday, also Jan. 16, 23. Wire, Hippo., Perth; after, 39, Fortess-road, Kentish-town, London.

JOE BOGANNY'S
LUNATIC BAKERS.
Five
in Number.
Going Stronger than Ever.
CRYSTAL PALACE.
One or Two Weeks Free this Year.
Agent,
T. Shaw.

MAX MERLIN,
Crocodile.
Own Scenery. In everybody's mouth. Liberty Jan. 9, 16.
Saturday, 66, North-street, Scarborough;
after, 15A, East-parade, Leeds.

Managers get Value for Money.
LES KYASYAS, Limited, Genuine High-class Herculean Teeth and Hair Novelty, including the Young American Lady Athlete, Miss CASA. Only Lady in the World accomplishing Feats of Strength by the Human Hair. Refinement is a special study of this Act. Note.—No Dumb-bells, No Tights, and No Display of Brawny Muscles; but a Classical, Picturesque, Sensational Performance in Evening Dress. Can follow anything. Stands on its own, and similar to none. We don't Top everywhere, but often make the Top feel uncomfortable. Two Great Specialities in one Gorgeous Electro-plated Fit-up. Superb Lithos., and 10cwt. carried. Concluded Barrasford Tour, &c., huge success. Complimented by the Clergy and Elite of Bournemouth with Dan Godfrey, Esq., High-class Concerts. Who's next. We astound and please the most fastidious audience. We have Jan. 16 and 30 Vacant, and we want our Price for Good Goods, which we undertake to forfeit if we fail. Success with any Audience. Address for this Original Genuine Drawing-room Novelty, Hippo., Wakefield. Jan. 9, COLLINS'S HIPPODROME, STOKE-ON-TRENT.

THE FIVE
BON-BONS.
HARRY BON-BON'S Comedy Five.
Tremendous success Palace, Halifax, Screams of Laughter Nightly. Monday next, PAV., LEICESTER.

THREE DAGMARS, THREE,
Acrobats and Tumblers.
At Liberty Jan. 16, 23, 30, 1905
Big success, New Year's Entertainments, Kirkcaldy.
Monday next, TIVOLI and QUEEN'S, GLASGOW.

VINCENT,
Acrobatic Table Expert and Arab Tumbler,
Jan. 9,
LONDON SHOREDITCH,
Pacey and Reeves.

ENTS

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No. 5,076, Gerrard.
and SOMERS,
THAN and SOMERS,
NATHAN and SOMERS,

DRAMATIC and MUSICAL AGENCY,
31, 32, and 33,
HENRIETTA-STREET, COVENT-GARDEN, W.C.

ROSEN and BLISS,
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French, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, and Portuguese written and spoken.
Star Artistes Required for the Continent.
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CHAS. B. COCHRAN and CO., LTD.,
are giving up their Offices at
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from To-day.

Addess all business communications to
Mr C. B. COCHRAN,
care of
Messrs GALENZI and SHEREK,
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DRAMATIC, MUSICAL, and VARIETY AGENCY.
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Telegraphic address, "Serpentelo, London."
Telephone, No. 12,605 Central.

Telephone, 2,193 Hop Telegrams, "Trappous, London."
J. LOTTO'S AGENCY.
Always an Opening for Stars and Novelties.

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HARRY DAY'S VARIETY AGENCY,
EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL-ST., STRAND,
Having the Exclusive Bookings of Five Provincial Halls, can place good Acts in Immediate Dates.
Artistes in all Lines apply above address.

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VARIETY, THEATRICAL, and ENTERTAINMENT AGENTS.
Sole Representatives for
Frank Lincoln, Malini, Rofix, Walter Graham, Nelson Jackson, Les Adcs, &c.
Telephone, 822 Mayfair. Telegrams, "Drama, London."

ATROY,
Society Juggler,
the Originator of the Rolling Hoops,
THE OXFORD, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Vacant Jan. 23 and 30.

ZANETTOS,
the Merry Japs,
SVEA THEATRE, STOCKHOLM.

CAICEDO,
King of the Wire.
Engaged for Twenty Weeks with Messrs Keith and others from Dec. 12. At Liberty after May, 1905.
Address, care of "The Era."

VALAZZI
L'Inimitable Speciality.
"Sloping the Slope" on a Cannon Ball.

Address, 16, Panton-street, W.

M. GINTARO,
Japanese.
Thanks all friends on behalf of his Country and Himself for Telegrams and Letters on the Surrender of Port Arthur.
Address, en route.

THE THREE JUGGLING GERALDOS.
Top of Bill Last Week, Hippodrome, St. Helens.
Top of Bill This Week, Empire, Rochdale.
Top of Bill Next Week, PALACE, LANCASTER.

Rochdale Times, Jan. 4, 1905, says:—
It must have been a double pleasure to Mr Hargreaves on Monday evening, not only to have two full "houses, but to see and hear the satisfaction and applause accorded the Three Juggling Geraldos, who give a display with clubs which is both wonderful and sensational, and must be seen to be fully credited. The peals of applause which greeted their extraordinary abilities were such as are seldom, if ever, heard in any variety house.

HARDY,
the American Blondin,
the Unapproachable and Universally Acknowledged "King of the High Rope."
Too Strong for Rivals. Too Great for Imitators.
The most Marvellous Mid-Air Performance in Existence.
All communications,
Niagara Villa, Doggett-road, Catford, London.

BROTHERS LLOYD,
the Original and Only Double Tight-rope Experts.
Monday,
HIPPODROME, GREAT YARMOUTH.
Vacant Jan. 16, Feb 6 13.

Just entered the business. Our Proprietor informs us we will be accustomed to the boards in about a fortnight.
REZENE and ROBINI,
the Two Little Amateurs on their Perch
T. R., COATBRIDGE, Marris's Panto. Agent, R. Warner.

ARTHUR SAXON and CO.
Proprietors, Managers, Agents, look out for New Act, the Sensation of the Twentieth Century. First Production in Spring, 1905. 109, Wellington-rd. S., Stockport. Jan. 9 METROPOLE THEATRE, CAMBERWELL.

KYOTO, KYOTO, KYOTO,
the Original One, the Original One.
"The Mysterious Comedy Japanese Box. A Laughing and Applauding Hit. Enormous success Empire, South Shields. Jan. 9, CIRCUS OF VARIETIES, BURY.
Also MAY GERALDINE, Comedienne and Dancer.

Still to the Front. The
THREE WOODBEE WONDERS,
Comedy Herculean Acrobats, now appearing for the Third Year with Messrs Little and Dare's Pantomime with Tremendous Success. Screams, Shouts, and Yells from Start to Finish. Monday, for Two Weeks,
NEW CENTURY T., MOTHERWELL, SCOTLAND.

REVELL TROUPE, in their great Pantomime Act, "Mischief." Just concluded, Palace, Plymouth, Re-booked, also Empire, Portsmouth. Enormous success. Grand, Hanley. Mon. next, OPERA HOUSE, YORK. Complimented by Managers, Press, and Public as the Smartest Pantomimic Act travelling.

THE LATOURES
in their
Miniature Opera Parody.
Something New for England,
For Free Time.
All communications to
GEORGEN KIRCH,
Strasse 63, Berlin;
or to Business-Manager,
JOE BOGANNY, Crystal Palace, London.

THE ALBYNS
(Three Ladies, Three Gents).
New and Original Vocal and Comedy Act, with Comedian.
Every One an Artiste and Vocalist.
The most Varied Show on the Halls. Big success Ardwick Empire. Vacant 16th and onward, with exceptions.
Yates's Agency, 3, Oxford-grove, Manchester, S.E.

HICKS'S CLERKS,
the Inimitable Vocalists and Comedians.
Big Success Everywhere.
Conclude To-night, Hippodrome, Lowestoft.
Monday, Hippodrome, Eastbourne.

MARTINO'S Great Levitation Act,
"Nita," the Hypnotised Lady, that is causing such a great sensation at Mr Symonds' World's Fair, Stanhope-road, Portsmouth. Re-engaged for Four Weeks longer by Mr Symonds at an increase of salary. This is what Mr Symonds says: "Martino, yours is the best stage show for drawing the public I ever had." At Liberty Jan. 30 and onwards. Also at Liberty at the same time—the clever BROTHERS COSTELLO, the great Funambulist and Legmania Artistes Good Lithos. A Good Agent required. Reply to A. Martino, Symond's World's Fair, Stanhope-road, Portsmouth. 9,034 passed the turnstiles to see this show on Bank Holiday. Extract from The Era, May 14, 1904:—Bingley Hall, Birmingham. "Nita" presents a marvellous performance which mystifies the audience.

An Instantaneous Success. A

is the Unanimous Verdict of the Press for

ESPINOSA'S

Miniature Pantomime,
"CINDERELLA" IN ONE HOUR
at the
WALTHAMSTOW PALACE.

Talented Artistes, Pretty Dresses, Smart Scenery, Thirty People, Ponies, Electric Carriage, &c., and any amount of
GOOD WHOLESOME FUN.
The whole Invented and Produced by
ESPINOSA.

Rapidly Booking. Address, ESPINOSA; or, C. B. Cochran and Co, 12, Henrietta-street, W.C

PALACE, WALTHAMSTOW.
ESPINOSA'S Miniature Panto., "CINDERELLA."

MISS EVA KELLAND
as CINDERELLA.

Telegraph says:—Miss Eva Kelland is a most attractive Cinderella.
The Era says:—We have seen many Cinderellas, from Kate Vaughan at the Lane to Ellaline Terriss at the Lyceum, but have never seen a prettier exponent of the part than Miss Eva Kelland.
The Press Unanimous.
Charm of Manner, Good Looks of no Mean Order, a Clever Actress, a Melodious Singer.
For Music Hall Dates and Pantomime, address, ESPINOSA.

ESPINOSA,
LONDON PAVILION,
LONDON HIPPODROME,
PALACE, WALTHAMSTOW.

THE LAZIEST JUGGLER ON EARTH.
DRURY-LANE PANTOMIME.

Daily Mail, Monday, Jan. 2, 1905.

WHERE SHALL WE TAKE THE CHILDREN?

Mr E. H. Cooper Revisits Drury-lane.

. . . The juggler with his hammer, who breaks every piece of crockery which displeases him, is greeted with shouts of delight from the sympathetic small folk, who would certainly give up any party for the joy of Mr T. Hearn's humorously acted part. . . .

The Era, Dec. 31, 1904.

. . . Mr Tom Hearn as Snale introduces his celebrated lazy "athlete" sketch, which is received with screams of merriment, the whole house going into fits of uproarious laughter . . .

Daily Telegraph, Dec. 27, 1904.

. . . Finally, to bring the scene to a fitting climax, there is Mr Tom Hearn, with his well-known, but always welcome "turn" illustrative of the shifts and expedients of a lazy man with a Maldonado, like desire to smash everything in the room. If there be any who demand more matter for laughter than is furnished them in the home of Fairy Asbestos, they must, in truth, be veritable gluttons . . .

The Referee, Sunday, Jan. 1, 1905.

. . . Mr Tom Hearn's Snale was a distinct success, his juggling business provoking uproarious hilarity . . .

The Music Hall, Dec. 30, 1904.

. . . Of Mr Tom Hearn we will say that were he never to juggle again, there is room for him among sheer comedians—on the theatrical stage if he will—but there, or in the music hall, his place is in the very front rank. His humour is so natural, so charming, so wholly delightful, that we even confess to finding his genuine juggling an irritation . . .

All communications re Future Pantomimes, address as above.

PAREZ, THREE SISTERS,
Handbell Champions, Splendid Musical Act. The Era, Dec. 31, Palace, Northampton:—The Parez Trio of lady handbell ringers give a good performance. Handbell Marvels. A Real Novelty Act KING'S P., LIVERPOOL.

PHIL HERMAN'S
ORIGINAL LADIES' COMEDY QUARTETTE,
Four Well-dressed Artists.
Four Well-trained Vocalists.
Singing Songs, Glees, Choruses, &c.,
in a manner never attempted by any other Combination.
Featured on Bill in Manchester.
Middled in Dundee.
Bottomed in Aberdeen.

Address, re Dates,

MDLLE. DE VENA,
the Queen of Clubs, a smart, Up-to-date Juggling Act by a Reliable Lady Performer.
Big success this week, Hippodrome, Perth.
Next week, HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.

MDLLE. LUMIERE'S ELECTRICAL
FAIRY GROTTO. Bigger success than ever. Has delighted over 100,000 of the Glasgow Public this week at the Zoo. After Twenty-one Shows, appear at the PALACE, GLASGOW, again on Monday.

MEIER

ALHAMBRA,
PARIS.

One Grand Laughing and Applauding Hit.
Complimented by the Management as being the first English-speaking Turn to speak their Act in French on the Opening Performance.
Miss MORA'S Costumes have been highly praised by the Press, both magnificent in style and blend of colour.

ALHAMBRA, PARIS, Month of January.
LYCEUM, LONDON, Month of February.

JOHN LAW

MIDDLESBROUGH.
FIVE DELEVINES, FIVE,
"Flirtation."
EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S-BUSH.
EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S-BUSH.
Agent, F. Higham, 9, York-road, London, S.E.

FRED S. PEAKE and COMPANY,
in
"THE HYPOCRITE."
Tremendous success this week at Woolwich.
All Scenery carried.
Costumes, Swords, and Properties.
A Big Production.

Jan. 9, PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.
Vacant Jan. 16, 23, 30.

A Certain Draw.

Wire as above; or, H. BURROWS-SMITH, Esq, 65, Claverton-street, Pimlico, S.W.

WALTER MELVILLE'S COMPANY,
in Comedy and Sensational Sketches.
EVA DARF, WALTER MELVILLE, and Co., in "6s. 8d."
Eva Dare, Walter Melville, and Co., in "Our Baby."
All communications, Standard Theatre, E.

Pantomime.
THE HAYTORS
(EDIE, ARTHUR, and FRANK),
GRAND THEATRE,
LEEDS.

Incomparable
Juvenile Spectacle,
SELKIRKS,
"ALL SCOTCH."
A Great Success,
Grand, Clapham-junction.
Monday
PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.
No Vacancies.
Business-Managers, G. and F. Peel.

The Renowned
GLENROY TROUPE
Always a Success,
at Liberty Jan. 16 One week.
PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Agents, Messrs Nathan and Somers.

THE MARVELLOUS HOWARDS
(Sir THOMAS and the Beautiful LOUIE) the World's Greatest Mystifyers and Original Mind Readers, Greater Success than ever and still holding our own WAVERLEY CARNIVAL, EDINBURGH. He! he! Com, Marvellous HOWARDS, Paisley. He! he! Very busy this week. What ho!

FRENCH BROS.

FIRST APPEARANCE IN ENGLAND.
At Liberty Feb. 20, 1905, and on,
First-class Agent communicate.

Next Week,
OPERA HOUSE,
NORTHAMPTON;
After,
THEATRE ROYAL,
BEDFORD LEIGH.

GREAT HIT. GREAT HIT. GREAT HIT.

TOM LEAMORE

Screams of Laughter
Screams of Laughter
Screams of Laughter
at Latest Successes.
"Heroes," "Heroes,"
"Heroes," "Heroes."
Laugh after Laugh at every Line.
"The Pet of the Ballet."
"The Ballet Girl."

TIVOLI,
Every Evening.
OXFORD,
Every Evening.
PARAGON,
Every Evening.
QUEEN'S,
Specially Engaged for the Third Week, owing to Record Success.

In preparation, by T. W. Connor, "All in the Family." In preparation, by Charles Collins, "My Sue-Sue-Sue." "Heroes," by Leamore and Lorne. "Ballet Girl," Leamore and Lorne.
Always Buy
Good Funny Songs

Address, Lyric House, Gresham-road, Brixton.
Telephone, 565 Brixton.

Fully Protected. Fun without Vulgarity.
BOB HANLON'S COMPANY,
in a New and Original Act entitled "JINKS IN A JUNGLE," written and arranged by G. Cosman and Bob Hanlon.
New and Special Scenery by L. Hart, Esq Sparkling Music by C. Howells, Esq, Properties by H. Elliot, Esq Costumes by M. Angel and Meyers. Wigs by Bird.
Characters.

Mr G. COSMAN	A Game Hunter
Mr HENRY BARRETT	A Tourist
Mr JULIAN	A Valet
Mr R. ROBERTS	A Chief
Mr BOHME	A Hottentot
Mr EDWARD YOUNG	A Hottentot

See the Great Ki-Oo Dance.
See the Lion, Tiger, and Monkey.
See the Great Somersault Throwing in the Trees by Hottentots.
Jan. 16, Palace, Camberwell.

CHRIS. RICHARDS
will now stay at the
LONDON PAVILION
until Feb. 25, making eleven weeks in all.

Booked till 1910
at the Pavilion
on account of
Success.

From Referee, Jan. 1, '05.
As I prophesied early in the year which ended yesterday would be the case, Mr Chris. Richards has made great headway as a comedian and dancer, and no turn met with greater approval that his in the whole "Pav." programme. His show is full of quaint surprises, and his eccentric dancing is replete with clever steps and gyrations.

The Original Chocolate Coloured Coon.
G. H. ELLIOTT,
Terrific success, as usual, Tivoli and Duchess, Balham. Next week, TIVOLI and GRAND, CLAPHAM. "Lazie Maisie" and "Ma Havana Queen," by Lawrence and Gifford. Sole Agents, Pacey and Reeves.

BOY GLEN,
Comedian and Raconteur, not a Precocious Prodigy, but an exceedingly Clever Youngster. A Glorious Success at Metropolitan. Put on as "Extra Turn," and Retained for Three Weeks!
Four Dates, Granville, Walham-green.
Four Dates, Palace, Camberwell.
Innumerable Dates—Metropolitan, Euston, Bedford, Royal, Macnaghten's Halls, &c.
Jan. 9, METROPOLITAN, Third Week; EUSTON.
Booked by Pacey and Reeves.
All coms., BYDER SLONE, Vaudeville Club.

WED
Comedia
a tremendo
South London
RICHMOND
Agents, Fo

The American
FORD an
the Greates
Enormous hit
Address, Emp

THE
Tit-Bits
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the Worshipful
ordinary perfor
Magazine Chris
3, Harrow

SANFORD
the Origina
of the year.
Pantomime.
Sanford and
"Who killed

WIDG

Comedy w
TALBERTO and
Extreme Absu
Globing the Gl
Hooping the H
Skipping the Sk
Planking the Pla
THE OXFORD, LONDON.

"The Chinese Feud." "The Yellow
Important Ultimatum.
It having come to our notice that a certai
is being boomed at a West End Hal
"The only real Chinese Conjuror
we beg to call attention to
LI JIM CHINK,
alias "Li Swinko Swanko,"
now appearing in the Successful "Aladdin
at the
BRIXTON THEATRE, S.W.,
and introducing his wonderful "Mad-sick
Li Jim Chink is prepared to wager two qu
"Birds' Nest Soup" to a pint of "Alligator'
that no Chinese Wizard can faithfully pe
Ten of his Two Tricks,
the above wager being guaranteed by
Chinese Emperor (of the Pantomime).
WALTON and LE
Sole Director and "Interrupter" for I
Business Managers, Bawn's Ager

CARL and CARR, the Re
in Successful Comedy Act enti
Terrific Success as Chinese Policemen, "Aladdin
EALING THEATRE, W., until further notice.
gers and Agents should see our "Workhou
New, Original, and Refined. Success, success.

FIELDS and ACRES, Comedy Park K
FIELDS and ACRES, Laughter M
FIELDS and ACRES, Big Success,
Westminster, Liverpool.
Monday, HIPPODROME, SALFORD.

THE TWO KELSOS, Comedians
that has never Failed. Another
the Laughing Hits of the Panto. Manag
Invited to see our Act. At Liberty for
Seven Seasons with Milton Bode, Four Seasons
Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool (Two Weeks).

After us, please.
THE NEW MA
(MACNALLY and MACNALLY), Comedians.
Tremendous success, "Cinderella" Pantomim
THEATRE ROYAL, HANLEY.

KEEN and WALL
the Leading Comedy Team,
in Novel and Original Act, "Parson and Spor
Acknowledged the Funniest and Smartest Novelt
now playing in this country.
Always a big success.
Now on Barrasford Tour. Hit of Progra
This, Hippodrome, Liverpool
Next, HIPPODROME, GLAS
Agent, Barclay.

CULLEN and
Stupendous Hit as the
Mr Jordison's "Bab
The Talk of Manc
Tremendous Screams and Ye
Record Business Grand Junction.
Era," Dec. 31. Managers invited t
QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARN

REED and L
the Novel Comedians.
Return Engagement with O. F. Willian
Enormously successful as THE COPPER
"Dick Whittington," THEATRE ROYAL, PLY

SIVANE and FIELDON, the Orig
of the Comedy Park-keeper Act. Notice to P
Managers, and Others.—Whereas it has come
knowledge that some Unprincipled Persons are
my Business, also working my Song and Dance
"Swell Affair; or, Watch us when you see us
Floor." Therefore anyone doing, or allowing
to be done, I shall be compelled to take
Measures.—BILLY SIVANE, this, Hippo., Mac
next, EMPIRE, WREXHAM.

LEA and LOV
American Song Illustrators.
QUEEN'S POPLAR, Jan. 9, 1905.
Palace, Croydon, Jan. 16, 1905.
All coms., to Perm. address, 15, Albert-square,

THE ETTEN
Lady and Gentleman Speciality Artistes, a
all others.
Talent, Comedy, and Originality.
Good Coloured Lithos.
Up-to-Date Costumes,
and a Fine Stage Set.
Appearing with Success this week,
Hippodrome, Ashton;
next, HIPPODROME,

In Preparation, New Cod
CLIVE
tremendous s and
Royal, Holborn, an Duns
Sole Representative.
Great Chorus Song, Pe
Funny Comic So outh
Funny Comic So
Garrick. Funny
eh?" by Cotes and
BIR Ho
and Vo
At L Offe
In

I LEAD; FOLLOW WHO CAN.
THE MONEY MAGNET.
THE RECORD BREAKER.

THE RAGE OF LONDON.

In this world there are few voices, but many echoes.—GOETHE.
Verb Sap. I am not an echo. Have again taken
ALL LONDON BY STORM.

Success greater than ever.
Packing the Largest Halls in London
to suffocation Nightly,
breaking my previous Records at the
Canterbury and Pargon.
The large Buildings packed Nightly with the élite of London. The vast Audiences struck with awe and wonder. Cheers, tears, and laughter. Recalled again, again, and again. Absolutely the Greatest Draw in the Country, and, therefore, receiving the Biggest Salary ever paid to an Artiste in London. Again Rebooked at all the Syndicate Halls for the next Two Years. Three and Four Dates each Hall every year surely speaks for itself. Not a sensation for an hour, but for ever.
Ages may come and Ages may go,
but Bodie goes on for ever.

BODIE

SPELLS

MONEY.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

I have paid to get out of several of my Smaller Provincial Engagements, and I have Six Weeks Vacant in 1906, London or Provinces. Who wants me? Proprietors, Managers, and Agents write or call, or 'Phone 61, Hop.

A CHANCE OF A LIFETIME.

DR. WALFORD BODIE
AT THE EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

Powers of attraction of an abnormal kind are possessed by Dr. Walford Bodie, and wherever he goes houses overflow. He created a sensation in a neighbouring borough a few months back, and from his welcome at Brixton on Monday it was evident that old admirers as well as new were present in force to witness his marvellous demonstrations of hypnotism allied with electricity, and to applaud his labours in the cure of a dreadful affliction Three cases were presented to the Doctor on Monday, one being that of a girl aged seventeen, who had been paralysed three and a-half years, having been discharged from three hospitals as hopeless and incurable. As in most cases, the hospital authorities had advised that the tendons connecting the foot be cut, but Dr. Bodie by a simple process which he calls "bloodless surgery" severed with a twist the adhesions which kept the foot rigid, and after applying the electric current the use of both arm and leg was restored. The two subsequent cases were children, both of whom had been given up by three hospitals. They surrendered themselves cheerfully to the famous healer, and soon the withered limbs, which a few moments before had been hanging limp and useless, were freely employed in walking off the stage and in carrying the irons which had for so long encumbered them. Dr. Bodie bears the honours which are showered upon him modestly. He might, he said, take up a practice in the West-end, where he could make a fortune by the exercise of his art, but he had no desire to accumulate vast wealth; his chief reward was found in alleviating the ills of suffering humanity and in bringing happiness to many a home. Dr. Bodie was strong in his denunciation of those who, in a base endeavour to copy his methods, had brought on the stage manufactured cases, but a more audacious or more heinous imposition he could not conceive. That the cases which he treated were all genuine could be proved by the vast accumulation of leg-irons and surgical instruments which numerous patients had presented to him, and for which, through the exercise of his power, they had no further use. Frequent and hearty cheers accompanied Dr. Bodie's demonstrations, at the end of which a little boy whom the Doctor had cured on his last visit to London stepped forward to testify to his healing powers, a testimony which the Doctor declared gave him more pleasure than a cheque for £1,000. At the close of the séance the Doctor turned his attention to his comic subjects, who never fail in their duty of putting the audience into uncontrollable fits of mirth. The ordinary programme contains the names of ———.—The Era, Dec. 24, 1904.

I remain one more week in London,
but, despite my huge and phenomenal success,
must positively leave to fulfil my
Provincial Engagements,
Opening for Two Weeks
at the

EMPIRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,

and all the Large Provincial Towns
with my own Company.

Proprietors and Managers,
beware of Imposters, Apes, and Imitators.
Several Managers are Crying and Sighing and Saying
Why did I not wait for Bodie? Blame Yourselves,
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THE MANAGER'S LUCKY STAR.
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AND ORIENTAL WONDER WORKER.
THE WONDERFUL ENIGMA.

Words fail to express the Miraculous
Feats of Necromancy
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Only just arrived in England,
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Also introducing in his Act the Marvellous

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and they want finding nowadays.
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FRANK HARWOOD,

Actor-Vocalist,
Moss and Thornton Tour.
Billed by Mr Richards at Tivoli, Sydney,
as the Modern Godfrey.
Australian Reports and New Zealand Reports.
Sydney Advertiser, Sept. 1.
F. H., the young English actor-vocalist, is the latest addition to the Tivoli bill. He has a fine presence, fine style, and sings fine songs, and is sure to become very popular.

Sydney Referee, Sept. 2.
Mr F. H., billed as the modern Godfrey, made a decided hit last night. Mr H. possesses a fine declamatory voice and has heaps of pathos at his command. His dramatic scena, "Looking Glass," was excellent. He is a very welcome addition to the Tivoli.

Sydney Sportsman, Sept. 3.
Mr F. H., the English descriptive vocalist, gave a most artistic turn. He is gifted with a telling voice and natural style. His pretty little item, 'Looking Glass," met with great approval.

New Zealand Report.
Observer, Sept. 24, 1904.
The star attraction in an all-round company this week is Mr F. H., descriptive actor-vocalist, who is fresh from the London music halls and the companies of H. Rickards in Australia. He is an exceedingly clever artist, and rouses the audience to the pitch of enthusiasm by his various numbers. He has a fine voice, an admirable stage presence, and his numbers are new and striking. In Mr H. the Fullers have got something good.
Agent, Hugh J. Didcott.

"Let him have his own way, Susie,"
Everard and Murray.

CHARLES BIGNELL,

Vacant
Monday
through Disappointment.

Halls or Theatres. Pantomime.

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"Death of Bill Bailey," H. Castling.

TOM LLOYD,

Phenomenal Hit
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Commence Monday,
Eight Months, Provincial Tour.
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Agent, G. Barclay.

The Queen of Dames.

DAN THOMAS,

Tremendous Success as
ELIZA,
in
"Dick Whittington,'
with John Tiller's Company,
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Blackpool Times, Jan. 4.—Mr Dan Thomas as Eliza scores a big success, and during the time he is on the stage the audience is fairly convulsed with laughter. Mr Thomas is undoubtedly a very clever comedian, and he performs the part of the cook admirably.

Many thanks to John Tiller, Esq., for offer, after first performance, of Principal Part
Next Christmas at
Royalty Theatre, Glasgow.

The Lazy Fire-Eater.

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Speciality and Comedy Artiste.
Look out for New Act after Pantomime.
Screams Nightly.
All communications, Drury-lane Pantomime.

DAN ROLYAT,

Eclipse First, the rest——

Pantomime, GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Brilliant Success of

JAMES GRANT,

as the New Up-to-Date Scotch Comedian,
in Mr Savile's Paisley Pantomime.
Achieved a distinct success.—Glasgow Herald. But we might single out for special mention M'Kasrac, who ranks well with the best Scotch comedians of former pantomimes, and had vociferous encores.—Glasgow Evening News. Another character that ought to develop into one of the most important is that played by Mr James Grant. It is a Scotch impersonation, and Mr Grant appears to be a gentleman with clever humour and an easy style.—Express. Mr James Grant appears as M'Kasrac, a Scottish character of the broadest type, and puts a good deal of fun into the part.—Stage.
Returns to London Halls in March.
Address, Paisley Theatre, Paisley. Agent, Fred Higham

JACK LORIMER,

Just finished Three Weeks,
Scotch Concerts.
Next week, LONDON.
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Happy New Year to All.

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Great Success.
Thanks Frank Curzon, Esq., for Offer "Sergeant Brue."

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Vocalist, Conjuror, Mimic, and Juggler.
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"One of the King's Reserves;
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Back with the 11th Hussars.'
By Will Godwin and Charlie Melton.

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PIER PAVILION, EASTBOURNE.
A Success Everywhere.
Funny and Original.

A fellow of infinite jest and most excellent variety.—Vide O. Stoll, Esq.

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the Quaint Musical Jester, concludes To-night at the Gaiety, Birmingham. Topping the Bill for the Third Time here, and a greater success than ever. Monday next, THE ARGYLE, BIRKENHEAD. Only an odd Week or Two Vacant in 1905 and 1906. Communications to Pacey and Reeves.

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Now playing BARON, "Babes," ROYAL, YORK.
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the Favourite Baritone, Tremendous Success in London, will shortly produce New Song-Scena, "The Fishermen," Songs by F. Schulz. Dates, 19, Doddington-grove, Kennington. Next, PALACE, BRISTOL.

What's this? The Proof of the Pudding (not Christmas or New Year's) is in the eating thereof. Talent will tell. Enuf sed.

WILL SOULS,

Last week, Hippodrome, Birmingham, Three Songs each House. This week, Metropole, Manchester, Three Songs each House. Next week, HIPPODROME, HULME.
Few Vacant Dates.
Address, 33, Mytton-street, Hulme, Manchester.

JULIAN MACK,

the New Comedian, who has made a hit, made his first appearance to a Birkenhead audience at the Argyle on Monday. Julian Mack, a new comedian, sings a very clever song, his topical quips and puns being distinctly good, and quite justify his being ranked with the leading comic men of the music hall stage.—Liverpool Express. James Fioni has my affairs in hand. He found me. Good luck to him. Monday, OXFORD, MIDDLESBROUGH. No Vacant Dates.

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One of the biggest hits ever seen or head in Brighton.—Vide Press, Public, and Management.
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"the" English Singer of English Songs.
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Songs by Frank Leo. Contracts by G. and F. Peel.

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finish very successful Moss Tour. Return again Dec. 18. Glorious success of Florry Cooper, Empire, Belfast. Three Curtains and Speech. Fanny Robina, Florry Cooper, and Billie Bint all engaged next week, HIPPODROME, BURY.

"'Neath the Shadow of Great Big Ben."
Enormous Success. Terrific Success.
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No Vacancies 1905.

The Great Original Funny Little
NELLIE COLEMAN,
the Only Lady Comedian in the World.
The first lady to make the face up funny.
Tremendous Success on the Stoll Tour.
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DOME, the Comedy Clay Man.

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Burlesque Actress, from the Lyric Theatre, returned to England in November, after a most successful Tour in South Africa. Pantomime, BROADWAY T., DEPTFORD. Communications to 27, Buckingham Palace-mans., S.W.

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Successful Pantomime,
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Offers invited for next year

The First Singer of "Good-bye, my Blue Bell."
MABEL LA BLANCHE,
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Empire, Rochdale; next week, PALACE, LANCASTER.
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MISS GRACIE GRAHAME,
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G. T., NEWCASTLE. Every Number Encored. Fully Booked for Two Years. Coms., Grand, Newcastle.

RITA RESDAN,
Scoring nightly as Aladdin, The Era, Dec. 31, remarks.
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THEATRE ROYAL, SHREWSBURY.

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Society Entertainer,
completes Ten Weeks' Provincial Tour, Saturday, 7th inst.
Has a few Vacant Dates before March.
Engaged March 6, April 1.
For terms, &c., Part or whole Evening,
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the only Girl Ventriloquist,
Starring, Empress, Hartlepool.
Furores Nightly.
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New Songs. New Dresses. Instantaneous success of "Karama," a Japanese Love Story.
Miss Vernon has acquired the Sole Music Hall Rights of the above Song from the Publishers, Messrs B. Feldman and Co., to whom application should be made for Pantomime. Agent, T. Shaw. Communications, care of Mr A. MARSH, 150, Oxford-street, London.

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Comedienne.
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"The Sunday Walk."
MISS CONSTANCE MOXON.
All communications addressed 1, Arodene-road, Brixton-hill, S.W., will be forwarded.

Instantaneous Success of a New and Original Musical Episode, in One Scene, entitled
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Overture and Incidental Music
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instantaneous success as DANDINI, in "Cinderella,"
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Principal Boy, THEATRE ROYAL, BATH.
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as RED RIDING HOOD, Principal Girl,
at the GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
Press and Public unanimous in their praise.

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Finish To-night, Two Weeks,
Big Success in Glasgow.
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(MAUD, FLORRIE, and LILY),
Enormous Success, CAMDEN THEATRE, N.W.
They introduce their screamingly funny skit "The Drama Out of Date," which causes roars of laughter.—The Era, Dec. 31.
Their "Drama Out of Date" is one of the features of the pantomime.—St. Pancras Gazette, Dec. 31.

SISTERS CLEMENTS (DAISY and GRACIE), enormous success as Principal Girl and Fairy Queen, METROPOLE THEATRE, BIRKENHEAD. Birkenhead Advertiser.—Miss Daisy Clements as Dick's sweetheart, Alice Fitzwarren, has a personality breathing the essence of sweetness and charm. Last year when she took the part of Red Riding Hood she delighted all hearts. This year she enhances her reputation. Not only does she lend to her part all the graces of girlhood, but her dancing is so dainty and neat that it elicits unrestrained admiration . . . One of the most attractive and admirably submitted specialities is the coon scena, introducing the quaintly refrained coon song, "Chicken Stealing," by Miss Daisy Clements and Miss Grace Clements, the latter of whom sweetly portrays the part of Fairy Goodwill. Next week, O. H., WAKEFIELD.

Success, Success, Success.
SISTERS MORGAN (ELSIE and ANNIE),
Favourites of the Panto., "Babes in the Wood." Song. "Navaho," absolutely the success of the Panto. Encored Nightly. HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, DUNDEE.

AUSTRALIAN TWIN ANDERSONS,
Perfect wonder-workers with the skipping-rope.—Vide Oswald Stoll, Esq. Thanks G. Adney Payne, Esq., for Forty Weeks in London till 1907. Opening at Mr Barrasford's Alhambra, Paris, on Feb. 1 for Four Weeks.
Only Vacant for
a Few Dates only in 1907-8.

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Miss K. Augusta Davies, Miss Julie Dolaro,
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The Celebrated
FRANTZ TROUPE,
Premier Lady and Gentlemen Acrobats,
on Tour,
SOUTH AFRICA.
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England's Greatest Burlesque Actress.
MISS MARIE LOFTUS,
Compelled to withdraw from Pantomime, owing to Indisposition.
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Has no rival for sprightliness and liveliness.
MISS L. LANGTRY.
L. L.'s untiring vivacity and evident enthusiasm for her work are in pleasing contrast to the lackadaisical style adopted by so many comediennes.—The Era, Dec. 24.
Mon., OXFORD, METROPOLITAN, PAL., CHELSEA.
Always open to Buy Original Songs.

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PATTY YOLE,
Monday next,
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SINBAD (Principal Boy),
Success, Success, Success.
Songs, Dresses, Voice, Appearance.
Jan. 7, Grand, Blackpool; Jan. 9, THEATRE, WIDNES.

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A Bonnie Bough of British Beauty.
The Successful Comedienne.
ALHAMBRA, BELFAST.
Dublin following week. Agents, Mr G. Barclay.
Full 1905.

MISS MARIE WESTON,
concludes two weeks, Principal Girl,
"Sinbad the Sailor," Grand Theatre, Blackpool.
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"The Gibson Girl."
Huge Success.
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Principal Girl,
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Pantomime,
THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER.

KATIE BUTLER.
Another success, "Nosey Parker."
Another success, "Nosey Parker."
By Murphy and Lipton.
Monday, Jan. 9, EMPIRE, BRADFORD.

MISS MAY HENDERSON.
Great Success at the
APOLLO THEATRE,
VIENNA, AUSTRIA.
APOLLO THEATRE,
VIENNA, AUSTRIA.
APOLLO THEATRE,
VIENNA, AUSTRIA.
All communications to B. HENDERSON.

CARLOTTA LEVEY,
as
DICK WHITTINGTON,
BROADWAY THEATRE, LONDON.
To the title-rôle Miss Carlotta Levey brought unstinted verve. Throughout she was the life and soul of the production, her animation infecting her supporters with capital results.—Daily Telegraph, Dec 27th, 1904.
1905-6, again Re-engaged by Fredk. Mouillot, Esq.

MAY L. LEVEY,
the Ideal English Swell,
Macnaghten Tour.
PALACE, BATH.
Always a success.
New Songs
by
A. Saker, Esq.
"The Darling of the Girls,"
"He was a Sailor,"
"The Pet of the Regiment,"
by
S. Levey, Esq.
A Hit, a Hit, a Palpable Hit.
Required, Pantomime, 1905-6.

MISS BLANCHE ALBINI,
huge success as the Charming PRINCE PASTORELLE, in E. Graham-Falcon, Esq.'s, Popular Panto., "Little Bo-Peep," ALEXANDRA PALACE.
Good Agent Required.

MERELY MAYZY OSMUNDE,
as MERRY MARGERY DAW,
"Bo-Peep" Panto. Company, ALEXANDRA PALACE.
Permanent address, 83, Plough-road, Clapham-junction
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AUSTIN and COWAN,
Success Everywhere.
Jan. 9, Six Nights,
ARGYLE, BIRKENHEAD.
The Energetic James Fioni, Agent.

What excitement! What excitement!
EDWIN BRETT and EMMELINE ORFORD,
Principal Boy and Principal Comedian,
ALADDIN and ABANAZER,
BRIXTON THEATRE, LONDON, S.W.
London Press, Public, and Management Unanimous in their praise of
The captivating Aladdin.—Daily Mail.
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Their following Musical Numbers All Winners:—
"Where is the Heart,"
"Blue Bell,"
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"Japanese Face,"
Jew Pedlar Song,
"The Talk of the Town" (Twelve Verses Nightly).
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Overwhelmed with congratulations.
What excitement! What excitement!
Fully booked at First-class Variety Theatres only.
Moss, Stoll, Livermore, and London Syndicate Halls.
Present year complete.
Not One Week Vacant 1906.
Agent, Hartley Milburn.
Every Evening, BRIXTON THEATRE. Tour to follow.

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Burlesque, Character Comedian. The Original Singer of "I'm a Bobby, I'm a Copper, I'm a Slop." Latest success, "The Militiaman," by Lipton and Murphy.
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MR. FRED LINCOLN,
THEATRE ROYAL, SHEFFIELD
Engaged to Play Props). Booked Solid till 1909 with all the Principal Syndicates.
Exclusive Agent, Sixth Year, George Barclay.
Another artiste who "knocked 'em" on Boxing Day was Mr Fred Lincoln, whose Dame Fanny Freckles was pronounced a regular masterpiece as a sketch of a droll and inoffensive type of feminine eccentricity. Mr Lincoln will be a great local favourite by the time these lines are printed.—The Era, Dec. 31.

The success of the Season.
MR. J. J. DALLAS,
as Dame Hubbard, Coronet, Notting-hill.
Full Press Notices next week.
"The Bazaar Girl" Tour to follow.
Agent, G. and F. Peel.

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WISHEE WASHEE,
BRIXTON THEATRE, S.W.
Barrasford Tour in March.
"A Covent-garden Ball."

MR. WILL HALL, the Mimic.
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THE HIPPODROME, WIGAN.
Vacant Feb. 6 and 13.

"Butterfly," by E. W. Rogers.
MR. ARTHUR LENNARD,
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NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
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MR. GEORGE GILBEY,
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ST. HELENS.
"The Goalkeeper."

"Girls wouldn't be wanted at all."
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LONDON, SHOREDITCH.
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The only Act of its kind in the World.
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LIVERPOOL.

Encyclopædia of Coonology.
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Four wanted each House at EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Booked far into 1908. His own Bookings.
Top, Bottom, Middle, or nowhere on Bill make no difference to F. V. with any Audience.

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Fourth Week of Pantomime, Principal Comedian.
The Real Hit.
All communications, Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

"Hooch aye"—a Man o' many Parts.
One of the Partic-u-Lar Merry Men.
MR. W. F. FRAME,
the Genia Scotch Humourist.
South Tour begins GRAND, BOLTON, Jan. 23, 1905.

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by W. Whitney.
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Latest Songs, "Bed," Murphy and Lipton.
"Lost in London," Hargreaves and Castling.
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PAGE, "Cinderella,"
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9·10.

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CENTRAL THEATRE, CHEMNITZ,
during January.

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the Original Immobile Comedian,
the Original Immobile Comedian,
the Original Immobile Comedian,
Re-engaged a Third Week by J. L. Graydon, Esq.,
Re-engaged a Third Week by Tom Tinsley, Esq.,
Re-engaged a Third Week by Jack Edgar, Esq.,
owing to Enormous Success of
"The Old Tin Can."
Jan. 9,

METROPOLITAN	8·20.
HAMMERSMITH	8 55.
GATTI'S	9·30.
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"Seaweed."
"Seaweed."
"Seaweed."
"Seaweed."
"Seaweed."
"Seaweed."
Starts the New Year
in his "Dear Homeland."
Agents,
G. and F. Peel.

"Over the Sticks," Conclude Stoll Tour, Ten Weeks.
JOE ELVIN,
Two New and Original Productions, "Fares Please," Written by Wal Pink, Music by George Le Brunn. Special Scenic Effects, by Syd Cook. "The Brown Bear," Written by J. P. Ross and Wal Pink, Music by George Le Brunn, Special Scenery by F. Bull. OXFORD ("Fares Please,"), 8·50; METROPOLITAN ("Paying the Bill,"), 9 40; PARAGON ("The Brown Bear,"), 10 50.
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the Refined Vocalist and Solo Harpist,
Good Songs, Melodious Music, English and Irish Harps.
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Thousands come to see and hear him, and all are delighted.
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For terms and dates, 58, Earlsfield-rd., Wandsworth, Surrey.

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the Popular Vocal Comedian
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Clever, Refined Character Vocalist and Burlesque Actress.
Sensible Songs, a Sweet Voice to Sing them.
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We have been an extraordinarily Big Success, both in Africa and Australia. Packed Business Everywhere. Expect to open in England May 1, 1905. All letters to Tivoli Theatre, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

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"Short Stories."
"It isn't cricket." The Topical Song of the Year.
Panto. Rights, £2 2s.

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THEATRE ROYAL,
DRURY-LANE.
Topical Times, Dec. 31, 1904.
Mr Tom Woottwell's song "Owd yer row" is one of the best things in the pantomime.

MR. TATTEN HALL,
BARON,
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GRAND THEATRE, DONCASTER.
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"Lord Harkaway," Moss' Empires (Second Tour).
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Latest successful production, "The Girl I Love."

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Picture the getting out.
"Why did Adam?"
MR. ARTHUR ALBERT,
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Communicate above; or, Mr T. Claxton.

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MR. GUS GARRICK
in the above Great Act.
Topping the Bill, Hippodrome, Salford.
Monday, NEW HIPPODROME, BURY.

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Actor-Vocalist, Returned to England. Now on the Moss and Thornton Tour. EMPIRE, BELFAST, Jan. 9.
Sole Agent, Mr Hugh J. Didcott.
See Important Advertisement on preceding page.

MR. TED YOUNG,
Big Success as WIDOW TWANKEY,
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in Grand Pantomime, "Aladdin."
Offers invited for Pantomime, 1905-6.

Mr RYDER SLONE
at the
Tivoli, Strand.
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. . . There is consolation for the laughter-lover in such turns as Little Tich, Dan Crawley, and
RYDER SLONE,
the last-mentioned a gentleman who has made a name in the provinces, and who is likely to be seen a good deal in London. Mr Slone is heard to very great advantage in a burglar impersonation, in which he asks the question, "Are yer 'sleep?"
The Stage, Dec. 29, says:—
Gives a fine character sketch and song, which are quite a feature of the entertainment.
Sings a new burglar song, which strikes a note of originality. . . . with a catchy refrain,
"Are yer 'sleep,"
given with artistic effect.
MR. RYDER SLONE,
GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.... 9·10
STANDARD (Second Week) ..... 10· 0
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A Tremendous Success in Glasgow.
The Great Success "Jack and Jill."
Funniest Pantomime in Glasgow.
MR. HARRY CONLIN,
Every Evening as DAME DURDEN.
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A. J. MILLS and BENNETT SCOTT
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Whistled, Sung, and Played all over the World,
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Interview by appointment.
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Louie Freear's Great Song, "A Cosy Cup o' Tea."
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Songs, Duets, Sketches, Scenas,
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THEATRICAL TREASURY OF KNOWLEDGE
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MR. JAMES R. LA FANE,
Manager and Stage-Director, Mr Mouillot's "Cinderella" Pantomime, Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

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MR. and MRS. EDWARD LEROY (Edith Mumford) Disengaged. Heavies, Juveniles, &c.; E. M., Juve, Boys, &c. 13, Castledene-road, Anerley, S.E.

MR. ALFRED LESTER,
Comedian and Character Actor, Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Cardiff, Disengaged for Spring.

MR. D. LEWIN-MANNERING, Playing Zakkuri, in "The Darling of the Gods" Tour, for a few weeks. Jan. 16, County T., Reading, One Week.

MR. ARDENE LINDEN,
Eliza, the Cook, in "Dick Whittington,"
at the Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

MR. GEORGE W. LINDSAY,
Manager, Mr Mouillot's Pantomime,
Opera House, Jersey.

MR. GEORGE H. LIOT
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Address,
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MR. ARTHUR LONGLEY
as Lord Cheyne, "Three Little Maids."
Theatre Royal, Leamington.

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MR. HARRY LORREANO, Produced and Stage-Managing for Arthur Carlton's "Aladdin." Disengaged Feb. 6. Offers Invited. New Theatre, Ealing.

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care of George Musgrove, Esq.,
"The Broken Melody" Company, Melbourne, Australia.

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with Sir Henry Irving.
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Sailing To-day for South Africa. The A.A.

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on Tour with own Co., "Wearin' o' the Green."
En route; or, Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

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at Liberty till end of February.
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Simple Simon, "Red Riding Hood."
Coronet Theatre, W.

MR. PERCY MARSHALL,
Carbury, "Lady of Ostend," &c. Jan. 16, O. H., Harwich; E., Southend (three Nights each).

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Advance Representative, Compton Comedy Co.
Jan. 17, Royalty Theatre, Chester.

MR. CHRIS MASON
Disengaged.
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Specially Engaged by Messrs F. and F. Wheeler for S. African Tour. Address, Opera House, Cape Town.

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MARIE HARCOURT, Napoleon and Marcel, in "Napoleon the Great." Theatre Royal, Astor.

MR. F. MORLAND.
Savoy Theatre,
W.C.

MR. and MRS. TOM MOWBRAY (Miss Edith Ifie), Messrs Edwardes and Frohman's "Are You a Mason?" Co. Dis. March 4. Victoria T., Burnley.

MR. QUINTON M'PHERSON,
as the Hon Ernest Worley, in "The Admirable Crichton," with William Gillette. Empire T., New York.

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Next Week, Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.

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or, Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney, Australia.

MR. and MRS. FRANK E. PETLEY
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MR. FELIX PITT,
Jan. 23, Standard Theatre, E., One Month.
March 6, "The Garden of Lies" Tour.

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Miss Ada Reeve's Company,
Huddersfield.

MR. WALTER PURVIS and MISS LILY BRAMMER (Mrs W. P.) Disengaged.
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MR. ALBERT E. RAYNOR
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Prince's, Manchester.

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MR. and MRS. GORDON ROBEY
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Theatre Royal, Sheffield, Every Evening.

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THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.
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By GEORGE ALEXANDER.
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CONCERNING TWO JACKETS.
By MARIE LOFTUS.
Illustrated by Photograph and Autograph.
See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.

NEW MUSIC.

LEONARD AND CO., Oxford-street, have recently published the following songs:—"The Lover's Wish," by Frances Allitsen, composed to verses of Victor Hugo. Miss Allitsen has been decidedly successful in setting the passionate verses of the French poet, the melody being most attractive. "Time's Roses" has the agreeable prediction that Time will bring roses if we only wait patiently. But what if they are faded or withered roses? But we will not cavil at the hopeful ideas of Miss Gillington, the writer of the verses. Her intentions are excellent, and the composer, Katherine Barry, has executed her share in the song with much skill. "Felicity," composed by Edward St. Quentin, tells of three little maidens, Violet, May, and Felicity, the latter being the sweetest of the trio. But Felicity was not fortunate. The youth who promised to marry her never turned up, although she waited until her hair was grey. "Love in May," by Mary Carmichael, is a pleasant setting of a ditty three centuries old, all about love and the advantage of securing it in the "merry spring time," as Shakespeare says. "A Withered Rose" and "Bring her again" are two songs set by Colin Taylor. The second of these, with words by W. E. Henley, deserves praise, if only for its brevity. It is the shortest ballad we can remember, but if short it is also sweet. "For Evermore," by Stepan Esipoff, is not unlike a popular song with a similar title, but has also merits of its own that vocalists well appreciate. Two songs by Katherine Barry are settings of words which have been treated before, especially "The Night has a Thousand Eyes." But in this case we can compliment the fair composer on having given a very graceful melody to the lines. "A Song of Ireland" is a song, not of Ireland in general, but of Rose O'Connor in particular, and a charming song of its kind, by Wilton King, who has caught an echo of Tom Moore in his ditty. The instrumental pieces published by the same firm include "Garde du Corps," by Claude Ridley, who has written a spirited piece for the pianoforte. "Longing," by Alfred Morland, has a touch of sentiment recalling the nocturnes of Chopin, and is not unworthy to be compared with those exquisite productions. It is in the expressive key of D flat, and shows artistic skill on the part of the composer. Quite a different style of piece is the Tarantella in G minor by George Raynor, who has composed a smart tarantella, well suited for a youthful pianist to study. "Brigadier's March," by George Raynor, and "Vioma," a polka march by Morland, are clever pieces of their kind. "The Polka March," by the way, owes something to French inspiration. "Sur Le Lac," by Alfred Morland, is called a Venitienne for the pianoforte, and is an extremely simple solo for the pianoforte, useful for the teacher who wishes to reward the young pupil with a solo. "Balmoral" is a dance by Anton Strelezki, and is a good example of this clever and effective composer's pianoforte pieces. It is something in the style of a gavotte. "Mitagorg" is a waltz by E. M. Collins of moderate merit. "Perles De Neige," by Eugène Marigny, is a gavotte treated in a novel fashion, displaying some inventive skill on the part of the composer.

FROM Willcocks and Co., Berners-street, W., we have the following:—"Seven Songs for Children," by Gerald Fitzgerald. These songs are happily chosen for little folks who have some knowledge of music, and the pleasant fancies here suggested will not only delight them, but will serve to advance their studies. The "grown-ups" can start them, and once the early stages are conquered, the rest will be quite easy. "Album of Six Songs," by Margaret Royds. This Album has distinct artistic merit. The melodies are refined, and the accompaniments display knowledge of effect and ingenious combinations such as the cultured musician will appreciate. "Valse-Etude," by Gustave Von Holst, is written for piano and violin, and will be found a genial study, free from the dryness of the ordinary violin practice. Sonata No. 1 in A minor, by Percival M. Garratt, is an ambitious attempt to follow in the footsteps of the great masters. Greatly daring, the composer in his opening movement boldly takes a hint from Beethoven, but falls into the trap which so often misleads young composers. He spins out his stock of ideas until they become attenuated. We grant that frequently there is actual gold in the ore, but it should not be beaten too thin. In this instance the "half would have been greater than the whole." Somewhat similar criticism may be applied to Agnes H. Lambert, who has written Variations on an Original Theme in C minor for the pianoforte. The theme reminds us in style of the old Italian master Corelli, whose violin music is still so much admired after three centuries. The variations are ingenious, and in some instances have a pleasant flavour of Bach such as we hardly expected to find in a feminine composition which holds out promise of future excellence, and already shows the results of good training. We leave these learned works for simpler ditties, and our next song is "The Isle of Love," by Russell Phillips, a ditty that will please many simply because the composer handles the love-theme daintily and dwells on the golden isle and the delight of being there with one dear companion, and winds up with a crescendo almost worthy of Blumenthal. "De Little Curly Coon," by Ellen Cowdell, to words of Arthur P. Coxford, will find a host of admirers owing to its genial subject and lively melody. Coon songs are still very popular, and "De Little Curly Coon" will not fail to have its full share. "Song of the Woods," by Gustav Von Holst, written by Alfred H. Hyatt, has an echo of Mendelssohn that is agreeable. "Sons of the Ocean," words and music by F. K. Weatherhead, is a patriotic song of the "Rule Britannia" school, and may be safely recommended to all Imperial circles. "A Coon Lullaby" is another of Mr Coxford's lively ditties set to a cheerful air by Ellen Cowdell. "Serenade in Rose Time," written by Alfred H. Hyatt, composed by Dora White is rather old fashioned in sentiment, perhaps, but not wanting in merit. The Bohemian dances of Alberto Randegger have already been performed by some of the most famous violinists and will be certain to become popular.

THEATRICAL PATENTS.

The following abridged description is specially drawn for *The Era* by Messrs Hughes and Young, patent agents, 55 and 56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will give advice and assistance free to our readers on all patent matters.

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THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"IM GRUNEN BAUM ZUR NACHTIGALL,"
Play, in Three Acts, by Otto Erich Hartleben,
Produced at the Lessing Theatre, Dec. 31, 1904.

Frau Doebereiner	Fräulein Albrecht
Röschen	Fräulein Ebbtty
Dr. Steingraeber	Herr Iwald
Lilli	Fräulein Jaeger
Pfenniger	Herr Fuch
Demelius	Herr Marr
Düring	Herr Stiehler
Kramer	Herr Grunwald
Wesendanck	Herr Neumann
Pfannstiel	Herr Heydrich
A. Pfannstiel	Herr Forest
Brühl	Herr Friedrich
Von Paetow	Herr Zirner
Tetzlaff	Herr Patry
Dr. Althoff	Herr Werthmann
Popil	Herr Pauli

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Jan. 12.—In some form or other, either for or against, the practice of duelling is now being constantly discussed upon our stages, and we are becoming wearied of the subject. Herr Hartleben's new play is a distinct falling off from his earlier works; it is a long and drawn-out "student drama" with little to recommend; it is, in a word, like so many of the recent plays, *Alt-Heidelberg* and water. The plot is of the customary kind: a student of the Jena University is drawn into a duel—or to the verge of it—by an incident in a "beer evening." He sings the praises of a certain young lady, and her brother, who has just arrived from America, overhearing, feels himself called upon to avenge his sister's honour. The traveller has learnt in America the absurdity of the duel as practised in his native country, and yet so deeply is he imbued with the old traditions that the first thing he does on returning is to challenge someone. After a good deal of noise and fuss, it transpires that the young lady was not at all insulted, but that she is engaged to and very genuinely beloved by the undergraduate who sang her praise. Finally, therefore, everything is put right without bloodshed. The piece was acted well; but I fear it will not hold its place in the bill for any length of time.

FOLLOWING Hartleben's piece came another of similar type, but far superior—*Der Arzt Sonier Ehre*, a "grotesque," in one act, by Paul Mongré—the pseudonym, I hear, of a Leipzig professor. There is real humour in this little work, the pity being that it degenerates into a coarse, even brutal, tone towards the end. Two men are about to fight for a woman—the runaway wife of one, the mistress of the other. They meet in the one warm room—the coffee-room—of a small provincial hotel, and are forced to eat at the same table, their seconds being with them. This is the night before the duel; the betrayed husband is not very keen on fighting, for he does not care a button about his worthless partner, and the betrayer is going to fight because he thinks it part of the romantic step he has taken. As the night wears on the men, aided by the excellent wine they partake of, gradually become less antagonistic, and ultimately swear eternal friendship. As the morning—the duel morning—breaks, a letter arrives from one of the seconds who had not turned up; in it he states that he and Daisy—the cause of the impending duel—have eloped together, and are on their way to the Riviera. The interpretation of the amusing piece was capital, Herren Sauer, Patry, Forest, and Grunwald taking the chief rôles, and gaining much applause. One feature of the "grotesque" is that it is only cast for masculine parts.

THE "Neue Freie Volks Bühne" gave a performance at the Neues with that company last week. The play was a three-act comedy by Lothar Schmidt, entitled *Josephine Martens*, but there is very little humour about the contents. Josephine is a clever, but not particularly sympathetic, young woman, who does translations for a publisher named Max—a young and honest fellow enough, who is willing to marry Josephine to repair the fault he has committed. The girl was in love with him, or thought she was, and knowing she is to become a mother accepts Max's offer of marriage. Later on, however, she repents her decision, discovering that she and he can never assimilate; she will rather bring up her child alone than give it a father she does not care for. There are long discussions and explanations, but Josephine fails to obtain our sympathy, and when she finally bids adieu to Max we feel he does not need our compassion. There seems no reason at all for writing or producing such a play; it proves nothing, it interests not at all—is, in fact, made up of negatives. One of the characters, that of a resigned old maid—the best of all—was admirably acted by Fräulein Gluemer, but the remainder of the cast was not up to the usual mark. Notwithstanding its many defects the piece was cordially received, and the author called before the curtain several times.

"TANNHAUSER" was put in the bill of the Royal Opera last week for the special purpose of affording an opportunity to two "guests" who were singing on approval. Neither of them—Herr Kalisch, in the title-rôle, and Herr Oberstoetter as the Landgrat—was particularly successful; indeed, the whole performance was scarcely as worthy of our Royal Opera traditions as usual. Herr Edmund Von Strauss—frequently confused with his celebrated colleague, Richard Strauss—conducted.

THE Kleines Theatre, the smart little house in the Unter den Linden, has tried a new departure. We have been accustomed hitherto to witness the most realistic, up-to-date, "piquant" plays upon this stage, and Björnson's time-worn piece, of eminently refined type, came as a surprise. The bright humour was not quite in the line of the Kleines company, however talented these artistes may be, and it was some time before they found themselves in smooth water. Herr Engels and Fräulein Wangel proved themselves exceptions and acted in a masterly manner.

ANOTHER "student play," *Auf Mensur*, four-act drama, by Ottokar Tann-Bergler, has made its successful début at the Raimund Theatre, Vienna. The theme is the students' duel, and dialogue and development of plot are reported to be equally good.

AUGUST ENNA'S new opera, *Sancta Caecilia's Goldschuh*, has just been performed at the Royal Opera House at Copenhagen, meeting with an enthusiastic reception. The Danish composer has been quiet for a long time, but doubtless he has been living in retirement at work upon the new opera. The book is by the Danish writer, Rosenberg. It is more than probable that the work will be performed here soon.

"HERKULESPILLEN," MM. Bilhaud and Hennequin's laughable farce, has reached its twenty-fifth consecutive performance, and has lost nothing of its popularity. Herr Alexander is still at the head of the capital cast, and is rewarded with storms of applause each evening.

A ONE-ACT play, entitled *Bei Fürst Bismarck*, has just been completed by Heinrich Von Poschinger and Fritz Schick. The action passes in the boudoir of the Iron Chancellor's wife, and the play is said to contain several episodes of dramatic interest. Herr Von Poschinger was an intimate friend, and has been called the Homer of Bismarck, having published many books about the late Chancellor, and Herr Schick is head manager at the Schauspiel Haus at Hamburg.

HEARTY New Year's wishes have been exchanged per wire by His Majesty the Emperor and Signor Leoncavallo, the latter having left Berlin for Naples. The Italian composer's opera *Zaza*, by the way, has been accepted for production by the management of the Komische Oper, now in process of building.

A COPY OF "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

"AT CRIPPLE CREEK."

American Play, in Four Acts,
Produced for the First Time in England at the Theatre Royal, Dover, on Thursday, Jan. 5.

Joe Mayfield	Mr Mark Blow
Martin Mason	Mr Walter Thornton
Manuel Alvarez	Mr Charles D. Pitt
Wahketah, the Eagle	Mr R. Harley-West
Ben White	Mr Albert Rogers
Reggie Harwood	Mr Will Hook
Rev. Mr Wilson	Mr Chas. Watson
Davy	Mr Tom Sharp
Puncher	Mr Alfred Cooper
Sloggins	Mr George Thorne
Maggie Mason	Miss Daisy Carlton
Belle Gordon	Miss Hope Mayne
Little Tatto	Little May Douglas
Sarah Lively	Miss Leslie Wynne
Ann Marbury	Miss Emelie Polini

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Although American successes are generally sure of a warm welcome when produced before an English audience, the hearty greeting and prolonged applause which welcomed the initial performance of *At Cripple Creek* on Thursday, the 5th, must have proved as gratifying as it was spontaneous. The plot, which deals with the American goldfields, is a strong one, full of incident; and the scenery, though not elaborate, is striking and picturesque. The attention to detail in the matter of costumes and accessories was most noticeable, and several charming musical numbers were introduced.

The play opens at Martin Mason's dancing hall, where most of the principal characters are discovered indulging in a "free and easy." They are interrupted by the entrance of Maggie Mason and Little Tatto, Joe Mayfield's adopted daughter, who explains that Maggie has just saved her life by shooting a bear, the property of Martin, which made a fierce attack on her. Martin is furious at the loss of the bear, and is about to thrash Maggie, assisted by Manuel, but is stopped by the intervention of Ann Marbury, who, it is explained, is a victim of Martin's villainy. Mayfield is the owner of the "Last Dollar" mine, but cannot find gold. Mason, however, learns that gold is there in an opposite direction to that in which Mayfield is attempting to discover it. Belle Gordon, from New York, who has come in answer to a bogus advertisement for a governess inserted by Mason, finds upon her arrival that she has really been brought to the camp by false pretences. She is defended from insult by the gallantry of Reggie Harwood, nicknamed the "Boston Boy," who was a passenger with her in the coach. Martin, however, is not to be balked, and his accomplice Manuel Alvarez, a Mexican, assisted by the miners, disarm Harwood and bind him. Belle screams for help, and is heard by Joe Mayfield, who, dashing in accompanied by his Indian attendant, Wakketah, comes to the rescue. On Belle explaining that she is homeless and penniless now, and owes Mason five hundred dollars for passage money which he had advanced, Mayfield pays Mason and offers Bella a post as housekeeper and guardian to little Tatto. Tatto is really Mason's illegitimate grandchild, and he now claims her as his property, but Mayfield will not give her up. After a heated discussion, Belle and Harwood are allowed to depart unmolested, and as an attack has been made on Ann's life by Manuel, Mayfield offers her a safe home. Mason, driven to desperation, announces he will sell the child and his daughter, Maggie, to the highest bidder. In this way the child becomes the property of Manuel. Joe, however, whips out his revolver, and assisted by Ann and the Indian, and followed by Maggie and Tatto, clears a path through the excited throng and gets them safely away.

In act two a charming love scene between Joe and Belle is introduced. Belle tells him the story of her life. Her parents and baby sister, Alice, were lost in a prairie fire, and she is quite alone in the world. Maggie and the "Boston boy" are also responsible for some pretty love-making, for Ann Marley has lent Mayfield sufficient money to carry on the mine, and Harwood is assisting him in his search for gold. Nothing has been heard of Mason or Manuel for some time, but Joe has been warned by the Indian that they are only awaiting the opportunity and that he had better prepare for attack. Joe, Belle, and Ann, coming out of the cabin door, are confronted by Mason, who points to a rock near by, several thousand feet above the valley. Mayfield, looking up, is aghast to see Manuel with Tatto in his arms on the edge of the precipice. Martin explains that if Joe will sign a deed resigning the possession of the "Last Dollar" mine he shall receive Tatto unhurt, but should he refuse the child shall be thrown and will be dashed to pieces in the valley. Joe would consent, but Ann, suspecting that Mason knows there is gold in the mine, implores him not to sign, and he refuses. Manuel, mistaking the instructions of his leader, lets the child fall; but the Indian, clinging hold of a grape vine, swings out, and catches her in mid-air.

Act three takes place in the interior of the "Last Dollar" Mine. Mason discloses a plot to blow away part of the outer wall, which is immediately underneath a swift mountain stream, and by that means flood the mine. He also explains that Maggie is not his daughter, but was found among the wreckage of a train of waggons, part of which only had escaped from a prairie fire. A gold locket—with "Alice" engraved on it, and containing a portrait—was found round her neck, and he had kept the child in hope of reward. The conversation is overheard by the Negro, who is anxious to escape from Mason's clutches. They all retire to begin preparations, and Ann Marbury, Maggie, and Tatto enter. The men returning find the girls, and, thinking the opportunity too good to be lost, take them prisoners. The Indian, also a prisoner, manages to sever his bonds. He also unbinds Ann, unperceived, and she arms herself with a revolver stolen from Mason as he stoops to light the fuse which he has prepared to explode the mine. The villains now prepare to escape, but are confronted by Mayfield and Harwood, both armed. Wahketah, jumping up, releases the other three, and Ann prevents the escape of Manuel.

In act four we learn that Joe is a millionaire, and is about to marry Belle. The clergyman arrives, and the wedding party retire for the ceremony. Mason and Manuel are seen through the window, and heard discussing a plot to shoot Joe. The bridal group enter, and also Ben, the Negro, who has escaped from Mason. He confesses to Joe, and shows him the locket, which he has stolen from Martin. Belle recognises this as the locket belonging to her little lost sister. Ben explains the finding of the child, and as the portrait is that of Belle's mother, there is no doubt that Maggie is Belle's sister, who was saved from the fire. Ann, glancing through the window and seeing Martin about to fire, throws herself in front of Joe, is struck by the bullet, and dies. The Indian goes in pursuit of the murderers, and returns with the news that they have been captured and lynched.

Mr Mark Blow, who plays Joe Mayfield, is the beau-ideal of a gallant hero. Mr Walter Thornton gives a fine study of Martin Mason, and Manuel Alvarez, nicknamed "the Greaser," and played by Mr Charles D. Pitt, is equally successful. An excellent make-up and fine elocutionary powers make Mr Reginald Harley-West's impersonation of the Indian a fine one. The "Boston Boy" is manly and energetic as rendered by Mr Will Hook, and Mr Albert Rogers is extremely amusing as Ben White. Miss Emilie Polini's melodious voice and handsome presence fit her well for the part of Ann, and Miss Hope Mayne is charmingly natural and unaffected as Belle Gordon. Maggie Mason, a vivacious part, is portrayed with exceptional ability by Miss Daisy Carlton, and Miss May Douglas as Little Tatto submits a most intelligent study.

AT the Theatre Royal, Norwich, on Saturday last were produced for copyright purposes two scenas—*Suspected* and *The Blacksmith's Dream*.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.

NEW THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Z. Andrews.—Miss Olga Audre's company is here this week with *The Mockery of Marriage*. Mr Arthur Winpenny is good as the villainous Dick Kenyon, Mr Harry Stebbing is a manly Jack Stanley, and Mr Frank Dalton is well placed as Seth Pearce. The comedy relief, supplied by Mr Will Skelton and Mrs Sydney Halling, is very amusing. Miss Lydia Audrey is charming as Rose Vernham. Miss Olga Audre is an emotional actress of great ability, and in the part of Alva Kenyon she fairly brings down the house. The Four Aces, acrobats of a first class order, appear in the fourth act.

ABERTILLERY.

THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Messrs Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General and Resident Manager, Mr Geo. W. Ventom; Stage-Manager, Mr Fred Thomas.—On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week we were favoured with a special return visit of Mr Bulmer's No. 1 company in *Sentenced for Life*. Mr T. C. Glenville was good as Sir Wallace Stillwell; Mr Ernest Vaughan as the villainous Captain Paul Derrick was powerful; as Lieut. Roy Stillwell Mr Harry Lloyd was highly successful; Mr Richard A. Greene was well suited to the rôle of the Rev. Martin Orris; Mr Ralph De Bulmer played with ability as Henry Beckwith; and as Bill Sharkey and Toby Mr A. Marchant and Mr Edward Finlay were very amusing. Mr Frank Zara as the Rev. Percy M'Gentle kept the house in roars of laughter, his songs being much appreciated. As Warder Blake Mr Fred Dalby was successful, as also was Mr Hugh Faulkner as Sir George Gray. As Lady Stillwell Miss Mary Dalby played with dignity; Miss Florence Trevoir as Kate Rennel is an actress of sterling worth; and Miss Madge Douglas as Adris Gray was very charming and pathetic.

ACCRINGTON.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr J. E. Barnes.—The Milton Rays have presented a bright and sparkling pantomime here which has already been noticed in these columns.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Mill; Assistant-Manager, Mr T. W. Moyes.—The bill here this week includes Mr James Bowman, comedian; the Brothers Levett, vaulters; Miss Violet Beatrice, comedienne; the Romers, operatic vocalists; Mdlle. Florence, in her globe speciality; G. W. Foster, eccentric; smart sketch by Mat Wilkinson entitled *The Registry Office*; and the Seltina Troupe.

ALDERSHOT.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Clarence Saunes; Resident-Manager, Mr George E. Williams.—A charming interpretation of *The Marriage of Kitty*, one of the most diverting little plays seen here, is being given by Mr Frank Wilson's company. Since the first visit several alterations have been made in the company. Mr Frank Wilson is on this occasion John Travers, and is seen to much advantage in that rôle. Of the part of Sir Reginald Belsize Mr Leslie Tyler is a most capable exponent. A fascinating manner and clever acting again cause Miss Vera Fordyce to be a huge success as Kitty; Miss Kate Harwood as the jealous, irascible fiancée, Madame De Semiano, is clever; and a typical "haristocratic" Horbury comes from Mr J. F. Leighton, who also deserves praise for his stage management. Miss Elsie Savile does well as the French maid Rosalie; and Mr W. Craig is effective as Hampton. A neat *lever de rideau* is *Jerry and a Sunbeam*.

ALTRINCHAM.

NEW PAVILION OF VARIETIES — Proprietors, Messrs Budd, Howe, and Taylor; Acting-Manager, Mr Arthur Gilman.—The engagement of Calvo, a wonderful double-voiced singer, proved so successful that his visit has been made to extend over another week. With remarkable clearness he sings in baritone and soprano. The Pinellas give a lively and enjoyable sketch entitled *A Country Flirtation*, and their single turns meet with deserved appreciation. Miss Clair Ingham as a singer of spirited songs is a favourite, and the fun led by Mr F. Budd and Mr E. Howe is of a rollicking character. Benefits seem to be the order of the day, and on Friday another was given, this time to Mr F. Budd.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr Armstrong Fairbairn.—Mr Alfred Paumier and Mr Walter Howard's company is here in the play entitled *Why Men Love Women*. The part of the hero is sustained by Mr Alfred Paumier in a vigorous manner; the heroine is sympathetically portrayed by Miss Annie Saker; the villain is capably embodied by Mr Bensley Evans; and other characters more or less important are ably sustained by Messrs W. S. Hardy, Edwin Lever, Harwood Roberts, and Misses Olive Lanty, Marie Glynne, and others.

ASHTON HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr Chas. Revill; Director of Entertainments, Mr F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr L. Campkin.—The "bright particular star" of this week's bill at the Hippodrome is Miss Maggie Duggan. She sings and dances with as much sprightliness and verve as ever, and is recalled nightly. The other artistes here include Henri, the wonderful boy juggler; Hughes and Elliott, rag-time dancers and coon vocalists; Dot Stanley, serio; Hannah and James, foot equilibrists; Bud Primrose, Octoroon sand-dancer; and Saxo, the musical marvel. The Bioscope presents this week "A Trip to the Sun."

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr W. Leech.—This week's programme includes Carne Curre and his clever dog; Curtis Leo and his Black Piccaninnies are very good; the Brothers Andreassens, the Danish midshipmen, are clever acrobats; Percy Honri's act of "Music, Song, and Story" is remarkably entertaining, and his manipulation of the concertina is masterly; Mill May is a pleasing vocalist and dancer; the Three Laurens give an interesting display of living pictures; and the Four Maisanos, in their novel and eccentric musical show, are attractive. The Louisianian Coloured Serenaders are clever; the Eight Lancashire Lads are popular duettists and dancers; and the Sisters Bartholomew are well received.

ATTERCLIFFE.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr Claude Seaton.—The military play *On Circumstantial Evidence* is here this week, being presented by Mr and Mrs Charles Clifford's company. The principal parts are sustained by Mr Leonard Williamson as Jack Ogilvy; Mr Charles Clifford, Captain Hamilton; Mr A. M. James, Sir Lawrence Kinloch; Mr J. Sturton, General Garibaldi; Mr Harry Cook, Jeremiah Tobin; Mr Hill-Cremer, Antenla; Miss Maud Canfield, Violet Ogilvy; Miss Mabel Tremere, Polly Smithers; Miss M. Trevelyan, in the dual-rôles of Olga and Mary Brandoni: and Miss Gladys Clifford as Tim, the homeless waif.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr T. Allan Edwards; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr W. Massey Baker.—That clever comedy juggler, Weiland, tops the bill here this week. He is ably assisted by a charming lady, who contributes a good deal of fun; Flemine, the one-legged acrobat, gives a clever performance; the F. Warden-Reed company introduces a laughable sketch entitled, *Married or Photographed*; Harry Zetter is a most acceptable comedian and expert grotesque dancer; Clarke's Nippers contribute a popular turn, and meet with applause for their exhibition of club manipulation, ball punching, and speciality dancing; Deller and Oxford find much favour as duologue artistes; Miss Katie Le Blanche is a comedienne and dancer of ability; and Mr Will Harvey is good as a comedian.

AYR.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr Harry W. Day.—The Ben Greet company, under the direction of Mr J. B. Howard, in *The Belle of New York*, appeared here the first three nights of the week. Ichabod Bronson and his son were well played by Mr Harry A. Meymott and Mr Harry Wardroper. Carl Von Pumpernick was excellently played, and so was the Kenneth Mugg of Mr Walter Uridge. Mr Mack Ollive as Blinkey Bill and Miss Florence Hersee as Mamie Olancy also scored. Miss Ada Elliston was a pretty and sweet Violet Gray. The last three nights of this week Mr Chas. R. Stone's musical comedy company occupied the theatre with *What Became of Mrs Racket*.

BACUP.

NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr Richard Nightingale.—On Monday Messrs Marston and Buckstone's pantomime, *Goody Two Shoes*, commenced a week's engagement here. Miss Marie Santley plays the title-rôle in a spirited and engaging style, and her singing is highly appreciated. Miss Maude Western as Roland acts with inexhaustible freshness. Baron Graball is ably impersonated by Mr Fred A. Marston. Mr Syd Bazley is highly amusing as Simon Simple. Mr Dan Hardie as Bobbie Bobs and Mr Ted Mac as Dame Durden are both very popular. Miss Connie Irwin is graceful and pleasing as the Good Fairy, and a charming bevy of ladies appear as villagers, courtiers, squires, and dames. The incidental attractions include Varno and Nano, gymnasts; Wilmo, trick cyclist; and Grant and Kelley, eccentric knockabouts.

BARNSLEY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr A. C. Mitchell.—Messrs Dottridge, Longden, and Liversey's company in *The Village Blacksmith* is performing here this week. John Strong, the blacksmith, is a fine character in the able hands of Mr Sam Livesey; Mr Joseph Carter is a sinister Captain Leo; Mr Fred Wells is well placed as Lucas Marler; Mr George Welton is a feature as St. John Harman; Jeremiah Parkins has a capital actor in Mr Thos. E. Marshall; Miss Laura Walker plays with taste as Kate Strong; Ruth Parkins is cleverly portrayed by Miss Maggie Edwards; and the comic element is well presented by Mr George V. Campbell as Billy Twig, Miss Edith Giddens as Martha Mopps, and Mrs T. C. Livesey as Sal Parkins.

PUBLIC HALL.—Manager, Mr G. E. Holz.—Mr Louis Calvert's company is here in *Sunday*. Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay in the title-rôle is exceedingly fine; Colonel Brinthorpe is played with ability by Mr J. Edward Pearce; Towzer, Davy, Lively, and Jacky have admirable representatives in Messrs Powell, Manley, Walter, and Kane; Mr Ernest A. Douglas is very acceptable as Tom Oxley; Arthur Brinthorpe is good in the hands of Mr Charles B. Vaughan; Mrs Naresby is charmingly acted by Miss Elizabeth Watson; and Miss Helen MacGregor is especially fine as the nun.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr George Stone.—That most entertaining musical comedy *A Chinese Honeymoon* is being presented here. Mr Philip Haydn does remarkably well as Hang Chow; Mr P. Allerton Turner is an acceptable Chippi Chop; Mr Fred Payne is exceedingly comical as Hi-Lung; Mr Foster Courtenay creates great amusement as Mr Pineapple; and Mrs Pineapple is vivaciously played by Miss Jose Collins. Miss Alice Drummond is good as Mrs Brown; Miss Nellie Wigley is an entertaining Soo-Soo; and Miss Vera Vere as Fi-Fi shows herself a comedienne of much ability and resource.

TIVOLI.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr Tom Whiting.—The top of the bill here this week, Servais Le Roy, is an illusionist of the first water, his feats being quite mystifying and remarkably clever. W. H. Clemart, with his novel ventriloquial entertainment, is very much appreciated, and his mechanical figures are wonderful creations. Dinah Morris's blind collier lad is an especially good turn; Mr Ronald Bayne and Miss Evelyn Hope are seen to great advantage in a very successful dramatic scena, which is effectively staged; and Miss Amy Russell sings exceedingly well some happily selected numbers from the operas. Winnie Scott is very pleasing in her song and dance, and Marie Winsome is very taking as a male impersonator.

BATH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr Lewis A. Long.—This is the third and last week of Mr Peter A. Davey's capital production of *Goody Two Shoes*, which will now start on tour with every recommendation to herald it. The principals have won the goodwill of local playgoers. Two ladies, who by their pleasing and refined manners, melodious voices, and graceful acting have become great favourites, are Miss Nell Richardson (Crispen) and Miss Jessica Deane (Goody), while in a more energetic style equally successful have been Miss May Hart (Chevalier) and Miss Eva Bevington (Margot). The chief comedy burden has been well sustained by Mr Harry Buss, whose latest pantomime rôle of Dame Durden adds one more to the list of this clever comedian's impersonations. He has received able support from Mr F. G. Thurston (Godiva) and Mr Will Gane (Peeping Tom), each of whom has striven his utmost to keep the fun alive. Mr Arthur Learto and his clever little dog Babs have likewise given immense pleasure to young and old alike. New dances by Miss Hettie Lane and Miss Dollie Shaw deserve to be recorded, as they are executed with excellent effect, and received with loud applause. The music of Mr Correlli Windeatt has proved a big item in the general attractiveness, and a final word of congratulation is due to Mr Harry Turner for the smoothness of the stage-management throughout the run.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr W. Trussell.—Topping the bill this week are the Four Burnells, whose musical and comedy act is one long laugh from start to finish, and their success is never for a moment in doubt. Harry Edson and his wonderfully trained dog Doc cause great amusement, and the recall they receive is richly deserved. As acrobats and tumblers the Three Novells are quite in the forefront in their particular line. Leslie Murray takes a lot of beating as a card manipulator. The Darrell Trio are cordially received in their vocal and instrumental musical act, the banjo playing of the "Poet and Peasant" overture of Miss May Darrell being quite a treat. Cliff and Kean, comedy artistes, shine best as dancers. Clara Victor and L. Hendersen, both descriptive and character vocalists, are popular.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr Mouillot; Manager, Mr Rowland Stewart.—Mr Mouillot's company opened here on Monday in *My Lady Molly*, and was well received by a crowded audience. The best presentations of the evening were Lady Molly Martingale and Alice Coverdale, very capably played by Miss Beatrice Edwards and Miss Zoe Gilfillan respectively, both excellent vocalists. As Lady Molly's maid Miss Mabel Carr exhibited all the vivacity that the part demanded. Mdlle. Ebba Darcier as Alice's governess was capital; Mr A. T. Hoare has a nice voice as Captain H. Romney; as Lionel Bland Mr Ernest Mozar sang well and acted with ease; and of Mickey O'Dowd Mr George M'Closkie has made a fine study. Mr H. Godwin Hunt as Sir Miles Coverdale, Mr Frederick Silverston as Reuben Oates, and Mr J. Walton as Judge Romney rendered valuable assistance.

BATLEY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr and Mrs J. Edward Whitty; Resident Manager, Mr G. M. Hurst.—Messrs Ed. Marris and W. H. Kirby's pantomime company opened here on Monday with *Dick Whittington and his Cat*. Miss Winifred Preece, who has a sweet voice, creates a good impression in the title part, and Miss Mamie Iris makes a charming Alice. The rôle of Alderman Fitzwarren is successfully sustained by Mr Dickie Clare, and Mr H. A. Griffiths causes much merriment as Betsy. Mr W. H. Kirby undertakes the character of Idle Jack. Messrs Ryde and Beeman prove themselves comedians of ability, and are admirably placed as M'Flip and O'Flop. Other numerous characters are well filled, and specialities and supplied by Ryde and Beeman, in an American comedy act; the Three Rays, acrobatic dancers; Mamie Iris, sand dancer; Lilian Sivade, trapezist; H. A. Griffiths, with his walking speciality; and the Two Balzers, Japanese top spinners and balancers. The chorus and orchestra are in the hands of Mr Hubert Boggetti.

BELFAST.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr James M'Cann; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr Wilfred Stanford.—This is the third week of the pantomime *Puss in Boots*, and the patronage of the public is quite phenomenal, last year's record having been broken. Miss Minnie Jeffs continues to be an especial favourite, and her songs are rapturously encored nightly. She now sings a catchy chorus song entitled, "Have you seen my girl?" Cinquevalli's remarkable juggling is the talk of the city; Mr Marriott Edgar's assumption of Muggles is in every sense excellent. He is frequently recalled for his droll rendering of "On the sands." Mr Martin Adeson's humorous impersonation of King Grabbus is a decided feature; and the dancing of Little Stella creates quite a furore nightly. The sweet vocalism of the Cecilian Glee Singers delights all; and Mr Fred Lyne's impersonation of the Dame is remarkably clever. Tiller's Superba Troupe of dancers furnish a fine exhibition of the Terpsichorean art, the Procession of Silver Warriors also deserves mention.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr John P. Beardmore.—The leading position at this popular theatre is held by the Barra Troupe, whose refined and decidedly clever musical act has been received with much enthusiasm. Bob Hanlon's marvellous troupe has created quite a sensation with their daring feats; and the juggling performance of Angeline, aptly described as "the female Cinquevalli," is one of the best ever presented here. The Three De Veres delight all with their novel and amusing act; and Mr Tony Iveson, described as "the versatile ragman" furnishes a musical performance which would be quite an acquisition to any bill. Mr Dan Maxford, a smart comedian, is funny, his patter being amusing, and the new series of pictures exhibited have created much interest. Miss Lena Brunton, comedienne, being indisposed, did not appear on Monday, but by the kindness of Mr H. T. Downs, of the New Alhambra, Mr Barney Armstrong, the well known comedian, deputised with great success.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Brock.—Mr G. W. Hunter, the popular comedian and raconteur, tops the bill. The Five Ulracs, comedy acrobats, provide a smart performance. Driscoll and Beattie appear in their droll sketch, *M'Fee, M.P.*, which is well acted. Miss Amber Austa is a graceful and accomplished coon comedienne; and Lyane and Geks, novelty contortionists, provide an amazing performance. A novelty is submitted by Mr Barton Howard, described as "the clever mimic of sounds," his imitations being realistic. Also appearing are Mr Frank Harwood, descriptive vocalist, who made a big hit on Monday; and Mr Will Haines, comedian.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr Henry T. Downs.—Mr Michael Nolan, the clever Irish comedian, tops the bill here. Mr Barney Armstrong, the well-known comedian, upholds his reputation with his droll songs; Hector and Paulus are smart comedy acrobats and equilibrists; and Miss Agnes Hazel is a talented comedienne with catchy songs. Collin and Croft, the song illustrators, provide a performance of the most entertaining nature; and the male impersonations of Miss Olive Vane are excellent. Weisker Brothers' Bioscope on the stage delights all with up-to-date pictures; Florizel, described as the Flexible Aerial Beauty, is remarkably clever; and also appearing with much success is Mr George Edney, character comedian.

IMPERIAL HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS.—Proprietors, Messrs Carter and Bosco; General Manager, Mr Irving Bosco; Assistant-Manager, Mr Geo. Dobler.—Congratulations to Messrs Carter, Bosco, and Dobler on the huge success of the spectacle *Siberia*. The various scenes are presented with striking realism, and the company is an excellent one. The Franklin Troupe of Russian dancers and singers furnish a capital performance, and much praise is due to the Irish duo, Messrs Taylor and White, for their funny songs and expert dancing. Royal Best is a remarkably clever facial delineator. Also appearing are Professor Cliff, high diver, whose feats are so sensationally clever; Princess Annie, the graceful equestrienne; J. E. Stelling and his canine pet, Kis; Funny Burgess; Mdlle. Dennie's comical ride; and Mdlle. Melba, in her representation of the Three Nations.

BILSTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Harry Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—We are always glad to welcome Mr T. Edward Ward's company to Bilston. *Her Fatal Past* is the principal drama presented this week, with Miss Ward as effective as ever in the important part of Honor Symes. Excellent work is contributed by Miss Helen Ingelow as Ruth Fernside and Bella De Lara. The efforts of Miss Amy Maitland as Kitty, Miss Marguerite Thorne as Martha, and Miss Kate Newman as Sal Jenkins are praiseworthy. We have a good portrayal of Mark Desmond from Mr Percy Brown, and Messrs B. Dunstan, C. H. Lester, Ward, and Mason lend valuable aid. On Friday *Her Wedding Day* was underlined for performance.

BLACKBURN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr Harry Yorke; Business-Manager, Mr Reginald Yorke.—Mr A. B. Cross and company are appearing here this week in *The Manxman*. Mr Cross gives an admirable representation of Pete. As Kate Creegan Miss Minnie Watersford acts with considerable power. Mr William Burchill does justice to the part of Philip Christian. Mr Harry Heller makes as excellent Cæsar Cregan; and Mr Ed. M'Lean is good as Ross Christian. Mr Reginald Yorke's benefit was announced for Friday evening.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr E. H. Page. *A Marriage of Vengeance* is here this week. Miss Harrision Tate appears as Stella, and receives excellent support from Mr Alfred G. Fry as Paul Earnscliffe, Mr George De Grey as Max Rheinhardt, and Miss Etta Turner as Amelia.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr F. Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr Will Murray; Acting-Manager, Mr Harry Drury.—The pantomime has finished its run, and variety has taken its place. Among the turns are Wyotti, comedy juggler; Wynford Brothers, barrel jumpers; Miss Frances Haskoll, in her illuminated songs; the Glenroy Troupe of dancers; Nellie Elder, comedienne; the Sivronis, burlesque artistes; the Three Sisters Lee, acrobats and vocalists; the Pickards Troupe of pantomimists; and Harry Cotton, eccentric comedian.

BIRKENHEAD.

THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee, Mr W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Pell. — Mr J. Rice Cassidy's company, in the musical play *Dan the Rake*, presents an acceptable entertainment. Mr Cassidy gives an able rendering of the title-rôle, and is well supported by Miss Lilian Clare, who is an admirable Madge. Mr Frederick Biron as Captain Tom Cooper is a host in himself, and is ably supported by Miss Florence Halton, Miss Ada Roscoe, Mr Frank Orchard, and Mr J. Cuthberton.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Pell.—Messrs Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's combination in *The Sledge Hammer* is doing good business. The piece is very capably represented. Mr Northway is a prominent success as Everard Derrick; Mr Charles Herberte is a commendable Matthew Derrick; and Miss Bertha Kingston, a talented emotional actress, excels in the rôle of Rose Haywell. The production is excellently staged, and both company and piece have created a good impression here.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Manager, Mr D. J. Clarke.—The New York Nippers, clever singers, dancers, and comedians, occupy a conspicuous position on the programme, and are cordially received. Cruikshank, a versatile variety artiste, is also a leading attraction, and Madame Collard, with her troupe of trained boarhounds, is an interesting turn. Mr J. A. Wilson, the black oracle, has made a hit, and a good combination also includes Miss Rose Cabani, comedienne; Austin and Cowen, vocal entertainers; Miss Nellie Martell, comedienne; Larola, equilibrist; and Vernando, ventriloquist. A Bioscope display of animated pictures adds to the variety of the show.

BIRMINGHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr Philip Rodway.—*The Babes in the Wood* has now entered on the fourth week of its run, and is fairly established in favour.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr Henry Johnston.—*The Forty Thieves* gains in popularity at every performance, and the company, individually and collectively, is eminently successful. Miss Alice Oppitz is both vocally and histrionically powerful as Abdallah; Miss Marie Campbell makes a winsome, if petite, Ganem, and her dainty singing enhances this impression; Miss Minnie Hunt, as Morgiana, is the personification of feminine grace and vocal charm, and Miss Nellie Stratton gives life to the pretty rôle of Zoe. Messrs Wilkie Bard, Brown and Le Clerq, John Brabourne, Phil Smith, Ainslie Burton, and Harry Zietz continue in their parts, winning much favour. On Tuesday and Wednesday this week, matinées of *Alice in Wonderland* were held with much success, the attendances being large, and the performances excellent. Mr E. St. Alban, whose company it was, appeared as the Mad Hatter, Miss Ida Thompson distinguishing herself as Alice; while Miss Marie Clavering reigned as the White Queen, with Messrs J. W. Hooper and S. Clifford as Tweedledum and Tweedledee,

GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr Victor Turner.—The J. W. Turner opera company is now in the midst of a very prosperous season, in which many successes, including at least one notable novelty, have already appeared. This latter was *Hansel and Gretel*, in reviving which Mr Turner secured the services of Mr T. H. Friend, under whose direction the opera was produced by the Carl Rosa company ten years ago. The present production was wholly successful, Miss Alice Boaden looking the part of Gretel and singing the music pertaining thereto delightfully. Miss Jessie Dennis was admirable as Hansel, Madame Constance Bellamy accounting satisfactorily for the rôle of the broom-maker's wife. Miss Marian Sansome sang charmingly as the Dawn Fairy; Mr Jno. Ridding scored a success as Peter; and Miss Mabel Dennis as the Witch and Miss Ethel Locker as the Sleep Fairy did well. The orchestra also played their parts admirably. *Il Trovatore*, *The Puritan's Daughter*, *The Rose of Castile*, *The Bohemian Girl*, and *Maritana* have been included in the fare.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Lester Collingwood.—*Dick Whittington* holds the public in excellent and irresistible thrall, a full house nightly participating in this festival of fun and splendour. The Wednesday matinée is also largely patronised, and this is a successful feature which endures all the year round without a break. Mr Will Letters proves a valuable recruit, his rich powers of comedy and capital singing abilities as Fitzwarren eliciting frequent rounds of applause. Messrs Barrett and Knowles are his most worthy coadjutors as Silly Peter and Lazy Larky, and diversion runs high with this clever trio in evidence. Mr Albert Darnley acts with robust humour as the disreputable apprentice, and Mr C. L. Ludlow adds to the fun as Amelia Florence, the cook. Mr Alfred Clegg as the feline star is popular, and Mr S. Lockridge shines as the Emperor; while the ladies have increased the attractiveness of their parts most appreciably.

METROPOLE THEATRE. — Manager, Mr Walter Melville; Resident-Manager, Mr J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Ladder of Life* is presented here by Miss Renee Glendower and her company, the story and the acting thereof proving of a most stimulating character. Mr Roy Milton figures as the hero, David Gordon, with much success. Mr C. H. Matthews acts the villain's rôle, Fergus Gordon, with consummate skill; Mr J. Cook Hinton proves his capability as the Russian spy; Mr Roy F. Gascoigne is appreciated as Colonel M'Gregor; Mr F. Morton Wright creates pleasant diversions as M'Dougal; and Messrs Archie, Percy, and Geo. F. Feros are popular as the three cockney Highlanders, in addition to which they elicit cheers as "the human ladder." Miss Renee Glendower as Mother Flint, Miss Flora Leslie as Meg, Miss Stephanie Baring as Olga, and Miss Hilda Young as Mary Jane also gain excellent opinions.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr Ben Sydney.—*A Fight for Millions*, in which Mr Robert Perris and company appear, has engaged the rapt attention of crowded houses. Mr Robert Perris, who impersonates a "diamond in the rough," one Willie Neverwork, whose name indicates his profession, that of a tramp, is most popular. Mr Perris is well supported by Mr Karl H. Edwards as Solomon Moses, the "good-natured man;" Mr Nicholas Conway as the comic butler, Hobbs; and Miss Lottie Pearce, who shines in a couple of highly humorous rôles. Mr V. Carlyle as the hero inventor, Tom Manley, acts in a manly and invigorating manner. Miss Eva Purcell wins her way to popularity as Pearl Rivers, and Miss Elm A. Turner gains sympathy for the deserted wife, Helen Dudley. Mr Horace Booth as Richard Dudley is cordially hated for his vices, which he simulates most effectively.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr Charles Barnard; Manager, Mr Dan Barnard.—*Sinbad the Sailor* as played here by Mr Fred Mouillot's company includes all the best features that distinguish a modern touring pantomime. The cast also comprises a fine array, and Miss Florence Dillon, in the title-rôle, is a favourite with all. Miss Ada Brennan as the Princess has also enjoyed much favour, and Miss Humphries shines as Zorilda. Mr J. R. Val as Tinbad contributes to the comic side of the pantomime with much success, and laughter attends the efforts of Messrs Denby and Dent as Captain Bunker and Mate Shirker. Mr Stephen Fitzgerald is another incentive to mirth as Mrs Sinbad, and Mr Alec Murray as the Oriental potentate and Mr A. M. Moore as the Old Man of the Sea fare well. The harlequinade is retained, and proves entirely successful.

BLACKPOOL.

HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General Manager, Mr J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr W. H. Kirby's company is here this week with *The New Mephisto*. The name-rôle is in the hands of Mr Albert Weston, who proves himself to be a clever comedian. Mr Willie H. Vernon impersonates Dick Pilgrim with considerable success. Captain Meredith finds a capable exponent in Mr Clarence Lindon. Lord Humming top is capitally portrayed by Mr Herbert St. John and Mr Arthur Randall is good as Major Bantam. Misses Nellie Burdette (Dolly) and Miss Marion Armitage (Becky Pilgrim) win favour both by their acting and singing. The Thalian Glee Singers contribute several very tuneful numbers.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr T. Sergenson.—An excellent company, under the proprietorship of Mr John F. Asche, presents *The World* here this week with gratifying results. Miss Beatrice Fay gives a charming picture of Mary Blythe; Miss Octavia Noel merits commendation for their portrayal of Mabel Huntingford, and Miss Maude Scott very capably handles the part of the boy Ned. An earnest and manly embodiment of Sir Clement Huntingford is supplied by Mr Stuart Lomath, whilst Mr Francis Hawley acts with the necessary callous air the rôle of Harry Huntingford. The unscrupulous Moss Jewel is played in a humorous manner by Mr Johnny M'Elroy, and Martin Basford is sustained with fine effect by Mr Jackson Hayes.

PALACE.—General Manager, Mr G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr Fred Waller.—Another strong programme is provided here this week. Cliff Ryland, a comedian, vocalist, and story-teller, is a great favourite. The Dayton Family are clever Risley acrobats. Jimmy De Voye appears with his performing pony. The Bensons give a good comedy act; the Mayvilles are smart in their Lilliputian novelty turn; Mabel Kessler wins favour by her singing; the Seddons take well in their sketch; Jennie Love is a pleasing vocalist; and the Two Wiltons, clever singers and dancers, receive extra attention by reason of the fact that they are local artists.

BOLTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Hermann.—On Monday Mr Elliston presented his twenty-fifth annual pantomime *Dick Whittington*, and he is to be congratulated upon having spared neither expense nor trouble in order to ensure a magnificent production. The "book" is from the able pen of J. Hickory Wood, and with the aid of a clever company of artistes the piece should enjoy a successful run. The story is told in eleven scenes, amongst which there are several striking and attractive sets. Miss Ethel Newman submits an agreeable embodiment of the title-rôle. She sings sweetly and looks the part. Mr Tom Foy, a smart and clever comedian, makes the most of Idle Jack, his eccentricities being responsible for many hearty bursts of laughter. Miss Clara Reid gives a dainty and charming impersonation of Alice Fitzwarren; Miss Nora Beverley infuses a good deal of spirit into the part of Tommy Jinks; Miss Amy Russell is attractive as the good Fairy Zephyr; Miss Nellie Shannon ably fills the part of Queen Susan Tusan; Mr Ted Foy offers a good study as the Cat; Gertrude the Cook receives a droll interpretation at the hands of Mr Bert Byrne; Captain Scuttle and the mate of the Saucy Sarah are quaintly dealt with by Messrs Jack Foy and Will Musgrave; and Alderman Fitzwarren is well enacted by Mr Charles Goff. In scenes 3 and 8 the Matweef Hugoston Imperial Troupe of acrobats and dancers appear and give an exceedingly clever performance.

GRAND THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr Harry Kenyon.—Appearing here are the Three Barowskys, sensational comedy acrobats, who perform some really clever feats; the Itrams, in their perch pot-pourri act; Ada Fawn, burlesque actress; the Zaros, lady and gentleman acrobats and tumblers; Freda Spry and B. S. Monti, speciality artistes; Jack Kavanagh, vocal comedian; George Scott, comedian and reciter; the Imperial Bioscope; and, for one week longer, the Mackweys, in their wire act.

OHMY'S CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—A capital variety company is here. Spring and Spring head the bill, and give a smart exhibition of barrel-jumping. Other turns are Mons. Kavados, the cannon ball king; the Stoll Brothers, who give a humorous and clever bar performance; Mons. Rentresg, in a juggling act; Mons. Zasma, gymnast; whilst clever riding is done by Miss Daniels, Claude Ohmy, and Mr Swallow, the last-named introducing his well-trained horse.

BOOTLE.

ROYAL MUNCASTER.—*Cinderella* is being presented here this week by the Pardoes. The pantomime is well mounted, the dresses being decidedly above the average, and the scenery extremely pretty. Miss Lottie Holland is a stately and dashing Prince, and sings some capital songs in a charming manner. Miss Cissie Kedward is a sweet and winsome Cinderella, and Dandini has a sprightly and vivacious representative in Miss Katie Moore. Among the comedians Mr George Hyams as Scoots, the bailiff, is to the fore, his songs being well received, and he is capitally supported by Mr Tom Hulme as Baron No Cash, and the Misses Ivey Leafe and Violet Rivers as Eve and Maud, the Ugly Sisters, who all do their utmost to keep the ball of fun rolling. The Pardoes give a marvellous acrobatic act in The Palace scene.

BOSCOMBE.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr F. Mouillot; Manager, Mr Rowland Stewart. — Mr Thomas Thorne and company, under the direction of Mr M. Russell Rosse, are appearing here this week in *Our Boys*. Mr Thorne was suffering from laryngitis on Monday, but pluckily went through with the performance. Except that his voice was not, perhaps, so powerful as usual, his assumption of the rôle of the retired butterman was as successful as ever. Mr M. Russell Rosse is capital as Sir Geoffrey Champneys, and Mr Keith Fraser's impersonation of Talbot Champneys is well received, while Mr Vernon Sansbury is good as Charles Middlewick. Miss Leah Marlborough makes a favourable impression as Violet Melrose, and the rôle of her gay and fascinating cousin, Mary, suits Miss Muriel Godfrey-Turner admirably. Miss Bessie Harrison plays Clarissa Champneys with effect, and Miss Edith Hesketh's Belinda is a capital study of the lodging-house slavey. The main attraction is preceded each evening by a comedietta, *The Happy Pair*, in which Miss Marlborough and Mr Fraser appear.

BROUGHTON.

VICTORIA LTD.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr James W. Haworth; Manager and Secretary, Mr James M. Hardie, jun.—The domestic sporting drama *Bound to Win* packed the house on Monday evening. Mr and Mrs F. G. Kimberley's company is an excellent one, and the various exciting incidents rouse the audience to a high degree. Mr F. G. Kimberley admirably fits the heroic part of Harry Lyndon, Gladys Orme is successfully portrayed by Miss Kathleen Eckhart, and Mr Sydney Rennef makes a favourable impression as Squire Forbes. Miss Nina Blake Adams is excellent as Marion Forbes; Ned Oakley, a faithful old servant, and Joe Blake, a stable hand, are good studies in the hands of Mr James Hont and Mr Fred Tenaur. Miss Edie Macklin as Winnie Oakley, Mr Horace Custins as Willie Wilkins, and Mr Edgar Morgan as Horatio Buffet are entrusted with the comedy business, which is cleverly sustained throughout. Philip Ayre and Harriet Forbes are respectively in the able hands of Mr F. Strickland and Mrs James Hont.

BLYTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr George E. Good.—The stage here has been occupied this week by Mr J. A. Campbell's company in the domestic drama entitled *The Sin of Her Childhood*. In the character of Stephen Haysel Mr Austin Milroy is a prominent figure and meets with due recognition; Mr J. A. Campbell is seen to advantage as Captain John Thornton; and Mr Fred Elvin creates much amusement as Barney O'Reilly. Miss Jennie Hicks is well cast as Maria Haysel, and praise is due to Miss Mary Fulton for a fine embodiment of the part of Mary Haysel.

BRADFORD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr Jno. Hart; General Manager, Mr T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr F. Pemberton.—Mr Hart's charmingly staged pantomime *Cinders* is drawing large audiences, and universal praise is bestowed on the efforts of the clever company and on the charming scenic effects.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr N. Hepworth.—Much regret is expressed by the numerous admirers of Miss Adele Roze that temporary loss of voice should have necessitated the lady's relinquishing her part of Robinson Crusoe in the pantomime here. The rôle is now being sustained by Miss Ruby Winstone, a favourite in last year's production, and she is scoring a marked success in the part. The pantomime has settled down into shape, and it runs with a merry swing from start to finish.

EMPIRE. — Moss Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr J. J. Kelly.—The Rousbys' four electric tableaux, "In Paris," a remarkable reproduction of the late exhibition, form a fine entertainment in the way of picture effects here this week. There is novelty in the clever acrobatic work done by the Baldwin Brothers; Daisy Mayer, a charming singer and dancer, submits a bright turn as a Yankee girl; the aerial trapeze act by Alexandra and Bertie is graceful and clever; Vasco, the mad musician, displays his ability on numberless instruments; a good turn is presented by Katie Butler, comedienne; the clever Japanese juggler, Prince Kokio, is repeating his entertainment this week; strength and agility are features of the smart acrobatic and equilibristic work done by the Four Miltons; excellent vocalism is submitted by the Three Sisters Jonghmanns; and Jan Rudenyl, the Hungarian violinist, earns great applause by a masterly performance.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr J. W. Berry.—There is intense excitement here each evening, Carl Mysto, the Monarch of Manacles, defying all attempts on the part of police and others to firmly secure him. Frank Sylvo submits a diverting turn as a comedy juggler, and Mdlle. Lorette is here, posing again with her submissive statue dog. The Clarkes give a clever banjo performance, and Edith Sylvesto goes through a remarkable display as a contortionist. Tom Parker renders his comic songs acceptably; Florence Gwynne, in her sketch *The Stage-struck Servant*, displays ability as a pianiste; Marco, the boy magician's, illusions are entertaining; and Joe Almasio does some smart juggling, clever jumping, and with his companion provides an excellent turn.

BRIDLINGTON.

PEOPLE'S PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Morgan.—Mr Harry Firth's pantomime, *Cinderella*, opened at the Palace on Monday to a full house, which was highly delighted with the fare provided for them by Mr Firth. The pantomime went with a good swing from start to finish, and encores were frequent. Mr E. Wilson as the Baron was very quaint and original; Mr Fred Park as Pimple, the page, never failed to evoke applause by his eccentric mannerisms; Mr J. Binns and Mr H. Haines were well fitted to their parts of Butterina and Margarina; Mr W. Marsh as Ping and Mr W. Morris as Pong, the Prince's footmen, are a couple of clever comedians, their songs and duets being well rendered. As Cinderella Miss Madge Osmond both acts and sings in a most pleasing manner; Miss Dora Denmark is a most impressing Prince Perfect, her songs being finely rendered; and Miss Ethel More as Dandini possesses a powerful and well-trained voice. Miss Rosie Lewin makes a smart Dorothy, and Miss Ella Zoe is a sweet Fairy Crystal. The variety element is very good. The ventriloquial business of Lieutenant Charles Valvo and his Tommy Atkins goes remarkably well; Earle as a card manipulator and conjuror introduces some clever tricks; Marsh and Morris, in the sketch, *The Vicar and the Curate*, fairly bring down the house; and Miss Clarisse Mignon plays some admirable selections on the banjo and mandoline. The Four Sisters Godfrey as coon artistes and dancers have been cleverly trained, their dancing being especially neat and graceful; and the choruses were well rendered.

BRIGHTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr George Dance's company opened here on Monday with *The Girl from Kay's*. Miss Rita Leonhardt made a graceful and dainty Norah Chalmers; Miss Maisie North as Ellen, and Miss Mabel Champion as Mrs Chalmers were admirably suited; and Miss Nancy Hervyn gave a very pleasing representation of Winnie Harborough. Mr H. C. Barry proved entertaining as Max Hoggenheimer; Mr Garnet Wilson achieved much success as Harry Gordon; Mr Fred Rolph presented a clever character sketch as Pepper, the hall porter; and Mr Leslie Roy Cathie was amusing as the Hon. Percy Fitzthistle. The remaining characters were ably sustained. The chorus and orchestra were effective, and the duties of conductor were in the hands of Mr Sydney Shaw.

AQUARIUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. Bernhardt; Acting-Manager, Mr H. De Groot.—The fairy play, *The Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe and the Spelling Bee*, is running successfully. Miss Decima Brooke as Beatrix, Mr Arthur St. George as Mistress Shoe, and Mr J. G. Forde as Sir Balfy Goff are especially effective, and the specialities by Mr Arthur Hill are very enjoyable.

GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr W. F. Crowe.—The pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, is still running splendidly, and attracts crowded houses. Prominent among those who contribute to the successful performances are Miss Blanche Vincent, Prince Peerless; Miss Madge Campbell, Miss Muffitt; Miss Louie Lunelle, Tommy Tucker; Miss Nellie Lunelle, Margery Daw; Miss Norah Arthur, the Herald; Miss Irene Rose, Fairy Sunshine; Mr Dave O'Toole, Dame Trott; Messrs Sandford and Lyons, Johnny Stout and Jimmy Green; Mr Charles Russell, Baron Barebones; and the Tally Ho Trio, W. Doust, Eric Farr, and E. Chester. The conductor, Signor G. D. La Camera, is worthy of warm praise.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr J. L. Graydon; General Manager, Mr Ernest Lepard.—The following are here this week:—Paul Martinetti's American pantomime company in *A Duel in the Snow*; Will Farrell, comedian; the Allisons, comedy duettists and speciality dancers; Terry and Bentley, in their comedy *The Hunt*; Muir and Bartlett, in their funny duologue, *The Lady and the Lunatic*; the Five Sisters Warwick, trick cyclists; Lauri Wylie, mimic; Walker and Lake, comedians and patterers; Lal Cliff, comedian and dancer; Mdlle. Yvette, with her miniature hippodrome; and the Alhambra Pictures.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—The following are here this week:—Cunningham and Howard's company in the sketch, *The King's Hat*; the Athlones, herculean athletes; the Brothers Ashley, in their sketch, *Next, Please*; Staig's motor, sensational act; Virginia and her piccaninnies; Alfonso Silvano, equilibrist; Mons. De Marse, in his shooting act; Ed. F. Reynard, American ventriloquist; and animated pictures.

WEST PIER. — Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr A. D. Norman.—*Bluebell in Fairyland* continues to attract crowded audiences. Miss Rosalie Jacobi as Bluebell and Mr Walter Cranch as Dickie and the Sleepy King are prime favourites.

COLISEUM.—Licensee and Director of Entertainments, Mr Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr C. Smith-Wilkes. — The following are here this week:—Lil Gorman, comedienne and dancer; Massona, Continental juggler; Hettie Chattell, male impersonator and burlesque actress; De Vere and Kenwick, singing, dancing, and speciality artistes; Leo Stormont, actor-vocalist and reciter; Rosa Rosetti, violinist; Nellie Loomis and company, including Dorothy Rayner, whistler, in *A Little Bit of Everything*; Little Clarisse Heney, comedienne and dancer; and the Coliseum pictures.

BRISTOL.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr James Macready Chute.—There was a large attendance here on Monday evening in all parts of the house, and the pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty*, went splendidly. All the artistes have become popular, and play their respective parts in excellent style, and the magnificent staging obtains full appreciation.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Ernest Carpenter.—*Robinson Crusoe* is getting very popular here. All the artists are very successful, and the pantomime is nicely staged, both in the way of scenery and costumes. The attendance at each performance is highly satisfactory.

PALACE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs Livermore Bros.; Resident-Manager, Mr Horace Livermore; Secretary, Mr F. J. V. Welchman.—Mr Frank Gerald and company are here for a second week, appearing in the equestrian sketch, *Captain Starlight*. The sketch is interesting, and the well-trained mare Walpera adds much to the attraction of the show. Burns and Evans do a smart turn as American comedians in their speciality *Funnibalism*; Sydney James's Strolling Players are popular, their entertainment being above the average; Arthur Moss, vocalist, obtains appreciation; Miss Madge Mayfield is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Zaid, the Spanish Moor, does some clever work on the rings; Dan Conroy, comedian, has some amusing songs; Clark and Gold are expert banjoists, and successfully introduce some eccentric comedy; Miss Flo Cecil, soubrette, obtains considerable applause; Lee and Arden have a good duologue, *The Lady and the Watchman*; and the entertainment concludes with some interesting animated pictures.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—Walton and Miss Ella head the programme here with their attractive dog show; the dogs are trained to great perfection, and the entertainment is both interesting and amusing. Miss Nellie Wallace, eccentric comedy artiste, does a capital turn which pleases all parts of the house. Miss Ailsa Douglas, soprano vocalist, is highly successful; the Densmores have a good acrobatic sketch, *Early Morning in the Kitchen*; the Two Falcons do a good act as hand balancers, &c.; T. Nelson Downs is exceptionally expert in manipulating playing cards and coins; Stanley and Vandyke have an amusing comedy duologue; Alexander does some clever trick riding on cycles; and Marquis Iton performs various equilibristic feats, his show being entitled "Scenes outside Port Arthur." The performance concludes with some interesting animated pictures.

COLSTON HALL.—Mr Charles W. Poole's No. 1 War Myriorama continues to attract a large attendance at each performance. There are also a good display of animated pictures and a capital variety company, headed by the Leo Tardy Trio, exceptionally expert flying trapeze artistes.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.

NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr John Waller.—Mr George Dance's company, with *A Country Girl*, is attracting large audiences here this week. Miss May Glen is chic as Nan, and is heard to great advantage in the numbers allotted to her. Miss Maud Harvey is daintily pleasing as Marjory. Miss Nina Carlton gives an exceptionally good performance as the Princess, and Miss Addie Lennard as Sophie receives enthusiastic encores. Mr Cyril Thompson, who possesses a capital voice, is a prime favourite as Geoffrey Challoner. Of course the fun centres round Mr J. Osborne, who is admirable as Barry. The Rajah has a capable representative in Mr St. John Hamund. Mr H. C. Morton, Mr Arthur Hayter, Mr Willie Hartill, and Miss Edna Knollys creditably fill their respective rôles.

TOWN HALL.—Mr Arthur Cheetham is here this week with some up-to-date living pictures. Madame Rose Garton and Master Gus Cheetham both contribute to the success of a good entertainment.

CARDIFF.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Robert Redford.—Patrons of the Royal are, fortunately, not overdosed with pantomime this season, and already the close of *Dick Whittington* is announced. Next week will see the finish of this elaborate production, and Cardiffians are taking this opportunity of witnessing a pantomime which has become very familiar with the magic word "success." A more dashing and captivating principal boy than Miss Madeline Rees could not be found, and Mr Bob Hutt's reputation as a clever comedian has been widely acknowledged. Miss Minnie Duncan and Mr Arthur E. Godfrey are also sharing the popularity.

KING'S THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr Frank Bateman; Business-Manager, Mr Robert Sawle.—Mr Bateman has been fortunate enough to secure the engagement this week of Messrs Haddon and Loader's comic pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*. The piece is well produced, the scenery is exceptionally good, and the costumes are elaborate. Mr Jay Laurier as Silly Billy gives a performance which is really most amusing, and, with the assistance of Mr Harry Harrop as Dame Trotter, Mr Reg. Bolton as Squire Musty, and Messrs Kydd and Kydd as Dip and Dap, the fun is kept fast and furious. Miss Bessie Shelley as Jack makes an ideal principal boy. Miss Pattie Bella is excellent as Dora, and Miss Sybil Viney and Miss Cissy Trent as Charlie and Nancy also render artistic help. Clever dances are contributed by the Continental Trio, while an attractive speciality is the Cameron Glee Singers. A pretty show is the aerial flight in scene six.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr W. Lea.—A capital programme here includes the following names:—The Wille Bros., in feats of head balancing; Maud Ross, expert dancer; Will Mitcham, vocal and musical comedy artiste; Morcashani, the eccentric baritone chanteuse; the American Bioscope; Duncan's collies; Tolle D'Araignee, an electrical gymnastic novelty; Miss Lily Lena, the dainty comedienne; the M'Gregors, in their musical speciality; and Newhouse and Ward, trick and comedy cyclists.

CLYDEBANK.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Wilson.—These boards are occupied this week by *The New Barmaid*, presented by Mr Alexander Loftus's company. Mr Joseph B. Montague as Bertie White is a clever comedian, and is ably seconded by Mr Frank Nelroy, who as Mons. Bonsor displays much ability as a dancer. Mr Leslie Austin sings and acts well as Captain Lovebury, and Mr Alexander Loftus as Willie White is highly entertaining. The New Barmaid has a charming representative in Miss Nance O'Neil; Miss Hilda Blanche is very good as Brenda Louth; Dora Heather is safe in the hands of Miss Violet Osmund; and the same may be said of Miss Jean Gilmour as Lady Moulton and Mr Arthur Rodney as Colonel Claymore. The augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr Otto Cantor.

CAMBRIDGE.

NEW THEATRE.—Manager and Director, Mr W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr Norman V. Norman and company, including Miss Beatrice Wilson, are on a welcome return visit here, and on Monday and Tuesday the well-known *Under the Red Robe* was played. Mr Norman was an admirable Gil De Berault; Miss Wilson gave a striking portrayal of Renee De Cocheforêt; Mr Percy H. Vernon was good as the effeminate Captain Larolle; and Clon was well played by Mr L. Cory Thomas. On Wednesday and Thursday the ever-popular *Nell Gwynn* was played, and for Friday and Saturday *David Garrick* is announced.

CARLISLE.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME.—Proprietress, Mrs P. E. Veitch; Manager, Mr C. Algie.—The management has secured a strong attraction this week in the celebrated Savonas and Elliotts, whose musical and cycling acts are now too well known to need description. Suffice to say that they are as popular as ever, and though it is their third visit here, their performance is still followed with wonder, delight, and repeated applause. Mr Tom Walker, described as the "man-monkey," contributes a taking turn; his performance is neat and smartly done, and fully deserves the appreciation which it receives. Mr Percy Farrimond, the singing collier, has an excellent voice, which he uses with discretion and skill in several popular numbers. A quite novel and amusing turn is provided by the Franko Midgets, two miniature gentlemen, whose tricks are done with considerable dexterity and neatness. Mr Phil Herman, a comedian, with an excellent style and capital répertoire of songs, is a favourite. The Original Ladies' Comedy Quartet are also quite successful in several popular selections.

CASTLEFORD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Henry Masterman.—Messrs Preston and Doherty's company, under the direction of Messrs Sidney C. Cranston and Sidney Dench, is giving a performance of *The Rich and Poor of London* at this theatre. The acting is good and the scenery is adequate. The character of Spider Jack is suitably played by Mr Sidney Dench; Mr Robert Hall ably impersonates Dr. Leonard Morton; May Braithwaite is well and strongly impersonated by Miss Dora Dench; Gussy Lamb, a familiar stage character, is capably acted by Mr Sidney C. Cranston; the Dan'l Drake of Mr Tom Bowman is a very good performance; Ruby Redgrave is well played by Miss Marie Ramez; Auntie Scrimp is adequately sustained by Miss Lillie Woods; Mr Andrew Money is very good as the villainous Mark Stanley; Miss Dora Pass provokes much laughter as Polly Philpots; Bill Binks is embodied creditably by Mr E. J. M'Sweeny; Matthew Grabbam is ably represented by Mr J. Sydney; and Mr Haxeltine is capital as Poulton. Miss Alice M'Fairlain makes a good impression as Seadrift.

CHATHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr Geo. G. Ridley.—Mr Mouillot's *Cinderella* company is here this week, and this version is from the pen of Mr Mouillot's manager, Mr F. Leslie Moreton, with musical arrangements in the hands of Mr Frank Barrett, who makes an able conductor. In the title-rôle Miss Florrie Saunders gives a pleasing performance; Miss May Thorne is a popular Prince Paragon, whose valet Dandini is played in lively style by Miss Lena Willard; roars of laughter are created by the Brothers Pollard as the ugly sisters, Flossie and Gertie respectively; one of the most successful portrayals is Mr Lionel Braham's Baron, while Mr Ed. Carlton gets plenty of applause as Buttons. Dances are contributed by the Pansy Quartette, nursery rhymes by local children, and a contortionist act by the Neros, who are also responsible for the scheme of the harlequinade.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr L. B. Barnard.—The bill-of-fare at this popular hall is as follows:—The clever mimic, Gilbert Girard, on a return visit; the Sisters Mayo, duettists; Fox and Fox, variety entertainers; Thomas Finglas, singer of Negro ditties; Welda and Wynn, comedy jugglers; Angelo, the lightning painter; Fred Wright, character comedian; Lacy's Erascope, and Mr Leonard Mortimer's combination in their latest success, *Spectres*.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr Frank J. Donne.—The Four Estrellas are giving a smart gymnastic display here; Grace Merton is again affording pleasure with her ballads; Boyd and Gilfain meet with unstinted applause. Pictures by the Edisonograph and varieties by Fred Allsop, Bessie Lind, Flo D'Orville, and a dialect comedian, deputising for Geo. Malcolm, complete the bill.

CHESTERFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr Holbery Hardy.—Messrs George Mitchell and John Bilton's company forms the attraction here with *The Conscript*. Mr Mitchell gives a powerful portrayal of Karl Truevitch; Miss Mary Dawson shows dramatic power as Nadia; Mr Howell Travers gives energy to the part of Ivan Manloff; and Mr John Belton well portrays the part of Doggervitch. Miss Elizabeth Doone plays with pathos the rôle of Catherine Silka; Miss Ivy Chandos as Wanda submits a welcome diversion in a song; Mr F. H. Constable is a severe Count Hardiski; and valuable aid is rendered by Miss Bella Tilbury, Messrs Harry Tilbury, Frank Harvey, and Harold Holmes.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr G. T. Sante; Secretary, Mr J. Clay.—Mr T. Arthur Jones and company are here with the drama *Life's Sweetest Sin*. Mr T. Arthur Jones depicts Capt. Harold Marston with telling effect; Dr. Colbrooke is capitally sustained by Mr A. H. Garth; and Bob Tanner finds an able exponent in Mr Fred Russell. Miss Madge Morley, acquits herself admirably as Doreen Rivers; Miss Sarah Dudley vivaciously presents Bess Grayson (with songs); and Miss Amy Rudd is successful as Fay Colbrooke.

COATBRIDGE.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs Mary Watson; Manager, Mr C. B. Fountaine.—Mr Edward Marris's pantomime company opened here on Monday with *Dick Whittington*. Miss Joey Preston exhibits great talent as Dick; Miss Mena Eckerman portrays with excellent judgment the part of Alice; Miss James Salter cleverly enacts Betsy, the cook; and Miss Hulo Hodgson admirably portrays Captain Dash. Mr Fred Acton is a host in himself as Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr Harry Russell provides much amusement as Idle Jack; and Mr Ben Rowe successfully looks after the part of Muly Ben Whac. The specialties introduced are much admired, and include Rezene and Robini, in a screaming trapeze act; the Brothers Kashma, equilibrists; Miss Georgina Nicol, child mimic; Madame Roma's twelve lady aërial wrestlers; the Marion Quartet of acrobatic dancers; Mr Ben Rowe and Miss Topsy Holden, coloured society cake-walkers; and the Sisters Roma, club jugglers.

COLCHESTER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr Chas. Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr F. Graham Macdona.—Very cordial was the greeting extended to Mr Lawrence Brough and company on Monday at the above-named house, in *The Lady of Ostend*. Mr Brough himself played Le Baron De Longueville with extreme polish; Mr Harry Hampson as Dick Whortles was the centre of many an amusing and ludicrous situation; Mr Percy Marshall in the part of the father-in-law was the source of endless fun; Mr Edmund Gurney quite looked the part of the prize-fighter, his make-up being characteristic; Miss

Kate Milford played the indignant wife to perfection; and Miss Doris Vayne was a very coquettish Millie. The comedy was preceded by *Margaret's Stratagem*, in which Mr Harry Collier, Mr Harold M'Nay, and Miss Vayne ably sustained their respective parts.

CONSETT.

NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr Lloyd Clarance.—*A Traitor Prince* is the attraction here this week, and is being well patronised. Mr G. M. Montanini gives a powerful rendering of the part of Prince Rao Dalmariz, and is well supported by Miss Beatrice Western as Vashti. Mr Alex Temple is a manly Lieut. Frank Derrick, and as Cara Mr Horace Collins is very good. Mr A. H. Longford in the dual rôle of Richard Vane and Colonel Vane gives entire satisfaction. Mr E. Carter Livesey as Billy Bright and Miss Lillian Rignold as Pansy Blossom are excessively funny, and are well supported by Mr Austin Mortimer as Hon. Bobby Vavasour Dalyrimple. Miss Lillian Rosebery is a charming Lola Vane, and as Mrs Martha Blossom Miss Jane Massey is excellent. *Andrew Mills; or, The Murder at Brass Farm*, a drama of local interest, was produced on Friday night, concluding with the farce, entitled *Burglars*.

CORK.

OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr John Horgan.—The Osmond Tearle company, under the direction of Mr Herbert J. Montague, opened a week's engagement here on Monday in *Hamlet*. Mr Alexander G. Marsh as Hamlet afforded keen enjoyment. He delivered his lines with judgment and scholarly perception, and in several scenes created a deep impression. Miss Carrie Baillie, in the rôle of Ophelia, acted with much charm, and proved herself an artist of great resource and ability. Mr John Burton as the King of Denmark gave a meritorious representation; Miss Fannie Chamberlain as the Queen was very successful; and the other characters were well portrayed. *She Stoops to Conquer, Othello, Julius Cæsar, Virginius, The Merchant of Venice, The School for Scandal*, and *The Lady of Lyons* are also in the répertoire.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Henry Kemble.—The turn presented here by the Bros. Bellong, two clever gymnasts, is very clever; Satsuma is one of the cleverest magicians seen here; Marie Yorke is a pleasing comedienne; the St. Johns are very entertaining in their musical act; the Two Gems, duettists and dancers, are excellent; Dan Noble is much appreciated in his songs; the Bros. Llodge, gymnasts on silver chains are two finely developed artists; and Tom Packer, who contributes first-class songs, meets with approval. The animated pictures are new and very enjoyable.

COVENTRY.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr Wm. Bennett.—We have here *Cinderella*, composed by Mr Stanley Rogers and produced by one of Milton Bode's capable companies, and its reception on Monday was worthy of tradition. Miss Flo Beech makes a pretty Cinderella; Miss Hebe Bliss makes a most imposing Prince Brilliant; to Miss Marie Reeves is entrusted the part of Dandini, who is successful in a dainty coon song. Messrs John Nolan and Percy Dawson are respectively responsible for the parts of the two ugly sisters Gladys and Violet, and have worked up their parts admirably. Mr George Antill is a capital Capers, and Mr Leo. Stirling is successful as Baron Balmy. Specialities are introduced with marked success by Miss Maud Dewey with some good imitations of birds; Mr Leo Stirling is very clever in his musical turn; and Major Harry Sitherland is quite a novelty as America's rifle and bâton manipulator.

CREWE.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Henry Taylor.—Messrs F. J. Little and Fred Darcy's company is here in the pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor*. The title-rôle is played by Miss Lily Beverley in interesting style; Miss Kitty Brewster as Zorilda acts in a most vivacious and energetic manner, and fully deserves the applause she receives. Mr Victor Wallace shines as the Demon of the Deep, and also ably performs the duties of stage-manager. Miss Iona gives a good display of top-boot dancing as Selim. Mr A. G. Hast is a comical Tinbad. Some really refined singing comes from Mr Fred Tobito as Ali Loofah and Miss Flora Buxton as Zoldre. Captain Cook is well sustained by Mr Happy Attwood, and Little Tim is quaint as Octopus. The music was composed and arranged by Mr John Gregory, who is a very efficient musical director. Some excellent lance and sword exercises and acrobatic dances are introduced by the Brewster Troupe. One of the chief attractions of the piece is the marvellous juggling of the Wallys.

CROOK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr Wallace Davidson.—Mr John F. Preston's répertoire company opened here on Monday with *Lady Godiva*. In the title-rôle Miss Grace Lester gives a finished and graceful performance, and Mr James Duncan as Leofric performs with the requisite spirit and dash the part demands. Mr F. B. Woulfe displays great emotional power in the character of Tom O'Coventry, and Mr W. H. Barlow is a villainous Algar, and is ably assisted by Mr Clifford Marle as Unwolf. Miss Madge Boulter is a vivacious Elfrida, and also gives evidence of very good vocal ability. As Robin Mr Dan F. Roe is funny, and Miss Marcella Hudson submits a dainty interpretation of Lady Aldyth. Mr R. Brown is a commendable Edgar. *Nell Gwynne* and *Jane Shore* were presented later in the week.

CROYDON.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Lawson Lambert; Acting-Manager, Mr Reginald Lawrence.—The Grand is lively with pantomime this and next week, and Mr St. John Denton has brought an exceedingly entertaining edition of *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Rose Dearing is all that can be wished in the rôle of Prince Charming; Miss Eleanor L'Estelle as Phyllis is a fascinating lady who works hard and successfully; Mr Willie Scott, a droll and quaint Charlotte, makes a palpable hit; the rôles of Gagem and Scragem are in the hands of Messrs Ferris and Farnley, a capital pair of burlesque villains; Miss Ethel Karri is quite a suitable fairy queen, Water Lily; Miss Rosalind O'Ferral is praiseworthy as Herne; Mr Wensley Russell makes a commendable Billy Buttons; Mr Laurie Lisle as Baron Bluster is whimsical; Miss Dolly Harcourt is nice as Lord Johnny Spoof; and Master Harry Pleon is bright as Augustus. Misses Nora Doone and Rene Reel are an attractive pair of Babes. The scenery, dresses, and chorus are well up to the mark. The varieties, which are much relished, include Bud Snyder, in his sensational trick cycle act; Mr Charles Morton, a smart mimic; the Four Olympian Stars, expert dancers; and Steve Selby, with his mirth-provoking mechanical donkey.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Resident General Manager, Mr Eustace H. Jay.—Mr J. D. Hunter is paying his annual visit to Croydon with pantomime, and has brought an excellent version of *Aladdin*, with bright dresses, pretty scenery, and a shapely chorus of ladies. Mr Hunter himself carries the main burden of the work with a jovial and delightful rendering of the Widow Twankey, and meets with a great reception. Miss M. Sadie in the title-rôle is full of animation and good spirits, and is an ideal principal boy; Miss Elsa Brull as the Princess is really charming; Miss Vera Dudley is a handsome Pekoe; and Miss Ivy Bolton a bewitching Nicey Picey. Mr Victor Vernon, a resourceful comedian, deserves special commendation for his portrayal of Abanazar; Mr Fred Boulton is responsible for a deal of merriment in the character of the Emperor; Mr Dick Tubb takes a forward position with a humorous rendering of the Vizier; and Messrs G. Mayer and B. Boden have a good time as Wishee and Washee. Mdlle. Bartenelli, contortionist; Fred Boulton, banjoist; the Four Sisters M'Queen, vocalists; and the Verona-Jay Quartet of lady dancers are applauded.

DARLINGTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manageress, Mrs T. W. S. Jennings.—This week the new musical comedy *The Scilly Girl* is being presented here by Messrs Frank Nelson and Chas. Cautley's company. Mr Chas. Cautley as Cecil Trevelyan sings and acts in a capable manner. Mr Alfred Donohoe plays the part of Heiro, and keeps the audience amused from start to finish. Mr H. E. Garden does well as the Hon. Dolly Delawarre. Mr Robert Rivers as the Duke of Ayreshire is excellent. Mr Milroy Cooper as Cyrus Wheeler is successful. Miss Dorothy Vernon as the maid is heartily received, her dancing being greatly admired. Miss Susie Oak makes a good Duchess of Ayreshire. Miss Ella Kitson as Madame Endora and Miss Ada Palmer as Miss Catherine Wheeler are seen to advantage. The orchestra is under the direction of the composer, Mr Wm. Neale.

DARWEN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr E. L. Ormsby.—This week we are receiving a return visit from Mrs Bandmann Palmer and répertoire company.—Opening on Monday Mrs Bandmann-Palmer gave a fine impersonation of the title-rôle in Mary, Queen of Scots, being ably supported by Mr F. Skein, who was capital as the Earl of Leicester, Mr Sidney Bland as Lord Burleigh, and Mr William Trant as Sir Edward Mortimer. Elizabeth, Queen of England, was excellently rendered by Miss Katherine Herbert; whilst Miss Hodgson as Margaret Curl was also good. *Leah* was produced on Tuesday; *Sapho*, Wednesday; *East Lynne* and *Jane Shore* are also being given.

DEAL.

GLOBE THEATRE.—On Monday last Mr Herbert Barrs' pantomime *Aladdin* opened here for six nights. It is well staged, nicely dressed, and the music bright and pretty. Miss Kitty Clayton makes a fine Aladdin. Miss Ethel plays the part of Pekoe. Miss Ethel Dyson pleases everybody as Princess Badroulbador, and sings and dances well. Mr Billy Jackson is funny as the Widow, and causes much merriment. Mr Herbert Grapho as Abanazar amuses everyone with comical sayings. Mr George Harvie as Washee is a great favourite. The specialities include Miss Ada Marjutti, the flexible Venus; Bernardo, tramp juggler; Travella, wire-walker; and the Empire Troupe of dancers.

DERBY.

NEW GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and General Manager.—Mr J. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr Charles Denley.—The pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* has been freshened up in various ways, and is due to stay for a week longer. Miss Florrie Forde is giving new songs for old, and remains a distinct success. Miss Gertie Gitana also fully maintains her hold on popular favour. The comedians already mentioned with hearty commendation — viz., Messrs Fowler, Thatcher, Frank Dunlop, J. E. O'Connor, C. Brady, and Fred Hallam—are as much to the fore as ever. Miss Millie Denham as Jack and Miss Doris Lillian as Jill are thoroughly deserving; and Mesdames Carrie and Alice King, danseuses, are received nightly with every mark of approbation. Other parts are well rendered by Miss Isa Dainton as Fernando, Miss Sybil Steffany as Margery Daw, Miss Lilian Honeybone as Armand, Miss Marie West as Fairy Gossamer, and Miss Florence Frederica as Cupid. Among the new attractions is Mr E. R. Dainez's dog circus. Mr Geo. Brydon-Phillips, who produced the pantomime, is represented by Major Geo. Stratton; and Mr Louis Stanislaus is the stage-manager; while Mr Alex. Humphreys is the musical director.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr T. Allan Edwardes.—Alma Obrey is the principal attraction here this week. She proves herself a capable character comedienne. Although suffering from a cold, she sings her songs in excellent style. Jean Seul is as mysterious as ever, and is accorded a hearty reception; Texas Hattie, described as America's greatest tight-rope performer, fully upholds that distinction, and her feats meet with general approval; Carr and Rose are praiseworthy in their gems of vocal comedy; Wirson is a daring equilibrist; and the Garden Troupe of pipers and dancers are well-deserving of special mention. Chas. Rose, comedian and clog-dancer, and Frank Hope, acrobatic trick cyclist, also contribute in no small way to an excellent programme.

DONCASTER.

NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr J. W. Chapman.—*Cinderella* was daintily produced here on Monday. Miss Edith Harmer's delineation of Fairy Delight was excellent; Mr Tatten Hall was facetious as Baron Hardupp; and Mr Ernie Mayne as Buttons contributed a good deal of humour. Bertha and Flossie, the baron's beauteous step-daughters, were capably presented by Messrs Fred Spencer and Tom Owen, and in the title-rôle Miss Dot Harridine won universal praise. The variety element, which is so popular here, was contributed by Silbon's miniature circus and Boris Fridkin's Imperial Troupe of singers, dancers, and acrobats. Mr Elliston, who has the sole management, is to be congratulated upon the all-round qualifications of the combination.

DOVER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Limited; Managing Director, Mr F. C. Dew.—Mr T. Jarman's company is here this week, in the Anglo Russian drama *In Dark Siberia*. Mr W. T. Riley plays the part of the hero, Captain Victor Gordon, with excellent effect; Mr Wilson Howard portrays the character of Major Waroff with conspicuous success; Mr H. Tarrant is good as Dr. Yeroslaff; and Mr Bert H. Ross as Col. Nevski scored heavily. Mr Louis West causes much amusement by his impersonation of Sergt. Petrovitch; Mr J. Mellor as Bruin the Bear comes in for a good share of applause; Miss Cecilia Ransome acts with considerable pathos as Paul Gregorovitch; Miss Carlotta Anson is equally noticeable as the Princess Natalie; and Sonia and Ivanova are rendered with ability by Misses Ethel Bickham and Linda Riley.

DUBLIN.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Limited; General Manager, Mr Charles Hyland.—The pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty*, which has undergone some changes, continues to draw large audiences nightly. The members of the company, who have already secured public favour, include Miss Louie Collier, whose songs are nightly encored; Mr Horace Wheatley, who delights the audience with his quaint humour; Miss Dorothy Clark, Mr Harry Maxim, Miss Lucie Caine, Mr Arthur Rigby, Miss Adeline Yohle, Mr Picton Roxborough, Miss Cissy De La Rue, and Mr Ernest Spalding.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Moullot; Resident-Manager, Mr A. Armstrong.—The Moody-Manners company entered on its third week, and on Monday a large and appreciative audience were present to witness *La Traviata*. Madame De Vere gave an admirable rendering of Violetta, and sang in a charming and effective manner which was greatly admired. Mr Joseph O'Mara's embodiment of Alfred was a praiseworthy performance, and Mr William Dever's fine voice was heard with great satisfaction in the rôle of George Germont. The Misses D. and J. M'Carthy invested the rôles of Flora and Annina with ability, and Mr Glynn Renshaw represented the Doctor, and sang and acted admirably; while as the Baron Mr F. Rowe was very good. On Tuesday *Mignon* again attracted a large audience. Madame Fanny Moody presented an artistic and beautiful study of the title-rôle, and Mr Wilson Pembroke gave an acceptable performance of Wilhelm Meister. *Carmen*, *The Jewess*, *Lily of Killarney*, and *Faust* are also announced.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr A. S. Figgis.—The bill here is topped by Tom Edwards, a capital ventriloquist, who meets with a cordial reception. The Sarnthaler Troupe of vocalists and dancers give every satisfaction; and Little Barney, comedian, is a host in himself. Griff, in a clever juggling act, receives applause; as does also Ella Retford for her excellent singing and dancing. Sinclair and Parr, actor-vocalists, are favourably received; and Tom O'Neill is a smart comedian. Vosper, facial mimic, meets with success; and Mabel Hind, who remains from last week, is still to the fore. The Cinématograph display, "A Trip to the Sun," completes the programme.

TIVOLI.—General Manager, Mr Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr H. A. Murphy.—The attraction here this week is Peggy Pryde, comedienne, who is nightly applauded. Mdlle. Haydee, with her electric mannikin theatre, is an interesting item, and Frank, comedian, is as popular as ever. Abel and Welsh, grotesque eccentrics, score, and Mollie Doon is a chic comedienne. Hurman is an expert juggler, and Alice Oakley is a pleasing descriptive vocalist. Louis Murray is a capital actor-vocalist, and Charlie Williams, Negro comedian, and George Prince, comedian, are also good in their respective turns.

PAVILION, KINGSTOWN.—Manager, Mr John H. Stevenson.—The company engaged here includes the Mona Ladies' Orchestra, whose several selections are well received; Mr J. Wellesley Lynn, whose thought-reading and mystic entertainment meets with appreciation; and the Electric Bioscope pictures, which are highly amusing are warmly applauded.

ROUND ROOM, ROTUNDA.—The New Century Animated Photo. Company is still here and drawing good houses.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr C. A. James.—The following are engaged here:—Pettigrove and Son's Marionettes, in the pantomime *The Babes in the Wood*; Eugenie, palmist; and Geo. Harcourt, descriptive vocalist.

SAMUELS' EXHIBITION PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr S. Samuels.—Chester and Lee's Marionettes, with the pantomime *Mother Goose*, are here doing good business.

DUDLEY.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr J. W. Tilley.—*Sergeant Brue* has taken Dudley audiences by storm this week, and is by far the liveliest and best-staged piece that has been here for some time. Mr Edward Kipling works hard and creates endless amusement in the title-rôle, and Mr Percy Rogers is equally successful as Michael. Miss Constance Lait is charmingly captivating as Aurore, and brings down the house repeatedly; Miss Eliza Earle is a pert and amusing little Daisy; and Miss Violet Dene is clever and graceful as Lady Bickenhall. A good character is that of Mr Crank by Mr Cecil Burt, while Mr George Barrett is remarkably droll and clever as Crookee Scrubbs.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Tom Prichard.—There is a strong programme here this week. Nadji, the Hindoo marvel, who heads the bill, gives a remarkable performance; Charles Bignell is very popular; and the Two Countees, humorous duettists, are repeatedly recalled. Ella Dean makes a most successful first appearance; Ward and Pearce, burlesque boxers, give a very amusing and clever turn; and Charlie Bayman, Negro comedian; Walter Gurney, versatile comedian; and Lily Mason, serio and speciality dancer, are responsible for good turns.

DUMFRIES.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr W. E. Potts.—Mr Charles Frohman's company was here the first three nights of the week in *Sherlock Holmes*. The title-rôle is in the hands of Mr Kenneth Rivington, who gives a capital portrayal from beginning to end. Dr Watson was well embodied by Mr Fred Inwood; Professor Marlarty by Mr Arthur B. Murray was a complete success; the part of James Larabee was in the hands of Mr Ernest Grey, who did full justice to the part; Miss Florence Radcliffe as Miss Faulkner was sweetly natural; and Miss Carrie Lacy made the best of the part of Madge Larrabee. On Thursday and Friday the Leopolds appeared in *Frivolity*.

DUNDEE.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Robt. Arthur; General Manager, Mr Sandon Perkins.—The pantomime entitled *The Babes in the Wood* has just entered on its second week. Miss Veronica Brady is a prime favourite, and her lively songs and dances make the part of Rose an outstanding one. The Sisters Morgan have been seen here before, and make a big hit with "Navaho." Miss Ernestine Desborough makes a fine appearance in the part of the Prince. Her song, "Farewell, little Yo San," goes very well. The two Babes are effectively acted by Miss Muriel Mace and Miss Ruby Forbes. Mr Frank Couch is favourably known here, and in the character of Buttons he gives a really clever performance in song, dance, and story. Mr W. P. Sheen as the Dame never fails to raise a laugh. Mr Harry Douglas and Mr Ernest Sefton as Bumble and the Baron contrive to make things hum, and Messrs Woodhouse and Wells get in quite a lot of effective comedy work.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Will Parker; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr Alf Ross.—Mr Parker deserves great credit for that effective scena entitled *The Children's Party*, for which he is mainly responsible. Miss Katie Miskel takes the principal part, and charms all by her clever vocal powers. Miss Nellie Edmondson, the Eight Tiny Tots, Miss Valrose, Master David Kennedy, and Mr Johnny Beveridge add to the success of this cleverly conceived trifle. The British Quartette stand out prominently amongst the other turns, which also includes Bendon, ventriloquist; the Jetneys, sand dancers; Grey and Welford, Amandus, Lillie Currie, Musical Rosina, and Frank Royce.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Frank Percival.—Mr Herbert Fuller's London company present a drama entitled *The Passion of Life*, which has met with the unanimous approval of the drama-loving public who fill this comfortable theatre twice nightly.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Dobell Lyle.—The pantomime *Aladdin* is still attracting big crowds, and has been a great draw during the holidays.

DUNFERMLINE.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr W. E. Potts.—Mr John Leopold's company is appearing here the first three nights of the week in *New Frivolity* up-to-date. Mr Herbert Lewis as Oliver Buckwheat is a decided success in his part; Mr John Leopold, jun., does well as Daniel Teething, his singing and dancing are very good; Mr Wilfred Vaughan acts admirably as Jules Vermiglio; Mr Barry Lupino as Samuel introduces some very clever business; Professor Fumble is capably depicted by Mr Tony Leopold; Miss Ruby Wyndham is quite successful as Madame Cobweb; and the singing and dancing of Miss Amy Hall as Lucy Buckwheat is admired and appreciated.

ECCLES.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Potasch and Wardle; Manager, Mr P. Potasch; Acting-Manager, Mr P. Ryan Smith.—We have pantomime here this week, and Mr Peter Thompson's *Babes in the Wood* is drawing large houses. The comedians include Messrs James Templar Ellis, the Danbys, and Mr Fred Danvers, who keep the fun rolling all the evening. Miss Maud Beaumont possesses a fine presence and voice, and is a dashing Robin Hood. Specialities include N. T. Kioto, the Yankee Quartet, and Miss Rosa Walmsley.

EASTBOURNE.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Standen Trigga.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr Mark Blow's company is appearing here during the week in *Under Two Flags*. The drama is excellently staged and the company a good one. Mr Mark Blow is an imposing figure as Bertie Royellieu, and he contributes an ever-dignified performance. Mr Reginald Harvey-West does excellent service as Barklie; and Mr Charles Brooke is an able Lord Royellieu. Mr Walter Thornton is impressive as Lord Rockingham; Mr Charles D. Pitt is a very forceful Black Hawk. Most of the fun-providing is in the safe hands of Mr Will Hook as Rake, and he has a capable partner in Miss Daisy Carlton as Lavinia. Quite an artistic triumph is scored by Miss Emelie Polini, who is a charming and pretty Cigarette, and much of the success is due to her admirable contribution. Miss Hope Mayne is a refined and pleasing Princess Corona, and the remaining characters are well filled.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr George Hayes.—Mr Henry Eglington and his company are supplying the first local pantomime of the season here. Miss Tilley Stewart as Robin Hood has plenty of brightness and dash; Miss Florence is a dainty, refined Maid Marion; Miss Hettie Norma has much to do as Will Scarlett, and her dancing evokes loud applause; Miss Marion Cygnet is a pleasing Margery; and the Babes have good exponents in Miss Cissie Williams and Miss Eileen Leoville. Miss Ella Rose has a fine voice, which she uses with advantage as Fairy Glow-worm. Mr Harry Eglington is quite a favourite as Dame Durden, and his droll style well suits the part. He is ably partnered by Mr Harry Harcourt, who works hard as the Baron. Mr Will Ambro is a good Hannibal, and in his smart dancing earns loud applause for his efforts. Messrs Angle and Harry A'Ban are a funny pair of villains, and their mock duel causes much laughter. Mr Reuben Kitchen as Pompey and Mr Harold Perry as Jack O'Lantern complete satisfactorily the cast. The Three Geronds are smart lady dancers.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Samuel Lloyd.—At the head of the variety bill stand Hanvarr and Anna Lee. The lady is an expert tumbler and Hanvarr's juggling with clubs show extraordinary skill. A remarkable turn is contributed by Mr James H. Lee, whose wire performance is daring and wonderful; Mr Fred Keeton sings his funny songs in a funny manner; Mr Montague Biggs is a realistic female impersonator; Miss Gladys Archbutt pleases as a comedienne; the Two Pagets have a novel concertina act; Hicks' Clerks contribute songs and dances; and new pictures are shown on the Cinématograph.

EBBW VALE.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Manager, Mr Arthur Knight.—During this week Miss Winifred Maude's company is here in *The Sins of a City*. Mr Ivan Gore as Donald M'Ivor is particularly interesting; Mr Horace E. Herbert does well in the part of Sandy M'Donald; and Mr Leslie Beaufort as Ralph Blackwater, K.C., is a success, being well supported by Mr Victor Du Cane as Isaac Levi. Miss Winifred Maude is most effective in the part of Seaweed.

EDINBURGH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs Howard and Wyndham, Limited; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter Hollister.—The spirit of pantomime had a busy time here all through the New Year holidays, and this week shows no signs of diminution in the spell exerted by *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Mr Wyndham's tried and trusty trio of comedians work with a will and keep the ball of fun rolling famously. Mr Malcolm Scott's patter as Dame Trot is as fresh and bewilderingly varied as ever, his many allusions to men and events providing plenty of food for mirth and reflection. Mr Ambrose Manning has elaborated his part of Gottem into a creation of genuine comedy; and bonnie Scotland is not forgotten in the rich "Doric" of Mr J. T. Macmillan as the Scottish cousin. Miss Lily Harold has hosts of admirers as Jack; and Miss Daisy Le Hay is captivatingly sweet in all she sings, says, and does as Phœbe. The Lupinos, pere and fils, in their animal personations, fill the children's hearts with joy; and the dancing of the Tiller Troupe is the quintessence of all that is elegant, graceful, and charming. Of the other principals, Miss Violet Englefield and Miss Lilian Grahame make a vivacious pair of lovers, and both are immense favourites with the public.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs Howard and Wyndham, Limited; General Manager, Mr G. T. Minshull.—*The Cingalee* continued its successful career at this theatre on Monday evening, and the glowing welcome extended by a large audience proved conclusively that the play still enjoys the sunshine of popularity here. The rippling melodies, laughable book, dazzling dresses, and gorgeous setting of this grand musical fantasia, which the presiding genius of Mr George Edwardes has devised and improved with such consummate skill, all combine to lull the senses into a state of complete satisfaction, laughter taking the place of Oriental langour. The outcome has been the signal triumph of *The Cingalee*. Among the many excellent members of Mr Edwardes's well-selected company are Mr Leonard Mackay, whose vocal ability as Harry Vereker is accompanied by power as an actor; Mr Colin Coop, whose Boobhamba is an unctuously droll performance; and Mr W. J. Manning, whose Sir Peter Loftus is one more humorous addition to that gay gallery of giddy old men, which has made Mr Manning's services so deservedly prized in the provinces. Mr E. Statham Staples as Chambhuddy Ram is a host in himself, and he has elaborated the character with a care and conscientiousness which do him credit. As Vanoya Miss Octavia Barry is a picturesque exponent of the rôle, singing her music with artistic effect. Miss Lily Elsie's Lady Patricia Vereker is one of the most delightful performances seen here for some time. To her beauty of face and figure, which reminds one of a Gainsborough picture, she adds charm of acting, grace of movement, and a vocal brilliance which should ensure her a high place in her profession. The chorus is a powerful one, and the incidental dances, "Devil" and otherwise, are given with the requisite Eastern abandon. The piece is exquisitely staged under the direction of Mr Alfred Clarke, and runs with commendable smoothness, a quality which is reflected in front of the house, where all proceeds like clockwork under the watchful eye and experienced hand of Mr G. T. Minshull, assisted by the courteous and attentive Mr Sidney Vautier, the acting-manager. Mr F. Westby Gibson, Mr George Edwardes's representative, has vied with these gentlemen in contributing to the comfort of the crowded and aristocratic audiences that have assembled here for the past three weeks.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr H. E. Moss.—The Karnos appeared on Monday night in their new sketch entitled *Mumming Birds*, which proved a very diverting affair, a capital idea being well carried out by a capable company, all the members of whom did full justice to their parts. The Aurora Troupe, in their acrobatic cycling act, performed a number of daring feats on the wheel. Mr Tom Stuart, mimic, imitated several well-known actors and music hall artistes, and Leona Dare presented a novel act on the trapeze, in which her amazing strength was fully demonstrated. The Raies introduced some smart dancing; the Korries excelled in their musical act; the Three Sisters Haydon used their voices with effect; and Edie Veno proved a clever comedy artiste. Charles Adams and Mueller and Coyne completed a first-class company. On Tuesday a distinction was lent to the programme by the appearance of Miss Gena Manon, who performed a clever and original vocal act, which was an instantaneous success. This talented young lady has unusual gifts as a singer, and her turn included brilliant renderings of different national melodies. Prolonged applause greeted her efforts, and Miss Manon had to respond to numerous recalls.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Eade Montefiore.—A new lustre is lent to the attractiveness of the entertainment here by the arrival of that dashing favourite of pantomime, Miss Ada Twibell, who takes the place of Miss Engler, who has had to retire indisposed. Miss Twibell is highly esteemed in this city as a vocalist and burlesque artiste, and has been a reigning star at Christmas time during the late Mr Hatton's eventful régime at the Theatre Royal. Her fine figure, impressive style, and capital methods in comedy and acting have been seen to unusual advantage this week as the Prince, a part she plays admirably. A great many children from local institutions have been admitted free to the pantomime during the past week, their number bringing the total to whom the management have extended this kindness up to 3,000.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Tom Ellis.—Messrs Garside, Knowles, and Ludlow's company appeared here on Monday evening in the exciting drama, *A London Fireman*, which was received with hearty favour by a crowded house. Mr J. F. Knowles made a spirited appearance as Hal Curtis, the young fireman hero, and Mr Arthur Pringle as the pseudo-Marquis was an accomplished villain. Miss Mona Gray acted with power and pathos as the heroine, and Miss Nellie Garside also was seen to advantage in a comedy part.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr John Henry Cooke.—Variety is given to the entertainments here by fresh engagements, those of the week including the Lovelaces with their illustrated songs, and the Dunvilles, who give a capital musical turn. Syd and Albert are well to the front with some new mirth provoking business, and the popular Brothers Leotard also appear in an amusing and interesting show. *Aqua Wreck* of course comes in for the lion's share of the applause, and continues to go as well as ever. Two magnificent royal stags, "The Monarch of the Glen" and "Sir William Wallace" are an additional feature of the show.

WAVERLEY MARKET.—Once more Mr Moss's grand carnival has reached its third and last week, and once more a great success has to be recorded. Year after year Mr Moss has catered for his patrons in Edinburgh, and Christmas and New Year would hardly seem the same to the masses and the classes in this city without the mammoth entertainment which Mr Moss knows so well how to provide. Mr Moss has piled Pelion upon the Ossa of success, and this year's record has again been "record breaking." For the last week Mr Moss, with his usual sagacity, has engaged a trump card in the unrivalled little Jap, Yukio Tani, one of the brightest stars of the wrestling ring. He has proved an enormous catch in more senses than one, and his grip on the attention of the huge crowds of spectators that have thronged to see him has been a great one. Other parts of the variety programme embrace the Gatling Guards, in their exhibition of lightning drill; the Volsset Troupe of cyclists, who perform on a revolving table, and Tambo and Sambo, who are America's greatest tambourine manipulators. The Princess Leah, on the invisible wire, has had many admirers, and Peppo's performing monkeys have also appeared. Another sensation of the week has been a contest between a horse and a bicycle, the horse travelling on a revolving platform. On the occasion of our visit the cyclist won. Lieutenant Amer's band has discoursed sweet music, and Edinburgh will be sorry to lose sight of this gifted conductor, whose orchestra reflects the perfection of his bâton's sway. Mr Moss this year has had the assistance of his son, Mr Charles S. Moss, and this clever young gentleman has, by his untiring efforts and business energy and resource, shown special aptitude for the business. Mr Moss starts for Egypt on Monday morning next, and denizens of Pharaoh-land will no doubt be hearing the echo of the Saturday evening crowds here singing "For he's a jolly good fellow."

EXETER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Secretary and Manager, Mr Fred Pollard; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy M. Dunsford.—*Robinson Crusoe* commenced his third week here on Monday. The Florodora Girls are greater favourites than ever; Mat Melrose and Lalla Cowell provide some smart dancing; a great feature is the rapid clay modelling of Thelma; and the Carlyles, Spanish dancers, are very successful.

FALKIRK.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr Horace W. Ebbutt.—The attractive comic opera *Amorelle* is here this week. In the title-rôle Miss Dot Stephens was simply delightful. Her acting was graceful and her singing sweet. Mr Arthur Cozens as Jules had much to do, and performed it with skill and ability. He possesses a voice of considerable range. The singing of Miss Adah Gray as Lesbia is an outstanding feature of the opera. Mr Leon Simkin in the important character of Dr. Napoleon Bonaparte Crow was a huge success. Much of the merriment depends upon this personage, and Mr Simkin made quite the best of a rare part. Miss Jessie Hales as Mdlle. Ribot made a very amusing shadow of "Boney." The other chief characters were—Mr Edward Granby as Francois, Mr Horace Manger as Alphonse, Mr Arthur Elwyn as the Count of Cideaux, Mr Fred Carrington as Dotard, and Mr George Paulton as Harpagon. The singing of the chorus was very tuneful, and the dressing and setting were praiseworthy.

FARNWORTH.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr T. Morton Powell.—Pantomime holds sway this week, and Mr Jordison's company is well up to the average. The adventures of *The Babes in the Wood* form the story, and many of the old traditions are retained. The scenery is much above the average of travelling shows, and the lighting and mounting are excellent. Miss Madge Daley as Robin Hood sings and acts throughout with verve and animation; Maid Marion has a lively representative in Miss Ada Martine, an effective vocalist and dancer; the Sisters Brookland score a success with their song and dance, "Angeline;" Mr Edward Avon as Baron Toodle is the life and soul of the piece, his marvellous legmania dancing being a feature of the performance; and as the two robbers Messrs Cullen and Carthy greatly distinguish themselves, their duel in the wood being one of the tit-bits of the pantomime. Mr Rowland Hill is a most amusing Dame, especially in the School scene. The Babes are played in excellent style by Little Miss Dolly Cullen and Little Miss Elsie Jordison.

FOLKESTONE.

PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr H. W. Rowland.—Mr Peter Davey's pantomime, *Goody Two Shoes*, opened here on Monday. Miss Maud Nichols as Crispin sings and dances well; Miss Lily Lingard as the heroine gives a capital rendering of that rôle; the Earl of Godiva has a capable exponent in Mr J. G. Taylor, who gains applause for his songs; Mr T. C. Haverley as Peeping Tom does full justice to the part; Mr Harry Calden is a diverting Dame Durden; and Miss Ethel Beech is fascinating as the Chevalier Hurley, and scores a success in the song "Under a Panama." Miss Gertrude Morrow as Margot puts plenty of life into the character and sings and dances charmingly; and Mr Graham Morrison contributes some good whistling solos as Marcodison. Specialities are introduced by the Thurbani Trio, Calden Troupe, and Clown Leo's miniature circus.

GAINSBOROUGH.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton.—Mr Chas. Macdona's company is paying a welcome return visit this week with *A Country Girl*. Mr Richard Telford as Barry and Miss Sadie Neville as Sophie are as amusing as ever. Mr Bernard Vaughan repeated his excellent impersonation of the Rajah, and the same remark

may be applied to the Geoffrey Challoner of Mr Herbert Standing, jun. Miss Lucie Lever sings well as the Princess; Miss Anna Robertson gives a clever interpretation of Nan; and Miss Daisy Davis is a charming Marjorie.

GATESHEAD.

METROPOLE THEATRE, LIMITED. — General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Straughan.—The Royal Tokio Troupe of acrobatic Japs are retained for another week, and again provide a most interesting turn. The bill is headed by the Mysterious Lilith, who gives a novel production of marvellous feats in mid-air while under magnetic influence. Lilian Warren with her "vocal pictures" provides a good turn, as also does Fred Harcourt, magician. Chris Bell, juvenile clog dancer; and the Brothers Laure, Continental acrobats, are responsible for entertaining turns; and a strong bill is completed by Sam Kelly, comedian, and the Singing Furnaceman.

GLASGOW.

KING'S, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr H. Macfarlane. —Another visit to *The Duchess of Dantzic* amply confirms the good impression of the opening night here, and the crowded houses testify to the appreciation of the public for Mr George Edwardes's latest novelty.

METROPOLE. — Managing Director, Mr Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr John Dunbar.—*The Orphan Heiress*—one of the best plays written by the manager of this theatre—is being admirably staged this week under the personal superintendence of Mrs Jefferson. Mabel Ainsley, the ill-used heiress, is very pleasingly played by Miss Stanley M. Burt; Miss Atholie Robertson is equally charming as the faithful friend of the heroine; the suffering mother is enacted with extreme pathos by Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh; and the unscrupulous Olive Kingston has a strong interpreter in Miss Marie De Roos. The villain, Douglas Kingston, is powerfully drawn by Mr Riddell Robinson; Mr T. G. Davies as his accomplice is also good; Mr Charles Burdon as the hero gives a manly rendering of the part; and Mr Alfred D. Adams portrays the character of Lord Ainsley with quiet dignity. There is no lack of fun, introduced by Miss Amy B. Ellis as Betsy and Mr Percy Bell as Ginger, the latter especially keeping the audience in roars of laughter at his humorous business and by-play. The setting of the plays during Mr Jefferson's present stock season is specially well done.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr J. H. Oakden.—Mr E. Hoggan-Armadale and his company are engaged here, the bill for the week being *The Sleigh Bells*, *The Vicar of Wakefield*, *David Garrick*, and *Trilby*. The performance of *The Sleigh Bells* on Monday was well received, Mr Hoggan-Armadale in particular meeting with hearty applause for his rendering of Mathias. Mr Fred Emery gave a fine, manly interpretation of the part of Christian, and Miss Violet Wilson was excellent as Annette. Mr W. F. Ulitherow as Hermann and Mr Henry Osman as Fritz obtained a deal of humour from their parts, and the Polish Jew was impressively represented by Mr A. H. Barton. The Madame Mathias of Miss Marie Florence was good, as was also the Lucille of Miss Kate Evelyn. Mr F. Booth-Conway gave force to the character of Mons. Bussey, and the Kaspar of Mr James Fox and the mesmerist of Mr Charles Langton were also interesting studies. The parts of the judge, Dr. Franz, and the gendarme were adequately filled by Messrs William James Hartley and Milton Crabbe. The play was preceded by the amusing farce, *A Kiss in the Dark*.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss's Empires, Limited; Resident Manager, Mr Arthur Aldin. — Hugh Stanton and Jessie Burgwitz are here again in that amusing satirical sketch, *For Reform*; Eugen Marrder contributes a novel equestrian turn with a cleverly trained horse; the Three Nevarros, as equilibrists, introduce some novel and daring feats, which prove popular; Alice Simmons sings several high-class operatic ballads; Chas. Vincent as a comedian, has a good style; and Geo. Bohee gives two fine banjo selections. The imitations of popular artists by Rose Archer are neat; the Three Victorias are smart dancers; Jimmy Shields, is a clever one-legged dancer; and the sketch *V.C.* completes a varied programme.

TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr S. King Alexander; Acting-Managers, Mr Fred C. Ewing and Mr T. J. Colquhoun.—Geo. Formby, who has entered upon his third week here, continues to meet with undiminished popularity; the Karno Trio are most amusing in their sketch and ball-punching act; the Three Dagmars are daring acrobats; Fred Lloyd and company display much humour in a sketch; and W. E. Hilton, the popular Scottish ventriloquist; Marie Joyce, comedienne; Collins and Rice, comedy artists; Ted Waite, comedian; the Lynches, song illustrators; Carle and Carmanelli, musical entertainers; the Weimars, wire-walkers; and Allen M'Askell, comic juggler, also contribute.

PALACE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Rich Waldon and Thos. Barrasford; Assistant-Manager, Mr Harry M'Kelvie.—The company this week is up to the usual high standard. The principal attraction is Lind, who displays wonderful ability in his female impersonations. Other members of the company include Joe Hayman and Mildred Franklin, American speciality artists; Nancy St. John, comedienne; the Donator, acrobatic marvels; Bob Hamilton, comedian and instrumentalist; Lillian, trick cyclist; Alix Lukos, vocalist; Mdlle. Flora Lumière, the human butterfly; George Penn, eccentric musician; the Judges, acrobats and trick leapers; and a display of up-to-date animated pictures.

GOOLE.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr John E. Tomlinson.—Miss Lena Stanton's company opened here on Monday in the pantomime *Dick Whittington*. The company is under the personal direction of the author, Mr Harry E. Joseph. Miss Lena Stanton proves a capital principal boy in the title-rôle, her singing and acting being greatly appreciated. As Alice Fitzwarren Miss M. Gerrard plays the part with brightness and vivacity. Miss J. Burnette is a pleasing Lord Bob. The comedians are headed by Little Keeno, whose funny performance as Captain Spanker goes far to ensure the success of the pantomime. Miss M. Linn makes a decided hit with a capitally executed dance. Mr B. Green puts in some good work as Margarine Mopps and Mr Harry Jay keeps the fun going as Emperor Kopall, and is warmly applauded for his capital topical songs. Mr A. Brooks keeps the house in roars as Idle Jack, and Mr G. James is a capital Fitzwarren. Miss C. Shannons is a charming Princess Pre-Tee. The Cat is cleverly portrayed by Mr Joe Paulette. Some clever specialities are included in the pantomime, amongst the best being Jay, the ventriloquist; Joe Paulitti, French cycling clown; Leo Voel, acrobatic gymnast; and the Great Pynfield, in his marvellous chair performance. Special mention should be made of the Cecil Troupe of lady dancers. The augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr Raymond Lancaster.

GUERNSEY.

ST. JULIAN'S HALL.—Sole Lessee, Mr C. Robt. Perkins.—On Monday the boards were occupied by Mr Fred Mouillot's company in *My Lady Molly* on a return visit. Miss Zoe Gilfillan won golden opinions for her bright and vivacious impersonation of Alice. Lady Molly found a charming and clever exponent in Miss Beatrice Edwards; Hester was engagingly played by Miss Madge Carr; Miss Darcier cleverly acted Madeline; Miss Hilda Marks (Allison) and Miss Kate Holmes (Lucy) were both meritorious; Mr George M'Closkie was highly diverting as Mickey; Mr Ernest Mozar scored as Lionel Bland; and Mr H. Hearder capably gave Captain Romney, both musically and dramatically.

GLOUCESTER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Owners, Messrs C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr W. H. Weller.—The visit of the D'Oyly Carte company is always looked forward to, and full houses are a matter of course. The répertoire company is appearing this week in *The Mikado*, *The Gondoliers*, *Yeoman of the Guard*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and *Trial by Jury*. On Monday in *The Mikado* Mr Albert Kavanagh was quaint in the title-rôle; Mr Pacie Ripple as Nanki-Poo was at once installed a favourite; Mr C. H. Workman as Ko-Ko was droll in the extreme; Pook-Bah was in the hands of the old favourite Mr Fred Billington, who fully sustained his reputation as a laughter-maker; Mr Leicester Tunks was an excellent Pish-Tush; and Go-To was ably played by Mr Fred Drawater. Yum-Yum was vivaciously enacted by Miss Norah Maguire; Miss Theresa Rassam was highly appreciated for her rendition of Katisha; and Miss Jessie Rose and Miss Alice Lisle as Pitti-Sing and Peep-Bo adequately represented their respective rôles. The musical conductor, Mr T. Silver, was absent on Monday owing to illness, but it is hoped he will occupy his accustomed seat before the engagement terminates here.

GREAT YARMOUTH.

ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr J. W. Nightingale. — The successful musical comedy, *In Dahomey*, is attracting full houses this week, and hearty applause and laughter greet the quaint humour of a most attractive and uncommon play. The two clever comedians—Dan Avery as Rareback Pinkerton and Chas. Hart as Shylock Homestead—have the lion's share of the work to do, and there is not a dull moment whilst they occupy the stage. Excellent aid is afforded by Pete Hampton as Hamilton Lightfoot, Fred Douglas as Dr. Straight, Walter Dixon as Hustling Charlie, Leon Williams as George Reader, Laura Bowman as Cecilia, and Pauline Freeman as Rosetta Lightfoot. Dances are given with delightful vigour, and songs are sung most expressively. The cake walk is quite a feature of the evening's entertainment.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr Geo. Gilbert.—The Eight Leopolds give a wonderful show as acrobats; the Bros. Lloyd contribute an exceedingly clever rope act; the Cosmos excel as comedian and musicians; and Richard Bellony does a sensational gymnastic turn. Zanfretti and Napio, musical comedians; M'Cann's Troupe of performing Irish terriers; Rabitt and Bishop, Tom Culeen, and the animated pictures complete an excellent programme.

GREENOCK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, the Executors of the late Mr Alex. Wright; Managers, Messrs A. B. Wright and J. J. Wright.—Mr Moullot's company is paying a welcome visit here this week with the musical comedy *The Runaway Girl*. Mr Henry Latimer makes the part of Brother Tamarind sufficiently lugubrious; Mr Archie Croft plays Guy Stanley in bright and breezy fashion, and also sings and dances well; Mr Alec M. Shinnie distinguishes himself as Lord Coodle; Mr Jake Fern is an amusing Mr Creel; Mr W. Selby gives a capital impersonation of Leonello, and possesses a fine voice, which he uses effectually. Mr Clifton fills the rôle of an amusingly bloodthirsty brigand with success; and Mr Howard Cridland as Flipper causes roars of laughter by his quaintly humorous acting. Miss Amy Edmonds is a vivacious Alice, singing and dancing charmingly; Miss Ethel Netherton is most delightful as Winifred Grey, and sings very sweetly; Miss Addie Plaice as Dorothy Stanley sings nicely; and Miss Marie Shield is very good as Carmentina. Lady Coodle finds an excellent exponent in Miss Kate Vivian, and Miss Violet Lingard is captivating as Mrs Creel, and is applauded for her singing. A strong and well-balanced chorus and orchestra are ably directed by Mr Gordon Stamford.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. L. Skivington.—Sinclair and Whiteford, vaudeville artists, do a very amusing "turn." Harry Cove, baritone-vocalist, sings well; A. J. Gamble, eccentric comedian, is loudly applauded; Benson and Waite are seen in an interesting variety act; R. C. M'Gill is an amusing character comedian; Ralston and France give an excellent nautical scena; the Alskarno Trio of acrobats are clever; and the Cinématograph shows new pictures.

GRIMSBY.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr S. Tolfree.—A great success has been scored here this week by the popular Gaiety musical play *The Orchid* upon its first visit. A capital representation was given by Mr George Dance's company. In the principal comedy part of Meakin Mr Charles R. Walenn's drolleries and quaint mannerisms are productive of much amusement. Miss Ethel Bryant admirably realises the character of the principal student of the Horticultural College, Lady Violet Anstruther, whilst as the pupil teacher, Josephine Zaccary, Miss Irene Desmond performs with infinite charm. The orchid collecting statesman, Mr Aubrey Chesterton, is well represented by Mr Ernest Darrell, whose make-up is highly suggestive of a certain well-known politician, whilst as his adversary in the pursuit of the orchid, the Comte Raoul De Cassignat, Mr Edmund Page is sufficiently bombastic and fiery. Smart dancing is accomplished by Mr Arthur P. Hemsley as the orchid hunter, Zaccary. Mr G. Davy Burnaby is good as the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour, whilst Miss Madge Lucas is well suited to the character of Caroline Vokins. Other parts are well played by Miss Sylvia De Lacy as Zelie Rumbert, Miss Chrissie Ralland as Thisbe, Miss Ida Chichester as Countess Anstruther, and Mr Edmund Hollick as Dr. Ronald Faussett.

NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr Steuart Cecil.—The experiments in the manipulation and properties of liquid air exhibited here this week have considerably interested the large audiences which have assembled. A harmonious turn was that given by the Gothams, who introduced a musical and humorous entertainment entitled "Miss Green." Valoni has presented some novel juggling, and his performing pigeons were also appreciated. Capital cornet duets were given by the Sisters Maginel-Mullini. A pleasing turn was that given by Dinah Morris and her troupe of Southern State artists. Smart gymnastics were performed by Victoria Dagmar and Clown, and others contributing to the programme were Chas. Mildare, described as the human parrot, and George Foyle, character vocalist.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietor, Mr T. Allan Edwardes; General Manager, Mr H. F. Millar; Assistant-Manager, Mr H. H. Watson. — A comedy duologue, *The Man in Possession*, presented by Blake and Granby, has caused much laughter at the Hippodrome this week. Slade Murray, actor-vocalist and comedian, has repeated his former success, and has contributed some entertaining songs. A complete marionette circus, manipulated by the Sisters Petram, was greatly appreciated, and was very cleverly worked. The Brothers Vance gave a capital comedy instrumental turn; whilst others appearing were Bert Lytton, comedian; the Delemere Trio, comedy equilibrists; and Lil Hartley, vocalist and comedienne. A display of animated pictures by R. Barnes's apparatus completed the programme.

HARTLEPOOL.

EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Councillor Everton and J. W. Craggs.—On Monday Miss Rose Monerieff and her company presented *Little Red Riding Hood* to two packed houses. Mr W. C. Matthews as Granny caused much laughter. As the Prince Miss Jessie De Gray scored a success, and others deserving of praise were the Coopers, with musical specialities, and Mons. Levano, the Arabian whirlwind tumbler

HALIFAX.

GRAND THEATRE. — Managing Director, Mr William Robinson; General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling.—Mr Arthur Milton's pantomime, *Bo-Peep*, is paying a flying visit here. It is a bright, merry, and smart production. Miss Ada Wright in the title-rôle is pert, piquant, and pretty; Miss Grace Hayward does very well as Ferdinand; Miss Lily Wright is a captivating Boy Blue—she dances daintily and acts charmingly; the Four Trees are ubiquitous, and add materially to the success of the pantomime by their smartness and versatility. The principal male parts are well handled by Messrs Harry Elliston, the Two Eltons, H. V. Morgan, Jack Hylton, and W. G. Wesley. The dresses are picturesque, and the pantomime is adequately staged.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Frank Macnaghten.—A brisk, bright, breezy pantomime is doing well here this week. The subject is *Aladdin*, and the company is under the direction of Mr Macnaghten. The comedy element is strong, the singing good, and the scenery suitable. Miss Meg Hamilton is a dashing and vivacious Aladdin; Miss Pollie Prim is a charming Princess; and capital work is done by Misses Lillie Brammer, Gracie Moore, Nellie Harrington, Elsie Ellis, Beattie Mayer, and Myrtle Woodward. The fun-makers, who all work hard and successfully, are Gilbert Rogers, Jack Heath, Will Crackles, Walter Purvis, and Frank Lilliput. The palace scene is a beautiful blending of life and colour and forms a fitting finale to the show.

HANLEY.

ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr Chas. Elphinstone.—The pantomime *Cinderella* continues upon a most successful course. This season's pantomime is voted by all to be the best Christmas fare that has been provided for many years. All the artistes have settled down to their work, and now the performance goes with a merry swing from start to finish. Miss Hilda Guiver has become a prime favourite, and her contributions are vociferously encored. Miss Helene, the Cinderella of the piece, is indeed charming. Messrs Leslie Harris and Edmund Russell as the Two Sisters are exceedingly good, and create much laughter; Miss Leila Byron sings admirably as the Fairy Queen; Mr Robert Whyte, jun., as the Baron displays much skill; Mr Morny Cash is a capital Page, his performance being brimful of fun; the New Macs make a great hit; the Donaldson Brothers and Ardell, in their menagerie act, are first class, their speciality being much appreciated; Miss Violet Gordon deserves much praise for her excellent impersonation of Deadly Nightshade. Miss Nora Emerald as Dandini scores successfully, and Miss Rossiter as a dancer is a huge success.

GRAND, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr C. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr James Wynes.—A capital programme is submitted this week. At the head is Carl Hertz in his marvellous conjuring and illusions. This gentleman gives an exhibition which is nothing short of astounding. Belloni's performing parrots are most entertaining and clever. Lillian Travelli is a capital ballad vocalist. Sam Daly is a good comedian, and meets with appreciation. Conn and Conrad, the quiet burglars, are excellent gymnasts. Mr and Mrs Edward Lucas contribute a clever turn, their scenes from Dickens being indeed brilliant. Miss Addie Dorina in a quick-change sketch, entitled *How She Did It*, displays much histrionic ability, and the changes are made with great rapidity. The Grand pictures are as usual excellent.

HARROGATE.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr F. Smith.—Mr J. Gar Kiddie's company opened a week's engagement here on Monday in the pantomime of *Little Bo-Peep*. The production is extremely bright and attractive in scenic effects and dressing, full of amusement and entertainment. Miss Flo Warner was thoroughly vivacious as Boy Blue, and Miss Lizzie Payne prettily sustained the title-rôle. Both ladies sang well, and met with great success. Mr J. W. Groves as Granny Brown cleverly sustained the part, and with Mr E. H. Bertram as the Baron, and Mr J. Gar Kiddie as Tommy Long, and F. Blarney as Johnny Stout contributed much to the fun and success of the performance. Miss Grace Compton was smart as Lord De Rhino, Mr W. H. Gatty as the Demon Wolf, and Miss Norah Beverley as Fairy Moonbeam filled their respective parts to the entire satisfaction of the audience. The dancing of the Milstead Quartet was excellent, and the ballets arranged by Mdlle. Thompson, were much admired.

HASTINGS.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Geo. H. Gaze. This week we have Mr E. Oswald Brooke's No. 1 company with the musical comedy, *The Girl from Bond Street*, conducted by the composer, Mr Louis La Rondelle, and stage-managed by Mr Edward De Vere. Miss Marie Vere fills the rôle of Lucy Harvey very acceptably; she is associated with Mr Campbell Goldsmid as the Earl of Seacombe, who masquerades as one of the trio of Pierrots. Their duet, "Be my Pierrette," is noticeably good, and a concerted number at the conclusion of the second act is a stirring finale. Miss Doris Regan as Lottie Harvey and Mr Edward De Vere as Mickey contribute some good comic scenes; Miss Ethel Russell is graceful as Lady Fielding; Miss Maud Beard acts vigorously as Mrs Harvey; Miss Ivy Alberto as Edna Vanderbilt gains much applause for a well-executed step dance; and as the Kickapoo Girls the Misses Flo Farmer, Miriam Sandford, Ida Curtis, and Louie Francis dance with acrobatic agility. Mr Geo. Watts, who fills the rôle of Sir George Fielding, sings "The Lazy Coon" with novel effects, contributed by the New York Quartet. Mr F. R. Heaton as the Hon. Archie Greene complete the trio of Pierrots, and the remaining characters are adequately presented.

HASTINGS PIER PAVILION.—Pier Manager, Mr R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr J. D. Hunter.—Mr Swinerd's No. 1 company is appearing here in the musical comedy, entitled *Dare-Devil Dorothy*. Mr Cecil W. Parke is a good representative of Capt. George Vivian. The part of Edward Dudley is well taken by Mr Henry C. Ward; Mr Arthur Verne represents Silas Crump humorously, and Miss Marjorie Cecil, pleasing vocalist, makes a delightful Squatter's daughter. Miss Kathleen Garnon as Ruth and Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith deserve praise.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr Harold Penny. — The programme here is opened by two clever juveniles, Hill and Lane, who perform in a musical comedy; Miss Minnie D'Aubyn is an attractive burlesque artist; Sibb and Sibb (Gertie and Bertie), give a marvellous exhibition on the double trapeze; the coloured vocalist, Mr W. H. Downs, possesses a fine baritone voice; Mr Frederic Neiman delights his audience with his ventriloquial minstrels; the Katos, in their automatic theatre are a great success; Miss Florrie Moore is warmly welcomed as the comedy girl; and Mr Wal Pink and his comedy company may be complimented on their amusing sketch.

HEREFORD.

GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton; General Manager, Mr Louis Karpe; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank J. Pitt.—Mr J. H. Tomkinson's Gipsy Combination company is here this week. Mr Fred M'Lean is a droll comedian who provokes hearty laughter; the Lizzette acrobats are clever; the Keiths, in musical selections, are warmly appreciated; Miss Evie Lynn's songs and speciality dances are excellent; and Gracie Bard, Annie Knowles, May Bishop, and Maurice Lindsay further aid the evening's entertainment.

DRILL HALL.—Manager, Mr A. Lovesey.—*A Chinese Honeymoon* is the attraction here for two nights.

HUDDERSFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy G. Arthur.—Mr Edward Compton has laid playgoers under deep obligation by his unswerving loyalty to the best in old English comedy. Of a play like *Davy Garrick*, played this week for the 1,180th time, little that is new remains to be said save that despite its continual repetition it has lost none of its picturesqueness. The fine performance of *The School for Scandal* showed the resources of Mr Compton and his clever company. Every member of the cast seemed to have caught the spirit of the time, and played with a skill that made every point tell. Mr Compton gave a really brilliant performance of Charles Surface; Miss Haidee Gunn was a most fascinating Lady Teazle; Mr Henry Crocker's Sir Peter was admirable; and Mr A. B. Imeson was to the life the man of sentiment, Joseph Surface. Of the other characters, Mr Chas. R. Stone was breezy as Sir Oliver; Mr Arnold Lucy, cynical as Crabtree; Mr G. W. Johnston, airy as Backbite; Mr Meynall, insinuating as Snake; Miss Evelyn Hall was a scheming Lady Sneerwell; Miss Mackenzie modest yet loyal as Maria; and Miss Marie Hassell a good-natured and irresponsible Mrs Candour. The mounting and dressing of the old play were both well done.

HULL.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr W. Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr W. F. Morton.— After a phenomenal success, the pantomime, *Sleeping Beauty*, this week draws to a close. It has filled a very large place in Hull amusements, and regret is keen that the engagement must terminate this week. All and sundry have done their best to secure success. Its bright and catching choruses and superb scenery, its dainty dresses, its clever comedians, and sweet singers have all been points that have appealed to the public. Miss Esme Gordon, the principal boy, carries away with her the knowledge that she has scored throughout the production; Miss Daisy Stratton, likewise, has won a warm place; whilst Mr Bishop, Mr Chippendale, and Mr Churchill have given proof of their peculiar powers, and make for fun and frolic clean, wholesome, and pure.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr John Hart; Local Manager, Mr Wynn Miller.—Mr Leviliy's charming opera company, in the pretty composition *Amorelle*, is here for a short stay. Luckily it still contains in its ranks that talented comedian, Mr Eric Thorne, whose every appearance on the stage is the signal for loud and prolonged laughter; he is a comedian of ceaseless resource, ever keeping his audience amused. Mr Thorne's efforts are admirably seconded by Miss Stella Gastelle, who adds to a charming voice the additional charm of acting in an intelligible fashion.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Sole Owner, Mr W. Morton; Manager, Mr Geo. Morton. — *A Life's Revenge* is a play not new to this city, but one that is already well known. Miss Marie Dagmar as the Princess Vanda is a very powerful artist, and adds to the reputation she has already gained.

PALACE THEATRE.— Moss' Empires, Limited; Manager, Mr A. Graham.—Florrie Gallimore is one of the prime attractions this week. The Dandies are a turn that has met much favour.

EMPIRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Jno. Sylvester Sage.—Salmon, the trick cyclist, and the Two Attilas are the principal turns here. Sam Shipley, comedian, is well received, and Tom Vine's extempore songs meet with much favour. Beatie Worth is a comedienne of merit, and Sill and Silcott, Clara Nesbitt, and the Bioscope complete the bill.

CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr E. Emerson.—Madame Lloyd's choir and orchestra, under the management of Mr S. Lloyd, make a welcome appearance here. The artists include Celia Allington, contralto; Myra Bennett, Tyrolean vocalist; E. Carl, soprano, in illustrated songs; Gilbert Childs, a smart comedian; Lily Leighton, danseuse; and Floretta, who appears in a clever exhibition of sand and smoke painting.

HYDE.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr Joseph W. Maloney.—*The Fatal Wedding* is being presented here this week by Mr Bert Coote's company. Mr Ernest Owttrim plays with earnestness and conviction the part of Howard Wilson, Miss Theresa Osborne makes a sympathetic Mabel Wilson, and the highest encomiums must be bestowed upon Miss Gladys Rose Jones, to whose bright and animated portrayal of the rôle of Jessie is due in a great measure the success of the drama. The villainous side of human nature is admirably depicted by Mr Cecil Collins as Robert Curtis, and Miss Beatrice Whitney as Cora Williams. The comedy element is in the capable hands of Messrs J. Carl Lyle as Toto, Shirley Lea as Peter Schwartz, and Miss Carrie Fenton as Bridget. Mr Jack Waring is successful as the kind-hearted policeman O'Reilly.

HORWICH.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE. — Manager, Mr Sandiford.—Mr Frank Lindo's company, in *Home, Sweet Home*, is here this week. The piece is admirably staged and the scenery very effective. The company is an exceptionally strong all-round one, and includes Mr Frank Lindo, whose impersonation of Stephen Armitage is a masterly performance. Mr Geo. Jervis as David Armitage plays the old fisherman to the life. Captain Gerald Gambier's portrayal of the Duke of Ancaster is very natural. Mr Wilson Coleman depicts Lucas Lyle as a very black character. Mr Edwin Clarke as Gaffer, Mr Jack Lennard as Keary, and Mr Norton Shields as Doctor Granby make the most of their small parts. Mr Geo. Overs as Dick Redmayne, Mr Sidney Bryant as Percy (the Earl's son), and Mr Ernest E. Owers as Lord Silvermere are excellent. Miss Marion Wakeford as Joan is most artistic, both as the humble fisherman's wife and the Earl's daughter. Miss Amy Carlton plays Lady Summerton, an old aristocrat. Miss Gertrude Bingham's Sybil Fay is decidedly good, and her business with Percy very amusing. Dora is very prettily and carefully rendered by Little Madge Bingham.

HOYLAND.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Owner, Mr Arthur Carlton; Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Geo. S. King.—Miss Elizabeth Ruggles and Miss Gladys Rees' company, in *A Woman's Redemption*, is here this week. Miss Elizabeth Ruggles has a capital part in Ruth, and Miss Gladys Rees' rendering of Mary Griffiths is admirable. Mr Franklyn Graham finely acts the rôle of Bernard Sutcliffe, and Mr Edward Avinal proves himself excellent in the part of Rev. John Ganthony. Mr Fred Lillywhite as Reuben Griffiths is very good, and Mr John A. Stimpson as Claudius Lowe and Miss Ida Cunard as Sally provide plenty of mirth.

ILKESTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr L. F. A. Rogers; Musical Director, Mr C. Keith Smith.—Messrs Forge and Dalton's pantomime, *Cinderella*, is being played to good houses. Miss Lizzie Primmer as Cinderella gives clever treatment to the rôle, and is rewarded with hearty applause; Miss Chummie La Mara as Prince Paragon evinces much smartness; Miss Julie Alexander as Dandini has a part which fits her well; Mr Fred C. Brooks and Little Tony as Angelina and Seraphina (the Ugly Sisters) are truly humorous; Mr Johnny Chippendale as Baron Bunker is successful; and Mr C. T. Chaloner is a very acceptable Peter Pickles. Messrs J. Forge and T. Lemiere are praiseworthy as the Brokers' Men. Gertrella is a clever gymnastic show. The Quartano Troupe of dancers, George Bright, speciality dancer; Forge and Lemiere, in a musical act; the Swift Trio of cyclists, and the Musical Japs are the specialities introduced.

INVERNESS.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr Cameron Burgess.—Mr Charles Maodona's company, with *A Chinese Honeymoon*, is here this week. Mr George P. Ascot is immensely funny as M. Pineapple, Hang Chow finds a capable representative in Mr Lester Carey, and Mr Percy Stephens as Chippie Chop and Mr Tom Birch as Hi Lung are both well placed. Mr H. A. Welchman does justice to the part of Tom Hatherton, Fi Fi as represented by Miss Cissy Seofield is exceedingly funny, Miss Mamie Finbow makes a charming Princess Soo-Soo, and Miss Mabel Carlton is all that can be wished as Mrs Pineapple.

IPSWICH.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. G. Fisk.—For the first time in Ipswich *The Gingalee* was produced on Monday evening by Mr George Dance's company, and has been repeated during the week to large audiences. Mr Francis Ludlow appears as Harry Vereker, his singing and acting being effective throughout. Mr Fred W. Pattrick, an old Ipswich favourite, was well suited in the part of Boobhamba, his fine presence and humorous rendering of the Eastern potentate being heartily acknowledged. Mr F. W. Ford as the High Commissioner was imposing and quaint, while Bobbie Warren, in the hands of Mr George Mudie, jun., showed himself to be an accomplished singer as well as a clever actor. The other male characters were well sustained, Mr Lauri de Frece deserving a special word of praise for his presentment of a Baboo lawyer. The chief female characters were most capably portrayed, Miss Mabel Sealby as Peggy Sabine making a decided hit. Miss Madge Temple was also repeatedly applauded for her fine rendering of Lady Patricia Vane, and Miss Trissie March's dancing was a pleasant feature of the piece.

IPSWICH HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr Fred Barrett.—Among the new turns at the Woodbridge-road place of entertainment this week are the following:—The Cirnocs, handcuff experts, surprised the natives by his easy way of releasing themselves from manacles and leg-irons. A pleasing item was the appearance of the Victoria Troupe of dancers, and Mdlle. Leo-Ville accomplished some

PORT ARTHUR.

The Proprietors of FUO shipped to this now historic town a large quantity of their Mouth-Wash, just previous to the outbreak of hostilities. A cynic has suggested that this may have something to do with the tenacity with which the Russians have held on to the town and its contents, and also the determination of the Japs to obtain control of the Port.

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wonderful conjuring tricks and other illusions. Other specialities were Miss Allen Douglas, soprano vocalist; George Barron, eccentric comic; Joe Hennesey, club manipulator; Dave Wallace, topical singing; Miss May Barrett, juvenile singer and dancer; and some dramatic living pictures from *The Sign of the Cross*.

KETTERING.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Payne.—Miss Beatrice Isaacson's company is here with *A Great Sensation*. Mr Sydney Hallows plays the hero Jack Damer in true manly style, and Mr Frank V. Fenn is successful as Robin Dale. Mr Alexander L. Isaacson is amusing as Bunko Bates, and Mr Cecil Morand's comicalities as Peter are highly appreciated. Miss Marian Mayne is a vivacious, Ria; Miss Madge Devereux gives a powerful rendering of the evil character of Sidonie, and Miss Isaacson is deserving of hearty praise for her charming acting as Eva Dale.

KIDDERMINSTER.

NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr R. C. Gudgeon, jun.—This week Mr Arthur Gibbons is presenting his pretty Christmas pantomime entitled *Beauty and the Beast*. Miss Linda Reston as Beauty gives an excellent rendering of the part; Miss Gertrude Wright makes a charming Amoroso, the Spirit of Love; Miss Marie Beaufort as Prince Charming sings well and acts gracefully; Mr Sydney Vereker creates plenty of fun as Ko-Hop, and Mr Albert E. Mann as Maude Hannah is equally good. Mr Will Holland and Mr Tom Banks the Twin Babes, are very clever; Miss Trissie Mills, Miss Rosie Knott, and the Sisters Hula give a smart exhibition of acrobatic dancing.

TIVOLI. — Proprietors. Messrs Lester Reekie and Howard Stephens.—At this hall Gaertner and Weston give a good show; Sidney Dolf's speciality is interesting; Miss M. Blake, Frank Tyrrell, The Titlers, and Chrissie Leon all do excellent work.

KILMARNOCK.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr A. Hales.—On Monday Messrs George Edwardes and Charles Frohman's company appeared here in *Are You a Mason?* As Amos Bloodgood Mr Harry Ashford is a great success, as is Mr Anthony Fawcett in the double rôle of George Fisher and the French Milliner. Mr Arthur Claremont as Trant Perry, Mr Tom Mowbray as John Halton, and Mr Valentine O'Connor as Ernest Morrison show great talent in their respective parts. Miss Harriet Trench makes a capital Mrs Bloodgood, and the parts of Eva, Annie, and Lulu are rendered in a pleasing manner by Misses Violet Graham, Lily Beagle, and Isla Glynn. As a curtain-raiser the comedietta *Hushed Up* is presented.

KING'S LYNN.

NEW ROYAL THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Bannister Howard; Business Manager, Mr Herbert Leonard. — Messrs John Restall and Reginald S. Turner's pantomime *Cinderella* is appearing here this week. Cinderella is charmingly played by Miss Ada Lindley, and Miss A. Craig makes a capital Prince Charming. All the other parts are ably sustained. Specialities are supplied by Master Rochester, the wonderful pianist, and the celebrated Sinclair Troupe, the Jersey lillies.

LEAMINGTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.— Lessees, Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr Henry Esden. — The attraction here is a musical version of Dickens's novel, *The Cricket on the Hearth*, admirably presented by Mr and Mrs Calvert Routledge and company. Mr Calvert Routledge gives a sympathetic impersonation of Peerybingle; Mrs Routledge's study of Dot is quite charming; and Mr Sydney Sarl as Tackleton and Mr David Curtis as Caleb Plummer are both well placed. Miss Sybil Ruskin is a capable exponent of Dickensian pathos as embodied in the part of Bertha; and Miss Dora Lewis gives a diverting sketch of the eccentric personage, Tilly Slowboy.

ARCADIA.—The performances of the Municipal Orchestra, under Mr C. S. Birch (Director of Public Music) are supplemented this week by Mr Walter Jeffs' excellent New Century Animated Pictures, which come direct from the Curzon Hall, Birmingham.

LEEDS.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr John Hart; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Richardson.—Under the extended title of *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* Mr Hart's annual grand pantomime runs on smoothly and successfully, and there is as yet no diminution of the vast crowds which nightly gather to be entertained. The splendid ballets and show scenes continue to arouse the greatest enthusiasm, and the strenuous efforts to please put forth by a galaxy of clever principals are thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr R. Ernest Liston.—Having settled down into shape, the Royal pantomime of *Cinderella* is vastly popular, and the "house full" board is in constant requisition. The comedians have rapidly developed their parts, and the show is a feast of fun from start to finish. Messrs Fred Baugh and Standley Wade are to be complimented on the elaborate staging and pretty dressing, for in this direction the production easily eclipses all its predecessors.

QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs Dottridge and Longden; General Manager, Mr C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Bush.—There was a very full house here on Monday to witness the opening performance of Walter Melville's newest play *A Girl's Cross Roads*, and the author's company presented the piece most effectively. Some very realistic and powerful acting is done by Miss Hilda Beverley in the principal part of Barbara Wade. Miss Nell Oliver is likewise very effective as Nellie Meadows, and Miss Grace Richardson submits the part of Constance Cornelle with pronounced ability. As Farmer Meadows Mr Chas. Franmore is a conspicuous success. The rôle of Jack Livingstone is a well-sustained effort by Mr Cecil A. Melton. Mr Barry Lewers, Mr Charles Terry, and Mr Fred Ingram display good ability in leading parts, and have much to do with the general success.

EMPIRE PALACE. — Moss Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr T. Gerald Morton. — The leading turn here consists of an exhibition of Japanese drill by a bevy of pretty ladies, who do their work very smartly. Charles Coborn, the comedian, reappears after a long absence, and is doing extremely well. The Two Bostons, comedians, are successful with clever and amusing burlesque business. The Tourbillon Troupe repeat last week's triumphs with more expert trick cycling feats, and the Two Butterflies are juvenile performers of a graceful trapeze act. A diminutive eccentric who boasts the name of Little Ulpts is very amusing. The Bioscope pictures are interesting. Enjoyable turns are submitted by Daisy Ray, coon specialist; O'Brien Brothers, acrobatic bar performers; and Three Sisters Slater, vocalists and expert dancers.

TIVOLI. — Proprietor, Mr Thomas Barrasford; Managers, Messrs Charles Weldon and Edgar O. Waller.—Harry Ford, the popular comedian, is a strong top-of-the-bill turn here, his clever songs and patter being original and amusing. Acrobatics are a strong feature, varied exhibitions being given by the Paxton Trio, the Bennicelli Troupe, and Amiel, an expert contortionist. Mons. Slippère, a blind artiste, contributes an enjoyable vocal and musical turn; Tock and Tard provide amusing comedy business; H. Aldridge, vocalist, sings some capital songs in good style; Farley, Rennie, and Farley repeat their novel comedy act with great success; and Lily Seville, comedienne and dancer, completes the bill.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr F. W. Wood; General Manager, Mr J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr S. Jones.—The Loma Trio head an attractive programme with an expert acrobatic act; a clever farce entitled *Three Husbands*, by Frank Purcell's company, is a very popular and humorous feature; whilst of the rest nobody does better than Charles Russell, a favourite descriptive vocalist, Joe Humphries, character comedian; Oakley and James, speciality artistes; Rappo and Ella, equilibrists and acrobats; and Mystery Gauze, Indian artiste, are also appearing.

LEICESTER.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Proprietor and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; Acting-Manager, Mr C. D. Leigh.—Mr Moullot's principal company, in the comedy-drama *A Message from Mars*, is the attraction here this week. The play, which has been seen here before, is exceedingly well done, and proves as fascinating as ever. Mr F. Rawson Buckley makes a conspicuous success as Horace Parker, and Mr William H. Brougham as the Messenger leaves nothing to be desired. Mr Bruce Lindley is in every way excellent as the Tramp. Both Mr Frank G. Dunn as Arthur Dicey and Mr W. Maxwell as the Policeman are good. Miss Flora Hastings as Miss Parker plays with her usual ability. Miss May Saker makes a delightfully clever Minnie Templar, and Miss Joan Meredith renders a good account of herself as Mrs Clarence.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessee, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General Manager, Mr John H. Clarke.—*In Old Kentucky*, a favourite with the patrons of this theatre, is being staged here again this week by Mr J. F. Elliston's versatile company under the direction of Mr Chas. Hermann. Miss Amy F. Hermann repeats her clever and popular impersonation of the rôle of Madge Brierley. Mr J. George Steel is good as Frank Harley, and Mr Eric Hudson is capital as Jasper Grafton. Mr Alfred S. Bankes shines as Colonel Pebley Beauchamp, and Mr Harry Leander as Neb plays admirably. Praise should also be meted out to Miss Beatrice Shirley, Miss Edith Halford, Miss Ethel Smith, and Mr Gerald Kennedy. Mr Jimmie James gives an enjoyable selection on the banjo, and Mr Will Whittaker is a siffleur of ability.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED. — Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr Leonard Vidal.—The premier position in this week's programme is held by La Loie Fuller, whose beautiful performance is enhanced by magnificent electrical effects. Harry Lamore on the slack wire gives a show that is brimful of humour and cleverness; Nellie Coleman, the lady comedian, repeats her usual success; as a clay modeller Dome's turn has the merit of being both clever and laughable; the Sisters Devona give a daring and graceful aerial gymnastic act; the Lumars are seen to great advantage in their novel acrobatic act; Phillips and Terry cause much merriment with *Revolt of Man; or, a Hundred Years Hence;* Charles Gardiner, eccentric comedian, goes well; Miss Alice Maydue, character comedienne, is entertaining; and the Howards (Ralph and Nellie), in comedy and melody are good.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter Lapworth.—The Five Bon-Bons, in their pantomime trap scena, *A Hot Time for One*, top the bill here this week. Baker Belphor, baritone, late of Sam Hague's Minstrels, sings well; Almon gives a very clever hand-balancing turn; Gilroy and Cross are capital comedians and dancers; the Zampas shine as duettists, dancers, and bâton manipulators; Jennie Reeves, comedienne; and the Wallonells, in a comic triple bar act, also entertain. Flo Viller, male impersonator, appears as deputy for May Lilian Levey.

LEIGH.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr W. Dewhurst—The management is to be complimented on securing Mr Gordon Starkey's company in *The Message from Mars*. Mr Cyril Austin-Lee gives a thoroughly sound performance as Horace Parker; Mr Percy Tyler is a capital exponent of the Tramp; Mr William Lockhart furnishes a masterly portrayal of the Messenger; Miss Violet Auberles is an excellent Miss Parker; Miss Edith Cuthbert successfully interpreted the part of Minnie Templars; Mr A. Collins-Rolfe does well as Arthur Dicey; Mr C. E. Wentworth as the policeman and Miss Tracey as Polly also deserve mention. The piece is preceded each evening by the amusing farce entitled *A Kiss in the Dark*.

LINCOLN.

ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr Frank King.—Mr W. W. Kelly brings us his *Royal Divorce* once again, and a crowded house on Monday bade the company welcome, reserving a special ovation for Miss Edith Cole for her acting as Empress Josephine. Mr Frederick Victor is strong and incisive as Napoleon. Mr H. Gray Dolby does well as Talleyrand, Mr Alfred Grenville is effective as Augereau, and Mr Cecil Due Gue as De Beaumont and Mr E. G. Batley as Murat are also satisfactory. Mr Dennis Bryan creates roars of laughter as Grimaud. Miss Ethyle Murray as Marie Louise, scores an artistic success, and Miss Helen Richmond must be awarded a special word of praise as the vivacious Stephanie. Miss Maggie Cardiff plays the King of Rome admirably.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr Sydney Arthur.—Dida, who recently startled London at the Alhambra, is the sensation which tops the bill here, and completely mystifies local audiences. Zarmo presents a comedy juggling turn with a wit all his own; Alf Levaine's wire act is very smart; and the M'Kays contribute a clever item under the title of *Dry Humour and Wet Paint*. A very entertaining bar act is that in which the Rozells are seen to advantage; Fred Herbert catches on as a topical vocalist; Charles Bowker, the singing cobbler, gives a notable act; and Flo Deighton sings two songs with much acceptance.

LONG EATON.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr T. Meakin.—*The Bells of Haslemere* have been ringing merrily at this theatre during the week. Mr Charles A. Chandler has a capable company, and the drama is nicely staged. Mr Leonard Yorke is capital in his representation of Frank Beresford, and Miss Florence Chandler is clever as Nora Desmond. The Smithy scene is amusing, Mr Charles Cecil scoring as the man with the brawny arm, and he is assisted ably by Miss Stafford Smith as Dorothy.

LOWESTOFT.

MARINA THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr E. A. Smith.—*The Biggest Scamp on Earth* is making its first appearance at Lowestoft this week. The part of Derrick Knight is powerfully portrayed by Mr Percy Carne Waram. Miss Frances Deleval is also seen to great advantage as Naomi Belvedere. Others responsible for good work include Messrs Hamilton Urquhart, Percy Brown, L. W. Halfpenny, Gerald Jeapes, and the Misses Dorothy Mahomed, Sybil Hammersley, and Patty Groves.

LUTON.

GRAND.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr E. Graham Falcon; Assistant Manager, Mr Louis J. Beard.—Mr E. Graham Falcon's pantomime *The Forty Thieves* is doing good business this week. As Ali Baba Mr W. Cyrus is exceptionally good; Miss Amy Randolf plays the part of Ganem with much dash and spirit; Miss Frances Manners is well placed as Abdallah; Miss Cissie Harcourt does well as Morgiana; Mr Willie Kloof and Mr B. Albert are most amusing as Hassarac and Mustapha respectively; Miss Rosa Charles is a pleasing Zobedie; Mr Arthur B. Carlton as Cogia Baba and Mr Hyam Good as Cassim Baba work well together; and Mr George Dix as the donkey performs capitally. Amongst the specialities the Raynor troupe of acrobats and Cyrus and Maude musical experts, call for special mention.

LIVERPOOL.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr Arthur Lawrence.—The pantomime of *Dick Whittington* is now at the floodtide of success, and crowded audiences are nine times each week witnessing its manifold beauties.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr J. M. Hardie; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Gaffney.—*Aladdin* continues to enjoy public favour, and is running with smoothness, at the same time being strengthened by the addition of new features. The loveliness of the whole production is a matter of general comment.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr J. H. French; Acting-Manager, Mr Sidney Beltram.—The juvenile pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* is being enjoyed here by large numbers of children.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr M. Montgomery; Licensee, Mr J. G. Howard; Acting-Manager, Mr M. Montgomery, jun.—The popular North-end house is being largely patronised, and *Little Aladdin* promises to achieve a record as a pantomime.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr Fred Coles.—Crowded houses are nightly filling this cosy north-end hall, the chief attraction being Houdini, the original jail-breaker. His performance is without doubt wonderful and mystifying. Tom and Marie Motramo, who bottom the bill, are old favourites here. They are as laughable as ever. Martin Conway is another favourite; he is original and amusing. Ambey Brothers are entertaining, and their sand dancing is loudly applauded. Andy Fagan adds to the evening's mirth; Will Percival is a fine exponent of clog dancing; the Four Arizonas are deservedly applauded for ther acrobatic act; and Bromley and Fontein, vocalists, are good.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr H. Fineberg; Acting-Manager, Mr M. Simmons.—*Honour Thy Father* has held the boards here during the week, and has received some measure of public support. The company is led by Mr J. W. Evelyn, an actor of undoubted ability, whose interpretation of the outraged parent is a fine piece of work.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs Carson and Granville; Manager, Mr Fred Granville; Business-Manager, Mr F. L. Arthur.—*In the Ranks*, despite the fact that it has been before the public for a generation, still possesses drawing powers. The company presenting it is that of Messrs Arthur Carlton and H. Armitage, and includes Mr Edward Lloyd, an admirable Ned Drayton. To Miss Edith Blair-Staples, the Ruth Herrick, warm praise is due for her charming portrayal of the soldier's distressed wife; Mr James E. Page, an able actor, plays Richard Belton with dramatic force and much discretion; the Gideon Blake of Mr Herbert Cecil is a good type of villain; and Mr Archie Chappell proves successful as Captain Holcroft.

EMPIRE, LIMITED.—Acting-Manager, Mr T. A. Cook.—A company of laughter-makers, organised by Mr Fred Karno, is here with *Saturday to Monday*, a comedy sketch that has held the boards since Boxing Night. The remainder of a capital programme is supported by O. T. Fiske and Nellie M'Donough with a smart comedy-drama entitled *Brocky's Temptation*; the Vasilescu Troupe of pantomimists are extremely humorous with their eccentricities on the horizontal bars; the Three Donals prove themselves expert acrobats; a pleasing turn is given by the Loro Quartet of musical comedians; the Three Georgis as comic acrobats provoke endless laughter; Harry Lawson sings a number of amusing songs; Charles Cardow is an able mimic and comedian; and the Knick Knacks offer vocal items and speciality dances.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—Mr Arthur Roberts and his company are here this week with the laughable sketch *Where's the Count?* which has proved a great attraction. The Four Cliftons provide a clever acrobatic show, combining strength with agility; Leo Dryden, the popular actor-vocalist, sings several of his favourite songs; and the Carina Sisters submit an artistic musical melange. Some clever illusions are introduced by Kweery, whose actions are extremely mystifying; Edward and Nettie Masse are a pair of smart comedy jugglers; the Toreadors provide a laughable burlesque entitled "The Spanish Bullfight;" Henry Abdy's canine hippodrome on a revolving table go through a number of neatly performed tricks; Mdlle. Marvelle gives a good show with her trained cockatoos and macaws; and Burton Joyce as a vocalist is an interesting turn.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES. — Manager, Mr M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr F. O'Toole.—The principal part of the programme here this week is provided by Messrs Newland and Walker's comedy company in *Law and Jaw*, which includes Mr James Newland. The trifle is screamingly amusing and keeps the audience in a continuous merry mood. Additional laughter is the outcome of the work of the Randles with their domestic farce, *A Silent Wager;* Miss Sheila M'Neil is a clever Scotch character artiste; Mr Syd Herman sings some popular songs; the dancing of Mr Frank Moore is neat; and others in the bill are Little Miss Bobbie, character comedienne, and Mr Will R. Lands, comique.

NEW PARTHENON.—Proprietor, Mr Edwin W. Smith.—A diversified programme is provided here this week. At the top are the Albaro Troupe, with their refined musical act; Tom W. Royal, holder of championships, is undoubtedly an able clog dancer; the Darktown Belles provide an excellent turn as vocalists, comediennes, and sand dancers; Connie Lane is an expert dancer; Fred Casburn sings several acceptable songs; and Rose Finnettee has a good turn with her top-boot skipping-rope dancing. The Royal Bioscope, by Mr Brown, shows a number of excellent films, particularly that of "A Trip to the Sun."

PADDINGTON PALACE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr J. Kiernan.—A good bill is provided here this week. Heading it is Raphael, a comic clay modeller, who with remarkable deftness produces features of classical and grotesque character. O'Connor and Traynor have a turn which creates great amusement, their patter and burlesque boxing being enjoyable. Ivy Graham, a popular serio and coon artiste, gives several pleasing songs; Lizzie Chase is a graceful comedienne and dancer; T. E. Gilbey's show with the rocking ladder is watched with interest; and others are Nora Floyd, contralto and burlesque actress; Little Beatie, child vocalist and dancer; and Bill Bailey (late Billy Renton), comedian and patterer.

WESTMINSTER.—Proprietor, Mr M. Montgomery.—The greater part of the programme here this week is occupied by the Majiltons with their *Round the Clock*, which seems as fresh as ever. The laughter created by the able company of comedians has been uproarious, and good audiences have been the rule. That versatile comedian George D'Albert has been given a welcome return and accorded loud applause; T. B. Talbot, dialect comedian and speciality artiste, provides a good turn; Harry Naylor, "the man with the funny voice," remains six nights longer; and Carrie Leslie has a répertoire of sensible songs.

PARK PALACE.—Director, Mr James Kiernan.—An acceptable programme is submitted this week at the popular south-end house. Foremost is the sketch company, headed by Mr Charles Carte, with the trifle *A Noble Brother*, which has been much appreciated. A good turn is that given by Miss Nora Bedford, comedy actress and impersonator; Mr J. Bryce Methven is an accomplished elocutionist and extemporaneous vocalist; Mamie Collins dances prettily; and J. A. Wilson possesses a good baritone voice. Others in the list are Doris Brookes, vocalist and dancer; Gertrude Holmes, contralto; and Payne Reynolds, character comedian.

MACCLESFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr W. K. Gatley.—The drama entitled *The God of Night* is here this week. Mr Henry L. Osmond as Harry Royce is very successful; Mr W. Corriden as Armond Dubois gives a powerful impersonation; Mr H. Woodin as Sunny Dobbs is capable; Mr A. D. Owen as Henry Dubois does well; the part of Rita is embodied in a successful manner by Mr D. Stewart; Miss Winifred Chalmers becomingly acts the charming Mona Brayton; Little Elsie as Gervaise Dubois delights the audience with some taking songs; Miss Madge Palmer is a charming Estelle; and Miss Maud Yorke as Natalie Latour is very captivating.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Lessee, Mr H. Bendon.—The artistes engaged here include the Evalos, in their new comic juggling and gymnastic mélange; Dan Kennedy, comedian, is a pleasing entertainer; Jarvis and Higgins give a clever and entertaining show; Harry Bendon, comedian, has made a hit with some catchy songs. Barney Noble, character comedian; Miss Olive Poole, comedienne and clog dancer; the Three Sisters Le Graham, vocalists and dancers, are also in the bill.

MAIDENHEAD.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Edgar Dereve and F. L. Schmitz.—Madame Willoughby's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is here for the week. The characters are ably represented, the scenery is good, and the ballets are well arranged. Violet and Daisy Mottley are charming as the Babes, and their Schoolroom scene with the Nurse (Mr Alt Foy) is very laughable. Mr J. A. Halma (Friar Tuck) contributes a clever juggling turn; Brown and Harker, the two ruffians, interest with cross-talk; and Mr B. Gardner, the wicked uncle, scores with "Whisper and I shall hear."

NEW PAVILION.—Sole Proprietor, Mr G. Gude.—Miss Adelaide Twort is paying a return visit this week, and charms everyone with her admirable ballad singing; the Two Harveys supply a clever acrobatic comedy act; and Sid Morelli gives a pleasing musical entertainment on many instruments. Sidney Jones introduces new selections as musical sketch artiste, and character singing combined with dancing is well performed by Jack Stevo, George Stevens, Harry Lynx, and Gracie Drewe.

MANCHESTER.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—Mr James Willard's drama *In the Shadow of Night*, played by a company under his personal direction, is the attraction here this week. The interest and sensations of the piece, including a scene in which the stage is flooded with water, are capitally brought out, while the acting is uniformly good. Miss Amy Corallie as Mollie Woodstock is exceptionally entertaining; and Mr Fred Norburn as Farmer Woodstock gives also a really excellent performance. Mr James Willard is capital as the villainous Clifford Yorke, and Mr Howard L. Tracey and Miss May Richardson are good in the heroic parts. Mr Archie Selwyn shines in a dual-rôle, and other interesting parts are in the practised hands of Mr George Harvey, Mr Chisholme Taylor, Mr William Hayward, Mr John Brant, and Miss Phyllis French.

METROPOLE THEATRE. — Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—The big item in this week's programme here is Mr John F. Preston's dramatic sketch, *Streets of Manchester*, which is capitally played by a cast in which Mr John F. Preston, Mr Edward E. Louis, and Mr Hardy Macro figure most prominently. Good turns also are Henry Carlton and his comedy team in an amusing sketch; Harland and Rollison, in a clever and comical musical act; the Three Delaries, speciality artistes; Harry Thurston, an excellent mimic of leading artistes; and Mdlle. Yetta, in a graceful wire act and sensational cakewalk.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs Glenville and Osmond's company, in *The Still Alarm*, occupy the stage here this week, repeating their sensational success of last week at the Royal Osborne Theatre.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr M. Potasch.—A novel attraction is here this week in the shape of *The Crimson Club*, a drama apparently founded on the notorious Suicide Club of New York. Sensational incidents are plentiful throughout the piece, and Mr Gus C. Livesey's company are quite equal to the task imposed on them, the most prominently successful being Miss Frances Waring, Mr Gus C. Livesey, and Mr Lionel Thompson. The scenery is strikingly good.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Manager Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—Max Gruber heads the bill here this week, his wonderfully trained elephant and horse being fine examples of animal training. Madge Gray is decidedly successful in her dialect songs, and her amusing stories of "the children," full of freshness and piquancy, are much to the taste of the audience. Will Souls is a capital laughing comedian, who contributes three songs; Alba and Amba are exceedingly smart jugglers, introducing original comedy, which pleases greatly; some enjoyable songs and clever burlesque are introduced in a novel scena entitled *A Water Nymph*, by unnamed artistes; Andy Higginson sings in good style; Otto and Olga present a musical comedy act; Moto is particularly good as a musician of the eccentric order; and entertaining items also are Fred Clifford, baritone; Beattie Kendal, vocalist; and a series of animated pictures.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—Juma's Octoroons, a troupe of juvenile minstrels, who sing, crack jokes, and dance, are here this week, and meet with considerable success. Aga, the Mystery, is a turn which arouses much interest, and completely mystifies the audience. Gladys Mavius sings and dances with great dash, and is well received. Wilfred sets all the laws of anatomy at defiance by his contortions; Davis and Davis sing and dance well; Charlton Howarth, the Yorkshire tenor, sings illustrated songs; Percy Handel plays a number of instruments in a praiseworthy fashion; and Rice, Rose, Davis, and the Half cause much merriment with their funny sketch *Ferguson's Dog*. Fred Weston gives impersonations of the late Charles Godfrey; Gus Balsiger contributes Negro melodies and trick instrumental feats; and Kellino and Pape are successful in a comedy acrobatic act.

TIVOLI. — Managing Director, Mr Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr Arthur B. Wilkes. — Jenny Valmore figures at the top of the bill here this week, and treats the audience to several interesting songs in her well-known style. Conspicuously successful is Johnny Worman, eccentric comedian, whose quaint style and capital songs are highly popular; while Johnny Dwyer, character comedian; Onda and Artell, in a gymnastic act; Rexford and Hunt, in their grotesque sketch *The Widow and the Duke;* and May Young, a refined contralto vocalist, also provide good turns. A pleasing programme is ably completed by Charles Pond, a clever monologue artiste; France and France, knockabout comedians; Alec Kennedy, actor-vocalist; the Three Sisters Adrienne, burlesque artistes; and Flo Burriss, comedienne.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr Will Collins.—As usual, the programme here is good. George Gray and company are paying a return visit with the effective and highly concentrated drama, *The Fighting Parson*, to the delight of crowded houses. Theo Hardeen demonstrates successfully his ability to extricate himself from numerous handcuffs and legirons, and also presents a neat trunk trick. Harry Champion meets with an enthusiastic reception, his "quick" songs being highly amusing. Other excellent turns are those of the Marconis, who manipulate fire and present some marvellous electric wonders in a surprising fashion; the Labakans, acrobatic grotesques, with a smartly trained little dog; Dolph and Susie Levinos, who appear in an original and novel vocal sketch; Kitty Bell, vocalist and dancer; Little Nelusco, a smart little conjuror; and L. B. Athol, character comedian.

GRAND.—Lessees, Messrs Thomas Barrasford and Will Sley; Manager, Mr H. C. Arnold, jun.—The principal turns here this week are those of Al Lawrence, an exceptionally entertaining and clever vocal comedian mimic; and Mr and Mrs Gene Hughes, in a most amusing sketch, with plenty of excellent business. Considerable applause attended the efforts of Miss Mattie Boorum's Young American Quintet, the singing and dancing being most enjoyable. The Zampah Brothers contribute some wonderful jumping feats; and the dancing of the Gorney Quartet is decidedly good. Mons. De Lil does some smart conjuring tricks and paper manipulation; Edgar and Gaskell delight with a musical turn; Carlotta Mason, comedienne, sings well; and Hulbert is responsible for an enjoyable ventriloquial act.

PALACE. — Manager and Secretary, Mr P. Watson; Assistant-Manager, Mr J. H. Stringer.—The last two weeks are announced of the Six Brothers Luck in their capital pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, which still remains a big attraction here. The new comers include Charles R. Sweet, the "original musical burglar," who gives some excellent selections on the piano and cornet, and creates much amusement with his patter. Les Bollingers are loudly applauded for their very effective and striking rag-painted pictures; and Arthur Albert, actor-vocalist, sings well. Cyrus Dare, child mimic, and Howard and Collinson, who figure on the programme, did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr E. P. Morgan; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr H. Hall.—*Tally-Ho!* the great equestrian sketch still remains in the bill at Manchester's latest place of amusement. In addition to this big item, the programme is full of other good things. The Four Lukens appear in a highly sensational aerial act; Iwan Tschernoff shows to what perfection animal training may be brought in his unique performance, "Entertainment in a Sporting Yard;" Albert Voyce and company are particularly good in their vocal scena, *Jack Sheppard;* and Hall and Earle are clever and amusing eccentrics. Alice Lethbridge, one of the most graceful of dancers, appears with Stratton Mills in a musical sketch entitled *A Dress Rehearsal;* Barton and Ashley, American duo, introduce some capital eccentric business in their act, and meet with much applause; Theodor Hugo's transformation is beautiful in the extreme; "Roses," an illustrated song, is pleasingly sung by the Choristers; and last, but not least, is the astounding contortions of Juno Salmo, the "Golden Mephisto," on the high column and bar.

MARGATE.

GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr Frederick Moullot; Resident-Manager, Mr C. F. Bawtree.—Mr Arthur St. John's company opened here for a week on Monday and Tuesday evenings with the historical drama *Jane Shore*. Mr Arthur St. John appeared to advantage in the dual rôle of the Duke of Gloucester and Matthew Shore; Mr Marmaduke Langdale gave a capital presentment of Lord Hastings; and Mr Walter Foster was an excellent Sir Wm. Catesby. Miss Lilian Burns played well as Elizabeth Woodville; Miss Ida St. John was a capital Alice Grist; the rôle of Lady Effingham was well sustained by Miss K. Bennett; Miss Patty Trounsell's Jane Shore was a carefully enacted part; Mr E. Fergusson was good as John Grist; and the other characters were all satisfactorily sustained. On Wednesday and Thursday evenings the bill was changed to *The Taming of the Shrew*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr E. Macknight; Business-Manager, Mr C. E. Hardy.—Dr. Walford Laurie's vaudeville company has been at this house with a variety programme, most of the turns being very good. Leo Selwyn has freed himself from handcuffs and escaped from a well-corded cabinet, to the huge delight of the gallery patrons. Mons. Duro, hand balancer and staircase performer, is clever; and Monty Santos as a coon juggler has shown smartness. Certo on the flying rings is good; and James Cooney, Negro comedian, also gives a capital show; Cyclo, the comedy trick cyclist, has proved very amusing; Daulby and Dault are good; and other contributors to the programme include the Sisters Rosini, Miss Tina Sheppard, vocalists and dancers; and Will Clarke, comedian.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr Will Smithson; Assistant-Manager, Mr Albert J. Lewis.—*My Lady Molly*, presented by Mr Arthur Hart's company, opened here on Monday. Miss Agnes Tandy in the title-rôle sings in excellent style; Miss Maude Thorne plays Alice Coverdale admirably, her songs and dances being very effective; Mr Edmund Sherras sings and acts well as Captain Harry Romney; and Mr Stuart Alexander's light tenor voice is heard to advantage as Lionel Bland. Mr Arthur Powell is humorous and entertaining as Micky O'Dowd; Mr Frederick Hobbs is bluff and hearty as Squire Coverdale; Miss Sybil Thorne figures agreeably as Hester; and Miss Florence Wakeman is to be commended for her acting as Mdlle. Mirabeau.

MIDDLESBROUGH

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Theatres, Limited; Managing-Directors, Messrs Geo. and Chas. Imeson.—Messrs Carson and Granville's company is presenting *The Drama of Life* here. Mr Jerrold Ord appears as Harry Beech, and does exceedingly well; and as the wronged wife Miss Cissie Bellamy gives a pathetic rendering. Mr John J. Hooker as Walter Beech appears with success, and the same may be said of Mr Owen Remonde as Sir Dobson Wilde. As Richard Brenton Mr Walter Steele provides amusement, and Mr George Shaw appears to advantage as William Harrison. Miss Marie Murray is an intelligent Robert Beech.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Grand Opera Company, Ltd.; Licensee and Manager, Mr T. Hopcutt.—*Cinderella* concluded its visit here on Saturday. On Thursday the place was reopened with *The Fiends of London*.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr John Brill Manager, Mr J. W. Thornborrow.—An attractive programme is submitted here this week. The Deer Family, at the head of the bill, submit a novel turn, which is favourably received; Albert Whelan, entertainer, meets with much success; and the Three Romas, the gladiatorial marvels, are one of the best turns in their line. Kitty Clover and company, including Mr Reginald Courtney, appear with success in a sketch *Not a Word;* and Francis and Melli in a musical act, "Please." Preston and Balmain, with illustrated songs, are favourites; and Harry Desmond, comedian; Mark Leslie, the Dusky Prince; and some good films on the Biograph complete the programme.

OXFORD.—Lessee, Mr Wm. Peacock; Manager Mr W. Ainsworth.—Imro Fox, conjuror, the principal turn here, meets with a capital reception. Another good turn is provided by Serra, equilibrist Robbins and Collier, in a comedy scena, *The Lady and the Porter*, create roars of laughter; and Atroy, society juggler, does some clever tricks. Julian Mack, with his patter, keeps the house in a merry humour; and so does Billy Richardson. The Sisters Marion, vocalists, are favourites; and Mdlle. Violi, instrumentalists; Vasey and Ramsey, dancers; and the Biograph complete a capital bill.

MEXBOROUGH.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. H. Melton.—Messrs Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholl's company is this week playing *The Life that Kills*. Mr Fred Moule displays rare dramatic power as Kendal Croat; Mr E. G. Fare gives a fine soldierly rendering of Hector Rodney; Mr Morris Maud aptly portrays the weak, vacillating Valentine Telford; Mr F. Serle gives a fine interpretation of Lord Kelmarsh; and Mr E. Lodge is highly capable as Capt. Montague. Miss Marie Menzies gives full sympathetic treatment to the character of Laurie Lindon; Miss Cathleen Cavanagh as Brenda Croat plays with great skill in an arduous rôle; Miss Lucy Murray gives satisfaction as Johanna Dicks.

MIDDLETON.

PARDOE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr William Pardoe.—Miss Grace Warner, supported by a capable company, is this week appearing here in *East Lynne*. Miss Warner gives a charming interpretation of Lady Isabel, and is quite at home in the portrayal of every phase of the character. Mr George Gordon gives a vivid and stirring picture of the villain Levison; Mr St. Bernard Wyntour's Archibald Carlyle is calm and dignified; and Mr Frederick Meade's Richard Hare is effective. Miss Marion Fawcett provides a piece of quiet but effective character acting.

MOTHERWELL.

NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Resident Manager, Mr W. Gillespy.—The management has been successful in securing for two weeks Messrs Little and Darcy's pantomime company in *The Forty Thieves*. Mr Dan Agar is extremely amusing as Ali Baba, and is well supported by Mr James Ferguson as Mrs Ali Baba; Miss Minnie Silcott is smart as Abdullah, Captain of the Thieves; Misses Violet and Marie Silcott merit applause as Ganem and Morgiana respectively; and mention must be made in appreciative terms of Mr Louis Scott, Mr Malone, Mr Ernest Brown, and Mr Ted Wootton. Some clever work is shown by the Daunton-Shaw Australian Troupe of cyclists; the Three Woodbee Wonders give a very clever acrobatic turn; and the Tivoli Quartet are pleasing dancers. The scenery is well arranged, the dresses are pretty, and the singing and dancing very vivacious.

NEATH.

THEATRE ROYAL (LATE ASSEMBLY ROOMS).—Lessee and Manager, Mr A. W. James.—Mr J. H. Clyndes' company is here this week in *A Royal Revenge*. Mr Clyndes gives an artistic performance of Estevan Alvarez and also of Pedro De Castro. Mr Geoffrey Broughton is good as the King of Spain. Mr James Willoughby merits praise as Nicholas Vargas, and Mr Charles Jordon ably sustains the part of Manuel Mondega. Mr Jack Bigwood is amusing as Michael Sancho, the innkeeper. Mr Richard Webb does well as Friar Dominic. Miss Bessie Elma's rendering of Inez is natural and sympathetic. Cora Casilda and Paquita Marcela have excellent representatives in Miss Aimee Gratton and Miss Evelyn Shannon. Miss Lizzie Lennon is capital as the Mother Superior.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

TYNE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr Fred C. Sutcliffe.—An unbounded measure of popularity has been secured by Mr Wyndham's pantomime *Cinderella*. For this gratifying state of affairs Mr Mark Sheridan is largely responsible. As the Baron his buoyant and effervescing humour permeates in the most enjoyable manner almost every scene. Mr Josh Dixon as Lily and Mr Gus Le Clerq as Gertrude share in the general success, and fun of a lively order is contributed by the Egbert Brothers. A trio of clever and prepossessing ladies in Miss Bessie Featherstone as Prince Caramel, Miss Alice Ruson as Cinderella, and Miss Lina Verdi as Dandini figure to the best advantage in their songs and performances generally, while Miss Lily Cole makes an acceptable Fairy Queen. Mention must also be made of Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers, who perform much excellent work throughout the pantomime.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr F. Teale Lingham.—Appreciation of the heartiest description continues to be evoked by the performance of *The Babes in the Wood*. Mr T. E. Dunville as the Baron is applauded for his songs, that concerning the "Gallant Highlanders" being perhaps his most successful effort. A valuable member of the company is Mr R. H. Douglass, who makes a voluble and witty Mrs Worzell. The comic business in which the Poluskis (Sam and Will) indulge, as Bonny Beaucaire and Sunny Jim, is always provocative of mirth. Both Miss Maud Prenton as Robin Hood and Miss Elise Cooke as Maid Marian afford the maximum of pleasure by their charming acting and singing, and the Sisters Govell contribute bright performances. The "boy" Babe is now acted by Miss Dolly M'Calla, who sings pleasingly "The Darktown Dandy Band," followed by a neat dance; and Miss Hanid Alexander as the other Babe continues to display her great proficiency as a pianiste. The American Comedy Four are rewarded with abundant signs of satisfaction for their singing and amusing business.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr T. W. Rowe.—Palace audiences are finding suitable dramatic fare in the performance of the play *Defending His Honour* by Messrs Carson and Granville's company, the members of which occupy themselves to some purpose in giving a faithful and effective representation of the drama.

NEW EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Director, Mr Richard Thornton; General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr E. Leslie Conroy.—Mdlle. Diane De Fontenoy excites admiration in a series of artistic poses. Much pleasure is to be derived from the clever musical performance given by the Jackson Family. Arthur Lennard, the actor-vocalist, well maintains his popularity. Ball manipulation is the speciality of Robertus and Wilfredo, who display cleverness, and Joko and Koko contribute a novel equestrian act. The efforts of Little Uno a boy comedian, meet with well deserved approval, and there are also appearing acceptably the Mascotte Trio of lady gymnasts, Lizzie Fletcher, comedienne, and the Sakers.

OLYMPIA THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Thornton and Bacon; General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr Nelson Barry.—Mr Frank Macnaghten's company is appearing here in *The King's Pardon*, a drama founded on facts in the life of Spence Broughton, the highwayman. The company includes some well-known names, and the whole production calls for praise.

GRAND THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr E. W. Bacon.—Mr John Tiller's pantomime *Dick Whittington* is the attraction here, and on Monday it was received with much enthusiasm. It is a pantomime full of genuine fun, with many excellent songs and some brilliant dancing. The company is headed by Miss Gracie Graham, who scores a big success as Dick Whittington. Her singing of "The Bull and Bush" receives six encores, and her other songs are all encored. As principal girl we have charming Miss Fanny Harris, a great favourite here. Miss Harris has a big part, and her singing of "Little Yo San" and "The Panama Hat" receives encores, and her whole performance is of much excellence. Miss Edna Morgan makes a picturesque Emperor, but unfortunately has too little to do. Of the comedians Mr Dan Thomas as Eliza scores an enormous success, his performance being one of the best seen here. Mr Bob Selvidge as Idle Jack is also good. Mr Harry Lyndon makes a capital Alderman Fitzwarren, and a special word of praise is due to the Diamond Quartet of dancers.

PAVILION THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr Thos. Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr Will H. Boardman.—A somewhat novel principal turn is provided here this week by the engagement of the Hebburn Colliery Brass Band, winners of the Crystal Palace 1,000 guineas trophy. The Hilgart Arkas Troupe introduce some clever acrobatic business into their sketch. Fred Earle has a really funny song in "Seaweed," which he sings in his best style. A most enjoyable act is provided by Alfred Barker and his performing animals. As Risley performers the Pistrel Troupe display remarkable daring and cleverness. Gus Harris, Hebrew delineator; Melaine, on the tight wire; the Vaudeville Trio, comedians; Alice Ormonde, comedienne; Ethel Yorke, serio; the Arleys, comedy cyclists; and Emma and Victor, acrobatic dancers, all contribute largely to the evening's entertainment.

NEWPORT.

LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Sidney Cooper.—Messrs Dottridge and Longden's company, under the supervision of Mr James Willard, is presenting *The Midnight Mail* here this week to appreciative houses. Mr Fred G. Evison's Billy Brewer is smart; Mr Geo. Howard as Harry Steyne acts with sincerity; and Miss Mildred Carr's Nancy Brewer is a true type of the vulgarly good-hearted.

EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr O. Stoll.—The company here is excellent. The Max Werson Four, European rope performers, display considerable ability; Milner Verren, tenor vocalist, is popular with his latest success; and the Brothers Peublo, cakewalkers and sand dancers, earn applause. The Resuas Trio of acrobats give a finished performance; the Jees, in their "Musical Smithy," have lost none of their popularity; and as jugglers Alburtus and Barham are hard to beat. Grais' baboons are a source of much amusement; the Llewellyns are accomplished vocalists; and the Bioscope shows pictures of an interesting nature.

NORTHAMPTON.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr W. J. Andrews.—The pantomime concludes to-night. The special feature this week is the smart and clever Risley business of the Andys, who have already gained a reputation here.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr Robert Barton.—Captain Alphonso Gerarde, with his highly-trained African lions and tiger-dogs, heads the programme this week. Will M'Ivor is a pleasing tenor; Les Fontain's Marionette Palace gains approval. Lillie Le Briton is a smart and graceful gymnast; Tiny Reiffe is a very chic comedienne; the comic conjuring of the De Roys is vastly amusing; Miss Florence Wood is a pleasing serio; and Diana Hope and Co. present a society episode, entitled *Her Good Name*, which meets with approval.

NORTH SHIELDS.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Arthur Jefferson; General Manager, Mr Horace Lee; Secretary, Mr Gordon Jefferson.—The attraction here this week is Mr Charles Frohman's company with *Sherlock Holmes*, which has been cordially greeted by large audiences. Mr H. A. Saintabury, who plays the title-rôle, gives a capital representation; Mr Lawrence Leyton is seen to advantage as Doctor Watson; as Professor Moriarty Mr W. F. Stirling makes a great hit; Mr Leslie Carter is well placed as James Larrabee; Mr Pelham Rayner meets with considerable success as Sidney Prince; and Mr Marc M'Dermott is good as John Foreman. As Alice Faulkner Miss Vera Longden admirably sustains the part; Miss Maud Linden is smart as Madge Larrabee; Miss Lilian Locke is satisfactory as Thérèse; and Mr Gissing Walters makes the most of Count Von Stahlberg.

NEW CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Wm. Mould.—The Scottish Meisters Comedy Glee Singers are meeting with much success here. Mr Mike Cray and his clever dog, in their comedy act, also prove a great attraction. Mr Dave Hallie, eccentric comedian, has made a great hit, and Messrs Steeley and Dowton, acrobats; Miss Sadie Dann, coon impersonator; Le Warren, singing ventriloquist; and the Bio-Photoscope all meet with favour.

NORWICH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr Fred Morgan.—Mr W. H. Hallatt's company in *The Two Little Sailor Boys* occupies the boards this week. Mr William H. Sams admirably acts the part of Noel Tregarthen, and is well received. Mr W. H. Hallatt is equally good as Captain Tom Yorke, and Mr Geo. Cecil Murray does well as Admiral Grey. Mr Leonard Booker as Lieut. Richard Redstone and Mr Ambrose Horton as Jim Royson do well in their respective parts. Mr Tom E. Sinclair as Ben Baxter and Mr Oscar Power as Jack Jolly create much amusement. Miss Mabel Scudamore charmingly portrays the confiding Mildred Grey. Miss Blanche Steele deserves praise as Lola Grey, whilst Miss Lizzie Chambers is everything desirable as Lucy Wilson. Miss Ethel Francis and Miss May Day submit interesting sketches of Cyril Grey and Tom Yorke. The acting of these ladies calls forth sympathy and applause.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr F. W. Fitt.—There is a capital programme here this week. The Imperial Boys' Orchestra heads the bill, and their performance is much appreciated, especially the soloists, the sword dancer, and the comic singer. The selection "Lazy Musicians" is well received. Fred Fox is a very capable comedian, and the Dixon Brothers are clever musicians. Clara Hastings renders some excellent songs, whilst Tom Lloyd sustains his popularity here as a comedian. Essman is an expert juggler, and Geo. Booker and Mabel Narbis create amusement in their sketch, *The Interviewer*. Joe Hastings is a clever jumper, and Lanos and Montes are excellent in their novel acrobatic comedy act.

NOTTINGHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Managing, Mr Howard Finney.—*Robinson Crusoe* is now in good working order. The singing and dancing of Miss Madeline Du Val call forth much approval, and her new song "John Bull's Sweethearts," in which she introduces representatives of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and Japan, is a decidedly taking novelty. Miss Mabel Osborn's sprightliness is quite a feature of the performance, and the Sisters James add their quota to the general pleasure. The Dame Crusoe of Mr Bob Baxter calls for special praise, and he works with unflagging zeal. The "legmania" dancing of Mr Fred Solo is mightily appreciated, and the Two Austins show to advantage, especially in their juggling feats. An ideal Topsy is seen in Miss Nellie Christie, and her laughing song is nightly redemanded. Miss Madge Melbourne is a charming little vocalist, and Miss Castleton continues to delight also by her enjoyable singing. The comic efforts of Messrs Algernon Newark, Harry Crane, Wally Scott, and Herbert Stanton are to the liking of the audience, and the chorus numbers are given with commendable spirit.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Charles P. Cooke.—*Goody Two Shoes* continues to attract good audiences, and the fun goes fast and furious. Miss Ida Gladstone and Miss Annie Casey work capitally together as principal boy and girl, and they are now firm favourites. The Sisters St. Julian sing and dance with considerable fervour, and the sprightliness of Misses F. Spencer, Bessie Dears, A. Marsden, and Issa Steel gains them unmistakable favour. The comedians are in fine form. Mr Charles Chard is a host in himself, and when supported by such smart artists as Messrs Bliss and Bliss, Pete and Juno, Sydney Dean, James Kurry, and Arthur Stratton success is assured. Jackley's Wonders contribute a clever acrobatic turn, and the Mikado Troupe dance with neatness and finish.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, A. W. Bull.—*The Two Hussars*, an interesting romantic drama, is being presented by Messrs F. J. Webb and Wilson Benge's company. Mr Wilson Benge portrays the varied fortunes of Harry Alton with skill and dramatic force; Mr F. J. Webb depicts boldly the knavery and malevolence of Paul Villiers; in the dual rôle of Harry Maythorne and Colonel Manners Mr V. Vivian displays artistic abilities; and Mr G. Paradies makes a notable success as Sergeant M'Finnie. Miss Sadie Smith manifests abundant emotional power as the heroine Marie; and Miss Lallah Price submits a spirited rendering of Molly Cutts; Mr Louis Nanton creates much diversion as Robert Runn; and minor parts are well filled by Messrs H. Wilson, Charles Fynes, S. James, and C. Walters.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr Hatton Wharton.—Mr G. H. Chirgwin was billed for this week, but, owing to his unfortunate motor accident, he has been unable to appear, and Miss Nellie Coleman filled the breach with great credit to herself. There are performing animals in plenty, but the bears trained by Richard List show almost human intelligence. Miss Lily Marney gains warm approval for her song, "The Spanish-Irish Girl;" Morton and Elliott are exceedingly clever as paper manipulators and harmonicon players; the Selbinis win rounds of applause; Auto and Mobil evoke merriment by their motor antics; Virto, assisted by his daughter Irene, provides an exceptionally good musical turn; the mimicry of Wilson Hallett finds a ready reward; and the Bioscope presents a number of fresh pictures.

OLDHAM.

ROYAL, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr George Knowles.—The star turn here is James and Marie Finney, whose welcome to their native town is exceedingly hearty. Their swimming entertainment and graceful evolutions under water meet with hearty appreciation. Verno and Vovce are a clever pair of singing comedians; Leon, Edmond, and company, including D. Macare, give a clever turn; the Rhondda Glee Singers are well received; Miss Alexandra Edwin is a soprano vocalist of merit; J. C. Jimson presents a clever entertainment with his performing dogs; Fred Elton as a versatile comedian is deserving of much praise; and as a musician and dancer Lilian Rigby is well received. The Hamiltons are clever as American buck-dancers, and Sam Lee, mimic, is duly appreciated.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Oldham Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr Hulme.—*Aladdin*, now in its last week, continues to elicit the warmest admiration. Mr Fred Carey as Abanazer throws much energy into his part, his speciality skit, "A Professor of Mesmerism," being heartily received. Mr Fred Graham as Widow Twanky continues to be well received for his dry humour and new wheezes; the Bros. Brooke have become popular with their mirth-provoking antics; the special introduction of the Du Cros Trio, with their wonderful gymnastic performances adds greatly to the success; and Messrs Keith and Marson are popular. Mr J. Donald as the Emperor is smart. We cannot speak too highly of Miss Mimi Fisher in the title-rôle. Her clever singing and dancing are still captivating large audiences. Miss Harriet Fawn as the Princess acts and sings with much charm; Miss Cassie Walmer has made a great hit with her song, "Play in your own backyard," and her sand dance is also received with a genuine outburst of applause; Miss Lena Vere as the Prince is highly successful in the song, "Blue Bell;" and Les Belles Americaines continue to be well received for their charming dances.

GAIETY.—Manager, Mr E. J. Dexter.—A capital variety programme is submitted here, including Lilo, contortionist; Terras Brothers, novelty entertainers; Long Amos, comedian; Atkins, who gives a clever musical entertainment; the Sisters Terry, vocalists of much ability; Will Dalson, eccentric comedian; and the Bioscope with new pictures.

OXFORD.

NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr C. C. Dorrill.—Mr Trevor Lowe's company, under the personal direction of Mr Leonard Pagden and Mr Lewis Gilbert, is paying a successful visit this week with *Alice in Wonderland*. Miss Rosie Dane gives a sweet performance of Alice and sings and dances delightfully; and Miss Lina Nazeby, in the prologue and as Queen of Hearts, is alike excellent. Mr Frank Lincoln repeats the wonderfully clever performance of the mad hatter which so delighted all when he last visited here. Master Leslie Gordon deserves praise as the Cheshire cat, and Messrs Frank Norman and Thomas Pauncefort as Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee delight the youngsters with their clever fooling. In act two Miss Maude May Murray contributes a clever danse illuminee, and the scenery, dresses, and music add to the enjoyment of a most delightful evening's entertainment.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr H. G. P. Wells—Mr Ian Maclaren's company is here with *The Prince of Rogues*. Mr Ian Maclaren gives a careful and consistent portrayal of the villain, Geoffrey Flint, while Mr Chesham as the hero, Frank Farrell, is admirably true to nature. Mr Henry Howard is forcible as Richard Harwood, and Mr Henry Wilson good as Stephen Leyton. Mr James F. Firth causes diversion as Josh Buggins and Mr Francis Hope makes a great success of Gilbert Henry. Miss Dorothy Mackenzie is well placed as Rita Congeive, Miss Kythe Mackenzie makes the most of Polly Dibbs, and Miss Ruby Maclaren is winsome as Winifred Harwood.

PAISLEY.

PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr J. H. Savile.—*Aladdin*, which scored an emphatic success when first produced three weeks ago, continues its prosperous career. The present pantomime will bear favourable comparison with any of the other seven which Mr Savile has produced in Paisley. The characters are sustained with great spirit and conspicuous success by a talented company, and the appreciation of the public is expressed with marked cordiality on every occasion.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr Delno Fritz.—The company engaged here this week includes Mr and Mrs Paul Knox, in their own original creation, *Down on the Congo*; Tony Freedman, comedian; Amy Bell, serio; Patty Yole, comedienne and dancer; Bandoni, the one man band; Hampson Brothers, comedians and dancers; and Eck Ray's schoolboys. The Empire animated pictures this week are new and excellent.

PETERBOROUGH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr A. Darville Vernon.—This week we have those inimitable pantomimists, Messrs Charles and Frederick Renad, with *The Swiss Express*. This diverting piece is capitally staged, and the Renads are well supported by a clever company. Mr Wilford Bailey is a capital Dr Gull, Miss Dolly Doyle is an excellent Virginia, and Bob Rollingstone is well played by Mr George Martin.

PONTYPRIDD.

ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Milton Bode; Business-Manager, Mr Rex Dooley.—A big attraction this week is provided by Messrs Fred Moule and E. D. Nichols' company, in *The Grip of the Law*. Zeph Sorrel, a stuttering detective, is most grotesquely played by Mr E. D. Nichol; Mr William Matthews portrays the villainous Sergeant Frank Paul in an admirable manner; Mr Herbert Evelyn imports a surprising amount of dramatic talent into the rôle of Noel of the Night; Mr Harry Beaufort shows exceptional power as Dave Arkwright; Mr Sam Robert's Andy Blunt is very amusing; Mr Courtney Robinson as Jacob Hookaday wins great praise; and Mrs Ada Lucelle in the dual rôle of Mrs Baddiscombe and Marion Arkwright becomes a prime favourite. Miss Ada Frank is worthy of the highest praise as Beu'ah Blunt.

PERTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Aldridge.—Mr Charles R. Stone's company was engaged during the first three nights here this week in *My Sweetheart*. Mr Charles Ross is a prime favourite as Tony Faust; Mr Edwin Oxlee Clarke is applauded for his manly impersonation of Doctor Oliver; Mr Ernest M. Stone causes amusement as Dudley Harcourt; Mr Edward Rawlinson enacts Harold Bartlett with cool skill and daring; Mr A. Doubelle proves an ideal Farmer Hatzell; and Mr J. F. Hayward is accorded a special mark of favour all to himself as Joe Shotwell. The dancing of Misses Winifred Maye, Bertha Clifton, and Emmie Hill is much appreciated. Miss Edith Madelle enthralls the audience in her daring adventures as Mrs Fleeter; Miss Emily Kelsey's impersonation of Mrs Hatzell could scarcely be surpassed; and Miss Daisy Stone at once became a marked success as Tina. The singing of Miss Daisy Stone and Messrs Ross and Clarke is worthy of special note.

PLYMOUTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr G. V. Keast; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Langdon Lee.—The third week of the pantomime of *Dick Whittington* here has witnessed the introduction of new business and new songs calculated to enhance the popularity of the production. It is essentially a pantomime for children, and no one amuses and interests the juvenile element more than Mr Tom Katte, who plays the cat. He is very realistic, and his pranks evoke shouts of laughter. Tribute has already been paid in these columns to the principals, all of whom enter into their work with much energy and enthusiasm, so that the piece goes with a swing all the time.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy Williams.—*The Ugliest Woman on Earth*, despite her physical deficiencies, is attracting large numbers here this week. Written by Mr F. Melville, it is also produced by him. The company is an excellent one. Miss Beatrice Homer appears in the title-rôle with conspicuous success, and in the part of Morita Miss Margaret Watson acts intelligently and well. As Aggie Miss Nellie Jackson acquits herself satisfactorily, as also does Miss Rosabel Dodd. Mr Leyton Cancellor and Mr Stanley Bedwell sustain important characters with credit, and humour is forthcoming from Mr T. Edlin.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton.—The pantomime of *Sinbad the Sailor* is going strong, improved as it has been by fresh jokes and songs. Most of the principals are now favourites, and encores are very plentiful.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs Livermore Brothers; Manager, Mr J. Field.—This week's bill-of-fare includes many good things. Very smart are the Great Northern Troupe, whose national dances are most artistically performed. An attractive turn is provided by Les Francois, acrobats of high excellence. Russell and Roper bring down the house with their vocal act "The Opera-singer and the Sandwich-man;" Alf Chester's songs "catch on;" and there is expert juggling and conjuring by the Jalvans. The Marion Troupe appear in a pantomime sketch which causes loud laughter. The Two D's render "Anona" in a commendable manner, and first-class comedy is put on by Ellis and Watts. Animated pictures and good orchestration complete an enjoyable programme.

HANCOCK'S WINTER GARDENS.—In addition to a capital variety programme a "cake-walk" competition for children is drawing large attendances here.

PORTH.

POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr W. Bynoth.—Mr and Mrs William Maclaren's répertoire company opened here on Monday in the romantic drama entitled *Proof*. Miss Lily C. Bandmann meets with much approval and plays meritoriously the parts of Madeline and Valentine; Mr W. Maclaren successfully impersonates Pierre Lorance; as Chamboran Mr Kingsford Pearce is very amusing; Mr Richard Fulton gives a capital rendering of Lazare, alias the Count De Laval; Mr Tom Roberton is well placed as the Duke D'Aubeterre, so is Miss Wynne Hanley as the Duchess D'Aubeterre. Miss Gertrude Evans scores as Adrienne. On Tuesday evening *David Garrick*; on Thursday, *The Lady of Lyons*; and on Friday, *East Lynne* were presented.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietress, Miss Ada Alexandra; Managing-Director, Mr D. Taylor; General Manager, Mr E. Pryce.—Another excellent programme is provided here this week, and is headed by the marvellous Florens Troupe of acrobats (twelve in number), whose clever acrobatic performances are much admired. Caban, with his troupe of twenty ponies, deserves mention; Savaro, whistler, is a great favourite; Mark Anthony, mimic, is appreciated; Day and More, comedy athletes, contribute much amusement; the Dillons, in a novel comedy gymnastic performance, are also very good; Mr Sam Anderson does well in his new equestrian scena, "The Life of a Sailor;" and other noteworthy turns are E. J. Sheldon, the curious comedian, and Eva Bashall, refined serio and dancer. Rabbit and Hairpin, the two clowns, are still the rage.

PORTSMOUTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr Armstrong Bell.—Mr George Dance's company is here in the comic opera, *Veronique*. Miss Ruth Lincoln in the name-part deserves the highest praise for a finished performance. Miss Maud Boyd is a good Agatha, her singing being greatly admired. Miss Lena Maitland as Emerance does well, and sings charmingly. Miss Gracie Sinclaire as Denise deserves mention for her careful acting. Mr Scott Russell makes an agreeable impression as the volatile and romantic Florestan De Vallancourt. The Mons. Coquenard of Mr Leslie Holland is a most amusing impersonation. Mr Ivan Berlyn plays cleverly as Mons. Loustot. Seraphin is ably interpreted by Mr Tom Shelford.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr T. E. Agate.—The pantomime *Dick Whittington*, in its last week, is still running merrily, full houses being the order, and, being kept quite up to date with new songs and dances, the audiences are having a right good time.

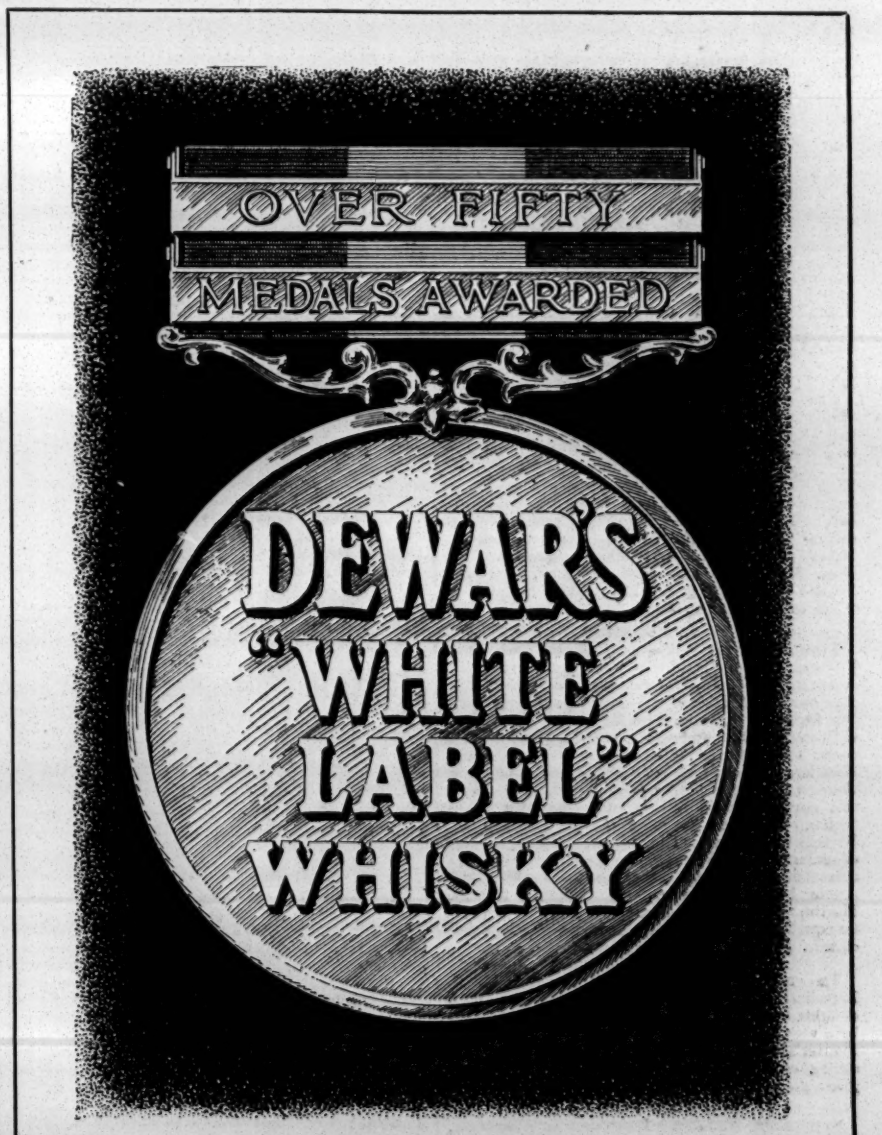
EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr W. Pratt.—An attractive bill is being offered to the patrons of this place of amusement. Arthur Reece, vocal comedian, is in good form, and has had a cordial greeting; the Three Sherrys, in their acrobatic act, are very clever; Kit Keen, Ethiopian delineator, has had a good reception; the Four Jumels give a popular musical turn; the Davenports, silent magicians and illusionists, are distinctly above the average; Barnard's marionettes are manipulated with great skill, and cause roars of laughter; Payne's Bio-Photoscope pictures are good; and also appearing are Amy Sullivan, soubrette, and the Sisters Charnley, duettists and dancers.

RAMSGATE.

AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General Manager, Mr Henry Bowman.—The American Biograph company has this week been reproducing, by means of the clearest of films, Buffalo Bill's picturesque Wild West Show and Congress of Rough-riders of the World. Other animated pictures are also exhibited, to the evident entertainment of audiences. Variety in the programme is effected by the excellent turns contributed by Mr T. Carrick, comedian; the Great Gilroy, a most amusing ventriloquist; and Miss Lily Carrick, vocalist.

RAWTENSTALL.

GRAND THEATRE.—Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr J. Potter; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr J. Ellis Miller.—Mr Arnold Bell's fine répertoire company opened her on Monday with a fine representation of *Ben-my-Chree*. As Mona Mylrea Miss Lillian Earle was a great success, her reading of the part being thoroughly womanly and sympathetic. As Dan Mylrea Mr Arnold Bell gave a realistic interpretation, the sorrows of the young Manxman being vividly depicted; as Ewan Mylrea Mr Cuthbert Imrie was careful and artistic; Mr Frank C. Robson did well as the Deemster; Mr H. M. Clifford as Gilchrist Mylrea, the Bishop, was very good; Mr William Reid as Daisy Fayle and Mr Joe Bardsley as Hommey Beg were each responsible for good work; and Mr Dan Farrough as Governor Harcourt made the most of his part, and the same may be said of Miss Violet Campbell as Kitty. *The Shaughraun*, *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*, and *The Octoroon*, will also be produced.



GRAND PRIX
ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION, 1904.

RADCLIFFE.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr Jas. Boothman.—Messrs James Stillwell and Paul E. Tuckton are presenting *Queen of the Night*. Mr James Stillwell is realistic as Frank Cavendish; Mr Chas. V. Sandford is strong as Philip Stoneleigh; Mr F. Thorpe Tracey is very good as Old Brisket; and Miss Irene Tracey is also capable as Dick. Miss Lilla Wilde gives a fine rendering of Paulina; Miss Katherine Barnett is satisfactory as Maude Sylvester; and Miss Becky Elliston is energetic as Kitty White.

READING.

ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr Reginald Taylor.—The popular musical play *The Duchess of Dantzic* is being performed here this week with pronounced success by Mr George Dance's company. Miss Rita Presano plays the difficult rôle of Sans Gêne in a vigorous and lively manner. François Lefebvre is embodied in a soldierly and manly style by Mr Mackesay Cullin. Mr Frederick Moyes gives a most impressive and characteristic impersonation of Napoleon. Mr Thomas C. Maxwell's excellent singing in the character of Viscomte De Bethune in the first scene and his handsome appearance as Adhemar in the subsequent acts evoke much admiration. Mr Colin Mackay is entertaining and vivacious as the Court milliner Papillon, his song and dance in the second act, accompanied by a chorus of pretty milliners, being vociferously encored. Miss Alice Coverick gives a pleasing rendering of the part of Renée. Miss Lillian Drake plays with dignity as the Empress Josephine. Miss Edith Carlyle and Miss May Harris assume appropriate supercilliousness and hauteur as the Emperor's sisters. The special scenery is extremely effective. A full chorus and augmented orchestra are under the able direction of Mr B. J. Patereon.

ROCHDALE.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr W. Robinson; General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling; Resident Manager, Mr Charles Clucas.—The Carl Rosa opera company is fulfilling a welcome visit, after a long absence, here this week. On Monday the well-known *Tannhäuser* was performed in fine style. Herr Julius Walther in the title-rôle gave an admirable delineation. Mr Lewys Jones in the part of Wolfram both acted and sang with distinct success. Mr Arthur Winckworth possesses a powerful bass voice, and was heard to great advantage as the Landgrave. Mr Frank Arthur as Biterolf and Mr H. Butcher as Reinmar were both successful in their efforts. Madame Sobrino as Elizabeth delighted the audience with her beautiful vocalism. Madame August Renard as Venus acted with spirit and sang with charming effect. *Don Giovanni* was submitted to a crowded house on Tuesday evening. *Pagliacci* and *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Carmen*, *Lohengrin*, and *Faust* are amongst the répertoire for production during the week.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs Smith and Lee; Business-Manager, Mr S. L. Lee.—Brothers Babuslau in their staircase performance astonished the audience with their clever and daring feats; Harry Morris, comedian; Florrie Claribell, comedienne; the Percys, duettists and dancers; Bock Pylades, impersonator; Sandy and Carl, knockabouts; the Aindows, in musical act; and Charles Best, comedian, contribute with success to an enjoyable evening.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Hargreaves.—Prosper and Madame Benn submit a cleverly performed musical act entitled *From Pavement to Stage*; Our Cis, comedienne and lady dancer; Wal Croft, Scotch comedian; Kurtz in "The Mexican Vaquero;" Barney Stuart, impersonator; the Violas, in mental telegraphy, the Moxons, musical experts; and the Empire Bioscope completes a capital programme.

ROTHERHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr W. Manning.—Mr Frank M. Thorne's company, under the direction of Messrs Carson and Granville, is here this week with *Napoleon the Great*. Mr Hugh Montgomery gives a thoughtful portrayal of the title-rôle; Mr Henry Earlesmere is a clever Colonel Lavarennes; Mr Phil Harper is seen to advantage as Colonel Jules Meuron; Mr J. G. Maine scores as Paul Laczinska; Mr Frank M. Thorne is humorous as Pierre Pomponnet; and Mr C. W. Spencer is deserving of mention as Sergeant Choupin, as is also Mr Louis Edmonde as Monsier Fouche. Miss Chrissie Dunbar is pleasing as Marie Waleswka; Miss Marie Harcourt is a vivacious Marcelle Choupin; Miss Adelaide Cromer is a sprightly Lisette; and Miss Maud Russell gives a sympathetic rendition of the part of Mdlle. Leonie Martœuf.

RUGBY.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr E. Parker Royston.—This week the Anglo-American Biomotograph Co. is giving a very good entertainment. The Tour Round the World is attractive and instructive and the Scenes on Board the Trawler Crane and the Japanese Warships are full of interest. The variety turns are of a very high order. Mr Sydney T. Pease in his vocal and dramatic sketch, *The Convict's Dream*, is seen to great advantage. Miss Millie Milton also scores a success; and Mr Percy Dunkley is responsible for much amusement. Miss Edna Reeve shows unmistakable talent as an elocutionist.

FOSSITT'S HIPPODROME.—The company is practically the same as last week, but with a complete change of programme. *Dick Turpin's Ride to York* is given with much success, Mr Robert Fossett as Dick Turpin and Mr John Irvin as Tom King being much appreciated. Miss Pinder and Mr Irvin are very successful in their double act on two barebacked horses, and Mr C. Beckett introduces several novelties into his performance, proving himself to be an excellent gymnast and acrobat. The Bros. Smarte are also good as usual, and Miss Fossett by her daring and skilful performance contrives to win much applause.

RUNCORN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr H. W. Caddick.—The stage is occupied by Mr Edward Neville and company in the highly sensational drama entitled *The Anarchist Terror* and *The Sorrows of Satan*. The former was produced on Monday. Mr C. T. C. O'Connor is the embodiment of a stout-hearted naval officer (Lieut. Armstrong). Mr Edward Neville appeals strongly as the Anarchist Terror, Ranagoon, an exceedingly strong part, played with real power. Mr J. Nelson-Turner as Silas Washington, Mr Harry Rose as Mickey Doolan, and Mr Gus Bowerman as Ishmael are further capable exponents. Miss Violet Hammersley enlists much attention with a charmingly piquant Columbia; Miss Annie Brunette sustains the deserted Jewess, Marita, admirably; and Miss Louie Esmond presents an equally acceptable Kitty Malone with songs and dances.

RYDE.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Bannister Howard.—Local playgoers have been delighted during the first three nights of this week by a visit from Messrs J. A. Thompson and J. D. Hunter's pantomime *Aladdin*. The company is a strong one, and several excellent speciality turns give a pleasing variety to the performance.

SALFORD.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr Harold Goulden.—A pretty humorous children's pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, commenced a week's run here on Monday before a large audience, and gave evident pleasure. The book is by Peter Eland, and the beautiful scenery is by E. Egerton. The title-rôle is undertaken by Miss Mabel Manley in a pleasing manner. Miss Dollie Hook as Robin Oakapple is a dashing model young farmer in love with Miss Bluebell Buttercup, charmingly represented by Miss Rita Vincent. Mr G. Royle as Widow Bailey makes the most of his opportunities, and keeps the house in roars. Mr H. Flockton Foster works well as Sir Seeley Chump, the bad baron, and Mr Charlie Howarth as John William is a droll page boy. The Webrwolf is carefully played by Mr W. Raynor, whose singing is favourably received. Miss Annie Swires also sings well as the Fairy of the Hood. Miss Rosie Kearns satisfactorily fulfils the duties of the Clerk to the District Council, and two comic policemen are amusing in the hands of Master Lennie Ankers and Mr G. R. Wontnor Hill. Several specialities are given, and those by Watson and Eastwood and the modern magician, Syd Mountford, find much favour. The whole is produced by Mr H. Flockton Foster, under the direct supervision of Mr Peter Eland.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford; Licensee, Mr James M. Hardie; Secretary and Manager, Mr C. Shayler.—The programme is headed by the Six Brothers Luck's pantomime company, in their pantomime sketch *The Hermit*. Charles Morritt does marvellously clever illusions. Other turns include the Brothers Forrest, musical eccentrics; a wonderfully clever blind calculator; Ida Ross, comedienne; Starr and Jerome, coon vocalists, buck and sand dancers; and Kitty Campbell, comedienne. An excellent turn is given by Mountford and Walsh, speciality artistes, whose patter is very smart.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr Wm. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr J. B. Taylor.—Beginning on Boxing Day, the matinée has been changed from Tuesdays to Mondays, and last Monday the three performances drew large houses. Katie Lawrence had some pleasing songs. Claude Ginnett's sketch, *Cockney Sportsman*, kept the house in roars. Chard's Dogs do some marvellous and amusing things, including high leaping. Clever turns were given by Fred Horsfall, mimic; Jack Horsley, ball puncher; Ted Fields and Fred Acres in comedy act, *The Park-keepers*; Vere and Royal (Percy and Edith), amusing comedy act; Ray and Lee, clever comedy gymnasts; Ettenas, globe speciality artiste; Evelyn Taylor, male impersonator; and Fred Melton, burlesque comedian and grotesque dancer. There are also some amusing animated pictures.

L. AND N. W. PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietress, Mrs S. A. Higham; Manager, Mr Sam Higham.—Park and Crescent, comedy artistes and dancers, head the bill this week, and among the other turns are those by Madame Allas, lady baritone; Charlie Hughes, vocalist; and Fred Crescent, baritone vocalist.

BRIDGE HOTEL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Tom Bradbury.—Mr James Conroy, comedian, is again appearing before crowded houses, and the new comers include Mr Harry Goldsmith, character comedian; Miss Nellie Rigby, serio and coster comedienne; and Mr Colwyn Thomas, tenor vocalist.

SCARBOROUGH.

LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs Waddington and Sons; Acting-Manager, Mr J. T. Carpenter.—The attraction here this week is Mr A. E. Smith's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Lily Colman is good as the fairy queen, Flora; Miss Edith Wallis soon wins favour as Robin Hood; Mr Arthur Slater as Baron Balderdash is most amusing, and his efforts are well seconded by Mr Charles Gladwell as Dame Quisby-Diggs. Good work is also put in by Messrs Bob Padley and F. Wheatcroft as Weary Willie and Tired Tim; Mr John Mathews's voice is heard to advantage as Friar Tuck; the Edna Trio are repeatedly encored for their speciality dancing; and the Colleys, contortionists, do some clever feats.

PEOPLE'S PALACE AND AQUARIUM.—Managing Director, Mr Wm. Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr Walter Kitchingman.—Mr James Hare's company is occupying the boards here with the farcical drama, *The Golden Chance*. The principal character, Hubert Zac, is well played by Mr James Hare; Mr Herbert King is a capable Stephen Clinton; Mr Tom Arkinstall ably plays Isaac Shelberg; and Miss Irene Clifford cleverly acts the dual-rôle of Mother Hawk and Viva Zac.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Quinton Gibson.—There is again a capital programme here. Mr R. M. Lang gives an amusing burlesque conjuring performance; Spargo appears both as a strong man and musician; and Mr Joe Corvison, ventriloquist; Beattie Foster, comedienne; Wallace Whitney, comedian, with some well-rendered songs; the Valmores, comedy duettists; Stratton Hall, comedian; and others help to complete the programme. The pantomime sketch by local children, *Little Red Riding Hood*, is also given nightly.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr A. C. Harrison.—*The Naval Detective*, Mr Fred J. Kirke's latest musical comedy, is visiting Seaham this week, the company being the author's. Mr Kirke in the title-rôle is clever; Dr. Schreiner is played in good style by Mr Richard Purdle; as Captain Hustle Mr Harry E. Ray is greatly appreciated; and Mr Arthur Beaufort is clever as Bertie Fairlox. Miss Edith Claris as Susan is immensely entertaining; Phyllis is attractively presented by Miss Violet Russell; Miss Florry Hayes is a graceful Lulu; as Rebecca Gentle Miss Lily Seymour does well; and Miss Lily Gwynne and Miss Kitty Clark are charming dancers.

SHEERNESS.

COLISEUM.—Sole Proprietor, Mr T. C. Dorling; Manager, Mr Chas. Melvin.—The Six Casino Girls are at the top of the bill for this week, and are loudly applauded for their excellent selections on both wind and brass instruments. Evered and Vaughan, in the musical comedy act, *Romance and Reality*, are eminently successful. The Sisters Beatrice, Parisian dancers, are much admired; a highly diverting vocal entertainment by Harry Gold, assisted by a chorus of local children, is capitally received; and Mdlle. Latour, soprano vocalist, and Mr Alf Davies, comedian, are also deserving of special mention. The Bioscope is also included in the bill.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr P. Reymond.—A capital programme here includes the Walcot Combination in the dramatic sketch, *A Brother's Revenge*. Hawley and Crescent, comedy sketch artistes, are amusing; and others equally meritorious items comprise Miss Roy Tracy, character comedienne; Mr Harry Hilton, eccentric comedian; Miss Marie Roselle, burlesque actress; Mr Fred Mallyon, comedian; and the Daintons, in the laughable farce *All Right Now*.

SMETHWICK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr C. Barnard; Manager, Mr E. Hewitson.—The musical comedy *Florodora* is paying its first visit to Smethwick this week. It is capitally presented by Mr Tom B. Davis's company, under the able management of Mr P. Howard Sturgess. The choruses are well sustained, the dresses very pretty, the scenic effects picturesque, and Mr Gerald Luke is to be complimented on the stage arrangements. In the rôle of Gilfain Mr T. Ellis Buxton is all that can be desired; Mr Cyril Dane is exceedingly good as Abercoed; Mr Derick Knowles is an able Captain Donegal; Leandro is well represented by Mr Lionel Williams; Mr Albert Bruno in his amusing portrayal of Tweedlepunch keeps the audience in constant laughter; Miss May Desmond is a charming Dolores; Lady Holyrood is well represented by Miss Rene Steadman; and Miss Daisy Byford is a dainty Angela.

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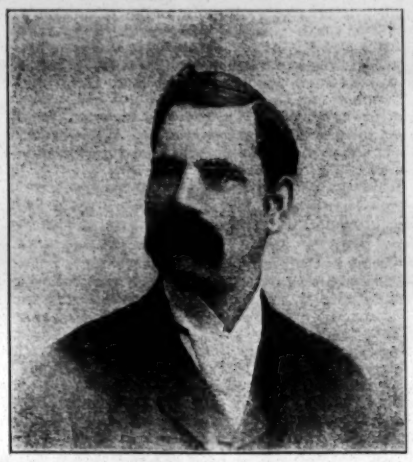
FAMOUS SCENIC ARTISTS.

MR. WILLIAM RAPHAEL.

Mr William Raphael confesses that he is a "canny Scot," a native of the "Queen of the South"—that is to say, the ancient borough of Dumfries, where he was born in 1858. From boyhood he had the ambition to become a scenic artist, and he still cherishes the same aspiration. In early life he studied a great deal from nature, and continued his studies in the School of Arts, passing through all the different grades with much success, and gaining many prizes. He received his first lesson in the practice of mixing the various colours at the old Theatre Royal, Dumfries.

As a youth he went to Glasgow, for it was the dream of his life to be associated with Mr William Glover. Eventually he succeeded, and continued under his skilful tuition for several years. His last



MR. WILLIAM RAPHAEL.

engagement in Glasgow was with Mr C. Byrle at the Grand Theatre, when he produced *Babes in the Wood*.

From Glasgow he migrated to the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, when Mr Rollo Balmain took over the house, and remained with him for some time. During his residence in Plymouth he engaged with Mr Henry Reed to paint his pantomime production of *Cinderella* for his new house, known as the Grand, and afterwards he worked with Mr Reed for four years.

On leaving Plymouth Mr Raphael came to London to fulfil an engagement at the Princess's for Mr Rollo Balmain. After completing his work at the Princess's, he obtained a contract to paint a stock of scenery for a theatre situated in the Himalaya Mountains, India. This engagement finished, he removed to Birmingham, where he remained for six years at the Prince of Wales's Theatre in the time of Capt. Rodgers, continuing with him until he retired. He produced for Captain Rodgers six successful pantomimes and other productions. Captain Rodgers acknowledged his appreciation of Mr Raphael's services in the form of a cheque, which was received by the artist every New Year's morning. When they parted Captain Rodgers gave Mr Raphael a letter of thanks.

"From Birmingham he headed for the North, and arrived at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne. After a considerable period on Tyneside, he returned to London for good, and has executed many contracts in the metropolis, having undertaken important work for the Haymarket, Duke of York's, St. James's, Royalty, Avenue, Terry's, and the Globe. Mr Raphael passed a season with Mr Harry Brooks at the Covent-garden Opera House, and has assisted many well-known scenic artists. From time to time he has had the privilege of fulfilling contracts for scenic work in Greenock, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Paisley, Stirling, Coatbridge, Carlisle, Wigtor, Bishop Auckland, Blyth, North Shields, Oldham, York, Lincoln, Longton, Reading, Eastbourne, and Brighton.

MR. HEDLEY CHURCHWARD.

Mr Hedley Churchward was in 1881 placed under Mr Spong, who was then painting at Sadler's Wells Theatre for Miss Bateman's management, and the first scenery he was able to assist on was a burlesque, *Don Giovanni*, and Dion Boucicault's drama *The Colleen Bawn*. After that he went with Mr Spong to the Princess's Theatre to paint for *The Lights o' London*. Mr Spong had contracts to paint special scenes for several pantomimes in the provinces, and Mr Churchward accompanied him to

MR. HEDLEY CHURCHWARD.

the Grand at Leeds, Prince's and the Queen's, Manchester, and Royal, Sheffield. This was in the summer of 1881. He also went on a sketching tour with Mr Spong through Spain. They returned to London to paint at the Imperial Theatre. After that Mr Spong and Mr Perkins became partners, and they had the Globe and Olympic painting-rooms. Mr Churchward assisted in the production of *The Promise of May* and the comic opera, *Dick*, at the Globe, *The Yellow Dwarf* at Her Majesty's, together with two or three scenes each year for Drury-lane drama and for the pantomimes at this house. They also had scenes to paint for each of the Gaiety burlesques, *Very Little Hamlet*, *Jack Sheppard*, *Little Monte Cristo*, &c. Mr Churchward worked in the *Dorothy* Staircase scene, and is not likely to forget it, as he was sent by Mr Perkins to the Tower of London to copy some locks and hinges of a certain door in the Beauchamp Tower, which is up a small turret away from the part shown to the public. While he was busy making his sketch two of the guard came up and arrested him, and were not satisfied with his explanation until Mr Charles Harris was sent for from the Gaiety.

In 1888 Mr Churchward left London for Australia under engagement to Messrs Brough and Boucicault, and remained with them about five years. On his way home he stayed for several weeks at Gibraltar, and here he was unlucky enough again to be arrested for sketching the Rock. Unfortunately, at the time of his arrest the Governor was away attending the funeral of an officer, so the artist had to remain over five hours in the guard-room until the chief returned.

His next work in London was for Mr Edouin's *Trooper Clairette* at the Opera Comique, and for two or three pieces of Mr Edouin's at the Strand, and for Mrs Charrington's *Alexandra* at the Royalty. In conjunction with Mr M'Cleery, Mr Churchward also painted several scenes for the Lyric and other London theatres.

Mr Churchward left London for South Africa in 1895 under engagement to Mr Searelle, and while there he received offers to paint and decorate the new theatres then being built—viz., the Gaiety, Johannesburg; Royal, Durban; Royal, Kimberley; and Town Hall, East London; so he stayed after his engagement had terminated, and, with the exception of a visit once in about eighteen months to England, he has remained there ever since.

Mr Churchward was again unfortunate on his return home. This time he broke his journey at Port Said so as to make a brief stay in Egypt, where he lived for awhile in a tent pitched at the foot of the Pyramids, but he woke up one morning to find he had been robbed of his dressing-case containing all his money, tickets, watch, and chain. His clothes were also missing, and he was obliged to cable, through the British Consul, to Mr Rayne for fresh supplies before he could leave the place.

SCENIC ARTISTS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Will you allow me to call the attention of such of your readers as are interested in the theatre to the forthcoming dinner in aid of the Scenic Artists' Benevolent Fund, which is to be held at the Imperial Restaurant on Feb. 19 next?

Sir Laurence Alma-Tadema will preside, and he will be supported by most of the big London theatrical managers, scenic artists, and others in sympathy with the purpose of the dinner.

So much of the success of modern stage productions is due to the scene-painters' craft that no doubt many who have carried away with them visions of the beauty which it has created will welcome this opportunity of giving practical expression to their appreciation of it by contributing to the fund which is being raised—on the lines of the Artists' and Actors' Benevolent Funds—for the relief of such members of the scene-painters' profession, their widows or orphans, as have fallen upon evil days, or through old age or infirmity are hindered from the prosecution of their calling.

The number of these artists who contribute so conspicuously to the pleasure of all theatre-goers is a small one. The association under whose auspices the dinner will be given, and which includes practically all the best-known scene painters of England, and of which Mr Hawes Craven is president, consists of only about eighty members all told. It is manifestly impossible for so small a community to raise sufficient money among its own subscribers for the purpose indicated without appealing to that wider public for whom it has laboured so long and worthily; and it cannot be doubted that such an appeal will meet with generous response.

It is, therefore, with the object of informing those of the public who may not have heard of it of the existence of this fund that, as hon. secretary of the Dinner Committee, I am begging you, Sir, to give publicity to these facts.

The dinner tickets will be one guinea, and cheques for these or any further contribution to the fund will be gratefully received and acknowledged if sent either to the secretary or myself, at the office of the Scenic Artists' Association, 5, Robert-street, Adelphi. Yours faithfully,

PHILIP BURNE-JONES,

Bath Club, 34, Dover-street, W.

THEATRICAL COSTUMES.

At the Southwark County Court, on Tuesday, was decided an action brought by H. and M. Rayne, theatrical costumiers, &c., of the Theatrical Stores, Waterloo road, against Harry Bruce, actor, manager, and author, of 170, Crampton-street, Walworth, for £41 5s. 10d., for goods supplied.

Mr Glasgow, for the plaintiffs, said in 1902 defendant took out a touring company to South Africa and obtained a number of articles from the plaintiffs. The venture proved a failure, and when pressed for payment defendant set up the plea that the company belonged to a Miss Margaret Trevosper, and he was only her manager.

Mr Henry Rayne said that at the time the defendant ordered the goods Miss Trevosper was but about twenty years of age, and he would not have given her credit.

Mr Ricardo (for the defendant)—If the witness says Miss Trevosper was then only twenty he could never have seen her off the stage. Is it usual for these actresses to supply their own costumes?

His Honour—If you are curious, Mr Ricardo, I will tell you what is usual. Ladies' shoes are awkward and difficult things to fit, and so they provide their own. Then, ladies are very vain about tights, especially the ladies in the chorus and the ballet, and so they provide their own. The proprietor finds everything else, even the paint. The girls do not provide that, I am sure, because it is used so indifferently.

Defendant said he sold all his interest in the company to Miss Trevosper, who was then the leading lady, at 50s. a-week, and became her manager for the South African tour at £15 per week and 5 per cent. of the profits. The tour cost over £6 000, which Miss Trevosper obtained from a Mr Welton, who was her guardian and godfather.

His Honour—This would do for comic opera. Where is she now?

Defendant—I shou'd like to know, because I am suing her for salary. She left me high and dry out there.

Mr Ricardo—I don't think I can profitably occupy your Honour's time any longer.

His Honour—No; there is not a ghost of a defence. Judgment for the plaintiffs for £41 5s. 10d. and costs, but I am afraid the only satisfaction Mr Rayne will get will be the privilege of reading the case in the newspapers.

PRESENTATION.—Miss Millie Engler, who has been compelled through indisposition to relinquish her part of Prince, in *Cinderella*, at the Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, was presented on Saturday night with a magnificent floral emblem, accompanied by the following letter:—"To Millie Engler, from the ladies and gentlemen of the company—fellow workers. A token of love and admiration for a sweet woman, a small tribute to rare and exquisite refinement, a regret that the 'parting of the ways' has come, and a wish for the success she is bound to achieve in South Africa." Miss Engler was also presented with a beautiful bouquet bearing a card with the inscription: "A token of respect and love from the Edinburgh chorus girls."

BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES.—All suffering from irritation of the throat and hoarseness will be agreeably surprised at the almost immediate relief afforded by the use of Brown's Bronchial Troches. People troubled with a hacking cough, a slight cold, or bronchial affections cannot try them too soon, as similar troubles, if allowed to progress, result in serious pulmonary and asthmatic affections. See that the words "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are on the Government stamp around each box. Sold by Chemists everywhere, 1s. 1½d. per Box.—[ADVT.]

THE SCENIC ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION.

The first annual general meeting of the Scenic Artists' Association was held at the Caledonian Hotel, Adelphi-terrace, at eight o'clock on Monday. There were present Mr Walter Hann, in the chair; Messrs E. G. Banks, O. Bernard, H. Brooke, H. K. Browne, F. Browning, J. Comus, J. Carl, G. J. Dodson, Richard Douglass, F. J. Dowling, R. H. Halley, W. Hann, Ernest Hann, W. Harford, W. T. Hemsley, E. J. Hirst, E. H. Tyneham, R. C. M'Cleery, Harry Mapleson, J. Davies Massey, H. W. Owen, Herbert Pike, Harry Potts, W. Raphael, R. S. Smythe, W. B. Spong, F. Tompson, George Tweddell, G. Herbert Wallis, Harry Warner, C. Watson, J. W. Woodward, Henry Woolls, and Sir Philip Burne-Jones, Bart.

A telegram was read from Mr A. C. Rogers explaining his unavoidable absence from the meeting.

The SECRETARY (Mr H. Laurence Harris) read the notice convening the meeting, and the minutes of the extraordinary general meeting of the Association held at the Caledonian Hotel on Monday evening, Nov. 21, 1904.

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, the SECRETARY read the report of the committee of their labours from April 31 to Dec. 31, 1904, as follows:—

"Your committee report that since April 30 they have held sixteen committee meetings, at fourteen of which Mr Walter Hann presided and Mr Richard Douglass at two.

"One member of the committee died during the year, and two resigned—viz., Messrs J. J. Markwell Davis and H. W. Robinson.

"The committee, during their term of office, have elected the following honorary members:—Mr Edwin A. Abbey, R.A., Mr George Alexander, Mr Alma-Tadema, R.A., Mr Oscar Asche, Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr Dion Boucicault, Sir Philip Burne-Jones, Bart., Mr W. L. Courtney, Mr George Edwardes, Mr Sidney Goldmann, Mr Gilbert Hare, Mr John Hare, Mr Frederick Harrison, Mr J. Martin Harvey, Sir Henry Irving, Sir James D. Linton, R.I., Mr Cyril Maude, Mr Louis N. Parker, Sir Edward J. Poynter, P.R.A., Sir William Richmond, R.A., Mr J. Forbes Robertson, Mr H. Beerbohm Tree, Mr Lewis Waller.

"Sir Philip Burne-Jones, with Mr W. B. Spong, has arranged a public dinner at the Imperial Restaurant, in Regent-street, at eight o'clock on Sunday evening, the 19th prox., and the following donations have been received in connection therewith for the Benevolent Fund meeting, namely:—Sir Edward A. Busk, £1 1s.; Mr Anderson Crichet, £1 1s.; Mr W. L. Courtney, £2 2s.; Mr Tom B. Davis, £1 1s.; Mr Sidney Goldman, £7 7s.; Mr George Herring, £2 2s.; Mr Max Hecht, £2 2s.; Mr Henry Arthur Jones, £1 1s.; Mr Louis N. Parker, £2 2s.; Mr Thomas E. Ryan, £1 1s.; Mr Felix Semon, £1 1s.; Mr J. A Sargent, £2 2s.; Mr Fred Terry, £1 1s

"Your committee have taken the Grafton Galleries, Bond-street, from April 10 to the 15th (with option of extension of time) for the exhibition of works of members and deceased scenic artists, and the Guarantee Fund asked for has been oversubscribed. Donations to this Guarantee Fund have been received from the two following honorary members, namely, Sir Philip Burne Jones, £5 5s.; and Mr J. Forbes Robertson, £5 5s.

Mr J. W. WOODWARD moved the adoption of the committee's reports as above. He was seconded by Mr HENRY WOOLLS, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr W. T. HEMSLEY proposed, and Mr HENRY WOOLLS seconded, that Mr G. Herbert Wallis be elected auditor, in the place of Mr Phil Harker, resigned. Mr Wallis assenting, the resolution was carried.

Mr J. N. O'Farrell, of Paisley, by his proxy, Mr J. DAVIES MAXY, moved, and Mr SPONG seconded, that members be at liberty to add after their names the initials, M.S.A.A., to denote that they are members of the Scenic Artists' Association. After some discussion, this resolution was also carried.

Mr RICHARD DOUGLASS moved, seconded by Mr HARRY POTTS, that the following be added to the rules, namely—

An entrance fee of 10s.6d. shall be paid by each member elected on and after March 1, 1905.

This was carried unanimously.

Messrs E. G. Banks, Harry Brooke, Richard Douglass, William Harford, W. T. Hemsley, R. C. M'Cleery, H. W. Owen, Harry Potts, W. Raphael, W. B. Spong, George Tweddell, and Henry Woolls were duly elected by ballot to serve as the committee for this year.

A vote of thanks to Mr Walter Hann, the chairman, carried by acclamation, concluded the proceedings.

A smoking concert, under the direction of Mr Denham Harrison, followed the meeting. It was well attended by upwards of one hundred guests. Mr H. W. Owen was voted to the chair. A very enjoyable evening was brought to a conclusion at midnight by the singing of the National Anthem. The following is a copy of the programme:—Violin solo, Mr Paul Glazer; song, Mr Robert Eadie; song, Mr Lewis Blackburn; comic song, Mr Joe Willis; song, "The Sailor's Grave," Mr Shakespeare Stewart; imitations of children, Mr Harry Hemsley; song (selected), Miss Yvonne Lamor; humorous song at the piano, Mr Edwin Henry; flute solo, "Spring Song," Mr H. W. Warner; imitations of popular artistes, Miss Elith Eatherley; song, "Bid me discourse," Miss Ivy Hemsley; pianoforte recital, Kopski; humorous song, "Just for the look of the thing," Miss Iris Vane; a story, Mr J. A. Bentham; humorous song, Mr Harry Hall; card tricks, Mr James Carl; song, "A true little woman," Miss Violet Lisle; humorous song, Miss Dolly Harmer; sketch at the piano, Mr Lewis Sydney; harp solo, "Watching the wheat," Mr G. T. Miles; comic song, Mr Sid Cooper; humorous song, Mr Ambrose Thorne; song, Mr Broughton Black; humorous song, "The way to sing a song," Mr Joe Willis; duet, Mr Broughton Black and Mr Willis Page; song, "Eileen Alannah," Mr Hatton M'Cullah; coon song, Mr Johnny Banks; humorous song, Mr Ralph Lynn.

ALEXANDRA PALACE.

Mr Graham-Falcon's pantomime of *Little Bo-Peep* has been played to full houses each afternoon and evening, but owing to previous arrangements is obliged to give its farewell performance at this theatre to-night. The management claim a record for the treasury during its run. The artistes have improved with practice, and the musical numbers are as vociferously received as on the opening night. We did an injustice to one lady, Miss Alice Mantell, who enacted the Fairy Sylvania, and accorded the excellent violinist, Miss Vera L. Appleby, the credit of the impersonation. It was the first-named who scored a success with her song of "Dreamland" but in no sense does this correction under-rate the value of Miss Appleby's services as an instrumentalist; for she has continuously met with the heartiest of receptions. The pantomime was witnessed by the victorious football team the Tottenham Hotspurs on Saturday evening when the occasion was taken advantage of by Mr Medley Barrett to introduce appropriate topical allusions. We may add that the trustees and Mr Graham-Falcon have kindly invited the inmates of the Edmonton and Barnet Unions to witness the production.

MISS ALICE LLOYD, who is playing Cinderella at the Crown Theatre, Peckham, and other members of the pantomime company at that house, gave an agreeable entertainment to about 350 poor children in Mr G. F. Morgan's auction-room in the High-street on Tuesday. The youngsters were delighted with the treat afforded them.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 9, the Pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood, entitled "SINBAD."

Sinbad	Miss JESSIE PRESTON
Badoura	Miss NELLIE RANDALL
Zoe	Miss AMY MAPLE
Princess Naggles	Miss CLARE FARRON
Mrs Sinbad	Mr WALTER KING
Hindbad	Mr FRED MAPLE
Jack Bobstay, Ben Bunk	EDMOND and VERONA
King Tibbles	Mr GEO. F. SNOW
Hassan	Mr F. KEMBLE
Captain Scuttle	Mr LESLIE DIGBY
Agrippa	Mr FRANK SEABROOKE
Crystal	Miss CECILIA MAUDE
Haidee	Miss MADGE BERESFORD
Zolinda	Miss MAY CARTWRIGHT
Morgiana	Miss POFFIT M'NALLY
Hafiz	Miss NITA DOLORES
Maidee	Miss ROZA REICHENBERG
Badroulbadour	Miss BELLA PRESTON

Crouch-end's loss has been Dalston's gain in the matter of pantomime. The Christmas annual, written by J. Hickory Wood, which would have been produced at the Opera House, Crouch-end, on Boxing Day had not a disastrous fire which originated on the stage destroyed all the scenery just before the hour fixed for the first performance, was destined to be reserved for the amusement of Dalstonians. The old story of Sinbad is followed as nearly as present-day needs in the matter of stage production will allow. When first Sinbad enters it is to indulge in the well-known altercation with his antiquated mother concerning his weakness for staying away too long. But very soon the attention of the hero is directed to the charming slaves, Badoura and Zoe, and he is utterly dazzled by the beauty of the first-named, whom he determines to possess. Hassan, who is in charge of the slaves, becoming aware of Sinbad's passion for one of them, threatens destruction to all concerned, but nearly everybody of any importance in the story contrives to get on board Captain Scuttle's ship, the Merry Matilda, and so escape the vengeance of the Sultan's representative. Sinbad has a secondary object in going to sea, and that is a hope of reaching the Diamond Valley, a chart concerning which is possessed by two comical seamen, Jack Bobstay and Ben Bunk. Of this important chart Sinbad becomes possessed, but, during a dispute with the sailors and a violent storm, he consigns it to the ocean, where it is claimed by the Old Man of the Sea. This individual is subsequently encountered in the mysterious regions of the rich valley, and, after a somewhat warm time of it, they manage to become possessed of what they seek in the matter of treasure. At the Palace of King Tibbles—a monarch who "besses" an island, but is, as his massive sister, Princess Naggles, explains, himself "bossed" by her—a great deal of fun is introduced, which is applauded to the echo. However, Sinbad's good fortune and that of his beloved Badoura is, after all, the chief point of interest with the audience, and as their happiness appears to be, in the end, fully assured, when the gallant young sailor comes forward at the conclusion of the story and asks if everyone is satisfied the answer in the affirmative is emphatic. Efficiency is the leading feature of the general representation of the pantomime. Miss Jessie Preston as Sinbad invests the character with an enviable amount of vitality. Sinbad, as he should be, is the life and soul of the story, and Miss Preston also sings the songs incidental to the rôle with vigour and effect. Mrs Sinbad, as played by Mr Walter King, is one of those quaint stage characters calculated to keep an audience well amused. Mr King's naturally quaint manner and his own peculiar mode of detailing his woes (relating to his married past and his widowed present) cause his every entrance upon the scene to be awaited with pleasurable anticipation. He takes part with Sinbad in a duet in which references are made to Bill Bailey to the tune of "Poor Cock Robin," and this is accepted as one of the funniest things in the performance. Messrs Esmond and Verona as Jack Bobstay and Ben Bunk respectively are a continuous source of amusement, and the dancing of the first-named is quite a marvel in agility. Mr Fred Maple is active as Hindbad, and his dancing and acrobatic performances, in which he is joined by Miss Amy Maple (who takes the part of Zoe, one of the slaves), constitute one of the features of the performance. Their cake-walk, as it is done in Japan, is loudly applauded. Similiar dances are introduced by Mr George F. Snow as King Tibbles and Miss Clare Farron as Princess Naggles. A captivating Badoura is Miss Nellie Randall, and she sings the song "My Barney" with good effect; she also dances neatly. Mr Leslie Digby's make-up as Captain Scuttle is a good imitation of the celebrated Captain Kettle, and Mr Frank Seabrooke's Old Man of the Sea, is, as it should be, a weird impersonation. Mr F. Kemble as Hassan wears his Eastern dress with remarkably good effect, and he plays the part with vigour. Miss Cecilia Maude, who appears as Crystal, a fairy, sings "The land of make believe" very prettily. Special dancing is introduced by O. Potter. In the harlequinade the following appear:—Clown, Harry Gardner; pantaloon, J. Lees; harlequin, F. Squire; policeman, James M'Hugh; columbine, Miss Bella; nurse, Miss Marjory Day. The pantomime is produced under the general direction of Mr George Brydon-Phillips.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Jan. 9, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Sutton Vane, entitled "A WIFE'S TRIUMPH."

The mission of *A Wife's Triumph* might be a crusade against the betting evil, for from beginning to end of the piece the playgoer has this most graphically illustrated to him. The wreckage wrought in the life of Frank Wilton, who as a bank clerk becomes a thief, as a rich landowner disposes of his estates, and as a husband maltreats his wife, through his craze for gambling on horses, allied to persistent persecution from one Ellis Jordon, is the case in point; and it is well for Frank and a matter of satisfaction to the audience that he has a faithful friend in Robert Dewhurst, who in the end leads him back to the paths of rectitude. Well written and interesting throughout, the sentiment of the piece appealed directly to the patrons of the Stratford Theatre Royal on Monday night, who showered frequent applause upon the play and its interpreters. Mr Ernest R. Abbott as the Yorkshireman, Robert Dewhurst, is well suited and makes the character exceedingly popular. Mr George C. Doughty plays with much feeling and intensity as the vacillating and weak-kneed gambler, Frank Wilton; and Mr W. H. Garbois duly emphasises the cunning and craftiness of Ellis Jordon, whose Hebraic partner, Julius Hartman, is portrayed in a sufficiently unfavourable light by Mr Edward Ouston. Mr Edwin Keene is exceedingly good as the well-proportioned Ben Bradford; and Mr W. H. D. Brown is excellent as Stubbs. Miss Ada Abbott easily enlists the sympathies of the audience for Bessie Dewhurst, playing the part with much expression and charm. Miss Warlhouse is a natural Mrs Wilton; Miss Jessie Mason makes the most of her opportunities as Alice Wilton; and Miss Constance Medwyn is entirely successful as the pugilistically inclined Margery Crib. The remaining parts are in capable hands.

MR WILLIAM MORGAN, the Mayor of Scarborough, who owned the Scarborough Promenade Pier, which was wrecked in the gale of Saturday last, will not rebuild the structure, and the pavilion and restaurant at the seaward end of the pier will be demolished. The restaurant at the end of the pier and the entertainment saloon are now isolated amidst the waves.

"ALADDIN" AT THE MARLBOROUGH.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

A second inspection of *Aladdin* at Mr F. W. Purcell's pretty theatre only endorses our favourable estimate of the entertainment, and helps to increase our admiration of its merits. The additions which have been made have chiefly been those of detail; the strong point of the pantomime—the admirably selected and clever company—remains to be admired and commended. It is difficult to overpraise, for instance, the energetic and artistic manner in which Mr Harry Tate plays Abanazar. His imitations of music hall artists are exactly accurate, and he keeps up the mimicry even when delivering the dialogue allotted to the much-disguised magician. When on his first entry Mr Tate appears as Mr Joe Elvin, every tone and gesture of that comedian is reproduced with almost phonographic fidelity. It is the same with his depiction of Mr R. G. Knowles's eccentricities, and with his admirable imitation of Mr Harry Lauder's rendering of the famous "tickling" ditty. There is no exaggeration in Mr Tate's work, and no omission of the smallest characteristic inflexion of voice and the most delicate peculiarity of style. Mr Tate's motor sketch has stood the test of annual repetition, and is as irresistible as ever. The house "simply screams" at it. He has introduced, in addition to the minor characters on the first night, a raw youth, supposed to be the son of the proprietor of the car. The lad openly derides his father, who endures his scoffs with fondly parental gentleness. Then there is a German passer-by, who tries to explain the working of the car in the language of the Fatherland. The stolid boy who is the caddie in the golf scene and the giver of cigarettes in the motor act now has several words to speak. We confess we preferred his monumental silence; utterance rather breaks its charm. Altogether Mr Harry Tate has done very much indeed to secure the success of the Marlborough pantomime. Those two quaint comedians, Messrs Rich and Rich, repeat their droll impersonations of Chew Chew and Chop Chop. Their business goes as well as on the first night; and every detail is laughed at and applauded most heartily. Miss Simeta Marsden is full of sprightly vivacity, attractiveness, and animation, and makes a most smart and spirited Aladdin. Miss Nancy Langtyre as the Princess has a refined and artistic style, and her singing of several charming ballads is commendable for the distinctness of the enunciation as well as for the vocal ability displayed. She looks extremely pretty in the becoming dress of Badroulbadour, and altogether is a great factor of the popularity of the annual. Mr George Brooks plays Mrs Twankey with a twinkling-eyed comicality which makes him a favourite from his first entry, and dances with great energy and activity. Miss Elsie Roby is a delightfully *espiègle* Cheekee, full of brilliancy and fun. Miss Lizzie Daniels, who plays Nicee, makes her points with an alertness which is very effective and gets every ounce of value out of her songs and dialogue. Mr W. Fullbrook extracts all possible amusement from the part of Lip Tung Tee; and Mr J. W. Wilkinson plays the Emperor of China with all the necessary dignity and ease. The other parts are all capably and agreeably sustained. We must again praise the Jewel ballet, the music of which is introduced by special permission of Mr G. W. Byng, the musical director of the Alhambra. The ballet is pretty without being tediously elaborate; the colours of the dresses are well chosen, and the introduction of wheels or hoops glowing with electric lights is very telling. In short, Mr F. W. Purcell, Mr Hickory Wood, and Mr J. F. Elliston, who are jointly responsible for *Aladdin*, have realised the changes that are required to bring the old-fashioned pantomime "up to date." The entertainment has been rehearsed and planned with all the care usually devoted to a comedy or a drama; and while the spectacular portion is dainty and delightful, the "fun of the evening" is not sacrificed to the mere joy of the eye. This is as it should be, especially in the suburbs; and we congratulate the management of the Marlborough upon having produced a pantomime which sends everyone home unwearied and in excellent humour.

"FORTY THIEVES" at FULHAM.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

A second visit to the Fulham theatre finds *The Forty Thieves* still "going strong," and all the members of this gallant and graceful band disporting themselves in truly captivating fashion. From the very first the pantomime went with unmistakable dash and élan, but now that everything is in full swing and time has dictated certain cuts and additions, and thorough acquaintance with their parts has mellowed their methods, Mr Robert Arthur's first Fulham pantomime is one that everybody should see. The sumptuous style in which it is dressed and mounted, the gorgeous and tasteful costumes, and the beautiful and artistic scenery are but the setting to a veritable feast of fun. Miss Beatrice Willery is a charmingly fresh and winsome Morgiana, and her song, "Farewell, my little Yo-san," is delightfully rendered, and throughout she acts with sparkle and vivacity. Miss Nellie Emerald is a perfect principal boy as Ganem—active, alert, neat, and dexterous, and, above all, most refined and natural. Mr Leonard Barry's sprightly wit and humour is of the utmost service, and his rendering of "The Old Bull and Bush" is enthusiastically received. Of Mr A. Felino's performance as the donkey Abbas we have already spoken in the most eulogistic terms, but one cannot have too much of a really good thing, and no praise is too high for this artistic and humorous exposition of asinine drollery. Mr Eardley Turner sings the song "The Latest London Betting," and as Cogia he gives a most quaint character sketch of a stage old dame. Messrs Harry Herbert and Will Spray as the two Lieutenants of the band of Forty Thieves materially assist in the fun-making, and do not spare themselves in their endeavours to amuse, and success seals their endeavours in this direction. Miss Seymour Hodges's commanding presence is exactly suited to the part of Abdullah, the captain of the band. Mr George Cockburn as Cassim Baba and Mr R. Howard as Mustapha, a cobbler, render good service. The Steinway Quartet and the Peri Troupe of Oriental dancers also contribute attractive items in the vocal and callisthenic line. Our advice to all and sundry is to go and see the Fulham pantomime while there is yet time.

"RED RIDING HOOD" at the CORONET.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

For pure fun it is difficult to beat the rollicking gaiety and amusing absurdity of Mr Robert Arthur's *Red Riding Hood* at the Coronet Theatre. An infectious gaiety and joyfulness pervade this pantomime; and mirth is wedded with refinement and vivacity. All that was needed on the first night was a little compression and that familiarity with their lines which breeds confidence and spontaneity on the part of the artistes concerned in the production. Now the "plums" are picked out and rearranged so as not to be all in one place, and the pantomimic pudding is well browned at the fire of experience and daintily decked by the art of the theatrical chef. So successful has Mr Robert Arthur's first Coronet pantomime been that extra matinées have been given. All the artistes are now thoroughly at home in their parts, and special improvement is to be noted in Miss Valli Valli as Miss Muffit, Mr J. J. Dallas as Mother Hubbard, and Mr Harry Phydora as Peter Piper. Mr Johnny Schofield has introduced a lot of new and original business of a screamingly funny nature, whilst elaborating and perfecting his former "wheezes," and there is not a dull moment while he is on the stage. Mr J. J. Dallas is a capital Mother Hubbard; in make-up, manner and appearance he is the facsimile of many an old dame we have all seen at some time or other. The topical song "Shall we stand it?—No we won't," is so humorously rendered, with such quaint extravagance and realistic absurdity, that it provokes roars of laughter as expounded by Messrs Schofield and Dallas. Miss Valli Valli's song "My Pyjama Girl," with ballet arranged by Mr Bert Coote, goes with a swing, and her "I've lost my Sammy" ditty is also remarkably well received. Miss Madge Vincent still remains a most sparkling and animated Boy Blue, and sings and dances with spirit and taste. Little Cliff as Rupert of Hentzau is a prime favourite, and the Sisters Crisp in their "Golliwog" dance continue to receive quite an ovation at each and every performance. Little Dora Fraser is a dear little Red Riding Hood, and sings and dances as charmingly as ever, and Miss Ada Fraser as the Fairy Glowworm sings "I love you" most agreeably. Mr Fred Zeitz has been redressed as a French poodle—a great improvement on his other "uncanine" costume. Mr Maitland Marler still waters his plant and otherwise nurtures the children's love of comic entertainment. Misses Dot Harvey, Helen Rose, and Lilian Pollard all contribute to the pleasure of the performance with song and dance and dialogue, and Mr Albert Chapman as Lupus, the wolf, confirms the good impression he made as a dramatic actor and vocalist at the first performance. It is really marvellous how cleverly and completely the condensation and compression of act two, without the elimination of a single scene or a good bit of "business," has been effected since Christmas Eve. In consequence, the pantomime now plays well within the customary period without any item of interest being sacrificed. The mechanical change from summer to winter in Poppyland Glen as a finale to act one still remains one of the prettiest effects imaginable.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST" at WOOLWICH.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

Although even on the night of the production the performance of the pantomime at the Grand, Woolwich, went with remarkable smoothness there is now observable a decided improvement all round. The principals have gained the assurance only to be obtained by practice, the chorus feels itself at home, and works with perfect unanimity, and the comedians have had time to shake down to their parts and introduce many good gags, local and otherwise, accompanied by much telling business. As Prince Rupert Miss Maude Danks is an extremely popular principal boy, scoring both vocally and, in the few chances she has of showing her power in this direction, histrionically. Her admirable figure enables her to wear several splendid costumes with success, and her singing is much to the taste of her audience, her song, "Arizona," having been rendered considerably more telling by the strengthening of the chorus "off." Miss Gladys Huxley's impersonation of Beauty is as charming as ever, and her bewitchingly dainty style has evidently made her a firm favourite with her many friends in front. One of the most successful items of the evening is Miss Huxley's rendering of "Baby dreams," the last verse of which, sung to a couple of children in nightgowns, secures a most determined encore. A very sprightly representation of Trixie, the maid, comes from Miss Maude Hope, who plays with archness and abandon, and whose singing of "Navaho," in which she is supported by a chorus of dancing girls, is so much appreciated that the refrain is instantly caught up by the house. Miss Lilian Stanley as Smart, the Prince's valet, is full of life and go, and plays at high pressure the whole time she is on the stage. Miss Stanley has a good voice and an excellent idea of how to make the most of it, as witness her success with "Bluebell" and "When the band begins to play," both of which songs are emphatically redemanded. Miss Audrey Stafford is an easy and refined Fairy Prosperita, acts with becoming dignity, and sings "The sweetest girl in Dixie" very effectively. Miss Emily Taylor, whose clever song "Go away, Mr Crocodile," is very well received, and who is understudying Miss Huxley, had her chance the other day through the latter's temporary indisposition, and came off with flying colours. Mr Tom W. Conway has largely improved his impersonation of Martha, the merchant's wife, his performance in this character now being irresistibly droll, while at the same time he carefully avoids anything approaching that vulgarity which is all too common in pantomime dames. Mr Edwin Adeler is also to be congratulated on the way in which he has worked up the part of Samuel Steele, and on several original gags which he has introduced. Some of his scenes with Mr Conway are laughable in the extreme, and altogether these two comedians thoroughly deserve their success. The rôle of Johnny is in the very capable hands of Mr J. Wilkinson, who gives a witty and amusing representation of the part. A number which is received with great merriment is a comic song by Messrs Conway, Adeler, and Wilkinson, entitled "The father, the mother, and the son," into which several much appreciated verses, bearing on local questions and grievances, have been introduced. The Brothers Harrison, as Wiggle and Waggle, contribute largely to the hilarity of the evening with some amusing knockabout turns and clever patter, their song recording the prowess of the Arsenal football team evoking uproarious applause. Mr R. Lomas's excellent acrobatic turn is followed with breathless interest, and Mr C. Hinchliff as the Demon sang "The song of the wind" in good style. Miss Nellie Harper carried out the complicated evolutions of a serpentine dance with ease and grace, and the dancing of the Stella Troupe adds brightness to the whole performance.

"ALADDIN" at EALING.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

Packed houses have been the rule since the opening to witness one of the prettiest and most up-to-date pantomimes ever produced here, and great credit is due to Mr Arthur Carlton for his farseeing policy in producing a children's entertainment that is amusing to their parents as well. Congratulations must also be given to Mr Stephen E. Blythe, who has written some very good music, which is excellently played under his direction. New sayings songs, and general improvements have been added to the production since the first night. We now witness a very pretty skirt dance by Miss Grace Huntley, and a scene in which all building trades are represented deserves special mention. Mr Cecil Clayton keeps the house in roars of laughter by his eccentricities and peculiarities; Mr Jack Oromo in his quaint performance is also very funny; Mr Frank Bertram as Abanazar with his catch-phrase, "Not a word," takes well, and is much appreciated, his song, "Oh," receiving numerous encores. Messrs Carl and Carr are comedians of no mean order who are much applauded in their sketch; Miss Jennie Richards is as charming as ever, and makes a sprightly Aladdin; and the Princess, Miss Hettie Gale, plays the part very prettily, receiving many encores for her songs and dances. The elegant costumes are tasteful, the numerous stage pictures are excellent, and the management deserves to be heartily congratulated.

"PUSS IN BOOTS" at KINGSTON.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The Kingston pantomime, *Puss in Boots*, which Mr Peter Davey, the enterprising manager, produced at the Royal County Theatre on Boxing Night, has since been carefully pruned and added to, and forms a very bright, funny, and enjoyable entertainment. Mr Davey has been fortunate in securing a good company all round, who work most harmoniously together, and even seem to take a personal interest in the success of the show in which they are engaged. Several of the ladies have already made themselves favourites, notably Miss Rhoda Windrum, who plays the Princess Carita with engaging and unaffected charm. Miss Windrum is successful in the "turns" in which she takes part with Mr Chas. S. Kitts (King Komlifo). They are entertaining features of a production that is full of fun and frolic. Miss Lily Gullick, who plays Lola, does some clever dancing, and her sprightly and vivacious style captivates all. Miss Nellie Welling, who as Juan has a great deal of singing and dancing to do, wins favour nightly. Miss Ida Lawrence as the good fairy and Miss Ethel Thorne as a danseuse, have also ingratiated themselves with the audiences. Mr Leonard Thiel gives a grotesque depiction of a dame, and sets the audience in a roar, his efforts being ably seconded by Mr Charles S. Kitts as the King, by Mr Harold Carson as Sancho, and by Mr Arthur Somers as Pancho. Mr George Danvers, jun., has considerably improved upon his conception of the Cat, which is now an admirable bit of feline acting. Messrs Eugene and Willie are still diverting as the sportive black bull.

THE TERRISS.

Compensation for the lack of pantomime has been provided for the holiday season at the Terriss in the latest melodrama from the pen of Mr Walter Melville, which for three weeks has thoroughly proved its powers of attraction. *The Girl who Lost Her Character* is a fine specimen of Mr Melville's dramatic skill, and large audiences at the Terriss Theatre have found in it a story of the most engrossing character, while scenes of wholesome pathos and excitement recur with agreeable frequency. What could be more exhilarating than the spectacle of the deeply-wronged Molly Vernon, mad with rage at man's inhumanity, wrecking the drawing-room of her betrayer? Armed with the leg of a mahogany couch, she smashes chairs, tables, chandeliers, mirrors, and art-pots until nothing whole remains in the room. Miss Ada Marius, who plays the part of the determined girl, does the work of destruction with a vigorous hand, and its progress is accompanied by applause. Miss Marius has nevertheless her moments of tenderness, and the pathos of the young mother wandering homeless in the snow is made very intense. A performance instinct with charm and sincerity is given by Miss Elaine Vanbrugh in the part of Rose Seymour, and her light comedy scenes with her lover are naturally performed. Fire and vigour distinguish the embodiment of Jack England by Mr Wingold Lawrence, whose varied expression and distinct delivery give the requisite colour to a well-drawn character. Mr Frank Adair makes a capital villain as Capt. Geoffrey Caversham, the metallic harshness of his voice aiding the effect of his evil speech, while in action and byplay he is equally despicable. A well-matched coadjutor is found in Marian Franklyn, a typical adventuress, with ever a sneer on her lips and a fine contempt for virtue of every kind. Miss Marie M'Aulay's voice and bearing enable her to give adequate poignancy to the iniquitous rôle, and the actress finds her reward in appreciative howls of derision. Mr Edwin J. Collins has a suitable rôle in that of the young clergyman, the Rev. Robert Everton, whose nobility of character is skilfully brought out. Humour is provided with a liberal hand throughout the play, and long and loud is the laughter caused by Mr G. Hammond Azquin, whose irrepressible gaiety as Dick Punch, the faithful friend of the hero, leads the audience into the ways of mirth. No less productive of merriment is the Isabella Jones of Miss Daisy Maynard, who combines with a comely appearance an acute sense of drollery. A strong characterisation of James Sutton, a repentant forger, is given by Mr Eugene Santley; Mr George Terrers makes a dapper detective; and Mr John Wilson as a countryman, Mr Jack Clarke as a policeman, and Mr John Dixon as an itinerant quack doctor make much of their respective parts. The play, which is produced by Mr Walter Melville, is mounted in the best style of the Terriss Theatre, which has a local reputation for scenery, a country cottage being a well-painted set, while a supper hall at the Carlton Hotel is elaborately reproduced.

"THE CHOSEN PEOPLE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I note a play is about to be produced in London bearing the above title. I wrote a piece four years ago entitled *The Chosen Race*. Eighteen months ago I disposed of the rights to Mr T. Morton Powell.

Yours faithfully, WILFRED H. BENSON.
People's Palace, Tottenham, N., Jan. 11.

WE regret to record the death of Mr Walter Velone (for seven years bill inspector at the Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool), which took place on the 2d inst., after a brief illness. The deceased, who was only thirty-four years of age, leaves a widow and five children. The funeral took place at Anfield Cemetery, on the 5th inst., when many sympathisers attended to pay their last respects to one who was so deservedly popular. Four members of his staff (Messrs Fish, Clydesdale, Davis, and Harrington) constituted the bearers, and there were also present:—Mr Pearce, bill inspector at the Shakespeare Theatre; Mr Crompton, Liverpool, manager for David Allen and Sons; Mr Lambert, of Parr Bros., bill-posters; Mr Watson, a close intimate of the deceased, and Mr Sennott, Mr Corney, Mr Cole, Mr Wm. A. Greene, Mr Brannigan, Mr S. Crosby, Mr and Mrs John Yates, from the Royal Court Theatre. Wreaths were sent by Miss Hetty King, Mr and Mrs Pearson, Mr and Mrs Yates, Mrs Harrington, the theatre staff, the billroom staff, and the programme boys.

"THE BLACKMAILER."

A New Irish-American Drama, by Miss Nellie Whitbread, Produced for the First Time, on Monday, Jan. 9, at the Queen's Royal Theatre, Dublin.

Jack Bernard	Mr ROBERT FAULKNER
Jim Ford	Mr ALBERT SINCLAIR
George Burgis	Mr DANE CLARKE
Richard Alison	Mr ION IRELAND
Matt O'Reilly	Mr JAMES O'BRIEN
Michael O'Reilly	Mr JAMES DALY
Colonel Wynne	Mr T. L. ROONEY
Seth Rawlins	Mr SMITHSON
Sergeant Roller	Mr HARRY RICHARDSON
Sergeant of Police	Mr CHARLES BOYLE
Policeman 143	Mr THOMAS DALTON
Helen Bernard	Miss HELENE FORREST
Mary	Miss ARNOTT
Sall Snoggs	Miss AMY WRIGHTON
Katie	Miss MONICA KELLY
Laurie Bernard	Miss ANNIE HYLTON

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Great interest was centred in the production of this drama, as it was the initial effort of the authoress for a recognition of her abilities as a writer of drama. As the performance proceeded it was easily to be seen that the authoress had paid special attention to making the plot of an interesting and exciting character.

The drama opens with the homecoming of Jack Bernard after an absence of two years, during which he has been superintending his mines in Mexico. Among those assembled to receive him is one George Burgis, an erstwhile enemy, but who, to further his ends, pretends to forget old scores and adopts the rôle of a friend. Bernard's wife has a sister whose existence has been kept a secret from him, on account of her supposed lapse from duty and honour. Coincident with Bernard's return, his wife receives a letter from this sister begging her to go to her at once, but not to mention her errand to anyone. Laurie contrives to leave the house without her husband's knowledge, but is seen and followed by Burgis. Laurie finds her sister in a wretched garret dying, and—though married—deserted by the man for whom she had sacrificed home, relations, and friends. The dying woman, in fear that her husband will carry out his threat to kill their child should she divulge their marriage, implores Laurie never to disclose it till the boy is of an age to protect himself. Laurie promises, only to learn to her horror that the man is none other than George Burgis himself. Mary (the sister) dies, and Burgis, arousing Bernard's jealously with veiled hints, succeeds, by a note he manages to have conveyed to him, to raise doubts in Bernard's mind of his wife's fidelity. Laurie unable, on account of her oath to her sister, to satisfactorily explain either her absence from her house or the letter, is, despite her appeals to have faith in her, cast off by Bernard, who threatens to seek release in the Divorce Court. Six months later find the husband and wife divorced, and the former en route, as a volunteer, to the war in Cuba. On his return to New York, Bernard, in consequence of the failure of his Mexican mines, discovers he is penniless. He takes, with his sister, apartments in the house of the O'Reillys. Meanwhile, Laurie, who has, in order to keep her promise to her sister, been forced from time to time to give large sums of money to Burgis, accidentally meets the latter at the house of the O'Reillys. Burgis, availing himself of the meeting, endeavours to levy further blackmail, but to his astonishment is confronted with a flat refusal; also with the information that, his child being dead, Laurie, free from her oath, fears him no more. On recovering from his amazement at the turn affairs have taken he plays the hypocrite. He induces Laurie to leave in search of her husband, secretes in Bernard's coat pocket a supposed stolen pocket-book, and when Laurie returns it is only to find that her husband has been, at her supposed instigation, arrested for the theft. Through the assistance, however, of the O'Reillys Bernard effects his escape, only to be discovered shortly after in his hiding-place and rearrested. Burgis, thinking Bernard will soon be secure in prison, and wishing to add further to his misery, discloses the whole truth about his wife. He has barely made his confession when O'Reilly and his brother Michael appear on the scene, and, extracting from him that a ring found in Bernard's pocket is his property, they turn the tables by accusing him of planting the notebook on Bernard. A fight ensues, and Burgis escapes from the room, but is eventually captured. Bernard, filled with remorse, returns to his wife, who, woman-like, forgets all her wrongs, receives him with open arms, and extends to him her forgiveness.

In the part of Jack Bernard Mr Robert Faulkner played in a manly and spirited manner; Mr Albert Sinclair was a capital exponent of Jim Ford; Mr Dane Clarke, who essayed the part of the Blackmailer, George Burgis, was heartily "hissed" by the "gods" for his realistic impersonation of that despicable personage. The two leading comedy parts were entrusted to Mr James O'Brien as Matt O'Reilly and Mr James Daly as Michael O'Reilly, and their humorous acting was well appreciated. Mr Ion Ireland personated with great fidelity the rôle of Richard Alison, and Mr T. L. Rooney was good as Colonel Wynne. Seth Rawlins had a capable representative in Mr Smithson, and Mr Charles Boyle scored as a Sergeant of Police. In the part of Sergeant Roller Mr Harry Richardson acquitted himself well, and the rôle of Policeman No. 143 was safe in the hands of Mr Thomas Dalton. Miss Annie Hylton was deserving of the highest praise for her clever and artistic rendering of the part of Laurie Bernard, and Miss Helene Forrest was charming and graceful as Helen Bernard. Miss Arnott in the trying rôle of Mary acquitted herself well, and Sally Snoggs had a good exponent in Miss Amy Wrighton. Miss Monica Kelly had a capital part, to which she did full justice without exaggeration. Mr P. M. Levenston was responsible for the musical numbers, and the scenery specially painted by Mr W. W. Small was excellent.

ALLY SLOPER'S
DIAMOND RING COMPETITION -

For the Most Popular Pantomime Actress is going strong.

The Winner of the First Week's Ring received 415 votes.

Competitors will please note that Coupons must be sent in before the First Post on Monday in each week.

Papers containing Coupons can be ordered from any Newsagent, and Communications and Remittances addressed to THE SLOPERIES, LONDON, E.C., will receive Immediate Attention.

Ally Sloper's Half Holiday—1d. every Monday.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR HENRY IRVING has kindly consented to be president, and Mr Beerbohm Tree has undertaken the duties of treasurer, to the fund which has been started for the widow of the late John Hollingshead. A small committee is being formed, and the amount raised will be applied to the erection of a stone over John Hollingshead's grave in Brompton Cemetery, any balance remaining being invested for the use of the widow, in the manner which shall be deemed most judicious by the committee. Information respecting the fund may be obtained on application to Mr Tree at His Majesty's Theatre.

MR BEERBOHM TREE will preside at Mr Raymond Blathwayt's lecture to Mr William Crooks's mass meeting of men in Poplar Town Hall on the 22nd inst.

LADY BANCROFT celebrated her birthday on Thursday. It is forty-eight years and three months since the captivating Marie Wilton made her first bow to a London audience. She was married to Sir Squire, then Mr, Bancroft a year later. Their quaintly written, interesting book of reminiscences was published in 1888.

MR AND MRS KENDAL will be the guests of the New Vagabond Club on Feb. 2. Mr W. L. Courtney will be in the chair, and Messrs G. B. Burgin and Coulson Kernahan will be deputy-chairmen. The Bishop of Ripon, Mr and Mrs George Alexander, and Mrs Tree will be among the Club guests.

A PAINFUL incident was witnessed on Tuesday evening in the Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool. A young man named Alfred Williams, of Humber-street, was seated in the pit enjoying the pantomime *Aladdin*, when suddenly, pointing to one of the artistes on the stage, he exclaimed to his mother-in-law, who sat beside him, "Why, that's my wife," and fell to the floor unconscious. The man was carried into the passage of the theatre, and medical aid was sought, but he soon expired. He had previously suffered from heart disease. At the inquest held on Thursday it transpired that the deceased had made a mistake. One of the ladies of the ballet bore a strong resemblance to his wife, who now came forward and declared that she had never been on the stage.

MR RICHARD DOUGLAS presided over the sixteenth committee meeting of the Scenic Artists' Association, held at 5, Robert-street, at eight o'clock on Friday, the 6th inst. Mr Frederick Fox, scenic artist of the Empire, Cardiff, was elected a member on the nomination of Mr W. T. Helmsley, seconded by Mr Harry Potts. Mr O. P. Bernard, of the Covent-garden Theatre, was also duly elected a member on the nomination of Mr H. W. Owen, seconded by Mr George Tweddell. On the nomination of Mr W. Hann, chairman and treasurer of the Association, the following gentlemen were unanimously elected members of the Association, namely:—Sir William Richmond, R.A., K.C.B.; Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr Oscar Asche, Mr Louis N. Parker, and Mr W. L. Courtney. The secretary reported many offers of loans for the forthcoming exhibition of sketches and pictures of celebrated deceased scenic artists.

MR MARSH ALLEN'S solicitors have set down for hearing at the Law Courts an action against Mrs Langtry, from whom Mr Allen claims damages for wrongful dismissal on the American tour of *Mrs Dering's Divorce*.

SIR HENRY IRVING will start his spring provincial tour at Portsmouth on the 23rd inst., paying farewell visits to many other provincial towns. His repertory includes *Becket*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Lyons Mail*, *Louis XI.*, *The Bells*, and *Waterloo*. The audiences at all the places visited by Sir Henry are certain to be very large, as this will be the last opportunity the local public will have of seeing his admirable acting. Mr Harry Lawson, who was elected M.P. for the Mile-end division on Thursday, received early in the day, from Sir Henry Irving, the following telegram:—"May success sit at the helm."

MISS ELLIS JEFFREYS has signed a starring contract with Messrs Liebler and Co., the well-known American managers, and will make her New York appearance this spring in the adaptation of *The Prince Consort*, by Mr Cosmo Gordon Lennox. Miss Jeffreys will take over with her a complete English company. Mr Alfred Sutro, the author of *The Walls of Jericho*, has been commissioned to write a play for Miss Jeffreys, to be ready by Jan. 1, 1906.

MR E. S WILLARD, with his company, including Mr Cooper Cliffe, Mr J. R. Crauford, Mr H. Cane, Miss Marie Linden, Miss Leila Repton, Miss Faith Reynolds, and Miss Alice Belmore, sailed from Liverpool on Wednesday for New York. Mr Willard will produce in the "Empire City," on the 23rd inst., the late Wilson Barrett's play, *Lucky Durham*, American audiences, with whom Mr Willard is an immense favourite, will heartily welcome him back to the States, where his splendid performance in *The Cardinal* is so warmly admired and so keenly appreciated.

MR PHILIP CARR, the son of Mr J. Comyns Carr, will open in London at Easter a Répertory Theatre and School of Acting, probably at the Royalty Theatre. Among the distinguished dramatists who have promised to assist are Mr Pinero, Mr Henry Arthur Jones, Mr Sidney Grundy, and Mr W. S. Gilbert; and in the list of revivals promised are *The Middleman*, *The Palace of Truth*, *The Lady of Lyons*, and several of Sheridan's and Robertson's plays. Translations will also be presented of pieces like *Le Gendre de M. Poirier*. One play will be given every week. The fees for the school will be thirty guineas for six months and twenty for three months. The pupils will understudy and have daily rehearsals, and each will appear on the stage at least once a fortnight. At first Mr Carr will give two seasons in London, from Easter to July and from September to December. In the intervals the company will visit leading provincial towns.

MR GORDON CLEATHER, the new Harry Vereker in *The Cingalee* at Daly's, is a young singer whose work has principally been on the concert platform. His first appearance as "a musical actor" was in *My Lady Molly* on tour, afterwards playing the chief part for a few nights at Terry's. This was followed by an engagement in *Ib and Little Christina*, and he then went to the Apollo to understudy Mr Laurence Rae, appearing several times as the lover in *Veronique*.

MR CLEATHER is of Scotch descent, and was born in Cagliari, the principal town in Sardinia. He was a choir boy at Oxford, and, a little later on, in New York, where his people lived for several years. On returning to England the new hero at Daly's commenced his studies at the Royal College. He obtained the appointment, while he was still on the sunny side of two-and-twenty, of professor of singing at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, remaining in Dublin for six years. Mr Cleather is a tennis enthusiast, and belongs to the All England Tennis Club, at Wimbledon.

ON the committee of the new Boz Club, which was founded at the Athenæum Club in 1900 by a group of gentlemen who had known Charles Dickens personally, are Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr George Alexander, Mr John Hare, Mr Bourchier, Mr Seymour Hicks, Sir Henry Irving, Mr Cyril Maude, Mr Beerbohm Tree, and Sir Charles Wyndham.

MR HORACE HODGES, who plays Chauvelin, the French Envoy, in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, is one of the many graduates of Mr Wilson Barrett's company, which he first joined at the Princess's. He walked on in *The Romany Rye*, his only previous engagement having been at the old Greenwich Theatre, where he played many parts, including that of Perkyn Middlewick in *Our Boys*. He received his first press notice for this youthful performance of the immortal butterman. It only differed from his own opinion in one word. Young Hodges considered himself "on the whole very good." The critic considered him "on the whole very bad." He stayed with Mr Barrett for about twenty years. He was a great friend of poor Franklin M'Leay, and shared with Mr Ambroise Manning the distinction of never failing to appear in every performance of *The Sign of the Cross* given by the original company, from the night when it was produced in St. Louis, U.S.A., in 1895, until he—Mr Hodges—left Mr Barrett in 1904.

ON his first landing in New York Mr Horace Hodges, finding himself in a crowd of expressmen, Custom House officers, and excited passengers greeting their friends, determined to get through with his personal luggage as quickly as possible. So he accosted a man who was standing idly by, apparently interested in the scene, and requested him to "help with the bags and be smart about it." The man was in a dark uniform; and Mr Hodges took him to be connected with the Customs or the steamship company. Without a minute's hesitation, he seized a portmanteau, and obediently did everything the young Englishman asked him until he was ready to start for his hotel. Then Mr Hodges put his hand to his pocket, but the stranger checked him with the words, "Never mind about that! Have you been to this country before?" "Never!" he replied. "You'll be sure to get on," said the American. "What makes you think so?" asked Mr Hodges, feeling flattered. "Because I've never seen a young man with such cool, darned impudence!" was the amazing answer. The supposed servant of the steamship company was a well-known man in a high official position in New York. A friendly acquaintanceship grew out of this embarrassing mistake, but Mr Hodges has never forgotten his first attempt to tip an American.

WHEN the Wilson Barrett company appeared in Washington, Mr Grover Cleveland, who was then president, attended one of the performances of *Claudian*, and sent a messenger to say that he would be pleased to visit the distinguished actor-manager in his dressing-room at the end of the play. Mr Hodges, who was acting as prompter at the time, requested several supers, who were lounging in the passage adjoining Mr Barrett's room, to get out of the way. One of them refused to do so, declaring, in an indignant twang, that he was just as good a man as any President in the world, and had the right to stand where he chose. Mr Hodges protested in vain, and the discussion ended in a scuffle. The actor was holding several prompt books and a quantity of sheet music. They were scattered in all directions, and almost before Mr Hodges knew what had happened he found himself and his opponent struggling on the floor. At that minute the doors at either end of the passage opened. Mr Barrett appeared at one, and Mr Cleveland at the other. The amazed expression of the President was reflected in the face of his host, as they both stared at this unexpected scene. Mr Barrett sent for the young prompter afterwards, but instead of the severe lecture he prepared to receive, "the Guv'nor" only asked for an explanation, and expressed the hope that he had not been hurt.

ON one occasion Mr Hodges, when playing Brabantio in *Othello*, and just before entering the Duke's council chamber, in the first act, forgot half-a-dozen lines in his most important speech. He hastily told Mr Barrett, who was standing behind, of his difficulty, but Othello could not help him and passed on the request to Iago, who appealed in his turn to Roderigo, and before Roderigo had time to answer the cue came for them all to enter. Every eye was fixed on Brabantio when the time came for his long speech. In the middle of it, instead of using the proper words:—"It is a judgment maim'd and most imperfect"—he exclaimed, "Oh! It is—preposterous! It is impossible!"

MR HODGES is, as everybody knows, one of the three actors whose names are included in the pseudonym "Thomas Raceward," author of *Sunday*. Their first play, *When the Devil Drives*, was produced in Manchester some time ago. Mr Hodges is now engaged on a third, in collaboration with Mr Wigney Percyval, Mr Edward Irwin having dropped out of the party. *Sunday* is now making a most successful provincial tour. Miss Jean MacKinlay, who plays the wild, sweet heroine of the west, is exactly suited to the part. She is the only daughter of the late Madame Antoinette Sterling, and Miss Jean Ingelow, the poetess, was her godmother.

THE "Ugliest Woman on Earth" and the "Prettiest Girl in Birmingham" met on the stage of the Metropole Theatre, Birmingham, last week. The ugliness of the one was of course, caused by a skilful make-up for the purpose of the play—the claim to beauty of the other rested upon the judgment of a jury of half-a-dozen local gentlemen, the competition being arranged by Mr Frederick Melville. About twenty-five ladies competed, and a prize and a consolation prize were duly awarded.

A GOOD many people are complaining of indistinctness of speech among the Berlin actors and actresses, and the German press is beginning to take up the matter. Herr Julius Keller, one of the best Berlin dramatic critics, has given utterance to the opinion that German artistes, in their efforts to be natural, become careless in speech. This, our correspondent assures us, is a positive fact, and the evil has been growing steadily for some time.

MR GILBERT MILLER, the son of Mr Henry Miller, a well-known American actor, is serving as a private in the marine corps on the U.S. cruiser Denver at League Island, San Francisco. He carries a musket and scrubs the decks according to the commands of his superiors. The young man's position is the result of a dispute between him and his father. Gilbert, who was educated in England, was anxious to follow his father's footsteps, but Miller, senior, was opposed to this. So the son secured an engagement with Miss Amelia Bingham in *The Climbers*; and although he had but a small part, he displayed considerable ability. The father refused to withdraw his opposition, and the youth answered, "All right, I'll give it up and be a soldier." He marched to the recruiting officer, and "joined." That was eight months ago. Since then father and son have become reconciled, and the popular actor has several times visited his son on the island.

THE management of Drury-lane Theatre, having greatly enlarged and improved the seating capacity of the balcony of the house, have decided to permit booking seats for the pantomime in that part of the house, which was formerly unreserved. In future, places in the balcony, a tier which is now equal to the first and grand circles in comfort and accommodation, can be taken in advance on application at the box office.

MR OTHO STUART'S souvenir, to be presented to each member of the audience at the Adelphi Theatre on Wednesday evening, when the sixtieth performance of *The Taming of the Shrew* will be given, is an album containing portraits, in character, of all the principal members of the cast

SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT has accepted an invitation to deliver an address on the drama at the Royal Institution on the evening of Friday, March 17.

MR LEWIS WALLER'S cast for his brief but elaborate revival of *King Henry the Fifth* at the Imperial Theatre on Saturday evening will include, besides Mr Waller himself, Mr Owen Roughwood, Mr William Calvert, Mr Edward Ferris, Mr A. E. George, Mr Cecil M'Guinness, Mr H. Tripp Edgar, Mr Eric Scott, Mr Frank Woolfe, Mr Norman M'Kinnel, Mr Thomas Kingston, Miss Kate Ruskin Mr William Mollison, Mr John Beauchamp, Mr Frank Dyall, Mr Henry J. Carvill, Mr S. B. Brereton, Mr Arthur Lewis, Miss Mary Lewis, Miss Sarah Brooke, Miss Constance Walton, Miss Minnie Griffin, and Miss Mary Rorke.

MR MARTIN HARVEY will commence his spring tour on the 23rd inst. at Cheltenham, where he will play for three days, spending the rest of the week at Leamington. He will open at the Broadway Theatre, Deptford, on the following Monday for two weeks, which will be followed by a week at the Camden Theatre and a week at the King's, Hammersmith. His répertoire will consist of *The Only Way*, *The Breed of the Treshams*, and *After All*.

A DRAMATIC reading of *As You Like It* will be given by the British Empire Shakespeare Society on Sunday at the Art Gallery, Queen's-road, Bayswater. The "cast" will include Miss Mabel Hackney, Mr Laurence Irving, Mr A. E. Drinkwater, Mr Frank Lascelles, Mr Clive Currie, Mr Gordon Bailey, Mr Chris Walker, Mr Lewis Casson, Mr Lewis Willoughby, Mr Moncton Hoffe, and Misses Rita Jolivet, Helen Haye, Dorothy Rowe, Hazel Thompson, and others. The reading will be under the direction of Mr Acton Bond.

MADAME SUZANNE ADAMS will again be a member of the Grand Opera Company at Covent-garden during the forthcoming season, making the eighth consecutive year she has been connected with this organisation.

THIS week *Zapfenstreich* fills the evening bill of the German company at the Great Queen-street Theatre. There will be a matinée of Gerhart Hauptmann's stirring play, *Die Weber*, to-day. On Monday *Alt Heidelberg* will be played, and on Tuesday there will be another performance of *Zapfenstreich*. On Wednesday *Ein Rabonvater*, a farcical comedy, in three acts, will be given. Mr Arthur Bourchier holds the exclusive English rights of this play, as well as the right of production in German, and Messrs Andresen and Behrend are indebted to him for his courtesy in allowing them to present it.

MR ALFRED LESTER, who has been so successful with his summer stock seasons in the past few years, and who met with gratifying results last summer at the Theatre Royal, Cardiff, has arranged with Mr William Forsdike to run a six weeks' stock season at the Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield, in June and July.

UNDER the auspices of Mr J. T. Grein, acting on behalf of an influential committee in Russia, London, and New York, a Russian company will produce in Russian at the Avenue Theatre, on Saturday, Eugen Techirikoff's play *The Chosen People*, which has already been performed in Russia and Germany. The play deals with the miserable condition of the Jews in Russia under the present régime. This will be the first occasion on which a Russian company of actors has visited this country. The management, by kind permission of Messrs Hans Andresen and Max Behrend, will be placed in the hands of Mr B. A. Meyer.

MR E. J. ABBOTT, head of the firm of Abbott, Deeley, Hill, and Co., of Bennett's-hill, Birmingham, and chairman of the Theatre Royal Co., Birmingham, died in London on Thursday, last week. Mr Abbott, who occupied many public positions, had been seriously ill at his residence, The Austins, Handsworth, for a considerable time, and on Saturday, Dec. 30, he was removed to London in order to undergo an operation, which, unfortunately, proved fatal. The funeral took place on Tuesday, the 10th, at Handsworth Parish Church, Birmingham.

FRANCO LEONI'S *Ib and Little Christina* has been accepted for production at the Paris Opera Comique, and M. Jean Richepin is preparing an adaptation of Captain Basil Hood's libretto. The piece will probably be produced in April with the new opera, *La Cabrera*, by Dupont, which recently gained the £2,000 prize offered by Sonzogno, the great Italian editor.

THE cast of *The Designers*, the original farcical comedy, in three acts, by Fritz Zorn, which will be produced at the Brixton Theatre on Feb. 13, will include Messrs W. Hargreaves, Edmund O'Grady, William Luff, Arthur Dennis, Frank Lester, Herbert Lloyd, Gerald Clark, A. Smith, and Miss Dorothy Sidney, Miss Mignon Hester, and Miss Ina Rozant,

MR G. V. KEAST, who wrote the pantomime now running at Plymouth Theatre Royal, and was the author of many similar productions in the provinces, died at his residence at Stonehouse on the 6th inst, at the comparatively early age of fifty-six. He was a well-known journalist in the West, and a humourist of considerable ability.

MISS NELLIE CLARENCE gave on Twelfth Night an entertainment to the patients and staff in Charing-cross Hospital. The programme included a three act farcical comedy, and songs and recitations by Mr George Thorne, of Savoy Theatre fame, and who acted as Miss Nellie Clarence's stage-manager. The entertainment was an unqualified success, and a vote of thanks was given to Miss Clarence and her kind helpers.

THERE has been trouble in San Francisco concerning the rights in *Old Heidelberg*. On learning that the Majestic Theatre management intended producing the Mansfield version, Messrs Belasco and Mayer, proprietors of the Alcazar Theatre and sole owners of the right to the play on the Pacific Coast, decided to give an elaborate production of it. Eighteen of the best singers in San Francisco were engaged, and Mr John Craig was secured for the leading rôle.

AT Wednesday's meeting of the Lambeth Board of Guardians, a letter was read from Mr J. Murray Elliott, of the Brixton Theatre, inviting the children under the control of the board at Norwood Schools to go to a matinée and witness the pantomime of *Aladdin*, free of charge. Lieutenant-Colonel Mackinlay moved that the invitation should not be accepted. He contended that by allowing children under their control to attend theatres the guardians would be subjecting them to great moral danger. Mr Bellati seconded, contending that the children already had sufficient entertainments provided them at the schools. Mr Philcox opposed the resolution, failing to see there was anything wicked or immoral in a theatre. He was surprised the resolution had been moved, and objected to guardians being looked on as "kill-joys." The Rev. E. Denny did not think children could come to any harm by attending a decent theatre. He thought pauper children should go out a little more, like other children. It seemed to him very strange that any objection should be raised to the acceptance of the invitation. After further discussion a vote was taken, with the result that ten voted for the motion and six against, and the clerk was therefore instructed to write and thank Mr Elliott for the invitation, but to decline it.

MR GEORGE ALEXANDER, when he presents at the St. James's Theatre Mr Alfred Sutro's new play, *Mollentrave on Women*, will not himself take part in the performance, but he has engaged Mr Eric Lewis, Mr Norman M'Kinnel, Mr Leslie Faber, Mr E. Vivian Reynolds, Miss Lettice Fairfax, and Miss Marion Terry for the production.

THE Stage Society will present at the Court Theatre on the afternoons of the 30th and 31st inst. a modern comedy in three acts, by G. S. Street, called *Great Friends*. In the cast will be Mr Dawson Millward, Mr Philip Leslie, Mr Lewis Casson, Miss Dorothy Grimston, and Miss Gertrude Kingston. Mr Clifford Brooke will be the stage-manager.

MRS LEWIS-HILL, who was so well known before her second marriage as Mrs "Sam" Lewis, recently offered a prize of £50 for the best pianoforte quintette, the judges being Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Dr. Frederic Cowen, and Herr Schönberger. There were over thirty compositions submitted. Mr Hamilton Harty, the successful competitor, is a particularly fine accompanist.

MR OSMAN EDWARDS will read to the Playgoers' Club on Sunday, at the Hotel Cecil, a paper on "The Nursery and the Stage." The chair will be taken by Miss Queenie Leighton, the "principal boy" in *The White Cat* at Drury-lane Theatre.

AT the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, the other day, during a rehearsal of *Fidelio*, a large upright piano standing up the stage came sliding down it and headed for the orchestra. It reached the footlights and went over into the orchestra, which, fortunately, the players had just vacated, or they might have been seriously injured.

COLONEL W. F. CODY will sail for France in February with his Wild West show, which will remain several years in Europe. Colonel Cody is very fond of France, and was negotiating the purchase of a large estate near Paris on his last visit to the French capital.

AT the Leicestershire Bankruptcy Court, on the 6th inst., John H. Clarke, theatrical manager, of Leicester, came up for his public examination, with liabilities amounting to £1,300, and assets £50. He admitted, however, that there were £1,500 of other liabilities, and that he had previously failed for over £10,000. The debtor was wearing a gold albert, gold watch, and diamond ring, and he was asked to hand them over to the official receiver. He divested himself of the jewellery, and the official receiver took possession of it.

MISS ITALIA CONTI has been presented by Mr Aylmer Stander, the translator of Tolstoy's *Power of Darkness*, with a copy bearing the following inscription:—"To Miss Italia Conti, whose courage, quickness, and talent saved the Stage Society from a fiasco. With best wishes."

MR J. PITT HABDACRE, in the King's Bench Division on Thursday, obtained a verdict against Mr H. Armitage and others for performing the Wilson Barrett version of *East Lynne*, and infringing Mr Hardacre's rights. The points of the case are familiar to all our readers. Judgment was reserved until Monday upon points of law relating to copyright.

MR CLAUDE KING, who is leaving England for South Africa to-day in the s.s. Greek, has been engaged by Messrs Sass and Nelson to play Karl Heinrich, in *Old Heidelberg*; François Villon, in *If I Were King*; the title-rôle in *Monsieur Beaucaire*, Charles Surface, Young Marlowe, Orlando, and Orsino. With the exception of a short season in Brussels with Miss Madge Macintosh, this will be Mr King's first engagement out of England.

MR DUDLEY BENNETT may be congratulated on obtaining the services of Les Four Papillons in his pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham. These lady Terpsichorean experts are undoubtedly the finest dancers London has seen for many years. They have, with their smart appearance, dainty costumes, and agile and graceful manner, scored an emphatic success, and have become established favourites.

AT the committee meeting of the Touring Managers' Association, held at 23, Bedford-street, Strand, on the 6th inst., the resolution referred from the annual meeting to the committee with reference to taking suitable premises for offices was adopted, and a sub-committee was appointed to secure such premises. They will probably be entered into about Easter. The subscription in future will be one guinea and a half, which will include the use of the offices, where appointments can be made and letters written and received.

MR DUNCAN YOUNG, of the Opera House, Crouch-end, occupied a private box at the Dalston Theatre on Monday evening to witness the performance of the pantomime of *Sinbad*, after the rehearsal of which the disastrous fire occurred which shattered the hopes of the Crouch-end management. The appreciative manner of Mr Duncan Young's approval testified to the treat that the habitués of the Hornsey Temple of Thespis had lost. We trust the success which is sure to follow will make ample amends to the artists who have been such sufferers from the fire.

MISS ETHEL NETHERTON, who has played the title-part in Mr Mouillot's *A Runaway Girl* company for over two years, is a native of Plymouth, and received her early musical training from the late borough organist, Mr John Hele. Lili, in *The Transit of Venus*; and the principal parts in *A Greek Slave*, *The Geisha*, and *The Circus Girl* have also been undertaken by Miss Netherton with considerable success. She is particularly fond of horses, and drives a four-in-hand with confidence and skill.

THE Duke and Duchess of Connaught were present on Saturday, with the members of the Portuguese Royal Family, at a performance of Massenet's opera *Le Roi de Lahore* at the Lyric Theatre, Lisbon.

MR NOEL M'GUCKIN, who is making his first appearance in London with Mrs Langtry's company at Terry's Theatre on Wednesday, in *Mrs Dering's Divorce*, is a son of Mr Barton M'Guckin, the famous tenor vocalist.

AT the usual weekly meeting of the council, held last Tuesday, John W. Woodbridge, Constance Howard Medley, Winifred Leeson, Sibyl Lonsdale, Herbert Clayton, Christine Silver, Naomi Neilson, T. Langton-Lane, Herbert Bunston, Violet Sims, Frances Aline Leslie, Estelle Despa, T. Harry Irvine, John Collins, Walter Pemberton, Mary Pemberton, H. Buckstone Clair, and Mabel Ormonde were elected members of the Actors' Association, and Phyllis Carr, Jean Donovan, Cecil Wyndham Standing, and Katherine Carroll were nominated as candidates for election as members. A former member was reinstated. The hon. solicitors reported having advised several members upon points submitted. A question having arisen as to the alleged insufficiency of means of egress at a provincial theatre in case of fire, the secretary was instructed to bring the matter again before the council at the next meeting, when the manager's reply to the complaint made would be further considered, and the promised alterations discussed in detail. Matters in reference to the holding of the fourteenth annual general meeting of the Actors' Association, at an early date, were under discussion, and the secretary received instructions.

IN the cast of Mr R. C. Carton's new three-act farce, which is being rehearsed at the Avenue Theatre, are Mr Fred Kerr, Mr Henry Kemble, Mr Graham Browne, Mr Henry J. Ford, Mr Charles Allan, Mr Athol Stewart, Mr Henry Stephenson, Mr Hubert Drury, Miss Annie Hughes, Miss O'Malley, and Miss Compton.

THE many friends of Mr Arthur Milton, proprietor of the Milton-Rays' companies, will be sorry to hear that he has been seriously ill for the last fortnight, but, with the careful nursing of his devoted wife and the attention of Dr. Mooney, he is slowly recovering. It will be some little time, however, before he is convalescent. His son, Mr Milton Rosmer, is ably looking after Mr Milton's interests, although Mr Rosmer has had to refuse two excellent London offers in order to do so.

THE cutting of the Baddeley cake at Drury-lane Theatre on Twelfth Night was performed with all due ceremony by Mr Harry Nicholls, who made a brief but eloquent speech to the assembled guests.

A CURIOUS incident recently occurred in connection with the pantomime of *Little Red Riding Hood*, which is running merrily at the Grand Theatre, Derby. A little brown terrier conceived a great admiration for the pantomime, and insisted on coming to see it nightly. He managed to elude the vigilance of the doorkeepers, and got in regularly, only to be ejected when discovered. One day last week it appeared in the gallery and joined in one of the choruses. The whole staff pursued it, but to no purpose, and at the conclusion of the performance the dog quietly went out with the other members of the audience.

THE company appearing in *The Scilly Girl*, the new musical comedy by Messrs Athol Mayhew and William Neale, under the direction of Mr Frank Nelson and Mr Charles Cautley, will return to town next week, after its very successful five weeks' trip. The production will be reorganised and improved, and the piece, greatly strengthened, will go out on tour again on Feb. 27, with a chorus of twenty-four, a company of over forty, seventy new sets of scenery by Egerton, and a liberal supply of tasteful and expensive costumes. Everything will be carried, the production only requiring a clear stage.

AT the meeting of the Dramatic Debaters' Society last Sunday evening Mr Aylmer Maude gave a clever and interesting lecture on Tolstoy and his play *The Power of Darkness*. Before the debate that followed Mr Grein, the president of the society, who was in the chair, made an announcement to the effect that though up to the present no actor or actress had been asked to join the society, yet there were present at this meeting two ladies who had rendered such service to their art that the committee proposed to ask them to accept honorary membership. He would mention Miss Italia Conti first—as her feat in taking up the part of Anisya in Tolstoy's great masterpiece at a moment's notice was fresh in everyone's minds—and he would ask his dear old friend Mrs Theodore Wright—whose services to the drama were too well known to require naming—if she would consent to join Miss Conti as a member of the Dramatic Debaters' Society. The ladies replied, thanking the president and the committee for the great compliment which had been paid them.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH" has created quite a sensation in Plymouth, and Miss Beatrice Homer wins the highest praise in this difficult and trying rôle. Crowds of curious women waited to see Miss Homer leave the theatre on Tuesday last to see the Ugliest Woman off the stage, and one young lady was heard to say to Miss Homer, "Why, you're quite 'andsome."

AT the New York Metropolitan Opera House last Saturday, in the course of the performance of *Carmen*, a large property bridge collapsed, many of the chorus falling amidst the broken timbers on the singers below. Madame Aokté, who was playing Micaela, had her foot injured, but, though suffering great pain, bravely continued her part. Her shoe was cut off, and she wore a slipper for the remainder of the evening. After first aid had been rendered to the injured, Mr Frank Palmer, the stage-manager, was arrested and taken to the police-station.

FUNERAL OF MADAME BELLE COLE.

The funeral of Madame Belle Cole, who died on the 5th inst, took place on Monday at Putney Vale Cemetery. The body was conveyed by road from the residence of the deceased lady at South Kensington. A large number of relatives and friends attended, including Mr John Calvin Cole (husband), Mr Sharpe (nephew), Mrs Sharpe (niece), Madame Paléologue, Miss Geddes, Mrs and Miss Gordon, Mrs Scott, Mrs Sands, Dr. Fitzgerald, Mr Coleman, Mr Fitzroy, Mr Guy Sands, Mr Henri, Mr W. Shankland, Mr Baddeley, and Mr Monteith Fisher. The service, which was that of the Established Church, was conducted by the Rev. Ernest J. A. Fitzroy, a friend of the family, who delivered a brief appreciative address before the committal of the body to the grave. He said they were mourning not only one who was dear to them but one who had used the great gift of her voice to the glory of God and to the delight of her fellow-creatures. A good voice was a blessing to anyone who used it properly, but it could also be made a curse, Madame Belle Cole had used her gift to the holiest and best effect. As one who had watched her career with considerable interest he was able to testify to her kindness of heart and sympathy. She had been of great assistance to other singers who had not been so high in the profession as herself. He particularly remembered a case in which she had considerably helped an orphan girl at Liverpool in her education as a singer, and had otherwise looked after her interests. Her example, indeed, was such that they should all try to imitate it. The coffin, which was of English oak, bore the following inscription:—"Belle Cole, Died 5th January, 1905." There were numerous floral tributes, one of the most conspicuous being a yellow chrysanthemum wreath with the motto "O rest in in the Lord," which was deceased's favourite air. The following societies also sent floral tokens of affection and esteem:—The American Society of Women, the Eccentric Club, the National Sunday League, and Our Dumb Friends' League.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

Most heartily we wish many, many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Edward Compton, actor—Saturday, Jan. 14
Dolly Harmer, music hall artist—Jan. 14
Nellie Walters, burlesque actress—Jan. 14.
Rutland Barrington, actor—Sunday, Jan. 15.
Helen Palgrave, actress—Sunday, Jan. 15
Fay Rivington, actress—Sunday, Jan. 15
Minnie Cunningham, music hall artist—Jan. 15.
Georgina Middleton, music hall artist—Jan. 15.
Jean De Reszke—Sunday, Jan. 15.
J. Forbes Robertson, actor—Monday, Jan 16.
Janet Achurch, actress—Tuesday, Jan. 17.
Edith Kenward, actress—Tuesday, Jan. 17.
Richard Warner, agent—Tuesday, Jan. 17.
Sam Poluski, music hall artist—Tuesday, Jan. 17.
Frank Travis, music hall artist—Tuesday, Jan. 17.
Philip Sefton, actor—Tuesday, Jan. 17.
Amy M'Kay—Tuesday, Jan. 17.
Olga Nethersole, actress—Wednesday, Jan. 18.
Amy Grace, actress—Wednesday, Jan. 18.
Thomas Courtice, business-manager—Jan. 18.
Johnny Schofield, comedian—Wednesday, Jan. 18.
Rose Hamilton, burlesque actress—Jan. 20

FRESH AIR FUND MATINEE.

The little people certainly "had it all their own own way" at the matinée for the benefit of the Fresh Air Fund which was given at the St. James's Theatre on Tuesday. They were here, there, and everywhere. Children were on the stage, and children were applauding—or envying—them in the auditorium. In the passages fond mothers were seen wrapping up their "little brood" after their perspiration-producing efforts on the boards. Children, in their efforts to get at their friends, walked cheerfully upon the feet of their helpless seniors in the stalls, and, in the vestibule, other children, having disposed of many souvenirs, exultantly handed over their earnings to the promoters of the entertainment. The chief item of the afternoon was the production of a fairy play, in one act, by Netta Syrett, music by Dalhousie Young, entitled

"WHITE MAGIC."

The Queen	DOROTHEA SELOUS
The Witch	GRACE CORBETT
The Princess	MARIE LOHR
The Prince	ROBERT BOTTOMLEY
Edelbert	GEOFFREY DEARMER
The Dryad	BERTHA SELOUS
Thistledown	DOROTHY BARRETT
Flowerfoam	ALISON WHITE
Blue Butterfly	BARBARA BUTTAR
Dragon Fly	MARGUERITE LUCK
Malabo	CHRISTOPHER DEARMER

The scene of this pretty piece was a wood, with a cottage on one side of the picture. Here dwelt a witch, who was consulted, for bad purposes of her own, by a certain Queen, who wanted an eligible Prince to marry her own daughter, instead of her step-child, a fair and good Princess. So it was arranged between her Majesty and the sorceress that the Princess should be brought to the witch to take lessons in witchcraft, so that the Prince, being informed of the habits of the young lady, should refuse to wed her. Unfortunately for the schemes of the conspirators, the Prince came to the wood by accident, met the Princess, and fell in love with her. She was protected, too, by a good fairy, otherwise the Dryad. Thus, when the Queen made the accusation of witchcraft, which was endorsed by the witch, instead of demon sprites appearing to condemn the Princess, a number of beautiful and virtuous fairies presented themselves. Whereupon, the Prince, who previously had "had his doubts," was convinced of the Princess's innocence, and they were betrothed. The best performance in the production was given by Miss Grace Corbett, who was picturesquely villainous as the witch; and Miss Marie Löhr was gentle and pleasing as the Princess. Mr Robert Bottomley acted intelligently as the Prince; and Miss Bertha Selous spoke her lines distinctly as the Dryad. There were some pretty dances done by juveniles and arranged by Mr and Mrs H. Louis D'Egville. Another item was the performance of scenes from *The Tempest* by children appearing at His Majesty's Theatre. Miss Maggie Jarvis as Ferdinand and Miss Clarisse Batchelor as Miranda had a fair notion of how those parts should be played, and their enunciation was good. It is not necessary to comment on the performances of the other juveniles; nor need we deal individually with the contributions made to the variety sketch called *A Musical Party*, in which little Miss Dorothy Neville sang "If no one ever marries me" with delicate daintiness. Like Thackeray's paper in "Pendennis," which was written "by gentlemen for gentlemen," the Fresh Air Fund matinée was given by children for children; and as both performers and audience were pleased and the Fund was benefited, little more need be said. The children's dances, however, were worthy of praise. Miss Nancy Buckland and Miss Phillis Monkman, who joined in the "Golly wog" duet from *The Cingalee*, had the advantage of the instruction and help of Miss Gracie Leigh and Mr Huntley Wright. Mr and Mrs D'Egville had arranged four "action songs" with dances, the music being composed by Mr Wakeling Dry. These were prettily gone through by pupils from Messrs Bellew and Stock's Academy. Miss Phillis Yorke sang the Sweep Song from *The Orchid*, assisted by members of Mr Stedman's choir, Mr Sydney Ellison being responsible for the production. With regard to an entertainment of this kind serious criticism is, of course, quite uncalled-for. In the case of the two little "toddlers," who in *White Magic*, attired as fairies, seemed half dazed by their surroundings and half blinded by the light, the confusion, and the various noises, censure was entirely disarmed. It would have been an act of *lèse-majesté* against "King Baby."

AMUSEMENTS IN BOMBAY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BOMBAY, DEC. 23, 1904.—VICTORIA THEATRE.—Sandow has shown for fourteen days here to such houses as have never gladdened the eyes of any previous entertainer in India. His tour has been an unqualified success, and each evening the cultured athlete had to come forward again and again to acknowledge the enthusiasm of crowds of Europeans and natives, some of whom travelled miles to see him. In every station of note on his way from Calcutta there were crowds of folk eager to see Sandow, and he had quite a royal welcome here in Bombay. The popular tenor, well-known in India and the East, Mr Will Lansdowne, was a great favourite with all. World and Kingston, a pair of really quaint Yankee humourists, were a big hit, the scarecrow dance by them being a novelty to Indian audiences. Alva, another American, was quite a host in himself as an expert conjuror. The Sisters Mowbray always take well here, as they have toured India for some years under various managements, and are, of course, very popular.

WE have two circuses here, Chatre and More, both native but well worth seeing, and to-night our old friend Warren's Circus opens. He has some old faces from home, and we anticipate a successful season for them.

TOWN HALL.—Mr Edward Branscombe, the popular English tenor, and his glee singers, known as the Westminster Glee Singers, have just had a very short successful season here. They are touring the world, and have been in Canada, America, South Africa, Australia, and are now doing India and China.

A LARGE and attractive collection of signed photographs of celebrities of the stage is being shown by Mr William J. May at an exhibition of photographs and pictures at Aldershot this week. The series includes many well-known actors and actresses, leading professional singers and musicians.

MR KENNEDY ALLEN, who has speedily become popular in the Stratford Borough pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, by his capital performance as Hassarac, assumed at a moment's notice, on Saturday night last, owing to the sudden indisposition of Mr Nat Clifford, the important rôle of Ali Babi, contributing also his own special numbers as well as undertaking, in conjunction with Miss Claire Romaine, the burlesque duet "Prophets," which Mr Clifford and Miss Romaine have made such an important feature of the pantomime. It says much for Mr Allen's resourcefulness that his rendering of an entirely unfamiliar rôle was highly to the liking of the huge audience present, and at the conclusion of the performance he was the recipient of unstinted applause, in which the pantomime principals also joined. We are pleased to learn that Mr Clifford was better on Monday, and able to resume his part.

AT the last performance by the D'Oyly Carte opera company at the Lyceum, Newport, last Saturday, Mr Sidney Cooper made his appeal for the local hospital, when the handsome sum of £23 4s. 6d. was collected, a cheque for the amount being immediately handed to the treasury.

"THE ACTORS' BENEVOLENT FUND."

"HOW TO HELP IT."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—After considering Mr Raleigh's scheme, I am compelled to oppose it on the following grounds:—The income from matinées is too uncertain. Are there 300 theatres that would show an average of £25 per matinée on an off day after paying for the lighting, the stage-hands, money and check-takers, dressers, cleaners, and bandsmen, or allowing their charities to share in the takings? I think if we name 200 theatres, we are doing very well.

Again, if all the London theatres are to give matinées on the same day, they will be competing against each other on an off day for business, if it is not to interfere with the run of the play. Do the public support our present benefit matinées, with special programmes, in sufficient numbers to hope for a return of £7,500? Personally I think the actor himself supports in no small degree the present matinées, which he will be debarred from doing if he is in an engagement, and if he is out of one, he can hardly be expected to pay for entrance to the theatre.

Then would any manager be willing to admit the poor drawing powers of his play by allowing the members of his company to give extra turns, when another theatre on the other side of the Strand offering the same style of play is considered sufficient attraction without them?

Now permit me to go into figures of my penny in the pound tax:—

50	Companies with a salary list of £200 per week =		£10,000
50	"	£150 "	£7,500
50	"	£100 "	£5,000
50	"	£50 "	£2,500
100	"	£25 "	£2,500

That at forty weeks in the year would give the A. B. F. an income of £4,583 odd, and when you reckon the odd pence derived from the odd shillings in salaries, the income would be nearer or quite £5,000 a year. Now, to collect this, I suggest the Fund issue six tickets of one, two, three, four, five, and ten pence each to the managers of the companies, and they in making up their salaries enclose them in the envelopes with the full salary and collect the pence from the actor whose duty it would be to see they are correct, and to destroy them. A salary of one guinea pays a tax of 2d.; a salary of £2 15s. pays a tax of 3d.

I ask you, Sir, if you are issuing voting papers to find room for this scheme, and I appeal to all actors and actresses to vote for the certainty in place of the very little bigger uncertainty.

Yours faithfully, Q. M'PHERSON.
Empire Theatre, New York, U.S.A.,
Dec. 26, 1904.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—In your issue of Dec. 24 I read the letter from Mr Charles Cruikshanks setting forth roughly, as he puts it, a scheme by which Mr Cecil Raleigh's suggestion of a matinée throughout the kingdom on a certain day in aid of the Actors' Benevolent Fund may be carried into effect. It seems to me that the scheme he puts forward is more than the nucleus of an idea, and carries the notion very much further than could have been expected, except from anyone of such well-known methodical and business ability as Mr Cruikshanks. As I wrote you a few weeks ago supporting Mr Raleigh's primary idea, I now would like to say that I most heartily concur in the proposition set forth by Mr Cruikshanks for the carrying out of the scheme of matinées throughout the kingdom by every company performing at a certain time. I for one shall most heartily hope to see it carried out, and I think that the thanks of everybody interested are due to Mr Cruikshanks for the thought and care he has given to the matter, and for laying his plans before the council; and to the council for so heartily taking the matter up. I suppose, from what my old friend John Maclean used to call the "shouts of silence" on this question of a general matinée meeting, that it is carried unanimously. At any rate, I have not seen any correspondence condemning it. I hope the council will go ahead and endeavour to concentrate the scheme and carry it into effect.

Yours faithfully, W. LESTOCQ.
34, Norfolk-street, Strand, W.C., Jan. 12.

THEATRICAL ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Westminster County Court, on Tuesday, Judge Woodfall gave judgment in the case of James Willing and Co. v. Maynard. Mr Lewis (of Messrs Dodd and Longstaffe) were for the plaintiffs, and Mr Lloyd Humphreys appeared for the defendant.

Plaintiffs, the advertising agents, claimed a sum of £13 from Mr Richard Maynard, for advertisements issued in respect of the Court Theatre.

Mr Lewis explained that in December, 1903, the defendant approached the plaintiffs and told them that he was solely interested in the production at the Court Theatre, of *Snowdrop and the Seven Little Men*. Plaintiffs undertook the advertising, and were paid altogether by Mr Maynard £220. The last money due, £13, represented a week's advertising, and this the defendant refused to pay on the ground that a syndicate for which he said he had been acting was liable.

Evidence was given by employees of the plaintiffs' firm that they always believed they were dealing with Mr Maynard as a principal.

Mr Richard Maynard, the defendant, deposed that he told Messrs Willing's manager he was advertising for a syndicate, and said that the cheques he signed were always stamped 'Snowdrop Syndicate."

Judge Woodfall held that the defendant had made himself personally liable to the plaintiffs, who had previously had business with him, for it was incredible to believe that they would have entered into such a heavy contract with a syndicate of which they knew absolutely nothing. He accordingly gave judgment for plaintiffs for the amount claimed.

Mr Maynard said his present salary was a very small one. He could only offer 10s. a month.

Judge Woodfall pointed out that Mr Maynard had a remedy against the syndicate, and said that if, within fourteen days, he entered an action against the latter, he might apply to the Court for a further stay of execution.

HOCKEY.

MISS CECILIA FOWLER'S LADIES ATHLETIC TEAM V. COTHAM AND REDLAND LADIES ATHLETIC CLUB.

Played near Clifton Downs on Jan. 7. During the end of the first-half Miss W. Bradley was injured and had to retire, Miss F. Hooper went on in her place. The following were the teams:—

Miss Cecilia Fowler's Ladies Athletic Team.—Miss E. Bowman, goal; Miss L. Carter and Miss I. Bowman, backs; Miss N. Bailey, Miss C. Fowler (captain), and Miss G. Thomas half-backs; Miss A. Bernard, Miss B. Godfrey, Miss T. Maynard, Miss K. Elvin, and Miss G. Leonard, forwards.

Cotham and Redland Ladies Athletic Club.—Miss M. Fisher, goal; Miss A. Gibbs and Miss E. Francis (of Miss Cecilia Fowler's Eleven), backs; Miss E. Lawrence, Miss N. Lewis, and Miss L. Norris, half-backs; Miss W. Bradley (captain), Miss A. Mitchell, Miss N. Lawrence, Miss K. Montgomery, and Miss M. Burgess, forwards.

Referee, Miss E. Lewis (of Cheltenham). Result:—Miss Cecilia Fowler's Ladies Team, one goal; Cotham and Redland Ladies Athletic Team, three goals. Misses G. Thomas, L. Norris, E. Francis and N. Lawrence scored for their respective sides.

MR FELIX PITT has been engaged by Mr Louis Calvert for his tour with *The Garden of Lies*.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MR. FRANK LACY.

THE subject of our biography this week has had a long and—for a comparatively young man—varied career, having played nearly all lines of business before settling down to that of a light comedian, with an occasional serious juvenile part. After leaving King's College School, where he had as contemporaries many who have since earned fame on the stage, Mr Lacy started life in the City, and after trying his hand at various things there and meantime playing many parts with the Lotus Amateur Dramatic Club, he elected to take up seriously an actor's calling, and after much waiting at stage doors and the writing of many letters managed to obtain an engagement to appear as a guest in the drawing-room scene of *The Dean's Daughter*, at the St. James's Theatre, in 1888, under the management of Mr Rutland Barrington, and had for a partner as a lady guest Miss Irene Vanbrugh. Then when a first piece was required *A Patron Saint* was chosen, Mr Lacy was fortunately (he says importunately) selected for the part of the flunkey, consisting of a single line. But at the first rehearsal the author, Mr Charles Thomas, got the idea that the part could be, not made more of, but could be made more, with the result that lines were written in and fresh scenes introduced, making the one line part into a nice little character comedy sketch. After *The Dean's Daughter* came *Brantinghame Hall*, in which Mr Lacy played the part of Jim Blueby, and sang the song which took the curtain up on the first act. In this play Miss Julia Neilson made her début, if we except the matinée in which she played Galatea. This engagement was followed by a provincial tour with *Chispa*, an American comedy-drama, in which Mr Lacy not only played three parts and looked after the stage-management, but had to change back from one character to the other continually. Then a tour as Captain Cameron, in *The Balloon*, then as Capt. Julian Chandler, in *The Middleman*, and from that was specially engaged to play Edwin Honeydew, in *New Lamps for Old*, that clever comedy by Jerome K. Jerome, and was twice re-engaged. Then a short tour as Frederick Leighton Buzzard, in *The Bungalow*, and Mr Lacy joined *A Pantomime Rehearsal* at the Shaftesbury Theatre to play Sir Charles Grandison, during the run of which Mr George Edwardes engaged him to play Brogden, in *First Mate*, the two-act comedy which was played in front of *Joan of Arc* at the Gaiety, and *A Pantomime Rehearsal* not starting till ten o'clock, he was able to fulfil both engagements. Migrating with *A Pantomime Rehearsal* to Toole's Theatre, ultimately to the Court, the triple bill was augmented by *A Highland Legacy*, and Mr Lacy played the part of Cavendish Howley. Then when the triple bill came to an end, a short provincial tour with a new comic opera by Bucalossi, entitled *Brother George*, and then back in town to create the parts of Beaujour, in *The Broken Melody*, and Harold Hernshaw, in *The White Lady*, at the

Photo by Swain.

MR. FRANK LACY.

Prince of Wales' Theatre. Then came a country engagement as Reginald Foster (Mr Charles Hawtrey's part), in *Godpapa*; Peter Fletcher, in *Uncle*; and Felix Featherstone, in *Snowball*; Charles Fullalove, in *The Noble Art*; Corney Griffin, in *Niobe*; Charles Middlewick, in *Our Boys*; Reginald Sylvester, in *Our Flat*; and back to London to support Miss Minnie Palmer as Captain John Rattlebrain, in *The Little Widow*, at the Royalty Theatre. Then came a two years' engagement with Mr William Greet to play Don Juan, in *Little Christopher Columbus*, then engagements as Robert Walker, in *Sweet Seventeen*; Chevalier de Vaudray, in *Two Orphans*; Dr. Bill, in *Dr. Bill*; and then came a tour of South Africa, playing a round of Shakespearian and Robertsonian comedies; back in England at the Shaftesbury Theatre understudying Mr Yorke Stephens in *The Sorrows of Satan*, then off again on tour to play Felix Crackle, in Mr Geo. R. Sims's *Skipped by the Light of the Moon*, followed by a tour as the Earl of Kilbeggan, in *The Ballet Girl*. Mr Lacy was then engaged to create the part of Christopher Rook, in *Black and White*, and remained with that piece until he had to leave to fulfil an engagement to create the part of Dandy Triplett, in *Little Miss Nobody*, at the Lyric Theatre. Then to the Princess's Theatre to play the juvenile leading parts in *Alone in London* and *In Old Kentucky*. Then Mr Lacy was engaged by Sir Henry Irving to create the part of De Pons, in the Lyceum production of *Robespierre*, and received an offer, which he was obliged to decline, to accompany Sir Henry to America; and off on tour again to play Dr. Shepherd, in *Oh! Susannah*, when he was engaged to create the part of the Hon. Bertie Ferrars in Mr Milton Bode's production of *Night Birds of London*, from which he was engaged to create the part of Arthur Sportington in *When a Man's Married*. Then to the Strand Theatre to play the part of Bertie O'Brien in *Newspaper Nuptials*, when Mr Lacy was engaged to produce and to play the part of Dick Oswald in *Brother Bill*. Then a suburban tour as George D'Alroy in *Caste*, with Mr G. W. Anson, a tour as Reggie Brownhill in *Broun at Brighton*, following the Avenue production, and Mr Lacy was then engaged to support Mr Henry Neville, as Edward Falkner, in *The Liars*, at the termination of which he was engaged by Mr Charles Frohman to play Sir Harry Harmon in *Billy's Little Love Affair*, and was re-engaged by Mr Percy Hutchison to play Capt. Fritz in *The Money Makers*. Mr Lacy was kindly released by Mr Percy Hutchison from the last three weeks of his engagement with *The Money Makers* company to enable him to play a part in Mr Arthur Bourchier's Christmas production of *Little Black Sambo and Little White Barbara* at the Garrick Theatre.

THE proprietors of several Liverpool theatres, including the Court, Shakespeare, Star, and Queen's, recently allowed collections to be made at their establishments in aid of the Children's Infirmary. About £60 was realised.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LA MASSIERE,"
Comedy, in Four Acts, by M. Jules Lemaître,
Produced at the Renaissance, Jan. 11.

Marèze	M. LUCIEN GUITRY
Garnsteau	M. BOISSELOT
Jacques Marèze	M. MAURY
Burette	M. BLISSETT
Juliette Dupuy	Mdlle. MARTHE BRANDÈS
Madame Marèze	Madame ANNA JUDIC
Madame Durand	Madame SAMARY
Suzanne	Mdlle. JANE HELLER
Marthe	Mdlle. RYTER
Rénée	Mdlle. LAVIGNE
Solange	Mdlle. LITTY BOSSA

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, JAN. 12.—M. Jules Lemaître, who, in an evil moment, gave up literature to devote himself to politics, has wisely resumed his former work and given us a new play, which met with a cordial reception. In the opening tableau we are in the Académie Justinian, one of those painting academies for young ladies, some of whom—the professionals—work seriously, whilst others, mostly wealthy young mondaines, have taken up Art as an amusement. Among the former is Juliette Dupuy, a charming, clever girl, whom her comrades have elected "Massière," a post of honour, which, in studio slang, means that on her devolves the duty of maintaining proper discipline in the school. But the pupils have not failed to notice the special attention which Marèze—their professor, a famous painter, a man about fifty-five—pays the "Massière;" and one of them, Suzanne, gives a funny imitation of the manner in which Marèze generally addresses Juliette. We soon discover that the pupils have hit upon the truth—the professor loves his young "Massière," the bread-winner for her widowed mother and little brother. She is a high-minded, hard-working girl, and Marèze admires her for her great qualities. He takes, as he thinks, nothing but a fatherly interest in her, but soon realises the fact that life without her near him would be a blank. Unfortunately, Marèze's wife has noticed her husband's partiality for Juliette. Her jealousy has been awakened, and she so far forgets herself as to start a violent scene with the girl, whom she forbids to re-enter the studio. Jacques, Marèze's son, has witnessed this painful scene, of which he ignores the reason, and reproaches his mother for her cruel conduct. He manages to meet Juliette several times, and resolves to make her his wife. When he informs his parents of his intentions, Madame Marèze, who still looks upon the girl as her rival, grows indignant and raises all kinds of objections. But her anger is nothing compared to the feelings roused in Marèze, sen., at the thought that his beloved pupil will be carried off by his own son. He in his turn has become jealous—jealous of his son. This time Madame Marèze understands the danger that threatens to undermine their happiness. Moreover, she has discovered that Juliette is worthy to be her son's wife, and Marèze, whose eyes have been opened to his own folly, consents to their marriage. The plot is by no means a novel one, but it is skilfully developed. It is, however, a matter of surprise to see M. Jules Lemaître make such fun of the Institut de France, of which he himself is a member. The interpretation, as is always the case at the Renaissance, was beyond praise. M. Guitry gave us a masterly impersonation of the infatuated Marèze, whom, however, he made appear older than should have been the case. In the ungrateful rôle of Madame Marèze Madame Judic won golden laurels. Time is dealing gently with this gifted artiste. Mdlle. Brandès sketched cleverly the gentle figure of the "Massière;" and we had a charming group of lady students in Mdlle. Heller, Mdlle. Ryter, and Mdlle. Lavigne.

MDLLE. DUCANGE, of the Theatre de Montrouge—where she was paid £12 per month—suddenly threw up her rôle and went to Algiers, where she was engaged at £40 per month. The manager of the Montrouge Theatre thereupon brought an action against the lady, claiming the £120 forfeit stipulated in the agreement. Mdlle. Ducange, who appeared in person, informed the Court that a serious reason had compelled her to leave Paris. She was suffering from rheumatism, and her doctor had told her that only a stay in a warm climate could cure her. The Tribunal, however, was of opinion that rheumatism could be cured in Paris as well as in Algiers, and ordered the young actress to pay the £120 claimed by her ex-manager.

M. LELOIR, the talented Sociétaire of the Comédie-Française, has read to Madame Sarah Bernhardt his five-act comedy. It was at once accepted, and will be brought out towards the end of the season.

MADAME SARAH BERNHARDT has fixed the 27th inst. for the production of Victor Hugo's *Angelo*.

AS I informed you already, M. Jules Claretie asked M. Jean Richepin to write *Don Quichotte* for the celebration of the fête to be given at the Comédie-Française in honour of Cervantès. M. Claretie has already ordered the scenery of the eight tableaux, and special attention will be paid to the costumes. The Cervantès fête will take place in May prox.

AT the Opéra-Comique several novelties are in preparation. After *Hélène* and *Xavière*, announced for next week, the rehearsals will begin of M. Alexandre Georges's lyric drama *Miarka*, to a libretto by M. Jean Richepin, and wherein the principal rôle will be sung by Miss Mary Garden. There is also a question of Madame Héglon appearing in this work, provided M. Gailhard gives his consent. Massenet's *Marie-Magdeleine* will also be put into rehearsal, and be brought out in April with Madame Calvé.

M. ALBERT CARRÉ has accepted *Ib and Little Christina*, by Basil Hood and Franco Leoni. M. Jean Richepin—who seems to be the *persona grata* at the Opéra-Comique, has been entrusted with the French translation.

M. LUGNÉ-POE, of the Théatre de L'Œuvre, promises us several interesting plays. Besides D'Annunzio's *La Gioconda* and *La Fille De Jorio*, the Œuvre will give us M. Joachim Gasquet's *Dionysos*, for which M. Leon Moreau has written the incidental music played at the Lamoureux concerts under M. Camille Chevillard's direction. Mdlle. Moreno will impersonate Dionysos.

ANOTHER novelty at the Œuvre will be Hugo De Hofmansthal's *Elektra*, with Madame Suzanne Desprès in the title-rôle. The work has been translated by MM. Paul Stroheker and Stephen Etienne.

M. URBAIN GOHIER continues to accuse M. Henry Bernstein with having for his comedy *Le Bercail*, appropriated the plot of *Les Chaines*, a play translated from the Russian. M. Gohier extended his accusation even to MM. Brieux and Sigaux, who, according to him, had also taken their story in *Desertuse* from the before-mentioned Russian play. But the Authors' Society acquitted MM. Brieux and Sigaux of this charge; and M. Bernstein has now brought an action against M. Gohier for libel, claiming £4,000 damages. There is, however, little chance of the case ever coming into court.

MR WILLIAM CLARKSON will take the chair at a House Dinner at the Playgoers' Club this evening.

"THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL" at the New Theatre is a "dream" of beautiful dresses, bright colour and handsome accessories, the date being the last decade of the eighteenth century, just before the great French Revolution. But the loveliest scene is a ball-room at a great English nobleman's house; and here is introduced a very handsome suite of Louis XVI. furniture, with gold frames and softly coloured brocades, one great tall-backed chair being enriched with heraldic blazonry. The furniture for the new play has been supplied by Messrs Oetzmann and Co., of Hampstead-road, whose names are always a guarantee of accuracy and good taste.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, NOV. 15, 1904. — PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Melbourne playgoers are fully enjoying the change in their dramatic diet afforded them in the charming play *Old Heidelberg*, which was produced on Saturday evening. Mr Clinton has made a very close study of the old tutor, Dr. Juttner, the result being in every way satisfactory. Of the other parts those undertaken by Mr Harcourt Beatty, Mr Harry Hill, Mr Malcolm Dunn, and Mr Dallas Cairns are most prominent, Miss Nellie Stuart gives a good account of herself as Kathie. The costumes and scenery are on Mr Musgrove's usual liberal scale. All things considered *Old Heidelberg* is reaping the success it deserves.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Closed in accordance with Board of Health injunction.

BIJOU THEATRE.—The latest sensation of the class of drama in which Mr Anderson's patrons specially delight was produced on Saturday night under the title *The Best Must Win*. The scenes of the play are laid in France, and all the characters belong to that volatile and entertaining race. Miss Duggan appeared at her best in some of the scenes and was well supported by the rest of the company.

OPERA HOUSE.—The American Travesty Stars produced on Saturday evening, a new "play without a plot" entitled *The Whirligig*, in conjunction with a second part under the title of *Pousse Café*. Taken on the whole these two productions are about on a par with the previous performances of this company. Most interesting of all was the work of the dancers and the well-trained chorus. Miss Lily Sutherland deserves special mention for the really clever and original "Yiddish cake-walk" which fairly brought down the house.

MESSRS WIRTH BROTHERS have been doing excellent business with their huge combined shows, consisting of circus of up-to-date performers and large wild beast menagerie. A feature of the entertainment is the introduction of a number of Wild West cowboys headed by Captain William M'Leod. Messrs Wirth Brothers deserve the highest praise for their clever trick riding on two magnificent pure-bred Arab horses.

SYDNEY, NOV. 15, 1904.—*Romeo and Juliet* succeeded *L'Aiglon* at Her Majesty's Theatre on the 12th and Mr J. C. Williamson staged the Shakespearian tragedy elaborately. The scenery was excellent, a notable departure being cloisters with floral courtyards instead of the gloomy cell in which Friar Lawrence was wont to arrange the youthful lovers' wedding. Miss Tittell Brune was the Juliet, and gave a charmingly interesting portrait. Sweetly melodious in speech, never exaggerating, but ever alert for every point, the youthful actress won success step by step, until the crowded house shouted commendation and loudly demanded the reappearance of their favourite again and again. Mr A. E. Greenaway was the Romeo, and played the part most expressively. The unctuous voice and stately dignity of Mr Gaston Mervale made for us an excellent Friar Lawrence. He was fatherly and friendly both. Mr Roy Redgrave made a decidedly good impression as Mercutio. He looked well and dressed superbly, as did, indeed, all Mr Williamson's company. Miss Mabel Lane as Lady Capulet was beautiful and dignified. Miss Clara Stephenson, a fine actress in the seventies, was the Nurse, a very capable impersonation. Mr Harry Sweeney—the worthy son of a worthy father—made a handsome and graceful Paris, speaking capitally. The angry Capulet was well acted by Mr Roland Stavely, and Mr J. B. Atholwood was a perfect Apothecary. Miss Mayers made a handsome Lady Montague.

"SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK," an American melodrama of lower life, is Mr Walter Sandford's Lyceum bill at present. Without being heavy or bloodthirsty, the play has some vivid situations, notably the attack on and rescue of the bank safe. Mr Sanford is the hero, Arthur Burton, and the villain, Rochester, could not be better acted than by Mr Johnson Weir. Miss Ada Clare makes a repulsive character sketch of Mother Bergman. Miss Laura Wall is a sentimental Agnes Jasper, and a bright and coquettish Lottie Blake comes from Miss Adelaide Boothby. Mr George Kunkel is an excellent Soloman Ernstein.

THE TIVOLI had a novelty on Saturday in the Reseda Sextette, a group of sweet singers and graceful dancers, giving a pleasing turn. The return of an old favourite, Harry Fitte, under his new name of Harry Atkinson, was welcomed. Mr Harry Rickards' bill also includes Mr Carden Wilson, with his imitations of favourite actors; and the Sisters O'Meers, the Frasettis, the Cadwaladr Trio, and the talented soprano Miss Hilda Lane.

SYDNEY.—NOV. 22, 1904.—Mr Bland Holt is particularly fond of plays which include representations of English sporting scenes. *Going the Pace* is an example. In this the circus scene is exceedingly well staged. Mr Holt as clown is a firm favourite; and Mrs Holt is a demure Quakeress as Hannah. Mr Walter Baker is the hero Richard Mervyn; Miss Frances Ross appears as Alice Maxwell; Miss Harrie Ireland supplies a genial rendering of the circus rider Electrina; and Miss Pollock is a quiet Lucy. Mr Albert Norman as the comic scoundrel Pariel does good work; Mr Charles Brown as the good-hearted Terence O'Rafferty is a typical circus proprietor; Mr Arthur Styan portrays violent Caleb Swanson in a sufficiently convincing manner; and Mr Max Maxwell plays the rôle of the dude cabman No. 10,037 in capital style. In the circus scene Mr Percy Kehoe introduces a Pierrette ballet danced by clever girls. Professor Fowler exhibits his performing dogs; and Miss Eugenie Perry appears in an American Hurricane Estrade act.

"TEMPEST TOSSED" is the latest bill of Mr Walter Sandford's American players at the Lyceum. A storm at sea is the chief sensation, and it is capitally done. Mr Sandford is himself the hero, Richard Wentworth; Miss Laura Wall is an excellent Mary Haggard; Miss Kate Gair, always handsome, is interesting as Nellie Preston; and Mr George Kunkel scores as Jabez Haggard. A reliable actor is Mr Johnson Weir, who accentuates all the individuality of Zachary Pegg, and Miss Adelaide Boothby gets fun out of Polly Perkins.

AT the Tivoli on Saturday an enthusiastic welcome back was given to Madame Lydia Yeamans Titus and Professor Frederick Titus, who have completed an all-round-the-world tour. The Sisters O'Meers, Les Frasettis, Harry Atkinson, the Cadwalladr Trio, Miss Hilda Lane, Reseda quartet, Gregson and Goodfellow, Kearns and Rosslyn, Carder Wilson, and Tom Dawson, all these and many more are in Mr Harry Rickards's bill.

MR JOHN B. STEELE, a leading actor of the "good old days," and husband of the late Miss Adelaide Bowring, died in the Liverpool Benevolent Asylum on the 18th, and was buried with Masonic honours in the local cemetery on the following day. Mr Steele was in excellent health until recently when throat cancer set in with fatal results.

THE Stage Society's next production will be *Great Friends*, a modern comedy by G. S. Street, which will be presented at the Court Theatre on the 30th and 31st inst.

AT the Greenwich Theatre this week *The Lady's Maid*, a musical comedy by C. A. Lord, has been drawing good houses. It is ably acted throughout, especially by Miss Maggie Bowman, whose Jane Taylor is an admirable study, being both bright and clever, and by Mr William Pringle, whose Samuel Spriggs is a most amusing impersonation. Mr Carr Shirley is very good as Josiah Biffin; Mr Stenson Liddard is a manly Charles Marchmont; Mr Harold Eden is a clever Augustus Pushpayst; and Mr Frank Randall a diverting Sergeant Tomkins. Miss Pauline Hague is an interesting Alison Grey, and the remaining ladies and gentlemen in the cast are all seen to advantage.

THE COLISEUM FATALITY.

In the Westminster Coroner's Court, on Wednesday, Mr John Troutbeck held an inquiry concerning the death of Fred Grice, aged twenty years, lately living in Tottenham-court-road, the jockey who died from injuries received at the London Coliseum during the spectacle "The Race for the Derby," on Friday night, the 6th.

Mr C. F. Gill, K.C., and Mr Travers Humphreys (instructed by Messrs Smith, Rundell, and Dodds) appeared on behalf of the proprietors of the Coliseum, and Mr D. P. Andrews, from the Solicitor's Department, Spring-gardens, watched the case on behalf of the London County Council. At the outset of the proceedings Mr Gill said the proprietors of the Coliseum greatly regretted the accident that had occurred, and wished him to express their condolences with the relatives of the deceased.

George Albert Thomas, who was present at the performance on Friday night with his son, described how the accident occurred. About eight o'clock, when "The Race for the Derby" had fairly started, he saw the six horses come into view through a gap in the scenery to the right of the stage. They were on the revolving part of the stage, and were riding two abreast. By the time they reached the centre of the stage, three of the horses appeared to be getting rather close together, and then the middle horse of the three suddenly slipped and went down on its haunches. The rider, Grice, appeared to be doing his best to assist the animal to regain its feet, but failed, and the horse was carried along a certain distance by the revolving stage, and then fell against the proscenium, whence it was thrown, by the movement of the stage, into the orchestra. He did not see what became of the jockey.

Mr Will Bishop, stage producer and dancing master of the Coliseum, said that at rehearsal instructions were given for the horses to travel in pairs, and the jockeys were strictly told that they must not attempt to pass each other. There had been eight or ten days of rehearsal before the first public performance, and no mishap or difficulty had occurred. The floor of the stage was covered with felt, over which matting of a colour to resemble turf had been firmly nailed to prevent slipping. The surface was not slippery. At the time the accident happened the stage was revolving at the rate of between fourteen and fifteen miles an hour. The horses came into view at the gallop, and it appeared to him that after they had gone round once Grice tried to pass another of the horses, with the result that his horse stumbled. The three horses were then close together, and Grice appeared to be trying to secure the inside berth. When the horse stumbled Grice tried to save it, but the animal slipped down on to its haunches. He believed that it then fell on to the edge of the fixed stage, and was caught by the revolving part and thrown against the proscenium, whence it fell into the orchestra, carrying Grice with it. The performance had not been submitted for the approval of any authority, so far as he knew.

Mr Gill explained that where there was a music and dancing licence, it was not necessary to submit any part of the performance to the licensing body. They had no power by statute to regulate the nature of the performance, but, of course, any suggestion from the authorities would be adopted.

The witness, in answer to Mr Gill, said that this week would see the 100th performance of the spectacle. As a matter of fact, although it was called a race, it was no race at all. The same horse always won.

By the jury—Grice was at the back, and tried to pass the horse in front of him.

One of the other jockeys said his instructions were to keep behind, and they were all forbidden to race.

By Mr Gill—All the jockeys were experienced riders. He had himself been apprenticed at a racing stable, and Grice had lived with a trainer.

Mr Henry Pemberton, supervising engineer at the Coliseum, said the revolving part of the stage gave a track 24ft. wide, and was in two distinct circular parts, which could be worked either together or separately. On the occasion of the accident both parts were locked together by means of six iron locks. The stage was started so slowly that it took about twenty seconds to make the first revolution. Its highest speed was about twenty miles an hour. At the time of the accident it was revolving at from fourteen to fifteen miles an hour. No mishap occurred and no jerk. He examined it after the accident, and found the revolving table and the rest of the appliances in perfect order.

Mr Marshall Moore, chief of the general staff of the Coliseum, said he had given strict instructions to the jockeys, both at rehearsals and since, that they were not to race, but were to keep their positions all through, and only ride two abreast. He had never seen any of them race. He admitted there was always an element of danger in such scenes. The moving portion of the stage was now cut off from the rest by barriers of rope, which prevented either animals or men from being thrown off.

Mr Thomas Davis, house-surgeon at the Charing-cross Hospital, said Grice was unconscious when he was admitted, and died twenty minutes afterwards. Death was due to an extensive fracture of the skull.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Boy Glen is the name of the latest raconteur on the variety stage, and this youngster's success at the Metropolitan as an extra turn has secured for him much gratifying attention from London managers. Mr Jesse Sparrow has secured him already for the Granville and Camberwell Palace, and he is winning honours this week at the Euston. Mr Ryder Slone is his pioneer.

In reference to Mr Sam Mayo's recent feat, Mr Tom Prichard writes from the Empire Music Hall, Dudley: "Eight turns nightly were worked a few years ago by Mr J. W. Rowley, with horse and brougham, and he sang three and four songs at some of his engagements. Therefore, until our young friend can work nine turns, and sing twenty-seven songs in one night he cannot talk of holding a record."

The costumes of the Tschin-Maa Troupe of Chinese jugglers at the Alhambra are distinguished for their striking and characteristic combination of colours. The member of the party to whom is entrusted the swinging bowls of water appears in a rose-red shirt, grass-green belt, and black trousers. The tiny contortionist is in purple, gold, and crimson. The fire-eater is in scarlet and black. The attendants' suits are all handsomely embroidered, one of them looking particularly effective in vivid yellow satin. Perhaps the most "childlike and bland" member of the troupe is the man who throws knives, and whose costume is a lovely shade of heliotrope. None of the Tschin-Maas speak English, but several of them understand Russian. They dress off the stage in European clothes.

Mr D. Bliss, of Rosen and Bliss, has started his Continental tour. All artists will kindly send lithos to the Hotel St Petersbourg, Paris. — Mr George Fairburn produced with gratifying success, at the Dunbar, Balham, Jan. 2, a new speciality, by C. Osborne, entitled *The Busy Barber*. — Harry Clyo and Rose Rochelle return to London, Monday, to the South, for one week only, after five weeks' starring provincial tour.

Mr Fred Neiman, who has been representing Macdermott's Agency for over three years, has commenced an agency for himself. His long experience as an artiste shou'd stand him in good stead. Mr Neiman is not relinquishing the stage, as he is pretty well booked up for the next two years.

"L'IDOLE BRISÉE."

A Wordless Sketch, in Three Scenes, by Percival H. T. Sykes, Produced for the First Time in England at Collins's Music Hall, on Jan. 2.

Lizette ..... Mrs Percival H. T. Sykes
Pierre ..... Mr Percy Leslie
François ..... Mr Fred Lester
The Bride ..... Miss Janet John
The Mother ..... Miss Ada Murray
The Father ..... Mr Chas. Frome

The wordless playlet, which was produced here on the first Monday in the New Year, is still affording delight to visitors to the hall by the green. The staging evokes the warmest admiration, and the appropriate music has been composed and is personally conducted by Mr Sam Cudword. The story told without words is the old one of a woman's misplaced confidence and a man's duplicity. A pretty girl named Lizette has been staying with her brother, Pierre, in Rouen. Here she has met and fallen in love with a heartless fop called François, who induces her to accompany him to Paris. He soon wearies of her and the child she has borne him, but the unhappy girl still loves him in spite of his heartless conduct. The opening of the story is on the eve of the wedding of François with another. We see poor Lizette in her home tending her sick baby. She has received a letter from François, promising to come at two o'clock, but the clock strikes the hour and there is no sign of her lover, and she is sadly disappointed. However, François does come later, and makes a pretence of being as fond of her as ever. He even goes so far as to kiss the cross as a pledge of his intention to marry the mother of his child. His parental affection, however, does not prompt him to kiss the sleeping babe, and he hurries from the room. She throws him a kiss from the open window and also a rose. Her brother Pierre, who has been searching all Paris for his sister, sees her throw the rose. She also catches sight of Pierre, and, fearing his wrath, she bolts the door, but her brother forces an entrance and with angry gesture throws to the ground the rose he has picked up outside. He discovers François' letter and swears to avenge his sister's honour. As he rushes out, she falls upon the floor in a dead faint. Then in a vision she sees the marriage of her lover François to another. The scene changes to François's home. The wedding bells ring out a merry peal, and his aged father and mother joyfully greet him and his bride, who receives presents from them. The newly wedded couple take an affectionate farewell as they prepare to start on their honeymoon. At this moment Lizette enters with her child in her arms. She informs the astonished guests that the bridegroom is the father of her babe. François denies it, but the grandmother points to the child's face, which closely resembles that of their son. Pierre enters and challenges his sister's cowering betrayer to fight a duel with pistols. François, who is a pitiful coward, refuses, but his father compels him to accept the challenge. The terrible discovery is then made that the bride has committed suicide by stabbing herself to the heart. The last scene is the Forest of Fontainbleau. It is a winter's day, and the snow is falling fast. Lizette has made her way here with the object of preventing her brother risk his life in a duel. The principals and their seconds, together with the doctor, arrive on the scene, and the necessary arrangements are made. Placed back to back, the duellists walk a few paces then turn and fire. Pierre has the first chance and misses. It is now François' turn, and taking steady aim he fires. Lizette rushing forward is wounded. The story closes with the suggestion that the girl will recover and that François will, now that his bride is dead, keep the oath he has sworn to Lizette, though whether he is a very desirable husband is another question. The sketch was admirably performed by the members of Mr Percy Murray's company of artists, their pantomime being extremely clever. Mrs Percival Sykes played the part of Lizette extremely well, and Mr Fred Lester scored as François, his quick changes of expression being most effective. Mr Percy Leslie was appropriately grim and determined as the avenging brother, and the elderly couple and the bride had excellent exponents in Mr Chas. Frome, Miss Ada Murray, and Miss Janet John.

MR. E. E. GILES'S BENEFIT.

Mr Edwin E. Giles, who, for the last eighteen months, has ably managed the Battersea Empire, took his farewell benefit on Wednesday evening. As was anticipated it proved a bumper, and artistes, patrons, and old colleagues turned up in good numbers. The presentation took place at 10·15. When the curtain went up Mr Giles was to be seen surrounded by a whole regiment of friends. Mr Jesse Sparrow made a telling speech, in which he paid many well-earned compliments to the departing manager, explained the contents of the illuminated address, and amid much hearty cheering presented Mr Giles with a welcome cheque, the amount of which he stated ran nearly into three figures. The address, he explained, contained many neat compliments to his old comrade, and also the signatures of some eighty gentlemen well-known in the music hall world. Mr Giles expressed his sincere thanks to all who had given their help in making his benefit such a success. Miss Lottie Lennox, who is a great favourite at the Empire, followed Mr Giles with a song which she had had written for the occasion. It was a clever parody on the once-popular "Dolly Gray," and the chorus, which ran "Good-bye, Teddy, you must leave us," &c., was chorused over and over again. Great enthusiasm was also shown when the band struck up "For he's a jolly good fellow," and amidst hearty singing the fall of the curtain put an end to the expressions of friendship and admiration. Thirty-three artists helped to make the benefit the success it was. Early in the evening Mr Sam Mayo put in a welcome appearance and gave his contribution by way of two songs, which received well-merited applause. "I'se a waiting for you, Josie," was well received from the original singer, Mr G. H. Elliott. Princess Nouma-Haws, said to be the "smallest lady on earth," supplied an interesting item. The jokes and pranks of Tom White's Arabs caused much enjoyment. Sketches were presented by Messrs Johnny Holland and company and Messrs A. Wyndham and company, an absurdity, *The Looking-Glass*, being performed by the former, and a Shakespearian episode entitled *Prince Arthur* being given by the latter. The wrestling match between Tom Cannon, ex-champion of England, and Walter Stockwell, comedian, caused much excitement. Tom Cannon offered to forfeit to his opponent £10 if he failed to throw him in ten minutes. Contrary to expectations, Walter Stockwell was still holding his ground at the end of that time. The following artists also appeared:—Luis Hardt, the Mezzettis, Tom Brantford, the Watson Family, Sisters Hall, Marguerite Broadfoote, Fred C. Glover, Jack Charman, Dolly Harmer, Ford and Hanson, T. C. Callaghan, Ella and Ross, Nelly Farrell, Ena Beryl, Flo Raynor, Marie Blythe, Daisy Ernie, Connie Williams, Mamie, Lily Wood, Marie Braham, Brothers Durant, Queena Barnes, and Henry Tray.

Mr Charles B. Cochran sails to-day for America per ss. St. Louis in order to secure attractions for the English and European variety market. Mr Cochran is also the American representatives of several of the largest acts on this side.

At the Bordesley Palace, Birmingham, this week, Hagedorn's Fairy Grotto, with its delightful electrical effects, is much admired. The Trapnell Family of acrobats, Mdlle. Emmy's trained dogs, Sybil St. Elmo, Charles Diamond and Miss Beatrice, musicians, and Arthur Forrest in his descriptive songs are all well received.

ON THE ROAD, JAN. 16.

Amorelle (London).—Grand Theatre, Hull.
Amorelle (N.).—Gaiety Theatre, Ayr.
Are You a Mason?—O. H., Burnley.
Austin, Miss Mary.—Lyceum, Crewe.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—Q. T., Farnworth.
Beautiful Avenger.—Theatre Royal, York.
Bells Across the Snow.—G. T., Maidenhead.
Benson, Mr F. R. (A).—O. H., Dunfermline.
Benson, Mr F. R. (B)—T. R., Waterford.
Best Must Win.—Carlton Theatre, Greenwich.
Biggest Scamp on Earth.—Leicester.
Bulmer, Mr.—King's Theatre, Ebbw Vale.
Chinese Honeymoon (M.).—Chatham.
Chinese Honeymoon (Macdona) (N.).—Fraserboro'.
Chinese Honeymoon (Macdona) (S.).—Kid'm'ster.
Christian (Croker).—Lyceum Theatre, Pentre.
Cingalee.—Bournemouth.
Compton Comedy Co.—O. H., Northampton.
Conscript.—King's Theatre, Gainsborough.
Country Girl (M.).—Chesterfield.
Country Girl (N.).—Sligo.
Country Girl (S.)—Sutton-in-Ashfield.
Cousin Kate.—Hastings.
Cricket on the Hearth.—H. M. T., Walsall.
Crimson Club.—Muncaster Theatre, Bootle.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Amphitheatre, Ramsgate.
Defending His Honour.—O. H., Southport.
Dishonoured.—G. T., Burnley.
D'Oyly Carte.—Opera House, Porth.
Drama of Life.—Irving Theatre, Seacombe.
Duchess of Dantzic.—Southampton.
Duke of Killicrankie (Lovel).—Kilmarnock.
Earl and the Girl.—Opera House, Cheltenham.
Earl and the Girl.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
Fatal Wedding (M.).—Queen's Theatre, Longton.
Fatal Wedding (N.).—P. T., Accrington.
Fatal Wedding (S.).—Hereford.
Female Swindler.—Queen's Theatre, Swindon.
Fight for Millions.—P. T., Preston.
Florodora (Callan).—T. R., Darlington.
Florodora (Davis).—Theatre Royal, Blackburn.
Forty Thieves.—Century Theatre, Motherwell.
Frivolity.—Theatre Royal, Blyth.
Gay Parisienne.—Sidmouth.
Girl from Bond Street.—T. R., Colchester.
Girl from Kay's (N.).—Plymouth.
Golden Ladder.—Star Theatre, Swansea.
Go-Won-Go-Mohawk.—G. T., Rawtenstall.
Grip of Iron.—Court Theatre, Bacup.
Grip of the Law.—Tipton.
Honour Thy Father.—Grand Theatre, Walsall.
Indian Mutiny.—Albert Theatre, Brighouse.
In the Shadow of Night.—Junction T., M'chestr.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Alresford.
Ladder of Life.—Queen's Theatre, Dublin.
Lady of Ostend.—Empire Theatre, Southend.
Laughter-Land.—Star Theatre, Liverpool.
Life's Revenge.—King's Theatre, Nottingham.
Life that Kills.—T. R., Rotherham.
Lightning's Flash.—Norwich.
London Actress.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
London Fireman.—Miners' Theatre, Ashington.
Man to Man.—Theatre Royal, Stratford.
Manxman.—Grand Theatre, Boscombe.
Marriage of Kitty.—T. R., Aldershot.
Message from Mars.—King's Lynn.
Midnight Mail.—P. G. T., Folkestone.
Mockery of Marriage.—P. O. W. T., Grimsby.
Moody-Manners (A).—Theatre Royal, Dublin.
Moody-Manners (B).—Theatre Royal, Preston.
Moody-Manners (C).—Troon.
Napoleon the Great.—T. R., Aston.
New Mephisto.—O. H., Workington.
Orchid.—Wolverhampton.
Otto the Outcast.—Met. Theatre, Manchester.
Prince of Rogues.—Fleetwood.
Proof.—Metropole Theatre, Abertillery.
Revenge.—Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool.
Royal Divorce.—Opera House, St. Helens.
Royal Revenge (Clyndes).—Pontypool.
Sapho (Annie Bell).—Opera House, Perth.
School Girl (Macdona).—Barnsley.
Sherlock Holmes.—Royalty Theatre, Barrow.
Silver King.—H. M. T., Blackpool.
Sin of Her Childhood.—P. O. W. T., Salford.
Sledge-Hammer.—Grand Theatre, Blackpool.
Still Alarm.—Grand Theatre, Cherley.
Strange Adventures of Miss Brown.—Weym'th.
Sunday.—Opera House, Wakefield.
Swiss Express.—Terriss T., Rotherhithe, S.E.
Three Little Maids (Macdona) (S.).—Leam'gton.
Traitor.—Theatre Royal, North Shields.
Trip to Chinatown.—Met. T., Birkenhead.
Two Hussars.—Criterion Theatre, Worksop.
Two Little Sailor Boys.—M. T., Lowestoft.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—Theatre Royal, Hyde.
Under Two Flags.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Veronique.—Portsmouth.
Victim of Villainy.—St. James's T., Manchester.
Village Blacksmith.—Alex. Theatre, Hull.
Way of the World.—T. R., Bilston.
Wearin' o' the Green.—Lyceum T., Eccles.
Why Men Love Women.—P. T., Blackburn.
Woman's Devotion.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
World.—Theatre Royal, Hull.
10·30 Down Express.—Alexandra T., Widnes.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

Paxton.—On Jan. 12, at Thorndale, Waterloo-road, Southampton, Lillie, wife of Sydney Paxton, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Duncan—Moore.—Dec. 29, at St. George's Church, Bloomsbury, Thomas Duncan, M.A., author, of Woodhead, Kirkintilloch, N.B., to Honor Moore, actress, daughter of the late Rev. W. W. Moore.

DEATHS.

Keast.—Jan. 6, at his residence at Stonehouse, G. V. Keast, pantomime author and journalist, aged fifty-six.

Shepherd.—On Sunday, Jan. 8, Sidney Alfred, third son of Walter and Henrietta Catherine Shepherd, aged twenty-five years.

God has called to His home on high one more.

Velone.—Jan. 2, at Liverpool, after a brief illness, Walter Velone, bill-poster at the Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool, aged thirty-four.

Weston.—Dec. 12, 1904, in America, Charles H. Weston, of Weston and Yost. His wife, professionally known as Alice Caselli, of Sisters Caselli, survives him.

In Memoriam.

Maccabe.—In loving memory of Joseph Maccabe (Joe Mac), who died Jan. 11, 1893. Gone but not forgotten.

Montague (Thorns).—In ever-loving memory of George L. Montague (Thorns), who died Jan. 17, 1901. Never forgotten.—E. S.

At the Gaiety Theatre, Birmingham, this week Pat Rafferty is heading the bill with great success, and is as humorous as ever. The Eskimos are responsible for an entertainment of a high order of merit, and the vocalism of Les Rubens is very good. The Langdons, in illustrated songs; Orpheus, in a musical entertainment; Jenny Belmore; the Skandias Quartet; and Ida Brophy add to the success of the entertainment.

Mr Douglas Stuart will publish next month a new and revised edition of his popular "Railway Fare Book," and requests intending advertisers to forward the "matter" for same as soon as possible. The new book will contain a number of novel and interesting features of use to all performers travelling.

Advertisers and Subscribers who are moving about, and who have their Copy of "The Era" sent direct from this Office, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, are requested to forward the Addresses for their Papers not later than the Tuesday in each Week.

SKETCHES AT MUSIC HALLS.

At the Sessions-house, Clerkenwell, on the 6th inst., before Mr M'Connell, K.C., the Metropolitan Theatre of Varieties, Limited, of Edgware-road, appealed against a conviction by Mr Curtis Bennett, sitting at the Marylebone Police-court, and against fines amounting to £180, for having on divers days kept the Metropolitan Music Hall for the public performance of a stage play without the authority of letters patent or the licence of the Lord Chamberlain. Mr Avory, K.C., Mr Grain, and Mr Payne appeared for the appellants at the instance of the London Entertainments Protection Association; Mr Gill, K.C., and Mr Bodkin appeared on behalf of the Theatrical Managers' Association in support of the magistrate's decision. Mr Gill, in opening his case, said the appellants admitted the offence; and the only question for the court would be whether the magistrate was right in the fines he inflicted—£20 for the first offence, and £10 each for the subsequent days. The prosecution was instituted in the interest of proprietors of theatres throughout the country. At present there were two kinds of licence granted, one for theatres, by the Lord Chamberlain, and one for music and dancing, by the London County Council; and an applicant must elect which kind he preferred. Instead of slight sketches, which occupied about a quarter of an hour, music hall managers, with licences for music and dancing only, had lately introduced into their programmes condensed plays, comic operas, and musical comedies of considerable length; and it was this practice which it was desired to stop. Penalties having been inflicted upon different persons as the result of similar proceedings, attempts were made to come to some agreement, but without success; and then some persons determined to adopt the course of openly defying the law. In this case, a sketch called *The Fighting Parson*, played at the Metropolitan Music Hall, lasted forty minutes, and had all the incidents of a "comedy-drama," with twenty or thirty characters and four scenes. The magistrate, in inflicting the penalties, said that he was dealing with a wealthy corporation with a large capital who had ignored the law and must take the consequences. Mr Avory, for the appellants, said that it was impossible to deny that *The Fighting Parson* was within the letter of the Act, and the appeal was only brought to obtain a mitigation of the heavy penalties inflicted. These prosecutions were not instituted in the interests of the public, but in the interests of theatrical managers; and it was not desirable, by the infliction of prohibitive penalties, to obstruct music hall managers in their endeavours to place before the public a wholesome entertainment above the level of a mere "knock-about" show, which was the ordinary exhibition at music halls in 1843, the year in which the Act was passed under which these proceedings were taken. The modern music hall, which catered for a different class, was not then in existence. The Act was not intended to create a monopoly for managers of theatres, but to prevent blasphemy, profanity, and treasonable opinions from being uttered on the stage. In 1892 Sir Henry Irving was one of a committee which decided not to enforce the Act in cases of sketches which did not exceed forty minutes in length and in which the characters were not more than six; and that tacit understanding existed until 1903. If a serious interference with the law had occurred the Lord Chamberlain would have taken proceedings, as he was the person vested with authority.

The Bench affirmed the conviction, with costs, but reduced the penalties by one-half, to £90.

The Oxford, Limited, appealed against a similar conviction by Mr Kennedy, sitting at the Marlborough-street Police-court, and against penalties amounting to £120. The same counsel appeared in this case. Mr Avory said that he would have been content to let this case be governed by the decision in the last but for the fact that, the only question being whether the punishment was excessive and the appellants having succeeded on that question, they had nevertheless been ordered to pay the costs. For years high-class sketches had been given without objection, and in putting on the stage *The Belle of the Orient* the managers of the Oxford had no idea that any objection would be raised. By the infliction of heavy penalties magistrates would drive high-class sketches from the halls.

After further argument Mr M'Connell said that the Bench were unanimously of opinion that the conviction and penalties should be affirmed and the appeal dismissed with costs.

AGENTS AND COMMISSION.

In the Westminster County Court, on Tuesday, Judge Woodfall heard the case of Howard v. Siegenberg, which raised the perennial question of music hall agents' commissions.

Plaintiff, a theatrical variety agent, who sued through Mr Granby, to whom he had given his power of attorney, sought to recover from Miss Lottie Siegenberg certain sums which he alleged to be due to him from her by way of commission on engagements obtained for her at different halls. Defendant denied liability in the majority of cases named, but paid a small sum into court in satisfaction of the claims admitted by her.

For the plaintiff it was stated that it was owing to him that the defendant was successfully brought out at the music halls, and that there was an agreement between them that he was to have 10 per cent. commission on salaries earned by her. For some time the commission was duly paid, but subsequently there was a disagreement between the parties, and the defendant took to making engagements for herself with music hall managers.

For the defence, Miss Lottie Siegenberg said she had to complain of the manner in which Mr Howard had endeavoured to obtain contracts for her. In the course of her cross-examination it transpired that she had actually paid sums for which she was now being sued.

In the result, Judge Woodfall gave judgment for the defendant, with costs up to the time of the payment into court.

FOOTBALL.

Bristol X.L.C.R. and Harry Hare's Orchestral Band Athletic Clubs v. Music Halls A.F.C.

Played on Clifton Downs on Jan. 7. Harry Belding (goal), who was injured in the match on Dec. 24, was able to turn out for his club. The following were the teams:—

Bristol X.L.C.R. and Harry Hare's Orchestral Band Athletic Clubs.—H. Belding, (captain), goal; A. Hamlin and J. Lewis, backs; S. Carter, H. Slade, and A. Mattock, half-backs; I. Hamlin, H. Edwards, E. Belding, P. Hewlett, and E. Bowman, forwards.

Music Halls A.F.C.—F. B. Nicholls, goal; J. Tyley and F. Arnl, backs; J. Lacey, T. Neagle (captain), and A. E. Bailey (of Bristol X.L.C.R. A.F.C.), half-backs; P. Reardon, F. Hansford, B. Cullen, H. Clements (of Bristol X.L.C.R. A.F.C.), and W. Hinder, forwards.

Referee, A. Cox (of Bristol X.L.C.R. A.F.C). Linesmen, H. Hare and J. Stuart. Result:—Bristol X.L.C.R. and Harrry Hare's Orchestral Band Athletic Clubs, nil; Music Halls A.F.C., two goals. J. Lacey and P. Reardon scored for Music Halls A.F.C.

Presentation.—Mr M'Leod Loader, the popular manager of the St. Helens Theatre, was on the 6th inst. presented with a handsome cigar-case by the principals of *Jack and the Beanstalk* company. Mr Jay Laurier, in a few well-chosen words, made the presentation. The recipient thanked the donors for their useful and valuable gift, and at the same time expressed his and Mr Haddon's high appreciation of the manner in which they had worked to make the pantomime the success it was.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS

Continued from Page 12.

SEACOMBE.

Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr J. Kiernan.—Mr and Mrs William Giffard's company is in occupation here this week in *The World's Desire*. The Hon. Ellis Tridley (the principal villain) is powerfully presented by Mr William Giffard; the dual rôle of Robert Selkirk and Henry Selkirk is skilfully managed by Mr Clifford Rean; Nathaniel Mutley leaves little to be desired in the hands of Mr George Child; Godstone Clair is well handled by Mr Herbert Light; the required modicum of low comedy is supplied by Mr Charles Rogers as Washington Dobbs; Ragged Jack receiving a pathetic rendering by Miss Violet Carr; Justerina Hook (Miss Frances Bruce) and Helen Berkshaw (Miss Ella Seton) are both well played by their respective exponents; and Mrs William Giffard proves herself a skilful and powerful actress in the part of Dora Mutley.

SHEFFIELD.

Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr F. W. Purcell; Acting-Manager, Mr T. S. Carter.—Mr Ernest Dottridge's gorgeous and costly annual, *Little Goody Two Shoes*, continues its triumphal career. Miss Minnie Cunningham is still the bright particular star of old and young, and she trips through the pantomime as Goody an admirable embodiment of sweet femininity and dainty grace. Miss Georgina Leonard is a favourite as the gallant Prince, and her careful rendition of "Good-bye, my lady-love" invariably secures several encores. Miss Molly Wastenholm's good voice is heard to advantage in "Il Bacio," and Miss Rita Rhylle is a piquant and pretty Dolly Dimple, who dances divinely. Messrs Downes and Langford's clean humour and rich eccentric comedy are just suited to the Theatre Royal audience, and these up-to-date artistes will always secure a cordial reception here. Mr Fred Lincoln as the Dame and Mr George French as Simon cause great mirth, and the Five Sunbeams do some clever and graceful dancing. The resplendent glories of Hagedorn's Fairy Grotto are nightly applauded to the echo.

Lyceum Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr John Hart; General Manager and Treasurer, Mr J. E. B. Beaumont.—A crowded audience welcomed Miss Ada Reeve on Monday in the bright and amusing musical comedy, *Winnie Brooke, Widow*, which, beautifully mounted and smartly played, was received with enthusiasm. Miss Ada Reeve in the title-rôle acted with all her well-known charm, grace, and vivacity, and her songs, given with characteristic verve and delicacy of expression, were loudly applauded. Miss Ruth Hazlewood was a lively little Norah, and very successful were Mrs Maltby as Hannah, Miss Cecile Beresford as Gracie Frampton, Miss Drusilla Wills as Eglantine Brown, and Miss Alice Lawrence as Mrs Garside. Mr Edgar Stevens was an admirable Reginald Frampton. Mr Charles Weir, an old local dramatic and comic opera favourite, again demonstrated his histrionic cleverness and versatility in the character of Dudley Mayne. An amusing caricature was the Rev. Elihu Garside of Mr Fred Tyrrell. Mr Leon Ashton-Jarry was good as Julian Croft, and Mr Harry Halley made a commendable Montague Brent. There was a large chorus, and Mr J. A. Robertson ably conducted.

Alexandra Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr C. A. Ramsay.—*Aladdin* continues to give pleasure to large audiences. The chief mirth-providers are those original and diverting drolls, August and September. These artists have a remarkable fund of grotesque humour, and the peculiar vocal method of Mr September simply keeps the house in screams. The latter's method is quite unique, and he possesses the faculty of being aggressively comical and at the same time never bores or offends against the canons of good taste. Mr Charles Austin is popular as Abanazar, and his mock melodrama is very acceptable. A special feature is the coon song and dance introduced by the pretty and refined Miss Esta Stella, the delightful Balroulbadour. Miss Maud Esmond continues to win hearty applause for her two principal songs, "Lazy Maisie" and "Ma Jersey Lily." Miss Ida Worsley sings "In Dixeyland" very acceptably, and the agile dancing of the Four Magnets invariably brings down the house.

Empire Palace.—General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr A. W. Young.—Staley's novelty transformation scene is the principal item in the programme this week. Good turns are also done by Horace White, ventriloquist; the Five M.P.'s, in a musical episode; Winona Winter and W. H. Banks, in a clever little farce; Keno Welch and Montrose, American acrobatic experts; Harry Bent, comedian and mimic; Bijou Russell, comedienne; Gallagher and Hild, versatile comics; Doody and Wright, Australian entertainers; and Miss Russell, dancer.

Grand Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr Beagle.—The company here includes Max Sterling, conjuror and illusionist; Read and Write, comedians; Florien and Zenella, wire performers; Wat Tyler, comic vocalist; Mr and Mrs Clifford Bronté, comedy artistes; and the Two Jagos, in a novel act.

Wonderland.—Proprietor, Mr Victor Samson.—The pantomime of *Cinderilla* is being performed very creditably by the stock company.

SHREWSBURY.

Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Business Manager, Mr W. C. Dornton.—Mr A. E. Smith's bright children's pantomime, with pretty dresses and scenery and excellent music, is here this week. Mr Fred Arnold is a capable Emperor of China; Mr Teddy Lennon acts and dances in spirited fashion as the Grand Vizier; Messrs J. H. Maxwell and Fred Rumsdale, two old favourites, amused immensely in their low comedy as Abanazar and the Widow Twankey; Miss Rita Resdan, a popular and highly successful principal boy, sings and acts with untiring vivacity; Miss Elsie Douglas is an effective Princess; the Bros. Taylor, knock-abouts, put in plenty of hard and capable work; Miss Maude Bettison sings sweetly as the Genie of the Lamp; Miss F. M. Sinclair is a pleasing fairy as the Genie of the Ring; Miss Rose Whillier is capable as Chee Chow; Miss Carrie Salisbury makes a capital Hi Toff; and Miss Alma Winter merits praise as Song Sing. A capital variety turn is that of Arnold, an illusionist whose card manipulating and other feats are most artistically performed; and the Four Snowdrops dance with agility and grace.

SOUTHAMPTON.

Grand.—*Sleeping Beauty* has undergone a thorough overhauling since the first performance, and it now plays much more smartly. Mr Chas. J. Cameron continues his extremely humorous performance as the Nurse, his fun being of the fast-and-furious order. He introduces a new song, "A B C D," which makes the audience roar. Mr Chas. Penrose, whose catchphrase is "Silly woman," plays with great success and makes Peter Piper a truly humorous personality. He sings two capital songs, cracks innumerable wheezes, and is never at a loss for a gag. Miss Florence Vie, a skilful actress and talented vocalist, is a charming Prince, and introduces "Bluebell" and "Anona" with great success. Miss May Davis (Beauty) has some capital songs and sings them well, acting also with great charm. Very trim and smart are the Sisters Morde, who dance divinely. The specialities by Bion and Baroux, the Miltons, and the Stuart Quartette of dancers are all excellent, and the music, composed and arranged by Mr J. Warwick Moore, the resident *chef d'orchestre*, is bright and effective. The popular manager, Mr Sydney Paxton, is to be congratulated on a successful pantomime.

Prince of Wales's.—Mr George Kirk and company are paying a welcome return visit here with

Judy, including the wonderful child actress, Miss Florrie Groves, who considerably enhances her already brilliant reputation on this occasion. Miss Mary Neill gives a capital portrayal of the heroine, in addition to appearing as Polly, the Coster. The whole of the parts are extremely well played, and good houses follow the interesting story with pleasure.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr W. Marlow, sen.; Manager, Mr W. Marlow, jun.—This week's attraction is the musical play entitled *Three Little Maids*, presented by Mr Charles Macdona's principal company. The singing is excellent and the dancing very good. Ada, Hilda, and Edna Branscombe, daughters of the Vicar of Market Mallory, are capitally embodied by the Misses Vera Vallis, Nellie Groves, and Mabelle Lavelle respectively; Madame Ilma Norina makes a pleasing Lady St. Mallory; Gretchen finds a very able exponent in Miss Laura Wright, whose dancing wins great favour; Miss Mabel Sarl is well suited as Miss Price; Mr Arthur Longley gives prominence to the part of Lord Cheyne, and acquits himself very creditably; Brian Molyneux is in the capable hands of Mr Sidney Lindon, who charms with his singing; Mr Gus Oxley makes a vivacious "Cupid" and Caddie, his clever dancing wins applause; and Mr Jules Charmettes makes a good Mr De L'Orme, and gives a well-executed 'cello solo.

SOUTH SHIELDS.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs J. and F. Coulson.—The pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* is having an excellent run of prosperity here. Messrs Will Lytton (Will Atkins), Jack Foley (Dame Crusoe), Harris (Sammy Sackless), and Worth (Dick Drymaath) are the responsible fun-makers, their ceaseless efforts evoking hearty laughter. Miss Louie Hurman as Robinson Crusoe and Miss Rose Bartlett as Polly Perkins have both, individually, their admirers. Mr W. H. Hardman renders capably the baritone song, "Revenge," in his capital portrayal of Davy Jones, and Miss Flora Leonard, who sings so sweetly as Fairy Coral, is a befitting contrast. Messrs Harry Morgan (Friday), Chas. Cork (Rajah Ram Jampotte), and the Misses Delia Cherry (Midshipman Merry) and Dora Langham (Nancy Lee) are all allotted important parts. The dancing of Miss Ivy Lane's Vaudeville Troupe of dancers affords distinct pleasure, and the chorus and orchestra are ably presided over by Mr Isaac J. South.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Richard Thornton; General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr Geo. F. Thompson.—Mr Frederick Maxwell, supported by Miss Lois Du Cane and powerful company, is proving a decidedly strong attraction in the intensely dramatic sketch, *Lord Harkaway*. The acting is good all round, and loud applause testifies to the keen enjoyment felt by the large audience. Mendel, the blind pianist, is reappearing here with success. Morris and Morris submit their funny grotesque acrobatic act, entitled "Fun on a Broom-handle." *The Major and the Maid*, as essayed by Rastus and Banks, is bright and entertaining. Mersano succeeds easily in mystifying the house by his clever conjuring performance; Brown and Robinson sing their numbers pleasingly; Cline and Clark, comedy artistes, are good dancers; and Harry Martell is chiefly notable for his dancing. The American Bioscope is again scoring a success.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K Hall and Mr Jos. Sweeney.—A capital bill is headed by Gintaro, Japanese juggler and top spinner. The Atkins Trio, speciality vocalists, are attractive, and those droll knockabouts Juan and M'Que are appreciated. Henderson, the blind concertina player, secures many plaudits; the eccentricities of Fred Land cause amusement; and J. W. Elliston, vocal comedian, and the Haldyne Duo, in a vocal comedy act, ably complete the bill.

ROYAL ASSEMBLY HALL.—The Kilties band, under the conductorship of Mr William F. Robinson, are giving a varied programme of the different composers, almost every item being heartily encored. In addition to the selections by the band, the entertainment is capitally contributed to by the choir; Pipe-Major Albert Johnstone, bagpipe soloist; the Clan Johnstone Troupe of dancers; John S. Leick, cornet soloist; and J. Coates Lockhart, vocalist.

SPENNYMOOR.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Harding Thomas; General Manager, Mr Herbert Vere.—Mr C. March's company has presented the drama entitled *The Priest of the Temple* here this week. Mr Chas. March scores as Valerius, and Mr Percy Ballard's portrayal of Decus Fronto is a powerful piece of acting. Mr Henry Moxon's rendering of Appius Herdonius is admirable, and Mr Stanley May is all that can be desired as Hermanus. Miss Violet Crauford must be complimented on her forcible rendering of Polita. Miss Marie North wins much approval by her charming representation of Praestantia. Other parts are suitably embodied by Mr Wilton Cross and Mr W. Clarke. The company has also appeared in *The Gamester of Metz* during the week.

ST. HELENS.

THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr M'Leod Loader.—Messrs Haddon and Loader's *Jack and the Beanstalk* company finished its engagement here on Saturday. Miss Bessie Shelley and Miss Pattie Bella were special favourites. Flowers and other gifts were handed up from the orchestra, and all was jollity and good humour. The curtain had to be repeatedly taken up, the audience cheering again and again. The Craggs commenced a six nights' engagement here on Monday in their successful absurdity *Laughter-Land*, and are proving a strong attraction. A special matinée of *Alice in Wonderland*, by Mr E. St. Alban's company, was given on Thursday.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr A. V. Carnell.—An excellent programme here includes Mr George Gilboy, comedian; Messrs Ray and Miles, Continental grotesques; Sisters Russell, burlesque artistes; Mr Tom Johnstone, vocalist; Stylo, hoop manipulator; Mr Will Hall, mimic; Craig, Rose, and Craig, gymnasts; animated pictures, and Barton and Franklin, musicians.

STOCKPORT.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr Wm. Revill.—Messrs Dottridge and Longdon's pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, concludes its engagement after three weeks of remarkable success. The boisterous fun of the Reed Oetzman troupe, the realistic impersonation of a man monkey by James Dubois, and the marvellously clever acrobatic feats of the Achmed-Ibrahim troupe of Bedouin Arabs have each been gratifyingly appreciated, their respective entertainments undoubtedly adding greatly to the success of the pantomime.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs Weldon Watts; General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr R. G. Elder.—Mr E. Hill-Mitchelson and company are here again in a new military play entitled *Revenge*. Mr Hill-Mitchelson as Prince Orloff has a part well fitted for his subdued yet forcible style. Mr Wellesley Draper as Captain Vanessa acts with much vigour. Mr Theo Balfour as the King is very creditable and T. W. Hurst's Captain Carr shows great capability. Mr Arthur M'Culloch's Court Mussant and Mr Fred Yarnold's Jim Jennings divide honours in the humour of the piece. Miss Violet Carlyle's Queen is done with charm and dignity; Miss Grace Almer's Lieut. Maurice is clever; and Miss Frances White's Draga Vanessa is a successful performance.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr J. Batty; Manager, Mr W. Batty.—Chief turns here are taken by the Three Rickards, acrobats; Ben Hur, the clever young athlete; Maud Courtney, in refined songs and storyettes with an American flavour, which is unique; Johnson and Bert, in a clever comedy act, *The Queer Customer*; and the bill also includes Hilton and Hilton, on the bars; Harry Clifford, comic; Lily Turner, balladist; and the usual biographic display with fresh films.

STOKE.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr P. Collins; Manager, Mr Frank Egerton.—Another capital programme is presented here. The premier position is held by Professor Hocking in his truly marvellous electrical, and healing performance; Les Kyasyas contribute a wonderful strong turn, which is much appreciated; the Brothers Hersleb are a pair of really funny knockabouts; Bert Dansie, descriptive artiste, is successful; Gracie Logan is a smart comedienne and dancer; George Fairburn is a comedian of much merit; Walter Adams is very funny in his humorous ditties; Cissie Heath is an excellent soubrette; the Five Leopold Legleres are acrobats extraordinary; the animated pictures are, as usual, capital.

STOURBRIDGE.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Messrs Draycott and Peppin's company is here in the new drama *The Best Must Win*. Mr Charles Draycott appears in the leading rôle of Gaston, Marquis De Marcel, and handles this arduous character with his customary skill and effect. Mr Robert Watson makes a capital hero as Paul Dumaresq, and Miss Lilian Watson Loyde proves herself an accomplished artist in the part of Denise. Mr Fred Aldworth scores a deserved success in the rôle of Sabretache, and Mr Henry W. Monte is very amusing as Juan Minos. Other prominent artists who contribute to a most effective presentation are Messrs Frank G. Kent and Miss Maud Heatherington.

STROUD.

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS.—Manager, Mr H. J. Twitchett.—Miss Gertrude Gray's *Cinderella* pantomime company was here on the 6th and 7th. Miss Lottie Mellor makes a good Prince Charming, whose valet Dandini is played with good effect by Miss G. A. May. Mr Herbert Colley gives a droll impersonation as Baron Lowralotte. Messrs Harry May as Gertie, Ernest Thirlway as Lily, and E Benham as Pimples are responsible for a good deal of fun. Miss Eameson as Cinderella wins sympathy, and Miss Amy Lovedale makes a charming Fairy Crystal.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Sutton Theatre Syndicate; Manager, Mr Edward Gray.—Mr Clifton Alderson and company are this week occupying the boards with the domestic and military play, *A Soldier and a Man*. As Harry Sinclair Mr Alderson scores with his earnest acting, and Mr Harry F. Wright and Mr Charles Percy are worthy of special mention as Jim Farrow and Colonel Westerton. Miss Nellie Schrier soon gains the favour of the audience in her dashing style and capital rendering of the part of "Sergeant" Jane Wicks. The play presents many pretty scenes, Nestleton Nook Farm and the British Camp at Night being applauded.

SWANSEA.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs David Allen and Sons, Limited; Lessees and Managers, Messrs E. Oswald Brooks and J. W. Woodbridge; Resident Partner, Mr E. Oswald Brooks.—The Moody-Manners company on Monday commenced the third and last week of their engagement here, when *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci* were again put on. Miss Enriqueta Crichton as Santuzza scored a great success, as also did Mr Edward Arthur as Turiddu, both artists gaining the heartiest appreciation. They received excellent support from Mr T. H. Wood (Alfio), Miss L. Egville (Lola), and Miss T. Edwards (Lucio), who were extremely good. In *Pagliacci* Miss Grace Nicoll was a charming Nedda, and Mr Charles Carter (Canio), Mr Charles Tilbury (Tonio), Mr Robert Brooks (Beppe), and Mr Walter Barrett (Silfro) rendered excellent service. The following works have been performed during the week:—*La Traviata*, *Mignon*, *Maritana*, *Lohengrin*, and *Carmen*.

NEW STAR.—Lessee and Manager, Mr T. Morton Powell; Acting-Manager, Mr William Coutts.—The attraction here during the week has been provided by Mr Henry Furnival and company, who are appearing in the romantic drama, *Lost in Paris*.

NEW EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr Albert Mitchell.—An excellent programme here includes the following:—Mark Melford and company, in a very amusing sketch, *Black and White*; the Szarvasi-Ferencz Troupe of Hungarian singers, dancers, and acrobats; the Alaskas, clever jugglers and comic tumblers; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, in the comical sketch, *In Trafalgar Square*; John Alexander and company, in *Troubles of a Tourist*; the Three Sisters Ronay, the original lady clowns; the Picquays, in a novel acrobatic display; Clown Ferreros, assisted by his cleverly trained dog; Princess Pauline, serio; and Burke, Moller, and Teller, in the sketch, *The Professor and His Pupils*.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr T. W. Grantham.—The engagements here for this week are as follows:—The Merry Peasants, refined vocalists; Charlie Craston, comedian; Dainty Maggie Rimmer, comedienne and dancer; Nellie and Nora, instrumentalists; Vernon's animated pictures; George Helen and Emmie Cozens, in sketch, *The Doctor and the Patient*; Mdlle. Lily Lenora, comedienne and dancer; E. W. Selman, humorous comedian; and Williams and Brown, cross-talk comedians.

SWINDON.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Responsible Manager, Mr Alfred Manners; Musical Director, Mr F. H. Lucas.—On Monday *La Poupée* was welcomed here with enthusiasm, presented by Mr Ben Greet's capital company, under the management of Mr J. Bannister Howard, the orchestra being ably conducted by Mr H. H. Shaw. Miss Cissie Wade must be highly complimented on her admiral work as Alexis. Her performance was full of charm and her singing excellent. Miss Alice M'Farlane was very effective as Madame Hilarius. Mr Edward Thirlby was remarkably clever and droll as Hilarius; Mr Algernon Lee was excellent as Launcelot; and the part of Father Maxime was safely entrusted to Mr Joseph A. Brull, who was deservedly encored for the song "A Jovial Monk am I." Mr Stanley White must be commended for successfully doubling the part of the Baron with the duties of stage-manager; Mr Harry Bishop distinguished himself as Loremois; and Miss Eva Ellis was bright and pleasing as Henri.

TORQUAY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing Director, Mr R. Smerdon; Secretary, Mr A. Pearse.—Mr Herbert Barrs' popular pantomime, in its second edition, was accorded a hearty reception on Monday. New songs and dances and new business with fresh jokes were introduced throughout with considerable success. Special mention should be made of the engagement of Miss Maggie Stewart, a great local favourite, who was accorded a cordial welcome on Monday, and was rapturously encored for her coon song, "My Queen Bee." Miss Tessie Vandean also sang and danced with much acceptance, and Miss Minnie Willett, Mr Paul Pry, and Mr Oscar Wills were also applauded.

(Continued on Page 19.)

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

DOROTHY.—*(1) The comic opera* Dorothy *was produced at the Gaiety Theatre Sept 25, 1886, and transferred to the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Dec. 20, 1886. (2) The cast was the same, with the exception that Miss Edith Chester replaced Miss Dysart; on Feb. 19, 1887 Miss Marie Tempest and Mr Ben Davies replaced Miss Marion Hood and Mr Redfern Hollins.*

S. J. H.—The Coxcomb, *comedy, by Beaumont and Fletcher, was revived by the Elizabethan Stage Society in the Inner Temple Hall, London, on Feb. 10, 1898.*

GEO STEMP.—*Mr Dan Leno was not engaged at the Newcross Empire from the date mentioned until his death in October last.*

CAPTAIN.—*The original cast at the Haymarket in August, 1888 was as follows:—Wilding, Mr Beerbohm Tree; Seabrook, Mr Kemble; Harry Seabrook Mr Fuller Mellish; Marshall, Mr Brookfield; Regan, Mr Charles Allan; Bates, Mr Robb Harwood; Mrs Seabrook, Lady Monckton; Lady Staunton Miss Rose Leclercq; Mabel Seabrook, Mrs Angela Cudmore; and Stella Darbisher, Mrs Beerbohm Tree*

J. W. H.—*(1)* The Belle of New York *was revived at the Adelphi (when that house was called the New Century), Nov 27, 1901. (2) The first London production was at the Shaftesbury, April 12, 1898*

M. A.—*The Crouch-end Opera House was first opened on Tuesday, July 27, 1897.*

F. J.—*There is no fixed rule.*

S. T.—*Sept. 3, 1878.*

BRIXTON.—*We have never come across any work suitable for your requirements.*

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

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Baimbridge, Mr Julian
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Baylis, Mr W. J.
Beere, Mrs Bernard
Bell, Mr Leslie H.
Belles, The Two
Benson, Mr G. J.
Bensusan, Miss Inez
Blanchard, Miss B.
Booker, Mr Geo. R.
Bovis, Mr Charles
Boyd, Mr Austin
Brampton, Mr Kenneth
Branscombe, Mr Arthur
Breeman, Miss Maude
Brown, Mons. Tom
Burdett, Mr Francis
Burgoyne, Mr Arthur
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Butt, Miss Bessie
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Caryll, Mr Ivan
Casselo, Madame
Chamberlain's Circus
Chapter, Mr Hal
Charles, Mr C. W.
Chattell, Mr H. E.
Church, Mr
Clayton Twins
Cole, Mr Horace
Collins, Mr F.
Conlay, Mr Joe
Conners, Mrs Nellie
Connor, Mr
Courtney, Miss Maude
Cremin, Mrs
Cuthbert, Mrs Robert
Dainton, Miss Marie
Danby, Mr Charles
Dare, Miss Minnie
Dare, Mr Vernon
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Daventry, Miss Dora
Day, Mr Harry
Deer, Miss Esther
Deer, Mr and Mrs J.
De Freece, Mr Walter
De Quincey, Mr Chris.
Denton, Mrs H.
Dodd, Mr Harry
Doherty, Sisters
Doreen, Miss L.
Douglas, Mr John
Dundas, Mr F. H.
Earle, Mr Fred
Eckert, Miss K.
"Eddie"
Eidlablow, Mr
Ellis, Mr Herbert J.
Elsie, Miss Lily
Emerson, Mr C. A.
Engden, Mrs
Etherdo, Mr Henri
Evans, Mr H. W.
Every, Mr J.
Fane, Mr R. Mansell
Fanning, Mr D.
Fauntleroy, Little
Fearly, Miss Maude
Ferrari, Mrs A.
Fields, Mr Harry
Fleming, Mr Hugh
Flemming, Mr Herbert
Fox and Melville
Foy, Mr W. P.
Freeman, Miss Dora
Gardner, Mr J. Rufus
George Family, The
Glover, Mrs Marion W.
Godfrey, Mr Arthur
Gog, Mr George
Grahame, Mrs Jack
Gregory, Mr W.
Haddon, Miss Blanche
Hall, Mr Albert
Hanbury, Miss Lilly
Handon, Mr F. Henry
Hare, Mr Arthur
Hartree, Mr Walter
Hastings, Mr W.
Hays, Brothers
Herbert, Mrs Kate
Hindell, Mr Gus
Hoffmann, Mr and Mrs P.
Holly, Miss Daisy
Horatio, Jean
Houdini, Miss Bessie
Howard, Miss A.
Howitt, Mr Charles
Hulley, Mr T.
Hussey, Mr Austin
Jalland, Mr H.
James, Mr Cairn
Jeffries, Miss Beatrice
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Leeson, Mrs Jennie
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Lennon, Mr O. E.
Leonard, Miss Flora
Leonard, Mr Arthur
Levens, Miss J.
Le Voce
Lewis, Miss M. Jeffrey
Leybourne, Mr Harry
Liddens, Miss F.
Lind, Miss Letty
Lindsay, Madame
Lovegrove, Miss Phillis
Mac, Mr Ted
Mack, Mr Julian
Maltby, Miss
Mannheim, Mr Carl
Mapleson, Col. Henry
Marlborough, Miss Leah
Martine, Miss Vera
Mayne, Miss Hope
Mead, Mr Harold
Merrick, Miss Rona
Milnes, Mr F. C.
M'Laren, Mr Ian
M'Neill, Mr W. A.
Moltena, Madame Agnes
Montague, Mr Herbert J.
Moore, Miss Maggie
Morris, Mr M. A.
Neale, Mr W. V.
Nelson's Newsboys
Nerney, Mr T.
Nethersole, Miss Olga
Nicoll, Miss Yetta
Nix, Dr.
Nugent, Mr Walter B.
O'Connor, Mr D. B.
O'Donnelle, The
Olive, Mr Mack
Oliver, Miss Fay
Olliver, Mrs Arthur
O'Neill, Mr Frank
Osborne, Miss W.
O'Sullivan, Mr Denis
Oxberry, Mr Harry
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Poivel, Mr Arthur
Primrose, Mr Harry
Pugh, Mrs Nellie
Purvis, Mr Walter
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Rappo, Mr Chas.
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Richards, Mr Charles F.
Roben, Miss Rosie
Roberts, Mr J. R.
Rolbuck, Mr A.
Rolls, Mr A. C.
Ross, Mr J. W.
Rossiter, Mr Chas.
Rozs, Mr H. A.
Saro, Mrs
Scarth, Mr
Scott, Mr A.
Sealby, Miss Mabel
Seaton, Dr.
Shields, Mr Whalley
Shipley, Mr S.
Sleath, Mr Herbert
Simmons, Miss Edith
Soldene, Miss E.
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Stanley, Miss Alma
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St. Lawrence, Miss V.
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Thorpe, Mr C.
Tiller, Mr
Travers, Mr Hyram
Trillo, Mr A. F.
Tyndall, Mrs Lewis
Tyrer, Mr A. W.
Vane, Miss Edith
Vousden, Mr E.
Vyponde, The
Walker, Mrs Charles
Waller, Mr Guy
Ward, Miss G.
Ward, Mr and Mrs Cecil
Warner, Mr H. B.
Webster, Mr G. H.
Weeks, Mrs
Welch, Mr J. A.
Wentworth, Mr Bert
Whalley, Miss Norma
Whayman, Mrs Sarah
White, Mrs J.
Wilby, Mr F. F.
Willard, Mr F. J.
Williams, Mr T.
Wilson, Mr Ernest
Wilton, Mr George
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Yates, Mr F. Danvers
Zaid, Mr
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INTERNATIONAL AND COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law" ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as "the Bermoothes" and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said, to state little more than that the contents include five chapters respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," "Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority, is not dry reading. The statutes, with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright," is dedicated to Mr A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman, July 31st, 1901

Mr A. A. Strong has published a book on "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" which should be in the hands of everyone who is obliged to know about this perplexing subject. Dramatic copyright in England is in a particularly unsatisfactory state, and it is much to be hoped that ere long some more rational method of securing protection for a play may be devised than the slovenly and sometimes costly "production for copyright purposes" which is at present required.—St. James's Gazette, Aug. 3d, 1901

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Monday, Jan. 16, at 8·30, ALT HEIDELBERG.
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Two Erolls, Henry A. Moore, John E. Camp,
Lea and Lovell, Maisie Mills,
Victor, Annie Charman.
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Acting-Manager and Chairman, Mr W. Leaver.

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The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on the Stage of the ST. JAMES'S THEATRE, on THURSDAY, JAN. 19, at 12·0 o'clock noon, to receive the Report of the Committee and the accounts for the Year 1904.
The President, Sir HENRY IRVING, in the Chair.
The attendance of Subscribers is requested, and all those interested in the work of the Fund are invited to be present.
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	Sung by
"A B C D" (James Hargreaves)	Wilkie Bard
"All the harm I wish you" (R. P. Weston)	Harry Anderson
"All the little Ja-panny faces" (Harry Castling)	Mark Sheridan
"All the Girls are Lov-er-ly-over-ly" (Harrington and Thurban)	R. G. Knowles
"Anywhere there will do" (Murray and Everard)	Frank Seeley
"A Warning to Single Men" (Bateman and Pether)	Arthur Reece
"Baby Mine" (Brown and Friedman)	Miss Clarice Henry
"Blue-Bell" (Madden and Morse)	Hamilton Hill
[Also sung by almost every Artist of note both in Pantomime and on the Variety Stage throughout the Kingdom.]	
"Britannia's Babes" (Carter and Weston)	George Leyton
"'Come in!' said Widdy Malone" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Michael Nolan
"Conversations" (F. and W. Redmond)	Ambrose Thorne
"Delusions" (Phil Ray)	Phil Ray
"Doan' Cry, Little Coloured Coon" (S. F. Harrison and Neat)	Miss Harriett Vernon
"Don't Stand There ——!" (Lawrance and Gifford)	Walter Stanley
"Farewell, my little Yo San" (Mills and B. Scott)	Tom Costello
"Frozen Meat" (T. W. Connor)	Alf Gibson
"Have you seen my girl?" (Mills and Scott)	Walter Munroe
"He Kissed I Once" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Marie Loftus
"I did enjoy myself last night" (Lawrence and M. Scott)	Will Johnson
"I don't mind if it amuses you!" (Leigh and Pether)	Ben Albert
"If all the stars were mine" (Smith and Stromberg)	Miss Lilian Doreen
"I'm a girl of Tennessee" (Eden and Byng)	Miss Lil Hawthorne
"I'm coming home to you" (Herbert Darnley)	Miss D. L. Clark
"I'm going to sea (see)" (Leamore and Collins)	Tom Leamore
"I'm round there to-night!" (Wincott and Leighton)	Dan Crawley
"Isn't that like a Man?" (Paul Mill)	Paul Mill
"It's all right in the summer time" (Murray and Everard)	Miss Vesta Victoria
"It's the Poor that help the Poor" (Mills and Castling)	Miss Florrie Gallimore
"I Wouldn't Grumble Any More" (Harry Castling)	Harry Bedford
"I've been a Naughty Boy all Day" (Carter and Weston)	Miss Georgina Leonard
"Jolly Jarge" (Mills and Arthurs)	George Bastow
"Julia" (Robson and Hyde)	Miss Gladys Mavius
"Just a Girl" (Elton and Harrison)	Miss Minnie Cunningham
"Little Jap Horner" (F. V. St. Clair)	F. V. St. Clair
"Ma Havannah Queen" (Gifford and Lawrence)	G. H. Elliott
"Ma Dusky Rose" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Florrie Robina
"Maude! Maude!" (Barnes and Collins)	Miss Lottie Lennox
"My Little Black Pearl" (Leslie Stuart)	Eugene Stratton
"My Fiddle is My Sweetheart" (Harry Hunter)	G. H. Chirgwin
"My Japanesy Girl" (Delmar and Parry)	Hal Forde
"My Lily of the Valley" (Frank Lee)	Miss Sable Fern
"Oh, Nancy Lee" (T. W. Connor)	Miss Millie Hylton
"One Little Cottage all Our Own" (J. F. Lambe)	Miss Dolly Harmer
"Revenges" (Dunlop and Pether)	Wallis Arthur
[Above also sung by Whit Cunliffe.]	
"She must have known!" (David and Scott)	J. E. Coyle
"She said, 'Baa! Baa! Baa!'" (Harrington and H. Allen)	Miss Florrie Forde
"She taught him a thing or two, too" (Leigh and Le Brunn)	Eileen Douglas
"Sit on 'em and keep 'em warm" (Wincott and Leighton)	Harry Champion
"Take this message to my sweetheart" (Mills and Castling)	Miss Marie Kendall
"That's him! That's him! That's him!" (Mills and Scott)	Harry Freeman
"The Angel of My Dreams" (Leigh and Pether)	Miss Millie Lindon
"The Gambling Man" (Jerome and Schwartz)	Miss Carlotta Levey
"The New Insurance" (Arthurs and Lyle)	Ernest Shand
"The New Perjurma 'At" (T. W. Connor)	Gus Elen
"The Playground in the Sky" (Bateman and Pether)	Milner Verren
"There was something on his mind" (Leigh and Le Brunn)	Miss Marie Lloyd
"The Saftest o' the Family" (Lauder and Beaton)	Harry Lauder
"The Seaside Sultan" (C. W. Murphy)	Miss Vesta Tilley
"The Statue in Trafalgar-square" (Arthurs and Lyle)	George Lashwood
"The Truth or a Lie?" (Barnes and Weston)	George D'Albert
"The Ugly Duckling" (Murphy and Lipton)	Miss Edith Courtney
[Above also sung by Park's Eton Boys, Miss Ella Dean, and Miss Phyllis Dare.]	
"The Workhouse Gate" (Shelley and Philpot)	Herbert Shelley
"Then She Started Tickle-ing" (Mills and Carter)	Pat Rafferty
"Therein Lurks Unseen Danger" (E

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1905.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AMUSEMENT.

In all artistic work, whether of brush, chisel, or pen, the "personal factor" always makes itself felt. The proverb that those who wear the shoe know where it pinches has its corollary in the statement that those who never wear it cannot imagine how it feels. The political economist is generally a highly educated man, whose literary labours and social diversions are amply sufficient to fill up his existence. One cannot imagine the late JOHN STUART MILL patronising a "round-about" or Mr JOHN MORLEY throwing balls at cocoa-nuts. The only philosopher we know of who has had a glimmering sense of the sort of life that is led by the thousands, as contrasted with that which is led by the hundreds and the twenties, is Professor HUXLEY. HUXLEY, however, whose keen perception was not corrected by real knowledge of the condition of the people, rather exaggerated their sufferings. Being poor is bad enough; but, to the poor themselves, it is not so bad as some people think. The late GEORGE GISSING took a similarly warped view of the matter. He was a sensitive man of genius, who lived in a cellar in a street off the Tottenham Court-road, and he saw everything *colour de* London fog. We only remember one attempt of his to describe poor people disporting themselves *à la* TENIERS, and a gruesome and prejudiced account it is. GISSING never enjoyed fun himself, and consequently could not appreciate the influence of EMERSON'S doctrine of "Compensation" on the lives of the masses. As the Scotch say, it is "ill talk between a full man and a fasting." Between the philosophers and the proletariat—to paraphrase Perkyn Middlewick—a great gulf lies; and that gulf is Education.

So, in the writings of the political economists and the philosophers we notice the same contemptuous estimate of those who provide amusement for the million. They are, we are told, "non-producers," and are scorned, by implication, accordingly. And when, by accident, a peasant genius like CARLYLE "gets Education," and scatters sham axioms as a bumble bee smashes up spiders' webs, his eyes, alas! are bleared with Scotch puritanism, and he joins with the philosophers in their sneers.

Amusement is a necessary of life. The average man and woman cannot go on working at his or her best strength without a change or a contrast. The philosopher turns up his nose at the "roundabouts," the "shooting galleries," and the wild beast shows; but he is hardly a judge of what is good for strong, healthy, unsophisticated people. We well remember, when detachments from all the Indian and Colonial regiments were bivouacking at the Alexandra Palace, seeing "soldiers of the Queen" who had recently been looking death in the face in South Africa riding round with the greatest delight on the horses of a "roundabout." Looking on was a magnificent Indian "non-com.," tall and noble, and superb in turban and much-ornamented uniform. Grave and dignified, he seemed to scorn the childish joys of Tommy Atkins. We thought of MATTHEW ARNOLD and the patient East with its "quiet, deep disdain." With what scorn, we fancied, does this splendid Oriental regard our western frivolities! As we watched, one of the horses became vacant. The stupendous *subadar* smiled; and, promptly tucking up his lower garments, he mounted into the vacant saddle, and was soon whirling round with the Hussars, the Australians, and the Canadians. The masses are the best judges of what they like and what they want in the way of amusement.

In the excellent and very informative article which we published last week, by the Rev. T. HORNE, the popular honorary chaplain of the Showmen's Guild, the importance of the modern showman's work was emphasised in words so true and so terse that we make no apology for quoting them here:—"*The modern showman has no need to be ashamed either of his work or his position in the national economy. To cater for a people's natural relaxation involves no slight share of responsibility in the nation's well-being. The strenuous toil of a highly developed industrial system demands frequent opportunities of recreation and change. Experience has demonstrated more than ever that the most complete provision of this natural demand is the healthy, all-absorbing, and ever-varying amusements of our fairs, feasts, and wakes. A mere casual study of the root conditions of life of the workers will be enough to show the reason for this. With the toilers at the loom, the machine bench, or in the mine, a prime necessity is that they shall not be expected to take too much trouble about the matter of necessary recreation. They cannot make a toil of a pleasure. With those whose work is less exacting it may be different. With the worn-out toiler it is essential that the amusement be brought to his very door. There is no sounder principle of true economy than that which is embodied in the old saying, 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.'*"

It is only to be expected that all the baser forms which "respectability" takes should be arrayed against these truths. The parson seldom looks with a kindly eye on shows and showmen. This again is quite natural. His sympathies are with those who ask him to dinner—with those who shoot pheasants, not with those who fire at swinging bottles and revolving eggs; with those who ride in the Row in the season, not with those who bestride "galloping horses" in and out of season. In the parson's eyes swings are superfluities, and machine organs inventions of the devil. Smug trade, on the other hand, finds plenty of amusement in, metaphorically, sanding its sugar, and in a certain fussy, greasy piety. It objects to noise, to loud laughter, to hilarious, demonstrative enjoyment. Penny readings and prayer meetings satisfy its wants; why should not they satisfy those of the proletariat? So it joins hands with clericalism to suppress the local fair.

Fortunately for the caterers for the people's amusements, they have risen to a sense of their danger, and have combined to meet it. Helped by sympathising friends, advised by clever lawyers, and with one of the most broad-minded and clear-headed of chaplains to assist and bless their efforts, the showmen have successfully "fought for their lives" against the forces of prejudice, bigotry, and selfishness. Of the part which *The Era* has taken in the defence of the show-people we need not speak. The back files of our paper contain evidence enough without self-glorification, which is therefore unnecessary. And after all, self-help is the great requisite in a case like this. We urge on every showman not to neglect to do all in his power by early and ready subscription to strengthen the hands of those who have already done so much in defence of his class. We want every member of the showman's calling to appreciate the importance of "standing shoulder to shoulder," and to show his appreciation by sending in his "mite" promptly and regularly.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

(SPECIAL TO THE ERA.)

THE dinner of the No. 1 Branch N.U.T.S.E., announced in this column to take place on Sunday in the Salisbury Hotel, will, owing to the death of the manager of that establishment, be given in the Nag's Head Hotel, Floral-street, at 7 0 on Sunday evening. It is expected there will be about 100 present. A few tickets are still available.

ON Sunday last a meeting of stage employees was held in Glasgow, when it was decided to convene another meeting on the 22nd inst. to consider the formation of a benevolent fund, in addition to the other benefits provided by the local branch of the N.U.T.S.E.

AT the annual general meeting of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Branch of this society, the following were elected to hold office during the ensuing year:—President, Mr Patrick Mullany; vice-president, Mr James Preston; treasurer, Mr John Oxnard; secretary, Mr J. Paterson; trustees, Messrs James Johnson and Wm. Murray; committee, Messrs Frank Arbrickle, Wm. Murray, Charles Lowe, James Redhead, C. P. Conley, and C. Thompson; auditors, Messrs James Gillhespy and N. Younger. This branch will also consider the question of establishing a benevolent fund as an addition to its present sick and funeral benefits.

AT the meeting of the committee of the No. 1 Branch on Wednesday evening a number of applications for membership were granted. An application for a grant from the benevolent fund by a member unable to work owing to an accident was granted, the sum of ten shillings per week being allowed.

A PROPOSAL to form a Theatrical and Music Hall Sharing-out Fund is being submitted to the employees of the metropolitan theatres and music halls. It is suggested that the payment should be 1s. per week, with a levy of 1s. and 6d. respectively on the death of a member or a members' wife. With 3,000 members—a number which it is anticipated would join, the funds being open to all sections—the income would be £150 per week. A similar society shared out £2 5s. at the end of the year after providing sick pay at the rate of 18s. per week, and sums at death to the amount of £60 and £30 in the case of a member and a member's wife's death.

NOTICES and reports of meetings, &c., are invited from the various societies with which stage employees are connected.

PRESENTATION.—On Wednesday, Jan. 10, Mr Percy Atkins, the courteous box-office manager at the Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, was presented with a handsome gold-mounted umbrella, silver cigarette case, and clock, by the staff of the theatre and a few friends, as a birthday gift.

MR EDITOR.—Sir,—In last week's *Era*, in the notice re *Aladdin* at the Brixton Theatre, you mention Miss Kittie Harrold singing "Bull and Bush" with big success. It should have been yours faithfully, MAY KENT (as Hi Toff), Brixton Theatre. Brixton, S.W., Jan. 11.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS
(Continued from Page 17.)

TON-Y-PANDY.

ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs Carlton and Duckworth; General Manager, Mr S. Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr H. Counsell.—Mr Wentworth Croke's company is presenting *The Christian* here this week. Mr Hilliard Vox as John Storm is excellent. Parson Quayle is ably presented by Mr C. Hill; Mr S. Radcliffe does well as Father Lamplugh. In the rôle of Glory Quayle Miss G. Chalmers displays admirable power and is also very graceful.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs Carlton and Duckworth; Sole Lessee, Miss Alexandra; Managing-Director, Mr Dd. Taylor.—The progromme here includes the Florenz Troupe of acrobats and Atlas and Vulcana, who give a graceful and pleasing turn. Gustave Fasola presents the magic kettle. The Baleros show great agility on the horizontal bars. Alec Aubrey, the Welsh athlete, also scores. La Place continues to create merriment.

VENTNOR (I.O.W.).

GRAND PAVILION.—For two nights only Mr T. R. Nugent has presented his lively and up-to-date pantomime here. Miss Maggie Gardiner made a dashing Crusoe. Miss Kitty Keane was quite delightful as Polly Perkins; the Billie Taylor of Miss Phillis Watson was one of the hits of the evening; Dan Kenny met with great success as Mrs Crusoe; a well-studied character was Jimmy Crusoe, played by Mr Willie Vivian; and Master Sidney Nugent, jun., in the character of Tommy Crusoe, caused the house to roar with laughter. Mr A. Mayhew was the bold and bad Will Atkins, and Friday was most faithfully represented by Mr H. Gardiner.

WAKEFIELD.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr Howard Hinton's company in the pantomime *Dick Whittington* opened here for one week on Monday. Miss Kitty Phelps makes a handsome and dashing Dick; Miss Daisy Clements becomingly enacts the part of Alice; Miss Maud Leonard sings well as Sir Rowland; the Sisters Bronson are admirable as Algy and Polly; Miss Gracie Clements makes a capital Fairy Goodwill; the Cat is excellently played by Mr Harry Cardoe; Alderman Fitzwarren is judiciously played by Mr Mount Stephens; and the fun is well maintained by the untiring efforts of Mr Harry Rennior as Idle Jack. Mr Steve Cooke, a diverting Cook; Mr Tom R. Seymour as Captain Bunting, and the Bowery Boys as Shuffle and Shirk. The Emperor of Morocco is satisfactorily represented by Mr H. H. Hastings, and Miss Violet Welsh makes a charming Princess. Specialities are given by the Sisters Bronson, the Bowery Boys, the Sisters Clements, in a smart coon song; Stephens and Rennior, and J. M. M. Style, a local double-voiced vocalist. Some spirited dancing is supplied by the Empress Quartet.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Wakefield Hippodrome, Limited; Manager, Mr D. G. Mooney.—Mr J. H. Milburn, vocal comedian, sings in excellent style; Miss Daisy Morell, burlesque artiste, is a great success; Mr George Martinengo, 'cello soloist, provides a clever turn; Martino, the man frog, wins applause; Mr Alf Berg, performs some excellent feats of strength; Miss Bessie Travis delights with her ventriloquial performance; and Miss Cora Gray, ballad vocalist, finds favour.

WALSALL.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, LIMITED.—General Manager and Secretary, Mr W. H. Westwood.—Mr John Walter's pantomime, *Cinderilla*, which is having a short but successful run at this place of entertainment, is exceedingly good. Miss Flo Merry is very successful as the Baroness Auto-Atlas, and lifts with his teeth a motor-car in full working order, containing three adult passengers.

GRAND THEATRE.—General Manager and Secretary, Mr W. H. Westwood. — *Saved from the Sea* is being played this week by Mr Leslie Vyner's company. Mr Leonard Robson is seen to advantage as Dan Ellington; Miss F. Russell-Spiers is an attractive heroine; Mr H. Vernon as Billy Snooks is comical; and Miss Dora Condor creates much laughter as Polly Blake. Little Miss Alberta Heath is successful in the rôle of Jack Ellington; Peter Scalcher is embodied by Mr S. C. Kearns; and the part of Richard Fenton has an able exponent in Mr William A. Attfield.

WEDNESBURY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr W. J. Cranston. — Messrs Montague Beaudyn and Sidney Crowe's No. 1 company in the melodrama entitled *The Way of the World* is here this week. Mr Montague Beaudyn as Cecil Montague and Mr Herbert Skardon as Captain Slade do excellent work in their respective parts. Mathew Malyon is admirably portrayed by Mr Robertson Foulis. The part of Horatio Bluff is humorously rendered by Mr Lewis Scott. Mr John Keane as Sir John Slade and Mr E. Vicars Rees as Silas Montague are warmly applauded. Miss Sidney Crowe as Adele De La Roche, the circus queen, proves herself a capable artist. Marion Fanshaw, an heiress, is artistically portrayed by Miss Annie Clunn. Miss Irene Munroe cleverly acts the rôle of Kate Montague, and as Polly Bell Miss Violet Vivienne is all that could be desired.

WALTHAMSTOW.

KING'S THEATRE.—Messrs Harry F. M'Clelland and Harold Whyte's amusing pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* is still drawing excellent business, thanks no less to its own intrinsic merits than to the unflagging exertions of the clever company engaged. In the course of the evening Mr Robert Williams (Sir Goose Green) has been giving a very fine sword display, which is at once interesting, graceful, and clever. Mr Bob Hall, not contented with the roars of laughter that nightly greet his clever impersonation of Master Goosey, has now introduced an amusing and good-humoured burlesque of the "magic" performances of a certain gentleman whose "electric cures" have caused no inconsiderable sensation at "the halls." This new "Blizzard of the North" is received with a storm of applause. A very capable young dancer, Little Jeff, makes a decided hit, her "splits" and "wheels" being accomplished with neatness and dexterity. Mr Geo. Mayes is still quaintly funny as Jonathon Wisenut. Miss Trixie Toole looks very sweet and sings delightfully as Red Riding Hood, while the Boy Blue of Miss Ruth Wallace is charming; Little Miss Hazel Kirke holds her own as a prime favourite with the audience. Mr J. Gill and Mr Wm. L. Delvoy are a capital pair of ruffians. The transformation scene, The Birth of the Rising Sun, works with perfect smoothness, and is provocative of delighted applause, while the harlequinade is funny enough to send everyone away in good humour. The music, selected and arranged by Mr Sheridan Gordon, is not the least pleasing feature of the production.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr G. Adney Payne; Manager, Mr Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr G. F. Slatter.—Mr Barclay, ever on the alert to secure the best available talent, has for the present week engaged several turns of exceptional merit to supplement—or, rather, introduce—the attractions of Mr Espinosa's pantomime. Lieut. Travis, one of the very best ventriloquists on the stage, delights everyone with the humour he infuses into his dolls, a pleasure which reaches a climax when he sings a song whilst smoking a cigarette. Of the Two Erolls it would be impossible to speak too highly. Described as "marvellous leapers," the marvellous is certainly merited, although the leaping is limited to the gentleman. His somersault over the head of his tall companion standing on a table is a thing to remember. Ernesto is an extremely clever and original juggler, all his tricks being performed with excellent precision. A particularly pretty turn is the Vernon Troupe. The four smart young gentlemen and the pretty girl certainly earn the hearty reception they receive. Jules Keller gives an interesting exhibition of hand-walking. *Cinderella*, now in its third week, goes with a swing, but there are no essential changes to chronicle. Miss Eva Kelland is still the most captivating of heroines, and Miss Kate Brandon quite a dashing Prince Charming. Miss C. Stroud Wilson sings with grand effect "Let me dream again," securing an irresistible encore. The other members of the company manage to extract all the fun possible from their various characters. The harlequinade is rattled through with a spirit that sets the youngsters screaming with delight, and special mention should be made of the neat dancing of Mr Billy Poole as Constable XYZ. The overture for the week is Mr H. Petersen's pretty "Pot-pourri," brilliantly played by the orchestra, under the direction of the talented composer.

WARRINGTON.

ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr J. Potter.—Mr T. Morton Powell's company in *The Greed of Gold* made a welcome reappearance here on Monday. Mr Carthage Caldcleugh acts with dramatic force the part of Harry Hood, and a really clever study of Tom Welstead, the dumb man, is submitted by Mr B. Fox. Mr Charles Coleman is well placed as Arthur Errol, and Mr W. M. Cameron as Cull Snig is humour personified. Mr T. G. Warry is a dignified Mr Brighton, K.C., and Mr Ernest Bright as Mee Chow and Mr H. Creamer as Conn Creamer also score. Miss Daisy Halling acts charmingly as Dora, and Miss Gracie St. John makes the most of Mrs Maxwell.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr J. Potter: Director of Amusements, Mr F. Willmot.—Another capital company is here this week. Tennyson and Wallis are a smart pair of comedians, and a delightful entertainment is provided by the Four M.P.'s (the Musical Palmers), and their speciality, *The Officer's Rehearsal*, is well received. The Sisters Spillerini are charming duettists and instrumentalists, and their success is pronounced. Miss Daisy Almer, serio and dancer; J. P. Carrol, tambourine player; Smith and Johnson, coloured duettists; Guy Ryder, boy whistler; and the Royal Bioscope pictures complete a capital bill.

PAER HALL.—Licensee, Mr J. Lyon Whittle.—Mr Charles Harrington's company in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is here this week. Mr Harrington scores a big success as Phineas Fletcher, and Mr B. Lenton as Mr St. Clair is well placed. Mr Guy P. Ellis submits a clever study of George Harris, and Uncle Tom has a worthy representative in Mr J. Carr. Mr J. H. Rogers acts with dramatic force as Legree, and equally successful is Mr J. Gilson as Mr Wilson. Mr Fred Charles is amusing as Marks, a lawyer. Miss Zerlina Zerbina is a complete success as Cassy, and Eliza Harris is safely acted by Miss Hettie Johnson. Mrs Hero Hathaway does well as Mrs St. Clair, and Miss Sylvia Stella as Topsy scores at every opportunity. Miss Ida Fane as Aunt Ophelia and Mrs Carr as Aunt Chloe are alike excellent, and Little Minnie as Little Eva is a charming actress. The specialities by Sylvia Stella, Shorty May, W. H. Nott, and Ikey Jones are all received.

WEST BROMWICH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr J. P. Moore.—Mr Tom H. Taylor's company in the original drama *The Female Swindler* is paying its first visit to this town. The chief character is Jack Coulson, a criminal investigator, and is played with great force by Mr Jerrold Heather, Mr Luke Foster working well with him as Billy Binks. It would be hard to find a part more suitable to Mr Bernard Mervyn than that of Geoffrey Warden; his acting is excellent. Abraham Mikestein is in the hands of Mr Rule Pyott, who does full justice to the part; Miss Florrie Kelsey is responsible for a smart rendering of May Andrews; and the title-rôle is exceedingly well portrayed by Miss Violet Ellicott.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.

GRAND — General Manager (for Mrs Weldon Watts), Mr Sidney Bacon; Resident Manager, Mr Fred Conneaux.—A return visit of *Florodora* had been anticipated with a good deal of pleasure by the people of the Hartlepools, and none were disappointed with the presentation of the bright little musical work by Messrs N. J. Callan and Wentworth Croke's company. Miss Maud Lake, who possesses an admirable voice, gives a charming interpretation of Dolores, and Miss May Yates is vivacious and attractive as Angela Gilfain. Miss Cissie Sephton, a most capable artiste, makes the part of the society widow Lady Holyrood very entertaining. Mr Arthur Lenville as Anthony Tweedlepunch makes the most of the rôle, bringing out the humour to its fullest extent. As Cyrus W. Gilfain Mr C. Young Fixott appears to advantage, and other artistes who deservedly enjoy popularity are Mr Wm. Everard and Mr Frank Gran.

PALACE. — Director-General, Mr Frank Macnaghten.—Otto Schuman's Circus is the star turn here, and the performances of the clever horses are being received nightly with enthusiasm. The dramatic episode by Grahame and Harrington, *A Daughter of Pleasure*, is a special feature of the programme. It is absorbing and interesting, and is most artistically played. Franco Piper, the celebrated banjoist, is an accomplished musician; Fatmah Diard's beautiful voice is charming everyone; the Wartenburg Brothers are wonderfully clever in their novel double-foot act; the dancing by Hart and Rudd is remarkably smart; and Stanert and Yondi, musical comedy artists, and Billy Hubbard, comedian, complete a strong bill.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

GRAND PIER PAVILION.—The "Smart Set" entertainers, under the sole direction of Mr Walter George, are paying a most welcome return visit here. Miss Georgie Martin gained a hearty encore for her singing of "Go Away, Mr Crocodile;" Miss Ethel Wilford was very successful with her recital; and Miss Margaret Long rendered "Dear Heart" most artistically. Mr Frank Swinford's fine voice was heard to advantage in "The Yeoman's Wedding;" Mr Arthur Court was entitled to much praise for his singing of Blumenthal's "An Evening Song;" and Mr Walter George's humorous songs and sketches proved irresistibly droll. An original opera, in one act, entitled *The King's Command*, filled the second half of the programme, in which Mr Frank Swinford (Frederick the Great), Mr Arthur Court (Sergeant Karl, Miss Margaret Long (Rosa), and Miss Georgie Martin (Dame Grida) all acted and sang with distinction.

WEST STANLEY.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr M. H. Lindon.—Mr Frank E. Burdett's company with the military play, *The Indian Mutiny*, is fulfilling an engagement here. Mr H. Rylland Leigh gives a manly impersonation of Lieut. Manley, and Mr Reginald Fox is a capable Captain Manley. Mr W. S. Tindall does full justice to the part of Major Ingleby, Mr John Hignett is very droll as Terry O'Brien, Miss Kate Bruce as Mrs Ingleby and Miss Agnes Kingston as Kate Ingleby are entirely satisfactory. Mr Villiers Stanley gives a good rendering of Nebu Singh, whilst Mr J. S. Shedden is good as Abul Khar. Mr Ernest Keand as Ra-Goonga proves himself an actor of ability, and too much praise cannot be given to Miss Maud Digby for her careful rendering of the part of Ghuznah.

WHITEHAVEN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Clark.—Miss Cissie Moxon's company is paying a return visit here in the musical comedy, *A Trip to Rum-Fum*. Mr W. S. Hutchinson is as good as ever in the character of Biddy, and Mr Charles Bu-Val is amusing as Van Swanck. Miss Nellie Ingram is a lively Flossie Kixie, and Miss Rosie Stewart is pleasing as Peggy. The Saxon Troupe submit some clever dancing.

WIGAN.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company; Managing-Director, Mr John Worswick.—Messrs G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company, by arrangement with the late Mr Wilson Barrett, is presenting *The Silver King*. Mr Herbert Ford gives a powerful representation of Wilfred Denver, and Mr Edward J. George Daniel Jaikes and Mr Charles Levey as Capt Herbert Skinner are capable exponents of the respective parts. Miss Lilian Bethell as Nellie Denver and Miss Amy Manfree as Cissy Denver enact their rôles admirably.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company; Managing-Director, Mr J. Worswick. — The programme this week is exceptionally interesting and entertaining. Tom Grove performs his sensational cycling feat of "flying the revolving wheel," a sort of "looping the loop," with this difference, that Grove cycles round the inside of the revolving wheel several times; the Bros. Lang give a remarkably clever and amusing knockabout act; and J. W. Hall, the popular eccentric comedian, is several times recalled. Ryan and Hall are capital acrobatic comedians, and the Lyons Trio are excellent pantomimists and dancers. Millie Harris, Post Mason, Fred Cooper, and Eric Graham, vocalists, &c., are well received; and the Vyponds give a drawing-room act in which mirth and music are combined.

EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr W. Birchall.—There is a good bill at the Empire this week. Mons. Leonhardt's troupe of performing collies and other dogs give an excellent show. Ryder Davis and Daly O'Doran, comedians; Miss Eva Ward, vocalist; and Alec Kendal, eccentric dancer, are also well received. George York, a one-legged dancer; the Sisters Ely, vocalists and dancers; and Hugo, champion clog-dancer, gives acceptable performances.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr E. H. Bull and Mr Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy Perceival.—Mr J. Bannister-Howard's company presented *The Darling of the Gods* to a Wolverhampton audience for the first time on Monday. The staging was admirable. Mr D. Lewin Mannering, who appeared as Zakkuri, was particularly clever; Kara was portrayed in stolid yet excellent style by Mr Alfred Goddard; Mr Leonard Grey was an efficient Saigon; Mr. Alexander Havilard did well as Tanda Tanji; and Mr Launcelot St. George Lowther ably filled the part of Inu. Miss Inez Bensusan was a charming Yo-San. Other characters were well filled by Miss Mary Mannering, Miss Edith Anton Laing, Miss Kate Hamilton, and Miss Stella Wynne.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr Chas. Bernard; General Manager, Mr W. H. Lennon.—Amongst this week's attractions are the Original Vivians, a pleasing quintet, who supply an enjoyable and vivacious entertainment. The Stavordale Quintet give an excellent performance on banjos and harp. Larry Lewis, comedian; the Gregson Comedy Trio; Harry Wenburn, comedian; Monks and Woods, in an amusing act; Amy Donns, dancer; Ossy Soupless, contortionist; the Sisters Brooklands; and Ruffell's Bioscope are also in the programme.

WORCESTER.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton; General Manager, Mr Louis Karpe.—A first visit of the popular musical comedy, *The Earl and the Girl*, has throughout the week drawn generous and distinguished patronage to Mr Carlton's comfortable and commodious house. Mr Wm. Greet's company is a large and capable one. Mr Reginald Switz is admirable as the dog-trainer, Jim Cheese, introducing a lot of new "business," which is highly effective. As Liza Miss Cynthia Carey is responsible for a clever impersonation. Miss Rosa Carlisle has taken the place of Miss Mary Fraser as Elphin Haye owing to the latter's illness, and has achieved a great success. She plays with a natural grace which is highly attractive, and sings and dances very daintily. Mr Alec Fraser is a capital Dick Wargrave, whose bright and breezy nature makes him a great favourite. He sings a good song, and works very hard for the success of the comedy. Miss Maud Aston is a charming Daisy Fallowfield, Miss Mary Morrison sustains the dignity of the part of Miss Bliss very naturally, while Mr H. B. Brandreth as Bunker Bliss, Mr Tom Edwards as Downham, Mr W. T. Hybert as Mr Talk, and Miss Maud Adams as Mrs Black cause a good deal of laughter by their boisterous vagaries. A largely augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr A. L. Spittle, contributes considerably to the general success of the comedy.

WORKINGTON.

QUEEN'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr Stanley Rogers.—Mr Edmund Tearle's company was unable to appear at this theatre on Monday owing to the illness of Mr Tearle in Derry, Ireland. On Tuesday night the company presented *Jeanie Deans*, with Mr Tearle omitted from the cast.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr Helsby Wright.—*Sapho* was produced on Monday before a large and appreciative audience. Miss Annie Bell as Fanny was charming, infusing energy and pathos into the part. Mr F. Ross was excellent as Jean, and there were stirring scenes between him and Fanny. Mr G. Antley was sprightly as the uncle, Mr A. Helsby was good as the convict, as was also Mr J. A. Storey as Father Legrand. Miss Bell was ably supported by Miss C. Greenhalgh, Miss L. Desmond, Miss G. Oliver, and Miss D. Brinklow.

WORTHING.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Miss Rose Faith and company are here this week in *No Cross No Crown*, Mr J. P. M'Bride makes a manly Sir Francis Luttrell; Mr H. Chapman ably acts the part of Professor Nebb; Mr Logan Darra capably portrays the villainous Austin Blake; Mr F. C. Hudspeth is distinctly humorous as Rawson Haines; Miss Rose Faith is excellent as Clare; Miss Gwen Stewart in the double part of Lady Margaret Luttrell and Mistress Gray acts admirably; Miss May Warden prettily sustains the juvenile part of Doris Luttrell; and Miss Dolly Turner as Plato deserves praise, her song "In the land of make-believe" being well-rendered.

YORK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr T. H. Barrow. — Mr Chas. Macdona's excellent company appeared on Monday before a large audience, in *The School Girl*. Miss Nellie Hodson, an actress endowed with a peculiar charm of manner, is particularly well suited to the rôle of Lillian Leigh; Miss Jennie Bonnie as Cicely plays with much vivacity; Mr Alec. Chantrens is altogether an excellent Edgar Verney; and Mr Max Copland makes Ormesby St. Ledger a mirth-provoking personage. As Col. Marchmont Mr Charles Adeson has ample scope to display his abilities, and from start to finish he never loses his grip of the part. Another clever comedian is Mr Alfred Leslie, who as Tubby Bedford creates roars of laughter. Miss Kate Forster doubles the parts of the Mother Superior and Mrs Marchmont, and in the former sings with her accustomed taste and expression.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr Sidney Brooke.—Variety is the rule this week after a short spell of pantomime. Ginnett's *Rejected Remounts* heads the bill, and the fun caused by their appearance is of the most boisterous kind. Mr Charles Clifford, a warm favourite in York, plays sweetly on the harp and is well received; the Revell Troupe, in their speciality entitled "Mischief," are well received; Jack and Evelyn, in their sketch, are extremely clever, their sand dancing being a pleasing item; Mdlle. Roseltha dances in first-class style; and Wood and Merion are comedy artistes of the first rank. Bert Watson's new songs catch on, and the Three Seabornes are remarkably clever in their line of business.

MUSIC HALL GOSSIP.

MR H. H. WELLS, a director of the Canterbury and Paragon, Limited, is the adopted Unionist candidate for the Parliamentary representation of St George's-in-the-East, Tower Hamlets, in the ce of Sir Thomas Dewar, the present respected mber, who will retire at the dissolution of the esent Parliament.

MR WELLS organised a special matinée on Thursday in aid of the St. George's and Wapping Fund for the relief of the distress that so largely prevails in the district. The co-operation of his co director, Mr George Adney Payne, Mr Joseph Davis, Mr E. Rawlings, Mr Fred Miller, general manager of the Canterbury and Paragon, and Mr Charles Beecham, resident-manager of the last-mentioned hall, was readily and heartily given; and the artistes, orchestra, and staff gave their services. It is anticipated that at least £100 will be handed over to the fund.

AMONG the entertainers was Dr. Walford Bodle, whose special treatment of children suffering from paralysis was exemplified before the audience with very remarkable results. Others who appeared were Walter Bentley, the Harvey Boys, Fred Karno's Company in *Mumming Birds*, Ella Lane, Rosie Lloyd, Ethel Loftus, Queenie May, Victoria Monks, the King's Musketeers, Little Minnie Saunders, the Royal Six, Arthur Verne, Dion Wade, and the Five Whiteleys. The programme concluded with "The Favourites of the Past," in which Miss Elsa Joel and Mr Hamilton Hill sang the songs made famous by music hall stars who have joined the great majority.

TO the enterprises of the year we may add the Putney Hippodrome and Palace of Varieties, which Mr Walter Stephens, of 12, Haymarket, is arranging to erect in the High-street of the favourite Thames-side town. The building is to be a distinct departure from the styles of the suburban halls and theatres; and a special feature of the entertainments to be presented thereat will be high-class Continental turns. The interior will be of an imposing character. Mr Stephens is acquiring a long building lease, and the board is now up on the site. He is also arranging for a similar building in Kilburn—one that will seat 1,800. Both places will be run on the two-houses-a-night system.

THE Lewisham Palace of Varieties, another of Mr Stephens's ventures, is to be erected forthwith. The L.C.C. have passed Mr Stephens's plans, and granted the permit to build on Dec. 13.

MR GEORGE HENRY CHIRGWIN, the White-eyed Kaffir, met with an accident on the Welford-road, Leicester, on Sunday afternoon. It appears that Chirgwin, who was accompanied by his wife and daughter, was motoring through Leicester, on his way to Nottingham, to fulfil an engagement at the Empire there. Near the Bedford Hotel, which is situated at the bottom of the Welford-road, the hind wheels of the car skidded, and the fore part of the carriage came in contact with an electric tram column. Mrs Chirgwin was thrown out, and sustained an injury to her ankle, being also badly shaken. Happily the other occupants of the car escaped serious injury. The base of the column was smashed, and the cap knocked off the top.

THE car, which was travelling at a moderate pace, was doubled up and rendered useless. The accident was witnessed by many people, and willing help was rendered by several on the spot. Mr, Mrs, and Miss Chirgwin rested for a time in an adjoining hotel, after which they proceeded to the George Hotel, nearly opposite the Leicester Palace Theatre, where they were seen by a doctor. It was found that Mr Chirgwin had been severely bruised, but that no bones were broken. Mr Chirgwin, writing to us on Tuesday, says:—"All is well, bar the car, which is a complete wreck. Many thanks to friends for hundreds of wires and letters." He did not appear at Nottingham on Monday.

THE scenery stores situated at the rear of the Queen's, Poplar, were on fire on Thursday evening. A district call brought up over a dozen steamers with a force of ninety firemen, who went to work with two hydrants. The building was severely damaged, and most of its contents destroyed, but the hall itself was in no way affected, nor was there any interference with the usual evening performance.

MISS ALICE LLOYD, who is appearing at the Crown Theatre, Peckham, in her favourite part of Cinderella, did a very kindly act on Tuesday night, when, by the invitation of the local tradesmen, some 350 of Peckham's poorest children were fed and entertained at Mr G. F. Morgan's auction rooms in High-street. During the evening Miss Lloyd drove up in her brougham, and sang a couple of songs, much to the delight of the kiddies, one of whom presented her with a lovely bouquet. The little guests were regaled with sandwiches, pastry, and fruit by many willing helpers.

MR JOCK WHITEFORD, the latest Scotch comedian to make a success in London, is, like his predecessors, Mr W. F. Frame and Mr Harry Lauder, a Clyde man, having been born at Greenock about seven-and-twenty years ago. He commenced life in the shipbuilding industry. An excellent voice and musical taste made his services welcome at concerts, and for some time he sang as an amateur. His success, however, encouraged him to make the plunge, and he became a full-blown professional, when he was induced to join Mackenzie Murdock (the Scotch Paganini) and his concert party. He toured the towns on the Clyde, and played at most of the more important centres in the Highlands. He then joined Adeler and Sutton's Pierrots, a combination that has had among its members such distinguished comedians as Malcolm Scott, Hal Forde, and Ambrose Thorne. Young Whiteford belongs to a musical family, and in his burlesque of a female ballad singer he discloses a very powerful falsetto.

HE made his début on Saturday last at the London Pavilion with results that must have been as pleasing to himself as they were to the management. He repeated his triumph on Monday evening, when he took the place of Mr Harry Lauder, who was unable to answer to his number on the programme on account of indisposition. Mr Frank Glenister has secured Mr Whiteford's services exclusively for the West-end, and he will commence his first engagement at the London Pavilion in May next. He had to return on Tuesday morning to Glasgow.

THE Rev. John A. Warner, Hadlow Down Vicarage, Sussex, in respect to the name given to the new theatre of varieties in St. Martin's-lane, asks the reason for spelling it Coliseum. He says Colosseum is undoubtedly the word intended, which serves to point to the gigantic nature of the scheme. The only possible origin for the spelling Coliseum is, he suggests, the French equivalent *colisée*. The word is derived from the Latin *colossus* or *colosseus*, or the Greek *kolossaion*. In the days when there was a building of the same name at Cambridge-terrace, Regent's-park, some persons were found who spelt its name "Coliseum," and there was an outcry by scholars against the practice.

THE 388th meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Tuesday afternoon, Mr Joe O'Gorman, chairman of the committee, presiding. The secretary reported that forty-two new members had joined during the past week, making the total number enrolled since the commencement of 11,100. The hon. treasurer's financial statement was submitted, and was passed as read.

THE Duke and Duchess of Fife and family were present on Wednesday afternoon at the Hippodrome, Brighton, and showed much appreciation of the excellent entertainment provided by Mr Thomas Barrasford.

MAJOR GEORGE STRATTON, so many years manager for Mr William Greet, has been appointed acting-manager by Mr Stoll at the Empire Theatre, Liverpool.

FOR the first time in the history of amusements in Cork "The King" was played on Monday, and loyal Irishmen gave proof of their feeling by the waving of hats and cheering. The management of the establishment by Mr Henry Kemble is proving a big success.

MR CHARLES H. BOWMAKER, late of the Surrey, and recently the acting-manager at the Elephant and Castle, has been appointed by Mr Oswald Stoll to the management of the Empire, Nottingham, a magnificent variety theatre capable of holding over 3,500 pleasure-seekers.

THE directors of the Brighton Alhambra have decided to adopt the now popular plan of giving two performances nightly, and on Monday next this arrangement will come into force. The first performance will commence at 6 45 and the second at 9 0 o'clock. The residents of the outlying districts around Brighton will be able to witness the whole of the entertainment and return home to an early supper. The second performance will be a boon to those who are detained late in business houses. The popular half-price matinée on Thursday will continue as usual.

AT the Hippodrome, Southport, on Monday, in the first house, during Rozel's performance, a rope suspended from the roof dropped on to the gas-ring, and caught fire. Rozel, seeing the danger, climbed to the side of his apparatus, and, with the assistance of his climbing rope and one of the attendants, who pulled him over, he seized the burning material and extinguished the flame with his hands. He then pulled down all smouldering pieces, which he dropped in the ring. Though he had burnt his fingers, Rozel pluckily returned to his place and finished his act amid enthusiastic applause.

MR FRANK EGERTON, the enterprising manager of Collins's Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent, is presenting to the inhabitants of the Potteries Professor Inman Hockinge, the miracle worker, who has been packing the houses nightly to witness the effects of his wonderful healing powers. He is causing the greatest excitement by doing everything in full view of the audience. He pays a return visit on April 17, and opens at Sadler's Wells on Monday next.

MR E. J. DEXTER, the genial manager of the Gaiety Theatre, Oldham, showed his generous spirit and feeling for his suffering fellow men by devoting the proceeds of the second performance on Wednesday, Jan. 4, to the relief of the starving in the town. From the crowded aspect of the theatre it is expected that a substantial sum will be handed over.

MR HARRY BURNS is still very ill, and his Hartlepool manager (Mr C. Ferrier) wishes us to state that as no one is allowed to see the invalid he hopes that all clients and managers will excuse any delay in answering correspondence. Mr Ferrier is doing his utmost to cope with the large amount of work that has fallen upon him.

MR GEO. S. DOUGLASS, late resident-manager of the Empire Palace, and general manager of the Tivoli, South Shields, has been appointed by the directors to be general manager of the Wakefield Hippodrome. Mr Douglass has been connected with the variety profession for the last thirty years, and was well known in conjunction with his wife as Dexteria and Douglass, the mirthful mystifiers.

MISS ADELE ROZE, much to the regret of the Bradford public, the management, and herself, is obliged to relinquish her engagement as Robinson Crusoe at the Prince's Theatre there. Unfortunately Miss Roze contracted a severe cold during rehearsals, and, influenza supervening, her medical man thinks it imperative that she should go, as soon as she is able to travel, to the south coast, there to thoroughly recuperate. One can quite understand Miss Roze's great disappointment; and this is shared by Mr Frank Macnaghten, her manager, who has, however, offered her his tour when she is able to resume work.

MESSRS W. F. AND CHARLES MAFFEY, two representatives of the Music Publishers' Association, have been in Birmingham since Christmas, and in their endeavour to trace the source of the large output of pirated music in the Midland metropolis they have at last succeeded. They have for some time suspected a man named Evans, and in order to throw him off the scent they visited his premises disguised as hawkers. The woman in charge had to unlock three doors in succession before the room where the pirated music was stored was entered. In this room about 30,000 copies of pirated music were found, including many of the most popular songs of the day, such as "My Cosy Corner Girl," "Sammy," "As your hair grows whiter," "The Holy City," "The Lost Chord," "The Star of Bethlehem," "The River of Years," "The Miller's Daughter," and "Because."

TWO policemen were called, and the whole stock was seized. Messrs. Maffey then proceeded to some other premises owned by Evans, with the intention of having him taken into custody. When they had arrived, however, they found that Evans had already been arrested on a charge of being concerned in recent jewellery robberies which have occurred in the city. Evans was placed in a cab and driven to the police-station, while the music and the proceeds of the robberies followed in a large van.

MISS DAISY MORELL has been specially engaged by Mr Arthur Milton to open on Monday as principal boy in the Milton-Rays' pantomime, in which she will introduce her successful original songs.

MISS BERTHA SEEBOLD, of the Two Musical Seebolds, has quite recovered from her severe illness, and will resume business again on JAN. 23.

THERE can be no possible doubt that the Albert and Edmunds Troupe have made one of their greatest successes in Edmund Edmunds and W. Scott Phippa's pantomime at the West London Theatre. The press and public have alike been unanimous in praise of the show, which is one long roar of laughter throughout. The book and music have received very careful attention, and the several side-splitting absurdities of the troupe are deftly blended into the plot. The scenery, too, is delightful, and the whole entertainment goes with a swing that is positively exhilarating.

THE great Rubie, "La Femme Mesmer," has been creating quite a furore this week at the Grand Varieties, Clapham, with her startling and up-to-date electric and hypnotic experiments. Packed houses have been the rule nightly, Rubie having made a great and phenomenal hit. She opens Monday next at the People's Palace, Tottenham, and Collins's, Islington.

IN the course of a performance in the Juliana Menagerie, installed on the Boulevard de Ménilmontant, Paris, Gaston, the lion tamer, was seized by the lioness Coralie, who injured his hand so seriously that he had to be taken to Lariboisière Hospital. Some time ago the tamer had his right hand slashed by another lion.

FOR the Music Hall Home Fund a matinée is to be given at the Palace, Camberwell, on Thursday, Jan. 26. Both Mr Jesse Sparrow and Mr J. Fruin are working hard in the interests of a charity whose good work on behalf of the aged professional should specially recommend it to the more fortunate variety entertainer of the present day. The Home is in great need of funds, and we may call our readers' attention to an appeal on its behalf printed in another column. *The Era* Shilling Fund is, we believe, the most practical and popular method of help that can be adopted, and to the many who will be desirous of assisting in the collection of silver for so benevolent a cause we earnestly recommend an immediate application for cards to Mr J. Fruin, Music Hall Home, 31, Wilson-street, Camberwell.

THE committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund have decided that, in future, candidates for membership will not be compelled to undergo a medical examination, in this respect following the example of some of the life assurance offices. They have, further, extended the age limit to forty-five. The medical examination and the age limit have always been formidable obstacles in the way of getting fresh members, and the committee have good reason for believing that under the new conditions there will be a large increase in the membership.

MR HARRY RANDALL, president, has consented to occupy the chair on Sunday, Feb. 5, at the forthcoming dinner and dance at the Trocadero, of the M.H.A.R.A., and Mr Joe O'Gorman, chairman of the committee, will be in the vice-chair. The tickets will be on sale next Monday, and can be had on application to the secretary at the offices.

MR HENRI GROS has been kept at home in a position of complete rest on account of an attack of phlebitis. To one possessing such an energetic temperament this forced inactivity must have been a sore trial, but it is now over, and the popular president of the London Entertainments Protection Association is out and about.

MR B. P. LUCAS and his manager, Mr H. F. Lovesey, may be heartily congratulated on the improvement that has been introduced this week at the Bedford. The stalls bar is now closed in by a handsome wood and glass partition. By this means the conversation of those taking refreshments is made inaudible, an advantage both to audience and artistes.

THE Empire commenced on Monday a series of matinées primarily intended for children, for whom no better attraction could have been found than *The Dancing Doll* ballet. The youngsters shouted their glee at the beautiful and interesting toy shop scene; and so great was the success of the experiment that it will be continued, but only on the afternoons of Wednesdays and Saturdays, as Mdlle. Genée—now the proud possessor of a beautiful diamond brooch given to her by the Duchess of Devonshire after her performance at Chatsworth last week—cannot stand the strain of more than eight performances a week.

MISS NITA CLAVERING, who is so successfully fulfilling the rôle of Maid Marion, at the West London Theatre, in *Babes in the Wood*, had a very narrow escape on Monday night from what might have proved a serious accident. Whilst awaiting her cue in the wings, her dress was accidentally set light to by one of the choristers, who were standing by holding lighted lamps. The flames were luckily noticed by one of the supers, who dragged Miss Clavering's bonnet from her head, and crushed in his hands the burning portions of her dress. At this moment her cue came, and although trembling from head to foot with the shock she pluckily walked on the stage and immediatly took up her solo, "In Dreamland," which has proved one of the hits of the pantomime, and for which she received her accustomed unstinted applause from the audience,

MY FANCY, the graceful sand dancer, opens at the Coliseum next Monday, appearing at the second and fourth performances The charming artiste has been appearing with great success at the Chelsea Palace this week.

MISS ARABELLA ALLEN, the Dickens impersonator, met with rather an exciting little adventure at Manchester last week. As she was driving, accompanied by her mother, from the Hippodrome to the Ardwick green Empire, the driver of her carriage attempted to pass between a couple of trams. The wheels were locked between the two, but neither of the ladies, although alarmed and shaken, received any injury. Mr Frank Glenister has just offered Miss Allen return dates for the London Pavilion, where she made such a successful début last year.

AN exceptionally graceful performance on the slack wire is given at the Alhambra by the Four Harveys, attended by a young lady in a black satin court suit. The Harveys' silk costumes look golden in some lights and pink in others, and the two pretty girls of the party wear knots of pale blue ribbon in their hair and sparkling jewels on thin gold chains round their necks. For the finish of the turn they appear as a couple of "white coons," dancing on the quivering wire with amazing skill. The little gentleman is in a pale grey suit lined with cerise, with a stiff grey beaver hat. The little lady is in a cleverly-cut Princess dress of the same vivid tint, sequins flashing from shoulders to waist, with a deep flounce of shaded cerise chiffon, and a big picture hat.

MR TOM COSTELLO'S latest venture, a song entitled "The Old Clown," produced a few nights since at Gatti's, adds fresh laurels to his already great reputation. A special scene depicting the stage door of a theatre is employed, and the singer, as a worn-out wearer of the motley, sadly peruses the pantomime poster on the wall with its announcement that there will be no harlequinade. He then sings a song about his former glories, the while regarding an old wig, the sole remaining relic of the once-loved dress. Suddenly a faint cheer sounds from the theatre, and the gleam of red fire is seen, denoting that the "opening" of the pantomime is over, and the well-known sound proves too much for the old pantomimist, and with a wild "Here we are again!" he is once again, in fancy, enacting the familiar character till his dream is rudely dispelled by the matter-of-fact policeman. The song, with its attendant business, is by A. J. Mills and George Everard.

MAY Swanborough and the "cake-walk" flourish! The second annual Twelfth-night celebration at the Chelsea Palace on Friday, the 6th inst., reminded "Teddy" and the merry company present of the historical bequest of the comedian, Baddeley, originally a cook, who died in 1794 and left £3 per annum for the purchase of cake and wine, to be dispensed to the Drury-lane Theatre company. At the King's-road establishment there is, of course, no special fund for such a celebration; but the custom instituted last year was a happy thought and its repetition brought together a goodly gathering of the staff and friends. The ceremony of cutting the cake was performed by Mr Lyon, who incidentally referred to the Baddeley bequest, and congratulated those present on their connection with so luxurious and well-managed a theatre of varieties. After Mr Angelo Asher had pronounced a blessing upon the cake and its recipients, Mr Edward Swanborough proposed the health of Mr Henri Gros, the managing director, alluding in a most feeling manner to his recent illness, and asked the company to join him in wishing the invalid a speedy recovery. Mr Leon Zeitlin, the acting-manager, replied, and proposed the health of the genial Teddy, who was presented with an opera hat, Mr Angelo Asher being endowed with a pair of gold sleeve links,

DR. BODIE (who is this week appearing nightly at the Paragon and Euston), having failed to obtain from the *Illustrated Mirror* the retractation and apology demanded by him in connection with their criticisms upon him as contained in the issues of that paper of the 5th, 7th, and 9th inst., his solicitor, Mr Othen, has, on Dr. Bodie's instructions, issued a writ against the proprietors of the *Illustrated Mirror* claiming damages for libel, and has retained Mr Rufus Isaacs, K.C., M.P., and Mr Gill, K.C., as counsel on his behalf.

MR WALTER DE FRECE, who will blossom into a music hall manager at Boscombe, recently commissioned E. W. Rogers—a writer for the variety stage excelled by none and equalled by but few—to write a musical burlesque, a commission which the author and composer of "Skylark" has executed in record time. The piece is likely to see the light in the spring.

MISS VESTA TILLEY is adding to her song répertoire two new lyrics, entitled, "Poor little me" and "The Royal Artillery," in which she will impersonate respectively a meek young curate and a "soldier bold." Both of these have been written and composed by the writers responsible for Miss Tilley's forthcoming Brazilian scena "Bonita," Messrs John P. Harrington and George Le Brunn.

MISS MARIE LLOYD is actively engaged in studying a new novelty scena entitled *Beauty and the Looking-glass*, specially written and composed for her by Messrs John P. Harrington and George Le Brunn. She has also this week accepted two other songs, "I'm satisfied, if you are" and "Transformation Scenes," from the same versatile pens.

JOHN RINGLING, the genial and energetic proprietor of Ringling Brothers' Circus, is at present in Europe looking for talent for the coming season. The Ringling Brothers' arenic establishment is one of the largest circus combinations in the United States. They own over 600 horses, ninety-five railway cars, and their outfit is of the costliest and most elaborate description. John Ringling, who is better known in America as the "Showman King," travels in a style that would make Vanderbilt jealous. His private car, which cost over $15,000, is the acme of modern comfort and luxury. All the railway companies of America have given the great-hearted and sociable proprietor a permanent pass over the whole railway system of America, not alone for his private car, but for any party that may accompany him. The receipts of the Ringling show have been enormous this season, and the Paris representative of *The Era*, Mr C. M. Ercole, who travelled with the show all through Texas and enjoyed Mr Ringling's princely hospitality, says that they exceeded $2,500 daily.

IN several towns, in fact, the races could not be given, the track being covered by the public. The Ringling Brothers have formed a combination with Mr James A. Bailey to purchase the Forepaugh-Sells show, which will now be under the joint management of Mr J. A. Bailey and the Ringling Brothers, who are the ideal types of go-a-head, up-to date modern circus managers.

THE following artistes are sailing to-day by the Kildonan Castle from Southampton for the Cape to fulfil engagements under the Hyman management at the Johannesburg Empire and Tivoli, Cape Town:—Charles Faning, the Brothers Durant, the Three Sisters Florence (who have but just arrived from America), and the Wilsons.

MR WALTER STOCKWELL has become a Boniface, and takes possession on Jan. 24 of Thompson's Commercial Hotel, Bridge-street, Bristol, where he will always be pleased to see old friends, and try his best to make them comfortable. Mr Stockwell has just finished one month in town, and on Monday goes to the Gaiety, Chatham. He opens in Bristol on the 23rd.

CHING LING FOO, the Chinese juggler at the Empire Theatre, recently issued a challenge offering to forfeit £1,000 if Chung Ling Soo, of the Hippodrome, could prove himself an equally adept magician. The contest was arranged to take place at a newspaper office on Saturday. Chung Ling Soo duly arrived with his secretary and his little daughter, but the Celestial from the Empire was conspicuous by his absence. The Hippodrome man gave a very remarkable show to a select audience, and there was no collection!

MR R. G. KNOWLES has been fined £20 by the manager of the Orpheum Theatre, Brooklyn, for perpetrating one of his jokes. His solicitor has demanded the remission of the fine, and talks of beginning an action for damages to reputation.

AN amusing turn was given by Mr Lew Wells, on Monday evening, at the Palace Theatre. This eccentric American musician was born in Grand Rapids, a little town in the State of Michigan. He was not allowed to study music, for his father, himself a clever violinist, knew the hardships and disappointments of a professional's life too well to desire his son to follow his own calling. During his absences from home, however, the small boy learned to play the piccolo, and the father, returning unexpectedly one day when he was practising, realised that it would be absurd to check his inclinations. Mr Wells has been on the variety stage for twenty years, his favourite instrument nowadays being the saxophone. He arrived in England last April, and made two tours under the Stoll and Barrasford managements before opening at the Palace.

MR HORACE GOLDIN, the astonishing American magician, commenced another successful engagement at the Palace on Monday. His production of a "Chinese" interlude is for the present delayed, but his repertory has been enriched by a very attractive and puzzling variant of the box trick. Bringing forward a large specimen of stage cannon of the Long Tom pattern, he places therein his charming assistant, Mdlle. Fransiola, and fires a pistol. A large trunk is immediately seen to be descending slowly from the roof to the stage. It is quickly uncorded and opened, and the same process is followed with two other receptacles placed inside. From the last the charming Fransiola lightly steps out.

ANOTHER unfathomable mystery to the ordinary layman is what may be called the target trick. Mr Golding fires at a bullseye. The target swells inexplicably, and a large box, that seemingly has its origin in space, appears. From this receptacle again emerges the smiling and pretty Fransiola. Mr Goldin will probably present his new "Celestial" show to-day at the Palace matinée.

COUNCILLOR JOHN COVENEY, chairman of the Royal Cambridge Music Hall, has arranged with his co-directors, Messrs Harris and Graydon, for a special matinée at that hall on Thursday, the 19th inst., the object being to raise funds to help alleviate the great distress in the borough of Stepney, and also in aid of the Tweeddale Working Guild. Many foremost artistes have promised assistance, and doubtless more will volunteer. Among well-known folk interested deeply in the matter are the Marchioness of Tweeddale, the Mayor, aldermen, and councillors of the borough of Stepney, the Hon. Harry Lawson, Major W. Evans-Gordon, M.P., and the ladies of the guild. Mr "Jack" M'Carthy, father-in-law of Miss Marie Kendall, will, as usual when deeds of benevolence in this neighbourhood are needed, be strongly in evidence.

MISS FANNY WENTWORTH, who concludes her present engagement at the Oxford the week after next, ends her turn with a verse on the fall of Port Arthur. It goes exceedingly well. She also tells a new little story of two Englishmen returning to their native land after a long absence, and quarrelling as to whether a street singer whom they heard faintly in the distance was warbling "Annie Laurie" or "The Death of Nelson." A bet was made, and a boy dispatched to question the singer. "If you please, gentlemen," said the boy on returning, "he wouldn't mind trying to sing either of the songs if you like, but he isn't singing at all just now. He's 'awking fly-papers."

MR FRANK WEEKS must have been a proud and happy man on the afternoon of Friday, the 6th inst., when he surveyed the crowd of gleeful children, whom, by the kind permission of his directors, he had invited to the South London. No fewer than 2,500 kiddies—from the poorest families in Southwark—attended. The selections—a really difficult matter—were made by a large representative committee, acting for the subscribers, on whose behalf the mayor, the Rev. A. W. Jephson, extended to the little ones a hearty welcome. At the outset the National Anthem was sung by Mrs George Adney Payne, the children joining in the chorus with fervour. An excellent variety entertainment was given, the Wedburns, Fred Neiman, Marie Pownall, Carrie Laurie's Juveniles, and Major Moss and Son being among the performers. Prof. Rosser's Punch and Judy and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope also formed popular turns, a patriotic flavour being imparted to the occasion by the finale, entitled the Royal Standard Each child on leaving received a bun and an orange. Mr R. K. Causton, M.P., and Mr Clavell Salter, K.C., were present during the afternoon.

MR CYRUS DARE, music hall artist, on Monday, sued Mr Andrew James Walke, of 11, Peckham-rye, S.E., to recover £9 7s 5d, money paid on the defendant's behalf, and £10 damages for a distress which was levied at the plaintiff's flat by reason of the non-payment by the defendant of the general district rate. The Deputy Judge, Mr James Scarlett, said the case was a very unusual one. Plaintiff had been put to great inconvenience and indignity in having a man in possession for five days. He should not increase the amount of the plaintiff's claim, but should award him the £19 7s 5d asked for, with costs on "B" scale. Defendant asked for leave to appeal, but his honour refused the application.

THE death of Madame Belle Cole removes from our midst a singer of great natural gifts. She possessed a voice of rare quality; but much of it, alas had gone when we heard her at the Tivoli a few months since in her favourite solo "The Lost Chord." The organ tones were not there to thrill us, but the skill of the artist remained, and the singer experienced a lively sense of satisfaction at the reception given to her at her music hall début. She even yielded to the popular taste and sang "Genevieve." During her engagement she also gave "Killarney," and one of her most embarrassing experiences was when the audience insisted on singing it with her. She did not quite appreciate the humour of the situation, and was much relieved when a stentorian voice shouted out "Silence!" She finished the song to a hushed house, and was rewarded with a storm of applause.

MR HARRY BEDFORD has been essaying with enormous success, first at the Holloway, and this week at the New-cross Empire, a type of song entirely new to him. As the last genuine British workman left in the East-end of London, the singer relates in clever lines, pregnant with withering sarcasm, how the swarming aliens who infest the neighbourhood have come to regard him as an interloper, and greet him with the cry of "Here comes the foreigner!" which is the title of the ditty. It is by A. P. Weston and Fred J. Barnes. The same writers have just disposed of, to Mr Harry Randall, a highly humorous song entitled "At ninepence-ha'penny an hour."

MR EDMOND BOSANQUET, the violin virtuoso, is giving his illuminated musical séance next week at the Camberwell Palace, where he will introduce his wonderful instrument, the "Bosanquephone." This instrument has finger-board, pegs, and strings similar to a violin, and is fingered in exactly the same way. The tone, however, is rounded, developed, and strengthened by its passing through a large bell-mouthed instrument shaped something like a euphonium. The sounds produced on this novel "phone" by a skilful player like Mr Bosanquet are said to be the nearest approach to the human voice ever heard.

THE MUSIC HALL BENEVOLENT FUND.

MR JOSEPH LYONS' APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION.

As president for the year of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund I ask you to kindly send me a donation to help us carry on the good work with success.

I do so confident that my call to the profession will be responded to with the benevolent liberality for which it is noted. I do so in the belief that music hall artistes of every grade, those at the topmost rung of the ladder and those who are still climbing, will recognise that the cry for help which comes from their brother and sister artistes, who from accident, sickness, or dire misfortune have been compelled to seek assistance, should be answered first by the profession to which they once belonged. Charity may be welcome from whatever source it comes, but it must be doubly sweet when it comes from those with whom we have worked and played the game of life.

Apart from this I feel sure it would do immeasurable good to the status of the music hall profession if it could be shown that it recognised its duty in this respect, and was proudly striving to keep its Benevolent Fund in a state of financial prosperity without the necessity of urgent appeals to the general public. In every branch of professional and commercial life where this spirit has been fostered charities have been built up on sound financial foundations, and it is my aim and hope to see the same happy state of things effected for this Fund. I want it to be known to the world that members of the music hall profession take a pride in caring for their poorer members.

The line which divides success from failure is but a faint shadow; do please remember those who have struggled and fallen back beneath that shadow. Your success will be doubly sweet and their joy of receiving multiplied a hundredfold by the knowledge that the help comes from the profession they love with a fervour which none but "pros." can fully understand.

He gives twice who gives quickly, so please fire away and fill up the enclosed slip for as much as you can afford; the same will be duly acknowledged by me and by *The Era*, not to speak of those whose hearts will be made the brighter by your timely generosity.

Yours faithfully, JOSEPH LYONS.

Donations already announced, £42 18s. 6d.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Geo. Ashton (Annual)	5	5	0	Conway and Leyland	1	1	0
R. Warner	5	0	0	John Holland	1	0	0
Drury-lane Theatre	2	2	0	C. Douglas Stuart	0	10	0
H. Payne	2	2	0	Edith Courtney	0	10	0
R. Warner	2	2	0	Chas. Coborn	0	5	0
Kattie Cohen	1	1	0	Harry Clyo and Rose Rochelle	0	2	6

The president wishes it to be known that the funds have almost given out, and that immediate help is required

THE LONDON MUSIC HALLS.

LONDON PAVILION.

The surprise of the London Pavilion programme on Monday was Mr Jock Whiteford, a Scotch comedian. The absence of Mr Harry Lauder through indisposition was Mr Whiteford's opportunity, and though he was simply described as deputy, he made such a pronounced and most unmistakable hit that his presence in London is assured for many years to come. Mr Whiteford, who is only in the twenties, evidently sees the humorous side of things, and has lighted upon an original skit of a would-be Scotch dude—the Count of Inverary. This is no kilted lairdie, but a shabby genteel person in a faded plaidie lounge coat and short breeks. The young comedian gives a better example of his powers by his most diverting sketch of a Glesca loon's attitude at a football match, in the result of which he is profoundly interested. It would be thought that such a sketch would be caviare to a London audience, but nature and humour are so cunningly intermingled that its success was never in doubt, and the triumph of the débutant was rendered complete by his parody of a Scotch ballad singer in "Robin Adair." We shall hear a great deal of Mr Whiteford before many weeks have passed, and Mr Frank Glenister is to be heartily congratulated on his latest find. Mr Hal Forde—who is quite English, you know—returns to repeat his success, and with an excellent new number, a skit on "Who's Who?" and similar works, Mr Forde introduces references to the Beck case, the Baltic fleet, Chamberlain, and other topics, and does so in a way that is witty and smart. Mr Forde also appears with Miss Edith Housley and company in an original incident, written and arranged by Rutland Barrington, with music by Geoffrey Gordon, entitled *Her Chance*. The scene is the Dressing-room at the Peerage Playhouse, wherein we discover a number of fascinating musical comedy chorus ladies putting the finishing touches to their make-up. There is much anxiety in the breast of the stage-manager, who has heard of the probable non-appearance of the star of the company, and has not yet set eyes on her understudy. This is Peggy Plantagenet, who arrives soon, and with a determination to make the most of "her chance." She runs over a very tuneful number, "I don't want to go too far," and with a dance off the incident concludes. Miss Housley is both dainty and clever, and her companions are a pretty and bright contingent of girls, who look exceedingly well in some tasteful dresses. Early in the evening Mr Charles Coverdale, a new comer to the London Pavilion, has a long and interesting song dealing in a witty manner with obvious truisms. His chief claim to distinction lies in his patter. He is surprisingly glib, and his imitations of a motor smash—assisted by the scene-shifters—is a piece of whimsical nonsense that sets the house in a roar. It may be said of Mr Coverdale that he does not take his audience seriously, and they return the compliment with interest. Mr Chris Richards, who has made an emphatic hit here, is one of the most eccentric dancers we have seen on the variety stage for many years, and his every movement is as quaint as it can be. He makes the "splits" appear quite easy, and his genuine oddity and surprising antics complete his supremacy as a laughter-maker. It is not necessary to give the titles of his songs; they are, however, excellent vehicles for his drollery. An agreeable quarter of an hour can be spent with the vocal and dancing scena presented by E. Espinosa and company and entitled *La Posada*. In the front of a village inn, in fair Castile it may be, a number of the peasantry are enjoying themselves. A gipsy girl, in divining the future of a brutal ne'er-do-well, foretells that he will die by the hangman's hands. Enraged, he offers to strike her, but her cause is taken up by her lover. The quarrel becomes serious, a knife is drawn, and the chivalrous defender is struck to the ground. He rises, however, apparently but little the worse for the blow, and after defying his aggressor, who retires into the inn, he indulges in a very vigorous and effective dance. The little episode—if we may so call it—winds up with the favourite number, "Navaho," which is sung in bright and spirited fashion. There is more excellent dancing with the appearance of Susie and Protti, who give some spirited examples of the rhythmic steps of the Slav, and wind up with the everlasting cake-walk. Miss Bertha Pertina's toe-dancing is a speciality that is by no means common, and her grace and agility in her various solos are undeniable; and Miss Alma Gray also has a fascinating style as a Terpsichorean. Mr Dutch Daly, Mr Arthur Prince, and Mr Phil Ray are all immense favourites, and in their own particular lines sustain their excellent reputations; the Patty-Frank acrobats accomplish the most difficult shoulder somersaults with ease and smartness; Alethea is a graceful contortionist and gymnast; Ergotti and King Luis are clever Risley performers; and the Brothers Artois introduce an element of quaintness into their horizontal bar performance. Early in the bill Mr Nat Travers shows the audience how cleverly he can reproduce the methods and mannerisms of another coster comedian; Miss Marie Wilton sings of the adventures of a girl from the country; and Mr Johnny Johnston plays the 'cello. Mr Will English, a gentleman of colour, winds up the bill, to which Miss Nina Martino also contributes. Mr William Cobbett agreeably assists in front; and Mr Bond Sayers has an excellent orchestra under his capable direction.

BARNARD'S, GREENWICH.

A most attractive programme is being submitted to holiday-makers at this popular hall, where clever and courteous management is rewarded by full houses. After the overture, "A Happy New Year to all," by Mr Archie Howells, has been done full justice to by the composer and his excellent orchestra, Miss Minnie Claney appears and immediately wins favour. She is followed by Will Driscoll, styled the new comic, who sings "Where is that dicky-bird?" and "Lucy Loo," and winds up with a smartly executed dance. Hague and Russell are exceedingly good in their laughable duologue, entitled, *Your Aunt*. The bright particular star of the programme is Mdlle. Kloet, whose performance is highly artistic and pleasing; she is loudly applauded for her representation of Mercia in various scenes from *The Sign of the Cross*, and for her posings as the statue of "A Blind Flower Girl," the Marli Horse group, "The Genie and the Swan," "Joan of Arc," "Captive Slave of Cairo," and "Melody." The electrical effects add greatly to the success of the entertainment. The Brownson and Ellis company is appearing with considerable success in an interesting dramatic episode, in three chapters, entitled *Justice*. This concludes the first part of the programme, and is followed by a selection, "Zampa," by the band, after which Angelo causes much admiration and wonderment by his marvellous lightning oil painting entertainment. Many of his portraits of well-known persons are instantly recognised and applauded. Charles Beanland comes next, and is well received in "Was there anything funny in that?" "Return good for evil when you can," and "Nursery Rhymes." Austin Lawd is responsible for a monologue, entitled *Condemned to Die*, which he presents in a highly dramatic and powerful fashion. Miss Edie Anderson, who is warmly welcomed, sings about "A Girl from Gay New York" and "Navaho," winding up with a gracefully executed dance. Dan Filmer gives a clever burlesque of an eccentric female who sings about "Reginald;" two other songs of his are entitled "I wonder what more you want?" and "Cancelled for Ever." Messrs Kier and Allen are clever knockabouts and comedy boxers, and cause much amusement. The performance concludes with Ruffle's Bioscope, on which are exhibited some excellent and original subjects.

MR. F. V. ST. CLAIR.

Mr F. V. St. Clair, who has been quite a number of years on the halls, is a Yorkshireman, and comes of an old Quaker family. He was brought up to the profession of chemist and druggist, and is an A.P.S. by examination. Even when behind the chemist's counter he had composed a number of popular songs for the pantomimes. He made his first appearance at Paul's Concert Hall, Leicester, and he can tell any amount of funny stories about the famous Paul, who was one of the most eccentric proprietors of his day.

Mr St. Clair stands almost alone as a writer and singer of patriotic songs. At the time of the Russo-Turkish war he wrote, when but an apprentice, such songs as "The European Dance," "Stand by the Flag," "The Road to India" etc. Then came Hyram Travers' big success "Bradlaugh," and shortly after Miss Vesta Tilley's great hit at Drury-lane "When will Old England be herself once more?" Mr St. Clair had composed this song for himself, but one day as Mr Harry Ball (Miss Tilley's father) and he were taking a walk at Cardiff, St. Clair hummed the song over, "That's the song for Tilley," said Mr Ball, "come back home and we will send it right away to Mr Augustus Harris and see if he will let her sing it." Next day a wire came, "Secure the song for Miss Tilley. Just the thing I wanted.—HARRIS."

Miss Vesta Tilley made the hit of the pantomime with the song. *Judy*, the comic paper, termed her "The London idol, the heroine of pantomime." The publisher of the song offered to purchase all St. Clair's writings for the next twelve months, and Mr Harris wrote him a flattering letter praising the song, but the grand climax came in the shape of a cheque for £100, from a Captain Anderton, who said, "The enclosed has been subscribed by a few staunch Conservatives as a mark of admiration and esteem for the author of the song 'When will Old England."

Mr St. Clair has many times since received £100 for a song, but this has been in payment for advertising songs for the big patent medicine and other advertisers, Mr St. Clair having produced a great number of compositions of this class.

Most of the leading artistes have at one time or other warbled his ditties. Ada Reeve, Dan Leno, Marie Loftus, Maggie Duggan, Katie Lawrence, Fred Eastman, Victor Stevens—these names will show the versatility of the writer, for he has written songs to suit all and every class of artist. He has also written something like three hundred popular recitations, which have been published by various firms, his latest by Abel Heywood and Sons, Manchester. He has a splendid memory, and can write a song or a recitation and produce it the same night. He did so in the case of the Baltic Fleet outrage, and again on the death of Fighting Mac. Verses he never writes, but just makes them up as he is going to the hall—he gets them much better this way.

He is never at a loss for a subject, though he rarely asks for topics from the audience now, as that way of working an extempore song only induces the audience to shout long after the singer

Photo by Thirlwell and Co.

MR. F. V. ST. CLAIR.

has left the stage. Mr St. Clair, however, has always made it a rule never to leave an audience clamouring to the detriment of another turn. He goes on again and sings a verse informing the audience that "So and so will follow me and amuse you better than I've done in the twentieth century." Mr Oswald Stoll once recognised St. Clair's talent as regards being up-to-date. It was the day Mr Gladstone died. "F. V.," was taking a week's rest at Windermere when a telegram came. "Can you open here Monday next with song on Gladstone? Wire, Stoll, Cardiff."

And only the other week Mr Barrasford, knowing his abilities in the elocution way, got him to put together a speech, and introduce the Bohemian Sisters for the first time to a British audience. This was at the Hippodrome, Brighton, where, after doing his own turn, he humorously introduced Mr Barrasford's latest capture in the way of novelties. Mr St. Clair has never touched one penny he has earned by his pen for over fifteen years; he has always looked upon this as "overtime," and during that time over fourteen hundred of his songs have been published—some by political parties, some by great advertising firms, and over five hundred music hall songs by music hall publishers.

He is a great believer in advertising, and boasts that he has only three times missed his advertisement on *The Era* back page in twenty years. Mrs St. Clair, who always accompanies her husband, acts as his amanuensis, and he relies on her sound judgment regarding songs. Among his recent successes have been "Cheer up, Buller," "John Bull's Letter Bag," "Little Jap Horner," &c. He wrote several of the late Dan Leno's songs "The Railway Guard," "The Ice-cream Man," "All through a bit of bacon," and others. He does not send songs out now, but if he strikes any special idea he picks his vocalist.

His only relative is a half-sister, who is one of the best-known lady lecturers in America, and who has spoken at Exeter Hall. She devotes her life to religious work, and at one time toiled in the East-end slums as a member of the Church Army. Mr St. Clair makes his own engagements, and is booked far into 1908. In twenty years he has not made a dozen engagements through the agents, though he is friendly with them all.

THE LATE E. S. BARNES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—As one of the oldest friends of the late Mr Barnes I am desired by his widow to express her thanks to you for your kindly obituary notice in your last issue. However, I would like to mention that Mr Barnes, besides leaving the young widow, has also left her with two sons by his first wife, aged fourteen and seven respectively, practically unprovided for.

Yours faithfully, W. F. WATTS.

13, St. Helen's-place. Jan. 11.

THE TIVOLI.

The generous provision made here for the entertainment of holiday crowds has resulted in excellent houses, and though competition is keener than ever, the Tivoli, with its established reputation for the best possible programmes, has not suffered. Many of the popular favourites whose turns were noticed by us last week in our article on the Oxford are also fulfilling engagements here. Miss Vesta Tilley is excellently served by the same songs, "The Seaside Sultan," "The Wise Old Owl," and "Following in father's footsteps," which she gives with unfailing command of her artistic resources; Miss Vesta Victoria's "Golf girl" is an interesting figure, though not so amusing as her low comedy creation of a model whose experiences as a poseuse in the backyard are "all right in the summer time;" and Miss Louie Freear—the clearness of whose "top note" is at present slightly obscured by a cold—repeats her success in "Twiddley Bits," "She just walks on," and "John James Perkins." Mr Bransby Williams, as at the Oxford, has the Tivolians quite under the spell of his histrionic powers, when he delineates the dear old boatman, Dan'l Peggotty—one of Dickens's finest and most human creations. Mr Williams chooses the episode wherein the devoted old sailor utters a curse on the man who has robbed him of the sunshine of his life—Little Emily, and then departs in search of her. The scene has been enacted many a time and oft at the theatres, and Sam Emery's treatment of it is not forgotten by the older generation, and to say that Mr Williams reminds one strongly of that excellent actor is to give him high praise. His pathos is penetrating, and his final exit is followed by loud applause. In the early portion of the programme Miss Dolly Harmer's versatility finds excellent scope in a scena, which may be called "Proposals." The methods of declaring the tender passion, adopted by a dude, a down-East cockney, and a Yorkshireman are amusingly hit off by the clever actress, who has an excellent sense of humour. Mr Tom Leamore's ancient lady of the ballet, whose dilapidated appearance may be attributed to "frost bite," is one of the most extravagantly ludicrous impersonations he has given us. Mr Will Evans has a companion picture in his droll and clever impersonation of the serio of many winters, who "knows her business" and does not quite recognise the inexorable fact that she is a "back number." "Lucinda Wriggle" has had huge successes in her day; but now when she asks for "dates" the agents tell her they are not giving away "stone fruit." Lucinda's coquetry and final dance are things to be seen and enjoyed. Clark and Hamilton, after a somewhat lengthy absence, return with their comedy duo entirely unaltered, nor is there any apparent necessity for any deviation from their most successful number, which brings down the house in the old sweet way. Mr Clark appears as a New York tramp millionaire with a decided taste for the pianoforte, and most ungallantly pelts his partner Hamilton—otherwise Miss Venie Belfry—with bread. Of course, he easily succumbs to her charms, and his capitulation synchronises with that of the audience, who applaud in the heartiest possible manner. Miss Radie Furman, a newcomer, has a very successful interlude as the jolliest of Dutch girls, her dancing and business being in much the same vein as Miss Fanny Fields'; Mr Harry Freeman has a characteristic song in "That's him;" and Mr George H. Elliot, the coloured coon, breathes into his songs something of the romance of the cane brake. Mr Whit Cunliffe, one of the new brigade of comedians who forswear a red nose, loose trousers, and flap shoes, is entitled to our heartiest congratulations on his success. His command of quiet humour is first displayed in a song which we may call "Problems," a number that by its subtle humour gets quite away from the beaten track of the ordinary music-hall lyric. He scores an even greater success in his second item, "I would," the words of which are set to an old American tune that has before been utilised in the halls. It serves its purpose quite well; and the topical nature of the rhymes suggests endless possibilities for the comedian, who has been adding encore verses every night. Mr Cunliffe has a buoyant, light-hearted style, and never works hard, his quiet confidence in the appreciation of his audience being always justified by the most gratifying results. It was at the Tivoli that the writer first heard Miss Ray Wallace, the lady mimic, at the piano—an instrument she plays so well that one would willingly hear her in a solo. She, however, still fascinates her audiences by her mimicry. The lovers of sentimental singing at the Tivoli are highly delighted when they listen to Mr Ian Colquhoun's fine voice in such popular selections as "The ould plaid shawl" and "Father O'Flynn," and other excellent turns in a programme of good things are George and Gusti Edler, in their Alpine scene; the Five Julians, lady singers and dancers; the Harvey Boys; the versatile Royal Six, vocalists, instrumentalists, and cyclists; and Dandy George and his dog Rosie.

STRATFORD EMPIRE.

A strong and well-varied bill is this week being submitted at this highly popular and select variety theatre, and crowded audiences at both houses tightly are being attracted. Mr Sam Gething, the experienced and urbane manager, who has done much to further the interests of the Stratford Empire, leaves nothing undone to conduce to the comfort of his numerous patrons, and he has the able assistance of his courteous lieutenant, Mr W. Beeslengh. Early comers are this week regaled with Sousa's march "Stars and Stripes," rendered in spirited style by the able orchestra under Mr Augustus Greco's skilful guidance. A favourite this week is the ever-popular Harriett Vernon, who, looking very bright and charming, picturesquely attired, and in excellent voice, sings very successfully a pretty Japanese song which gains loud applause, and afterwards appears in an elaborate "boy" costume, and renders a more serious item entitled "Don Giovanni," which is remarkably well received. O'Gust, the Parisian mimic, interests and amuses during his occupancy of the stage with his wonderfully faithful imitations of birds, animals, and instruments—in fact, the mimicry of no sound seems to come amiss to him, and his turn pleases the audience greatly. The character boxing sketch contributed by the Brothers Horne, in which they have the assistance of a comely damsel with song and dance, seems to lose none of its attractiveness with age, and never fails to arouse great hilarity. Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten, which appears to be always kept up to date by the introduction of new songs and fresh "business," in an immensely popular turn, and gains some of the heartiest applause heard during the evening. Alf Gibson easily succeeds in eliciting mirth in his songs, "He got what he wanted!" followed by "All of a sudden he stopped," and in response to vociferous applause he contributed a third ditty, "I never let it upset me." The Bohemians exhibit considerable skill with various musical instruments, and their turn proves most entertaining. Charles Deane has an excellent song in "Whizzing along the wires," descriptive of a telegraph clerk who sends love messages to the object of his affections whom he has never beheld, but when they do eventually meet his love dreams have a rude awakening, for she far from comes up to expectations. His second ditty, "Follow the Tram lines," being a policeman's philosophic advice to a party desirous of reaching home who have imbibed not wisely but too well, might prove a worthy successor to "All along the rails," so exceedingly mirth-provoking is it. Ethel Ra Leslie sings a well-known ballad very charmingly; and the juggling performance contributed by the Alfonso Trio is watched with keen interest. The Bioscope provides some interesting pictures, the views including the Miser's Home and a Race for a Wife, the latter especially being greatly admired.

"THE ERA" SHILLING FUND FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD APPEALS.

The words Music Hall Home bring to the minds of our readers the necessities of the aged members of the profession who did their work on the variety stage in its early days long before the era of prosperous empires and palaces. These were the times of hard work and small salaries; when, indeed, the remuneration of stars rarely reached double figures. The benefits of the Home are well known to the variety entertainer, by whose exertions it was established; but its work is unobtrusive, and at this season of charity, when the blessed message "peace and goodwill" wings its flight through the world, it is our privilege as well as our duty to once again emphasise the usefulness of a refuge for the aged and the real need of help to its exchequer. We appealed to the profession three years ago with a success that encourages us to repeat the experiment, and we have the warm approval of Mr Thomas Barrasford, the excellent president of the fund, in opening our columns for another appeal for shillings. We have before us a letter from Mr J. J. Fruin, in which he states that there are now six inmates in the Home, which is at 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E. "Two of them are cripples, and the others very old, the majority being over seventy, and quite unable to work!" What a pathetic record! Imagine, if you can, the hopelessness of the performer, once a favourite of the footlights, stricken with age and infirmity, and then think of the blessing of his being able to spend his declining days in comfort, supported by an institution that is financed by his brother and sister artistes. No one was more alive to the need of such a charity than the late Mr Dan Leno, who had in his early days one of the hardest struggles that ever fell to the lot of an entertainer. We can never forget the eloquence of his appeal for the Fund, to which he was a constant contributor. It is gratifying to think that other staunch friends have been stirred by his fine example, and to their noble exertions the report of the annual meeting which appeared in our issue of Sept. 17 bears witness. Mr Thomas Barrasford, the president, has shown, too, a great interest in the Home. In every one of his halls he has had collecting boxes placed, and on two occasions, when damages have been awarded to him in actions at law, he has arranged for the amounts to be paid to the Fund. In this way no less than £35 has found its way into the exchequer. A pleasant experience for the committee was the visit paid to the Home on Christmas Day at the dinner hour. The inmates were enjoying roast goose, which was followed by the traditional pudding; and beer and spirits were also provided. The hearts of the old folk were

Photo by Langfier.

MISS LILY BURNAND,

AN ENTHUSIASTIC WORKER FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

cheered, too, by a bit of bacca, given to them by a veritable little fairy godmother, Miss Nelman, daughter of Mr Fred Nelman, the well-known ventriloquist, and each of the smokers was endowed with a brand new briar pipe. We have said sufficient, we think, to bring the claims of the charity to the attention of our readers. The institution is in great need; and we ask the thousands of our readers to send their shillings to us, and to remember that "he gives twice who gives quickly." There is no greater pleasure in life than giving, and each contributor will have the satisfaction of knowing that every penny will be wisely spent. Collecting cards may be obtained from Mr J. Fruin at the Home, 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, or that gentleman will be pleased to forward them to applicants.

We may add that parcels of cast-off clothing are very acceptable. We appeal to the variety profession at large, but more especially to those now fulfilling lucrative engagements in pantomime. Surely among these there are numbers of generous hearts who will start a card collection and appeal to their brother and sister artistes. In this way they would promote an interest in a charity whose care for the aged and afflicted of the profession should be proclaimed from the housetops. United effort, just a little organisation, and real persistency in so excellent a cause should result in shoals of shillings. In our charitable crusade we have great faith in the influence of the ladies of the profession, for a reference to the annual report shows that they are capable of excellent work. In this connection we may mention Miss Lily Burnand, who again shows her kindly interest in the Home by sending along forty-two shillings. Subscriptions may be forwarded to F. H. Pedgrift, hon. treasurer, care of *The Era*. They will be duly acknowledged in these columns.

VOCALIST'S HIGH ART.

The well-meaning people who regard the music hall as a short cut to perdition would probably revise their judgment if they heard Arthur Lennard, who is singing at the Newcastle Empire this week. His style is refined, his vocalism good, and the sentiments of his songs above reproach.—*North Mail*.

AT the Hippodrome, Birmingham, this week the Ytulians give their smart Risley acrobatic performance. The Schutzenliesserl'n Quartet of singers and dancers and the Sandro Duo of equilibrists are strong features of the programme. Charles Steuart and company in their comedy sketch, *The Water Cure*, are amusing; and George M. Schilling, who is walking round the world for a wager; Lily Flexmore, the Sandor Trio, Dusky Rhodes and Gardner, and Griffin and Gardner, in their musical absurdity, *The Ratcatcher*, complete the bill.

THE ROYAL.

One of the most important engagements at the Royal this week is the lady known as "Mahatma." There is nothing mysterious or mystical in her appearance or manner, and she makes her entrance from the wings in quite an ordinary business-like manner. Seated on a chair in the fore-part of the stage, she is blind-folded, and two members of the audience are invited to come forward to act as a committee and to assist. At the request of the gentleman who introduces "Mahatma," and has the direction of affairs generally, one of the committee writes upon a black-board several rows of figures, which the lady adds up correctly. She also names each figure which is pointed at, and can tell if the assistant's wand is placed upon a blank space. Next the committee play a game of Nap, and "Mahatma" correctly foretells which one will be the winner. She also tells each gentleman which card to play. The mysterious nature of the performance greatly impresses the audience, who are fairly puzzled as to how it is done. Those who take a delight in attempting to solve mysteries should not miss "Mahatma." Mr V. L. Granville, an artiste who is, we believe, new to London music hall patrons, appears in some well-known character sketches, beginning with Wilfred Denver, in *The Silver King*. The next portrait is that of Svengali, in *Trilby*, and finally he represents Mathias, in *The Bells*, in the scene where the burgomaster yields to the temptation to murder the Jew so as to secure his gold. Each scene is powerfully portrayed, and there is no attempt made to closely imitate any of the popular actors who are identified with the three characters mentioned. Mr Granville obtains a very good reception. And so, too, do Burke and M'Voy, comedy acrobats and Arab tumblers, whose business is very clever and amusing. One of the two, who has a comic make-up, introduces some laughable burlesque on the strong man's performance, using for the purpose an immense chain, which he proceeds to break with the greatest ease. As tumblers they also excel, and at the conclusion of their turn they are enthusiastically recalled. Mr Frank Pate and Miss Violet Pate are seen in a duologue, the former representing a young gentleman who is fond of attending races, and the lady impersonating a wife who objects to her husband's hobby. He receives a telegram which he refuses to let her see, and in order to arouse his jealousy she tells him that she has been to the races with a gentleman friend. The husband, hitherto so calm, flies into a passion and knocks the furniture about in his mad rage. When, however, he cross-examines her concerning her knowledge of the horses which ran she betrays such ignorance that he comes to the conclusion she has been fooling him. This she admits, and all ends happily. The duologue is played with considerable spirit. Mr Will Godwin scores with a song containing that homely sentiment which always appeals to a popular audience. A little girl, seated in the front row of the balcony, takes up the refrain, and the effect is very pleasing. Mr Charles Beanland, comedian, makes capital out of some new versions of old nursery rhymes, and Mr Tom Hughes in the character of a dilapidated dude sings "I'm one of the upper ten" with much success. Frank and Free, duologue artists and acrobatic dancers, are heard to advantage in a quarrelling duet. The couple of acrobats known as Los Rupertos accomplish some remarkable feats as hand balancers, and the Sisters Hayward are applauded for their Spanish coon and skipping-rope dances. Miss Alma Gray is a charming speciality dancer; Mr Chas. Somers is a quaint comedian; and the Sisters Hall are acceptable duettists. Mr H. Ketteman is the efficient manager here, and the orchestra is under the able direction of Mr Frederic D. Wood.

THE PARAGON.

Fame and fortune have attended Dr. Walford Bodie on his triumphal tour of the metropolis, and his popularity among the poor has been phenomenal. Overwhelming crowds flock to witness his marvellous experiments in hypnotism and electricity combined, and when he began his second week at the Paragon on Monday every available space in the vast auditorium was filled, while crowds lined the sides of the hall. The Doctor prefaced his demonstrations on Monday with a scathing reference to an attack made upon him last week by a half-penny daily journal, which he denounced as grossly unjust. The writer, said the doctor, after meeting him in a friendly way, and expressing satisfaction with the results of his work, had gone away and written an article hostile to him, in which he was charged with "imposing on the ignorant poor." Two solicitor's letters addressed to the paper had been ignored, but Dr. Bodie was determined to press the matter home and to obtain justice in a court of law. Evidence of the lasting effects of Dr. Bodie's treatment was supplied on Monday, when a girl of five years, whom he had on the previous Saturday cured of paralysis lasting four years, appeared on the stage accompanied by her aunt, who spoke earnestly of the happiness which the Doctor had brought to her home. The mother of the child was too nervous to face the audience, but she was present in the house. "Thank Dr. Bodie, Annie," cried the lady on the stage to her sister, and from the remote heights of the gallery came a faint but fervent "Thank you!" This affecting incident was seized upon by the audience, who cheered wildly. Three cases of paralysis were taken by Dr. Bodie, the first being that of a young woman from Poplar, aged twenty-six, whose leg had been paralysed almost since birth. A successful operation was performed in her case, as also in that of a girl from Spitalfields, a paralytic for twelve years, who had been discharged from two hospitals as hopeless and incurable. Too young to be hypnotised, a large magnet was passed over the affected parts to deaden the pain, and having loosened the adhesive ligatures Dr. Bodie administered the curative current, and in a few moments the smiling girl was walking and running across the stage. The third case was a very bad one, that of a boy of eight years, whose foot was a shapeless piece of flesh, so terribly had it suffered from the surgeon's knife. With a strong twist of the wrist Dr. Bodie broke the adhesions, and the foot could be freely moved. "No knife used, not a drop of blood spilt, not a bit of pain," said the Doctor in a tone of triumph, and the applause of the audience grew more boisterous than ever as the boy, discarding leg-irons and crutches, walked off unaided. The serious business of the séance was succeeded by "a little fun," the laughter becoming riotous at the ludicrous antics of incautious individuals who presented themselves for treatment. Among the good things of a liberal bill Mr Tom Leamore stands out prominently with his mock serious ballad of "Heroes," which bristles with witty lines, and the merriment inspired by his appearance as "Sally, the pride of the ballet," lasts unabated throughout the whimsical turn, which an odd pas de seul at the close renders quite irresistible. Miss Rosie Lloyd successfully courts the favour of mere man with a song descriptive of the superiority of the fair sex, but it is her picture of coster pathos in "You're not ashamed of me, are yer, Bill?" that reaches the hearts of all, so full of homely truth is it, and so naturally rendered by the comely vocalist. The Brothers Kroney are remarkably active as the "lazy coalmen" doing a number of acrobatic feats in the course of an act that elicits constant mirth. Radiant in a dress of prismatic hues, Miss Victoria Monks sings of "The girl inside," under whose influence the world apparently revolves. Miss Monks' fame at the Paragon is unbounded, and great is the joy when she yields to the popular demand and gives with well-studied emphasis her imitation of an American coon songstress in "If you want to have a row wait till the sun shines." A half-dozen young lady cyclists, known as the Royal Six, make a pretty display

astride the wheel, singing cheerfully a chorus in the French tongue. They afterwards appear as a "military band," each one armed with the instrument she is intended to represent and singing a song descriptive thereof, their marching and countermarching having a pleasing effect. Miss Radie Furman is all liveliness and jollity as a "Deutscher" maiden, who overflows with funny sayings, her expertness in clogs, which includes an imitation of the drum, calling forth the most enthusiastic applause. Miss Ella Lane sings a couple of songs with taste; the quaint method of Mr Dion Wade finds employment in two well-written comic effusions; and others in the programme are Mr James Fawn, Dandy George and his dog Rosie, Miss Dolly Harmer, and Miss Ethel Loftus, comedienne. Mr and Mrs Harold Finden create abundant mirth by their artistic comedy, in *A Desperate Remedy*; the droll personality of Mr Will Evans is utilised for a Christmas pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe*; and a hilarious finish to a long evening is assured by Mr Joe Elvin and company with *Two for Three-ha'pence*. Mr Geo. Adney Payne is fortunate in the possession of a general manager like Mr Fred Miller, the more immediate duties being ably discharged by Mr Chas. Beecham.

SHEPHERD'S-BUSH EMPIRE.

At this handsome and increasingly popular place of amusement opposite Shepherd's-bush-green excellent business has been the rule during the week, not a seat being obtainable soon after the opening of the doors. Largely responsible for this gratifying state of affairs is no doubt the engagement of the favourite comedienne, Miss Marie Lloyd. On the night of our visit this ever-welcome artist, although suffering from a cold, was otherwise in the very best of form, and ere she was allowed to depart was called upon to contribute no fewer than four numbers. The first dealt with a certain fascinating Virginie, a smart young damsel who flits from one fashionable resort to another, mainly in quest of enjoyment. Her male acquaintance is extensive, and that she is popular with the men is easily understood, as is also the disfavour with which this extremely vivacious damsel is regarded by strictly proper married ladies. Miss Lloyd sings the number—a well-written one—with all the requisite delicate point. Her acting abilities are well displayed in "The Tale of the Skirt," a song which in the hands of a less clever artist would be almost meaningless. She also gave with her customary success "Eh—what! what! what!" and "There was something on his mind." It is scarcely necessary to add that Miss Lloyd wore three exceedingly handsome and tasteful gowns. Clown Zertho's dogs are responsible for some of the heartiest laughter heard during the entertainment, the wonderful intelligence and cleverness shown by these smartly trained animals evoking continuous applause. Considerably over a dozen dogs, mostly of a small breed, take part in this interesting show, which includes all the usual tricks and some exceptionally smart back somersaulting. The two clown dogs are remarkably knowing animals, and some of these clever canines, in appropriate costumes, drive miniature motor-cars and wheel toy perambulators about the stage, besides falling down apparently dead when their master fires a pistol. Truly a wonderful family of learned dogs, and a really enjoyable and clever show. Mr Syd May, the well-known mimic, gives an admirable impression of Harry Lauder, the popular Scotch comedian, in "Stop yer ticklin', Jock," and, made up remarkably like George Robey, gives a verse of that eccentric artist's ditty, "I had to be cruel to be kind." He also gives his ludicrously funny burlesque of Hackenschmidt, the dummy figure with which he wrestles being most ingeniously worked, and the mock contest causing roars of laughter. Lotto, Lilo, and Otto perform many smart tricks on cycles, the member of the troupe who impersonates a policeman being responsible for much amusement. A game of ball by two of the performers on cycles is also skilfully managed and loudly applauded. Miss Ada Cerito, most becomingly costumed, sings a capital topical ditty, "Then he left off wondering," with some verses bearing on the Beck case, the distress in West Ham, and the capitulation of Port Arthur. The Five Delevines in their pleasing interlude combine melody, mirth, and clever pantomime, all being well blended, and the entire entertainment refined and attractive. The Sisters Klos, three fine specimens of young womanhood, submit a graceful and up-to-date gymnastic act, exhibiting marvellous strength of arm and wrist. The culminating feat is reached when one of these muscular ladies hangs head downwards with her arms extended, her two sisters using them as bars on which to perform. Ike Scott and Son present an amusing little trifle in which the youth impersonates a smart young officer and his father a lubberly soldier. Miss Alexandra Dagmar continues to meet with well-deserved success in her burlesque scena, *The Duchess of Dantzic*, assisted by a youth who impersonates the great Napoleon. Miss Dagmar's fine stage presence and refined artistic style are much appreciated. Bella and Bijou in a bright, breezy little sketch win the favourable verdict of the audience, and the couple known as Cabby and Shirker do well in their eccentric bar act. Mention should be made of the very useful services rendered by Mr George Richardson as conductor of the orchestra and Mr E. H. Dobson as acting-manager.

CHELSEA PALACE.

One can always be sure of a cordial welcome at the Chelsea Empire from the genial Mr Edward Swanborough, the acting-manager, whose experience in the world of amusement extends over many years, and who can number countless friends in all branches of the profession. One of the principal turns in this week's programme is the sketch entitled *Our Curate*, played by Mr Fred Eustace and company. To cut a ridiculous figure on the stage is too frequently the fate of the minister of religion introduced as a character in a modern play; but happily the curate who is the leading character in the sketch above mentioned is a manly young fellow of the "fighting parson" type, who is not afraid to speak plainly when the occasion demands it. For instance, when the vicar treats his poor parishioners in a contemptuous manner, and one of his lady guests calls them "scum," the curate gives his superior in rank a piece of his mind. The offended parson retorts, and the young man, showing a commendable spirit, thereupon resigns his curacy. His subsequent career is marked by some sensational events, and the audience follows the story with the closest attention until the happy ending is reached. Mr Fred Eustace imparts to the character of the bold, outspoken curate a manly feeling and spirit of muscular Christianity that are bound to appeal with force to the ordinary audience. He has the support of a thoroughly capable company, and the sketch meets with a most favourable reception. Amongst the single turns engaged here this week is Mr Harry Bancroft, an actor-vocalist with a capital voice and style, who nightly has met with the heartiest of receptions. He opens with a song which tells the pathetic story of two dear friends who went to the wars and died fighting "side by side." Mr Bancroft sings the verses with force and expression. His second essay has a touch of comedy. A rich girl and a poor girl meet, and when the former boasts of her relatives, the penniless lass asserts that she has just as good a father and mother as the aristocrat, and as to her "uncle," well, he is a friend that can always be depended upon for a loan when the family are in need of help. Mr Bancroft retires amid renewed applause, and is compelled to return to bow his acknowledgments. Quite a favourite is "My Fancy," who is described as "the queen of sand dancers." She appears first in a becoming Scotch costume, and gives a dance characteristic of the "land of the heather." Next she delights the audience with a sand dance, her skill being acknowledged by prolonged applause. A conspicuous object in the background is the illuminated scene painted by Mr Dan Leno, an excellent specimen of the ability of the late comedian as an artist. Miss Arabella Allen, a young and graceful girl, undertakes a difficult task in portraying characters from the works of Charles Dickens, and succeeds far better than one could reasonably expect. She depicts Smallweed, the old miser in "Bleak House," and Nelly's grandfather from "The Old Curiosity Shop." The last-mentioned is the best and most artistic piece of work, the make-up, too, being quite admirable. Mr C. Emlyn Jones and his Emerald Ladies Quartet sing part-songs in very pleasing style, the selections including "On Erin's Shore," "Killarney," and "The Holy City." Their contributions are received with much favour. Mr Charles Pastor scores with "Do come along and see" and his laughing song, which causes general merriment throughout the house. Mr John Terry and Miss Mabel Lambert, variety artistes, were to have appeared this week, but have been prevented by a regrettable accident which has happened to the lady. Their place in the programme is taken by Miss Marie Burdell, a serio, who appears in a stylish principal boy's dress. Miss Ella Lane, comedienne, is also in the bill; and Ruffell's Bioscope depicts a sensational bank robbery which recently took place in America. The orchestra here is under the very competent direction of Mr Angelo Asher.

GRAND, CLAPHAM.

Mr Walter Gibbons, the enterprising and energetic proprietor of this luxurious variety theatre, has made an engagement of importance this week in the Great Rubie (La Femme Mesmer), programmed as the only lady society hypnotist and electrician in the world, with her "bevy of beautiful hypnotic belles and merry mediums." The lady is the wife of the celebrated Dr. Walford Bodie, and it was soon apparent at her opening performance that she possessed much of her husband's remarkable influence as an electrician and hypnotist. In a brief introductory speech the lady invited members of the audience to step on the stage and test her powers, at the same time remarking that she wished no one to do so unless they believed in hypnotism. The lady first gave an interesting and loudly applauded demonstration at a powerful battery, stating that she was the only lady who had ever dared or attempted to experiment with the deadly electric current. Her hypnotic exhibition created the greatest wonderment and almost continuous laughter, the ten "subjects" who had the temerity to place themselves under her influence having a particularly lively five minutes or so. No sooner had they seated themselves on chairs than they experienced a "shock" which sent them—and the audience—into convulsions. An orange and a rose charged with electricity were handed to two fair damsels, and the result was most ludicrous, as was also a duel between the Great Rubie and a "merry medium." With a few passes of the hand the clever hypnotist persuaded half a dozen or so of her subjects to imagine they were great operatic artists, actors, and mimics, and if the result was anything but harmonious it was certainly ludicrous. Rubie also made those under her control laugh and weep at will, and indulge in numberless grotesque antics, eventually sending them to sleep, the look of wonderment on their faces when they were brought to their senses evoking much merriment. That the audience was greatly impressed and amused by the exhibition of the Great Rubie was evidenced by the prolonged applause which greeted the conclusion of her interesting and novel turn, the success of which was much enhanced by her easy and confident manner and the smart way in which the entire "show" was worked. Another item in the fine programme which makes for hearty laughter is Astley's circus, the attempts of a number of youths to manipulate a revolving table and keep their seats on a vicious mule creating much mirth. A cleverly trained pony and an exceptionally expert canine performer are included in this miniature circus exhibition, which constitutes a keenly enjoyed little entertainment. Mr G. H. Elliott, the chocolate-coloured coon, sings of "Lazy Maisie," his other number, "My Havana Queen," also enabling him to score heavily as a vocalist, his concluding dance being warmly applauded. Intricate and original dancing is the outstanding feature of the turn presented by Mr Herbert La Martine; a clever and effective gymnastic display is given by Lezelle; and the snatches of song, humorous anecdote, and neat dancing of Maxwell and Francis make up an entertaining and popular interlude. *The Fighting Dummy*, a humorous boxing sketch, is smartly worked by the Harvey Boys, and played to continuous signs of approbation; Frank Seeley, a comedian with a quiet and quaint style, arouses laughter with his two comic effusions, "Coming in" and "Ri-tidde-fol-lol;" and an expert dance is given by Maggie Rennie. The pictures thrown on the screen by Ruffell's Bioscope include "The Only Man," a humorous and clearly shown series of films; "Cruelty to a Horse," and "The Coal Heavers." Miss Jenny Lynn, comedienne, is also on the programme.

CAMBERWELL PALACE.

The customary crowds have assembled at the hall by Camberwell-green, where Mr Jesse Sparrow has provided such a well-assorted programme that the elegant house has been full to overflowing soon after the opening of the doors. A most acceptable item of the bill is the sketch *The One Too Many*, upon the presentation of which some gorgeous scenic display is lavished. Mr Percy Murray, in the title-rôle, is fitted with a character that is eminently calculated to bring out prominently his dramatic skill and admirable elocutionary gifts, and support of a valuable kind is rendered by his excellent company. Early in the evening Master Jack Charman, the boy vocalist, although apparently suffering from a cold, won loud applause for his rendering of "Playmates" and a song of Yuletide; and Miss Annie Laurie, dressed in a most becoming red costume, sang with considerable point "I am the smartest girl in town" and another very acceptable number. A very attractive gymnastic exhibition was given by the Fitzroys (Fred and Lilian). The pair perform many difficult feats on the trapeze with apparent ease, and the dexterity with which they climb a rope and pose thereon won for them the loudest of applause. The bill is especially strong in comedians, a big favourite being Mr Walter Stockwell, who had the huge audience entirely with him while singing "Noah," in which he impersonates a white-bearded nonagenarian who evidently creates much amusement whenever he takes his walks abroad. Rude boys suggest that he's been stuck in the mud ever since the Flood, and make anxious inquiries for the animals, his wife, and the Ark. Mr Stockwell also has a decidedly popular number in which he sings in praise of the "Dear Homeland," mention of various notable personages calling forth the loudest of plaudits, and the comedian being frequently recalled to add encore verses. A wire-walker of exceptional ability is Mr Rex Fox. Without the aid of balancing poles or huge umbrellas he passes along the almost invisible thread of steel with the assurance and unconcern of an ordinary individual crossing a road. He also walks the wire on stilts, plays the mandoline very creditably while standing on one foot, dexterously balancing a lamp on the other, and performs many other difficult tricks with marvellous expertness, his wonderful display earning for him continued and well-deserved plaudits. Mr T. C. Callaghan, comedian, has a ditty that evidently appeals to his auditors in "All amongst the sawdust on the floor," a song that told of much eccentric behaviour on the part of a number of revellers at a wedding celebration, and his other number, "On a bright summer morning" also compelled abundant merriment. Another comedian who was responsible for considerable hilarity was Mr Walter Wallis, whose funniest contribution was a policeman impersonation; and Mr Jack Lorimer, Scotch comic, gave a humorous ditty and eccentric dance of exceptional quaintness, an item which secured for him a reception which must have been most gratifying. The Three Sisters Chester, vocalists and instrumentalists of decided ability, were heard with much pleasure in their mandoline song and dance; the popular trio also winning much favour for their selection of familiar airs on the banjo and their accompanying dance; and Spot, in his travesty, "The Cake Walk Craze," with his merry and motley crowd of assistants, was loudly acclaimed. Miss Dora Clifford has a pleasing song in praise of "Norah," a neatly executed dance greatly enhancing the attractiveness of the turn; and others in the fine and large programme are Mr Tom E. Hughes, comedian; Miss Emma Don, with her black-and-white quartette; Mr Joe Peterman's company, in the musical scena *The Factory Girl*; and the Groves Duo, dramatic duologue artistes. An exhibition of the noble art of self-defence has been given by Ben Jordan and Pedlar Palmer, a couple of light-weight boxers of renown; and the series of interesting and amusing pictures shown by the Edisonograph has been keenly enjoyed.

MUSIC HALL CELEBRITIES.

PAUL CINQUEVALLI.

Taking advantage of the fact that the world's incomparable juggler, Paul Cinquevalli, is performing at the Theatre Royal, Belfast, in Mr Fred W. Warden's pantomime, *Puss in Boots*, in which he plays Fritz, the waiter, our Belfast representative took occasion to get a few of Mr Cinquevalli's recent experiences in South Africa, from which he has just returned. In reply to inquiry, he said he was in the best of health, and thoroughly enjoyed his tour through the most recent addition to his Majesty King Edward's dominions. The visit just terminated was, however, not the first Mr Cinquevalli has paid to South Africa, for six years ago he had a most successful time, and so vivid was the impression he made at that period, general regret was expressed that he could not, owing to his European engagements, come South until this year. But the reception accorded him when he opened at Johannesburg Empire on Aug. 22 last was of such a kind as to prove he lived in the hearts and affections of the people, who, after undergoing the horrors of a long and bloody war, could not forget one whose feats of juggling have always led the profession in our time. Mr Cinquevalli referred with pride—as well he might—to the supper accorded him on the opening night referred to, attended by all the leading men and mining magnets of Johannesburg and district. The chairman on that occasion—a Mr W. E. Park—said that Mr Cinquevalli had by his courtesy and demeanour in all his dealings with those he came in contact made

PAUL CINQUEVALLI.

himself both respected and liked. While in Johannesburg Cinquevalli introduced a new art, that of balancing a Ralli cart, 200lbs. weight on his chin, making it revolve with the wheels going in different directions. This art created quite a sensation, and the *Rand Daily Mail*, referring to the feat, said it "almost seemed impossible, but it was done with astonishing ease and accuracy." Our correspondent further learnt that Mr Cinquevalli's reception at the Cape itself was a glorious one, and the clever juggler could not but feel happy at such glowing tributes to his abilities as an artiste. Opening at the Tivoli, Cape Town, on Oct. 5, the management there out of compliment to the great "little man" decided that the night he first performed should be set down as the first anniversary. In reality, the date was Sept. 23, but it was, as mentioned, made Oct. 5, and it was very gratifying in every way to be hailed, as the *South African News* put it, "the hero of the evening," and later in another issue to say "he was the 'lion' of the Tivoli for weeks." Altogether his visit to South Africa was in every sense a triumph such as any artiste might well feel proud of.

It was in reality a health voyage—at least the sea portion was—and Mr Cinquevalli returns restored, he assured our representative, to full health and vigour. He certainly "looked it." Belfast is indeed fortunate in having first call of his services since his return, and on this fact Mr Fred W. Warden, managing director of the Theatre Royal, Belfast, is to be heartily congratulated. Of course it is not Cinquevalli's first appearance in Belfast, as he has several times appeared at the Empire, but the discerning Belfast public know old favourites and always retain a warm corner in their Irish hearts for the man who, so to speak, revolutionised the modern juggling art. As Fritz the waiter he has a part in *Puss in Boots* which will give him every chance to display his noted abilities, and the attraction of the pantomime is greatly increased by his inclusion in the cast. Mr Cinquevalli came home in the Belfast-built boat Norman from the Cape, a distinguished passenger on board being Lord Roberts, V.C., the ex-Commander-in-Chief.

THE death is announced of Mr Enoch, the well-known writer of ballads, who was buried at Ringmer, Sussex, on Thursday. At one time he was associated with Thackeray in the editorship of the *Cornhill Magazine*, and was personally acquainted with Douglas Jerrold, Charles Dickens, Gilbert à Beckett, Mark Lemon, and John Leech. He was also on terms of friendship with Thomas Carlyle and many other literary celebrities. He wrote upwards of 800 ballads, of which the best known, perhaps, was "My Sweetheart when a Boy." This was set to music and sung for years by the late Mr Wilford Morgan, son-in-law of Mr Charles Morton, who predeceased the author of the verses by a few months.

UNITED KINGDOM SHOWMEN AND VAN-DWELLERS' PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL REPORT,

Year ending Dec. 31, 1904.

The past year has been distinguished by events as remarkable as any previous year since the establishment of "The Showman's Trade Protection Society." The signal victory of the Guild Executive over the District Council of the Metropolitan suburb of Acton marks the beginning of the end of Parliamentary work and grave anxiety.

Your Executive Committee and officers have more than justified their steady and persevering policy of the past eight years. It is necessary here to briefly recapitulate that policy. In the first place, to justify and to vindicate those loyal friends of the Guild who, in both favourable and adverse circumstances have supported loyally by voice, pen, time, ability, and means, the work and aims of "The Showman's Guild."

Pre-eminently amongst these we must place the esteemed and revered president, Lord George Sanger, doyen, leader, and father of his people, who for years past has generously given of his wealth to the defence of the trade interests and the betterment of the people journeying from fair to fair, to provide amusement and recreation for the toiling millions of the empire.

And in the second place to convince traders, manufacturers, and others concerned in the well-being of the fair ground industry that it is to their interest to maintain in the highest state of efficiency the organisation that is the recognised defender of the open-air amusements of the people, and to champion before the Senate and in the councils of local government bodies the showman's business and avocation in life.

There is a third body—we are glad to think a rapidly decreasing one—who need to be reminded that it is their duty to support the Guild. We refer to that selfish class who, thinking (very erroneously) that their individual interests are safe, begrudge either time or money in the defence of the more general interests of the whole travelling community.

To such narrow-minded people the lesson of the past year's work is of the most patent and obvious character. Briefly put, and for their edification alone, the position is this—it was discovered eight years ago that a peril of the most terrible kind existed, aiming at nothing less than the gradual extinction of the show business by public bodies in Private Bill legislation. The attention of the Guild was drawn to this matter by two of its oldest executive officers, the Rev. T. Horne and Mr Frederick Millar, Parliamentary agent to the Guild.

A conference of the Guild executive officials and the friends of the travelling showmen took place in Manchester midsummer, 1898. The result was the appointment of Mr Frederick Millar, of 25, Victoria-street, Westminster, as the Guild's Parliamentary agent, and Mr T. Watson Wright, of Leicester, as Parliamentary solicitor.

All Bills entered by corporation at the Private Bills Office of the House of Commons were to be examined, and all necessary measures taken to oppose all encroachments upon the business rights and privileges of the fair ground traders and entertainers of the kingdom.

Any Private Bill containing clauses detrimental to the trade interest or curtailing the liberty of the individual may be opposed by the trade or person concerned. First, the opposition to the Bill must set out in a petition its grievance. The petitioners must establish a locus standi, or right to appear and object. Then they must employ Parliamentary solicitors, agents and counsel.

All must be done in conformity with the Standing Orders of the House of Commons governing Private Bill legislation. Any error in these forms is fatal to the cause of the petitioners. The petitioners apply to be allowed to appear by counsel, and to tender evidence in support of the grievance alleged. Then, when the Bill is before the Committee, the next stage is to prove the case as set out in the petition.

This work has been continued with unfailing success since its inauguration. In the Parliamentary Report issued for the Session of 1904 we demonstrated that the paid agents of the Guild were the best experts money could obtain; that the work had been done with the strictest regard to economy, yet with the most gratifying success; and that no record of work in the public interest could give as they could so good a story of unbroken success.

In every case, either by private negotiations or by determined and skilled opposition, the Guild had caused the bad clauses in Private Bills to be thrown out, the position to-day being that the showmen's trade interests and the people's interests in their popular fairs were duly recognised and safeguarded by the House of Commons, the last notable victory being that the Urban District Council of Acton were ordered by the committee of the House considering their Bill to pay the costs of the petitioners (the showmen) against it.

We remark here that, though the Acton authorities had to pay the piper for the tune they desired the unwilling showmen to dance to, yet there was—and must always be in these cases—a considerable expense connected with defence work that cannot be charged to the enemy. The difference is, of course, largely in our favour in the Acton case. The council had to pay the whole of the legal charges, Parliamentary fees, and the fees of the counsel on our side as well as their own. Our only expenses in the contest were preliminary to and in preparation for the statement of our opposition by counsel, agent, and solicitor before the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the House of Commons.

The victory was signal, conclusive, and of consequence of the most far-reaching moment. Your executive confidently anticipate—nay, they have evidence already—that corporations will carefully consider, in the drafting of private Bills in the future, the organised and effective opposition of showmen to all injurious proposals affecting the business of the fair ground and the popular amusements of the toil-worn people of the kingdom.

The establishment of the Parliamentary Work Expenses' Fund has not met with the success it deserves and that its promoters confidently anticipated.

Your executive paid over the whole of your available funds at the end of the year 1903, amounting to £190; they also immediately, for the necessity was urgent, allocated the president's munificent donation for 1904 with other goodly sums received at Manchester, Bolton, Lynn, Treorchy, and all the bigger subscriptions of the past year, to meet the debts of the Parliamentary fund.

We are confident that the lack of financial support is largely, if not entirely, due to the highly technical nature of the work of Parliamentary defence. It is almost impossible to popularise a matter so essentially the business of experts in Parliamentary procedure.

You cannot "enthuse" an audience with the dry-as-dust technical legal arguments that to the expert constitute a most interesting study.

We have at last succeeded in bringing home to the minds of our people the imminent danger threatening their very existence that this attack by private Bill legislation means.

A most interesting correspondence in *The Era* reveals a rapidly growing and most satisfactory sense of responsibility on the part of all sorts and conditions of show folk. The responsible leaders of the various trade societies concerned with fair-ground business are unanimous in their desire to find a practical method of uniting in support of this necessary branch of showmen protection and defence.

The practical outcome is that delegates from all the societies will meet and form a joint committee to provide the funds for the work.

During the past year the usual meetings at Manchester, London, King's Lynn, Wanstead-flats, Treorchy, and Longsight took place, and because of the signal success of the Parliamentary work were characterised by great enthusiasm and a considerable rally to the member roll of the Guild.

The honorary chaplain visited a number of the fairs in mid-England in the early part of the summer. His contemplated scheme of visiting other fairs fell through, owing to his inability to break his settled work in Manchester. This, we are glad to say, led the Rev. T. Horne to remove his home and take up lighter clerical work in London, so that now the Guild has its chief office in the metropolis.

Your executive record with pleasure the continual and loyal support of the Guild and its work by the leading showmen of the Empire, and with peculiar pleasure rejoice in the continuance in his high and important office on the part of Lord George Sanger, and takes this opportunity of according its sincere thanks to the president, the hon. chaplain, hon. secretary, treasurer, and other officials.

Questions of great moment have been considered and dealt with by the officials of the Guild and its agents; notably out of some fourteen private Bills lodged in the House of Commons, and each of them threatening the show business, only one, the Acton Bill, to which we have already referred at length, came to a definite fight; all the rest were settled by friendly intercourse or negotiations.

The past year has been one of considerable commercial depression; the margin of spending money, never a very great quantity with the workers, has been extremely small. This has been especially so in Lancashire and some parts of Yorkshire. Your executive, therefore, recognising this economic fact, attach no blame to the poorer section of the great industry centred in the fair ground.

Better times, we trust, are ahead of us, and we have every confidence that show-people will be amongst the first to participate in the revived national prosperity.

The executive congratulate the southern members of the Guild, and, in fact, the whole travelling community, on the settlement of the hon. chaplain in London. They recognise that this will be of great usefulness to the religious, the educational, and the Parliamentary work of the Association, and that in and through his permanent work on *The Era*, the Press work, an extremely important branch of Mr Horne's enterprise, will be all the better done from London, as the centre of the world's press. We again plead with the half-hearted, the wavering, and the undecided to rally to the support of the oldest and most successful of all trade societies dealing with the world of shows.

Signed, on behalf of the executive,

LORD GEORGE SANGER, President.
Rev. T. HORNE, Hon. Chaplain and Organiser.
T. HURST, Hon. Secretary.

"URBANORA."

"To amuse and entertain is good; to do both and instruct is better" is the motto that has been adopted for the entertainment, specially designed for the young folk, which was presented at the Alhambra for the first time on Monday afternoon under the generic name of "Urbanora." This new title is happily appropriate, for the genius and originality of Mr Charles Urban will, in this instance, as in others, be responsible for many pleasant hours with the Bioscope. His voyage to New York and back by the splendid Norddeutscher Lloyd liner Kaiser Wilhelm II. (the fastest mail steamship afloat) may be quoted not only as an instance of his wonderful enterprise, but as a proof of the power, in skilled hands, of vivid reproduction belonging to the "cameraic" machine which he has done so much to perfect. Mr Urban virtually takes us with him on his trip across the Atlantic, and pictures the real jollity and knowledge to be derived from such an enjoyable form of holiday in a number of remarkable films. We see the great floating hotel leaving Southampton Water, and are borne away on the mighty main at excellent speed. We have a view of Captain Hoegeman and his officers taking observations, and watch the mode of using the sextant. We are present, as it were, at the closing of the water-tight bulkhead doors, and see one of the thirty safety Stone-Lloyd bulkhead doors in operation. Soon after assisting at a band concert on the upper deck, we enter New York Harbour and view the Statue of Liberty, and visit various well-known scenes in the Empire City. On the return journey the vessel runs into a storm, which gradually subsides, and a beautiful seascape in the moon rising on a vast expanse of water. The life of the passengers on board is depicted in various ways, and the interesting voyage concludes with the arrival of the Kaiser Wilhelm II. in Plymouth Harbour. Between the two series of pictures was sandwiched the Tschin-Maa Troupe of Chunchusen from Liao-Yang, whose show is exceedingly versatile. There is a remarkable basin spinner, whose uses bamboo rods for his surprising tricks; a daring acrobat who somersaults from a tier of tables without breaking a single piece of china from the load he holds in his arms; and a youthful contortionist who ties himself up in knots. The conjuror-in-chief creates quite an appetite by the numberless attractive-looking plats he produces from under a cloth; there is a knife-thrower who quite in the most light-hearted manner fixes his weapons round a comrade's head; and the juggler accomplishes a number of clever feats with a sort of trident. A really beautiful Chinese scene has been painted for this act—a dream of pagodas and fairy lamps. The Urbanora second series of films depicts chiefly animal, bird, and reptile life in the Zoo, and is as instructive as it is amusing. The delights of a visit to the celebrated gardens in Regent's Park begin with a view of the dens of the larger carnivora, including that interesting creature the polar bear. A general view of the lake is taken, with the foreign ducks and geese enjoying themselves. A comic picture is a tug-of-war between storks; and it is an intensely curious experience to assist at the luncheon of the Brazilian toads, whose batrachian palates relish a good fat mealworm. Another "amoozin' cuss" is the chameleon, for when at his feed his length of tongue and the way he takes his food supply a very diverting picture. The boa constrictor, we know, never exceeds the bounds of good digestion, and is taken in the company of a rat—his next meal. A number of bison on Lord Strathcona's ranch in Manitoba and a herd of elk on the same nobleman's estate give a capital idea of these animals in their semi-wild state. The greatest patience, care, thought, and resource have had to be employed so as to show successfully the creatures in their natural and characteristic movements, and for much of the work special costly apparatus had to be designed and constructed, and many elaborate and delicate experiments carried out. But the results of the labours of the operator, Mr F. Martin Duncan, F.R.H.S., Mr Joseph Rosenthal, Mr H. M. Lomas, Mr J. G. Avery, and others, have yielded the highest perfection. The co-operation in these pleasant entertainments of the band under Mr G. W. Byng must not be passed over; and the selections, accompaniments, and incidental music on Monday added much to the children's enjoyment.

AT the Empire Music Hall, Wrexham, Mr Harry Barker, a popular star characteristic vocalist, has made a big hit this week, and he is well supported by the Brothers Hannaway, comedians and artistic dancers; Mr Billie Sivane and Miss Pollie Fielden, in their original comedy act, "The Park-keeper and the Nurse Girl;" Mr Abe Laxey, eccentric comedian; Mons. Silvo, in his novel ladder and ring act; and Miss Louie Duval, comedienne and dancer.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

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FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

THE forthcoming meetings at both Manchester and London of the United Kingdom Showmen and Van-dwellers' Protection Association are of the utmost moment and importance to the fair ground industry and profession. At the same time the British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union holds its big annual gathering, the two societies forming the largest congress of showland in the world. As we briefly indicated last week, the very important matter of Wigan Fair will come before the assembled showmen for consideration and for federated action.

THE majority on the Wigan Borough, whose votes were given for the abolition of the fair, have been misled. They are informed that under an Improvement Bill of 1874 power was given them to abolish the fair at their own will and pleasure. The showmen are armed and well prepared, and measures to meet the emergency are now in train, and the principal business at the Manchester meeting will be to discuss them. A public meeting of protest is to be held in Wigan organised by the allied trade societies interested in the retention of the fairs. Showmen are not without friends at Wigan. The people of Wigan are with them, and will have to be reckoned with. The local traders, no small body, have also interests in the fairs. The prejudice created by the Bill, and by the statements of certain members of the Borough Council, must be met and overcome.

AT Sheffield for the fair were the well-known concerns of Buff Bill's menagerie, Baker's circus, Captain T. Payne's Bioscope, Cinématograph shows of Messrs Proctor and Twigdon, the ghost pavilion of Messrs Halliday and Stewart, Farrer's fine art gallery, and the novelty and ground booths of Messrs Cooper, J. Smart, Buckley, Howard, and S. Smart. The machine list, always a goodly one at this fixture, included concerns by Tuby, the two Marshalls, the two Waddingtons, Amor, Shaw, and Holland. The shooting concerns were provided by the two Corwells, Lever, Burton, Bentley, Richards, Ratcliffe, and Lieskie. Varieties of all sorts were supplied by an excellent crowd of caterers, amongst whom were Messrs Lever, Middlebrook, Shaw, Smith, Ackroyd, Young, Baines, Whatmore, Farrar, Johnson, Steward, Peters, Westropp, Chapman, and Fawcett.

AT the Pavilion, Carnarvon, for the Carnival Fair, were found Codman's Cinématograph, Thomas's fine art gallery, and the steam roundabout and Winchester range of the lessee, Mr Wildman. Other novelties and varieties were supplied by the Seago Family and Messrs Symonds, Addloms, and Smith.

AT Handsworth, Birmingham, were Mrs Shepherd's switchback, gondola, and range of park swings; P. Collins, Limited's, steam gallopers; and Humphrey's coker sheets.

IN the Bull Ring there is C. Birch's excellent show, the midgets.

THE Plinston Brothers, with their novelty overboats, are at Ton-y-Pandy, in the Rhondda.

MR ALBERT BRANDON is the general manager of the Christmas and New Year Carnival Fair, held under the management of Messrs John Collins, jun., and F. J. Wallace, in the great North Market, Liverpool. This big fair, organized on World's Fair lines, has been a huge success, the great advantage of being under cover to a very great extent accounting for this popularity. Amongst the great free sights were Fossett's circus and hippodrome of fifty star artistes, in their equestrian and variety turns; and the one and only Hardy on the great high rope was an especial feature of this gigantic enterprise. A perfect galaxy of roundabouts, side shows, shooting concerns, throwing games, and, in fact, all the fun of the fair, is delighting the Liverpudlians young and old. Messrs Collins and Wallace and their capable manager, Mr Brandon, are to be congratulated upon the undoubted success of their 1905 Carnival Fair.

THE Mayor of Norwich, finding himself unable to get sufficient subscriptions for his unemployed fund, recently gave his patronage to a merry-go-round show, and its profits for the day were handed over to the fund.

MESSRS BARKER AND THURSTON continue their successful enterprise, "The Winter Carnival," at the Agricultural Hall, Norwich. On Tuesday afternoon and evening the Mayor, Mr H. Z. T. Flowers, J.P., accorded his patronage and presence, and was accompanied by several members of the Corporation, who took a round upon the gondolas, and also visited the cinématograph show. Messrs Barker and Thurston kindly placed at the disposal of the Mayor the entire proceeds of the afternoon and evening shows towards his fund for the relief of the unemployed in Norwich. Needless to say, the nimble pennies reached many pounds, and many thanks are due to the Mayor and Corporation for their encouraging presence, and also to Messrs Barker and Thurston for their generous act.

THE following subscriptions to the Showmen's Guild have been received:—Mr John Collins, £5 5s.; Mr George H. Kemp, £2 2s.; Mr R. H. Miller and Sons, £1 1s.; Mrs Thornley Bolton, £1 1s.; Mr John Hastings, 10s. 6d.; Mr Harry Hughes, 10s. 6d.

INFORMATION relating to Shows and Fairs, suitable for this column, should be addressed to THE EDITOR, "The Showman World."

SHOWS AND GALES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—At Yeadon, near Leeds, Rhodes's portable theatre, which was stationed on a piece of vacant ground fronting the local High-street, suffered greatly in the recent gale. The wooden and canvas erection was blown completely over, the wood-work was considerably damaged, and the canvas torn.

Mr James Rhodes, a son of the late veteran showman, has been ill in bed for four days. He only buried his mother last week, and he has been doing wretched business lately. Some of your readers will know from painful experience what such a calamity means at this season of the year; and I am sure that any contributions through the medium of your office towards alleviating the sad plight of the distressed manager and his company will be most gratefully received.

Yours faithfully, CLARENCE FOSTER.

Leeds, Jan. 9.

P.S.—Mr Rhodes's address is 68, Cavendish-street, Kirkstall-road, Leeds.

At the Empire Palace, Birmingham, this week, Hermann Melot, French conjuror, has been loudly applauded for his mystifying entertainment. The selections rendered by the Caledonian Boys' orchestra are also appreciated. Excellent turns are done by Margaret Ashton, Signor and Madame Borelli, the Wotpert Trio, Ohm's Animals, Neilson Sisters, Barney Vox, George Adams, and M'Phee and Hill.

MR CHARLES CLIFFORD'S harp solos have been a feature this week of the programme at the Opera House, York. They are good judges of music in the Minster city, and they have applauded without stint Mr Clifford's selections of old melodies and new.

MISS MAUD FITZSIUBBS, a native Australian pianiste, has left Sydney for England. She intends placing her twin daughters Aileen and Doris and her third daughter Lenore on the London variety stage.

COLONIAL THEATRES.

AUSTRALIA.—MELBOURNE, SYDNEY.
Mr J. C. WILLIAMSON,
Manager of the Leading Australian Theatres.
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HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, SYDNEY;
THEATRE ROYAL, SYDNEY.
London Representative, Mr J. A. E. MALONE, Daly's T.

AUSTRALIA.—Mr HARRY RICKARDS'S AUSTRALIAN ENTERPRISES:—
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NEW TIVOLI HOTEL, SYDNEY;
NEW GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MELBOURNE;
NEW PRINCE OF WALES'S HOTEL, MELBOURNE;
THEATRE ROYAL, BRISBANE;
TIVOLI THEATRE, ADELAIDE;
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Mr Rickards is always open to Engage First-class Artists for the above-named Theatres.
Address to the Head Office, Tivoli Theatre, Sydney.
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Associate Manager, G. H. SMITH.
Messrs B. and F. WHEELER now control the only Circuit of Theatres in South Africa.
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Companies now Touring:—
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and
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AFRICA.—LEONARD RAYNE
is now in England on Business
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Business-Manager in South Africa,
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Vacant April 10, May 1, 8, 29, June 5
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Silence a polite negative.

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Now open with "The Babes in the Wood."
Only Vacant Spring Date, May 29, 1905.
For Dates for Autumn, 1905, and onward, address,
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For Dates address, JNO. R. HUDDLESTONE, Manager,
Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

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BLACKPOOL COLOSSEUM.
SEASON 1905.
Situate at the junction of the Blackpool and Lytham Tramways, on the Marine Parade, opposite the Manchester Hotel, in the heart of Blackpool.
The Building (which is 127ft. in diameter, 41ft. high to the eaves, and 83ft. to the Lantern) is Lighted by Electricity, and as a place for Animal Entertainments is unique, it being the only building in Blackpool that, in consequence of its being free from pillars and other obstructions, afforded the necessary height and space for Diavolo's performance of "Looping the Loop."
The Walls are covered with the World-renowned picture "Niagara" painted by the great artist Phillipoteau.
For the last eight or ten years Blackpool has been extending around and for miles south of the Colosseum in a marvellously rapid manner. Thousands of houses have been built and are occupied, and there has not been any place of Public Entertainment provided for the Masses of the People south of the Tower.
The Colosseum provides a long-felt want in this New and Populous Neighbourhood.
The Authorities estimate that about Four Million Persons visited Blackpool last Season.
The great Popularity of the Colosseum is shown by the fact that, although only partially occupied during a part of a Blackpool Season, upwards of 160,000 paid for Admission during the remaining part of the Season.
Offers for the 1905 Season on Sharing Terms should be made to the Undersigned, who will furnish any further information.
BLANE and RIDING,
30, Birley-street; or,
GARLICK and STERP,
22, Birley-street, Blackpool.

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CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE (Ltd.).
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A theatre among the most beautiful in England.—Sunday Times.
Vacant Dates (in Term Time, no Dramas), Feb. 16, 23, 27, and March 20. Vacation Time (Dramas), March 23.
Silence polite negative. Address as above.

CATERHAM, SURREY.—Seventeen Miles from Town. Population, 9,000.
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All communications to the Manager, J. D. ROLLS,
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Pantomime now in Full Swing.
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Lighted throughout by Electricity.
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Stage to Grid, 45ft.;
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Opening, 21ft. by 25ft.;
Between Fly Rails, 32ft.
Seating Accommodation, 2,000.
Prices:—Private Boxes, 21s. and 15s.; Single Seats, 3s. and 2s. 6d.; Dress Circle, 2s.; Balcony, 1s. 6d.; Pit Stalls, 1s.; Pit, 9d.; Gallery, 6d.
Communications re Dates to MANAGER

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Vacant, Feb. 27, through transfer.
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Silence courteous negative.

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High-class Companies only entertained.
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Re Autumn Dates, 1905, address,
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THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Vacant,
Feb. 20 (Three Nights), March 9 (Three Nights),
March 16 (Three Nights), 27,
April 10, 17, 24, May 4, and on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Company,
Feb. 13, Chester.
Feb. 27, Dalston.
Apply, MILTON BODE, County Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for
STANDARD THEATRE,
Vacant Spring, various.
TERRISS THEATRE.
March 6.
METROPOLE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM,
Big Attractions for March 20, April 3.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

WANTED, First-class Companies.
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE,
March 13, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON,
March 13, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL,
May 8, on.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Booked in conjunction, One Week each.
Musical Companies preferred.
Vacant Feb. 6, 13, 23 (Three Nights, Bedford only), 27, March 13, 20, 27, and Easter.

THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Vacant March 2, 9, 30, April 6, and Easter.
Address, E. GRAHAM-FALCON,
County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Good Drama, March 6.
The Theatre has just been thoroughly Renovated, a Scene Dock added, and a Full Electric Plant (three Colours) installed. Address, HERBERT VERE.

Feb. 27.
Feb. 27.
Feb. 27.
WANTED, Specially Strong Attraction for this Important Date (owing to Transfer) at the Avenue Opera House, Sunderland.
Apply, C. E. MACHIN, as above.

HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Companies Feb. 6, 27, and April 10 Applications to J. R. HUDDLESTONE, General Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Companies for Feb. 27 and April 17.
Silence in all cases a polite negative.
Mr C. F. WILLIAMS,
Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

GRAND THEATRE, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Companies for Feb. 20, March 6, 20, April 10, and onwards, with exceptions.
Mr C. F. WILLIAMS,
Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 27, March 6, April 24, Easter (Seven Nights), and May, with exceptions. Address, HARRY YORKE.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Feb. 6, March 6, 13, 20, and on. Address, W. E. POTTS

THEATRE ROYAL, WINDSOR.
WANTED, Attractions, Feb. 6 13 (?), 20, March 13. Musical preferred.
Next week, "Florodora." FRED L. CONNINGHAME.

VICTORIA THEATRE, BROUGHTON, MANCHESTER.
Managing Director, JAMES W. HAWORTH.
Manager and Secretary, JAMES M. HARDIE, Jun.
WANTED, First-class Pantomime, Musical or Dramatic Show, for Jan. 30, Feb. 6, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address,
Victoria Theatre, Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple Companies, Two Nights. Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple, N. Devon.

THEATRE ROYAL, MARGATE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr E. MACKNIGHT
WANTED, Companies, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, and on, with exceptions.
Business-Manager, CHARLES F. HARDY.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for Jan. 23 (Six Nights) and Feb. 16 (Three Nights).
Apply, MANAGER, Theatre Royal, Exeter.

WANTED, a Good Attraction (not Drama), for March 13 and April 3.
Apply, SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport.

WANTED, Good Companies,
March 16 and 23 (Three Nights each).
MANAGER, Victoria Theatre, Mansfield.

WANTED, No. 1 Companies,
Various Dates.
GRAY, King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies

EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
Vacant,
Feb. 27, March 13, April 24, May 1.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant,
Jan. 19 (Three Nights only), 23, Feb. 6, 13.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant,
March 6, April 17, May 1 (Three Nights only).

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant,
Feb. 6, 27, March 6, 13.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant,
June 19, July 31, Aug. 7, 14.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant,
April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant,
Jan. 30 (Three Nights only), Feb. 9 (Three Nights only), 13, 20 (Three Nights only), 27 (Three Nights only).

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant,
Jan. 16 (Three Nights only), 30, Feb. 6, 13.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant,
Feb. 6, March 20, 27, April 3 (Three Nights only).

KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
Vacant,
Feb. 9 (Three Nights only), 13, March 13.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant,
Feb. 6, April 6 (Three Nights only), 24, May 1.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant,
Jan. 23, Feb. 6 (Three Nights only), 13, 27.

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.

All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Manor House, Hayes, Uxbridge.

GRAND THEATRE, SWANSEA.
Lessees and Managers,
E. OSWALD BROOKS and J. W. WOODBRIDGE.
WANTED, First-class No 1 Attractions only, for Feb. 16 (Three Nights),
March 13, April 17, May 8, 29,
June 12 (Whit);
also few good Autumn Dates
still Vacant.
Silence a Polite Negative.
Apply, E. OSWALD BROOKS, G. T., Swansea.

THEATRE METROPOLE, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, First-class Attraction for Week of Feb. 6.
Musical Play or Panto. preferred.
Wire, "Hustler," Birkenhead.

PRINCE OF WALES'S, NUNEATON.
WANTED, Good Attractions, Feb. 13 (Musical preferred).
A. F. CROSS.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb 20, Six Nights, Paisley; March 13 Three Nights, Paisley; March 16, Three Nights, Perth; April 24, Six Nights, Perth. Apply, J. H. SAVILE, Theatre, Paisley

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FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Feb 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, May 1, 8 (Three Nights), June 5, 19, 26. H. W. ROWLAND, Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 20 (?). March 6 and 13.
Address, GERALD HARDING

WANTED, Big Musical Attractions, March 27, on, Grand, Chorley; March 20, on, Radcliffe Note.—Mills now working better, and general state of trade better. Radcliffe tramway service opened Wednesday, Jan 4. Can Draw on a Population of 60 000 within a penny tram fare. Last Week, £240. Refer Bert Coote, Esq. Re Dates, address, SANTS, Opera House, Radcliffe.

DUDLEY OPERA HOUSE, DUDLEY.
Proprietor and Manager, Mr J. MAURICE CLEMENT.
WANTED, Address of Mr Henry Hare. "Girl from Chicago" Company Booked for March 13. Feb. 27 Vacant.

PIER PAVILION, ST. LEONARDS. Entirely Redecorated. Kursaal Season ends Feb. 19, and Theatrical Season opens Feb. 20.
WANTED, First-class Companies only, Feb. 20 and 27, Onwards, with Exceptions. Apply, ERNEST THOMAS, St. Leonard's

---

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 1, 8, 29, and June 12 (Whit Week). Can Negotiate for First-class Pantomime for next Christmas.
Applicants please state where Production can be seen.
Address, T. A. EDWARDES.

WANTED, Good Pantomime, Three or Six Nights, during January or February. Address, C. M. JULIAN, Royalty Theatre, Morecambe.

THEATRE ROYAL, MERTHYR.
WANTED, Big Attractions, Feb. 27 and March 6.
WILL SMITHSON, Theatre Royal, Merthyr.

WANTED, First-class Attraction for Feb. 6.
Apply,
MR ROBERT ARTHUR, 24a, Regent-street, S.W.

COURT THEATRE, GALWAY.
WANTED, Genuine Attractions, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, and onward with exceptions.
Now Booking Autumn.
For terms please address,
PETER O'SHAUGHNESSY, Proprietor.

TOWN HALL THEATRE, METHIL, FIFE.
WANTED, Companies, Drama, Variety, Choirs, Minstrels, Jan. 23, on. Share or Rental.
Address, ALF LIVERICK.

WANTED, for the Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham, Entertainment (Complete in itself), Jan. 23, Feb. 6. Silence polite negative.

COMPANIES WANTED.

MR MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions for QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
Feb. 6, Big Pantomime Production,
March 13. Must be Big Attraction for this Date.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
March 20, 27 April 17, 24, May 1.
This house now playing to holding capacity.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA,
March 6, 20, 27, April 10, 24, May 1, 8.
First-class Attractions only,
and First-class Terms Given.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, First-class Company, GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Vacant April 10, 17.
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH,
Vacant March 13, April 17.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT,
4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.
Wire, "Lutanist, London."

ROYALTY THEATRE, LLANELLY.
Booked in Conjunction with the
NEW GRAND THEATRE, ABERAVON.
Three Nights each. Short Journey.
WANTED, Companies, Jan. 23, onwards. Pantomimes First in (Week each).
Address, JOHN TULLY, Grand Theatre, Stalybridge.

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
Telegrams, "Montefiore, Edinburgh."
WANTED, Pantomime and Musical Comedy, Feb. 27, March 6, 27, April 3.
Fast Booking Autumn.

Pantomime "Cinderella" now in Fifth Week.
Last Week Gross Receipts £915.

The Grand Theatre may now be considered as the Established Cheap-priced Popular House of the City. Smoking allowed in the Auditorium. Three Minutes from Prince's-street only. Our Largest Single Night Gross, £161; our next, £142.
Our Lowest (Friday Matinée), £27.

Our Pantomime Season will Gross £4,000.

Re Dates, Mr MONTEFIORE, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LOUGHBOROUGH.
Proprietors, Messrs W. PAYNE SEDDON and GEO. ROBERTSON.
This Handsome New Theatre will be opened in January with "Monsieur Beaucaire."
WANTED, One or Two First-class Attractions in May.
Now booking Autumn.
OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
Vacant for Good Pantomime or Musical Show,
Feb. 13, 20, or 27.
Now Booking Autumn.
NEW THEATRE, HAWICK.
March 27, April 3, and on.
Last Three Days of each Week only Booked.
All communications re Dates,
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Opera House, Londonderry.

GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy for Easter Week, April 24,
in consequence of Booking for "Cherry Girl" falling through.
Address,
G. H. GAZE, Manager.
Silence a polite negative.

QUEEN'S THEATRE,
KEIGHLEY.
Vacant.
WANTED, First-class Musical Attractions,
April 24,
May 8,
and 22.

THEATRES ROYAL, BILSTON and WEDNESBURY.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic, Musical, and Variety Companies. Bilston Vacant, March 13 April 10, 17, 24 (?), May 8, 15, 22, June 5, 12 (?). Wednesbury, Feb. 20, March 6, April 3, 17, 24 (?), May 1, 15, 29, June 5, 12 (?). Both Theatres to Let, Share or Rental, for Summer Stock Season. H. BATTERSBY, T. R., Bilston.

STANLEY, DURHAM.—ROYAL, LIMITED.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 20 and March 6, for the above Up-to-date Theatre. Stage equal to any Production.
Booked and Rebooked by the Best Companies.
Address, MARK H. LISDON, as above.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity.
Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Onwards, with exceptions. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

TOWN HALL, WHITLAND, SOUTH WALES.
WANTED, Known, Vacant Dates now being Booked for Dramatic and Variety Companies, &c. Good opportunity, and every convenience Situate Junction, Pembroke, Tenby, Milford, and Cardigan Railways. Apply, PROPRIETOR, Whitland.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
WANTED, March 6 (?), April 17.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 7, Sept. 4.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A DISGRACE TO HER SEX."
WANTED, Important Theatres, Feb 13, April 24, May 1, 8.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Feb. 13, April 10, May 29.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, March 20, 27, May 8.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 3, 24, and On, with exceptions.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 10, May 1, 22, 23. Full No. 1 Company. All the Original Scenery and Effects. The Entire Production will be under the Personal Direction of Walter Melville. Address all com, DOUGLAS BRUCE, Standard Theatre, London, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of March 6 and 13, for the above Powerful Attraction.
Wire, to-day, KELLY, Theatre Royal, Lincoln.
Next week, "Hustler," Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 24, May 29, on, with exceptions.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Theatre Royal, Hyde.

"WHAT BECAME OF MRS RACKET?"
"MY SWEETHEART."
WANTED, Jan. 23, to follow Dumfries.
Wire, Wire, Wire for Jan. 23. Also Jan. 30, Feb. 13 and 27. STONE, to-day, New Gaiety Theatre, Ayr next week, Theatre Royal, Dumfries.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 27, March 13, May 1, 22,
and Whit Week.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

MR and MRS CHALMERS MACKEY'S TOUR,
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
No Vacant Dates until Nov. 20, 1905.
WANTED, Big Theatres only, then and on.
Lyceum Theatre, Eccles,
Six Nights, Jan. 16.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY,
"WHAT A WOMAN DID."
Sixteenth Month of Continuous Successful Tour.
WANTED, Feb. 13 (between Cardiff and Birmingham); March 6 and 13 (between Hull and Lincoln); April 10 and 17 (Midlands); May 1 and 8 (precede Metropole, Devonport); Whit Week, and several Autumn.
WILLIAM A. ARMOUR,
Jan. 16, Theatre Royal, Darwen.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE SCILLY GIRL."
"THE SCILLY GIRL."
"THE SCILLY GIRL."

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE GIRL FROM BOND-STREET."
"THE GIRL FROM BOND-STREET."
"THE GIRL FROM BOND-STREET."
The Latest Successful Musical Comedy.
A Success in Burton-on-Trent.
A Success in Worthing.
A Success in Hastings.
Bright, vivacious, tuneful. . . . calls forth delighted applause.—Burton Paper.
A Company of Twenty-five Talented Musical Comedy Artistes.

WANTED, Feb. 6 (Mid.), 23, 24, 25 (follow Harrogate), 27, March 6, April 3 (follow Blackpool), Easter B. H., May 1, 8, 29.
Up-to-Date Managers apply immediately to Proprietor, E. OSWALD BROOKES, Co-Lessee, Grand Theatre, Swansea.

Mr GEORGE KIRK and Miss MARY NEIL'S COMPANY.
"JUDY."

WANTED, Jan. 23, Three Nights (South), Feb. 20 and 27.
GEORGE KIRK,
Theatre Royal, Dover.

CARSON, GRANVILLE, and THORNE'S TOUR.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."

WANTED, for this Magnificent Attraction, Aug. 7 on, with exceptions.
Address,
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's, Liverpool.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.

WANTED, Theatres. Only Vacant Spring Dates:—Feb. 6 and 13 (Midlands), Feb. 27, and April 10. Autumn Rapidly Booking. Best Theatres Only.
Grand Theatre, Boscombe,
Jan. 16, Six Nights (Return).

"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."

WANTED, Easter Week, also May 1, for this Powerful Drama. Just secured by J. W. Boughton for his August Bank Holiday Attraction at the Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth. Autumn Dates fast filling. EUGENE BERTRAM, Gilmore-road, Lewisham, S.E.

THE EDINBURGH "CINDERELLA."

WANTED, Feb. 6, 13, 20, for this Money Maker.
Now in Fifth Week of Huge Success.
Last Week Gross Receipts £915.
The Funny and Popular Pantomime of the City.
Miss Ada Twibell as Prince,
Miss Fanny Wright as Dandini,
and
Miss May Marton as Cinderella,
with
Little Zola as Page.
Two Troupes of Dancers (Ten),
Twenty-four in Chorus.
Four Shetland Ponies in Electric Coach.
EADE MONTEFIORE, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Feb. 13, 20,
"THE SINS OF A CITY,"
by Nita Rae.
Production equal to any Touring.
Company of picked Artists.
Twenty Varieties of Specially cut Printing.
WINIFRED MAUDE,
Theatre Royal, Stratford,
London.

"THE WORLD."

WANTED, Important Theatre, Jan. 23. Vacant Jan. 23, Jan. 23d (between T. R., Hull, and Shakespeare, Clapham).

Printing ready. Everything carried.

Wire for Jan. 23, Jan. 23.
ASCHE, Grand, Blackpool.
Monday next, Theatre Royal, Hull.

WANTED, Theatres, "Monsieur Beaucaire" (Mr Norman M'Owan's Company), Feb. 6 (Midlands) (No. 1 production, and everything carried).
"School Girl," Feb. 27, April 10, and May 1 (North),
"Three Little Maids," March 6, April 3 and 10, May 1 (Midlands).
"Are You a Mason?" April 24, June 12, Aug. 7.
Wire or write to Mr CHARLES MACDONA,
17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

"THE SWISS EXPRESS."

WANTED, for this Unique Pantomimical Attraction,
Feb. 6,
London or near
(to oblige Robert Arthur, Esq.).
Address, C. and F. RENAD, Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, S.E.

WANTED, Theatres, for Feb. 6 and 20.
"The Conscript."
MITCHELL and BELTON, King's Theatre, Gainsborough.

THE Original HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.

WANTED, Known, to Managers of Theatres, Halls, and the Public, Messrs Alfred and Felix Hamilton wish to announce that their New Entertainment, "Hamilton's Excursions by Bioscope," is presented entirely by the Finest Series of Animated Pictures possible to produce, the Old-time Canvas Panorama Paintings being dispensed with. Messrs A. and F. Hamilton also desire it to be known that the Title of the "Original" Hamilton's is their own, this famous Exhibition having been founded by their father, the late Joseph Hamilton, in 1848.
Jan. 12, Temperance Hall, Derby.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, Feb 6, on, Dr. Walford Laurie's Stars from the Alhambra Company. Lyric Theatre, Bromley.

WANTED, Theatres, Halls, the Fays, American Mysteries. Full Combination. Hypnotism, &c. Good Printing. Address, Town Hall, Abergavenny.

WANTED, Theatres and Halls, Capable of Holding Good Money, for Erno Aguzzi's Star Vaudeville Company. Big Attractions, Top and Bottom of Bill (shares or Rental), Three or Six Nights. Vacant Jan. 30 and on. Write immediately to ERNO AGUZZI, St. Margaret's Hall, Canterbury.

ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Immediately, for New Musical Comedy, Artistes in all Lines, including
Stage-Manager, Tall Comedian for Eccentric Dude, Two Comedians to Sing and Dance for Waiters;
also One for Master of Ceremonies, Comedian for Burlesque
Musical Director Capable of Introducing
Really Fundy Business,
Refined Tall Chorus Ladies and Dancers;
also Gents. for Chorus and Small Parts.
All must be Young and have Good Voices and Figures.
Also Violinist and Pianist wanted for Leader.
Lowest terms, addresses next Two Weeks.
All must Rehearse Two Weeks, and open in Town.
Age, height, photo., and stamped envelope (letters only),
MUSICAL, 9, Manor-gardens, Holloway, N.

CARSON and GRANVILLE'S TOURS.

WANTED, Robust Second Heavy, Double Jew, Smart, Bright Comedy Lady (petite), Comedy Old Man (robust).
Address,
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's, Liverpool.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen to complete Cast for Shakespearian Répertoire.
Artistes versed in the Legitimate only need apply, with lowest alternative terms for Special Fortnight, commencing Feb. 6, and for Short Tour.
HERBERT J. MONTAGUE, Theatre Royal, Limerick.

WANTED, Artistes for Musical Comedy, Town and Tour. Must be Young, of Good Appearance, and Good Voice. Send full particulars to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Three Young Actors and Lady for Lead, also opening for Amateurs with Premium. G. PITMAN, 10, Pen-y-Peel-road, Canton, Cardiff.

WANTED, Really Good Actress. Refined, Young, and Good Voice. Age, photo., height, full particulars, and refs. required, A. E. SMITH, Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury; next week, Avenue, Kettering.

"TRIP TO CHINATOWN."

WANTED, Juvenile Lady, for Small Part (Isabel), to Sing.
LESLIE NORMAN, Metropole, Birkenhead.

WANTED, an Actress, for Small Parts.
Address, with full particulars,
BELTON, King's Theatre, Gainsborough.

ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, for La Comédie Anglaise, Fit-up Tour, Young Lady for Good Parts and Understudy Lead in Répertoire; also Gentleman for Good Parts. Refinement more essential than Experience. Good opportunity for those wishing to gain Experience. Photographs, particulars, Mr DORELL, Town Hall, Alresford, Hants.

WANTED, Young Lady Professional to Play Boy's Part in Sketch.
Apply, F. M. D., 47, Warner-street, New Kent-road, S.E.

WANTED, Young Experienced Actor, Tall, for George Harris and St. Clair, "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Fit-up Tour. Lowest terms, when can join.
J. A. HYBERT, P.O., Hoddesdon, Herts.

WANTED, Powerful Heavy Man, capable Aristocratic Old Men, Strong Character. Photo., age, height, references, lowest, LEONARD MORTIMER, Barnard's Theatre, Chatham. Long Engagement.

WANTED, Smart Comedian, for Dude's Part, M.C. Height, photos., particulars (letters only), A. B., 56, Lowth-road, Camberwell, S.E.

JOHN TULLY'S "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."

WANTED, Coloured People, Specialities, Chorus, and Baggage Assistants, to augment company.
Address, JOHN TULLY, Grand Theatre, Stalybridge.

WANTED, Two Good Knockabouts for Sketch. Town. Apply, with lowest terms, Box 1,051, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Four Chorus Ladies, must be Tall, Good Voices, to open at once.
MAY, Theatre, Cradley Heath, near Birmingham.

WANTED, Soprano Vocalist, able to Accompany, also Baritone Comedian. Send photo., terms, Yates' Agency, 3, Oxford-grove, Manchester, S.W.

WANTED, Immediately, Refined, Capable Vocalist, male or female, for Open-air Pitchings, Evening Work. Apply, letters, VOCALIST, care of ATTWOOD, Ravenswood-road, Balham, S.W.

WANTED, Good Looking Young Lady, able to Sing and Dance well; also Knowledge of Instruments. Apply, Box, 1,028, c o. "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Immediately, Good Society Entertainer for Scotch Tour. Must be brilliant Pianist. Send lowest terms. Charles Corona please write. FRED ORMONDE,
3, Murieston-place, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Dramatic Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, by Pianist, Brilliant Soloist, Vocalist, Humorous Songs, Sketches at Piano, Engagement. Miss GABRIELLE HOPE, 25, High-rd., Streatham.

WANTED, Known, Henry Alcoe, Baritone, Disengaged. Oratorios ("Elijah," Speciality), High-class Concerts and Banquets, &c.
Address,
Box 1,047, care of "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Comedian, Kitchen or Royalty Type. Write, with absolute lowest terms, to Box 1,046, "The Era" Office.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Good Scenic Artist with own Tools for a few weeks. Apply, DAVID WILLIAMS, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley, Co. Durham.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Scenery of every Description Painted to Order. Large Stock of New and Secondhand Cloths, Flats, &c., on hand. New Cloths 18ft. by 24ft. from £4. High-class Work guaranteed. Sykes's Scenic Studio, 11, City-road, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Court Theatre Studio, Bacup. The Best Equipped Scenic Studio in the Provinces. Good Staff of Artists and Carpenters kept. Principal Artist, T. Clark-Lockett. Good Work Guaranteed at Reasonable Prices. Pantomime Scenery Stored and Renovated. Pantomime and Dramatic Productions arranged. Terms, Half down, rest on Completion of Order. Communications, DENMAN-WOOD, Court Theatre, Bacup.

WANTED, Known, for Scenery of all Kinds, ROBERTS and COMPANY, Studio, Blucher-street, Liverpool-street, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, New and Second Hand Scenery, Military and Fancy Costumes, 200 MSS. Plays. CHARLES WYBERT, Theatrical Agent, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, William Wells, R.B.A., Scenic Studio, Theatre Royal, Preston. Cloths and Act Drops, Speciality.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Good and Reliable
Manager
for Ipswich Hippodrome and Coventry,
Commencing in March.
Address,
with copies of recent testimonials,
to
E. H. BOSTOCK,
Hippodrome,
Norwich.
N.B.—Silence a polite negative.

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WANTED, Wanted, Manager.
Apply by letter, giving full particulars, to DRUMMOND,
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WANTED, Immediately, a Smart Young Man, to learn Acting-Management. Premium £10. Good wages to a suitable party. First-class Theatres only. Address, A. RICHMOND, Royal, York.

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WANTED, Join Immediately, Young, Single, Experienced Bill-Poster, also able to attend Horse and Waggon on Tour. Must be Excellent Window Biller. A sober, reliable man will find this a comfortable permanent situation. Wages to start, 26s. Wasters save stamps.
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WANTED, Working Bill Inspector, with intimate Knowledge of North London. State age, experience, salary, latest references.
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WANTED, Practical Carpenter. Sober and Reliable, for Five or Six Weeks' Tour of Pantomime. Apply, SAVILE, Theatre, Paisley, N.B.

WANTED, by Mr. Phil Ray, Good Smart Housekeeper. Must be Young and Cheerful. Previous experience not absolutely necessary. Two in family, son at school; comes home periodically. Tenders invited.
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WANTED, Engagement, as Acting-Manager. Resident or Touring.
Fully Experienced. Excellent References.
Apply, CHARLES F. ARTHUR,
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WANTED, Re-engagement as Assistant or Stage-Manager, Secretary, or any Place of Trust, by Youth. Tall, Experienced. References, &c., Box 1,055, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Management of Music Hall or Pier, by Wilfred Lowe.
185, Burley-road, Leeds. References, Security.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED.—Gentleman, well connected, smart appearance, good business experience, seeks position as Acting-Manager or position of confidence with Business-Manager. Has been on Stage, and has thorough knowledge of Bookkeeping, Shorthand, and Type-writing.
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WANTED, Engagement as Property Master; Modeller and Maker. Used to First-class Productions. W. JONES, 117, Cannon-st., Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Engagement by Jim Morgan, Carpenter, Bench-hand. Own Tools. Abstainer. Good references. Low terms. Resident or Tour. Can open Monday.
Wire or write, 22, Commercial-road, Bedford.

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WANTED, Situation in Theatre or Music Hall by Young Man. Good address, energetic, abstainer. Box 1,030, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, by Respectable Married Couple, Situation as Hallkeepers in Good Theatre or Music Hall. Age thirty-six, thirty-seven. No encumbrance. Lifelong experience. Highest references. Address, GEORGE PITCHER, 29, Padiham-road, Burnley, Lancashire.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Conductor (Pianist) one week near London, from Jan. 22. Rehearse Eastbourne. Lowest terms, references, BEAUFORT, "Alice in Wonderland" Company. Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Leader for Osborne Theatre, open Jan. 16; Solo Cornet for Preston Hippo., open Jan. 16; 'Cello for Salford Hippo., open Jan. 16; Solo Cornet, Ashton Empire Hippo., open Jan. 23. PERCY B. BROADHEAD, Hippodrome, Preston.

WANTED, First Violin (Experienced, if possible combining Clarionet and Cornet), who has had Experience in Symphony Orchestras; also Second Horn, for the Bournemouth Municipal Orchestral and Military Band, to commence in May. Four and a half hours daily. No Sunday work. Permanent Engagement. Apply, with references and terms, to Mr DAN GODFREY, Musical Director, the Winter Gardens, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Good First Violin and 'Cello at once. Permanent Engagement.
Good Players only. Young.
Apply at once,
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WANTED, First Violin, Flute and Piccolo, and Clarionet. Well up in Music Hall Business Open Monday next. B. PARKS, Palace, Southampton.

WANTED, Second Violin for Empire, Cardiff, to commence immediately.
Send names and addresses for reference, and salary required, to
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REED,
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WANTED, First Violin, Cornet, Trombone, Double Bass, Drums, Clarionet, Immediately, Open Monday.

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WANTED, Second Horn (French) and Bassoon Players. Experienced. References. Immediate Engagement.
Apply,
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This week, Grand, Swansea.

WANTED, E Flat Horn Player, at once for Croydon Town Band. Terms shares.
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HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, DUNDEE.
Managing Director, Mr ROBERT ARTHUR.

WANTED, a First-class 'Cello Player.
Apply, with terms and references, to
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State Age, Experience, send Terms, Photo,
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WANTED, Pianist (Lady), good Sight-Reader, for Refined Musical Act recently put on Concerts and Music Halls at high salaries. Costumes, Evening Dress. Clever Lady with Small Capital could have Half-Share. Present Lady retiring.
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Wanted, Cinématograph, in Good Condition.

WANTED, for Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent, Full Orchestra, to Open Monday, Jan. 30. Conductor, to play Violin, First Violins, Piano, 'Cello, Bass, Flute, Clarionet, Cornet, Second Cornet, Trombone, Drums and Effects. Evening dress, Used to Variety Business. Ages, References, and Lowest Terms, to T. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

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WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement, any Business, through closing. Violinist, PETER HELD, Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, by Second Violin (Engagement), Good Experience. Well up in Variety Business. Address, R. GILLIHAND, 8, Larchwood-street, Bolton.

WANTED, by Violin or Cornet, Engagement, any Business.
H. TIDSWELL, 23, Kent-square, Great Yarmouth.

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WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement. Experienced. Any Business. Can join at once. Excellent refs. Steady and Reliable. Wire, DUMBLETON, 62, Tonning-street, Lowestoft.

WANTED, by Trombone (Combine Double Bass), Engagement. Good references.
Address, MUSICIAN, 57, Chippenham-road, Paddington, W.

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WANTED, by Viola Player (First-class), Engagement. Experienced in Theatre or Variety. Good references. Box 1,032, "The Era."

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WANTED, Orchestral Practice, Suitable for Little Girl on 'Cello.
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WANTED, by Solo Harpist (Age Seventeen), Engagement. 1904, Yarmouth, Three Months.
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WANTED, by Pianist (Experienced), Engagement, at once. Good references.
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WANTED, by Pianist, Good Sight-Reader (Gentleman), Engagement. Any Business.
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WANTED, by Double Drummer, with Effects, Opening in any Orchestra, London or Suburbs preferred. Address, P. S., 10, Laleham-road, Catford.

WANTED, by Double Drummer and Tympanist, Engagement, Thoroughly experienced, highest references Theatre or Music Hall. MUSICUS, 88, Sydney-street, Chelsea, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements, by Madame H. E. Angless's Celebrated Pompadour Band. Great success and Re-engagement at Pier Pavilion, Southend. Return visit to Broadway Theatre, Grand Theatre, and Stratford Town Hall, National Sunday League.
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WANTED, Known, to Directors, Managers, Committees, the Famous Old British Guards Band, is open for High-class Summer Business, Seaside Engagement, or Exhibition Work. Enormous success last summer, Bradford Exhibition, &c., and at the Palace Pier, Brighton, where it was the most successful Band, succeeding late Lieut. Dan Godfrey. The Old British Guards Band, popularly known as "The Old Guards," numbers from Fifteen to Fifty, is the only genuine ex-Guards Band in England, and the most representative one in Great Britain. Every Member guaranteed late of crack Guards Bands. The Finest Band out of Army. Can be heard at N.S.L. Concerts. Latest Music. Most Popular Programmes. Smart, Handsome Uniforms. Everything to draw public and ensure great success. Conductor holds many Public and Official Testimonials.
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WANTED, Star Turns, Startling Sensations, Big Novelties, and useful Circus Artistes in all Lines, for Present and Future Dates. Nothing too Big. Nothing too Small. Money no object. Note, Artists can be booked from this Circus to all parts.
Address, King OHMY,
Ohmy's Royal Circus, Bolton.

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WANTED, for the Reopening, Monday, Jan. 30, and onwards, Talent of Every Description, Equestrians, Clowns, Ringmaster, and Full Band, Ring Groom, &c. Big Novelties and Specialities write in. Say if ever appeared in Stockport, and when.
All communications, DAVENPORT, Circus, Stockport.
Will Little Bishop and Shadow send addresses?

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE.

WANTED, for Jan. 23, Equestrians and Specialities of every Description.
Address, C. ALGIE.
P.S.—Owing to disappointment, a turn Wanted for Monday. Wire. No Music or Bikes.

WANTED, Whitsuntide, the Very Best Outdoor Attractions. Lithos., Memo., Gannon, Victoria Hall, Portsmouth, until Jan. 21.

WANTED, for Whit Week and Onwards, Continental Acts, Aerial and Ground Specialities, Troupes, suitable for Fetes, Galas, and Carnivals. Send Lithos, Open Dates, Terms, Burton's Agency, 5, Milner's-chambers, Fargate, Sheffield.

WANTED, Good Arab Tumbler.
Will J. B. write again,
with lowest terms, to
JOE BOGANNY,
Crystal Palace,
London?

WANTED, Agouste, must be small, also do a little Talking and Tumbling.
Reply, CABAN, Grand Theatre, Bolton.

WANTED, Two Acrobats, one a Good Top Mount.
Apply, Box 8,837, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, a Good Tumbler, for a Trampoline Act. All particulars, Tricks, &c., CLEO, 11, Kennington-mansions, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Smart and Sober German Groom for looking after Ponies.
Reply, CABAN, Grand Theatre, Bolton.

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CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Acknowledged Best Existing Lion Show, Vacant March 6 and Four following Weeks, also Whit Week (London preferred) For terms and particulars apply, L. JENSEN, Proprietor of Ella's Lions, Jan. 16, People's Palace, Dundee; 234, Sadler's Wells Music Hall, London.

WANTED, Known, Miss Wynema, Coloured Lady, with Reptiles and Siberian Wolves, &c., Scenic Effects. Dates Vacant in February. 137, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Mrs. Dudley Smith, with her Mare, Dainty Lass, Winner of 243 Prizes. Novelty Act. Impossible to Copy.
At Liberty Jan. 16, onward, owing to Hippo. closing.
Wire, for Monday, Hippodrome, Southport.

WANTED, Known, the John Scott Family (Four in Number) of Male and Female Equestrians, &c., Liberty Jan. 30, for a Few Weeks only.
Address,
G. SCOTT, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Lillian Davies and George Scott, Bareback Equestrians, the Bit of the Programme. Complimented by W. H. Southern, Manager, and Press. At Liberty Jan. 30. Address, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, W. Tudor's Performing Ponies, Riding Goat, and Dog, also the Best Turpin Mare in the Business, at Liberty Jan. 23, on.
Address, Hippodrome, Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, the Hanneford Family, Barebacked Equestrians, are now fulfilling most successful Engagement with J. Green's Circus, Drill Hall, Bolton. Will be at Liberty Jan. 23, with a number of First-class Acts.
Address as above.

WANTED, Known, Robert Davies, Bareback Equestrian, with own Horse. At Liberty Jan. 23, Address, Agricultural Hall, Islington, London.

WANTED, One Week, Jan. 23, through Hall closing, by Billy James De Voye's wonderful Educated Pony. James Newsome, Esq., saw performance on Friday last, and remarked:—It is marvellous, the best-trained animal I have ever seen. To-day, Palace, Blackpool; next week, Palace, Derby. Wire or write.

WANTED, Known, Little Bishop, Clown and Agouste, with Trick and Comic Entrées, now Concluding Comfortable Engagement with George Gilbert, Esq At Liberty Monday for Long or Short Engagements. Wires or letters, Hippodrome, Yarmouth. Well, upon my word.

WANTED, Known, Sunshine and Shadow, Clowns with Ideas. Great Success of "La Poupée" this week. We do not use a "lunge" for this Entrée. A bit of resin and plenty of room is all we want. Accept an Engagement for the Summer. Hengler's, Glasgow, is our present address.

WANTED, Neddy Vokes, English and Continental Musical Clown, Talking and Knockabout Clown. Liberty for Tenting Season, home or abroad. Great Success and Fourth Week at Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

WANTED. Comical Walker, Talking Clown, with good Entrées, Vacant Jan. 23.
Wire, Alhambra Theatre, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Bimbo, the Clown that makes you laugh, Re-engaged after first Comic Entrée. Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, the Renowned Two Dominos, Clown and Educated Talking Donkey, not a common Donkey, Liberty Easter.
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WANTED, Known, the Maros, Three Bar Comedians, Big Hit, Palace, North Shields. Next week, Palace, Aberdeen. Liberty Jan. 30, Feb. 6.

WANTED, Monday next, Jan. 16, Mayeno Trio, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Tight Wire, Knockabout Clown.
Up-to-Date Entrées.
Wire, for Monday and Tenting, the Sands, Carlisle.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, by the Leopolds, Lady and Gentlemen Acrobats, in Ball Toilet, the Greatest Show in Europe, at Liberty Monday, One Week, for the Big Scenes in Pantomime, sure draw; or Circus, Theatre, Music Hall, &c. Telegraph, Hippodrome, Yarmouth. After Saturday, Leopold Villa, Cranmer-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Jan. 23, 30, Day and Mdlle. More, Acrobats; also Savaro, Mimic, Sifflleur. Wire, this, Hippo., Porth; next, Empire, Bridgwater.

WANTED, Monday Next, by Turle and Turle, the Renowned Gymnastic Comedians. Two Distinct Acts Knockabout Trapeze, Flying Loops, Burlesque Perch, &c. Big success, H., Southport. Wire, as above.

WANTED, Known, Ali Ben Hassan, Arabian Juggler; Toto, Wire-walker, finishes To-night People's Palace, Portsmouth. Monday next, Coliseum, Sheerness.

WANTED, for Jan. 16 and 30, 1905, and Feb. 6, Engagement for John Frederick's Troupe. No. 1 Champion Strength Statue Picture, Acrobats and Head-to-Head Balancers. A New Act on a Revolving Apparatus. No. 2, Comic Song and Dances on High Silts and Knockabout Cyclists, The Almairys, Two Distinct Acts Nightly. Address, FREDERICKS TROUPE, 108, Lambeth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Jan. 23, 30, the Cedrics (Marcel and Edouard), Equilibristic Comedy Artistes, in a Refined, Genuine Act. The Cedrics gave a sterling performance, their juggling and Risley act gaining rounds of applause. The lady does a number of smart tricks.—Sunderland Echo. Hippo., Scarborough.

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WANTED, Known, Joe Hastings, the Famous Jumper, Orator, and Journalist, Disengaged shortly. Extract from Star, Feb. 4, 1904:—A brilliant and polished orator, with a beautiful flow of language, and knows how to please both stalls and gallery. This week, H., Norwich; next, Return, H., Wolverhampton. "Good wine needs no bush."

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WANTED, Known, that Tom Webb and Fred Burns, Original Texas Cowboys and Champion Lasso Throwers of the World, Originators of the greatest and most difficult feats ever accomplished with ropes, are at Liberty. Offers solicited by TOM WEBB, 31, Market-street, Hanley, N. Staffs.

WANTED, Known, Youth, Twenty, Height 5ft. 7in., weight 9st., wishes to Join a Troupe of Acrobats, or would learn Trick Cycling. Box 1,038, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, by Young Man, Experienced, to join Speciality or Good Troupe. Good Tumbler, Hand and Head Balancer, also Buck Dancer. Letters, WEST, Alhambra, Belfast.

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ABERDEEN and DUNDEE
PALACE VARIETY THEATRES.
Booked in Conjunction with
Plymouth, Bristol, and Sunderland.

WANTED, Artistes Engaged to forward Bill Matter Two clear Weeks in advance. Always Vacancies for Star Turns. ERNEST SHELDON, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, for Jan. 23 Onwards, Variety Artistes, Doubles doing Singles, and Specialities. Hall Small. Big salaries don't write. GEORGE GUDE, Pavilion, Maidenhead.

WANTED, Refined Variety Artistes, for the Varieties, Beehive, Streatham. Lowest terms and particulars (letters only), BOB GRAHAM and Co., Raleigh, Salford-road, Streatham-hill, S.W.

WANTED, Variety Artistes, all Lines, open Mon. Good Comedian, Sisters, &c. Lowest terms, Dr. LAURIE, T.R., Margate; next, Lyric, Bromley.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes all Lines, Jan. 23, onwards. Lowest terms, Lithos., Bookings.

Seaside and Summer Establishments.
Required, Big Stars, Novelties, Specialities, for Season, 1905.

Fêtes and Galas.
Big Aerial and Ground Acts,
Animal Acts, Japanese Artistes, &c.,
for all the Leading Fêtes.

Terms, Bookings, Lithos, to
Edgar Stebbings,
the Oldest Established Provincial Agent,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester,"

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Immediate and Future Dates. Lessee and Manager, WM. MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Jan. 16, onwards, for Liverpool, Ashton, St. Helens, and Warrington. F. WILLMOT, Haymarket Music Hall, Liverpool.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager,
H. L. SKIVINGTON.

WANTED, Star Artistes, in all Lines, for Immediate Dates.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, for Theatre Royal, Wallsend, Jan. 23 Artistes in Newcastle and District write, lowest terms. Address, GEORGE TUSTIN, Raby Hotel, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Jan. 16, on, Artistes, all Lines, also Big Tops. Telephone, 674 Brixton. ERNST WARNER, 153, Stockwell-park-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Artistes, Single and Double Turns, Feb. 27, March 13, Lady Balladist, Feb. 13. Lowest terms, Two Weeks, CHAS. E. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin. Can Book good Freak or Novelty at once.

WANTED, Artistes, in All Lines, for Galas. Send Terms and Permanent Address, DUCAREL, Gala Caterer, 40, Roseville-terrace, Leeds.

WANTED, for Valentine Valley Pierrot Co., Ltd. Manchester, Al Fresco Artistes in all Lines. Season Twenty-three Weeks. BERT WILLIAMS, Queen's-pk., Manchester.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, from now, on. Apply, Mr SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Doubles doing Singles, &c., Monday next. Wire absolute lowest. Hall Small. GALINO, Empire, Bridgwater.

WANTED, Artistes, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, Jan. 23 and 30. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest, Hall small

PALACE, DERBY; PALACE, ATTERCLIFFE;
HIPPODROME, GRIMSBY.

WANTED, Artistes of all Descriptions to Communicate at once their Immediate and Future Dates, T. E. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Artistes, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, Morecambe. Late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c. Telegrams, "Value, Morecambe."

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, to Open Monday: Handcuff King Wanted, Shares or Salary. Wire, DEMPSEY, County Hall, Millom.

CIRCUS and HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines. Rehearsal Monday next, 2·0 o'clock, for Ray and Calden, Two Romeos, the Dunvilles, Les Fontains, De Boys, Jeanette Latour, Sisters Terry, Butte Marvels. Letters, S. L. LEE.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for Jan. 23 and 30, and February, and all Dates through Summer of 1905, Star Turns, Tops of Bills, all the Finest and Biggest Acts Required, Price no object, for Manchester, Salford, Ashton, Bury, Preston, Liverpool, Oldham, Rochdale, Blackpool, Morecambe, Barrow, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Belfast, Dublin, Newcastle, Hull, Leeds, Brighton, Bristol, Birmingham, Bolton, Middlesbrough, &c.
New and Novel Acts can have Six Months' Solid Engagements. Send immediately. Terms, Photos, Lithos., &c., to WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester. Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester." Telephone, 09,144 Manchester.

THE COLISEUM,
SHEERNESS.
Sole Proprietor, T. C. DORLING.
General Manager, CHAS MELVIN.
Artistes, Artistes, Artistes,
with Drawing Power.
with Drawing Power.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13.
Acrobats, Gymnasts, Refined Sketch Artistes, Double Comedy Acts, Comedians, Specialities. O'Connor and Brady, Provesnis, Cyclists, write. Vocalists Suitable Sunday Concerts write. Call for Monday, Jan. 16, Rehearsal, 12 0 o'clock.
Mahatma, Four Andys, the Donnels, Phil Barry, Ben Hassan, Toto, Sam Mitchello, Warde and Wylie, Bob Downs, Coliseum Bioscope.
No Excuses.
All communications direct to GENERAL MANAGER.

PAVILION, WINTER GARDENS,
SOUTHPORT.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes, Nothing too Big, Feb. 20, and onwards. Address, L. WEBB, Winters Gardens, Southport.

PALACE OF VARIETIES, DERBY;
PALACE, ATTERCLIFFE, SHEFFIELD;
HIPPODROME, GRIMSBY;
HIPPODROME, STOKE-ON-TRENT.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines for above Establishments. Mr Edwardes has purchased from Mr Collins the Hippodrome, Stoke, and takes possession on Monday, Jan. 30. To save inconvenience to Artistes Mr Edwardes will take over all Contracts for Four Weeks, commencing Monday, Jan. 30, and Terminating Saturday, Feb. 25. Artistes engaged for these Four Weeks kindly forward Billing Matter direct to Derby. The Biggest Novelties and Stars invited to communicate. Applicants for Stoke must be New to the Place, and must not have worked Hanley or District for Six Months previously. All communications, T. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Star Artistes, every Description. Money no object. Anything up to £200. Artistes New to Manchester or other Well-known Artistes free for Manchester, Blackpool, Morecambe. Terms, lithos., Yates's Agency, 3, Oxford-grove, Manchester, S.W.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Working in and around Birmingham, for Redditch, Friday and Saturday Variety Shows, Commencing Jan. 20. Nothing too Big. Lowest Terms for Two Nights. MANAGER, 33, Unicorn-hill, Redditch.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, for Jan. 23, onwards. Address, TOM PRICHARD, Empire, Dudley.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. Apply, Barnard and Dretaich, 7, Clayton-square, Liverpool.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes. H. BURROWS SMITH, 65, Claverton-street, Pimlico, London.

THE HIPPODROME, WAKEFIELD.

WANTED, the following Artists to attend Rehearsal, Monday, Jan. 16, at 2·0 o'clock—viz., Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, Lydia Dudley, Harry Bent, Carlotta Lunn, Stylo, Belle Sydney, and Fred Cadburn. Star Artists of all descriptions forward dates, terms, &c., to the General Manager, GEO S. DOUGLASS (late of the Empire and Tivoli, South Shields). Secretary, WALTER EMMETT.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.

WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin, All the Greatest Stars in the Profession. Acts New in Dublin for the above, the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland. Direct or through Agents. All communications to Will Sley, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester. Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester." Telephone, 09,144.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and particulars to Brooks, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, and Specialities, Jan. 16, 23, and 30, onwards. State Lowest Terms, Bookings, &c. I can Place You. Jess Verno's Agency, 61, West Derby-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2,076 Royal. Representative, Mr Jesse Burton.

WANTED, Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, Stars in All Lines. Stars in All Lines. Full up for Smaller Items. State Towns at Liberty for. Can fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks. Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Big Stars and Variety Artistes, &c., to send List of Bookings and Permanent Address. I am Barred Nowhere. Those already on my Book Keep me Posted. Artistes Required for Principal London and Provincial Halls, North and South. Address, Fred Neiman's Variety Agency, 74, The Grove, Camberwell, London, S.E. Can only be seen by appointment.

Armstrong's Agency.

WANTED, First-class Turns for Immediate Dates.
All Artistes holding Contracts for Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow, please communicate at once to Barney Armstrong or S. King Alexander, Armstrong's Agency, Under the Direction of Bernard Armstrong (Barney's Nephew), 351, Bath-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Star Turns in all Lines for Jan. 23, 30, and on. Fred Durham's Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 1a, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, Star Turns and Good Comedy Acts, Jan. 9, onwards; also Artistes in all Lines. Send full list of dates, litho., terms, and full particulars to Harry Day's Variety Agency, Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, W.C. Telephone, 6,915, Gerrard. Telegrams, "Terpsichore, London." No connection with any other firm.

WANTED, Variety Talent, All Lines, Kettle Act., &c., Jan. 23, onwards. Lowest first, J. Arnold, Dramatic and Variety Agent, Hippodrome, Castleford.

WANTED, Talent, in all Lines, for Four Weeks, Good Comic Cycle Act or Troupe, Comedy, Three Bars. Lowest in first letter. Address, THOMPSON, Post-office, Glasgow.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

PONTYPOOL
PARK FETE.
Whit-Monday and Whit-Tuesday, 1905.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, the Committee are prepared to receive Applications from Agents, Artistes, or anyone desirous of Engagements for this Year's Fête, both for Aerial and Stage Shows (Open Air). In all cases Complete Specifications as to Erections, Lithos, showing Acts, and as far as possible, Cost of Fixing same, must be sent. None but Artistes of the First Rank need apply.

This Fête is visited annually by from 40,000 to 50,000 People.

Particulars to SECRETARY, Chamber of Trade, Pontypool.

PALACE THEATRE,
CORK.

WANTED, Jan. 20, 27, and onward, Big Specialities, Animal Acts, Star Comedians, Comedienne, Ballad Vocalists, Musical Show.

The Palace is the most popular Variety Theatre in Ireland, and the audience the best.

"The King" was played Saturday night, a Record in the History of Cork.

Call, Monday, Jan. 16:—
Hurman,
Bros. Levett,
Bensons,
Rich and Laurie,
Three Sisters Adrienne,
Arthur Albert,
Barton Howard,
Seltina Troupe.

Those who can follow the Cee-Mee Troupe, who opened Christmas, Two Weeks, and packed the building Nightly, send lithos., terms, to HENRY KEMBLE, General Manager.

To Fête Agents.
Grand Yorkshire Gala, York.
June 21, 22, and 23, 1905.

WANTED, Tenders. Persons willing to Tender for the Outdoor Amusements, to cost no more than £120, including one or two Specially Attractive features apart from the Stage (Fireworks and Balloons excepted), must send full particulars, with terms, to the Secretary, Mr FRED ARBY, Davyhall-chambers, York, on or before Feb. 10, 1905.

THE GLASGOW SYNDICATE HALLS.
TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S VARIETY THEATRES,
GLASGOW.
One Performance Nightly at both Houses.

WANTED, Strong Comedy Acts of all Kinds, Good Singing Turns, Sensational Novelties, and Brilliant Stars for Tops, Jan. 30, and onwards. All Artists holding Contracts with Colquhoun and Armstrong should communicate at once. Future Bookings can be made for One Week Only at a time, and only those Turns capable of Working both Theatres the same night can be entertained. Bill Matter Two Weeks in advance is imperative. S. KING ALEXANDER, General Manager, Head Office, Tivoli Palace Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Good Gala Acts, Three Days, Bank Holiday. Lithos. and lowest terms to M'ASKILL, 25, Elizabeth-street, Ibrox, Glasgow.

AMERICA.
AMERICA.
AMERICA.

WANTED, Big Feature Acts. Lithos, Photos., Terms, Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, a Good Musical Speciality (Ladies preferred) for Peterborough, Jan. 21. MAY, 19, Hansworth-road, South Tottenham, London, N.

WANTED, Pantomime Specialities for Jan. 16, and onwards. Terms and particulars to Brooks, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Big Top, for Hippodrome, Accrington, for Jan. 23 Not Sketch. Barred by Blackburn. Must be New to Town. Small Stage only. Vandy's Agency, Barnes, London, S.W. Wires, "Vandykirg, London."

WANTED, Good Combinations, with Drawing Powers and Posters, Jan. 23, 30, Onwards. Good Companies Do Well. Wire or write, GEO. SAPHRINI, Britannia Music Hall, Glasgow.

WANTED, a Good Knockabout Comedian and Pantomimist able to speak Lines. Apply, Box 1,019, "The Era" Office.

Borough of Hartlepool.

WANTED, by the Corporation, Applications from persons or Companies desirous of giving Concerts and other Entertainments on the Promenade in the Borough during the ensuing summer season. Applications, stating terms and short particulars of proposed Entertainments, to be forwarded to the undersigned not later than the 25th inst.
H. W. BELL, Town Clerk.
Town Clerk's Office, Hartlepool, Jan. 6, 1905.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for Whit Week and onwards, Speciality Acts, Aerial and Ground, Continental Novelties, Troupes, and Acts of every Description for Fêtes, Galas, Carnivals. Send sample Litho., Open Dates, terms, permanent address, Burton's Agency, 5, Milner's-chambers, Fargate, Sheffield. First in 1864 Foremost in 1905.

WANTED, Lady or Gentleman, to Join Musical Turn State instruments played and experience, FLO ATKINS, 40, Chadwick-st, W. Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, Immediately, Refined, Capable Vocalist, either sex, Open-air Pitchings, Evening Work. Apply, by letter, VOCALIST, care of ATTFIELD, 2, Ravenswood-road, Balham.

WANTED, Amateurs (Lady and Gentlemen) by well-known Actor-Author. Music Hall Tour. Salary given. Premium. Thoroughly genuine. Box 1,037, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Immediately, for Tour, Lady Assistant, for Illusionist. Must be Refined and Good Figure. State height, &c., and send photo. Address, H. C., Pall-mall Exchange, Carlton-street, Regent-street.

WANTED, at once, an Experienced Cinématograph Operator, also Pianist and Good Window-biller. Used to brush. Write, SILVESTER, Wallsend-on-Tyne.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Two Bioscope Operators, with or without own Machines. Permanent job. Write, lowest terms, J. COLLIN, City Varieties, Leeds.

WANTED, an Operator, used to Instantaneous Photography. Send all particulars, Box 1,040, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Good Bioscope Operators. Start Jan. 30. Reply, stating lowest wages and references, Box No. 1,048, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Lanternist Thoroughly Experienced, Lime, Electric. State lowest terms, with or without your own Lantern. M., 71, Langney-road, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Ladies, Gents., for London Music Halls. Songs, Band Parts. Dancing Taught. Champion Firm. NAT LESTER, 247, Liverpool-road, N.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" as any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Gracie Bard, just concluding Eighteen Weeks' Run. Vacant Jan. 23, and onwards. Once Booked, Returns follow. See Cards.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty Feb. 5, Rene Allen, great Descriptive Vocalist. Splendid Wardrobe. Address, 129, North-road, St. Helens, Lancs.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Palmer, Vocalist, Liberty Jan. 16, 23. Wire, 1, Rosamond-place, Brook-street, Manchester. Sure Success.

WANTED, Monday next, Jan. 16, by Ada Whitton, Burlesque Actress. Address, care of CAMERON, 315, Argyle-street, Glasgow

WANTED, Monday, by Florrie Claribell. Tyrolean Songstress and Smart Dancer. Wire, Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady Serio and Mandolinist, Band or Soloist. EDITH STANLEY, 79, Winsham-grove, Clapham-common, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Flo Atkins, World's Champion Concertinist and Expert Mandolinist, this week, Gaiety, Oldham; Jan. 16, Hippo., Accrington. Address, 40, Chadwick-street, W. Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Baby Lloyd, Vocal Wonder, just finished Thirty-three Weeks' successful Engagements. Big success, Town Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Also Nellie Vann, Vocalist, Liberty Monday, 16th and 30th. Wire, Town Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne; after Saturday, 158B, Witton-road, Aston, Birmingham. Wire.

WANTED, Jan. 23 and 30, in the North or Midlands, by Slade Murray, the World-known Comedian. Palace Theatre, Attercliffe.

WANTED, by Sam Mitchello, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer, Jan. 30 and Feb 6. Monday, Coliseum, Sheerness.

WANTED, by Tom O'Neill, Comedian, Monday. A hit this week, E., Dublin, where wire till Saturday; after, 143, Clifford-street, Newcastle.

WANTED, Known, Picitt, the Muscular Master of Manacles. Handcuff Marvel without Faked Fetters or Trick Boxes. Top of the Bill Sensation, entirely different to any other Act. Touring Scotland with Royal Imperial Pictures Co. Communications, care of Head Office, 567, George-street, Aberdeen. Vacant April 10. Splendid Lithos. Original Sensational Advertising Gags.

WANTED.—Kardoc, Handcuff King and Jail-breaker, Free Jan. 23, on. Splendid Lithos. Good Outside Show of Manacles. Assisted by Lady. Latest Trunk Trick. Wire, 320, High-road, Chiswick.

WANTED, by Warton, Humorous Magician, Monday, Jan. 16. Wire, Westminster, Liverpool. Permanent address, 46, Torr-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, by Henri Bekker, Great Conjuring Act. Wire or write, Hippodrome, Accrington.

WANTED, Monday next and 23d, Bert Williams, Novelty Ventriloquist. Sure success. Wire, Queen's-park, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Grieve, Ventriloquist, above the average. Jan. 16, Alhambra, Birmingham. Liberty Jan. 23 and Feb. 6, 20. Wire offers.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, by Joe Cookson, Ventriloquial Patter. Original Act. Roars of Laughter. Sure Draw. Scarborough.

WANTED, Jan. 16 and 23 (precede Oxford, Middlesborough), by Oakdene, Novelty Vent. 32, Cornbrook-park-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Gilbert Berony, Comedian; and Irene Herbert, Contralto, Vacant Jan. 16, 23; also March 6, to follow Carlisle. Wire for 16th, Queen's Theatre, Pembroke Dock

WANTED, 16th, 23rd, by Lead and Lead (George and Marion), Comedy Duettists. Good Singles. Tour preferred. 66, Clifton-street, Hull.

WANTED, Feb. 27 and March 6 by Gilbert Payne, Comedian, and Pattie Fairley, Burlesque Actress, Metropole Theatre, Devonport.

WANTED, Known, Vacant Monday Next, Jan. 16, Ryder Davis, Favourite Comedian; also Eva Ward, Burleeque Artiste. Wire, Empire, Wigan. Any distance.

WANTED, Monday, Bob Hartley, Comedian, and Doris Dene, Quaint Comedienne. Wire, SHARP, Hippodrome, Castleford.

WANTED, Monday next, by Lee and Arden (Phil and Lily), Comedy Duologue Artistes. Wire, People's Palace, Bristol.

WANTED, Monday next, by Dave Wallace, Eccentric Comedian; Marie Tilley, Vocalist, Expert Dancer. Two Safe Turns. Wire quick, Hippo, Ipswich.

WANTED, Monday next, by Otto Bathardo, Quaint Juggler; and Mdlle. Pardoe, Speciality Dancer, &c. Wire, Victoria Hall, Cheltenham.

WANTED, Jan. 23, Onwards, by Leona and Maude, Trapeze Specialists. Also Fight Wire Act and Tyrolean Vocalist if Desired. Three Acts. Letters to SID URMA, 19, Harold-mount, Burley, Leeds.

WANTED, Jan. 23, 30, April 3, 10, by the Great Kyoto. The Mysterious Comedy Japanese Box; a Laughing and Applauding Hit. Also May Geraldine, Comedienne, Dancer, success, Olympia, Bury. Monday, Palace Theatre, Bordesley.

WANTED, Monday next, also Jan. 23, Amandus, Impersonator, Facial Mimic; also Musical Rosina, Lady Instrumentalist. Wire these Two Big Specialities, AMANDUS, Palace, Dundee; after Saturday, Post-office, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Garland and Anderson, Ventriloquist and Conjuror, Albert Hall, Jarrow, Second Week. Terrific success. Next Week, Royal, Chester-le-street. Offers invited, one or both Acts.

WANTED, Monday, 16th and 23d, Hans and Lux, Vacant through disappointment. Address, 8, Crozier-street, Lambeth.

WANTED, Known, Ryde and Beeman, Flip and Flop and Speciality, Mavis and Kirby's Successful Panto, "Dick Whittington." Next, T. R., Scarborough.

WANTED, Monday, 16th, Francis and Francis, Comedians and Acrobatic Grotesques. Wire, Tivoli, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday Next, by Baker and Rose, Speciality Comedians. Good act. Wire, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

WANTED, Dates, for the Two Clarkes in their Novel Globe Acrobatic Specialty Act. Clarke's Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Wood and West have just made a Big Success at Hippodrome, Bury, and Gaiety, Oldham, with their Funny Patter, Head Balancing, Coon Songs, and Acrobatic Dancing. Vacant Monday and Jan. 23. Address, Hippodrome, Castleford.

WANTED, Known, Shamrock Trio will be known as Edna Trio, introducing Specialty, and my Sister Beattie playing Principal Girl, in "Babes in the Wood" Panto. Big success, Dudley, York. This, Londesborough T., Scarborough.

WANTED, by the Dalmaines, Musical and Comedy Act, Refined and First-class Turn. A good Agent write. Address, DALMAINES, care of MISS BISSET, 108, Becclench-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, by the St. Johns, Comedy, Musical, Dancing Act, Jan. 16, and few early Dates. Success everywhere. 49, Oxford-street, Liverpool.

WANTED. — Comical Walker, Local Nippers, Mons. Reklaw, Globe Performer. Vacant Jan. 23. Wire, Alhambra Theatre, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Tom Hall's Burlesque Acrobatic Nippers, Dog, and Monkey. One or Two Acts. At Liberty Mon. Theatre Royal, Chester-le-Street.

WANTED, Jan. 23; also Feb. 20 and March 13, by the Great Kirby Trio. Write, 31, Villa-road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WANTED, Jan. 23, 30, by Billy Ross and Company, Great Comedy Act. Specially Engaged for Second Week, Gatti's Music Hall, Westminster-bridge-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Lieutenant Albini's Famous Acts Vacant for Provinces Jan. 23 and 30 Miss Marie Gautier's Magic Kettle, the Latest. The Mysterious Lady in Black, now Middlesex and Granville. "Sailor and his Lass," Sensation and Albini's Conjuring "She," disappearance of a Lady in full view of audience. All introduced by the Gentleman Showman, who can keep an audience in screams of laughter for half an hour, and astonish and mystify them at the same time. New Sensation shortly. Agent, Tom Shaw and Co. Permanent Address, 41, Torriano-avenue, London, N.W.

WANTED, Monday next, also Jan. 23, Sardou's Illusionists, Marvellous Mystifyers. Marie Riviers, Balladist, Wire, 14, Canterbury-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Harry Liston, Miss Lord Lumley, &c., will Tour any District on salary or share with Responsible Managers. Egyptian Hall, London.

"FOR KING AND COUNTRY."

WANTED, Known, Tom Herman's Juvenile Patriotic Naval, Military Spectacle, Next week, Ohmy's Circus, Bolton. Vacant Dates.

WANTED, Dates, for Juvenile Military Spectacle, "Russo and Japan War." Everything First-class Third Week Financial Success, Carnival, Glasgow. CLARKE, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, we have Something that Directors, Managers, and Agents have been asking for. Something New, Original, and Novel. Here they have it. "Toko, the Scout; or, Japan's Fight for Freedom," done by The Talerdaners. We are Artists and not Jossers. P.S.—The above is registered. Address, "The Era."

WANTED, Monday next, for Matt Wilkinson's Screaming Comedy Sketch, "The Registry Office" (North). Wire, Hippodrome, Accrington.

WANTED, Known, Spangeletti's Stage Circus Free Jan. 23, also Feb. 6, onwards. This, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton; next, Hippo., Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Mdlle. Rosini's Toy Menagerie of Performing Dogs, at Liberty for Halls; also Touring or Tenting Season. Perm. address, 9, Cobbold-street, Ipswich.

WANTED, Jan. 16, by Glennie's Marionettes. Two Complete Pantomimes or Varieties. Wire, Theatre Royal, Chester-le-Street.

WANTED, Bookings, for Walter Payne's Bio-Photoscopes Always Up-to-Date. Comp'ete Change of Films sent to each Show weekly. All Films the pick of the Leading Film Makers. No duds and no rubbish used. All comm., to the Empire, Portsmouth. Still running.

WANTED, Engagements for the Edison Paul Animated Pictures, "Whirling the Worlds," and Plenty Comics. A1 Machine. Big Stock of Films for Sale or Hire. Address, T. M. PAUL, Empire Theatre, Shildon, Durham.

WANTED, Engagement, Britannia Bioscope. Latest Pictures, including "The Sign of the Cross" Geo. Saphrini, Agent, 77, Saltmarket; or, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Dates, for Bioscope, also Troupe of Fox Terrier Dogs. The High-Leaping Dogs. LE CLAIR, 16, Lord-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty Monday, Lacey's Operator, with or without Machine. Entire Change of Pictures Weekly. Latest and Best. Just finished Twelve Months Lacey's Kinetoscope, London Halls. Care of WALTURDAW, 3, Dean-street, Holborn.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.
President, Lord GEORGE SANGER.

WANTED, Known, Annual Meetings at Manchester, in the Memorial Hall, Albert-square, at 4 0 o'clock in the afternoon, Jan. 18, 1905. At the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Jan. 25, at 11·0 in the forenoon. The President, Lord George Sanger, will preside. See next week's "Era" for details as to Speakers, Business, &c.

T. HURST, Hon. Sec.
H. B. HORNE, Secretary.

UNITED KINGDOM
SHOWMEN AND VAN-DWELLERS'
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
(The Showmen's Guild)
Founded 1890.
President, Lord GEORGE SANGER.

WANTED, Known, Annual Meetings, at Manchester, the Memorial Hall, Albert-square, Wednesday, Jan. 18, commencing at 4·0 p.m. prompt.

Speakers—
Rev. T. Horne,
Rev. B. Norburn,
T. Watson Wright, Esq., and
Charles Howard, Esq.

Committee Meeting at the Guild Room, the Black Lion Hotel, Salford, the Same Day at 11·0 in the Forenoon.

WANTED, Showmen, Travellers, and Others to Know that Mr Tom Norman, Silver King, is prepared to receive further Entries for his Auction Sale, which will take place immediately after the Showman's Meeting on Jan. 25 on Grounds in close proximity to the Agricultural Hall, Islington. Showmen and others are reminded that the above date and place offer unusual facilities both to Buyers and Sellers, as it is well known that more Showmen, Travellers, &c., meet at this Annual Meeting than at any other time or place in the year. Full particulars, entry forms, &c., on application. N.B.—Showmen, Travellers, and others at present located in the Agricultural Hall can have their Goods offered by Auction directly after the Meeting, and as they stand without removal. Early Entries urgently requested to Manor Farm Dallington, Sussex. Cash Advanced on Stock for Bonâfide Sale. For full particulars, see Next Week's "Era."

Showmen's Fire Insurance.

WANTED, Known, all kinds of Showmen's Property Insured against Fire, on Tour or otherwise, anywhere in the United Kingdom. For particulars apply to F. F. POPE, Abingdon-on-Thames.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Others to Know Simons is the Cheapest Place for Clocks, Bronzes, Field Glasses, and Cheap Jewellery. Best-class French Paste Stocked for the Profession. 117, Houndsditch.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Handsellers to know Simons is the Man for Cheap Second-hand Watches and Jewellery. Send £5 for Special Parcel.

117, Houndsditch, London

WANTED, Known, that I have the very Latest Music in Stock for Paper Organs, with Eighty-seven or Eighty-nine Keys; that The Bluebell March as Supplied by me to the Most Prominent Roundabout and Show Proprietors at Bolton and other Lancashire and Yorkshire New Year's Fairs is the Success of this Season; and that I am the Agent in the North for that Marvellously Rising Firm of Organ Builders, Ch. Marenghi and Company, of Paris, London, and Manchester.

ARTHUR RIGHINI, Agent for CH. MARENGHI and Co., of Paris, Mechanical Organ Builders, 24, Edward-street, Sussex-street, Lower Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, All Travellers Calling at the Black Lion Hotel, Salford, to Notice the Latest Designs of Organs Exhibited there by the Kind Permission of the Proprietor, Mr E. Clegg, Manufactured by Messrs Ch Marenghi and Co, and to be had from me, ARTHUR RIGHINI, Agent for CH. MARENGHI and Co. (of Paris), Mechanical Organ Builders, 24, Edward-street Sussex-street, Lower Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, to Roundabout, Cinématograph, and Circus Proprietors, that, owing to the Continued Increase of our Business in Great Britain, I have had to Remove into Larger Premises, where all Correspondence may now be addressed at 29, Gibson-square, Islington, North London. Two Minutes' Walk from the Agricultural Hall. I also have for Sale just now Several Gavioli Barrel Organs, all in Thorough Good Order. No Reasonable Price Refused. J. WENTWORTH, Managing-Director for Great Britain for Charles Marenghie and Company, Paris.

WANTED, to thank the Gentlemen who have Extended their Patronage to me Since my Appointment, and by this to reply to the numerous kind wishes received, and to say that I Continue to be Supplied from Paris with the Latest and Best Music for all Sizes of Paper Organs Look out for New March, soon to be on Sale.

ARTHUR RIGHINI, Agent for CH. MARENGHI and Co. (of Paris), Mechanical Organ Builders, 24, Edward-street, Sussex-street, Lower Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that Leete's Colours and Varnishes are the Best and Cheapest in London. Vermilionettes, Permanent Reds, Carmines, Carriage and Copal Varnishes, Gold Leaf, Brushes, &c., and every Decorator's Requisite for Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Write for price list or call, Leete's Colour Works, 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Electrical Specialities. SIMPKIN, WILKINSON, and GIBSON, 66, Kirkstall-road, Leeds, Manufacture Dynamos, Arc Lamps, Switchboards, &c., Specially for Showmen. Also Stock Cable, Globes, Carbons, Incandescents, and Every Requisite.

Tom Taylor and Sons, Launch and Boat Builders, Staines, Middlesex.

WANTED, Known, Contracts Taken for Running and Supplying Launches (Steam, Electric, and Oil Motor); also Boats of Every Description on Lakes or Artificial Water. Lakes and Artificial Water Rented for Working Electric Launches and Boats of all descriptions at Cheap Fares. Builders and Workers of Electric Launches at Earl's Court, Crystal Palace, Glasgow Exhibition, and Cork Exhibition.

WANTED, Showmen to Please Note that H. Burman, the Original Show Builder, Carver, and Decorator, will be pleased to Estimate for Show Front Waggons, Parade Carriages, &c. I have Large Premises, and Good Plant of Machinery, &c. Established Thirty Years. 19, Kirby-street, Hatton-garden, E.C. Close to Farringdon-street Metropolitan Railway.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen, Fairkeepers, &c.—Call and See our New Throwing Game, "The Bombardment of Port Arthur" (great success); or, particulars post-free, STACEY and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees, showmen's and Travellers' Stores, Settles-street, London, E. Established Fifty Years. We Supply Everything for the Fair. Write for our New List.

WANTED, Known, Henry Butler for Gas Engines. 1905 Catalogue Now Ready, Four Penny Stamps. Henry Butler for Old Engines. Send Immediately for New Catalogue. Henry Butler for Marine Motors. New Catalogue Ready, Interesting. Henry Butler for Dynamos, all sizes. Send me all your inquiries. Henry Butler for Cycle Car Motors,

You know my place— HENRY BUTLER, Whiston-street Works, Derby.

WANTED.—Showmen's Painting, Switchbacks, Show Cloths, Scenery. Good, cheap. J. DAVIS, Showmen's Artist, 4, Devon-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, for World's Fair, Side Shows and Novelties; also Space to Let. OWEN BAGAN, Proprietor, 66, Gallowgate, Glasgow.

WANTED, any Good and Startling Novelties, Suitable for the Gardens, at the Grand Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate. Address, with particulars, to the Sole Proprietor, Lord GEORGE SANGER. Will Mr Tom Norman send address. N.B.—The Circus will commence its Spring and Summer Tour early in March, under the Sole Management of the Proprietor, Lord George Sanger. Good Night to All. Secretary, Mr ALBERT HICKEY.

WANTED, Novelties, for Aberdeen and Edinburgh. Address, Humber's Permanent Waxwork Exhibition, 112, George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Novelties with Paintings for Four of the best Shops in London. Good Money taken with Good Shows None but Responsible People dealt with. Shares or Salary. Good Fat Show write in. HOFFMANN, 370, High-street, Stratford, London.

WANTED, Superior Novelties, Illusions. Sharing terms, from Jan. 23. Shop, grand position. DYER, 85, Wingrove-gardens, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, a Lady Palmiste Thoroughly Competent, of Good Appearance and Address, for D'Arc's Grand Permanent Waxwork Exhibition, Cardiff. Address, as above.

WANTED, to open Monday next, Palmist, Phrenologist, Living Novelties, Freaks. Sharing terms. Best Positions. Wire, MELVILLE, Free Trade Hall, Manchester.

WANTED, Phrenologist and First-class Lady or Gentleman Palmist. Good Business. Also other Novelties. Apply, SHARP, 49, High-street, Belfast, Ireland.

WANTED, Known, Carl Harmon's Royal Punch and Judy and Marionettes, also Bioscope, open for Engagements. 101A, Penwith-rd., Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Bailey's Punch and Judy, Crystal Palace, London, Daily, Fifth Week. Liberty all February. Address, Crystal Palace.

WANTED, Known, Dolly Vigor, Armless Lady, Liberty Monday, the 16th. Address, 7, North Lindsey-street, Dundee, Scotland. Wire for Monday.

WANTED, Known, the Biggest Girl of the World, appearing for the First Time in Edinburgh, would like to reside with an English Family. The Edinburgh Press speak highly of this Show. Address, Mdlle. LUCIE, care of CONWAY, 3, East Register-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagement by Charley Rouse, Descriptive Vocalist, Comedian, Experienced Plankman, Handy Man. Good References. Who wants a Reliable Man? 15, Paddington, Liverpool. May your good luck continue.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Carl, Premier Rifle Expert; Zona Bell, Snake Charmer, very busy at Crouch's Waxworks, Glasgow, Fifth Week. Still running.

WANTED, Known, Birch's No. 2 Show of Royal Midgets are at Liberty for Monday, onwards. Address, BIRCH, Post-office, Aberdeen.

WANTED, by Auctioneer having Grand Shop, Grand Position, Electric Light, all kinds of Goods, Linoleum, Carpets, Pots, Jewellery, &c., to Sell by Auction on Commission, Shares, or otherwise. Good Business can be done. Apply, 8, Bank-gardens, Ryde, Wight.

WANTED, Showmen, and other Fair Travellers to Know that we have Good Ground to Let at the following Fairs: Longton Shrovetide Fair; Dudley March Fair; Quarry Bank, Cradley Heath, Stourbridge. Also Three Good Easter Fairs, and usual Route to follow. All applications to be made to F. COLLINS, Limited, Gondola Works, Walsall.

KIDDERMINSTER ANNUAL PLEASURE FAIR, Held on the Third Thursday in June.

WANTED, Known.—Notice is Hereby Given that the above Fair will in future be held on a Site in Green-street, Kidderminster, the property of the Corporation, and not in the Cattle Market. Applications for space to be made to Mr A. C. HOLLOWAY, Market Superintendent, as heretofore. By order, JAMES MORTON, Town Clerk. Jan. 2, 1905.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, KEIGHLEY, Jan. 18 to 28. "JAPAN." Grand Scenic Trades' and Novelties' Exhibition. Admission Free.

WANTED, Known, a Few Spaces to Let for Scottish Tour. Address, MANAGER, as above.

WANTED, all Travellers to Know I have Ground to Let for Roundabouts, Shows, Stalls, and other Fair Ground Games at the following Spring and Easter Fairs:— Hyde-road Spring Fair, Gorton Spring Fair, Beswick Spring Fair, Walton-on-the-Hill Liverpool Spring Fair, Shore Fields, Liverpool, Easter Fair; Queen's-road, Manchester, Great Easter Fair; also at Wolverhampton, for the Easter and Whitsuntide Fairs, held on the Corporation Ground, and same Ground as Collins's, Limited, held their last Christmas Fair on. Note.—This is the Best Easter and Whitsuntide Fair in the Black Country. Rent Reasonable, and Nobody Barred.

All applications to be made, JOHN COLLINS, World's Fair, Scotland-road, Liverpool; or, 20, Rufford-road, Liverpool.

Wanted, to Sell cheap, and all in good order, One Set of Tandem Bicycles, made by Savage, of King's Lynn, to carry Twenty-four People. Fitted with Carved Rounding Boards, Carved Droppers, Top Centre, and Pay Box. All complete, with Lamps, Tilts, Rounding Cloths, and One Waggon to carry same. Apply, JOHN COLLINS, World's Fair, Scotland-road, Liverpool; or, 20, Rufford-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, to Let, Few Spaces, suitable for Stalls; also One side Show, Tattooist would do well. JAMES BAYFIELD, 108, Upper-street, Islington.

WANTED, Space in First-class Exhibitions or Bazaars for any quantity of Mechanical Models and Automatic Machines, on Rent or Sharing Terms. Apply, H. J. TOMES, Chester Cottage, High-street, Rhyl, North Wales.

Seaforth Great Easter Fair.

WANTED, Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, &c., to know Spaces now to Let for Shows, Roundabouts, Shoots, Sheets, Emmas, and all Kinds of Outdoor Amusements. Apply, Lessee, H. WALLIS, Seaforth, Liverpool. Seaforth Great Easter Fair

ARTS EXHIBITION AT LICHFIELD. Feb. 22 to March 1, 1905, inclusive.

WANTED, Known, the Committee have Space of 36ft. by 12ft. Vacant for Hall of Laughter, or other similar Side Show. Terms on application from the SECRETARY.

WANTED, Showmen, Circus, and Menagerie Proprietors and other Amusements visiting the North of England for Easter to know that Ground is to Let in the Garrison Field, Sunderland, the only acknowledged Easter Fair in the North of England. For terms, apply to W. MURPHY and J. COOPER, Garrison Field, Sunderland.

WANTED, to Let, to Auctioneers, Exhibitions, &c., Large Shops, Centre, Ferndale, and Bridgend, S. Wales. SHEPHERD, 77, Colum-road, Cardiff

WANTED, to Let, One Window, also Space for Photos., Tattooers, Handkerchief Embroiderers, Wire Workers, &c. Splendid Shop and Position, with Electric Light. Apply, Exhibition, 148, High-street, Ryde, Wight.

WANTED, to Sell or give away, the Whole of the Animals now forming the Menagerie at the Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate, including Two Lions, One Lioness (Reliable Performers and Breeding Animals), Five Pumas, and Three White Llamas (splendid specimens, have been driven in Harness). The above-mentioned animals now to be seen at Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington. A full list of particulars will appear in next week's "Era." Also to be Sold a number of Beast and other Carriages in splendid condition and Travel well, with One Horse. Address, LORD GEORGE SANGER, Park Farm, East Finchley, N.W.

WANTED, to Sell, the whole of Sedgwick's Menagerie to be Sold as a Going Concern. Reason of Selling, Retiring from the Business. For Price and Particulars, apply Sedgwick's Menagerie, Drill Hall, Bolton.

Exceptional Bargains.

WANTED, all Showmen to Know that we have for Sale Several Second-Hand Gaviolliphones (Eighty-seven Keys), Playing by Paper Music; in Good Condition; also a Quantity of Brass Trumpet Organs, with or without Drums; and, having to make room for New Stock, we have decided to Sell these Organs at an Enormous Reduction, and no Reasonable Offer Refused. CH'APPA and SONS, Limited, 6, Little Bath-street, Clerkenwell, London; also at 17, Milton-street, Lower Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, a Complete Waxwork Exhibition, consisting of Fifty-one Figures, and divided into Nine Tableaux. Directly Imported from the famous Musee Grevin, Paris, for exhibition at Earl's-court. Some of the tableaux may be separated. All communications, by letter, to SONS, care of STRAKER and Co., 190, Edgware-road, W.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, Love-letter, Husbands, Babies, Black List, Marriage and Liars' Licences, &c. MEURICE, 20, Bidborough-st., W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, &c., of all kinds, Best and Cheapest. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, Known, Automatic Penny Slot Machines. We are clearing some marvellous bargains previous to Stocktaking. Weighing Machines at £6, cost £17 10s. Delivery Machines (Iron and Wood), Character, Postcard, Cigarette, Electric, Perfume, Working Models, &c., at quarter cost. Genuine. MASON, 17, Settles-street, London, E.

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WANTED, to Sell, Steel Bicycle Merry-go-Round. Good condition. Apply, JAMES DANDY, Hough-lane, Leyland, Lancashire.

WANTED, to Sell, Miniature Photo. Outfit, with Studio, quite new, in High-class Exhibition, on Tour. A Money-taker. Business Taught. G. HILL, Exhibition, Cambridge Hall, Southport.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS

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WANTED, to Sell, 8-h.p. Burrell Compound Showman's Engine, with Dynamo and Electric Plant Complete; also One Seven Figure Organ, One Two Figure Organ, and One Trumpet Organ. No one has been to see Engine or Organs. WALKER, Roundabout Maker, Tewkesbury.

WANTED, to Sell, Four-abreast Jumping Horses, with Paper Organ, Waggons, &c. All in Good Working Order. Apply, Olympia, Sunderland.

WANTED, to Sell, Covered Rail Packing Waggon, suitable for Roundabout or Show, 18ft. by 8ft., by Geo. Orton and Son. Can be seen at Capt. Payne's Stores, Ashton-under-Lyne. Price and particulars, J. WINGATE, Whale Museum, Skegness.

WANTED, to Sell, a Set of Auction Vans, Tent, and Shutters complete. A bargain. Part purchase money can remain. Apply, Box 1,041, "The Era" Office.

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WANTED, to be Known, that I have got New and Second Hand Living Carriages for Sale. Also Second-Hand Packing Trucks on Hand. BERRY, 80, Moville-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, to Sell, Silver-plated Height and Weight Machine made by Avery, Birmingham. Also Striker, 24ft. high. Both in good condition. Best offer to J. KAYES, Roundabout, Fair Ground, Jarrow, co. Durham.

WANTED, to Sell, Gold-Filled Wire Marquise Rings and Brooches, 3s. 6d.; Baby Rings, 2s. 6d. Samples, 9d. CROWN, 12, Warwick-rd, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Sell, Portable Circus Ring Fence in Sections, 40ft. Centre, Green Carpet, 22ft. Diameter. Good as New. Garters. Three Gates, Six Trotting Bars and other Utensils, Suitable for Circus, to be Sold Cheap. Only Used one Month. Apply, JOHN GREEN, Drill Hall, Bolton.

WANTED, to Sell, Twelve Distorting Mirrors, 6ft. by 3ft. Black Frames. Cost £240. Low Price. Apply, Box 1,043, "The Era" Office.

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WANTED, to Sell, Cinématograph Show, complete with Carved Front; Four Loads, goes with Four Horses, all ready for use. For price and particulars, apply Sedgwick's Menagerie, Drill H., Bolton.

WANTED, to Buy, Peep-Show Glasses and Boards, for Square Show. Must be Cheap. State Size. R. WILLIAMS, Show Ground, Stevenston, Ayrshire, N.B.

WANTED, by Traction Driver, Job. Used to Electric Light and Showman's Business. Good Refs. W. MILLS, 12, Leycester-st., off Wilbraham-street, Liverpool.

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WANTED, to Let, the Sebright Music Hall, Hackney-road, N.E., which is fully Licensed for Drink and Smoking. Nominal Rent, Long Lease. No Premium. Deposit only as Security for Rent and Beer. Apply to BELMONT, Alma Music Hall, New North-road, N.

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WANTED, to Let, to Societies, Companies, &c., Capital Hall, to Accommodate 300 Persons, Four Large Reception Rooms, with Lavatories, &c., just off Bloomsbury-square. To be Let on Lease. Suitable for Meetings, Show Rooms, Picture Gallery, &c.; also Five Capital First-floor Offices. Apply, Messrs BUCKLAND and SONS, 4, Bloomsbury-square, W.C.

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WANTED, to Buy, a Good Chamber Set. Must be in good condition. A good price given for a suitable Set. F. BERTRAM, Killarney, Gilmore-road, Lewisham.

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Music Hall or Theatre Site, in a Populous Southern Suburb.

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WANTED, to Sell, a Modern Fireproof Theatre in a thriving Midland Town. Population upwards of 50,000. This Property is Freehold, and an excellent paying one. Proprietor would not object to Lease to a good, reliable Management, or would join a Syndicate, but wishes to retire from active part in business. All replies will be treated confidentially, and none but persons of sound financial position need apply. In replying please state if Purchase or Lease is desired. Silence a polite negative pro. tem. Address, in first instance, Box 8,901, care of "The Era."

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WANTED, to Sell, Ring Fit-up for Stage, 12ft. Props. Never been used. Cost £8 10s.; will sell for £5. Bros. LAPISH, 567, Hollins-road, Hollinwood

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WANTED, to Sell, First-class London Production. Rights, Scenery, Dresses, &c., to be Sold at an exceptionally low figure. Splendid Speculation. Apply immediately, to INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT BUREAU, LIMITED, 34, Norfolk-street, Strand.

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WANTED, Known, the Above Theatre closed Saturday, Jan. 7, and per clause 3 all contracts are cancelled. (Signed) W. A. JACKSON.

WANTED, Known, Walter Bentley Wishes to Thank all Friends who kindly Subscribed to his Birthday Testimonial, which proved a great success. A Purse of Gold (£40) was Presented to him on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 1905. (Signed) HORACE SHELDON, GEORGE GULLIVER.

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Herman Melot, Sisters Neilson, Cole De Losse Duo,
Prince Kokin, Doody and Wright, Tourbillon Troupe,
Diane De Fontenoy, in "An Artist's Model."

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Two Performances Nightly. Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock, for
Caledonian Boys, Chas. Cardow, Martin and Quigg,
Barney Vox, Carl and Mary Ohm, Three Georgis,
The Borellis, Leona Dare,
Four Royal Welshmen, Eugene Marrder.

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Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock, for
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Loro Quartette, Three Donals, Sarnthalers.

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Two Performances Nightly. Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock, for
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Lilian Lowe, Five Olracs, Alexandre and Bertie,
Japanese Guards, George Newburn, Katie Butler, Vasco.

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Two Performances Nightly, at 6·50 and 9·0.
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Pia Carozzi, Coloured Meisters, Labakans, Albert Whelan,
Mdlle. Emmy, Gatling Guards.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Two Performances Nightly. Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock, for
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George Adams, Trapnell Family, Horace White,
M'Phee and Hill, Sisters Jonghmanns,
Wotpert Trio, Jan Rudenyi.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal, at 2·30 o'clock, for
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Three Sisters Hayden, Leslie Brothers,
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Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock, for
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Brown and Robinson, Three Sisters Slater,
Vasilescu Troupe, Cline and Clark, Two Butterflies,
Morris and Morris, Frazer and Mac, Florrie Gallimore.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal, at 1·30 o'clock, for
Huch Stanton and Co., in "For Reform;"
Harry Martell, Aurora Troupe, Lizzie Fletcher,
Arthur Lennard, Rastus and Banks,
Keno, Welch and Montrose, Jimmy Shields;
C. Cunningham and Co., in "V. C.;" Mendel.

EMPIRE THEATRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal, at 3·0 o'clock, for
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The Alaskas, The Picquays, Princess Pauline.

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Rehearsal, at 3·0 o'clock, for
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Toile D'Araignees, Lily Lena,
Maud Ross, Will Mitcham.

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Rehearsal, at 3·0 o'clock, for
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Alburtus and Bartram, Bioscope,
the Jees, Resuas Trio, the Llewellyns,
Pueblo Brothers, Milner Verren.

NEW PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.
Rehearsal, at 1·0 o'clock, for
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May Geraldine, Kyoto, Bioscope, Charles Pastor,
Bijou Russell, Knick Knacks, Joko and Koko.

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Rehearsal, at 1·0 o'clock, for
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James Bard, Three Laurels, Marie Collins,
Rumbo Austin.

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Curtain rises Nightly at 6·40 o'clock. Artistes please note.
Rehearsal, at 1·0 o'clock, for
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Burg, Haud, and Wise, Lily Burnand, Baker and Balfe,
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Cora Casselli, Ambrose Thorne.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD, LONDON, E.
Curtain rises Nightly at 6·45 o'clock. Artistes please note.
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A. C. Lilly and Co., Starr and Leslie,
Walter Bellonini, Three Nevarros, Fred Poplar,
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Ryder Slone, Frank Leslie, Ella Lane.

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Laurie's Kindergarten, Alf Gibson,
Alfonso Trio, Bioscope, Ethel Ra-Leslie,
The Bohemians, Chas. Deane.

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Rehearsal, at 1·0 o'clock, for
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Charles Vincent, Rose Archer, Frank Hilbert,
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Rehearsal at 2·0 o'clock for
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Bioscope, Alice Maydue,
Nellie Coleman, the Howards, Dome, Chas. Gardiner.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME, OXFORD-STREET.
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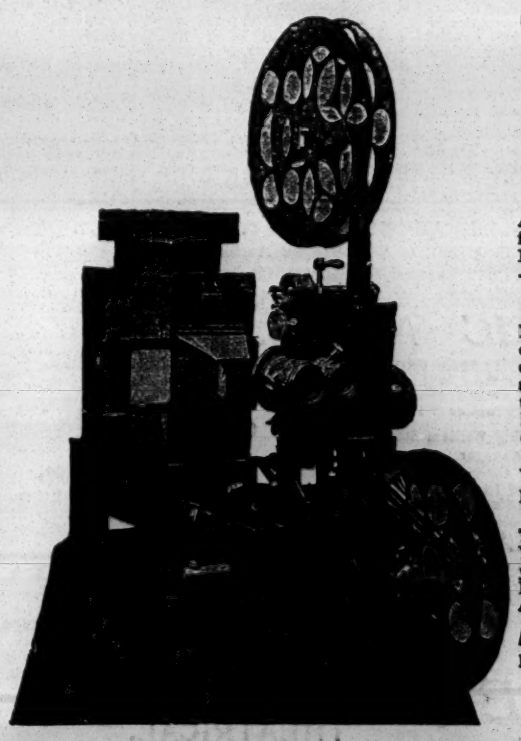

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JOHN H. CARNEY, Manager and Correspondent.

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American Artistes now in England are requested to send their Cards.

MUSIC HALL CARDS.

Alphabetically Arranged—Limited to Three Lines

ABADAROFFS, Prehistoric Mountebanks, Monday, Hippodrome, Grimsby. Vacant Jan. 23. Permanent address, 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

ABDULLAH, ALMA, and LA SUPERBE. Permanent address, 155, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

ABEL and WELSH, the Great Grotesque Eccentrics, Grand Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees.

ADAMS, WALTER, Pantomime Comedian, Hippodrome, Stoke. Jess Verno, Representative.

ADRIENNE, THREE SISTERS. the Motor Girls. A smart and pleasing turn.—Vide Press. This, Tivoli, Manchester; next week, Palace, Cork.

AISTON, ARTHUR, Third Consecutive Year as Abanazar. Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

ALBANO TROUPE, Musical Speciality. Montgomery Hall, Sheffield.

ALBERT, MISS LOTTIE, the Bright Comedienne, this week, Hippodrome, Eastbourne; next, Metropolitan, London.

ALBERT, SISTERS, Vocal Duettists and Dancers. This, Palace, Southampton; next week, Middlesex. Good Songs required.

ALBERTO, FRED, Character Comedian and Dancer. Great hit as Will Atkins, in "Robinson Crusoe" Panto. Next, O. H., Harrogate.

ALBINI, BLANCHE, Principal Boy, "Little Bo-Peep." Alexandra Palace. Offers Invited for Next Year.

ALBINI, LIEUT., Gentleman Showman, Humourist, and Illusionist, Middlesex and Granville (Return). "Lady in Black" Agents, Tom Shaw and Co.

ALETHEA, Contortionist. First Free Date September, 1906. London Pavilion, Dec. 26, Eight Weeks.

ALEXANDER'S, JOHN, Burlesque Company. Empire, Newport.

ALLEN, ARABELLA, "The Dickens Girl." This week, Chelsea Palace; next, Leeds.

ALMONTE, TROUPE, Pantomime, "Robinson Crusoe," Theatre Royal, Exeter.

ALVANTRE, King of the Slanting Wire, Opens Monday, Hippodrome, Porth, Wales; and ARIE, the Human Fly, Trapeze Stage Act. Liberty 23rd.

ANDERSONS, AUSTRALIAN TWIN. Perfect wonder-workers with the skipping-rope.—Vide Oswald Stoll. Month of February, Alhambra, Paris.

ANDOS, Japan's Greatest Troupe. Monday, Coliseum.

ANDYS, FOUR Smartest of Risley and Double Somersault Artists. Jan. 16, Coliseum, Sheerness. At Liberty 23 and 30.

ARA, ZEBRA, and VORA, Monday next, Coliseum, Brighton.

ARCHBUTT, GLADYS, Comedienne and Speciality Dancer. This Week, Hippodrome, Eastbourne. Letters, care of "The Era."

ARIZONAS, FOUR, Acrobatic Tumblers. Contortionist, Jugglers, and Staircase Workers. Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.

ASHDOWN, PERCY, Author, Composer, Arranger. Still Hard at It. Orders Pouring in. 7, Great Newton-street, Liverpool.

ASHERS, THE (AGNES and MIKE). Monday, Hippodrome, Hastings.

ASHLEY, BROS., "Next, Please," Hippodrome, Bristol. 16th, Hippo., Birmingham. G. Barclay and Fortune and Granville.

ATLAS and the Beautiful Miss VULCANA, the Society Athletes, World's Greatest Artistes. Require Jan. 30. 18, Grenville-street South, Liverpool.

ATLEE, MISS LALI, Chic Comedienne and Ballad Vocalist. This Week, Barnard's, Woolwich. Day's Agency.

ATTILLA, BROS., Gladiatorial Sensation, Vacant Feb. 6, 13, 20. Middlesex Music Hall, London.

AUBREY, ALEC, Herculean Gymnast, big Success, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy. Monday, Hippodrome, Porth, Wales.

AUSTIN, RUMBO, in his New Budget of Comicalities. Empire, Holloway.

AVRIGNYS, Great Jap Juggling Number. Most Versatile Act before the Public.

AYTOUN, "LORD" GEORGE, Variety Agent, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, London, S.E. Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone, 1,949, Hop.

BABUSIAU, BROTHERS, Celebrated Acrobats-Antipodists. This Week, New Hippodrome, Preston.

BAKER and BALFE, including George M. Baker's Marvellous Dancing. Stoll Tour.

BALE TROUPE, the Wonders of 1905 166, Tulse-hill, Brixton, London, S.W.

BANDON, SID, Grand, Manchester. "Sez I to myself, sez I," Alf Ellerton.

BANDONI, the Original Concertina King and One-Man Band, finishes Paisley. Monday, Tivoli, South Shields.

BANNELL, WALTER, JENNY JOY, Funny Comedian, Serio and Ballad. Vacant Monday next. Wire, one or both, 3, North-street, Ilkeston.

BARCLAY, GEORGE, and CO., Variety Agents. Telephone, 84, Streatham. 221, Brixton-hill, London, S.W.

BARD, GRACIE, Characteristic and Coon Artiste, Vacant Jan. 23. This, Garrick Theatre. Next, Crewe. Perm., 74, Westgate, Burnley. Agent required.

BARNARD'S Life-like **MARIONETTES,** Fast Booking 1906. New Production in Preparation. Jan. 16, Queen's, Poplar.

BARONI and KEMP, Grand, Hanley. Vacant April 10 through cancelling. No other immediate vacancies. Address, Hanley.

BAROUX and BION, F. Mouillot's "Sleeping Beauty." Jan. 16, Opera House, Jersey, C.I.

BARRETT and KNOWLES, the Laughing Hit of Birmingham. Gigantic success, Alexandra Theatre. Tom Shaw and Co.

BARRY, PHIL, Versatile Comedian, Coliseum, Sheerness. Vacant Jan 23. 41, St. Mary's-square, Kennington, S.E.

BARTHOLOMEW, SISTERS (VIOLET and DAISY), the Ideal Pair, Empire Hippodrome, Ashton. Jan. 16, Empire, Rochdale.

BARTLETT, MISS ROSIE, Principal Girl, in "Robinson Crusoe." This Week, Theatre Royal, S. Shields; next, T. R., Stockton-on-Tees.

BAWN'S AGENCY, 19, Victoria-parade, Balham-hill, London, S.W. Phone, 178, Balham. Telegrams, "Orderless, London."

BAYMAN, CHARLIE, Negro Comedian, Empire, Dudley, Nightly. Monday, Tivoli, Barrow-In-Furness. Agents, Fred Higham.

BEANLAND, CHARLES, Usual success Royal, Holborn. Agent, Harry Day.

BEES, THE TWO (HARRY and FLORA BLAKE). New Indian Scena by Albert Voyce, Esq. Jan. 16, Metropolitan and Royal, Holborn.

BEET, TOM, Famous Banjo Expert, Funny Songs, Stories, and Novelty Instrument Soloist, Pavilion, Southport. 25, Stamford-street, Liverpool.

BEKKER, HENRI, Comedy Conjuror, usual success, this, Pier, Southport; next, Hippodrome, Accrington. Always successful.

BELFORD and MARS, "The Postman and the Slavey," Vacant March 27. Perm. address, 178, High-street, Southampton.

BELL, THE H.L., and LILLY PEARL CO. present the Comedy Vaudeville, "A Bit of String." Queen's-park Hippo., Manchester.

BELROSE, MR. GEO., and MISS MAUD DE VELIN, Operatic and Speciality Duettists, Pantomime, Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

BENET, HARRY, Hippodrome, Carlisle.

BENSON, ALLY M., Comedian and Whistler, terrific success as Buttons, "Cinderella." Vacant March 6. All coms., the Coliseum, Oldham.

BENT, HARRY, the Novel Mimic, 8·0 and 10·0 o'clock, E., Sheffield; also CARLOTTA LUNN. Monday, H., Wakefield. Fortune and Granville.

BERNARD, GEO., in his Latest Eruption, "The Last of the Light Brigade." Real Cannons, Real Wounded Soldiers and Scenery. 16th, G., Oldham.

BEST, MR. CHARLES F., as M'Bunker, "The Mountebank," Tivoli, Dublin.

BICKLEY, HARRY, the Dame. Royalty Theatre, Chester.

BISHOP and VALE, What a Success as Ping and Pong, in "Aladdin," Halifax. Next week, Great Grimsby.

BLARNEY and KENNARD, success as Jimmy Green and Johnny Stout, Gar Kiddie's "Bo-Peep" Panto. Monday, E. T., Bishop Auckland.

BLISS and BLISS, Comedians, Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

BLOUNT, ARTHUR BLOUNT, a Successful Comic Singer. 51, Dorothy-road, Lavender-hill, S.W.

BLYTHE, MARIE, the Cambridge. Jan. 16, Palace, Bow. Agents, S. M. Hyman, Limited.

BOHEMIANS, THE (WILL and MADGE), Musical and Comedy Artists. This, Empire, Stratford; next, Empire, Shepherd's-bush. G Foster, 4, Garrick-st.

BON-BONS, THE FIVE Harry Bon-Bon's Comedy Five. Monday next, Palace, Blackburn.

BORELLI, SIGNOR and MADAME, Empire, Sheffield. Agents, T. Shaw and Co.

BOSANQUET, in his Illuminated Musical Séance. Camberwell Palace, Jan. 16. See Advt. on another Page.

BOSWELL, A. P., very droll.—The Era All letters to 7, Middle Market-road, Great Yarmouth. Tour Shortly. Fishing at present.

BOSTON TWINS, THE, Greatest and Most Laughable Team ever appeared in Paisley Panto. Dates and terms, Sley, Manchester; or, T., Paisley.

BOULTON and BARTENELLI, Pantomime. Theatre Royal, Merthyr, S. Wales.

BOWMAN, J. H., Anglo-American Humourist, Vocalist, Dancer, Jan. 16, Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne. Vacant Feb. 6, 27.

BOYCE, FRANK, Vocal Comedian, concludes To-night, Palace, Dundee (First Visit to Scotland). Monday, Palace, Aberdeen.

BOYLE, MARCUS, My Bonny Boy, Scotch Concerts. Care of Cameron, 315, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

BRASQUE, ALBERT; CORA DUNCAN, in a New Sketch, "A Dressing-room Romance." Address, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

BRENTON, SISTERS, Refined Duettists and Dancers. Usual success, Albert Theatre, Brighouse. Jan. 16, Theatre Royal, Castleford.

BRETT, HARRY, Returns Sandgate Jan. 23 and 30. Fast Booking up. For Dates, address, 342, Acton-lane, Acton, London, W.

BRIGHTON GIRLS, THE, Lance and Sword Experts, and Speciality Artists. This, T. R., Peterborough. Next, Rotherhithe. "Swiss Express."

BRITISH QUARTETTE, John Bull, Sandy, Pat, and Taffy. Speciality Vocalists. Jan. 16, Palace, Aberdeen.

BRITTON, LITTLE, Eccentric Comedian and Comedy Dancer, Mr J. Tiller's "Ohio." Alhambra, Paris.

BROMLEY and FONTEIN, Success, Lyric, Liverpool. Jan. 16, Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne.

BROOKLANDS, THE (ETHEL and BELLA), Big Success, Second Boy and Girl, Q. T., Farnworth. Monday, 16th, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

BROOKS, BROTHERS, SISTERS BRAND, Fourth Successful Season with Messrs Dottridge and Longden. Grand Theatre, Halifax,

BROOKS, GEORGE H., Musical, Dramatic, and Variety Agent. 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

BROWN and ROBINSON, Character Vocalists. Jan. 16, Empire, Newcastle.

BURGATILES, THE FOUR, Musical Pantomimists. C. W. Poole's Myriorama, Maesteg, S. Wales.

BURG, HAUD, and WISE. "Ye Brown Cow Inn." Monday, Empire, New-cross, S.E.

BURTON'S AGENCY, Sheffield. Gala Artistes of Every Description Required, Whit, on. "No man is a fool always; everyone sometimes."

CABAN, THE GREAT, with his Marvellous Sixteen Performing Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs. Finishes to-night H., Porth; next week, G., Bolton.

CAHILL, PERCY, Will Atkins, "Robinson Crusoe," Theatre Royal, Exeter.

CAINE, ANDIE, Comedian, Pantomime, Kennington Theatre.

CALDEN, HARRY, Enormous Success as Dame Durden, "Goody Two shoes" Company. P. G. T., Folkestone. Monday, Grand Theatre, Margate.

CAMERONS, THE (JIM and MARIE). Comedy Duologue, "The Lady Guide." Terrific success. Encored Nightly. Next, N. P., Maidenhead.

CARL and CARR, Refined Comedians. "Workhouse" Act going stronger than ever. Hit of the Pantomime. Offers invited. Ealing Theatre, W.

CARLTON, HENRY, the Popular Comedian, supported by his Renowned Comedy Team. Hippodrome, Salford, Manchester.

CARR and ROSE (FRED and ADA), the Vocal Comedy Stars, in "Their First Quarrel." Big Success, Derby. Next, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

CARY, FRED, Alhambra, Grand, Halifax.

CAZMAN'S, HENRI, Musical, Dramatic, Circus, and Variety Agency. 138, Denmark-hill, S.E. Telephone, 10 Brixton.

CECIL, TOM, Comedian, Concertising in Scotland. Serpentello's Agency, 28, Wellington-street, London.

CHALLIS, FLO, Tremendous Success as Colla, Principal Boy, Royalty T., Chester. Moss and Thornton to follow. Terrific Reception in Panto.

CHANT and CHANT (JACK, ALICE), Great success as Will Atkins and Polly Hopkins, "Robinson Crusoe." Monday, Pavilion, Edinburgh.

CHARD'S DOG CIRCUS. the Smartest Act with Dogs at the present day. Free Jan. 30. See other advertisement.

CHARMAN, JACK, the Boy Vocalist. This week, Camberwell Palace. Agents, G. Barclay and Co.

CHARNLEY, SISTERS, Empire, Portsmouth. Monday, Return, Q., Poplar. Address, 26, Union-road, Borough, London, S.E.

CHESTER and LEE'S MARIONETTES, Samuel's Exhibition Palace, Dublin.

CHESTER'S AGENCY. Dramatic and Variety Agents. 13, Oxford-street, Manchester.

CHINKO, Hippodrome, Paris. Returns to England Jan. 22.

CHIRGWIN, Empire, Ardwick. Friends kindly refrain from Copying.

CLARENCE and BELL, Big Success as the Bailiffs and Footmen, in "Cinderella." Jan. 16, Colosseum Theatre, Oldham.

CLARIBELL, FLORRIE, is a Good Dancer and an excellent Tyrolean vocalist.—Vide Rochdale Times. Wire, for Monday, Circus, Rochdale.

CLARK, WALLS, Discouraged, Character, Comedy, &c. 53, Milton-avenue, East Ham, London, E.

CLEMENTS, VENIE, Enormous Success, Principal Girl (Jill), in "Mother Goose," Theatre Royal, Manchester.

CLIFFE, TOM F., Success, Title-rôle, Milton Bode's "Puss in Boots," Royalty, Chester, Fourth Week. Many thanks to Carr and Rose for kindness.

CLYDES, THE (AMY and EVIE). Vocalists, Instrumentalists, Banjoes, Mandolines, and Cornet. Feb. 20, Palace, Tottenham; 27, Empire, Portsmouth.

CLYO, HARRY, and ROSE ROCHELLE, Returned to Town. South London Palace.

COBORN, CHARLES. Hippodrome, Preston. Good Funny Songs always welcome.

COLEMAN, ROSIE, and HARRY CONLIN, 99, Hill-street, Garnet-hill, Glasgow.

COLLINS, GEO., Quaint Star Comedian, Vacant Jan. 23 and 30. New Songs. Big success. Address, 67, Mersey-road, Walthamstow, E.

COLLINS, MISS LOTTIE. Address, 368, Camden-road, N.

COLLINS, MISS MARIE Permanent address, 17, Albermarle-mansions, Holloway N.

COMELY, MABEL, Comedienne. Jan. 16, Paddington Palace, Liverpool. Return.

COMPTON, GRACEFUL GRACE, "Pull and Bush" and "Magpie and Parrot," with J. Gar Kiddie's Panto. Monday, E., Bishop Auckland.

CONDER, ALF, Comedian, "Wants to Lease a Workhouse." Permanent, 27, Manchester-road, Blackpool.

CONWAY TOM W. Dame, Grand, Woolwich. at Liberty Jan. 23.

COOKE, STEVE, Theatre Royal, Smethwick. Dame, "Dick Whittington."

CORNISH, WILL, in his Unique Musical Bell Act. This Week, Woolwich and Greenwich. Next, Palace, Walthamstow.

COVERDALE, CHARLES, This Week, London Pavilion, 8·10, and Palace, Hammersmith, 10·0 p.m. Enormous success. Next week, London Pav.

COWPER, VERNON, Blueskin, "Jack Sheppard" Company. Monday next, Oxford, Middlesbrough.

CRAIG, ROZE, and CRAIG, Trio of the World's Leading Athletes. Revill's Hippodrome, Ashton.

CRAY, LITTLE MIKE, Comedy Juggler. This Week, Central Palace, North Shields; Next, Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow.

CRESSER, MISS ADA, Staley's Transformation Company. Empire, Bradford.

CREW, J. H., and "The Original" MAUD MARLOW. South London Palace. Thanks E. Sheldon for postponing Dates, Aberdeen and Dundee.

CROWSON, WILL, CISSIE CONYER, Friday, Opera House, Northampton. Fairy Queen, Lyceum, Crewe.

CROXON, ARTHUR, Versatile Comedian. Fourth week of success. St. George's Hall, Bradford.

CRUIKSHANK, great success at the Argyle, Birkenhead. Next week, Empire, Hackney.

CULLANE, FRED, TRIO, Enormous Hit, Barnard's, Woolwich (Bottom of Bill); also Palace, Greenwich (Bottom of Bill). Day's Agency.

CULLEN, LITTLE DOLLY, and ELSIE JORDISON, the Ideal Babes, Jordison's Company. Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

CULLEN and CARTHY, and LITTLE CLULEY, enormous hit, Jordison's "Babes" Company, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

CUMMINGER, the Acknowledged World's Record Sand Dancer, Three Months' Tour, Provinces. All New Costumes. Agents, Macdermott and Day.

CURRIE, MISS LILY, Vocalist. This week, Palace, Dundee. Liberty Jan. 23. Write Palace, Aberdeen.

CURRY, PERCY, Pantomime, Grand, Edinburgh. Ugly Sister. Agent, Fioni.

CUTHBERT, MISS MAUD, Serio. Up-to-Date Catchy Songs. Good Dresser. Address, A. Robini, Theatre Royal, Coatbridge.

DANIEL, FRANCIS, Own Sketch Company, "A Father's Vengeance." Permanent address, 51, Brunswick-street, S. Shields.

DANIELS, THE TWO, Conclude a Successful Three Weeks, Opera House, Cheltenham. Next, Opera House, Harrogate.

DANTON, CHARLES, Comedian. The Bedford Nightly.

DALE and D'ARGAN, on Tour with Thompson's Panto., "Aladdin." Big success Emperor and Vizier and Speciality. 6 Dolby-lane, Leeds.

DALE and O'MALLEY, the Somewhat Different Comedians. Address, Lyric, Hammersmith.

DALE and VALE, Specialité Dancers Extraordinary. Palace, Bow.

DALE, MR. HARRY, Hippodrome Manager, Stage and Arena. General Manager and Ringmaster, Hippodrome. Ton-y-Pandy.

DANBYS, THE, big success, Ruffians, "Babes in the Wood." Grand Theatre, Nelson.

DANDOE, MR. and MRS. ARTHUR (Ethel Male-Curzon), Theatre Royal, Edinburgh. Communications, above; or, Blackmore's Agency.

DARWIN, the Man Monkey. Hippodrome, Carlisle. Jan. 16, Hippodrome, Scarborough.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE, Australian Trick Cyclists. Monarchs of the Wheel. Character Costumes. This and next, Century Theatre, Motherwell.

DAVIES, CHARLES, Stage-Manager, Disengaged. The Orchards, Burnage, Didsbury, Manchester.

DAVIES, TOM, TRIO, Whirling the Whirl, this Week, Palace, Sunderland. Monday, Empire, Middlesbrough, Third Return.

DAVIS, ALF, Comedian and Actor-Vocalist, concludes To-night Coliseum, Sheerness. Monday, Standard, Pimlico, London.

DAY'S, HARRY, VARIETY AGENCY, Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, W.C. Tel., 6,915, Ger. Tele., "Terpsichore, London."

DAY'S VARIETY AGENCY, 116, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. Always Vacancies for Stars and Specialities.

DAYTON FAMILY, Jan. 16, Tivoli, Manchester.

DE DIO, THE PEERLESS, Hansa Theatre, Hamburg, Month of January.

DE HENAU and MDLLE ALADINA, Extraordinary Rapid Painter, &c., and Wonderful Cockatoos. Address, Pavilion, Glasgow.

DELAMERE TRIO, the Original Comedy Equilibrists. Communications, 95, North-road, Preston.

DELEVINES, FIVE, "Flirtation." Empire, Cardiff.

DELLER and OXFORD, Singing, Dancing, and Pattering. Gaiety, Oldham

DEMI and SEMI, Musical Act. This, Collins's and East Ham; next, Albert, Canningtown. Liberty 23rd. 51, Canterbury-place, Lambeth, S.E.

DENBY and DENT, Captain and Mate, "Sinbad," F. Mouillot's Pantomime, Grand Theatre, Swansea.

DENHAM, TEDDY, continued Big Success Widow Twankey, Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.

DENO, LEN, Quaint and Laughing Comedian. Biz Songs in study by Percival Langley, Esq. Address, 44, High-park-road, Southport.

DE ROSE, MDLLE., and J. H. HAWTREY, Principal Boy, Mal'sio. J. Kiddie's "Cinderella," Theatre Royal, Rochdale.

DE VERE, MARIE, American Sword Swallower, Electric Light, &c., at Liberty. Perm., 17, Gratton-road, West Kensington.

DE VERE SISTERS (LILY and NORA), Leading and Juvenile Soubrettes, Dainty Comedy Artistes, and Dancers. Per., 72, Rylston-rd., Fulham, S.W.

DEVOYE, JIMMY, and BILLY, the Educated Pony, great success, Berlin and Paris. Jan. 16, Palace, Derby.

DIGBY, LESLIE, Comedian, Captain Scuttle, G. B. Phillips's "Sinbad," This and Next, Dalston Theatre, London.

DIXON, CHARLEY; KATE LYND, Very successful, Granville, Walham-green. All letters, 69, Roan-street, Greenwich, S.E.

DOLF, SIDNEY DOLF, "The One Man Variety Show." Another brilliant triumph, Tivoli, Kidderminster.

DOODY and WRIGHT, Australian Comiques, Jan. 16, Empire, Birmingham.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, Singing Boxmakers, big success. This, G., Sheffield; next, P., Bradford. First Vacancies, April 3, 10, and 17.

DOME, the Comedy Clay Man, Ardwick Empire, Manchester.

DOMINOS, TWO (Clown and Donkey), Liberty Easter. In or Outdoor Show. For terms, Cook's Circus, Edinburgh.

DONNA, AMY, Concludes To-night Empire, Wolverhampton. Communications, 309, Upper Parliament-street.

DORRETTA, LITTLE, Juvenile Acrobatic Song and Dance Artist. Touring with C. W. Poole's Myriorama.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH, the Dainty Singing Maiden. Full of Vivacity and Animation.

DOUGLAS, AILSA, the Lancashire Soprano. Empire, Bristol.

DOVE, MISS ETHEL, Principal Girl, Theatre Royal, Croydon. Next week, Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

DOVER, CLIFFE, Dame, Dottridge and Longden's Pantomime. "Forty Thieves," Theatre R., Ashton-under-Lyne, and doing well.

DRUM and MAJOR, Opera House, Harrogate.

DRYDEN, CISSIE, Vocal Character Actress. Communications to Fred Higham, York-road, London.

DUBOIS, JAMES, "Forty Thieves" Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne.

DUNMORE, TOM, the Essence of Quaintness. This week, Alhambra, Sandgate; next, Empire, Dover. Success of New Song.

DUNNING and KAHN and KAHN, Always Rebooked. Always Successful. Empire, Stratford. London Coliseum shortly.

DURHAM'S, FRED, Variety Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

DU ROCHE, MDLLE., Principal Boy, "Dick Whittington" Pantomime. Pavilion Theatre, Mile-end, E.

EILEEN and MAYNIE, Novel Instrumentalists. Dainty Dancing Doth Secured by R. Pringle. Victoria Hall, Sunderland.

ELCOCK, AMY, Comedienne; **FLORRIE ST. ROY**, Comedienne and Dancer. Great success as Peckie and Cheekie. New Gaiety Theatre, Dundee.

ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast, also **LA BELLE TOSCA**, Two or Three Acts. Vacant, Feb. 6 and 13. Address, Empire, Greenock.

ELLA'S, MISS, best existing Lion Show. Jan. 16, Palace Theatre, Dundee.

ELLERTON, ALF, Latest for Leamore, Dunville, Leonards, &c. Band parts arranged. 19, Pulross-road, Brixton, S.W.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Address, Hippodrome, Carlisle.

ELMO, NINA, Comedienne. Hippodrome, Eastbourne. Broadhead Tour to follow. Agents, Day's Agency.

ELSWORTHY, MISS DOLLY, Principal Boy (Third Year), Dottridge and Longden's Pantomime. Next Week, Theatre Royal, Ashton.

ELTONS, TWO, Triple Horizontal Bar Comedians, Smartest Knockabout Act on the Road. Monday, Theatre Royal, Stockport.

ELVY, ARTHUR, London's Popular Vocal Comedian. Usual Success, Empire, Bridgwater; next, Palace, Bristol. Booked by Rosen and Bliss.

EPLETT, JESSIE, Character Vocalist, Solo Drummer, and Speciality Dancer, Part and Speciality, Grand T., Islington. Address, 3, Ivy-lane, Hoxton, N.

ESCALADERS, THREE, Pantomime. Jan. 16, Shakespeare, Clapham, London.

ESDALE BROTHERS, Comedians, Vacant Monday. 166, Shrewsbury-street, Brooks's-bar, Manhester.

EVANS, WILL, Business-Manager, Harry Poole. Tel., 165, Richmond.

FAWN, MISS ADA, Tricky London Serio and Burlesque Actress. Monday next, Jan. 16, Hippodrome, Stoke.

FERRARIS, THE, Modern and Cosmopolitan Dancers. Grand Cirque Nouveau, Belgium.

FERRIS and FARNLEY, Robbers, Grand Theatre, Croydon. Good Comedy Songs Required. Address above

FIELDING, ANNIE, and BERT HULL, Vocal Entertainers, Monday, Barrasford's Pavilion, Glasgow.

FIELDS and ACRES, Comedy Parkkeepers. Keepers of Novelty in the Park of Originality. This, H., Salford; Monday, M., Manchester.

FIONI'S, JAMES, AGENCY, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." Telephone, 1636 Royal.

FLORADORA GIRLS, Enormous success. Third Season. F. Mouillot's Pantomime. T. R., Exeter. Agents, De Vere and Cass.

FLORIZELL, ahead of them all in a series of New Novel Sensational Feats on her Royal Roller Pedestal. Tivoli, Dublin.

FORD, MISS RAY, Refined Comedienne. New Songs in preparation. Communications, Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough.

FORD and HANSON, the American Musical Millionaires. Empire, Portsmouth.

FORREST'S, EDGAR, Comedy Company. Always a Hit and always a Draw. First Vacancy, Feb. 6 and 13. Wire, 17, Kennington-park-road, S.E.

FORTUNE and GRANVILLE, Savoy House, 115, Strand, London, W.C. Telegrams, "Waggishly." Telephone, 1,309, Gerrard.

FOY, TOM, Theatre Royal, Bolton See Advert.

FRANCE and FRANCIS, Comedians and Acrobatic Groterques, Tivoli, Manchester.

FRANCISCO, Juggler; and **MAY MOODIE**, Piccolo Soloist, Sadler's Wells. Next Week, Forester's. Chatham and Gravesend to follow.

FREDERICKS, CARL, CORDELIA, LITTLE DELLA, and Magic Kettle successfully Steaming at Opera House, Torquay.

FREELAND, MR FRANK, Song and Sketch-Writer. "Got to have it." Town Hall, Paisley, N.B.

FRENCH'S, GEORGE, TROUPE, and the SNOW FAMILY, on Tour. For Vacant Dates, address, 14, Second-avenue, Queen's-park, London, W.

FRERE, EVA, Characteristic Vocalist, thanks Messrs Cavill, Arnold, and Smith for Return Contracts Vacant March 6, 13, and 27. Hippo., Castleford.

FRIDKIN'S, BORIS, THE Great, Cossack Troupe. Opera House, York.

GANNON, NELLIE, Enormous Success in London. Commence Long Provincial Tour Jan. 23. Derwent House, Buller-road, Leicester.

GARFORD, Eccentric Clown, and Tikes Finish To-night, Guild Hall, Winchester; Monday next, Philharmonic Hall, Southampton, where address.

GARRICK, MR. GUS, Sole Inventor of the Living Postcard Album. Hippodrome, Queen's-park, Manchester.

GERTRELLA, Dancer-Gymnast. New Act, "In Cupid's Garden." Pantomime, Opera House, Burton-on-Trent.

GILBERT'S Dogs and Cats. Jan. 16, Hippodrome, Eastbourne. Musical Dunvilles write.

GILLIN, Unique Ventriloquial Humourist. Monday, 16th, Barnard's, Chatham.

GILMORE, ROBB, the Talented Grotesque Comedian, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

GLADSTONE, IDA, Principal Boy, Grand, Nottingham. Sole Agent, H. Day.

GLENNIE'S FANTOCHES, the Monarch Manipulators. Wire for Monday, Theatre Royal, Chester-le-Street

GOLD, HARRY, Versatile Comedian. New Successful Song-Scena, "Cloudland." Coliseum, Sheerness.

GOLDING, R. J., Ventriloquist and Conjuror, at Liberty Feb. 6, onward. Permanent, 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow, London.

GORMAN, LIL, the old success. This, Coliseum, Brighton; next, Barnard's, Greenwich. Liberty, March 6.

GRAHAM, ERIC, MILLIE HARRIS, Hippodrome, Wigan. Jan. 16, Palace, Northampton.

GRANADAS, LOS, Electrifying Bounders. 228, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

GRAPHO and JACKSON, Abanizer and Widow Twankey, the hit of the Pantomime. 16th, G. T., Deal; 19th, T. R., Canterbury.

GREY and WELFORD, Comedians and Comedy Boxers. The Talk of Scotland. This, Palace, Dundee; Next, Empire, Greenock.

GRIFFIN and MARKS, Great Success as the Cooks, "Jack and the Beanstalk," Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.

GROSVENOR SISTERS (THREE), "Dick Whittington" Pantomime, Very Successful. Next week, Theatre Royal, Castleford.

GWYNNE, FLORENCE, Smartest Dresser. "The Stage-struck Servant." Mirth and Melody. Jan. 16, Palace, Blackburn. Sydney M. Hyman.

HALDYNE DUO, Usual Success, Tivoli, Shields. Next P., Sunderland. Fast Booking New Act, 1906-7.

HALL'S, TOM, Burlesque Acrobatic NIPPERS, Dog, and Monkey. Free Next Week. Wire, Theatre Royal, Chester-le-street.

HAMILTON, BOB, Scotland's Versatile Entertainer. Barrasford Tour. Communications, Fioni, Liverpool.

HAMPSON BROS., Starring this Week, Empire, Paisley, Terrific Success. Next week, H., Macclesfield. Accrington, Bury, Manchester to follow.

HANDEL and LEE, this week, Queen's-park Hippodrome; next week, Metropole, Manchester. Vacant Jan. 30.

HANNS and DOWNE, Knockabout Comedians.

HANVARR and ANNA LEE, "The Golfer and the Maid," Grand Theatre, Bolton.

HARCOURT, FRED, Jan 16, Gaiety, Birmingham.

HARDEEN, Still working despite bad exposures. Jan. 16, Palace, Leicester.

HARDY, the American Blondin, "King of the High Rope." Address, Niagara Villa, Doggett-road, Catford, London.

HARLAND and ROLLISON, Monday, Jan. 16, Imperial Hippodrome, Belfast. Dublin and Cork to follow. Free Feb. 6 and 27.

HARRIS and WORTH, Thank Bostock releasing us. Big success, "Robinson Crusoe," Bailiffs, Theatre Royal, Stockton-on-Tees.

HART and CO., Dramatic and Variety Agents, 7, Lancaster-house, Ardville-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 116, Brixton.

HART and RUDD, Comedians. Palace, West Hartlepool. Monday, Hippodrome, Dewsbury Dalton's Agency.

HARVEY BOYS, the Unrivalled Boxing Comedians. Tivoli and Grand, Clapham. "The Fighting Dummy."

HASTINGS, GEORGE, KITTY GOWER, Vocalist, Character Artiste. Montgomery Hall, Sheffield. Vacant Jan. 23, 30. Offers invited.

HASTINGS, JOE, Jumper and Popular Ringmaster. CLARA HASTINGS, Descriptive Vocalist. Next, B., Wolverhampton.

HAYDEE'S, MDLLE, Electric Mannikin Theatre, Jan. 16, Hippodrome, Ashton.

HAYTON, HARRY, Comedian, Terrific Success, Pier, Southport; next, Tivoli, Dublin. Motoring and Golfing Daily. Fortune and Granville.

HEATH, JACK, Comedian, big success as Vizier Gin-Sling, in Macnaghten's Pantomime, "Aladdin." Palace Theatre, Grimsby.

HEATON, PROF. TED, World's Greatest Diver and Swimmer, and SACHA, Queen of the Crystal Tank. Coms., 24, Alton-rd., Liverpool.

HENDERSON, FAMOUS, Blind Musical Genius, big hit, Tivoli, South Shields. Next week, Central Palace, North Shields.

HENDERSON, LADE, Versatile Vocalist, Big Success, Palace, Bath. Next Week, Palace, Blackburn.

HENDERSON and STANLEY, QUARTETTE, Eccentric Acrobatic Musical Act, at Lib Jan. 16 and on 31, Ellison-street, Gateshead.

HENRIETTE, the Beautiful Young Musician. Always a success Hear her Danse Italiana et Mazurka Brilliante. Dexterity of Fingering. Verno.

HERALD COMEDY FOUR, Hippodrome, Eastbourne. Vacant Jan. 23 and Feb. 6, through misunderstanding.

HERBERT, FRED, Premier Topical Vocalist. Next week, Gatti's (Road). R. Warner.

HILL, ROWLAND, Ye Dame. Praised by Public, Press, and Professionals. Jordison's Panto., Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

HILL and LANE, Unique and Original. Jan. 16, the Bedford.

HILTON, FLORENCE, London's Star Male Impersonator, Big Success. Special Boy, "Dick Whittington," Prince's, Portsmouth. Empire, Oldham.

HILTON and HILTON, Comedy Bar Comedians. Jan. 16, Empire, Dudley.

HOLLOWAY, MISS KATIE, enormous success, Principal Girl, Metropole Theatre, Devonport.

HOOK, WALTER W., 1,415th Consecutive Show, New Century Pictures. This, Town Hall, Barrow; next, Town Hall, Middlesbrough.

HOPE, F., Sensational Trick Cyclist. This, Palace, Derby. Jan. 16, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton Vacant Jan. 30

HOUSTON, HENRY, Chinese Mysteries, Poole's No. 1 Myriorama (Fifty-third Week). Address, Sheffield.

HOWARDS, THE (RALPH and NELLIE), Empire, Ardwick-green, Manchester.

HOWARDS, THE MARVELLOUS, Success Greater than ever at Edinburgh. Week's Holiday, then busy again. Com., 46 Moss-street, Paisley.

HULA, SISTERS, Vocalists and Expert Dancers on Tour, Arthur Gibbons's "Beauty and the Beast." Lib. March 6, 13. T. R., West Bromwich.

HULBERT, Ventriloquist, and **DE LIL**, Illusionist. Two First-class Acts. Vacant Monday. Wire, G., Manchester, Sat.; then, Union-rd., Macclesfield.

HUMBER, FANNIE, Society Entertainer, on Tour. All communications, Didcott, Limited, 6, John-street, Adelphi, W.C.

HUNTER, G. W., Comedian and Raconteur. Jan. 16, Empire, Dublin.

HURST, W. G., the Wonderful Cat, Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, London, S.W.

HUXTER, THREE BROTHERS, Tichy's Varieties, Prague. Return to England, Jan. 17, 1905

HYAM, GEORGE, and NELLIE ROSE, Continued success as Scoot and Princess, Muncaster, Bootle. Monday, Opera House, Dudley.

JETNEYS, THE, The Papers say we have paralysed them here this week, Palace, Dundee. Next, Palace, Aberdeen.

JOHNSTON, JOHNNY, London's Star, the Musical Dandy, London Pavilion. Exclusive Agent, George Barclay, 122, Brixton-hill.

JUAN and M'QUE, Comedians. Tivoli, South Shields. Next, Hippodrome, Coventry.

JUDGE, SISTERS, with their Marvellous Performing Cockatoos, Parrots, and Macawa. Jan. 16, Sadlers Wells. Booked by Richard Cass.

JULIAN, Demon Contortionist, big success, "Dick Whittington" Panto. Cat and Speciality. All coms., 126, Nightingale-road, Hitchin; or, M'Askell.

KALAN and KALAN, Comedy Acrobats, Empire, Burnley; next, Palace, Lancaster.

KARDOC, I know a man who could not get his head in the coffin I escaped from. See Artistes' Wants.

KATOS, THE, Komikal Kidgets, Royal Albert.

KAVADOS, Juggler; **FLO MELVILLE**, Burlesque Artiste, Hippodrome, Bolton. Monday, Palace Varieties, Attercliffe.

KAVANAGH, J. H., Comedian, Concludes To-night, G., Bolton. Booked return. London again Feb. 27. Mon. Empire, Wrexham. Vacant 23d.

KAY, W. A., a Revelation in Miniature Manipulation. With Ediscope and Barnum's Pictures. Next, T. R., Crook. Impresario, Edgar Forrest.

KEIR and ALLEN, the Great Eccentric Comedians, great success, Palace, Balham. Monday, Royal, Holborn. Liberty Jan. 30.

KEITH, G. H., the Popular Vocal Actor, Brilliant Success, Grand, Manchester. South London.

KEITH and MERSON, success, Panto., Empire, Oldham. Monday, G. T., Halifax. Thanks to L. Graydon, Esq., for Livermore Tour, 1907.

KEENE, BILLY, and JESSIE ADAMS, Society Duettists, Mimics, and Dancers. An Artistic Success Everywhere. On Tour. Didcott.

KENNEDY, ALEC, Actor-Vocalist, big success this week at the Tivoli, Manchester. Next week, Argyle, Birkenhead. Agents, Oliver and Holmes.

KENT, MISS MAY, Brixton Theatre Big Success of Song, "Bull and Bush." Encores Nightly.

KERNO, LOUIS, the Neat Coon Vocalist and Dancer. Still Encored Nightly. Sinbad, Metropole, Devonport. New Scena in Study.

KESSLER, MISS MABEL, Soprano Vocalist, Cornet, Post Horn, and Bugler Soloist, Great Success, Tower, Blackpool. Monday, P., Liverpool.

KIMBERLEY BOYS, Big Success, the Robbers, "Babes in the Wood," Crystal Palace.

KING and DELANE (GEO. and TOM), Refined Vocal Comedy Act. An enormous success, Empire, Burnley. Monday, Palace, Blackpool.

KIRK, HARRY, Comedian, Theatre Royal, Drury-lane. All communications to H. P. Towers, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane-square.

KLOOF, WILLIE, a successful Hassarac. Thanks re next year. Big hit, Grand Theatre, Luton; next, County Theatre, Bedford.

KNICK-KNACKS, THE (Miss MATTIE CRONIN and HARRY OXBERRY), This, Empire, Liverpool. Jan. 16 Palace, Bordesley.

KNIGHT STAR, Mysterious Man in Red. New Inimitable Spectacular Dumb Mystery Act. Elaborate Dresses, Properties. 93, Camden-street, N.W.

KYDD and KYDD, Refined Comedians. Cause endless amusement.—Cardiff Echo King's, Cardiff. Monday, Court, Wigan. Vacant April.

KYOTO, the Only and Original One Kyoto; also **MAY GERALDINE**. Success, Olympia, Bury. Jan. 16, Palace Theatre, Bordesley.

LA MARA, CHUMMIE, Principal Boy, "Cinderella" Company, Opera House, Burton-on-Trent.

LAND, FRED, Comedian, this week, Tivoli, South Shields; next week, Metropole, Gateshead.

LANG, GENTLE BROTHERS, Jan. 16, Empire, Dudley.

LANG, REM, Burlesque Conjuring Act, Big Success, Hippodrome, Scarborough. Vacant Monday. Wire.

LANTON and LANE, Milton Bode's "Cinderella." Their partnership was the result of careful selection.—Cambridge Chronicle. New T., Oxford.

LAROLA and ROSE CABANI, This Week, Argyle Birkenhead; Next Week, Central, North Shields. Agents, George Barclay and Co.

LASSAH, LILLIE, This week, Metropolitan and Queen's, Poplar. Met., Third Week; Poplar, Second Week. Next, Jan. 16, Empress, Brixton.

LAURELS, THE THREE, on the Ping Pong Table. Agents, Papa Brown, Pacey and Reeves. Empire, Hackney.

LAVELLE, BROS., Quaint Comedy Acrobats. Big success Palace, Lancaster. Jan 16, Palace, Blackpool.

LEA and LOVELL, American Song Illustrators, next week, P., Croydon. All coms., 15, Albert-square, Clapham-road, London, S.W.

LEAMORE, TOM, E., Great success in Town. For particulars see Large Advertisement.

LE CLERQ, GUS, big success as Gertie, Ugly Sister, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.

LEE, THE Original THREE SISTERS, Acrobats, Big success Palace, Blackburn. Next, Palace, Bath. Liberty Jan 23. Wire quick.

LEE and ARDEN, "The Lady and the Watchman." Big hit, People's Palace, Bristol.

LE FRE, ALBERT, Prince's Theatre, Bristol

LE GRAHAM, THREE SISTERS, conclude To-night Big Success, Hippo., Macclesfield. Monday, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

LEIGH, THREE SISTERS, Refined Entertainers. Monday, Queen's, Poplar. All communications direct.

LEIGHTON and MONA, the Smartest of all Piano Acts. Jan. 16, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

LE-MAY, TOM, the Real Musical Clown, W. Hamilton's Excursions, Kennaird Hall, Dundee.

LEONS, TWO, and MITZI, the Fat Girl from Leytonstone, To-night, Glasgow Concerts. Monday, Palace, Dundee. Also MELITA.

LES CARRES, ENIE, Pavilion, Leicester.

LESLIE BROTHERS, Jan. 16 Empire, Glasgow. R. Warner.

LESTER'S, LEO, Miniature Pantomime Sketch. "Sports." Pantomime, "Goody Two Shoes," Theatre, Margate.

LEVITE'S Sketch Co.; also BELLE IDA, Charming Characteristic and Danseuse. Coms., Little Levite's "Tandem" Troupe, 103, Acre-lane, Brixton.

LEYBOURNE, GEORGE, General Manager, Alhambra, Sandgate. Artistes communicate, Fred Durham's Agency.

LISTON, MARIE, Scoring Nightly, Title-rôle, "Dick Whittington." Communications, care of "The Era" Office.

LITTLE and GOODE (ADA, LUCY), in their Side-splitting Burlesque. Required, a Deputy. Lib. Jan. 16, 30. 20, Birdidge-place, Hunslet, Leeds.

LIZZETTE, THE FOUR SISTERS, Lady Acrobats; ELSIE RUBINA, Wire Dancer, on Tour. New Theatre, Aberdare, S.W.

LODGE, BROS., Silver Chain Acrobats, Big Success, Palace, Cork. Booked by Chester's Agency. Free Monday, also 23rd Wire, Palace, Cork.

LOYD, FRED, and CO., Comedy Sketch, "The Blind Spinster." Continued Success, Tivoli, Glasgow. Jan. 16, Varieties, Leeds.

LOGAN, DAINTY GRACIE, finishes To-night, Big Success, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent. Monday, Hippodrome, Ipswich.

LORIMER, JACK, the latest Scotch. Re-engaged Four Years, Palace, London. Exclusive Agents, T. Shaw and Co. See Back Page.

LORRISONS, THE (FRED and LILA), Eccentrics. Jan. 16, Alhambra, Sandgate. Booked by Mr Fred Durham.

LOTTO, LILO, and OTTO, Trick Cyclists. 2, Lambeth Palace-road, S.E.

LOUIE, SIGNOR and MADAME, This week, Olympia, Bury; next week, Gaiety, Oldham.

LOVELACES, THE, Song Illustrators, Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh. Letters, care of Crighton, 40, Lauriston-street.

LOVE'S, MAURICE, Sketch Company, Rushbury's "Fun on the Bristol" Tour. M. L., Widow O'Brien. Vacant Feb 27 Town Hall, Falkirk.

LUCAS, MR. and MRS. EDWARD H., in "Scenes from Dickens." This, Grand, Hanley; Next, Empire, Richmond. Jan 30, Lyceum, London.

LUCK, HARRY, Author and Comedian, Jan. 16, Barnard's, Chatham.

LUMIERE'S, MDLLE., ELECTRICAL FAIRY GROTTO, Complimented by Everyone. This week, P., Glasgow. Monday, P., Newcastle. Fully booked.

LYNCH, AGNESE and ARTHUR, with American Picture Songs. Tivoli, Glasgow. Monday, Hippodrome, Carlisle.

LYONS, HARRY, Comedian. Address, Auction Mart, Castlebar, Co. Mayo; after Sunday, Westport.

MACINTOSH, GEO., and LINA ROYAL, Vocalists and World's Champion Dancers. Great Success, Hippodrome, Castleford.

MACK, JULIAN, Thanks D. J. Clarke, Esq., for Nine Return Dates. Palace, Northampton. Fioni's Agency.

MACS, THE NEW, Comedians. Theatre Royal, Hanley.

MALCOLM, FRED, as Arthur, in Miss Carney's New Production "The Laundry." Palace, Camberwell.

MALONE and CONLEY, Terrific Hit as Hassarac and Hassric, F. J. Little's "Forty Thieves" T., Motherwell. F Vant and Bonnetti write.

MARCONIS, THE Great, Most Wonderful Electric Act on Earth. Usual Success, Ardwick Empire. Next week, Empire, Middlesbrough.

MARIOTTI, ADA, the Flexible Venus; MARTI and JULIETTA, on Tour, Barrs' Pantomime. Theatre, Canterbury.

MARNEY, LILY, Empire, Leicester.

MAROS, THE, Three Bar Comedians. Palace, North Shields. Next week, Palace, Aberdeen. Liberty Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13 Coms., above.

MARTIN, MISS HELEN, Jan. 16, Empire, Stratford. Agent, Fred Higham.

M'ASKELL, Comic Conjuror, Saturday next, Western Concerts (Three Halls). Address, 25, Elizabeth-street, Ibrox, Glasgow.

MAXFORD, DAN, Address, 102, Rusholme-road, Manchester.

MAXWELL and FRANCES, TOM and (his Daughter) VIRGINIA. Jan. 16, Barnard's, Woolwich.

MAYE, PERCY, All Dates postponed for the present. Thanks Managers. 134, Southbank-road, Southport.

MAYNALL, ALF, Filly, "Beauty and the Beast." Grand Theatre, Woolwich.

MAYNE, ALICIA, Australian Dramatic Songstress, with Beautifully Coloured Photo-Illustrations. 12, Dover-mans., Brixton.

MAYNE, VERA, Success as Principal Boy, "Robinson Crusoe." Jan. 16, Theatre Royal, Bedford Leigh! See Back Page.

MAYNE, ERNIE, Buttons, J. F. Elliston's "Cinderella," Grand Theatre, Doncaster.

MAYO, JOE (the Black M.P.), Lancashire's Favourite, the Original Lancashire Collier Lad. Mayo, Carmen-street, Ardwick, Manchester.

MAYON and MARLE, the Successful Comedy Couple. Monday, Empire, Portsmouth. Vacant 23. Agent, Sley.

M'CANN'S Famous Performing Irish Terriers and World's Champion Leaping Dogs Vacant Feb 6, 13. Address, Hippodrome, Ipswich.

MEIER and MORA, this Month, big Success, Alhambra, Paris; Month of February, Lyceum, London. Full Barrasford Tour to follow.

MEPHISTO, the Ideal Contortionist, Jan. 16, Empress Theatre, Hartlepool. Agents, W. Sley or H. Day.

MERRY, MISS FLO, Baroness, in "Cinderella." Big success. Vacant March 13 for Good Character Part. Colosseum Theatre, Oldham.

MESSER, G. F., The Enterprise, Goldharbour-lane, Camberwell, S.E. H. O. C. Meetings Every Sunday, 8 30.

M'FALL, JOHN E, Gardeners' Arms, 10, Market-street, and 5, Manse-lane, Greenock. Agent, M.H.A.R.A. "The Era" and other papers kept.

MILSTED, MISS EMMIE, as Saucee, the Dainty Coloured Maid, in "Aladdin." Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

MILTON, MILLY, Versatile Vocalist. Success Nightly with Illustrated Songs and Coon Songs. A.A.B.M. Touring Co. Theatre Royal, Rugby.

MILTON'S MARIONETTES, Address, Arthur Milton, the Marionette King, Post-office, Kettering.

M'KAYS, THE, Palace, Lincoln; Tivoli, Leicester.

MONTAGUE, LEO, huge success in Malta, Eleventh Week. Re-engaged till April.

MONTGOMERY, ALFRED, Up-to-date Entertainment Provider, 51, Cornwallis-road, Upper Holloway, London, N.

MORELI, MISS DAISY, Specially Engaged to open Monday as Principal Boy, with Milton-Rays' Panto., Theatre Royal, Stockport.

MORTIMER, MAUDE, Originality. Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

MOZZETTO, Prince of Boy Jugglers. Hippodrome, Carlisle. Jan. 16, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

MUELLER and COYNE, This Week, Empire, Edinburgh; Next Week, Empire, Glasgow.

MUIR and BARTLETT, Still and Graydon Tour. To-night, Alhambra, Brighton. Monday, Palace, Southampton.

MURRAY, LESLIE H., Magician and Card Manipulator, Palace, Bath; Next, Palace, Lincoln.

MURRAY, LOUIS, free Monday, Tivoli, Dublin.

MURRAY, SLADE, Palace Theatre, Atterolife. The admitted Success of all Bills. At Liberty Jan. 23, 30. Open to offers.

MYERS, CLEM, Ugly Sister, Stage-Manager, "Cinderella," Theatre Royal, Gloucester.

MYERS, ERNIE, and LILY LONSDALE, Comedian and Principal Girl, "Forty Thieves," Monday, Theatre Royal, Ashton, for Two Weeks.

NEIMAN'S FRED, Variety and Speciality Agency, 74, The Grove, Camberwell, London, S.E.

NELSON and THOMAS, "On the Ra-Ta." Thanks for kind inquiries, better. Resume Monday, Palace, Swansea.

NEROS, TWO, New Act again most Successful at T. R., Chatham. Jan 16, O. H., Tunbridge Wells. F. Mouillot, Esq., Pantomime.

NEWHAM and LATIMAR, in their Own New Répertoire, on Tour. Address, "The Era" Office.

NEW YORK QUARTETTE, THE Original. Jan. 16, T. R., Colchester. Principal Dancers and Parts, in "Girl from Bond-street." Fully Booked 1905.

NOBLE, DAN, and MARIE YORKE. Thanks Madame Willoughby Offer Panto. This, terrific hit, Palace, Cork; next, T., South Shields, Return.

NOTT, B. C., Popular Comedian; and DAISY DEVONPORT, Comedienne and Dancer. Telephone, 1 X 3, Langley Mill, Notts. Agent, J. Verno.

OAKDENE, Novelty Ventriloquist, "Fun in a Studio." Vacant 16th and 23rd, precede Middlesbrough. 32, Cornbrook-park-rd, Manchester.

OBO, BROTHERS, Laughing Comedians Finish To-night three successful weeks Opera House, Cheltenham. Jan 16, Opera House Harrogate.

O'CONNOR and BRADY, Simon and Stout. Fourth Week, Grand Theatre, Derby.

OCTAVIA, MDLLE., Yankee Snake Charmer, Moss's Waverley Carnival.

ODELL, CHARLES, Comedian and Dancer; and TINA PADLEY, Serio and Balladist, on Tour. Permanent address, 200, Stamford-road, Heywood.

ONDA and ARTELL, Gymnastic Pot-Pourri Act, Tivoli, Manchester. Jan. 16, Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow.

ONDA and LEON, Conversational Gymnasts, Jan 16, Oxford, Middlesbrough.

O'NEILL, TOM, Comedian. Two Big Weeks, Belfast and Dublin. Vacant Monday. Wire, E., Dublin; after Sat., 143, Clifford-st., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

OSBORNE, CHARLIE, the Author, Composer, and Light Comedian. 54, Fortess-road, London, N.W.

OSMOND, MISS MADGE, Principal Girl, Harry Firth's "Cinderella" Palace, Bridlington; next, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

PACEY and REEVES' AGENCY, 76, Waterloo-road, S.E. 'Phone, 894, Hop. Telegrams, "Parthenon, London."

PACKER, TOM, 75in. of Clean Comedy. Tremendous success, Palace, Cork. F. Higham.

PALMERS, MUSICAL. Monday next, Lyric Theatre, Liverpool. Also Miss DAISY PALMER, Serio and Specialities.

PARK'S ETON BOYS, Royal, Standard, Gatti's, Royal. Willie Benn, Variety Agent. Tel., 610, Brixton.

PAYNE, GILBERT, the Popular Comedian, and PATTIE FAIRLEY, Burlesque Actress, Success. Vacant Feb 27. Metropole Theatre, Devonport.

PAYNE'S, WALTER, Bio-Photoscope Twelfth Visit, Empire, Portsmouth. One Show. Vacant Monday. All communications, E., Portsmouth.

PEARCE and WARD, Comedy Pair. This week, big hit, Empire, Dudley; Monday, Return, Kidderminster. Offers Invited for March.

PERMANE, W. Siberian Educated and Equestrian Bears. Foresters', London.

PERRYS, THE Happy (GRACIE and JOE). A Bit of the Best of Everything. No Vacancies until October.

PHILLIPS and TERRY finish To-night, Palace, Leicester. Monday, Hammersmith and Camberwell

POLLARD BROS. and KITTY GREY, "Nailed to the Mast," Vacant (Two Acts) Jan. 30. Fred Pollard, Theatre Royal, Chatham.

POOLE, DAVID, Novelty Ventriloquist, Big Hit, Palace, Blackpool. Return Two Weeks in the Season. Monday, Oxford, Middlesbrough.

POOLE PELHAM TROUPE, Singers, Dancers, and Acrobats. Big Success of own Circus. Now Touring Ireland. No Vacancies.

PRINELLAS, LES, in Beautiful Scena "A Country Flirtation." this, Grand Pavilion, Altrincham; next, Hippodrome, Macclesfield.

PROSPER and MADAME BENN in their Instrumental Sketch, 'From Pavement to Stage." Grand, Sheffield. Fortune and Granville.

PROVEANIES, THE, Champion Lady Trick Cyclists. A Sure Success. Hippodrome, Bury.

PRY, PAUL; MARIE ST. JOHN, the Pare, with an Original Style, Pretty Pet, great success, "Cinderella," Opera House, Torquay.

PYRAH, HARRY, Bar Performer, no Vacancies, Address, Imperial Hotel, Morecambe. Sole Agent, J. Bath.

RADIUM GIRLS (NANCY and AMY), Jan. 16, Empire, Dudley.

RAFFIN'S, MDLLE., Incomparable Troupe of Monkeys, Palace, West Hartlepool.

RALSTON BROTHERS, Boys with the Voices. This week, Gatti's; next week, Argyle, Birkenhead. 23, Met., Manchester. Bentley's Agency.

RALSTON and FRANCES. Nautical Scene, entitled "Colours of Our Empire's Flag." Going big, Empire, Greenock; next week, Paisley.

RANO and MASON. Feb. 16, Middlesex. Feb. 23, Greenwich.

RAY, HARRY, and LILLIE CALDEN, the hit this Week of the Programme. A draw, Palace, Aberdeen. Jan. 16, Circus, Rochdale.

RAY, MR. PHIL, London Pavilon nightly. Address, G. Barclay and Co.; or, 3, Kiea-avenue, Clapham.

REDFERNS, THE (RUBIE and ELSIE), Premier Lady Banjoists and Speciality Artistes. Monday, Coliseum, Brighton.

REED, MISS EVA, Comedienne and Top-boot Dancer. Address, 12A, Westbury-villas, Westbury-av., London, N. Willy Zanary communicate.

REED and LERNE, the Novel Comedians. Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Plymouth, till further notice.

REGAN and RYAN, a Greater Success than ever. Princess's Theatre, Glasgow (Third Season in this City).

RESDAN, RITA, Scoring Big Success Nightly as Aladdin, Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury. Monday, Avenue, Kettering.

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RHODES, THE WILSON, COMEDY TRIO. King's Theatre, Liverpool.

RICH and RICH, Marlborough Theatre, N. Sole Agent, George Barclay.

RICK and LAUREL Finish To-night King's, Liverpool. Monday, Palace, Cork.

RITTER, VICTOR, Musical Clown, with Original Business, on Tour. Care of "The Era."

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ROSS-CLYDE COMEDY CO., THE, this, Gatti's (Westminster-bridge-road); next (Jan. 16), Palace, Lincoln.

ROWLEY, MR. J. W., Panto. Season, T R., Bradford. Letters, 37, Salem-st. Also for Miss ELLA DEAN.

ROYAL, TOM W., Refined Comedian Clever and Smart Dancer, Holder of Cup and Belt. Success, Parthenon, Liverpool; next, Hippo., Ashton.

ROZE and CALVERT, Theatre Royal, Bradford. See another Page. Full 1905-6-7.

ROZELE, Le Roi de L'Air, Hippodrome, Southport. Next Week, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy.

RUSHFORTHS, THE, and KING LEO, Two Successful Acts, Standard, Pimlico, 8 5 and 9 0 o'clock. Next week, Grand, Gravesend.

RYDE and BEEMAN, Famous Acrobatic Grotesques, talk of every town we visit. Vacant April 17 and 24. Letters, T. R., Scarborough.

RYLAND, CLIFF, the man with his head in his hat. Working, thank you. Don't thank ——.

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SALAMONSKY'S FIRE HORSE. Address, Eugene Marrder, Jan. 16, Empire, Sheffield.

SANFORD and LYONS, in Panto., Breaking all Records, Grand Theatre, Brighton. See other advt. Agent, Tom Shaw.

SANDY and CARL, the Comedians of the Day. Usual success, Circus, Rochdale. Next week, Grand, Bolton.

SAN SIMOSA, Dainty Little Jap Juggler, Brilliant Success, Wolverhampton and Southport Few Immediate Vacancies. 166, Tulse-hill, Brixton, London.

SCOTT, GREAT, King of the Ladder. Big success Walham-green (Return); next, Queen's, Poplar. Open time, January, 1906. Agent, Foster.

SCOTT, MISS WINNIE This week, Tivoli, Barrow. Monday next, New Hippodrome, Preston.

SEABORNES, THREE, Great Sensational New Act. This Week, Empire, York (starring). Jan. 16, Hipp., Belfast. Pacey & Reeves

SEEBOLD, SCHACK, Empire, Rochdale. Wife recovered. Will resume business shortly as Two Seebolds again.

SELBY and MYERS, the Bailiffs, "Little Bo-Peep." Jan. 16, Theatre Royal, Bishop Auckland.

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SILCOTT, THREE SISTERS, New Century Theatre, Motherwell.

SILL and SILLCOTT, Pantomimists. A half a loaf is better than half a brick (to eat). Successful 5, Shaw-street, Oldham.

SILVO, Gymnast; LOUIE DUVAL, Comedienne, Dancer. This week, Empire, Wrexham; next, Hippodrome, Carlisle. Free, Jan. 23.

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SMYTHSONS, THE, this, Empress, Brixton; next (Jan 16), Canterbury and Paragon.

SOFTLEY, HARRY, Clincher, Geo. Gray's "Fighting Parson." Bordesley Empire.

SOLARI DUO, Clever and Refined Vocal and Instrumental Act, big success, this, Pier, Southport; next, Palace, Belfast. Fioni, Liverpool.

SOLO and MAYO. F. S., a nimble dancer and hard-working comedian . . . King.—Stage, Jan. 12. T. R., Nottingham.

SOMERS, FELIX Facial King, "People We Know." Town Hall, Oxford.

SPARGO, Athlete, Strong Man, and Musician, a Great Act of the Two Extremes, Liberty Jan. 23 and 30. Address, Hippodrome, Scarborough.

SPRAYS, LES (MARIE and MINNIE). This Week, Gatti's Mon., Jan. 16, Empire, Portsmouth

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STANLEY and TICH BOURNE, in their Refined Vocal Comedy Patter Act. Jan. 16, Empire, Kilburn

STANTON and WILMOT, in "King and Courtier" Vacant Jan. 16 and 23. Didcott's.

STAVORDALE QUINTETTE, Topping Wolverhampton. Next, Theatre Royal, Oldham. Jan. 30, Easter, and Whit Required. Tom Shaw.

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STEINWAY GLEE SINGERS. Their singing affords much enjoyment.—The Times. Grand Theatre, Fulham, S.W.

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STERN and STERN, Fifth Engagement, John Restall's "Cinderella." Theatre Royal, Gloucester.

ST. JOHNS, THE, Comedy, Musical Act, and Dancers, complimented by the Manager, P., Cork. At Liberty Jan. 16, on. 49, Oxford-st., Liverpool.

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SWAN and VESTA, in a New and Novel Comedy Act, "The Captain and the Ship." Sole Business Manager, "Lord" George Aytoun.

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TAYLOR and WHITE, Comedians, Patterers, Vocalists, and Expert Dancers. Continued success, Imperial Hippo, Belfast. Liberty Jan. 16, on.

TELL and TELL, Great Comedy Act, Pier Pavilion, Southport.

TEXAS, CAPTAIN and MADAME, the Modern William Tell, Human Targets, the Man that does not miss. Address, 260, High-street, Ayr.

TISO, LILY, Jan. 16, Empire, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Agents, Warner and Co.

TRAVERS, NAT, and CO. London Pavilion. Fourth Week.

TRAVERS, VICTOR. Address, care of Geo. Barclay.

TRENT, MISS CISSY, the Original Dainty Dancing Doll. Usual success, K. T., Cardiff. Monday, R. C., Wigan. At Liberty March 6.

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VANE, MISS OLIVE, Clever Male Impersonator, Alhambra, Belfast. Monday, Tivoli, Dublin. Cork to follow. Agent, Stebbings, Manchester.

VARNO and NANO, Sensational and Comedy Gymnasts Marston and Buckstone's Panto. Vacant, March 6, on. Monday, Theatre Royal, Hebburn.

VENTOR, ALBERT, Comedian, "Robinson Crusoe" Pantomime, Opera House, Cheltenham.

VERE and ROYAL, Vocal Comedy Artistes, Big Success, Hippo, Salford. Monday next, Hippodrome, Ashton. Same Firm, Fourth Week.

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VIOLI, Lady Instrumentalist, Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.

VIVIAN'S VAUDEVILLE COMPANY, Empire, Wolverhampton.

VOX, BARNEY, "Ireland's Own," Success, F., Birmingham. Monday, E., Sheffield All among the Pigeons this week. Sand Dance, Frank.

VYPONDS, THE (FRED and MAUDE), conclude To-night Hippo., Wigan; next, Broadhead Tour. New Society Scena, "The Honeymoon."

WAITE, TED, "the Long Comedian," Vacant Jan. 30. This Week, Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow. Next week, Argyle, Birkenhead.

WALKER, COMICAL, Local Nippers. Mons. REKLAW, Globe Performer. Vacant Jan. 23. Wire, Alhambra Theatre, Belfast.

WALLACE, DAVE, MARIE TILLEY, usual triumphant success, Hippodrome, Norwich. Ditto this week, Hippodrome, Ipswich. Encored Nightly.

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WEST, JOHN F., The Quaint Scot. Monday, Alhambra, Belfast.

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WILKINSON'S, MATT, Comedy Sketch Company, "The Registry Office." Address, Tivoli, Glasgow.

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WILLOW, BESSIE, Bigger success than ever, Title-rôle, "Dick Whittington," P., Portsmouth; Monday, E., Oldham.

WILSON, J. A., Negro Comedian, "The Black Oracle," Palace Theatre, Sunderland. New Act shortly. Sole Agent, Tom Shaw, London.

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WISPER and BEATTIE BLOOM, Success, Moss's, Belfast, South Shields, Bordesley, Hull. Monday, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy. Swansea, &c., to follow.

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WORTH, BEATIE, and SAM SHIPLEY, Success, Empire, Hull. Vacant, Jan. 16, 23. Wire above; after Sat., 1, Goodwin-st., Pendleton, Manchester.

WRIGHT, FRED, and MAUD GARLAND. Monday, Return, Palace, Greenwich. All communications, 118, New North-road, London, N.

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YOUNG, TED, great success as Widow Twankey, Brixton Theatre. Good Songs Required.

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MAX MERLIN, Crocodile. Own Scenery. Second Week, Hippodrome. Everyone Talking, except Reporters. Being Winter-time, think they must have rusted. I never grease 'em. Liberty Monday. Saturday, 66, North-street, Scarborough; after, 16A, East-parade, Leeds.

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THE DRAMA IN PITTSBURG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PITTSBURG, PA.—DEC. 26, 1904.—A welcome visit was paid to the "Nixon" last week by Miss Ada Rehan, supported by Mr Charles Richman and company, when *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The School for Scandal* were presented. The former play, being one of Miss Rehan's "chevaux de bataille," was excellently performed, and brought a rich harvest of applause for the leading actors; Mr Richman's Petruchio being a finished work of art. The company was less successful in the presentation of *The School for Scandal*, which lacked vivacity and elegance.

Manager Harry Davis was not very fortunate in his choice of Mr Eugene Walter's new military play, entitled *Sergeant James*, as a farewell performance for his leading man, Mr William Courtenay. The play, which is the work of a Philadelphia newspaper man, is a conventional melodrama, not possessing a single original situation. A young man who enlists because the girl of his heart is forced into a marriage with another man in order to save the family from ruin, the marriage turning out a failure, and the man a villain. The hero proves [illegible] good soldier that he is promoted ser[illegible] creates roars of by his troop. The villains p[illegible] and James are expert by breaking into h[illegible]ell and James are expert placed his [illegible]Cameron, described as the 'kerchief many surprises for his audience. Harry hande[illegible]er, comedian and dancer, is praiseworthy; Lil Hartley is a pleasing vocalist and comedienne; and Will Harvey, character comedian, is also well received. The Bioscope, with several up-to-date films, is also an attraction.

DOVER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Limited; Managing Director, Mr F. C. Dew.—Mr George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's company opened to a crowded house on Monday with *Judy*. Miss Florrie Groves plays the title-rôle in a wonderfully intelligent and versatile manner; Miss Mary Neil in the dual-part of Alice and Polly received a well-deserved ovation for her brilliant portrayal; and Miss Annie Mitchell gave prominence to the part of Becky. The popular character of Mr[illegible]rip, the detective, certainly loses none of its very [illegible]tensity as played by Mr George Kirk, who proves [illegible]ective foil to the villainies of Duburg as por- Agnes [illegible] by Mr Richard Ferris. Mr William Vane is Mr Fra[illegible]il as Sterling; Mr Will Casey is cleverly satisfacto[illegible] of Mr Jules [illegible] as the coster Jim; Mr H. Landeck as scenery were [illegible]formances, and Miss Violet Langley "BUSTER BR[illegible] A well-rendered character study of crowded houses d[illegible] Duquesne, the addition[illegible]ERMLINE. improved chorus makin[illegible] OPERA HOUSE.—Sole more enjoyable. W. E. Potts. — Mr

UNDER the title of *A Desperate Chance* a Germ[illegible]arian company are Kremer has dramatised the famou[illegible]ted on Monday. case, which at the time created such[illegible] was worthy of the United States in general and [illegible]d with his particular. The story runs as follows: [illegible]ccess- brothers, Jack and Ed. Biddle, in attempting [illegible]to rob a shop, shoot and kill the proprietor and a detective who comes to arrest them. They are sentenced to be hanged, but during their incarceration, Ed, who possesses strange hypnotic power over women, makes love to the wife of the prison warden, who not only furnishes them with means of escape but also joins them in their flight. Their escape is soon discovered, and after an exciting chase they are overtaken and mortally wounded. Once beyond the baleful influence of Ed's eyes, the woman regrets her action, and is reunited to her forgiving husband through their little girl. Messrs Forrester and Mittenthal's company presented this play at the Bijou last week, and though the drama has through time lost in interest to a certain extent, the theatre was well patronised throughout the week, and the various thrilling situations were followed in breathless silence by the audience. The rôles of the brothers Biddle were taken by Messrs Edwin Forsberg and Jack Sharkey, while Miss Eugenie Besserer portrayed Ka[illegible] Loffler, the warden's wife.

PITTSBURG, PA.—JAN. 9.—Mr J. M. Barrie's delightful fantasy *The Admirable Crichton* was last week's attraction at the Nixon. The piece was presented by Mr Charles Frohman's competent company, headed by Mr William Gillette, whose acting, appearance, and reading of the part of Crichton were excellent. Mr Owen's Earl of Loam was a clever piece of characterisation, and Miss Sybil Carlisle's Lady Mary Lasenby was especially commendable.

MR HARRY DAVIS, of the New Alvin, chose Jules Verne's story, "Around the World in Eighty Days," for his annual Christmas spectacle. Among the specialities which have been introduced into the play is the Pony Ballet of English girls from the Empire Theatre, London; the Hassan Ben Ali Troupe of Arabs from the St. Louis World's Fair; and Blockson and Burns, eccentric acrobats, and the Kiralfy ballet. For the part of Phineas Fogg Mr Harry Glazier has been engaged, and portrays it admirably. Another new member of the company is Mr George Mack, who plays Passe Partout, the funny French valet.

THE GAIETY had a charming play on its bills last week, *David Harum*, adapted from the famous novel by Edward Noyes Westcott. Mr Julius Cahn's company, with Mr William H. Turner in the title-rôle, gave a finished interpretation of this touching comedy, to the delight of the numerous audience present. Of course David Harum, the banker and horse trader, is the principal figure, but everyone of the thirteen characters that surrounds him is a realistic personality.

MR WILL C. MURPHY'S melodrama, *Why He Divorced Her?* which has been presented by M. W. Taylor's company at the Empire Theatre in the past week, is founded on a scandal that attracted considerable attention here not long ago. The *corpus delicti* is a bunch of violets, which stain a lover's waistcoat and betray to a wronged husband his newly wedded wife's secret. The chief characters were cleverly handled by Mr Wayne Arey and Miss Lorna Elliott.

THE Duquesne has been occupied by Nixon and Zimmerman's Opera Company, the work presented being a comic opera adapted from the German of Kren and Lindau, and entitled *The Strollers*. The story of the play deals with the adventures of a gipsy fortune-teller called Bertha and a grocer called August Lump. Some of the situations are extremely funny. The music is tuneful throughout, and Mr Robert Lett as Lump and Miss Gene Luneska as the sly Bertha keep the audience in good humour. Miss Maida Snyder is a sweet Mimi, and danced "divinely."

THEODORE KREMER'S latest work, *The Great Automobile Mystery*, which was performed here for the first time at the Bijou Theatre last week, reminds one very much of his *A Desperate Chance*. In both cases the hypnotic power of a man is responsible for all the mischief, with this difference, that while in the former a prison is the scene of the action, an automobile furnishes the means of action in the latter. The company under the direction of Messrs Hurtig and Seamon, which presented the melodrama, did its work conscientiously.

THE Grand offered a good entertainment to its habitués last week, the chief attraction being Paul Spadoni, juggler and cannon ball manipulator, who was much admired. The St. Onge Brothers appeared in a clever cycling act, and [illegible] Idol Dresser, comedienne; John Burch, the [illegible] hearts of the hats; and the Three Madcaps, novel entertainments dancers, were in the company. [illegible]no has worked "THE WORLD BEATERS" company, and on the boards of the Harry Williams [illegible]Melo[illegible]om- senting two sparkling comedies, other [illegible]akes a *Out* and *Pong, Pang, Tong*, which grand [illegible] ventri- applauded. [illegible] benefit [illegible] comedian, [illegible]lly Turner [illegible]ng has [illegible]

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.

NEW THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Z. Andrews.—Mr John H. Tomkinson's Royal Gipsy Children are here this week, and are delighting crowded houses nightly. The Lizette Troupe of lady acrobats are especially clever, and the same may be said of the Musical Keiths in their novel entertainment. Mr Fred M'Lean, a quaint comedian, keeps the house in roars; Miss Elsie Rubins, wire dancer, is worthy of special note; and Misses Evie Lynn, Gracie Bard, Lotta Star, and Alice Dunn render various songs in a capable manner. Mr Sam Paul also adds to the evening's enjoyment.

ABERDEEN.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr H. C. Cavanah.—*The Belle of New York* has followed the important Shakespearian presentations of the Benson company. The piece is as popular as ever. Miss Mora Hersee as Violet Gray, the Salvation Lass, sings and plays her part with much charm; A. Meymott is successful as Ichabod [illegible] familiar parts of Fifi, Cora, and [illegible] by Miss Ada Elliston, [illegible]ter Emro. [illegible]-Director, [illegible]lent [illegible]ess [illegible]. Mill; [illegible]d bill is [illegible]and Miss [illegible]kins; Rice, [illegible]nton, Flemine, [illegible]AM. [illegible]STIES.—On Monday the [illegible]ablishment produced their [illegible] libretto is by Mr Fred Budd. [illegible] conductor of the orchestra, [illegible] music. The title-part is sustained Fairley, who as Aladdin has com[illegible]on the approval of the audience. [illegible]ngs in a charming and animated manner, her [illegible]gest hit being with "Old man moon." Miss Fairley was suffering from indisposition on Tuesday, and at very short notice her part was undertaken by Miss Dorothy Ryder, who acquitted herself admirably. Miss Florence Budd made a graceful and winning Princess Alice, and gave a good rendering of the song, "Under a Panama hat." Mr Eddie Howe as Widow Kelly creates much fun; and Messrs Wernier and Bields proved themselves a clever couple of knockabouts. Abanazar is amusingly embodied by Mr F. Budd, and Mr Harry Taylor gains sympathy by his impersonation of the Emperor of Japan. Mr Arthur George, a coloured artiste, is the Slave of the Lamp. In the Palace scene he is cheered to the echo for his song "The Music Hall." Some smart speciality dances are arranged and produced by Miss Dorothy Ewins, and Mr Arthur Gilman makes an excellent acting-manager.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr Armstrong Fairbairn.—The revels of pantomime have again been renewed here with the arrival of Messrs Dottridge and Longden's attractive New Year's burlesque of *The Forty Thieves*. Some good specialities are introduced. The world-famed Ahmed Ibrahim and the Original Troupe of Bedouin Arabs present their marvellous bounding exhibition, "Fantasia Arabs." Then there is the original man-monkey Pongo, Jas. Dubois, in his rope performance, as well as the Reed-Oetzmann Troupe (six in number) of dancers. Ali Baba is played by Mr Jas Danvers, a most amusing actor of burlesque, whose absurdities are very laughter provoking. His efforts are cleverly seconded by Messrs Ernie Myers as Hassarac, Cliff Dover as Cogia, Forsyth Bruce as Cassim, Phil Leonard as Mustapha, Misses Dolly Elsworthy as Ganem, Lily Lonsdale as Morgiana, Cissie Kingsley as Abdallah, May Fallowfield as Zorilda, Ada Beaumont as Fizzali, and Dubois and the Oetzmanns in other parts.

ASHTON HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr C. Revill; Director of Entertainments, Mr F. Wilmot; Acting-Manager, Mr L. Campkin.—At the variety hippodrome this week there are a number of star turns. The celebrated Moxon Family accomplish daring and difficult feats; farcical business is displayed by the clever continental grotesques Ray and Miles; an amusing speciality act is given by Monks and Wood; the Anglo-American comedian J. H. Bowman pleases immensely with his song and patter; Kioto, the clever Japanese hand-balancer, is wonderfully adept; Bromley and Fontein are attractive vocal entertainers; Tom W. Royal introduces some artistic movements into his Lancashire stepping; Craig, Rose, and Craig, the gymnastic experts, are remarkably adroit; the Marvellous Mannikins are manipulated by Mdlle. Hayde; and the pictures of the Bioscope are attractive.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr W. Leech.—In the domain of mystery and illusion we have the remarkable phenomenon, Aga, the suspended maiden, presented by Herr Albert Winckler. Chris Masters elicits deserved applause; Harry Wenburn, the popular eccentric, also is welcome as a vocal humourist; Juma's Ostoroons are a clever company of juvenile minstrels; Robins and Collier, "The Photographer and the Lady," are remarkably funny; Wilfred, the flexible marvel from [illegible] States, is the puzzle of the doctors; Alba and [illegible]a do some wonderful juggling acts; Andy [illegible]rgiuson, vocal comedian, introduces some of his latest song successes; the Lyons Trio are diverting pantomimists; a novelty perch act is performed by the Itrams; and the pictures of the Cinématograph are enjoyed.

ATTERCLIFFE.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr Claude Seaton.—That spirited and interesting racing drama *Bound to Win*, under the direction of Mr and Mrs F. G. Kimberley, is paying a welcome return visit. As Harry Lyndon Mr F. G. Kimberley plays with quiet and dignified force; Mr James Hont gives an excellent portrayal of Ned Oakley; the Squire Forbes of Mr Sydney Rennef is a good performance; Mr F. Strickland plays with care and finish as Phillip Ayre; Mr Fred Tensur is well placed as Joe Blake; and Mr Horace Custins is good as Willie Wilkins, and, with Mr Edgar [illegible]n as Horatio Buffett, furnish the necessary [illegible] which is judiciously interwoven in the plot. [illegible]y Forbes Miss Nina Blake Adams plays [illegible]thetic grace; Miss Edie Macklin as [illegible]y is vivacious and full of charm, sings songs in good style; Miss Kathryn [illegible]omplimented on her rendering of [illegible]s Orme; and Mrs James Hont [illegible] Forbes. Mr Harry Lyndon is seen to advantage in the [illegible]art of Detective Shirley; and also combines the duties of acting-manager.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr T. Allan Edwards; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr W. Massey Baker.—The principal item here is furnished by the Magic Kettle. Kavados gives a smart and clever show as juggler, equilibrist, and cannon-ball performer; Slade Murray is an acceptable actor-vocalist; Flo Melville is a winsome comedienne; the Sheffield Photo Company shows some good films with the Bioscope; Ossi Souplessi is a skilful gymnast on the silver rings; and Elgar and Gaskill are seen in a musical sketch entitled *The Bobby's Temptation*.

AYR.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr Harry W. Day.—On the first three nights of this week the theatre was occupied by Mr C. P. Levilly's company in *Amorelle*. Miss Dot Stephens, with her dainty and charming style, was an admirable Amorelle, singing with acceptance, and received repeated encores. Miss Ada Grey in the part of Lesbia made a good appearance and vocalised well. As the innkeeper's daughter Miss C. Blondin was very clever. Mr Leo Simpkin as Dr. Crow had a part which fitted him exactly, and showed much humour. Mr Arthur Cozens merited praise as Jules, and admirable assistance was supplied by Messrs A. Elwyn, E. Granby, and F. Carrington.

BACUP.

NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr [illegible]nk Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr [illegible]hard Nightingale.—*Life's Sweetest Sin* is being [illegible]yed here this week by Mr T. Arthur Jones's [illegible]. 1 company. Mr T. Arthur Jones makes a hit Captain Marston; Mr A. Bartlett Garth as Dr. [illegible]brooke brings out the villainous traits of his [illegible]acter well to the fore; as do Mr George R. J. [illegible]stin as Flash Jim and Mr C. Vernon Proctor as [illegible]am the Scribe. Miss Madge Moreley gives evidence of her undoubted ability as Doreene Rivers; Miss Amy Rudd shows much feeling as Fay Colbrooke; Mr Edward Russell is comical as Bob Tanner; and Miss Sara Dudley gets some fun out of the part of Bess Grayson.

BARNSLEY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr A. C. Mitchell.—A visit of *The School Girl* is the attraction here this week, the popular musical comedy being played by Mr Charles Macdona's company. Miss Nellie Hodson makes a winsome Lilian Leigh; Miss Kate Forster charmingly sustains the double rôle of Mother Superior and Mrs Marchmont; Cicely is made the most of by Miss Jenny Bonney; Mr Alec Chentrens is a typical Edgar Verney; General Marchmont is well presented by Mr Charles Adeson; Mr Max Copeland is an excellent Sir Ormsby St Leger; Mr Alfred Leslie also scores in the part of Tubby Bedford. The piece is well staged and a great success.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr George Stone.—Mr Charles Frohman's company, in *Sherlock Holmes*, is here. The title-rôle is again ably taken by Mr H. A. Saintsbury, who is as brilliantly successful as heretofore, Dr. Watson being exceptionally well presented by Mr Lawrence Leyton. John Forman has a capable representative in Mr Marc M'Dermott, and the exceptional villainy of Professor Moriarty is finely pictured by Mr W. F. Stirling. Mr Leslie Carter as James Larrabee and Mr Pelham Rayner as Sidney Prince are distinctly effective. Miss Vere Longden is a sweet Alice Faulkner, and the Mrs Faulkner of Miss Clarice Doncaster, the Madge Larrabee of Miss Maud Linden and the Mrs Smedley of Miss Ethel St. Leger are quite artistic.

TIVOLI.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr Tom Whiting.—Miss Madge Gray, who tops the bill here this week, is very successful in her singing, and her mimicry is exceedingly clever. W. Belloni's performing cockatoos are undoubtedly extraordinary; J. C. Manly is a clever comedian; Miss Sheila M'Neil creates roars of laughter with her songs; Mellie and Nora give a very pleasing musical act; Bruce and Ross do a capital comedy acrobatic act; and Charlie Bayman is an excellent Negro comedian.

BATH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr Lewis A. Long.—Mr Peter Davey's pretty production of *Goody Two Shoes* concluded on Saturday last its short run of three weeks before a crowded and enthusiastic house. The lady principals all received choice bouquets, and during the evening Mr Egbert Lewis, the lessee, addressed the audience, expressing his thanks for the patronage bestowed. On Monday *My Lady Molly* was received with every token of approval. The company is under the direction of Mr Fredk. Mouillot. Miss Beatrice Edwardes presents a captivating impersonation of the title-part, and is closely followed in popular favour by Miss Zoe Gilfillan as Alice Coverdale. Both ladies have powerful and cultivated voices, and the pretty musical numbers that fall to their share are given in admirable fashion. Two other parts that are in good hands are those of Hester and Madaline Mirabeau, played respectively by Miss Mabel Carr and Mdlle. Ella Darcier, each of whom meet with cordial recognition. Miss Hilda Marks and Miss Kate Holmes are bright and winsome serving-maids. Amongst the gentlemen honours are secured by Mr George M'Closkie as Mickey O'Dowd, who raises the audience to keen hilarity. Mr H. Godwin Hunt is well suited to the character of the country squire, Sir Miles Coverdale, a word of praise likewise being due to Mr Frederick Silverstone as Reuben Oates. The rôles of the two young suitors, Captain Harry Romney and Lionel Bland, are in the hands of Mr A. T. Hoare and Mr Ernest Mozar. Mr Leonard Leslie is a capital musical director, keeping his forces, both on the stage and in the orchestra, well in hand. The general manager for Mr Mouillot is Mr F. Leslie Moreton.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr W. Trussell.—The newest mystery, "Dida," is bewildering large audiences here. Charles Mildare's bird imitations appear more natural than ever. Valoni juggles as neatly as before, his pigeons being admirably trained. The Walonells' comic and daring act on the triple bars is loudly applauded. The Three Sisters Lee are flexibility itself, and their acrobatic feats are received with acclamation. Frances Haskoll, illustrated song artist, scores as usual a great success. Fatmah Diard sings a trio of ballads pleasingly; and George Foyle, character vocalist, is cordially received.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Lessee, Mr Edward Michel; Resident-Manager, Mr H. Cowper Smith.—The lessee is week by week putting forth high-class attractions, and his programme this week includes a ballad concert by such popular artists as Miss Alys Bateman, Mr Gregory Hast, and Mr Watkin Mills, and a pianoforte recital by Mr Harold Bauer.

BILSTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Harry Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—Messrs Montague Beaudyn and Sidney Crowe's company in *The Way of the World* is here. Mr Beaudyn as Cecil does excellent work, and Miss Crowe as Adele is quite admirable. Mr Herbert Skardon gives a sound performance as Captain Fred Slade, and very important service is rendered by Miss Irene Munroe as Kate. Miss Violetta Vivienne is quite characteristic as Polly Bell. The Matthew Malyon of Mr W. Robertson Foulis is worthy of praise, and Mr Ernest Turner as Joe Sparrow keeps the house in good humour.

BATLEY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr and Mrs J. Edward Whitty; Resident Manager, Mr G. M. Hurst.—Mr Peter Eland's pantomime company is here with *Little Red Riding Hood*. Miss Dollie Hook makes a dashing Robin Oak Apple, and Bluebell Buttercup is charmingly represented by Miss Rita Vincent, her singing and dancing being greatly admired. The title-part is admirably performed by Miss Mabel Manley, and Mr George Royle causes hilarious laughter as the Widow Bailey. Miss Annie Swires wins much applause by her singing and acting as the Fairy of the Hood. Master Lennie Aukers and Mr G. R. Wontnor Hill give humorous representations as Police-constables, and Mr Charlie Howarth creates uproarious laughter as John Williams. Mr W. Raynor, who is the possessor of a fine voice, renders some fine songs as the Were-Wolf, and Sir Seely Chump is well played by Mr H. Flockton-Foster, with smart songs and droll speeches.

BEDFORD.

ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter R. Wilson.—This week the boards are occupied by Mr E. Graham Falcon's pantomime *The Forty Thieves*. There is plenty of drollery, and a judicious array of gorgeous effects, so that the child's sense of fun and sense of beauty are both amply catered for. The book has been specially written by Martin Byam, whose previous pantomimes have been so well received in Bedford, and Mr Graham-Falcon supervises its production. Morgiana finds a sweet presentment in Miss Cissie Harcourt, who can sing and dance in good style. Miss Frances Manners is an old favourite in Bedford. She has a commanding presence and possesses an excellent voice. Miss Amy Randolph as Ganem obtains a warm reception for her sympathetic rendering of "Poor Little Ugly Duckling." Miss Rosa Charles, who gives some good coon songs, Miss Maude Cyrus, and Miss Minnie Parker are all well suited in their respective rôles. Mr Arthur R. Carlton is irresistible as Cogia Baba. Mr Willie Klof makes the most of Hassarac, and with Mr Hyam Good as Cassim Baba introduces some laughable "gags." The Brothers Raynor gives a good acrobatic and contortionist performance. Mr George Dix maintains the reputation of John Willy, the donkey. Mr Charles Gascoin is the musical conductor.

BELFAST.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr James M'Cann; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr Wilfred Stanford. To the great regret of local playgoers, the highly successful pantomime *Puss in Boots* must be withdrawn to-night in view of other important engagements made by Mr Fred Warden. There is no gainsaying the fact that *Puss in Boots* has been a veritable triumph during the whole of the run here. With characteristic kindness Messrs Warden gave a benefit matinée of the pantomime on Thursday last in aid of the Lady Mayoress' relief fund, all the artistes, band, staff, &c., giving their services gratis.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr John P. Beardmore.—Owing to a very severe snowstorm in Belfast on Monday the management decided not to open the theatre on that evening. On Tuesday the attractive programme arranged by Mr Warden was presented, the leading feature being La Loie Fuller in her famous creations, including "The Bottom of the Sea" and "The Aurora Borealis," which were presented by this clever artist in capital style. Boswell's Circus, including his educated ponies and clever dogs, furnish a capital entertainment, their feats being quite remarkable. The Solari Duo play mandolines and guitars cleverly, and a hearty reception has been accorded to that humorous comedian Little Barney. Zuma, in his original act, entitled "Gymnastics on the Lawn," does some difficult feats with ease, and Mr J. P. Carroll is a clever tambourine player. Others appearing are the Hamiltons (Jack and Alice), comedy dancers; and Messrs Charles Somers and Herbert Maden.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Brock.—The chief attraction here is provided by Robertus and Wilfredo, in their unique ball act, many of their feats being very clever. Another feature of the bill is the remarkable performance of Mr Frank Hilbert, whose speciality, consisting of freeing himself from handcuffs, &c., has created quite a sensation. Driscoll and Beattie appear in their mirth-provoking sketch *Two Old Rogues*, and Miss Ella Retford is a clever comedienne with a good voice and a first-class dancer. Mr George Bohee, the expert banjoist, has made a big hit, and the Raies, remarkably clever dancers, well deserve the success achieved. Miss Rose Archer is a good mimic. The tuneful vocalism of Miss Alice Simmons gains admiration, and Mr Charles Vincent, comedian, also appears.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr Henry T. Downs.—The clever comedienne, Miss Peggy Pryde, tops the bill at this popular theatre. The droll eccentric Negro comedian, Mr Charles Williams, pleases all with his smart songs; and Mr George Prince, styled 'the crazy comic," creates much laughter. Mr M. Reklaw, assisted by Mdlle. Minetta, presents a remarkably smart rolling globe performance; and Comical Walker, knockabout comedian, evokes much merriment. The pictures presented this week by Welsker Brothers' Bioscope are a decided acquisition, and also here are Miss Molly Doon, a vivacious comedienne and dancer; Mr J. E. West, a talented Scotch comedian; and Miss Bessie Lind, comedienne.

IMPERIAL HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS.—Proprietors, Messrs Carter and Bosco; General Manager, Mr Irving Bosco; Assistant-Manager, Mr Geo. Dobler.—On Monday commenced the last week of the remarkably successful spectacle *Siberia*, which has been visited by thousands of people in Belfast and the North of Ireland with infinite pleasure. The Three Seabornes present an amazingly clever act, and the Sloan Family of equestrians are pronounced favourites, and deservedly so. A new idea in Photography is also exhibited, being snapshots of various local individuals, those recognised by the originals, if present at the Hippodrome when exhibited, receiving valuable prizes. Miss Annie Sloan, the famous equestrienne; Almer, hand balancer; and the marvellous feats of horsemanship of Mdlle. Melba and Mr H. Sloan complete the programme.

BLYTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr George E. Good.—Mr John Leopold's company has appeared here with the ever-popular pantomimic piece entitled *The New Frivolity*. Mr Herbert Lewis as Oliver Buckwheat is a prominent figure; Mr John Leopold, jun., has a good part as Daniel Teething; Mr Wilfred Vaughan does well as Jules Vermiglio; Mr Barry Lupino acts cleverly the part of Samuel; and the Professor Fumble of Mr Tony Leopold has a good reception. Miss Ruby Wyndham is quite a success as Madame Cobweb. Miss Amy Hall gives an admirable impersonation of Lucy Buckwheat.

BOSCOMBE.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr F. Mouillot; Manager, Mr Rowland Stewart.—*The Manxman* is being presented here this week by Mr A. B. Cross and company. Mr Cross himself is seen as Pete, a rôle in which he achieves great success; Mr Harry Hiller contributes a capital impersonation of Cæsar Oregeen; Mr William Burchill's representation of Philip Christian is also an excellent piece of work, the part of Ross Christian being well placed in the capable hands of Mr Edward M'Lean. Miss Minnie Watersford displays considerable ability in her rendering of the important rôle of Kate.

BIRKENHEAD.

THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee, Mr W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Pell.—Mr Leslie Norman's company is here in *A Trip to Chinatown*. Welland Strong is cleverly played by Mr Charles Sequin, Mr Jerrold Manville is an excellent Ben Gay, Mr Oswald Grey is well suited as Saxon Blood, and Mr Leslie Norman is an efficient Rashleigh Gay. Miss Kitty Marion distinguishes herself as Mrs Guyer, Miss Francis Errol is an admirable Willie Grow, and Flirt is well impersonated by Miss Daisy Revett. Other parts are in capable hands, and the Three Canadian Belles give some pretty dances.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Pell.—Mr Gus Levaine's pantomime company is appearing in *The Babes in the Wood* with pronounced success. Miss Lily Ennis is a capital Robin Hood, and is well supported by Miss Beatrice Wilson, a charming Maid Marion. Mr Harry Levaine is a capital Dame Durden, Baron Badlot is in the able hands of Mr Will Butler, and the Ruffians are appropriately acted by Messrs Anderson and Granville. Specialities are introduced by Leon and Leoni, the Zemblas, and Vulo; and the scenic effects are good.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr D. J. Clarke.—An attractive programme is supported by Mr Pat Rafferty, Irish comedian; Haidee Lee and Wallace Kingston, a versatile comedy duo; Miss Maudie Ford, an accomplished comedienne; Swan and Bambard, in an eccentric acrobatic act; Brothers Ralston, entertaining vocalists and dancers; Mr Ted Waite, the long comedian; Mr Alec Kennedy, actor-vocalist; and the Bioscope.

BIRMINGHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr Philip Rodway.—*The Babes in the Wood* continues to score nightly, and the matinées on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays are well patronised.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr Henry Johnston.—*The Forty Thieves* is another popular success, enthusiastic demonstrations of appreciation attending the evening performances as well as those of the matinées on Mondays and Thursdays.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr Victor Turner.—The Turner opera season continues to flourish, and on Monday *Hansel and Gretel* were repeated with excellent and most enjoyable results. On Tuesday Mr J. W. Turner was indisposed, Mr F. J. Hargrave as Myles, in *The Lily of Killarney*, filling the breach with admirable success. Mr Chas. Le Sueur as Hardress Cregan, Mr Tom Griffiths as Danny Mann, Mr Sidney Clifford as Father Tom, Mr Geo. Ridding as Corrigan, Miss Mabel Dennis as Mrs Cregan, and Miss Constance Bellamy as Eily were among those who added to the success. *The Bohemian Girl* followed on Wednesday, with Mr F. J. Hargrave winning more honours as Thaddeus, and on Thursday we had a welcome revival of *Tannhauser*. *Faust* and *Maritana* have also drawn appreciative audiences.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Lester Collingwood.—*Dick Whittington* has taken a prominent place amongst the season's successes, full houses being the vogue, the matinées on Wednesdays and also Saturdays being crowded to the utmost limit. The bells (Bow Bells), which have hitherto escaped mention, ring out a joyous peal without one strident note, and reflect much credit on the local firm, Messrs Charles Carr, Limited, of Smethwick.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Walter Melville; Resident-Manager, Mr J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Girl Who Lost Her Character* is fulfilling a successful two weeks' engagement here. Leading honours are shared by Miss Ada Marius, for her powerful, albeit pathetic, representation of the title-rôle, and Miss Marie M'Aulay, who, as Marian Franklyn, acts vigorously her base part. Mr Edwin J. Collins is cheered as the valiant and virtuous cleric, Robert Everton; Mr Wingold Lawrence acts with excellent effect as Jack England; Miss Ethel Bracewell is most charming as the heroine, Rose Seymour; Mr Frank Adair plays the unpopular rôle of Capt. Geoffrey Caversham with much distinction; and Mr Wm. Fraser Brunner does good service as James Sutton. Mr G. H. Asquin as Dick Punch and Miss Daisy Maynard as Isabella Jones also do well.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr Ben Sydney.—*Sinbad the Sailor*, as presented here this week by Mr Gus Levaine's company, is likely to enjoy much popularity. Miss Kitty Bishop assumes the title-rôle with commendable spirit; Miss Marie Harding is successful as the Princess; Miss Florrie Clinton is deservedly a favourite as Davy Jones; and Miss Letty Young is much admired as the Fairy Queen. The comedians include Mr Ernie Clyde as the comical Tinbad; Mr Charlie Howard as Mrs Sinbad; Mr Edward Haswell as Captain Kettle; Mr George Thomas as Rajah Rhum; and Messrs Chas. Arnett and Tom Ashby as the two mates.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr Charles Barnard; Manager, Mr Dan Barnard.—*Napoleon the Great* shines to much advantage here, and Mr Hugh Montgomery, in the illustrious name-part, receives the acclamations of a delighted audience. Mr J. G. Maine gives a clever study of the Pole, Paul Laczinska; Mr Henry Earlesmere acts commendably as Col. Lavarennes; Mr Phil Harper, in the heroic part, Jules Meuron, scores heavily; and Miss Chrissie Dunbar also appears on the side of virtue as Marie Waleswka, with conspicuous charm and success. Miss Maud Russell, in the heroine's part, Leonie Marbœuf, meets with a sympathetic reception, and Miss Florence Thorne is applauded as Mère Dumont. Mr Frank M. Thorne, who brings the company, plays divertingly as Pierre, and is well supported by Miss Marie Harcourt as Marcelle Choupin.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr A. W. Matcham.—The singing and dancing of the Dandies is loudly applauded here; Mdlle. Diane De Fontenoy pays a return visit here in her series of artistic tableau; the smart juggling of Prince Hokin is highly appreciated; Hermann Melot remains another week; the Sisters Neilson and Little Uipts are responsible for some clever dancing; and Cole de Losse, B. F. Gallagher, Sid Doody, Ireno Hill, Edie Wright, and the Tourbillon Troupe of acrobatic cyclists complete the entertainment.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr Albert Bushell.—The Five Sisters Emilias have a musical entertainment of a high order, and "The Mysterious Lilith" is a remarkable performance; Prof. Harcourt goes through his legerdemain act with spirit and artistic finish; the Sisters Oswald contribute songs and dances in their happiest manner; Rose Elliott and Hamilton Hill are responsible for some excellent ballads; Lilian Warren, whose voice is one of purity and power, evokes much enthusiasm; Harry Lynn and company have a sketch, *Dead to the World*, which goes well; as also does another, *The Quack Doctor*, by the Rayfords. Spring and Spring, and Rose Carlo are extremely smart acrobats.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrisford.—The principal item this week is the selections rendered by the Hebburn Band, who won the thousand guinea prize at the Crystal Palace. Lind is responsible for a smart entertainment; Alfonso Silvano has a daring balancing act, and the feats of Browning and Wally denote remarkable strength. Alexander, in his trick cycling feats, and the Four Cliftons, Olympian acrobats, are clever. Mons. Slippere and Miss Ramsay have a refined entertainment. Other turns include Elsie Morgan, comedienne; Brothers Ashley, comedian; and the Athlones, Herculean athletes.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr Edward Foster.—George Gray and company are attracting crowded houses with *The Fighting Parson*. May Geraldine, comedienne; Bijou Russell, sand dancer; Charles Pastor and the Knick Knacks, comedians, are most entertaining. Joko and Koko, in their equestrian act, consisting of monkeys, dogs, and ponies; and the Bioscope, representing French workpeople on strike, are interesting items.

CURZON HALL.—Manager, Mr W. Stirling.—The Harry H. Hamilton's excursions are being largely patronised here, the pictures being of an interesting nature. The variety turns include the celebrated Chinese conjuror, Foo Choo.

BLACKBURN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr Harry Yorke; Business-Manager, Mr Reginald Yorke.—*Florodora* is here on a return visit, and playing to crowded houses. Mr Albert Bruno causes much amusement by his impersonation of Antony Tweedlepunch; Miss Daisy Byford makes a charming Angela Gilfain; Cyrus Gilfain is played by Mr T. E. Buxton; Mr Cyril Dane appears as Frank Abercoed, and Mr Derick Knowles as Captain Arthur Donegal. Lady Holyrood is acceptably played by Miss Rene Steadman.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr E. H. Page.—*Why Men Love Women* is the attraction here this week. The principal parts are played by Miss Annie Saker. Mr Alfred Paumier, Mr Bensley Evans, Mr Harwood Roberts, Mr W. S. Hardy, and Mr Edwin Lever.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr F. Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr Will Murray; Acting-Manager, Mr Harry Drury.—The bill this week includes Tschernoff's Dogs, Sylvo, comedy juggler; Florence Gwynne, Clarke's banjo duo, Joe Almario, jumping juggler; Lade Henderson, vocalist; Tom Parker, comedian, and Jordan and Harvey, American comedians.

BOLTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Hermann.—*Dick Whittington* pantomime is now in its second week, and is attracting large houses nightly. The principal artistes, Miss Ethel Newman as Dick, Miss Clara Reid as Alice, Mr Tom Foy as Idle Jack, and Mr Bert Byrne as the Cook ably sustain their respective parts. The chorus is a strong one, and the orchestra is under the able leadership of Mr Somerlad.

BOOTLE.

ROYAL MUNCASTER.—Proprietors, Messrs Pennington; Manager, Mr Albert E. Wilson.—Mr Gus C. Livesey's company is here this week in *The Crimson Club*, and drawing large audiences in spite of the inclement weather. Mr Lionel Thompson gives a powerful rendering of the villainous Sir Philip Garside, and Mr Gus C. Livesey is a manly Richard Fenton. Mr Herbert Belmore gives a fine character sketch of the Hon. Herbert Selby, and the comedy parts are in the able hands of Mr Percy Shaw (Reginald Adolphus Garside) and Miss Lily Day (Soponisba Garside). As the adventuress, Julia Maraden, Miss Bertha Cousins is splendidly suited, and in the realistic struggle scene rouses the audience to breathless excitement. Miss Katie Cameron is a sympathetic Muriel Lockwood.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr Mouillot; Manager, Mr Rowland Stewart.—Nothing succeeds like success, and *The Cingalee*, as produced by Mr George Dance's chief company is an illustration in support of this. The crowded and enthusiastic audiences filling the theatre this week testify that, given No. 1 companies, Bournemouth is rapidly becoming qualified to rank as a first-class town. Mr Francis Ludlow has a capital voice, and plays Harry Vereker successfully; Mr Fred W. Palbrick is well suited as the unctuous Boobhamba; Mr F. W. Ford is very humorous as Sir Peter Loftus; and as Bobby Warren Mr George Mudie, jun., is a distinct success. Too much praise cannot be awarded to Mr Laurie De Frece, who as Chambhuddy Ram is excellent. Miss Madge Temple, with a pleasing voice, plays Lady Patricia Vane in lively style. High praise is due to Miss Mabel Sealby, who as Peggy Sa[illegible] the line. Miss Ethel Negretti do[illegible] the rôle of Nanoya, and has ample op[illegible] displaying her vocal talent. Miss Trissie [illegible]aron, who contributes a characteristic dance, is encored nightly. Two picturesque sets are shown, and musically the piece is a great success. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr E. H. Whitehall, with Mons. Jules Guitton as principal violin, is a distinct feature.

BRADFORD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr John Hart; General Manager, Mr T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr F. Pemberton.—Since the first week of the production of *Cinders*, packed audiences have been the rule to witness one of the brightest, merriest, most charming pantomimes Mr Hart has ever presented here. Miss Leonora Grieve, the principal boy, and Miss Katie in the title-rôle have won golden opinions. Excellent work is done by Miss Eida Burman as Dolly Daisy, Miss Ivy Roze as Periwiggi, and Miss Maud Holland as Graciosa. Mr Dennis Drew sings well in his character of Mischief. Carlton, with his "spoofing," elicits roars of laughter; Grell and Grey are funny as the acrobatic flunkeys; and Mr J. W. Rowley and Mr J. E. Nightingale, in their respective parts of the Baron and Baroness, are screamingly funny. Mr Frank Calvert's Chump is a capital performance, and with Mr Fred Fowler as Dandini there is no lack of bustle and fun.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr N Hepworth.—There is now a decided improvement observable all round in the pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*. The comedians have settled well down to their parts, and some telling business and capital gags have been introduced. The fun is prolific, and for this Mr C. Belrose as Davy Jones, Mr Tom Fancourt as Dame Crusoe, Mr Ernest Stevens as Friday, and Messrs O. Conroy and Billy Elliott as Sackless and Drymeath respectively are mainly responsible. Miss Ruby Winstone has won approval for an excellent performance at short notice of the title-rôle, and she is prettily supported by Miss Lily Black as Polly Perkins, Miss Maud De Velin as Fairy Coral, and Miss Lily West as the Princess.

EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr J. J. Kelly.—There is a very attractive programme here this week, a prominent feature being the return visit of Staley's Novelty Transformation Company, introducing a cleverly worked quick-change scene, novel music, and excellent dancing. The Union Gatling Guards, too, give a realistic display in a battle scene, in which quick-time drilling and the Gatling gun are features which do not fail to arouse unstinted applause. H. F. Wilson, tenor vocalist, submits a good song, and the Two Bosbons are entertaining as showmen. Pia Carozzi, harp virtuoso, submits a cleverly executed performance. In their glees the coloured Meisters win hearty applause. The Labakans go through a clever acrobatic performance, and their intelligent toy terrier shares in the applause. Albert Whelan, the Australian entertainer, gives some clever imitations of music hall celebrities, and Mdlle. Emmy with her pet performing dogs provides a very pretty and enjoyable entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr J. W. Berry.—Foremost in an excellent bill-of-fare here are Pickard's Troupe of Parisian Burglars, who give a clever and grotesque acrobatic performance. Another acrobatic display of the comedy type by Steel and Laing finds favour. On a mounted platform Charles Serra, equilibrist, gives a fine performance. In the manipulation of banjos Mirzah, "the man in green," displays wonderful skill, and there are capital contributions to the evening's amusement by Jennie Reeve, comedienne; Dolly, Agnes, Maud, the "singing boxmakers;" Baker baritone; and Nellie Elder, vocalist.

BRIGHTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr Harcourt M. Beryl.—Miss Olga Nethersole and company are here this week with *Sapho*. Miss Olga Nethersole gives a very artistic and impressive portrayal of Fanny Legrand; Mr Hamilton Revelle displays masterly acting as Jean Gaussin; Mr Robert Pateman is highly successful as Uncle Césaire; Mr Nix Webber's Déchélette and Mr Slaine Mills's Caoudal are admirably played; Miss Rosalind Ivan makes a pleasing Divonne; Miss Frances Ivor is well suited as Madame Hettema and Miss Irene Wakefield is praiseworthy as Joseph.

AQUARIUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. Bernhardt; Acting-Manager, Mr H. De Groot.—The fairy play *The Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe and the Spelling Bee* is still doing good business here.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr W. F. Crowe.—The pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, has thoroughly established itself in favour, and the performances continue to attract crowded audiences.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr J. L. Graydon; General Manager, Mr Ernest Lepard.—On Monday the policy of giving two performances nightly was inaugurated here, and with satisfactory results. Those here this week include the Four Jumels, in a musical act; the Sisters Reveni, ballad vocalists; the Five Ashleys, in their comedy act, *Fun in a Laundry;* Flo Penley, comedienne; the M'Connell Trio, in the operetta *A Musical Mistake;* Elly Adair, comedienne and dancer; Herr Fritz, mystifier of mystifiers, in his sensational illusions; Russell and Roper, in *The Opera Singer and the Sandwich Man;* Mr Joe Peterman's company of comedians and burlesque artistes in the musical comedy extravaganza, *The Belle of the Orient*; and the Alhambra pictures.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—The following are here this week:—Miss Alice Lethbridge and Mr Stratton Mills, in *The Strange Rehearsal;* Barney Brittan, comedian; Marquis Iton, in *Scenes Outside Port Arthur;* Michele and Sandro, equilibrists; Joe Hayman and Mildred Franklin in *A Matrimonial Agency;* Sidney James, society entertainer; Gardner, Griffin, and Gardner, musical trio, in their absurdity, *The Rat Catcher;* Amiel, contortinnist; Clementina, in her sporting act; and animated pictures.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr A. D. Norman.—*Bluebell in Fairyland* is having a successful run here, and crowded audiences are the general rule.

COLISEUM.—Licensee and Director of Entertainments, Mr Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr C. Smith-Wilkes.—The following are this week:—Lulie Evans, comedienne; Ars, Zebra, and Vora, in their novelty, *Indian Pastimes;* Carl Howard, the crazy conjuror; the Sisters Redfern, duettists, dancers, and banjoists; Newling Major, ventriloquist; the Japanese Princesses, speciality artists; the Melvernes, Lilliputian wonders; Thelma, clay modeller; and the Coliseum pictures.

BRISTOL.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr James Macready Chute.—There was a large attendance here on Monday evening in all parts of the house. *The Sleeping Beauty* continues to increase in popularity, and all the artistes are very successful. Miss Lil Hawthorne has a new song "You can't stop the sun from shining." The song is appropriate to the part of the Prince, and Miss Hawthorne obtained much applause at its conclusion.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Ernest Carpenter.—*Robinson Crusoe* increases in popularity each week. The company is a very competent one, and the mounting, both in the way of scenery and costumes, is liberal and effective.

PALACE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs Livermore Bros.; Resident-Manager, Mr Horace Livermore; Secretary, Mr F. J. V. Welchman.—The entertainment here is headed by the Mannon Troupe of American pantomimists, in their amusing speciality sketch, *Uncle Yank*. Les Francois (three ladies and one gentleman), present a good acrobatic and jumping act; Walker and May (coloured artistes) do a smart turn of song and eccentric dancing; the Great Northern Troupe of dancers are clever in their line; the Two D.'s (Dorothy and Dora), are refined and pleasing duettists; Wake and Dean, comedians, amuse with their cross-talk, &c.; Arthur Elvey, comedian, has some good songs; Miss Edie King, comedienne, does a pleasing turn; Venola Brothers are smart comedy ring performers; and Miss Minnie Dare has some pretty songs, and dances well. The entertainment concludes with animated pictures. The matinée on Thursday was for the benefit of the Royal Naval Volunteers of Bristol.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—Al Lawrence, American comedian, heads the programme with an excellent turn of song, patter, dialect, and ventriloquism. The Yiulians present a clever act as Risley acrobats; Ed. F. Reynard is an expert ventriloquist; Charles Steuart and company have an amusing sketch, *The Water Cure;* Akimoto's Japanese Troupe have a good gymnastic act; Brothers Forrest are amusing as musical eccentrics; the Raffelo Trio have an effective musical speciality; and Miss Edna Groves is a pleasing comedienne and dancer. The programme concludes with a new series of animated pictures.

BROUGHTON.

VICTORIA, LTD.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr James W. Haworth; Manager and Secretary, Mr James M. Hardie, jun.—Messrs Frank Nelson and Chas. Cautley's company, in the musical comedy *The Scilly Girl*, is here. Miss Bessie Pellisier as Muriel, the maid from Scilly, cleverly sustains the character, and her songs are well received. Mr Charles Cautley as Cecil Trevelyan is successful in the heroic part and sings well. Mr Alfred Donohoe as Heiro is very droll, and he has a most vivacious supporter in Miss Dorothy Vernon as Pattie Pepperjoy, a graceful dancer and pleasing vocalist. Miss Ada Palmer as Miss Catherine Wheeler, a giddy spinster; Miss Ella Kitson as Madame Endora, a crystal scientist; Mr Milroy Cooper as Cyrus Wheeler, a potato potentate; Miss Susie Oak as the Duchess of Ayrshire, and the other members of the company contribute to the pleasurable entertainment. The choruses are good, and the Misses Duncan, Hill, Wyndham, and Harrison dance well.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.

NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr John Waller.—Messrs Forge and Dalton's fairy pantomime, *Cinderella*, is here this week. In the title-part Miss Lizzie Primmer gives a dainty representation, and is well received. Miss Chummie La Mars, who has a fine presence, makes a dashing and realistic Prince. The rôle of Dandini is well placed in the hands of Miss Julie Alexander. As Fairy Sunshine Miss Louie Denniston is thoroughly attractive. Mr John Chippendale makes an amusing Baron Bunker, and receives able support from Mr Fred C. Brooks as Angelina and Little Tony as Seraphina. Mr Chas. T. Chaloner is "up to date" as Peter Pickles, and Mr John Forge and Mr Ted Lemiere do well as Nabber and Nailem. Good speciality acts are introduced in the Palace scene by Gertella, the Quartano Troupe of dancers, Forge and Lemiere, the Swift Trio of bicyclists, and the Original Japs.

BURY (LANCS).

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling.—Messrs Carson and Granville's company are here playing *A Modern Adventuress*. Miss Beatrice M. Anderson gives an excellent impersonation of Violet Meredith, and the part of Vivette Delby is well played by Miss Alice Defoe. Mr Leonard Aardale is a fine Pietro, and Mr Royce Carleton undertakes with [illegible] the character of Delby. Mr Evan Roland Lizzie Unas, Emily Constance are good as Mr and is well mounted.

BURNLEY.

GAIETY.—Proprietress, Mrs T. Culcen; Manager, Mr Jas. Culcen.—Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr Leicester Jackson's company is here this week in *Dishonoured*, which has proved a great attraction. Miss St. Albans still maintains her reputation as an actress of ability, and gives an excellent interpretation of Leslie Maynard. Mr Roy Fortescue plays with telling effect as Philip Cunningham; Mr Charles E. Lambert is responsible for a capital portrayal of Sir William Cunningham; the part of Captain Bryntland is successfully performed by Mr J. Leicester Jackson; Mr J. Parker Royston makes a good Captain Cholmondely; Mr A. W. Thompson and Mr Fred Hodson give good renderings of the Stokes; Mike Farthing is capably enacted by Mr Harold Ford; Mr H. Victoire is an entertaining Jeremiah Jones; Mrs Allen is a bright Katie Stubbs; Miss Nellie Lambert and Miss Louie Walton render valuable service as Sybil and Lady Cunningham; and Mr A. T. Gates contributes valuably as Bill Clarges.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr W. C. Haines.—The chief artist here is Mr Imro Fox, comic conjuror, who does a number of mystifying tricks, and has an enthusiastic reception. The Bros. De Wynne provide a really clever equilibristic act; Erle and Erle contribute several banjo selections, in which they show remarkable skill; Miss Lilian Travelli, vocalist, is popular; Hall and Earle display strength and daring in their acrobatic entertainment; Mr Nelson Hardy, ventriloquist, and Mr Sam Dalton, comedian, are worthy of praise; and the Empire Biograph contributes an excellent series of pictures.

CAMBRIDGE.

NEW THEATRE.—Manager and Director, Mr W. B. Redfern, J.P.D.L.—Mr Arthur Lilford's company is here in *Jones's Jaunt*. Mr Charles Collette is responsible for most of the fun, and as Stanley Jones he had a part that suited him admirably; while Mr Aubrey Mallalieu was hardly less successful as Catesby Duff. Miss Ruby Chester was delightful as Dollie Bonde. Miss Rosamund Bury (Kato) and Tom Breeze (Mr David Sellar) were all that could be desired. The curtain-raiser was a musical monologue entitled *Hard Luck*, and in this Mr Collette was also seen and heard to advantage.

CARDIFF.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Robert Redford.—The closing week of the pantomime *Dick Whittington* opened on Monday to a full house, despite the severe weather, turning up to witness the piece. The run this season has been short, and it will be with genuine regret that patrons of the Royal will bid adieu on Saturday evening to the artistes who have become such well-known friends. The pantomime has been pronounced a great success, and Messrs Robert Redford and Milton Bode are able to add one more triumph to their list of successes. An artisté who has gained a host of admirers and friends is Miss Madoline Rees, whose performance of Dick has been such an attraction since the opening of the pantomime. It is sincerely hoped that we shall see Miss Rees as the principal boy in next year's pantomime at the new theatre. Mr Bob Hutt has undoubtedly worked hard, and has contributed his share towards making the production a success. Mr Arthur Godfrey and Miss Minnie Duncan have been all that could be desired. Miss Florence White and Miss Janet Reynolds deserve the highest praise for their charming portrayals of Tommy Trott and May. Mr Fred Dark as the Dame and Mr Alfred Lester as Captain Scupper have created endless fun. Mr Clifford Morgan as Bill Oakum has been a valuable requisition. Mr Morgan's fine voice has been heard to great advantage, his rendering of "Farewell, my little Yo San" being praised by all. Miss Nellie Lawrence has been exceptionally good as the Empress Fatima, and dainty Lillian Graham's clever toe dancing has been much admired, while Mr Tom Gilmore's antics as Mausa, the Cat, have caused great amusement. Congratulations are due to all, both on the stage and behind the scenes.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Frank Bateman; Business Manager, Mr Robert Sawin.—*The Heart of a Hero* is capitally staged here this week by Messrs Carson and Granville's company. It is seldom that such a fine piece of acting as that given by Mr Fred W. Goddard is seen here. Another excellent impersonation is that of Mr Eric Forth as the detective, Dave Prichard, and Mr Wilfred Marl has a reliable exponent in Mr Chas. E. Johnson. Miss Cissie St. Elmo gives a fine portrayal of Nell Resdale; a charming heroine is found in Miss Lily Langley; and an excellent Mrs Ryder in Miss Beatrice Hudson. Mr Hugh Brady is undoubtedly a born comedian, his antics as Timothy Heighno being really funny. Miss Ida Mackay as Susie Slack renders him substantial help.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr W. Lea.—The excellent programme here includes the following:—Bella and Bijou, society entertainers; Ike Scott and Son, comedians; the Five Delevines in their musical mélange, "Flirtation;" Clown Zertho's Dogs, Syd May, mimic; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, trick cyclists; Ada Cerito, comedienne; Cabby and Shirker, in their eccentric bar act; Sisters Klos, athletic wonders; and Alexandra Dagmar, in a burlesque scena, "The Duchess of Dantzic."

CARLISLE.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME.—Proprietress, Mrs P. E. Veltch; Manager, Mr C. Algie.—The Elliotts and Savonas are still the centre of attraction here, and their wonderful performances as trick cyclists and musicians fill each house with enthusiastic and delighted admirers. They are presenting this week an interesting souvenir in the shape of an attractively got-up booklet containing an interesting account of the troupe and some admirable portraits. Senorita Eloina, a handsome and accomplished young lady, contributes a smart trapeze act. Silvo's novel ladder and ring act also finds favour, and Mr J. H. M'Cann gives a startling performance of acrobatic roller skate dancing. Tom Hall's amusing clowning with his dog, monkey, and nippers, and Mr Harry Benet, vocal comedian, are also much in evidence. The Biograph pictures are exceptionally good.

CASTLEFORD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman.—Messrs Griffin and Drake's pantomime company opened a short engagement on Monday with *Dick Whittington and His Cat*. Miss Lily Jackson ably sustained the part of Dick, and sang well; Miss Emmie Lands played Alice with vivacity; Mr Jack Simpson, a clever contortionist, was excellent as the Cat; and Mr Ben Ford as Fitzwarren; Mr Mark Lane as the Cook, and Mr Will Dennis as Idle Jack made a capital trio of comedians. Mr E. Jason (general manager), essayed the rôle of the Emperor of Morocco successfully; Mr Bert Allen was highly amusing as Captain Seabreeze; the Sisters Flo and Grace Brenton as Prince of Abyssinia and Lucinda danced merrily; Mr Ted Lambert was a first-rate Demon King; and the vocal efforts of Miss Lily Drake were well received.

COLNE (LANCS).

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Gerald Harding.—Mr Frank Lindo's company has played *Home, Sweet Home*, here this week. As Stephen Armitage Mr Lindo embodied the part cleverly; Mr Lyle had a smart impersonation in Mr Wilson Coleman; David Armitage and Dick Redmayne were capably portrayed by Mr Geo. Jervis and Mr Geo. Overs; and Captain Gerald Gambier was well suited as the Duke of Ancaster. As Joan Miss Marion Wakeford was very good, and the parts of Lady Summerton, Sybil Fay, and Dora could scarcely have been better filled than they were by Miss Amy Carlton, Miss Gertrude Bingham, and Little Madge Bingham.

CHATHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr Geo. G. Ridley.—This week marks a return visit by Mr George Dance's *A Chinese Honeymoon* company. Miss Vera Vere is the liveliest Fi-Fi yet seen at the Royal. Miss Nellie Wigley is a delightful Soo-Soo, while Miss Jose Collins is untiring in her efforts as Mrs Pineapple and proves a big favourite. Mr Percy Yorke is very natural as Tom Hatherton; Mr Philip Haydn cuts a fine figure as Hang Chow and acts with discretion, and roars of laughter greet each appearance of Mr Foster Courtenay, the Mr Pineapple. The chorus are enthusiastic, and the local orchestra, under the direction of the visiting conductor, Mr Claus Bunz, work loyally for the success of the performance.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr L. B. Barnard.—The Brothers Hersleb top the bill, and get a good reception nightly. Peggy Fame is making many friends here; Leonard Mortimer's sketch company create plenty of fun with *The Motor Man;* and others appearing are Gillin, ventriloquist; Harry Luck, eccentric comedian; the Wedburns in patter and song; and a fresh series of pictures projected by means of Mr Lacey's Erascope.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr Frank J. Donne.—Here we have Winifred Eyre, serio; the Denmark Pair, with song, dance, and patter; the Sivronis, who score heavily with *Opera Gone Mad;* the Five Bandurrias, whose selections on guitars and mandolines afford considerable pleasure; Walter Stockwell, in "Noah" and "The Dear Old Land" going strong; and Harry Allan and Rose Hart, with songs and spirited dancing. The Edisonograph continues with a change of pictures, and Mr Clements and his orchestra deserve a word for their rendering of Supp'és "Bandit in Streiche."

CHELTENHAM.

OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr H. Oswald Bedford.—Mr Wm. Greet's excellent company in *The Earl and the Girl* opened a week's engagement here on Monday, when, notwithstanding the boisterous weather, a huge house assembled. Mr Reginald Switz in the arduous part of Jim Cheese was a favourite from the commencement. In the topical song "I fancy I'd be satisfied for life" he made a great hit. Miss Cynthia Carey as Jim's sweetheart, 'Liza, acted brightly and sang well. Mr Alec Fraser and Miss May Fraser were exceedingly smart in their character duet as Dick Wargrave and Elphin Haye, and Miss Fraser rendered "Zanzibar" in a charming manner, Mr Fraser also scoring well in "The Cosy Corner Girl." Miss Maude Aston as Daisy Fallowfield made a good impression, especially in her rendering of "Sammy." Mr Haddon Cave as Crewe Boodle contributed some excellent singing, his "Here come the Grenadiers" being especially taking. Mr Tom Edwards did well as the American solicitor; Mr H. B. Brandreth as the bloodthirsty uncle caused great amusement; Miss Maud Adams as the strong Mrs Shimmering Black was convincing; and Miss Mary Morison as Miss Bliss, Mr W. T. Hybert as the English solicitor, and Mr Greville Hayes as mine host gave good studies. Mdlle. Maud Switz contributed some graceful dances. The chorus was good, and the augmented orchestra under Mr Arthur L. Spittle performed admirably.

CHESTERFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr Holbery Hardy.—Mr George Dance's company is paying a welcome visit here with *A Country Girl*. Miss May Glen is a chic Nan; Miss Maud Harvey is a dainty Marjory; Miss Nina Carlton as the Princess is exceptionally good; and Miss Addie Lennard as Sophie evokes great applause. Mr Cyril Thompson possesses a voice which he knows how to use and is a warm favourite as Geoffrey Challoner. Mr J. Osborne is admirable as Barry; Mr St. John Hamund gives a capable representation of the Rajah. Others who fill with credit their respective rôles are Miss Edna Knollys; and Messrs H. C. Morton, Arthur Hayter, and Willie Hartill.

CORPORATION THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Samuel L. Urwick.—Mr A. E. Smith's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* proves a great attraction here. Miss Lily Colman makes a good fairy queen, Flora; Miss Edith Wallis as Robin Hood soon becomes a favourite; Mr Arthur Slater is a most amusing Baron Balderdash, and is well supported by Mr Charles Gladwell as Dame Quisby-Digga; Messrs Bob Padley and F. Wheatcroft show good work as Weary Willie and Tired Tim; Mr John Mathews is both seen and heard to advantage as Friar Tuck; the Edna Trio receive well-merited encores for their speciality dancing; and the Colleys, contortionists, execute some clever feats.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr G. T. Sante; Secretary, Mr J. Clay.—Messrs Mathew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company is here this week in *The Still Alarm*. Mr Glenville gives an admirable impersonation of Jack Manley; Mr Fred Osmond presents Doc Wilber with considerable success; Mr Tom Beasley is good as Willie Manley; Joe Jones is cleverly rendered by Mr Milton C. Curtis; Mr Lewis Gordon is capital as Franklyn Fordham; as is also Mr Paul Lovett as John Bird. Miss May Lovett as Elinor Fordham wins entire approbation; Carrie Wilber is vivaciously undertaken by Miss Connie Meadows; and Miss Mable Veriton gives a capital rendering of Mrs Manley. There is an excellent quartet (the Lyric Comedy Four) and the horses are perfectly trained.

CLYDEBANK.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Wilson.—The attraction here this week is Mr Fred Karno's company with *His Majesty's Guests*. The principal comedian is Mr R. H. Kitchen, who undertakes the part of Sergeant Lightning in a manner that calls for special mention. Mr Charles F. Howard is highly successful as Lord Easem; and as her ladyship Miss Jessamine Newcombe is highly commendable. Mr W. Smith enacts Mr Miffin very smartly; Mr James Ross is highly entertaining as Selina; and Bunker is well played by Mr C. Leoville.

CONSETT.

NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr Lloyd Clarance.—Mr F. S. Gilbert and his English opera company are here this week paying a return visit. On Monday night *The Bohemian Girl* was produced. As Thaddeus Mr F. S. Gilbert was exceptionally good, and Mr F. Halpin scored as Count Arnheim. Mr Fletcher Sansome as Devilshoof was well suited to the part. Miss Grace Parish was a dignified Gipsy Queen, and as Arline Miss Faith Laborde was very pleasing. *Satanella* was produced on Tuesday, *The Daughter of the Regiment* on Wednesday, *Faust* on Thursday, and *The Bohemian Girl* was repeated on Friday.

CORK.

OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr John Horgan.—Mr Henry Hare's company on Monday opened a week's engagement here with *The Girl from Chicago*. Mr Clarance Ibbotson as Brother Obadiah Cackles keeps the audience in good humour. Miss Ida Kessanly as Flora Boomer, the girl from Chicago, is sprightly and amusing; Mr Buckstone Clair as Judge Hussell is capital; and Mr Edwin Dodds as Billy sings and dances well. Mr Henry Hare as General Boomer fills the part capably, and Mr George Doyle makes an excellent dude.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Henry Kemble.—The principal turn here is the Seltina Troupe of acrobats, who win much applause. As a juggler Hurman pleases; the Brothers Levett vault and somersault over a number of chairs; Barton Howard cleverly imitates animals and musical instruments; Arthur Albert sings well; Rick and Laurie as comedians and dancers are successful; the Three Sisters Adrienne are excellent vocalists and dancers; and some entertaining animated pictures are also introduced.

COVENTRY.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr Wm. Bennett.—A very good audience assembled on Monday, in spite of the blizzard, to witness Mr Godfrey Lamplugh's company, in *Miss Mischief*, a musical comedy. The part of Kitty Malone is admirably taken by Miss Evelyn Hughes, and her singing is very creditable; Mr Harold Stanley makes a dignified Admiral Sir Hannibal Bethune; Mr Cecil Curtis scores in the part of Captain Jack Bethune; Mr Fred Sandy is highly amusing as Hiram Q. Pegg; the same remark applying to Mr Fred Mantel as Lord Percy Fitzsherry. Mr T. E. Conover is successful as Private Harris; Miss Crissie Francess gives a capable rendering of Mary Ann Smith; and Miss Eileen Guilbert is satisfactory as Lady Orrery.

CREWE.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Henry Taylor.—Miss Mary Austin and company, under the direction of Mr E. Vivian Edmonds, have been paying another welcome return visit with *The Cotton Spinner*. Miss Austin in the character of Mary Prescott played with her usual success, and was most notably assisted by Mr John S. Haydon as John Prescott, a part in which that actor always shows to advantage. Mr E. Vivian Edmonds portrayed the rôle of Arthur Northbury with great discrimination, and Constance Harrington was ably depicted by Miss May Grimshaw. Miss Bella Power did well as Lady Charlotte Needy. Mr Edwin F. Fysher and Mr Ernest C. Edwards were well suited to their respective parts.

CROYDON.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Lawson Lambert; Acting-Manager, Mr Reginald Lawrence.—*The Babes in the Wood* finishes a successful fortnight here this evening.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Samuel Jones; Acting-Manager, Mr Newman Maurice.—*The English Rose* is the attraction here this week. Miss Florence Dalton is excellent as Ethel Kingston; Miss May Congdon is first-rate as Bridget O'Mara; Miss Nelly Marler is clever as Louisa Ann Ferguson; and Miss Ethel Roberts is commendable as Judy. Mr H. H. Barrington makes an admirable Sir Philip Kingston; Mr Charles Langley does well as the Knight of Ballyveney; Mr Douglas Vigors is painstaking as Harry O'Malley; Mr Alfred Holles scores as Father Michael O'Malley; Mr J. J. Bartlett is praiseworthy as Captain Macdonell; Mr Herbert Williams is capable as Nickodemus Dickenson; Mr Henry St. Leger is adequate as Randal O'Mara; and Mr John Saunders amusing as Sergeant O'Reilly.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Resident General Manager, Mr Eustace H. Jay.—The bill-of-fare here includes Annie Charman, a charming serio; Ashton Victor, a droll comedian; Jack Camp, a brilliant comedian; Flo Raynor, a neat comedienne and dancer; and Henry A. Moore, a sterling mimic. Maisie Mills, comedienne; Lea and Lovell, song illustrators; John Lawson and company, in *A Bride for a Living;* Mezzetti and Mora, on the triple bars; the Two Erolls; and an interesting item, "The Mistletoe Bough," "A Tragedy in Mid-air," and the match, "Karakoul v. Mark Time." Mr Fred S. Partridge's orchestra is of genuine service, and Mr Eustace H. Jay, as usual, looks well after the comforts of visitors.

DARLINGTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manageress, Mrs T. W. S. Jennings.—This week *Florodora* is being presented here by Messrs H. J. Callan and Wentworth Croke's company. Miss Maud Lake as Dolores pleases her audience with her sweet singing. Miss Cissie Sephton is successful as Lady Holyrood. Miss May Yates makes a vivacious Angela Glifain. Mr Arthur Lenville as Tweedlepunch works hard, and adds considerably to the success of the piece. Mr C. Young Pixott is an acceptable Cyrus Gilfain. Mr Frank Grans as Capt. Arthur Donegal and Mr Wm. Everard as Frank Abercoed are seen to advantage.

DUBLIN.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Limited; General Manager, Mr Charles Hyland.—The pantomime of *The Sleeping Beauty* entered on its fourth week on Monday night, and is still drawing crowded houses.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr Arthur Armstrong.—On Monday the Moody-Manners opera company entered on the fourth and last week here, when Halevy's opera *The Jewess* was repeated before a large audience. Mr Joseph O'Mara appeared with his usual success as Eleazer, and the same may be said of Mr Charles Manners as the Cardinal. Madame De Vere was charming in the rôle of Rachael, Mr Wilson Pembroke as Prince Leopold acquitted himself admirably, and Miss R. Anderson was excellent as Princess Eudossia. The other parts were capably filled, and the choruses under the direction of Herr Richard Eckhold were well sung. On Tuesday, *La Favorita* was produced, and the following are also billed:—*Il Trovatore, Mignon, Tannhäuser, The Puritan's Daughter, The Jewess*, and *Maritana*.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. W. Whitbread; General Manager, Mr Kennedy Miller.—The boards are occupied this week by Miss Renee Glendower's company in the military drama, *The Ladder of Life*. The part of General Gordon is ably sustained by Mr Tyrone Power, and Miss Stephanie Baring is effective in the rôle of Olga Sobinsky. The part of Ivan Kirkovitch has an able exponent in Mr C. Finch Hatton, and as Mother Flint Miss Renee Glendower displays much ability. Mr C. H. Matthews is capital as Fergus Gordon, and Miss Flora Leslie makes a good Meg Merrilees. Colonel M'Gregor is capitally played by Mr Roy F. Gascoine, and the Messrs Archie, Ernest, and Will F. Feros cleverly acts the rôles of Bill M'Jones, Harry M'Smith, and Tom M'Brown.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr A. S. Figgis.—Topping the bill here is G. W. Hunter, comedian and raconteur. Diamond and Beatrice, instrumentalists, are an extremely interesting turn, and the Baldwin Brothers' acrobatic act meets with approval. The Three Victorias, song and dance artistes, have caught on, and Frank Harwood is a descriptive vocalist of more than ordinary merit. Bradley Warwick and company, in the sketch *The Advent of Venus*, is highly successful, and Harry Lawson is a capital eccentric comedian. Amber Austa, coon singer and dancer, is doing well, Tom Edwards, ventriloquist, who remains from last week, is still to the fore, and the Empire pictures are up to date.

TIVOLI.—General Manager, Mr Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr H. A. Murphy.—At this popular establishment the premier position is allotted to Michael Nolan, Irish comedian, who meets with a hearty reception. Mdlle. Florizell, the flexible lady, appears with success, as does also Chas. F. Best for his comedy act, "Mac Bunker, the Mountebank. The Brothers Zampah, in their pot-pourri act, are deservedly applauded, and Tony Iveson is as big a favourite as ever. Agnes Hazel, comedienne, has many admirers, and George Edney is a capital character comedian. Olive Vane as a male impersonator scores a success; and Harry Hayton, comedian, is also good; and Charles Ulrick, barrel jumper, is well received.

ROUND ROOM ROTUNDA.—The New Century Animated Photo company finishes here to-night after a successful season.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr C. A. James.—Pettigrove and Sons' marionettes are showing here in the pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, and are well patronised.

SAMUELS' EXHIBITION PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr S. Samuels.—The pantomime of *Mother Goose* is being played by Chester and Lee's marionettes, and proving an attraction.

DARWEN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr E. L. Ormsby.—Mr William A. Armour and company occupy the boards this week with *What a Woman Did*. A capital portrayal of the part of Elise De L'Orme is given by Miss Dora Price; Miss Norah Waylett is all that can be desired as Nanette; and Miss A. Rayner is conspicuous as La Papillon. The part of Conrad De L'Orme is admirably sustained by Mr William A. Armour; Mr P. E. Wright satisfactorily impersonates Raffaelle Duroc; and Mr Will Simpson is amusing as Fritz. Mr Fred Rignold as Peter Pippin and Miss L. Lonora as Fanchon provoke roars of laughter.

DERBY.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General Manager.—Mr J. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr Charles Denley.—This is the closing week of the pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood*. On Wednesday Miss Florrie Forde took a well-deserved benefit.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr T. Allan Edwardes.—James De Voye's educated pony occupies the head of the bill. The animal shows wonderful training, and its performance is exceedingly well received. Welland, an American comedy juggler, is decidedly clever, and creates roars of hearty laughter. Casselli and James are expert banjoists, and Cameron, described as the 'kerchief king, has many surprises for his audience. Harry Zetter, comedian and dancer, is praiseworthy; Lil Hartley is a pleasing vocalist and comedienne; and Will Harvey, character comedian, is also well received. The Bioscope, with several up-to-date films, is also an attraction.

DOVER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Limited; Managing Director, Mr F. C. Dew.—Mr George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's company opened to a crowded house on Monday with *Judy*. Miss Florrie Groves plays the title-rôle in a wonderfully intelligent and versatile manner; Miss Mary Neil in the dual-part of Alice and Polly received a well-deserved ovation for her brilliant portrayal; and Miss Annie Mitchell gave prominence to the part of Becky. The popular character of Grip, the detective, certainly loses none of its intensity as played by Mr George Kirk, who proves an effective foil to the villainies of Duburg as portrayed by Mr Richard Ferris. Mr William Vane is successful as Sterling; Mr Will Casey is cleverly humorous as the coster Jim; Mr H. Landeck as Giddles and Mr Henry Rayburne as Trovitch give meritorious performances, and Miss Violet Langley is responsible for a well-rendered character study of Blake.

DUNFERMLINE.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr W. E. Potts.—Mr F. R. Benson and his Shakespearian company are here. *As You Like It* was presented on Monday. Mrs Benson's rendering of Rosalind was worthy of high praise. Mr Benson as Orlando acted with his usual ability. The part of the Duke was successfully sustained by Mr Cyril Keightley; Mr Philip Sanders acquitted himself admirably as Duke Frederick; Oliver was ably portrayed by Mr Clarence Derwent; Touchstone had a very quaint exponent in Mr George B. Weir; ample justice was done to the part of William by Mr P. D. Owen; Miss Gertrude Scott is to be complimented on her excellent portrayal of Celia; Miss Mabel Moore made a very acceptable Phœbe; and Miss Leah Hanman did well as Audrey.

EASTBOURNE.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Manager, Mr A. Standen Triggs.—Mrs Russ Whytal and company are appearing here in *The Cardinal*. The acting of Mr Philip Cunningham and his fine stage presence make his performance a very able one, and he is an imposing, dignified, and stately Cardinal Giovari. Mr Douglas Gordon is keen, incisive, and effective as the villain Strozzi. Mr Gerald Kay-Souper contributes a delicate and artistic performance as Giuliano, and Mr Oscar Adye as Bartolommeo Chigi exhibits the work of a sound actor. Efficient help is given by Mr George Ingleton as Baglioni, Mr H. S. Standing as Francesco, and David Denard as Beppo. Mrs Russ Whytal imparts much sympathy and feeling to the part of Filiberta, and she [illegible] particular success in her emotional efforts. Katherine Maude has a sweet voice and cha[illegible] manner, and she is a capital Claricia, and Miss Bramleigh is a capable Honoria.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr George Hayes.—Much variety and talent are included in the bi[illegible] offered here this week. Winona gives a wonderful exhibition of shooting, and she attains marvellous precision even when firing from a swinging trapeze. Atroy is a juggler and equilibrist of considerable merit, and he gains hearty applause. Viviana is a graceful and clever dancer; Miss Edith Eatherley is a pleasing entertainer; Les Voces are here again, and meet with deserved success; Violi gives a varied musical act; the Arizonas are clever gymnasts; Miss Maud Courtney is a favourite with her American songs and stories; Forest and King have a clever turn, and the juvenile member is a smart contortionist and dancer; the Don vocal scena company contributes vocal efforts; Steb is a clay modeller of ability; and Rosetti paints pictures rapidly. *Alice in Wonderland* is being performed at matinées every day during the week.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Samuel Lloyd.—At the top of the bill are the Three Romas, who give an interesting and smart exhibition of strength in their gladiatorial marvels. The Herald Comedy Four contribute well-sung solos and quartets, and introduce much fun; Miss Pollo Jerome carries out her clever gymnastic turn with commendable smartness and rapidity; the Haywards dance and sing in good style; Mr Charles S. Lee sings, mimics, and patters very amusingly; Miss Grace Lawn sings and dances to the delight of the audience; Miss Nina Elmo is a pleasing comedienne; new Hippodrome pictures interest the audience; and Gilbert's dogs and cats complete the bill.

EDINBURGH.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr H. E. Moss.—Two good sketches have been staged here this week, one, *V.C.*, being quite an exciting affair, effectively played by Messrs J. G. Grahame, Harry Howard, Hodgson Taylor, and Miss Minnie Litchfield. The other, *For Reform*, is cast in a lighter mould, and is attractively presented by Mr Hugh Stanton and Miss Jessie Burgwitz. The Aurora Troupe of cyclists remain over from last week, and much diversion is caused nightly by the acrobatic feats and fooling of Keno, Welch, and Montrose. The brilliant musical gifts of Mendel, the blind pianist, are highly esteemed here, and on this occasion he gave an interesting exposition of his powers, both of execution and of memory. Mr Arthur Lennard is a tuneful singer of descriptive songs and a great favourite, and the charming style of Miss Lizzie Fletcher, comedienne, is much admired. Harry Martell, a smart dancer; Rastus and Banks, coloured comedians; and Jimmy Shields, one-legged comedian, complete the company.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Eade Montefiore.—This is the last week of *Cinderella*, which has had a satisfactory run. During the past fortnight Miss Ada Twibell has scored brilliantly as the Prince

admiration as Cinderella. The night was under very distinguished military and social patronage, including Lieut.-Col. B. P. Portal, D.S.O., and officers of the 17th Lancers. Among other extras the popular Scottish comedian, Mr J. T. M'Millan, from the Royal, made a welcome appearance.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Tom Ellis.—Miss Lillie Mowbray's company commenced a short engagement at this house on Monday evening in *Robinson Crusoe*. There was a capital house, and the pantomime, which was effectively staged and well acted, had a first-rate reception. Miss Lillie Mowbray made a vivacious and cheerful hero, and Miss Tina Franks was a captivating Dolly Mayflower. Among the men Messrs J. C. Chant, Louis Martell, and Claude Morton distinguished themselves, while the whistling solos of Mr Vic Verney were received with hearty favour.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr John Henry Cooke.—The sensational spectacle, *Aqua-Wreck*, is still the attraction here, supplemented by an excellent equestrian and variety company. Among recent arrivals are Rappo and Ella, in a high-class equilibristic entertainment, and Mozzetto, a youthful juggler of remarkable ability, whose feats have been well received. The horse Kentucky Beau, introduced by Miss Ernestine Rosa, is another feature, and Clown Domino and his performing donkey have provided a very amusing turn.

EDMONTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Edmonton has this week been visited by Mr F. Jarman's company, in the sensational Anglo-Russian drama entitled *In Dark Siberia*. Mr Wilson Howard is good as Major Waroff. The character of Princess Natalie Orloff is admirably rendered by Miss Carlotta Anson, and Mr W. T. Riley is excellent as Captain Victor Gordon. Messrs B. H. Ross and L. Weston and Mesdames C. Ransome and L. Riley are well fitted in the characters they impersonate. Bruin, the performing bear (Mr Harry Goodier), keeps the house in roars of laughter all the time he occupies the stage. The theatre orchestra, under the direction of Herr C. H. Paul Schafer, the new *chef d'orchestre*, render charming selections nightly.

EXETER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Secretary and Manager, Mr Fred Pollard; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy M. Dunsford.—*Robinson Crusoe* maintains his popularity to the last. On Monday evening, which commenced the last week of Mr Mouillot's pantomime stay here, a large and enthusiastic audience had a thoroughly enjoyable time. An additional attractive feature is the appearance of Bud Snyder, the trick cyclist, whose feats are, to say the least, sensational, and fully deserving of the applause they evoke. The Florodora Girls repeat their former successes, and the Almontes and Mat Melrose and Lalla Cowell fully maintain their hold upon the Exeter public.

FALKIRK.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr Horace W. Ebbutt.—The week's bill at this theatre is divided between musical comedy and detective drama. For the first three nights *A Runaway Girl* was produced by Mr Mouillot's company. This catchy and entertaining play brought out a capital house on Monday evening, and on Tuesday and Wednesday it was also well patronised. Miss Ethel Netherton, as Winifred Grey, whose escape from the Convent gives the title to the piece, made a vivacious and sprightly principal, and her singing was pleasing (although she suffered from a cold) and her dancing pretty. Mr Archie Croft as Guy Stanley proved very agreeable in the part of Lord Coodle's son. As a dancer he also showed himself to be an expert. Brother Tamarind found a suitable exponent in Mr Henry Latimer, who created considerable mirth in the rôle of a member of the Brigand Troupe with which he associated himself on discarding the monastic garb. The little interludes with Carmenita (Miss Marie Shields) served to add to the humour of the piece. Those mostly responsible for the live action of the play were Miss Amy Edmonds as Alice and Mr Howard Cridland as Flipper, and they made the most of their parts. The characters were all very well taken. The scenery was very effective, and the dresses pretty. The singing of the chorus was satisfactory. There was an augmented orchestra under the direction of Mr Gordon Stamford. On Thursday Mr Chas. Frohman's company appeared in *Sherlock Holmes*, Mr Kenneth Rivington taking the chief rôle.

TOWN HALL.—On Friday and Saturday last week Mr W. T. Rushbury, the veteran entertainer, appeared with his company in the comedy *Fun on the Bristol*, which afforded amusement to good houses each evening. As Widow O'Brien Mr Maurice Love was a huge success. Mr Arthur Cartwright in the capacity of John Waffles, alias Count Menaggio, deserved a special line for his fine singing and also his acting. The other principal parts were also well filled.

FARNWORTH.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr T. Morton Powell.—This week we have a return visit from Mrs Bandmann Palmer and her company. The play chosen for the opening night was *Mary, Queen of Scots*, Mrs Bandmann Palmer giving her usual finished performance of the title-rôle. She was well supported by Mr F. Skein as the Earl of Leicester, Mr Boyd Pearson as the Earl of Shrewsbury, Mr Sidney Bland as Lord Burleigh, and Mr G. Monroe as the Earl of Kent, and Miss K. Herbert was altogether successful in her portrayal of the part of Elizabeth. The scenery and costumes are excellent. Other plays for the week include *Edit Lynne, Sapho, Jane Shore*, and *Hamlet*.

FOLKESTONE.

PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr H. W. Rowland.—Messrs Dottridge and Longden's company, under the direction of Mr James Willard, is here this week in *The Midnight Mail*. Mr Geo. Harvard gives a good portrayal of the hero, Harry Steyne, Mr Fred G. Evison works well and hard in the trying rôle of Billy Brewer, Mr Alec Alves does well as Leonard Royle, Mr Arthur Gilroy as Hassan Padisha is extremely good, Mr Charles M'Cann proves an ideal Donald Craig, Miss Elsie Green admirably sustains the part of Lady Phyllis Eustace, Miss Mildred Carr plays cleverly as Nancy Brewer, Miss Ada Oakley's rendering of Mary Steyne is natural, and Miss Dolly Gilroy is capital as Patty.

GAINSBOROUGH.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton.—We had for three nights last week that amusing musical comedy *Miss Mischief*, and it was capitally played by Mr Godfrey Lamplugh's company. This week we have Messrs Geo. Mitchell and John Belton's company in *The Conscript* and *The Unknown*. In the former piece Mr Mitchell and Miss Mary Dawson gave powerful renderings of Karl Truevitch and Nadia. The villainies of Hardiski were well brought out by Mr Horatio Sinclair. Mr John Belton was successful in the difficult character of Dor Doggervitch. Mr Harry Tilbury and Miss Belle Tilbury supplied the comic element in Trotoff and Wands, and the rest of the characters in the hands of Messrs Howell Travis, Geo. Oliver, Frank Harvey, &c.; and Misses Helen Brinkman and Elizabeth Doone were capably portrayed.

GATESHEAD.

METROPOLE THEATRE, LIMITED. — General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Straughan.—J. W. Hall, comedian, is very popular here, and Fred Land creates much amusement by his entertaining and original songs. Lottie Siegenberg provides a good sketch, *The Lazy* [illegible] the Two Erras supply a smart acrobatic [illegible]ent; and George and Edwards are responsible for excellent turn. W. H. Morgan sings [illegible]ttractive turns are provided by M. [illegible]on, ventriloquist; and the Bros. Lee.

GLASGOW.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy Humphrys.—The pantomime here, *The Forty Thieves*, is going well, and the holiday rush is being well maintained. Mr Tom E. Murray as a raconteur keeps the audience in fits with his quaint wheezes, and Mr George Lashwood has now introduced several more of his catchy songs. Miss Annie Purcell is one of the daintiest principal boys we have had, and the other members of the company lend able support. A big favourite with the children is the donkey as played by Mr Fred Griffiths, who gives a wonderfully amusing performance.

ROYALTY, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr Wm. M. Downie.—The pantomime *Jack and Jill* is still running at this house, and, like all Mr Tiller's productions, is remarkably strong in dancing talent, the bulk of the fun being provided by Mr Harry Conlin as the Dame; Mr Leslie Stiles as the Baron; and Mr Freddy French as Ginger. In the title parts Misses May Merry and Mable Higson prove themselves talented little ladies; and as the Prince and Princess Miss Frances Earle and Miss Florence Burdett play their respective parts in capital style. Miss Jessie Templeton as Trim and Miss May Sharples as Fantim make an attractive second boy and girl; and the two immortals, Truth and Carl, the hunchback, are will represented by Miss Millie Warde and Mr Frank Woodville.

METROPOLE.—Managing Director, Mr Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr John Dunbar.—Mr Jefferson is this week presenting to his patrons his own well-known drama *London by Day and Night*. The company is well selected. Mr Riddell Robinson is successful in depicting the villainy of Gideon Snake; Mr Charles Burdon creditably sustains the popular part of Jack Hainsworth; Mr Alfred D. Adam plays with discretion and power as Richard Thorneycroft; and Mr Charles Osborne portrays the part of Edgar Thorneycroft with telling effect. Mr T. G. Davies proves successful as George Flemming; Beatrice Thorneycroft is sympathetically impersonated by Miss Jessie Robertson; Miss Beryl Mercer does excellent work as Dick; Nicodeemus Sneezer as played by Mr Percy Bell is humorous; and Miss Amy B. Ellis is a pleasing Maria Pink.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr J. H. Oakden.—A powerful company is here this week playing *Dan the Rake*, in which Mr J. Rice Cassidy appears as Dan, which he plays with much rollicking Irish humour. Miss Lilian Clare as Madge gives a lively impersonation of the picturesque gipsy girl; Miss Ada Roscoe gives a feeling rendering of the blind mother of Dan; Miss F. Halton pleasingly interprets the character of Helen; and Mr Frank Orchard is manly in his rendering of the erring Colonel Flamer. Mr F. Copeland as Lieutenant Kavanagh is an ideal lover, and Mr Frederick Biron acts the villain with less than the usual melodramatic depth of dye.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss's Empires, Limited; Resident Manager, Mr Arthur Aldin.—Fred Karno's company in *Early Birds* cause roars of laughter here by their clever and amusing antics; Peppo's monkeys give an exceedingly smart and original turn; the musical act of the Leslie Brothers is one of the best comedy acts of its kind; the Rossow Midgets in their varied turn, and especially in their boxing, are really smart little men; Sisters Hayden contribute a lively medley trio as street song-sellers; the Korries give a pleasant musical turn; Mueller and Coyne are clever patterers and dancers; and Charles Adams, comedian; the Mascotte Trio of lady acrobats; and Edie Veno, comedienne, complete the programme.

TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr S. King Alexander; Acting-Managers, Messrs T. J. Colquhoun and Fred C. Ewing.—Excellent business is being done at these houses, both of which have special attractions, Willie Withers Bain, the 12st. champion wrestler of the world, being at the Tivoli, where a nightly amateur wrestling contest, for special prizes, is also being conducted. At the Queen's the Three Musical Shipbuilders create a furore by their solo and concerted playing of high-class music, the cornet solos by two of the team being particularly fine. The Karno Trio in *The Travellers' Rest* are very funny; and Fiske and M'Donough, in a sketch of American slum life, are also very attractive; Rodin, a truly comic cyclist; and Hess and Lisbon, in a funny skating act, lend variety to the programmes; Kisbey, "the call boy," a clever mimic; Carle and Carminelli, in a unique musical turn; George Ray, Scotch comedian; Onda and Arteli in a daring gymnastic act; Collins and Rice, in a clever comedy sketch; and the Two Rubies, attractive dancers, all contribute to the varied programmes. The Zaros, champion tumblers; and Mike Cray and his dog lend additional interest. A fine selection of entirely new pictures by Bendon's Bioscope gives unusual satisfaction.

PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs Rich Waldon and Thos. Barrasford; Assistant-Manager, Mr Harry M'Kelsie.—Houdini, the handcuff king, is again mystifying the Glasgow public with his marvellous facility at escaping from all sorts of handcuffs, manacles, and leg-irons. The Arleys give a cleverly worked trick cyclist turn, with a lot of novel features. Maud Caswell's barrel jumping evokes hearty applause. Burton Joyce is a clever vocalist, and Lily Flexmore a dainty dancer, her contortionist feats being marvellous. The Vaudeville Trio of singers and musicians, Keen and Waller in an eccentric acrobatic act, Charles R. Whittle and Frank Hutchings as comedians, and the animated pictures all prove enjoyable items.

BRITANNIA.—Lessee, Mr James Anderson; Manager, Mr Geo. Saphrini; Assistant-Manager, Mr Harry Hemfrey.—A grand complimentary benefit was given the popular lessee, Mr James Anderson, on Monday, when the following well-known artistes gave their services:—Sheila Barrett, vocalist; Alice Golding, ballad vocalist; Bonnetti and Corrie, comedy jugglers; Brindall and Coller, comedians; Arthur Bright, vocalist; G. W. Fyvie, Irish comedian; Rob Sloan, Scotch comedian; Johnnie Boyle and Jack Dysart, boxers; Dora Lindsay, vocalist; J. H. Harris, Scotch comedian; Minnie Osborne, vocalist and dancer; Valadones, hand-balancers; Maggie Campbell, ballad vocalist; Warner and Wilson, comedians; Ryder Dane, comedian; Jack Elliott, comedian; M'Farlane, dancing marvel; Norman Bros., acrobats; Sims, Daly, and Sims, boxers and Indian club performers; and the Britannia Bioscope, with new and up-to-date pictures.

HARMONIC CONCERTS.—Musical Secretary, Mr Wm. Biggam.—W. F. Frame, "the man you know," is the big draw here, and that clever couple, Allis and Cassati, also prove popular. Ted Curtis and his pleasantries; the Bransbys, comedy artists; Frank Rogerson and Ella Millar, vocalists; the Gilbeys, instrumentalists; Tom Berrick; Mitzi, the juggler; and Will Hunter, ventriloquist, also provide attractive turns.

GOOLE.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr John E. Tomlinson.—Mr Stanley S. Gordon's company, in the drama *For the Woman He Loves*, is here this week. The play abounds in striking scenes. Miss Mary Vernon is pathetically played by Miss Nina Vaughton, and the part of Silas Bradley, the villain, is equally ably filled by Mr Wilfred Prothero. Mr Stanley S. Gordon is a distinct success as Philip Meredith. Mr Dacre Baldie and Mr Walter Manfree are also good as Charles Dean and Hannibal Muggleton. Mr Harry C. Momber is highly amusing as James Stilton, and is ably seconded by Miss Ida Bell as Tilda. Virginie, an adventuress, has a capable exponent in Miss Eva Lyndhurst. Miss M. De La Hay is a clever Evie, and Miss Sallie Adelstones does well as Bessie Bramble. *The Slave Girl* is billed for the latter part of the week.

GLOUCESTER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Owners, Messrs C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr W. H. Weller.—Mr John Restall's pantomime *Cinderella* is here for a fortnight. Miss Ada Lindley is an accomplished Cinderella, her singing and dancing finding favour; and Miss Annie Craig makes an attractive and dashing Prince Charming. Dandini is smartly rendered by Miss Mona Macdonald; and Mr Charles Clark is lively as the Page, Billy Buttons. The ugly sisters are in the hands of two capital comedians, Mr Clem Myers and Mr Dan Idle. Mr Harry Rose as the Baron proves very droll; and Messrs Stern and Stern as Sloshem and Biffem cause a great deal of fun. Miss Muriel Lochner is noticeable as Phyllis; and Miss Madeline Stone-Humphries looks well as the Fairy Queen Sunshine. The specialities are Master Rochester, a wonderfully clever juvenile pianist; Messrs Stern and Stern, in a statuesque act; the Sinclair troupe of dancers; and an electric ballet arranged by Miss Madge Stanley.

GREAT YARMOUTH.

ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr J. W. Nightingale.—Mr Edward Marris's company is here this week with the sensational drama *As Midnight Chimes*. The piece is well staged and capitally played. Mr Melville Bickford enacts with success the leading rôle of Luke Dezzard; Dave Stannard is depicted in manly earnest style by Mr Frank E. Petley; Miss Gertrude Price gives a sympathetic rendition of the rôle of Mary Stannard; and Mr James Salter as Tat Spavvin and Miss Nita Imeson as Suzette supply the comedy. Other parts are well filled.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr Geo. Gilbert.—For the concluding week of the season Mr Gilbert has supplied a capital programme. Henderson and Williams do wonderful tricks as comic cyclists; the Eltenos supply a clever triple bar act; Tata and Tata contribute a novel comedy acrobatic turn; Togo juggles expertly; the riding goat, Peter the Great, shows what training can accomplish; the Bellonys astonish with their feats as sensational bicycle equilibrists; Miss Russell sings charmingly; *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, with Mr Tom Cullen in the leading rôle, gains plenty of applause; and Little Bishop and the favourite Rabbit keep the house in roars of laughter with their comicalities.

GREENOCK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, the Executors of the late Mr Alex. Wright; Managers, Messrs A. B. Wright and J. J. Wright.—This week *The New Barmaid* is being played here under the direction of Mr Alexander Loftus. Mr Joseph B. Montague is a genuine and versatile humourist, and enacts Bertie White in an irresistibly comic way. Mr Alexander Loftus is particularly good as William White, and his songs are well rendered and loudly applauded. Mr Frank Melroyd is amusing as Mons. Bonsor, and is an expert dancer; Mr Leslie Austin makes a capital Captain Lovebury, and the numbers allotted to him are tastefully rendered; Mr Arthur Rodney ably fills the rôle of Colonel Claymore, and Mr Norman Bowyer does well as Braddy. Miss Violet Osmond is charming in the part of Dora Heather, singing and dancing nicely; Miss Nance O'Neil is an attractive Ethel Joy, and vocalises sweetly; and Miss Jean Gilmour makes the most of her opportunities as Lady Moulton. The efficient chorus and orchestra are under the direction of Mr Otto Cantor, and the play is very well mounted.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. L. Skivington.—The company at this popular house includes Preston and Balmaine, with illustrated songs and duets, who do an excellent "turn"; La Belle Tosca performs gracefully on the silver wire; Fred Collins is a clever character comedian; W. E. Hilton is an expert and amusing ventriloquist; Yanda supplies some smart juggling on the rolling globe; Grey and Walford are amusing comedians and dancers; Eleonora, lady gymnast, is charming; and Haig and Novel do a good turn.

GRIMSBY.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr S. Tolfree.—The drama *The Mockery of Marriage* has been played here this week. Miss Olga Audre deserves praise for some excellent acting as Alva Kenyon, wife of Dick Kenyon, a swindling gold-digger, which character is vividly portrayed by Mr Arthur Winperny. Dick's companion in villainy, Seth Pearce, is ably impersonated by Mr James Dalton. Mr Chas. Boult successfully plays the highly contrasting character of Jack Stanley, whilst Miss F. Zillwood makes an excellent Rose Vernham. The comedy parts are well looked after by Mr Will Skelton as Toby Wright and Mrs Sidney Halling as Mary Ann Barnicoate.

NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr Steuart Cecil.—For the first time since the house was opened a break in the run of variety programmes has been made at the Palace this week, when Mr Macnaghten staged a pantomime. The two houses nightly system was, however, adhered to. *Aladdin* was the subject dealt with, and a most amusing burlesque of the well-known story from "The Arabian Nights' Entertainments" was given. Miss Meg Hamilton as Aladdin made an attractive principal boy, infusing plenty of dash into her work, whilst as Princess Badroulbadour Miss Polly sang, acted, and danced with equal charm. A wealth of comedy was introduced, the knockabout work of Messrs Bishop and Vale as Ping and Pong being particularly laughable. Much fun was also caused by Mr Fred Lawrence as the dame, Widow Twankey, and Mr T. W. Vaughan as the magician, Abanazar. Others worthy of mention were Mr Gilbert Rogers, who represented the Emperor, and Mr Jack Heath, the impersonator of Gin Sling, the Grand Vizier. A number of well-trained children added to the effectiveness of the pantomime, and a pretty spectacle was provided in "A-Ba-Bee's Picture Post-card Album."

HIPPODROME. — Proprietor, Mr T. Allan Edwardes; General Manager, Mr H. F. Millar; Assistant-Manager, Mr H. H. Watson. — A representation of life in its primitive state has been given here by the Abadaroff Troupe, who describe themselves as prehistoric mountebanks. Dressed in appropriate costume, they combine a lot of laughter-provoking business with smart acrobatic work. Jean Seul has considerably mystified the audiences with his wonderful illusions. He materialises a large variety of articles, seemingly out of nothing. Texas Hattie has accomplished a remarkable performance on the tight rope, turning somersaults on her slender perch. Salmon has greatly pleased those who have witnessed his clever cycling feats. Others contributing to the programme have been Will Bacchus, actor-vocalist; Carr and Rose, vocalists; Eismanr, juggler; and Charles Rose, comedian and clog dancer.

HARTLEPOOL.

EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr Harry Burns.—Miss Nellie Wallace heads the bill here this week, and wins hearty encores. Grant and Allen are old favourites whose popularity is marked; Mephisto, contortionist, has a good reception; the drolleries of Billy Richardson evoke unbounded laughter and applause; the Three Henriques, with a clever acrobatic performance, are well received; Florry Cooper, juvenile artist, sings some good songs in pleasing style; Fanny Robina gains an enthusiastic encore; and Burns's amusing pictures complete the entertainment.

HULL.

EMPIRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Jno. Sylvester Sage.—The Empire Sketch Company, in *My Lord of Avondale*, do a successful turn here. Bessie Travis is a smart girl ventriloquist; the illustrated songs of Donald Grant meet with much favour; Gaertner and Weston, musical comedians; Fred J. Hudson, Long Amos, and the Bioscope complete the list of attractions.

HALIFAX.

GRAND THEATRE. — Managing Director, Mr William Robinson; General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling.—Messrs Dottridge and Longden's pantomime of *Aladdin* is proving popular here. It is in all respects an admirable production, and the untiring efforts of the principals make it go with a celerity and a swing which is fully appreciated. Mr Fred Cary, a smart, unconventional, and active comedian, does justice to the part of Abanazar; Mr Fred Graham gives a clever and humorous exposition of the old dame; Mr John Donald sings well; Keith and Merson do some laughable work; and the Bros. Brooks are a comical pair and cause much hilarity. Aladdin has a bright and active exponent in Miss Mimi Fisher, who gets through a lot of work with much credit to herself; Miss Harriet Fawn is admirable as the Princess; Miss Cassie Walmer enjoys deserved popularity for her singing and clever dancing; and praise is well earned by Misses Phyllis Grey, Lilian Maude, Lena Vere, Connie Barlow, and Lilly Griffiths. The scenery is good, the pantomime is well dressed, and suitable specialities are introduced.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Frank Macnaghten.—The great attraction here is the Magic Kettle, with some wonderful experiments with liquid air. The company includes the Gothams in a musical absurdity; Harry Cotton, comedian; the Wynford Brothers, barrel jumpers; Orpheus, in a musical speciality act; the Wartenburg Brothers, foot equilibrists; Zarmo, comic juggler; and the Loma Trio, gymnasts.

HARROGATE.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr F. Smith.—Another week of pantomime commenced here on Monday, Mr John Walter's company presenting *Robinson Crusoe*. The pantomime furnishes a good all-round entertainment. Miss Rose Harvey is very graceful as the principal boy; Miss Fanny Adamson, Miss Bertha Cousins, and Miss Kittie Major are responsible for good work; the Bros. Cho provide plenty of amusement; and Mr Shaun Glenville as Widow Crusoe is very successful. The eccentricities of Mr Fred Alberts and the Dusky Princess, Miss Nancy Renshaw, are in great demand. The remaining members of the cast ably sustain their parts.

HASTINGS.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Geo. H. Gazo.—A return visit is being paid this week by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr Percy Hutchison's principal company with the pleasing comedy *Cousin Kate*. Miss Edith Walker is bright, cheery, and natural as Kate Curtis; in Miss Nina Cressy's portrayal of Mrs Spencer there is a captivating homeliness that delights her audience; the impulsively impressionable Amy Spencer is ably suggested by Miss Hilda Honis; and contagious hilarity is caused by the manner Miss Bessie Castle plays as the giggling family help, Jane. Mr Donald Maclean as the Rev. James Bartlett is ideally smug and unctuous; Bobby is finely played by Master Vyvian Thomas; and Mr Walter Ringham ably adapts himself to the rôle of Heath Desmond. *A Case for Eviction* precedes the principal piece.

PIER PAVILION.—Pier-Master, Mr R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr J. D. Hunter.—Mr Arthur St. John and a strong company are appearing here in *Black-eyed Susan*. Mr Arthur St. John as William is a fine type the British seaman; his love passages with Susan are particularly natural and effective. Miss Patsy Trounsell as Susan acts in a very pleasing manner. The part of Captain Crosstree is well sustained by Mr E. Furgusson Miss Ida St. John makes a very attractive midshipman; Dolly Mayflower is prettily personified by Miss Lilian Burns; Mr Walters is appropriately keen and resolute as the Admiral and President of Court-martial; Mr J. Ferne gives a realistic portrait of a lieutenant; and an able impersonation of Gnatbrain is contributed by Mr Aveline Grant.

ST. LEONARDS KURSAAL.—Pier Master, Mr Elvey Thomas; Entertainment Manager, Mr Drew Mackintosh.—The Kursaal Orchestra, under the able directorship of Mr Val Marriott, is augmented on one occasion, at the latter part of the week, by some artists of high repute. The programme comprises the names of Miss Alys Bateman (soprano), Miss Gertrude Lonsdale (contralto), Mr Gregory Hast (tenor), and Mr Watkin Mills (baritone). The pianists are Mons. Eduard Partovitz and Mr Ardny Rosenthal, Miss Nadia Sylva being solo violinist.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr Harold Penny.—A great favourite here is that versatile comedian Mr Fred Henderson. The Sisters Mayo introduce some pleasing Irish songs. Mr Frank Purcell's comedy company is highly amusing in a farcical sketch. An attractive vocalist is found in Miss Marie Pownall. A marvellous imitator of sounds is Mons. Leo Tell. The Ashers (Agnes and Mike) win great applause by their novel act, and the effusions of Mr Henry Crook, comedian, are much enjoyed. The Eugene Family give a pleasing and refined aerial performance.

HORWICH.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Sandiford.—Messrs Collins and Stevenson's *Sinbad the Sailor* company is the attraction here. The scenery and dresses are very handsome, and the company is a good all-round one. Miss Gertie Rowan in the title-part is full of dash, her singing and dancing being thoroughly up to the mark. Miss Annie G. Brevitt as Haidie is very effective; Miss Florence Goldstone's Princess Zara is capital; Miss Emmie Westcroft makes an ideal Fairy Queen; Mr Geo. Casey revels in the rôle of Mrs Sinbad; Mr Billy Moore as Captain Scuttleum is funny, and his lightning gun and mace show is very clever; Mr Fred Lake as Tinbad scores with his topical verses; Percy Victor's dog minstrels give a marvellous show; the Zara Girls' dancing is excellent; Wee Johnnie and Edna contribute some smart cake-walking, their efforts winning tumultuous applause; Dan Harley's acrobatic clog dancing is highly appreciated. The whole production, under the stage management of Mr Harry Collins, goes with a swing. Mr J. H. Stevenson and Mrs Redmond look well after the business portion of the arrangements.

HOYLAND.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Owner, Mr Arthur Carlton; Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Geo. S. King.—Messrs Armadale and Warren's company is here in *The Face at the Window*. Mr T. W. Dunscombe in the rôle of Paul Gouffet gains a large share of the applause; Mr A. Knight exhibits ability in the character of Le Loup; Lucien Cortier has a capable exponent in Mr A. Warne; Mr George Pythian ably portrays De Brisson; and as the English tourist Mr C. A. Hineson keeps the house in roars of laughter. Mr G. Hall gives a good representation of the Mad Doctor. The part of Mary De Brisson is entrusted to Miss Mary Barrett, who is successful. Miss Jennie Dempster as La Pinau and Miss Gwynne Warren as Babette are both well suited.

HUDDERSFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy G. Arthur.—In *Winnie Brooke, Widow*, Miss Ada Reeve has an excellent medium for the presentation of her special gifts. Dowered with a beautiful voice, trained to the highest perfection in method, every line and every note of song and speech receives from Miss Reeve full appreciation. The company engaged in support is thoroughly capable. The fine experience of Mr Charles Weir is used to the full in his cleverly played part of Dudley Mayne. Mr Edgar Stevens uses his fine voice with great skill and satisfactory effect as Reginald Frampton. Mr Leon Ashton-Jarry depicts with subtle irony the lovelorn sham woman-hater Croft. Mr Frederick Tyrrell and Miss Alice Lawrence are amusing as the Rev. and Mrs Elihu Garside. Miss Cecile Beresford as Gracie Frampton and Miss Ruth Hazlewood as Nora Caswell make the most of their few opportunities. Mr Harry Halley is breezy as Brent, solicitor. Three clever character sketches are contributed by Miss Drusilla Wills as Honoria Brown, Mr Alick Burke as Toby Blossom, and Mr Donald Price Evans as Hercules Grant, the amorous odd boy at Mayne's. There is an efficient chorus and an augmented orchestra, under the direction of the composer of the music, Mr J. A. Robertson.

HYDE.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr Joseph W. Maloney.—Mr Charles Harrington's company, in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, is here this week. The rôle of Uncle Tom is impressively enacted by Mr J. Carr; Mr Charles Harrington makes a capital Phineas Fletcher; Mr Alfred Richards is well cast as Mr St. Clair; Mr Guy P. Ellis is a forcible and convincing exponent of George Harris; Mr John Henry Rogers makes Legree a sufficiently repulsive character; and Mr Fred Charles extracts a considerable amount of humour out of the part of Marks. Eliza Harris is intelligently embodied by Miss Hettie Johnson; Miss Sylvia Stella is successful as Topsy, acting, dancing, and singing in a highly pleasing manner; Aunt Ophelia is well impersonated by Miss Ida Fane; and Little Minnie displays histrionic ability as Little Eva. Others deserving of praise are Miss Hero Hathaway as Mrs St. Clair, Mrs Carr as Aunt Chloe, and Miss Zerlina Zerbini (Mrs Harrington) as Cassy.

ILKESTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr L. F. A. Rogers.—*A Wrecker of Men* is here. Mr Percy Horton as Guise Strange acts effectively, and Miss Victoria May wins good opinions as Doris Melville. Mr Mill is seen to advantage as Jim Murley. Mr George Harvey as Railton and Mr Chas. Yorke as Pharosaphus acquit themselves well. Miss Rosalind Tate depicts Risca Mallison with success. The remaining rôles are in capable hands.

IPSWICH.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. G. Fisk.—*A Soldier and a Man* has been played here by a company under the direction of Mr A. Clifton Alderson, who, as Harry Sinclair, has received able support from Mr P. Beckett as the villain. Other characters were in the competent hands of Messrs K. Ayliff, A. Norma, Harry F. Wright, Miss Hilda Leslie, and Miss B. Doyle.

IPSWICH HIPPODROME.—The new turns here include a historical sketch by Ronald Rayne and Evelyn Hope, entitled *An Emperor's Divorce*; M'Cann's dogs, a clever troupe of Irish terriers; the Blue Coat Boys, a quartet of clever vocalists; Newham and Latimer, comedians; Gracie Logan, a graceful dancer; and others.

JERSEY.

OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr C. Robert Perkins.—Mr Frederick Mouillot's pantomime *The Sleeping Beauty* opened here on Tuesday night, and is the prettiest pantomime which has been seen in Jersey. The opening performance was given in the presence of H.E. Major Ernest Hugh Gough, Lieutenant-Governor, and Mrs Gough. Miss May Davis is a captivating Beauty; Miss Florence Vie sings well as Prince Charming; Mr Charles Penrose is an amusing Peter Piper; and Mr Alf Sandoe causes much fun as Selina Quizbereena. The pantomime, which was produced at Southampton on Boxing night, is a credit to Mr Mouillot, and goes with vim from start to finish.

KETTERING.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Payne.—Mr A. E. Smith's pantomime of *Aladdin* is the attraction here. Miss Rita Resdan in the title-part quickly makes herself a prime favourite, and Miss Elsie Douglas is a charming Princess, her dancing being keenly appreciated. Miss Fanny Douglas sings admirably as Peko, and Miss Maud Bettisor, the Genie of the Lamp, is a pleasing vocalist. Mr Teddy Lennon plays the Vizier in good style, introducing some clever dancing, and Mr Fred Arnold as the Emperor gives a smart exhibition of legerdemain. The Brothers Taylor work hard and successfully as Chinese Policemen and the Four Snowdrops contribute some capital dances. Mr Fred Ramsdale as the Widow Twankey supplies a humorous and refined performance, and Mr J. H. Maxwell as Abanazar sends the audience into roars of laughter.

KIDDERMINSTER.

NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr R. C. Gudgeon, jun.—Mr Chas. Macdona's company is here this week with *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Mr Steane Louch does remarkably well as Hong Chow; Mr Louis Ashmeade is a good Chippie Chop; Mr Maxwell Stewart is very funny as Hi Lung; Mr Sidney Burt as Mr Pineapple causes plenty of fun; Mrs Pineapple is vivaciously played by Miss Alicia Norton; Mrs Brown is well embodied by Miss Dulcie Garland; Miss Florence Haliom is a charming Soo-Soo; and Miss Ethie Cinders as Fi-Fi is a comedienne of much ability.

KILMARNOCK.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr A. Hales.—On Monday, for three nights, Mr Leigh Lovel's company, in *The Duke of Killicrankie*, played to good houses here. In the title rôle Mr Herbert J. Bentley was seen to advantage; Mr Lovel was a great success as Mr Pitt Welby, M.P.; Miss Naomi Neilson was very good as Mrs Mulholland; and Miss Octavia Kenmore's Lady Henrietta Addison was pleasing. The curtain-raiser was *Jerry and a Sunbeam*. On Thursday Mr C. P. Levilly's company, in the new comic opera *Amorelle*, has been playing to good houses.

KING'S LYNN.

NEW ROYAL THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Bannister Howard; Business Manager, Mr Herbert Leonard.—Mr Norman V. Norman and company have been appearing here. On Monday *Under the Red Robe* was presented. Mr Norman V. Norman gives a powerful and finished performance of Gil De Berault; Mr Robert Hilton supplies a good rendering Cardinal Richelieu; Mr Norman Leslie as Lieut. Manet is excellent; Captain Laroile is amusingly played by Mr Percy H. Vernon; Mr L. Cory Thomas contributes a clever character sketch as Clon; Miss M. Frame as Madame De Cocheforêt is commendable; and Miss Beatrice Wilson is a meritorious Renée De Cocheforêt. Great praise is due to the excellent dresses and staging of the piece.

LEAMINGTON.

THEATRE ROYAL — Lessees, Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr Henry Eaden.—*Three Little Maids* is here this week and Mr Charles Macdona's company is one of all-round excellence. Misses Mabel Lavelle, Nelly Grover, and Vera Vallis all sang and acted in an artistic manner. Mr Arthur Longley is a very funny Lord Cheyne, and Mr Gus Oxley fills the rôle of Cupid capitally.

LEIGH.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE —Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr W. Dewhurst —Messrs Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's pantomime company, *Robinson Crusoe*, is here this week. Miss Vere Mayne makes a dashing hero; Miss Nellie Moore is a capital exponent of Polly Hopkins; Miss Rosie Volberque a refined and pleasing Princess Flumeza; Miss Daisy Volberque a satisfactory Captain Billy Taylor; and Mr Will Fredo an amusing Mrs Sarah Crusoe, his dancing being admired. Messrs Bass and Guinness as Billy and Johnny Crusoe keep the house in roars of laughter; Mr T. Johnson makes a capital King

LANCASTER.

ATHENÆUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Hy. Wilkinson.—*Driven from Home*, after an absence of several years, is again being presented by Messrs J. K. Murray and J. M. Dawson's capable company. Miss Ella Sennett is interesting and pathetic as the unfortunate Laura Raybrook, and wins unstinted applause Mr Jack Dawson plays well the part of Walter Hatherleigh; Mr Cyril Harrison is successful as Geoffrey Waring, and the same may be said of Mr Fred Hadskis as Anthony Raybrook. There is a vein of humour in the piece which is successfully supplied by Mr Wilson as Peter Pettifer, and the other characters are well embodied by Miss Hilda M'Collougb, Miss Gladys Murray, Miss Emilie Dawson, Mr A. J. Williams, and Mr Clifford Spencer, who sings well.

PALACE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs W. J. Fergusson and John Porter.—The bill here includes Kalan and Kalan, in a comedy acrobatic act; Miss Jenny Love, contralto; Marbach, card manipulator; Curtis Leo, in "Fun in a Drawing room;" Geo. W. Foster, comedian; Will Dalton, comedian; and Jack and Evelyn, in their "Act of the Period," which is very clever.

LEEDS.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr John Hart; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Richardson.—Mr Hart's pantomime, *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*, has increased in attractiveness, and crowded and delighted audiences nightly applaud the clever work of a brilliant company of principals and admire the picturesque gorgeous spectacular show provided.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr R. Ernest Liston.—There has been another busy week here, for *Cinderella* is being played to huge business at every performance. The show goes with a remarkable swing, and is full of fun from start to finish, thanks to the spirited efforts of the numerous principals.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Dottridge and Longden; General Manager, Mr C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Bush.—Considerable crowds are again the rule here, the attraction being the ever-green farce *Charley's Aunt*, capitally played by Mr Brandon Thomas's company. Mr Geo. Desmond in the name part gives a thoroughly satisfactory rendition; Spettigue is well done by Mr Guy Lane; Mr A. Molyneux makes an effective Colonel Chesney; Mr Allan Pollock and Mr J. W. Daverell make the most of their respective opportunities as Jack Chesney and Charlie Wykeham; Miss L. Subley gives a correct portrayal of Donna Lucia; a charming Amy Spettigue goes to the credit of Miss Lydia Wantage; and Miss L. Northern and Miss Agnes Gun are seen to advantage in other parts. The playlet, *Fourchette and Co.*, is the curtain-raiser.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr T. G. Mooney.—That very versatile musician, Vasco, leads the way here with a varied and novel turn, displaying considerable ability on a bewildering succession of instruments. A clever and artistic little sketch is presented with distinction by Miss Winona Winter, assisted by Mr W. H. Banks. Lilian Lowe, an accomplished vocalist, finds great favour; George Newburn again displays high abilities as mimic of leading variety artistes; Walter Munroe, the clever Irish comedian, is in song and dance just as successful as ever; the Five Olracs do great things in the acrobatic line; a pair of remarkably expert aerial gymnasts appear in Alexander and Bertie; Japanese drill is a capital speciality; and Katie Butler, comedienne, and Will Newman, comedian, are also in the bill.

TIVOLI.—Proprietor, Mr T. Barrasford; Managers, Messrs Chas. Weldon and Edgar O. Waller.—The top-of-the-bill attraction here is T. Nelson Downs, aptly termed the king of coins, who gives a novel and interesting show. Leo Dryden, the favourite actor-vocalist, is again doing a hugely successful turn, and the clever and daring exhibition of Brinn finds great favour. Alfred Barker makes his comic circus a most amusing turn; Mdlle. Marvelle presents her performing birds with success; and Henry Abdy submits a troupe of wonderfully well-trained dogs. The Carina Sisters do well in an accomplished musical mélange; a burlesque act by the O'Learys is well received; and further capital entertainment is subscribed by Dan Llewellyn, tenor vocalist.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr F. W. Wood; General Manager, Mr J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr S. Jones.—George D'Albert, the popular actor-vocalist, is a strong feature of this present week's bill, and Fred Lloyd and company have an amusing sketch. An entertaining turn by Musical Silvo is thoroughly enjoyed, as also is the clever song and dance work done by Gladys Mavius. Expert contributions in the acrobatic line are done by the Three Sherrys and the Trio Goldini, and Max Sterling, a smart illusionist, and Collin and Croft, song illustrators, are also most successful.

LIMERICK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr Robert Fogerty.—The Osmund Tearle company is with us this week in a series of Shakespearian and classical dramas. *Virginius* was put on the boards on Monday, when Mr Alexander Marsh sustained the title-rôle with marked success. Mr John Burton was a realistic Appius Claudius, as Caius Mr R. S. Innes was exceedingly good, Mr Cyril Grier was capable as Icilius, and Mr William Lowe looked the part of Dentatus. As Numitorius Mr Julian Gallier was very satisfactory, and Mr Wilson acted the rôle of Lucius with earnestness and ability. Mr George Tearle was a very good Titus, and as Servius Mr L. Evans was very effective. Mr Malcome Tearle was a delightful Marcus, and in the rôle of Servia Miss Fannie Chamberlain's ability was at once recognised. Miss Reynolds was a most graceful Slave, and as Virginia we had the extreme pleasure of witnessing Miss Carrie Baillie, whose acting was classically refined. *Othello* was given on Tuesday.

LINCOLN.

ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr Frank King.—*Charley's Aunt* is paying a return visit under the direction of the author. Mr Edmund Baker, who is new to Lincoln, as Lord Fancourt Babberley scores a great success; Mr T. S. M'Causland Stewart is excellent as Col. Chesney; Mr H. Nelson is good as Spettigue; and Mr E. Bonfield as Chesney and Mr W. Thompson as Wykeham invest the characters with plausibility. Mr Henry Braeme is capital as the much-perturbed college scout; Miss Gertrude Le Sage is satisfactory as the real Donna Lucia; Miss Marion Fitzgerald wins high favour as Ela Delahay; and Miss Marie Scharning and Miss Ethel Baker ably fill the parts of Spettigue's ward and niece respectively.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr Sydney Arthur; Assistant-Manager, Mr Brandon Blake.—Those remarkably clever cornettists, the Sisters Maginel Mullini, are the star turn this week, and their ability wins them long and loud applause. Mr and Mrs Clifford Bronte present a sketch very amusingly, and the Ross Clyde company give another with completely satisfactory results. Cordite, lassoist; Walter Emerson, comedian; Mdlle. Lorette and her statue dog; Clara Victor, vocalist; and Leslie Murray, magician, also contribute.

LOWESTOFT.

MARINA.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Ernest A. Smith.—This week we have Mr W. H. Hallatt's company in *Two Little Sailor Boys*. Miss Blanche Steele is powerfully cast as Lola Grey, and the two little sailor boys are made the most of by the Misses May Day and Ethel Francee. The cast also includes Messrs Wm. H. Sams, Leonard Booker, W. H. Hallatt, Geo. Murray, Oscar Power, Tom E. Sinclair, and the Misses Mabel Scudamore, Lizzie Chambers, and Dorothy Lennox. The piece is well mounted and dressed.

LEICESTER.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; Acting-Manager, Mr C. D. Leigh.—Although Colonel Winstanley has not this Christmas produced a pantomime of his own, he has done the next best thing by engaging a couple of first-class touring pantomimes, the first of which, entitled *The Sleeping Beauty and the Mystic Yellow Dwarf*, presented by Mr J. F. Elliston's clever and versatile company, opened a fortnight's engagement here on Monday. The pantomime has been written and invented by Mr William Walton, who has done his work in a manner which adds greatly to the attractiveness of the show, the story being explicit and thoroughly intelligible. The pretty and tuneful vocal and incidental music has been composed and arranged by Carlile Vernon and William Close, the former gentlemen being the able musical director of the company. The ballets and incidental dances have been arranged by Miss Lottie Stone, whose Royal Alexander Troupe of dancers (eight in number) add to the general success. The scenery, designed and painted by Messrs T. E. Ryan, Selby Hall, Barry Parker, Prescott Hall, &c., is attractive. The pretty and tasteful costumes, designed by Howell Russell, have been executed by Messrs Alias and Co., Limited, and Mrs M'Kelvie. There are altogether thirteen scenes, and the pantomime, which is divided into two parts, is under the stage-management of Mr Lonnen Meadows. The grand illuminated spectacle and ballet by Alma and Abdullah in Electra's Bower, and La Superbe, the miniature dancing marvel, are features that are sure to delight all and sundry. Miss Esme Gordon as Prince Faithful, the principal boy, looks and acts the part to perfection, and at once wins the affection of the audience. Miss Daisy Stratton in the title-rôle is responsible for a dainty and charming impersonation. Miss Kempton is excellent as Silver Star (the Fairy Godmother) and Miss Ada Tilley as the Grand Chief is also a success. The comedians work hard and well together, and are the cause of great merriment, Mr W. J. Churchill as Count Incognito being especially well to the front with an embodiment that keeps the audience in a continual roar. Both Mr Alf Bishop as King Half-a-Crown and Mr James Chippendale as Queen Half-a-Crown also bring to bear on their parts some quaint humour. The Morton Trio also appear as Chump, Log, and Bog, and create their usual good impression. Mr Lonnon Meadows, besides fulfilling the duties of stage-management in a successful manner, also takes the part of the Yellow Dwarf.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General Manager, Mr John H. Clarke.—Miss Frances Delaval's company, presenting the sensational melodrama *The Biggest Scamp on Earth*, is the attraction here this week. The play, which is on a first visit, is well suited to the tastes of the patrons of this drama house. In the title-rôle Mr Percy Carne Waram is very successful, and Miss Frances Delaval as Naomi Belvedere, "the music hall star," is also responsible for a clever portrayal.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr Leonard Vidal.—The principal attraction in this week's varied and excellent programme is Miss Tilly Bébé, with her troupe of twelve magnificent performing lions. Miss Bébé, who is said to be the youngest trainer in the world, can certainly claim to be one of the most daring. At the other end of the bill is Ginnett's *Rejected Remounts*, a most mirth-provoking sketch, the horses which take part therein showing the perfection of the art of training. The Selbinis are exceptionally clever trick cyclists; Theo. Hardeen is astounding the "natives" by the ease with which he escapes from handcuffs and leg-irons. He concludes his turn with the box trick. Miss Lily Marney, characteristic comedienne, is scoring a success with her song "The Spanish-Irish Girl." Virto, with his daughter Irene, is very popular in his refined drawing-room musical act. Auto and Mobil, the original comedy motorists, arouse hearty laughter. Morton and Elliott are clever harmonican players, and as paper tearers they stand in the front rank. Wilson Hallett, in mimicry and story, is good.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter Lapworth.—Tom Grave, the sensational cyclist, who was starred here, did not appear in consequence of indisposition; but an excellent deputy was put on by the management in the person of Miss Effie White, whose beautiful and well-worked kaleidoscopic dances are always so popular in Leicester. The M'Kays, with their dry humour and wet paint, are very good. Other artists contributing to the programme are Marco, boy illusionist; Mabel Sinclair, lady ventriloquist; Read and Wright, top-boot dancers; Wat Tyler, character vocalist; Chas. Bowker, the singing cobbler; and Jimmie James, banjo and bone soloist.

LIVERPOOL.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Actiog-Manager, Mr Fred Coles.—A very entertaining programme is billed this week, and good business has resulted. Bonny Goodwin and her Apollo Piccaninnies are hosts in themselves; their singing and dancing are loudly applauded. Juno Salmo, described as the Golden Mephisto, keenly interests the house with his original act. The Musical Palmers are duly applauded for a fine musical performance. Weston and May, Daisy Almer, Tom and Neil, Tiny Reiff, Geo. Neno, and Calvo are all good turns.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr H. Fineberg; Acting-Manager, Mr M. Simmons.—This week melodrama, for which the Star is noted, has been laid aside, the Craggs occupying the boards with *Laughter Land*. The three acts of pantomimical absurdity, interspersed with musical numbers, proved very amusing on Monday, when a blizzard was raging, and the wonderful acrobatic work of the Craggs was watched with breathless interest. The dresses and scenery were of a high order.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs Carson and Granville; Manager, Mr Fred Granville; Business-Manager, Mr F. L. Arthur.—The production this week of *The Heart of a Hero* was especially interesting to the patrons of the popular Queen's by reason of the fact that the author of the clever work, Mr Lingford Carson, and his business partner, Mr Fred Granville, played their original parts, being supported by their own company. The production, the scenic effects of which were elaborate, gave great satisfaction. Both gentlemen named are, in addition to being sound business men, a couple of able actors. Mr Carson's portrayal of the persecuted hero was a fine piece of work, and Mr Granville presented a villain with dramatic reserve.

EMPIRE, LIMITED.—Managing Superintendent, Mr T. A. Cook; Acting-Manager, Mr George Stratton.—So popular has the engagement of Karno's company of comedians proved that they have been kept on again this week, their *Saturday to Monday* sketch being as attractive as when it was first presented on Boxing Night. A turn which has been cordially received is that given by the Sarnthaler Troupe of national singers and dancers; the O'Brien Brothers perform cleverly on the bars; and the Burnellys are responsible for much laughter with their acrobatics on stilts. Some exceedingly smart facial mimicry is shown by Vosper; Miss Mabel Hind, a sparkling comedienne, supplies a neat sketch entitled *A Little Japanese;* the Loro Quartet of musical comedians remain another week, as do also the Three Donals, Continental athletes; Sinclair and Parr are a couple of smart actor-vocalists; and Griff, the clown juggler, creates much amusement.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—At the head of the bill here this week are the Six Brothers Luck with their laughable pantomime, *The Hermit*, which has proved a great success. Much amusement has also been derived from the work of Mr and Mrs Gene Hughes, in *A Matrimonial Substitute*. Charles Baron presents a pleasing turn with his burlesque menagerie; the pantomime trifle, *Early Morning in the Kitchen*, given by the Densmores, provokes laughter; an interesting item is provided by the Schutzenliesserl'n Quartet of singers and dancers; and also in the programme are the Sandor Trio of strong gymnasts; the Donatos, one-legged acrobats; the Pichel Troupe of acrobats; Reddick Anderson, character comedian; and Melaine on the corde elastique.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr F. O'Toole.—This week a good bill-of-fare is presented, the principal item being the Werner's Troupe of cyclists in a clever performance on the inside of a "teacup" track. A welcome return visit is being paid by Wallace Whitney, a comedian of ability; Duncan and Morton, a pair of smart comedy artistes and dancers, give a pleasant trifle entitled *Stage Chums*; Miss Edie Tunstall is a young comedienne and dancer of merit; Campkin, the tramp cyclist, provides a clever turn; and others on the bill are Roland Barrett, baritone; and Miss Beatie Foster, comedienne. The cyclists' competition arranged by the Werners has proved of great interest.

NEW PARTHENON.—Proprietor, Mr Edwin W. Smith.—At the head of a diversified programme here this week are Atlas and Miss Vulcana, a couple of smart athletes who perform some neat feats. Miss Bertha Duckett is a charming child vocalist and dancer; Charles Santon possesses a remarkable soprano voice; La Modele presents some pretty classic poses; Clemart goes through a clever ventriloquial turn; and Young Igo is a neat clog dancer. The Bioscope continues to prove a good feature.

PADDINGTON PALACE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr J. Kiernan.—Miss Madeline Clifford and company are foremost here this week with the musical sketch, *Wife and Fortune*, which has proved acceptable. The Bioscope pictures, "To the Sun and Back in Twenty Minutes," are an interesting item; and the long list of variety artistes includes Harry Tresham, actor-vocalist; Louis Harrison, vocalist; Rosa Lenmann, burlesque actress; H. Wilkinson, elocutionist; Raymond Thomas; H. Fawcett, comedian; J. Brearley, coon singer; Percy Boucher, comedian; Dalton J. Bosher; and Florrie Hall, elocutionist.

WESTMINSTER.—Proprietor, Mr M. Montgomery.—The Majiltons, who remain a second week, are presenting their absurdity *The Plumber; or, She Would be a Widow*, which has provoked screams of laughter. A turn much appreciated is that of the O'Malleys, exceedingly funny comedians; Little Marie Dane is a pleasing vocalist and dancer; Arthur Patmore is a humorous female impersonator; and Lizzie R. Lawrie is a pleasing contralto.

PARK PALACE.—Director, Mr James Kiernan.—A numerous array of artistes is presented here this week, among them being Currie and Rice, able comedians and dancers; Raphael, a smart modeller in clay; Speeks and Thorne, with their quaint dances and funny songs; Cohen and Page, a refined pair of society entertainers; Ivy Graham, coon artiste; Madge Roberts, comedienne and dancer; Nora Floyd, contralto; Mabel Comely, vocalist; Harry Craven, comedian; and Lizzie Chase, comedienne.

LLANELLY.

ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr John Tully.—The two companies-a-week system still flourishes here. This week we have Mr Sanderson Moffat's company, in *A Woman Adrift*, and Miss Bonwin Carlton's company, in *The Plucky Nipper*. In the former play Mr Sanderson Moffat sustains the dual part of the Brothers Castro in a very able manner. Miss Phyllis Hamilton gives a good representation of Cora Leigh. Mr Bonhote Wilson as Sir John Ingleby is also excellent.

LONG EATON.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr T. Meakin.—*A Great Sensation* is being presented by Miss Beatrice Isaacson's company. That lady plays well the prominent part of the flower girl; Miss Madge Devereux does well as Sidonie; the young engineer has a good exponent in Mr Sydney M. Hallows; Mr A. L. Isaacson figures as the Millionaire; and the funny business is well presented by Mr Cecil Morand and Miss Marian Mayne.

LONGTON.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr H. S. Howard.—Mr Bert Coote's *The Fatal Wedding* company is here this week. Mr Ernest Owttrim presents the character Howard Wilson satisfactorily; as Robert Curtis Mr Cecil A. Collins plays well; and Miss Beatrice Whitney as Cora Williams is decidedly effective. Miss Theresa Osborne sustains the emotional part of Mabel Wilson successfully. The lighter vein is in the capable keeping of Miss Carrie Fenton as Bridget and Mr J. Carl Lyle as Toto. Quite the feature of the presentation is Miss Gladys Rose Jones as Jessie, "the little mother," a juvenile from whom great things may be expected.

LUTON.

GRAND.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr Louis J. Beard.—Mr Graham Falcon is here with a capable company, in *Little Bo-Peep*. The part of Bo-Peep is charmingly played by Miss Lily Rouletta, whose numbers are sweetly rendered. Miss Kenna Russell makes a dashing Boy Blue, and her singing and dancing win unstinted applause. Mr Jack Waller is a mirth provoking Baron, and is ably supported by Mr Mark Stuart as Dame Durden. Mr Medley Barrett works hard and well as Simon, and praise is due to him for his able stage-management. The M'Nallies are amusing as Bash and Crash. Prince Pastorelle has a pleasing exponent in Miss Blanche Albini. Miss Mazy Osmunde is a delightful Margery Daw, and Miss Ellen Martin is a sprightly Lord Lollipop. Miss Alice Mantell in the part of Sylvania sings well, and Mr Henry Maynard's baritone voice is heard to advantage in the numbers allotted to him as Lemuel Lee. The specialities include the Villons, who contribute some remarkably clever trick cycling; Miss Ruby Carter and Miss Haidee Fitch, toe dancers of great ability; Rouletta, on the rolling globe; and Miss Mayzy Osmunde, clog-dancer.

MAIDENHEAD.

NEW PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr G. Gude.—This week's programme includes a very smart duologue, entitled *The Lady Guide*, by the Camerons; Marie De Vol deserves praise for her dancing, and Jim Fitzroy does exceeding well as an eccentric character singer. Stephen Mason causes great fun with his sketches, and is responsible for several good baritone solos; Alf Shaw as comedian is well received; Kitty Neville does a good turn as a dainty comedienne, her singing of "Bluebell" being particularly good; and Chris. Baker makes much merriment with funny songs and sayings.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr Will Smithson; Assistant-Manager, Mr Albert J. Lewis.—Mr J. D. Hunter's pantomime of *Aladdin* is here. Miss M. Sadie gives a spirited performance as Aladdin; Miss Elsa Brull makes a bright and charming Princess; Miss Vera Dudley is an attractive Pekoe; and Nicey Piccy has a pleasing representative in Miss Ivy Bolton. Mr J. D. Hunter as Widow Twankey works assiduously and creates an abundance of fun; Mr Victor Vernon is full of rich humour as Abanazar; Mr Fred Boulton is particularly good as the Emperor; Mr Dick Tubb is very diverting as the Vizier; and Mr George Mayer and Mr Ben Boden provide ample amusement as Wishee and Washee. Specialities are introduced by Mdlle. Bartenelli, a clever contortionist; the Verona Jap Quartet of lady dancers; the Four Sisters M'Queen, vocalists; and the Eccentric Boultons, musicians.

MACCLESFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr W. K. Gatley.—The boards this week are occupied by Mr Edward Neville and company in *The Sorrows of Satan*. Mr Edward Neville is very good as Prince Lucio Rimanez; as Geoffrey Tempest Mr C. T. E. O'Connor makes the most of his opportunities; Mr J. Nelson Turner gives a realistic impersonation of the Earl of Elton; Mr Harry Rose as Morris and Mr Harry Dowling as Amiel make a good impression; and Mr Gus Bowerman is capable as Lord Lynton. Miss Annie Brunette is charming as Lady Sybil Elton; Miss Cecile Bryne as Mrs Grumbles is a favourite; Miss Violet Hammersley as Mavis Clare presents a clever impersonation; and Miss Lois Esmond as Diana Chesney throws all her energies into her part.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. Bendon.—The company engaged here is excellent. First and foremost comes Pulo, the clever young juggler, whose turn is one of the neatest and cleverest seen here. The Princellas are very amusing in a sketch entitled *A Country Flirtation;* Harry Burker makes his reappearance with some good and up-to-date songs; the Percys, duettists are a good turn; Miss Lily Martell, comedienne and dancer, is taking well; and Carl Osmund, with some lightning cartoons, gets well applauded. Also included in the bill are Dan Kennedy, comedian, and Mr and Mrs Paul Knox, entertainers.

MANCHESTER.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr W. H. Broadhead; Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—Mr Walter Melville's company, in *A Girl's Cross Roads*, occupies the stage here this week, and is a potent attraction. The play is full of interest, which is well brought out by the various members of the cast. Mr Chas. Franmore is seen in the strong part of John Meadows, and Miss Hilda Beverley makes quite a success of her rôle of Barbara Wade. Good also are Mr Cecil A. Melton as Jack Livingstone, Mr John Brooks as Luke Ramsden, and Miss Nell Oliver as Nellie Meadows, while Mr Fred Ingram and Miss Lilla Norden contribute acceptable humour. The scenery and effects are good.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—The big item in this week's programme is *Otto the Outcast*, in which Mr Harry Starr appears with great success. Other good turns are Kellino and Pape, in a circus comedy act; Percy Handel, boy instrumentalist; Ted Fields and Fred Acres, comedians; Will Haslam, speciality dancer; and the Ettenas, speciality artistes.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—Mr James Willard's drama *In the Shadow of Night* is the attraction here this week, after a week at the Royal Osborne Theatre. Mr Fred Rivers has assumed the rôle of Clifford Yorke, in place of Mr James Willard, and plays it with distinction.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr M. Potasch.—Messrs John A. Atkin and Walter Howe's company present here this week Mr Howe's effective drama, *A Victim of Villainy*, which is capitally staged and very well played. Leading parts are in the accomplished hands of Mr Walter Howe and Miss Rosa Lehmann; Mr Chas. E. Wilton and Miss Muriel Dean do well in sinister rôles, others who figure successfully being Miss Cissy Beszant, Mr T. Prescott, Mr J. Russell Bogue, and Miss Jessie Glenn. The play contains ample humorous relief, and provides a thoroughly enjoyable entertainment.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—A special notice of Mr Flanagan's revival of *Romeo and Juliet* appears in another column.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Manager Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—Katie Lawrence, comedienne, tops the bill here this week, and sings in good style. Alfred Seigel, wrestler, challenges anyone to oppose him in the Græco-Roman style. This turn proves very popular. The Sisters Marion are high-class vocalists with good voices; Deakin and Rankin are successful in song, burlesque, and dance; and very quaint is Little Dando, eccentric comedian. Other items of interest are supplied by Veno, female impersonator; Jack Horsley, bag puncher; Wirson, head and hand equilibrist; Evelyn Taylor, male impersonator; Culpitt, comedy conjuror; and the Hippodrome pictures.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—Gus Garrick, a versatile comedian, who is frequently recalled by delighted audiences, heads the bill here this week. Bell, Pearl, and company present a very amusing sketch, entitled *A Bit of String;* Wragg and Wragg do some skilful feats of swordmanship; and the Eight Lancashire Lads sing and dance in pleasing fashion. Owing to the indisposition of one of the performers, the advertised sketch *A Water Nymph* could not be given, but in its place a monologue, entitled "Firelight Fancies," was satisfactorily rendered by a deputy. The singing of Fred Horsfall, a double-voiced mimic, is much appreciated; Sadie Simpson renders coon and other songs in a vivacious way; Mill May is a quick-change artiste of ability; Les Laurens pose in a series of good tableaux vivants; and Beattie Kendal sings character songs admirably.

TIVOLI.—Managing Director, Mr Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr Arthur B. Wilkes.—Florence Baines, a clever laughing comedienne, is the bright particular star here this week, and makes a big hit with her song "The Principal Boy." Much cleverness is displayed by the Dayton Family of Risley acrobats; John Callan, American comedian, and the Wiltons, triple bar performers, are vastly amusing. Some smart dancing is done by the Garden Troupe, and enjoyable items are contributed by Dan Arline, eccentric comedian; Harry Desmond, comedian; the Sisters Lylle, duettists and dancers; and the Two Zampas, who are excellent dancers. Mamie Brickwell, comedienne, did not appear on the night of our visit.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr Will Collins.—Grais's Baboon prodigies, including Diavoleno, the loop-cycling baboon, are here this week, and provide a novel turn. Nellie Coleman, the well-known comedian impersonator, gains much applause; the Lumars present a clever acrobatic act aided by electricity; the Three Pattersons, on the triple bars and trampolin, are highly successful; Dome, the original comedy clay modeller, is deservedly well received; Charles Gardiner, eccentric comedian, makes a hit with his song "I'm a lady;" Alice Maydue is a capital burlesque character comedienne; the Sisters Devona appear in an elegant aerial act on the electrical lyre; and the Howards (Ralph and Nellie) contribute some good bugle playing. Amusing pictures are shown by the Bioscope.

GRAND.—Lessees, Messrs Thomas Barrasford and Will Sley; Manager, Mr H. C. Arnold, jun.—Harry Ford, the famous comedian, is here this week, and meets with a flattering reception, his eccentric methods and highly amusing songs being much appreciated. Considerable laughter follows the efforts of Stanley and Vandyke in their comedy act; the Toreadors, in their screaming burlesque *The Spanish Bull-Fight;* and Farley, Rennie, and Farley, in *Fun at a Railway Station*. Other good turns are by the Two Falcons, clever and amusing acrobatic hand-to-hand balancers; Harry Conder, with speciality characters from the works of the late Charles Dickens; Dan Thomas, the Welsh tenor; and Sid Bandon, actor-vocalist. A deputy sang two songs in a pleasing manner in place of Annie Cohen, comedienne, who did not appear.

PALACE.—Manager and Secretary, Mr P. Watson; Assistant-Manager, Mr J. H. Stringer.—*The Babes in the Wood* enters on its last week here, and for the present we must bid goodbye to the capable artistes who have carried it through with such success. Prominent among them are Mabel Thorne, a dashing Robin Hood; Hylda Dugdale, a dainty Maid Marian; Ray Hartley, a pleasing Dolly Dimple, who dances very cleverly; and Messrs Ernest, Oscar, Philip, and Fred Luck, Herbert Rule, and Charles Dillon, who have supplied much humour. The excellent dancing of the Four Milano Girls, the elaborate scenery, and the pretty dresses have also contributed greatly to the success. Remaining also from last week is the excellent turn of Charles R. Sweet, the "original musical burglar," who is very popular. The newcomers include Sybil St. Elmo, ballad vocalist, who sings well; Reilly and Taylor, American-Dutch comedians, who create much fun; and Clark and Argyle, international dancers and pipers. A series of animated pictures conclude.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr E. P. Morgan; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr H. Hall.—Seeth's lions, presented by Herr Geog Thielbar, are one of the attractions here this week. Hagedorn's wonderful Grotto is a most beautiful and artistic electric spectacle, including fairy fountains and cascades of real water, a most pleasing item; G. W. Leslie and capable company appear with great success in a capital playlet entitled *Chums*, and create some amusement; Richard List's performing and wrestling bears are well trained, and the turn is good; the Four Herberts, the famous "Jolly Californian Farmers," go through a lot of decidedly clever business, and are loudly applauded; the Sisters Meredith sing some tuneful songs, and dance nicely; Les Uniques give a clever and graceful gymnastic performance on the electrical ladders; Ernie Williams, vocalist, sings effectively; Lizzie B. Raymond is a representative coon singer and dancer; and the Hippodrome Choristers render "I am longing for my old Kentucky home" in finestyle.

MARCH.

PUBLIC HALL THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr Joseph Collingwood.—Mr Frank Wilson's company appeared here on Wednesday in that popular comedy *The Marriage of Kitty*. The company includes such well-known artistes as Mr Frank Wilson himself, Mr Leslie Tyler, Mr J. F. Leighton, Mr Royston Keith, jun., Miss Vera Fordyce, Miss Kate Harwood, and Miss Elsie Saville, with Mr Whalley Shields as general manager.

MARGATE.

GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr F. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr C. F. Bawtree.—Mr Peter Davey has paid Margate a visit this week for the second consecutive season with his pantomime *Goody Two Shoes*. Miss Maude Nichols is well placed as Crispin, and Miss Lily Lingard is entirely satisfactory as Goody, a little beggar maid. Mr J. G. Taylor as the wicked Earl of Godiva is very droll, Mr T. C. Havarley renders good aid as Peeping Tom, and Mr Harry Calden is mirth provoking as Dame Durden. Miss Ethel Beech as the Chevalier Hurley makes a dashing boy, and others whose assistance contributes to the success of the production include Miss Gertrude Morrow as Margot, Mr Graham Morrison as Marcodison (an inventor), Mr T. Martindill, Mr Will Homer, Mr P. Wilson, and Miss Madge Christopher. The chorus works thoroughly well together, and the fun is well sustained from start to finish. Speciality turns are contributed by Clown Leo's dog troupe in their miniature burlesque circus, the Thurban Trio, and the Calden Troupe.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr E. Macknight; Business-Manager, Mr C. E. Hardy.—Miss Rose Faith and her company have been playing this week the Georgian costume play, *No Cross No Crown*, in which she has sustained the rôle of Clare, the second Lady Luttrell, charmingly. Mr J. P. M'Bride has appeared to advantage as Sir Francis Luttrell, and Mr Harrison Chapman has been good as Professor Neb. Mr Logan Darra as Austin Blake, Mr F. C. Hudspeth as Doctor Ashley, and Mr C. George as Rawson Haines have been capital in their respective parts. Miss Kate Carnegie has been satisfactory as Annabel Sylvester; Miss Nellie De Lacy has effectively portrayed the part of Dame Priscilla; and her factotum, Plato, has been much in evidence as played by Miss Dolly Turner. Miss Olive Webb as Lettie Crayle, Miss May Yorke as Doris Luttrell, and Miss Maggie White as Agatha all do good service. Miss Gwen Stewart plays well in the dual rôle of Lady Margaret Luttrell and Mistress Gray.

MEXBOROUGH.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. H. Melton.—Mr and Mrs Wm. Giffard and company are playing here this week in *The World's Desire*. Mr Wm. Giffard gives an admirable portrayal of the unscrupulous lawyer, Ellis Tridley; as Nathaniel Mutley Mr Geo. Child is excellent; Mr Clifford Rean does well in the dual-rôle of Robert and Henry Selkirk; Mr Robt. Light is satisfactory as Godstone Clair; Mrs Wm. Giffard gives a powerful dramatic portraiture of Dora Mutley; the Helen Berkshaw of Miss Ella Seton is a capable study; the Justerina Hook of Miss Frances Bruce is a quaint and enjoyable conception.

MIDDLESBROUGH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Theatres, Limited; Managing-Directors, Messrs Geo. and Chas. Imeson.—Mr Frederick Melville's company is here in the drama *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. Miss Beatrice Homer in the title-rôle gives a powerful performance; Mr Stanley Bedwell is successful as Jack Merriman; and Mr Leyton Cancellor appears successfully as Hubert Gold; Mr Renovo Lockwood and Mr Walter Hardwick do well in their respective parts; and Mr Tubby Edlin as Toby Herrick keeps the house in good humour with sayings and antics. Miss Margaret Watson, Miss Nellie Jackson, and Miss Rosabel Wood also do well in their respective rôles. The scenery and other effects are excellent. On Wednesday and Thursday two matinées were given of *Alice in Wonderland*. Miss Ida Thompson as Alice gave a most delightful impersonation; as the "Mad Hatter" Mr E. St. Alban kept the audiences in continual roars of laughter; and the antics of Mr J. W. Hooper, Tweedledum, and Mr Sidney Benson, Tweedledee, added much to the success. The pantomime was presented under the direction of Mr E. St. Alban.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Grand Opera House Company, Ltd.; Licensee, Mr T. Hopcutt.—*A Wife's Triumph*, from the pen of Sutton Vane, is being presented here this week by Mr Ernest R. Abbott's company. Mr Abbott is a chivalrous Robert Dewhurst; and Mrs Abbott appears to advantage as Bessie Dewhurst. Mr George C. Doughty makes a capital Frank Wilton, and Mr Joe Ransford is a favourite as Augustus Harrison. Mr A. R. Ernest makes a typical bookmaker; Mr D. Pentland appears with success as Stubbs; and Ellis Jordan is ably portrayed by Mr W. H. Garbois. Miss Constance Medwyn makes a good impression as Alice Wilton, and much praise is due to Miss Elsie Jones.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr John Brill; Manager, Mr J. W. Thornborrow.—Sinclair and Whiteford head the bill here in a comedy duo, and create much amusement. The Tom Davies Trio in "Whirling the Whirl in Mid-Air" are again successful; and the Great Marconis, electric wonders, submit a novel turn, which is well received. Charles Unthan, the armless wonder, makes a good impression; La Tostis, with her mandoline playing, is most popular; Ena Beryl sings some good songs; the patter of Walker and Lake pleases; and James Brady sings some capital nonsense songs. The films on the Bio. complete the programme.

OXFORD.—Lessee, Mr Wm. Peacock; Manager, Mr Wm. Ainsworth.—The Royal Tokio Troupe of Japanese, the chief attraction here this week, do some remarkable feats; Mr Albert Voyce's company in a vocal scena, *Jack Sheppard*, makes a great hit; David Poole provides a capital ventriloquial turn; Joe Humph

pleases with her songs. J. P. Dane, comedian, and Onda and Leon in a bar performance provide fun. Harry Morris is a good mimic; and the Bio. completes the programme.

NEATH.

THEATRE ROYAL (LATE ASSEMBLY ROOMS).—Lessee and Manager, Mr A. W. James.—Mr J. H. Morton's company in *The Rajah of Ranjanpore* is here this week. Mr Alvin Sawyer is amusing as Horatio Chicks; Mr Harry Cornwall is good as Mr Stubbs; Mr Arthur Reid gives a clever portrayal of Captain Heritage; Mr Charles E. Tinney makes a dashing Ernest Travers; Mr Gus Hall acts with much earnestness the rôle of Ted Perkins; Mr Bert Harrow keeps the house in good humour as Thistles; Miss Nell Ascot is charming as Primrose; Miss Madge Clayton as Marie gives a pleasing rendering; Miss Marion Walker as Eliza plays with much vivacity; and the Rajah Troupe introduce some graceful dances.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

TYNE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr Fred C. Sutcliffe.—*Cinderella* continues to be a great attraction, and thanks to the efforts of Messrs Mark Sheridan, Josh Dixon, Gus Le Clerq, and Egbert Brothers, there is no lack of fun, while the ladies of the company, notably Misses Bessie Featherstone, Alice Russon, and Lina Verdi are high in popular favour.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr F. Teale Lingham.—Large audiences assemble at each representation to witness *The Babes in the Wood*. Well deserved favouritism is enjoyed by Miss Maud Prenton and Miss Elsie Cooke, and two charming Babes are Miss Dolly M'Calla and Miss Hanid Alexander. The Sisters Govell give smart performances. Messrs T. E. Dunville, R. H. Douglas, the Polnski Brothers, and the American Comedy Four are all prominent in furthering the humour of the pantomime.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr T. W. Rowe.—*The Shadows of a Great City*, a drama which has previously been seen here, is again proving a good attraction. Mr Harry Foxwell (whose company it is) is seen to much advantage as Tom Cooper, and another notable performance is that of Miss Sheila Walsh, who doubles the parts of Annie Standish and Nellie Standish with the best results. Prominent in other leading parts are Messrs Charles Vivian, Arthur A. Tomlin, Newton Pearce; Miss Nellie Gray and Miss Mollie Monaghan.

NEW EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Director, Mr Richard Thornton; General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr E. Leslie Conroy.—Messrs Walthour and Kreamer, a cyclist and jockey respectively, are presenting a novelty act here in the shape of a race between a bicycle and a horse, and plenty of excitement is engendered by the contests. Florrie Gallimore in a budget of songs gains the popular vote, while vocalists and dancers in the Three Sisters Slater are well received. A very amusing and clever acrobatic turn is contributed by Morris and Morris. Comedy business of an enjoyable nature is provided by Cline and Clark, and also by Frazer and Mac. The Vasilescu Troupe in a pantomime act on bars give satisfaction, as also do the Two Butterflies, juvenile gymnasts. Well to the fore also are comediennes in Lily Tiso and Daisy Ray. Brown and Robinson give pleasure by their vocal efforts.

OLYMPIA THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs Bolam and Bacon; General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr Nelson Barry.—The historical drama, *The Shadow of the Cross*, is being presented here by Miss Adria Hill and Mr Robert Ayrton's company. Mr Robert Ayrton depicts with fine effect the part of Wulfere, King of Mercia, while in the dual rôles of Werebode and Edelgith some admirable acting is provided by Miss Adria Hill. Their efforts are well supported by the other members of the company.

GRAND THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Business Manager, Mr E. W. Bacon.—In the East-end of the city *Dick Whittington* has "caught on" to an amazing extent. In fact, we understand the total receipts last week constituted a record for the theatre since the opening—truly a most gratifying state of affairs.

PAVILION THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr Thos. Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr Will H. Boardman.—Smart eccentric acrobats in the Cattanees are meeting with well-deserved success. In the serpentine dances contributed by Mlle. Flora Lumiere, the human butterfly, some exceedingly pretty light effects are obtained. Laughter is evoked by the performance of the pantomime absurdity, *Nicodemus*, by Charles Vandyke and company. A burlesque bull-fight as given by Leonard and Francis also occasions amusement. Fred. Curran, with parodies, earns approval, and entertainment is also derived from the turns contributed by the Lasres Troupe of acrobats; Florence Hill, burlesque actress and dancer; Bob Hamilton, Scottish comedian and instrumentalist; and Mountford and Walsh, speciality artists.

NEWPORT.

LYCEUM. — Lessee and Manager, Mr Sidney Cooper.—The pantomime *Goody Two Shoes* is being played here this week under the direction of Mr Corelli Windeatt. The scenery is beautiful, the dresses are pretty, and the lyrics and concerted pieces have been set to popular airs of the day. Miss Nell Richardson as Crispin and Miss Jessica Deane as Goody are exceedingly attractive, both singing with excellent taste. Mr H. G. Thurstans' Earl of Coventry is humorous, Mr Will Gain as Peeping Tom is successful, and Mr Harry Buss as Dame Durden act with vigour, and execute a very taking eccentric dance. Miss May Hart as Chevalier Hurley gives a bright and taking performance, and Miss Eva Bevington as Margot sings well, while Mr Arthur Learto makes the best of the small part of Marcodison. Special mention should be made of the graceful dancing of Miss Hettie Lane, the principal dancer.

EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr O. Stoll.—A popular programme is provided here. Dan Burke, Molly Moller, and Alice Teller present a comical sketch, *The Professor and His Pupils*, that causes roars of laughter. Daring and clever are the acrobatic tricks of the Szarvasi Ferenez Troupe; Mark Melford and his company in the sketch *Black and White* receive hearty approval; and another sketch, *Troubles of a Tourist*, acted by John Alexander and company, is distinctly funny. The Three Ronay Sisters (lady clowns) dance admirably, and the musical performance is both amusing and clever. Burke, Andrus, and Frisco are comical with their ten-minute sketch *In Trafalgar-square*, and the Picquays are responsible for a novel acrobatic display. Princess Pauline sings a pretty song, the Alaskas go through some extraordinary juggling, and Clown Ferreros, with his clever dog musician, provides a most entertaining turn.

NORTHAMPTON.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr W. J. Andrews.—No one is more closely connected with our theatre than Mr Edward Compton, who was the first to play in the house on its opening, and is now part proprietor. His reception here this week therefore at the head of his celebrated comedy company has been most gratifying. The répertoire has been *Davy Garrick*, *The School for Scandal*, *The Rivals*, *A Reformed Rake*, and *To-Morrow*, in all of which Mr Compton has distinguished himself by the artistic brilliancy of his acting. Miss Haldee Gunn, by her cleverness and the charm of a fascinating personality, has justified her position as leading lady, and Miss Evelyn Hall, Miss Mackenzie, Miss Marie Hassell, Mr Henry Croker, Mr A. B. Imeson, Mr Chas. R. [illegible], Mr Arnold Lacy, Mr J. W. Johnston, and Mr Meynall, by their thoroughly good interpretation of the parts entrusted to them, have won much favour.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr Robert Barton.—The chief sensation of the programme here is entitled "Kweery," an illusion which is most smartly worked. In a few seconds a good-looking young fellow, strapped and padlocked down to a stretcher, is replaced by a prepossessing lady, apparently secured in the same way. Other attractions include The Lannons, duettists and high pedestal dancers; Edie Anderson, whose dancing is particularly smart; Julian Mack, a high-class comedian; Lue Lord, a lively serio; Eric Graham, with a couple of coster ditties; Warden Reed and Company, in a witty duologue, *Married or Photographed*; and Millie Harriss, whose singing is highly appreciated.

NORTH SHIELDS.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr Arthur Jefferson; General Manager, Mr Horace Lee; Secretary, Mr Gordon Jefferson.—This week Messrs E. Hill-Mitchelson and Harris Fineberg's company is presenting *The Traitor*, which has had a hearty reception. The title-rôle is in the able hands of Mr Stephen E. Scanlan, who gives a highly satisfactory performance. Mr John C. Carlyle's impersonation of Prince Rudolph is well received; as Captain Ross, R.N., Mr Edwin Jenner is seen to advantage; and Mr Frank Sutherland wins much favour as Jack Bolt. Miss Ruth Shepherd as Zula acts with power; Miss Lily Roselle is clever as Countess Zicka; and Miss Isabella Hunt makes the most of the part of Lieut. Nicholas.

NEW CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Wm. Mould.—Larola, equilibrist and burlesque acrobat, gives a clever performance; Mr Martin Henderson, blind concertina soloist, comes in for a very hearty reception; and the Henderson-Stanley Quartet, vocalists, instrumentalists, and comedy artistes, present an enjoyable turn. Miss Rose Cabini, comedienne and dancer, is clever; Mr Barney Noble, versatile comedian, is much appreciated; and Miss Marie Ollive, serio and dancer; Messrs Renson and Waite, speciality artistes; and Payne's Bio-Photoscope all contribute successfully.

NORTHWICH.

CENTRAL THEATRE. — Proprietress, Mrs S. Golden; Manager, Mr Percy Webb.—Mr Leslie Vyner's company, in *The Lightning's Flash*, is paying a first visit here. Mr Leonard Robson in the dual rôles of Stephen Merrick and Colonel Mark Merrick works untiringly from start to finish; Mr Sydney Kearns gives a fine reading of the difficult part of Gordon Garville. The comedy is well sustained by Mr Harry M. Vernon as Toby Gander, he being ably supported by Miss Blanche Vernon as Selina Slack. As the heroine Kate Merrick Miss F. Russell-Spiers is all that can be desired, and Miss Eva Reid makes a capital native girl.

NORWICH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr Fred Morgan.—Mr Frank Curzon's company in the musical comedy, *Sergeant Brue*, is here this week. Mr Edward Kipling, who was specially sent from the Strand Theatre, London, to play the title-part, is most successful. Mr E. Percy Rogers is equally so as Michael Brue, and Mr George Barrett deserves praise as Crookie Scrubbs. Mr Cecil Burt as Mr Crank, Mr Harold Slade as Captain Bay, and Mr Harold Godwin as Inspector Gorringe are respectively very good. Mr Arthur Stroude as Gerald Treherne, Mr Albert Sealy as Matthew Habishom, Mr Harry Soutar as Mr Lamb, and Mr Chas. Fagan as Erskine Murray ably fill their several rôles. Miss Constance Lait acts and sings well as Aurora Brue; Miss Violet Dene successfully appears as Lady Buckenhall; Miss Eliza Earle is sprightly as Daisy; and Miss Lily Maxwell as Mabel Widgett, Miss Eva Lewis as Vivienne Russell, Miss Connie Ward as Louise Clair, Miss Lena D ne as Eva Graham, and Miss Connie Woodroff as 'Arriet deserve commendation. Mr H. R. Matthews most ably conducts, and the dresses and scenery are particularly effective.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr F. W. Fitt; Musical Director, Capt. Selby.—Fred Karno's comedians in *The Dandy Thieves* head the bill here, and are the chief attraction. Mr Harry Roxbury is immensely funny as Sergeant Lightning, Mr Frank Morton is good as Lord Essem, and Mr Chas. Usher as Miffin and Miss Leonora Castelle as Dolly are extremely mirth provoking. The famous Ernesto's juggling is very clever; the acrobatic displays of the Bastow Brothers are very interesting; Miss Ida Brophy's dancing is good; and Mr George Verney proves a good turn as a comedian. Mr George Formby, "the man from Lancashire," is a great favourite.

NOTTINGHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr Howard Finney.—*Robinson Crusoe* still continues a potent attraction, and each member of the company strains every nerve to make the production go with a swing. There are several new numbers, and the performance throughout is voted a great success.

GRAND THEATRE. — Manager, Mr Charles P. Cooke. — Crowded houses nightly testify their pleasure in *Goody Two Shoes*, and the introduction of fresh novelties has found a ready response in the enthusiasm accorded them, notably the juggling of Duncan and the head-balancing by Oswald.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, A. W. Bull.—*A Marriage of Vengeance* provides sufficient sensationalism to satisfy patrons of this theatre, and a capital company is organised by Mr and Mrs Fred Benton. Mr A. G. Fry sustains the part of the hero, Paul Earnscliffe, to the satisfaction of his audience, and Mr Charles Coventry works well as Glynne Earnscliffe. Mr Louis Norman's portrayal of the rascally Geoffrey Fannock is powerful in the extreme; he is ably seconded by Mr G. A. De Gray as an accomplice in stage villainy. Miss A. Harrison Tate plays with convincing force as Stella Burgon, and Miss Maud Stuart makes a charming Elsie Dean. There is plenty of fun in the piece, for which Mr Seymour Perry as Bob Shorner and Miss Etta Turner as Amelia are responsible, and other characters are well taken by Messrs Reginald Payne, L. Chaseby, and Sydney Rudge.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr O. H. Bowmaker. — The Boissets are evoking uproarious laughter by their comical antics and humorous knockabout business in the sketch *The Bricklayers*; the Max Welson Quartet of rope performers submit a marvellous exhibition, their graceful movements and muscular development compelling the highest admiration; another excellent turn is provided by Alburtus and Bartram, whose juggling with clubs forms an interesting and skilful display; the Sisters Llewelyn are accomplished vocalists; and the Jees are always welcome in their *Musical Smithy*. Milner Verren uses his powerful falsetto with taste, and the Arthur Lloyd Trio are heard in the amusing sketch *Little Charlie*. Other capital items are given by the Bros. Pueblo, cake-walkers; the Resuas Trio of acrobats and equilibrists; and the American Bioscope.

OLDHAM.

ROYAL, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr George Knowles.—The Maskeweys are here with their comic wire act; Mr J. W. Ellison's comic songs secure hearty approval; Ryan and Hall, acrobats and eccentric comedians, are very successful; Miss Addie Dorina, in an original monologue, "How she did it," is decidedly smart; as a comedian and patterer Andy Fagan meets with a cordial approval; the Glenroy Troupe are very entertaining in their specialities, "The Boys of Britannia's Empire" and "The Leaders of the Coonville Brigade;" Walter Curtis, humorous entertainer, is a favourite here, and continues to be as funny as ever; Allis and Cassati are quite well received; and the Stavordale Quintet are unique in their banjo performance, which elicits much applause.

EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr Ernest Dottridge.—Mr James Kiddie's pantomime of *Dick Whittington* is here. Miss Bessie Willow in the title-part finds warm favour with the audience. Her singing of "Blue-Bell" is highly appreciated. Miss Leah Laurie is a fascinating Alice, her rendering of "The Ugly Duckling" being well received. Miss Florence Hilton contributes largely to the success of the pantomime in the rôle of Sir Algernon De Mash. Miss Isabel Taylor, the Captain, has a fine stage presence. Miss Vera Ashton makes an attractive Dorothy Maybloom. Miss Florrie Crompton is very pleasing as the Emperor's daughter. Mr Cyril Dundas as Alderman Fitzwarren, Mr Allen Carruthers as Idle Jack, Mr Harry Albert as Amelia, the cook, and Messrs Clifton and Gibson as Silly Peter and Lazy Lary all do well. Miss Meta Anderson as the Fairy is keenly appreciated. The Saxon Trio, lady dancers, and Messrs Curtis and Vanity, in their great coke walk, are applauded.

GAIETY, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr E. J. Dexter.—Les Barrs, eccentric gymnasts, keep the audience in roars of laughter here. Anthy's marvellous wire performance is heartily appreciated. Miss Georgie Heaton is an up-to-date male impersonator, who wins full favour from the audience. George Bernard, vocal actor, has a flattering reception. Madame Loule gives a very mysterious second-sight performance. Deller and Oxford make a decided "hit." Miss Cissy Sullivan is a clog and top-boot dancer of merit. Bob Stephenson, comedian, wins appreciation for his funny songs; and the Bioscope still maintains its popularity.

OXFORD.

NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr C. C. Dorrill.—For the thirteenth year in succession Mr Milton Bode has this week brought us our Christmas pantomime, and, judging from the applause bestowed on *Cinderella* by a capital house on Monday night, a well-deserved success is assured for this year's annual. The company is a thoroughly good all-round combination, the dresses new and handsome, and the scenery admirable, while Cinderella's electric fairy coach, drawn by a pair of ponies, successfully appealed to the many youngsters present. In the title-rôle a striking success is achieved by Miss Florence Beech, whose charming singing and dainty dancing are heartily applauded. Miss Hebe Bliss is a dashing and handsome Prince Brilliant, and renders her songs in first-class style. As Dandini Miss Marie Reeves scores heavily, her dancing and singing being far above the ordinary, and Miss Blanche Marion does well as Rosie Romp. The Baron Balmy of Mr Leo Stirling is brimful of humour, and his songs are strikingly successful; Mr J. Nolan and Mr P. Dawsons score as the Ugly Daughters; Mr George Antill's genuinely funny performance of Capers causes laughter throughout; and Messrs Lanton and Lane are an amusing couple as the Prince's servants. Mr Bode's specialities include Miss Maude Dewey, a wonderfully clever whistler; Leo Stirling, in an amusing musical act; Major Sitherland, a marvellous rifle and baton manipulator; and Bert Woodward, whose great cycling act has created a furore in this city.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr H. G. P. Wells.—Madame Willoughby's company is here with the pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*. Mr B. Gardner sings and acts well as Sir Rowland, and is well supported by Brown and Harker as Smith and Jones respectively. Mr Alf. Fox is quaint as Miss Brown. The Babes are capitally represented by Violet Mottley as Tommy and Daisy Mottley as Sissy, and both dance in excellent style. Miss Beatrice Dudley is a charming Robin Hood, and Miss Winnie Wentworth is graceful as Maid Marion.

TOWN HALL.—Mr Joseph Poole's No. 1 Myriorama and variety combination, under the direction of Mr Fred Mayer, are paying a welcome return visit here. The pictures, especially the latest additions, are excellent, the Bombardment of Port Arthur being very realistic. Some clever artistes appear during the evening:—Mr Felix Somers, in his clever mimetic entertainment; Mr Nat Abatt, a pleasing vocalist and raconteur and guide; Miss May Finch, a capital vocalist; the Veronas, lady dancers and vocalists; the Westwoods, trick cyclists; and Mdlle. Arbassany with her performing cockatoos. A capital orchestra is conducted by Mr John Hilton.

PAISLEY.

PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr J. H. Savile.—*Aladdin* now goes with a briskness and brightness that should make it widely popular until the close of its run here, and also the towns where Mr Savile will tour it. Miss Florence Wilton has established herself a universal favourite as Aladdin. By her archness and vivacity and the point and verve she imparts to her songs and dialogue she is an ideal principal boy. Besides her song "Bluebell," she scores with "Pennies" and "Angeline." Miss Gertrude Branscombe is a daintily neat and graceful Princess. Her numbers, "The Crocodile" and "Goldfish" songs are rapturously applauded. Miss Gladys Warren is particularly engaging as Bohee, and Miss Florrie Somers makes a sweet and pretty Pitti Sing. Mr Willie Garvey is always introducing fresh touches of genuine comedy as the Widow Twankey, and Mr James Grant works hard in the comical rôle of M'Ksarac. Messrs Will Sherlock, Karl Mora, T. W. Kelly, and the Boston Twins are a most diverting quintet and keep the fun well sustained. Miss Kitty Jones is a praiseworthy Spirit of the Lamp, her singing of the "Dreamland" and "The Owl and the Moon" songs being strikingly effective. Miss Isa Stirling makes an ideal Spirit of the Ring. The choruses are particularly well sung, and the dancing of Miss Lottie Stone's Troupe of eight is vigorous and delightful.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr Delno Fritz.—A programme of exceptional merit is being put before Empire patrons this week. The artistes contributing are Angeline, wonderful lady juggler; the Sisters Lorraine, duettists and dancers; Colvil and Tate (Jack and Annie), eccentric comedy performers and dancers; Patty Yole, comedienne and dancer; the Brothers Hampson, comedians and dancers; Ralston and Frances, in a nautical musical scena; the Great Linton, in an acrobatic bounding novelty act; and Amelia Strand, vocalist.

TOWN HALL.—The Joseph Poole Myriorama is in possession here for a fortnight. The display comprises pictures of interesting places in various parts of the globe, and, with the addition of mechanical contrivances and scenic effects, a realistic touch is imparted. The latest additions—from the arena of the great war between Japan and Russia—are intensely interesting. There are also displays of the Joseph Poole Myriograph, and in these are included many amusing and amazing animated pictures. Variety turns by the Poole combination form a most enjoyable part of the entertainment. Contributions are submitted by Harry Sullivan, comedian; Zelda, instrumentalist; Sulli and Saroni, duettists and dancers; Wal Owen, comedian; and Captain Carl Howlett's Royal Marionettes. An amusing sketch concludes the programme, a different one being submitted each evening.

PETERBOROUGH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr A. Darville Vernon.—Mr Mouillot's company in *A Message from Mars* has had a good reception from large audiences here this week upon its return visit. Mr Rawson Buckley gives a finished portrayal of the character of Horace Parker; powerful and impressive is the Messenger of Mr W. H. Brougham; the Tramp is capitally played by Mr Bruce Lindley; Miss May Saker is a charming Minnie Templer; and Miss Flora Hasting does well as Miss Parker.

PENTRE.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Owners, Messrs Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr Eugene Hardie. — Mr Wentworth Croke's company, in *The Christian*, is being welcomed by appreciative audiences this week. Mr Hilliard Vox secures attention in his clever interpretation of the Hon. John Storm, and Miss Grace Chalmers sustains the part of Glory Quayle with grace and charm. Mr Chas. E. Dering is exceedingly good as Archdeacon Wealthy. The parts of Lord Robert Ure, Horatio Drake, the Faro King, and Mr Lorimer are in the hands of Messrs Chas. B. Bedells, Jackson Wilcox, Bert Conway, and Oswald Marshall, who contribute largely to the success achieved. Mr Stanley Radcliffe, in the rôle of Father Lamplugh, leaves little to be desired. Miss Gertrude Homeward gives an admirable delineation of Polly Love, and Miss Clara Nicholls supplies a capital impersonation of the kind-hearted Mrs Callender.

PERTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Aldridge.—The *New Sapho* Syndicate, Limited, is presenting *Sapho* here this week. Miss Annie Bell, in the title-rôle, impresses the audience with her decided talent; Mr Frederick Ross enacts young Jean very creditably; Mr W. R. Winning as Paul Dechelette and Mr B. Langford as Caoudal are well placed; Mr George Antley creates considerable amusement as Césaire; Mr Archie Helaby is favourably received as Flamant; Mr F. A. Storey makes an ideal Father Legrande; Little Miss Lottie Ray performs the part of Joseph with confidence; Miss Laura Ray is commendable as Mechaume; and the minor parts are all in capable hands.

PLYMOUTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Langdon Lee.—*Dick Whittington* is still going strong, matinées and ordinary performances attracting good houses. The Australian Dancers continue to attract and please, some really funny and original business is introduced by those entertaining comedians, Messrs Reed and Lerne.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy Williams.—*The Girl from Kay's* is having a successful run here this week. Mr George Dance's company is winning golden opinions. The title-rôle is in the capable hands of Miss Nancy Hervyn; Miss Rita Leonhardt is pretty and graceful as Nora Chalmers; and successes are also scored by Miss Maisie North and Miss Mabel Champion. In the character of Hoggenheimer Mr H. C. Barry is irresistibly funny; Harry Gordon finds a clever exponent in Mr Garnet Wilson; as the Hon. Percy Fitzthistle Mr Leslie Roy Cathie is capital; and Mr Fred Rolph makes the most of his opportunities as the hall porter.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton.—The pantomime of *Sinbad the Sailor* has entered on its last week locally, after which it will be staged in other towns.

PALACE OF VARIETIES. — Managing-Directors, Messrs Livermore Brothers; Manager, Mr J. Field.—An artistic and sensational turn is provided here this week by Mr Frank Gerald, who, supported by a clever company, appears in a sketch entitled *The King's Highway*. A comedy act which evokes hearty laughter is that put on by Burns and Evans. A gymnastic display by the Mezzettis deserves warm praise, and Mr Arthur Reece contributes good songs. Madge Mayfield is a dainty dancer and pleasing singer; Sydney James' Strolling Players give an enjoyable turn; and Peter Kelly and Amy Sullivan win unstinted applause with their taking songs.

PONTYPRIDD.

ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Milton Bode; Business-Manager, Mr Rex Dooley.—Mr Horton Powell's company is here in *A Woman's Devotion*. Mr George Davis as Richard Chesney acts in a manner worthy of warm praise; Mr Frank Robertson is able and effective as Philip Dangerfield; Mr W. B. Somerville decidedly scores as Paul Eversleigh; the rôle of Bob Savage is in the capable hands of Mr Edward Mervyn; Mr Edwin T. Kisby is excellent as the Dude; Mrs Morton Powell displays ability as Gilbert Le Grand; the rôle of Maisie Loyale is played with telling effect by Miss Maud S. Drewry; and Misses Alwynne Ermon and Dot Seilby are worthy of commendation as Cora Eversleigh and Mrs Savage.

PORTH.

POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE. — Manager, Mr W. Bynoth.—The attraction here is the D'Oyly Carte principal répertoire opera company, which opened on Monday in *The Mikado*. Mr Albert Kavanagh successfully plays the part of the Mikado; Mr Pasie Ripple as Nanki-Poo is well received; as Ko Ko, Lord High Executioner, Mr C. H. Workman is responsible for some excellent amusement; Mr Fred Billington deserves mention as Pooh-Bah; Mr Leicester Tunks ably sustains the part of Pish-Tush; Go To is capitally played by Mr Fred Drawwater; Miss Norah Maguire looks charming and scores a distinct success as Yum-Yum; she possesses an excellent voice; Miss Theresa Rassam gives an appreciative rendering of Katisha; Pitti-Sing and Peep-Bo are ably represented by Miss Jessie Rose and Miss Alice Lisle. The choruses are well rendered. The following are also in the bill:—*The Gondoliers*, *Yeoman of the Guard*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and *Pirates of Penzance*.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietress, Miss Ada Alexandra; General Director, Mr D. Taylor; Manager, Mr E. Pryce. — A capital programme is again provided here. It is headed by the Cee Mee Troupe of acrobats, who contribute an excellent turn, and are well received; Three St. Clairs, comic and expert cyclists, meet with approval in their clever performance, as also does Alec Aubrey, the Welsh athlete. The Three Novells, society acrobats and tumblers; the Salvannas, Oriental entertainers; Helm and Cozens, in their comedy duologue, *The Doctor and the Patient*; Syd Hermann, comedian; the smart comedians, Ellis and Watts; and Salavanti. A new ballet d'action is given by Rabbit and Haupin, the two clowns, and is most amusing. Vernon's animated photos. are shown on the Cinématograph.

PORTSMOUTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr Armstrong Bell.—Mr George Dance's company is still here in *Veronique*. Highly appreciative audiences have been delighted with the charming singing and playing of Miss Ruth Lincoln as Veronique; Miss Maud Boyd as Agatha; Miss Lena Maitland as Ermerance; Mr Scott Rupell as Florestan; and the humorous efforts of Mr Leslie Holland as M. Coquenard; Mr Ivan Berlyn as M. Loustob; and Mr Tom Shelford as Saraphin. Mr Victor Champion has conducted the augmented orchestra with great ability.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr T. E. Agate.—The exciting drama, *Under Two Flags*, is being presented here by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr Mark Blow's well-selected company. Miss Emelie Polini is charmingly piquant as Cigarette; Miss Hope Mayne is dignified and natural as Princess Venenia Corona; Miss Lucy Carr plays carefully as Lady Beatrice Guinevere; Miss Joan Stean does well as Countess Olga; and Miss Daisy Carlton is clever as Lavinia. Mr Mark Blow's impersonation of Bertie Cecil Royellieu is a well-balanced and powerful one; Mr Reginald Hardy West is successful as Barklie Cecil Royellieu; Mr W. Hook's interpretation of Rake, the valet, is capital; and Mr Chas. D. Pitt is smart and alert as Colonel Chateauroy. The drama is preceded by the amusing farce, *Aunt Rebecca*.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr W. Pratt.—The Borghetti Troupe, head balancing acrobats, head the bill here, and give a fine exhibition of clever gymnastic work; Leah Arden, operatic ballad vocalist, sings well, and meets with approval; Dora Martini, for her daring and graceful bar act, deserves the applause she receives; Elvo and Evelyn, speciality artists, contribute a humorous turn; Les Sprays, Continental dancers, are appreciated; Leslie Race, refined comedian, is successful with his comic songs; Ford and Hanson, in their musical novelty act, bring down the house; Stave, electrical comedy artist; Alice Maple, soubrette; and Payne's Bio-Photoscope, with new pictures, are also in the bill.

RADCLIFFE.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr Jas. Boothman.—Miss Daisy De Roy's pantomime, *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, is proving a great attraction here. Mdlle. Lucretia does well as Dick Whittington, and her top-boot dancing is remarkably clever. As Alice Miss Daisy De Roy is seen to advantage. Mr Sidney Dooley as Eliza, the cook, is responsible for much laughter, and Mr J. C. Bland as Jack is very funny. The Barrasford Boys appear as the Two Seafarers. Little Jupiter makes a clever Whittington's Cat, and is very good in a trapeze act, assisted by Miss Beatrice Tilley. Miss Poppy Lytton deserves a word of praise as Princess Luleka, as also does Miss Georgie Hall as Fairy Flora. Rose Walmsley's Star Quartet are much appreciated in their Terpsichorean act.

RAWTENSTALL.

GRAND THEATRE.—Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr J. Potter; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr J. Ellis Miller.—This week we have a visit from the American-Indian actress, Go-Won-Go Mohawk, and company, in the sensational drama, *Wep-Ton-No-Mah*. In the title-rôle Go-Won-Go Mohawk gives a powerful portrayal, and is ably assisted by Mr C. W. Charles as Colonel Stockton and Mr Isaac Shawross as Captain Franklin. Miss Minnie Goepel as Nellie Stockton and Miss Jessie Hart as Matilda Sniffles are equally successful in their respective characters.

READING.

ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr W. E. Garnett; Secretary, Mr Reginald Taylor.—Mr J. Howard Bannister's company is appearing here this week in *The Darling of the Gods*. Miss Inez Bensusan plays the Princess Yo San very artistically. Mr Alfred Goddard gives a powerful rendering of Kara; Mr Leonard Grey is effective as Sargon, Prince of Tosan; Mr D. Lewin Mannering is excellent as Zakkuri; Mr Alexander Haviland as Tanda Tanji, Mr L. St. George Lowther as Inu, Mr Esmond Hine as Hasebe Soyemon, Miss Mary Mannering as Setsu, Miss Stella Wynne as Ni, the singing girl, and Miss Kate Hamilton as Madame Asani all sustain their parts well; and the remainder of the company is of all-round merit. The play is produced by Mr Sidney C. Sinclair.

ROCHDALE.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED. — Managing-Director, Mr W. Robinson; General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling; Resident Manager, Mr Charles Clucas.—Mr James Kiddie's pantomime, *Cinderella*, is the attraction here this week. Mr Will Saunders as Baron Shiptolotte makes a most favourable impression; the Ugly Sisters are in the safe hands of Mr H. Lovell and Mr Fred Denman; Mr Charlie Harvey as Pimples is a comedian of exceptional ability; Mr J. H. Hawtrey's powerful vocalism in the part of Malicio is very acceptable; Miss Rose Pareezer as Sunbeam sings with pleasing effect; Miss Florence Watson is winsome in the title-rôle; Mdlle. De Rose as Prince Perfect sings some good songs and acts her part admirably; and Miss Susie Bevan is a gallant Dandini. Specialities are submitted by Houpla and Heels, the Stewart Quartet, and the Sylphide Troupe of dancers.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs Smith and Lee; Business-Manager, Mr S. L. Lee.—A capital programme is submitted here this week. The De Roys submit an amusing and clever exhibition of conjuring; the Batt Marvels execute some smart feats of barrel jumping; the Two Romers, ballad and operatic vocalists; Jeanette Latour, ballad vocalist; Ray and Calden, in "Peculiarities;" the Sisters Terry, vocalists; the Dunvilles, in musical act, "Mansion Domestics;" and Les Fontains, with a capital show of marionettes, complete the list.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Hargreaves.—Excellent fare is provided here this week. Tom and Marie Motramo are amusing in their musical act; Mr Wilson Blackledge is an entertainer of high order; Beatty and Blanche, duettists; Sisters Bartholomew, duettists and dancers; Schack Seebold, instrumentalist; Fox and Melville, song illustrators; Nellie Navette, burlesque actress; and the Empire Bioscope add to a most enjoyable programme.

RUGBY.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr E. Parker Royston.—This week the drama, *When London Sleeps*, is being presented here. Mr Tom Ronald as the athlete, David Engleheart, acts in a manly and artistic manner, and Mr Walter H. Wilson as Captain Rodney Haynes is very successful. Miss Hilda Clyde as Hilda Carode gives an exceptionally able and artistic rendering, and as Queenie Carruthers Miss Mabel Cluer is well received. Mr D'Arcy Kelway as Sammy Blythe and Miss Nellie Hook as Carrie Jones are amusing and effective. Others worthy of special mention are Mr Paul Graydon as Bob Jones, Miss Nellie Birchenough as the Signorina, Mr Edward Vivian as Furnaby Fuller, Mr Samuel Renburn as Winkles, and Little Mabel as Leila.

FOSSETT'S HIPPODROME. — The entertainment is of the usual high class, and the programme has been again changed. Mr R. Fossett, jun., again displays great daring as a rider and ability as a trainer of horses, and Mr John Irvin's double act on horseback is well received. In this he is assisted by Miss Pinder, who proves herself a most accomplished and graceful equestrienne. Miss Fossett repeats her former successes, and is always well received. Mr C. Beckett, clown and athlete, is capital; and the Bros. Smarte cause amusement by their never-failing drollery.

TOWN HALL.—Mrs Arthur James's company, in *The Duke of Killicrankie*, was here on Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Arthur James in her interpretation of the rôle of Mrs Mulholland was commendable, taking advantage of every opportunity. Mrs William James as the Lady Henrietta Addison played very agreeably; Miss Mabel Lowther was effective and dignified as the Countess of Pangbourne; Mr Percy Leo as the Duke of Killicrankie was conspicuously successful, being ably seconded by Mr Harry Brooke as Mr Henry Pitt Welby, Mr Theodore Flint as Mr Ambrose Kicks, Mr John Monerieffe as Alexander Macbayne, Mr Stone as the Butler, and Mr Steel as the Footman—all good in their respective parts. Colonel G. B. Blyth performed the duties of stage-manager efficiently.

RUNCORN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr H. W. Caddick.—The attraction here is Miss Winifred Ch

SALFORD.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr Harold Goulden.—The new domestic moral drama *The Sin of Her Childhood* was on Monday beautifully staged and well received by a crowded house. Miss Mary Fulton as Mary Haysel, the heroine, is quite equal to the task; as Stephen Haysel, the villainous brother, Mr A. Milroy cleverly rouses the gods; Mr H. Hargreaves an excellent Rev. Alan Grey; and Mr J. A. Campbell's portrayal of Captain John Thornton is smart. Miss Jennie Hicks as a vicious woman addicted to drink, Maria Haysell, makes a favourable impression; Little Dott Moss as Hannah Spry at once becomes a great favourite with her songs, dances, and banjo solos; Mr Fred Elvin as Barney O'Reilly and Miss Nellie Freeland as Eliza Muggins are much appreciated for their comedy business.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford; Licensee, Mr James M. Hardie; Secretary and Manager, Mr C. Shayler.—A diverting and pleasant entertainment of much variety is attracting this week. Walton and Miss Ella give a marvellous show with dogs; Lottie Lennox, burlesque actress, has some pleasing songs. Some smart acrobatic work is done by the Paxton Trio; Tooh and Tard, comic acrobats, cause much laughter. Other clever turns include Harry Drew, Welsh bass singer; Clarus Brothers, equilibrists on the rolling globes; Larry Lewis, comedian; A. Aldridge, tenor vocalist; and Lily Seville, comedienne and dancer.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr J. B. Taylor.—Mr John F. Preston and company in the dramatic sketch, *Streets of Salford*, heads this week's programme. Mr Preston is amusing as Badger, and much fun is got out of the character of Dan, a Lancashire lad, by Mr Hardy Macro. The other characters are portrayed by Mr Edward E. Louis as John Hardman, Mr Charles Leach as Captain Fairweather, Mr Ernest R. Allen as Mark Livingstone, Miss Mabelle F. Barlow as Mrs Puffy, and Miss Gertrude Godart as Lucy Fairweather, all excellent studies. A very amusing sketch, *One Night Only*, is given by Henry Carlton and his comedy team. Brothers Andreassens, novelty acrobats; Will Soule, quaint comedian; Gus Balsiger, Negro comedian, vocalist, and trick instrumentalist; and Three Delaries, in their speciality act, "The Demon Grotto," also add to the amusement.

L. AND N. W. PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietress, Mrs S. A. Higham; Manager, Mr Sam Higham.—An agreeable change in last week's programme brings the following newcomers into the bill:—Mr T. W. Lennen and Miss Florrie Wright.

BRIDGE HOTEL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Tom Bradbury.—Mr Jake Linde, comedian; Mr Joe Hunt, Negro comedian; and Miss Alice Devine, male impersonator, are amongst those engaged this week.

SCARBOROUGH.

LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs Waddington and Sons; Acting-Manager, Mr J. T. Carpenter.—Miss Lena Stanton's company is fulfilling a week's engagement here in the pantomime *Dick Whittington*. Miss Lena Stanton puts plenty of life into the part of Dick; Miss Marie Gerrard is a pleasing Alice Fitzwarren; Little Keeno as Captain Spanker evokes laughter; Mr Bruce Green is good as Margarine Mopps; and the same can be said of Mr George James as Fitzwarren, Mr Alf Brooks as Idle Jack, and Mr Harry Jay as the Emperor Kopall. Jay and Ginger are responsible for a good ventriloquial turn; the Cecil Troupe of lady dancers put in some smart work; Le Voli does some new acrobatic tricks; and Joe Paulette, the French cycling clown, gives a neat turn.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietress, Mrs Henry Mayhew; Acting-Manager, Mr F. P. Morgan.—Messrs Edward Marris and W. H Kirby's pantomime company occupy the stage here with *Dick Whittington*. Miss Mamie Iris is a dainty little Alice, who sings and dances well; Miss Winifred Preece is an excellent Dick; Mr W. H. Kirby creates plenty of amusement as Idle Jack, and is ably supported by Mr H. A. Griffiths as Betsy. Special turns are given by Messrs Ryde and Beeman in their American comedy act; Mamie Iris, sand dancer; the Three Rays, acrobatic dancers; the Two Balzens, top spinners and balancers; Lillian Sivade, trapezist; and the Dunlops, comedy cyclists.

PEOPLE'S PALACE AND AQUARIUM.—Managing Director, Mr Wm. Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr Walter Kitchingman.—Mr James Hare's company is occupying the stage here this week with the drama *The Guilty Man*. As Audrey Priestley Miss Isobel Singleton does well, and the same must be said of Miss Irene Clifford in the rôle of Nell Radford. Miss Jenny Hallworth makes the most of Sukie; Mr James Hare represents the villain, Redmar, admirably; General Seymour is worthily embodied by Mr R. D. Bell; and the George Seymour of Mr H M. King is in capable hands. Mr Bert Atherton causes amusement as Bob Sparrow, and Mr T. Atkinstall as Esau Hebron must not be forgotten.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Quinton Gibson.—Amongst the interesting turns that are billed to appear this week are Darwin, the man monkey; Miss Florrie Claribell, comedienne; Happy Armstrong, in a musical turn; Droll and Dryan, comedians; the Celtics, entertainers; Miss Florrie Bray, sketch artist; Mr Will Ellerslie, comedian; and Fan, an acrobatic comedian. The programme also includes views on the Hippograph.

SEACOMBE.

IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr James Kiernan.—Messrs Carson and Granville's company is here this week in *The Drama of Life*. Mr Jerrold Ord deserves praise for an excellent and consistent presentation of Harry Beech; Mr John J. Hooker scores well as Walter Beech; Mr Owen Remonde as Sir Dobson Wilde and Miss Muriel Inglis as Lady Jane Wilde cause fun by their comic interludes; Jack Lawton is effectively played by Mr Bulmer Pitt, and as Richard Brenton Mr Walter Steele does well. Mr Vernon Dalby is effective as Count De Foi, and Miss Marie Murray is intelligent as Master Robert Beech. The scenery and effects are excellent.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr A. C. Harrison.—*A London Actress*, on the first three nights of the week, and *The Guiding Star* on the remaining three, form the attractions here this week, the plays being presented by Miss Emma Litchfield and company, under the direction of Mr Stuart Cleveland. In the first-named piece Mr Cleveland portrayed Clive Crawford with much vigour; Lieut. Kingston was played with ability by Mr Louis Lingard; Mr Frank Radcliffe was good as Captain Mannering; Pat Maloney and Moses Mendoza were amusing characters in the hands of Mr Sam Wilford and Mr Geo. Wallace; and Miss Litchfield embodied Hilda Mannering with her customary ability. In the title-rôle Miss Violet Lawson was entirely successful. Other parts were taken by Miss Violet Vivian, Miss Adele Wilford, and Miss Theodora Henrier.

STAFFORD.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Jas. Elphinstone.—A capital pantomime company is here this week in *Cinderilla*, the title-role being charmingly played by Miss Madge Osmond. As Prince Perfect Miss Dora Denmark is a typical principal boy; Miss Ethel Mohr has a taking part as Dandini; and Miss Dot Beresford is a dainty Fairy Godmother; Mr E Wilson as Baron Pebbly-Beach is excellent; Messrs J. Binns and H. Haines give appropriate delineation of Butterina and Margarina; Mr Fred Pack is quaintly funny as Pimple; and Mr W. Marsh and Mr W. Morris make things lively all-round as Ping and Pong.

SHEFFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr F. W. Purcell; Acting-Manager, Mr T. S. Carter.—*Goody Two Shoes* is now in the zenith of its success. Miss Minnie Cunningham, Miss Georgina Leonard, Miss Molly Westenholm, Miss Rita Rhylle, Miss Amy French, Miss Tilley, Messrs Downs and Langford, Mr Fred Lincoln, Mr Harry F. M'Clelland, and Mr George French are all on good terms with the Royal habitués.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr C. W. Ramsay.—*Aladdin* is now going "full steam ahead," and fun and frolic reign supreme. August and September are manufacturers of clean gags, and good comic merchants are Mr Charles Austin, Mr Teddy Denham, Mr Royce, Mr Royston, and Mr O. E. Lennon. Miss Esta Steele, Miss Maude Esmond, Miss Minnie Newman, Misses Conway and Balton, Miss Ida Warsley, Miss Cissy Paris, and the Four Magnets are all charming, attractive, and popular artistes.

EMPIRE PALACE.—General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr A. W. Young.—The following performers maintain the prestige of the Empire this week:—The Caledonian Boys' orchestra; Carl and Mary Ohm; Charles Cardow, humorous entertainer; Barney Vox, Celtic ventriloquist; Martin and Quigg, eccentric comedians; Signor and Madama Borelli, in "Musical Tit-Bits;" the Four Royal Welshmen, vocal entertainers; the daring and graceful gymnast Leona Dare; the Three Georges, comic acrobats; and M. Eugen Marrder, the great Continental horse-rider, in his speciality act "The Golden Cavalier."

SHREWSBURY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Business Manager, Mr W. C. Dornton.—*In the Ranks* has been admirably staged and powerfully performed here this week by Messrs Arthur Carlton and H. Armitage's talented company. In the part of Ned Drayton Mr Edward Lloyd acted with considerable power and talent; Mr Herbert Cecil worked hard and successfully as Gideon Blake; Mr Arthur Palling as Col. Wynter merited high praise; Mr Archie W. Chappell played very creditably the part of Capt. Holcroft; Mr Lionel Sullivan was a capital Farmer Herrick; Mr Arthur Byron was a clever and amusing countryman as Joe Buzzard; Mr James E. Page sustained the part of Richard Belton in a very artistic and capable fashion, and a number of minor male rôles were all in good hands. Miss Edith Blair-Staples played with expression and feeling the rôle of Ruth Herrick; Miss Daisy Norman was bright and successful as Barbara Herrick; Miss L. Barley-Clarke was entertaining as Mrs Timmins; Miss Flo Ravensheur was good as Polly Timmins; Miss Maud Darley as Mrs O'Flanagan was efficient; and Miss Harriet Russell made a droll and clever Mrs Buzzard.

SMETHWICK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr C. Barnard; Manager, Mr E. Hewitson.—A cordial reception was accorded Mr Howard Hinton's company on Monday in the first of the season's pantomimes, *Dick Whittington*. There is the usual amount of fun and jollity, and some of the latest songs, with some good dancing, make up a capital show. The company is strong all round. Miss Kitty Phelps makes an attractive principal boy; and Dick's sweetheart is played by Miss Daisy Clements, who was such a popular Red Riding Hood in one of last year's shows. Miss Maud Leonard sings and plays well as Sir Rowland; Miss Gracie Clements makes a capital Fairy Goodwill; the Cat is excellently played by Mr Harry Cardon, a clever contortionist; Alderman Fitzwarren is judiciously presented by Mr Mount Stephens; and the fun is well maintained by Mr Harry Rennior as Idle Jack; Mr Steve Cooke, a diverting Cook; Mr Tom B. Seymour as Captain Bunting, and the Bowery Boys as Shuffle and Shirk. The Emperor of Morocco is satisfactorily represented by Mr H. H. Hastings; Miss Violet Welsh makes a charming Princess; and specialities are given by the Bowery Boys, in a humorous boxing act; the Sisters Clements, in a smart coon song; Stephens and Rennior; Professor Yawta, with his performing dogs; and the grand Pierrot Ballet, by the Empress Quartet of dancers.

SOUTHAMPTON.

GRAND.—Mr George Dance's *Duchess of Dantzic* company is here. Mr Dance has mounted and dressed the play in a lavish style. Miss Rita Presano as Catherine sings and acts well, and scores a success. Miss Alice Coverick is a dainty Renée, her singing of "The Little Corporal" being loudly applauded. Mr Thomas C. Maxwell makes a favourable impression as Adhemar, and the Napoleon of Mr Frederick Moyes is a capital piece of acting. Mr Colin Mackay is exceedingly funny throughout, and revels in the part of Papillon, in addition to being responsible for some admirable stage management. Mr Mackesay Cullin is a soldierlike Lefebvre, and Miss Lillian Drake makes a distinguished Empress. Other parts are extremely well played, and the augmented orchestra is ably handled by Mr B. J. Paterson.

PRINCE OF WALES.—Mr Henry Eglington's company is appearing here in *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Tilly Stewart is delightfully fascinating as Robin Hood, and Miss Florrie Brandon is comely and attractive as principal girl. Mr H. Talbot and Mr St. John Stewart as the villains cause great amusement. The babes are charmingly impersonated by Miss Cissie Williams and Miss Eileen Leoville, and Mr Harry Harcourt as Baron Graball and Mr Henry Eglington as the Dame work hard and successfully. Messrs Harold Perry (the Demon King), Reuben Kitchen (Pompey), and Mr Will Ambo, a wonderful dancer, also render valuable assistance. The specialities are excellent, and the scenery, including a very pretty transformation scene, "A Baby's Dream of Fairyland," is artistic.

PALACE.—The principal attraction here this week is given by Paul Martinetti and company, who score a success in *Robert Macaire*. Mdlle. Yvette, with her trained horses and dogs, does well, and others who score are Fred Keator, comedian; Muir and Bartlett, in *The Lady and the Lunatic*; Dollie Denton, juvenile comedienne; Lauri Wylie, mimic; Cavern and Cave, in *An Early Morning Dip*; and Will Farrell.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr W. Marlow, sen.; Manager, Mr W. Marlow, jun.—The attraction here for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday was the comic opera entitled *La Poupée*, presented by Mr J. Bannister Howard for the Ben Greet company. The play from the first gains hearty recognition, whilst the singing is greatly admired. Mr Algernon Lee plays the rôle of Launcelot in a capable manner, his singing being loudly applauded; Mr Joseph A. Brull makes an ideal Father Maxime, whose song "A contented mind is a blessing kind," is creditably rendered; Loremois and Baron Chanterelle are two humorous characters well portrayed by Messrs Harry Bishop and Stanley White respectively; Mr Gus Danby makes a conspicuous Hilarius, and is mirth-provoking; Madame Hilarius is well taken by Miss Alice M Farlane; Miss Eva Ellis as Henri deserves mention; and Miss Cissie Wade is exceptionally good as Alesia. On Thursday and Friday, the farcical comedy, entitled *The Saucy Sally*, was presented by Mr L. Brough's company.

SOUTHPORT.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, the Opera House and Winter Gardens Company, Limited; General Manager, Mr Alfred Hemming.—*Defending His Honour* is the attraction here. Mr John Davidson as Douglas Bryce gives a forcible and pleasing representation. Mr Clifton Boyne makes the most of the character of Stephen Graid. Miss F. Melrose-Millett is a very effective heroine, and acts with considerable power. Messrs Charles H. Herbert, William E. Passmore, Thompson Carruthers, and Kenneth Black are also seen to advantage.

SOUTH SHIELDS.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs J. and F. Coulson.—The romantic military drama, entitled *The King's Pardon*, played by Mr Frank Macnaghten's company, is occupying the boards this week. Mr Charles A. Leicester is well placed as Spence Broughton. The arduous part of Noel Blake is entrusted to Mr Charles Stirling, whose intense villainy evokes much interest. Mr Charles Whitlock capably presents Clifford Yorke; two diverting portrayals are those of Messrs Harry Belford (Major Dobbs) and Val W. Gully (Ebenezer). The Phyllis of Miss Pollie Denville is bright; and Miss Georgina France is an artistic heroine as Barbara Yorke.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Richard Thornton; General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr Geo. F. Thompson.—The bill for this week is headed by a clever equilibristic act provided by the Lukushima Troupe, including Otora San Lukushima, Japan's premier lady artist. The Jackson Familar of musical entertainers repeat their former success; Geoffreys and Benson in *Spoofed* are vastly amusing; and Billy Hobbs is seen to advantage as a dancer and coon artist. The American Bioscope, with fresh films, is always welcome; and Lyane and Geks, novelty contortionists; Sakers, comedy artistes; and Little Uno, boy comedian, are also good.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr Jos. Sweeney.—J. H. Milburn, comedian, is figuring successfully here as principal turn, and his admirers are afforded excellent opportunity of witnessing the distinct and pleasing variations of his talent Ben Hur, the ideal athlete, is a striking example of muscular vigour; Bandoni submits a good musical act; and others appearing are Marie Yorke, Dan Noble, Vasey and Ramsey, Percy Farrimond, and Bertha Norwood.

SPENNYMOOR.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr Herbert Vere.—Mr Fred J. Kirke's company is appearing here in that gentleman's new dramatic musical comedy, *The Naval Detective*, in which the author fills the name-part with great effect. Miss Maudie Vincent acts, sings, and dances well, and is altogether a fascinating Phyllis Leslie. Mr Richard Purdie scores as Dr. Schreiner, and the same may be said of Mr Arthur Beaufort as the Hon. Bertie Fairlox. Mr Harry Ray displays marked abilities as an eccentric comedian in the character of Captain Hustle. Miss Edith Claris as Susan Scrubb, Mrs Charles Wood as Rebecca Gentle, and Miss Florry Hayes are a capable trio. The cast is completed by Mr Will Bird, who does justice to the part of Hans Winklepump. The Gaiety Girls in dance, song, and mandoline duet contribute materially to the evening's amusement.

ST. HELENS.

THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr M'Leod Loader.—This week we are again favoured with a visit from Mr W. Kelly's company in the ever-green and perennial drama *A Royal Divorce*. Prominent members of the company are Miss Edith Cole (Josephine), Mr Frank Lister (Napoleon), Miss Ethyle Murray (Marie Louise), Miss Helen Richmond (Stephanie), and Messrs H. Gray Dolby, A. Grenville, and Dennis Bryan as Talleyrand, De Beaumont, and Grimaud respectively.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs Barrasford, Will Sley, and F. Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr A. V. Carnell.—Another capital bill this week includes Tom M'Inerney, wrestler; Dot Stanley, comedienne; Fred Melton, Dave M'Niel, and Charles Rentone, a trio of capable and amusing comedians; Hannah and James, clever foot equilibrists; Tennyson and Wallis, diverting comedians; Gilbey, in his fireman act; Primrose, a neat and smart sand dancer; and Willie Walker, ball-puncher.

STOCKPORT.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr Wm Revill.—Pantomime still reigns her with Milton Ray's *Little Bo-Beep*, following the successful *Forty Thieves*. As Binks Mr Harry Elliston works very hard, and achieves well deserved success; Mr Jack Hylton is amusingly funny as the Baron, and Mr W. G. Wesley makes a capital Dame Trot. Miss Daisy Morrell is remarkably successful as Ferdinand, her style being most pleasing, while her well-chosen songs gain numerous encores; Miss Lily Wright as Boy Blue and Miss Ada Wright as Bo-Peep are both charming young ladies and capable vocalists and dancers; the performance on the horizontal bars of the Two Eltons is exceedingly clever and distinctly amusing; and to the Four Sisters Tree, who take the parts of the Secret Police, must be credited a large share of the success of the pantomime, their songs and dances being much appreciated.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs Weldon Watts; General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr R. G. Elder.—Mr Macnaghten's company, in *Robinson Crusoe*, is here. Mr Will Lytton as Will Atkins does good work; Mr Jack Foley's Dame Crusoe is a brisk, funny performance; Sammy Sockless and Dick Drymaath by Messrs Harris and Worth put plenty of go into their work; Mr Charles Cook's Rajah Ram Jampotte is clever; and Mr Harry Morgan's Friday is a very able personation. As Crusoe Miss Louie Hurman plays with much spirit; Miss Daisy Reed's Princess Pearlypet is a great success, and her dancing is smart; Miss Rose Bartlett's Polly Perkins is refined; Miss D. Cherry's Merry and Miss Dolly Langham's Nancy Lee are both good; and Miss Flora Leonard as Fairy Coral merits praise for her sweet singing. Miss Ivy Lane's Troupe of dancers introduce some clever novelties.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr J. Batty; Manager, Mr W. Batty.—An excellent company is here, headed by those favourites Verno and Voyce, vocalists, &c. Good turns are also done by Hanco, a remarkable handcuff and card performer; Abel and Welch, in their grotesque act; Clarke's Nippers; Alskarno Trio, Risley performers, &c.; Daisy Belfrey, serio; Lilian Rigby, on the sleigh-bells, &c.; Mystery Gauze, Indian female impersonator; Payne's Bio, and the clever and laughable musical show by the Bros. Dixon.

STOURBRIDGE.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Mr Arthur Ross and company is here in the domestic drama *The Follies of Youth*. Mr Arthur Rose as Ralph Murdock sustains this character in a capable manner, and Miss Violet Macaree as the unscrupulous adventuress Gwendoline Murdock gives a meritorious delineation. Mr Walter Bentley is prominent in the character of Captain Ronald Bruce. Miss Laurie A. Pardy acts in a pleasing manner the part of Dorothy Dornton, and Miss Bertha Hanbury as Little Ruth is one of the most accomplished child actresses seen here for some time. Mr David Beattie as Nat Thistle displays plenty of humour, and the same can be said of Mr Bert Wallace as Matthew Merryweather and Miss Ena Russell as Kitty Hawthorne.

SUNDERLAND.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Charles E. Machin; General Manager, Mr Percival Craig.—Mr Machin's latest annual at the premier house in the Wearside borough continues its course with undiminished success. Miss Louie Willis in the title-rôle is an established favourite, and Miss Jessie Merrilees as Alice is the most bewitching of principal girls. Miss Kitty Upton as the Prince of China is a strong rival for favour, and the Princess Nicey-Picey of Miss Marion Scott is a popular success. Mr Edwin Boyde is the life and soul of the pantomime, his Idle Jack being full of fun and go. Mr G. H. Bishop as the Emperor of China is another established favourite, and Mr Arthur Staples is successful as the Prime Minister. The Alderman Fitzwarren of Mr W. Vestor is another excellent performance. The specialities by the Floradors and the Four Mushrooms are both exceedingly meritorious performances that find special favour; whilst the performing seals and sea lions of Captain Woodward provide a most interesting change in a much varied programme.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Sunderland Theatres (Limited); Managing Director, Mr Chas. E. Machin; General Manager, Mr Percival Craig.—Mr J. F. Preston's company is this week presenting *Lady Godiva*, *Nell Gwynne*, and *Jane Shore*. The first-mentioned was played on Monday night. The part of Lady Godiva is touchingly represented by Miss Grace Lester; and Miss Marcella Hudson makes the most of her opportunities as Lady Aldyth. Mr James Duncan is adequate as Leofric, and Mr W. Howard Barlow displays considerable power in the rôle of Algar. Mr F. B. Woulfe gives a vivid portrayal of Tom o' Coventry, whilst as Robin Shaklebolt Mr Dan F. Roe leaves little to be desired. Mr Clifford Marle is excellent as Unwolf Unwolfson.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, the People's Palace, Limited; Managing Directors, Messrs Livermore Bros.; Acting Manager, Mr G. V. Wybrow.—A particularly bright programme is provided here this week. Mr and Mrs Neil Litchfield make a great hit in their amusing sketch, *Down at Brook Farm*; some remarkable feats are performed by Nadji, a contortionist and hand-balancer of no mean order; the Michalinis in their juggling act obtain a flattering reception; Haldyne Duo, in their vocal comedy act; Austin and Cowan, vocal entertainers; Jimson's comedy animal act; J. A. Wilson, Negro comedian; Alexandra Edwin, soprano vocalist; and Vernon's animated pictures also contribute to the enjoyable entertainment.

SWANSEA.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs David Allen and Sons, Limited; Lessees and Managers, Messrs E. Oswald Brooks and J. W. Woodbridge; Resident Partner, Mr E. Oswald Brooks.—Mr Frederick Mouillot's company on Monday took possession of the boards for the week with the pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*. It is capitally staged and dressed, some of the scenery and effects being very pretty. The principals are Miss Florence Dillon (Sinbad), Miss Ada Brenan (Princess Prettypearl), Miss Laura Humphreys (Zorilda), Mr Stephen Fitzgerald (Mrs Sinbad), Mr John R. Val (Sinbad), Denby and Dent (Captain Bunker and Mate Shirker), Mr Alec Murray (the Bashaw), Mr A. M. Moore (the old man of the sea), and Miss Lovel (the Fairy Diamonda). The performances were well received.

NEW STAR.—Lessee and Manager, Mr T. Morton Powell; Acting-Manager, Mr William Coutts.—The attraction at this house during the week has been Sims and Barrett's drama *The Golden Ladder*, presented by Miss Mary Austin and E. Vivian Edmund's company.

NEW EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr Albert Mitchell.—The capital programme provided here this week contains the following:—Wille Brothers, a clever trio of head balancers; Maud Rose, charming comedienne and clever dancer; Will Mitcham, a good vocalist and instrumentalist; La Belle Creole Morcashani, eccentric baritone vocalist; Duncan's Scotch collies, a troupe of wonderfully trained dogs; T'Oile D'Araignee, a pleasing electrical gymnastic novelty: Miss Lily Lena, a dainty comedienne; the M'Gregors, a trio of smart musicians; Newhouse and Ward, trick and comedy cyclists.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr T. W. Grantham.—The engagements at this house for the current week are as follows:—Signor Pepi, quick change artiste; Lilian Neville, soprano vocalist; Tom Carney, comedian and dancer; Stanley and Greenop, banjoists; Vernon's animated pictures, Harry Nelson and Teonnie Thomas, in their absurdities "On the Ra-Ta" and "Ketchup;" Beattie Lyndon, serio and dancer, and Harry Maynard, actor-vocalist.

SWINDON.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Responsible Manager, Mr Alfred Manners; Musical Director, Mr Fred H. Lucas.—Despite the piercing cold and snow on Monday the popular parts of this house were well filled to witness the first performance in this town of the new drama *The Female Swindler*, staged by Mr Tom H. Taylor's company, under the general management of Mr Luke Forster. The important rôle of Lu Valroy is powerfully and effectively embodied by Miss Violet Elliott. Mr Jerrold Heather maintains his reputation in another strong part—that of Jack Coulson, a detective. Mr Luke Forster cleverly undertakes the part of Billy Binks, causing an abundance of genuine fun. Mr Bernard Mervyn gives an excellent study of the despicable Geoffrey Warden; Mr George Unwin enacts Harold Travers with commendable judgment; and Mr A. Kenyon Gray is seen to considerable advantage as James Oliver. To Miss Florrie Kelsey is safely entrusted the rôle of May Andrews, and Miss Evelyn Marrable is pleasing as the maid, Mary Ann.

TORQUAY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing Director, Mr R. Smerdon; Secretary, Mr A. Pearse.—*Cinderella* concluded a successful four weeks' run this week. Though the weather has been so bitter elsewhere, it has been mild and favourable here. On Tuesday Mr Herbert Barrs's pantomime company took part in the annual charity match with the Torquay Athletic Football Club, by means of which some £20 was raised for the Torquay Hospital. Mr Herbert Barrs's benefit on Wednesday was well attended.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Charles Carey; Manager, F. Edgar Manaton.—The present week is devoted to pantomime with Mr Mouillot's company in *Cinderella*. Miss Florrie Saunders is a charming heroine, and Miss Mary Thorne a vivacious principal boy. Mr Lionel Braham as the Baron Hardup, Mr E. Carlton as Buttons, and the Brothers Pollard as the ugly sisters, are responsible for most of the fun. Miss L. Willard is a charming Dandini, and the Nero, acrobats, and the Pansy Quartette, dancers, contribute the specialities. The Neros also take the harlequinade, and the introduction of an electrical car for Cinderella is rapturously received.

WAKEFIELD.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr Louis Calvert's company occupies the stage this week in the play *Sunday*. Miss Jean Stirling Mackinlay acts with considerable ability and power as Sunday; Mr J. Edward Pearce is good as Colonel Brinthorpe; Mr Ernest B. Douglas is excellent as Tom Oxley; and Mr Charles B. Vaughan scores as Arthur Brinthorpe. The parts of Towser, Davy, Lively, and Jacky find clever exponents in Messrs Frederick Powell, John H. Manley, T. Norman Walter, and Whitford Kane. The character of Mrs Naresby is admirably portrayed by Miss Elizabeth Watson, and Miss Helen Macgregor is seen to advantage as the Nun.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Wakefield Hippodrome, Limited; Manager, Mr D. G. Mooney.—Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco are a trio of clever wizards; Miss Lydia Dudley is an amusing low comedy artiste; Mr Harry Bent, mimic, scores with his impersonations; and Mr Fred Casburn, eccentric comedian, is well received. Other artists include Miss Belle Sydney, vocalist and dancer; Miss Carlotta Lunn, comedienne; and Stylo, hoop manipulator.

WALLSEND.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Owners, the Wallsend Theatre Company; Manager, Mr Tony Richardson.—*A Traitor Prince* is the attraction here this week. Mr Alex. Temple is capital as Lieut. Frank Derrick, and Mr G. M. Montanini's depiction of Prince Rac Dalmeirez is one of the outstanding features of interest. Mr Austin Mortimer is exceedingly amusing as the Hon. Bobby Vavasour; Miss Lilian Rosebery is a pleasing Lola Vane; and Miss Beatrice Western is exceptionally smart as Vashti. Miss Lilian Rigno'd capably fills the rôle of Pansy Blossom, and scores with her songs and dances.

WALSALL.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Co., Limited; General Manager and Secretary, Mr W. H. Westwood.—Mr and Mrs Calvert Routledge and company are here this week with *The Cricket on the Hearth*. Mr Calvert Routledge as John Peerybingle is excellent; Mrs Routledge's Dot is an admirable performance; Miss Sybil Ruskin makes a sympathetic Bertha; Miss Dora Lewis is exceedingly laughable as Tilly Slowboy; and Mr Sydney Sarl as Mr Tackleton and Mr David Curtis as Caleb Plummer are remarkably good. The rôle of Edward Plummer is well sustained by Mr Alexander Wills.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Company, Limited; General Manager and Secretary, Mr W. H. Westwood.—Mr T. Morton Powell's company opened here on Monday with *Honour Thy Father*. Mr J. W. Evelyn gives a fine interpretation of Gabriel Garth; Mr Douglas B. Watson is successful as Jack Halyard; Mr Juan De Alberti is well cast as Duncan Bly; and Mr Claude Merton is very comical as Job Merry and George Blogg. As Mercy Merry Miss Kitty Russell admirably sustains the part; Miss Maud Grey makes a satisfactory Violet Wilfred; and as Gertrude Garth Miss Kate Newton is capital.

WALTHAMSTOW.

KING'S THEATRE.—*On Circumstantial Evidence* goes with great spirit here, and Mr and Mrs Charles Clifford's company is to be congratulated on a success. Mr Clifford is a dashing Captain Hamilton, of the "Buffs." Mr A. M. James gives a good account of himself as Colonel Sir Lawrence Kinloch, and Jack Ogilvy is capitally played by Mr Leonard Williams. Mr Hill Cremer makes the most of his small opportunities as Antenia, and scores well; Tim has a pretty and sympathetic exponent in Miss Gladys Clifford; Miss M. Trevelyan acts with considerable power as Olga and Mary Brandoni; and the Violet Ogilvy of Miss Maud Camfield is a performance of exceptional merit. Other parts are efficiently played by Mr J. Sturton, Mr J. Holt, Mr Harry Cooke, Mr Anderson-Dolph, and Mr James Long. Miss Mabel Tremere is amusing as Polly Smithers. The scenery and mounting of the play are excellent.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr G. Adney Payne; Manager, Mr Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr G. F. Slatter.—Miss Ethel Loftus is a charming comedienne and mimic, and is warmly received here. A hearty welcome on Monday was accorded to Mr Will Cornish, whose handbell ringing is loudly applauded. De Vere and Kenwick are very clever in their sketch, and their burlesque pictures of Irish life cause great laughter. Mr Jack Lorimer, Scotch comedian, evokes continuous laughter and enthusiastic applause. Mr Alec Hurley contributes four songs, in two of which pathos is agreeably mingled, and in "The Pick-a-Ninnies" and "The Lambeth Walk" his humour finds plenty of scope. The house would fain have heard more of the artist, notwithstanding the liberal fare he provided. Mr Alec Hurley must be set down as one of the greatest successes of the Palace. Miss Ruby Aston is equally good as singer and dancer. Lidden and Hayward are a couple of excellent vocalists and instrumentalists. Mr Alf Chester is in the best of form, and his song, "I wonder if the Sergeant knows," brings down the house. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope contributes some wonderful pictures of a trip in the clouds, evoking enthusiasm. Mr H. Petersen, with his usual taste, has selected the overture to Auber's *Masaniello* for performance this week, and the brilliant piece is capitally played by his band.

WARRINGTON.

ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr J. Potter.—Miss Daisy De Roy's pantomime company, in *Sinbad the Sailor*, is the attraction here this week. Sparkling music, original business, and exceptionally smart special turns are the chief features. Miss Edna Cragge is a dashing Sinbad and her rich soprano voice is heard to advantage in several popular airs. Miss Marie Western is a charming Fatmah, and Miss Olive Burgess acts delightfully as Haidee. Mr Bert Brooks as Sinbad scores a success, and Miss Dorothy Whyatt as Nimbad is well placed. Mr W. Wallace as Captain O'Scuttle is amusing, and Mr George Asaf as Mrs Sinbad supplies an original conception of the up-to-date matron. Messrs Tunley and Turley are clever comedians as Flippit and Floppit, and Miss Hilda De Gray is a charming fairy. The specialities include the Geisha dancers, Fred Bendo, contortionist; Miss Rosa Walmsley's troupe of ballet dancers; Harry Thornton, musical specialist; Marie Weston, pedestal dancer; Professor Wallace, ventriloquist; Ena Cyprian, in a hat spinning act; and Frank Daleno, Dutch dancer.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr F. Willmot.—The Waldrons are here again this week in new business, and have scored another signal success. The Royal Bioscope, manipulated by Mr Wilsker, depicts some delightful pictures. The Stoll Brothers are a pair of clever eccentric comedy bar performers, and George White's Arabs are as entertaining as ever. Other capital turns are Huges and Elliot, coon vocalists; Arthur Beecham, comedian; and May Milburn, comedienne.

WEST BROMWICH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr J. P. Moore.—The attraction here this week is Mr Arthur Gibbons' pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, which is being played to crowded houses. A special item is the marvellous performance of Dartigan, in looping the loop, which causes great excitement. The chief character, Beauty, is in the hands of Miss Linda Keston, who does very well; Miss Marie Beaufort, as Prince Charming, is bright, and sings her songs with effect; Mr Sydney Vereker is very funny as Ko-Hop White-Lie, and the same may be said of Mr Albert E. Mann as Maude Hannah. Mr Will Holland and Mr Tom Banks do their best in their respective parts, Reginald Augustus and Sybil Irene; Miss Janet Lawton shows great spirit and activity as Dandy Viller; Miss Marie Lawrence looks very pretty in the part of Polly Perkins; the good fairy is portrayed by Miss Gertude Wright, who gives an artistic rendering of the song, "There's nothing new to say;" and there is some smart acrobatic dancing by the Four French Idols.

WEST STANLEY.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr Mark H. Lindon.—Mr Chas. March and his excellent company are providing the attraction

TERRY'S THEATRE.

On Wednesday, Jan. 18th,
the Light Comedy, in Three Acts, by Percy Fendall,
entitled
"MRS DERING'S DIVORCE."

Captain Dering	Mr LEONARD BOYNE
Jimmy Foster	Mr FRANK HOLLINS
Lord Grampier	Mr COURTENAY THORPE
Parker	Mr GEORGE MALLETT
Mr Gordon	Mr NOEL M'JUCKIN
Mr Clive	Mr J. KNOX ORDE
Footman	Mr NORMAN WRIGHTON
Lady Grampier	Miss KATHERINE STEWART
Hon. Susannah Verner	Miss BEATRICE FERRAR
Mrs Haydon	Miss JEAN MORRISON
Mrs Gordon	Miss DAISY CORDELL
Mrs Dicky Fowler	Miss KITTIE DAVIS
Duchess of Lawshire	Miss KEITH LYTTON
Mrs Dering	Mrs LANGTRY

Mrs Dering's Divorce is a play that "grows upon" one. It has little or no plot, and, on a first hearing, one is conscious of a feeling of disappointment in this direction. But it is, in its way, a "slice out of life." The life depicted is not certainly very elevated; but it is very real for all that, and Mr Percy Fendall has been particularly successful in giving a sense of the modern up-to-date "atmosphere." The piece is written, too, with admirable self-restraint. The people are just everyday society people, with the easy, indulgent, "nothing-much-matters" morality of fashionable life. The husband and wife are a couple of grown-up children, with their childishness varnished over with trained self-possession, natural good breeding, and habitual composure. We have to observe Mr Fendall's work carefully to catch its meaning to the full. Frivolous dialogue conceals passion and even pathos. For beneath all the frivolity, banter, and gay chatter of the dialogue runs a vein of humanity. Mrs Dering is, all through the play, in love, *quand même*, with her loose, extravagant, and easily-drifting husband, who, on his side, has simply grown tired of her. Her bad temper and sharp tongue are the results of a revolt against his indifference. Mr Fendall never "forces the note," and he leaves it to the more observant in his audience to perceive his purpose. His comedy is always merciful and sympathetic. Even the gaunt spinster, the conventional caricature of the highly educated modern woman, has a dash of genuine unselfishness; and the shallower personages of the drama are quite good-naturedly drawn. We fear that, to audiences accustomed to "story" in a play, *Mrs Dering's Divorce* may seem a little slow; but more cultured palates will appreciate the flavour of the work, which is delicate, slightly pungent, and never rough on the tongue.

How Mr and Mrs Dering would have got on together had they either been richer or less extravagant is matter for surmise. When the play begins they are almost insolvent. Repeated infidelities have made the wife hopeless of ever "reforming" her husband; and, as he is tired of her satirical comments on his *lâcher*, and as they have no money to go on with, their matrimonial experiment is obviously a failure. Mrs Dering's wealthy mother, who was strongly opposed to her daughter's marriage, offers to receive the wife if she will obtain a divorce from her husband; and the couple come to the conclusion that this is the correct solution of their difficulties. The only difference between their feelings is that he is glad to be free, while she regrets her release. All this is very neatly suggested.

In the interval between the first and the second acts a divorce has been obtained—on what grounds is not distinctly stated—and Mrs Dering, who persists in regarding herself as a kind of widow, is living in comparative seclusion pursued by the attentions—honourable, of course—of Jimmy Foster, the son of a wealthy banker. Dering has made up his mind to marry the Hon. Susannah Verner, the plain but rich daughter of Lord Grampier, who calls on Mrs Dering, armed with pencil and note book, to take particulars concerning Dering's character. Irritated and desperate, Mrs Dering—who now only bears the name by courtesy—becomes engaged to Foster. In the last act she meets her ex-husband at a bridge party at Lady Grampier's house; and a renewal of their love takes place. The Hon Susannah, who believes that Mr and Mrs Dering still have a hankering for each other, releases the former from his engagement; and Dering advises Foster to pretend that he is ruined in order to test his *fiancée*'s disinterestedness. The lady, discovering the trick that has been played upon her, turns round upon the innocent Foster, and blames him for the fault which is her ex-husband's, to whom she decides to be promptly reunited.

Mrs Langtry acts better than ever as Mrs Dering. The style and distinction of her performance are admirable, and she handles the part with a light and firm touch which is very effective. The rôle, indeed, fits her like a glove; and she keeps it always on the half-serious plane dictated by the dramatist. It is hardly necessary to state that Mrs Langtry looks extremely handsome, and that her dresses are in the best possible taste. Mr Leonard Boyne's well-modulated voice and neat and subdued method are immensely effective in the character of the careless, easy-going husband, and he developes the humour of the part quite cleverly. Mr Frank Hollins gives an original and absolutely real embodiment of Jimmy Foster, hitting off the personage exactly; and Mr Courtenay Thorpe's Lord Grampier is a very great improvement on his reading at the Camden Theatre, on Nov. 14 last, and causes a great deal of merriment. Mr George Mallet as Parker is a model domestic. Miss Katerine Stewart was very well chosen for the character of Lady Grampier, her fine physique giving her a great advantage. She acts very humorously, and with plenty of weight. A strikingly clever and most diverting impersonation of the Hon. Susannah Verner is given by Miss Beatrice Ferrar, who does not fall into the error of making the Hon. Susannah too ugly. We cannot believe that Mr Fendall intended that the personage should be the conventional old maid of farce, and we are grateful to Miss Ferrar for resisting obvious temptations. The Hon. Susannah is rather a Pioneer Club lady than a mere "guy," safe to extort a laugh on her entry, but afterwards unsatisfying. Miss Jean Morrison is a crisp and dainty Mrs Haydon, and Miss Kittie Davis gives a pleasant and bright embodiment of Mrs Dicky Fowler, the deaf Duchess of Lawshire being quaintly impersonated by Miss Keith Lytton, who, admirably made-up and appropriately costumed, makes great play with her ear-trumpet. It was, indeed, fortunate that Mrs Langtry was able to obtain such a smooth all-round performance of *Mrs Dering's Divorce*. It certainly would not have borne rough handling.

"EAST LYNNE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Referring to the note with reference to this matter in your issue of last week, the judgment referred to is not in favour of Mr Pitt Hardacre, against whom judgment was given in my client's favour, but in favour of his co-plaintiff, Mrs Gumley.

The plaintiffs abandoned their original claim "to the sole right of dramatic representation of *East Lynne*," and claimed only the "Bullock" part in the Bullock version, in respect of which, and certain titles to the acts only, has any order been made.

Mr Armitage's rights, therefore, in the Wilson Barrett version with this exception remain unaffected; and he will continue to produce the play by arrangement with Mr Wilson Barrett's representatives with the omission of this subsidiary character, and strengthened in other respects.

Yours faithfully, J. MOVERLEY SHARP,
Solicitor for Mr Armitage,
23, Gracechurch-street, E.C., Jan. 19.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS HELEN HAYE.

MISS HAYE made her first appearance in a stock season at Hastings, playing in *Captain Swift, School, The Eider-Down Quilt, &c.* Mr David James then engaged her to play Violet, in *Our Boys;* Mrs Goldfinch, in *A Pair of Spectacles;* and Esther, in *Cas'e*—one of Miss Haye's favourite parts. Then followed a season at the Adelphi, under the management of Messrs Gatti, when Miss Haye understudied Miss Julia Neilson in *The Gipsy Girl.* After a pantomime engagement, when Miss Haye played a dramatic part, she undertook such a succession of parts as Arte O'Neal, in *The Shaughraun;* Lady Isabel, in *East Lynne;* the title rôle, in *The Octoroon;* Mrs Cregan, in *The Colleen Bawn;* Alida, in *The Streets of London;* and Hortense in *Poor Jo.* Mr A. B. Tapping then secured her to play Gwendoline Fairfax in *The Importance of Being Earnest,* and Marcelle in *Duty.* A long tour as Hetty Preene, in *The Lights o' London,* followed under Mr Milton Bode's management. Mr F. H. Macklin and Mr Peter Davey, of Kingston, saw Miss Haye, and engaged her to play Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream,* with Mr Macklin as Bottom, on tour, a part in which Miss Haye scored a distinct success. A re-engagement with Mr Peter Davey to play the leading part in Mr Boucicault's drama *After Dark* led to Miss Haye being engaged by Mr Austin Melford to play Nellie Denver in *The Silver King* with him on a suburban tour, an engagement which was especially happy and successful. Miss Haye then returned to Mr Milton Bode to play Nancy, in *Saved from the Sea,* and May Edwards, in *The Ticket-of-Leave Man.* Mr Ben Greet then engaged her to play seconds to Miss Wynne Mathison in the suburbs, where she appeared in such parts as Olivia, in *Twelfth Night;* Jessica, in *The Merchant of Venice;* and the Queen, in *Hamlet.* Next she returned to Mr Milton Bode to act the heavy part in a suburban tour of *The Great Millionaire.* Then came an engagement with Mr Fred Melville to play the sympathetic part in his drama, *In a Woman's Grip,* followed by a return to Mr Greet's management, Miss Haye playing Helena, in *The Dream;* Adriana, in *The Comedy of Errors;* and the leading parts in *Sweethearts* and *The Parvenue.* Mr Walter Melville next engaged Miss Haye to create the juvenile part in *A Girl's Cross Roads,* produced at the Standard, followed by a revival of *Driven from Home.* Mr Fred Melville then secured Miss Haye to play the heavy part in a revival of *In a Woman's Grip,* and later to create a strong heavy part in his play *Her Forbidden Marriage.* Mr Bannister Howard, who had made Miss Haye several offers, now secured her to create a French part in a farcical comedy, *Hobbs' Vendetta,* in which part Miss Haye was very successful. Miss Haye next appeared as Zeolich, in *The Palace of Truth;* Mistress Page, in *The Merry Wives of Windsor;* and Olivia, in *Twelfth Night,* under Mr Greet's management. Miss Haye has been engaged by Mr Bannister Howard to star as Roma, in *The Eternal City,* on a suburban tour in the spring.

Photo by Hana.

MISS HELEN HAYE.

Photo by Fred Ash.

MR. NORMAN A. OVERTON.

MR. NORMAN A. OVERTON.

MR NORMAN A. OVERTON made his first appearance on the boards at the age of nine in the year 1884, but was not allowed to continue his stage career. However, having determined to become an actor, he at a later date joined a company which was not successful, and he was left 200 miles from home. His next experience was in the fit-ups, then he obtained another engagement, this time for responsibles, and eventually played Laërtes, Catesby, &c. A stock season followed, the young actor playing juvenile and second heavy parts before he was twenty. Then he joined *A Brother's Crime* company to play Louis Woodvale, a part he acted over 200 nights. During the last ten years Mr Overton appeared on tour in the following parts:—Harry Cromwell, in *The Priest Hunter;* and similar rôles in many of the late Hubert O'Grady's plays, Mark Helston, in *The Harbour Lights;* Gideon Blake, in *In the Ranks;* Harry Goodwin, in *Lost by Drink;* Stephen Marler, in *The Wages of Sin;* Manuel Ramez, in *Sins of the Night;* Colonel Firebrace, in *Wrecked in London;* Guy Glendinning, in *The Penalty of Crime;* Sir Henry Vanborough, in *Our Sailor Lad;* Fernando Castillo, in *In Old Madrid* (over 200 nights); Captain Bowyer, in Messrs Howard and Wyndham's production and tour of *Kenilworth;* Neil Garth, in *Shall We Forgive Her?* Harry Hood, in *Greed of Gold;* another tour with *The Penalty of Crime,* and then Legree, in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (thirty weeks). He rejoined Miss Digby to play Phil Burchill, in *The Life We Live,* and went on tour with Miss Mary Austin, playing Foster Cunningham, in *The Cotton Spinner.* He next created the juvenile lead, Frank Leslie, in *The Silent Foe,* another tour following with Mr Fred J. Kirke. Then he played Ralph Blackwater, in *The Sins of a City;* Frank Fielding, in *The Greatest Scoundrel Living* (215 nights); and created the gentlemanly heavy part in *The King of Thieves.* He rejoined Messrs Haddon and Loader's company to play his old part, Ralph Blackwater, in *The Sins of a City,* and opened with Miss Winifred Maude's company in August last. So far Mr Overton's stage career has been most successful, and in two years he has only been disengaged eight weeks, and then he was holiday-making.

MR. VIVIAN GILBERT.

MR VIVIAN GILBERT was born on March 20, 1881, at Chadwick Manor, Warwickshire. At the age of fourteen and a half he went up for the Royal Navy, but failing to pass the examination he got his parents' permission to join what had always been his favourite profession—the stage. At this time he was living near Exeter, and Mr Ben Greet being then at the Theatre Royal, with his comedy company, Mr Gilbert, at the age of fifteen, and with his first tall collar on, interviewed Mr Greet and insisted on reciting to him from "The Lady of the Lake." This somewhat amused the manager. However, the young actor in embryo got what he wanted, viz., a promise from Mr Greet that if, when he got back to London, he should have a vacancy in his company he would not be forgotten. Mr Greet was as good as his word, for three weeks afterwards he sent a letter engaging Mr Gilbert for small parts and a still smaller salary in his répertoire company. His first part was Hunsdon, in *Masks and Faces,* followed by Tom Twist, in *She Stoops to Conquer;* Salarino, in *The Merchant of Venice;* Careless, in *The School for Scandal,* and many others. Mr Greet then engaged him to create the part of Snookey Boodle, in *Fair Women and Brave Men,* which was produced at the Parkhurst Theatre, London, but did not have a long run. Mr Gilbert then played Captain Woodford, in a special production of *Held by the Enemy,* afterwards joining Mr Greet's *Three Musketeers* tour to play Mousqueton. Next came a tour as Philodemus, in *The Sign of the Cross,* followed by two tours of *Hearts are Trumps,* then first out from Drury-lane, in which Mr Gilbert played Arthur Dyson and was assistant stage manager. Then came a tour as Lieut. Camperdown, in *With Flying Colours.* By a coincidence this engagement came on the same day on which his brother was appointed as lieutenant to H.M.S. Aboukir for the Mediterranean. Mr Gilbert subsequently joined *The Second in Command* company, playing Lieut. Barker for two tours. He was under the Ben Greet management for four and a-half years. Mr W. S. Penley then engaged him to play Jack Chesney in his chief company of *Charley's Aunt,* which part he impersonated for three tours. Next came an engagement to support Mr Bernard Copping in the Copping répertoire company as Captain Hawksley, in *Still Waters Run Deep;* Beauseant, in *The Lady of Lyons;* Henri, in *The Ladies' Battle;* Jem Dalton, in *The Ticket-of-Leave Man;* and the Hon. Tom Tallibant, in *Garrick.* Mr Gilbert left Mr Copping's company to open with Mr Stafford's *Private Secretary* company. He remained with Mr Stafford for two tours, returning to Mr Penley to resume his old part in *Charley's Aunt,* and then back again to Mr Stafford for *The Private Secretary's* farewell tour.

Photo by Guttenberg.

MR. VIVIAN GILBERT.

Photo by Roberts.

MR. HARRY H. RIGNOLD.

MR. HARRY H. RIGNOLD.

MR RIGNOLD'S first appearance on any stage was as little Harry Harris, in *Uncle Tom's Cabin,* at the Theatre Royal, Wolverhampton, under the management of the late Mr William R Rignold, who was his uncle and the father of William and George Rignold. He believes he was not a success, as he wept like Niobe during the sentimental scenes and howled "like a kicked mongrel" through the exciting ones. He next essayed playing the violin in the orchestra at the Pavilion Theatre, Mile-end; Theatre Royal, Greenwich, &c. Then, bitten by a desire to travel, he tried the Navy, and assisted in an amateur company belonging to H.M.S. Doris. After that he opened at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, for utility, playing with several stars of that day. His next move was to the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, for better business and increased salary. Seven months' stock there gave him much valuable knowledge. Then followed seasons with Mr "Gentleman" Rodgers, of Birmingham; Mr William Sidney, Prince of Wales's, Birmingham; Mr Gomersal, Aberdeen; and two years with the late Mr Andrew Ennis. Judging by what is called work nowadays, he marvels how they got through at all. But the experience was valuable. Since those days times have been comparatively easy. Mr Rignold was engaged for a stock season at Greenwich, during which he played comedy and dame in the pantomime. Next he had two years' touring with Mr Chas. Collette, comedy and stage-management; a tour with the Leopolds, in *Frivolity;* and two years' touring with various companies in America, where he passed a more than usually happy time. He appeared as Idle Jack in the pantomime of *Dick Whittington* at the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh; and then came tours in which he played Middlewick, in *Our Boys;* Old Macclesfield, in *The Guv'nor,* &c. A stock season and pantomime, with his brother, Mr Lionel Rignold, at the Theatre Royal, Ipswich (of which the latter was part-proprietor), followed. In tours, under Messrs G. J. Hale and Milton Bode's management, he played Toronl, in *Jack-in-the-Box;* Mr Firmin, in *Dr. Bill;* dame, in the pantomime, &c. Then came a very happy engagement under the late Sir Augustus Harris at Drury-lane, the Olympia, and on tour as Wolf Meikstein, in *Cheer, Boys, Cheer,* followed by other tours as pleasant under Mr H. Dundas and Mr J. F. Preston. The last-mentioned he rejoined to resume his original part of Solomon Moses, in *Rogues of the Turf.* Mr Rignold has appeared in all the comedy as well as nearly all other parts, but lead in the principal plays of Shakespeare and his experience in farces he believes to be almost unique. During his career it has been Mr Rignold's good fortune to meet many stage celebrities, including Messrs Henry Neville, Leonard Boyne, Wm. Mackintosh, W. H. Denny, Chas. Collette, Barry Sullivar, the late Osmond Tearle, Frank Cooper, &c. Mr Rignold, besides being an excellent actor, has written and produced farces, sketches, and dramas, all, with one exception, being fairly successful. He is the father of several aspirants to dramatic fame, four sons and one daughter, Lillian Rignold (Mrs J. C. Salter). His own father was a popular nautical actor known as Mr Harry Rignold, and his mother was an actress and singer of repute, so that acting may be said to run in the blood of the son.

COVENT-GARDEN BALL.

The fancy dress ball held at Covent-garden Opera House on the 13th inst. was the first of the New Year, and a highly successful function it proved to be. Much ingenuity was shown in the designs of the dresses. Among the most conspicuous were a "Dresden China" frock, so designed as admirably to bear out the significance of the words, and a "Sports" costume, carrying with it unmistakable suggestions of golf, angling, hunting, shooting, and horse-racing. "The British Flag" was everything that the title expresses; while a "Rose" dress and "In Arcadia" attracted much attention. A cake-walk was introduced about the middle of the programme. A prize of a large cake was presented to the most graceful lady and gentleman competing, and the dance proved the most interesting on the long list. The march past took place at two o'clock in the morning, when the judges awarded the valuable prizes offered, the first being a lady's leather dressing bag with silver fittings. The band was, as usual, conducted by Mr Dan Godfrey.

MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Bentham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, chaps, irritation, tan, &c., and KEEPS the SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION. DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING and REFRESHING after dancing, cycling, motoring, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 2s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BENTHAM and SON, Cheltenham.—[ADVT.]

MR. STEAD ON THE THEATRE.

Mr Carl Hentschel occupied the chair at the Criterion on the 13th inst. when Mr W. T. Stead, who until he was fifty-five never entered a theatre, lectured to a meeting of the O.P. Club on "A Tyro's Impressions of the Theatre."

MR STEAD declared at the opening of his lecture that the theatre was, in his opinion, an abominably neglected institution. He wished it to be a much more useful, appreciated, and honoured institution than it was. The real theatre of the masses to-day was the newspaper. In Shakespeare's time there were no newspapers, but there were two hundred licensed theatres in London, one for each nine hundred of the population; now there was one for ninety thousand people. The Press had not superseded the theatre, but had thrust it from its pride of place. The theatre had not been without its revenge, for the Press of to-day was infected with the vices of the theatre to an extent not adequately realised. The desultory reading of inane newspapers was quite as deplorable as the casual witnessing of idiotic plays. The object of both was to kill time. One of the vices which the newspaper had taken over from the theatre was, to coin a word, that of mere Spectatorism. The reader considered himself too often a mere non-concerned spectator in the boxes, and that was deadly, because he forgot his responsibility. Nor was the evil confined to the Press; it was the curse of sport. The majority of theatre-goers of the present day were theatre-hardened. They had all their lives regarded the theatre so exclusively from the point of view of their own personal gratification that it would almost need a lyddite shell to blast into their brains a conception of their duty to their fellow-men that carried with it the consecration of personal service, personal liberality to the improvement of the theatre. But if things were to be mended they must change all that. By some means or other they must winnow out of the multitude of mere pleasure-loving spectators the saving remnant of elect souls whose love of the theatre, whose faith in the theatre, was not merely for themselves, but for the whole community. When he imagined what the theatre could do, and might do, as an agency of culture and civilisation, and then saw this miserable derelict vessel, which might have been a veritable ark in which religion and morality and art might have found refuge, converted into a mere haunt of selfish folk intent solely on passing the time, his heart burnt hot within him. He had found—with one exception—nothing abominable in the theatre, but it was the good side of it that made him sad. After criticising the present-day custom of elaborate staging he urged that the poor should have a chance of seeing plays from which the high prices of present-day productions excluded them. Rather than put the theatre on the rates and taxes he would appeal to the voluntary principle, and endeavour to persuade the unconverted theatre-goer, who went to the play for his mere amusement, and bring him to the penitent form to join the fellowship of the faithful and to work out with them the salvation of the stage. Was it to be believed that out of our rich, refined, play-loving population there were not to be found those with sufficient of the enthusiasm of self-sacrifice to raise whatever money was necessary to establish at least one ideal experimental theatre—with a sixpenny gallery and a shilling pit, all places booked in advance—with free performances at least once a week, where the best works of the best dramatists of the world could be played by a company whose primary object was not to serve as advertisements for the dressmaker or to be mere incidents in the scenic splendours of the carpenter's art? What was wanted was faith, and after faith organisation. He appealed for assistance to special classes of playgoers, to royalty, the aristocracy, the plutocracy, and the journalists. The King's influence could do much; he could use his exalted position to elevate, redeem, inspire, and encourage the highest form of dramatic art, or to assist those who would make the theatre a means of culture for the million instead of an instrument for amusing rich idlers. As to the aristocracy, it had always been recognised as a reason for tolerating hereditary nobles that they should act as patrons of art, science, and literature. There were many great nobles whose fortunes had been multiplied by the unearned increment created by the great urban populations which are housed on their land. How many of these grandees, with their fabulous rent-rolls, had done anything to provide the people who paid their rents with a decent building in which stage plays could be performed? Nay, how many of them had even given a site on which other men more liberal than themselves might rear a theatre? Then came the plutocracy. Could anyone explain to him why the English plutocrat was the meanest specimen of the species to be found in any English-speaking land? When one found some splendid piece of generosity it was due to a German, a Jew, a South African, a Canadian, a Scotsman, or an Irishman—seldom or never to an Englishman. Should English plutocrats feel the prickings of their conscience he would suggest to them the desirability of easing their plethoric purses by founding a national theatre. Finally he passed to the journalists. Could it be said that the owners of the great journals of London had even attempted to do their duty in this matter of the stage? Had one of them, had all of them put together, ever exerted themselves as much to secure an ideal theatre as all of them had exerted themselves in turns to bring about most unideal wars? Journalists owed a great deal to the theatre, both as purveyors of material for copy and in the more direct way as the contributors of a considerable portion of their advertising revenue. But what had any newspaper done for the theatre beyond making copy out of it and taking money from it? They, too, should come to his penitent form.

AN OCTOGENARIAN MANAGER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—It is with much pain and reluctance that, after sixty years' active and continuous service, I am compelled, at eighty years of age, to appeal to those who have known me in my happy and prosperous days to assist me in my declining years. Since my last engagement at the Comedy Theatre some eight years ago I have had very little employment, and some savings, amounting to between £300 and £400, have been swallowed up during that time. Want of occupation has left me completely stranded, and, but for the Actors' Benevolent Fund, which kindly and generously allows me 10s. a-week, I should be perfectly penniless. I am desirous, with the assistance of some who have known me in the past, to collect a sum which will enable me to clear myself from my liabilities at my present home, where I have resided thirty-five years, so that I may take what few things I can call my own to some small place where I may end my days in comparative comfort. My health, which for years has, by a great blessing, been good, has recently broken up, and I am now suffering a great deal from hernia and pleurisy, but this would not prevent my taking some employment of a character which would need only sedentary action, and a small sum added to the Benevolent Fund allowance, coupled with the kind and generous assistance of one or two friends, would render my existence endurable.

Yours faithfully, EDWARD HASTINGS.

THE Moody-Manners Opera Company is a popular attraction at the Theatre Royal, Preston, this week. *Faust* was presented on Monday evening; and the repertoire also includes:—*La Traviata, Tannhäuser, Carmen, Il Trovatore, Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci,* and *The Bohemian Girl.*

"BABES IN THE WOOD" AT ISLINGTON.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

Messrs Geo. Davey and Oswald Brand are to be congratulated on the success of their endeavours to present to the Islington public a thoroughly spirited, amusing, and picturesque pantomime. The way in which the performance "goes" from beginning to end is due, partly to the clever way in which that experienced librettist Mr Geoffrey Thorn has arranged his "book," and but principally to the admirable manner in which the whole company, down to the youngest "chorus lady," work together. The management at the Grand is evidently popular both before and behind the curtain, and the result is shown in the willing service rendered by all in their employment. The "van" of the fun-making army is led by Miss Julia Kent, a perfect magazine of merriment, whose vivacity and emphatic drollery never flag. She throws herself with obvious enjoyment into the rôle of Robin Hood, which she plays with a gaiety and "go" which carry the audience with her from the first. An excellent example of distinctness of enunciation is set by Miss Kent in the delivery of her songs. Every word is audible, and every point goes home to its mark. Miss Kent is full of physical activity, and her mobile and humorous features, her vivid and appropriate gestures, and her general joviality make her an immense favourite. Mr George Mozart, with his quaint original method and eccentric personality, affords an effective contrast to Miss Kent's happy exuberance. As Peter he is excessively absurd, especially in his caricature of a simpleton at a horse-race—an item that seems to take the fancy of the audience at the Grand Theatre immensely. He is also irresistible as a comic policeman, with a row of buttons down his back; and, altogether, his performance is intensely amusing and laughter-provoking. Mr Tom Craven as Roger gives a quaint and clever reading of the part. Mr Craven has a style of his own, and a very telling one, and this is shown in his impersonation of Roger, which has all the advantages of Mr Craven's experience and cleverness as a comedian. Mr Hal Collier is a genial Friar Tuck, and the Brothers Conquest as Coppem and Cuffem do some extraordinary trap work, their swift and energetic exertions bringing down the house. Mr George Elliston's Patbaby, a "very dry nurse, somewhat addicted to the bottle" is an excellent and effective impersonation; and Master Dick and Miss Dorothy give pleasing and intelligent performances as Bertie and Bella. Mr Jack Collinson is broadly and boldly diverting as the Baron Badasthey makem; and Miss Selina Seaforth emphasises to the utmost the tyrannical authority of the Baroness. Miss Margaret Wilson is a charming Dolly Daydream, and Miss Ray Rosenthal makes a handsome and dashing Little John. Miss Tots Davis as Maid Marian sings with taste and expression and dances with an agreeable combination of ease, activity, and grace. Mr Tom Payne as Allan-a-Dale does not spare himself, and introduces a vast amount of knockabout and other fun. With such a clown as Mr George Elliston the harlequinade was sure to be a good one; and, with the assistance of Mr Fred Regina as Harlequin, Mr Will May as Pantaloon, Miss Annie Hill as Columbine, Mr Charles Wragg as the Policeman, Mr M. Meddling as Mother Gum, this part of the entertainment is kept well up, and is greatly enjoyed. Miss Pauline Rivers is an accomplished principal danseuse, and ably superintends the evolutions of the *coryphé s*, and the work done by Mr W. T. Gliddon's excellent orchestra must not go unrecognised. The scene-plot is by no means a light one, and Mr Chapman and his assistants deserve great credit for the way in which they had designed and painted the various cloths and "sets." As the Palace and Transformation scene includes a display of no less than three tons of glittering cut glass, the management by its outlay merits part of the praise won by the spectacular portion of the pantomime. It should be noted that this great scene was arranged by Mr Oswald Brand, the ever-energetic manager of the house where so many of his adroit adaptations have been produced.

"BABES IN THE WOOD" at the WEST LONDON.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The old house in Marylebone has some fine traditions, and its pantomime annals supply an interesting chapter in theatrical history. Some celebrated clowns have worn the motley on its stage, and several of the most brilliant stars of the profession have figured in its Christmas entertainments, which by their mimic splendours won more than a local celebrity. The Messrs Bailey are not unmindful of an interesting past, and, by their latest production, it is quite evident that they have determined to keep up the prestige of the Church-street theatre. It is the modern practice to do without a transformation, but it is always considered a *sine qud non* at the West London. Just previous to the advent of Mr Merryman and his companions we see unfolded the "realms of dazzling light." Gigantic specimens of the kingdom of Flora grow as thick as leaves in Vallambrosa; and the scene-painter has realised the habitat of fairies with a pretty inventiveness and a vivid imagination that do him immense credit. The real old-fashioned harlequinade is led by Mr Leo Main in the rôle of clown, and he proves a very diverting wielder of hot poker. Mr Eugene Cobra, with his long experience, assumes with ease the responsibilities of pantaloon; Mr Horace Sade is an active and lissome harlequin; and Miss Maggie Kelsey a graceful columbine. The book has been written and the music selected and composed by Mr W. Scott Phipp, who has wisely laid under contribution the most popular numbers sung in the music halls. These are included in the score by the kind permission of Messrs Francis, Day, and Hunter, M. Witmark and Sons, Charles Sheard, B. Feldman and Co, and other well-known firms. The fun is chiefly supplied by the Albert and Edmunds comedy troupe, whose experience in similar productions is of immense advantage. Mr Edmund Edmunds has many happy moments as Sammy Smut, and his dry method of utterance makes his presence in Dame Hubbard's schoolroom responsible for many hearty laughs. The humorous buffoonery of the motor incident, in which Mr Edmunds is funnily made up, is shared by his constant companion Mr James Albert, who plays the part of Augustus Dab with the requisite command of droll tricks and playful antics. The passengers in the fearful and wonderful car are the babes Portia and Arthur, represented respectively by Miss Cecil Clare and Miss Blanche Albert, who are not seemingly burdened by the sad traditions of their story, but generally disport themselves with much light-heartedness in song and dance. Miss Maude Nelson makes a bold forester of Robin Hood, and outfaces the part with a martial air and a genial swagger. Though the "old Bull and Bush" is not known as a hostelry in the neighbourhood of Sherwood Forest, it is quite familiar to West Londoners, who join with the voices of Stentors in the chorus of the well-known song that Miss Florrie Forde made so popular at the music halls. Miss Nita Clavering, a dainty representative of Maid Marion, quite answers the description given on the programme to the fascinating daughter of Dame Hubbard, and gives a most welcome contribution when she introduces her celebrated speciality of National songs, illustrating Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Japan, and England. Another favourite number of Miss Clavering's is her solo "In Dreamland," to which her culture and vocal attainments enable her to do full justice. Miss Marie Ault has a decided gift for low comedy, and quite justifies her selection for the part of Amelia, a slavey of the Louie Freear type. Miss Ault is a great favourite with the West Londoners, and her quaint behaviour in several of the scenes is intensely enjoyed by those in front, many of whom must have applauded her in low comedy scenes in melodrama. Miss Violet Poole makes a dashing representative of Will Scarlet; Miss Vinnie Edmunds is a lively Molly Mayflower; Miss Pollie Albert's behaviour as the mentally deficient Dottie Hubbard is diverting; and Miss Jennie Lucas as Daisy Dimple is duly child-like and bland. Mr Roy Byford is an unctuous representative of the Grand Duke; Mr Leo Main is quietly funny as Dame Hubbard; Mr Horace Sade is well placed as Dandy Dick; Mr Eugene Cobra is an athletic and loose-limbed policeman; Mr Wm. Wright makes effective use of his opportunities as Bill Poster; and Mr Harry Barford is a whimsical Horatio. Mr Percy Kurutz, the musical director, has much to do with the smoothness of the ensemble, and Mr Harry Barford's stage-management secures a smart performance of a very interesting and humorous annual. On the night of our visit the house was packed by an enthusiastic audience, all assisting the excellent work of a local philanthropic fund for supplying the poor with blankets and coal.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" at the CAMDEN.

(SECOND NOTICE).

On a second visit to the Camden we found Mr Robert Arthur's pantomime going very merrily and delighting a full house; and further "sampling" of this merry show only endorses one's first opinion. Any little hitches that may have been apparent at the opening performances have now long since vanished, and the whole "show" runs with remarkable smoothness. Mr Ernest Shand has worked up his impersonation of Will Atkins, and he is the cause of demonstrative hilarity. He now sings "Short Stories," a most amusing ditty, and scores heavily thereby. He also gives a comical burlesque of a palmist, which sends the audience into roars of laughter, and in this he is ably assisted by the representative of the gaunt female who comes to "have her fortune told." Mr Shand's eccentric conception of the character of Will Atkins is immensely funny. Mr Herbert Darnley as Mrs Crusoe is extremely droll, and depicts that quaint and curious female very cleverly. Mr Darnley and Mr Shand have worked up the raft scene very carefully, and it is now one of the most diverting episodes of the "annual." Miss Nellie Cozens is making a great hit as Crusoe, her dashing style and the spirited manner in which she sings her songs being greatly to the liking of the patrons of this theatre. Another great favourite is Miss Gipsy Woolf, whose singing is particularly pleasing and expressive. Her ballad about an Indian maiden, in which a male vocalist joins with agreeable effect, is warmly applauded, and her dancing is dainty and delightful. Messrs Noel and Nash continue to amuse everyone by their many funny sayings and doings. They are absurdly eccentric, and their extravagant comicality is keenly appreciated. The Cannibal King is depicted by Mr G. H. Snazelle, a comedian with a peculiar vein of humour, with characteristic cleverness. The shouts of laughter that greet the Sisters Sprightly in their "screamingly" droll burlesque "The drama out of date," testifies to the great popularity they have won for themselves. It is really a clever skit, and the manner in which it is played absolutely compels laughter. They also now introduce another absurdity ridiculing the "Lady Sportsman," which is extremely diverting. They throw themselves into their work with admirable energy and animation. As Friday Mr Billy M'Clain, whose facial contortions are really extraordinary, introduces a new song and dance with which he makes a big success. A second view of the scenery endorses our good opinion of it. The Island of the Golden Palms is really a charming set, and the dresses are very gorgeous. The flying ballet, with the electrical effects, is greatly admired, and the tableaux presented are most effective and pleasing. Unstinted praise must be given to the chorus for their labours. They work hard and deserve credit for their efforts. Everyone connected with the production has reason to be proud of the pantomime. It is a very amusing and pretty performance. *Robinson Crusoe* at the Camden affords indeed, an excellent evening's amusement. It is bright, brisk, and beautiful.

"CINDERELLA" at the ALEXANDRA.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

Those inveterate amusement seekers who make a point of doing a round of the Christmas shows can always depend upon witnessing a first-rate pantomime at the Alexandra, Stoke Newington; and a second visit to Mr F. W. Purcell's theatre enables us to confirm in every particular the favourable notice which we gave of the first performance of *Cinderella*. A striking feature of the Christmas piece is the little pathetic touches which are occasionally introduced with the most telling effect. The story of "Cinderella" readily lends itself to dramatic treatment, and the author and producer, Mr Walter Summers, is to be congratulated on making the most of his opportunities in this direction. The Kitchen scene, for instance, is specially worthy of mention for some novel and charming features. Cinderella, left alone in the kitchen, is joined by two little children who have left their warm beds to welcome Santa Claus. But the venerable old man for some reason or other passes by the house, and the disappointed children have a good cry. And then a white-robed angelic being with wings descends from above and presents the sobbing little ones with toys, and they are made happy again. Next Cinderella is joined by Pepper, the page, who is in love with her, and Sally, the grimy maid-of-all-work; and the young man treats the company to a succulent beefsteak pudding, the delicious odour from which comes over the footlights. And the love-smitten page helps Cinderella to nearly all the pudding, and goes without himself, even the cat, who takes a prominent part in this version of the fairy tale, getting its share. Excellent judgment has been shown in the selection of the company. Miss Winifred Hare is an ideal principal boy, and as Prince Alexis, the hero of the story, she is unquestionably one of the principal mainstays of the pantomime. She appears in a series of pretty, tasteful costumes which her graceful figure sets off to the best advantage. Miss Hare is an accomplished vocalist, and her admirable rendering of "Anona" assisted by a chorus, is greeted with much applause. She is also successful with "You are a white little girl," in which co-operation comes from little Maudie Francis and another young lady. Miss Godwynne Earle is a dainty and fascinating representative of Cinderella, fulfilling every requirement of the part in the most pleasing manner possible. Indeed, the heroine of the story very quickly wins the favour of the audience. Miss Lilian Lea is an exceedingly brisk exponent of Dandini, the Prince's valet, always playing with spirit and singing "The smartest boy in town" and "If you'll be my posey" with pronounced success. Miss Amy Lorisson as the Duke of Taxes has the advantage of a handsome presence and speaks her lines well. The capital band of comedians engaged is led by Mr Neil Kenyon, a Scotch humorist who has already made a successful appearance at the West-end halls. He represents the hard-up Baron M'Tavish, and his quiet humour and droll manner are greatly enjoyed, Mr Kenyon never forces the fun, and yet while he is on the stage the stream of merriment never ceases to flow. The Baron's eldest daughters, Amorella and Arabella, are most amusingly embodied by Mr Fred Winn and Mr Austin Lenton. The sisters are given to calling each other names, and even on occasion they get to blows. Their business of dressing for the ball in the bedroom scene is uproariously funny. Mr William Gourlay is remarkably good as Pepper, the page, and his services throughout are most valuable. In his topical ditty "Spoiled" he makes some happy hits. Prominent also is Miss Muriel Palmer as Sally Whittle, the Baron's domestic; she plays cleverly the part of the slavey who pines for the love of the page. Messrs Fletch and Palmer score as broker's men; their dancing being extremely neat. Mr Fred Whittaker is well to the fore as the Baron's cat, another feline being nimbly represented by Master Walters. Little Maudie Francis and Little Jennie Hartley as Dolly and Molly, Cinderella's little friends, add considerably to the attractions of the pantomime, the former cleverly singing "Has anybody seen my dolly?" Mr Robert K. Woodville ably portrays the witch, and Miss Ruby Pond, who appears as the fairy Flora, sings a ballad with excellent effect. Mention should also be made of the pleasing singing of the Canadian Comedy Four. The Olive Trio do good work as dancers, Alma Mary distinguishes herself as the premiere danseuse, and dances the pizzicato from *Sylvia* with much grace. The set scenes are very charming; and the principals are supported by a full chorus and ballet. There still remains to be mentioned the aerial ballet, the audience being taken by surprise when two of the flying figures soar over the stalls to the balcony and then gracefully return to the stage.

DEATH OF MR. J. K. MURRAY.

Mr J. K. Murray (George Edward Sykes), who died on the 12th inst. at Mount Pleasant, Chillcompton, Bath, at the age of sixty-four, was the son of Mr E. G. Sykes, barrister, of Binfield-road, Stockwell. Mr J. K Murray was educated at Kennington and Oxford, where he fell in love with Miss Ada Amelia Ponder, and secretly married her in February, 1861. At this time he was also a lieutenant in the 1st Surrey Rifles and a member of the Surrey Amateur Dramatic Society. His father, on discovering that he was married, packed him off to America with his newly wedded wife. On arriving there they assumed the names of J. K. Murray and Miss Ada Murray. They toured through North and South America during the time of the Civil War, meeting with some strange adventures. After visiting Canada they returned to England some thirty-five years ago, and toured in the old circuit and stock days as heavy leads. They afterwards opened at the Star Theatre, Swansea, under the management of the late George and Andrew Melville.

Mr Murray was next appointed manager, and toured the late Mr Melville's companies, afterwards becoming his own manager, and touring for seventeen years *Millions of Money*, *Driven from Home*, *The Strike*, &c. He was also the author of several well-known plays, his most recent works including *A Woman's Error*, *Luck of Life*, and *A Son of the Empire*. He was acknowledged to be one of the finest broadsword combat fighters on the British stage, and was also a most cultured actor of his time. Amongst other leading parts, he played Mathias, in *The Bells*; Duboscq, in *The Lyons Mail*; Macbeth, Othello, Iago, and Richard III. The deceased leaves a widow and three children—the eldest, Miss Kate Murray (now at the Alhambra); George Murray, who lately toured *A*

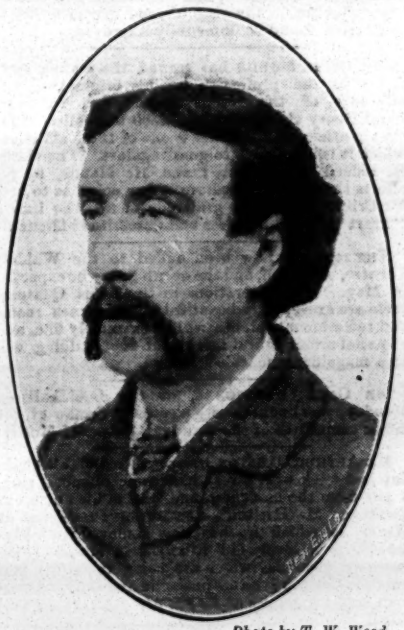

Photo by T. W. Wood.

THE LATE MR. J. K. MURRAY.

Hidden Crime; and Percy Murray, the sketch proprietor. The late Seymour Murray, of the 1st Royal Dragoon Guards, was also a son of the deceased.

"ALADDIN" at BRIXTON.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

Crowded houses testify to the success which *Aladdin* has met with at this popular theatre, thanks to the great exertions made by the comedians to create the largest possible amount of fun. Messrs Walton and Lester have considerably improved their performances, and their business with the tree in scene three and in The Imperial Bath scene is the cause of hearty laughter. Mr Edwin Brett and Mr Ted Young as Abanazer and Widow Twankey work well together, and their duet in The Widow's House is very funny and is well received. Mr Nat Lewis stands out prominently as the Emperor, and his song "Laugh, and the world laughs with you," is nightly encored. Mr Somers Bellamy as So Long and Mr H. O. Cleary as Wishee Washee receive applause for their efforts, which add to the success of the pantomime. As Aladdin Miss Emmeline Orford is very dainty and winning, singing well and always getting hearty applause for her share of the hard work, and is certainly one of the prettiest principal boys seen for a long time past. Miss Constance Hamilton makes a charming Princess and scores well for her rendering of two coon songs and dainty dances. Miss Marion Macdonald is encored nightly for her two ballads, and Miss May Kent is applauded for her singing of "The Old Bull and Bush." Mention must be made of the two dances of Miss Eva Bayhurst, and also of the work of the ladies of the ballet, who contribute some pleasing items. The whistling solos by Mr Art Rowdrey as Whistlee, a Chinese siffleur, is well received, and a good, old-fashioned harlequinade by the Brothers Phillips brings a very enjoyable entertainment to a close. This is the last week of the run, owing to previous arrangements, and the pantomime goes on tour, and should meet with the success it deserves.

AT the conclusion of the performance on the 12th inst. of the highly successful pantomime, *Puss in Boots*, at the Theatre Royal, Belfast, Mr James M'Cann appeared on the stage and was the recipient from the members of the staff of a splendid Gladstone bag and case of brushes. Mr Fred W. Warden, managing director, made the presentation on behalf of the staff, and assured Mr M'Cann that he had their best wishes. He (Mr Warden) was happy to see the goodwill and esteem entertained for Mr M'Cann by the staff of the theatre, at which he had been employed since a boy. Mr M'Cann returned sincere thanks to one and all for their kindness, and the proceedings terminated with the hearty singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow."

"THE ERA" can be obtained at any of Smith and Sons' bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Jan. 16, the Musical Pantomimical Comedy, entitled "THE SWISS EXPRESS."

The progress of *The Swiss Express* during many long years has been marked by laughter constant and hearty, and no diminution in mirth is to be observed this week at the Terriss, where delighted audiences have nightly shouted with merriment at the droll doings of the Brothers Renad as the footmen, John and James, whose antics in the cause of fun last untiringly throughout four acts. Upon their shoulders rests the weight of comicality, and unhesitatingly do they bear the burden, their clever tricks, their novel diversions, and their resourceful fun growing more and more irresistible as the play proceeds. The clever and versatile brothers receive valuable assistance from the excellent company supporting them, every character of importance being admirably enacted. An impersonation that largely contributes to the hilarity of the evening is the Dr. Gondimar Gull of Mr Wilford Bailey, the bridegroom's many and ludicrous experiences on his very much interrupted honeymoon being provocative of abundant laughter. Especially funny is his acting in the scene in the "Swiss express," where the longed-for privacy of the doctor and his young wife is being continually disturbed by occupants of adjoining compartments. Guards and ticket collectors persist in entering at most inopportune moments; their fellow travellers warble discordantly "Bluebell" and "Bill Bailey," a clarionet player also adding to the annoyance; and when the tired-out and almost frantic husband endeavours to snatch a few minutes' repose a raid is made on the car, which is finally wrecked. An easy and finished representation of Rob Rollingstone, in love with Mrs Gull, is contributed by Mr George Martin, his acting and disguise as a ticket collector being decidedly amusing; and a humorous and neat study of a dude, Dudley Green, is given by Mr Alec Wylie, the impersonation being funnier than the majority of characters of a similar description. Mr Septimus Squeeze, the father of the bride, is amusingly played by Mr H Alexander; entirely satisfactory and frequently funny portrayals of Jack Gadabout and Mons Partout are submitted by Mr Harwood Cooper and Mr Fred Strachan; and the numerous other male characters are all capably portrayed. A natural and pleasing embodiment of the distressed young wife, Virginie, is given by Miss Dolly Doyle; and the portly Mrs Septimus Squeeze is played in exactly the right spirit by Miss Nellie Fern. The Four Brighton Girls, vocalists, dancers, lance and sword experts, also help along the success of the farce, and the numerous songs and dances introduced are all greatly enjoyed. The scenery throughout is admirable, the representation of the "Swiss express" being especially realistic and ingenious.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Jan. 16, the Drama, in Five Acts, by Nita Rae, entitled "THE SINS OF A CITY."

An interested and appreciative audience witnessed the performance of *The Sins of a City* on the opening night of the week, credit for which must chiefly be given to the members of Miss Winifred Maude's excellent company. The central figure, the village maiden, affectionately known as Seaweed, so cruelly led astray by a specious scoundrel from London, looms largely throughout the piece, and, as impersonated by Miss Winifred Maude, is quite a fascinating heroine. Miss Maude possesses a singularly attractive personality, and in the exacting rôle of Seaweed she sets with such charm, and in such entire sympathy with the part, as to completely win the hearts of the audience. Mr Ivan Gore makes up well and contributes a vigorous embodiment of the rugged old fisherman, Donald M'Ivor, the denunciation of his adopted daughter's betrayer being graphically delivered. Mr Horace E. Herbert as Seaweed's steadfast lover, Sandy M'Donald, plays with virility and buoyancy; and Mr Leslie Beaufort, as the despicable Ralph Blackwater, gives a powerful rendition of the part. Mr Victor Du Cane essays with considerable success the comedy part of Joe Woodleigh, gaining applause for his rendering of R. G. Knowles's "Love, Marriage, and Divorce," and exhibits much versatility in undertaking also the part of Joe's twin brother, the miserly Jasper Woodleigh. Mr Carson Melville is excellent as Isaac Levi, the dry humour with which he imbues Blackwater's Hebrew confederate being most effective. Miss Marie Lyons plays with fluency and artistic self-restraint as the scheming Lebis; and Miss Jennie Hackett, in exaggerated maid-of-all-work attire, contributes a low comedy portraiture as Midge which evokes unbounded mirth. Of minor parts Mr Manton as the defending counsel is especially good, whilst Mr W. E Simpson as P.-C. Johnston, Mr W. G. Dudeney as P.-C. Blyme, and Miss Ellen Gray as Jenny, all render creditable performances.

PRESENTATION.—Towards the end of the performance of the pantomime of *Little Red Riding Hood*, at the King's Theatre, Walthamstow, last Saturday night, a representative of the management stepped on to the stage and presented Mr Sheridan Gordon, R.A.M., with a testimonial as a token of the excellent manner in which he had selected, arranged, and conducted the pantomime music. The gift took the appropriate form of two gold-mounted ivory bâtons. In a few words Mr Gordon acknowledged the presentation, and was loudly cheered by the crowded audience.

A COPY OF "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

"ROMEO AND JULIET."

Revived by Mr Richard Flanagan, at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, on Saturday, Jan. 14.

Escalus	Mr CECIL BROOKING
Paris	Mr TEMPLAR POWELL
Montague	Mr SIDNEY ARNOLD
Capulet	Mr HENRY GHORDS
An Old Man	Mr HARRY MELBOURNE
Romeo	Mr E. HARCOURT WILLIAMS
Mercutio	Mr ARTHUR BRUCE
Benvolio	Mr A HORNBY WARBURTON
Tybalt	Mr A. E. CALVER
Friar Laurence	Mr HENRY BELDING
Friar John	Mr J. H. RICHTER
Balthasar	Mr WILFRED BECKWITH
Sampson	Mr WILTON MARSH
Gregory	Mr ALFRED HILLIARD
Abram	Mr G. KINGSLEY
Peter	Mr J. H. ATKINSON
An Apothecary	Mr ROTHBURY EVANS
Page to Paris	Miss ELLA THORNTON
Lady Montague	Miss KITTY CAREW
Lady Capulet	Miss BARBARA AIRD
Nurse	Miss CLAIRE PAUNCEFORT
Juliet	Miss MARGARET HALSTAN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

After a series of elaborate and successful annual revivals of Shakespearian plays, extending over a period of ten years, at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, Mr Richard Flanagan scored a positive triumph in his production of *Romeo and Juliet* on Saturday evening last. On a grand scale, the staging on this occasion is not only magnificently picturesque in detail, but it is splendidly harmonised from beginning to end, producing a fine artistic unity which does not anywhere overwhelm the concurrent interest of the story. The Shakespearian student might observe with lively curiosity the taste with which the text of the play has been selected in deference to modern ideas of propriety in expression; the lover of Shakespearian drama cannot but be charmed by the smoothness and coherence of the action; while for that section of the public which is attracted by scenic splendours that occur only in conjunction with productions of this magnitude and kind, a succession of vivid pictures, brilliant, imaginative, and poetical, are supplied. Those scenes which must dwell especially in the memory of a public whom Mr Flanagan has educated to expect much are Capulet's Garden, a Hall in Capulet's House, a Street in Verona, the Piazza Dell'Erbe, Verona, a Street in Mantua, the Balcony and Interior of Juliet's Chamber, a Grove without Verona, the Tomb of the Capulets, and a final tableau of the Church of San Zeno Maggiore, which presents the lying in state of Romeo and Juliet, and the reconciliation of the houses of Montague and Capulet. The latter spectacle provides a brilliant conclusion, and is a worthy climax of the superb efforts of the artistes, Messrs Hugh Freemantle and William Palmer.

The story of Romeo and Juliet is a popular one, and for its interpretation Mr Flanagan has been fortunate in his choice of cast. Miss Margaret Halstan's fitness for the part of Juliet is completely demonstrated. Her sheer ability as an actress is informed with the most delicate insight; she has grace, feeling, and a power of suggestion that could only spring from a perfect understanding of the character she portrays. Especially in the potion scene the depth and reach of her imagination are apparent; while her electrifying acknowledgment of Romeo at the dance—a merely momentary episode—and her charming self-expression in the garden scene of the second act, stand out as typical passages in a performance which must be acknowledged as one of the best interpretations of Juliet that have been seen in Manchester for many years. Much of the success is traceable to Miss Halstan's achievement; much, also to the Romeo of Mr E. Harcourt Williams. Mr Williams has considerable personal grace for the important rôle he sustains. That he has ability also is indisputable, as he shows by his conscious depiction of the varying aspects of Romeo's character. His anger at the death of Mercutio is finely delivered, adding wonderful effect to an episode which in itself is marvellously spirited and natural. He is also conspicuously good in the scene when he is told that he is sentenced to banishment; in his scenes with the apothecary—a capital piece of work—and in his final sorrowful leave-taking of Juliet in the tomb. Mr Arthur Bruce as Mercutio scored an instant success; his poetic dream of Queen Mab was most choicely delivered, among many other passages of merit; and his death thrust, after the treacherous thrust of Tybalt, were remarkably realistic and convincing. Miss Claire Pauncefort played the Nurse with a finish and distinction that would have been even more striking had the part been less curtailed. As Friar Laurence Mr Henry Belding spoke and acted exceedingly well, with a firm and clear enunciation and an easy consciousness of his part. The Capulet of Mr Henry George was distinguished by a good quality of acting and a fine presence; Tybalt was played with plenty of fiery vigour by Mr A. E. Calver; and great praise is due to Mr Rothbury Evans for his very effective acting as the Apothecary. Among other parts Mr J. H. Atkinson's Peter, Mr Cecil Brooking's Escalus, Mr Sidney Arnold's Montague, Mr Templar Powell's Paris, Mr J. H. Warburton's Benvolio, Miss Kitty Carew's Lady Montague, and Miss Barbara Aird's Lady Capulet all contributed something towards the success of the performance. The various brawls and fights are very realistic, that in which Tybalt is killed by Romeo being well worthy of the loud applause it gained on Saturday. Notable embellishment of the theme is found in Mr Yorke Sheffield's suggested incidental music, which is cleverly orchestrated, and contains an especially quaint and pleasing vocal gavotte, heard in the "ball" scenes in the first act. This dance has been arranged by Miss A. Marshall, and is admirable of its kind. This is likely to prove the most popular of Mr Flanagan's revival.

ALLY SLOPER'S
DIAMOND RING
COMPETITION.
£100 IN RINGS.

One a week till end of Pantomime Season.
Public Presentation—Last week, Marlboro', Holloway;
This week, Grand, Islington.

Papers containing Coupons can be ordered from any Newsagent, and Communications and Remittances addressed to THE SLOPERIES, LONDON, E.C., will receive Immediate Attention.

Ally Sloper's Half Holiday—1d. *every Monday.*

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR HENRY IRVING'S friends and admirers—that is to say, the whole of the dramatic profession—will be glad to hear that he is in excellent health and bears himself as bravely as ever. His speech at the meeting of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, at the St. James's Theatre on Thursday, was delivered with all the old emphasis, resolution, and quiet supremacy; and the dry humour which was shown in some of his incidental remarks proved that his vitality and cheerfulness are in no way impaired.

A GOOD many things have happened since a new member, a youth of fifteen, presented himself at the late Henry Thomas's Elocution Institute in Gould-square, Fenchurch-street, and was thus described by one of the class:—"His appearance was such as would make ladies say, 'What a nice boy!' He was rather tall for his age, dressed in a black cloth suit, with what was called a round jacket, and a deep white linen collar turned over it; his face was very handsome, with a mass of black hair, and eyes bright and flashing with intelligence. He was called upon for his first recitation, and fairly electrified the class with an unusual display of elocutionary skill and dramatic intensity. The new member's name was Henry Irving." The face is still "very handsome," but "with a difference." It is the beauty of the storm-beaten cliff, not of the smooth sward. As we looked at the stern yet kindly face of Sir Henry at the Actors' Benevolent Fund meeting on Thursday, we could not help wishing that a portrait-painter could be found capable of putting on canvas the personal essence of the actor at this phase of life. The smooth-flattering brush of the typical R.A. would not serve the purpose. We should want to see something more like Watts's grand portraits of Carlyle and Cardinal Manning in the National Portrait Gallery. If such a painter could be found, he would have a splendid "subject" in Sir Henry Irving.

THE slight quiver in Sir Henry's voice as he alluded to "episodes in our own lives" in his speech must have struck a sympathetic note in the hearts of most of his hearers. To many who have attained desirable positions the remembrance of early sufferings is for years an agony. They put aside such recollections; though now and then they wake from sleep to realise with gratitude that the revival of their old endurances was only a dream. Then comes the riper period, when such things can be spoken of almost with complacency. Sir Henry has now and then, in anecdotes told good-naturedly against himself, given us a glimpse of some of his early sufferings on the "hard stages" of the old provincial theatres. He can sympathise with the actor's struggle for life, because he has known that struggle himself. The Actors' Benevolent Fund has no warmer and no wiser friend; and we hope his remarks on the comparative fewness of the subscribers to the Fund in the profession will be taken to heart by all actors and actresses.

THE case of Fraser v. Edwardes, which is down for hearing in the present law sittings, is likely to prove interesting. It is the old story of the imaginative playwright who sends his MS. to a manager, and subsequently fancies he detects resemblances between his refused work and one accepted and produced. Captain Fraser forwarded to Mr George Edwardes a libretto; and the gallant dramatist claims that some of his ideas have been reproduced in *The Cingalee*. This Mr Edwardes denies; and a British jury will consequently have to decide the matter.

MR BEERBOHM TREE has promised a donation of £10 towards assisting the octogenarian manager, Mr Edward Hastings, a letter from whom appears in another column; and Mr Cyril Maude has kindly consented to subscribe £5 to the same excellent object. Miss Agnes Ingreville is interesting herself very much in this sad case.

MISS ELLALINE TERRISS'S numerous admirers will be delighted to hear that she presented her husband on Monday with a fine little girl. Mr and Mrs Seymour Hicks, who were married eleven years ago, shortly after their union adopted a little girl, as they had no family, and Miss Terriss is very fond of children. Mother and baby are doing well, and Miss Terriss hopes in a few months to make her reappearance at the Vaudeville Theatre.

MR CHARLES FROHMAN recently travelled from New York to Philadelphia, and had a consultation with Mrs Patrick Campbell respecting her recent accident. Arrangements are being made for the resumption of Mrs Campbell's tour in March, both Mr Frohman and Mrs Campbell being confident that she will be able to appear then. Mrs Campbell has decided to cancel her London season in April and May, and will fulfil engagements in New York and Philadelphia before returning to England. *The Sorceress*, in which she was appearing at the time of the injury to her knee, will only be played a limited number of times, and in her New York and Philadelphia engagements she will appear in her old repertory, the plays in which demand less heavy work on the part of the leading actress. In order to reimburse the management of the Broad-street Theatre as far as possible for the loss sustained by the closing of the house after Mrs Patrick Campbell's accident, Mr Frohman has induced Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore to postpone their return to England for two weeks, and they will appear in Philadelphia in March.

MISS VIOLA TREE, we are sorry to hear, is suffering—not, as has been generally stated, from an attack of influenza—but from that very troublesome complaint measles—whether "German" or otherwise is unimportant. At Monday morning's rehearsal of *Much Ado About Nothing*, which will be produced by Mr Tree at His Majesty's on Tuesday, the part of Hero, which had been allotted to Miss Tree, had to be "read" by Miss Dorothy Thomas. We wish Miss Tree a quick recovery from her annoying indisposition.

AMONGST those who travelled a considerable distance to attend the annual general meeting of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, which took place at the St. James's Theatre on Thursday afternoon, was Mr Sydney Paxton, the resident-manager of the Grand Theatre, Southampton. Mr Paxton is the son of that popular and able Nonconformist minister, the late Rev. Paxton Hood, who for many years attracted large congregations to Offord-road Chapel, Islington. Mr Paxton's many London friends were pleased to see him looking in the best of health and spirits, the salubrious air of the southern town evidently suiting him well.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM, whose generosity in sending £100 to the West Ham poor has been so widely appreciated, was knocked down by a New York tramcar on Wednesday night, and dislocated his right shoulder. He was going to the Lyceum Theatre to appear in *The Case of Rebellious Susan*, and on alighting from a tram at the corner of a street he was struck by a second car and was dragged several feet, but fortunately escaped damage from the wheels. Despite his dislocated shoulder, Sir Charles continued his journey to the theatre, but found it impossible to act, and *Mrs Gorringe's Necklace* was very smartly substituted for *The Case of Rebellious Susan*, Mr Frank Atherly taking up Sir Charles's character in the former piece.

MR FREDERICK KERR has been engaged by Mr Tree as instructor of the modern comedy class at the Academy of Dramatic Art, the first public performance of which will take place at His Majesty's Theatre on the evening of one of Mr Tree's special Mondays in February.

MR CHARLES WARNER produced and stage-managed an amusing little burlesque, entitled *The Finger of Fate*, by Capt. Arthur Hill and Mr Brown, on Sunday evening last at the Walsingham Club. The performance was given in aid of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, and the members of the Club and their friends spent a very enjoyable hour and a half witnessing a few actors and actresses presenting, with all the seriousness they could command, a "skit" on the old-fashioned melodrama.

MR BROWN, one of the authors, played the part of the hero, one Jack Mainbrace, a naval officer. His characterisation of the injured innocent, loud in his vows to protect the defenceless maiden, created a good deal of merriment. Miss Connie Ediss appeared as the heroine, a village beauty, and imparted a charm to the part in spite of the fact that, with all her apparent sincerity, her acting was only intended for burlesque. Miss Ethel Irving was the cigarette-making wicked woman of the piece, attired in a magnificent red wig and lurid garments, and Mr Lionel Mackinder appeared as the old father of the wicked woman. Mr Gilbert Porteous as a sort of simple-minded village "honest John," and Mr John Tresahar as an iniquitous intriguer were also exceedingly funny. To-morrow Mr Warner will appear at the Walsingham Club in the Screen scene from *The School for Scandal*.

MR CYRIL MAUDE was amongst the mourners at the funeral of Earl De Montalt, whose body was brought to London for interment in Kensal-green Cemetery on Saturday. The following was the inscription on the coffin:—"The Right Honble. Cornwallis Maude, 1st Earl de Montalt and 4th Viscount Hawarden, born 4th April, 1817, died 9th January, 1905." In the same grave is buried the body of the late peer's daughter, Lady Clementina Maude, who died in 1901.

MR GEORGE DAVEY, anxious to add to the attractions of his pantomime of *Babes in the Wood* at the Grand Theatre, Islington, has, it is stated, offered the Marquis of Anglesey £150 a-week to appear as a comic stage millionaire in the annual. Lord Anglesey dances nicely, which is always an advantage to a pantomime artist.

SIR HENRY IRVING has been the victim of an absurd newspaper paragraph, stating that he had received "a handsome offer" to appear in *A Story of Waterloo* at a music hall, and that in declining it he had said the music hall had "ruined the profession and the stage." Sir Henry has received no offer of the kind, handsome or otherwise, and has never said anything of the sort. He recognises the "place, use, and value" of music halls, and certainly would never, in any case, make the remark attributed to him.

THE directors of the United Theatres Company, Limited, have generously sent a cheque for £100 to the sisters of the late Mr Fred Vincent, who died on Dec. 28 last. It will be remembered that Mr Vincent had produced a very successful pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Manchester. He had been associated for many years with Mr John Hart, of Bradford, and elsewhere.

MR EDWARD TERRY appeared for the first time in America as Dick Phenyl, in Pinero's comedy, *Sweet Lavender*, at the Princess's Theatre, New York, on the 7th inst., with decided success. Throughout the performance, and after the fall of the curtain, the audience evinced the warmest approval of the play and of Mr Terry's clever embodiment of the eccentric and bibulous but good-hearted barrister. The entire company was recalled at the close of each act and heartily applauded. Mr Terry appeared for a few nights as Sergeant Buzfuz, in the one-act comedy, *Bardell v. Pickwick*, which was received with roars of laughter.

POPULAR dramatists and poets can do what they like in Paris. The other day, during the Syveton excitement, M. François Coppée behaved somewhat obstreperously, insulting the authorities, and shouting that he was ready to sacrifice his liberty and even his life for his cause. A hand was then laid upon his shoulder, and turning, he faced M. Lépine, the Prefect of Police, who said, "Monsieur Coppée, have no fear whatsoever. Shout whatever you like, and smash windows if the fancy takes you. You can even, if you like, attack the police. My men have strict orders from me never to arrest you, no matter what you may say or do." They manage these things differently in France. We doubt if Mr Stephen Phillips would be allowed to break windows—or even to assault the police.

IT is largely to Sir Squire Bancroft, says a writer in the *Liverpool Post*, that the actor of to-day owes his improved position. Sir Squire, in his career at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, paid an artist for playing a particular part £18 and £60 a-week within ten years. Another actor who entered upon an engagement with Sir Squire Bancroft concluded it at ten times his original salary, and another, engaged at £9 a-week, was drawing £50 a-week when he finished. When Mrs Stirling played in *Caste* at the Haymarket she received seven times the salary of the original representative of the character she impersonated. On the other hand, we may remark that if salaries are higher engagements are more uncertain, and an actor who has been enjoying a handsome income may find himself, from no fault of his own, out of work for many months.

MR E. S. WILLARD'S version of "Tatterley," which he has taken with him to America, is an entirely new play in three acts, written by the author of the book, Mr Tom Gallon, assisted by valuable suggestions from Mr Willard, who will double the parts of the old miser Caleb Fry and of the faithful Tatterley.

MR FORBES ROBERTSON opened at the Princess Theatre, Toronto, on the 9th inst. in a five-act play called *Love and the Man*, by Henry V. Esmond. Mr Robertson, who plays the part of a member of Parliament, had a warm welcome, and all reports state that the piece made a favourable impression.

MR LEWIS WALLER is one of the most active amongst London managers in collecting cash for the Actors' Benevolent Fund by means of "autograph taxes." If all the contributions he has made in this way to the Fund were added up the result would be a goodly sum raised for that valuable institution.

MR CHARLES HARRINGTON, having purchased the rights of *Sailors of the King* from Mr F. Bateman, will produce the piece at the King's Theatre, Cardiff, on Aug 7, on an elaborate scale. Every scene will be carried, and correct uniforms and properties will be provided. This enterprise will in no way interfere with Mr Harrington's successful tour of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, for which he is having new scenery painted.

THE annual Liverpool Theatrical Gala is to be held on one of the football grounds on Feb. 14 This event, which many years ago had a small beginning, is now a great function, and receives the support of all locally engaged pantomime and variety artists, who are present in great force. The proceeds of the last nine years have enabled the committee to distribute among the local charities and Music Hall Artists' Association the sum of £4,890, last year alone realising £640. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool and the Bishop are the patrons; the chairman, Mr W. Watson Rutherford, ex-Lord Mayor; vice-presidents, Mr Isaac Glover, Mr Thos. Strettall, and Commander M'Nab; chairman, the indefatigable Mr Lewis Peake; hon. treasurer, Mr Tom Bush, of the Bee Hotel; vice chairmen, Mr John Cropper and Mr John M'Kenna; and hon. sec., Mr T. S. Ashmole.

MR OTHO STUART, at the conclusion of the third act of the sixtieth performance of *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Adelphi Theatre on Wednesday night came to the front, and in a most interesting speech stated that the play would be run for several months to come, to be succeeded, when the proper time should arrive, by *Hamlet*. Mr Oscar Asche, he said, would play Claudius, and Miss Brayton would impersonate Ophelia, and the rôle of the Queen would be played by Miss Maud Milton. Mr H. B. Irving had been secured for the part of Hamlet, an announcement which was received with prolonged applause. Each member of the audience was presented with a very handsome souvenir—a portfolio containing nine sheets of fine photogravures of the chief actors in the revival. The souvenir is an artistic treasure, and will be highly valued by fortunate possessors of copies.

THE announcement made by Mr Stuart with respect to Mr H. B. Irving will be hailed with delight by all intelligent playgoers. Those who have read Mr Irving's "Life of Judge Jeffries" and his "French Criminals of the Nineteenth Century" understand that he has a subtle intellect and a keen and peculiar brain. These gifts, combined with his admirable histrionic technique, should make his Hamlet one of the most interesting assumptions which have been seen for some time. We are sure that Mr Irving will not make his Hamlet too cold-blooded and inert. It must always be remembered that the Prince of Denmark was what would be called nowadays "a thorough sportsman." He was a first-rate fencer, and his physical activity, energy, and impulse are proved by his leaping down into Ophelia's grave and by his leading the boarders of the pirate ship with such ardour that he was left behind when the vessels parted. The fact that he was generally regarded in Denmark as the most promising "courtier, scholar, and soldier" of his time is against making Hamlet in the least degree a mere melancholy lecturer on life.

MR ARTHUR BOURCHIER has received the following letter with reference to that very clever comedy *The Walls of Jericho*, now being played at the Garrick Theatre:—"Devon Private Hotel, Charing-cross, Jan. 7. Sir,—It was my good fortune to attend your theatre this evening and to witness the play *The Walls of Jericho*. I trust you will not think it mere flattery when I congratulate you both on the play itself and on the rendition of it. Such a play cannot but have a splendid moral effect, bringing into the clear light some of the crying sins of the day, and showing them forth in all their terrible and far-reaching effect. I shall carry back to my home across the Atlantic the remembrance of this evening spent at your theatre as one of the pleasantest and most profitable memories of a brief stay in London. Believe me, yours very truly, JOSEPH M. FRANCIS, Bishop of Indianapolis." We congratulate Indianapolis on the possession of so liberal-minded and intelligent a prelate as Mr Francis. If our clergy would support and encourage clean and honest plays, and use their influence with discrimination in advocacy of good dramatic work, the drama would be immensely improved.

MR CYRIL MAUDE has earned the lasting sympathy of the profession by his origination and advocacy of the recent subscription for poor blind Henry Crisp, by which £300 was collected for that gentleman. Blindness is one of those afflictions which it is impossible to guard against. The victim is, indeed, unfortunate; and Mr Maude, by his efforts through the medium of our columns to help Mr Crisp, has won the gratitude of all who have a "heart to pity" hopeless and unmerited affliction.

THE roof has now been added to the Waldorf Theatre, Aldwych, and the opening may be expected in May. The decorations in the Louis Quatorze style are exceedingly beautiful. The crush rooms and refreshment saloons will be extremely fine, and a special architectural feature of the building will be a magnificent marble staircase.

MR CARL HENTSCHEL, at the Guildhall on Monday, was unanimously elected chairman of the music committee of the Guildhall School of Music.

MR ARTHUR CARLTON was presented on his birthday last week with a very handsome diamond ring, a gift from the managers and staff of his numerous theatres. Mr Carlton's new country residence at Hayes, to which he has now removed from Plymouth, is a lovely old Elizabethan mansion with extensive grounds, which are being tastefully laid out. Mr Carlton is an enthusiastic and skilful horseman, and his stables at Hayes are remarkably well filled.

THE members of the Playgoers' Club invited 2,500 children from the side streets and "tenement houses" of Southwark and Walworth to witness Mr Ernest E. Norris's delightful pantomime *Puss in Boots* at the Elephant and Castle Theatre on Saturday afternoon. Every seat was taken, and there were no late comers; and as the fairy story of "Puss in Boots" developed, the shrieks of laughter that rewarded the merry antics of Pussy were only equalled by the cheers that welcomed every member of the highly capable and excellent company. In the interval tea, oranges, cakes, and sweets were distributed ad lib. The front rows of the stalls were filled with blind children, who enjoyed to the full the delightful music and pretty songs.

MR FREDERICK E. PHILPOTT'S *The Girl From Japan* No. 1 company goes out on Feb. 6, carrying the original production, including new scenery and costumes, and the beautiful floral and electrical effects. The well-selected company of thirty artists includes Miss Rita Tomkins, Miss Florence Nelson, Miss Madeline Stone-Humphries, and Miss Jean Van Dalle, also Percy Baverstock, Frank Ellis, George Hudson, Frank Sherlock, H. Carlyle Pritchard, and Colet Dare. Mr Frederick E. Philpott will personally conduct the tour.

MISS TOTS DAVIS, the charming young artist who is playing the part of Maid Marian, in *Babes in the Wood*, at the Grand Theatre, Islington, was presented on Thursday night with a ten-guinea diamond ring by "Ally Sloper." The presentation took place on the stage, and was the result of the largest number of votes being given to Miss Davis by the readers of the well-known comic weekly, who claimed for Miss Davis that she was the most popular pantomime artist of the month.

MR CHARLES WARNER recently contemplated a twenty weeks' tour in South Africa in conjunction with Messrs Wheeler and Smith, starting for England next month. He has now, however, abandoned the idea—or, rather, deferred the carrying out of it—because of the unsatisfactory condition of things theatrical at the Cape. Mr Warner commences a twelve months' tour of Australia and New Zealand in November, with the management of Mr Musgrove. He will open at Melbourne in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and he and his company will appear in a series of Shakespearian revivals, as well as in Mr Warner's own répertoire of plays, including, of course, *Drink*.

IT is thirteen years since Mr Warner was last at the Antipodes, where he enjoyed a most successful tour lasting over three years. There were no theatres in Western Australia then, and during his forthcoming visit Mr Warner will for the first time play at Perth and Coolgardie. He is now negotiating for the purchase of a very strong play from the pen of a well-known French dramatist. He saw the piece in Paris a short time ago, and formed a very high opinion regarding it. He hopes to produce the English translation of the drama at a London theatre before leaving for Australia.

THE newly-elected committee of the Scenic Artists' Association will hold its first meeting on Monday evening at the offices of the association, 5, Robert-street, Adelphi-terrace; and we learn from the secretary (Mr H. Lawrence Harris) that the agenda is an unusually long one. The minutes of the sixteenth meeting of the old committee on Jan. 6, and the minutes of the annual meeting at the Caledonian Hotel on Monday, the 9th inst., have to be read and confirmed.

THE balance-sheet for the year ending Dec. 31, 1904, will be presented with the auditor's report on the same. The secretary will have the satisfaction of announcing the following donations to the Benevolent Dinner Fund received since the annual meeting:—Mr Evelyn C. Beuthume, £3; Mr John A. Sargent, R.A., £2 2s.; Mr Gerard De L. Duckworth, £2 2s.; Mr Fred Terry, £1 1s.; Dr. Anderson Critchet, £1 1s.; Mr Alfred Sutro, £1 1s.; Mr H. B. Irving, £1 1s.; the Right Hon. the Countess of Lytton, £1 1s.; Messrs David Allen and Sons, Ltd., £1 1s.; and Mr Stafford Hall, £1 1s.

THE secretary will also report the following additional names of stewards of the Benevolent Fund Dinner, to be held on Sunday, Feb. 19:—Mr Alfred Moul, Mr Gerard Duckworth, Mr S. Goldmann, Mr Phil Harker, Mr A. Chudleigh, Mr Ernest Hann, Mr M. Henry, Mr Geo. H. R. Dabbs, M.D., Mr C. Marshall Hall, M.P., K.C., Mr R. G. Legge, Mr C. Wilhelm, Mr Walter Hann, Mr R. M'Cleery, and Mr Stafford Hall. There are several candidates for election as ordinary members, and three gentlemen will be proposed as honorary members.

THE secretary will report that Mr J. Ashby Sterry has offered to lend a number of interesting pictures and a screen worked by the late Mrs Keeley at eighty-nine years of age. The Committee will have brought under their consideration estimates for printing on the Exhibition catalogue. They will also have to consider the application of a scenic artist for relief from the Benevolent Fund.

THE following resolutions will be proposed:—1. That members who fail to pay their quarterly instalments within twenty-eight days of the date they become due shall not be reinstated as members until they have paid a fine of 10s. 6d. 2. The secretary shall not in future send notices of committee and other meetings and notices of subscriptions overdue by post, but shall notify the same on the notice-board in the offices, and advertise committee and other meetings in *The Era* newspaper. 3. That a sub-committee of members be appointed to make arrangements for a monthly supper for the members of the Association, to be followed by a smoking concert. It will also be proposed to nominate two members as vice-presidents. 4. The committee will also be asked to consider a proposal to run a Scenic Artists' Club in connection with the Association, and a scheme for publishing a journal in connection with the Scenic Artists' Association will also be brought forward.

MR COSMO HAMILTON, who has just been appointed editor of the *World*, is well known as a popular young author and dramatist. He has adapted with much success several of his society stories as curtain-raisers. Two of them, entitled *Patricia in a Quandary* and *Because of Billy Rudd*, were produced at the Strand on Dec. 19, 1898. His best work was to be found in the three-act comedy, *The Wisdom of Folly*, produced on Oct. 9, 1902, at the Comedy. Miss Gertrude Kingston appeared in the eccentric character of Mrs Rose. The piece teemed with wit, but its run was short, in spite of the favourable verdict passed by the audience on its production.

MISS ADA REEVE'S name is down on the lists of cases for trial in the present law sittings in connection with an important action by her against the Newspaper Syndicate, Limited, the proprietors of the *Weekly Dispatch*.

MR AUGUSTIN SYMONDS, who will terminate his present engagement as business manager of Mr Milton Bode's *Dick Whittington* company on Feb. 11, has been connected with the management of Drury-lane tours for some years. He was also with Mr Bode's dramatic and musical comedy tours, and, altogether, has had a vast amount of experience both as actor and manager.

MR G. BRYDON-PHILLIPS'S successful pantomime of *Sinbad* will be transferred from the Dalston Theatre to the Brixton Theatre after to-night, and will be played there for two weeks. Mr Phillips is issuing a very amusing pictorial post-card advertisement. The subject, "His First Pantomime," is taken from life, Mr Harry Gardner, the clown, and Mr Phillips's own little son and heir, being depicted.

EXCITEMENT has been created in New York by the refusal of the management of Daly's Theatre there to admit Mr James Metcalfe, "a dramatic newspaper editor," to the first performance in America of *The Duchess of Dantzic*. Mr Metcalfe was charged by the theatrical managers with malicious criticism; and finally the American Theatrical Managers' Association decided to keep him out of their theatres. He then presented himself at Daly's Theatre with three reserved seat tickets, regularly purchased, but was told that he could not be admitted. At present Mr Metcalfe is unable to obtain admission to a single theatre in New York.

MR W. PAYNE SEDDON, who was journeying from Londonderry to Loughborough for the opening of the New Theatre next week, was one of the passengers in the Scotch express which was wrecked on Thursday morning. With his usual luck, he escaped without injury, and was able to assist in extricating the injured from the burning carriages.

THE Playgoers' Club have arranged for a special performance at the Britannia Theatre this afternoon of the pantomime *The Goblin of the Sea* for poor children.

SEVERAL actors of distinction have written in encouragement of the scheme for the establishment of a Repertory Theatre in London. Mr H. B. Irving is sure every actor must be in sympathy with any scheme that would help to vary the monotony of long runs. Mr Charles Warner says the plan would give what is so much needed to the younger members of the theatrical profession—constant rehearsals, constant practice with a company playing together, knowing each other's methods, thereby achieving an ensemble which is almost impossible where actors are constantly being changed in the casts at different theatres. "Mr Grein," concludes Mr Warner, "puts forth a very clear and business-like scheme—one of the very best I have yet read—and whatever time I may have to spare shall be placed most willingly at his service."

MR ALFRED SUTRO'S one-act play, *A Maker of Men*, will shortly be put on at the St. James's Theatre, in front of *Lady Windermere's Fan*.

MRS M. B. SPURR wishes to express her deep gratitude to Mr Herbert Flemming for all he has done for her family. The late Mr Spurr's affairs were left in an unsettled state; and though he made money out in Australia, there were difficulties in the way of obtaining it. As soon as Mr Flemming came to England and learned the awkward position in which Mrs Spurr and her family were placed, he at once sent temporary help, and has now provided for them for the next ten weeks. They are naturally anxious that such grand generosity should be generally known, and they desire to express their heartfelt acknowledgments through our columns.

MR MARTIN HARVEY will, upon the conclusion of his provincial and suburban engagements, about the middle of May, present his production of *Hamlet* in the West-end. He has engaged as his musical director the Chevalier Luigi del Bono, who will be remembered for his many years' association with the Royal Aquarium orchestra.

MISS GERTRUDE KINGSTON will deliver an address to the members of the O.P. Club at the Criterion, on Sunday, on "The Public as Seen from the Stage." The Hon. George Goschen, M.P., will be in the chair.

MR ARTHUR BERTRAM will produce at the Grand Theatre, Fulham, on Feb. 27 a drama entitled *Hearts Adrift*, which has had a successful run in America, and contains a sensational scene representing a fight on an airship in mid air.

MR W. T. LOVELL has been playing Horace Bream, in *Sweet Lavender*, in New York, with Mr Edward Terry's company. It was rather a severe test for an English actor to enact an American in the States and yet win the praise of the Press, but Mr Lovell succeeded in this very difficult task. He carefully avoided using the conventional Yankee drawl, making Bream speak like the average cultured New Yorker.

DURING the forthcoming Shakespearian Festival at Stratford the lecture room of the Memorial Hall will be set apart as a reading room and rendezvous for visitors to the town. Reserved seats may be secured on application or by letter to Mr C. Rainbow, the custodian at the Memorial Lecture Room. The ballot for reserved seats will take place on Friday, March 24.

MR EDWARD COMPTON finished the old year and commenced the new one in capital style by breaking all records at Leamington, Wolverhampton, and Huddersfield. The C.C.C. is now in full swing again, and a "record" tour may be anticipated. Mr Compton on his birthday, last Saturday, at Huddersfield had a very full house. Numerous expressions of goodwill from friends and well-wishers came from various parts of the country.

A SPECIAL matinée performance was given on Wednesday to some 1,000 of the poorest children of Hastings and St. Leonards and district at the local Hippodrome by Messrs Chatterton and Co., of the Louvre, St. Leonards-on-Sea. This philanthropic firm not only bore all the expenses of the performance, but distributed parcels of clothing to many of the poor youngsters, provided them with a midday meal before the performance, and with a tea after the show. They had the valuable co-operation and assistance of Mr Harold Penny, the genial manager.

IN celebration of the marriage of Mr A. E. Smith, theatrical manager, to Miss Elsie Douglas, the charming Princess of his *Aladdin* pantomime, which event took place at Dudley on the 8th inst., the whole of the members of the bridegroom's company, which is this week appearing at Kettering, were entertained by his liberality on the night of the 9th inst. at the Queen's Hotel, Shrewsbury. Mr J. H. Maxwell, who efficiently presided, proposed the toast of the bride and bridegroom, both of whom, he said, he had the pleasure of knowing for a very long time. On behalf of the company, by whom Mr and Mrs Smith are highly esteemed, he heartily wished them long life, health, wealth, and happiness. The bridegroom, said the speaker, had the confidence and goodwill of every member of his company, and he personally could not wish to serve a better manager. A varied musical programme was then thoroughly enjoyed, Madame Godfrey kindly presiding at the pianoforte. A dance followed, Mr Maxwell being a capable M.C. The bride and bridegroom received numerous wedding gifts, and the bells of St. Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, rang a joyous peal in celebration of the happy event.

MR GEORGE EDWARDES'S London company appeared in *The Duchess of Dantzic* at Daly's Theatre, New York, on Monday. Mr Ivan Caryll went to New York specially to superintend the production, which was very favourably received by public and Press.

THE pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Belfast, in which Paul Cinquevalli is so great an attraction, is a big hit. Mr F. Warden, indeed, has created a record by entertaining on one occasion the largest number of people that have ever patronised the theatre.

MR CHARLES E. HAMILTON, owing to the success of *Peggy Machree* at Wyndham's Theatre, has made an arrangement with Messrs Frohman and Chudleigh, who are to produce Captain Marshall's new play at that house, to extend the time of *Peggy Machree* for one week instead of closing to-night as originally intended. Many new additional songs have been introduced into *Peggy Machree*, and were it possible to extend the time it might run on indefinitely. As it is, the absolutely final performance will be given on Saturday, and on the following Monday the play will be taken on tour.

MR HENRI DE VRIES, the Dutch actor, will open at the Royalty Theatre next month with an adaptation of the two-act French play *L'Aventure*. Miss Grace Lane and Mr Harvey Long will be in the cast. *A Case of Arson*, in which Mr De Vries impersonates seven out of the nine characters, will also be performed.

MISS LILIAS EARLE, who for the last year has been playing Cousin Kate in the principal touring company, has been seriously ill, and is now slowly recovering under the excellent treatment of Dr. Herbert Spencer and Dr. Goullet. Miss Earle's part for the next few months will be played by Miss Edith Walker.

MR WALTER BEAUMONT, who has been out of the bill of the Comedy Theatre for some time owing to acute gout, is now recovered, and is playing again. Mr Beaumont has been undergoing electric treatment by the noted Harley-street specialist, Dr. Abbot-Anderson, and a permanent cure is hoped for.

MR NORMAN V. NORMAN, who has lately undergone a slight operation on his throat, has now fully recovered, and in the spring will again tour his revival of *Under the Red Robe*, which met with such success under his management last autumn. Miss Beatrice Wilson will again play Renée De Cocheforêt, and Mr Norman Gil De Berault.

THE following announcement is made by the management of the Standard Theatre, where Mr Frederick Melville's drama, *Her Forbidden Marriage* is creating so much interest:—"Notice to those intending to marry. The management will present to the first couple entering the early door a 22-carat golden lucky wedding ring." To this is added the promise that the manager or acting manager of the company will personally attend the wedding as best man.

AT the Grand Theatre, Islington, on Monday, a new sketch entitled *The Telephone Girl* will be introduced into the pantomime of *The Babes in the Wood*, by Miss Julia Kent and Mr George Mozart, and a number of new songs, dances, and clever situations will be added to this already excellent entertainment, the popularity of which is well shown by the fact of over 80,000 people having paid for admission up to Thursday night last, thus creating a record for the Grand, a circumstance of which Mr George Davey, the courteous and energetic lessee and manager, is justly proud.

HENRY IRVING AND "DON QUIXOTE."

At a banquet in commemoration of the tercentenary of the publication of "Don Quixote" held on Thursday night in the Whitehall Rooms of the Hotel Metropole the chair was occupied by Major MARTIN HUME, and among those present were the Spanish Ambassador, the Chilian Minister, Count De Torre Diaz, Sir John and Lady Lister Kaye, Mr Evan Charteris, Sir Henry Irving, Mr Edmund Gosse, the Spanish Consul-General, Mrs Craigie, Mr Sidney Lee, Mr George Frampton, Mr Austin Dobson, Mr Cunninghame Graham, Mr Anthony Hope Hawkins, Professor Ray Lankester, Mr Clement Shorter, Mr Edward Clodd, and Mr J. Fitzmaurice Kelly.

After the CHAIRMAN had proposed "The Immortal Memory of Don Quixote" the SPANISH AMBASSADOR responded in Spanish, and other toasts were drunk.

MR SIDNEY LEE then proposed the toast of "The Drama," coupled with the name of Sir Henry Irving, the only actor who had, he said, appeared as Don Quixote on the English stage.

Sir HENRY IRVING, in responding, said:—I think it is evident that Cervantes thought highly of comedians. He did not hold the opinion which some later dramatists have expounded in their haste, that the play would be a great hit if it were not for the players. I take it that Cervantes, who wrote some thirty comedies, was pretty well satisfied with the performance. "They were all acted," he says, "without any offerings of orange peel or cucumbers, and they ran their course without whistlings, hissings, or clamour." Nobody "booed" in the gallery. The author did not explain in after-dinner speeches that a total lack of training had prevented the actors from catching his meaning. There were no unfavourable notices, for the Spanish Press, like the Spanish Fleet in *The Critic*, was not yet in sight. It is true that the author's fees were rather low. Cervantes does not appear to have received much more than £7 10*s.* for any of his plays. I have never had the fortune to meet with a dramatic author who was willing to write for £7 10*s.* Mr Sidney Lee will agree with me that Shakespeare would never have bought New Place at that rate of emolument. Well, those comedies at £7 10*s.* are dead; but if the author were with us to-day, and could dramatise his immortal classic, his revenue might surprise him. I have heard of a manager who said to a dramatist:—"All right, I'll take your play—a capital play it is, too—if you'll first make it into a book." "Into a book! What for?" "My dear sir," said the manager, "if I send out a hundred thousand circulars to tell the public that your play is great, most of them will drop into the waste-paper-basket. But when your book is the talk of every tea-table, your play will be hailed with delight." Of the truth of that we have seen some striking examples. But I grant that "Don Quixote" on the stage is beset with difficulties of an unusual kind. I speak out of the haunted deep of experience. Most of you can pride yourselves, with justice, on having done some quixotic thing. All of you, I have no doubt, read "Don Quixote" right through again before you came to this dinner. But I alone among you have appeared to the world as the Knight of the Rueful Countenance, ridden Rozinante, and worn the helmet of Mambrino. You will remember how Don Quixote, in his eloquent discourse on the superiority of arms to letters, points out that "eminence in letters can be achieved by time, by watchings, by giddiness of the head, and qualms of the stomach." There are distinguished writers around me who will bear witness to the symptoms. I also knew these sensations when I essayed to impersonate that illustrious figure, who is enshrined in our loving memory; and I am persuaded to this day that if the powers of enchantment, of which Don Quixote had so much reason to complain—which turned the helmet of Mambrino into a barber's basin, and the aromatic fragrance of Dulcinea del Toboso into rich garlic—I am persuaded that if those fell enchanters had not interfered the play would have been a complete success. There was one character, at any rate, over whom they could not prevail, and that was Rozinante, who followed Don Quixote about the stage, affectionately reminding him of the sugar which had been liberally supplied at rehearsal. It may even be said by those malevolent enchanters that "Don Quixote" is impossible on the stage; and, if that be so, I have still a melancholy pleasure in such a judgment, for to undertake the impossible is quixotism in its purest form, and a reflected glory of the master. I contribute it in all humility to the celebration of that exquisite genius to whom all the world pays undying homage, and in whom it is possible that our Shakespeare had the opportunity of recognising a kindred soul before he died.

"BEAUTY AND THE BARGE" AT SHEFFIELD.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Admirers of Mr W. W. Jacobs' inimitable pictures of coal-boat and riverside life had a rich treat at the Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield, on Monday night, when Mr Cyril Maude's specially organised company appeared in *Beauty and the Barge*. To see some of Mr Jacobs' familiar types realised on the stage was in itself a delight to many, and to others there was the idyllic love story, in which the experienced stagecraft of Mr Louis N. Parker was apparent. Exquisite scenery had been furnished by Messrs Harker and Hann, and the enthusiastic approval shown by a crowded house was thoroughly deserved. It was evident that the piece had been carefully rehearsed, for a better all-round performance has seldom been seen on the Sheffield stage. The rich characteristic humour of the skipper was admirably brought out by Mr Blake Adams, whose Captain James Barley will long be remembered by the comedian's many local admirers as a character-portrait of the highest order. The bit of unaffected pathos at the finish was well expressed, and altogether Mr Adams made a thorough success. Miss May Fairclough was a dainty, lovable, and altogether charming heroine as Ethel Smedley. Miss Ethel Stalman was a tall and aristocratic-looking Mrs Smedley; Miss Mary Deverell was a pretty and intelligent Lucy Dallas; Mrs J. W. Braithwaite made a comely and good-humoured landlady of the Old Ship; and Miss Mary Griffiths gave a clever delineation of the character of the imposing Mrs Baldwin. Mr Horace Lane was a good-looking and gallant Lieut. Seton Boyne, R.N.; Mr Percival Knight was the smart, well-groomed characteristic Briton as Herbert Manners; a good sketch was the Tom Codd of Mr Charles Goold. Mr Fred Knight submitted a neat little character study of rural good humour as the old Gardener; Mr Charles Caffrey caused hearty mirth as the little landlord, George Porter; and small, but cleverly acted parts were the Augustus of Mr Forrester Harvey, the Teddy of Mr Fred Lake, the Alf. of Mr B. Fairclough, and the Jack of Mr H. Richmond. The curtain-raiser was an adaptation of one of Arthur Morison's short stories, entitled *That Brute Simmons*, in which appeared Mr Fred Lake, Mr Fred Knight, and Miss Ethel Stalman.

ON Monday, at the Town Hall, Sligo, Mr Charles Macdona's company, in *A Country Girl*, was accorded a hearty reception. Mr G. Williams was extremely good as Geoffry Challinor; Mr J. Parsons made a capital Rajah; Mr Wallace Bosco caused much amusement as Sir Joseph Verity, his acting being very good; Mr Champney as Barry created much laughter, his singing and dancing being appreciated; Miss Beatrice Rowe as Marjorie Joy was an unqualified success; Miss Kathleen Coomber cleverly impersonated Nan; Miss A. Dewhurst as Sophie was charming; the Princess was capably acted by Miss G. De Lacy.

THE REPERTOIRE THEATRE

MR. WALTER STEPHENS'S VIEWS.

Mr Walter Stephens, whose bold offer of £5,000 towards the establishment of a repértoire theatre in London has been already recorded, yesterday gave a representative of *The Era* his views on the subject. "As a playwright," said Mr Stephens, "I have long cherished the hope that one of these days we should have a repértoire theatre in London. Nobody, however, as yet seems to have cared to support me, and it is of no use to work a scheme like that on a small capital, for that would at once spell financial ruin. In order to erect a suitable building for the purpose, and at the same time to provide for preliminary expenses, management, &c., a sum of £20 000 to £25 000 would be required. Of course, in such an enterprise one would hope that the public would come in very largely and back one up; and, as Mr Stead pointed out in his recent address, the principal subscribers should be drawn from the aristocratic and well-to-do middle classes, for the simple reason that these, as you know, form a large bulk of the playgoing public."

Questioned as to the material he proposed to put on the stage of the répertoire theatre, Mr Stephens remarked that he would like to carry on the great traditions of the drama of the past, though not to the neglect of the best dramatic works of the present period. He thought that dramatic fare at the theatre was in such a parlous condition that it was difficult to foretell how matters in that respect would end.

"I would produce," continued Mr Stephens, "Shakespearian plays, the best Elizabethan pieces, and those works which might be described as classics, even of the modern school. I would also include in my programme good comic opera.

"Grand opera, did you say? Well, yes, but only after the theatre had been running some little while, and provided all circumstances warranted me in making the venture. I do not think there would be the slightest difficulty in getting competent actors and actresses for our répertoire company. I have no doubt that many people who have played with Mr Benson, Mr Tree, and other actor-managers would be only too glad to assist in a renewal of real art in the theatre.

"What means would I employ to popularise the répertoire theatre among the working-class section of playgoers?" said Mr Stephens in reply to a query. "Well, Mr Stead suggested that the place should be opened once a-week, free of charge, to the pit and gallery. I go further than that, and say that those parts of the house should be set apart for free admission on two nights each week. Then we should gradually educate our poorer patrons up to the pitch of understanding and really enjoying the highest dramatic works which past and present playwrights have given us."

Conversation suddenly turning upon the subject of the Passion Play produced at Oberammergau, Mr Stevens expressed the opinion that the religious play gave us the very highest dramatic art. "In olden times," he continued, "people were educated by means of stage representations of Bible scenes, than which no word from the pulpit could be more eloquent or convincing in the lessons taught. But in this country one is not allowed to bring the Bible upon the stage. I feel certain, however, that at some future date, perhaps long distant, a great deal of religious teaching will be effected in the house which we now call the theatre, and which may years hence be regarded even by the Nonconformist conscience as a place where the uplifting of one's morals goes hand in hand with the enlightenment of the mind and the relaxation of the body."

MR. CLARKSON AND THE PLAYGOERS.

MR WILLIAM CLARKSON, the famous perruquier, presided at the House Dinner of the Playgoers' Club, held on Saturday last. The club conferred on Mr Clarkson the order of the "Knighthood of St. Clement's," and an amusing parchment scroll testified that Mr Clarkson had been duly, and with befitting ceremony, installed.

Mr CLARKSON, in replying to the toast of his health, said:—Gentlemen,—I am extremely grateful for the kind manner in which you have proposed my health, and for the enthusiastic way in which you have received it. The order of knighthood which you have conferred upon me would have been cherished by my ancestors had they had the opportunity of obtaining it, but the honour has been reserved for me, and I can assure you that I will do my best to maintain the ancient traditions of this distinguished body. This reminds me of a little incident which happened during the late Wilson Barrett's tour through South Africa in Coronation year. I had a few thousand medals struck, with the portrait of the King and Queen one side and myself on the other. My representative who travelled with Mr Wilson Barrett, in charge of my department, took a number of these medallions with him to distribute on the tour. It happened after the company's arrival in Durban that one of the party had some business to transact some distance away, so he hired a "rickshaw," and when at his journey's end tendered, for fun, one of these medallions in payment, which to his utter amazement was received by the Kaffir boy with wild delight. On the following morning there were no less than twenty or thirty rickshaw boys outside the theatre offering to take any of the company for a drive in the hope of getting one of these medals in payment. Before they left Durban quite a number were wearing them as earrings, and I have not the slightest doubt that if any of you gentlemen present should go to that city you would probably find many of them worn through their noses.

A very attractive programme of entertainments followed. Mr Arthur Prince, the well-known ventriloquist, gave further evidence of his remarkable powers, and delighted members of the club. The Troubadour Four came from the Coliseum and sang part-songs, other turns being given by Mr Paul Mill, Mr Vivian Foster, Mr Harrison Latimer, Kuroki, the juggler; Mr Penyston Miles, Mr Ned Graydon, Mr James Graydon, De Camo and Dog Core, and Mr W. F. Moss. Mr Tom Browne, the artist, drew some comical lightning cartoons, and Mr C. E. Johnson acted as accompanist.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

Most heartily we wish many, many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Miss E. Shannon-Clynder, actress—Jan. 21.
J. O. Stevenson—Saturday, Jan. 21.
Arthur E. Behan—Saturday, Jan. 21.
D'Arcy Kelway—Saturday, Jan. 21.
Howard L. Tracey—Saturday, Jan. 21.
Miss Constance Collier, actress—Jan. 22.
Miss Violette Bessle—Sunday, Jan. 22.
Coquelin *aîné*, French actor—Monday, Jan. 23.
Lady Orkney—Monday, Jan. 23.
Miss Ada Murray, actress—Monday, Jan. 23.
Miss Alice Spry, actress—Monday, Jan. 23.
Clavering Craig—Monday, Jan. 23.
George Millard—Monday, Jan. 23.
Miss Suzanne Sheldon, actress—Jan. 24.
Fred. H. Anderson—Tuesday, Jan. 24.
Rowland Hill, music hall comedian—Jan. 24.
Geo. Adney Payne—Thursday, Jan. 26.
George Shelton, actor—Thursday, Jan. 26.
Chas. Rush, acting-manager—Friday, Jan. 27.
Chas. Boult, actor—Friday, Jan. 27.
Cecil Raleigh, dramatist—Friday, Jan. 27.
Herman Merivale, dramatist—Friday, Jan. 27.
Felix Pitt, actor—Friday, Jan 27.

MR HENRY SWINEBD'S company, in *Dare-Devil Dorothy*, will pay a sixth visit to the Theatre Royal, Stratford, on Monday. The piece has been toured continuously with great success for nearly five years.

ACTORS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

The annual general meeting of the members of this Fund was held on Thursday at St. James's Theatre. Sir HENRY IRVING (president) occupied the chair, and the unusually large attendance included Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr H. Beerbohm Tree, Mr George Alexander, Mr J. D. Beveridge, Mr Henry Evill, Mr Sydney Paxton, Mr C. Aubrey Smith, Mr E. H. Bull, Mr Fredk. Wright, Mr Morris Abrahams, Mr Akerman May, Mr H. J. Loveday, Mr A. B. Tapping, Mr Bram Stoker, Mr Chas. Cruikshanks, Mr Edward Ledger, Mr Frank Desprez, Mr F. M. Dutton, Mr E. Storey-Gofton, Mr Augustus Spalding, Mr E. Hastings, Mr C. I. Coltson (secretary), the Rev. A. Brinckman, Mr J. H. Mote, Mr H. H. Cole, Dr. R. P. Middlemist, Mr P. De Pinto, Mrs George Alexander, Miss Edith Blande, Miss Clara Jecks, Mrs C. Gay, Miss Russell, and others.

The SECRETARY read the committee's report for 1904, and also the auditors' report, which were as follows:—

In submitting to the subscribers of the Fund the accounts for the past year, the committee have to report that the subscribers number 729, and the total subscriptions amount to the sum of £916 8*s* 1*d*. The total income from all sources was £5,575 1*s*. 6*d*., and the amount disbursed in gifts and loans is £3,350 17*s*. 8*d*., the number of assisted cases throughout the year being 1,411.

An analysis of the year's work will be found in the annexed abstract of report and statement of accounts.

During the past year death has been busy with the friends and staunch supporters of the Fund, and the committee have most deeply to deplore the loss of Mr Wilson Barrett, Mr F. A. Scudamore, Mr James Staats Forbes, Mr Walter Pallant, and Miss Nellie Farren. Mr Wilson Barrett bequeathed £1,000 to the Fund; Miss Nellie Farren, £500; and Mr Walter Pallant, £100. By the investment of £1 500 to capital, the committee are able to give some better guarantee for the continuance of the weekly allowances to aged actors and actresses, as these allowances absorb the large sum of £1,600 annually.

To Sir Edward Clarke, K.C., the committee tender their most cordial and grateful thanks for his earnest appeal on the Fund's behalf on the 7th of last December, when he occupied the chair at the fourteenth annual dinner. The grateful thanks of the committee are also tendered to his many friends who so generously responded to Sir Edward's appeal.

It is most gratifying to find that continued and increased support is given to the Fund by the promoters of the Liverpool Theatrical Gala, the Charity Sports at Birmingham, the Theatrical Gala at Belfast, and also by the organisers of the annual cricket match at the Surrey Oval, when the committee of the County Cricket Club very generously gave the free use of the county ground for the purposes of the match.

ACTORS' SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1905.

A small subscription carries with it not only a first claim upon the Fund for pecuniary assistance, but it also gives the power to recommend deserving applicants. The committee most urgently appeal to the whole of the members of the theatrical calling to contribute something to the collection which is now being made throughout the United Kingdom. The smallest sums will be thankfully received and acknowledged in the theatrical papers.

It is requested that contributions be handed to the gentlemen who are kindly collecting at the theatres.

(By order) C. I. COLTSON, Secretary.

Offices, 8, Adam-street, Adelphi, W.C.

ABSTRACT OF REPORT.

The following is a comparative analysis of the work of 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, and 1904:—

	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Ordinary Cases	679	665	779	800	815	1,052
Emergency Cases	337	366	336	311	295	359
	1,016	1,031	1,115	1,111	1,110	1,411

1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ordinary Gifts.					
1,952 17 3	2,086 12 0	2,258 11 3	2,195 6 0	2,320 18 9	2,443 19 6
Emergency Gifts.					
136 17 9	138 1 9	159 13 2	141 1 6	114 14 6	126 8
Ordinary Loans.					
512 0 0	549 0 0	458 2 0	619 11 6	532 5 0	651 18 0
Emergency Loans.					
70 17 0	70 8 6	77 9 0	101 12 0	100 2 0	128 11 6
2,672 12 0	2,844 2 3	2,953 15 5	3 057 11 0	3,068 0 3	3,350 17 8

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FROM JAN. 1 TO DEC. 31, 1904.
RECEIPTS.

Dr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1904		457 12 6
,, Subscriptions and Donations	916 8 1	
,, Tax on Professional Admissions to Sixteen Theatres	59 1 4	
		975 9 5
,, Bequests—		
Wilson Barrett	1,000 0 0	
Nellie Farren	500 0 0	
Walter Pallant	100 0 0	
		1,600 0 0
,, Proceeds of Benefits, &c—		
Cricket Match at Kennington Oval, 1903, balance	4 2 2	
Sunderland Charity Carnival	5 0 0	
Hull Floral Matinée	10 10 0	
West Bromwich Charity Sports	1 1 0	
Sale of Unclaimed Property at Court Theatre, Liverpool	5 6 6	
Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, Charity Fund	10 0 0	
Birmingham Theatrical Charity Sports	10 0 0	
Liverpool Theatrical Gala	45 0 0	
St. Mary-at-Hill Church Offertory	2 2 0	
Concert of R.M.S. Kenilworth Castle	26 5 0	
Matinée of *Trilby* at His Majesty's Theatre	282 4 5	
Belfast Theatrical Gala	10 0 0	
Cricket Match at Kennington Oval, 1904 (on account)	83 0 0	
		424 11 1
,, Covent-garden Theatre Fund		740 11 2
,, Arrears on last year's Dinner (H. Beerbohm Tree, Esq., in the Chair)		250 1 0
,, Net proceeds to date of Fourteenth Annual Dinner (Sir Edward Clarke, K.C., in the Chair)		690 11 9
,, Autographs of our principal Actors and Actresses		188 9 6
,, Interest on Investments:—		
Helen Faucit Endowment	60 8 0	
Sir Charles Wyndham's Gift	70 14 8	
Other Investments	624 4 11	
		755 7 7

NOTE.

Investments held:—		
2½ per Cent. Consols	1,490 0 0	
3 per Cent. India Stock	3,201 2 11	
3½ per Cent. India Stock	17,525 14 11	
2½ per Cent. B Account	1,725 19 2	
	£23,942 17 0	£6,032 14 0

C. I. COLTSON,
Secretary.

8, Adam-street, Adelphi, W.C.

PAYMENTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Grants and Allowances (inclusive of the expenses of eighteen burials)		2,570 8 2
,, Loans	780 9 6	
Less repaid	92 16 6	
		687 13 0
,, Medicine Account		1 0 0
,, National Telephone		9 0 0
,, Collecting Boxes and Letter Cases		8 15 0
,, Salaries		457 17 6
,, Advertising		37 7 0
,, Printing and Stationery		37 0 0
,, Rent of Offices		90 0 0
,, Miscellaneous Expenses (including Poundage, Postages, &c.)		61 15 7
,, Housekeeper's Expenses (including Coals, &c)		21 6 0
,, Investment to Capital (Bequests)		1,500 0 0
,, At Bankers: Current Account	521 7 5	
,, In hands of Secretary	29 4 4	
		550 11 9
		£6,032 14 0

Audited and found correct,
WESTCOTT, MASKALL, and CO.,
Chartered Accountants.
99, Gresham-street, E.C., Jan. 7, 1905.

The following is a list of the local centres:—

Aberdeen	Her Majesty's T.	Arthur, R.
Blackburn	Prince's T.	Page, E. H.
Bradford	T. R. and O. H.	Hart, J.
Bristol	Prince's T.	Chute, J. M.
Brighton	Theatre Royal	Beryl, H. Cecil
Bury St. Edmunds	Theatre Royal	Nunn, C. H.
Cardiff	Theatre Royal	Redford, R.
Crewe	Lyceum T.	Taylor, H.
Dublin	Gaiety Theatre	Hyland, Charles
Dundee	Her Majesty's T	Arthur, R.
Edinburgh	Lyceum T.	Minshull, G. T.
Glasgow	Royalty T.	Macfarlane, H.
Hastings	Pier	Hunter, J. D.
Newcastle-on-Tyne	Tyne Theatre	Sutcliffe, F. C.
Paisley	Paisley Theatre	Savile, J. H.
Richmond	New Theatre	Hardy, Charles E.
Shrewsbury	Theatre Royal	Maddox, W. H.
Scarborough	Londesboro' T.	Waddington, W. H.
Sunderland	Avenue T.	Craig, Percival
Southampton	Grand Theatre	Paxton, Sydney
York	Theatre Royal	Waddington, W. H.

The CHAIRMAN, who, on rising, was received with applause, said:—Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is my privilege to move the adoption of the report of the committee. It is always a pleasure to aid in officially endorsing the good work of our committee, who work so unselfishly and so strenuously on behalf of the Fund; but this year it is an added pleasure that there is nothing but good to report. We have had an income of over five thousand pounds and a disbursement of over three thousand. We may, therefore, say that the Fund is in a flourishing condition. When I say this it is not to be taken that we invite applications from those who live on theatrical and other charities. We want to help the needy and the deserving of our own craft—those who have fallen on evil days, and whom misfortune has followed hard. But we have had already, and the committee are constantly having, plenty of applications from those who are absolutely worthless. It is a very serious part of the work of this Fund to weed out the many hundreds of cases which are brought before us. We try to give aid to all that are deserving, and those who have worked worthily and are in present want need never fear to approach our committee. They will always receive sympathy and all the assistance it is possible to give them. There is one thing in which I think we are not quite up to the mark, which should represent the strength and goodwill of actors as a body. Out of five thousand pounds of income, less than a thousand comes from us. Out of a body of actors in this country, of some ten thousand at any rate, only a little over seven hundred subscribe. That seems a pity, does it not? If every actor in the kingdom would subscribe one penny in the pound it would mean a magnificent income. I earnestly trust that in the future we shall see an amendment in this respect. We can but hope that one and all will give as bountifully and generously to the Fund as their means will allow. You cannot do more, but if you will do that much may be done. As the report states, we have, unhappily, lost many staunch and generous supporters in the year that has gone. Amongst them is Wilson Barrett, who was one of the earliest friends of the Fund, and who assisted largely in its inception. He left a very handsome donation in his will. So also did poor Nellie Farren, whose name, through her bequest as otherwise, will be enshrined in our annals. Mr Staats Forbes was a very generous and thoughtful friend, and the year of his chairmanship of the dinner was a memorable one to us. We have also lost good friends in Mr Scudamore and Mr Walter Pallant. Of late there have been many suggestions of how to increase our receipts—all, or nearly all, of which are based on getting money out of the pockets of others than ourselves. What we want is cash, and this the working profession does not give adequately; we are all agreed upon that. Nor can there be any doubt as to the good work the Fund does. Managers already do their share—some times they do more than their share—and we are greatly indebted to them. But the schemes variously suggested are mainly wanting in pecuniary effort on the part of our own people. We do not, I assure you, refuse or despise assistance, and we are grateful for any interest shown in our work, both from within and without our own calling, but until actors give a little more generously I think we had better call a halt with regard to schemes, some of which actually suggest a different means of distribution from our own. We have already, in the shape of our annual dinner, an institution which allows our sympathisers from without our own ranks to show their appreciation of the art we follow; and as I see that one whole fifth of our income of this year is derived from this source, it is a pretty good proof that this effort is a good and well-directed one. Our warmest thanks are due to Sir Edward Clarke for his eloquent appeal on behalf of the fund at our last dinner. Perhaps the strongest plea to some of us springs from our own recollections of our early days of struggle—from episodes in our own lives which kindle the warmest feelings in our hearts; and I have the greatest faith in the future of this Fund, which so often stretches forth the helping hand in the hour of peril and of need.

Mr GEORGE ALEXANDER, in seconding the resolution, said they must all feel gratified by the admirable speech they had just listened to, and he could only re-echo what the Chairman had said—that the true solution of how to improve the position of the Fund lay with the actors themselves. A good deal had been said of late about the improvement in the position of the actor, and if members of the profession desired to maintain this improvement they could not do better than become annual subscribers to the Fund. He was sure that the managers of the London and provincial theatres had done all in their power to place the Fund in a good position, and it only remained for the actors and actresses themselves to co-operate and give their support. He thought it would be a great pity to make any more appeals for help to the outside public unless they could first show that they were ready and willing to look after their own interests.

The motion was then carried.

Mr TREE then moved and Sir SQUIRE BANCROFT seconded that Mr Edward Terry be elected a trustee of the Fund in the place of the late much-lamented Mr Wilson Barrett.

This proposal having been agreed to,

Mr C. AUBREY SMITH moved a vote of thanks to the committee. He said he felt sure they were all interested in the Fund at heart, and those who were called upon by their respective managers to take part in any performance given on its behalf most readily acceded to the request. The management of a fund of that kind involved a great deal of real work, and entailed a serious sacrifice of time and money. This work devolved upon the committee, and how readily and thoroughly they did their work very few realised. There was very little kudos to be gained, and not many thanks, but they did it in the kindness of their hearts. One member of the committee actually travelled 100 miles—fifty miles to London and fifty the return journey—every week to voluntarily perform his allotted task. He had great pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks.

Mr AUGUSTUS SPALDING, in seconding the resolution, said he could endorse every word Mr Aubrey Smith had said with regard to the work of the committee. He represented, as it were, the outsiders to whom the chairman had referred, and he for one took a great interest in the Fund, and had done his best to get outside subscribers. But he felt that it could not be expected that outsiders would assist unless it was seen that the actors as a body were prepared to assist themselves. He had great pleasure in seconding the motion, and should continue to do his utmost as an outsider to get new subscribers.

The motion having been carried,

Mr MORRIS ABRAHAMS replied on behalf of the committee. He said he had once more the privilege and the pleasure of thanking them most sincerely for this vote. If he were not a member of the committee, he should have no hesitation in saying it was a vote of thanks that was richly deserved, but, as it was, he must content himself with assuring the meeting that the committee did their work most energetically and carefully, and with due regard to those who gave as well as those who received. He had listened most attentively to the eloquent speech of the chairman, and there was one part he thoroughly endorsed, and that was with regard to the small percentage of actors who subscribed. It was strange that while the theatrical profession were always found willing to assist every deserving charity there were so many members of it who did not support their own Fund. But everything came to those who waited, and the committee had waited a long time for an increase in the membership, but had been sadly disappointed. He sincerely hoped that those who engaged in the good work of supporting other charities would remember the old adage, "Charity begins at home," and resolve to become subscribers to the Fund, and thus support one of the best and most deserving charitable institutions in this country.

Mr E. H. BULL said it was his privilege and pleasure to propose a cordial vote of thanks to the Fund's honorary officers. As a member of the committee he could bear testimony to the valuable work done by the officers whenever called upon. It was only right that this work should be recognised by offering them on an occasion like this their sincere thanks. The vote included the hon. standing counsel, Mr J. Safford; the hon. solicitors, Messrs J. Mote and Son; the hon. auditors, Messrs W. Westcott, Maskall, and Co.; the hon. physicians, Drs. G. Stoker, F. Horton Villanueva, C. Atkin Swan, and R. P. Middlemist; also the hon. dental surgeon, Mr P. De Pinto, and their re-election.

Mr FREDK. WRIGHT seconded the resolution, which was carried, and acknowledged by Mr MOTE, Mr H. H. COLE on behalf of the auditors, Dr MIDDLEMIST, and Mr P. DE PINTO.

Messrs Henry Evill, C. Aubrey Smith, and Belmore were then appointed scrutineers of votes in case of a contest in the election of members of the committee.

Sir SQUIRE BANCROFT said—I am in the happy position of knowing beforehand that my words will be very welcome to you all. I think I have said before, and there is no harm in saying it again, what one very earnestly feels, that brevity and sincerity are closely allied. It is my special privilege to ask you to thank our dear friend Henry Irving for his presence here to-day, and to re-elect our chief to the position which he does us the honour to fulfil as President of the Actors' Benevolent Fund. He is our chief, as you all well know, by the great and splendid position which he has so justly earned. He is our chief by the great and splendid services he has for so many years rendered the art he loves so dearly. He is our chief by the example he has set us all throughout these long years by constant acts of kindness to those who were in humbler positions than himself—acts of kindness known to few. I hope, ladies and gentlemen, that he feels that none love him better than the members of his own calling, and that none know better how much he deserves their love. In the words of the great poet he has served so long, let me say, "Sir, your presence makes us rich."

Mr GEORGE ALEXANDER, in seconding the resolution, said:—I need hardly say that every word spoken by Sir Squire Bancroft is echoed, not only by those who know Sir Henry Irving, but I believe by every actor and actress who speaks the English tongue. I hope it may be for many years our privilege to welcome him in the chair at the Fund's annual meeting, and we may be sure that during his absence from his native land his thoughts are ever with us all.

Sir HENRY IRVING, in reply, said—One would indeed be made of sorry stuff if one were not moved by the words from two very dear and affectionate friends whom I hold in deep esteem, and I have to thank you for your kind response. I have been strolling about a good deal lately, and like the Arab, pitched my tent here and there, and it is very nice to find such a soft spot as this just for a short time. I shall be glad if the opportunity should come to put down my little bit of carpet and once again appear before you. My services are not, I fear, worth very much, but such as they are are yours. At a meeting like this I feel and recognise that goodfellowship which has been and ought to be the great bond of our calling, and which should always exist between us.

Mr J. D. BEVERIDGE said it was his pleasing duty to propose a vote of thanks to their good friend Mr George Alexander for the use of his theatre. He had granted them another privilege denied the outside public, inasmuch as he had made his reappearance on his own stage in a favourite character of his—a good friend of the Actors' Benevolent Fund. Mr Alexander had in other ways assisted the Fund for many years; and he asked them to join him in a cordial vote of thanks to their excellent friend.

Mr A. B. TAPPING seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr GEORGE ALEXANDER, in response, said he was at all times delighted to give the use of his theatre for this meeting. He only hoped that the eloquent appeal made by Sir Henry Irving to non-subscribers to the Fund would bear good fruit. Mr Beveridge had referred to his reappearance on the stage that day. During several months Mr Beveridge had been his tutor, and if they saw any marked improvement in his performance they might place it to the credit of his friend Mr Beveridge.

The meeting then separated.

A REPERTORY THEATRE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Is there a public ready for the repertory theatre so eagerly advocated by our leading London actor-managers? Is there not a suspicion of an undercurrent of anxiety lest they lose, what all strive to attain, a hundred-night consecutive run by the "pay-going" public being attracted to the correctly termed "variety temples"?

Surely the secret of a "run" is the nightly advertisement of a well-pleased audience, each having taken the word of a previous visitor that their money and time will be profitably spent. Why are there so many "one-night failures"? Because the demand of the "pay-going" public is not supplied.

Yours faithfully, HENRY TWEEDIE
(Touring Business Manager of Fifteen Years' Experience).
45, Cresswell-road, Twickenham, Jan. 19.

"BOOKING FIT AND GALLERY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Mr George Alexander, having signified his intention of booking pit and gallery seats, it is gratifying to find that my plea for booking pit and gallery which I made at the O.P. Club, when I read a paper on "The Discomforts of Playgoing," has at last borne fruit, and that the time when playgoers can book seats in the cheaper parts of the house is steadily drawing near. It is to be hoped that all managers will follow Mr George Alexander's spirited example. Every playgoer must wish him success.

Yours faithfully, CARL HENTSCHEL
The O.P. Club, Jan. 15.

AT the Paris Opéra Comique on Tuesday night the refrain of a song, "Au jeu! Au jeu!" ("To the Game!") was mistaken by a member of the audience for "Au feu! Au feu!" ("Fire!"), and by repeating the words at the top of his voice he created a temporary panic. Several spectators made for the doors, and some persons on the upper floors ran out on to the balconies outside the theatre and called for help. Eventually the panic was subdued, and the performance of *Manon* proceeded.

ON THE ROAD, JAN. 23.

ALADDIN (DOTTRIDGE).—Theatre Royal, Hull.
ALHAMBRA (LONDON).—Empire Theatre, Oldham.
ALHAMBRA (N.).—Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank.
ARMADALE REPERTOIRE.—T. R., Whitehaven.
AUSTIN, MISS MARY.—Court Theatre, Bacup.
BABES IN THE WOOD (BODE).—Greenock.
BABES IN THE WOOD (LAVAINE).—Birkenhead.
BANDMANN-PALMER, MRS.—C. T., Warrington.
BEAUTIFUL AVENGER.—Theatre Royal, Colne.
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (RAY).—O. H., Wakefield.
BENSON, MR F. R. (A).—Theatre Royal, Belfast.
BENSON, MR F. R. (B).—Kilkenny.
BEST MUST WIN.—Avenue Theatre, Kettering.
BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH.—Tunbridge Wells.
BO-PEEP (RAY).—Theatre Royal, Stockport.
BOUND TO WIN.—Theatre Royal, Rugby.
BULMER, MR.—King's Theatre, Cardiff.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (M.).—Reading
CHINESE HONEYMOON (MACDONA)(N.).—Kirkealdy.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (MACDONA)(S.)—Bromsgr've.
CHRISTIAN (CROKE).—King's, Ebbw Vale.
CINDERELLA (BODE).—Theatre Royal, Norwich.
CINGALEE.—Southampton.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—Royalty Theatre, Chester.
CONSCRIPT.—Theatre Royal, Goole.
COUNTRY GIRL (M.).—Rochdale.
COUNTRY GIRL (N.).—Bishop Auckland.
COUNTRY GIRL (S.)—Worcester.
COUSIN KATE.—Brighton.
CRIMSON CLUB.—Metropole Theatre, Hoyland.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—T. R., Stratford, E.
DEFENDING HIS HONOUR.—O. H., Kidderminster.
DICK WHITTINGTON (BODE).—New T., Swindon.
DICK WHITTINGTON (KIDDIE).—L. T., Sheffield.
D'OYLY CARTE.—Theatre Royal, Cardiff.
DRAMA OF LIFE.—Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.
DUCHESS OF DANTZIC.—Oxford.
DUKE OF KILLICRANKIE (LOVEL).—Falkirk.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—N. T., West Stanley.
FATAL WEDDING (M.)—Theatre Royal, Batley.
FATAL WEDDING (N.).—Grand T., Halifax.
FATAL WEDDING (FIT-UP).—T. R., Shrewsbury
FEMALE SWINDLER.—Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth
FIGHT FOR MILLIONS—O. H., Middlesbrough.
FLORODORA (DAVIS).—Court Theatre, Wigan.
FORTY THIEVES (DOTTRIDGE).—T. R., Ashton.
FORTY THIEVES—Gaiety Theatre, Leith.
FRIVOLITY—Miners' Theatre, Ashington.
GAY PARISIENNE—Salisbury.
GIRL FROM BOND STREET—P. P., Eastbourne.
GIRL FROM KAY'S (N.)—Swansea.
GOODY TWO SHOES (DOTTRIDGE).—T. R., Sheffield.
GOLDEN LADDER.—Lyceum Theatre, Newport.
GO-WON-GO-MOHAWK.—St. J. T., Manchester.
GRIP OF IRON.—Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.
GRIP OF THE LAW.—Burslem.
HARVEST OF SIN.—Lyceum Theatre, Pentre.
HER ONE GREAT SIN.—Dumfries.
HONOUR THY FATHER.—Carlton Theatre, Saltley.
INDIAN MUTINY.—Opera House, Dudley.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Sunbury.
LADDER OF LIFE.—Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.
LADY OF OSTEND.—E., Southend.
LAUGHTER-LAND—Queen's Theatre, Leeds.
LIGHTNING'S FLASH.—Queen's Theatre, Dublin.
LITTLE CINDERELLA (KIDDIE).—T. R., Rotherham.
LONDON ACTRESS.—Star Theatre, Liverpool.
LONDON FISHMAN.—Victoria T., West Stanley.
MAN TO MAN.—P. O. W. T., Southampton.
MANXMAN.—Theatre Royal, Windsor.
MARRIAGE OF KITTY.—Theatre Royal, Dover.
MESSAGE FROM MARS.—G. T., Wolverhampton.
MIDNIGHT MAIL—Theatre Royal, Croydon.
MOCKERY OF MARRIAGE.—Northwich.
MONSIEUR BEAUCAIRE.—T. R., Loughborough.
MOODY-MANNERS (A).—Opera House, Cork.
MOODY-MANNERS (B).—Lyceum Theatre, Crewe.
MOODY MANNERS (O).—Stranraer.
NEW HOUSEMAID.—Theatre Royal, Torquay.
NEW MEPHISTO.—O. H., Harrogate.
ORCHID.—York
PENALTY OF CRIME.—Dunfermline.
PRINCE OF ROGUES.—Horwich.
PROOF.—Theatre Royal, Merthyr Tydvil.
PUSS IN BOOTS (BODE).—T. R., Bury.
RED RIDING HOOD (ELAND'S).—P. H., Barnsley.
REVENGE.—Theatre Royal, South Shields.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Theatre Royal, Stockton.
ROYAL REVENGE (CLYNDES)—Coventry.
SAPHO (ANNIE HILL).—T. R., Coatbridge.
SATURDAY TO MONDAY—Folkestone.
SCHOOL GIRL (MACDONA)—Grimsby.
SHERLOCK HOLMES—St. Helens.
SILVER KING—Lyceum Theatre, Eccles,
SINBAD THE SAILOR (LAVAINE)—Saltley.
SIN OF HER CHILDHOOD—A. T., Brighouse
SLEDGE-HAMMER—Grand Theatre, Nelson.
STRANGE ADVENTURES OF MISS BROWN.—Margate
SUNDAY—Metropole Theatre Birkenhead.
SWISS EXPRESS.—Theatre Royal, Colchester.
THREE LITTLE MAIDS (MACDONA)(S.)—Folkestone.
TRAITOR.—Theatre Royal, Sunderland.
TRAITOR PRINCE—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
TRIP TO CHINATOWN.—Theatre Royal, Blackburn.
TWO HUSSARS.—Star Theatre, Swansea.
TWO LITTLE SAILOR BOYS.—L. T., Ipswich.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN (HARRINGTON).—Kilmarnock.
UNDER TWO FLAGS.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
VERONIQUE.—Plymouth.
VICTIM OF VILLAINY—Theatre Royal, Barnsley.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH—Theatre Royal, Leigh.
WARNER, GRACE—Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.
WAY OF THE WORLD.—A. T., Dudley Port.
WEARIN' O' THE GREEN.—T. R., North Shields.
WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN—G. T., Doncaster.
WOMAN'S DEVOTION.—Victoria T., Broughton.
10·30 DOWN EXPRESS.—Bootle.

A COPY OF "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

AN interesting representation recently took place at the Marlborough Theatre when Miss Simeta Marsden, the principal boy in *Aladdin*, was made the recipient of a magnificent diamond ring, won by her in an open competition to decide the most popular pantomime artist in the United Kingdom. The presentation was made by Ally Sloper, F.O.M., of *Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday*, in connection with whose paper the competition is being conducted. Miss Marsden was the winner of the first of thirteen rings, to be given one each week till the pantomime season closes. There was a crowded house, and the audience accorded a vociferous reception to Sloper, who made the presentation at the conclusion of the Cave Scene. Miss Marsden thanked the donor in a few humorous and well-chosen words.

AT Wednesday's meeting of the Lambeth Board of Guardians the invitation of Mr J. M. Herriot, general manager of the Brixton Theatre, for the children of the Norwood Poor Law Schools, under the control of the Guardians, to visit the theatre at a matinée and witness the pantomime was again discussed. It will be remembered that at their meeting last week it was decided by ten votes to seven to decline the invitation. The Rev. E. Denny failed to see that any harm could come to children from witnessing the pantomime, and moved that the resolution passed last week be revoked. After a short discussion this was carried by ten votes to seven, the voting being thus completely reversed.

MISS MAGDA WILDENBUEG is, we are glad to hear, much better after her illness, and will resume work shortly.—Little Miss Maudie Ray will resume the part of Toto, in *Zaza*, with Mrs Lewis Waller on the 30th inst., making her third tour with Mrs Waller's company. Little Maudie is not only a clever child actress, but a writer of stories. One of her sketches, *Jack Frost*, was produced on the 2nd inst. at a Sunday School entertainment with success, Miss Ray stage-managing the "production."

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

HICKS.—Jan. 16, at 53, Bedford-square, the wife of Seymour Hicks (Miss Ellaline Terriss), of a daughter.

ZALVA.—Jan. 18, at 19, Chapelfield-road, Norwich, the wife of George Alva, of a daughter. Both well.

MARRIAGES.

SMITH—DOUGLAS.—Jan. 8, at Dudley, A. E. Smith, theatrical manager, to Elsie Douglas.

SMITH-NEILL—LANGLEY.—Jan. 20, by special licence, G. J. Smith-Neill, of Brighton, to Clarice Langley (Two Graces).

WALONELL—LEWIS.—Jan. 17, at Bath, by licence, Jack Athos Walonell to Isabel Lewis.

DEATHS.

BRADBURY.—Jan. 5, at Bexley, Kent, after a short illness, Chas. W. Bradbury, late of the Bradburys (Chas. and Lillie). Mourned by his wife and children. R.I.P.

CHANDLER.—Jan. 16, at the Glasgow Infirmary, Lennox Chandler, vocalist, aged thirty, the beloved husband of Mena Eckermann.

A loving husband, a broken-hearted wife.

LEOPOLD.—Jan. 16, Bertha (Mrs H. Val Kimm), daughter of the late Harry Leopold, aged twenty six. Never forgotten by her loving mother, sister, and darling children, Victor and Georgina. Interred Highgate, Friday, Jan. 20.

MURRAY.—Jan. 12, at Mount Pleasant, Chilcompton, Bath, George Edward Sykes (professionally known as J. K. Murray), aged sixty-four, the husband of Ada Amelia Pounder (professionally known as Miss Ada Murray), and father of Kate, George, and Percy Murray. Dear old dad, gone, but not forgotten.

His wife, Ada Murray
His daughter, Kitty Murray
His son, George Murray
His son, Percy Murray
} Sykes.

PIKE.—Jan. 15, at 116, Villiers-street, Dresden, Longton, Staffs, Richard Jarvis Pike, late bandmaster R.N. Interment at Dresden Parish Church, Thursday, Jan. 19, 1905, 3 0 o'clock. R.I.P. American and Australian papers please copy.

PURKISS.—Jan. 16, at 12, Harvard-road, Gunnersbury, M. A. Purkiss, widow of the late W. T. Purkiss, aged seventy-two.

IN MEMORIAM.

ANATO.—In ever-loving memory of Mdlle. Nina Anato, wife of Mr Walter Melbourne, who fell asleep Jan. 23, 1889.

CLARKE.—In loving memory of my dear wife, Eliza Clarke, wife of William Clarke, cinématographist, who departed this life on Jan. 16, 1904. Gone from all sorrow and sickness and pain. Deeply mourned by husband and family.

EASTON.—In loving memory of my dear sister, Maud Easton, who passed away Jan. 22, 1904. Never forgotten by her brother, William Easton, costumier.

LEMAN.—In loving memory of Charles Leman, professionally known as Charles Sutton, stump orator, also as Buntb, of Bunth and Rudd, who passed away at Moscow, Jan. 27, 1904. Peace and rest. Never forgotten by his wife and boysey.

LOCKHART.—In ever loving memory of my beloved husband, George Lockhart, who died Jan. 24 1904. Never forgotten by his sorrowing wife.

Never forgotten, but ever near me.
Tho' death has stilled thy loving heart,
Dearest, in all my best affections;
Oh bitter grief with the to part.

TAYLOR.—In most loving memory of J. G. Taylor, who passed away on Jan. 17, 1904, the loving and dearly loved father of Chisholm (Kit), Alexander (Mac), and Douglas (Pat) Taylor.

FOR SYMPATHY.

THE late George Edward Sykes, professionally known as J. K. Murray.—Emilie Dawson Murray and children thank the many, many kind friends, especially Edward Sykes (brother), Walter Melville, Grace Otway Oldfield, Charles and Ida Franmore, and over 200 letters and wires of sympathy. Silence is golden.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

(SPECIAL TO THE ERA.)

A MEETING of the Society of Theatrical Carpenters will be held on Sunday at 8 30 in the Salisbury Hotel, St. Martin's-lane. All members are urged to attend.

A SPECIAL meeting of theatrical stage employees will be held in Glasgow on Sunday at 6 30, at 11, Maitland-street. All sections of the working staff in the Glasgow theatres and music halls are invited to be present.

MR THOMAS BARRASFORD has very kindly granted the staff at the Lyceum Music Hall an increase of pay. The stage men are now receiving 3s. per night, instead of 2s., and 2s. per matinée. Some recent changes in the conditions of employment at the Coliseum have also improved matters for the staff.

A FUND is being raised to assist the parents of the jockey who met with his death at the Coliseum the other day. Amongst the givers are the Coliseum, Limited, £2 2s.; Mr Oswald Stoll, £2 2s.; Mr Eugene Stratton, £2 2s.; and Miss Madge Lessing, £1 1s. Many other members of the company have also subscribed.

PREPARATIONS are being made for the annual general meeting of the Heads of Departments Association. Members wishing to submit any proposal for the consideration of the members, and nominations for election to any office, are requested to furnish the secretaries with particulars in writing.

THE second annual dinner of the No. 1 Branch (London) of the National Union Theatrical Stage Employees was a great success. The repast was provided at the Nag's Head Hotel, James-street, Covent-garden. Mr Charles Thorogood (branch president) presided, and eighty-five sat down to dinner. Among those present were Messrs H. R. Kimpton, J. Cullen, and W. Barbour, St. James's Theatre; Messrs Langley, Thomas, Godfrey, Wilson, and others, Alhambra; Mr H. Powell and Mr Ed. Wilks, Prince of Wales's Theatre; Mr A. E. Wood and Mr A. George, Grand Theatre; Mr J. Hands (?) Pavilion Theatre; Messrs Ed Keating, W. J. Hindley, P. Smith, Covent-garden; Messrs A. Lenton and L. R. Chantrell, Adelphi Theatre; Messrs Ed. Stow, A. Dudley, and C. Morrish, Lyric; Messrs J. Rich, J. Phelps, Larner, Skinner, Coombes, Dyer, Gooch, and Fitzmaurice, Drury-lane; Messrs Dalgarno, Burton, Dennison, Barrett, and Fuller, Empire; Messrs Farrell and Forman Robson, the New Theatre; Mr H. Bowmer, Gaiety; Messrs C. Terry, J. Atterton, and others, Grand Theatre. A large number attended the smoking concert given after the dinner. Among those who contributed to the entertainment were Messrs Will Randall, R. Chantrell, J. Warner, M. Baker, P. Scott, W. J. Hindley, and others. Mr F. Francis White accompanied. Several toasts were proposed, and the proceedings terminated at 11 0 o'clock. The dinner stewards were Messrs Thorogood, P. Thomas, and William Johnson.

NOTICES and reports of meetings, &c., are invited from the various societies with which stage employees are connected.

WHEN Mr Sydney Brough leaves the cast of *Lady Windermere's Fan*, at the St. James's Theatre, his part of Tuppy will be taken by Mr Eric Lewis.

HISTORIC PROVINCIAL PLAYHOUSE.

BY T. H. BARROW.—VIII.

Tate Wilkinson's comparison of Peg Woffington with Miss Farren is amusing if only in its analytical respects: "Their complexions and features much alike—Miss Farren will be more like ten years hence, before which time I hope she will be distinguished by some other appellation.

MRS WOFFINGTON.	MISS FARREN.
Mrs Woffington was tall.	So is Miss Farren.
Mrs Woffington was beautiful.	So is Miss Farren.
Mrs Woffington was elegant.	So is Miss Farren.
Mrs Woffington was well-bred	So is Miss Farren.
Mrs Woffington had wit.	So has Miss Farren.
Mrs Woffington had a harsh, but keen, and discordant voice.	Miss Farren's musical and bewitching.
Mrs Woffington could be rude and vulgar.	Miss Farren never."

Five years after the publication of his Memoirs Tate had issued a work in four volumes, entitled "The Wandering Patentee; or, a History of the

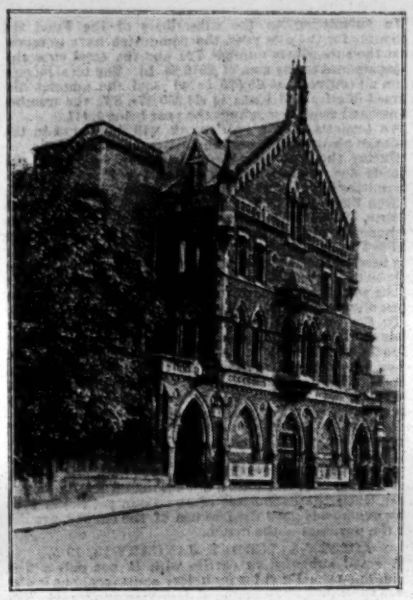

Photo by Debenham and Co., York.

THEATRE ROYAL, YORK.

Yorkshire Theatres from 1770 to 1795." In early theatrical literature this effort takes high rank, William Burton, one of Tate's comedians, issued in 1801 a poetical pamphlet, entitled "A Pasquinade on the Performers of the York Company." In his introduction he remarked, "I have solicited the patronage of no person of distinction, for I am convinced my writings will sell as well without a dedication as with one." His contemporaries believed this to be a quiet prod at Tate!

A quaint and amusing character of the York Theatre in those days was Johnny Winter, the wardrobe keeper, who abhorred spectacular plays because they caused him to exert himself. When it was decided to revive *Coriolanus* Johnny's mind almost became unhinged. "That John Kemble and Shakespeare," Charles Mathews, the comedian, once heard him petulantly exclaim, "have given me more trouble than all the other people in t' world put together and my spouse into t' bargain!" An affected or conceited actor was certain to provoke Johnny's personal resentment and open criticism.

Mrs Eliza Kirkham Mathews, the wife of Charles Mathews, died at York on April 27, 1802, and her remains were interred in the burial ground of St. Mary, Castlegate, York, almost under the shadow of the Castle walls.

Tate Wilkinson breathed his last on Aug. 25, 1803, having attained his sixty-second year. Lying very ill, he knew the inevitable dissolution was near, and expressed his wish that in the event of his death the theatre should not be closed. York races were being held that week, thousands of visitors were in the city, and from a financial point of view it was an important time for the theatre. The company decided to perform, and the receipts that night were over £100; but the news of Tate's death had spread throughout the city, and there was a settled gloom all over the house. The following day this announcement was made public:—"York, Aug. 26, 1803.—In consequence of the death of Mr Wilkinson, the trustees under his will most respectfully inform the public that they feel it to be their duty to continue the theatre open this evening, Saturday and Monday, when it will finally close until the winter season."

Deep in the affections of his friends, Tate was sadly missed. His demise was sincerely deplored by the theatre-going public, because he always strived to give them the best entertainments the resources of the profession would allow; and he was genuinely mourned by his company because he was always just, tolerant, and encouraging, without a semblance of partiality. His remains were deposited in the north aisle of the picturesque old church of All Saints in the Pavement, York, and here a simple mural tablet, commemorating his birth and death, assures all who read it that they "will not look upon his like again."

Tate's daughter, Miss Wilkinson (afterwards Mrs Mountain), became an actress of distinction, and was very popular on the York circuit. Indeed, so greatly was she esteemed that when the famous

Photo by Arthur and Co., York.

THE OLD CRYPT,
THEATRE ROYAL, YORK.

Mrs Jordan left for Drury-lane the regular patrons of the drama in York insisted that Miss Wilkinson should succeed her as the leading lady in the local stock company. She was a woman of great accomplishments—vocalist as well as elocutionist, and in 1804 she appeared alone in an entertainment composed of recitations and songs entitled "The Lyric Novelist; or, Life Epitomised," which Mr Cherry had written for her. That literary talent in the stock company was not confined to the patentee is shown by the fact that in 1812 one of the comedians, Charles Wood, edited a work entitled "The Influence of Freemasonry upon Society &c., with an Oration."

(To be continued).

MR MICHAEL NOLAN, who returns to town after a hard provincial tour, is taking two weeks' rest previous to making his welcome reappearance to his eager London admirers.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DIE NEUGIERIGEN FRAUEN."
Musical Comedy, in Three Acts, by G. Wolf-Ferrari, Words by Count Sugana,
Produced at the Theatre des Westens Jan. 14.

Ottavio	Herr STAMMER
Beatrice	Fräulein GASTON
Rosaura	Fräulein DONINGER
Florindo	Herr HANSEN
Pantalone	Herr FOHL
Lelio	Herr JEISSLER
Leandro	Herr BELOW
Arlechino	Herr ZIEGLER
Colombina	Fräulein LINDA
Eleonora	Fräulein FISCHER
Lunardo	Herr BRUCKNER
Asdrubale	Herr CONRAD
Almoro	Herr KAYSER
Alvise	Herr RICHTER
Moemolo	Herr KORNIG
Menego	Herr SPRETTZER
Diener	Herr BONDI

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, JAN. 19.—An undisputed and great success fell to the lot of this delightful little work, one of the prettiest comic operas ever put upon a stage. The composer had been prevented at the last moment from leaving Venice to be present at the première—so said Director Prasch—but the popular manager, who was enthusiastically "called," told the audience he would telegraph the result without delay. The plot is simplicity itself, and without any confusing complications. The book, originally adapted by Count Luigi Sugana from Goldoni, has been translated into excellent German by Herr Teibler. The action passes in Venice in the middle of the eighteenth century. Pantalone, a wealthy citizen and an acknowledged enemy of the fair sex, has founded a men's club, where, on certain evenings, there is a little card playing, an exquisite dinner, and general merry-making. It is all very innocent, but the strict law that no woman is to pass the threshold rouses the curiosity of the ladies to frenzy. The wives of Ottavio and Lelio (friends of Pantalone), Beatrice and Eonora, and Ottavio's pretty daughter, Rosaura, who is betrothed to Florindo, are determined to get at the mysteries hidden within the walls of the house frequented by their mankind, and resort to every possible ruse to obtain their end, aided by Colombina, maid to Beatrice and Rosaura. The men prove obdurate—that is, the married ones—no amount of pleading has the desired effect; but Beatrice and Eleonora manage to steal the secret keys out of their husband's coat pockets, while Rosaura finally—by a series of fainting fits, fits of alternate anger and coaxing—succeeds in obtaining her lover's keys. Then there is proportionate rejoicing among the inquisitive women, who all arrive by moonlight, accompanied by Colombina, at the scene of action, some coming on foot, some by gondola. Pantalone's servant, Arlechino, however, is a match for them, and on the look-out. In the darkness he wrests the keys from each of the ladies in turn, and their plan appears frustrated, but merry little Colombina comes to the rescue, and makes Arlechino—who is in love with her—give the keys back again. With a cry of joy the four inquisitive ones now enter the building. The scene changes, and we see the antechamber of a dining hall, where the graceless masculines—arrayed in rose wreaths—are assembled awaiting the summons to supper. When they are gone the four women enter, somewhat astonished at not finding a scene of iniquity ready to their hand. Looking through a space between the folding doors they see all there is to be seen—a very harmless and jovial supper party. Slightly ashamed of themselves for their suspicions, they are about to leave again as softly as they have come when the doors burst open and they are discovered. The anger of the husbands is soon softened, the lovers are happy to be together anywhere, and Pantalone is pacified too in the end, so that all ends in a merry song and dance. Wolf-Ferrari's music is delightful from beginning to end. It is melodious, original, and never loses the light, airy character of a comic opera. The orchestration is admirably conceived, not merely accompanying the voices, but expressing all that they are singing. There is most certainly a successful career in store for *Die Neugierigen Frauen*, no matter upon what stage it appears. The interpretation was an excellent one. Fräuleins Doninger and Linda sang and acted charmingly. Fräulein Gaston is always good in whatever rôle she undertakes, and Herren Stammer and Hansen gave particularly good renderings. Kapellmeister Pfitzner—himself a composer of much merit—conducted with customary skill, and it was only just that Herr Prasch caused him to come forward to receive his share of the enthusiastic applause. A word as to the mounting, which was undertaken by the master-hand of Director Prasch himself. Each act is divided into two scenes, and each scene was mounted with consummate taste. The first scene of the last act, a moonlight scene, with a view of St. Mark's-square, was equal to anything I have ever witnessed at the Royal Opera.

GRILLPARZER'S five-act drama, *König Ottokar's Glück und Ende* was put in the bill at the Schauspiel Haus last week, or rather at the New Royal Opera, where the Schauspiel-Haus company are playing. The piece—which has already been detailed in your columns—is not the famous dramatist's best, but it is powerful and poetic by turns, and some of the scenes created a deep impression. Unfortunately, neither the stage nor the auditorium of "Kroll's" are suited to the demands of a work of this kind; the effect was far greater at the performance some time ago at the Schauspiel-Haus. Herr Matkowsky gave the title-rôle, gaining the stormy plaudits he is accustomed to. Frau Poppe, Herr Staegermann, and Herr Pohl were excellent in their respective parts.

THE alterations at the Royal Schauspiel-Haus, by-the-way, are proceeding so rapidly that it is expected the building will be ready for use in a fortnight's time. The long interim has been a severe trial to the patience of the public and to the pocket of the Crown, the New Royal Opera (Kroll's) not holding a tenth part of a Schauspiel-Haus audience.

MOSER'S laughable comedy, *Das Stiftungsfest*, made a hit at the Luisen Theatre. Time-worn as the piece is, it is nevertheless always sure to find friends, and the cast was on this particular occasion a capital one. The best renderings were those of Fräulein Hueftel as Wilhelmine, Herr Huener as Bolzau, and Herr Wald as Hartwig.

HERR PHILIPP'S spectacular farce, *New York*, has reached its fiftieth consecutive performance at the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Theatre, and is still running smoothly. The effective tableaux and bright music make the piece one of the successes of the season.

MADAME YVETTE GUILBERT is continuing her original performances—styled by courtesy concerts—in the Beethoven Hall. The latest evening brought a series of crinoline chansons, delivered by Madame Guilbert in costume, and accompanied by Mdlle. Delcourt on the clavecin.

THE Royal Opera has revived Kienzl's musical drama, *Der Evangelimann*, with some success. It has ever been a favourite work here, and not having been done for some time is new to many. The opera was followed by the effective dance-poem, *Phantasien im Bremer Ratskeller*, by Emil Graeb In the former work Fräulein Destinn achieved with Herr Kraus a great triumph; in the latter, Fräulein Dell' Era—a charming première danseuse—gained all the laurels for herself.

"MADAME SHERRY" has been revived at the Central, and the merry little operetta still possesses a good many powers of attraction. The chief interest was concentrated in Fräulein Mia Werber, who reappeared on Sunday for the first time after her long illness. No traces of indisposition were visible in the popular actress's voice or appearance; she sang and acted the part of Jane with all her customary verve and charm, and was applauded with the utmost enthusiasm.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, NOV. 29, 1904.—*Theodora* is, perhaps, the most gorgeous spectacle ever staged by Mr J. C. Williamson, and an enormous audience witnessed it at Her Majesty's on Saturday. The version acted was Robert Buchanan's translation of Sardou's play, given here in French by Sarah Bernhardt in 1891, so that now *Theodora* is heard for the first time in Australia from English-speaking actors. A most capable company supports Miss Titteli Brune, who made every possible point in portraying the woman of so many moods. Her Theodora lifts her into the front rank as a tragedienne. The curtain had to be raised several times after every act; and at the end of the play Miss Brune was too much exhausted to appear, although the whole audience called lustily for her. Mr Roy Redgrave was the Andreas, and made an ideal lover. Mr Gaston Mervale as the Illyrian Justonian was fiercely autocratic and proudly dominant; the Euphrates of Mr Albert Gran was a clever portrayal of the sycophant courtier of a barbaric age; Mr A. E. Greenaway made Marcellus heroic and soldierly; and the conspirators, Agathon, Tonidelle, Faber, and Styrax, had capital representatives in Messrs Roland Stavely, J. P. Atholwood, Paul Scardon, and Harry Sweeney. The Frenchman, Caribert, gave Mr T. W. Lloyd his chance, and he availed himself of every opportunity. Bellisarius was well acted by Mr Jeffrey Williams; Miss Mabel Lane's Antonina was strikingly handsome and excellently played; Miss Nellie Ferguson's portrait of the old fortune-teller, Tamyris, was a telling one; and the circus-rider, Calirhoe, fell to the lot of Miss Florence Gleeson, a careful actress. Miss Lillian Meyers was good as the maid Macedonia. The scenery, by Messrs John Gordon, Dixon, and Coleman, was admirable.

"TEN NIGHTS IN A BAR ROOM" was revived by Mr Walter Sanford at the Lyceum on Saturday night. Joe Morgan, the dipsomaniac, was embodied by Mr Sandford, whose work is always conscientiously done.

MELBOURNE, DEC. 2, 1904.—PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—The management is about to revive here *Sweet Nell of Old Drury*, which will be staged for a short season of six nights. Miss Nellie Stewart will appear in her favourite character of Nell Gwynn and Mr Beatty will portray King Charles. The original music, scenic effects, and gorgeous costumes will be included in the revival.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—*The Orchid* is now in its fifth week at this theatre, and large audiences watch it with increasing interest each evening. Since its first production here new features have been introduced from time to time, the latest success being a song entitled "Prehistoric Man," sung by Mr George Lauri in his inimitable style. Some charming new ballets have also been added, and all things considered this piece should hold the boards till Christmas, when Miss Tittell Brune will return for a short season.

BIJOU THEATRE.—The revival of the melodrama *When London Sleeps* has been highly successful from a managerial point of view, and is nightly filling this theatre. The scenic effects of the piece are very realistic, especially the fire scene, and there is considerable merriment during the circus scene. Mr Anderson's company will continue to occupy this theatre until Christmas, when they move over to the Theatre Royal, which has been undergoing extensive alterations, and produce the pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor*, which is now in active rehearsal.

OPERA HOUSE.—The Tivoli company has had a warm welcome back during the week. Several new artists have been added to the company, including the Sisters O'Meers, the Peschkoff Troupe of Russian dancers, Messrs Gregson and Goodfellow, dancers and sketch artists; Mr E. Wiseman, a basso from New Zealand with a fine voice; Mr Ward Lear, an American comedian, and others. All these artists have met with excellent reception.

MR J. D. LANGDON, solicitor, appearing on behalf of Mr Beerbohm Tree, asked Mr Denman, at Marlborough-street Police-court, on Wednesday, to grant licences to permit six children, four boys and two girls, to perform in *Much Ado About Nothing*, at His Majesty's Theatre. The children, he said, were already playing under licence in *The Tempest*, and every arrangement was made for their proper rest, care, and education, lessons being given them at St. Anne's schools. Mr Denman said that the only question was one of a proper interval between the matinées and the evening performances. Subdivisional-inspector Smith having mentioned that they had a rest of four hours between the performances and that medical inquiries were satisfactory, the licences were granted.

THIS week the bill at the Grand Theatre, Hanley, is headed by Miss Marie Loftus, who scores a huge success with her excellent songs; the Hoopers contribute a turn of much excellence; Athas and Collins, in their speciality act, prove most diverting; Flo Elvin sings well; and Mark Leslie, the dusky prince, is a dancer of merit; James and Marie Finney, in their aquatic performance, give a wonderful exhibition; Baroni and Kemp, in their quick-changing, contribute a pleasing entertainment; Fred Elton, comedian, is excellent; and the Gladenbecks, hand balancers and gymnasts, are exceedingly clever.

MR GEORGE MAYES, fresh from his success in *Little Red Riding Hood* at the King's Theatre, Walthamstow, will start immediately on a six weeks' tour in Devon and Cornwall, after which he is booked right up to next Christmas.

MISS ETHEL WALKER, the clever society entertainer at the piano, who was so successful at Mr Albert Chevalier's recitals at the Tivoli, and also St. James's Hall, last season, appears at the Croydon Literary Institute on Thursday next, when she is giving a two hours' "Humorous, Musical, and Elocutionary Recital," and on Wednesday, 1st prox., she is specially engaged to go as far north as West Hartlepool to entertain at an evening concert in the Town Hall there.

WE are sure all our readers will sympathise greatly with Mr Jean Seul and his wife on the death of their infant son. The sad event occurred on Monday week, the funeral being on Friday, the 13th.

AT the Hippodrome, Stoke, this week, Max Gruber heads the programme with his highly trained horse and elephant; Miss Ada Fawn sings her songs cleverly, and meets with a hearty reception; Martin Conway is, as usual, a huge success; Ernie Leech is here again, and as a ventriloquist has but few rivals; Lanos and Montes are seen in a clever acrobatic turn, which is much enjoyed; Eugene Joly, cornet player, is well received; Will Hall is a clever mimic; the Evalos on the rings are seen in a smart turn; and the animated pictures are interesting.

MR ERNEST DOTTRIDGE entertained the inmates of the local workhouse at a matinée performance of his pantomime of *Aladdin* at the Empire Theatre, Oldham, on Saturday last, and, from the cheerful aspect of both young and old, Mr Dottridge's production gladdened the hearts of poor people greatly.

MR ERNEST SHAND'S song, "By kind permission of the *Daily Mail*, by Bennett Scott, has been added by Messrs Francis, Day, and Hunter to their "Sixpenny Pops," being No. 139 of the series. By courtesy of the publishers the entire song, words and music, appeared recently both in the *Daily Mail* and the *Weekly Dispatch*.

ADVERTISERS and SUBSCRIBERS who are moving about, and who have their Copy of "THE ERA" sent direct from this Office, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, are requested to forward the Addresses for their Papers not later than the Tuesday in each Week.

"IN THE BISHOP'S CARRIAGE."

By MIRIAM MICHELSON, with Illustrations by Harrison Fisher.

London: Archibald Constable and Co., Limited.

We have had detective stories innumerable, but the autobiography of a lady thief certainly has freshness to recommend it, and Miriam Michelsen, in relating the adventures of Nance Olden, does so with much cleverness and smartness. Nance owes nothing to her bringing up; for the discipline of an asylum run by the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children had no softening touch, and the girl apparently came out of it predisposed to crime. She does not tell us how she became attached to a burglar and pickpocket named Tom Dorgan, but, when the book opens, the two have just committed a watch robbery from an old gentleman. Nance, who has the watch in her waist-belt, quietly appropriates a lady's silk-lined cloak from the station waiting-room, and noticing that a detective is paying her too much attention, bolts into a carriage, and pretends to fall asleep. She is regarded by the owner of the carriage—a bishop—as a young lady suffering from loss of memory. He puts her in charge of a rich lady friend, who sends for a doctor. Before the medical man's arrival Nance is, of course, *non est*, having changed places with the maid, who agrees to the deception for a consideration. Nance next disguises herself as a hotel boy, named Nat, who is concerned in a diamond robbery. This time it is a bolt to the appalling cry of "Stop, Thief!"

"I grabbed the diamonds to throw them from me, but I couldn't—I just couldn't! I jumped the fence where the gate was low, and with that whistle flying shrill and shriller after me I ran to the house. The room was empty. I pushed open a glass door, and fell over an open trunk that stood beside it. It bruised my knee and tore my hand, but oh!—it was nuts to me. For it was a woman's trunk filled with women's things. A skirt! A blessed skirt! And not a striped one. I threw off the bell-boy's jacket and I got into that dear dress so quick it made my head swim. The jacket was a bit tight but I didn't button it, and I'd just got a stiff little hat perched on my head when I heard the tramp of men on the side-walk, and in the dusk saw the cop's buttons at the gate. Caught? Not much. Not yet. I threw open the glass doors and walked out into the garden.

"'Miss—Omar—I wonder if it would be Miss Omar?'

"You bet I didn't take time to see who it was talking before I answered. Of course I was Miss Omar. I was Miss Anybody that had a right to wear skirts and be inside those blessed gates.

"'Ah—h! I fancied you might be. I've been expecting you.'

"It was a lazy low voice with a laugh in it, and it came from a wheeled chair, where a young man lay. Sallow he was and slim and long, and helpless—you could see that by his white hanging hands. But his voice—it was what a woman's voice would be if she were a man. It made you perk up and pretend to be somewhere near its level. It fitted his soft, black clothes and his fine, clean face. It meant silks and velvets and—Oh, all right, Tommy Dorgan, if you're going to get jealous of a voice!

"'Excuse me, Mr Latimer.' The cop came in as he spoke, Moriway following; the rest of the hounds hung about. 'There's a thieving bell-boy from the hotel that's somewhere in your grounds. Can I come in and get him?'

'In here, Sergeant? Aren't you mistaken?'"

The low voice belongs to an interesting young man named Latimer, who is permanently paralysed. He saves Nance from the "cop," but he has the diamonds given up to him before she departs. This kindness does not, however, prevent her from joining Tom Dorgan in an attempt to burgle Latimer's house; but Tom is lagged. Nance is left behind shame-faced, but wishing for the liberty of the man who had dragged her down. Says she, "Get Tom out of jail." Latimer is too good a friend to do anything of the sort; and Nance departs.

She has not yet learnt her lesson, however; but her salvation comes with the next "job" she attempts. Walking up into a bachelor's flat, she is in the act of abstracting dollar bills from the owner's desk when she is again caught, this time without a lie in her smart mouth. The man she meant robbing is Fred Obermuller, actor-manager of the Standard Theatre. He indulges in bitter sneers, and Nance is roused into the following indignant outburst, which tells the grim story of her early life:—

"There's a girl named Nancy Olden that could tell you a lot, smart as you are. She could show you the inside of the Cruelty, where she was put so young she never knew that children had mothers and fathers, till a red-haired girl named Mag Monahan told her; and then she was mighty glad she hadn't any. She thought that all little girls were bloodless and dirty, and all little boys were filthy and had black purple marks where their fathers had tried to gouge out their eyes. She thought all women were like the matron who came with a visitor up to the bare room, where we played without toys—the new, dirty, newly-bruised ones of us, and the old, clean healing ones of us—and said, 'Here, chicks, is a lady who's come to see you. Tell her how happy you are here.' Then Mag's freckled little face, her finger in her mouth, looked up like this. She was always afraid it might be her mother come for her. And the crippled boy jerked himself this way—I used to mimic him, and he'd laugh with the rest of them—over the bare floor. He always hoped for a penny. Sometimes he even got it.

"And the boy with the gouged eye—he would hold his pants up like this. He had just come in, and there was nothing to fit him. And he'd put his other hand over his bad eye and blink up at her like this. And the littlest boy—oh, ha! ha! ha!—you ought to have seen that littlest boy. He was in skirts, an old dress they'd given me to wear the first day I came; there were no pants small enough for him. He'd back up into the corner and hide his face—like this—and peep over his shoulder; he had a squint that way, that made his face so funny. See, it makes you laugh yourself. But his body—my God!—it was blue with welts!"

Fred Obermuller believes in the possibilities of Nance's goodness; of her cleverness he is certain—so certain, indeed, that he gives her her chance with his company in the playlet *Charity*, which has been written round a rich amateur named Lady Gray and her diamonds. Nance is at first merely a foundling in an asylum—a thinking part. Kleptomania still afflicts her, and one of Lady Gray's diamonds is too great a temptation for her. She takes it, but repents before going out of the stage-door. Says Nance:—"I shut the door, and I shut for ever another door, too, the old door that opens out on Crooked Street!" The rest of the story may be guessed. Nance gets her chance as an actress, becomes a celebrity, and marries Fred Obermuller. It will be seen from our extracts that the slang of "crooks" largely permeates the book.

LABELLED **EPPS'S** TINS ONLY.
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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ETUART CONOVER.—*(1)* Captain Kettle, *drama, in four acts, by Malcolm Watson and Murray Carson, founded on Cutcliffe Hyne's story, was produced at the Adelphi on Oct. 23, 1902, and ran till the following December. (2) We cannot say.*

LISA JOEL.—*We do not contradict in our news columns verbal statements made by one artist concerning another.*

J. A.—*You might obtain the information at any well-known music hall where the electric light has been installed.*

JAS WOOTTON.—*We can find no record of its production.*

A. HENRY.—*(1) Sullivan's* Light of the World *was produced at Birmingham in 1873. Mr B. W. Findon, in his "Life of Sir Arthur Sullivan" states that a performance of the oratorio took place at the Albert Hall, on Feb 25, 1903, but does not mention any other date. (2) We cannot say, as we keep no record of such events. (3) Write to Mrs D'Oyly Carte, the Savoy Theatre, Strand.*

H. A. D.—*Boucicault's version of the French play was produced at the Lyceum Theatre in September, 1880, with Henry Irving in the title-parts. W. Terriss as Chateau Renaud, A. Elwood as Montgiron, A. W. Pinero as Meynard, S. Johnson as Colonna, T. Mead as Orlando, Miss Emily Fowler as Emilie De Lesparre, Miss Alma Murray as Coralie, Miss Houliston as Estelle and A. B. Tapping, F. Tyars, J. Archer, H. Ferrand, and H. Lowther in minor parts.*

F. FOLLETT BEAL.—*Write to S. French and Co., theatrical publishers, Southampton-street, Strand.*

W. R.—*Mr H. B. Irving was not in the original cast of* Sowing the Wind, *at the Comedy, but he played Lord Petworth when that play was revived there on March 9, 1895.*

R. V. S.—*The Garrick Theatre was opened by Mr John Hare on April 24, 1889, with Mr Pinero's play* The Profligate. *A Pair of Spectacles was produced there on Feb. 22, 1890.*

CAUDLE.—Les Cloches de Corneville *was produced in English at the Folly (afterwards Toole's) in February, 1878.*

H. WINSTEAD.—The Sultan of Mocha *was first produced at the Prince's, Manchester, Nov. 16, 1874. Its first performance in England was at the St James's April 17, 1876. The piece was revived at the Strand, Sept. 27, 1887.*

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Commence 7·15. Saturdays, One Hour earlier.

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Harry Lauder, the Max Trevally Harley Troupe of Trampolin Acrobats, Ruth Doris, the Motramos, Millie Harris, Flo Penley and George English, Presto, Forest and King, Blanche Holt, De Vere and Kenwick, Sisters Desmond, Fred Elton, Leotard Brothers, Francis, Canonball King; Clark and Gold, Sisters Hall, the Edisonograph, and Fred Eustace and Company in the Famous Sketch, "Our Curate."
Commence, 7·30.
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Important Notice.—The particular attention of Artistes and Agents is called to Clause 5 (the Barring Clause) in all Contracts, which will be strictly enforced.

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Directors, FRED WILLIAMS, T GARDINER HALES, JOHN PARKER.
Monday, Jan. 23, 1905, for Six Nights,
Mr George Gray, in "The Fighting Parson;"
Bessie Spear, Bert Lytton, Rose Cass,
Harrigan and Holt, Mabel Vine, Millie Howell,
Palace Pictures, Tom Collins,
Sisters Redfern, Les Frères Baptiste, Lillie Lassah.
Resident General Manager, Eustace H. Jay.

GATTI'S PALACE OF VARIETIES,
214, WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE-ROAD.—Proprietors, Messrs G. and L. COBAZZA-GATTI.—Telephone, 226 Hop.
Arthur Prince, the Borghetti Troupe, Cliff Eyland, Sinclair and Whiteford, "Getting Even;" Lillian Lowe, Terry and Bentley, Frank Coyne, Brothers Leotard, Dora Lyric, Primavesi, Violet Mills, Tony Pelhall, Clara Sefton, and the Mutograph. Rehearsal on Monday at 6·0 o'clock.
Musical Director, Mr I. W. Baker. Manager, Mr Tom Tinsley.

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Twice Nightly, at 6·10 and 9·10.
Professor Hocking, Marie Mayfield, Eva Hope and Co., Lady Mansel's Juveniles, Imperial Bioscope, Harry May, Thora and Theokia, Lanos and Montes, Amy Anderson and Co., Fred Wright, A Ba Be, the Magic Postcard Album.
All Artistes are notified that they must send their full bill matter in two clear weeks before opening. Rehearsal, 1·0 o'clock, Mondays. All Artistes engaged must attend. Artistes not complying with the above rules are subject to having their contracts cancelled at the option of the Management.

HAMMERSMITH PALACE—
Proprietor, J. C. COX.—Monday, Jan. 23, 1905, Kate Carney, in a New and Original Episode, entitled "Our Laundry;" Mr and Mrs Finden, presenting "A Mare's Nest;" Sisters Mayo, Tambo and Tambo, James Fawn, the Beckwiths, Vivians, Fred Dice, Lilian Boanas, Hatton M'Cullah, St. James's Strolling Players, Johnny Johnston, Arthur Gilbert, Amy Allnutt, the Edisonograph, Rosa and Josepha Blazek, the Bohemian Twin-formed Sisters. Doors open 7·15; commence 7·35. Tele., 106, Hammersmith. Acting-Manager, Lewis Vincent.

BATTERSEA EMPIRE,
YORK-ROAD, BATTERSEA. General Manager, Mr LENNOX MARRY. Secretary, H. G. Stower. Monday, Jan. 23, 1905, and Twice Nightly, Princess Nouma-Hawa, May Kent, Tom Carney, Fenton and Harrison, Agnes Hazel, Roy and Fenton, Prof. Thornby, Ethel May, Mamie Cannon, W. H. Perrette and Company in "The Brothers." Doors open 6·30 and 8·50. Commence 6·50 and 9·10. Telephone, 206, Battersea. Grand Matinée Wednesday, Jan. 25, in aid of the unemployed of Battersea

ROYAL STANDARD MUSIC HALL
(Facing Victoria Station).—Proprietor and Manager, Mr T. S. DIOKIE.—One House Nightly. Monday, Jan. 23, Roland Yorke and Co., in "Napoleon;" Marie Kendall, Five Ragamuffins, Pseudo Street Musicians; Emma Don and Co, Amy Anderson and Co, Harry Anderson, Queenie May, Voldam Brothers, Speedwell, Lightning Painter; Harry Leybourne, Ethel Duxford, Herbert Betts, Ivy Adelaide, Edisonograph, and others. Open 7·30 (Saturdays 7·0 o'clock); commence 7·40 (Saturdays 7·20, with Augmented Company). Telephone, 503, Westminster. Assistant-Manager Mr W. Voiny.

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Monday, Jan. 23, Mr Fred G. Brooke and Combination. In "A Prisoner of the Czar;" Lee and Arden, Claxton and Fenn, Two Ascotts, Gus Daniels, Miss Hettie Le Bon, Cribb and Cribb, Stirtevant Swift, Three Thurbane Sisters, Charles Rutland, Walter Payne's Bio-Photoscope.
Acting-Manager and Chairman, Mr W. Leaver.

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Jan. 23 (Monday).
COMMITTEE MEETING AT OFFICES
at 8·0 p.m.

Feb. 19 (Sunday),
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IMPERIAL RESTAURANT, REGENT-STREET,
at 8·0 p.m.,
Sir LAWRENCE ALMA-TADEMA, R.A.,
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ALPHABETICAL LIST
OF
ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES.

NAME	DATE.
Adams, the Late Mr Bert ..	April 23, 1904.
Adams, Miss Nina Blake	September 17, 1904.
Aldred, Mr Charles	May 7, 1904.
Alleyne, Miss Frances	May 14, 1904.
Atom, Mr Willie	December 24, 1904.
Aubrey, Mrs W.	December 24, 1904.
Bailey, Mr Gordon	December 24, 1904.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs	May 7, 1904.
Bard, Mr Wilkie	September 10, 1904.
Barrett, the Late Mr Wilson.	July 23, 1904.
Barrington, Mr H. H.	November 12, 1904.
Barth, Mr Cecil	June 11, 1904.
Bartlett, Mr J. J.	July 2, 1904.
Benson, Mr F. R.	December 31, 1904.
Bertram, Miss Celestine	July 2, 1904.
Billington, the Late Mr John	September 10, 1904.
Bint, Mr Billie	September 3, 1904.
Blande, Miss Edith	June 25, 1904.
Booth, Mr J. H.	August 6, 1904.
Bostock, the Late Emma	December 24, 1904.
Bracewell, Mr Joe	May 14, 1904.
Brayne, Mr Harry	July 16, 1904.
Brough, Mr Lionel	November 5, 1904.
Browning, Mr Charles	May 21, 1904.
Butt, Mr Alfred	July 30, 1904.
Cabourn, Mr John	August 13, 1904.
Campbell, the Late Mr Herbt.	July 23, 1904.
Campbell, Miss Audrey	October 8, 1904.
Carne, Mr Joseph	May 7, 1904.
Cathie, Mr Leslie Roy	May 21, 1904.
Celli, the Late Mr Frank	December 31, 1904.
Charles, the Late Mr Fred ..	August 6, 1904.
Cheevers, Mr J. E.	October 1, 1904.
Chippendale, Mr James	September 17, 1904.
Churchward, Mr Hedley	January 14, 1905.
Cinquevalli, Paul	January 14, 1905.
Clarence, Miss Nellie	November 12, 1904.
Clark, Mr Cuthbert	October 15, 1904.
Clavering, Miss Marie	October 8, 1904.
Clyde, Miss Hilda	May 21, 1904.
Coleman, the Late Mr John..	April 23, 1904.
Colona, the Late Don Edgardo	August 20, 1904
Corri, Mr Clarence C.	November 5, 1904.
Craven, Mr Hawes	October 8, 1904.
Danbury, Miss Ethel	September 17, 1904
Davis, Miss Flora	September 10, 1904
Day, Mr David	October 8, 1904.
Deverell, Mr John W.	May 21, 1904.
Draco, Mr Kay	June 4, 1904.
Dryden, Mr Leo	July 16, 1904.
Dunrobin, Mr La Race	July 9, 1904.
Edmunds, Mr Edmund	September 3, 1904.
Entwistle, Mr Harold	May 14, 1904.
Evelyne, Miss Alma	October 29, 1904.
Farrell, Miss Cissy	July 2, 1904.
Farren, the Late Miss Nellie.	April 30, 1904.
Feiber, Mr H. H.	August 13, 1904.
Fineberg, Mr Harris	December 24, 1904.
Firmin, Miss Dorothy	November 19, 1904.
Franks, Mr Wilfred	May 7, 1904.
Freebar, Mr Sydney	July 30, 1904.
Fysher, Mr Edwin F.	September 3, 1904.
Gascoigne, Mrs Henry	May 21, 1904.
Gelderd, Mr James	July 2, 1904.
Garrod, Mr W. V.	July 16, 1904.
Giles, Mr Edwin F.	January 7, 1905.
Gilfain, Miss Trixie	May 14, 1904.
Godfrey, Mr Dan	May 14, 1904.
Griffith, Miss Mary	October 22, 1904.
Gunn, Miss Haidée	August 6, 1904.
Harcourt-Williams, Mr E. ..	July 9, 1904.
Hartshorn, Mr Thomas	December 10, 1904.
Henderson, Miss Millie	August 13, 1904.
Hildyard, Miss Maud	October 8, 1904.
Hiller, Mr Harry	December 24, 1904.
Hodgson, Miss Hulo	December 3, 1904.
Hollingshead, the Late Mr J.	October 15, 1904
Howells, Mr C. E.	August 27, 1904.
Howitt, Mr Charles	August 13, 1904.
Huggett, Miss Dora	July 16, 1904
Humber, Mr S. H.	August 13, 1904.
Hunter, Mr J. D.	July 9, 1904.
Hylton, Miss Annie	November 12, 1904.
Imeson, Miss Nita	April 23, 1904.
Inwood, Mr Fred	December 3, 1904.
Jacques, Mr Frederick	October 29, 1904.
Jose, Mr Edouard	October 8, 1904
Kane, Mr Whitford	December 3, 1904.
Kennedy, Mr E. J.	October 1, 1904
Knight, Mr Arthur	October 8, 1904.
Kremer, Mr Theo.	July 9, 1904.
Lacy, Mr Frank	January 14, 1905.
Lang, Mr Matheson	August 27, 1904.
Leigh, Mr C. D.	January 7, 1905.
Leno, the Late Mr Dan	November 5, 1904.
Lester, Mr Harry	May 7, 1904.
Lewes, Miss Miriam	November 12, 1904.
Lilly, Mr A. C	June 25, 1904
Lumpus, Mr Bernard	October 22, 1904.
Linda, Miss Cora	November 26 1904.
Linden, Mr Ardene	September 24, 1904.
Ling, Mr Edwin	September 3, 1904.
Llewellyn, Mr Fewlass	October 15 1904.
Lloyd, the Late Mr Arthur..	July 23, 1904.
Lowe, Miss Rachel	June 11, 1904.
Loyd, Mr Frederick	August 13, 1904.
Lurich, George	June 4, 1904
Lyons, Mr Arthur C. P.	August 20, 1904.
Mackintosh, Mr Drew	September 10, 1904.
Maclaren, Mr W.	September 10, 1904
M'Kim, the Late Mr R. Stuart	April 23, 1904.
Manners, Mr Charles	August 27, 1904.
Marmont, Mr Percy	November 19, 1904.
Marsdene, Miss Beatrice	August 13, 1904.
Marsdin, Miss Dorothy	May 21, 1904.
Marshall, Mr Percy	November 19, 1904.
Martin, Miss Edie	August 6, 1904.
Miller, Mr George	November 26, 1904
Milton, Miss Maud	July 16, 1904.
Moncrieff, Miss Rose	August 6, 1904
Morton, the Late Mr Chas...	October 22, 1904.
Munro, Mr Ernest	September 17, 1904.
Murphy, Mr William	December 10, 1904.
Myers, Miss Tessa	August 13, 1904.
Northway, Mr Alfred	November 26, 1904.
Norwood, Mr Eille	July 23, 1904.
Oliver, Miss Nell	November 19, 1904.
Owen, the Late Miss Jennie..	May 14, 1904.
Paige, Mr Robson	October 29, 1904.
Palmer, Miss Ada	December 3, 1904.
Pauncefort, Miss Claire	October 22, 1904
Phelps, Mrs Edmund	November 19, 1904.
Pope, Mr F. F.	November 5, 1904.
Raphael, Mr William	January 14, 1905.

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	Sung by
"A B C D" (James Hargreaves) ..	Wilkie Bard
"All the harm I wish you" (R. P. Weston)	Harry Anderson
"All the little Ja-panny faces" (Harry Castling)	Mark Sheridan
"All the Girls are Lov-er-ly-ov-er-ly" (Harrington and Thurban)	R. G. Knowles
"Anywhere there will do" (Murray and Everard)	Frank Seeley
"A Warning to Single Men" (Bateman and Pether)	Arthur Reece
"Baby Mine" (Browne and Friedman)	Miss Clarice Heney
"Blue-Bell" (Madden and Morse)..	Hamilton Hill
[Also sung by almost every Artist of note both in Pantomime and on the Variety Stage throughout the Kingdom.]	
"Boys of the Chelsea School" (Carter and Weston)	George Leyton
"'Come in!' said Widdy Malone" (Harrington and Le Brunn) ..	Michael Nolan
"Conversations" (F. and W. Redmond)	Ambrose Thorne
"Delusions" (Phil Ray)	Phil Ray
"Doan' Cry, Little Coloured Coon" (S. F. Harrison and Neat)	Miss Harriett Vernon
"Don't Stand There ——!" (Lawrance and Gifford)	Walter Stanley
"Farewell, my little Yo San" (Mills and B. Scott)	Tom Costello
"Frozen Meat" (T. W. Connor) ..	Alf Gibson
"Have you seen my girl?" (Mills and Scott)	Walter Munroe
"He Kissed I Once" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Marie Loftus
"Here comes the foreigner" (Barnes and Weston)	H. Bedford
"I did enjoy myself last night" (Lawrence and M. Scott)	Will Johnson
"I don't mind if it amuses you!" (Leigh and Pether)	Ben Albert
"If all the stars were mine" (Smith and Stromberg)	Miss Lilian Doreen
"I'm a girl of Tennessee" (Eden and Byng)	Miss Lil Hawthorne
"I'm coming home to you"

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THE ERA
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1905.

REPERTORY THEATRES.

A clear view of the actual condition of affairs is apt to subject the viewer to an accusation of density. To enthusiasts, it seems so completely obvious that their proposals are generally advantageous that they look upon anyone who points out the unpracticability of their schemes as having no sympathy with their aims. It is quite possible that many of our readers, observing our scepticism as to the various plans for "National," "Endowed," and "Municipal" theatres, have jumped to the conclusion that we are opposed to such innovations on principle. The contrary is the case What we object to is the not uncommon practice of using an excellent idea merely as a means of self-advertisement. As soon as a suggestion is made, a flock of smart self-seekers swoop down on it like vultures upon a dying mule, and accelerate its extinction. Everything is said, but nothing is done; and the net result is that a certain amount of "copy" has been written and paid for, while the matter remains *in statu quo*.

It is possible, we are quite aware, to go too far in making the financial question the only question in connection with the drama. Mr BEERBOHM TREE, the other day, made a remark which gave us something very like a twinge of conpunction. He said that the thing to do was not to give the public what they want, but to give it what *you* want; to get them, so to speak, to take the dose of High Art in the jam of personal magnetism. To a popular actor-manager all things are possible. It would, for instance, be quite within the bounds of probability that Sir HENRY IRVING might "run" a National Theatre successfully on the strength of his great reputation and tremendous personal popularity. But all these schemes whether for "National," "Endowed," or "Municipal" playhouses, imply permanent establishment. The Comédie-Française does not depend upon the inclusion amongst its members of any leading actor or actress. It exists because it satisfies certain tastes and desires of the French nation. An institution must have root in the national spirit, otherwise, as soon as the "personal factor" is removed, it withers away.

On the other hand, the result of pure commercialism in any art is the degradation of that art, if not its ruin. We may take the Royal Academy as an "object lesson" in this respect. What is required in connection with the stage is something which may serve the same purpose, in connection with the drama, as the exhibitions at the New Gallery, with their leaven of SARGENT, LAVERY, and the modern French school, do in connection with painting; and we discern a great deal of promise in the agitation for repertory theatres. It is true that the support rendered to the German Theatre is principally foreign. The German colony in England is so large that it alone is capable of making a theatrical season at a comparatively small theatre profitable. The German Theatre charges £6 for every twenty stalls, being at the rate of 6s. per stall, the cost of each similar seat bought at the door being 10s. 6d. But before the season at the Great Queen-street Theatre opened, £2,000 was subscribed for booking; and the German community in London has, year after year, guaranteed on an average a sum of £3,500, half of which is paid up at once, and the other half when required.

It is possible, however, to create a Repertory Theatre by the simple process of opening a West-end house, and presenting a repertory programme to the public. A practical demonstration of how to do this has been given at the Court, where what are called the VEDRENNE-BARKER Matinées were given last year, the series including a translation by Mr GILBERT MURRAY of *The Hippolytus* of EURIPIDES, Mr BERNARD SHAW'S *John Bull's Other Island*, and Mr ALFRED SUTRO'S translation of MAETERLINCK'S *Aglavaine and Selysette*. That the experiment has not been unsuccessful is proved by the announcement of the repetition of Mr SHAW'S Irish play and his *You Never Can Tell*, and translations of BRIEUX'S *Le Berceau*, HAUPTMANN'S *Der Biberpelz*, EURIPIDES' *Trojan Women*, and IBSEN'S *Wild Duck*. Mr J. F. VEDRENNE, under whose management the plays were produced by Mr GRANVILLE BARKER, is to be congratulated upon the spirit of his enterprise and the fact that it has proved practically successful.

Other movements in the same direction are to be made by Mr BEERBOHM TREE, with his Monday matinées, and Mr GEORGE ALEXANDER, whose Wednesday matinées are likely to prove "real treats" to the epicure in dramatic work. And a proposition of a similar sort has recently been made by Mr J. T. GREIN, who, as he states in an article in a weekly contemporary, has been thinking over the matter for thirteen years. Mr GREIN'S scheme is interesting if only from the boldness of his suggestions. At this imaginary playhouse actors will be offered engagements for at least one year at small salaries, with the option, on the part of the management, to renew the contracts for a similar period. The actors are to have shares in the annual profits, and are to have a prospect of a pension after ten years' service. The direction of the establishment will be in the hands of a competent manager under the supervision of two trustees, who will administer the funds. Mr GREIN presents the following estimate of expenses, based on his experience in connection with the German Theatre in London:—

Rent (less hire of bars)	£120
Salaries—Artistes	150
Orchestra (not absolutely necessary)	20
Front of the House	28
Stage and Stage Manager	40
Supers and small parts	5
Advertising	60
Printing	15
Hire of costumes	30
Lighting	15
Licence of Plays	2
Authors' Fees	40
Insurance	2
Sundry expenses in front and on the Stage	10
Warehousing	1
Washing and Cleaning	5
Hire of Furniture	10
General and petty expenses	10
Production expenses, exclusive of scenery	25
Scenery	12
	£600

We invite comments from our readers on these figures; and pass to Mr GREIN'S estimate of the receipts, which he puts at an average of £100 a night. "Given this modicum of success," says Mr GREIN, "the money problem is settled out of hand." In order to make the triumph of his scheme more probable, Mr GREIN has been fortunate enough to secure the assistance, after the close of the German season, of Mr B. A. MEYER, whose experience in connection with foreign plays is so extensive and peculiar; while the "cast" for the Repertory Theatre will be "watched" by a no less sound and vigilant adviser than Mr ALBERT A. STRONG, the author of that valuable work "Dramatic and Musical Law." We shall be interested to see the outcome of Mr GREIN'S proposals. For the present, we confess, we are more sanguine of the results of Mr GEORGE ALEXANDER'S and Mr VEDRENNE'S experiments, to which may soon be added one undertaken by Mr PHILIP CARR. We wish all these gentlemen success in their endeavours to introduce novelty and freshness into the drama in England.

PROFESSOR CHURTON COLLINS, lecturing on Thursday afternoon at the Royal Institution on "The Religion of Shakespeare," said there was no doubt that Shakespeare accepted Christianity on its ethical or moral side, as was shown by his emphasis of the beauty of mercy, one of the most important of Christian virtues. Goethe said that man was not made to solve the problem of life, but that he should attempt to solve it in order that he might keep within the limits of the knowable. That was what Shakespeare did. The lesson of Shakespeare's works was work, wait, submit. The silence of his philosophy concerning what succeeds death was unbroken, and with respect to his belief in the immortality of the soul there was nothing to warrant a conclusion either in the affirmative or in the negative. If to have uttered no word in disparagement of Christianity, but on the contrary to have treated it with the most reverent attention and to have adopted and exercised its most characteristic virtues was to be a Christian, then Shakespeare was a Christian.

THE winners of the Carnegie Music Scholarships at the Guildhall School of Music, recently founded by the Musicians' Company, are Miss Elizabeth Tarttelin, of Grimsby, and Miss Katharine Ethel Harman, of Muswell-hill. The following are honourably mentioned in order of merit:—Mr Lawrance Arthur Collingwood, Miss Eveline Margaret Thompson, and Miss Vera Elaine Wise. At a quarterly Court of the company, held at Girdlers' Hall on Tuesday, the honorary freedom of the company was conferred upon Dr. William Hayman Cummings, the Principal of the Guildhall School of Music, and the Rev. Francis William Galpin, M.A., F.L.S., of The Vicarage, Hatfield Regis, Essex, for services rendered by them in connection with the company's Tercentenary Exhibition, 1904.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LE PATRIMOINE,"
Comedy, in Three Acts, by M. Ambroise Janvier, Produced at the Odéon, Jan. 12.

Lhominois	M. GENIER
De Mérivel	M. COSTE
Jean Berthier	M. LOUIS MARIE
Baptiste	M. BERGER
Madame Williams	Madame ANDRÉE MÉGARD
Madame Lhominois	Madame BONNET
Madame De Mérivel	Madame DEHON
Andrée	Mdlle. DERIVES
Pauline	Mdlle. SPINDLER
Maud	Mdlle. LOLL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, JAN. 19.—Most of M Janvier's plays leave an unpleasant aftertaste, and *Le Patrimoine* is no exception to the rule. M. De Mérivel, although married and father of a grown-up daughter, is one of the "fastest" men on record. His wife puts up with the inevitable, but her fear is that her husband's extravagance may jeopardise the fortune which Andrée, their daughter, will one day inherit. Jean Berthier, Andrée's fiancé, does not trouble about money matters. The same, however, cannot be said of his parents, who, true bourgeois-like, anxiously watch the performances of the prodigal Mérivel. Nor are they the only ones to be anxious. Madame Lhominois, who has lost her heart to the incorrigible viveur, is horrified at the man's mad pranks, and she shrewdly induces her husband to give Madame De Mérivel some advice on the matter. Lhominois, a practical man, knows that it would be impossible to reason with the incorrigible Mérivel, but as everybody appears so much concerned about Andrée's fortune, the only thing to do is to draw her terrible father away from his costly love intrigues, and, since he cannot exist without an intrigue, put him in the way of a liaison with a "society lady," who, at all events, would not prove expensive. Their choice falls upon Mrs Williams, a fascinating American, and the inflammable Mérivel is at once caught. But, to everybody's consternation, the wealthy stranger proves as extravagant as Cleopatra, and induces her admirer to make her the most expensive presents. Mérivel even offers her a magnificently furnished house, when, through an unforeseen coincidence, Andrée is brought face to face with the dangerous coquette, who at once feels so drawn towards the girl that she repents, and makes Andrée a present of the bracelet given her by Mérivel. She refuses the "magnificently furnished" house, and her generosity even goes so far as to offer herself to her admirer—gratis. The piece was not well acted. M. Gémier did not make an interesting character of the part; M. Coste was too heavy; and Madame Mégard over-acted the rôle of the fascinating American, and her supposed American accent was decidedly unpleasant. Madame Bonnet was the most natural in the rather ridiculous rôle of Madame Lhominois.

"PETITE PESTE."
Comedy, in Three Acts, by M. Romain Coolus, Produced at the Vaudeville, Jan. 13.

Louis Chameron	M. LERAND
Chantelouve	M. GASTON DUBOSC
Roussay	M. COLOMBEY
Chancelet	M. LOUIS GAUTHIER
Dumpuis	M. BARON *fils*
Lambret	M. JEFFER
Paule	Mdlle. JEANNE THOMASSIN
Marceline	Mdlle. MARTHE REGNIER
Gina	Mdlle. HARLAY
Georgette	Mdlle. DE BRAY

Here we have a surprising mixture of well-expressed thoughts and vulgarity. Marceline, the heroine, is a strange girl, such as is rarely seen on any stage. Living in an irregular milieu where marriage is an unknown, not to say superfluous, institution, her ideas on this and other subjects have become somewhat elastic. Nearly all her time is spent at the house of Louis Chameron and Paule, who have been living together for ten years as husband and wife. For all her flightiness Marceline is observant. She notices that something has gone wrong in this household, and discovers that Paule has started an intrigue with Moncelet, their young neighbour, and has even arranged to meet him at Havre. Marceline, anxious to render a service to her kind friend, Louis Chameron, resolves to prevent this meeting. She then enters into a serious flirtation with Moncelet, who falls in love with her and asks her to be his wife. But Marceline does not care for him. She has lost her young heart to Chantelouve, a man who boasts of having had thirty-one liaisons; and, although Chantelouve also offers her his hand, she refuses. "Marriage," she says, "has no attraction for me. I love Chantelouve, and prefer to be his mistress rather than his wife." And on this astounding declaration the curtain falls. Mdlle. Thomassin and Mdlle. Marthe Regnier were both excellent in their impersonations of the flighty mistress and the hare-brained girl. Special praise, however, is due to M. Dubosc, whose impersonation of the fascinating middle-aged viveur was really remarkable.

"LA CONQUETE DE L'AIR,"
Play, in Four Acts and Five Tableaux, by MM. Camille Audigier and Paul Gery, Produced at the Ambigu, Jan. 16.

Henri Francard	M. CHERBIN-MARS
Duc De Geuvres	M. DIEUDONNE
Portal	M. CAILLARD
Pierre Mauvrac	M. RIEVANT
Barucaud	M. VILLA
Moser	M. MORNAU
Louise Francard	Madame DUBUISSON
Duchesse De Geuvres	Madame CANTI
Madame Moser	Madame DAUVILLE
Baronne des Charmettes	Madame DHERBLAY
Miss Paston	Mdlle. LAMBERT

The plot of this play is anything but novel, but we have to thank the management of the Ambigu for having given us for once a drama without burglars. This is already an improvement. Henri Francard is an inventor who thinks he has solved the aeronautic problem, and is looking out for the necessary capital to launch a new balloon. A certain Mauvrac promises him his aid; but Mauvrac is a villain whose aim is to steal the secret of Francard's invention and to seduce the beautiful Madame Francard. A banker, called Moser, advances a little money, thanks to which Francard constructs his balloon, with which he intends to steer round the Eiffel Tower. Through a mistake, however, on the part of Francard's assistant, the balloon comes to grief, and the aeronaut is nearly killed. For several weeks Francard hovers between life and death, and the household has become well nigh destitute. Mauvrac seizes this moment to bring pressure upon Madame Francard, who has resisted his advances; but the wretched aeronaut gathers sufficient strength to rise from his bed, and, seizing a revolver, he kills the scamp, and then drops dead. The piece was well played by a good all-round company. The staging was most effective, especially the tableau representing the Eiffel Tower platform, with the crowd of spectators, several of whom were made up to resemble well-known personalities in the sporting world, like M. Santos Dumont, the Comte De Dion, M. De La Vaulx, Captain Renard, &c.

"L'INSTINCT."
Play, in Three Acts, by M. Henry Kistemaeckers, Produced at the Théâtre Molière, Jan. 18.

Jean Bernou	M. CARDE
André Bernou	M. CASTELLI
Lantiquet	M. G. FERRE
Pierre	M. LECOMTE
Cécile Bernou	Mdlle. CORA LAPARCERIE
Thérèse Laugier	Mdlle. HELENE GONDY
Berthe	Mdlle. RENEE LAUNAY

The Théâtre Molière has given us two highly interesting plays, in the first of which M. Kistemaeckers shows us the conflict between duty and revenge. Jean Bernou, a famous surgeon, has married a young girl whom he treated in the hospital and saved from death, but he gets scant reward for his generosity. Cécile loses her heart to a consumptive youth, and a letter wherein the two lovers appoint a place of meeting falls in the husband's hands. When the seducer goes to the rendezvous he has a nervous attack, drops, and fractures his skull. He has to be operated on on the spot, and Dr. Bernou is at once sent for. Cécile confesses everything to her husband, and implores him to save the stricken man. She will expiate her fault afterwards. Meeting with a refusal, she overwhelms Jean with terrible reproaches. It is an unpleasant moment of suspense. But at the sight of the unconscious man the sense of professional duty awakens in the doctor, and, calling his assistant, he makes himself ready for the operation that will save the life of his wife's lover. The best scenes in the piece, those between the doctor and his wife, were played with much feeling by M. Carde and Mdlle. Laparcerie. M. Frère was most amusing in his impersonation of the manager of an inquiry office.

"LA SOUTANE,"
Play, in Three Acts, by M. Arthur Bernède, Produced at the Théâtre Molière, Jan. 18.

L'Abbé Jacques Mirande	M. MONTEUX
Mgr. de Canardin	M. CRESTE
Le Comte Brossard	M. RENIER
Le Baron Rouveray	M. MANNEVILLE
Henri de Prangis	M. GERBAULT
La Mère Mirande	Mdme. GONDY
Baronne de Rouvray	Mdme. RITTER
Marguerite de Rouvray	Mdlle. FANNY AUBELL

In this bold piece the author supplies a graphic picture of the differences that arise between the members of the high and low clergy, and he shows us Mirande, a poor, honest, hard-working priest, a victim of the bad faith of his entourage. He cannot preach the Gospel as he understands it without being called a revolutionary; and his parishioners denounce him to the bishop, and get him removed from his post. And, to make matters worse, a very serious incident brings him into collision with his hierarchical chief. A certain Baronne De Rouvray has confessed to the Abbé Mirande that her daughter Marguerite is the child of M. De Prangis, one of her husband's friends. Nobody, not even her lover, is aware of this. And, as a marriage has been arranged between Marguerite and the son of this very same M. De Prangis, the priest asks the bishop to relieve him from the secret of the confessional to stop this incestuous marriage. Afraid of the scandal, Monsignor advises Mirande to keep the matter secret, cases of this description having already been dealt with in a similar manner by the ecclesiastical tribunals. Not at all convinced, the conscientious priest then goes to Rome to submit the case to the Pope. But secret orders have been issued, and he is not received by the Holy Father. On his return he follows his own honest inspirations, and reveals the terrible story to M. De Prangis, who then takes the necessary steps to break off the engagement without provoking any scandal. The bishop, delighted at the difficulty being thus overcome, informs Mirande that he will be pardoned his independent attitude if he craves forgiveness. But this time the poor priest rebels. He upbraids the bishop, who anathematises him. He appeals to his parishioners, and is hooted by them. He wants to continue the struggle against oppression, but, ill-treated and beaten, he expires at the door of his humble dwelling. M. Monteux gave an impressive rendering of the rôle of the persecuted priest; M. Cresté was less satisfactory as the bishop; and the other rôles were well sustained by a capital cast.

THE Opera-Comique gave an excellent revival of M Theodore Dubois's *Xavière* and M. Saint-Saëns's *Hélène*.

THE "EAST LYNNE" RIGHTS.

In the Court of King's Bench, on Monday, before Mr Justice Wills, an action was brought by Mr John Pitt Hardacre, formerly the proprietor of a theatre at Manchester, and Mrs Gunley, against Mr Frederick W. Purcell and Miss Haidee Wright, of the Marlborough Theatre, Holloway-road, and Mr H. Armitage, manager of a theatrical touring company, and formerly manager for Mr Wilson Barrett, for damages and an injunction to restrain the defendants from producing the "Bullock" version of *East Lynne*.

Mr. Pitt-Hardacre's case was that in 1888 he took an assignment from Mr Chute of his sole right of representation of the "Bullock" version of *East Lynne*; that in July, 1903, he assigned the right to Mrs Gunley; and that the defendants had infringed that right. The defendants denied that the plaintiffs were the owners of the sole right of representation. The case was tried last week before his Lordship and a jury, when a verdict was returned for the plaintiffs. The defendants then raised a question as to the construction of the Copyright Act (5 and 6 Vict., cap. 45), and judgment was reserved.

Mr Justice Wills in delivering judgment on Monday, said there was an error in the registration of the play, it being stated that the piece assigned to Mr Pitt Hardacre was the "Bullock" version, which was produced at Doncaster in 1866, whereas it was produced at Halifax in 1868. According to the Statute the effect of giving incorrect particulars was to vitiate the registration and to deprive the plaintiffs of the important advantage of being able to rely on the entry as primâ facie evidence of title. It did not, however, take away their title, but left them to prove it if they could. The jury had found that it was the version performed at Halifax in 1868 which was assigned to Mr Pitt Hardacre in 1888, and there was abundant evidence to support that conclusion. The title of Mrs Gunley, the second plaintiff, accrued in July, 1903, and since then she had been the only person entitled to the sole right of representation. Therefore, there must be judgment, without costs, for defendants as regarded Mr Pitt Hardacre, and for Mrs Gunley in the action, with costs There would be an injunction against the defendants, and if the parties could not agree as to damages there would have to be an inquiry.

TOURING ON THE CONTINENT.

At Clerkenwell County Court, on Monday, Harry S. Parker, of Hamblen's Hotel, King's road, Brighton, and formerly lessee of the Grand Theatre, Islington, was sued by Walter Purvis, comedian, for £12 3s. 4d., as salary due, and in lieu of notice.

Plaintiff, who was represented by Mr E. Fitzgerald, said that in August of 1903 he agreed with defendant to go on a Continental tour with *The Fisher Girl*. He asked for a salary of £5 per week, but eventually agreed to accept £3 10s., Mr Parker urging that living was cheap on the Continent, and, further, that it would be a long tour. He attended a fortnight's rehearsals at the Prince Albert, and subsequently went to Amsterdam, where *The Fisher Girl* was produced at the Grand Theatre on Sept. 1 He played in the company until Sept. 21, and then went to Rotterdam, where he played for four nights. His agreement ended on Sept, 24. Altogether he received £8 16s. 8d., and he had given two weeks' rehearsals for nothing

How long did Mr Parker remain with the company at Amsterdam? He left us the day before the first treasury was due.

Judge Edge—Are you the author of the *Fisher Girl*? Defendant—No; but I am sole proprietor.

Judge Edge—An author might want to be present to see that his ideas were properly expressed, but I don't see why a man who holds the proprietorship of a play by purchase should want to attend rehearsals.

Defendant said the play was hired from him by a Messrs Jones and Martin on certain terms. They engaged the artists, and signed the contracts. He attended the rehearsals, but that was to put right any little defects, and to further assist them he wrote out the contracts for the artists, but never signed them. Being in ill-health at the time, he went to Amsterdam with Messrs Jones and Martin, as his medical man had ordered him a sea trip.

A verdict was given in plaintiff's favour for £5 3s. 4d, the Judge holding that, as he only went one day over the agreement, he was not entitled to the item of £7 as two weeks' wages in lieu of notice.

THE IRISH NATIONAL THEATRE.

Mr W. B. Yeats, the editor of "Samhain," the organ of the Irish National Theatre Society, contributes to the latest issue three critical essays on the work and methods of that institution. In an article on "The Dramatic Movement" he points out that the society has had great difficulties because of the lack of any suitable playhouse; but "now a generous English friend, Miss Horniman, has re-arranged and in part rebuilt, at very considerable expense, the old Mechanics' Institute Theatre, now the Abbey Theatre, and given us the use of it without any charge. We may look upon ourselves as the first endowed theatre in any English speaking country. the English speaking countries and Venezuela being the only countries which have never endowed their theatres; but the correspondents who write for parts in our plays or posts in the theatre at a salary are in error. We are and must be for some time to come, contented to find our work its own reward, the player giving his work, and the playwright his, for nothing."

Mr Yeats also refers to the importance of forming small dramatic societies:—

"We can hardly do all we hope unless there are many more of these little societies to be centres of dramatic art and of the allied arts. But a very few actors went from town to town in ancient Greece, finding everywhere more or less well-trained singers among the principal townsmen to sing the chorus that had otherwise been the chief expense. In the days of the stock companies two or three well-known actors would go from town to town finding actors for all the minor parts in the local companies. If we are to push our work into the small towns and villages, local dramatic clubs must take the place of the old stock companies"

Mr Yeats has another article on "the Play, the Player, and the Scene." First of all he insists that "Our plays must be literature or written in the spirit of literature. The modern theatre has died away to what it is because the writers have thought of their audiences instead of their subject. An old writer saw his hero, if it was a play of character; or some dominant passion, if it was a play of passion, like *Phædre* or *Andromache*, moving before him, living with a life he did not endeavour to control. The persons acted upon one another as they were bound by their natures to act, and the play was dramatic, not because he had sought out dramatic situations for their own sake, but because will broke itself upon will and passion upon passion. Then the imagination began to cool, the writer began to be less alive, to seek external aids, remembered situations, tricks of the theatre, that had proved themselves again and again. His persons no longer will have a particular character, but he knows that he can rely upon the incidents, and he feels himself fortunate when there is nothing in his play that has not succeeded a thousand times before the curtain has risen. Perhaps he has even read a certain guide-book to the stage published in France and called 'The Thirty-six Situations of the Drama.' The costumes will be magnificent, the actresses will be beautiful, the Castle in Spain will be painted by an artist upon the spot. We will come from this play excited if we are foolish, or can condescend to the folly of others, but knowing nothing new about ourselves, and seeing life with no new eyes and hearing it with no new ears. The whole movement of theatrical reform in our day has been a struggle to get rid of this kind of play, and the sincere play, the logical play, that we would have in its place, will always seem, when we hear it for the first time, undramatic, unexciting. It has to stir the heart in a long disused way, it has to awaken the intellect to a pleasure that ennobles and wearies."

Mr Yeats advocates some drastic changes. He says:—"We must have a new kind of scenic art. I have been the advocate of the poetry as against the actor, but I am the advocate of the actor as against the scenery. Ever since the last remnant of the old platform disappeared, and the proscenium grew into the frame of a picture, the actors have been turned into a picturesque group in the foreground of a meretricious landscape painting. The background should be of as little importance as the background of a portrait group, and it should, when possible, be of one colour or of one tint, that the persons on the stage, wherever they stand, may harmonise with it or contrast with it and preoccupy our attention. Their outline should be clear and not broken up into the outline of windows and wainscotting, or lost into the edges of colours. In a play which copies the surface of life in its dialogue one may, with this reservation, represent anything that can be represented successfully—a room, for instance—but a landscape painted in the ordinary way will always be meretricious and vulgar. It will always be an attempt to do something which cannot be done successfully except in easel painting, and the moment an actor stands near to your mountain, or your forest, one will perceive that he is standing against a flat surface. Illusion, therefore, is impossible, and should not be attempted.

"If one remembers that the movement of the actor, and the graduation and the colour of the lighting, are the two elements that distinguish the stage picture from an easel painting, one will not find it difficult to create an art of the stage ranking as a true fine art. Mr Gordon Craig has done wonderful things with the lighting, but he is not greatly interested in the actor, and his screens of coloured direct light, beautiful as they are, will always seem, apart from certain exceptional moments, a new externality. One should rather desire, for all but exceptional moments, an even, shadowless light, like that of noon, and it may be that a light reflected out of mirrors will give us what we need."

The Review also contains the one-act play *In the Shadow of the Glen*, by J. M. Synge, which was performed at the Royalty Theatre last March by the Irish National Society; and *The Rising of the Moon*, a comedy by Lady Gregory.

AT the usual weekly meeting of the council, held last Tuesday, Violet Barton Astor, Marie Daventry, Dorothy Hullah, Ethel Dane, Mrs Lane-Joynt, and Donald Paterson were nominated as candidates for election as members of the Actors' Association. The honorary solicitors were requested to lay a case before counsel to advise as to the claim of a member for damages for an alleged breach of contract. Mr George Seymour Stritch, 17, North George's-street, Dublin, was elected as an hon. medical officer to the A. A. A former member was reinstated. The report of the finance and general purposes committee was received. The secretary reported progress in connection with the holding of the fourteenth annual general meeting at an early date. The hon. solicitors reported the trials of two actions brought by members against managers to recover moneys, which had in both cases resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff.

FREDK BOWMAN, thirty-two, and Alice Bowman, thirty-one, of 4 St. James's-place, Roan-street, Greenwich, were charged on Monday at the Greenwich Police-court with begging in Banchary-road, Blackheath. Bowman, in pleading guilty, said he had been out of employment, had no money at home, and owed five weeks' rent. He did not know what to do, and had never begged before. Police-sergeant Relf, 40 R, said Bowman's statement was true. He had six children. He was a steady man, but had been thrown out of employment through illness. Mr Baggallay discharged defendant with a caution. Bowman, it appears, is a music hall artiste, and has travelled under the name of Alonzo, the man with the iron head, giving iron-bending and stone-breaking performances. He bears the character of a steady, sober man, but has had bad luck.

MUSIC HALL GOSSIP.

In view of the era of keen competition that has arisen in the area of the West-end music halls, some questions have been asked concerning reported reductions in the prices of admission. Mr G. A. Payne, who speaks for the Syndicate halls and houses belonging to the Variety Theatres, Consolidated, has no intention of reducing the already very moderate entrance fees that obtain at those establishments. As Mr Payne very truly says, "The conditions that govern our programmes forbid a reduction. We give a long evening's entertainment, in which we must include artistes so popular as to command high salaries for singing one or two songs, and the sums that are paid those artistes are yearly increasing."

Miss Marie Lloyd, who was to have fulfilled an engagement at the Hackney Empire this week, has been quite unable to appear. She has been driven about to her turns in her open motor-car, and was out on Sunday, but on Monday the doctor was called in, and she is now in bed with internal catarrh. Her excellent constitution, it is hoped, will soon enable her to make a complete recovery. There have been many inquirers concerning the condition of the fair sufferer at her residence in King Henry's-road.

Mr Walter De Frece has been feeling a bit run down of late, and by his doctor's advice is visiting Monte Carlo for sunshine and ozone. The popular agent and impresario has no intention of breaking the bank, and will, we hope, return with renewed vigour to take up his duties on Feb 27 as managing-director of the Grand, Boscombe, when that theatre will be run as a variety house on the twice nightly plan. The resident-manager will be Mr Harry Ball, Mr De Frece's brother-in-law.

The London County Council propose to seek parliamentary powers for the supervision of employment agencies. If the Bill is passed it is probable that agencies for the employment of typists, governesses, and music hall artistes will be all officially registered, and a licence fee established. The evil days of music hall agency have long since passed, and the curious way of conducting business that obtained in the seventies and early eighties has given place to sound commercial methods and transparently straightforward dealing. Occasionally bogus agencies inserting fraudulent advertisements arise, but the police have hitherto dealt with such cases. Registration might make their nefarious doings impossible.

We were speaking last week in terms of high praise of Mr Bransby Williams and his impersonation of the old fisherman, Dan'l Peggotty, and it seems that the moral lesson conveyed in a scene that sounds the depths of human emotion has touched the conscience of an erring one. Says she in a letter sent to the young actor:—"Sir,—I have no doubt you never think of yourself as a preacher. I was at the Tivoli last Wednesday evening. Since then I have decided to go home to my uncle—he also is a fisherman, and I was brought up by him. I left home like a lot of others do, but I am going back now, and by the time you get this I shall be with him. He is good, and you must be good, too, to act in the way you do. I shall try now I am going back to him to be a comfort and help to him. I shall always remember and pray for you, and if the prayers of a fallen one will help, you should be helped to great things." This story of the influence of the stage as a moral force should be marked, learned, and inwardly digested by the well-meaning but narrow-minded and stupid folk who decry any form of amusement associated with the footlights. To arrest any sinner in a downward course is the mission of the Church, but this little incident of real life shows that the stage can exercise a powerful influence for good.

Mr Bransby Williams's dramatic monologue to be given by him at the Tivoli on Monday is entitled *Too Late*. The scene of this poem, which has been written by Marshall Masters, is in the Camp, India. Mr Williams has been giving during the week at the Oxford a monologue on Fagin, which has proved one of his greatest successes. The young actor was much touched on Monday when he received a box containing a horseshoe and flowers with the words "Good Luck." He afterwards found that his two little daughters, knowing "daddy's" anxiety, has sent him the present just to encourage him, and they kept their secret so well that their thoughtful kindness was not even known to "mother."

Mrs Charles Sugden is the latest legitimate actress to appear on the variety stage, and she will appear on Monday with a new scena, with musical and choral effects, reviewing the events of the past year, specially written for her by Mr J. C. M'Manus, entitled *The Pictures of the Year*. Mrs Sugden has been a leading actress for some years, and has appeared in important parts in some of the most famous plays of the last century. She was seen to special advantage as Mrs Ralston, in *Jim the Penman*, a part originally created by Lady Monckton.

Another important attraction at the Oxford is the welcome revival by Mr Albert Gilmer of that favourite sporting sketch *Over the Sticks*, which had such a wonderful run when produced a few years back by Mr Harry Lundy. Mr Joe Elvin, who has been used to the pigskin—on the stage *bien entendu*—from his early boyhood, will repeat a personal and histrionic triumph in the part of the rider who suddenly takes the place of his brother. The public will again hear with much amusement the gag, "I'm obliging my brother, I am!" The reproduction will be presented with all the realistic effects—race horses, jockeys, and the fine staging—that were the great factors in the previous success, which constituted a record.

Mr Walter Melville, whose transition from the legitimate stage to the variety footlights is, in the case of the London, Shoreditch, just a walk across the road, is to appear at that house on Monday evening in a new comedy sketch from his own pen, entitled *Six and Eight*. Mr Melville's charming wife, Miss Eva Dare, who has been associated with him in so many Standard Theatre melodramas, will play the principal feminine rôle in the sketch.

Mr Alfred Butt, who has been visiting Paris and Brussels during the week, has secured as his next popular attraction Coco, known as the "miraculous human ape," who, after creating a sensation in Berlin, will make his first apearance in England at the Palace on Monday, the 30th inst. Coco, like his predecessor Consul, the lamented Simian wonder, who was at the Hippodrome, wears fashionable clothes, dines at restaurants, and attends at the theatre. At the Palace he and his trainer will dine on the stage. A waitress will hand the menu to the dandy-ape, garbed in dress suit and white shirt. After running his eye over the *plats du jour* he will make his selection, and proceed through his meal with the *savoir faire* of the practised gourmet. Coco has been several times honoured by royal command, and his appearance before the Czar at the Peterhof synchronised almost with the birth of a heir to the throne of All the Russias.

Three large war kites are now used to advertise the Lyceum. The kites are flown from the roof of that house, and inform all and sundry from a great height that two performances, at 6·30 and 9·0, are given nightly at the latest establishment of the Barrasford circuit. The idea has already been employed in Paris, Havre, America, and Australia.

Mr George Saphrini has resigned his position as manager of the Britannia, Glasgow, and has joined the ranks of agents, making his headquarters at Glasgow.

Mr Hatton Wharton has made a host of friends as manager of the Nottingham Empire, and much satisfaction has been expressed at his appointment by Mr Oswald Stoll as superintendent of the Midland halls circuit, which embraces the Nottingham Empire, the Leicester Palace, the Birmingham Empire, and the Bordesley Palace. His place at Nottingham, as announced in our columns last week, has been taken by Mr Charles Bowmaker, late manager of the Surrey and acting-manager of the Elephant and Castle Theatres.

An extraordinary thing happened at Belfast on Monday. The Palace Theatre in the Linen Metropolis did not open its doors for either performance, the closure being due to the fearful snowstorm that was raging, and that for a short time interrupted all communications with the place. Strange to say, the other theatres and variety establishments were opened as usual.

As mentioned in last week's *Era*, Major George Stratton, for many years manager for Mr William Greet, has been appointed acting-manager of the Empire Theatre, Liverpool. Mr T. Aynsley Cook, who occupied the position, has been promoted to that of district superintendent of Moss and Thornton's Lancashire enterprises. Whilst having his headquarters at Liverpool Mr Cook will supervise the Empire, the Olympia, now building in West Derby-road, Liverpool; the New Hippodrome, in Manchester; and the Empire at Ardwick, near Manchester.

Mr Henry Raymond has relinquished the acting-management of the New-cross Empire to take up an entirely new position in connection with Mr Stoll's scheme of organising the control of the very large number of theatres of which he is now the managing-director. The position referred to is that of district manager attached to the Empires at Holloway, Hackney, New-cross, Stratford, and Shepherd's-bush, acting also as special commissioner to Mr Oswald Stoll. In September last Mr Stoll offered Mr Raymond the choice of taking this position or that of acting-manager at the London Coliseum (which was then shortly to be opened), with the result quoted. Mr Raymond joined Mr Stoll in 1898, and in 1902 was appointed by that gentleman to do the general inspection of all the Stoll Empires, in addition to the responsibilities of acting-management at the New-cross Empire. He has just been succeeded at New-cross by Mr Harry Burdette.

Messrs W. H. Broadhead are rapidly increasing their circuit of houses, the latest being the new Hippodrome at Preston, which opened on Monday evening on the two shows-a-night system. The star of the bill was Charles Coborn, and other attractions included the Seven Proveanies (bicyclists), Chard's Dogs, the Babusians, the Four Maisanos, Davis and Davis, Marie Winsome, Winnie Scott, and the Louisianian Coloured Serenaders.

Dr. Walford Bodie finished his London season at the Paragon and Euston on Saturday night amidst scenes of unbounded enthusiasm. The Doctor had several tempting offers to remain in London, and even offered Mr Barnard £200 to release him, but Mr Barnard refused, so the Doctor opened on Monday at the Empire, Wolverhampton, and, despite a great snowstorm and blizzard, both houses were packed.

The Empire, Wrexham, was on Friday evening, the 13th, placed by Mr J. J. Scott at the service of the Mayor of Mexborough and the committee responsible for the management of the Distress Fund. There was a large attendance, and a substantial sum accrued to the Fund. In addition to the artistes engaged at the hall the following local gentlemen gave a most amusing sketch, which kept the crowded house in roars of laughter:—Messrs Harold Davies, Walter Roberts, J. H. Fitzpatrick, and Arthur E. Bird. Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress (Mr and Mrs Birkett Evans), and several members of the Town Council.

Mr Lennox Chandler, we regret to hear, died at the Glasgow Infirmary on Monday after a short illness. He was well-known as a fine vocalist, and a prominent member of the Adeler and Sutton pierrot company. He was engaged to play King Rat this Christmas with Mr Edward Marris, but unfortunately only played the part for a fortnight, when he was overtaken with a serious illness. The funeral, which took place at old Monklands Cemetery last Wednesday, was a most impressive ceremony, all the company following. Many of the residents paid a last tribute of respect by sending lovely floral and artificial wreaths.

Mr Charles Coborn proposes to hold a meeting in Liverpool next week with a view to explaining the formation and objects and furthering the interests of the Music Hall League, which was established as a sort of protection society or trades union of music-hall artistes. It is very young, and must be tended and encouraged in its growth to maturity, when much good may be expected of it. Due notice will be given to the artistes engaged in the Liverpool and neighbouring music halls as to time and place. The first meeting in connection with it was held in Liverpool, when there were present about five artistes and six press representatives, but it has grown since then, and now possesses a provisional committee, of which Mr Coborn is the chairman.

At the Tivoli, Glasgow, last week, much interest was evoked by a beauty competition, which drew crowded houses. On Saturday the result was announced. Eighteen young ladies faced the footlights for the first time, to compete for the handsome prizes offered. At the Queen's a George Formby competition was productive of much amusement, and numerous clever imitators of that rising comedian entered the lists.

At the Machester Hippodrome—Mr Stoll's latest up-to-date provincial palace of amusement—Fox and Melville, the song illustrators, will sing, on Monday next, F. V. St. Clair's song "Where should we be without the Navy." They will be assisted in the telling chorus by the Hippodrome choir of trained voices.

Mr J. H. Wood, who has managed more contests on the variety stage than any man living, was busy in Manchester last week assisting at competitions in no less than four music-halls. Mr Winstanley, the general-manager to Messrs Broadhead, carried through the exciting events with great smartness and tact, and the unprecedented success attained is largely due to him. Mr Wood himself, who is quite a veteran, has been connected with contests of all kinds since the late sixties. He may well lay claim to the title of "the contest king."

Mr Joe O'Gorman is busily engaged in studying, with a view to immediate production, a new Irish comedy character song, specially written and composed for the genial Hibernian performer by Messrs John P. Harrington and George Le Brunn, the title of which is "The Nice Young Man from Dublin.'

Mr Morris Meyerfeld, jun., the president of the Orpheum Circuit company, San Francisco, left that city on the 8th inst. for a six months' tour of Great Britain and Egypt. He will remain in London for some weeks, and while there will visit several music halls, in hopes of making engagements for his numerous enterprises in the United States.

Mr Harry Tich, who sailed last week from Marseilles to fulfil an engagement with Mr Harry Rickards in Australia, had a wonderful send-off at the hands of his admirers in Paris. He had been for a fortnight at the Moulin Rouge, and, at the close of the term, gave a professional matinée, attended by five hundred of the best actresses, actors, and vaudeville artistes of Paris. This was quite a private affair, and entrance was by invitation only. Tich's success was colossal, and presentations were showered upon him, much to his surprise and gratification. He says "I never felt so proud in my life, especially as I am a foreigner, and such a thing never happened to me in my own country."

To begin with, the artistes of the Moulin Rouge presented a laurel wreath, a laurel crown came from M. Gemier and the company of the Odéon Theatre, and another wreath from the company of the Gaîté Théâtre. There was a silver smoking and writing service, combined with a watch, from M. Guitry and the company of the Renaissance Theatre. M. Max Dearly gave a gold cigarette case, jewelled. A statuette of Tich in costume was presented by Senor Guiraud, the sculptor; a pair of silver big boots came from M. Edmond Gideon; a watch, chain, and charm, representing his big boots, hat, and cane, from the directors of the Moulin Rouge; an enormous bouquet from the company of the Théâtre de la Porte Saint-Martin, and upwards of forty bouquets were thrown upon the stage.

Then M. Coquelin and other members of the Comédie-Française went to Mr Tich's dressing room, and M. Coquelin personally complimented him on his performance. After the evening representation Mr and Mrs Tich were entertained at supper. Such courtesies shown to a foreign artiste by the artistes of Paris must have been extremely gratifying to Mr Tich, and should be appreciated by all English actors. It was a display of good taste and good feeling, that outburst of homage to art by art.

A feature of the Tivoli programme on Monday next is an entirely new song written by J M'Manus, author of "Wait a week or two." It is entitled "The fighting man," and will be sung by Mr Leo Stormont, who will also recite a poem *a propos* to the question of pauper alien immigration from the same pen. Miss Louie Freear, in her quaint character impersonations; Mr Whit Cunliffe, the new comic singer; and Mr Ian Colquhoun, the fine baritone, are all immense favourites, and their numbers are heartily encored every evening.

Mr Harry Tate, who is appearing with such immense success as Abanazar at the Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, will be accorded a complimentary benefit at that house on Friday evening next. We may be certain that many of Mr Tate's friends in the variety profession will turn up to give their services for the popular dispenser of up-to-date fun. Miss Simeta Marsden, the Aladdin of the pantomime, has been presented with a diamond ring won by her in open competition to decide the most popular pantomime artistes in the United Kingdom. Miss Marsden was one of thirteen.

Mr Handel V. Phasey has been making his pile in the States with his British Guards' Bands, visiting the principal seaside resorts in America, and winning golden opinions for his fine instrumental combination. He now intends to visit the most popular and important watering places in the United Kingdom, where no doubt he will be warmly welcomed.

The regretted indisposition of Miss Venie Belfry, the lady of the celebrated duo, Clark and Hamilton, prevents her taking part in their most successful entertainment. In his dilemma Mr Clark has been fortunate enough to secure the services of Miss Constance Mori, who has previously been seen to advantage on the variety stage in Mr Arthur Rigby's popular "incident," *Crystal Palace—Bank Holiday*.

Miss Florence Esdaile, who is now playing the part of Princess Ivy in the pantomime of *Puss in Boots* at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, has been re-engaged by Messrs Warden and Mouillot to play the same part at the Broadway Theatre, New-cross. Little Stella, who has made such a hit in the same pantomime during its run in Belfast by her singing and dancing, is a daughter of Miss Esdaile, and was taught dancing by her grandmother. Miss Esdaile is booked ahead for four years at all the principal London halls, the Coliseum, the Moss and Stoll tours, and South Africa. Her business is in the energetic hands of Mr Tom Shaw.

Mr Arthur M Binstead has been invited by the directors of the Alhambra company to undertake the Press representation of that theatre. Mr Binstead's popularity as a journalist and his knowledge of the variety business make the selection a very happy one. Mr Binstead succeeds Mr George Bull, who has become the Press representative of Mr Tom Barrasford at the Lyceum.

By her continued successes in pantomime at Notting-hill, Miss Winifred Hare established herself a first favourite among "principal boys" in this form of entertainment. But great as have been her triumphs at Notting-hill, she has completely eclipsed them at Stoke Newington by her dainty and spirited performance of Prince Alexis, in *Cinderella*, and by her charming singing of Hannen Swaffer's "You are a little white girl," with which she opened her music hall career at the Tivoli, and Frederick Clay's "Banish Sorrow till To-morrow."

Many visitors to Drury-lane who laugh at Mr Harry Randall's humorous song with its accompanying dissertation on "Husbands—by one who has had four," will recognise it as the work of J. Bernard Dickson, who collaborates so well with the gifted artist.

Miss Nellie Coleman, who finishes the Moss and Stoll tours to-night, has been winning golden opinions in every town by her excellent comedy impersonations. She opens at the Palace, Blackpool, on Monday. Miss Coleman sails with her husband—Dome, the original comedy clay man—for South Africa, on Feb. 4. She returns to London in May, opening at the Canterbury, Paragon, and Brixton.

Caicedo possesses that intrepidity and coolness which must always make an immediate impression upon any audience, no matter to what nationality they may belong. The king of wire-walkers has discovered the truth of this aphorism for himself in every country that he has visited, and has been repeating the most agreeable experience lately in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. The spectators in these cultured cities of the west watch with breathless interest, which almost amounts to anxiety, the feats of the Mexican wonder; but when they discover how easily everything seems to be accomplished they relieve the tension by enthusiastic applause. Caicedo is engaged in America until the end of May.

Miss Clare Howard, who in her early career was a favourite actress with the Madame Beatrice company when it was directed by the late Frank Harvey, will shortly return to the variety stage in a new entertainment that was specially written for her by her husband, Mr George Daventry, the author of *The Indian Mutiny*, *The Harvest of Sin*, *Under Two Flags*, and other pieces. In consequence of the long illness and subsequent death of Mr Daventry, the production, which was written last July, has been unavoidably postponed. Miss Howard's striking figure of Ghuznah, the heroine of *The Indian Mutiny*, is one of the very few dramatic impersonations that have made equally as deep an impression upon the variety as upon the regular stage, and her reappearance will be very welcome.

"All the Year Round" at the Alhambra has not belied its title, for Mr J. M. Glover's successful ballet will on Saturday next have achieved the Alhambra record in running for twelve months in succession, and it is pleasant to hear that another work from the same pen will be heard at the Leicester-square house in the near future.

We had a few remarks in our columns the other week concerning the spelling of the new palace of entertainment in St. Martin's-lane. It was argued that it should have been "Colosseum," and it has been suggested in a daily contemporary that Mr Oswald Stoll used the word "Coliseum" because he remembered the Italian *coliseo*. Mr Stoll is moved not by his love for Italy, but by a desire for economy. He points out that newspaper proprietors and bill-posting firms charge for advertisements by space. "Coliseum" is shorter than "Colosseum," and may be equally well displayed at less expense. The question presents, he considers, a distinction without a difference, because, though the letters O. S. (his initials) are taken out of the longer form, they are replaced by the personal pronoun "I"—a very clever and ingenious argument, Mr Stoll.

It is the entirely commendable custom of Mr B. P. Lucas, the managing director of the Bedford, to give an annual entertainment in aid of the North-West London Hospital, Kentish-town-road, situated in the immediate neighbourhood of the hall. Two years ago he was able to hand over the fine total of £300 to the treasurer, and he hopes on Thursday, Feb. 2, on the occasion of the grand matinée, to cut his own excellent record. The entertainment to be given on the date mentioned will be one of exceptional excellence, and will be patronised by the élite of North London. Mr Lucas considers that matinées in aid of hospital funds are the best substitutes possible for anniversaries, and we quite agree with him.

With the exception of one extremely popular "turn," there will be a complete change of programme at the Lyceum on Monday. Among those who will be seen for the first time in London will be found Mr A. Lawrence, an American comedian, whose humorous songs and discourses have won for him the reputation as the funniest man who has ever visited England. Other features of a remarkably strong programme will be Staig's motor sensation, Looping the Aerial Circle and motor racing in mid-air; the Cattanecs, eccentric comedians; Edward Reynard, American ventriloquist; Walter and Miss Ellis, with their extraordinary canine humourists; and The Prison scene from *Faust*, by the Lyceum Grand Opera quartet, who have already rendered immensely popular this element of the programme.

Paul Cinquevalli, a great globe trotter, writes the following testimony to the wide circulation of *The Era*. He says:—"I have trotted the globe all over and have often met with disappointments, but in no corner of the world have I ever been disappointed in obtaining *The Era*, and I am sure there will hardly be any of my acquaintances or friends I met in my travels that will not have read the splendid article which appeared in *The Era* about me."

Tickets for the annual dinner and dance of the M.H.A.R.A. at the Trocadero on Sunday, Feb. 5, are now on sale at the offices. The programme of the evening is as follows:—Reception by the President, Mr Harry Randall, at 7·30; dinner at 8·0; conversazione, 10·30; and dancing at midnight. A special licence has been obtained until 4·0 o'clock, and the M.H.A.R.A. Orchestra, under the direction of Mr Alf Groves, has been engaged.

There was a slight mishap on Tuesday night at the Coliseum in the Derby scene, but, happily, it was attended by no serious result. As the second performance of the day was closing a "side flat," standing about 25ft. high, depicting spectators watching the historic race, fell across the stage, but luckily clear of the horses. The fallen scenery was immediately rescued by workmen, and in a few seconds the revolving stage was brought to a standstill and the curtain rung down. The incident caused a little excitement, but no one was in any way injured.

Mr Edmond Bosanquet, whose "musical séance" has called forth a good deal of admiration at the Camberwell Palace this week, was for a period of eight years the musical director at the Canterbury, under Messrs Crowder and Payne's management. Mr Bosanquet, who resigned that position fifteen years ago, has also been associated in a similar capacity with the Edinburgh Empire Palace, the Blackpool Alhambra, and with theatres at Liverpool and elsewhere.

The most remarkable of Mr Bosanquet's instruments is what he calls the Bosanquephone, by means of which he obtains sounds similar to those made by the human voice. He tells us that the idea of this invention occurred to him one evening when he was listening to some performances by David Clegg's orchestra. He saw that it was possible to so manipulate a cornet to get the tone of a trombone, and he thought that if he could make a similar instrument with a long horn—the tube to go round his head—he might be able to give a representation of a human singer. So far as he has gone, Mr Bosanquet has been fairly successful. The effect he has obtained is that the "Bosanquephone" is most natural in the high key, and somewhat resembles a 'cello quality in the low notes. When he performed a few months ago at Rotterdam, people would not believe that such sounds could be mechanically produced. In fact, he was charged with having concealed a gramophone behind him.

At the Cambridge, on Thursday afternoon, a grand matinée performance was given in aid of the unemployed and the distress funds for the Borough of Stepney and the Tweeddale Working Guild. The occasion was certainly made the most of, for Mr A. C. Kendrick, the able manager, decorated the inside of the hall, and had flags and bunting streaming outside and across the street. The entertainment lasted for four hours — from 2·0 until 6·0 — and among the artists who generously proffered their services were Miss Marie Kendall, who sang her well-known song, "Just like the Ivy;" Mr Sam Mayo, who gave "The Old Tin Can;" Messrs Esmond and Evelyn, in their sketch, entitled *Her Ladyship;* the Vivians, in *Life's Reverie;* Ernest Montefiore and company, in the new and original musical scena, *The Little Colonel;* Mr Will H. Fox, in "Paddy whisk;" the Franklin Troupe of Imperial Russian singers and dancers; Mr G. H. Elliott, the popular coloured vocalist and dancer; Miss Lily Langtry, the Five Whiteleys, Lieut. Albini, the New York Nippers, the Harvey Boys; Mdme. Ophelia Phillips, the American piano soloist; and Signor Bartollotta, the operatic tenor vocalist. The function was most successful, both from a financial and artistic aspect.

An artiste writes:—"From my own experience let me make the following suggestion, which is of great importance to those artistes engaged in Germany. It is an absolute necessity that they should have inserted in their contracts a clause to the effect that the management shall not make any deduction whatsoever from their salary unless their consent is first obtained. In one establishment I know it seems to be a common occurrence for the management to pay any bill which may be presented against any artist engaged there without any preliminary consultation. The sum, however unjust or exorbitant, is deducted at pay-day. Of course, the artiste has no time to contest the matter, as an appearance has to be made immediately in the next town."

The Tivoli, Cape Town, commenced the New Year under new proprietorship, the establishment having been purchased by the Johannesburg Empire Syndicate. Mr Herbert Hyman, brother to Mr Sydney Hyman, is the new manager of the Cape Town house. Before severing his connection with the Tivoli Mr E. A. Pickering was given a farewell testimonial and benefit. We understand that Mr Pickering will shortly return to this country.

Mr George Robey, the football comedian, has arranged to play with a specially selected team at Manchester for the benefit of the unemployed fund. Mr Robey's popularity should be instrumental in securing an excellent "gate."

The Boys of the Duke York's School, to the number of five hundred and ninety, on Tuesday afternoon marched with their band to the Alhambra Theatre to witness the remarkable double-series of pictures, and the performance of the marvellous Tschin-Mas Troupe, collectively called an "Urbanora" matinée.

Mr Urban is preparing a new series of films to be called "Living London," which will illustrate to a certain extent the work of that name, written by Mr Geo R. Sims. The pictures will be presented at the Urbanora matinée at the Alhambra on Monday, Jan. 30.

Mr Walter Gibbons is threatening the Islingtonians with a great Russian invasion next week—in other words, he has arranged for the appearance at the popular Islington Empire of the extraordinary colossal Russian fat girl, Miss Lucie, who, although only sixteen years of age, weighs 350lbs., and certainly should prove a heavy draw!

That excellent fraternity the "Terriers" will have their annual dinner and ball on Sunday, March 19, at the Horns, Kennington. Applications for tickets should be made early, to the secretary, Harry Lester, as the number is limited.

Mr G. H. Chirgwin, who has entirely recovered from his accident, will be appearing at Walthamstow Palace next week with new songs and gags. Of course, "The Blind Boy" will be given if asked for.

The phenomenal success of the pantomime *Sleeping Beauty* at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, was further evidenced last week by the enclosed wire from Mr J. M. Chute—while away in Edinburgh—to Miss Lil Hawthorne and company:—"Edinburgh, Jan. 13. Lil Hawthorne and company, Prince's Theatre, Bristol.—Congratulate you all on record matinée.—Chute."

Mr Percy Murray, the son, and Miss Ada Murray, the widow of the deceased actor, Mr J. K. Murray, who passed away at Chilcompton, Bath, on the 12th inst., will have the sincere sympathy of their numerous friends in the variety profession. Both mother and son were acting together last week at Collins's in the wordless playlet *L'Idole Brisé* when they received the sad news. Miss Ada Murray will be remembered as the original Virginie, in the production of Charles Reade's drama *Drink*, adapted from Emile Zola's sensational, realistic, and uncompromising novel "L'Assommoir."

Mr Lennox Barry, the newly appointed general manager of the Empire, Battersea, is organising a special matinée, under distinguished patronage, for Wednesday, Jan. 25, in aid of the local unemployed. As he has secured the services of a number of the leading artistes, the programme should be an excellent one. The entire proceeds will be handed over for distribution amongst the most deserving cases, and as the distress in this district is very great, it is hoped that a large amount will be realised.

Mr and Mrs Edward Lucas, who will make their West-end début at the Lyceum on Jan. 30, have been appearing on the variety stage in "Scenes from Dickens" for the last eight months. They previously belonged to the entertainment world and gave costume recitals, interspersed with music, singing, and even conjuring on a small scale. The death of poor Jo, from "Bleak House," and the scenes between Fagin, Sykes, and Nancy, from "Oliver Twist," have proved their most successful selections up to date. The final interview between Bill Sykes and Nancy was often read by Dickens himself during his last years on the platform; it is so horrible, however, that Mr and Mrs Lucas have rightly decided to drop the curtain before the murder takes place. It will be remembered that in the book Jo dies in Mr George's shooting gallery, but they follow stage tradition in giving the scene in a London churchyard.

The works of Charles Dickens have, perhaps, been more used on the stage and platform than those of any other novelist. The great Boz himself set the fashion when he "realised" Pegotty, Doctor Marigold, Sam Weller, and many other famous characters for hundreds of audiences in England and America. The little table on which he always laid his book is now in the possession of his youngest daughter, Mrs C. E. Perugini. Of later years Mr Samuel Brandram's recitation of "The Cricket on the Hearth" was one of the best items in his big répertoire. Sir Squire Bancroft's reading of "A Christmas Carol" will occur to everyone's mind as yet another proof of the evergreen possibilities of the famous Christmas story. Mr Ben Nathan has made a speciality of the same book. Mr Bransby Williams has done more than any other artiste to popularise Dickens in the halls. Miss Arabella Allen is a worthy follower, Mr and Mrs Edward Lucas are equally enthusiastic, and "there are others."

The Great Rubie (La Femme Mesmer), wife of Dr. Walford Bodie, has been creating a furore this week at Mr Lawson's Palace, Tottenham. Her act is quite unique and has caught on. At the conclusion of her engagement last week at the Grand, Clapham, she was presented with several lovely bouquets and a large floral basket, standing nearly 4ft. high, from several of her admirers. Mr Tom Shaw has been appointed her agent, and we expect to see her starring at all our West-end halls.

Mr Bertie Ross, after a long and serious illness, is now about again, thanks to the care and attention he received at Westminster Hospital. He was there for three months.

The 389th meeting of the executive committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Tuesday afternoon, Mr Joe O'Gorman, chairman of the committee, presiding. Mr John M'Cormick, of the Empire Palace, Greenock, was appointed as agent in that town. The secretary reported that forty-four new members had joined during the week, making a total number enrolled since the commencement of 11,144.

Mr Tom Costello's own idea for a dramatic song scena to be entitled "An Old Man's Christmas Eve" has been placed in the best of hands, Harry Adams, who gave the world the late Charles Godfrey's famous song "On Guard," has executed the writing of the morceau entirely to Mr Costello's satisfaction, and the melodic portion is safe with Bennett Scott, who at the present time is taking a run round the provinces in company with A. J. Mills.

Mr Chas. Deetrich, of the firm of D. Barnard and Deetrich, is leaving England early in February, with a large commission for booking Continental turns for England, and will also act for English artistes who desire engagements on the Continent.

THE LONDON MUSIC HALLS.

THE METROPOLITAN.

A farcical concoction, a human magnet, pickchick actors, song illustrators, comediennes, Continental artistes, coon impersonators, society entertainers, and a ventriloquist make up the remarkable pot-pourri that Mr Jack Edgar is presenting this week at the Metropolitan as a music hall programme Its scope sets one wondering at the elastic properties of the variety net which seems to be outspreading its mesh more widely than ever to satisfy the demand of the public for novelty. An important interlude in the scheme of amusement is the sketch, *Riding to Orders*, presented by Mr Joe Elvin and his company. The simple expedients for the promotion of funny situations have before done duty in old Adelphi farce. Mr Elvin impersonates a bicycle rider named Blinker—a champion at three miles—who by an extraordinary combination of mischances has to take the place of a jockey and ride a hurdle racer over the sticks. How Blinker manages to keep his seat and win is well described by one of the actors in the farce, and Mr Elvin's unrestrained humour and comical appearance in the pigskin are undeniable factors in the merriment. Mr Will Evans has not enlisted in the service of King Pantomime this year, but he is giving a most humorous skit of that popular form of Yuletide entertainment. Taking a couple of assistants into his confidence, and humorously instructing them how to play the parts of Pretty Polly and the adventurous hero, the comedian himself comes on as Will Atkins. Buffoonery is, of course, rampant, and the audience screams with laughter. Mr Evans has also one of his characteristic "girl" songs—one of the best he has exploited. Early in the evening Mr Billy Williams gives several well-written parodies, and is not only on excellent terms with himself but also with the audience. Miss Queenie Lawrence with daintiness and chic asserts herself as a comedienne; and Miss Bertha Vere in the same line is quite successful. The Two Bees (Harry and Flora Blake) are responsible for a happy piece of insouciance, and Mr Blake's remarks on the superiority of the sterner sex and the volubility of the weaker meet with general approval. Something of a chartered libertine in the matter of jest is Mr Phil Ray, who has a delightful way of contracting words that often gain by the process. He is fond of ingenious spoof, and his patter keeps his hearers in fits of laughter. He refers to a popular daily as "the children's friend," and touches humorously on passing events. Miss Annie Abbott, one of the big lines of the bill, is the little "Georgia Magnet," who created a sensation some years since at the Alhambra. She illustrates problems in "force," and successfully defies a number of strong men to push a billiard cue to the floor which she holds by the open palms of her hands. A committee is chosen from the audience, and the experiments create a deal of amusement and interest. Mr Frank Travis is one of our most popular ventriloquists, and in his transformations we see our old friends, M. Beautemps and the veteran of ninety, who sings "Genevieve." This is a remarkable *tour de force* on the part of the polyphonist, who smokes a cigarette during the whole time he is voicing the song. Les Rubens, who are new to us, are excellent singers, the lady being a powerful operatic soprano, with an extensive compass, and the gentleman a pleasant-voiced baritone. Their harmonised version of the charming Irish melody "Eileen Alannah" brings down the house. Miss Belle Davis and her piccaninnies supply a bright interlude of quaint dancing; Miss Lottie Albert has a bright style as a comedienne; Miss Kit Keene is a fascinating coon artiste; Morretti and Alice on an electrically illuminated trapeze disport themselves gracefully; and other turns include Will English, Negro comedian; and Martine and Son, song illustrators.

SADLER'S WELLS.

At this ancient place of amusement this week a considerable amount of interest has been taken in the performances of Professor Inman Hockinge, American hypnotist, electrician, and scientist. He is introduced to the audience by an assistant who, in the course of a few remarks, makes a passing reference to the large amount of fraud and deception which have been practised of late years by people professing to cure by means of hypnotism, &c. This fact was, no doubt, conducive to the existence of doubt amongst the audience. However, Professor Hockinge would prove that he was what he claimed to be—a great psychic force and a king of healers. The Professor then came forward, and announced that he was about to pass through his body a current of 500,000 volts, and also that he was prepared to see patients at the theatre any day between twelve and one o'clock. He then read a letter from a grateful father living at Fulham, whose son had been treated at the theatre the previous night. The boy had been a cripple from the age of five months, one leg being quite useless; but he was now able to play about quite well, having recovered the complete use of the limb. The case had been given up as incurable at the London hospitals. A young man, seated in a chair, was then carried on the stage by two assistants, the Professor announcing that his name was Walter Spicer, and that he lived in Miranda-road, Holloway. He was suffering from rheumatism in his arms and legs, the result of an immersion in cold water on the occasion of his rescuing from the river Avon a fellow being who was drowning. For this brave deed Spicer received a framed testimonial from the Bath Humane Society. The Professor next proceeded to hypnotise the patient and to submit him to electrical treatment, rubbing his bare legs and then working them up and down after the manner of a pump handle. The man's arms were treated in the same manner; and on his regaining consciousness he used both arms and legs freely, and finally, taking a short run, jumped over the seat of a chair. The Professor's next performance was to hypnotise a young lady and place her in such a position that her head and nether limbs rested on the edge of two chairs. A wooden bridge was then placed over her, supported by her body, and over this walked a number of men in quick succession. A comic scene followed, several youths making frantic endeavours to take coppers from the bottom of a basin filled with water and receiving electric shocks, until at length one of them achieved the feat of extracting the coins. It was announced that a competition among the penny-snatchers would take place on Friday night. Some other comical experiments were also introduced, including a duel with rapiers that had been charged with electricity. Miss Zeta Gray and company are appearing here in their amusing sketch, entitled *A Lancashire Lass*, the lady singing some operatic extracts charmingly, and a youth causing much merriment as Trotters, a mischievous page boy. Mr Cyril Earle, described as an English singer of English songs, gives a good rendering of "The Midnight Train" and "Side by Side." Mr Sam Redfern, Negro comedian, philosophises about marriage and other matters in his usual cheerful style; Judge's performing cockatoos continue to display wonderful intelligence; Miss Reba Kaufman scores as a toe-dancer; and other good turns are the Davenports, silent magicians and illusionists; Mr Herbert Betts, comedian; and Miss Vera Patey, burlesque artist.

THE BEDFORD.

There were some difficulties for the management of this popular Camden Town hall on the night of our visit, and the word "deputy" was requisitioned on several occasions. Delay in the arrival of artistes was caused by the slippery state of the roads, and for this reason Miss Marie Kendall was unable to put in an appearance until late in the first house. Her absence would have been a considerable disappointment to a large number of the Bedfordians, who were by way of joining in a popular singing competition on Friday (yesterday) for the best impersonation of the comedienne in any of her well-known songs. "Just like the ivy I'll cling to you" is one of the popular comedienne's latest successes, and the sentiment of the song is of that heart-searching nature that appeals very strongly to the masses. When Miss Kendall eventually made her appearance she sang an amusing selection, and then gave way to Mr Steve M'Carthy, a comedian who has won popularity with the good folk of Camden-town. Among the "deputies" were Mr Sam Mayo and the Harvey Boys. The former comedian, who rejoices in his immobility, was endeavouring to cut his own "record" of turns, and for that purpose called at the Bedford quite early and sang a couple of songs. The first, which was entitled "Oof," contained an amusing reference to Mr A. F. Lovesy, the manager, who was an amused auditor. In his second song Mr Mayo made a quaint use of a tin can—a battered specimen which is slung round his neck. He used it as a sort of drum, and the beating mostly accentuated the significance of the refrain. The idea is certainly original, and Mr Mayo's oddity of manner and imperturbable style set the audience in a roar. The Harvey Boys played their latest farcical sketch *The Fighting Dummy*, of which boxing and comedy are the chief ingredients. The "aristocratic" masher is of the type only seen on the music hall stage or in minor melodrama, but he is the exponent of a kind of comedy that has its admirers, and the amusing antics of the representative of the proletariat are supplemented by some clever dancing by the youngest member of the trio. Miss Jessie Albini, who also came as deputy, presented a dainty figure in her song concerning the simple country girl, whose "unworldly" ways are amusingly depicted. She also gave a number in which the practice of keeping a diary leads to entirely interesting results. Miss Edna Masten, soubrette, whistled a number of popular airs; Welda and Wynne gave a good juggling act; and Charles Danton renewed acquaintance with many of his former admirers. The sketch has always been a much-appreciated feature of Mr B. P. Lucas's bills, and the military incident entitled *For the Honour of the Regiment* is a highly entertaining playlet, full of interest from the rising to the fall of the curtain. Major Kerr, the villain of the piece, besmirches the honour of the regiment by stealing important military despatches that are temporarily under the care of a defenceless woman, the wife of the officer to whom they had been originally entrusted. Kerr is challenged by the husband, and is worsted in a duel. By committing suicide he saves the honour of the regiment. Mr Frank Hardie as a dude officer is responsible for a droll impersonation, and the representative of Major Kerr is also entitled to our compliments. Other turns in an excellent programme are the New York Nippers, capital step dancers, in a piece of pantomime fun entitled *Bedtime*, which furnishes many excuses for the laughter of the juveniles; and Zaro and Arno, in a comedy bar act. The Imperial Bioscope on Monday showed a clever series of films depicting a raid on a thieves' den, a comic courting scene, a tragedy in mid-air—a most ingeniously arranged episode; and "The Clown's Story," a touching narrative. The pictures, indeed, did excellent service on Monday, and saved several awkward waits.

BATTERSEA EMPIRE.

At the Battersea Empire this week Mr Lennox Barry has provided his patrons with a programme of the usual excellent quality. During the last week or two a few changes have been witnessed at this hall. Mr Lennox Barry, who for the last few weeks has been acting as assistant manager to Mr Edwin E. Giles, has, on the resignation of that gentleman, been appointed to take upon his shoulders the responsible duties of manager. Mr Barry bids fair to soon become as popular as his predecessor, which is saying a good deal. The musical directorship has also changed hands, for Mr R. Holman is now to be seen conducting the able orchestra from the seat which up to a recent date was occupied by Mr W. Hinkinson. The engagement of local children is proving a great attraction. Mothers, fathers, relatives, and friends come night after night to witness the performance of those juveniles in whom they are naturally interested. Mr Barry has provided forty local youngsters with very congenial evening employment to assist Mr Fred Percy in his entertaining episode entitled *In Slavery Days; or, South before the War*. Singing, dancing, and serious acting each has its share in this act. Tom White's Arabs, including the popular Pimple, are giving their clever singing and comedy entertainment. The witty replies of Pimple to questions from the austere schoolmaster are laughable. Tony and Flo Vernon present their whimsical and admirable comedy act. Tony somehow strays into the apartments of his partner and she "amuses" him by telling him a horrible ghost story. The excuses he frames in order to induce her to let him go, and his many funny attempts to conceal his fright, are most enjoyable. Their clever paper-tearing act must have taken many hours of weary toil to bring to its present perfection. The lady, blindfolded and with hands bound behind her, to the strains of a sympathetic song rendered by her partner, tears away with remarkable quickness and skill until the result is an artistic pattern about the size of a cartwheel. Mr J. W. Swales, who claims to be the "undefeated champion jumper of the world," is proving to Battersea Empire patrons that he has no slight claim to this title. He accomplishes straight and side jumps over five chairs placed in a row, the daring feat of jumping first over two chairs and then over three, touching and marking the forehead of a man who is resting his head on the last chair. He concludes his performance by a wonderful jump, namely that of springing backwards off a table and over five chairs. Percival, the trick pianist, is presenting his humorous skit, entitled "The Piano Shifter." In a good comic song, Mr Fred E. Terry finds various excuses for the wild pranks of people "When they're down on their holidays." "Oh, my! what a funny feeling" is also well rendered by this comedian. Mr Walter Clyde, who possesses a good tenor voice, sings "The Children's Home" and "Always," which are well appreciated. Mr Tom E. Hughes, in feminine garb, sings a good song describing the conditions under which poverty-stricken beings exist. The photo. competition still retains its old popularity, and continues to attract patrons to visit the hall many times during the week in the hope of seeing their own portraits.

THE MUSIC HALL BENEVOLENT FUND

MR JOSEPH LYONS' CHRISTMAS APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION.

	£	s.	d.
Donations already announced	63	18	6
Capt. Woodward	5	5	0
Henri Gros	2	2	0
George Sinclair	1	1	0
G. Grais	1	1	0

Secretary, HORACE MARRIOTT.
Offices: 18, Adam-street, Strand.

The president wishes it to be known that the funds have almost given out, and that immediate help is required

MR TOM FOY, as Idle Jack, in *Dick Whittington*, has a great hit in his new song, "I reckon he'll be much obliged to me." At Bolton every line has evoked roars of laughter, and it is to be hoped he will drop the song—which deals with a town-dweller's misadventures, whilst taking care of a relative's farm—into his sketch, *The Yorkshire Lad in London*. The number, which is published by Messrs Francis, Day, and Hunter, is by Maurice Scott, and the words by the author of "The Cockney's Garden."

HARRY RANDALL,

AS

FAIRY ASBESTOS,

IN

DRURY-LANE PANTOMIME.

If there is anyone in the Drury-lane cast who can compensate us for the loss of Dan Leno, that person is Mr Harry Randall, who appears in the various costumes, "supernatural" and earthly, of the Fairy Asbestos. Although there may be limits even to the salaries of star comedians of pantomime, it would be impossible from the point of view of the man outside the Drury-lane treasury door, to overestimate the value of Mr Randall to "The White Cat." Working untiringly in spirit, and obviously determined to do his very best, he yet manages to get through his enormous part—he is on the stage in nearly every scene—with an air of the most perfect ease, and with a control over himself and the attention of the audience which is quite extraordinary. As one can easily tell by the appreciative response from all parts of the house, the voice of the comedian finds its way into every corner, however remote, like the new broom of the new housemaid. The laughter may be almost continuous while he is on the stage, but he never by any chance loses a line in it. With a deliberation that is characteristic of the man and his career—for it will not be forgotten that he has risen to his present position by definite work and the most determined will—Mr Randall waits until his hearers are quite ready to receive his jokes, and when he has no doubt whatever about it being the right time to aim, he sends them plump into their laps. Drury-lane never had a safer pantomime comedian to show than this very material Fairy Asbestos, who, a little over a quarter of a century ago, was a mild young chorister in one of our most important churches!—M. A. P., Jan. 7, '05.

"THE ERA" SHILLING FUND

FOR THE

MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

	Shillings.
Thomas Barrasford	700
Lily Burnand	42
L. C. J. Livermore	42
C. Mannering	31½
Paul Cinquevalli	21
Gus Elen	21

Collected by Mr Walter Stockwell, £1 14s.

	Shillings.		Shillings.
The Sivronis	2	F. Durant	1
Walter Stockwell	1	B. Jordan	1
Walter Wallis	1	Percy Murray	1
R. G. Fox	1	Grove Duo	1
Fitzroy	1	W. Munroe	1
Miss F. Chester	1	G. Barclay	1
W. Oliver	1	H. Simms	1
Richard Cass	1	Jack Richards	1
J. Spain	1	J. Laws	1
T. Callaghan	1	Jack Lorimer	1
T. Fitzroy	1	Mrs H. Simms	1
Jack Charman	1	Bandoni	1
Annie Laurie	1	Denmark Pair	1
Nellie Lewis	1	H. H. Braham	1
Walter Bartley	1	Eyre Wymfred	1
P. Palmer	1	Frank J. Woods	1

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Enclosed please find "Home Fund" card, also cheque value £1 14s. (one pound fourteen shillings) Kindly forward receipt for same to the above address. Do not send me another card, as I am working another scheme just now.

Yours faithfully, WALTER STOCKWELL.

Gaiety, Chatham, Jan. 18.

PRESTON ROYAL HIPPODROME.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons, the well-known theatre and music hall proprietors, may be heartily complimented upon the welcome addition to the amusements of Preston which their new Royal Hippodrome provides. Situated in Friargate, a main thoroughfare, it will, when fully completed, stand out prominently as a handsome example of modern architecture; and a fact worthy of note is that it is one of the largest buildings of its kind in England.

The main entrance is through an arcade, on each side of which are shops, the façade being of terra-cotta, and very pleasing in design. A fine vestibule, beautifully decorated in white and gold, and embellished with coloured leaded lights, leads to the interior. The proscenium is in Ionic style, with Renaissance panels and friezes. On either side are statues, copies of Canova's dancing girls, "Repose" and "Silence," supported by brackets representing heads of satyr. These figures are the same size as the originals made by Canova for Napoleon I., which are now at Versailles. Electric lights around the proscenium and ceiling give a very pretty effect. There is seating accommodation for 2,000 people, and the seats are thoroughly comfortable.

The theatre is fully equipped with the latest appliances in case of fire, including a fire-proof curtain to the stage. For lighting purposes both gas and electricity are used, the necessary current for the latter being generated on the premises. The Hippodrome will be conducted on the two houses a-night plan, at popular prices. There is also to be a matinée each Monday.

A large audience assembled at the opening performance on Monday afternoon, and the entertainment provided was excellent. Charles Coborn, home from his tour in America, contributed humorous songs in capital style; Chard's cleverly trained dogs showed surprising intelligence in their many feats; the Babusians, in their acrobatic display, were seen to advantage; the Four Maisanos evoked hearty laughter in their eccentric musical show; Davis and Davis acquitted themselves well in a novel comedy act; the Seven Provenzies gave a brilliant exhibition of trick cycling; Marie Winsome, male impersonator, was loudly applauded; the Louisianian coloured Serenaders were greatly appreciated; and Winnie Scott, Parisian soubrette and dancer, proved a very successful turn.

ON Saturday, at the last performance but one of Mr E. Graham Falcon's *Bo-Peep* pantomime at the Alexandra Palace Theatre, that gentleman presented Mr Edwin Goodship, the manager and secretary of the Palace, with a solid silver cigar-case as a memento of a pleasant time enjoyed by the artists and himself whilst at the Muswell-hill establishment, and also to commemorate the breaking of all previous records at the house as to receipts during pantomime time. Mr Goodship acknowledged the gift, which had been subscribed for by Mr Graham-Falcon, in a few well-chosen words. During the current week *Little Bo-Peep*, so ably produced by Medley Barrett, has been attracting large audiences at Luton, from whence proceeding to Bedford.

'JINKS IN A JUNGLE."

Sketch, in One Scene, by G. Cosman and Bob Hanlon, Produced at the Camberwell Palace of Varieties, on Monday, Jan. 16.

A Game Hunter	Mr G. Cosman
A Tourist	Mr Henry Barrett
A Valet	Mr Julian
A Chief	Mr R. Roberts
Hottentots	Mr Richard Bohme Mr Edward Young

A trapeze in the tree-tops gains in picturesqueness and loses nothing in the way of excitement, and the novel combination has proved very stimulating at the Camberwell Palace, where it is a feature of a new sketch which is being played this week. The scene is laid in the depths of a tropical jungle, where wild beasts prowl amid the waving palms of a cocoanut grove. Then arrives a mighty hunter from a distant land, who proceeds to initiate his tourist friend with a pronounced Cockney accent into the delights of the chase. Despite his elementary knowledge of the use of firearms, the hunter succeeds in disposing of a formidable lion and tiger; but the report of the revolver brings upon them a trio of Hottentots, who have a lively sense of the ludicrous, and create havoc with the lunch which is served by a deliberate valet, who juggles lazily with the plates and dishes. Eventually the savages climb to the tops of the cocoanut trees, where they go through a series of gymnastic feats. There is more fun with the travellers, followed by a "ko-ki" dance to a peculiar clapping accompaniment on cocoanut shells fixed on various parts of the body. Finally the natives return to the tree-tops, and perform still more difficult flights on the trapeze, the curtain descending on a comic melée between the white men and the Hottentots. The little sketch, which is acted by Mr Bob Hanlon's company, is fashioned chiefly in the interests of fun, which is principally supported by Mr G. Cosman, who as the intrepid hunter never tires in its maintenance. His devices for causing mirth are on the most farcical lines, which are fully justified in the constant laughter which follows his efforts. Mr Henry Barrett supplies a very natural specimen of the English tourist, and bears with equanimity the various mischances which fall to him, and Mr Julian as the valet reveals an aptitude for juggling which adds colour to his droll impersonation. The gymnastic feets are deftly performed by Messrs R. Roberts, Richard Bohme, and Edward Young, as the dusky natives, the flying leaps from bar to bar and double somersaults to catch executed by a smart young performer arousing much applause. The scene, which has been painted by Mr L. Hart, is elaborately set, the lion, tiger, and monkey being fearfully realistic, and Mr H. Elliott should be complimented in respect of the properties. A hearty recall at the finish gave complete evidence of the success of the production.

A novelty of Mr Jesse Sparrow's strong programme is the contribution of Mr Edmund Bosanquet, the well-known violinist. His command of that instrument is well displayed in an arpeggio movement, in which a remarkable skill in the use of harmonics is shown. This, however, is only a preliminary to the introduction of a wonderful instrument, resembling an attenuated violin, with a large trumpet-shaped attachment which encircles the neck, and through which the sound proceeds. By means of this instrument, called the "Bosanquephone," and which the virtuoso claims to be made entirely from his own idea, Mr Bosanquet endeavours to produce a close imitation of the human voice. The violin is admittedly the nearest approach to that organ, but by his invention Mr Bosanquet increases the resemblance to a remarkable degree, and in the popular song, "Because I love you," succeeds in producing the sound of a resonant baritone, while on a higher scale the mellow tones of a rich contralto are distinctly heard. On an illuminated apparatus at the side appear at intervals the pictures of Sarasate and other famous musicians, with explanatory notes of the performance, and of the appreciation which is bestowed on Mr Bosanquet's efforts ample proof is found in the enthusiastic applause which awaits him.

"THE COMING RACE."

"England's New Home of Mystery" furnishes an entertainment which is quite unique so far as metropolitan amusements are concerned. The reputation which Mr J. N. Maskelyne and his son Mr Nevil Maskelyne gained at the Egyptian Hall is well maintained at the new St. George's Hall, the size of which permits the staging of much more elaborate productions than was possible at the Piccadilly establishment. Since we noticed the first performance of the magical drama called *The Coming Race*, founded on Lord Lytton's novel of that title, and dramatised by David Christie Murray and Nevil Maskelyne, considerable improvements have been effected. With the object of strengthening the action, four scenes have been excised, and their subject matter incorporated with adjacent sections. This has proved of great advantage, the drama now playing much closer, and the interest of the story being better maintained. The American—George W. Larcombe's—curious adventures amongst a race of people whom he meets when precipitated into the bowels of the earth give scope for the introduction of sundry of those weird and fantastic effects for which the Egyptian Hall was famous. First of all, that strange monster known as the pariasaurus makes its uncanny appearance, and, opening its hideous jaws, seizes and devours Larcombe's friend and fellow-traveller, Henry Wentworth. Amongst the most striking scenes is that with which the third and last act opens—Larcombe's apartment overlooking the city. It is night time, and twinkling lights are seen in the distance, but they gradually disappear and darkness falls. On the morrow Larcombe is to be killed by order of the Council, and, tired out, he endeavours to snatch a few hours' sleep. Then appears out of the inky blackness the majestic form of the Princess Zee. She awakens her beloved from his slumbers, and she tells him how by a union with her he may become the ruler of nations. But the little American possesses all the proverbial shrewdness of his countrymen, and after some natural hesitation he rejects the tempting offer. In spite of all the Princess resolves to save from death the man she loves, and exercising the wonderful power with which the strange people called the Vril-ya are gifted, she causes a passage to be formed to the surface of the earth, and she by means of her miraculous powers of flight bears him aloft until he reaches once more the upper level of the Cornish mine from which he descended. But to the Princess the surroundings are altogether distasteful, and she, after bidding Larcombe a last farewell, slowly descends to her home in the "inner world." The romantic story is admirably rendered. Miss Vera Beringer displays pathos and power as the Princess, and she delivers her lines with admirable effect. Mr Herman Vezin is dignified and incisive as the venerable ruler of the Vril-ya, but his opportunities are few. Miss Cassie Bruce is alert as the Princess's brother Taë, and good work is done by Messrs Wm. Mayne, H. Lesmere, and J. B. Hansard, and the chief and members of the College of Sages respectively. Mr Horace Morehen shows a sense of humour as an elder of the race, Mr F. Topham makes a good representative of the American from Boston, and Mr Thos. Sidney is well placed as Henry Wentworth. Miss Josephine Rae is a garrulous Mrs Clattermore in the prologue, and other parts are carefully embodied by Mr George Pownall, Miss Iris Lincoln, Mr E. S. Elton, and Mr Leslie Burgiss.

MISS MINNIE DUNCAN AND MR ARTHUR E. GODFREY, of *Me and 'Er* fame, have been obliged to refuse an offer from Mr Milton Bode for pantomime for next year, their services having already been secured by Mr Oswald Stoll.

A CHAT WITH MR. HARRY LYONS.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

"Variety audiences" says Mr Lyons, the manager of Collins's Music Hall, "are quite as ready to appreciate even classical singing and music as any body of playgoers." Mr Lyons certainly ought to be in a position to speak with authority on such a matter, for he has had unique experience of both the variety and the legitimate theatre. It is undeniably true that variety artists, as a body, have done more to create a popular demand for, and love of, the less classical of musical compositions than any other associated body. Some of the best songs that have been written, and some of the prettiest music that has been composed, might have been lost to the world but for the influence of members of the music hall profession. Take, as an instance, our old friends, "The Honeysuckle and the Bee." Folk may cavil at the words of the song, but its melody was delightfully infectious by reason of the easy manner in which poetic harmony of expression was gained. We could, of course, mention many other songs which have been rendered before the vaudeville footlights, and for which similar claims could be made. Mr Lyons does not, therefore, speak "without his book" when he refers to the love of music evinced by variety audiences.

It seems almost a strange ordering of Fate that, after having been away from London for more than twenty years, Mr Lyons should be called upon to assume the management of a place of amusement within almost a stone's throw of where he was born. Bred and educated in North London, his commercial career commenced with his entry into his father's business in Clerkenwell. But aptitude and opportunity caused him, after a while, to become associated with Mr William Bennett's Diorama. In a managerial capacity he was connected with that combination for three years, the custom at that time being to appear at six towns a week, and to do two shows a day, Mr Lyons frequently acting as accompanist when necessity compelled. Subsequently he directed the doings of a touring concert party; and the Christmas of 1884 found him at St. James's Hall, Liverpool, acting as treasurer to the San Francisco Minstrels, a company mainly composed of American artistes. During their stay at Liverpool, the troupe produced the well-known farcical comedy, entitled *Muldoon's Picnic*. Mr Lyons smilingly recalls the fact that the two principal characters in the piece were supposed to be comic Irishmen, but were played by Messrs Wheatley and Traynor with blackened faces! After running for seven weeks at the Lancashire seaport, and proving as great a success in this country as it had been in the United States, *Muldoon's Picnic* was taken round the principal theatres of Great Britain. As manager in advance, and later as acting-manager, over a period of four years, Mr Lyons gained a good insight into theatrical life.

Always as business manager, Mr Lyons joined various other enterprises, including those of Mr J. P. Sullivan, the famous Irish-American; the London comedy company, in *Our Regiment* (from Toole's Theatre), the Hon. Mrs Jervis and Mr Fred Gould, who were running one of Mr Henry Pettitt's most popular dramas, entitled *The Black Flag*. After travelling for two years with the last-mentioned piece, Mr Lyons was engaged by Mr Clarence Sounes to be the acting-manager at the Queen's Theatre, Birmingham, for a few weeks only during the absence, on account of illness, of the regular manager. But that temporary engagement "panned out" to nine years, and was only concluded by the termination of the lease held by Mr Sounes, who, by the way, is the proprietor of the Grand Theatre, Woolwich. In connection with the Birmingham playhouse Mr Lyons ran a profitable dramatic agency for some years. A visit to London resulted in his obtaining the management of the original Williams and Walker *In Dahomey* company, with which he toured until the summer of last year. It is worthy of mention that Mr Lyons is the only English manager who has ever been appointed by Messrs Hurtig and Seamon to direct one of their companies, and the fact speaks worlds for the reputation and business instincts and integrity of the subject of this interview.

It was in August last that Mr Lyons received his present appointment from the directors of Collins's Music hall. It is the first variety house he has yet directed, but he has, with advantage to his patrons and proprietors, brought to his new position his many years' intimate acquaintanceship with music hall and theatrical affairs and his own undoubtedly good, sound judgment.

HOCKEY.

MISS CECILIA FOWLER'S LADIES ATHLETIC TEAM V. COTHAM AND REDLAND LADIES ATHLETIC CLUB.

Played near Clifton Downs on Saturday. Miss W. Bradley was unable to assist her club owing to an injury received in the match on Saturday last. The following were the teams:—

Miss Cecilia Fowler's Ladies Athletic Team.—Miss E. Bowman, goal; Miss L. Carter and Miss E. Francis, backs; Miss G. Thomas, Miss N. Bailey, and Miss C. Fowler (captain), half-backs; Miss. T. Maynard, Miss G. Leonard, Miss M. Leonard, Miss B. Godfrey, and Miss K. Elvin, forwards.

Cotham and Redland Ladies Athletic Club.—Miss M. Fisher, goal; Miss R. Davies and Miss A. Gibbs, backs; Miss E. Lawrence, Miss L. Norris, and Miss L. Coles, half-backs; Miss N. Lawrence, Miss K. Montgomery (captain), Miss F. Hooper, Miss A. Mitchell, and Miss M. Hamilton, forwards.

Referee, Miss N. Lewis (of Cheltenham). Result:—Miss Cecilia Fowler's Ladies Team, nil; Cotham and Redland Ladies Athletic Club, nil. Misses E. Bowman and M. Fisher played splendidly in goal.

MR J. AIRLIE-DIX'S charming ballad, "Could I but shape the children's dreams and make each dream come true," is now "free," permission to sing being obtainable from Messrs Francis and Day. Mr Dix—whose song "The Trumpeter," words by Francis Barron, and published by Boosey and Co., may now be regarded as a "classic"—is also the composer of Mr Chas. H. Taylor's "hit" in *The Talk of the Town*, sung by Mr Walter Passmore, and called "Me and my little Brood."

MR CHAS. SLOMAN, who so ably plays one of the Ugly Sisters at the Crown, Peckham, has a really humorous song connected with acquiring furniture on the hire system. It is the work of Maurice Scott.

"FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES," a domestic sketch, will be produced at the Palace, Bow, on Monday next, under the direction of Mr Julius Simpson. The authoress, Miss Naomi Hope, and Mr Fred Scarth (who have both just returned from a very successful two years' tour in South Africa with Messrs Wheeler) will play the leading parts, and they will be supported by a powerful company, including W. S. Hartford (late of Mr Tearle's company), Mr J. G. Johnson, and Miss Rosalie Heath. There will be five scenes, which have been specially painted for the production.

MISS AGNES HAZEL returns to the Empire, Battersea, on Monday, after being in the provinces for twelve weeks. She brings new songs.—Miss Agnes Hanson will introduce on Monday to the audience of the Chelsea Palace a new and original rattle-snake coon song, by A. C. Shelley and Louis Dalroy, entitled "Der coons won't marry; why is dis?"—Miss Bertha Seebold has recovered from her serious illness.

A COPY OF "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. *The Era* is posted on Saturday in time to reach London Subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery, and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London Post. Address, the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.

SHOWMEN'S ANNUAL MEETING AT MANCHESTER.

(SPECIALLY REPORTED FOR THE ERA.)

The annual general meeting of the United Kingdom Showmen and Van-dwellers' Protection Association was held on Wednesday, in the Memorial Hall, Albert-square, Manchester. Mr FRED BIBBY, of J. Bibby and Co., presided, and supporting him were the following prominent members and friends of the Society:—The Rev. H. Norburn, Rector of St. Agnes Birch, and hon. local chaplain; the Rev. T. Horne, hon. senior chaplain and Guild organiser; Mr Charles Howard, hon. solicitor; Mr T. Watson Wright, hon. solicitor and Parliamentary solicitor; and Messrs John Wilmot, Glasgow; John Whiting, Manchester; John Green, Preston; J. Hurst, hon. secretary, Manchester; William Clark, Hyde; George H. Cornwell, Bolton; R. Newall, Manchester; Toft and Turnbull, Dublin; E. Holland, Macclesfield; William Clark, jun., George Green, Glasgow; Jas. Wilmot, John Sharpe, Burnley; Wm. Chaplain, Birmingham; Patrick Collins, jun., Walsall; H. Mellor, Oldham; T. Haworth, Darwen; Tom Smith, G.C.R.; Robert Pike and Wm. Pike, Bolton; Tom Payne, Ashton; H. J. Wallis, Wm. Holmes, J. Geoghegan, and many others.

Mr FRED BIBBY in his opening remarks referred to the serious and trying times that showmen had been passing through owing to the depression in trade, in their own county of Lancashire greatly intensified by the crisis in the cotton trade. He rejoiced and bade them take heart of courage, for good times, he prophesied, were upon them. He would not dare to anticipate the story of the Guild's rise and progress, as they were to hear from the invited speakers, but would at once call upon the Rector of St. Agnes Birch, their hon. local chaplain, to address the meeting.

The Rev. H. NORBURN'S speech was characterised by that wealth of kindly sympathy and intimate knowledge of men and things that marks all his utterances. He went direct to the heart of the question by saying that the showmen's greatest enemy was the ignorant prejudice of people who never took the least pains to study or to understand the showman and his work in life. He had made that necessary study, and he now identified himself with the Guild, because he felt that the members were doing a good and necessary work in providing entertainments of an attractive character for the workers of the kingdom. He held strongly that recreation of a healthy and amusing character was necessary and right. God had given them a capacity to enjoy life and all things, and to his mind it was but a narrow, half-starved life that refused to enjoy times of recreation and merriment. They had been told that one of the great evidences of success in the religious revival in Wales was that football had greatly gone down in the Principality. He for his part could not see any true connection between a real revival of religion and playing the game of football. He held that football and other games of an innocent and healthy character were necessary and desirable, and that the religion that taught people otherwise was not the religion that would permanently touch the heart or hold the allegiance of the people. They, the Guildsmen, were the fun and merriment-makers of the workers. He exhorted them to make good their claim to have this work understood and appreciated better in the future than it had been in the past by raising their entertainments to even higher planes of perfection and usefulness. He used the word advisedly, for he was firmly convinced that their work was as necessary to the true national life as any other department of human activity and ability. He had found the showmen at all times as earnestly purposed as any other class in the community, and certainly as amenable to religious influences as other people. When for a time they became his parishioners, as at the Long-sight Wakes, he always experienced the greatest satisfaction and pleasure in ministering to their spiritual and educational needs. He had repeatedly commended them to his clerical brethren as worthy of more attention and care than they ordinarily received. Mr Horne's work in their midst was a remarkable evidence of the specialising of religious and educational work in the Church of God. He knew full well how that work had been blessed of Him who ministered in good things to all alike in joys and in sorrows—the guest of Cana of Galilee at a domestic feast, as well as the stern denouncer of Pharisaism in all its terrible and insidious manifestations. He again wished them a prosperous season in their work and enterprise.

The HON. ORGANISING CHAPLAIN was received with great applause, and in a somewhat humorous, and at all times bright, speech, went straight to the heart of the question before the meeting—the defence of the trade rights of show people, the preservation of the holidays and fairs of the toiling millions of the empire, and the betterment and uplifting of the numerous class of people who made their daily bread on the fair grounds of the United Kingdom. What the Guild had endeavoured to do in the past still remained a paramount present duty—to enlighten, guide, and promote a sympathetic public opinion. Their greatest enemy was ignorance. They must get people to know and to understand what showmen did and what they were—workmen not ashamed of their craft; fellow-workers with the industrial multitudes, who either by hand or brain, or both combined, had made Old England a better and a merrier land than they found it. He had surrendered a well-paid and important sphere of settled work there in Manchester because he had found it impossible in that position to carry on what he felt was the great work of his life, the defence of his brethren of the road. They—the show-people—were dearer to him than any position, however desirable and important. He had made this sacrifice for them, and did it willingly, and his heart was wholly given to his people, the showmen and showwomen of the Empire. He reminded them of their part and lot in the national life. They must progress with the times in which they lived. What, he asked, were the network of cheap popular palaces of amusement now compassing our great towns? People were saying that the penny show was obsolete; a relic of past days; a thing bound to end with the provision of free libraries, parks, gymnasia, and penny readings. Then came the palaces and the two shows a-night arrangement. The demand created the supply. School Board England refused the penny reading pabulum, and sought its relaxation and necessary brightness, life, light, colour, and movement in the modern palace of varieties. The elders amongst them remembered, as he did, before Christmas carnivals or fairs found their winter quarters, that most shows wintered either on spare pieces of ground in the suburbs of large centres of life, or they took some large shop or building, and there had their two or even three shows a-night. It was the same idea they saw now in the settled homes of variety, the empires, and the palaces of entertainment—the same thing, but, of course, on modern and vastly different lines—the quick show, the good show, yet a popular and cheap show. That brought him to the last point—the necessity laid upon them to provide good, honest amusement at a charge well within the means of the workers. Advance as well as defence were the words of their Guild's charter. In this enterprise let them all work as one man—helping, cheering, and encouraging one another; making their shows fit for the entertainment of the people. Let them do this, and the forces now massed against them would be driven back, and the show and the fair remain to delight, entertain, and satisfy the workers of the industrial centres of the world. He then briefly reviewed the year's work, and said that he had every reason to believe that quieter, more peaceful, and more prosperous times were ahead of them, and concluded his speech by announcing that their honoured president, Lord George Sanger, was still their leader in their work of showman defence, and that he had promised to take the chair at the forthcoming London meeting.

Mr CHARLES, hon. solicitor for the Manchester district, congratulated the show-people on their excellent society. He was sure that all that both Mr Norburn and Mr Horne had said had found attentive and willing hearers. Their Parliamentary work in Mr Watson Wright's capable hands was a marvel of success. Their work was to find the means that and kindred work required. He therefore trusted that each one of them would realise the urgency of this, and support to their utmost the great work of the showmen. Of what use, he asked, would be less ground rent to pay—excellent thing as it was in itself—if the fair were to be abolished? No. All must, as their chaplain put it, "pull together." Union was their one line of defence that was above all others necessary.

Mr T. WATSON WRIGHT was received with great cordiality, and in his well-reasoned remarks covered the whole of the legal and parliamentary work of 1904. He remarked that the defeat of the corporations had hitherto been so signal and complete that he confidently anticipated no work in the future. With reference to the burning question of Wigan Fair, he had carefully considered the Wigan Improvement Act of 1874, and had arrived at the conclusion that the showmen had a case—and a good one. No doubt the inimical clause in the act gave the corporation power to make new markets and fairs to enlarge existing ones, and to continue (or to discontinue) existing markets and fair. But, doubtful as the drafting of the act undoubtedly was, they were not without a remedy at law. Corporations forget that showmen had a right at common law to attend all markets and all fairs. Whether they were local pleasure fairs or not, this right to attend as traders and to demand ground to exhibit on was a statutory right, and whether the market be for merchandise or not was of no consequence. Did the abolitionists know that if they stopped a particular fair, and did not stop all fairs and markets, that showmen would come and remain on the ground until satisfied or paid to quit. If the Town Council of Wigan imagined they could discriminate and bar the show trader and not the others they would find that they were grievously wrong in their calculations.

Mr Wright's speech throughout was listened to with the greatest interest, and punctuated with frequent applause.

Mr T. HURST, hon. secretary, read the balance-sheet of the Bolton ball committee, and announced that the satisfactory sum to be handed over to their Guild funds was £10 10s.

A vote of thanks was accorded Messrs Robert Pike (market superintendent) and William Pike, of Bolton, and both gentlemen in suitable terms acknowledged it. Next year's ball will be a week later, Jan. 10.

The following letter was then read amidst considerable applause:—

Hetton Le Hole, Co. Durham, Jan. 17.

REV. T. HORNE.—Dear Sir,—Just a few lines to you hoping to find you well as it leaves us at present. Very sorry cannot get to the Manchester meeting, but we have had a meeting to-day, and it is sending two persons as a deputation to the London meeting. Our meeting has passed a motion making a grant per member to the Van-dwellers' Guild. Will explain the whole matter to you when we meet.—Yours fraternally,

T. HARTSHORN,
Secretary, The North of England Showmen and Stall-holders Society.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers for 1905 as follows:—Executive Council. President: Lord George Sanger. Vice-Presidents: H. Ashington, Leeds; E. T. Read, London; E. H. Bostock, Glasgow; Frank C. Bostock, London; J. W. Bostock, London; John Barker, Norwich; Wm. Clarke, Hyde; John Collins, Liverpool; P. Collins, Walsall; Geo. Cornwell, Bolton; F. Turner, London; Robert Dixon, Salford; George Green, Glasgow; B. Howden, Boston; T. Harniess, Rotherham; G. H. Kemp, Leicester; R. Newall, Manchester; James Norman, London; Tom Norman, London; Thos. Payne, Ashton; H. Studt, Wales; Jacob Studt, Gloucester; John Studt, Wales; D. Turnbull, Belfast; Wm. Toft; H. J. Waddington, Leeds; H. J. Wallis, Liverpool; J. Wilmot, Glasgow; J. Whiting, Manchester; Councillor G. T. Tuby, Doncaster; W. H. Marshall, Bradford; John Cottrell. Hon. Treasurer: T. Read, London. Hon. Secretary: T. Hurst, Broadhurst, Clifton, Manchester. Trustees: Frank Turner, T. Read, London; Wm Mitchell, Heywood; H. Thurston, London; B. Mitchell, Heywood. Solicitors: T. Watson Wright, C.C., 7, Friar-lane, Leicester; Charles Howard, 33, Princess-street, Manchester. Law Agent for Scotland: Joseph Shaughnessy, 190, West George-street, Glasgow. Parliamentary Agent: Frederick Millar, Esq., Victoria-street, Westminster. Bankers: The National Provincial Bank of England. Office of the Guild Secretary: 48, Herbert-street, Hoxton, N. Address, "Guild Secretary," in all business communications. Letters may also be addressed "Guild Secretary," care of *The Era* Offices, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C. Honorary Organiser and Senior Chaplain: the Rev. T. Horne, 48, Herbert-street, Hoxton, N.; or, care of *The Era*.

List of Honorary Chaplains: Rev. N. J. Devereux St. Mary's Vicarage, Hoxton, N.; Rev. Howard Swinstead, Christ Church, Oxford; Rev. R De C Thelwall, Church House, Salisbury; Rev. R. Norburn, St. Agnes, Birch, Manchester; Rev. R. S Butler, Preston; Rev. A. Dixon, Denton; Rev. H. Greenway, Northfield, Rotherham; Rev. R Gordon Roe, King's Lynn; Rev. T. Tissington, Vicar of Treorchy, Wales; Rev. W. Thomas, Vicar of Porth, Wales; Rev. J. Thomas, St. Mary's, Hoxton, N.

Executive Committee.—J. B. Butlin, W. Bedford, W. Clark, jun., J. Creighton, Wm. Chaplain, R. Dooner, Chas. Farrell. J. Geoghegan, W. Gibson, J. Hastings. Edmund Holland, W. Holmes, Ed. Lawrence, James Leo, J. Lloyd, G. Marshall, W. H. Marshall, A. Martin, J. Monte, R. Monte, S. Plinston, Wm. Pedley, J. Ravenscroft, H. Scard, H. R. Hibbert, W. F. Terry, Alfred Twigdon, Arthur Twigdon, C. Thurston, jun., J. W. Waddington, J. B. Whitehead, J. Wilmot, and W. Wilmot.

The usual complimentary vote brought the meeting to a successful concern.

At the committee meetings before and after the meeting at the headquarters of the society, the Black Lion Hotel, Salford, measures were taken to defend the fair rights of travellers at Wigan. Delegates to meet the North of England delegates re financing the Parliamentary Fund and to attend the London meeting were also appointed.

Subscriptions to the Guild Funds for 1905:—John Wilmot, Glasgow, £5; Walter Wilmot, £1; James Wilmot, £1; John Whiting, £1; Tom Smith, Esq. G.C.R., £1; Councillor Mutch, Salford, 10s.; Capt. Tom Payne, £1; R. Newall, 10s. 6d.; Proceeds of the Bolton Ball, £10 10s.

The Parliamentary Defence Fund.—The following members of the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union have paid the two guineas subscription, or a larger sum, to the fund during 1904:—P. Collins, J. Collins, R. Mitchell, T. Hurst, J. Whiting, J. Wingate, Wm. Holmes, John Green, J. W. Waddington, C. T. Tuby, J. Studt, J. Cooper, B. Howden, G. Marshall, J. Geoghegan, J. Ravenscroft, Messrs Barker and Thurston, J. Wilmot, T. Harniess, Wm. Davies, E Farrar, George Kemp, P. Collins, Limited, N. H. Baker, and Jacob Studt. J. Wingate has paid for the present year two guineas.

Messrs P. and T. Fitzpatrick, £1 10s. for 1905 Guild subscription; Mr E. Holland, for 1905, 15s.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

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FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

AMIDST joyous sunshine and the chiming of church bells a very pretty and interesting wedding was recently solemnised at the parish church, Pontypridd, the contracting parties being Miss Florence May, youngest daughter of the late Mr W. Wadbrook, electrograph proprietor, and Mr William Johnson, son of the late Mr John Johnson, well known in theatrical circles. The bridesmaids were the Misses Nellie Wadbrook, Flo Scard, Ruby Scard, and Lillie Austin. The bride was given away by her brother-in-law, Mr Harry Scard, and Mr George Austin, brother-in-law to the bridegroom, acted as groomsman. The bride wore a grey silk costume and picture hat to match. She carried a bouquet of white flowers and looked charming. The bridesmaids were attired in grey costumes and black picture hats. The Rev. J. P. Griffiths, vicar of Pontypridd, officiated. After the ceremony the wedding party adjourned to the Park Hotel, where the wedding breakfast and reception was held, after which the happy pair departed for Leicester for the honeymoon. The wedding presents were both numerous and costly, and were received from friends and well-wishers in all parts of the country.

THE World's Fair at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, is still drawing delighted crowds. Menotti does many unique acts, and carries a gentleman selected from the audience along the wire at each performance, twice daily. This has proved an exciting item of the show, especially when the "passenger" is a Tommy Atkins or a Jack Tar; and much merriment is caused by the endeavours some to walk on the net. The Herbert Troupe of aerialists is another big attraction. The well-stocked menagerie is as popular as ever, and "Slipping the Slip" has quite won the public favour. It is the first and only thing of its kind in London, and causes immense delight and excitement. Messrs T. and T. E. Read are to be congratulated on the success of their enterprise. The plan of greatly modifying the noise of the organs and entirely stopping it during the circus and other performances is greatly appreciated. The fair will remain open until Saturday, Feb. 4.

MESSRS BARKER AND THURSTON are carrying on their winter carnival at the Agricultural Hall, Norwich, with great success. The result of the visit of Mr H. Z. T. Flowers, the mayor, realised about £16 towards his fund for the unemployed in the city. This week a prize of a suite of furniture is offered to a lucky ticket-holder.

WIRTH BROTHERS' CIRCUS opened in Phillip Park, Sydney, Australia, on Dec. 10, in a monster tent full to overflowing with a delighted audience. The bill was a very strong one, and included Tom Colquette, Captain W. M'Cloud and his Wild-west Cowboys, Emil Payer's trained tiger "Dolly," Captain Burrows, and M. Ragoul's trained dogs, elephants, camel, and pony, Mr George Wirth's cleverly taught horses, Miss Addie Frederic, Ardo, and a graceful rider, Miss W. Wirth. Mr A. P. Lincoln is the business manager of the circus.

AT Redditch there has been quite a host of attractions lately, including Mr D'Arcy Clayton's gipsies and their jester, Leo Vint's choir and scenorama, and Mr Cecil Clayton's pantomime *Cinderella*. More recently there has come along the Anglo-American bazaar and waxwork exhibition, showing all the celebrities and most notorious criminals; Barker and Bell's marionettes, Thomas Clarke's switchbacks, park swings, and other attractions.

FETES, GALAS, FLOWER SHOWS, &c., 1905.

June 4. Fête at Flyford.
" 12. Fête at Hewell Park, Bromsgrove.
" 12. Fête at Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove.
" 12. Evesham Regatta.
" 13. Temperance Fête at Redditch.
" 14. Fête at Studley.
" 19. Fête at Bidford-on-Avon.
" 26. Fête at Inkberrow, Worcester.
July 3. Fête at Bishampton, Pershore.
Aug. 7. Evesham Sports.
" 8. Flower show at Bidford-on-Avon.
" 8 Flower Show at Cookhill, Astwood Bank.
" 9 Temperance Fête at Astwood Bank.

MATTERS are now in excellent train for testing the popular feeling in Wigan on the question of abolishing the local fair. The snatch division in the Borough Council a few weeks ago was taken without any reference to the people of Wigan, and is not in any way an index of the public feeling on the subject, and great indignation is felt by a rapidly increasing section of the community that so important a matter should be sprung upon the town. The power obtained by the Corporation by a General Purposes Bill in 1874 to continue or to discontinue existing markets or fairs is read by the abolitionists to mean "pleasure fairs." They forget that showmen have equal rights with other traders to attend all fairs and markets, and that to deprive them of ground, without redress and compensation, is indefensible. If the Corporation think that showmen will not endeavour to maintain their common laws right as traders the municipal body will receive a series of strong reminders that the showmen, by their organisation and friends, are well able to defend their privileges.

MR WILLIAM HENRY COOKE, the eldest son of the late William Cooke, under whose enterprising direction the circus was, for several years, established in London as a constant attraction, died a few days ago at his residence in Wimbledon. He was a member of that Cooke family of whom it was said that "the sawdust of the ring" was part of their blood. When William Cooke was running Astley's he had a wonderful circus company around him—all of them riders of high quality and exceptionally talented in the performance of their tricks. John Henry Cooke, Welby Henry Welby Cooke, and Emily Cooke stood foremost. The second of these was a fine juggler on horseback, and John Henry performed the daring feat of springing on to a platform from the back of a horse which was travelling at full speed and alighting on its back again when the animal repassed. William Cooke was himself the descendant of a circus proprietor, and the fame of the family had become familiar in England and Scotland by reason of their numerous tours.

INFORMATION relating to Shows and Fairs, suitable for this column, should be addressed to THE EDITOR, "The Showman World."

"THE BLACKMAILER."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I note the production of a play under this title at the Queen's Theatre, Dublin. The authoress is, I presume, unaware that the said title has already been appropriated. Some five years ago I wrote and toured a drama under this name, and which I am shortly reviving and sending on tour.

Yours faithfully, HUBERT BARTLETT
(Muir and Bartlett).

The Palace, Southampton, Jan. 18.

MR C. B. COCHRAN, who sailed on Saturday, the 14th inst., per s.s. St. Louis, for New York in search of variety attractions for England and the Continent, has combined his agency with that of Messrs Galenzi and Sherek, and all business matters relative to C. B. Cochran and Co., Limited (which company has been voluntarily wound up), will be dealt with by them. Artistes wishing engagements in the States should communicate with Messrs Galenzi and Sherek, 4, Leicester-street, W.C.

STORIES OF SHOWMAN LIFE:

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By the REV. T. HORNE
(Hon. Chaplain, Showmen's Guild.)

"CUMBERLAND CRUSHER."

A TRAGEDY OF HATE.

The fistiana show, or boxing saloon, is a peculiarly British exhibition. Even before Tom Sayers and Heenan, the Benecia boy, boomed fisticuffs, the boxing booth was a necessary item on all the big fair grounds.

One of the very best of the modern fistiana concerns was that run by a Birmingham light-weight champion boxer, professionally known as "Nimble Nicky."

Nicky was anxious, as all good showmen are, to keep pace with the times and have the latest novelties. Now, the novelty a couple of years ago was the wrestling mania. Hackenschmidt, Jack Carkeek, Tom Cannon, and many others, British and foreign, were being boomed by enterprising music hall agents.

Wrestling was the talk of the moment. "Nimble Nicky" naturally cast about for wrestlers; nay, acting upon good advice, he went to the Westmoreland dales and tried his level best to get a couple of men to join the show.

But, no; the dalemen would not leave their peaceful avocations for the precarious excitement of showland.

So, keenly disappointed, the Birmingham "Nimble Nicky" came back and confessed his failure. A way out of the difficulty was found, and that, too, in an unexpected quarter.

Amongst the company was a heavy-weight boxer known as the "Cumberland Crusher," so called because whenever he met his match with the boxing gloves on he had a peculiar knack of ending the contest and scoring doubtful victory. He would bellow like a wild wounded gorilla, and rushing upon his opponent, would seize the poor beggar in a grip of iron round the waist; then, bringing his huge strength to bear, would "crush" his rival to the ground falling heavily (and of course purposely so) full prone upon him.

The referee at this point would exclaim, "The round, gentlemen, and the fall is to the credit of the 'Cumberland Crusher,' then, knowing full well the blown condition of the man who had borne the 'Crusher's' weight upon his chest, would ask:—

"Want another round, sir?"

"No, no, thanks," would be the reply, "wasn't that a bit of a foul?" "No, not at all, sir; the Queensbury rules of boxing provides for the grapple and throw. Have another go, sir."

"No, I'm not having a wrestle; I came here to box."

Well, then, the referee knowing his cue, would shout, "The interesting go-as-you-please affair is at an end, and the victory lies with the 'Cumberland Crusher,' the proprietor, gentlemen, is ready to back 'Cumberland Crusher' against any heavy-weight boxer, not less than sixteen and a half stone, professional or amateur, in the world; £50 or 100 guineas a-side. English, Colonial, or American; all welcomed; none barred."

"Look here," said the proprietor to Cumberland (it was the day before Newcastle Races, and the show was ready for the next day's business). "Look here here, Crusher, I'm awfully sorry for myself over the failure to get wrestlers for to-morrow; it'll mean a ten-pound note difference to me every day I show here; and they'd rush at a bit of wrestling. Could not you and the 'Snorter' do a bit of exhibition wrestling? I'd give you a quid extra a-day, each of you!"

"Noa, measter; I'll hev no more truck wi' wrosslin'. I've had a belly full of it years ago."

Here the Snorter intervened. "Crusher, old man, the quid a-day is worth trying for. Come, don't be 'dog-in-the-manger;' give me a chance of that extra sov. Remember I've got a home to maintain at Brum, and a few extra quids would be mighty handy there."

"Noa, I knaws that, man; but I ought never to wrossle agen. If I do, I knaw a judgment may fall upon me."

"Nonsense, man," said the eager Nicky. "Tumble into your sweaters and practice a fall or two. Remember, Crusher, only acting an exhibition display, that's all."

"Aw reight, Gaffer, I'll do it for Snorter's kids; but I'm loth to tackle wrossling agen."

Next day, when the business began, the sporting world was delighted to see from the huge new letter cloths on the show front that the new—or, rather, revived—sport of wrestling was a feature of the Brummagem Boxing Booth.

The barriers round the racecourse were well supplied in the intervals of the running with "throw-aways" announcing that a series of exhibition glove-fights between all the leading heavy and light weights, all the stars of the two-ounce glove world, would appear at "Nimble Nicky's" assault-at-arms show, including the "Walsall Walloper," the "Bermondsey Rider," the "Manchester Fly-Catcher," and "the unbreakable light-weight Birmingham record-maker 'Nimble Nicky' himself."

All the promising youngsters would be in attendance, able and willing to enter the ring against all amateurs whomsoever.

Then came the final attraction, thus set out:—"Nimble Nicky" has great pleasure in presenting to his patrons two champion wrestlers, Ben Bolton, from Felling, Merseyvale, Westmoreland, and Bill Baker, of Woolwich, in an exhibition display of wrestling in the Græco-Roman, British, or catch-as-catch-can styles. As the engagement of these able exponents of expert skill involves enormous expense, the admission charge would be sixpence.

The large pavilion was crowded at every performance. "Cumberland Crusher" and the Snorter as star wrestlers did a big turn.

The great Town Moor at Newcastle was all alive with a multitude of people towards ten o'clock, when a sudden "horror of dead silence" was felt. All movement ceased, the electric organs sounded not, the switchback ran not, the coker shy man shouted not, and instant change was wrought as though the wand of some mighty magician had cast a sudden spell over the fair.

Then from mouth to mouth ran a fearful tale.

"A man wrestling in the boxing booth has met a tragic death."

"His backbone snapped in two just as a reed might be broken."

Then other details came to hand.

"A man amongst the crowd has challenged the wrestler in Nicky's show. It was the new wrestler known as the 'Cumberland Crusher.'"

A fierce battle for the mastery, a grim, determined, death-dealing struggle, lasting only a few minutes; yet, from the moment the challenger unstripped, it was felt that the professional had met his master.

Oh! the struggle the Crusher made to crush his antagonist, but all of no avail.

In five minutes that seemed five hours the tussle of giants came to an end; there was a distinct crunching of the ribs heard, then a horrible blood-curdling snap of the spine, and the end came. No one said a word. In dead silence the victor left the booth, in dead silence he left the moor. No one dared to bar his passage.

"What was it, an accident?" No. "A brutal lust of triumph man against man?" No, no, no; the answer is—It was hate; hate nursed and fed by bitter loss and sad, sad memories.

It was a bitter cold night, and Christmas Eve.

Two people—a man and a woman—were talking in the shadow of a Westmoreland village church, Askwith-in-the-dale.

Said the woman in a low, tense voice: "Jack, wilt thou make me an honest woman. Marry me, marry me."

"Na, I will na. I'm none sa fond of thee as I us't ta be."

"You tell me that, John Umberston! Woe, woe is me, and mine and thine. The darkness of despair is upon me."

With that she turned and passed away through the churchyard out into the lane, and then into the darkness and shadow of the night. Yea—and into a deeper mirk than shadow of earth; for she passed over the borderland into the land of perpetual shadow, into that land where the command, "Thou shalt not kill," is the broken key that makes entrance possible.

John Umberston, with a half-muttered oath, went the other way, with never a look behind him, for he was never seen more in the dales and fells of Askwith.

On the morrow, in the grey dawn of the Christmas morning, on the broadening shallows of the rushing river that at times flooded the dales, her body was found, its sad, sad tale written, alas! too fully on the white face of the suicide. The charity that knoweth not evil of the dead spake not of that other life that the mother, who was never a legal wife, killed in herself when she did the dread despite.

Oh! the agony of human things, Oh! the stress and the strain of its love and passion and its hate.

For it was her own brother who found her, the sister he idolised, dead and cast up by the stream.

Alas! And so the mystery of the tragedy on the Town Moor, Newcastle, is fully explained by the fact that that loyal brother vowed to kill John Umberston whenever and wherever he might meet him.

The antagonist of the wrestler was the brother who discovered the moral murderer of his sweet sister in the person of the "Cumberland Crusher" in Nimble Nicky's Boxing Booth.

SHAKESPEARIAN TRAGEDY

By A. C. BRADLEY.

London: Macmillan and Co., Limited.

This volume consists of a series of lectures on *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, and *Macbeth*, and they are based by their author on a selection from materials used in teaching at Liverpool, Glasgow, and Oxford. In these ten lectures Professor Bradley treats the four principal tragedies of Shakespeare from a single point of view. His one object, he points out, is what, in a restricted sense, "may be called dramatic appreciation; to increase our understanding and enjoyment of these works as dramas; to learn to apprehend the action and some of the personages of each with a somewhat greater truth and intensity, so that they may assume in our imaginations a shape a little less unlike the shape they wore in the imagination of their creator." In the first lecture "the Substance of Shakespearian Tragedy" is dealt with; and as an example of the careful and intelligent analysis which the author applies to the work of the great dramatist we may quote a passage relating to the heroes of the plays. He says:—"We have seen already that the hero, with Shakespeare, is a person of high degree or of public importance, and that his actions or sufferings are of an unusual kind. But this is not all. His nature also is exceptional, and generally raises him in some respect much above the average level of humanity. This does not mean that he is an eccentric or a paragon. Shakespeare never drew monstrosities of virtue; some of his heroes are far from being 'good;' and if he drew eccentrics he gave them a subordinate position in the plot. His tragic characters are made of the stuff we find within ourselves and within the persons who surround them. But, by an intensification of the life which they share with others, they are raised above them; and the greatest are raised so far that, if we fully realise all that is implied in their words and actions, we become conscious that in real life we have known scarcely any one resembling them. Some, like Hamlet and Cleopatra, have genius. Others, like Othello, Lear, Macbeth, Coriolanus, are built on the grand scale; and desire, passion or will attains in them terrible force. In almost all we observe a marked one-sidedness, a predisposition in some particular direction; a total incapacity, in certain circumstances, of resisting the force which draws in this direction; a fatal tendency to identify the whole being with one interest, object, passion, or habit of mind. This, it would seem, is, for Shakespeare, the fundamental tragic trait. It is present in his early heroes, Romeo and Richard II., infatuated men, who otherwise rise comparatively little above the ordinary level. It is a fatal gift, but it carries with it a touch of greatness; and when there is joined to it nobility of mind, or genius, or immense force, we realise the full power and reach of the soul, and the conflict in which it engages acquires that magnitude which stirs not only sympathy and pity, but admiration, terror, and awe." Professor Bradley deals in a similarly instructive and interesting manner with the construction of Shakespeare's plots, Shakespeare as an artist, &c. With regard to the much discussed question of Hamlet's madness Professor Bradley does not hold with those who declare that the Prince was insane. He remarks: "That Hamlet was not far from insanity is very probable. His adoption of the pretence of madness may well have been due in part to fear of the reality; to an instinct of self-preservation, a fore-feeling that the pretence would enable him to give some utterance to the load that pressed on his heart and brain, and a fear that he would be unable altogether to repress such utterance. And if the pathologist calls his state melancholia, and even proceeds to determine its species, I see nothing to object to in that. I am grateful to him for emphasising the fact that Hamlet's melancholy was no mere common depression of spirits; and I can easily believe that many readers of the play would understand it better if they read an account of melancholia in a work on mental diseases. If we like to use the word 'disease' loosely, Hamlet's condition may truly be called diseased." These quotations give some indication of the scope and nature of Professor Bradley's lectures now collected in book form; and of their great interest and value to students of Shakespeare there cannot be the slightest doubt.

CARL AND CARR, who have made a gratifying success with their refined comedy act, "The Workhouse," at the Ealing Theatre, start on the Livermore tour after pantomime.

MR ARTHUR REECE has recently accepted from the pens of Messrs John P. Harrington and Kenneth Lyle a breezy song of the sea, entitled "First Mate of the Good Ship Home;" and another of a military type, "One of the Boys who Serve Our King," which latter Mr Reece meditates producing during his forthcoming engagement at the Coliseum. Mr G. H. Elliott is also actively rehearsing a song by the same author and composer entitled "I Natur'ly Can't Help Lovin' Yer."

"GOL DIN POO," the newest Chinese magician, was introduced at the Palace on Monday by Mr Horace Goldin, and the successful manner in which the new wonder worker accomplished a number of tricks was heartily enjoyed. With marvellous dexterity, the mysterious Palace fakir did all the tricks that have been regarded as the peculiar property of the gentlemen from the Flowery Land; but the loud applause which greeted the deft Celestial resolved itself into hearty shouts of laughter when, lifting off the pigtail and wig, and wearing a smile that it would be impossible to wash off, he disclosed the genial face of M. Pellissier, the chief of the Follies.

MISS LOUISE BEAUDET, who is just recovering from a bad cold, will be seen next week at the Chelsea Palace, where she will present her most successful new act, "Touring the Varieties."

ADMISSION CASE DISMISSED.

In the Belfast Recorder's Court on the 14th inst., before Judge Fitzgibbon, an action was brought by Mr Wm. A. Ross, B.L., 22, Rossmore-avenue, Belfast, against Mr Fred W. Warden, managing-director of the Theatre Royal, Belfast, to recover the sum of £20 damages for breach of contract and for wrongful refusal to admit plaintiff to the Theatre Royal on Nov. 29 last.

Mr Ross appeared on his own behalf, Mr Wm. Tughan for the defendant.

Mr Ross stated that on Nov. 29 last he went to the Theatre Royal. He offered a shilling for a ticket at the box-office, which was the usual price he paid for the upper circle. He paid the money at the box, but it was refused, and was informed that the price that evening for that particular part of the house was 1s. 6d. He then left, and found on reading the newspapers that there was no change in the usual price.

His Honour—Did you get a ticket? Plaintiff—No.

Did you want to get a ticket?—I did, and asked for the ticket.

Did they give you one?—No, they refused it, and said the price was 1s. 6d., and not 1s.

And you refused to pay it?—I thought my tender amounted to a contract.

Mr Tugham (to plaintiff)—I believe you are very fond of going to the theatre?—I don't think that is a fair question. I go about once a week.

When were you there before?—I could not state.

Were you there the previous week?—I think I was. The upper circle is my usual place to go to. I could not state if I was there the previous week.

Were you there a fortnight before that?—I believe I was.

Was this the occasion on which Mr Martin Harvey was there?—Yes, that was the performance I wished to see, and was prevented from seeing

Mr Tughan (handing witness the Theatre Royal poster for the week in question, Dec. 2 last)—Does that represent the play that was on the boards on that particular week?—Yes.

Is there a list of prices at the bottom?—Yes, there is.

What price is on that bill for the upper circle?—Witness—1s. 6d., and the early door 2s.

Mr. Tughan—Didn't the young gentleman in the box refuse to issue a ticket until you would pay 1s. 6d.? Witness—He did.

Where is the shilling? Witness—I took it back. He did not receive it.

How do you make up the £20 damages? Witness—That is an antiquated amount.

Mr Tughan—I submit, your Honour, the plaintiff has no case here.

The plaintiff then left the witness-box, and quoted some cases with regard to breach of contract, amongst the number being Denton v. the Great Northern Railway Company of England.

Mr Tughan briefly replied, contending that the case just quoted was not applicable here, and said that the plaintiff went to the theatre on the night in question, and in black and white upon the theatre bill in large letters were the prices for admission to that particular part of the house—viz., 1s. 6d. Immediately he went in he tendered 1s., but it was refused, and he had still kept his 1s. It was refused on the ground that the price was 1s. 6d. The plaintiff, Mr Tughan contended, was rightfully refused admission when he refused to pay the extra 6d. He (Mr Tughan) did not know, however, whether his Honour would ask him to call any evidence.

Mr Fred Warden was then called by Mr Tughan, and entered the witness-box, but was not examined.

The plaintiff said he acted bonâ-fide on the occasion. The usual price for this part of the theatre was 1s., and there had been no proper revocation of the usual prices.

His Honour—Isn't this a registered limited company?—Plaintiff said it was.

And you brought an action for an act that had been done by one of their servants?—I did. I thought Mr Warden was the responsible party, as being agent and managing-director.

His Honour—This is a limited company. If an act has been committed by one of their servants how can you sue the servant and not the company? It is the company you should sue.

Plaintiff—I was doubtful whether it was the servant or the company I should sue. I thought Mr Warden as managing-director was the proper person. I thought Mr Warden should consider himself sued for the company.

His Honour—You must sue the company.

Plaintiff—I think when it is mentioned that he is managing-director of the company that is sufficient service. I would ask your Honour to amend the process.

His Honour—I cannot do that, because your action is only against an individual.

Plaintiff—Mr Warden is one of the proper persons to sue; he is the managing-director of the company. The managing-director is part of the company, and is responsible for their acts.

Mr Warden then left the box without being examined.

His Honour—I must dismiss the case on its merits.

Plaintiff—I will appeal to a higher court. I will bring an action against the company and Mr Warden. I will take an action against the proper parties.

Plaintiff then asked his Honour to dismiss the case without prejudice.

His Honour—Very well; I will do so.

MR JORDISON'S *Babes in the Wood* pantomime is this week the attraction at the Queen's Theatre and Opera House, Keighley. The eccentric performance of Messrs Cullen and Carthy meets with due recognition. Mr Rowland Hill's Dame is very funny; Baron Toodle is in the capable hands of Mr Ed Avon, and his dancing is decidedly clever; Miss Madge Daley is an ideal Robin Hood; Miss Ada Martine is a pleasing Maid Marion; the two Babes are prettily impersonated by Miss Dolly Cullen and Miss Jordison; and George Chanti wins loud applause, his entertainment being excellent.

THE Carl Rosa grand opera company is paying a visit this week to Victoria Hall, Hanley, in a round of standard operas. On Monday *Lohengrin* was charmingly rendered. Miss Lizzie Burgess was the Elsa, and her performance was indeed brilliant; Herr Julius Walther was in excellent form as the son of Parsifal, and sang with all the necessary charm; the Telramund of Herr Chas. Victor was a good performance; Mr Arthur Winckworth as Henry was well placed; Mr Frank Arthur as the King sang admirably; Madame Augusta Renard as Ortrud was distinctly successful, her rich voice being heard to great advantage. *Faust*, *Rigoletto*, *Don Giovanni*, *Tannhäuser*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *I Pagliacci*, and *Carmen* are included in the week's programme.

MR HUBERT PERRIS'S company, in *A Fight for Millions*, is appearing at the Prince's Theatre, Preston, this week. Mr V. Carlyle plays Tom Manley in a clever manner. As Hudson Rivers Mr N. Cowling acquits himself creditably. Mr Horace Booth successfully portrays the villainy of Richard Dudley. Solomon Moses is ably embodied by Mr V. K. Edwards. Mr Robt. Perriss as Willie Neverwork evokes much laughter. Pearl Rivers is well sustained by Miss Eva Purcell. Miss Elma C. Turner in the rôle of Helen Dudley deserves much praise. Miss Dora Lyons makes a charming Little Madge.

PRESENTATION.—Mr Frederick Victor, who last week concluded a long engagement as Napoleon, in *A Royal Divorce*, having been engaged to play David Rossi, in *The Eternal City*, was recently presented by Mr and Mrs W. W. Kelly and the members of the company with a handsome travelling clock.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, JAN. 11.—Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore changed their bill at the New Lyceum Theatre on the 9th inst., and appeared in a revival of Henry Arthur Jones's play *The Case of Rebellious Susan*, which much delighted a large audience.

MR GEORGE BERNARD SHAW'S *You Never Can Tell* was performed for the first time in America at the Berkeley Lyceum Theatre last Monday by Mr Arnold Daly and his company. This peculiar play was admirably acted and proved most diverting. As the dentist Valentine Mr Daly made a pronounced hit, and excellent work in prominent rôles was done by Mr William H. Thompson, Mr Harry Harwood, Mr John Findlay, Miss Jeffreys Lewis, and Miss Mabel Taliaferro. The play is discussed extensively in the newspapers.

"COUSIN BILLY," a farcical comedy, in three acts, was adapted from the French by Clyde Fitch for the express purpose of enabling Mr Francis Wilson to be "off with the old love and on with the new," or, in other words, to forsake comic opera for what is known here as "straight" comedy. Mr Wilson has said that the public should feel grateful that he is not called upon to sing in his new rôle. But for all that it would be rash to predict that never again will he sing—or recite—the famous "Dicky Bird" ditty in *Erminie*. In *Cousin Billy* he impersonates one William Jenks, an American travelling on the Continent with his cousin, Mrs Meade, a widow, and her daughter, Kitty. He proposes to his cousin, but she has made up her mind not to marry again until Kitty has found a husband. Kitty captivates two young men, who agree to a friendly rivalry for her hand. One of them plays fair, while the other resorts to trickery. But the former triumphs over his rival in the end, and Jenks wins the widow, after having extricated himself from a series of embarrassing situations in which he becomes involved through his ignorance of the language and the local customs. Mr Wilson's agility and drollery provoke roars of laughter.

MISS FRITZI SCHEFF has shelved *The Two Roses*, and has revived Franz Von Suppé's light opera, *Fatinitza*, at the Broadway Theatre. In the rôle of Lieut. Vladimir Miss Scheff has full scope for her vivacity and humour and has scored an unqualified success.

MISS VIOLA ALLEN is appearing at the Knickerbocker Theatre in a very handsome revival of *The Winter's Tale*. The text has been "cut" to meet the needs of modern theatre hours, but this has been done judiciously, and all the beauty and poetry of the play have been preserved. Miss Allen, in the dual-rôle of Hermione and Perdita, gives a highly intelligent and praiseworthy representation of each character. Miss Zeffie Tilbury, who appeared with Miss Mary Anderson in this play as Mopsa, is playing Paulina in the present revival.

"HOME FOLKS," a rural play in four acts, by C. T. Dazey, author of *In Old Kentucky*, is proving a popular attraction at the New York Theatre. There is little plot but there are four love stories and several clever character sketches that keep the audience interested and amused. The Misses Crystal and Julie Herne and Messrs Thomas A. Wise, W. S. Hart, and Jack Ryan play prominent parts well.

MRS GENEVIEVE G. HAINES is the author of a new romantic comedy, in three acts, entitled *Once Upon a Time*, which was produced recently at the Berkeley Lyceum Theatre. In this piece the authoress's husband, Mr Robert T. Haines, is "starring." The play is described as a romance of Andalusia. The period is the middle of the nineteenth century, and the scenes are laid in the ancient Moorish province of Jaen, principally in the courtyard of the ancestral home of the De Cerbados family. Dona Ana de Cerbados, an orphan heiress, has been pursued by penniless suitors until she has sworn to take the veil and devote her fortune to the Church, unless she finds a husband to her taste before the Fiesta of Santiago. Don Fernando de Alva, a gay widower, whom Dona Ana has once rejected, has a son, Don Juan, who is totally unlike the legendary hero of the same name. This young man has been reared amid religious surroundings by his mother's family and is attending a seminary in order to prepare himself for the priesthood. Don Fernando, anxious to obtain control of Dona Ana's fortune, conspires with her duenna, Concepcion, to bring the two young people together and make a match by apparently opposing it. But a sincere attachment springs up between Don Juan and Dona Ana, and the young man's jealousy is aroused by the attentions of one Don Guzman De Mendoza, a former bandit and a fortune hunter. Antonio, a gipsy, attempts to abduct Dona Ana, and is thwarted by the bravery of the young student, who is wounded in the affray. This brings the love affair of the young people to a climax, and their betrothal is celebrated during the Fiesta of Santiago. Mr Haines as Don Juan, Miss Mathilde Cottrelly as the duenna, Miss Gertrude Coghlan as Dona Ana won praise for their impersonations, but the play failed to win critical approval, being condemned as sacrilegious. Mrs Haines has replied to this charge in a letter to the newspapers. After referring to an incident in Israel Zangwill's play *The Children of the Ghetto*, that was regarded as sacrilegious by the strictly orthodox, she says:—"If these amiable assassins of the pen succeed in driving my play from the New York stage, as they did Zangwill's, I will take it to Baltimore, the home of the Church of Rome in America; to Washington, our most cosmopolitan city; to Boston, our most intellectual; to Chicago, our most independent; to London, whence come all the plays approved by the 'wise men of Gotham;' or even to Madrid, for vindication."

"THE LITTLE MINISTER" is enjoying a prosperous revival at the Empire Theatre, with Miss Maude Adams in the rôle of Lady Babble, the character she created when the play was first produced here about seven years ago. Miss Adams received an enthusiastic welcome when she made her reappearance, for her popularity is great. On the opening night, at the close of the third act, she was recalled fifteen times. The Empire Theatre has been filled at every performance, showing that Mr Barrie's play has lost none of its charm.

MR W. A. BRADY has made a fine revival of Bartley Campbell's old play *Siberia*, originally produced about twenty-five years ago at the Academy of Music. A representation of the Kishineff massacre is the principal spectacular feature, and this is done in a very realistic manner, evoking hearty applause.

THE Messrs Shubert Brothers have a new theatre in St. Louis called the Garrick. It was opened recently with a performance of *The Taming of the Shrew*, Miss Ada Rehan and Mr Charles Richman playing the principal parts. The Garrick is the twelfth playhouse in America to come under the direction of Messrs Sam S. and Lee Shubert. It is one of the finest theatres in the West.

DAN M'AVOY, a favourite Irish comedian, is appearing at the Murray Hill Theatre in a musical play entitled *His Honour, the Mayor of the Bowery*, which was barred from the Fourteenth-street Theatre on the ground that Mr M'Avoy's impersonation of the Mayor was a caricature offensive to Irishmen. The matter was brought into court, and the judge decided in favour of the manager who excluded the play from his theatre. The feature chiefly objected to was the wearing of green whiskers.

MR EDITOR.—Sir,—In your issue of the 14th you stated that I appeared as Blinky Bill in *The Belle of New York* at Ayr. I was not in the town. Yours faithfully, MACK OLLIVE, 34, Bernard-street, Russell-square, W.C.

"MR. WATCH, PAWNBROKER."

By GEORGE H. R. DABBS, M.D.
London Argus Library of Fiction.
Price, One Shilling.

The experiences of the gentleman who is familiarly known as "uncle" to his vast clientèle of poor relations have before supplied interesting subjects for the pen of the popular novelist. Mr George R. Sims, for instance, wrote a series of stories under the title of "Three Brass Balls," but it has been left to Dr. Dabbs to make of the public hypothecator a romantic figure with a pulse that quickens with sympathy for the oppressed and the heart of a lion. Mr Watch, indeed, is a paragon of chivalry, and uses a straight left with unconscionable severity when facing "wrong 'uns," as he does many times during the series of exciting adventures put to his credit by the author. He rises superior to the common drudge given to bargaining and a usurious rate of interest, but is always interesting and excites the reader's admiration. Says Watch in an early chapter, "We are supposed to be men, in my business, who have no heart or compunction much—like many a swift judgment, injustice is inside this one. I can recall many an instance, I am glad to say, in which I neglected to press an advantage home. We don't all of us work for only the dross of gain; we have our little romances now and then!" Watch one day had an extraordinary bundle deposited with him—a baby girl. She was immediately taken in as a pledge of affection. The story of the advent of Miss Pancake in the bachelor's lonely home is worth retelling:—

"When Beans, the faithful dog—a cross between a bull-mastiff and a retriever—was brought in one dark November night, and was passing my parlour door to go down into the cellar, I tossed him a bit of muffin, and he stopped to eat it. Just as he'd got it in his teeth he stopped biting, and walked into my parlour—a thing he'd never done of his own accord before—and Measles (the pawnbroker's assistant) not having expected a side-pull at the chain let go of it. Beans dived under the table and pulled a bundle out, and then I understood, and there was no time lost in my cutting the cord. And there was little 'Miss Pancake,' as we called her afterwards, because she was so flat, stark naked, and all over smiles. And I scratched my head and doubted, for an instant, my own eyesight and my own virtue. Measles, as he always did when puzzled, took a fresh straw from his pocket and started on it. Beans lay down by the child. I took off my coat and covered her little body with it, and she kicked one leg out of the side of it, and went into ecstasies over some joke she had all to herself. I asked Measles where she came from, and how she got here, and he condescended to speak through his straw that he didn't think he knew, and then to suck in surprise as if he was enjoying a sherry cobbler.

"The child meanwhile had adjusted her other leg to Beans' broad skull, and he seemed to like the annexation. Added to which he growled at me because I put my hand down to tuck in the coat for purposes of decency. And there we all were, and no one seemed to know what to do next. At least, Measles and I had no clear ideas; but Beans and the child went to sleep.

"It is very rare, I imagine, that in a quartet so situated you would find an equal division of sanity and impotence. I said at last to Measles, 'Seems to me we'd better send for the police,' but Measles only sucked at his straw. 'D'ye hear me?' I asked angrily, and the boy replied, 'I know her, and so do you,' at which I asked for an explanation, and the young ruffian winked at me. 'Don't you see, sir, Mr Watch, what this means? That swell mobsman in the next street has just pawned all the child's clothes with you; the mother's come home from the circus ill, and found out there's nothing but a naked baby left, and she's sent or brought the child here to you on her way to the 'orspital.' And then Measles dodged among the pledges and found the bundle and, unasked by me, commenced to air the clothes, all the time whistling through his straw. At last the boy turned on me and said, 'Take my eight bob a week and I'll work for nothing; but don't for Gawd's sake, turn that child out. Keep her, master, keep her; she'll be the best pledge you've taken for the luck o' this corner shop'—and I stopped the boy with a benevolent blasphemy, and told him I'd as soon rob my mother's grave as turn out the child.

"I was going to send for a woman to look after her, but Measles warned me that the only security for her against the father was to keep dark. 'All very well,' I said, 'but who's going to wash and dress her?'

"'You must do that, master,' that varmit replied; and 'she must sleep with you, too, and I'll come in and sleep under the counter, and run up and down for what you want, and boil the kettle and mix the food, and sit with her now and then; but you must do the dressing.' And then he chucked the clothes down, and took the child up in my coat, and laid it in my lap, spite of the language Beans used, and went upstairs to light a fire in my bedroom.

"I pass by what followed. The child screamed with delight at every effort I made to dress her, and when I had finished I was half blind from her ten toes, and half deaf from her heels and knees. Then Measles came down and told me he was going out to buy some food for her, and I had to sit and wait.

"A customer came in, of course, and while I was out of the room I left her to Beans. When I came back that dog was lying just anyhow, and she seemed to be all over him, and was sucking his great ear. He was wincing with the ticklishness of it, but wouldn't show it. Then, the customer gone, and Measles come back, I told him to feed her, and I listened outside to that boy trying to manage that girl, and held my sides with laughing. Ordinarily he was a desperate young devil, that boy, but that child ruled him with her bottle as if she was the Queen of the Pawnshop, and he was the dirtiest and meanest pledge of a stowaway allowed to rest there on sufferance of her regal will and condescension. But he fed her, as he always did, at last."

Miss Pancake, who was afterwards called Pansy, had an eventful career, and one of the best pieces of descriptive writing is the account of her rescue from a burning house by the intrepid Measles. Unhappily she lost her sight as a result of this awful experience. Watch is a pawnbroker militant, and he finds a chum entirely after his own heart in Mr Steadfast, the curate of the parish in which he resides, a fine example of muscular Christianity. Inspector Lorry, an honour to the police force, completes the trio. The reader who follows their adventures with anarchists, thieves, and other undesirable persons will enjoy the exciting career that has been assigned to them by Dr. Dabbs, whose volume is most ingeniously written.

HER Majesty the Queen has graciously accepted the new patriotic song "England's Queen," words by Guy Danbury, music by Ernest George, published by Messrs Ascherberg and Co., Berners-street. The above announcement speaks for itself in more ways than one. It proves the enterprise of the publishers, the cleverness of author and composer, and the graciousness of the popular lady who shares with King Edward the throne of England.

BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES.—All suffering from irritation of the throat and hoarseness will be agreeably surprised at the almost immediate relief afforded by the use of Brown's Bronchial Troches. People troubled with a hacking cough, a slight cold, or bronchial affections cannot try them too soon, as similar troubles, if allowed to progress, result in serious pulmonary and asthmatic affections. See that the words "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are on the Government stamp around each box. Sold by Chemists everywhere, 1s. 1½d. per Box.—[ADVT.]

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS

Continued from Page 11.

WEDNESBURY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr W. J. Cranston.—Mr T. E. Ward's company is here with *Her Fatal Past*. Mr Percy Brown makes a capital Mark Desmond, and Leonard Fernside is admirably portrayed by Mr Bernard Dunstan. Mr Chas. H. Lester does good work as Gilbert Fernside, and as Jonathan Buckstone Nobbs Mr T. Edward Ward makes the most of his opportunities. Mr Victor Mason as Dicky Bird scores successfully; Miss Amy Maitland as Kitty Springwell does excellent work; and Miss Marguerite Thorne, in the rôle of Martha Springwell, wins warm appreciation. Sal Jenkins is ably and amusingly rendered by Miss Kate Newman, and Miss Helen Ingelow is well suited to the characters of Ruth Fernside and Bella De Lara.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.

GRAND.—General Manager (for Mrs Weldon Watts), Mr Sidney Bacon; Resident Manager, Mr Fred Conneaux.—*Revenge* is being played here this week by Mr Hill-Mitchelson and an excellent all round company, Mr Hill-Mitchelson giving a powerful delineation of Prince Orloff. A studied reading of the rôle of Captain Loris Vanessa is supplied by Mr Wellesley Draper. As the King Mr Theo Balfour is highly effective, and amusing work is done by Mr Arthur M'Culloch as Count Mussant and Mr Fred Yarnold as Jim Jennings. Mr T. W. Hurst's performance as Captain David Carr is heartily appreciated; Miss Grace Aimers merits warm recognition for her performance as Lieutenant Maurice; Miss Violet Carlyle thoroughly gains the sympathy of her audience by her admirable portrayal of the Queen; Draga Vanessa is satisfactorily depicted by Miss Frances White; and Cora Brook is represented in pleasing manner by Miss Alice Barber.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr Frank Macnaghten.—The list here is headed by Miss Dinah Morris and her troupe of Southern State artistes, including Miss Bessie Morris, in their musical scena, *The Lost Coon*; the performance, which is most enjoyable, includes songs, dances, and instrumental music. The Four Burnells do an amusing skit on golfing, and introduce a smart bâton drill. The performance given by Miss Raffin's troupe of monkeys is extremely funny; horn playing is Mr D. W. Watson's speciality, and his performance is well received; Dickinson and Johnson, in their silver tank, appear to be as much at home in water as out of it; Ethel Sylvesto's contortionist act is a clever and graceful one; and a very pleasing musical performance is contributed by the Darrell Trio, which includes Miss May Darrell, lady banjoist.

WEXFORD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr E. P. Ronan.—Under its new management this cosy little house has commanded extraordinary success, and the initial visit of the Benson (North) Shakespearian company on the 12th, 13th, and 14th inst., created a furore. On the Thursday *Romeo and Juliet* was performed, the house being packed with the elite of the district. Mr Holiday Attley as Escalus looked and played the part to the life; Paris was ably impersonated by Mr C. Foote; Mr Arthur Fayne's interpretation of the rôle of Capulet could scarcely be excelled; Mr Henry Herbert's impersonation of Mercutio deserved the hearty recognition it received; Mr F. Owen Chambers was an admirable Friar Laurence; and Mr Guy Leigh as Montague was also good. Romeo was entrusted to Mr T. A. Shannon, who gave a careful and sympathetic rendering; and Mr C. H. Croker King impressed the audience favourably as his apothecary. Miss Catherine Boyce was a tender and womanly Juliet; Lady Capulet as played by Miss Maud Garth deserved much praise; and Miss Geoghegan as the Nurse was all that could be desired. *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Hamlet* were also produced; the last-mentioned tragedy on Saturday night beating all records at the theatre.

WIGAN.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company; Managing-Director, Mr John Worswick.—Messrs Haddon and Loader's comic pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, has been presented here to appreciative audiences. The pantomime is admirably staged, and there are some very pretty spectacular effects. The parts of Jack, by Miss Bessie Shelley; Dora, by Miss Pattie Bella; Silly Billy, by Mr Jay Laurier; Dame Trotter, by Mr Harry Harrop; and that of Squire Musty, by Mr Reg Bolton, are all well sustained. George Harrie gives a clever star trap performance; Miss Cissie Trent is a charming transformation dancer; and the Cameron Glee Singers (Misses Belshaw, Carmichael, and Verin) are additional specialities.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company; Managing-Director, Mr J. Worswick.—At the Hippodrome, Vanola, Mexican antipodeste, and Tom Lloyd, the well-known and successful vocalist, are great attractions here this week. The Two Countees, duettists; the Violas, the white Mahatmas, or adepts in second sight; Coram, novelty ventriloquist; and Rosina Casselli and her troupe of performing dogs are all excellent turns. Maggie Rimmer is a dainty comedienne and dancer; Shang Hai, a clever Chinese conjuror; the Revell Troupe, in a pantomime act, *Mischief*; and Charlie Craston, comedian, complete a capital and up-to-date list of artists. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr S. Dawson, accompany the several items.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Manager, Mr W. Birchall.—Miss Irene Santley, soprano vocalist, and Lanney and Dode, athletic domestics, are capital turns. Dr. Vallus, hypnotist and mystifier; Frank Vant and the Bros. Houston, comedians and dancers; and Dick Wadeson, "the original wind cutter," are also popular. George Yorke, one-legged dancer, continues his engagement for another week.

WHITEHAVEN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Clark.—Mr Edmund Tearle's company opened here for three nights, on Monday, in *The Three Musketeers*, the eminent actor appearing as D'Artagnan. He received excellent support from Miss K. Clinton as Miladi and Mr J. V. Fairley was good as Buckingham. A convincing portrayal of Richelieu was given by Mr W. J. Miller, and Mr V. O. Crabtree was capable as the King. Miss Mary Campbell was seen to advantage as Anne of Austria, and a capital study of Boniface was given by T. W. Benson. On Tuesday *Under the Red Robe*, and on Wednesday *Jeanie Deans* were staged. For the remaining three nights of the week Mr Hart's company is announced to appear in *My Lady Molly*.

WINDSOR.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Licensee, Mr Fred L. Connynghame; General Business-Manager, Mr Worton David; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr Harry Nash.—One of Miss Maggie Morton's several companies has been here this week for the first three nights with the military drama, in four acts, *Two Little Drummer Boys*, a story of the Sixth Royal Warwicks, by Mr Walter Howard. The presentation of this lively, moving, and realistic play was under the personal direction of Miss Maggie Morton, who is an old favourite in the Royal borough, and the popularity of that lady and the excellence of the production by an all-round company of experience and ability combined to yield a marked success in Windsor.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr E. H. Bull and Mr Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy Percival.—Mr George Dance's company is appearing here this week in *The Orchid*, a play which is deservedly popular, and is presented by a first-class company. The part of Aubrey Chesterton has an excellent exponent in Mr Ernest Darrell; the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour is capitally played by Mr G. Davy Burnaby; Mr Edmund Hollick is a capable Dr. Ronald Fausett; Mr Edmund Page, an able and amusing Comte Raoul; and Zaccary is well represented by Mr Arthur P. Hemsley. In the character of Meakin Mr Charles R. Walenn is a host in himself, and gives an admirable portrayal of a humorous but arduous part. Miss Irene Desmond is charming as Josephine; Miss Ethel Bryant does well as Lady Violet; Miss Ida Chichester is good as Countess Anstruther; Miss Chrissie Ralland is smart as Thisbe; and Miss Madge Lucas does admirably as Caroline Vokins. The play is brilliantly staged, and the whole performance bright and gay.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr Chas. Bernard; General Manager, Mr W. H. Lennon.—The great attraction here this week is Dr. Walford Bodie, who is drawing large houses nightly to witness his wonderful cures by "bloodless surgery," and his mesmeric performances. The bill also includes the following artists, viz.:—Gerald Lopez, Little Dolly Robson, La Petite Bella, Marie Henri, Tom Duriah, the Sahallers, Norman Mills, and the Original Vivians, who are re-engaged for a second week.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Sole Lessees, Mr Fred Benton and Mr Fred J. Little; General Manager, Mr Fred Benton.—The entertainment for the week is provided by a circus company, including a troupe of forty amazon warriors, who give a representation of a midnight attack in Dahomey; the Sisters Le Graham, vocalists and dancers; the Leons, acrobats; and Frank Hope, trick cyclist.

WORCESTER.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton; General Manager, Mr Louis Karpe; Assistant-Manager, Mr L. Warde.—Great praise has been accorded this week to the representations of *My Lady Molly*, which is here on a return visit. Miss Agnes Fandy sang and acted admirably in the title-rôle; Miss Sybil Thorne made a most favourable impression as Hester, as did Miss Mande Thorne as Alice Coverdale; while the part of the Governess was cleverly taken by Miss Florence Wakeman. Miss Maud Lucy was a dainty maid. The male characters found capital exponents in Mr Stuart Alexander (Lionel), Mr Edmund Sherras (Captain Romney), Mr Arthur Powell (Micky), Mr T. Norbury (the Landlord), and Mr Fredk. Hobbs (Sir Miles).

WORKINGTON.

OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr Stanley Rogers.—On Monday night there was a large audience to witness Mr W. H. Kirby's company's performance of *The New Mephisto*. Mr Albert Weston as Mephisto and in his other parts was greatly admired, and he was ably partnered by Miss Nellie Burdette, whose graceful acting and dancing secured for her several encores. Dick Pilgrim had a capital exponent in Mr W. H. Vernon. Miss M. Armitage was exceedingly quaint and humorous as Becky. Mr C. Lindon was refined as Meredith. As Humming Top Mr B. St. Joen was capital, and equally so Mr A. Randal as the Major. Miss Dorothy Cecil was charming, and acted well as Gertie. Miss Leah Howard and Miss Lillian Gregory were also vivacious as the widows. The chorus was very good and the mounting artistic.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr Helsby Wright.—Mr E. Hoggan-Armadale and his company on Monday presented *David Garrick* to an appreciative house. He gave a manly and intelligent rendering of Garrick. Miss M. Florence was graceful and sympathetic as Laura. Mr F. Emery was excellent as the Squire. Mr H. Osman, Hoskins, was satisfactory, and also Mr H. A. Burton as Gamphire and Mr C. Langton in the part of Peterkin. The heroine was ably supported by Miss Wilson as Lydia, Miss E. C. Matthews as Patience, and Miss Evelyn as Priscilla.

WREXHAM.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr Herbert Nicholls.—The Summersons made so great an impression here a fortnight ago that they were promptly re-engaged for the present week, and having introduced entirely new duets, they have again scored a big success. Mr J. H. Kavanagh, comic and descriptive vocalist, is another star artist, as is Mr T. B. Talbot, eccentric singing comedian and expert ventriloquist. Miss Carrie Leslie, characteristic and descriptive vocalist, commands plenty of applause and other manifestations of approval, as do also Miss Marie Lester, comedienne, and Mdlle. Henriette, 'cellistr.

YORK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr T. H. Barrow.—*The Beautiful Avenger* is the attraction this week, and Miss Nannie Meade as Vashti Volta and Victor Stanhope gives a powerful rendering of two distinct rôles, and is ably seconded by that robust actor, Mr Algernon Syms, who as Cyrus Telford finds great favour. Mr Edwin Walton and Mr C. T. Does score as the villains, and in contrast to the tragic element we have the excellent fooling of Mr Arthur Richmond as Jim Jahme. Miss Cissy Podmore, Mr Bert Ellis, and Miss Lillian Hawkins complete an able company.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr Sidney Brooke.—Datas, a truly wonderful turn, heads the bill this week. His clever entertainment finds great favour. Barton and Ashley are distinctly smart in their sketch. The conjuring of Sidney Lee is much above the average. Smith and Johnson, coon artists; Vance Brothers, instrumentalists; Geo. Daunton, comedian; Howard and Hollinson, sketch artists; and H. O. Wills, instrumentalist, make up a strong company.

FOOTBALL.

BRISTOL X.L.C.R. AND HARRY HARE'S ORCHESTRAL BAND ATHLETIC CLUBS v. MUSIC HALLS A.F.C.

Played on Clifton Downs on Saturday. The following were the teams:—

Bristol X.L.C.R. and Harry Hare's Orchestral Band Athletic Clubs.—H. Belding, goal; J. Lewis and A. Hamlin (captain), backs; A. E. Bailey, H. Slade, and S. Carter, half-backs; J. Aubrey, E. Belding, I. Hamlin, H. Edwards, and L. Clayton, forwards.

Music Halls A.F.C.—F. B. Nicholls, goal; T. Denton, and J. Stuart, backs; J. Lacey, D. O'Connor, and T. Neagle (captain), half-backs; P. Reardon, B. Cullen, F. Hansford, W. Hinder, and G. Anstey, forwards.

Referee, J. Leonard (of Westbury Villages Second A.F.C.). Linesmen, H. C. Douglas and W. Miller. Result:—Bristol X.L.C.R. and Harry Hare's Orchestral Band Athletic Clubs, one goal; Music Halls A.F.C., three goals. Messrs J. Aubrey, J. Lacey (two), and P. Reardon scored for their respective sides.

HAMMERSMITH EARLY CLOSERS v. CHISWICK EARLY CLOSERS AND THEATRICALS.

Played near Kingston-on-Thames on the 12th inst. Harry Hare, of Bristol X.L.C.R. Athletic Club, assisted the second named team. The following were the players:—

Hammersmith Early Closers.—Martin, goal; Wills and Culverwell (captain), backs; Tonkins, Adams, and Parker, half-backs; Paget, Hall, Symes, Pike and Howell, forwards.

Chiswick Early Closers and Theatricals.—Jefferies, goal; Rogers and Murray, backs; H. Hare (Bristol) (captain), Prescott and Lambert, half-backs; Griffiths, Pearce, Hodges, Edkins, and Caple, forwards.

Referee, P. Mitchell (of Richmond). Linesmen, Allen and Tovey. Result:—Hammersmith Early Closers, two goals; Chiswick Early Closers and Theatricals, nil. Messrs Adams and Pyke scored the goals for the Hammersmith Early Closers.

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DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW,

Being a Digest of the Law relating to Theatres and Music Halls, and containing Chapters on Theatrical Contracts, Theatrical, Music and Dancing and Excise Licences, Dramatic and Musical Copyright, &c. With an Appendix containing the Acts of Parliament relating thereto, and the Regulations of the London County Council and Lord Chamberlain

By A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (London), Solicitor.

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Offers for the 1905 Season on Sharing Terms should be made to the Undersigned, who will furnish any further information.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

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Communications re Dates to MANAGER

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JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL. BARROW.—ROYALTY T. AND OPERA HOUSE. CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE. Lessee and Manager, Mr HUGH ROBERTSON. Vacant Dates:—Jarrow, May 1. Barrow, for First-class Musical Attractions, March 20, Easter, and various on. The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring. Consett, Feb. 20 and 27, April 3 and 17, on, with exceptions. All applications for Dates to HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

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SEACOMBE — IRVING THEATRE. — Required, First-class Attractions, for March 27, April 3, 10, and onward. Required, First-class Attractions, for March 27, April 3, 10, and onward. Required, First-class Attractions, for March 27, April 3, 10, and onward. Good Business done here with First-class Companies. Fast Booking for the Fall, 1905. Wire or write to JAS. KIERNAN, Manager.

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SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE OPERA HOUSE and THEATRE ROYAL. Managing-Director, CHAS. E. MACHIN. General Manager, PERCIVAL CRAIG. Only Vacant Dates. AVENUE. Feb. 27, May 1, 29, June 5, 12, and Autumn. ROYAL. Feb. 13, April 17, May 8, 29, June and July. Managers please note Seaham Harbour is barred. Apply, C. E. MACHIN, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

SUNDERLAND.—Correspondent Required to Supply Theatre and Music Hall Reports Weekly. Address, "DRAMATICUS," 49, Wellington-street, Strand.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE. Lessee, CHARLES CAREY. Vacant, Feb. 13 (?), 27, March 6 and 20, &c. Mr Carey can arrange a Tour of Several Weeks for a Few First-class Companies during the Summer Months.

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All communications to J. P. MOORE, on the Spot.

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Important.—Managers doing Business with us at the New Gaiety Theatre, Leith, please note that Stockbridge is barred. The Tivoli, Rechristened "The Grand," is in Stockbridge. Address all communications to R. C. BUCHANAN, General Office, Grand Theatre, Glasgow. Telegraphic Address, "Bookings, Glasgow."

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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT FOR ACTOR AND COMPOSER, BY ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B.

Published at "The Era" Offices, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.

Those who are interested in "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" will derive much valuable intelligence by reading Mr Albert Strong's book bearing the above title, published at "The Era" Office.—Pelican Aug. 3d, 1901.

Mr A. A. Strong has published a book on "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" which should be in the hands of everyone who is obliged to know about this perplexing subject. Dramatic copyright in England is in a particularly unsatisfactory state, and it is much to be hoped that ere long some more rational method of securing protection for a play may be devised than the slovenly and sometimes costly "production for copyright purposes" which is at present required.—St. James's Gazette, Aug. 2d, 1901

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr Albert A. Strong's new work entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his text-book on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases, what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee, July 28th, 1901

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COMPANIES WANTED.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.

WANTED, Companies for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E. Feb. 27, March 20, April 24, May 1, 15, 22, on. COUNTY THEATRE, READING. April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 15, 29, June 5, 12. ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER Feb. 13, April 17, 24, May 8 (Race Week) 15, on. GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON. March 27, April 17, May 8, 15. CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD. Vacant, April 24, May 8, 29, June 5, 12, 19, on. THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD. April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 22, 29, June 5, 12, on. OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON. Vacant, April 17, 24, May 22, 29, June 5, 12, on. THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON. Vacant, Feb. 20 (Three Nights), March 9 (Three Nights), March 27. April 10, 17, 24, May 4, and on. Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Company, Feb. 13, Chester. Feb. 20 (Three Nights), Leamington. Feb. 27, Dalston. Apply, MILTON BODE, County Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.

WANTED, Important Attractions, for STANDARD THEATRE, Vacant Spring, various. TERRISS THEATRE. March 6. METROPOLE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM, Big Attractions for March 20, April 3. Address, WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

WANTED, First-class Companies. GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE, March 13, on. THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON, Feb 27, on. GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL, May 8, on. SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead. Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD, GRAND THEATRE, LUTON. Booked in conjunction, One Week each. Musical Companies preferred. Vacant Feb. 6, 13, 23 (Three Nights, Bedford only), 27, March 13, 20, 27, April 10, and Easter. THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY. Vacant March 2, 9, 30, April 6, and Easter. Address, E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR. Lessee, Mr HARDING THOMAS.

WANTED, Good Drama, March 6. The Theatre has just been thoroughly Renovated, a Scene Dock added, and a Full Electric Plant (Three Colours) installed. Address, HERBERT VERE.

WANTED, First-class Attraction for Feb. 27. Apply, Mr ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 1, 8, 29 and June 12 (Whit Week). Can Negotiate for First-class Pantomime for next Christmas. Applicants please state where Production can be seen. Address, T. A. EDWARDES.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY. Vacant.

WANTED, First-class Musical Attractions, April 3 and 24, May 8 and 22.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Feb 27, March 13 (Three Nights), 20, April 3, 22 (Seven Nights), June 5, 19, 26. H. W. ROWLAND, Manager

THEATRE ROYAL, BATLEY.

WANTED, Company, Feb. 27 owing to Tour Suddenly Finishing. Address, J. EDWARD WHITTY.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.

WANTED, First-class Companies for Feb. 27, March 6, 20, 27, and onwards, with exceptions. Address, THOS. SWINTON.

WANTED, March 20, April 3, 17 (?), May 22, June 5, all July. Best Dramas. Must be new to Cardiff. FRANK BATEMAN, King's T., Cardiff.

STANLEY, DURHAM.—ROYAL, LIMITED.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, March 6 Address, MARK H. LINDON.

WANTED, Companies, Feb. 23, March 16, 23, and 30. Last Three Nights of week only. MANAGER, Victoria Theatre, Mansfield.

EMPIRE THEATRE, OXFORD.

WANTED, First-class Musical Company, Monday next (Jan. 23), also Feb. 20, and on. Must be Big Attraction. For terms, wire, ALBANY WARD.

WANTED, Big Attraction, Feb. 6, for Theatre Royal, Castleford. Address, H. MASTERMAN, Wesley-street, Castleford.

WANTED, Companies, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 13, Three Nights each, thirty miles from Edinburgh, forty Glasgow. LIVERICK, T. H., Methil, Fife.

WANTED, Companies, March 20, May 15, and On. GRAY, King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

THEATRE ROYAL, WINDSOR.

WANTED, Big Attractions, Feb. 6 (?), 13, 20, March 13 April 10. Musical preferred. FRED L. CONNINGHAME.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Feb. 20, March 6, 13, and Intermediates, on. E. B. GOULDEN.

HIPPODROME, CASTLEFORD.

WANTED, Good Pantomime, or Any Good Novelty Show, Jan. 30 and Feb. 13. J. Arnold, Dramatic and Variety Agent, Hippodrome, Castleford.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
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WANTED, First-class Companies

EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
Vacant,
Feb. 27, March 13, April 24, May 8.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant,
Jan. 23, 26 (Three Nights), Feb. 6, 13, March 20, 27 (Three Nights only).

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant,
April 17, May 1 (Three Nights only), 15, 29.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant,
Feb. 6, 27, March 6, 13, April 3.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant,
June 19, July 31, Aug. 14, Sept 4, Oct. 2.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant,
April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant,
Jan. 30 (Three Nights only), Feb 9 (Three Nights only), 13, 20 (Three Nights only), 27 (Three Nights only), March 6.

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
acant,
Feb. 6, 13, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant,
Feb. 6, March 20, 27, April 3 (Three Nights only).

KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
Vacant,
Feb. 9 (Three Nights only), 13, March 13, 20 (Three Nights)

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant,
Feb. 6, April 6 (Three Nights only), 24, May 1, 8.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant,
Jan. 23, Feb. 6 (Three Nights only), 13 (Three Nights), 27.

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.

All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Manor House, Hayes, Uxbridge.

WANTED, First-class Company
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Vacant April 10, 17.
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH,
Vacant April 17.
Apply, FREDK MOUILLOT,
4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.
Wire, "Lutanist, London."

ROYALTY THEATRE, LLANELLY.
Booked in Conjunction with the
NEW GRAND THEATRE, ABERAVON.
WANTED, Companies, Jan 26 (Three Nights', Jan. 30, and onwards, with exceptions.

Wire, Saturday, TULLY, Theatre, Stalybridge; after, TULLY, Theatre, Widnes

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WANTED, Known, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, One or Two Summer Dates
Vacant
for Powerful Attractions
Playing to enormous Business.
Address, FRED GRANVILLE.

WANTED, Good Company,
Lyric Theatre, Bromley.
Jan. 26, Three Nights
Wire, CARLTON, Hayes, Middlesex.

PRINCE OF WALES'S ROYAL T., SOUTHAMPTON.
Lessee and Managerees, Mrs J. W. GORDON.
WANTED, Very Strong Attraction, for March 20 (Musical or Dramatic);
6th and 13 h also open.

WANTED, Good Companies, Musical Comedy or Drama Vacant Feb. 16 and 20 (Three Nights each), March 6 (Six Nights) March 16 (Three Nights), on. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum T., Stafford.

WANTED, First-class Company, Feb. 6 Six Nights.
E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, Big Attractions, April 3, on with exceptions, also Autumn, Grand, Chorley; March 20, on with exceptions, also Autumn, Radcliffe. Trade better, business better. Re Dates, SANTE Radcliffe

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LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
WANTED, First-class Attraction (Musical preferred) for Feb. 13, March 27. April 10 also Vacant. Reply, RICH WALDON, above address.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple Companies. Two Nights. Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple, N. Devon.

WANTED, Pantomime Production, Christmas, 1905 State subject, where can be seen working. Address, FRANK BATEMAN, King's T. Cardiff

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PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
WANTED, Good Company, March 13, and possibly May 29. Few Summer Dates at Liberty.
Copy of Day-Bill and Terms to
J. H. CURRY, as above.

GRAND THEATRE, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Companies for Feb. 20, March 20, April 10, April 24, May 1 and on, with exceptions.
Silence a polite negative.
Apply, Mr C. F. WILLIAMS, Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

FOLKESTONE—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE,
WANTED, Powerful Attraction for Easter, Musical preferred, to oblige Mr George Dance.
Opening Saturday, April 22, Seven Nights.
H. W. ROWLAND, Manager.

RAMSGATE.—SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE. Sole Proprietor, Lord GEORGE SANGER. Entirely Redecorated.
WANTED, Pantomime for Christmas. One or Two Weeks.
Address, HENRY BOWMAN, Manager.

THE PIER, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Musical Comedy, Comedy, Farce, or High-class Drama, for Feb 6, and various dates onwards. The Pier Theatre is the Leading Place of Entertainment in Eastbourne.
Apply, G. HAYES, Manager.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Mr MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions for QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
All works are now on Full Time after a period of Three Years' Short Time.
Vacant,
March 13, April 17, 24, May 8.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
a Pretty and Popular Playhouse.
Last Week—Thursday, £45; Friday, £51.
Saturday, over £100.
Within the past Three Months,
Drama has played in a Single Night to over £74.
Vacant,
March 27, April 17, 24, May 1, 8.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA.
New Docks in course of Construction.
Over 3,000 Navvies will shortly be on Full Time.
Vacant,
March 6, 13, 27, April 3, 17, 24.

MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LOUGHBOROUGH.
Proprietors, Messrs W. PAYNE SEDDON and GEO. ROBERTSON.
This Handsome New Theatre will be opened Next Week with "Monsieur Beaucaire."
WANTED, One or Two First-class Attractions in May.
Now booking Autumn.
OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
Vacant for Good Pantomime or Musical Show, Feb. 13 and 27.
Now Booking Autumn.
NEW THEATRE, HAWICK.
March 27, April 3, and on.
Last Three Days of each Week only Booked.
All communications re Dates,
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Opera House, Londonderry.
Next Week only, New Theatre, Loughborough.

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
Telegrams, "Montefiore, Edinburgh."
WANTED, Pantomime and Musical Comedy, Feb. 27, March 6 27, April 3.
Fast Booking Autumn.

Pantomime "Cinderella" now in Fifth Week.

The Grand Theatre may now be considered as the Established Cheap-priced Popular House of the City. Smoking allowed in the Auditorium. Three Minutes from Prince's-street only. Our Largest Single Night Gross, £161; our next, £141
Our Lowest (Friday Matinée), £27.

Our Pantomime Season will Gross £4,000.

Re Dates, Mr MONTEFIORE, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Companies for Feb. 27, April 17, 24, May 15, 29, and onwards.
Silence a polite negative.
Apply, Mr C. F. WILLIAMS,
Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
Lessee and Manager, Mr STANLEY ROGERS.
WANTED, Companies, April 6 (Three Nights), April 10, onward, with exceptions.
Address, STANLEY ROGERS, Her Majesty's Theatre, Walsall.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Four Nights, Feb. 1 to 4 inclusive.
Address,
P. E. GOOD, Blyth.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Neath, Good Musical Show or Drama, Three Nights, Jan. 30, 31, and Feb. 1, to precede Osmond Tearle. Also Vacant, Three or Six Nights, Feb. 6, 13, 20, and later Dates. Apply, A. W. JAMES, Theatre Royal, Neath.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity.
Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Onwards, with exceptions. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

TOWN HALL, WHITLAND, SOUTH WALES.
WANTED, Known, Vacant Dates now being Booked for Dramatic and Variety Companies, &c. Good opportunity, and every convenience Situate Junction, Pembroke, Tenby, Milford, and Cardigan Railways. Apply, PROPRIETOR, Whitland.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
WANTED, March 6 (?), April 17.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH"
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 7, Sept. 4
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A DISGRACE TO HER SEX."
WANTED, Important Theatres, Feb. 13, April 24, May 1, 8.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Feb. 13, April 10, May 29.
FREDK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, March 20, 27, May 8.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 3, 24, and On, with exceptions
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 27, March 13, May 1, 22, and Whit Week.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 10, May 1, 22, 29. Full No. 1 Company. All the Original Scenery and Effects The Entire Production will be under the Personal Direction of Walter Melville. Address all com, DOUGLAS BRUCE, Standard Theatre, London, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

WANTED, Weeks of March 6 and 13, for the above Powerful Attraction.
Wire, "Hustler, Birkenhead."

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 24, May 29, July 3, on, with exceptions. CHARLES HARRINGTON, New King's Theatre, Kilmarnock. N.G.T., Ayr, to follow

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MR and MRS CHALMERS MACKEY'S TOUR,
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
No Vacant Dates until Nov. 20, 1905.
WANTED, Big Theatres only, then and on.
Theatre Royal, North Shields,
Six Nights, Jan. 23

MR and MRS F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COMPANIES,
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, Feb. 6 and 27, for this Great Attraction. All Scenery carried. Race Horses and Jockeys Toured. Parade of Horses and Jockeys in Colours Daily. F. G. KIMBERLEY, Royal, Attercliffe; next, Royal, Rugby.

"THE FATAL WEDDING."
"THE FATAL WEDDING."
"THE FATAL WEDDING."

WANTED, Jan. 30, (Midlands),
Feb. 6 (Midlands),
Feb. 27 (Midlands),
March 20, 27.

Address, BERT COOTE, 150, Oxford-street, London, W.

"SILVER KING" COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, May 1, 8, 15, 29, Sept. 4, 11, Oct. 16.
Nov. 13, 20 Dec. 4, 11, 26.
Address,
G. M. POLINI,
93, Penge-road, Anerley,
London.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE SCILLY GIRL."
"THE SCILLY GIRL."
"THE SCILLY GIRL."

THEATRES WANTED.

WANTED, for Thomas Thorne and Co. in "Our Boys" or Repertory, Feb. 6 and 20. RUSSELL ROSSE, 10, King-street, W.C.

"HEARTS ADRIFT."

WANTED, March 6, to follow Birmingham and Fulham Grand Theatres; and March 20. Suburban Theatres Preferred. Everything Carried, including Mammoth Airship. Special Cast. Address, A. BERTRAM, Killarney, Gilmore-road, Lewisham, S.E.

WANTED, First-class Theatres and Halls, for Erno Aguzzi's Star Vaudeville Company, Big Attractions Top and Bottom of Bill (shares or Rental). Vacant Jan 30, on. The Best Variety Company Touring. Ten Star Turns. Proprietors and Managers should secure this great Show.
Address, ERNO AGUZZI, Public Hall, Reigate.

ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Artistes for Musical Comedy, Town and Tour. Must be Young, of Good Appearance, and Good Voice. Send full particulars to KELSON RUSMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, First-class Leading Lady, must have Power and Pathos, Tall, and Good Figure, for magnificent Star Part, in well-known success. One with Small Capital that would take an interest in. Tour preferred. Address in first instance, with full particulars, to MANAGER, Box 1,072, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, a Young, Pretty, Comedy Actress. Must be Small, for Waif's Part in Duologue Sketch (Production) Long Engagement given to the right Artiste. Apply, with full particulars, height, photo., &c., to
F. W. REED, 136, King's-hall-road, Beckenham, Kent.

"A TRIP TO CHINATOWN."

WANTED, Leading Lady, for Mrs. Guyer. Young, good figure, tall, sing and dance. Photos., References, LESLIE NORMAN, T. R., Blackburn. Rehearse at once.

MRS BANDMANN-PALMER'S REPERTOIRE CO.

WANTED, Young Lady for Small Parts and Understudies. Mrs BANDMANN-PALMER, Court T., Warrington.

WANTED, Contralto Soubrette, for Tour, able to Play the Piano, Dancer preferred. Address, HAROLD MONTAGUE, 29, Maida-hill, W.

WANTED, for Musical Comedy, Good Juvenile Gentleman, with Tenor or Light Baritone Voice; also Dude, Chorus Ladies, and Gentlemen. Must be Young and Tall. State height and lowest terms. Write, LA RONDELLE, Pier Pavilion, Hastings.

WANTED, Juvenile Gent. or Heavy Lady, or Joint, with Agent, who can Book to Tour "Decree Nisi." A. E. HALLIWELL, Eurocly don, Rock Ferry.

"SAPHO."

WANTED, Tall Gent. for Dechelette; also Good Reliable Man as Carpenter, to Combine Small Baggage.
Both address, enclosing last Two References, &c., JAMES BELL, Theatre Royal, Coatbridge.

WANTED, a Few Young Girls, Acrobatic Dancers.
Must be over Sixteen Years of Age.
State all Particulars, &c., with Photograph, which will be Returned.
Address, ARTIST, Gaiety Theatre, Chatham.

WANTED, Baritone, able to Accompany Songs if necessary, for Tour.
Apply, by letter, to HAROLD MONTAGUE, 29, Maida-hill, W.

WANTED, Dramatic Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, by Stella Celestia, Character Reader, Hypnotic Dancer, and Transformation Artiste, Engagements for Parties, Entertainments, &c. Delineations by Post. Send photo., 1s. postal order, and stamped envelope. FIXBY, 15, Abner-st., Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, Known, a Capable and Experienced Soprano (Young), wishes to join Party for Seaside Singing This Summer.
Address,
Box 1,080, care of "The Era."

WANTED, for the H. and B. Quartette, Contracts, Home or Abroad. Free Monday. Act, Refined, Funny, Good. Music, Acrobatics. 50, Shepherd-street, Bury.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, a First-class Scenic Artist for Few Weeks. Give references. Quick and good work necessary. Address, T. F. WARD, Grand Theatre, Walsall.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Scenery of every Description Painted to Order. Large Stock of New and Secondhand Cloths, Flats, &c., on hand. New Cloths 18ft. by 24ft. from £4 High-class Work guaranteed. Sykes's Scenic Studio, 11, City-road, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, William Wells, R.B.A., Scenic Studio, Theatre Royal, Preston. Cloths and Act Drops, a Specialty.

MISCELLANEOUS.

HURRY'S RESTAURANT, KING'S-CROSS, N.

WANTED, Known, always pleased to see Old Friends, New Friends, their Friends, or Anybody's Friend.
Yours always,
HARRY PARADISE.
Noted for Wm. Younger's Celebrated Ales.

WANTED, Assistant and Outdoor Manager for Music Hall. Must be a Worker and Advertiser or useless. To wear Evening Dress and Help in Management at Night. Address, with latest references and lowest terms, T. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, ABERDARE, SOUTH WALES.

WANTED, to open at once, Stage-Manager, used to Variety Business, and look after Billing. One who can use his Tools and make himself useful. Steady and reliable. Apply, WILL GREGORY, General Manager.

WANTED, Good, Smart Advance Agent, must be a Hustler. Full particulars, terms, references, &c., by letter, to GEORGE EGBERT, 7, Bow-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, by a Well-Known Band, Good Agent. Highest Testimonials.
Box 1,056, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Immediately, Baggageman (Strong), Good Handbiller. Sobriety indispensable. Lowest terms, &c., Dr. ORMONDE, 3, Murieston-pl., Edinburgh.

WANTED, by Experienced Business-Manager, Age Thirty-six, Engagements. Resident Preferred. Theatre or Music Hall, Two Houses Nightly. Bookkeeper and Correspondent, Booking Tours. Entire Management of Bars. Abstainer. Replies, Box No. 1,061, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Advertising Manager, now working in First-class Theatre, desires a change Only Two Situations in Ten Years. Can do own Poster writing. First-class offers only.
Address, Box 1 071, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Experienced Acting-Manager is open to Accept Engagement or Partnership in First-class Musical Comedy or Drama. Would Invest. Box 1,084, "The Era."

WANTED, Post as Acting-Manager of Good Theatre, a Gentleman, young and fully experienced. Apply, Box 1,086, care of "The Era."

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Re-engagement by Young Man, Tall, Experienced, as Assistant or Stage-Manager, Secretary. Open at once. Refs. Box 1,067, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Management or Assistant-Management, First-class Theatre or Music Hall. Thoroughly conversant with all branches. Highest references as to ability. Communications to ARTHUR G. H. HUNT, 200, East India-dock-road, E.

WANTED, Authors, Managers, to Know that Well-known and Popular Composer is at Liberty to Compose and Orchestrate Comic Opera, Musical Play, or Burlesque. Highest London and Provincial Press Opinions. Box 1,077, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Engagement as Assistant to Professional Gent., Shorthand-Typist, Experienced. Good References. Box 1,085, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Engagement, by S. C. Bonner, Advance Agent, Sixteen Years' Experience, Choir or Pantomime. P.-O., Leicester, till Monday; after, 62, Pear Tree-road, Derby.

WANTED, Known, Charles E. Herman, Advance late Barnum and Bailey, just concluding Eight Weeks Poole's Myriorama, Disengaged Feb. 4, or could arrange before. Colston Hall, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagement, Carpenter, &c. Age Twenty-four. Height, 5ft. 7in. Good refs. Wire or write, CHAS. H. BARCLAY, this and next, Prince's, Preston.

WANTED, Situation as Wardrobe Mistress, London preferred, splendid references. J. M., Post-office, Cavendish-road, Balham.

WANTED, Employment as Dresser to Actress, Theatre or Music Hall. Highest references. L. D., 24, Manby-grove, Stratford, E.

WANTED, by Respectable Married Couple, Situation as Hall-keepers in Good Theatre or Music Hall. Age, Thirty-six and Thirty-seven. No encumbrance. Experienced. Mr GEO. PITCHER, 29, Padiham-rd., Burnley.

WANTED, Situation in Theatre as Porter, Checktaker, Doorman, or anything, by Young Man. Twenty-two. THOMSON, 33, Clyde-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Situation, for Youth aged Nineteen, in Hall or Agent's Office. Slightly Experienced in Latter. F., 229, Kennington-road, S.E.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, ABERDARE, SOUTH WALES.

WANTED, Monday, Jan. 30, Conductor Violinist, 35s.; Corner, Double Bass, Pianist, Flute, and Piccolo, 27s. 6d.; Drums and Effects, 25s. All must be used to the Variety Business. Steady and reliable. Apply, with testimonials, to WILL GREGORY, General Manager.

WANTED, Immediately, First-class Conductor, for Pantomime, for Two Weeks.
Apply, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Leader, for Suburban Theatre. Open all the Year round. Letter only, CONDUCTOR, 42, Kenbury-street, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Violinist, must be Young and a Capable Musician, to enlist in a fine Cavalry Band now Stationed at Home. Allowances and a Good Opportunity for a Clever Young Man.
Apply to P. F., care of HAWKES and SON, Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus, London.

WANTED, First Violinist. One who can Double Instruments preferred. Must be Young, of good appearance, strictly sober. State age, references, married or single. Engagement will be permanent to suitable applicant. ADOLF SEEBOLD, T. B., Worthing.

WANTED, First Cornet
State terms and names for references.
Apply, CONDUCTOR, Ipswich Lyceum

WANTED, Clarionet, commence Monday, Jan. 30. Age, references, lowest terms, to M'LEOD LOADER, Theatre Royal, St. Helens.

WANTED, String Bass Player. Used to Orient, Pyrenean, or Castle routine.
BANDMASTER,
Orontes, Tilbury Docks, Essex.

WANTED, E Flat Bombardon, to Open Jan. 30. Address, FRANK FISHBURN, Musical Director, Ohmy's Circus, Bolton.

WANTED, 'Cello Player, for Empire, Bristol, to open Jan. 30. Terms, 30s. Permanency if well up in Variety Business. H. IRONS, Musical Director, Empire, Bristol.

WANTED, Good 'Cello and Viola. Must be well up in Variety Biz. Age and refs. to F. BRAHAM, M.D., Regent Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, Pianist (a First-class all-round), to Travel with Auction Mart. Those who do not like work need not apply. R. WILLIAMS, Auction Mart, Wendford, Cheshire.

WANTED, Pianist (Good), used to Variety. Open Monday week. Terms and references, MAITLAND LACEY, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, Pianist (Good), Gentleman, Smart at Dance Music. Good appearance For particulars, write, Box 1,057, "The Era."

WANTED, Good Pianist, Immediately, for Variety Entertainment, Scotch Tour, commencing Jan. 30. Lowest terms and refs., Dr. ORMONDE, 3, Murieston-place, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Pianist, Immediately, used to Variety, for Ormonde's Long Scotch Tour. Wire or write, MUSICAL MILLER, P.O., Barthill, Scotland.

WANTED, Pianist (Good), used to Show and Variety Business.
Apply, PICKARDS, 101, Irongate, Glasgow.

WANTED, Double Drummer, Open Monday. Wire lowest terms. Only competent men need apply. Evening dress. BATTSON, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy, S.W.

WANTED, Bandsmen. First Violins, Solo Cornets, String Bass, and other Wind and String Instruments; also Buglers and Pianists
Apply to Hetherington's, "Bandmasters' Help" Office, 163A, Strand.

BOSTOCK AND WOMBWELL'S MENAGERIE.

WANTED, for the above, Musicians to Commence Feb. 6. Leader, Solo Cornet, 35s.; others 32s. 6d. Second Cornet, Bombardon, Euphonium, Slide Trombone, Horn, and Drums. Application, FRANK BOSTOCK, Agricultural Hall, Islington, London.

WANTED, Ladies' Orchestra, Exeter Trades' Exhibition, April 4 to 14, 1905.
Particulars and terms to MANAGER, 199, High-street, Exeter.

WANTED, for Yachting Cruises, Piano, Violin, and Cornet for Twelve Weeks, and further Engagements if suitable.
Letters only, J. ELDER, 10, Balchier-road, F. Dulwich, S.E.

WANTED, Smart Novelty Band, with Drawing and Attractive Powers, for Exhibition Week, commencing March 20, including One Sacred Concert, March 26, with or without Vocalist or other Speciality. Indifferent or Mediocre Bands don't reply.
Address, lowest inclusive terms,
HAGUE, Spa Gardens, Limited, Bridlington.

WANTED, Lady Instrumentalists (Good) 'Cello and Pianiste. Near Manchester or Liverpool preferred. DIRECTRESS, care of STURGEON, 117, Vassall-rd., Brixton, London.

WANTED, to augment Band, Three Nights (Jan. 23, 27, 28), Flute, Violin, and Clarionet. Lowest inclusive, ELPHINSTONE, Theatre, Stafford.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice. Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. WILLIAMS, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Telegraphic address, "Amuse, Manchester;" Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. JESSON, 96, Long-acre, London, W.C.; Telegraph address, "Amusologia, London;" Telephone, 9,827 Central. F. J. LEES, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-street, Glasgow; Telephone, 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS

WANTED, by Leader, Engagement for Tenting Season, good Répertoire; also Manège Horse, Music. T. REYNOLDS, Marquis of Granby Hotel, Lincoln.

WANTED, by Leader or First Violin, Re-engagement. London preferred. Deputising or permanent engagement. PARRY, 38, Crawford-street, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Lady Conductor will be Disengaged on Feb. 1 for Theatres, Concerts, or Tours. Address, H. L.,
47, Sherriff-road, West Hampstead.

WANTED, by Violin (Experienced Amateur), Engagement, in Theatre or Music Hall preferred. Second Violin. Low salary. Highest references. Box 1,004, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, by Violinist, Re-engagement. At Liberty Jan. 30. Apply, C. W. MARSHALL, Violinist, Grand Theatre, Croydon.

WANTED, by Second Violin (Experienced), Engagement in Theatre or Music Hall. Manchester and District preferred. Address, VIOLINIST, 381, Collyhurst-road, Manchester.

WANTED, by First Violin (Young), Engagement or Deputising NORTON, 6, Sharpleshall-street, Primrose-hill, N.W.

WANTED, by First Violin, Engagement in London. Good London References. Variety and Theatre. WARNHAM, 47, Black Lion-lane, Hammersmith

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement. Any business. Excellent references.
DAVID WILLIAMS, 124, Bridgeman-street, Walsall, Staffs.

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement. Experienced generally.
W. B., 45, Fairfield-road, West Jesmond, Newcastle.

WANTED, by Cornet (Good) Sight Reader, Good References, Theatre or Varieties. Over Four Years last Engagement.
THOMPSON, 124, St. George's-road, Hastings.

WANTED, by Solo Cornet Player (Good), Engagement. First-class London Experience and References. ESQUIRE, 271, New North-road, Islington, London, N.

WANTED, by Clarinet, Orchestral and Military, Abstainer, Twelve Years' Experience, Engagement. E. PITTINGALE, 41, Moorfield-grove, Tongemoor, Bolton.

WANTED, by String Bass, combine Bombardon, Engagement, any business. Good references Address, A. H. THOMAS, care of TRAYNOR, Grocer, 113 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh.

WANTED, by Bassoon, Engagement, any Biz, late of Edwardes's Tour.
H. BROAD, 26, Rosefield-street, Leamington.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement, Theatre or Variety. Last Situation over Seven Years. References. BASSO, 29, Park-walk, Chelsea.

WANTED, for Double Bass or Viola, Situation.
CHAMBERS, 2, Phoebe Ann-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Re-engagement. Thoroughly experienced, First-class references. LIND, 170, Drakefell-road, Brockley, S.E.

WANTED, by Trombone or Double Bass, Engagement. Excellent refs; reliable. Age twenty-five. DUMBLETON, Elmete House, Scholes, near Leeds.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement. Experienced, any Business. Can join at once. ALF BOSTOCK, 18, Adelaide-street, Blackburn, Lancs.

WANTED, by Trombone or Double Bass, Engagement. Used to Variety Business. First-class London references. Address, HARRY, 9, Warlock-road, Paddington, W.

WANTED, by Bombardon, Engagement. At Liberty for Seaside Season. Approved Skilful Manipulation and Power. Army and First-class Contesting. LOUGHLAN, Bannister, Saltisford, Warwick.

WANTED, by French Horn, Engagement, Opera, Concert, or any business. Thoroughly experienced. HORN, Box 1,065, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, by Viola and Euphonium, Engagement, Experience, any Business, Disengaged on Jan. 31. Reference if required.
Address, J. TOBIN, 133, Audley-range, Blackburn.

WANTED, by Viola, Engagement. Good references. GEO. F. JACKSON, Viola, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, Suitable for Little Girl on 'Cello.
Mr CASSELLS, 35, Granville-square, King's cross-road.

WANTED, by Harpist (Age Seventeen), Engagement. Bath Herald, Jan. 2, 1905, says:—Undoubtedly a talented harpist. MAUD GRUNDY, 49, Haverstock-hill, London.

WANTED, by Mr. Harold Scott, Solo Pianist and Accompanist, Belle Cole Tours, &c., Desires Engagements, Touring Concerts. 45, St. Paul's-road, Highbury, N.

WANTED, by Pianist and Planksman, an Engagement, Thoroughly Experienced, Good Sight Reader and Accompanist, First-class Refs., age 29; or with Good Concert Co. PIANIST, 91, Weaver-street, Winsford, Cheshire.

WANTED, by Pianist, Good Sight-Reader (Gentleman), Engagement. Any Business BALDWYN LLOYD, 7, Dempsey-street, Stepney.

WANTED, by Pianist (First-class), Engagement. Permanency preferred.
Box 1,017, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Double Drummer and Tympanist, Engagement. London. Experienced. Highest references. Reliable. Theatre or Music Hall.
DRUMS, 7, Arthur-road, Chelsea, S.W.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, with Effects (no Timps), Situation in any Orchestra. Late military. P. SANDLAND, 10, Laleham-road, Catford.

WANTED, by Double Drums and Effects. Any biz. PALMER, Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth; after Saturday, Presto House, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, Engagement, with all Effects, in Theatre or Music Hall. F. M'CRAHAN, 31, De Laule-str et, Kennington-park, London, S.E.

WANTED, Engagements, by Madame H. E. Angless's celebrated Pompadour Band. Great success and Re-engagement at Pier Pavilion, Southend. Return visit to Broadway Theatre; Grand Theatre, Woolwich; and Stratford Town Hall, National Sunday League.
For Dates and Terms address, 78, Norwood-road, S.E.

WANTED, by the Loyal Westminster Band (Thirty-one Professional Musicians). Engagements. Conductor, Mr O. H. CARTER, 32, Tenison-st., London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, the Original Blue Austrian Band (open to Good Offers.
CONDUCTOR, 53, Philpot-street, Stepney, London.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, to Directors, Managers, Committees, &c., that the Famous Old British Guards Band
is open for High-class Summer Business, Seaside Engagement, or Exhibition Work. Enormous success last summer, Bradford Exhibition, &c., and at the Palace Pier, Brighton,
where it was the most successful Band, succeeding late Lieut. Dan Godfrey. The Old British Guards Band, popularly known as "The Old Guards," numbers from Fifteen to Fifty, is the only genuine ex-Guards Band in England, and the most representative one in Great Britain. Every Member guaranteed late of crack Guards Bands. The Finest Band out of Army. Can be heard at N.S.L. Concerts. Latest Music. Most Popular Programmes. Smart, Handsome Uniforms. Everything to draw public and ensure great success. Conductor holds many Public and Official Testimonials.
A. HOLMES-DALLIMORE,
Dorville-crescent, Ravenscourt-park, W.

HANDEL PHASEY'S ANGLO-AMERICAN BAND.

WANTED, Known.—To Managers of Seaside Resorts, Exhibitions, &c.
Are now booking Engagements, any number of Musicians (First-class Musicians, up to date).
American and English Music.
Grand American Uniforms.
Apply for terms,
Mr VICTOR, Manager,
care of "The Era," London.
American Offices,
1,440, Broadway, New York.

The American Papers say of the Band:—No higher compliment can be paid a band than to say it is as good as Sousa's, and this can be said of Phasey's.—New York Press.

To Managers of Piers, Gardens, Hotels.

WANTED, by Red Hungarian Band, Summer Season Engagement. Smart Uniforms, Excellent Répertoire. MUSICAL DIRECTOR, 23, Silchester-road, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an Advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of 'The Era' Advertisement Dept.,
"49, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

CIRCUS ARTISTES WANTED.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS, BOLTON.

WANTED, the Stars of the Earth, Greatest Novelties in England. Write at once. Bigger the better. Must have the latest Sensations for this Up-to-date Show. Also wanted Useful Circus Turns in all lines. Note.—Successful Turns can be booked from this Circus to all the Greatest Shows in the World.
Address, King OHMY,
Ohmy's Grand Circus, Bolton.

WANTED, for John Henry Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh,
Artistes in every Branch of the Profession for the Month of February.
Full particulars, terms, and lithos. in first letter to T. W. COOKE, 123, Kennington-road, London, S.E.
Three Days' Silence a Polite Negative pro tem.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE.

WANTED, Specialities, for Feb. 13 and on, Equestrians, April 10 and on.
Address, C. ALGIE.
Will the Jansons kindly communicate at once. Important.

WANTED, for Easter and Whit Week, also June 21, 22, 23, and later dates, Continental Acts, Aerial and Ground Specialities, Troupes, Acrobats, and Novelties for Galas. Send bills, lithos, terms. Permanent address, T. WOOD, Caterer, Easton, Bristol.

WANTED, for Empire, Paisley, Big Circus Acts, Big Novelties, and Specialities of all Kinds. Must be Big or no Use, for Jan. 23 and 30. Wire, absolute lowest for One or Two Weeks.
Address, DELNO FRITZ

WANTED, First-class Speciality Acts of Every Description, High Rope and Wire Acts, Aerial Gymnasts, Animal Acts, and anything suitable for Galas. Forward full particulars, lowest terms, with specimen Poster, Vacant Dates from Easter Monday to September.
W. F. Jury, 49, Peckham-park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, for Easter, 1905, and future Dates, Open-air Artistes, High Mast Performer, &c.
W. U. and S. HANCOCK, Circus, Plymouth.

WANTED, First-class Dumb Acts of every Description suitable for Open-air Fêtes, June, July, August. Specimen of Mems. Blocks and Lithos, showing the Act, also Permanent Address and lowest terms per week (all travelling expenses paid from Glasgow), Calverto, Glasgow.

WANTED, Equestrians, First-class only, for United States.
GUISE, 27, Bonham-road, Brixton-hill.

WANTED, Equestrians for the Continent. A First-class Jockey wanted at once for Tour through Germany. GUISE, 27, Bonham-road, Brixton.

WANTED, a Young Man who is a Good Club Juggler. Must also be Funny,
Apply, with full particulars, to
VERDIER,
Orpheum, Darmstadt, Germany.

WANTED, Immediately, Catcher for First-class Gymnast Act.
Must be Refined and of Gentlemanly Appearance.
One can do a few Tricks on Stiff Bar preferred.
Good Salary to the right man.
Send particulars, &c., Box 1,036, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Two Acrobats, one a Good Top Mount.
Apply, Box 8 837, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Good All-round Man, one that tumble and dance. Good offer.
Call or address, 102, Royston-street, London, E.

WANTED, One or Two Boys (Coloured preferred), age fourteen, for Tumbling and Juggling.
Address, F. A., 4, Gerrard-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, a Girl as an Apprentice, Age about Fourteen. Must be Smart, with Good Appearance. Good Home for a Good Girl. Address, SLOAN FAMILY, Equestrians, Hippodrome, Belfast.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Young Girl with knowledge of Trick Cycling.
Long Engagement to suitable Girl.
Apply, stating tricks, with Photo.,
Box 1,081, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Smart and Sober German Groom for Looking after Small Ponies. Reply, till Sunday, CABAN, Grand, Bolton; after, A., Birkenhead.

WANTED, Situation in Circus or Travelling Show, by Young Man; Thirty, Tall, Abstainer, Used to Horses and Animals; Good Team-driver.
DAVIDSON, 10, Caledonian-road, Brighton.

WANTED, for Sedgwick's No. 1 and No. 2 Menageries, Two Good Agents (one for France and One for Ireland). Those that know the Countries.
Address, Sedgwick's Menagerie,
Carnival, Boston.

WANTED, Circus Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Lewis Brothers
Require Situation with Thoroughbreds or Performing Horses. Could take Small Parts. Experienced.
Write, 73, Romilly-crescent, Cardiff.

WANTED John Irvin and Miss Pinder, Bareback Equestrians, Foot Equilibrists, and Pigeon Charmers, finish To-night Fossett's Circus, Rugby. Monday next, Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh, until further notice. At Liberty for Tenting Season. Address, JOHN IRVIN, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, the John Scott Family (Four in Number) of Male and Female Equestrians, &c., Liberty Jan. 30, for a Few Weeks only.
Address,
G. SCOTT, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Mrs. Dudley Smith and her Mare, Dainty Lass, winner of 243 Prizes. Novelty Leap Act. Jan. 23, Ohmy's Circus, Bolton. At Liberty Jan. 30 and onward.

WANTED, Known, W. Tudor's Performing Ponies, Riding Dog and Goat, also Best Turpin Mare in the Business. Just concluding Eight Weeks' Comfortable Engagement with G. Gilbert, Esq. At Liberty Jan. 30, on. Address, 35, York-road, Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, that Miss Scott, on the Animated Football and Fil-de-fer; also Robert Yelding, Jockey Act and Scene Act Rider, Circus, Royal Agricultural Hall, London.

WANTED, Known, Mr. and Mrs S. Anderson, Bareback Equestrians and Clown, own Horse, Lib. Jan. 23, on. 6, Thornley-st., Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Miss Wynema, Coloured Lady, with her Reptiles and Den of Wolves, and Carl, Premier Rifle Expert. Lithos, Scenic Effects, &c. Jan. 30, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton. Agents wanted to see this Act. Letters, 137, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Zarmah's Zoological Statuary of Wild Animals. Original, Exclusive. An Animal Act without an equal. At Liberty Jan 30, Feb. 6, and 13. Wire, Drill Hall, Bolton. Address, 25, Horsedge-street, Oldham.

WANTED, Known, Little Bishop, Clown and All-round Circus Comedian, now concluding most comfortable Engagement of Eleven Weeks with Geo. Gilbert, Esq., Hippodrome, Yarmouth. Continental Tour shortly. Well, upon my word! Add., Hipp., Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, Johnnie Quinn, Ireland's own Extempore Talking and Singing Clown, Market Hall, Airdrie. Liberty for Tenting Season.

WANTED, Easter Week, Two Dominos, Comic Act; Two Pierrots and Donkey.
Different to all other Donkeys, never makes an ass of himself.
Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Bimbo, the Clown, Great Success as Tim O'Flanigan, in the Spectacle, "Dahomey," is Re-engaged Hippo., Wolverhampton.

WANTED.—Happy Armstrong, Lightning Pyramid Drummer, Instrumentalist, and Orator. Vacant Monday next, and 30th. Wire, Hippo., Scarboro'.

WANTED, Known, Ping Pong the Circus Little Tich, now making a Big Success at the Crystal Palace. Vacant Jan. 30 and Feb. 6 for Building or Tenting. PING PONG, Crystal Palace, London

WANTED, Known, Eleonora, Lady Gymnast; La Belle Tosca, Charming Wire Expert; also the Beautiful Vanda, in her Up-to-Date Juggling Act. Three Distinct Specialities.
Vacant Feb. 6 and 13.
Address, Palace, Lancaster.

WANTED, Known, Flora Steckel, Graceful Gymnast and Slack Wire Expert. Two Distinct Turns. Vacant. All coms., 12, Seymour-st., Belfast.

WANTED, Known, the Mayos, Three Bar Comedians. Big success, Palace, Aberdeen. Next week, Palace, Dundee. Liberty Jan 30, Feb. 6.

WANTED, Jan. 30, Mayeno Trio, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Wire, Knockabout Clown, Up-to-Date Entrées, Return Visit after Eight Weeks. Sunderland News, Nov. 22, 1904.—The Mayeno Trio met with a flattering reception for their several turns. Are the best ever seen at Olympia, Sunderland.

WANTED, Known, the Three Falcliffs, Triple Bar Show; also Acrobatic Chair, Table, Hand-to-Hand Balancing Act. Two Turns Wire, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Monday, Rollo and Rando, American Gymnastic Comedians. Circus, Panto, or Variety. 5, Camp-street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, for Feb. 6 and 13, 1905, Engagement. No. 1, for Champion Strength Statue Picture, Acrobats and Head to Head Balancers. A New Act on a Revolving Apparatus. No 2, Comic Song and Dances on High Stilts and Knockabout Cycliste. The Almarys, Two Distinct Acts Nightly.
Address, FREDERICKS TROUPE, Algie's Hippo., in Carlisle.

WANTED, Monday next by Bros. Lloddge, Silver Chain Acrobats. Wire or write.
55, King-cross-street, Halifax

WANTED, Monday, and Feb 6 and 13, by Delamere Trio, Original Comedy Equilibrists.
Address, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, the Cedrics (Marcel and Edouard), Equilibristic Comedy Artistes. Away from all others Conclude Hippodrome, Scarborough. Monday, Hippodrome, Castleford. Vacant Jan. 30.

WANTED, Known, the Three Juggling Geraldos, the World's Greatest Club Juggling Act, Starring this week Hippodrome, Bury. Topping the Bill. Next Week, Hippodrome, Salford.

WANTED, Known, Boy, Fifteen, open to join Troupe of Acrobats. Can Tumble and Mount. Address, ACROBAT, 34, Union-street, Warwick-road, Banbury.

WANTED, Known, Karl Bernardo, Premier Circus Agent and Manager, at Liberty for Tenting Season in Ireland, Advance or Management. Nine years with J. Lloyd, Esq. Active, energetic, diplomatic good generalship. Always victorious in guerilla warfare. Don't require a map; I can give the map points and beat it. Address, BERNARDO, General Manager, H. Barrs' "Aladdin" Co., Globe T., Deal.

WANTED, Known, after a Spin Round the World, Visiting India, Straits Settlements, China, Manilla, America, am Returning Home (that's England's proper name) about Feb. 10, Prepared to Take the Management of any First-class Equestrian Establishment, or Provide Same for Summer Season.
Hoping to find Everybody has had Good Times,
Yours,
GEO. GINNETT,
Cobham Court,
Bekesbourn, Canterbury.

WANTED, Known, Joe Hastings, Ring Master par excellence. Sorry I am too strong. Unfortunately cannot help it. Liberty shortly. Hippo., Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Smart Young German Groom seeks Situation. Ten Years in Circus Business. A. KOVROLL, Fossett's Circus, Rugby.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

ABERDEEN and DUNDEE
PALACE VARIETY THEATRES.
Booked in Conjunction with Plymouth, Bristol, and Sunderland.
WANTED, Artistes Engaged to forward Bill Matter Two clear Weeks in advance.
Always Vacancies for Star Turns.
ERNEST SHELDON, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, for the Hancock's Winter Gardens, Plymouth, Jan. 30, 1905, and onwards, Variety Artistes in all Lines; also wanted, Man and Wife to produce Sketches. No fancy prices, but money sure. Will G. Turner write in at once.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Artistes of every Description, Immediate and Onwards.

Burns's Agency,
London, Hartlepool, Manchester.

Telegrams, "Burns, Empress."
Telephone, 0231.

Call, Empress, Hartlepool,
Monday, Jan. 23, 1 0 o'clock:—
Three Rickards, J. W. Hall, David Poole, Ray Ford,
E. J. Wilkes and Dog,
Gintaro, Walker and Lake, Burns's Bioscope.

Call, Tivoli, Shields, Monday, Jan. 23:—
Joe Humphreys, Grant and Aller, Mephisto,
Sam Thompson,
Three Henriques, Jetneys, and Billy Richardson.

(Signed) HARRY BURNS.

WANTED, Variety Artistes of Every Description. Immediate Dates for Suitable Numbers. Only high-class Acts Represented.
J. Tysoe-Smith, 154, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, 'Engagement, Manchester.'

WANTED, First-class Variety Artistes in all Lines for Monday next. Good Musical Turn, Specialities, Troupe of Dancers, &c. Terms must be low, as Hall Small. Wire, ALBANY WARD, Empire, Oxford.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Suitable Artistes
for Galas.
Long Engagements to the Right People.
Caterer to all the Principal Galas throughout the Country.

James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1,686, Royal.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Jan. 23, onwards, for
Liverpool, Ashton, St. Helens, and Warrington.
F. WILLMOT,
Haymarket Music Hall, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Immediate and Future Dates. Lessee and Manager, WM. MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager,
H. L. SKIVINGTON.

WANTED, Star Artistes, in all Lines, for Immediate Dates.

WANTED, Artistes, Single and Double Turns, Feb. 27, March 13, Lady Balladist, Feb. 13. Lowest terms, Two Weeks, CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin. Can Book good Freak or Novelty.

WANTED, all Artistes to Note, when Booking for Henry-street, Dublin, the Number of the Old Original Firm is 30, Henry-street.
CHAS. A JAMES, Proprietor. Novelties write.

H. Burrows Smith's Variety Agency,
65, Claverton-street, Pimlico, London.
WANTED, Artistes who have already Communicated to send Full List of Bookings.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, Suitable for Carnival. State lowest price, silence polite negative, RICHARDSON BROS., Limited, Olympia, Sunderland.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes all Lines, Jan. 30, onwards, for Manchester, Rochdale, Oldham, Bury, Dewsbury, Coventry, Brighton, Liverpool, Carlisle, Bolton, also Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Big Gala Acts state lowest terms, bookings, &c., Edgar Stebbings, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Artistes, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, Jan. 30 and Feb. 6. RAYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest, Hall small

WANTED, Artistes, in all Lines from now, on.
Apply, Mr SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham

CIRCUS and HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
WANTED, Artistes, Feb. 20 on. Rehearsal Monday, Jan. 23, 2·0 o'clock, for the Mackweys, Carrie Leslie, Barney Noble, Jarvis and Higgins, Olive Poole, T. F. Talbot, Leon Edmond and Co., and the Cranks. Letters, S. L. LEE.

WANTED, Artistes, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, Morecambe. Late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c. Telegrams, "Value, Morecambe."

GRAND CIRCUS, STOCKPORT.
WANTED, for Reopening, Jan. 30 and onwards, Star Artistes of every description. If ever worked town please say when. All communications to DAVENPORT, above address.

WANTED, Star Artistes, Wanted, Feb 6 and onward, Comedians, Comedienne, Comedy Quartettes, Sketches, Novelties, Specialities, Sisters, Acrobats, &c.
Anything that can draw.
No Artistes too big. Money no object.
Good Tops and Bottoms.
Must be Artistes, refined, well dressed.
Agents invited to send Weekly List.
Lowest terms, permanent address, lithos., &c.
Address, MANAGER,
Regent Theatre Co., Limited,
Cross-lane, Salford, Manchester.

HIPPODROME, PORTH.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Jan. 30, onwards.
All communications,
TAYLOR, Tyvica House, Pontypridd.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Al Fresco. Twenty-three Weeks' Season. Good Men, able to Introduce Sketches. B. WILLIAMS, Queen's-pk., Manchester.

PALACE OF VARIETIES, DERBY;
PALACE, ATTERCLIFFE, SHEFFIELD;
HIPPODROME, GRIMSBY;
HIPPODROME, STOKE-ON-TRENT.
WANTED, Artistes in all Lines for above Establishments. The Biggest Novelties and Stars invited to communicate. Applicants for Stoke must be new to the place, and must not have worked Hanley or District for Six Months previously.
All communications,
T. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Known, Artistes Coming North, and having Vacancies, communicate dates and lowest positive terms, also Scotch bookings, lithos., if convenient,
FRED HOWARD,
11, Abercorn-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, for Scotch Music Hall and Concerts.
Anderson's Agency,
6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artistes, All Lines, for Scotland and North of England. Send full List of Bookings, Lithos, and lowest terms. GEO. SAPHRINI, 77, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

THE HIPPODROME, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, the following Artists to attend Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock, Monday, Jan. 23, viz.,—The Glenroy Troupe, Sam Shipley, Beattie Worth, Brasque and Duncan, J. H. Kavanagh, Barton and Franklin, G. W. Foster, Marion De Verne.
Star Artists of every description for present and future dates. Kindly forward same to General Manager, Mr GEORGE S. DOUGLASS
Nothing too big.
Three days' silence polite negative for time being.
Artistes must send in bill matter two weeks before opening.

WANTED, by Hugh Dempsey, Artistes in all Lines, Jan. 30, and on.
Lowest, 42, Crabtree-road, Sunderland.

WANTED, Artistes of Every Description, the Bigger the Better. Stars with Vacancies please write. Good Top of Bill required for March 20, 1905, for Scotland, also for April 10, 1905. Big Comedy Acts please write for these Dates. Can give any Good Acts Six Weeks in Scotland. Write or wire,
Bentley's Agency,
169, Stamford-street, London S.E. 'Phone, 12,706 Central.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession.
Acts New in Dublin for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland.
Direct
or through Agents.
All communications to
Will Sley,
41, Oxford-street,
Manchester.
Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09,144.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and particulars to Brooks, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, and Specialities, Jan. 23, 30, and Feb. 6, onwards.
State Lowest Terms, Bookings, &c.
I can Place You.
Jess Verno's Agency, 61, West Derby-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2,070 Royal.
Representative, Mr Jesse Burton.
Seener's Russian Troupe and Gerard's Lions wire address.

WANTED, Stars, Artistes, Wanted, Every Description, Immediate and Future Dates, for Manchester, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Blackpool, Rochdale, Bolton, Eastbourne, Morecambe, Lancaster, Tynemouth, Oldham, &c. Lowest terms, bookings, permanent address, to Yates's Agency,
3, Oxford-grove, Manchester, S.W.

WANTED, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13,
Stars in All Lines.
Stars in All Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for
Jan. 30 and February,
and all Dates through Summer of 1905,
Star Turns, Tops of Bills,
all the Finest and Biggest Acts Required,
Price no object, for
Manchester,
Salford,
Ashton,
Bury,
Preston,
Liverpool,
Oldham,
Rochdale,
Blackpool,
Morecambe,
Barrow,
Glasgow,
Dundee,
Aberdeen,
Belfast,
Dublin,
Newcastle,
Hull,
Leeds,
Brighton,
Bristol,
Birmingham,
Bolton,
Middlesbrough, &c.
New and Novel Acts can have Six Months' Solid Engagements. Send immediately. Terms, Photos, Lithos., &c., to WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09,144 Manchester.

Armstrong's Agency.
WANTED, First-class Turns for Immediate Dates.
All Artistes holding Contracts for Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow, please communicate at once to Barney Armstrong or S. King Alexander,
Armstrong's Agency, Under the Direction of Bernard Armstrong (Barney's Nephew),
353, Bath-street, Glasgow.

HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS VARIETIES,
FOUNDRY-STREET, DEWSBURY.
General Manager, GEORGE WELDON.
WANTED, Several Good Turns (Vocalists) for Jan. 30; also all kinds of Artistes, Feb. 13, and Forward Dates till Whit Week, then from August Bank Holiday. Address, as above.

WANTED, Known, Harry Poole (late Acting-Manager, Tivoli, London) is in a position to place good, sound, reliable Talent at the Leading London and Provincial Halls.
Communications,
Laurel House,
Laurel-road, Barnes.
Star Turns and Novelties write at once.

WANTED, Star Turns in all Lines, for Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, and on. Fred Durham's Agency. Telephone, 15 Brixton. 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

TRANSFIELD'S HIPPODROME, NEW BROMPTON.
WANTED, Few Good Variety Turns, Jan. 30, and on, Miss FRANCES HARROLD, as above, till Sunday; then, Coliseum, Sheerness.

WANTED, Star Turns and Good Comedy Acts, Jan. 9, onwards; also Artistes in all Lines.
Send full list of dates, litho., terms,
and full particulars to Harry Day's Variety Agency,
Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, W.C.
Telephone, 6,915, Gerrard.
Telegrams, "Terpsichore, London."
No connection with any other firm.

THE GLASGOW SYNDICATE HALLS.
TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S VARIETY THEATRES,
GLASGOW.
One Performance Nightly at both Houses.
WANTED, Strong Comedy Acts of all Kinds, Good Singing Turns, Sensational Novelties, and Brilliant Stars for Tops, Jan. 30, and onwards.
All Artists holding Contracts with Colquhoun and Armstrong should communicate at once.
Future Bookings can be made for One Week Only at a time, and only those Turns capable of Working both Theatres the same night can be entertained.
Bill Matter Two Weeks in advance is imperative.
S. KING ALEXANDER, General Manager,
Head Office, Tivoli Palace Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Big Star Acts and Specialities. Nothing too Big. Send List of Bookings and sample Litho., to Fred Neiman, Variety Agent, Empire, Middlesbrough.
Splendid Bookings last week. Barred nowhere.
Thanks for hundreds of letters of good wishes.

AMERICA.
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WANTED, Big Feature Acts. Lithos., Photos., Terms,
Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Big Acts, Specialities in all Lines, the bigger the better, for Continental Houses, for which we have special facilities for Bookings. Price no object for the right Artists. Send full list of bookings, lowest terms, letters marked "Continent," to Barnard and Destrick, 7, Clayton-square, Liverpool

WANTED, Talent, All Lines.
Nothing too Big.
Okito Family and Tray and Rich
Wire Address.

The Leading Provincial Firm,
James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street,
Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1,680, Royal.

WANTED, Talent of Every Description Aerial and Bicycle Acts excepted, to support Ahrensmeyer, Cowboy Hypnotist, on Tour, Feb. 6, onwards.
Apply to
GEORGE HARRINGTON, Manager for AHRENSMEYER,
Grand Theatre, Hanley.

WANTED, Specialities, for Northampton, Three Days, August Bank Holiday. Artistes Booked by me can only have dates altered by paying 10 per cent on original Engagement.
Address, M'Askell, 120, Roker-avenue, Sunderland.

WANTED, Easter, Whit, and on, Star Specialities with Litho., and Jan. 30, All Lines. Gannon, Agent, West Grove, Bristol.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

George Zalva's Agency,
83, Hartington-street, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Jan. 30, February, March and on, and Special for Easter Week.
Big Novelties,
Animal Acts,
Comedy Acts,
Variety Artists.
From February and on,
the address of
Zalva's Agency,
will be the
Hippodrome, Scarborough.

Send full particulars to
George Zalva,
83,
Hartington-street,
Barrow-in-Furness.

To Fête Agents.
Grand Yorkshire Gala, York.
June 21, 22, and 23, 1905.
WANTED, Tenders. Persons willing to Tender for the Outdoor Amusements, to cost no more than £120, including one or two Specially Attractive features apart from the Stage (Fireworks and Balloons excepted), must send full particulars, with terms, to the Secretary, Mr FRED ARBY, Davyhall-chambers, York, on or before Feb. 10, 1905.

PALACE THEATRE,
CORK.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Big
Top
Bill,
Jan. 20.
Full particulars, terms, and Lithos., Manager,
HENRY REMBLE.

BRITANNIA MUSIC HALL, GLASGOW.
JAMES ANDERSON, Lessee and Manager.
WANTED, Good Combinations, Feb. 6, 13, and 20.

WANTED, for Hippo, Accrington (Small Stage only), complete Company, for Jan. 30, and Big Top. Barred by Blackburn.
Call, 1·0 Monday, Imperial Boys' Orchestra and Star Co. Vardy's Agency.
Hippodrome, Accrington, to Wednesday.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, ABERDARE, SOUTH WALES.
WANTED, Monday, Jan 30, onwards, Comedians, Serios, Sisters, Duettists, Knockabouts, and Specialities of every Description. Nothing too big.
WILL GREGORY, General Manager.

HAPPY VALLEY MINSTRELS, LLANDUDNO.
WANTED, Comedians, Vocalists, and Musicians, for Summer Season. Specialities also Required. Apply, by letter only, stating lowest terms, to CHAS. and WILLIAM FERRY, 10, Cornwallis-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, a Good Knockabout Comedian and Pantomimist able to speak Lines.
Apply,
Box 1,019, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Good Comedian able to Knockabout. Terms must be moderate.
Write, Box 1,082, care of "The Era."

WANTED, for Al Fresco Season, commencing Whitsun, First-class Comedians, also Coon Singer and Dancer and Baritone Vocalist used to Sketches, Gags, &c. Old established Company. State age, salary, and full particulars, Box 1,079, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Boys over fourteen years of age with Good Voices.
Apply, noon, 107, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, a First-class Lantern Operator for Tour. Must have Good Machine and Pictures. Apply to TALBOT CLIFFORD, Co-operative Hall, Milom, Cumberland.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Palmer. High-class Vocalist, Liberty Jan. 23, 30. Wire quick, 1, Rosamond-place, Brook-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Miss Milly Milton, Versatile Vocalist, at Lib. Monday, Jan 30. Concluding To-night successful Tour with A.A.B.M Touring Co. Wire, T. B., Cradley Heath, near Birmingham. Monday, 24, Eleanor-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Known, Florrie Claribell, Tyrolean Songstress. Big Success, this week, at Hippodrome, Scarborough. Vacant Monday. Wire as above.

WANTED, Known, Flo Atkins, World's Champion Lady Concertinist and Expert Mandolinist. This week, Hip., Accrington; Jan. 30, Hip., Macclesfield. Vacant March 6. 40, Chadwick-st, West Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, Sisters Verne, Vocalists, Speciality Dancers, Liberty Monday. North or Lancs. preferred. Wire, 4, Howick street, Sunderland.

WANTED, by Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Dancers, Monday next and Jan. 30. Wire or write, 35, Florence-street, Islington.

WANTED, Known, Will Douglas, the Yorkshire Humorist and Mimic, has a Few Vacancies for the Summer Season.
Permanent address,
Alexandra Hotel, York.

WANTED, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, by Arthur Croxon, Versatile Comedian, with his Speciality, "Tit-Bits." Wire, St. George's Hall, Bradford.

WANTED, Monday Next, by Will Harvey, a Genuinely Funny Negro Comedian and Novel Instrumentalist Wire, Von Tromp Hotel, St. Helens.

WANTED, by Miraclo, Musical Novelty Artiste, Monday next, Jan. 23.
Wire, 6, Abbey-street, Rhyl.

WANTED, Engagement by Arthur Douglas, Society Entertainer. My Latest Success, "The Spy." For Vacant Dates and terms, apply, Nelens House, Long Ditton. Can accept Few Smokers.

WANTED, Monday Next and Jan. 30, by Arthur Moss, the Favourite Baritone, in own Character Songs, specially written. Great Success, Palace, Bristol. Wire, 19, Doddington-grove, Kennington.

WANTED, by Phil Barry, Comedian, Jan. 30 and Feb. 6. This Week, Coliseum, Sheerness; next, Empire, Dover.

WANTED, by Harry Gold, Engagements, Jan. 31. Many Thanks Chas Melvin, Esq., Coliseum, Sheerness, for very Comfortable Engagement.

WANTED, Monday next, and 30th, through Halls Closing, by Slade Murray, the Popular Vocal Actor-Comedian. Wire Offers, Palace, Atterclife.

WANTED, by Charlie Bayman, the Great Eccentric Negro Comedian, Jan. 30 and Feb. 6. Offers invited. Address, Hippo., Accrington.

WANTED, by Sam Mitchello, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer, Jan. 30 and Feb. 6. Finishes To-night, Coliseum, Sheerness. Mon., Pav., Maidenhead.

WANTED, by Harry Leaton, Refined Comedian and Vocalist, Six Nights, Monday next. Success, this, Tivoli, Kidderminster, where wire.

WANTED, Known, H. Bryant, Negro Comedian and Stump Orator, Very Funny. Liberty Jan. 23 and 30. Wire Offers, 13, Church-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Dates, for Juvenile Military Spectacle, "Russo and Japan War." Everything First-class. Fourth Week, Financial Success, Carnival, Glasgow. CLARKE, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED.—Picitt, the Muscular Master of Manacles, Handcuff Marvel without Faked Fetters or Trick Boxes. Searched from Head to Feet before and at any Moment during his Act. Conjuror's Methods Impossible. A Puzzle to Police and Public, Problem to Physicians, and Absolute Revelation to Handcuff Kings. The only Act of its kind that has not been Copied or Exposed. Booked and Rebooked at the Leading Halls, Circuses, Piers, and Fêtes. First Open Date, April 10. Now Starring through Scotland.
Communications, care of Royal Imperial Pictures Co. 567, George-street, Aberdeen.
To be Forwarded. Splendid Lithos.

WATTED, Known, Kardoc, the Handcuff King and Jail Breaker, Free Jan. 30, on, with Exceptions. Coloured Assistant travelled. The houses packed to suffocation where I perform. Grand Outside Exhibition of Genuine Historical Manacles from different jails in which I have been tested. Sure draw. See Card. Wire. See Card. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Goliath, the Youth who Lifts Six Men and a Piano. Few Summer Dates Vacant. 6, West Caroline-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, by the Percys (Harry and Lillie), Duettists, Dancers, Speciality Performers, Monday next. Wire, Hippodrome, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, by Lily Pender, Great Speciality Comedienne, and Bob Pearson, the Well-known Vocal Comedy Humorist. King's Theatre, Liverpool. Wire, 6, Canterbury-street, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday, Jan. 23 and 30, Units and Paul, Aerialistic Twirling, Sensational, and Comedy Gymnasts. Wire, 21, Canterbury-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday Next and onwards, by the Monckton, in their Screaming Comedy Duologue, "A Woman's Curiosity." Terrific success at Tivoli' South Shields. Wire, 20, Borough-road, North Shields.

WANTED, by Handel and Lee, Comedy Instrumentalists, Jan. 30. This week, Metropole T., Manchester; next week, T. B., Warrington. Wire.

WANTED, Jan 23 and 30, by Warner and Wilson, Comedians. This, Britannia, Glasgow. Top of Bill. Wire for Monday.

WANTED, Feb. 6 and 27, by Carl and Carr in Refined Comedy Act, "Workhouse." Wire Quick. T. R., Aldershot. Livermore Tour after Panto.

WANTED, Known, Huntley and Palmer, Eccentric Comedians, in Laughable Sketch, "A Farmer's First Riding Lesson," introducing Wonderful Performing Donkey; also Clever Acrobatic and Leaping Goat. Liberty Monday. 42, Milbourne-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Monday, Jan. 23, by France and Francis, Comedians and Acrobatic Grotesques Wire, Hippodrome, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Monday next, by Deller and Oxford, Comedy Duettists, Patterers, and Dancers. Wire, DELLER, Gaiety Theatre, Oldham.

WANTED, Monday, by Golden and Grey, Successful Vaudeville, "The Missing Will," Two Acts. FRED POLLARD, O. H., Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, by the St. Johns, Comedy, Music, and Dancing, Jan. 30, and few Dates onward. North preferred. Central Palace, N. Shields

WANTED, Known, Dalmaines Musical and Comedy Artists, at Liberty Monday, 23rd. DALMAINES, c.o. Mrs BISSET, 108, Buccleuch-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Three Musical Shipbuilders, the Marvellous Workman Musicians, a Sensation at the Queen's, Glasgow, and Top of the Bills this week, First Appearance on Stage. Vacant Jan. 23 and on. J. CORCORAN, Century Hotel, Holm-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Tom Hall's Burlesque Acrobatic Nippers, Dog, and Monkey, Feb. 6, through Hall closing. Address, next week, Palace, Aberdeen. Aytoun.

WANTED, Jan. 23 and 30, by Billy Ross and Co. Greatest Comedy Act on the Stage. Gatti's, Westminster. Wire, 30, Morat-street, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, Monday Next, by Ernie Leech, Premier Singing Ventriloquist. Great success this week, Hip, Stoke-on-Trent. Complimented by Proprietor.

WANTED, by R. J. Golding, Ventriloquist, and Romano, Conjuror (Two Good Acts), Feb. 6, on. Perm., 32, Courtenay-rd., Walthamstow, London.

WANTED, Known, Harry Liston, Miss Lord Lumley, &c., will Tour any District on salary or share with Responsible Managers. Egyptian Hall, London.

WANTED, Managers to Know the Funniest of all Music Hall Sketches, "Fun on the Bristol," Thirty to Forty Minutes, as required, with Special Scene and Properties, Vacant Feb. 27, onwards.
Address, MAURICE LOVE, Victoria Hall, Hamilton, N.B.

WANTED, Feb. 27 and on, for the "New Fun on the Bristol." Full Company of Speciality Artistes. MAURICE LOVE, Victoria Hall, Hamilton, N.B.

WANTED, Monday Next, by The Elvins. Dramatic and Comedy Sketches.
Address, Post-office, Salisbury.

WANTED, Jan. 30 and Feb 6, by the Three American Hartleys, in their Comedy Sketch, "Tomkins in Love." Big success at Manchester.
Address, HARTLEY,
36, Clifford-street, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Good Agent write.

WANTED, Dates after Jan. 30 for Madeline Clifford's Company, in "Wife and Fortune." The Greatest Sketch on Tour. Refer to Kiernan, Esq., Liverpool Palaces, Limited; O'Toole, Esq., Manager Royal, Liverpool. Record Houses. Terms, &c., apply, PENFOLD FIELD, 10, Duke-street, Adelphi, London.

"DEFENDING THE COLOURS."
WANTED, Known, Tom Herman's Juvenile Patriotic Naval, Military Spectacle, concluding Ohmy's Circus. Next, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Known, Gilbert's Dogs and Cats, including Champion Football and High Diving Dogs, Liberty Jan. 30. Appeared, Buckingham Palace, Jan. 6, 1905. See Card Advert.

WANTED, an Operator, used to Instantaneous Photography, for the Postcard business. Indoor work. All particulars, Box 1,063, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Operator, Two and a half Years with Ralph Pringle, North American Photo. Co. W. NEWLOVE, 59, Hodder-street, Accrington.

WANTED, Engagement by Experienced Cinématograph Operator. Undeniable references. Box 1,073, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Bookings for Payne's Bio-photoscopes, always Up to Date. All Films the pick of the leading makers. No duds, no bluff. One Show Vacant Monday. 106, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, Dates, for Bioscope Pictures, also Troupe of Dogs. The Marvellous High-Leaping Dog. LE CLAIR, P. O., Ushaw Moor, Co. Durham.

WANTED, Engagements, Cinématograph Operator, own Machine. Steady Pictures. Take Locals. Do Musical, Singing, Conjuring Turns. LISLE, 5, Cuthill-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, Engagement, Britannia Bioscope. Latest Pictures, including "The Sign of the Cross." Geo. Saphrini, Agent, 77, Saltmarket; or, Britannia, Glasgow.

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SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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SHOWMEN AND VAN-DWELLERS'
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
(The Showmen's Guild.)
Founded 1890.
President, Lord GEORGE SANGER.
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THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL,
ISLINGTON.
WANTED, Showmen to attend, Wednesday, Jan. 25.
Presidential Address by
Lord George Sanger,
at 11·30 a.m.
Rev. T. Horne, Organising Hon. Chaplain;
T. Watson Wright, Esq.; Frederick Millar, Esq.;
and other Speakers.
Lord GEORGE SANGER,
T. HURST, Hon. Secretary.
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WANTED, Auctioneers and Handsellers to know Simons is the Man for
Cheap Second-hand Watches and Jewellery.
Send £5 for Special Parcel.
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WANTED, Known, to Roundabout, Cinématograph, and Circus Proprietors, that, owing to the Continued Increase of our Business in Great Britain, I have had to Remove into Larger Premises, where all Correspondence may now be addressed at
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Two Minutes' Walk from the Agricultural Hall.
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No Reasonable Price Refused.
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Managing-Director for Great Britain
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Write for price list or call,
Leete's Colour Works, 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Electrical Specialities. SIMPKIN, WILKINSON, and GIBSON, 66, Kirkstall-road, Leeds.
Manufacture Dynamos, Arc Lamps, Switchboards, &c., Specially for Showmen. Also Stock Cable, Globes, Carbons, Incandescents, and Every Requisite.

Tom Taylor and Sons, Launch and Boat Builders, Staines, Middlesex.
WANTED, Known, Contracts Taken for Running and Supplying Launches (Steam, Electric, and Oil Motor); also Boats of Every Description on Lakes or Artificial Water. Lakes and Artificial Water Rented for Working Electric Launches and Boats of all descriptions at Cheap Fares.
Builders and Workers of Electric Launches at Earl's Court, Crystal Palace, Glasgow Exhibition, and Cork Exhibition.

WANTED, Known, that James Varetto, late Foreman at Gavioli and Co., in Manchester, for about ten years, is now at Liberty to undertake Tuning and other Organ Repairs at Customers' Own Premises. Work guaranteed. Charges moderate. Wire or write to JAMES VARETTO, 50, Blossom-street, Great Ancoats, Manchester.

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WANTED, for World's Fair, Side Shows and Novelties; also Space to Let. OWEN BAGAN, Proprietor, 66, Gallowgate, Glasgow.

WANTED, Novelties for Present and Future Dates, Shares or Salary, for Four of the Best Shops in London. Wire for Monday. Address, KARL HOFFMAN, 370, High-street, Stratford, London.

WANTED, First-class Novelties for First-class Shop, Best Position, 148, High-street, Ryde, Electric Light. Only Vacant Dates Jan. 30 and Feb. 12 (One Week each). Portsmouth to follow. Apply, PROPRIETOR.

WANTED, First-class Novelties, New to Glasgow; also Good Fat Girl.
Apply, PICKARD, 101, Trongate, Glasgow.

WANTED, Novelties, for Aberdeen, Dundee, and Edinburgh. Address, Hunter's Permanent Waxwork Exhibition, 112, George-street Aberdeen. Will Saxo please write?

WANTED, Quick-showing Novelties and Attractions, to open 30th, Shares or Salary, for Two Weeks. Wonderland, Octagon, Plymouth. T. WALLSER.

WANTED, Monday next, Freaks, Novelties good Attractions, with good Paintings, Share or salary. HOLT, Waxwork Exhibition, Stonehouse, Plymouth

WANTED, Freaks and Novelties to send Vacant Dates to Exhibition, 9, Mary-street, Dublin. Share or salary. Best position.

WANTED, Stalls, Games, &c., all Lines, to Tour with Anglo-American Carnival Company. Easy Rentals. Wire, MELVILLE, 8, Sidney-st., Manchester.

WANTED, an Expert Palmist.
Address, HAWTHORN,
7, Royal Promenade, Clifton, Bristol.

BOSTOCK AND WOMBWELL'S MENAGERIE.
WANTED, Smart, Gentlemanly Lecturer and Doorsman, Tour commencing Feb. 6. Apply, FRANK BOSTOCK, Agricultural Hall, Islington, London.

WANTED, an Auctioneer to Manage Tent, to Work Half Profits. Only Good Men understanding the Business need Apply. Box No. 1,076, care of "The Era."

WANTED, a Good Auctioneer, to take Charge of a Set of Auction Vans. Must be used to same. Apply, stating salary, to Box 1,064, care of "The Era" Office.

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WANTED, Smart Watch Jobber, to travel. Testotaler Preferred. Constant Employment.
R. BLOOM, Woodside, South Shields.

WANTED, Watchmaker, to travel, Pianist preferred. Good and Permanent Shop to Good Man. WEST BROS., Auction Mart, Barnoldswick, Yorks.

WANTED, Good-looking, Neat Business Girl. Apply, MANAGER, Pickard's Waxworks, 101, Trongate, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Carl Harmon's Royal Punch and Judy and Marionettes, also Bioscope, open for Engagements. 101A, Penwith-rd., Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Daiby, Armless Lady, Liberty Monday next through disappointment. Good Flash SILVIA VIGOR, 7, North Lindsay-st., Dundee.

WANTED, Known, the Heaviest Girl in the World, age Fifteen, weight 350lb., seeks a Re-engagement. Address, Mr HOLZMEYER, Box 1,068, care of "The Era," London.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known on and after Feb. 6, Good Shops for Lion-jawed Lady Hercules. Best Strong Act in England. SMALLWOOD, 114 Kirkgate, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Lucy Moore, the Coloured Giantess (Weight, 40½st; age, twenty-one) Vacant Feb 20 Window Show of Photographs, Day-bills, Lithographs (Registered Design) Write at once for future dates, BOUNDS, Humber's Waxworks, 112, George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Known, Ydac, Yankee Lock King, and Mdlle. Flo, Tattooed Lady, at Liberty Monday, Wire, Exhibition Shop Bath-street, Ilkeston.

WANTED.—Captain and Madame Texas, World's Champion Rifle Shots; Madame De Blanke, Palmist, Lib. Jan 30. Add., 260, High-st., Ayr.

WANTED, Good Shops in Best Parts of London, for Exhibition of the New Phunniscope. Very Quick-showing Novelty. Share or otherwise. Address, Professor CHARLES, 64, Strand, London, W.C.

WANTED, Known, Bailey's Punch and Judy and Toby, still at Crystal Palace Daily. Liberty all February. Address, Crystal Palace, London.

WANTED, Known, Alf Shirley, Versatile Entertainer, Vocalist, Lecturer, with own Illustrated Songs and Loud-toned Portable Harmonium, at Liberty for Picture Show. Abstainer. 82, Canonbury-avenue, Highbury, London. Permanent.

WANTED, Engagement, as Assistant Agent or Doorsman.
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FAIR GROUND.

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Good Positions and round to follow to Whitsuntide.
We have Wolverhampton Market Place, Birmingham Fair,
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Telegraphic address, "Gondola, Walsall."

WANTED, Showmen, Circus, and Menagerie Proprietors and other Amusements visiting the North of England for Easter to know that Ground is to Let in the Garrison Field, Sunderland, the only acknowledged Easter Fair in the North of England.
For terms, apply to
W. MURPHY and J. COOPER,
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Hyde-road Spring Fair,
Gorton Spring Fair,
Beswick Spring Fair,
Walton-on-the-Hill Liverpool Spring Fair,
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Apply,
JOHN COLLINS,
World's Fair, Scotland-road, Liverpool;
or, 20, Rufford-road,
Liverpool.

WANTED, to Let, Previous to Alterations, Large Shop in Market place. Rent, £4 week.
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JAN. 17, 1905.
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AT THE BERLIN THEATRES.
See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.

THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.
See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.

THEATRICAL, MUSICAL, AND EQUESTRIAN OBITUARY FOR 1904.
See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL CALENDAR.
See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.
"The Era" Annual, 1905, is with us once again, and is very welcome. The usual stock features which make this Annual so valuable for reference have been compiled with the usual care, and the "Incidentals" will favourably bear comparison with those of any former issue. They range from "Dundee Reminiscences," by Sir Henry Irving, to an endeavour to lay the "Foundations of a National Drama," by Mr Henry Arthur Jones.—Referee, Jan. 15, 1905.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905
That vade mecum of "the profession," "The Era" Annual, has just made its 1905 appearance. In addition to the dramatic and musical calendar, the alphabetical list of new pieces, and other permanent features, there are some twenty-five stories by leading authors, actors, and actresses, including Sir Henry Irving, Mr George Alexander, Mr Sydney Grundy, Mr H. A. Jones, and Mr Walter Passmore, all illustrated by photographs and autographs.—Sunday Times, Jan. 15, 1905.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.
"The Era" Almanack and Annual for 1905, conducted by Mr Edward Ledger, is the vade mecum of the dramatic and music-hall profession, containing as it does all an artiste desires to know in connection with the stage. A feature of the publication are the stories of adventure told by well-known artistes like Sir Henry Irving, George Alexander, Harry Pleon, John Le Hay, Constance Moxon, Walter Passmore, Fanny Wentworth, and John Lawson. Mr Henry Arthur Jones discourses wisely on the "Foundations of a National Drama." The Annual is one that will interest and amuse not only the "professional," but the general public.—Reynolds's Newspaper, Jan. 15, 1905.

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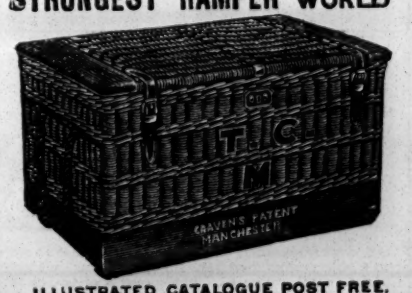

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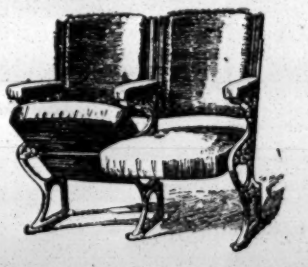

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ARIZONAS, FOUR, Acrobatic Tumblers Contortionist, Jugglers, and Staircase Workers. Royal Agricultural Hall, London, N.

ASEIKY, Arab Tumbler (Daggers and Guns), is now Showing Nightly, Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh. Lib. Monday, Jan 30. Letters above.

ASHLEY, BROS., "Next, Please," Hippodrome, Birmingham; 23rd, Hippo., Liverpool. Fortune and Granville and G. Barclay.

ATLAS and the Beautiful Miss VULCANA, the Society Athletes, World's Greatest Artistes. Palace, Cork. Free Jan. 30 and Feb. 6.

ATTILLA, BROS, the Great Athletes. Vacant Feb 6, 13, 20. Next Gaiety, Birmingham.

AUBREY, ALEC England's Finest Silver Chain Gymnast, Hippodrome, Porth; Monday, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

AUSTIN, RUMBO, in his New Budget of Comicalities. Empire, New-cross.

BABUSIAU, BROTHERS, Celebrated Acrobats-Antipodists. Cirque Medrano, Paris.

BACCHUS, WILL, Actor-Vocalist, Latest Success, "Our Bill" and "The Coster's Wife." This, Hippodrome, Grimsby; next, Palace, Attercliffe.

BAKER and BALFE, including George M. Baker's Marvellous Dancing. Stoll Tour.

BALSIGER. This Week, Hippodrome, Salford; 23rd, Palace Lancaster; Jan 30, West., Liverpool. Regards to Eric Graham and Millie Harris.

BANDON, SID, Palace, Glasgow. "Sez I to myself, sez I," Alf Ellerton.

BANDONI, Original Concertina King, One Man Band, Finishes Tivoli, South Shields Add, Monday, Central Agency, 132, West Nile-street Glasgow

BANKS, FLO, Comedienne Just Finished Croydon and Gravesend Monday next Empire, Middlesbrough. All letters, E., Middlesbrough.

BARCLAY, GEORGE, and CO., Variety Agents. Telephone, 84 Streatham. 221, Brixton-hill, London, S.W.

BARD, GRACIE, Character and Coon Speciality Artiste. This week, New T., Aberdare. Next, address, 3, Greengate, Salford, Manchester.

BARNARD'S Life-like MARIONETTES. Dolls alive.—Vide Oswald Stoll, Esq. Few Vacancies Jan. 23, Hippodrome, Eastbourne.

BARRETT and KNOWLES. A huge success in a successful Pantomime. Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham. Tom Shaw and Co.

BARTHOLOMEW, SISTERS (VIOLET and DAISY), the Dainty and Refined Pair. Empire, Rochdale. Jan. 23, Hippodrome, Bury.

BARTLETT, MISS ROSIE, Principal Girl, in "Robinson Crusoe" This, Theatre Royal, Stockton-on-Tees; next, T. R., West Hartlepool.

BAWN'S AGENCY 10, Victoria-parade, Balham-hill, London, S.W. Phone, 178, Balham. Telegrams, "Orderless London."

BAYMAN, CHARLIE, Eccentric Negro Comedian, Empire, Dudley. Re-engaged Dec. 4 Monday next, Hippo, Accrington. Agent, Fred Higham.

BEAUMONT, MISS MAUDE, Robin Hood. Re-engaged 1905-6 at big increase. Monday, Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.

BECK, WILSON, and STELLA ROSE, Comedian and Comedienne. Liberty April 10. Letters, 1, Browning-street, Salford.

BEES, THE TWO (HARRY and FLORA BLAKE). New Indian Scena by Albert Voyce, Esq. Jan. 23, Metropolitan and Islington Empire.

BEKKER, HENRI, Comedy Conjuror, usual success, this, Hippodrome, Accrington; next, Surrey Theatre. Always successful.

BELFORD and MARS, Vocal Comedy Duo, "The Postman and the Slavey, Permanent address, 173, High-street, Southampton.

BELLA, LA PETITE the Yankee Millionaire's Daughter. Recalled Nightly, Bodie's Magnets, Empire, Wolverhampton.

BELROSE, GEO., Basso, and MAUD DE VELIN, Soprano. Pantomime, Prince's Theatre, Bradford. Offers invited for next Season.

BENET, HARRY, concludes, big success, To-night, Hip., Carlisle. Monday, Pop'ar and Greenwich (Return).

BENHAM, GEORGE, Bandbox Clown, Prince of Wales, Prince's-square, Kennington-cross. Wines and Spirits Finest Quality. The Era taken.

BENN, PROSPER and MADAME in their Instrumental Sketch, "From Pavement to Stage." B., Woolwich. Agents, Fortune and Granville

BENSON, ALLY M., Comedian and Whistler, big success as Buttons, in "Cinderella." Vacant March 6. All comms., Colosseum, Oldham.

BENT, HARRY, the Novel Mimic; also CARLOTTA LUNN. Usual Hit. Hippodroms, Wakefield; Monday, Hippodrome, Macclesfield.

BENTLEY'S AGENCY. 169, Stamford-street, S.E. Manager, Horace Sheldon. 'Phone 12,706 Central.

BERNARD, GEO., the Accomplished Vocal Actor. He of steadfast look (as the landlady said). Monday, Hippodrome, Scarborough (Return). All's well.

BEST, MR. CHARLES F., as M'Bunker, "The Mountebank," Alhambra, Belfast.

BICKLEY, HARRY, Principal Comedian, Milton Bode's Company. Opera House, Bury.

BISHOP and VALE, Fame old story, success as Ping and Pong, in "Aladdin." Palace, Grimsby, until farther notice.

BLANCHARD, Lion Comique, Lion Comique. The Modern Leybourne.

BLARNEY and KENNARD, Great Success, Jimmy Green and Johnny Stout, "Bo Peep" Panto., T., Bishop Auckland. Next, T., Mexboro'.

BLISS and BLISS, Comedians. Big Success in Pantomime, Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

BODIE, ALBERT EDWARD WALFORD, Bohemia House, Macduff, Banffshire, N.B.

BOHEMIANS, THE (WILL and MADGE), Musical and Comedy Artists. This, Empire, Shepherd's-bush; Next, Empire, Cardiff. 30, Foster, 4, Garrick-street.

BONANZAS, THREE, Chair Pyramidists and Staircase Artistes, also Triple Bar. Two Distinct Acts. Communications, 127, Linaker-street, Southport.

BON-BONS, THE FIVE, Harry Bon-Bon's Comedy Five. Monday next, Palace, Belfast.

BONNETTI and CORRIE, England's Greatest Eccentric Jugglers. Vacant Jan. 23. Wire, Britannia, Glasgow.

BORELLI, SIGNOR and MADAME, Empire, Leeds. Agents, T. Shaw and Co.

BOSANQUET, in his Illuminated Musical Séance. Camberwell Palace.

BOULTON and BARTENELLI, O. P., Waesteg, South Wales.

BOWMAN, J. H., Anglo-American Humourist. Vocalist, Dancer, very successful, Ashton H. Jan. 23, R., Warrington. Liberty Feb. 6, 27.

BOYCE, FRANK, Vocal Comedian, big success, Palace, Aberdeen. Monday, Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow.

BOYLE, MARCUS, My Bonny Boy, Tivoli Theatre, Glasgow

BOYNE, ARTHUR, King's Theatre, Hammersmith. Communications, Macdermott's Agency.

BRASQUE, ALBERT; CORA DUNCAN, in a New Sketch, "A Dressing-room Romance." Vacant Jan. 30. Address, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

BRENTON, SISTERS, Retired Duettists and Dancers. Theatre Royal, Castleford. Jan. 23, Theatre Royal, Darwen.

BREWSTERS THE, Parts and Specialities, Messrs Little and Davis's "Sinbad the Sailor." T.R., Jarrow. Miss KITTY BREWSTER, Principal Girl.

BRIGHTON GIRLS, THE, Lance and Sword Experts and Specialty Artists. This, Terrace, Rotherhithe; next, T. R., Colchester. "Swiss Express."

BRITTON, LITTLE, Eccentric Comedian and Comedy Dancer, Great Success as Snowball, Tiller's "Ohio," Alhambra, Paris. See me bounce.

BROGDEN, MR. ARTHUR, Proprietor of the Swiss Choir. There is only One Swiss Choir. Registered 1882.

BROMLEY and FONTEIN, in Novel and Original Vocal Entertainment. Address, care of "The Era" Office.

BROOKLANDS, THE (ETHEL and BELLA), "Babes in the Wood" Pantomime. Usual Success, Keighley. Jan. 23, Prince's Theatre, Preston.

BROOKS, BROTHERS, SISTERS BRAND, "Aladdin," Theatre Royal, Hull. See other advt.

BROOKS, GEORGE H., Musical, Dramatic, and Variety Agent. 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

BROWN and ROBINSON, Tenor and Baritone. Jan. 23, Empire, Edinburgh.

BRUCE and ROSS, Australian Comedy Artists, Vacant Jan. 30. Wire quick. Monday, Broadhead's Hippodrome, Bury.

BURG, HAUD, and WISE. "Ye Brown Cow Inn." Monday, Empire, Stratford, E.

BURGATILES, THE FOUR, Musical Pantomimists. C. W. Poole's Myriorama, Treherbert, S. Wales.

BURNS'S HARRY, AGENCY, 344, Bury New-road, Manchester. Manager, L. Hochschild. Also at Hartlepool and London.

BURNS'S, HARRY, AGENCY. Empress Varieties Hartlepool. Manager, C. Ferrier. 'Phone, 0,231. Telegrams, "Burns, Empress." And at Manchester.

BURTON'S AGENCY, Sheffield. Gala Artistes in all Lines Required. "Too many irons in the fire eat up much expensive coal."

BUTT MARVELS, THE, the World's Greatest Barrel Jumpers and Tumblers. This, O., Rochdale. Vacant Jan. 23, 30. 154, New Hall-st., Burnley.

CABAN, THE GREAT, with his Marvellous Sixteen Performing Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs. Finishes to-night G., Bolton; next, A., Birkenhead

CAINE, ANDIE, Comedian, Pantomime, Kennington Theatre.

CALDEN, HARRY, Enormous Success Dame Durden, Peter Davey's "Goody Two shoes" Company. Grand Theatre, Margate.

CALLAGHAN, T. C., FLORRIE ST. CLAIR. The Palace, Plymouth. Agent, Napoli.

CARL and CARR, Success with Refined Comedy Act, "Workhouse" Next Two Weeks, Theatre Royal, Aldershot. Livermore Tour after Panto.

CARLTON, HENRY, the Popular Comedian, supported by his Renowned Comedy Team. Empire Hippodrome, Ashton, Manchester.

CARR and ROSE (FRED and ADA), the Vocal Comedy Stars, in "Their First Quarrel." Big success, Grimsby. Next, Metropole, Manchester.

CARY, FRED, Abanazar, Theatre Royal, Hull.

CAZMAN'S, HENRI, Musical, Dramatic, Circus, and Variety Agency. 138, Denmark-hill, S.E. Telephone, 10 Brixton.

CECIL, TOM, Comedian, Concertising in Scotland. Serpentello's Agency, 28, Wellington-street, London.

CEE-MEE, Troupe on Tour. Permanent address, care of "The Era."

CHANT and CHANT, Comedy Duettists, success as Will Atkins and Polly Hopkins, "Robinson Crusoe." Vac. March 6th. Mon., T.R., Inverness.

CHARD'S DOG CIRCUS, Hippodrome, Preston; Monday, Hippodrome, Bury. M. send J. address See other advertisement.

CHARMAN, JACK, Vocalist. Jan. 23, Bath Palace. Moss, Stoll, Macnaghten Tours. No Vacancies this Year.

CHARNLEY SISTERS (ANNIE and EDIE), Big Success, Islington Empire, and Queen's, Poplar. Monday, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent

CHASE, MISS LIZZIE, Metropole, Camberwell.

CHESTER and LEE'S MARIONETTES, Samuel's Exhibition Palace, Dublin.

CHESTER'S AGENCY. Dramatic and Variety Agents. 13, Oxford-street, Manchester.

CHINKO, the World-Famed Young Juggler. Liverpool Tour, Plymouth.

CHIRGWIN, Palace, Walthamstow Friends kindly refrain from Copying.

CHIVERS and DE MONTI, the Royal Siberian Skaters, terminate season, "Siberia," Belfast. Liberty Jan. 30, on. 204, Breck-rd., Liverpool.

CHIYO and MDLLE. MOTO, Japanese Wire, Sword, and Perpendicular Rope Performers, Liberty Jan. 30 Address, 27, Cowper-road, Acton, W.

CLARE, DICKIE, Fitzwarren and Stage-Manager, Jan. 23d, Queen's, Keighley.

CLARENCE and BELL, Immense Success as the Bailiffs and Footmen, in "Cinderella." Colosseum Oldham

CLARIBELL, FLORRIE, Tyrolean Songstress, big success this, Special Week, at Hippodrome, Scarborough. Vacant Monday. Wire.

CLARKES, THE, America's Sensational Banjo Duo. Monday, Pavilion, Leicester.

CLIFFE, TOM E., Finish To-night a most Successful Four Weeks, R. T., Chester, Milton Bode's "Puss in Boots," Title-Role. Next, R. T., Bury (Lancs.).

CLYO, HARRY, and ROSE ROCHELLE, South 7·30—10·40. London. Monday, Circus Varieties, Bury.

COBORN, CHARLES, Empire, Liverpool. Great Success Opening, Hippodrome, Preston.

COLEMAN, ROSIE, and HARRY CONLIN, 99, Hill-street, Garnet-hill, Glasgow.

COLLINS, FRED R., Disengaged. Comedian and Dancer. Address, 20, Netherwood-road, W. Kensington.

COLLINS, MISS LOTTIE. Address, 368, Camden-road, N.

COMELY, MABEL, Comedienne. This week, Park Palace; next week, Paddington Palace, Liverpool.

COMPTON, GRACEFUL GRACE. My Singing items Redemanded Nightly, with J. Gar Kiddie's Panto. Mon., P. O. W., Mexborough.

CONWAY TOM W. Dame, Grand, Woolwich. at Liberty Jan. 23.

COOKE, STEVE, Dame, T. R., Aston Notice to Proprietors, Managers, Agents, &c.—Perm. address, 175, Essex-rd., Islington.

CORNISH, WILL in his Unique Musical Bell Act This Week, Palace, Walthamstow. Next, Palace, Manchester.

COVERDALE, CHAS., the Raconteur (not "Wreck on Tour"), Fourth Week, Stories, Song, and Imitations, at the London Pavilion.

CRAIG, ROZE, and CRAIG, Trio of the World's Leading Athletes. Hippodrome, Ipswich.

CRANKS, ORIGINAL, Comedy and Trick Cyclists. Next week, Circus, Rochdale. Vacant 30th. Agent, Stebbings. Perm., 19, Alexandra-rd., Manchester.

CRESSER, MISS ADA, Staley's Transformation Company. Palace Hull.

CRESSWELLS, THE, Theoretical and Practical Instrumentalists. Thanks for Offers. Full up.

CROFT, WAL, the Quaint Scotch Comedian. Jan. 23, Empire, Bristol.

CROWN. TRIO (W. DAVIDSON, L. DAVIDSON, E. SCOFIELD), Speciality Vocalists. Jan. 23, Hippodrome, Manchester.

CROWSON, WILL, CISSIE CONYERS, Friday, Fairy Queen, Theatre Royal, Smethwick. T. R., Jarrow-on-Tyne.

CROXON, ARTHUR, Versatile Comedian, in his Great Speciality "Tit Bits." St. George's Hall, Bradford.

CULLANE, FRED, TRIO. Resting. Just concluded Fifty-six Weeks without a break. Next week, Barnard's, Chatham.

CULLEN, LITTLE DOLLY, and ELSIE CARR JORDISON, Terrific Hit as the Babes, Jordison's Co., Queen's, Keighley. Next, Prince's, Preston.

CULLEN and CARTHY, and LITTLE CLULEY, enormous hit in Jordison's "Babes" Queen's T., Keighley; naxt, Prince's Preston

CUMMINGER, the Acknowledged World's Record Sand Dancer. Three Months' Provincial Tour. "Anjamima," by permission of Davis (Goggin and Davis)

CURRIE, MISS LILY, Vocalist. This week, Palace, Aberdeen. At Liberty Jan. 30. Wire, Palace, Bordesley.

CUTHBERT, MAUD, Serio and Ballad Vocalist. Address, Robini, Osborne Theatre, Manchester.

DALE and D'ARGAN, on Tour with Thompson's Panto, "Aladdin." Big success Emperor and Vizier and Speciality. 6, Dolly-lane, Leeds.

DALE, MR. HARRY, Hippodrome Manager, Stage and Arena, General Manager and Ringmaster, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy.

DALE and O'MALLEY, the Somewhat Different Comedians. Address, Lyric, Hammersmith.

DANBYS, THE, a Great Success, the Ruffians. "Babes in the Wood." Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.

DANDOE, MR. and MRS. ARTHUR, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh. Communications, above; or, Blackmore's Agency.

DANIELS, THE TWO King and General. Continued Success, Opera House, Harrogate. Next, Theatre Royal, Blyth.

DANTON, CHARLES, Finishes Bedford, Camden-town. Monday, Palace, Bordesley.

DARRELL TRIO, THE Refined Musical Act, including Miss MAY DARRELL, Lady Banjoist This P., W. Hartlepool; next, P., Bradford. Vacant Feb. 13.

DARWIN, the Man Monkey. Jan. 16, Hippodrome, Scarborough. Jan. 23, Skating Rink, Manchester.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE, Australian Trick Cyclists. Monarchs of the Wheel. Character Costumes. This, Theatre, Motherwell; Next, T., Leith.

DAVIES, CHARLES, Stage-Manager, Disengaged. The Orchards, Burnage, Didsbury, Manchester.

DAVIS, ALF, Comedian and Actor-Vocalist, concludes To-night Standard, Pimlico. Monday, Coliseum, Brighton.

DAVIS, RYDER, and EVA WARD finish To-night Glasgow. Thanks to G. Sephrini for Twelve Weeks' Booking, Scotland. Mon., P., W. Hartlepool

DAY'S, HARRY, VARIETY AGENCY, Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, W.C. Tel., 6,915, Ger. Tele., "Terpsichore, London."

DAY'S VARIETY AGENCY, 116, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. Always Vacancies for Stars and Specialities.

DAYTON FAMILY. Jan. 23, Grand, Stockton-on-Tees.

DE DIO, THE PEERLESS, Hansa Theatre, Hamburg, Month of January.

DE HENAU and MDLLE ALADINA, Extraordinary Rapid Painter, &c., and Wonderful Cockatoos. Address, Pavilion, Glasgow.

DELAMERE TRIO, the Original Comedy Equilibrists. Communications, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

DELEVINES, FIVE, New Act, "Flirtation." Empire, Swansea.

DENE, MR. OMAR, Coliseum, Sheerness. Band Parts a Speciality. Cheap, Clear, Correct.

DENHAM, MISS MILLIE, Second Boy, with G. B. Phillips's "Red Riding Hood" Company, Big Hit of "Lady Like You." Monday, G. T., Edinburgh.

DENHAM, TEDDY, continued Success Widow Twankey, "Aladdin." Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.

DEROSE, MDLLE., and J. H. HAWTREY, Principal Boy, Malicio. J. Kiddie's "Cinderella," Theatre Royal, Rotherham.

DEVOYE, JAMES, and BILL, his Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Jan. 23, Hippodrome, Carlisle.

DIGBY, LESLIE, Comedian, Captain Scuttle, G. B. Phillips's "Sinbad." This, Dalston T., N.F.; next, Brixton T., S.W.

DIXON, CHARLEY; KATE LYND. Big Hit in Town. Don't forget it. Letters, &c., 69, Roan-street, Greenwich, S.E.

DOBITO and BUXTON, Operatic Duettists, Recalled Nightly, This and Next, Royal, Jarrow.

DOLF, SIDNEY DOLF, Novelty Entertainer, concluding St. Margaret's Hall, Canterbury.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, Singing Boxmakers, usual success. This P., Bradford; next, H., Norwich. First Vacancies, April 3, 10, and 17.

DOM E, the Comedy Clay Man, Palace, Blackpool.

DOMINOS, TWO (Clown and Donkey), To Let, Easter onwards. Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

DONNA, AMY, Versatile Comedienne. Next week, Collins's Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent.

DOODY and WRIGHT, Australian Comiques. Jan. 23, Palace, Aberdeen.

DORMER, DAINTY DAISY, Principal Girl Princess's, Glasgow. Christmas, 1905-6, Principal Girl for Howard and Wyndham.

DORRETTA, LITTLE, Marvellous Child Acrobatic Song and Dance Artist, Touring with C. W. Poole's Royal Myriorama.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH, the Dainty Singing Maiden. Monday, Jan. 23, Camberwell and Collins's.

DOUGLAS, AILSA, the Lancashire Soprano. Success, Hippo., Brighton. Next week, Palace, Northampton.

DOUGLASS, GEO. S., General Manager. Hippodrome, Wakefield.

DOVER, CLIFFE, Dame, Dottridge and Longden's "Forty Thieves," T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne. Plenty to follow Panto

DRYDEN, CISSIE, Vocal Character Actress. Communications to Fred Higham, York-road, London.

DUDLEY, LYDIA, Comedy Artiste, usual success, Hippodrome, Wakefield. Com., 18, Springfield, Liverpool.

DUNCAN, Club Manipulator and Juggler; OLWALD, Equilibrist Hand Jumper, &c., Grand Pantomime, Nottingham. Monday, M., Manchester.

DUNCAN and GODFREY (MINNIE), (ARTHUR), Alice and Idle Jack, Theatre Royal, Cardiff.

DUNMORE, TOM, the Handcuff King (?). The Essence of Quaintness This, Empire, Dover (Return). Booked by Fred Durham, Esq.

DUNNING and KAHN and KAHN, A success at every hall on the tour. Monday, Shepherd's-bush Empire. Coliseum shortly.

DURHAM'S, FRED, Variety Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

DU ROCHE, MDLLE., Principal Boy, "Dick Whittington" Panto., Pavilion T., Mile-end. Next week (Jan. 23), Surrey T., London.

EDMOND'S, LEON, Musical Act. Circus, Bury; next, Circus, Rochdale. Vacant Jan. 30.

EILEEN and MAYNIE, Dainty Musical Dancing Dots. Fast Booking 1905. Re Dates, Victoria Hall, Sunderland.

ELCOCK, AMY and FLORRIE ST. ROY, Great success as Aladdin and Cheekie, Gaiety Theatre, Dundee. Address, Next Week, Tivoli, Glasgow.

ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast, also LA BELLE TOSCA, Two or Three Acts. Vacant, Feb. 6 and 13. Address, Palace, Lancaster.

ELLA'S, MISS, best existing Lion Show. Jan. 23, Sadler's Wells.

ELLERTON, ALF, Song Writer. Found Guilty by Dunville, Ford, Albert, Mayne, Leamore, Leonards, &c. 19, Pulross-rd., Brixton.

ELLIOTT, SILLY BILLY, Comedy Merchant. Great Hit in Panto., P. T., Bradford. Liberty next Panto. Safe Investment and Stuff. Youre, Billy.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Address, Hippodrome, Wigan.

ELLIS, Funny FREDDY, big hit, Captain, Clown, and Speciality. Second Season, G. E. Burnette's Panto. Co. Care of "The Era."

ELMO, NINA, Comedienne. Hippodrome, Eastbourne. Monday, Metropole, Manchester. Agents, Day's Agency.

ELTONS, TWO, Triple Horizontal Bar Comedians, Smartest Knockabout Act on the Road. Monday, Theatre Royal, Stockport.

ELVY, ARTHUR, London's Popular Vocal Comedian. Usual Success, Palace, Bristol; next, Grand, Bolton. Vacant Jan. 30. Wire above.

ENGIST and ORSA, Comedians and Instrumentalists, on Tour. Address, 17, Berwick-street, Manchester.

EPLETT, JESSIE, Character Vocalist, Solo Drummer, and Speciality Dancer. Big success Grand Theatre, Islington. Address, 3, Ivy-lane, Hoxton, N.

ERNESTINE TROUPE of Acrobatic and Speciality Dancers and Vocalists. Next (Two Months), Annual Revue, Casino Kursaal, Grenoble.

ESCALADERS, THREE, Hand Balancers and Double Ladder Experts. Jan. 23, Crystal Palace, London.

ESDALE, BROS., Comedians, Vacant Monday. Wire, 166, Shrewsbury-street, Brook's-bar, Manchester. Regards to Swobby.

EVANS, WILL, Business-Manager, Harry Poole. Tel., 165, Richmond.

FARRIMOND, PERCY, the Great Lancashire Singing Collier, the Highest Tenor in the Profession, Jan. 23, Hippodrome, Wigan.

FENTON and HARRISON, Duologue Artists, enormous success, "On the Beach." Monday next, E., Battersea. 194, Kennington-road, S.E.

FERRARIS, THE, Modern and Cosmopolitan Dancers. Grand Cirque Nouveau, Belgium.

FIELDING, ANNIE, and HERBERT HULL, "An Officer's Flirtation." Monday, Palace Theatre, Belfast.

FIELDS and ACRES, Comedy Park-keepers. Keepers of Novelty in the Park of Originality. Big success, Metropole Theatre, Manchester.

FIONI'S, JAMES, AGENCY, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." Telephone, 1686 Royal.

FLORADORA GIRLS. Era Press—Are greater favourites than ever. T. R., Exeter. Monday, Metro., Devonport. F. Moullot Panto.

FONTAINBLEAU, ALICE, Rolling Globe Speciality, Troupe of Trick and Leaping Dogs, also Liberty Horse. Per., Marquis of Granby, Lincoln.

FORD and HANSON, the American Musical Millionaires. South London Palace.

FORREST'S, EDGAR, Comedy Company. Monday, King's Music Hall, Liverpool, Two Weeks.

FORTUNE and GRANVILLE. Savoy House, 115, Strand, London, W.C. Telegrams, "Waggishly." Telephone, 1,309, Gerrard.

FRANCE and FRANCIS, Comedians and Acrobatic Groteresques, Hippodrome, Macclesfield.

FRANCISCO, Juggler; and MAY MOODIE, Piccolo Soloist, Foresters'. Next Week, Gaiety, Chatham. Gravesend to follow. Pacey and Reeves.

FREANS, THE, Comedians and Dancers, Marris's "Dick Whittington" Panto. Next, Osborne, Manchester.

FREDRICKS, CARL, and YA PYN KETO FAMILY'S Magic Kettle Mysteries. Always a Sound and Genuine Success. P. O. W. T., Nuneaton.

FREELAND, MR. FRANK, Song and Sketch-Writer. "Got to have it." Town Hall, Paisley, N.B.

FRENCH'S, GEORGE, TROUPE, and the SNOW FAMILY, on Tour. For Vacant Dates, address, 14, Second-avenue, Queen's-park, London, W.

FRERE, EVA, Charming Vocalist, Sensible Songs, Great Success, T., Liverpool; G., Oldham. Vacant Jan. 23 and 30. Hippodrome, Castleford.

FRIDKIN'S, BORIS, THE Great, Cossack Troupe. Opera House, York.

GANNON, NELLIE, Monday, Haymarket, Liverpool. PEGGY FAME, the Low Comedy Sensation, Ditto. Harry Wright improving.

GARRICK, MR. GUS, Sole Patentee of the Living Postcard Album. Vaudeville Club, W.C.

GELDER, VAN, Humorous Magician, LILLIE HUSTLER, Soubrette and Dancer, usual success everywhere. Mon. next, E., Hull. Lib. Jan. 30.

GERALDOS, THREE JUGGLING. Starring this week Hippodrome, Bury. Starring next week Hippodrome, Salford.

GERTRELLA, Dancer-Gymnast. New Act, "In Cupid's Garden." Pantomime, Opera House, Blackpool.

GIBB, HORACE, and NITA MAYEN, Proprietors, Hotel Armada, Broadmead, Bristol. Jolly Boys this Week.

GILBERT'S Dogs and Cats. Conclude Big Success, Hippodrome, Eastbourne. Jan. 23, Empire, Portsmouth, Seventh Return.

GILLIN, Unique Ventriloquial Humourist. Barnard's, Chatham. Monday, Grand, Manchester.

GILMORE, ROBB, the Talented Grotesque Comedian, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

GLADSTONE, IDA, Principal Boy, Grand, Nottingham. Sole Agent, H. Day.

GOLD, HARRY, Versatile Comedian New Successful Song-Scena, "Cloudland." Coliseum, Shee nes.

GORMAN, LIL, Charming Vocalist and Expert Dancer, usual success, Barnard's, Greenwich. Next week, Barnard's, Woolwich. Booked by Harry Day.

GRAHAM, ERIC, MILLIE HARRIS. This week, Palace, Northampton; next week, Palace, Camberwell.

GRAHAM, IVY, Comedienne, terrific success, Park, Liverpool Next, Palace, Blackpool.

GRAHAME, THE SISTERS (NELLIE and RENNIE), great success as the Babes, Grand Theatre, Nelson. Big hit, "Navaho."

GRANADAS, LOS, Electrifying Bounders. Free. 238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

GRAPHO and JACKSON Abanazar and Widow Twankey, Herbert Barrs' "Aladdin" Tour. Theatre Royal, Worthing.

GREY and WELFORD, Grotesque Boxing Comedians, in their Legitimate and Successful Act, "I'll give you Duck." Next, Broadhead's, Ashton.

GROSVENOR SISTERS (THREE), Operatic Vocalists, "Dick Whittington" Pantomime. Next week, Theatre Royal, Darwen.

GWYNNE, FLORENCE, as "The Stage-struck Servant." Still going Great, P., Blackburn. Jan. 23, A., Brighton. Agent, Sydney M. Hyman.

HAIG and NOVEL, on Tour. Return to Town shortly. Palace and Canterbury. Agent, H. J. Didcott.

HALL'S, TOM, Burlesque Acrobatic NIPPERS, Monkey, and Dog. Usual Success, H., Carlisle; next, P., Aberdeen. Vacant. Feb 6. G. Aytoun.

HANCO, the Jail Breaker. This, G., Stockton; next, T. H., Todmorden. Sole Agent, Fioni.

HANDEL and LEE, Comedy Instrumentalists. This week, Metropole T., Manchester; next, T. R., Warrington. Lib. Jan. 30.

HANSON, MISS AGNES, Comedienne and Dancer. Jan. 23, Chelsea Palace Agents, Geo Ware and Day's.

HANVARR and ANNA LEE, "The Golfer and the Maid," Surrey Theatre, London, S.E.

HARDEEN, Still working despite bad exposures. Palace, Leicester.

HARDY, the American Blondin, "King of the High Rope." Address, Niagara Villa, Doggett-road, Catford, London.

HARLAND and ROLLISON finish To-night Hippo., Belfast. Monday, Jan. 23, Tivoli, Dublin. Vacant March. Return Continent July.

HARMONY FOUR, THE (T. C. Bergeron, F. M. Barrett, Edw. Hughes, Alex. Ferguson). Lyceum, London, until Feb. 27.

HARRIS and WORTH. the Bailiffs, Macnaghten's "Robinson Crusoe." Thanks for offers next year. G. T., West Hartlepool.

HARROW, BERT. That's me. Re-engaged, J. B. Morton's "Rajah" Panto., Third Tour. T. R., Neath; Empire, Oxford (Two Weeks).

HART and CO. Dramatic and Variety Agents, 7, Lancaster-house, Ardville-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 116, Brixton.

HASTINGS, JOE, Jumper and Ideal Ringmaster. CLARA HASTINGS, Refined Vocalist, Always successful. Hippo., Wolverhampton.

HAYDER'S, MDLLE., Electric Mannikin Theatre, Jan. 23, Pavilion, Glasgow.

HAYTON, HARRY, the Successful Comedian, big success Tivoli, Dublin; next week, Alhambra, Belfast. Fortune and Granville.

HEATH, JACK, Comedian, big success as Vizier Gin-Sling, in Pantomime, "Aladdin." Palace, Great Grimsby.

HENDERSON, FAMOUS, Blind Musical Genius, big hit, Central Palace, North Shields. Jan. 30, Grand, Bolton.

HENDERSON and STANLEY QUARTETTE, Eccentric Acrobatic Musical Act, at Lib. Jan. 23 and on. 31, Ellison-street, Gateshead.

HENRIETTE, The Beautiful Young Musician. Always a Success. On Tour.

HERALD COMEDY FOUR, Hippodrome, Eastbourne. Vacant Jan. 30.

HERBERT, FRED, Premier Topical Vocalist. R. Warner.

HERMAN, SYD, the Original Hebrew Comedian. Big success Hippodrome, Porth. Monday, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy.

HILL, BARRY, and LANG, Knockabout Comedians, in "A Hot Reception." Success Concerts, Glasgow. Monday, Gateshead.

HILL, ROWLAND, as Ye Dame. A Laughing Success, Funny and Refined. Jordison's Panto., Prince's Theatre, Preston.

HILTON, FLORENCE, Male Impersonator, Cheered and Encored Nightly, 'Dick Whittington" Panto., E., Oldham. Monday Lyceum T., Sheffield.

HILTON and HILTON, Comedy Bar Comedians. All communications, 47, Nuttall-street, Liverpool.

HOOK, WALTER W 1,422nd Consecutive Show, New Century Pictures. Town Hall, Middlesbrough.

HOPE, F., Sensational Trick Cyclist, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton. Jan. 23, Pier, Southport.

HOWARDS, THE MARVELLOUS, World's Greatest Mystifiers, Glasgow Harmonic Concerts Send stamp for our Lucky Date Book. 46 Moss-st., Paisley.

HOWARDS, THE (RALPH and NELLIE) Hippo., Norwich. Thanks F. Glenister, Esq., for Twelve Weeks' Contract for London Pavilion.

HULA, SISTERS, Smart and Up-to-Date Vocalists and Dancers. Offers Invited for March 6, 13, on. Address, Alhambra, Stourbridge.

HULBERT, Ventriloquist, and DE LIL, Illusionist. Two First-class Acts. Vacant March 20 and April 17. Monday, Varieties, Leeds.

HUNTER, G. W., Comedian and Raconteur. Jan. 23, Empire, Liverpool.

HURD and HELD, the Rival Musicians, in Up-to-Date Comedy Musical Mélange. Success, Canterbury. Next, Public Hall, Reigate. Dalton's Agency

HURST, W. G., the Wonderful Cat, Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, London, S.W.

HUXTER, THREE BROTHERS, Acrobats, Tumblers, and Leapers. Permanent address, 10, Middle-street, Worcester.

HYAM, GEORGE, and NELLIE ROSE, Scoot and Princess, Opera House, Dudley. Monday, Theatre Royal, West Bromwich.

IVESON, TONY, completed Ninety-seven Weeks' Consecutive Run. Jan. 23, Palace, Cork.

JAMES, GEORGE, Comedian. Will Frank Fagan please write? Address, care of Miss Lena Stanton's "Dick Whittington" Company, Bridlington.

JETNEYS, THE. Classical Couple. This week, Palace. Next week, New Tivoli, South Shields.

JOEI, MISS ELSA, Operatic Vocalist, in her New, Original Imitations. Jan. 23, the Canterbury.

JOHNSON, KID, and MAISIE PELHAM, American Novel Speciality Artists. Starring this week, Hippodrome, Macclesfield. Vacant for Jan. 23.

JOHNSON, T. W., the Dusky Dandy, big success, Little and Davey's "Crusoe, Theatre Royal, Leigh; next, Theatre Royal, Smethwick.

JOHNSTON, JOHNNY, London's Star, the Musical Dandy, London Pavilion, Hammersmith. Agent, George Barclay, 122, Brixton-hill.

JOHNSTONE, TOM, Actor-Vocalist and Mimic. This week, Haymarket, Liverpool; next week, 23rd, Hippo., Porth, South Wales.

JUAN and M'QUE, Comedians, Hippodrome, Coventry. At Liberty Monday next, Jan. 23. Wire above.

JUDGE, SISTERS, with their Marvellous Performing Cockatoos, Parrots, and Macaws. Jan 23, Pavilion, Leicester. Booked by R. Cass.

JULIAN, Demon Contortionist, big success, "Dick Whittington" Panto. Cat and Speciality. All comms., 126, Nightingale-road, Hitchin; or, M'Askell.

KALAN and KALAN, Great Comedy Acrobats, This, Palace, Lancaster; next, Palace, North Shields.

KARDO, This Week running own Co. Jan. 23, Hippo., Rugby. Still working in spite of jealous people See Artists' Wants.

KARR and KOONEY, Tremendous Success as Will Atkins and Dick Deadeye. Summer and Autumn settled. Communications, T. R., Bristol.

KATOS, THE, Komikal Kidgets, Middlesex.

KAVADOS, Juggler; FLO MELVILLE, Burlesque Artiste, big success, Palace, Atteroliffe. Monday, Palace, Derby.

KAVANAGH, J. H., Safe-Card Comedian. Monday next, Hippodrome, Wakefield. Vacant, Jan. 30.

KAY, W. A., the American Electro-Human Automaton, en route; next, Theatre Royal, Blaydon-on-Tyne. Agent, Edgar Forrest.

KAYS, FOUR, Pantomime Sketches Spring, Summer, and Autumn Settled. Pantomime in Negotiation. Address, Theatre Royal, Bristol.

KEDWARDS, SISTERS, great success as Cinders and Speciality. At Liberty April. Address, O. H., Dudley; next, T. R., West Bromwich.

KEEN and WALLER, now on Barrasford Tour. Terrific success. Hit of Programme. This, P., Glasgow; next, Hippo., Birmingham. Agent, Barclay.

KEENE, BILLY, and JESSIE ADAMS, Duettists and Dancers. Tivoli, Manchester.

KEIR and ALLEN, the Great Eccentric Comedians, great success, Royal, Holborn. Monday, Grand Varieties, Clapham.

KEITH, G. H., Vocal Actor. New Songs by Paul Pelham and Joe Archer produced shortly. Jan. 23, Alhambra, Belfast. W. Sley.

KEITH and MERSON, the Great Comedy Acrobats, continued success with Panto., Grand, Halifax; Monday, Theatre Royal, Hull.

KEITHS, the Original Musical (CARLINA and CHARLIE), on Tour. Permanent address, 38, Sportabank-street, Catford.

KENDAL, BEATTIE, Dashing Character Vocalist. The Latest Manchester Success.

KENNEDY, ALEC, Actor-Vocalist, big hit this week at the Argyle, Birkenhead. Next week, Gaiety, Birmingham. At Liberty Feb. 13 and 20.

KERNO, LOUIS, Coon Vocalist and Dancer. New Scena in preparation by Gilbert Payne and E. Graham-Dunstan. Next, T. R., Ton-y-Pandy.

KESSLER, MISS MABEL, Soprano Vocalist, Cornet, Post Horn, &c. Dis. Monday. Wire, 11, Brougham-terrace, West Derby-road, Liverpool.

KIMBERLEY BOYS, great success as the Robbers, "Babes in the Wood" Pantomime, Crystal Palace.

KING and DELANE (GEO. and TOM), Refined Vocal Comedy Act. Very successful Palace, Blackpool. Monday, Palace, Northampton.

KIOTO, N. T., Original Japanese Equilibrist. Jan. 23, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent.

KIRK, HARRY, Comedian, Theatre Royal, Drury-lane.

KLÖET, MDLLE., the Originator of Title, "An Artist's Model." Metropole Theatre of Varieties, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

KLOOF and RAMSAY. News from Bath. Another son W. KLOOF, the Irresistible Hassarac pantomiming Empire Theatre, Southend.

KNICK-KNACKS, THE (Miss MATTIE CRONIN and HARRY OXBERRY). This, Palace, Bordesley. Jan. 23, Middlesex, London.

KNIGHT, STAR, Mysterious Man in Red. New Inimitable Spectacular Dumb Mystery Act. Elaborate Dresses, Properties. 93, Camden-street, N.W.

KYDD and KYDD, Refined Comedians. A Really Clean, Funny Act, and Clever Dancing. Court, Wigan. Monday, Grand, Blackpool Liberty March

KYOTO, the Original Comedy Jap, Kyoto; also MAY GERALDINE. Enormous Success, Palace, Bordesley. Monday, Palace, Cork.

LA MARA, CHUMMIE, Principal Boy, "Cinderella" Company, Opera House, Blackpool.

LAND, FRED, Comedian. This Week, great success, Metropole, Gateshead. Thanks Sidney Bacon, Esq., for Return. Next week, E., South Shields.

LANE, DAISY, Comedienne; HARRY CARMEN, Comedian. Queen's, Poplar.

LANG, GENTLE BROTHERS. Next Week, 137, Drakefield road, Brockley.

LANG, REM, Comedy Conjuror. Always Successful. Monday, Return, Gaiety, Oldham.

LANNONS, THE, Monday next, Empire, Dudley.

LANTON and LANE, as Perks and Pinchit, create roars of laughter.—Coventry Herald. Milton Bode's "Cinderella" Theatre Royal, Norwich.

LAROLA and ROSE CABANI. Monday, 23rd, Hippodrome, Wigan. Agents, Geo. Barclay and Co.

LASSAH, LILLIE. This Week, Empress, Brixton; next Week, Jan. 23, Grand, Clapham, and Palace, Croydon.

LAURELS, THE THREE, on the Ping Pong Table. Agents, Papa Brown, Pacey and Reeves. Empire, New-cross.

LAVELLE, BROS., Quaint Comedy Acrobats. Vacant Monday. Wire, Palace, Blackpool.

LEA and LOVELL, American Song Illustrators, finish this week, P., Croydon. Provinces to follow. 15, Albert-square, Clapham, S.W.

LEAFF, IVY, Usual Success, Ugly Sister. This week, Opera House, Dudley. Vacant March 13. Offers Invited.

LEAMORE, TOM, E., Great success in Town. For particulars see Large Advertisement.

LEANDER, HARRY, Comedian, Vocalist, and Instrumentalist. Opera House, Burnley.

LE BRETON, LILLIE, Graceful Lady Gymnast Next, Tivoli, Manchester. Vacant 30th. All communications, Tivoli, Manchester.

MR. AUGUSTINE KNIGHT,
Starring as Le Loup, "Face at the Window" Co.
19, Dunalley-parade, Cheltenham.

MR. RICHARD HENRY LACE.
Address,
10, King-street, London, W.C.

MR. FRANK LACY,
Jake, in "Little Black Sambo."
Garrick Theatre.

MR. JAMES R. LA FANE,
Manager and Stage-Director, Mr Mouillot's "Geisha" and "Greek Slave" Companies. County T., Reading.

MR. WINGOLD LAWRENCE,
Jack England, "The Girl Who Lost Her Character."
Jan 30, Osborne Theatre, Manchester.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD LEROY
(Edith Mumford) Disengaged. E. L., Heavies, Char., &c. E. M., Juve., Boys &c 13, Castledene-rd., Anerley.

MR D. LEWIN - MANNERING,
Baron Bonelli and Stage-Manager, in "The Eternal City" on Tour. Jan. 30, Dalston Theatre, One Week.

MR. ARDENE LINDEN,
Eliza, the Cook, in "Dick Whittington,"
at the Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

MR. GEORGE W. LINDSAY.
Arrangements Complete.
43, Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, W.

MR. GEORGE H. LIOT
Disengaged.
8, Cornwall-street, St. George's-square, S.W.

MR. FRANK LISTER,
Napoleon, "Royal Divorce." Offers invited for Town. 15, Elmhurst-mans, Vernon-road, Clapham, S.W.

MR. FRANK LISTON,
Lead, Juveniles. Business-Manager.
311, Kentish-town-road, N.W.

MR. and MRS. SAM LIVESEY
(Miss Maggie Edwards), "The Village Blacksmith" Company, Theatre Royal, Acorington.

MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN,
Haymarket Theatre, W.C.
Address, 28, Chelverton-road, Putney, S.W.

MR. and MRS. STUART LOMATH.
Address, Jan. 30,
Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, S.W.

MR. ARTHUR LONGLEY,
as Lord Cheyne, "Three Little Maids."
Margate and Cambridge.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM LOWE,
Osmond Tearle Co. Mrs Lowe resting during Irish tour. Address, 29, Gladstone-street, Glasgow.

MR. FREDERICK LOYD,
Mr Douglas Bruce's Tour, "The Girl Who Lost Her Character." Osborne Theatre, Manchester.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES L. LUDLOW
(Agnes St. Clair). C. L. L., Cock, "Whittington."
Alexandra, Birmingham.

MR. WILLIAM LUGG,
with Sir Henry Irving.
7, Swift-street, Fulham, S.W.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKAY,
on Tour with own Co., "Wearin' o' the Green."
En route; or, Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

MR. and MRS. DREW MACKINTOSH
(Miss Annie Stalman) Disengaged. Offers invited.
7, North-place, Brighton.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM MACLAREN
(Miss Lily C. Bandmann), Touring own Company.
Jan. 30, King's Theatre, Ebbw Vale.

MR. J. T. MACMILLAN.
Address,
Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.

MR. and MRS NORMAN MACOWAN
(Miss VIOLET STERNE), with own Co., "Mons. Beaucaire." KINGS LYNN (3), BEDFORD (3).

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM MALLALIEU
Disengaged.
20, Cambridge-gardens, Hanwell, W.

MR. GEORGE MALLETT,
Mrs Langtry's Season,
Terry's Theatre.

MR. H. F. MALTBY.
Address,
Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

MR. W. MANFREE Disengaged, Character Comedy. Miss AMY WOOD and LITTLE AMY MANFREE, "Silver King" Co., Queen's T., Farnworth.

MR. MAITLAND MARLEE,
Simple Simon, "Red Riding Hood."
Coronet Theatre, W.

MR. PERCY MARMONT.
Address,
4, Esmond-road, Bedford-park, W. A.A.

MR. PERCY MARSHALL,
Carbury, "Lady of Ostend," &c.
Address, 145, Mottram-road, Hyde, Cheshire.

MR. ALFRED MARTIN,
Advance Representative, Compton Comedy Co.
Jan. 30, Her Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen.

MR. HERBERT MAULE,
Specially Engaged by Messrs B. and F. Wheeler for S. African Tour. Address, Opera House, Cape Town.

MR. WALTER MAXWELL.
Address,
Vaudeville Theatre, London.

MR. G. MAYOR-COOKE,
Chas. Frohman's "Sherlock Holmes."
Metropole, Birkenhead.

MR. LONNEN MEADOWS and MISS ADA TILLEY. This Week, Opera House, Leicester. Next, T. R., Middlesbrough. Disengaged end of Run.

MR. E. FREDERICK MEADS,
Rehearsing, Wyndham's Theatre.
Address, 215, Camden-road, N.W.

MR. HUGH METCALFE,
Specially Engaged by Frederick Melville, Esq.,
Star Lead, in "Between Two Women" Company.

MR. ROBERT MINSTER,
Address,
care of Charles Frohman, Daly's Theatre, New York.

MR. HUGH MONTGOMERY,
MARIE HAROOURT, Napoleon and Marcel, in Napoleon the Great." Theatre Royal, Smethwick.

MR. and MRS. G. MORETON-WILLIAMS
(Miss Marie McAulay). Arrangements Complete.
Jan. 30 Osborne Theatre, Manchester.

MR. F. MORLAND.
Address,
11, Bernard-street, Russell-square, W.C.

MR. and MRS. TOM MOWBRAY (Miss Edith Ida), Messrs Edwardes and Frohman's "Are You a Mason?" Co. Dis. March 4. Irving T., Beaconsfield.

MR. QUINTON M'PHERSON,
as the Hon. Ernest Worley, in "The Admirable Crichton," with William Gillette. Empire T., New York.

MR. and MRS. ERNEST MUNRO
(Miss Marie Jones) Disengaged Feb. 6.
This week, 77, Wiesbaden-road, N.; next, Empire, Dover.

MR. ARTHUR B. MURRAY,
Moriarty, Chas. Frohman's "Sherlock Holmes" Co.
New Century, Motherwell, One Week.

MR. SINCLAIR NEILL
Disengaged. Juvenile Lead.
Crown Chambers, 64, Royal-avenue, Belfast.

MR. H. ADAIR NELSON.
Address, Eccentric Club,
Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MR. DAVID G. NOBLE,
Juvenile or Heavy Lead. Offers invited Spring.
Hippodrome, New Brompton, Kent.

MR. GEORGE NORMAN-BURT
Disengaged.
Address, Moreton Valence, Stonehouse, Gloucester.

MR. ALFRED NORTHWAY,
"The Sledge-Hammer" Tour.
Theatre Royal, Darwen.

MR. and MRS. DRELINCOURT ODLUM
(Dorothy Carington) Disengaged.
113, Stamford-street, Blackfriars, S.E.

MR. and MRS. NORMAN A. OVERTON
Disengaged. Lead, Heavy Lead, Comedy, Character. 23, Thomaston-street, Liverpool.

MR. GUS OXLEY,
"Three Little Maids" Company.
Grand, Margate, Three; New T., Cambridge, Three.

MR. and MRS. ROBSON PAIGE
(Mabel Syringa).
Address, 10, Ospringe-road, N.W.

MR. and MRS. E. H. PATERSON (Miss Adelaide Grace), "Alice in Wonderland."
Address care of "The Era."

MR. WILFRED E. PAYNE
at Liberty for Leading Business.
Address, 23, Talma-road, Brixton, S.W.

MR. and MRS. W. KINGSFORD PEARCE
(Miss Wynne Hanley),
Mr and Mrs Maclaren's Company. King's T., Ebbw Vale.

MR. ASHTON PEARSE,
Adelphi Theatre.
Permanent address, 65, Redcliffe-road, South Kensington.

MR. HERBERT PEARSON,
Leading (Juvenile or Heavy) Business.
Disengaged. 13, Haselrigge-road, Clapham, S.W.

MR and MRS FRED W. PERMAIN
(Miss Florence Le Clercq), Address A. A.;
or, Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney, Australia.

MR. and MRS. FRANK E. PETLEY
(Miss Gertrude Price), Lead, "As Midnight Chimes."
Jan. 30, Theatre Royal, Peterborough.

MR. FELIX PITT,
Standard Theatre, E.
Letters, 36, St. George's-road, Southwark, S.E.

MR. DONALD PRICE-EVANS,
Miss Ada Reeve's Co., Theatre Royal, Brighton.
Miss MARCELLA HUDSON (Mrs D. P.-E.) Disengaged.

MR. WALTER PURVIS.
Miss LILY BRAMMER, Singing Soubrette.
Lyceum Theatre, Crewe.

MR. ALBERT E. RAYNOR
Disengaged.
21, Grove-park-gardens, Chiswick.

MR. WILTON REED
Disengaged. Heavies or Management.
17, The Avenue, Southsea.

MR. PERCY RHODES
Disengaged.
10, Elmstone-road, Fulham, S.W.

MR. and MRS. GWYN RICHARDSON
(Miss Grace Harlington) Disengaged.
Mordington, Richmond, Surrey.

MR. W. E. RICHARDSON
Disengaged.
Address, 129, Lavender-sweep, Lavender-hill, S.W.

MR. EDWARD RIGBY
Disengaged Feb. 5.
Garrick Theatre.

MR. HARRY H. RIGNOLD,
Mo Solomons, "The Rogues of the Turf."
Rehearsing. Queen's-park, Hippodrome, Manchester.

MR. WALTER L. RIGNOLD,
Stage-Management, "Cinderella."
Disengaged Spring. Prince's, Manchester.

MR. TOM ROBERTSON,
Character Old Men, Heavies. At Liberty Feb. 6.
"Proof" Co. Next, Ebbw Vale.

MR. LEONARD ROBSON,
Starring Engagement, Stephen Merrick, "The Lightning's Flash," Gaiety, Burnley.

MR. G. STAPELTON ROCHE
Disengaged. Light Comedy, &c. Disengaged.
Address, 32, Kelvedon-road, Fulham, S.W.

MR. DAN F. ROE
Disengaged for Comedy, Feb. 13.
Victoria Theatre, Broughton, Manchester.

MR. STANLEY ROGERS.
Address all communications,
Her Majesty's Theatre, Walsall.

MR. BERTIE ROSS
at Liberty.
Care of Herbert Darnley, Esq., 18A, Brixton-road, S.W.

MR. HARRY ROUSBY,
Comedian, "Goody Two Shoes" Pantomime.
Theatre Royal, Sheffield, every Evening.

MR, and MRS. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE
(Mary Jocelyn).
"The Cricket on the Hearth."

MR. E. W. ROYCE,
as the Mayor, in "Mother Goose." At Liberty for Spring. Address, Theatre Royal, Manchester.

MR. HOWARD RUSSELL
Disengaged. Old Men and Character Actor.
88A, Queen's-road, Lavender-hill, S.W.

MR. FRANK SEABROOK,
Agrippa, Brixton. Complimented by G. Brydon Phillips, Esq., Miss Jessie Preston, and the Press.

MR. and MRS. MICHAEL SHERBROOKE
(Miss Alice Arden) at Liberty.
34, Margaretta-terrace, Chelsea, S.W.

MR. FRANK SHERLOCK,
"The Girl from Japan,"
Theatre Royal, Dover.

MR. JOHN B. SHINTON,
Leading Business. Disengaged.
Address, 26, Selwyn-avenue, Highams-park, Essex.

MR. GEORGE SHIRLEY
Disengaged. Business-Management.
65A, Long-acre, London, W.C.

MR. EDWARD SIDNEY
Disengaged. Comedy and Character
Address, 112, Olney-street, Walworth-road, London, S.E.

MR. FRED SINCLAIR,
Own Duologue.
Palace, Leicester.

MR. JAMES SKEA,
Character Actor, Disengaged end February.
Care of Bennett, 1, North Claremont-street, Glasgow.

MR. WILL SPRAY Returns to the Gaiety when the Fulham Pantomime Finishes to Play Frontenbras and Understudy Mr Edmund Payne.

MR. A. GIFFORD STACEY
at Liberty Early in March.
Address, Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. PERCY D. STANDING.
Address,
10, King-street, W.C.

MR. JAMES STEVENSON
at Liberty.
Address, 360, Kennington-road, S.E.

MR. and MRS. W. S. STEVENSON
(Miss Evelyn Robson) at Liberty Feb. 27. Offers invited. Jan. 30, St. James's Theatre, Manchester.

MR. T. S. M'CAUSLAND STEWART
Disengaged Jan. 28.
1, Farquhar-road, Upper Norwood, S.E.

MR. W. F. STIRLING,
Moriarty, "Sherlock Holmes,"
Charles Frohman's Company, on Tour.

MR. HERBERT ST. JOHN,
Lord Hummingtop, "New Mephisto."
Jan. 30, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. GEORGE STONE,
Resident-Manager (Eleventh Year),
Royalty Theatre and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness.

MR. E. STORY-GOFTON
at Liberty.
Address, 10, King-street, Covent-garden, W.C.

MR. WALLACE STRANACK,
General Manager, "The Fatal Wedding" (North) Co.
Jan. 30, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley.

MR. AUGUSTIN SYMONDS
(and Miss KATE PARRY), Business-Manager, Milton Bode's "Whittington," T. R., Leamington Spa.

MR. ALGERNON SYMS
Disengaged Shortly. Next, Metropole, Glasgow.
Permanent Address, 3, Springdale-road, London, N.

MR. TAPPING
Disengaged. Parts and Stage-management.
28, Leyland-road, Lee, S.E.

MR. HODGSON TAYLOR,
as Convict 263, "The V.C."
Jan. 30, Empire, Bradford

MR and MRS. EDWARD THANE.
Mr T. Disengaged. Town only. Drama, with Printing, to Let. 9, Muston-road, Upper Clapton, N.E.

MR. FOWLER THATCHER
at Liberty Feb. 25 for Principal Comedy Management, Musical Comedy. Address, G. T., Edinburgh.

MR. ALLEN THOMAS
Disengaged Feb. 5, 1905.
74, Marlborough-flats, Walton-street, Chelsea.

MR. E. W. THOMAS,
Returned from South Africa. At Liberty.
138, Elmhurst-mansions, Clapham; or, A.A.

MR. RAYMOND THOMAS
Disengaged. Heavy Lead or Character.
Address To-day, Theatre Royal, Dewsbury; after, A.A.

MR. WYLIE A. THOMPSON,
concluded Fifth Tour "Charley's Aunt" Company.
Disengaged. Bridgen, Bexley, Kent.

MR. A. C. THORNHILL,
Light Comedy or Boy Parts.
12, Kattray-road, Brixton, S.W.

MR. WALTER THORNTON,
Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr Mark Blow's Co.
Jan. 30, Pleasure Gardens Theatre, Folkestone.

MR. F. G. THURSTANS
Disengaged for Spring.
14, Talgarth-road, West Kensington.

MR. GEORGE TRAILL
Disengaged. Character Bus., Comedy, or Old Men.
Address, 17, Manchester-street, Gray's-inn-road, W.C.

MR. FREDERICK TYRRELL,
Rev. Elihu Garside, "Winnie Brooke, Widow."
Jan. 30, Theatre Royal, Brighton.

MR. A. W. TYRER.
Address,
10, Elmstone-road, Fulham, S.W.

MR and MRS. EDWARD VAN BIENE
(Mrs Kate Hallam), Re-engaged Bus.-Manager, &c.
"Slaves of Passion." Dis till Feb. 20. C. o. "The Era."

MR. and MRS. CHAS. B. VAUGHAN
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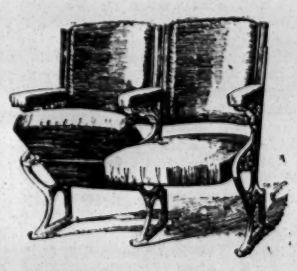

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THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"MODELL,"
Comedy, in Four Acts, by Hermann Katsch,
Produced at the Berliner, Jan. 19.

Riemer	Herr MISCHKE
Rose	Fräulein ROCCO
Heinz	Herr WIOBRAT
Worthmann	Herr SCHINDLER
Frau Wilcken	Fräulein CARLSEN
Else	Fräulein BOETTICHER
Lene	Fräulein CERIGIOLI
Stetter	Herr HASSKERL
Böhme	Herr L'ALLEMAND
Francke	Herr KOCH
Frau Francke	Fräulein BERGER
Binder	Herr STARNBURG
Frau Binder	Fräulein KIRCH
Roth	Herr ROHLAND
Engländerin	Fräulein DRACHSEL
Von Sellenberg	Herr WILHELM
Wolff	Herr BERGEN
Lang	Herr SCHMIDT
Vauheil	Herr PRAHL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, JAN. 26.—The incidental and frequently local humour of Herr Katsch's latest play caused it to be well received, the author being called after each act and heartily applauded. Plot there is little; the action passes in circles known as Bohemian, a "milieu" that always appeals to the German public. Fritz Riemer, a young sculptor, is at work on a statue of a girl violinist. He is not satisfied with the professional model who sits to him, pretty as she is, and he loses courage and begins to despair. Rose Merten, the sister of Riemer's friend, Heinz Merten, is a teacher of the violin; she is young and fair, and the sculptor implores her to become his model. The girl—for the sake of auld lang syne—complies; she sits, or rather stands, to him in an airy garment that "more expresses than hides her," and the statue grows into a thing of life and beauty, bringing the sculptor life-long fame. But it leaks out among Rose's pupils that she has sat as a model, and the consequences are disastrous. Gradually the means of living is taken from the innocent girl, and what is worse, she suffers a good many insults. Fritz Riemer, for a while, has no knowledge of the state of things; he is the man of the day, and fashionable ladies covet him for their parties. When the humiliation of his little friend is made known to him by an accident he is very indignant, and the love he has always more or less felt for Rose breaks out in an uncontrollable passion. He seeks her, proposes, and is accepted; so all ends merrily, while the evil-minded gossips are silenced for ever. The piece was very brightly acted, Fräuleins Rocco, Cerigioli, and Boëttticher; the Herren Mischke, Haesker), and Rohland carrying off the chief laurels.

"DIE ZAUBERGLOCKE" (le timbre d'argent), opera, in four acts, by M. Saint-Saëns, was produced at the National last week with but little good fortune. It is one of the oldest works of the composer, and was not even a success at the time of production in its own country. The book is excessively poor, and its translation into German has not improved it. An evil star rested upon the National on this particular evening; the cast was far less commendable than usual, the most appreciated numbers being the dances, which were fairly well executed. I do not fancy *Die Zauberglocke* will remain long in the bill, all things considered.

A NEW comedy was produced at the Deutsches last week, meeting with a very cordial reception. The piece, which contains three acts, is entitled *Die Grosse Leidenschaft*. The author, Herr Raoul Auernheimer, is in his first youth. Notwithstanding much crudeness and some overlong scenes the comedy is genuinely amusing, and is a good omen for future work by the same author. The plot is soon told. It has, by the way, many points in common with M. Sardou's *Divorçons*. The pretty young wife of a business man named Vinzenz fancies herself ill-used and misunderstood by her sharp-witted, if somewhat prosaic husband, who loves her all the time he it said. So Sophie Vinzenz conceives a "great passion" for a painter named Adrian. The husband perceives the drift of his sentimental little wife and gives her her head. He remarks that opportunity does not make love—on the contrary, it is usually the undoing of love. He, therefore, invites Adrian to come and stay with himself and wife at their country house, and speedily his prognostications are verified. The would-be lovers do nothing very terrible, and Sophie is glad to have her husband to herself after a while. The happy pair enjoy a second honeymoon, and Adrian falls in love with someone else.

FOLLOWING the three-act comedy came a one-act verse piece, *Das Nachtmahl der Kardinäle*, by Julio Dantas. Three old cardinals sit at supper and tell the story of their youthful loves. The story is not interesting and the play fell very flat. Both pieces were extremely well acted, Fräuleins Rabitow and Müller, Herren Klein and Strohl giving especially good renderings of their respective parts.

A VERY interesting evening was given on Monday at the Künstler-Haus. Mr and Mrs Augustin Duncan gave a selection of scenes from *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Macbeth* in English before a highly appreciative audience. Mr Duncan is an American and an actor of note in his own country, but he has Irish blood in him, too. He has a good stage appearance, a sonorous and particularly pleasing voice, and responds well to the demands made by Shakespeare upon an actor. The programme opened with Mr Duncan's delivery of the Prologus from *Henry V.*, and closed with the Epilogue from *As You Like It*, spoken by his wife. The famous monologues from *Hamlet* and the Nunnery scene were very successfully rendered, while the Balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* afforded Mrs Duncan her best opportunity. She proved a charming Juliet, sympathetic and convincing, while in the Chamber scene in the fourth act she acted with considerable power. The last item on the programme was "an arrangement, including scenes five and seven from act one, and scenes one and two from act two of *Macbeth*." Mrs Duncan displayed much talent and discrimination in her handling of the part of Lady Macbeth, and her husband's rendering of Macbeth was unquestionably fine. Altogether the artist-pair may be warmly congratulated upon their success, which would certainly have been much greater under more favourable circumstances. The artistes wore in each scene the appropriate costume; tapestries took the place of scenery with good effect, but the Künstler-Haus Hall does not lend itself well to the exigencies of Shakespearian plays—or even scenes from them—and both acoustics and lighting left much to be desired.

"DER GROSSE STERN," the pot-pourri of whimsical but clever nonsense, has reached its twenty-fifth consecutive performance at the Thalia. Its popularity seems in no wise to have become diminished, and it will no doubt run smoothly for some time to come. Herr Thielscher—the idol of the Berliners—Herr Helmerding, Fräuleins Ballot, Wannovius, Abarbanell, and other principal members of the excellent cast were signalled out for floral offerings.

EDWARD GRIEG is dangerously ill at Copenhagen. The physicians hold out hope of his recovery, but the utmost caution is necessary. The famous composer, who is suffering from inflammation of the lungs, is being nursed by his wife at the Phœnix Hotel.

The alterations at the Royal Schauspiel Haus have proved to be far more extensive than was at first thought necessary. The entire roof was badly constructed, and is now new, the stalls, galleries, stage, are all altered out of knowledge in fact, the whole of the interior is practically that of another building. It is calculated that the total expenses run to a tune of a hundred thousand pounds, which is an object lesson in the advisability of building thoroughly at first.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr H. C. Cavanah.—The stage is occupied this week by an exhibition of pictures illustrative of life in the army and navy, which prove very attractive. In the course of the evening a number of Scots songs are tastefully rendered by Miss Agnes Taylor.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr Ernest Sheldon.—Sid Doody and Edie Wright provide an exceedingly funny turn, and Jean Seul contrives to excite curiosity with his "Hindoo mystery" exhibition. The Karno Trio are, as usual, highly diverting; Tom Hall and his Nippers are well received; and an amusing turn is introduded by Carle and Carmanelli. The singing and dancing of Mr D. J. Pedley please the audiences; Mr and Mrs Paul Knox, speciality artistes, establish themselves as prime favourites; while Mr D. W. Watson shows great skill as a cornet player. Miss Marie Joyce, comedienne, dances and sings very acceptably; and the programme concludes with an interesting exhibition of pictures by the Bioscope.

ABERTILLERY.

THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Messrs Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General and Resident Manager, Mr Geo. W. Ventom.—The boards are occupied here this week by Mr Will Hebden's company in the musical comedy, entitled *A Day in Paddy's Market*. Mr Will Hebden in the rôle of Johnny Kelly is very funny, and causes much mirth; as William Henry Percy Fitzalbot Mr L. Maitland is a capital dude; Mr Charles Lyndon and Mr Charles Locke as Daft Jimmy and Michael O'Hennessy respectively are very good; as also are Mr George Millard, Mr T. Halsey, Mr F. Cooper, Mr G. Warner, and Mr C. Bowers. Miss D. Fairley as Mrs O'Hennessy plays the part well, whilst Miss Jennie Clare as Mary Manners is an artiste worthy of note, her songs and dances being cleverly rendered and much appreciated.

ACCRINGTON.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr J. B. Ormerod; Manager, Mr J. E. Barnes.—Mr Ernest K. Abbott's company opened here on Monday in *A Wife's Triumph*. Mr George C. Doughty gave a fine performance as Frank Wilton. Ellis Jordan was cleverly depicted by Mr W. H. Garbois. Julius Hartman was admirably embodied by Mr E. Ouston. Mr W. H. Davis-Brown was very funny as Stubbs, and was well supported by Miss Constance Medway as Margery Crib. Miss Ada Abbott looked and acted Bessie Dewhurst well.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Mill; Assistant-Manager, Mr T. W. Moyes.—Mr Charles Bradford renders his numbers very quaintly here. The Evalos are decidedly clever. Mr Charles Bayman takes well with his excellent singing and clever patter. The Imperial Boys' Orchestra are a musical treat. The Dillons must be complimented upon their excellent turn.

ALDERSHOT.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Clarence Saunes; Resident-Manager, Mr George E. Williams.—Pantomime is forming an acceptable change this week, Mr Arthur Carlton's company in *Aladdin* appearing with success. It is lavishly mounted, and the performance goes with a swing, tuneful music, local and topical hits, and several specialities helping considerably in making the pantomime the success it is. There are several old favourites in the cast, amongst whom is Miss Hettie Gale and Miss Lallah Davis, and the whole company work hard. Miss Hettie Gale sings sweetly and acts with charming results as the Princess; and Miss Jennie Richards as Aladdin is capital. Mr Jack Cromo's clever impersonation of Widow Twankey is one of the hits of the evening. Mr Allen Thomas is good as the Emperor; and Mr Frank Bertram's Abanazar is an excellently played rôle. Mr Charles Ross does well as the Grand Vizier; whilst as Wishee-Washee Mr Cecil Clayton causes much amusement. Messrs Carl and Carr are two clever comedians. Misses Lallah Davis, Amy Bellwood, V. Varcoe, Trixie Keane, Grace Huntley, Rose Sydney, Dorothy Delemere, Elsie Sargent, Ida Heron, and R. Faith are seen to advantage, and a very large number of others in smaller parts; and the chorus add their share to the success. The specialities are given by the Royal Troupe of dancers, Miss Jennie Richards, Miss Hettie Gale, Carl and Carr, and Jack Cromo.

ALTRINCHAM.

NEW PAVILION OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs Budd, Howe, and Taylor; Acting-Manager, Mr Arthur Gilman.—The run of *Aladdin* is being continued here with marked success. Miss Pattie Fairley, after a sudden and somewhat serious illness, has returned in excellent voice, and portrays the title-part with dash and verve. One of the biggest hits is made by Miss Clair Ingham with her song "Farewell my little Yo-San." New songs and dances have been introduced, and Mr F. Budd creates roars of laughter. Several of the new ditties are by Mr Frank Noble, the conductor of the orchestra.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr Armstrong Fallbairn.—Messrs Dottridge and Longden's panto is a big success and is drawing well. The comic business of the comedians has the merits of spontaneity and originality; and the doings of the panto. boy and girl are full of winning vivacity, chic, and grace. Miss Dolly Elsworthy as Ganem is full of "go" and dash, and sings her serio-comic ditties with excellent emphasis. Miss Lily Lonsdale as Morgiana is a sweet and graceful heroine. She has decidedly superior gifts as a vocalist, singing with power and sweetness. Misses Cissie Kingsley, May Fallowfield, Ada Beaumont, and the bevy of beauties who dance and sing as the "Forty" also look picturesque. The comedians, Messrs Jas. Danvers, Ernie Myers, Cliff Dover, Forsyth Bruce, Phil Leonard, Jas. Dubois, and the Oetzmans are first-rate fun-makers. The specialities consist of the clever troupe of Bedouin Arabs; the Reed-Oetzman Troupe of grotesque acrobats and James Dubois as Pongo, the original man-monkey, in his clever rope-performance.

ASHTON HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr C. Revill; Director of Entertainments, Mr F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr L. Campkin.—The popular comedian Mr Martin Conway heads the bill for the current week. Martin is a big comic favourite. His celebrated speciality "Walk round, Martin," is most laughable. The Irish vocalist Cora Gray sings sweetly some pathetic ballads of the "Green Isle," and is vociferously applauded. The Three Dagmars are wonderfully expert and clever gymnasts; but the big feature from the "strong man point of view" is Berg, in his smart and novel act. He lifts his monster bell-bar with apparent ease, and offers prizes to amateurs to lift a bag of flour off the stage and carry it away. George White's Arabs are wonderful acrobats; Bert Holmes is an acceptable comic vocalist; the Hamiltons, versatile comedy duo, are well worth patronage; and Collins and Croft provide a turn which greatly interests the audience. The Bioscope concludes a good programme.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr W. Leech.—This popular pleasure resort continues to be a favourite palace of entertainment. Variety is found in the performances of Grey and Welford, and much food for hearty laughter in their quaint comedy and boxing act. A humorous performance is that of the comedy sketch *One Night Only*, with Henry Carlton as Billy Blobbs, supported by an excellent team. This farcical absurdity is one huge laugh from start to finish. Little Dando is very aptly described as an eccentric and humorous comedian; Kellino and Pope, in a circus comedy act, are funny as well as startling; Fred Horsfall is a really clever mimic; the Gregson Comedy Three provoke abundance of mirth with their novel sketch; the Rolands' performance is one of strength and muscle; Gerald Mount, mimic, is a good turn; and Percy Vere and Edith Royal give a refined comedy act; the Paul Hesse Trio get their full share of approval in an acrobatic wire pot-pourri act; and the cinématograph pictures are interesting.

ATTERCLIFFE.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr T. Allan Edwards; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Lacy Lyne.—This week's programme here includes the names of Lilith, whose turn is as clever as it is bewildering; Will Bacchus, an actor-vocalist of merit; and Zasma, who does a good turn as an acrobat and weight-lifter. Exceptionally pleasing is Lilian Warren, whose songs, in addition to being well rendered, are illustrated by suitable pictures; Fred Harcourt is a talented conjuror; Salmon is heartily applauded for his trick cycling; the Revell Troupe in their pantomimic sketch, entitled *Mischief*, cause roars of laughter; and Maudie Ford is a smart juvenile comedienne and dancer.

BACUP.

NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr Richard Nightingale.—Miss Mary Austin's company is here this week in *The Cotton Spinner*. Miss Mary Austin gave a truly pathetic reading of Mary Prescott. Mr E. Vivian Edmunds delivered his lines earnestly as Arthur Northbury. Mr Frank Eaglesfield does justice to the character of Foster Cunningham. Mr Edwin F. Fysher is natural as Lord Northbury, and Mr John S. Haydon as John Prescott is powerful throughout. Miss May Grimshaw realised Constance Harrington cleverly. Miss Bella Power and Mr Ernest C. Edwards as Lady Charlotte Needy and Major Stratton and Mr Frank Storey as James are responsible for an abundance of laughter, and Mr Henry Brown and Miss Ethel Inwoll appear with credit as Nobbs and Smirk.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr George Stone.—Mr A. E. Smith's pantomime *Babes in the Wood* is here. Mr J. H. Matthews displays a fine baritone voice as Demon King of Lightning; and the Fairy Queen Flora has a good exponent, who sings well, in Miss Lily Coleman. Miss Edith Wallis makes a dashing Robin Hood; and the Maid Marion of Miss Beatie Howard is quite winning. The Baron Balderdash of Mr Arthur Slater and the Dame Quisbydiggs of Mr Charles Gladwell are very amusing. Mr Bob Padley as Weary Willie and Mr F. Wheatcroft as Tired Tim contribute much fun. The Edna Trio and the Colleys are also conspicuously successful.

TIVOLI.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr Tom Whiting.—Payne's Little Vagabonds top the bill here this week; they are a great success. Les Kyasyas, athletic entertainers, give a wonderful entertainment; Mdlle. Collard's burlesque boarhounds go through a variety of exceedingly clever tricks; Swan and Stanley are a couple of capital facial experts; Paul Pelham is a successful descriptive vocalist, and his songs are much appreciated; Louis Murray, actor-vocalist, is well received; and Dot Stanley is a pleasing comedienne.

BATH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr Lewis A. Long.—The Japanese play called *The Darling of the Gods* is here this week. The company is that of Mr Bannister Howard. Zakkuri, the cruel minister of state, is embodied by Mr Edward A. Warburton, who was well received on Monday night. Mr Alfred Goddard makes a picturesque and effective Kara, and his scenes with Miss Inez Bensusan as Yo-San are acted with marked ability. The lady has a difficult task, but achieves no little success. Miss Edith Anton Laing deserves praise for her careful handling of the part of Rosy Sky. Mr Leonard Grey (Saigon) and Mr Alexander Haviland (Tanda Tanj) lend useful assistance, and the numerous other parts of more or less importance are in safe hands.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr W. Trussell.—Theo. Hardeen, the handcuff marvel, is on a return visit, and his tricks are as swiftly and deftly performed as ever. A prettily conceived idea is the A-Ba-Be's Picture Postcard Album, which meets with much acceptance. Mdlle. Lorette and her statue dog, Ben, reappear with all their former success; Wade and Dean, comedians, create plenty of laughter; and Frances Haskoll remains a second week and now gives her well-known chameleon scena instead of illustrated songs. Jack Charman is a young vocalist who sings unhackneyed ballads well; Madeline Rossetti, vocalist, banjoist, and cake-walk dancer, gains applause; and Chas. Bowker, the singing cobbler, has a pleasant tenor voice.

BATLEY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr and Mrs J. Edward Whitty; Resident Manager, Mr G. M. Hurst.—Mr Bert Coote's company commenced a week's engagement here on Monday with *The Fatal Wedding*. Mr Ernest Owttrim gave a pleasing representation of Howard Wilson; Mr Cecil Collins was a successful Robert Curtis; Mr J. Carl Lyle a good Toto, and Miss Carrie Fenton very capably assisted in the comedy element. Miss Theresa Osborne gave a pathetic rendering of the persecuted Mabel Wilson; Cora Williams was safely entrusted to the care of Miss Beatrice Whitney; and Miss Gladys Rose Jones was quite the attraction of the piece as Jessie.

BEDFORD.

ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter R. Wilson.—*Little Bo-Peep* is here. Miss Lily Rouletta meets with a warm reception in the title-rôle. She sings with taste and expression and dances cleverly. Miss Kenna Russell as Boy Blue is full of activity and vivaciousness; Prince Pasterelle finds an able exponent in Miss Blanche Albini; Miss Mayzy Osmunde is dainty and fascinating as Margery Daw; and Lord Lollipop is played in a spirited manner by Miss Ellen Martin. The Misses Haidee Fitch and Ruby Carter contribute some extremely pretty toe dancing, and Miss Margherita Gordon's voice is heard to advantage in the solos of the Good Fairy. Mr Mark Stuart's performance as Dame Durden is intensely amusing; Mr Medley Barrett makes an excellent Simon; and Mr Jack Waller is immensely diverting as Baron Bluenose. The Macnallies as Bill Bash and Chris Crash do some clever knockabout work. The Cat is well played by Mr Alfred Farron.

BELFAST.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr James M'Cann; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr Wilfred Stanford.—Much pleasure is being evinced this week by Belfast playgoers at the annual visit of Mr F. R. Benson and his talented company, who are appearing in a répertoire of most attractive pieces. On Monday *Othello* was presented with Mr Benson in the title-rôle. Mr Benson's fine acting was deservedly accorded an enthusiastic reception. Mrs Benson played the rôle of Desdemona with exquisite charm, and her admirable conception delighted her hosts of Belfast admirers. Mr Arthur Whitby's Iago was a fine piece of acting. Nothing indeed could be more effective than his capital treatment of this difficult rôle. Mr Cyril Keightly, a clever actor and a decided acquisition to Mr Benson's company, could not easily be excelled in his finished impersonation of Cassio, and Miss Gertrude Scott was in every sense excellent as Emilia. Mr H. O. Nicholson's Duke of Venice was a capital assumption, and Mr Philip Saunders made an admirable Montano. On Tuesday *The Taming of the Shrew* was presented, and during the week *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, and *She Stoops to Conquer* have also been presented.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Managing-Director, Mr Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr John P. Beardmore.—Another fine bill is being presented at this popular theatre, the leading attraction being provided by the Mannon Troupe in *Uncle Yank*. A novel entertainment is submitted in Valvero's Naval Bombardment. Mr George A. Booker and Miss Mabel Narbis appear in their well-known comedy creation *The Interviewer*, the vocalism of Miss Narbis being remarkably good. Stylo, the original hoop manipulator, upholds his enviable reputation in his performance, and the Five Bon-Bons create the heartiest laughter with their smart pantomime trap scene entitled *Hot Time for One*. Also appearing with every element of success are Miss Beatrice Bonne, a charming comedienne; Miss Annie Fielding and Mr Bert Hull, comedy duo; and Miss Flo Cecil, vocalist and dancer.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Brook.—The Aurora Troupe top the bill and have created quite a sensation with their acrobatic cycling feats, which are certainly remarkably clever. Hilton and Hilton, comedy bar performers, submit a capital performance; and Mueller and Coyne appear to great advantage in their comedy act, Mr Harry Lawson is a humorous comedian with a capital style, and the Three Victorias, talented song and dance artistes, have been accorded a splendid reception. Mr Charles Diamond, whose harp solos are such a feature of any variety programme, and Miss Beatrice, who plays the saxaphone to perfection, have received well-merited approval; and the Korries play a number of musical instruments to perfection. Also here are Miss Edie Veno, a good vocalist, and Mr Charles Adams, comedian.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr Henry T. Downs.—The leading position at this old-established hall (so ably managed by Mr H. T. Downs) is held by Mr Imro Fox, the famous comic conjuror, whose novel and decidedly smart entertainment has been received with enthusiasm. The Arthur Lloyd Trio appear in their well-known entertainment entitled *Little Charlie, or the Twin Sister*, which has been most successful, and is a strong feature of the bill. A welcome return visit is being paid by Miss Gladys Mavius, the celebrated comedienne, whose vocalism is first-class, and her dancing the very poetry of motion. Mr Charles Best, comedian, stages a novel act entitled *M'Bunker, the Mountebank*, and Mr A. Robinson, a capital local comedian with good songs, commands much favour. Weisker Brothers' Bioscope provide some new pictures this week, which are vastly entertaining, and others appearing are Harry Hayton, comedian; Flo Varley, comedienne; and Mr G. H. Keith, actor-vocalist.

IMPERIAL HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS. — Proprietors, Messrs Carter and Bosco; General Manager, Mr Irving Bosco; Assistant-Manager, Mr Geo. Dobler.—To the great regret of the Belfast public it has been announced that this week marks the finish of the present successful season at this popular place of amusement. A splendid programme is provided for the closing week, the chief turn being supplied by the Albano Troupe in their refined musical act, their manipulation of many musical instruments being exceedingly clever; a sensational vaulting act is performed by Les Levetts; and the act provided by the Seltino Troupe is quite a feature of the programme. Princess Annie, the accomplished equestrienne, concludes this week her highly successful engagement; and Funny Burgess creates roars of laughter with his humorous sayings. Others included in the programme are the Smith Family, who are very clever; Jean Steckles, the Newmarket jockey; the highly talented Sloan Family, &c. Wednesday last was set apart for a complimentary benefit to the popular acting-manager, Mr George Dobler. The success achieved by the Hippodrome has in a very large measure been due to his energetic efforts.

BERWICK-ON-TWEED.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Secretary, Mr A. L. Miller.—Messrs Hogg and Mackintosh on the 20th inst arranged for Florizel Von Reuter to give a recital in the above-mentioned hall. He rendered the following items in a marvellously accurate manner:—Concerto in D, Paganini; "Zigeunerweisen," Sarasate; *Faust* Fantasie, Wieniawski. This wonderful boy, who was encored repeatedly, was supported by Mr Arthur Newstead, who rendered several solos on the piano in a manner which called forth applause. Miss Eleanor Athelstan, with a fine soprano voice, sang pleasingly. Mr Arthur Crosby was the accompanist.

BILSTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Harry Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—*Greed of Gold*, by Mr T. Morton Powell's company, is being performed here this week. Mr Charles Coleman as Arthur Errol gives an excellent impersonation; and Miss Daisy Halling is a true representative of Dora. Then we have Messrs T. G. Warry, H. Creamer, and B. Fox doing capital work in the rôles of Brightson, Conn, and Tom Welstead respectively. Miss Hetty Woods plays nicely as Cecil.

BIRKENHEAD.

THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee, Mr W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Pell. — Mr Louis Calvert's company is fulfilling an engagement here with *Sunday*, and it is deservingly commanding extensive patronage. Miss Jean Stirling Mackinlay gives a fine performance of the title-rôle, a part peculiarly suited to her undoubted abilities. Tom Oxley is capitally illustrated by Mr Ernest B. Douglas; Mr Charles B. Vaughan is a fine representative of Arthur Brinthorpe; and Mr J. Edward Pearce is well suited as Colonel Brinthorpe. Messrs Frederick Powell, John H. Manley, T. Norman Walter, and Whitford Kane are worthy of special commendation as the "boys." Miss Elizabeth Watson is an efficient Mrs Naresby, and Miss Helen Macgregor as the Nun acquits herself with distinction. The play is capitally staged, and both company and piece have created an excellent impression here.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Pell.—Mr Arnold Bell's company opened on Monday in *Ben My Chree*, with Mr Bell in his well-known impersonation of Dan Mylrea. Miss Lilian Earle appears to great advantage as Mona; Ewan Mylrea is well played by Mr F. Robson; and the Deemster is powerfully portrayed by Mr F. Marlow. Other parts are suitably enacted, and the week's productions have also included *The Shaughraun*, *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*, and *The Octoroon*, all of which have been effectively staged.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Manager Mr D. J. Clarke.—Miss Peggy Pryde heads the company this week. Caban's trained ponies and dogs are also a leading attraction and are certainly marvels of sagacity. The Autos in a clever musical act are a decided novelty, and the O'Malleys, entertaining comedians, have made a hit. Prominent turns are also given by Miss Alice Oakley, balladist; Mr Frank Whiteley, an able character comedian; and Mr Charles Somers, also a comedian of ability. The programme is diversified by an excellent display of the Bioscope.

BRIGHOUSE.

ALBERT THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr T. Morton Powell; Business-Manager, Mr M. Manley.—Mr J. A. Campbell's company, in the drama entitled *The Sin of Her Childhood*, occupies the boards here this week. Miss Mary Fulton plays the part of Mary Haysel with much credit, whilst Little Dot Moss as Hannah Spry, in her songs, &c., has become a great favourite.

BIRMINGHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr Philip Rodway.—*The Babes in the Wood* grows in favour at every performance, so successful have the various artistes proved in building up and strengthening their respective characters. Appearances point to a long run.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr Henry Johnston.—*The Forty Thieves* also enjoys the fullest favour, being in point of fact an unequivocal success from the first. This success, which increases daily and nightly, is well merited, for a better production, or a finer cast, could scarcely be devised, and a long reign will naturally ensue.

GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr Victor Turner.—The last week of the Turner opera season has been distinguished by the inclusion of several old favourites which have met with cordial receptions. *Carmen*, with Miss Chrystal Duncan in the titular rôle and Mr J. W. Turner as Don José, has been duly acclaimed; and Mr John Ridding as Escamillo, Miss Kitty Brownlee as Michaela, Miss Jessie Dennis as Mercedes, and others, including the excellent chorus, shared in the honours. *Tännhauser*, in which exacting rôle Mr F. J. Hargrave scored to the Elizabeth of Miss Chrystal Duncan, has been repeated, plus *The May Queen*, *Maritana*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, and *The Bohemian Girl*. *The Waterman* has also been revived, with Mr J. W. Turner as Tom Tug. Mr T. Lawton has throughout the season wielded the bâton with his accustomed care and skill.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Lester Collingwood. — *Dick Whittington* is another success of the first order, packed audiences nightly rocking with uncontrollable laughter at this truly comic and pretty pantomime.

METROPOLE THEATRE. — Manager, Mr Walter Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Girl Who Lost Her Character* concludes a most successful fortnight's engagement to-night (Saturday). For Friday (last night) a "phrenological contest" had been arranged for Birmingham girls, which premised a novel and agreeable diversion.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr Ben Sydney.—*Honour Thy Father* furnishes an excellent play, the moral of which gains considerably in effect from Mr T. Morton Powell's present company. Mr J. W. Evelyn portrays the anguished father with true pathos. Miss Mabel Coleman as the erring daughter brought to repentance wins the entire sympathies of the house; Miss Kate Newton is successful as the wife; and Miss Kitty Russell acts well as Mercy Merry. Mr Douglas B. Watson gives tone and colour to the rôle of Jack Halyard; Mr Juan De Alberti arouses the proper spirit of antipathy by his clever acting as Duncan Bly; and Mr Claude Merton in a double rôle, Mr Frank Eden, who acts equally well as both manager and "Dr. Sleek;" Messrs W. H. Melrose, Walter Dale, and Miss Lizzie Moorley are successful.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr Charles Barnard; Manager, Mr Dan Barnard. — *Dick Whittington* was produced here on Monday by Mr Howard Hinton, whose annual incursion is again attended with much success. Miss Kitty Phelps proves a handsome, dashing, and melodious hero. Miss Daisy Clements acts and sings as Alice in a most prepossessing way. Miss Violet Welsh is winsome as Princess Charming, and Miss Gracie Clements is prominent as the Fairy Goodwill. Mr Harry Rennior is fully appreciated for his clever witticisms as Idle Jack; Mr Mount Stephens is humorous as Fitzwarren; and the other comedians, Messrs Tom R. Seymour, Steve Cooke, H. H. Hastings, the Bowery Boys (in their comic boxing act), and Harry Cardoe (as the cat) do exceedingly well. Prof. Yawta appears with his wonderful performing dogs, and the transformation scene and harlequinade are preserved in this bright and musical production.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr A. W. Matcham. — The principal item this week is an exciting racing turn between a racehorse and a cyclist, presented by Walthour and Kreamer. The acrobatic pantomime act of the Vasilesen Troupe is loudly applauded; the daring feats of the Three Navarros and the skating act of Les Vicentinas are exceptionally smart; Katie Butler contributes songs in her happiest manner; and the Sisters Jonghmanns, Meistersingers; Pia Carozzi, harpist; Paul Mill, Albert Whelar, and Chas. Cardow, comedians, complete the programme.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr Albert Bushell. — Tina Clements, with her horse and troupe of dogs, is responsible for clever tricks; the Four Jumels have an excellent musical act; the Attilla Bros. give a smart athletic display; and the trapeze act of the Sisters Trentanovi is neat. Alec Kennedy is well received for his songs; Norman French and Effie White gain popularity for their clever dances; and other excellent turns are Harry Tomlinson and Minnie Florence, who are responsible for some good songs.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—The Six Brothers Luck are entertaining large audiences with their pantomime sketch *The Hermit*; Lottie Lennox is loudly encored for her songs; acrobatic turns are submitted by the Pichel Troupe and Keen and Waller; and Melaine, the Brothers Claruz, Emma and Victor, Edna Groves, Marquis Iton, and the Densmores, in their absurdity *Early Morning in the Kitchen*, are well received.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr Edward Foster.—A feature of this week's programme are the violin selections rendered by Jan Rudenyi, whose performance is loudly encored. The Sarnthaler Troupe are responsible for some excellent singing and dancing, as also is Lily Currie. Alice Maydue puts plenty of humour into her songs, and Mersano, conjuror; Sinclair and Parr, May Tyler, Martin and Quigg, Charles Danton, and Francis and Melli are also here.

MASONIC HALL.—Catlin's Royal Pierrots commenced a short season here on Monday. Their songs, dances, sketches, and musical entertainment are in the capable hands of Messrs W. Catlin, F. Blythe, E. Preston, Tom Fox, Charles Lewis, G. Frere, and G. Houghton.

BLACKBURN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr Harry Yorke; Business-Manager, Mr Reginald Yorke.—*A Trip to Chinatown*, under the management of Mr Leslie Norman, forms the attraction this week. Mr Norman himself appears quite successfully as Rashleigh Gay; Mr Will Smith is very good as Noah Heap; and Mr Charles Sequin is amusing as Welland Strong. Miss Kitty Marion plays the Widow, her singing being much admired. Miss Daisy Revett and Mr Jerrold Manville are also very good as Flirt and Ben Gay.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr E. H. Page.—Miss Daisy De Roy's company in the pantomime of *Dick Whittington* is here this week. Mdlle. Lucretia is a sprightly Dick, and receives adequate support from Miss De Roy as Alice. Mr J. C. Bland is funny as Jack, and Mr Joe Bond successfully plays Eliza, the cook. Mr Paul Courteney and the Barrasford Boys also add to the success.

PALACE THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr F. Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr Will Murray; Acting-Manager, Mr Harry Drury.—Lockhart's Elephants head the bill at this place of amusement. The Four Burnells give a good turn. Other items in an excellent programme are furnished by Wat Tyler, the Brontis, the Lomas Trio, Orpheus, Zarmo, Gilroy and Cross, and the Wartenberg Brothers.

BLACKPOOL.

HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General Manager, Mr J. R. Huddlestone. — *Cinderella*, played by Messrs Forge and Dalton's company, is the fare here this week. The title-part is cleverly acted by Miss Lizzie Primer, whose tuneful singing is a very pleasing feature; whilst Miss Chummie La Mara makes an ideal Prince Paragon. Miss Julie Alexander ably sustains the part of Dandini; Miss Gertrude Saville is good as Pert; and Miss Louie Dennison finds favour as the Fairy Sunshine. The fun providers are Messrs Fred C. Brookes (Angelina), Little Tony (Seraphina), Johnny Chippendale (Baron Bunker), John Forge (Nabber), and Ted Lemiere (Nailem), who are all very good in their respective parts. Specialities are supplied by Midlle. Dorina and Mr George Bright, dancers; the Swift Trio of cyclists, and the original Musical Japs.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr T. Sergenson.—Messrs Haddon and Loader's *Jack and the Beanstalk* company is giving the utmost delight to big houses here this week. The performance is an admirable one in every respect. Miss Bessie Shelley as Jack and Miss Pattie Bella as Dora are very successful both in their acting and singing. Mr Jay Laurier works hard as Silly Billy, and Mr Harry Harrop makes a hit as Dame Trotter. Messrs Kydd and Kydd impersonate the Squire's flunkeys (Dip and Dap), the Squire himself being capitally portrayed by Mr Reg Bolton. The special features introduced include the Cameron Glee Singers and the Continental Trio of dancers. The costumes and scenery are greatly admired.

PALACE.—General Manager, Mr G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr Fred Waller.—Another big programme is found here this week. Rosina Caselli, with her troupe of Chihuahua dogs, proves a big draw, whilst Nellie Coleman is always sure of a warm welcome. She has some capital songs, which she renders in her own clever style. Eugene Jolly is a smart cornet player; Ivy Graham is a good comedienne; Goggin and Davis give an acrobatic show; Vanola performs some remarkably clever balancing feats; Dome gives a clay modelling exhibition; Vandioff does lightning sketches; J. H. Milburn is a favourite comedian; and Joe Almasio supplies a juggling turn.

BOLTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Hermann.—Mr Elliston's pantomime of *Dick Whittington and His Cat* finishes this week a short but very successful run. Mr Tom Foy as Idle Jack continues to keep the house in a perpetual roar of laughter, and he is ably supported by Mr Jack Foy, Miss Nellie Dale, Mr Bert Byrne, Mr Will Musgrave, and Mr Ted Foy, with Miss Ethel Newman as Dick Whittington and Miss Clara Reid as Alice Fitzwarren. On Wednesday evening Mr Elliston, the enterprising managing director, took his twenty-fifth annual benefit, on which occasion, by kind permission of Mr Walter Melville, two scenes from Boucicault's drama *Formosa* were given, in addition to the pantomime, in which Mr Elliston appeared in his original character of Bob Sanders, the part he first played in the old Theatre Royal, Bolton, twenty-five years ago. He was supported by Mr Tom Foy as Sam Bowker and other members of the company. A turn was given by Mr W. H. Frame, Scotch comedian. The bénéficiaire addressed the vast audience, commenting on his long connection with the Theatre Royal, Bolton, and announced future engagements.

GRAND THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr Harry Kenyon.—There is a good company engaged here, headed by Mr W. H. Frame, Scotch comedian, who has found many admirers. Other turns are the Saxon Trio, in their sensational and unrivalled strong act; the Zazas, low comedy duettists; Haldyne Trio, in their vocal comedy duologue act *The Curate's Dilemma*; Harry Morris, humorous mimic and comedian; Ernesto, juggler and musical equilibrist; Oline and Clark, black and white comedy artists and speciality dancers; Baroni and Kemp, Protean artistes; Evelyn Taylor, male impersonator; Arthur Elvy, vocal comedian; and the Imperial Bioscope.

OHMY'S CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—A complete change of programme has been submitted here, and comprises Mrs Dudley Smith, in a leaping act on her favourite mare, Dainty Lass; the Leopold Leglere Troupe of acrobats, who do some clever tricks; Claude Ohmy as Zoza, a lady equestrienne; Alveo and Zeco, in a smart gymnastic performance in mid-air; Mr W. Gilbey, in his ladder performance; Mons. Viuelo, perch performer; the Brothers France, acrobats; concluding with the laughable farce *The Mad Tinker* by the entire company.

BOOTLE.

ROYAL MUNCASTER.—Proprietors, Messrs Pennington; Manager, Mr Albert E. Wilson.—*The 10 30 Down Express* is paying its third visit here this week, and still remains as popular as ever. Mr Scott Leighton is a powerful James Inderwick, and Jack O'Malley has a manly representative in Mr H. T. Wood. The comedy is in the safe hands of Mr Horace Stanley as Sam Waggstaffe and Miss Kate Kilpack as Peggy Potts. Miss Effie Bartlett is convincing and sympathetic as Bessie Leigh, and a capital character sketch comes from Miss Evelyn M. Walton as Letitia Leigh.

BOSCOMBE.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr F. Mouillot; Manager, Mr Rowland Stewart.—Mr T. Jarman's company is here with *In Dark Siberia*. Mr H. Tarrant is good as Dr. Yeroslaff, and Mr W. T. Riley's manly impersonation of Captain Victor Gordon wins the sympathy of the house. Mr Wilson Howard's effective rendering of Major Waroff is equally successful. Miss Cecilia Ransome is excellent in the part of Paul Gregorovitch, and Miss Ethel Bickham does well as Sonia Gordon. Miss Carlotta Anson gives a most commendable rendering of the rôle of Princess Natalie Orloff.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr Mouillot; Manager, Mr Rowland Stewart.—Mrs Russ Whytal's company in *The Cardinal* commenced a week's engagement here on Monday. Mr Philip Cunningham plays the name-part in an exceedingly able manner; the Clariela De Medici of Miss Katherine Maude is a careful study; Mr Gerald Kay-Souper does full justice to the part of Giuliano De Medici; as Bartolomme Chigi Mr Oscar Adye contributes a sound piece of acting; and to Mrs Russ Whytal as Filiberta much of the success of the play is due, the character being most sympathetically rendered. Mr George Ingleton as Baglioni and Mr Douglas Gordon as Strozzi are convincing.

BRADFORD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr John Hart; General Manager, Mr T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr F. Pemberton. — Last Tuesday Mr E. St. Alban and company presented the musical dream play *Alice in Wonderland*, as a feast for the youngsters. Miss Ida Thompson displayed wonderful intelligence in her interpretation of the part of Alice; Mr St. Alban was quaint and humorous as the Mad Hatter, and Mr J. W. Hooper as Tweedledum and Mr Sidney Benson as Tweedledee elicit screams of laughter from the juveniles. Miss Madge Western majestically fills the rôle of Queen of Hearts, and Mr G. Handel as the King, Mr J. E. Cowell as the Knave, and Mr L. Sandown as the Executioner were particularly noticeable amongst the many capital impersonations. The performance is billed for repetition on Wednesday and Thursday, Mr Hart's charming pantomime *Cinders*, as usual, being presented in the evenings.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr N. Hepworth.—*Robinson Crusoe* is now running merrily,

and the bright production has fully justified the favourable comments passed upon it.

EMPIRE. — Moss Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr J. J. Kelly.—The Dandies give a dainty entertainment, and the Caledonian Boys are reappearing with success as an excellent concert combination. George Adams, baritone, is also paying a welcome return visit. In the acrobatic line the Five Ulracs are clever and amusing, and the Trapnell Family give a graceful and smart display. Ella Retford's turn as a comedienne is very acceptable. Miss Winona Winter, assisted by the comedian, W. H. Banks, in her comedy playlet, *When I Help Ma to do the Washing*, displays commendable versatility and talent; George Newburn wins unstinted applause for clever mimicry; Walter Munroe, Irish comedian and dancer, submits a capital turn; and the Three Donals on the rings give a fine athletic performance.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr J. W. Berry.—The top of the bill turn here this week is given by the Southern Nightingale, Ella Shields, and her charming Californian Quartet of dancers, whose coon display is enjoyable. Some marvellous barrel and chair jumping is accomplished by the Wynford Bros.; Leslie Murray proves himself an adept in the manipulation of cards; Walter Wallace submits a good comic song in humorous style; a funny sketch, *The Man in Possession*, is capitally acted by Blake and Granby; the Darrell Trio give a good musical entertainment; in his entertainment, "The Magic of Japan," Max Sterling does some wonderful tricks; a cleverly manipulated marionette show by the Sisters Petram is much enjoyed by the audience, who award George D'Albert triple encores for his humorous and well rendered descriptive songs.

BRIDLINGTON.

ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE. — Manager, Mr Charles Palmer.—Miss Lena Stanton's capital company is appearing here this week in the pantomime *Dick Whittington and His Cat*. Miss Stanton as Dick carries all before her by her smart acting, dancing, and talented vocalisation—in fact, she is an ideal principal boy, both in face and figure. Miss Marie Gerard is a lively Alice, her songs and dances being very good. Miss Millie Maxwell and Miss Millie Burnett are very smart as Lord Bob and Sir Plunger, and Miss C. Shannons scores as Princess Pre-Tee. Mr George James is quite at home as Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr Bruce Green as Margarine proves himself a very versatile comedian; and he is ably assisted by Mr Alf Brooks as Idle Jack. Mr Harry Jay as the Emperor of Morocco shines in both song and story, and his ventriloquial work with "Ginger" is excellent. Little Keeno, the boy comedian, is remarkably clever for one so young, and his songs and dances are well received. A word of praise is due to Joe Pauletti for his acting as the Cat, and also for his clever trick cycling. The Cecil Troupe of lady acrobatic dancers shine in their speciality dances, and the staging and dressing of the pantomime are very good.

BRIGHTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr Harcourt M. Beryl.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr Percy Hutchison's company is here this week with *Cousin Kate*. Miss Edith Walker gives a bright and charming impersonation of Kate Curtis; Mr Walter Ringham makes an admirable Heath Desmond; Mr Donald Maclean is well suited as the Rev. James Bartlett; Miss Nina Cressy displays able acting as Mrs Spencer; Miss Hilda Honiss is highly effective as Amy Spencer; Master Vyvian is a capital Bobby Spencer; and Miss Betty Castle's Jane merits praise. The comedy is preceded by *A Case for Eviction*.

AQUARIUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. Bernhardt; Resident-Manager, Mr H. De Groot.—The fairy play, *The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe and the Spelling Bee* has been doing a good business here. Prominent among the successful artistes are Miss Decima Brooke, who makes a very engaging Beatrix, and Mr Arthur St. George, who gives an excellent impersonation of the old woman, Mistress Shoe.

GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr W. F. Crowe.—The pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* continues to attract crowded houses here. It has been materially improved with new songs, dances, and humorous business. Miss Blanche Vincent acts and sings with great charm as Prince Peerless; Miss Madge makes a dainty and winsome Miss Muffitt; Little Rosie Campbell is an engaging Red Riding Hood; Mr Dave O'Toole is a host in himself as Dame Trott; while Messrs Sandford and Lyons (Johnny Stout and Jimmy Green) are amusing and dance admirably. Miss Iren Rose sings tastefully as Fairy Sunshine; Mr Charles Russell is capitally suited as the Baron; the Sisters Lunelle (Tommy Tucker and Margery Daw) win great favour by their nimble and graceful dancing; and Miss Nora Aitkin as the Herald gives her lines with clear enunciation. The Tally-Ho Trio deserve unstinted praise for their artistic and humorous singing.

WEST PIER. — Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr A. D Norman.—The fairy extravaganza, *Bluebell in Fairyland*, entered upon its last week here on Monday. It has attracted crowded and delighted audiences, and Miss Rosalie Jacobie as Bluebell and Mr Walter Cranch as Dicky and the Sleepy King merit unstinted praise for their admirable impersonations.

COLISEUM.—Licensee and Director of Entertainments, Mr Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr C. Smith-Wilkes.—The following are here this week:—George Dainton, who sings "England, Home, and Beauty," and, assisted by his toy fox terrier Biddy, gives a vocal naval scena; Zard, a Spanish Moor, in an oriental speciality; Irene Meldon, comedienne and dancer; Alf Davis, comedian and actor-vocalist; the Two Harveys (Jack and Polly), acrobatic comedy artistes; Ernest Sewell, conjuror and illusionist; Bessie Travis, girl ventriloquist; the Mozondos in their comedy barrel and tumbling act; Pattie M'Carthy, comedienne; and the Coliseum pictures.

BRISTOL.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr James Macready Chute.—Crowded houses continue to be the rule here, all the reserved seats being booked weeks ahead. The popular opinion is that *The Sleeping Beauty* will prove to be about the most successful pantomime produced at the Prince's; for not only is the company an excellent one, but the elaborate spectacles are mounted on a scale of magnificence quite equal to, if not actually surpassing, former years. Miss Lil Hawthorne is highly successful as Prince Florizel; she acts the part really well, and sings her songs in artistic style. Miss Zena Dare is pleasingly refined as Princess Beauty: she has a new song, "Navaho," which is pretty, and has an effective refrain. Miss Dare sings her new song charmingly, and concludes with a graceful dance, in which she is joined by Miss Williams (of the Tiller Troupe), assisted by an invisible chorus. The comedians keep the pantomime going in lively style, much credit being due to Mr W. H. Rawlins, Mr Lionel Victor, Mr George Miller, Mr Albert Le Fre, and Messrs Drew and Alders for the capital way in which they all work together. The matinées on Thursdays and Saturdays are also well attended.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Ernest Carpenter.—*Robinson Crusoe* is very successful, the pantomime is dressed with taste and liberality, the scenery is especially good, and it is well performed by a very capable company. Both Miss Ethel Campbell and Miss Margery Moore are successful in their respective parts of Robinson and Polly Perkins; they have good songs and specialities, and throughout do full justice to their rôles. Miss Minnie Love is pleasing as the Princess Carina, and she can both sing and dance in good style. The Sisters Warner have some excellent specialities of song and dance, and they also play well as Billee Taylor and Nancy Lee. The comedians are all smart in their respective parts, and they put in some capital dancing and funny interludes.

PALACE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs Livermore Bros.; Resident-Manager, Mr Horace Livermore; Secretary, Mr F. J. V. Welchman.—This week Alec Hurley heads the bill with his latest success *The Coster's Friendly Lead*, supported by numerous auxiliaries, and the old favourite, *Lambeth Walk*, is also announced for later in the week. Other good turns are provided by Arthur Reece, with some taking songs and topical illusions; Nelson and Thomas, in their absurdity *On the Ra-Ta*; Wright and Elton (Crazy and Daisy), in an amusing speciality; the Mezzettis, in their smart triple bar speciality, "The New Recruit;" George Foyle, a character vocalist of ability; Miss Alexandra Edwin, a soprano vocalist of considerable merit; E. J. Sheldon, an acceptable speciality comedian; and Miss Amy Sulivan, a pleasing comedienne, with taking songs. The performance concludes with a good display of Vernon's animated pictures.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—The leading turn here is provided by Tom M'Inerney, champion wrestler. Offers of £10 and £50 are made to competitors on certain time limits, and much interest is taken in the bouts with local wrestlers. The Hilgart Arkas Troupe perform many clever acts of agility and strength in "Scenes in a Restaurant." Permane Brothers do a smart eccentric acrobatic act; Leonard and Francis have an amusing "Bull Fight" acrobatic act; Gardner, Griffin, and Gardner have an amusing absurdity, *The Ratcatcher*; Toch and Tard, burlesque artistes, do a good turn; Wal Croft, Scottish comedian, is successful with funny songs, &c.; and Amiel, contortionist, is certainly an expert in his line. The performance, two shows a-night, concludes with some interesting animated pictures.

BROMLEY (KENT).

LYRIC THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr F. B. Woolstenhulme.—Mr Geo. Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's company, in *Judy; or, the Fatal Hand*, has been playing to appreciative audiences this week. Grip, the three-fingered detective with the inscrutable face, needed no better exponent than Mr Geo. Kirk, and Mr Richard Ferris gave a powerful interpretation of the villain, Duburg, the manly character of Sterling, the banker, being adequately dealt with by Mr Wm. Vane. Mr Will Cassey quickly ingratiated himself as Jim, the coster; a capital representation of Giddles, the never-sober showman, being given by Mr. W. Wright. Of the ladies in the cast nothing but praise can be said, and the difficulties of the dual-rôle of Alice (the victim) and Polly (the coster) are no difficulties to Miss Mary Neil; while the portrayal of Blake (the wretch) was a clever exhibition of talent by Miss Violet Langley. Little Miss Florrie Groves, however, as the extraordinarily precocious child of the streets, "Judy," claimed the greatest share of applause, and her performance was in every way worthy of it.

BURNLEY.

GAIETY.—Proprietress, Mrs T. Culeen; Manager, Mr Jas. Culeen.—*The Drama of Life*, played by Messrs Carson and Granville's capable company, is proving an attraction here this week. Mr Walter Steele gives a fine performance of the detective Brenton; Harry Beech is excellently played by Mr Jerrold Ord, and Mr John Hooker submits a lifelike impersonation of the villainous Walter Beech, Miss Cissy Bellamy gives a clever study of the part of Sylvia Beech; Miss Nellie Daly makes the most of Betty Black; Miss Marie Murray is a capital Master Beech; and Mr Owen Redmonde as Sir Dobson Wilde and Miss Muriel English as Lady Wilde give every satisfaction.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr W. C. Haines.—An excellent programme has been arranged for this week. Misses Gallagher and Hild receive warm applause; the Vivians submit an excellent musical travesty; Shang Ho, Jap juggler, gives a wonderful entertainment; the Sisters Magelini Mulleni provide an interesting and clever turn; Viola, wireless telegraph artist, is hugely appreciated; Mystery Gauze is very clever; Mr Ted Cowan, comedian, renders several acceptable contributions; and the Empire Biograph submits a variety of interesting pictures.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.

NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr John Waller.—Pantomime is again the attraction here this week, Mr Henry Eglington bringing his talented company with *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Tilley Stewart, a dashing Robin Hood, in conjunction with Miss Florence Brandon, an ideal principal girl, give their songs and dances in capital style. The Babes, represented by Miss Cissie Williams and Miss Eileen Lovelle, are sympathetic. An efficient Fairy Gloworm is found in Mdlle. Ella Rose; Baron Graball is well placed in the hands of Mr Harry Harcourt; the Dame Durden of Mr Henry Eglington is an extremely droll performance; Mr Harold Perry is sufficiently vindictive as the Gnome, giving a military song during the Palace Scene in a spirited and telling manner. Mr Harry Talbot and Mr H. St. John Stewart are responsible for some genuine fun.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

ATHENÆUM HALL.—Manager, Mr E. A. Crack.—Mr Lilford Arthur's company, with *Jones's Jaunt*, has been here for one night. The piece was played with much spirit, Mr Collette as Jones creating great merriment by his humorous performance. As Smith Mr E. Wintour entered keenly into the fun. Miss R. Chester makes a charming Dollie Bond, Miss Irene Ross as her daughter being well to the front. Miss R. Bury is excellent as Kate, Jones's daughter, and Miss Mabel Luxmore plays cleverly as Beadle. Mr D. Sellar makes a good Tom Breeze

BURY (LANCS).

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling.—Mr Milton Bode's company is playing *Puss in Boots* here this week. The book, by Mr Hickory Wood, is funny. Mr Joe English as King Grabbas, Mr Billy Harmon as Baron Rumphiz, Mr Tommy Nelidon as Muggles, and Mr Harry Buckley as the dame are four very capable comedians. Miss Flo Challis is charming as Colin, and is well assisted by Miss Orpha Paris as Phyllis. There are specialities by the Edene Troupe of dancers and the Dandinis, comedy jugglers.

OLYMPIA CIRCUS OF VARIETIES. — General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling.—An excellent programme is provided here. The Lukushima Troupe of Japanese marvels give a capital show. Other items include the Stavordale Quintette of musicians; Clark and Argyle, pipers and dancers; Akbar, gymnast; George Scott, comedian; Harry Clyo and Rose Rochelle, vocalists; and W. H. Downe, coloured vocalist.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr W. Broadhead, jun.—The bill here includes Franko Bros., conjurors; Chard's dogs; Mill May, vocalist; Arthur Albert, vocalist; Les Laurens; Harleno, paper manipulator; the Sisters Bartholomew, duettists and dancers; and Bruce and Ross, comedy artists.

CAMBRIDGE

NEW THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr W. B. Redfern, J.P.D.L.—On the first three nights of this week *The Earl and the Girl* was played here for the first time by Mr W. Greet's company. Mr Reginald Switz works hard and successfully as Jim Cheese, and in his topical song, "I fancy I'd be satisfied for life," he introduced several smart lines of local interest. Miss Cynthia Carey as 'Liza gave him material assistance; Miss Mary Fraser was simply delightful as Elphim Haye, all her songs being sweetly rendered, particularly "In Zanzibar;" Mr Alec Fraser as Dick Wargrave, though suffering from a bad cold, also acquitted himself smartly, his song, "The Cosy Corner Girl," being much to the taste of the audience; Mr Haddon Cave as the Hon. Crewe Boodle made a great hit in "Here come the Grenadiers; Miss Maud Aston gave a chic representation of Daisy Fallowfield; Miss Maud Adams was very much in evidence as Mrs Shimmering Black; Mr H. B. Brandreth as A. Bunker Bliss, was convincing; Mr Tom Edwards made a good Downham, the American solicitor; and Mr W. T. Hybert was capital as his English confrère. Mdlle. Maud Schwitz showed herself to be a graceful and pretty dancer.

CARDIFF.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Robert Redford.—Mr Robert Redford has made a good beginning with his new season, having secured the welcome engagement of the D'Oyly Carte principal opera company. On Monday the house was packed with an enthusiastic audience, the piece presented being *The Gondoliers*. Mr Fred Billington as Don Alhambra was accorded his usual hearty reception; Mr C. H. Workman as the Duke of Plaza-Toro received very flattering applause; the difficult parts of Marco and Guiseppe Palmieri were capitally portrayed by Messrs Pacie Ripple and Albert Kavanagh; Miss Alice Lisle as Casilda displayed her fine soprano voice to advantage; Miss Nora Maguire and Miss Jessie Rose as the Contadine Gianette and Tessa sang in excellent style; and Miss Theresa Rassam acted with dignity and sang sweetly as the Duchess of Plaza-Toro. The répertoire includes *The Mikado*, *The Yeomen of the Guard*, &c. On Wednesday afternoon, by kind permission of Mr Redford, a fine rendering of *The Pirates of Penzance* was given in aid of the Cardiff Infirmary.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Frank Bateman; Business Manager, Mr Robert Sawlu.—The *pièce de résistance* here is the sensational convict melodrama *Sentenced for Life*, capitally presented by Mr Bulmer's company. Additional attraction is given to the piece by the fact that our popular lessee, Mr Frank Bateman, is the author, and Cardiffians are appreciating the fact by packing the house nightly. Mr Henry Lloyd as the hero Roy Stillwell, Mr Ernest Vaughan as the villainous Captain Derrick, and Mr Richard Greene as the Rev. Martin Orris all deserve high commendation for their excellent portrayals. Mr Ralph De Bulmer does extremely well as Henry Beckwith, and Mr Frank Zara as Percy M'Gentle is responsible for a very comical delineation. Miss Madge Douglas makes a charming Adele Gray, and Miss Florence Trevor an excellent Kate Rennel.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr W. Lea.—The programme this week contains several well-known and popular names. Happy Fanny Fields is making a welcome reappearance and keeping her audiences as "happy" as herself. The popular Harriett Vernon presents her latest successes, and O'Gust, the mimic par excellence, displays his marvellous imitation. The Bros. Horne in their boxing sketch, Alf Gibson, the quaint comedian; and Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten are responsible for successful performances. Other capital turns are given by Ethel Ra Leslie, character vocalist; the Alfonso Trio in a novel juggling performance; Chas. Deane, comedian; and the Bohemians, musical artistes.

CARLISLE.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME.—Proprietress, Mrs P. E. Veitch; Manager, Mr C. Algie.—One of the big turns here is Mr James De Voy, with his educated pony. Another popular and clever turn is provided by the Five Skandias, Danish gymnasts, who introduce many novel features. No less attractive is the performance given by the Frederick Troupe of acrobats, whose work is done in a neat and business-like manner. The Brothers Lavelle provide plenty of fun in their smart and amusing comedy acrobat act, Miss Jessie D'Hiver scores as a top-boot dancer, and Mr Charlie Cowen, eccentric comedian, and new animated pictures prove enjoyable items.

CASTLEFORD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor H. Masterman.—*A Modern Adventuress* is proving a powerful attraction here this week as presented by Messrs Carson and Granville's company. Miss Beatrice M. Anderson gives an able performance as Violet Meredith; Miss Alice Defoe as Vivette Delby is admirable; Wallace Danton is a thorough villain in the hands of Mr Edward M. Hamilton; Harry Delby is played in manly fashion by Mr Royce Carleton; William Delby is successfully enacted by Mr George D. Knight; Mr Leonard Aardale must be highly complimented on his admirable Pietro Donelli; Mr Evan Roland is prominent as the Yorkshireman John Crompton; and Mr George P. Lester as Detective Beale, with many disguises, makes the most of his opportunities. Miss Emily Custance as Sally Hodges contributes endless amusement, and Mr Leonard Montgomery renders admirable service as Steve Meredith.

CHELTENHAM.

OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr H. Oswald Redford.—Mr Martin Harvey and company opened their spring tour here on Monday before a crowded audience. Sydney Carton has never been more finely realised; from first to last it is a wonderful piece of work, and Mr. Harvey again holds the house throughout. Miss Amy Coleridge plays with her wonted grace and sympathy as Lucy Manette; Miss Grete Hahn as Mimi acts with simplicity and sweetness, sharing with Mr Harvey the honours of the final scene; Mr Charles Glenny submits a fine study of Defarge; Mr Percy Anstey's study as the young Evremonde is thoughtful, and as the elder Marquis in the prologue he does very well; Mr Fred Wright, sen., is an admirable Dr. Manette; Messrs Pat Alexander and Reeve Denbigh enliven the proceedings as Mr Lorry and Mr Stryver; Mr Chas. J. Cameron as the President of the Tribunal and Mr Geo. Cooke as the Public Prosecutor act with force and dignity; and Mr Arthur Maude contributes an impressive study of the dying peasant, Jean Defarge, in the prologue.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr G. T. Sante; Secretary, Mr J. Clay.—Mr Charles Majilton is paying one of his welcome visits here with *Round the Clock*. The company is an excellent one and much appreciated, Mr Charles Majilton undertakes Gabriel Gadforth with his usual agility and laughter-making style, and is capitally supported by Mr Jim Bond as Mr Bartle Burke. Mr Fred Wilson undertakes David Denby successfully, and Mr Herbert Ashmore as Old Gewgaw and Mr P. A. White, the policeman, are also good. Miss Maddie Majilton capably renders Mdlle. Salprunelle, Miss Carrie Foy sustains Mary Chatterton admirably, and Miss Nellie Clare as Mrs Gadforth and Miss Vesta Brownie as Bertie Kelvin meet with approval.

COLNE (LANCS).

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Gerald Harding.—*The Beautiful Avenger*, as presented by Mr Arthur Richmond's company, is all that can be desired both in regard to acting and scenic effects. Mr Algernon Syms gives a powerfully realistic impersonation of Cyrus Telford; Jim Jahms has a capital representative in Mr Arthur Richmond; and Zadox Foxbane and Herman Foxbane are in the able hands of Mr Edwin Walton and Mr Charles Doe. The rôle of Peregrine Patch is ably presented by Mr Bert Ellis; and chief interest is centred in the admirable embodiment of Vashti Volta by Miss Nannie Mead and the clever delineation of Edna Volta by Miss Cissie Podmore. A special word of praise must be given to Miss Lillian Morgan for her natural representation of Baldie Mansfield; and Miss Lillian Hawkins greatly enhances the play by her sprightly rendering of Arabella Binks.

CLYDEBANK.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Wilson.—Mr C. P. Levilly's company is here in the attractive comic opera, *Amorelle*. Mr Arthur Cozens as Jules is the possessor of a fine voice; Miss Adah Gray as Leslia is worthy of the highest praise; Mr Leon Simkin works hard as Dr. Napoleon Bonaparte Crow; Miss Dot Stephens makes a delightful Amorelle, her singing being especially good; Miss Jessie Hales makes an entertaining Mdlle. Ribot; Mr Edward Granby is highly successful as François, and so is Mr Horace Manger as Alphonso and Mr Arthur Elwyn as the Count of Cideaux. Mr Fred Carrington scores as Dotard, and Mr George Paulton makes much of Harpagon.

COLCHESTER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr Chas. Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr F. Graham Macdona.—The Brothers Renad are here this week in *The Swiss Express*. Mr Wilford Bailey as Dr. Gull and the Renads as the servants are most amusing and grotesque. The Four Brighton Girls contribute largely to the success of the performance by their clever dancing and topical singing.

CONSETT.

NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr Lloyd Clarance.—Mr J. F. Preston's company is here this week. On Monday *Lady Godiva* was presented. Miss Grace Lester gave a careful rendering of the title-rôle, and as Lady Aldwyth Miss Marcella Hudson was pleasing. Mr Jas. Duncan was a capable Leofric; as Algar Mr W. Howard Barlow was a complete success; Edgar lost nothing in the hands of Mr Reginald Brown; the comedy element was well supplied by Mr Dan F. Roe as Robin Shakelbolt and Miss Madge Boulter as Elfrida; Mr Clifford Marle was very good as Unwolf Unwolfsen; and as Tom o' Coventry Mr F. B. Woulfe displayed talent of no mean order. *Nell Gwynne* and *Jane Shore* have also been produced during the week.

CROYDON.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Lawson Lambert; Acting-Manager, Mr Reginald Lawrence.—Mr Frederick Mouillot's company is receiving cordial greetings in the tuneful and entertaining comic opera *My Lady Molly*. In the title-rôle Miss Beatrice Edwards acts with great charm of manner, and makes many friends. Miss Zoe Gilfillan wins approbation in the part of Alice Coverdale; Miss Mabel Carr is very good as Hester; and Mdlle. Ebba Darcier is seen to advantage as Madeline Mirabeau. Mr Ernest Mozar is easy and natural in the rôle of Lionel Bland; Mr H. Godwin Hunt hits off to a nicety the part of Sir Miles Coverdale; and Mr George M'Closkie is brimful of genuine fun as Mickey O'Dowd. A good word is also due to Messrs Frederick Silverton, J. Walton, M. Stevens, and V. Gally as Reuben Oats, Judge Romney, the Head Groom, and Roger; whilst adequate impersonations of Alison and Lucy are given by Misses Hilda Marks and Kate Holmes. Mr Leonard Gautier's talented orchestra wins encomiums for their masterly rendering of the music.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr Newman Maurice.—*The Midnight Mail* is being creditably staged at the Royal this week. Mr Fred G. Evison is much appreciated in a well-thought-out rendering of Billy Brewer; Mr George Harvard is commendable as Harry Steyne; Mr Alec Alves is earnest as Leonard Royle; Mr Arthur Gilroy is well placed as Hassan Padisha; Mr Charles M'Cann is convincing as Donald Craig; Mr Warburton makes the most of his opportunities in the rôle of Edward Barclay; Mr C. P. Wentworth gives a neat character sketch of Jasper Thornleigh; and Mr M. O. Wills takes a prominent position as Sergeant O'Lynn. Miss Dolly Gilroy is a pretty little Patty; Miss Daisy Clifford is quite equal to the rôle of Lady Phyllis Eustace; Miss Mildred Carr is exactly suited to the vivacious part of Nancy Brewer; and Miss Ada Oakley wins much sympathy with her fine acting in the character of Mary Steyne.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Resident General Manager, Mr Eustace H. Jay.—The attractions here are again very good. Mr George Gray and company gain unstinted applause in the graphic and realistic sketch *The Fighting Parson*, which is admirably acted. Millie Howell is a high-class comedienne; Harrigan and Holt are a droll pair of patter comedians; Lillie Lassah is a pleasing serio and dancer; Marcelle Eirl is a pretty descriptive vocalist; Will Driscoll, comedian and dancer, is excellent; Les Frères Baptiste are clever in their juggling act; Little Bessie Spear is a smart song and dance artiste; and Rosie Cass, comedienne; Bert Lytton, comedian; Mabel Vine, serio; and the Sisters Redfern, banjoists, are also well received.

CORK.

OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr John Horgan.—The Moody-Manners' company opened here on Monday night with Bizet's opera, *Carmen*. The performance was of a very high standard. Mdlle. De Lussan as Carmen sang with excellent taste and judgment, and her acting was most artistic. Mr Joseph O'Mara as Don Jose was remarkably successful, his firm voice being heard to great advantage, and his acting in the scenes with Carmen, and particularly in the final scene, being full of dramatic power. Mr William Dever as Escamillo supplied a picturesque toreador, and gained an encore for the Toreador song. Miss Kate Anderson as Michaela was effective; as Mercedes Miss J. M'Carthy was successful; and the minor parts were filled capably as follows:—Il Remendado, Mr H. Bailey; Il Dancairo, Mr Charles Moppett; Morales, Mr N. Davidson; Zuniga, Mr G. Renshaw; and Frasquita, Miss N. Child. The choruses were well rendered, and the orchestra, under the conductorship of Herr Richard Eckhold, gave a finished rendering of the composer's rich orchestration. *Il Trovatore*, *The Jewess*, *Mignon*, *La Traviata*, and *Maritana* are in the répertoire.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Henry Kemble.—An excellent bill-of-fare is provided here. The principal turn is furnished by Atlas and Vulcana (brother and sister) who do some wonderful feats in weight-lifting. Charlie Williams pleases in his Negro songs, and he dances well; Olive Vane, male impersonator, gives a couple of pleasing songs; Tony Iveson is an excellent mimic and entertainer; May Geraldine sings some catchy airs, and is a pretty dancer; Kyoto does some good sleight-of-hand tricks, and is an excellent contortionist; La Modele is pleasing in her posing as classic figures; and Les Bollingers produce on a dark screen some beautiful landscape pictures composed of rags.

COVENTRY.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr Wm. Bennett.—A capital romantic play entitled *A Royal Revenge* is being presented at the above house this week by Mr J. H. Clyndes, supported by an excellent company. The piece is a collaboration of Adrian O'Connell, J. Fox, and Eugene M'Carthy. Mr J. H. Clyndes amply fulfils the part of Estevan Alvarez, who is afterwards seen to advantage as the Marquis De Santiago. Mr Charles Jordan is quite capable in the part of Manuel Mondega; Mr Jack Bigwood as Michael Sancha, a typical innkeeper, is responsible for a deal of merriment; Mr Geoffrey Broughton plays the pleasure-seeking King of Spain with success; Mr Richard Webb is a good Friar Dominic; Miss Bessie Elma capably portrays the part of Inez Alvarez; Miss Evelyn Shannon as Cora Casilda, a gipsy dancing girl, is admirable; and Miss Lizzie Lennon is a good Mother Maria Teresa.

CREWE.

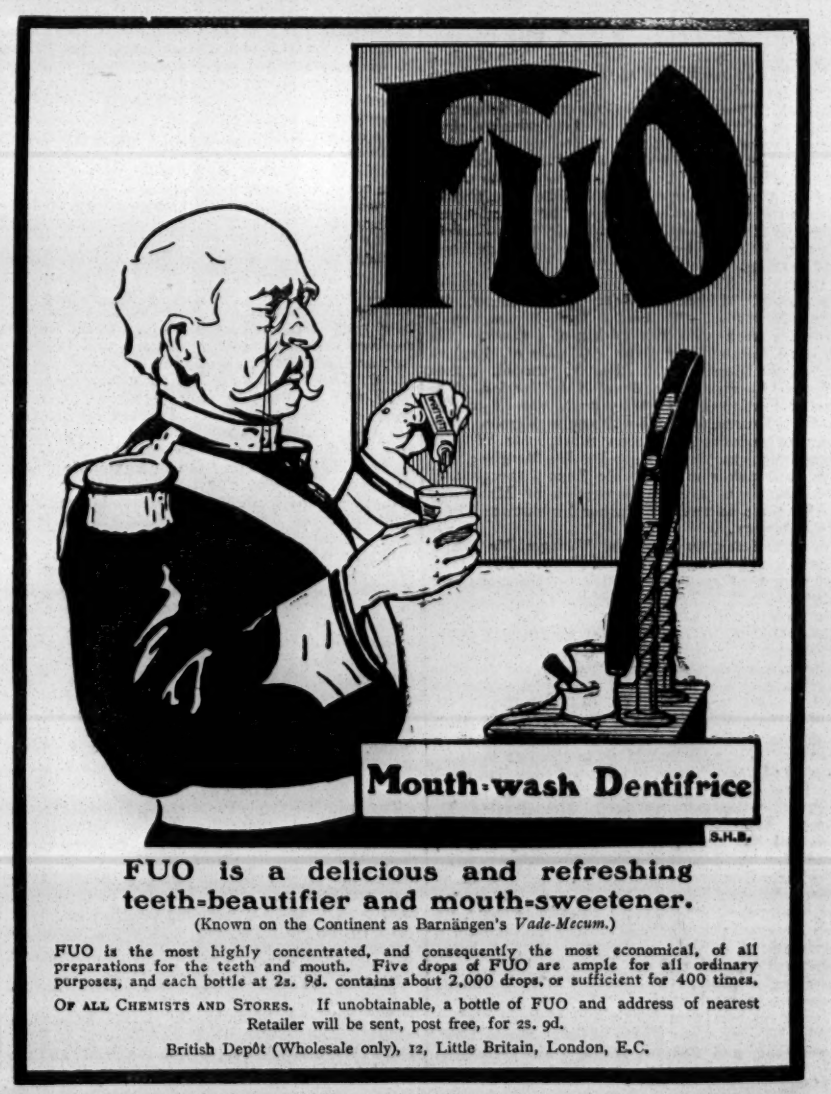
LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Henry Taylor.—The Moody-Manners Opera company has been paying a welcome return visit here, *Carmen*, presented on Monday, was greatly appreciated; Miss Teify Davis in the title-rôle acquitted herself in excellent fashion; Mr Charles Carter as Don Jose made a deep impression with his singing, his higher notes being especially noteworthy. Miss Grace Nicoll was very well received as Michaela, her sweet voice being much admired; Mr Walter Barratt achieved much success as Escamillo. The other parts were well sustained. *Lohengrin* was played to a good house on Tuesday with Miss Enriqueta Crichton as Elsa. There was a matinée of *Faust* on Wednesday, and *The Bohemian Girl* occupied the evening bill; *La Traviata* was selected for Thursday, *Tannhäuser* for Friday, and the ever-popular *Maritana* is announced for to-day.

CROOK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr Wallace Davidson.—Messrs Callan and Croke's company is here in *Florodora*. As Dolores Miss Maud Lake is charmingly dainty, and her several songs are admirably rendered. — As Lady Holyrood Miss Cissy Sephton presents an artistic portrayal, and sings sweetly. Miss May Yates gives a bright impersonation of Angela, and Mr Frank Grans is a dashing Captain Donegal. Mr Arthur Lenville creates much amusement as Tweedlepunch, and Mr Wm. Everard, whose voice is heard to advantage in "Under the shade of the palms," is a manly Frank Abercoed. As Cyrus W. Gilfain Mr C. Young Fixott does well.

DARLINGTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manageress, Mrs T. W. S. Jennings.—Mr Brandon Thomas's company is here this week with *Charley's Aunt*. Mr Edmund Baker as Lord Fancourt Babberley gives an excellent performance; Mr M'Causland Stewart as Colonel Chesney is capital; Mr Henry Brame as Brassett is admirable; Jack Chesney and Charles Wykeham are well played by Messrs Edward Bonfield and Wylie Thompson; Mr Henry Nelson does well as



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Spettigue; Miss Gertrude Le Sage as the real Charley's Aunt gives great satisfaction; Miss Marion Fitzgerald is an acceptable Ela Delahay; Miss M. Scharning is successful as Kitty Verdon; and Miss E. Baker is a capable Amy Spettigue.

DARWEN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr E. L. Ormsby.—An enthusiastic reception was accorded on Monday to Messrs Griffin and Drake's successful pantomime of *Dick Whittington*. Miss Lily Jackson is an ideal Dick, her sprightly acting soon making her a great favourite; Miss Emmie Hands is a pleasing and attractive Alice, her numerous songs being tastefully rendered; Alderman Fitzwarren is capitally depicted by Mr Ben Ford, who, along with Mr Will Dennis as Idle Jack and Mr Mark Lane as Martha Muggins, is responsible for the fun. Mr Jack Simpson, a contortionist of ability, makes an excellent Cat. Miss Gladys Wells scores as Fairy Blue Bell, singing exceptionally well. Mr E. Jason combines the duties of general-manager with the rôle of the Emperor of Morocco successful, and Mr Ted Lambert is a good Demon King. The specialities include Mdlle. Luba De Sarema with a sensational display with a mountain bull, two ponies, bucking donkey, &c.; the Yorkshire Mill Lasses, who sing excellently; and the Sisters Brenton, in a capital exhibition of dancing.

DERBY.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General Manager, Mr J. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr Charles Denley.—Mr Frank Curzon's company is this week giving the first productions locally of the popular Strand musical comedy *Sergeant Brue*. Mr Victor Widdicombe in the name part scores a complete success, and the Crookie Scrubbs of Mr Geo. Barrett is also a thoroughly satisfactory assumption. Mr E. Percy Rodgers as Michael Brue and Mr Arthur Stroud as Gerald Treherne are both praiseworthy. Mr Cyril Burt as Mr Crank interprets the rôle in a highly intelligent fashion, and Mr Harold Goodwin does well as Inspector Goringe. Miss Violet Dene is to be heartily complimented upon her depiction of Lady Bickenhall, and the gifted rendering of the songs allotted to her is equally pleasing. Miss Constance Lait plays well as Aurora Brue, and has a couple of songs which she contributes with considerable taste and effect. A clever and vivacious Daisy is found in Miss Eliza Earle.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr T. Allan Edwardes.—The Magic Kettle, as the principal attraction here this week, is causing a great sensation, and local patrons are literally bewildered at its truly magical properties. Walter Adams, an exceedingly quaint comedian, is well received; Michel and Polo, two clever athletes, secure hearty marks of appreciation; and Steel and Laing, American speciality artists, merit special praise. Kavados is a skilful juggler and equilibrist, his feats with a cannon ball being duly acknowledged. Flo Melville, a pleasing comedienne and soubrette, soon finds favour with her audience. An amusing sketch is provided by Cavern and Cave, called *An Early Morning Dip*, and Le Hurst is well up in his polyphonic business.

DONCASTER.

NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr J. W. Chapman.—On Monday the romantic play entitled *Way Men Love Women* was successfully presented here by Messrs Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company. Mr Alfred Paumier gave an interesting rendering of Gerald Fielding; Mr Bensley Evans was well placed as Sergt. Stanloff; Tommy Fitzherbert, an English officer, had an able exponent in Mr W. G. Hardy; Mr Edwin Lever's interpretation of the Maharajah of Balore, a native prince, was acceptable; the Rev. Edward Grey was capably enacted by Mr R. Calvert Haws; and roars of laughter were evoked by Mr Harwood Roberts, whose impersonation of Orlando Figgins it would have been difficult to excel. Matilda Figgins was intelligently undertaken by Miss Marie Glynne. Miss Annie Saker upheld the responsibilities of the title-rôle with an easy confidence.

DUBLIN.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Limited; General Manager, Mr Charles Hyland.—The successful pantomime *The Sleeping Beauty*, which has entered on its fifth week here, continues to draw packed houses. An attraction has been added in La Loie Fuller, whose luminous creations are marvels of beauty.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr Arthur Armstrong.—The pantomime *Puss in Boots*, by J. Hickory Wood, was produced here on Monday, and was patronised by the Lord-Lieutenant, Countess Dudley, and Viceregal party. Miss Minnie Jeffs is captivating as Colin, rendering her vocal numbers in a charming manner. Mr Martin Adeson as King Grabbus and Mr Fred Lyne as Dame Shortly are irresistibly comic. As Fritz, the waiter, Paul Cinquevalli introduces some clever tricks; the rôle of Phyllis is excellently played by Miss Edith Adeson, her coon song and dance being much admired; and as Prince Rudolph Miss Dorothy Sephton displays considerable ability. The Cecilian Glee Singers are highly successful, and the same may be said of Tiller's Seperba Quartet of dancers. Miss Florence Esdaile gives a delightful rendition of the rôle of Princess Ivy (principal girl), singing her songs in a most cultured manner, and as Navaho Little Stella is applauded for her excellent dancing. Slyboots (king of cats) has an able representative in Bert Lloyd, and Miss Josephine Colona is seen to advantage as Felina. As Muggles and Digestus Mr Marriott Edgar and Mr Allan Davenport are both excellent. The scenery is magnificent and the dresses are beautiful.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. W. Whitbread; General Manager, Mr Kennedy Miller.—Mr Leslie Vyner's company is here this week with *The Lightning's Flash*. Mr Leonard Robson enacts the dual-part of Stephen and Mark Merrick, and Miss F. Russell Spiers effectively portrays the rôle of Kate Merrick. The part of Gordon Garville is capitally played by Mr Sydney Kearns, and Miss Blanche Vernon is all that can be desired as Selina Slack. Mr William Harridane is particularly good as Jim Bargiss; Miss Eva Reed makes pn acceptable Zuzu; the part of Toby Gander is played with success by Mr Harry M. Vernon; and as Sam Parker Mr Maurice Grant is satisfactory.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr A. S. Figgis.—The principal item this week is supplied by Robertus and Wilfredo, ball manipulators, whose clever performance meets with appreciation. Another excellent turn is that of the Loro Quartet of musical comedians, and the efforts of the Raies, duettists and dancers, are well rewarded. Rose Archer displays much ability as a mimic, and George Bohee meets with a hearty reception. Driscoll and Beattie do well in their sketch *Major M'Fee, M.P.*, and Alice Simmons renders her vocal items in a charming manner. Mezzetti and Mora are expert bar performers; Charles Vincent is a smart comedian; and the Empire pictures are as pleasing as ever.

TIVOLI.—General Manager, Mr Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr H. A. Murphy.—Jack Ross and Sue Lewis, American speciality artistes, head the bill here this week and score a success. The Three Seabornes, equilibrists, supply welcome entertainment; John E. West is a capital Scotch comedian; the Three Sherrys, comedy acrobats, are well received; and Harland and Rollison are a clever pair of musical grotesques. Book Pylades' impersonations of past and present celebrities are exceedingly good; the Three Sisters Adrienne, comediennes, merit applause; Reddick Anderson is an excellent vocal comedian; and Comical Walker and his Nippers cause plenty of fun. Bessie Lind, comedienne, and Reklaw, rolling-globe performer, complete the programme.

DOVER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Limited; Managing Director, Mr F. C. Dew.—The delightful comedy *The Marriage of Kitty*, portrayed by Mr Frank Wilson and company, is paying a welcome return visit here this week. The cast has undergone some slight alteration since the play was here in July, but Miss Vera Fordyce still continues to charm all beholders by her natural, unaffected, and entirely womanly impersonation of Kitty. The honours of the evening are also shared by Miss Kate Harwood, whose brilliant rendering of the difficult part of Madame De Semiano is most striking and effective. A smart little French maid has been found in Miss Elsie Saville, and Norbury, as played by Mr F. Leighton, is a most amusing performance. Mr Leighton is also responsible for the excellent stage-management. To Mr Leslie Tyler the part of Sir Reginald Belsize has been given, and this gentleman proves himself an actor of exceptional talent and undoubted experience. Mr Frank Wilson, who is now playing John Travers, deserves congratulations on an earnest and convincing portrayal; and Mr Walter Craig is good in the minor rôle of Hampton.

DUMFRIES.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr W. E. Potts.—We were favoured this week for the first three nights with Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr J. Leicester Jackson's company, in *Her One Great Sin*. Mr Henry W. Hatchman as Reuben Warhurst, the village carpenter, was well placed; Mr J. Leicester Jackson as Arnold Thornhill was a success; Mr Fred Hodson as Jerry Jumble and Mr Charles E. Lambert as Dan Hundle were both very good; and Mr Jack Royston as Mr Benton was effective. Miss Blanche St. Albans as Grace Warhurst was responsible for a sympathetic rendering, and Miss Maudie Lambert as Little Gracie was very quaint. Macdonald's company, in *My Lady Molly*, came on Thursday.

DUNDALK.

TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Under the management of Mr Payne Seddon we have had a welcome visit from Mr Charles Macdona's company this week, in *A Country Girl*. As Barry Mr Walter Champney was excellent, keeping the house in high good humour. Miss Combe was a smart Nan and Miss Beatrice Rowe was very successful as Marjorie Joy. The rôle of Geoffrey Chaloner was quite safe in the hands of Mr Guy Williams, his singing being loudly applauded. Mr Jack Parson was very happy as the Rajah of Bhong; Miss De Lacey was a haughty Princess, playing her part with much ability; Mr Besley Beltram was a capital Douglas Verity, as well as being successful as stage-manager. Others who acted with ability were Miss Kitty Stone, Miss Laura Bagland, and Messrs George Stone, Wallace Ross, and C. Rickards.

DUNDEE.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Will Parker; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr Alf Ross.—That charming trifle, *The Children's Party*, continues to attract crowds, and has several new features introduced. A marvellous exhibition of sensational cycling is given by the Tom Davies Trio in "Whirling the Whirl;" Will Godwin is favourably known in Dundee as a capable actor-vocalist, and scores with his vocal scena; the Zampas contribute a smart speciality act; and the Maros excel as triple-bar performers; Leighton and Mona produce a musical comedy act, which provokes loud laughter; and Charles Gardener, comedian, does well. Haig and Novel in acrobatic comedy score a success; and the bill is completed by Mons. Zouroff, mimic; and Fred Collins, Scotch comic.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Frank Percival.—*Little Red Riding Hood* has entered on its second week. It has proved a distinct success, and with the well-chosen and clever artistes engaged, everything moves along with a delightful swing. This week much new business has been introduced, and a successful run is assured.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Frank Percival.—A special week here opened on Monday with Mr J. Rice Cassidy and company in the musical comedy-drama, *Dan the Rake*. Mr Cassidy appears in the rôle of Dan, and interprets the part with true Hibernian humour. Miss Lilian Claro as Madge, the gipsy girl, gives a charming impersonation; Miss Ada Roscoe as the Blind Mother of Dan is sympathetic; Miss F. Halton as Helen acts well; Mr Frank Orchard as Colonel Flamer is satisfactory; and Mr F. Copeland as Lieut. Kavanagh is dashing and manly. Mr Frederick Biron as the villain is successful.

EASTBOURNE.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr A. Standen Triggs.—The dramatic bill usually offered here is changed this week for Biograph pictures of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. The animated pictures are interesting, and variety is introduced by Miss Lily Carrick, a pleasing vocalist; Mr G. Gilroy, an excellent ventriloquist; and Mr T. Carrick, a funny patterer and singer.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr George Hayes.—Mr E. O. Brooks' company is appearing here during the week in *The Girl from Bond Street*. Miss Marie Vere is a pretty and dainty Lucy; Miss Ethel Russel is a refined and pleasing Lady Fielding; and Miss Doris Regan, a pert Lotty. Miss Maud Beard is an effective Mrs Harvey, and Miss Ivy Alberto an animated Edna. Mr Campbell Goldsmid has a capital voice, and is an excellent Seacombe; Mr George Watts does well as Sir George Fielding, and Mr F. R. Heaton ably fills the part of Archie. The comedy element is well sustained by Mr Edward De Vere as Micky. Quite a feature of the performance is the very smart dancing contributed by the New York Quartet.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Samuel Lloyd.—A strong bill is being offered to the patrons of this house twice nightly. Messrs Hall and Earle are among the best tumblers and acrobats seen here, and their clever, smart turn is received with acclamation. Barton and Ashley, a lady and gentleman, provide fun in a most original style. The Herald Comedy Four remain from last week, and their very tuneful singing and attractive dancing are again popular. Barnard's marionettes are very skilfully worked on the pretty mimic stage. Celest is a daring wire-walker; Dan Filmer an amusing comic singer; Lozelle a gymnast of great strength; Miss Ena Beryl pleases with voice and mandoline; and fresh films are shown in the Hippodrome pictures.

EBBW VALE.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Manager, Mr Arthur Knight.—Mr Wentworth Croke's company is appearing here for the first time in *The Christian*. Miss Grace Chalmers in the difficult part of Glory Quayle is both powerful and pathetic; John Storm as played by Mr Hilliard Vox, is popular throughout; Mr Stanley Ridcliff makes a dignified Father Lamplugh; the part of Lord Robert Ure is in the capable hands of Mr Charles B. Bedells; and Mr Jackson Wilcox is excellently placed as Horatio Drake. Miss Clara Nicholls is distinctly good as Mrs Callander; and the other parts are well filled.

EDINBURGH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs Howard and Wyndham, Limited; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter Hollister.—*Jack and the Beanstalk* continues to be repeated here to crowded houses, business at the same period of the year never having been so good. As a spectacle the pantomime is unsurpassed, and in providing features of merriment so lavishly for old and young alike the management have created one of the chief elements of a popular success.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs Howard and Wyndham, Limited; General Manager, Mr G. T. Minshull.—On Monday Mr George Edwardes's company brought *The Duchess of Dantzig* to Edinburgh after a month's sojourn in the West, and the reception accorded to the opera by a large and appreciative audience was enthusiastic in the extreme. Miss Amy Augarde won all hearts with a singularly spirited rendering of Catherine Upscher, her performance being of notable dramatic effect and of the highest lyric rank. Miss Luna Love was a charming Lisette, singing well, while the important part of Renée De Saint-Mezard was played by Miss Lillian Digges in a very talented manner, her singing also being effective. The Empress Josephine was represented with due dignity by Miss Mabel Lorrell and Misses Kate Traill and Doris La Tour appeared successfully as the sisters of Napoleon. Other parts by Misses M. Mallison, F. Snell, Irene Edwards, and Connie Ross were effectively filled. For Mr Matthew Brodie's Napoleon we have nothing but praise. The rôle could not have been placed in better hands, and for his presentment and performance we must record our heartiest admiration. It was vivid, life-like, and always historical, and carried through in every scene with a reserve of power that spoke worlds in favour of the well-graced young actor. After such a meritorious piece of work Mr Brodie's incursion into the domain of romantic light opera should never be regretted. Mr Herbert Clayton gave a commendable picture of the bluff Sergeant Lefebvre, afterwards Duke of Dantzig, and sang admirably; while the vocal numbers of Mr Reginald Kenneth, first as Vicomte De Bethune and afterwards Adhemar, were delivered with fine artistic effect. Mr T. W. Volt made the character of Papillon a highly amusing one, and fully sustained his reputation as a comedian of humour and refinement. His business in the second act was thoroughly diverting, and assisted by Miss Augarde caused unbounded merriment. The dresses were magnificent, the costly furniture of the period, and Mr J. Harker's three set scenes were very beautiful, while to Mr Robert Courtneidge all praise is due for the historical accuracy of the production. Mr J. B. Gordon proved an ideal stage manager, and Mr P. W. Hilton conducted.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll.—The top line on the bill this week is the Japanese Guards, a troupe of young ladies who perform a sort of military drill with astonishing agility and effect. The Jackson Family, who are well known here, give their popular musical entertainment with increased success, while Brown and Robinson whose voices harmonise well, render a number of favourite songs with huge success. The Wotpert Trio of acrobats; the Three Georgis, in the same line; Baldwin Brothers, and Morris and Morris, who are comedians as well as acrobats, perform many novel feats, and Billy Hobbs makes an excellent impression as a coon singer and dancer, his whole performance being first-class. Little Uno, the boy comedian, is following in father's footsteps, and mother's too. Miss Lily Tiso, a pleasant singer and dancer, and the Sakers, lively as ever, and with lots of fresh business, complete the bill.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Eade Montefiore.—In framing the book of *Little Red Riding Hood* Mr Victor Stevens has written one of the best pantomimes ever produced in Edinburgh. Its success on Monday when presented by Mr George Brydon-Phillips' company was most emphatic, and this theatre should be packed to the doors nightly for many weeks to come. The cast was first-rate, and included Mr Fred Hallam, who cut a droll figure as the Wicked Squire; while Mr J. W. Brighton as the Wolf, and Mr J. E. Connor as Simple Simon and Mr C. Brady as a Fat Boy added largely to the fun, which was never allowed to flag. As played by Mr Frank Dunlop, Granny is likely to be highly popular here. The Lawyer Slyfox of Mr Fowler Fletcher was a really splendid piece of burlesque, while, on the other hand, its quaintness and humour, so appropriate in a pantomime, were most enjoyable. In this performance Mr Fowler Thatcher proved himself to be an artist to the finger-tips. Miss Florrie Forde made a positively peerless Prince and had an enthusiastic reception on coming forward. Her success was immediate and immense, and she delighted the public with an altogether charming and piquant performance. As may be imagined, Miss Forde's songs took the house by storm, "My Nightingale" and "Navaho," with its picturesque setting, being notably successful. "The Bull and Bush," which is specially Miss Forde's own, was rapturously received, and, sung as she only can sing it, had to be repeated again and again. Miss Forde's handsome figure was seen to perfection in a dazzling display of dainty dresses, all being remarkable for their elegance and artistic effect. Miss Gertie Gitana made an admirable appearance as Red Riding Hood, and with her tasteful acting, cultured singing, and sympathetic style secured the goodwill of the audience from the very first. Miss Millie Denham sang effectively as Jack, and Miss Doris Lillian did some neat and clever dancing as Jill. Miss Marie West played the Fairy Gossamer with spirit, and Miss Florence Fredrica was a captivating Cupid. A feature of the first part of the production was the appearance of E. R. Dainez's circus, including the clever donkey, Smiler, and highly trained pony and the famous leaping dogs. This part of the entertainment called forth tumultuous applause. Specialities by the Du Gros Trio, O'Connor and Brady, and Gertie Gitana were given, and in a pretty winter ballet introduced in the fourth scene the Mesdames Carrie and Alice King appeared as principal dancers. The pantomime was produced under the stage direction of Mr Louis Stanislaus, the music arranged by Mr Alex Humphries, who presided in the orchestra; and Mr Percy Krone is the general manager.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Tom Ellis.—Mr Herbert Fuller's drama, *The Passion of Life*, was presented here on Monday evening and heartily received. While the action is chiefly of an exciting nature, a number of variety turns are introduced, and these, of course, find much favour with the audience. The principal characters by Messrs Francis Everard, H. Evan Gibbon, Harold Wallace, and Fawcett Lomax; and Misses Agnes Collier and Edith Mitchell were effectively filled.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr John Henry Cooke.—Very excellent business is being done here, and in point of variety and attraction the present week's programme is one of the best. In her representation of classical statuary Miss Ernestine Rosa introduced a picturesque and enjoyable performance that gave the highest satisfaction to a crowded assemblage of her admirers on Monday. Mr John Irvin executed some remarkable feats of juggling on horseback, and Miss Pinder was warmly received in a clever trotting act, a flight of birds assisting with pleasing effect. Mons. Nivri proved an expert foot equilibrist, and Vincent's somersaults from high tables were both novel and daring. Selbo appeared as a manipulator of Indian clubs, and the whirlwind tumbling of the Arab Azieky evoked loud applause. The acrobatic turn of the Brothers Laure was smart and amusing, and the Biograph pictures, which have been shown nightly all through the season, are as popular as ever. "Aqua-wreck," with its water sensation and other manifold features, is causing quite a cataract of coin to flow into the treasury here, and is received with well-deserved favour nightly.

EXETER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Secretary and Manager, Mr Fred Pollard; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy M. Dunsford.—*The Girl from Chicago* is being presented here this week by Mr Henry Hare's company. Judge Hussel is effectively portrayed by Mr Buckstone Clair; Mr E. Dodds sings and dances cleverly as Billy M'Guffin; and General Boomer receives excellent treatment at Mr Hare's hands. Obadiah Cackles as depicted by Mr Clarence Ibbotson is a mirth-provoking character; the Dude is capably played by Mr George Doyle; Miss Nellie Vicott makes a humorous Lucretia Flatfoot; Miss Ida Kessanly finds favour in the name-part; and Miss Cissie Hilton is a capital Mrs Sweetlove.

FALKIRK.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr Horace W. Ebbutt.—Mr Chas. Macdona's company with the popular musical comedy, *A Chinese Honeymoon*, held the boards of this house on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Miss Cissy Scofield as Fi-Fi was a great favourite; Miss Mamie Finbow made a pleasant and attractive Soo-Soo; as Mrs Pineapple Miss Mabel Carlton came in for much favour; and Mr H. Welchman as Tom Hatherton, Mr Lester Carry as Hang-Chow, Mr Percy Stephens as Chippie-Chop, Mr Tom Birch as Li-Hung, and Mr Geo P. Ascot as Mr Pineapple all proved themselves capable. *The Duke of Killicrankie* was presented by Mr Leigh Lovel's company on Thursday.

FARNWORTH.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr T. Morton Powell.—Miss Renee Glendower's company in *The Ladder of Life* is paying us a visit this week. General Gordon is ably presented by Mr Tyrone Power; Mr Roy F. Gascoigne gives a clever representation of Colonel Macgregor; and Messrs C. H. Matthews and Roy Milton make the most of their parts as Fergus Gordon and David Gordon. Miss Stephanie Baring plays capably in the difficult part of Olga Sobinsky; and as Meg Merrilees Miss Flora Leslie is excellent. The Feros give a good acrobatic performance as the human ladder.

FOLKESTONE.

PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr H. W. Rowland.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr Percy Hutchison company was here the first part of the week in *Saturday to Monday*. Mr Stuart Champion gave a natural rendering of the rôle of Lord Calvert; Mr Jack Hampton made an admirable Probyn Dyke; Mr Edwin Ling as the Rev. Toop was excellent; Mr Dallas Welford was clever and humorous as Stanley Pidding; Miss Hilda Tressilian was pleasing as Mrs Wendover; Miss Adeline Lester did ample justice to the part of Lady Diana; Miss Kitty Doyle was well suited as Angela; Miss Madge Barton and Miss Charlotte Mead sustained their respective parts of Miss Toop and Miss Skeet with great success; and Miss Olive Loftus Leyton was a capable Thompson. The comedy is preceded by the well-known piece *Judged by Appearances*. Mr Charles Macdona's company in *Three Little Maids* occupied the boards on Thursday.

GAINSBOROUGH.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton.—This week we have had here Mr John F. Asche's company, in *The World*. Mr Stuart Lomath is well placed as Sir Clement; Mr Francis Hawley as Harry Huntingford is prominent; Miss Beatrice Fay is excellent as Mary; Miss Octavia Noel gives a good portrayal of Mabel; Mr Bernard Lieli is amusing as the Jew; and the other characters are in capable hands.

GATESHEAD.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Bolam and Bacon; General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Straughan.—The strong variety bill submitted here is headed by the Bellong Brothers, who provide a sensational cycle balancing act. Mdlle. Kloët poses as famous characters. Harry Coates, the original singing navvy, also gives a first-rate entertainment. The Fordyces, vocalists and expert dancers, cause much amusement; as do also Hill, Barry, and Lang, in a sketch entitled *A Hot Reception*. Smith and Johnson, coloured vocalists, sing well, and other entertaining turns are provided by Rappo, equilibrist and acrobat, and Vasey and Ramsey, in their comedy dancing act.

GLASGOW.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy Humphries.—Capital business continues to be done by *The Forty Thieves*. On Monday evening Miss Annie Purcell was obliged, through indisposition, to give up her part, which was taken, at short notice, by Miss Annie Braddon, who made a very successful Ganem. She has a sweet voice which she uses to advantage, and otherwise made a very acceptable understudy. Mr Tom E. Murray as Ali Baba and Mr Fred Griffiths as Ibrahim keep everybody in a merry mood. Mr George Lashwood is still the dashing Captain Abdallah, and his songs are well received. The other principals contribute to the success of the pantomime. Notable mention may be made of the dancing of the Diamond Troupe.

ROYALTY, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr Wm. M. Downie.—*Jack and Jill* still proceed on their merry way, and large houses nightly continue to be the rule. An outstanding feature is the large number of children who take part, thus making it essentially a children's pantomime. Little Miss Mabel Higson plays Jill with all the abandon of an experienced actress, and Miss May Merry as Jack, with her graceful ways, contributes largely to the success of the production, their dancing winning repeated encores. Mr Harry Conlin takes the part of the mirth-provoking Dame, and infuses much life and vigour into his part. Mr Freddy French is very original as Ginger, Miss Florence Burdett as the Princess and Miss Frances Earle as the Prince have lost nothing of their attractiveness, and Mr Leslie Stiles is proving himself a jolly Baron. Messrs Dixon, Nelson, and Watson keep the fun going as three eccentric soldiers.

KING'S, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr Hugh Macfarlane.—After a most successful month's run in Edinburgh *The Cingalee* has been transferred here for a corresponding term, and an enthusiastic welcome was accorded the new play on Monday. For tuneful music, an attractive story, and bright and picturesque setting, *The Cingalee* marks a distinct advance even on the high standard set by Mr George Edwardes's previous productions. The company includes several artistes whose former successes in musical comedy here have made them first favourites, notably Miss Octavia Barry, who as Nanoya acts and sings with charming vivacity. The part, unfortunately, contains no outstanding musical number, but her fine voice is appreciated in the tripping and lively air, "The dance I'll lead him." Mr Leonard Mackay as Vereker is allotted several of the best songs in the play, and is worthy of them. Miss Lily Elsie is a most attractive Lady Patricia, and for her song, "My heart's at your feet," she is heartily recalled. The Chambhuddy Ram of Mr E. Statham Staples is exceedingly clever. His various songs are well received, and especially popular are the funny business and duets with Peggy Sabine, a part that Miss Eva Sandford has made one of outstanding merit. As a comedienne she possesses a happy style, and her vocal and dancing abilities are also noteworthy. With Chambhuddy she scored in the "Parrot" and "Gollywog" songs, and their love-making in "Make a fuss of me" causes roars of laughter. Mr Harold Thorley as Bobby Warren acts well and sings with piquant humour, his various songs with the four little tea girls being heartily encored. Mr Colin Coop as the dignified Boobhamba revels in the fun of the part, and in his topical song, "Nothing much more to say," gets in some clever hits at things of local and universal interest. Mr W. J. Manning again contributes one of his clever impersonations of fussy old military worthies, and Mr Willie Warde, jun., gets in some clever business as the attendant Myamgah. Misses Clare Marsden, Claire Pridelle, Kathleen Severn, and Doris Lester make a charming quartet of tea girls. Miss Rhoda Gordon as Angy, and Misses Mabel Lowe, Mabel Hirst, Evelyn Fortescue, and Mabel Allen as her governesses, all fill their parts with ability and grace. Solo dances are contributed by Miss May Gould, and the Rubies give weird effect to their devil dances. The chorus is large and vocally well equipped, and Mr Harold Vicars ably conducted.

METROPOLE, LIMITED.—Managing Director, Mr Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr John Dunbar.—Messrs E. H. Knight and George Denham's company is here with *The Grip of Iron*, in which Mr Fred Powell still plays Simmonet, the strangler, with intensely grim humour. Miss Georgie De Lara acts Cora with mingled strength and tenderness, and Miss Helena Walbran as Sophie is effective. Miss Hilda Barnton makes a charming Marie Guerin. The villainy is ably portrayed by Mr Thornton Heath as the Spanish adventurer, and Mr Blundell Lenton as the honest young lawyer is an excellent foil. The part of Paul Blanchard is creditably sustained by Mr George Denham. Detectives of the old and new schools are effectively contrasted by Mr John Brittain as the old and Mr Harry Agar Lyons as the new. Mr W. Griffin as the Smiler causes much amusement.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr J. H. Oakden.—Mr Chas. H. Phelps is appearing here in his own play, *One Woman's Wickedness*. His impersonation of the wronged Jem Craggs is clever and effective. Miss Florence Lloyd gives a strong performance as the unscrupulous Janet Raymond. Miss Amy Dalby as a mentally stricken young lady and Mr Lawrence Brien as the somewhat preachy Philip Beaufort ably fill their parts. Eccentric humour is variously supplied by Mr George Byrne as an amateur detective, Miss Ethel Asbury as a barmaid, and Mr Arthur Ferriss as Limpy Larry. Miss Frances Jessop as Marienne Beaufort and Miss F. M. Daly as Aunt Crasy are well placed.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss's Empires, Limited; Resident Manager, Mr Arthur Aldin.—Mr Fred Karno's company remains here another week. They are presenting *Mumming Birds*, which is cleverly acted and never fails to cause uproarious mirth; Mendel, the blind pianist, is a turn of excellent quality; Richard List's performing bears are a good example of what can be attained by patient training; Rossow Midgets give a capital boxing turn; Harry Martell again proves himself a clever dancer; Kenc, Welch, and Montrose, comedy acrobats, show exceptional talent; Arthur Lennard is, of course, a great favourite; and the Three Sisters Hayden are clever comediennes; Rastus and Banks are highly diverting in *The Mayor and the Maid*; Lyane and Gene, contortionists; and Lizzie Fletcher comedienne, conclude the programme.

TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr S. King Alexander; Acting-Managers, Messrs Fred C. Ewing and T. J. Colquhoun.—The bill-of-fare provided at these halls this week is both varied and interesting, and includes the engagement of James and Marie Finney, the world-renowned swimmers; the Zaros, tumblers; illustrated songs by Preston and Balmain; a beauty competition for ladies over fifteen; Matt Wilkinson and company, sketch artists; Amy Elcock, comedienne; Marcus Boyle, comedian; Bendon's Bioscope; Frank Boyce, character vocalist; Two Rubies, comediennes; Violet Beatrice, vocalist; Onda and Artell, in a gymnastic act; Abel and Welsh, famous grotesques; Lilian Rigby, dancer; and Flo St. Roy, serio.

PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs Rich Waldon and Thos. Barrasford; Assistant Manager, Mr H. M'Kelvie.—Houdini is still the principal attraction at this house. *Nicodemus*, an amusing pantomime absurdity, by Chas. Vandyke and company, is well received, as also does the clever bull-fighting sketch by the Toreadors. Fred Earle makes a hit with his "Seaweed" song, and Gus Harris also scores with his Hebrew impersonations, other good single-handed turns being given by Sid Bandon, comedian; Florence Hill, serio and dancer; Alice Ormonde, comedienne; while humorous comedy acts are contributed by the Falcons and Stanley and Vandyke.

BRITANNIA.—Lessee, Mr James Anderson; Manager, Mr Harry Humfrey.—The principal turn here is that of the Zerbinis Troupe, musical speciality artistes. The other items include Dora Lindsay, vocalist; Will Mackie, comedian; Tom Berrick, the black tit-bit; Herriot and Sauvion, burlesque conjurors; Gibb Smith, comedian; Frank Sauterone, champion jumper; Brindall and Cooper, comedians; and the Britannia Bioscope with new and interesting films.

HARMONIC CONCERTS.—Secretary, Mr W. Biggam.—On the eve of the Burns Anniversary the management of these popular concerts gave their annual Scotch night, when their three halls were packed with patriotic and appreciative audiences. The principal feature of the programme was the comedy-drama of *Cramond Brigg*, in which Mr John Clyde appeared as Jock Howieson, supported by a powerful company. Mr Mackenzie Murdoch gave a violin performance, which met with deserved appreciation. Miss Clara Butler, contralto; Mr J. M. Louie, tenor; the Rodgers Family, duettists and glee singers; and the Murray Troupe of national dancers added considerably to the enjoyment of the evening; while among the comedians Messrs Bob Sloan, Jack Henri, J. K. Macfarlane, and Sam Thomson in their various representations were well received.

GOOLE.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr John E. Tomlinson.—On Monday and two following nights Messrs Mitchell and Belton's company appeared here in the drama a *The Conscript*. Mr G. Mitchell gave a striking impersonation of Karl Truevitch, and Miss Mary Dawson submitted a powerful and realistic interpretation of Nadia Truevitch. Mr Howell Travers as Ivan Manloff plays with conspicuous ability. Mr Horatio Sinclair is sufficiently villainous as Count Paul Hardiski; Mr Frank Harvey as Michael Andrevitch and Mr Edward Hill as Maxim Fedka play with considerable dramatic power; Mr John Belton presents a realistic picture as Dor Doggervitch; Mr Harry Tilbury as Fretch Trotoff and Miss Belle Tilbury as Wanda are responsible for acceptable humour; and Miss Helen Brinkman as Dame Katinka and Little Arlene as Karl are both exceedingly good.

GRIMSBY.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr S. Tolfree.—*The School Girl* has made her first appearance here this week. A capital representation is given by Mr Charles Macdona's company. Miss Nellie Hodson, who is well known here, sustains the title-rôle in good style; Cicely Marchmont is charmingly played by Miss Jenny Bonney; Miss Kate Forster capably doubles the Mother Superior and Mrs Marchmont; Miss Bessie Maddox infuses just sufficient dash into the character of Mamie Rockfeller; and Mr C. Adeson is responsible for the most amusing impersonation of the eccentric General Marchmont. Mr Max Copland also creates much laughter as Sir Ormsby St. Leger, as does Mr Alfred Leslie as Tubby Bedford. Mr Alec Chentrens is good as Edgar Verney, and others who may be mentioned are Mr Charles W. Anson as Peter Overend, Mr Frank Sutton as Corner, and Miss Madeleine Maude as Saafreds.

NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr Stewart Orcil.—There has been a return to variety programme here this week, with John Marx, who displays exceptional feats of strength, as the principal attraction. He has shown remarkable powers in the way of weight-lifting. Competitions amongst local strong men have been held nightly. A couple of smart patter comedians have been seen in the persons of Jordan and Harvey. A really funny pantomimic sketch—a burlesque upon burglars—has been contributed by Pickard's Troupe, whilst another sketch presented by the Ross-Clyde company is also amusing. A unique exhibition of physical contortion is given by Edith Sylvesto, and other turns are Nellie Elder, Tyrolean vocalist;

Charles Russell, balladist; and Percy Hannon, a boy baritone.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietor, Mr T. Allan Edwardes; General Manager, Mr H. F. Millar; Assistant-Manager, Mr H. H. Watson.—Otto Schuman's Troupe of horses, ponies, and boar hounds have given an entertainment that is at once refined and clever. The return of Clarke's Nippers has proved highly popular. Lily Martell has given evidence of ability both as a songstress and dancer. Sleath and Aldin have submitted a musical scena illustrative of a highwayman's life, whilst Ossi Souplessi, on the aerial rings, Will Harvey, comedian, and Pulo, a boy juggler, have given interesting turns. A drama, *Revenge*, depicted by the Bioscope, completes the programme. On Thursday evening benefit performances were given to Mr H. F. Miller, who has been the manager at the Hippodrome since its opening, and who is being transferred by Mr Edwardes to the management of the Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent. At these performances extra turns were given by a number of local artistes.

GUERNSEY.

ST. JULIAN'S HALL.—Sole Lessee, Mr C. Robt. Perkins.—On Monday a crowded house welcomed Mr Fred Mouillot's pretty and rollicking pantomime *The Sleeping Beauty*. The piece is prettily staged, the music is bright and catchy, and the chorus works well together. Mr Charles Penrose is a clever comedian, possessing abundant comic material which he liberally dispenses as Peter Piper. Mr Alf Sardoe as the Royal Nurse is highly diverting, and a capital King is Mr Joe Hudson. Miss May Davis is a charming Beauty, and Miss Florence Vie plays with plenty of spirit as the Prince. Specialities are given by the Stuart Trio of dancers, the Miltons, comical skaters; and Leo Picolo, juggler.

HALIFAX.

GRAND THEATRE. — Managing Director, Mr William Robinson; General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling.—*The Fatal Wedding*, on a return visit, is proving very popular. Mr Bert Coote's company gives a good interpretation of the play. Mr S. Herbert Humber as Howard Wilson is responsible for a piece of sound acting; Mr Oliver Rogers does well as Curtis; Mr Jack Denton is smart and alert as the volatile French servant; Mr Jack Waring does well as the Policeman; and Mr Charles Kenney is a capital Schwartz. Miss Norah Hoffe is a patient and sympathetic Mabel Wilson; Miss Gertrude Harrison is an incisive and callous Cora; and Miss Marjorie Lawrence an intelligent and promising child actress.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Frank Macnaghten.—Mr Frank Macnaghten's pantomime *Aladdin* was such a great success here a fortnight ago that it has been thought advisable to bring it here again. The bright, rollicking, merry little show is going as briskly as ever, and the public are gladdening the hearts of the management by their consistent support. The cast is the same as on the previous visit, and has been noticed.

HARROGATE.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr C. F. Smith.—On Monday Mr W. H. Kirby's company opened a three nights' engagement in the successful musical comedy *The New Mephisto*, when a bright and clever performance was given. Mr Albert Weston ably portrayed the rôle of Mephistopheles, and introduced some smart business; Mr W. H. Vernon was a big success as Dick Pilgrim; Miss Nellie Burdette as Dolly and Miss Marion Armitage as Beck Pilgrim played with great success in their respective parts; and Mr Herbert St. John was thoroughly adequate as Lord Hummingtop.

HARTLEPOOL.

EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr Harry Burns.—The Three Rickards, who head the bill, give a smart and clever exhibition; the patter and songs of J. W. Hall are provocative of much laughter; the Gintaros, Japanese jugglers, are a masterpiece of skill and precision; a clever ventriloquial imitation of Chirgwin is submitted by David Poole; Mr E. J. Wilkes's poodle is clever; the cross talk of Walker and Lake is funny; and neat sand dances are submitted by Earl and Melville.

HASTINGS.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Geo. H. Gaze.—On Monday Mr Mark Blow, assisted by his capable company, opened a week's engagement here with the dramatised version of Ouida's romance *Under Two Flags*. The rôle of the chivalrous Bertie Cecil was played by Mr Mark Blow with naturalness and ease, and his treatment of the many romantic situations of the piece carried conviction. Cigarette was ably played by Miss Emelie Polini, whose passionate character and devotion she forcefully presented. Miss Hope Mayne acted charmingly as the Princess. Mr Walter Thornton presented Lord Rockingham with sterling manliness. The cowardly Barklie Cecil and the selfish Lady Beatrice had good exponents respectively in Mr Reginald Harley West and Miss Lucy Carr. Mr Charles D. Pitt gave full effect to the vengeful and cruel character of Colonel Chateauroy. Rake was amusingly presented by Mr Will Hook, who with Miss Daisy Carlton as Lavinia filled the lighter rôles agreeably. The farce *Aunt Rebecca* preceded the principal piece.

PIER PAVILION.—Pier-Master, Mr R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr J. D. Hunter.—Mr A. J. West is occupying the boards here this week with a series of pictures showing the training of lads entering the British army and navy. Mr R. Courtier Dutton explains the illustrations.

HIPPODROME PALACE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr Harold Penny.—A good vocalist in the person of Mr Harry Desmond opens the programme; the Two M'Kays are exceptionally skilful as quick artists; Miss Flo Elvin, comedienne, is greatly applauded; Messrs Burns and Bentley supply some neat coon dancing; Miss Fanny Wentworth, society entertainer, introduces an amusing series of piano sketches; Messrs Lord, Murray, and Lord are diverting in their athletic comedy act; Miss Alice Digby is an attractive comedienne and dancer; and the Hoopers cause a great deal of fun by their comic juggling.

HIGH WYCOMBE.

TOWN HALL.—There was a large attendance here on Tuesday evening, when Mr Ben Greet's No 1 company (under the personal direction of Mr Arthur Howard) was seen to great advantage in *Florodora*. Mr Gus Danby as Anthony Tweedlepunch was excellent, and Mr Edward Chester and Mr Edward Crossland ably sustained their parts as Cyrus W. Gilfain and Frank Abercoed respectively. Dolores was embodied with spirit by Miss Daisy Lake, and Mesdames Louie Danby and F. M. Newman were well received for their songs and dances in the respective parts of Angela Gilfain and Lady Holyrood.

HYDE.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr Joseph W. Maloney.—*The Lady of Ostend* is being performed here this week by Mr Lawrence Brough and an excellent all-round company. Mr Harry Hampson as Dick Whortles and Mr Percy Marshall as Joseph Carbury keep the risible faculties of the audience very well exercised right through; Mr Lawrence Brough is most praiseworthy as Le Baron De Longueville; and Mr L. Corv Thomas submits a clever character sketch as Toby Krockett. Miss Kate Milford plays the part of the indignant wife admirably; a charming and graceful impersonator of Millie Grace is found in Miss Doris Vayne; Miss Eleanor Gilbart makes a capital Matilda Carbury; Miss Maud Buchanan is exceedingly good as the Lady of Ostend; and Miss Daisy Cook is a pretty Jane. As a curtain-raiser *Margaret's Strategy* is given.

HAWICK.

NEW THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr W. Payne Seddon; Lessees, Messrs W. Payne Seddon and Gordon Starkey.—Florizel Von Reuter, the boy violinist, visited this theatre on Monday. His party included Mr Arthur Newstead and Mr Arthur Crosby. Miss Eleanor Athelstan was also to appear, but could not do so owing to illness, and at the last moment the services of Mr John Bell, a local tenor, were employed.

HORWICH.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Sandiford.—Mr Ian Maclaren's company, in the drama *The Prince of Rogues*, is here this week. Mr Ian Maclaren as the Prince of Rogues, Mr Hy. Howard as Richd. Harwood, and Mr Arthur Chisholm as Frank Farrell are very conspicuous in their respective parts. Mr Francis Hope as Kenry and Mr James F. Firth as Josh Buggins are responsible for a large amount of comedy. Miss Ruby Maclaren plays Frank's wife with great feeling, Miss Dorothy Mackenzie makes Rita a fitting associate for the Prince, and Miss Kythe Mackenzie's Polly is a very good performance.

HOYLAND.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Owner, Mr Arthur Carlton; Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Geo. S. King.—This week Mr Gus C. Livesey's company is occupying the boards here with *The Crimson Club*. Mr Gus C. Livesey interprets the wronged Richard Fenton in admirable style; Sir Philip Garside is powerfully drawn by Mr L. Thompson; Reginald Adolphus Garside is humorously embodied by Mr P. Shaw, a clever whistler; Mr H. Belmore as Selby and Mr B. H. Pearson as Craddock do good service; Julia Marsden is effectively represented by Miss Francis Waring; Miss May Wynlard is a charming Muriel Lockwood; and Miss Elsie Mesnerd gives efficient help.

HUDDERSFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy G. Arthur.—There is no doubt that the version of *The Sorrows of Satan*, presented by Mr C. W. Somerset, is an effective acting play, and, judging by its reception on Monday, when the piece started on its spring tour, will meet with a full measure of public favour. Naturally the part of Prince Lucio, when played by so ripe an artist as Mr Somerset, is the dominant factor of the whole production. Weird and fantastical to an unusual degree, the wide possibilities of the part have been studied by Mr Somerset with an intelligence deep and keen in its insight into the problematical sufferings of a sin-tortured spirit. A thoroughly capable company has been chosen to support the leader, and on the opening night some clever work was done, notably by Miss Agnes Russell, who as Margaret Foster played with great sweetness and charm of manner. Mr Talbot Homewood was the Paul Carruthers. Miss Leah Marlborough has exactly the commanding presence called for in Lady Delila Dragnette, and showed much power in her impersonation of passionate though ill-placed love. Miss Laura Clement as Lady Dragnette imparted the necessary indifference to her worldliness. Mr Richard Norton represented Crafton Lyle. Mr Keith Fraser as Lord John Wellington Burrows and Miss Geraldine Somerset as the Hon. Ethel Cholmondeley successfully supplied the lighter element. Little Daisy O'Neill was prettily natural as the child Mary, and minor parts were supported by Mr W. H. Rotherham, Peter Wurrell; and Miss J. Burnside, Mother Wurrell. The play is beautifully dressed and carefully mounted.

HULL.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr W. Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr W. F. Morton.—A crowded audience assembled on Monday to welcome Messrs Dottridge and Longden's company in *Aladdin*. Its scenic effects are good, and the general idea excellently carried out. Mr Fred Cary's Abanazar is a revelation, being entirely out of the general rut. Miss Cassie Walmer is a dancer with a good style. The Widow is impersonated by Mr Fred Graham.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr John Hart; Local Manager, Mr Wynn Miller.—Hull has been eagerly awaiting the advent of Mr W. Jacobs and Mr Louis N. Parker's *Beauty and the Barge*, and now that it has come they are in no way disappointed with the comedy. Mr Blake Adams sustains with considerable credit the rôle of the bargee, whilst admirable in every sense is the little runaway Ethel as impersonated by Miss Fairclough. Captain Barley's buxom lady love is a pleasant picture painted with skill by Miss Mary Griffiths. *That Brute Simmons*, a clever dramatised version of one of the Morison "Mean Street" stories, is the curtain-raiser.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Sole Owner, Mr W. Morton; Manager, Mr Geo. Morton.—*The Wrecker of Men* is the attraction at the Alexandra this week. Miss Rosalind Tate is a striking exponent of the woman with a past, and therefore plays the part of Risca Mallison with dramatic ability.

PALACE THEATRE.—Moss' Empires, Limited; Resident Manager, Mr A. Graham.—The striking novelty of the Staley transformation has appealed strongly to the public this week. The blacksmith's shop and transformation to the drawing-room is a thing to see and marvel at.

ILKESTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr L. F. A. Rogers; Musical Director, Mr C. Keith Smith.—Mr Peter Thompson's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is proving a strong attraction this week. Miss Maud Beaumont makes a first-class Robin Hood; Miss Molly Hackett becomingly enacts the part of Maid Marion; and the Sisters Grahame charmingly represent the Babes. The Danbys are greeted with roars of laughter for the clever way in which they take the rôles of Tim Tired and Willie Wearied, and Mr Fred Danvers as Evelean is a huge success. The specialities introduced are Hermann Urquhart, a clever foot equilibrist; the Yankee Quartet of dancers; Rosa Walmsley, acrobatic dancer; Little Renee, male impersonator; Nellie Grahame, dancer; the Danbys, Hungarian dancers; and Fannie Humber, in a musical show.

INVERNESS.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr Cameron Burgess.—Miss Lillie Mowbray's company is here this week in *Robinson Crusoe*. Miss Lillie Mowbray makes a good Crusoe; Miss Tina Franks is a charming Dolly Mayflower; Miss Alice Chant acts and sings well as Polly Hopkins; Mr J. C. Chant is amusing as Will Atkins; and Mr Anthony Gordon is good as Blizzard.

IPSWICH.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. G. Fisk.—Mr Walter Howard's melodrama, *Two Little Sailor Boys*, is being played here by a company under the direction of Mr W. H. Hallett. The two little boys are represented by May Day and Miss Ethel Francess, both accomplished actresses; Miss Blanche Steele does full justice to the part of the adventuress; and Miss Mabel Scudamore is a pathetic heroine. Mr William Sams is a manly Commodore; Mr Leonard Rooker is satisfactory as the Lieutenant; and Mr Ambrose Horton as the chief villain is effective.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr Fred Barrett.—A change of programme this week includes the following turns:—Marco and Dunham, a trio of bar performers; Craig, Rose, and Craig, gymnasts; Ray and Mills, jugglers; the Sisters Le Graham, vocalists and dancers; Bob Stevenson and Arthur Pearl, comedians; and Victoria Lytton, burlesque artiste.

PUBLIC HALL.—Manager, Mr George Watson.—A flying visit of London stars gave a couple of performances here on Wednesday. The chief artists were Miss Mabel Love, the accomplished actress and impersonator; Miss Muriel Newman; Mr J. Warren Foster; Cazabon, the new violinist; Mr Charles Pond, raconteur; Dr. Francis Gerard, with the Demon Kettle; the Pipers of the King's Own Scottish Borderers; and Master F. M. Smith.

JERSEY.

OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr C. Robert Perkins.—Mr Frank Fenton opened a short stock season here this week with *Still Waters Run Deep*. As John Mildmay Mr Frank Fenton proves himself a finished actor; Miss Louise Vansittar's handsome presence aptly fits the part of Mrs Sternhold; Miss May Cull, a delightful Mrs Mildmay, displays considerable depth of feeling; Mr Frank Elton humorously presents Potter; and Mr E. Bellenden Clarke is excellent as Captain Hawkesley.

KETTERING.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Payne.—This week we have Messrs Draycott and Peppin's company in *The Stolen Birthright*. Mr Robert Watson gives a manly interpretation of the hero, Andrea Celsi; Mr Chas. Draycott displays the evil nature of Count Marco in sinister style; Mr F. Aldworth is successful as Michele Silvati; and Mr Henry Monti contributes some powerful acting as Stefano. Miss Lilian Watson Loyde is a capable Miranda, and the comedy characters of Nita and Pedro are satisfactorily filled by Miss Maud Hetherington and Mr Frank Kent respectively.

KIDDERMINSTER.

NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr R. C. Gudgeon, jun.—The boards here are occupied this week by Messrs Carson and Granville's company in *Defending His Honour*. Douglas Bryce is in the capable hands of Mr John Davidson; Mr Clifton Boyne ably portrays the character of Stephen Graid; Mr Chas. H. Herbert as George Duncan is good; and Miss E. Melrose-Millet as Ethel Bryce is realistic.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors, Messrs Lister Reekie and Howard Stephens.—The structural alterations which have been carried out here greatly facilitate the means of egress. The company includes Rick and Laurel, a really smart pair; Black Apollo, an expert instrumentalist; Colin and Irene, exponents of second sight; Fred Healey, Belle Belmont, and La Belle Rosa.

KILMARNOCK.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr A. Hales.—On Monday, for three nights, Mr Charles Harrington's company came here with *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Mr Harrington made a capital Phineas Fletcher; Uncle Tom was well presented by Mr J. Carr; and Mr Alfred Richards did good work as Mr St. Clair. Miss Hettie Johnstone submitted a pleasing rendering of Eliza Harris; Mrs Carr was good as Aunt Chloe. On Thursday Mr Mouillot's company was here in the musical comedy *A Runaway Girl*.

KING'S LYNN.

NEW ROYAL THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Bannister Howard; Business Manager, Mr Herbert Leonard.—Mr A. Clifton Alderson opened with hisdomestic and military play, *A Soldier and a Man*, on Monday, when he successfully portrayed the part of Harold Sinclair. Mr P. Beckett played Hubert Walgrave in an admirable manner; Mr W. A. Norman as David Melbury and Mr W. K. Ayliff as Jake Harding were both good in their respective parts; and the comedy parts were ably sustained by Mr Harry F. Wright and Mr T. Kirkwood. Miss Daisy England charmingly portrayed Rose Melbury, and Miss B'Eare Doyle proved to be worthy of praise as Norah Melbury. The scenic effects were good. On Wednesday the play was under the patronage of Colonel Cresswell, Major Morgan, and officers of the 3rd V.B.N.R., the band of the regiment playing several selections on the stage.

LANCASTER.

ATHENÆUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Hy. Wilkinson.—The boards this week are occupied by the Edmund Tearle répertoire company in a round of plays, which include *Ingomar*, *Cramond Brig*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Under the Red Robe*, *Macbeth*, and *Jeanie Deans*. On Monday Mr Tearle appeared as Ingomar, and was ably supported by Miss Kate Clinton as Parthenia.

PALACE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs W. J. Fergusson and John Porter.—Another attractive programme is arranged here, with the Scottish Meisters at the top, who are well received. Mdlle. Vanda is a clever juggler, and performs on the tight wire very creditably under the name of La Belle Tosca; Bert Brantford sings and dances well; and Gus Balsiger, trick instrumentalist, comes in for rounds of applause. Sadie Earley, ballad vocalist; Payne's animated pictures; and Alskarno, acrobats and Risley performers, who have a most flattering reception, complete the list.

LEAMINGTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr Henry Esden.—Mr Langhorne Burton and his company, in *Mrs Gorringe's Necklace*, occupied the boards here for the first three nights this week. Mr Langhorne Burton enacted with skill the part of the manly Captain Mowbray; Miss Mary Webb's study of the high-minded Isabel Kirke was very effective; and Mr Arthur Vezin as the pathetic but pitiful David gave a very fine impersonation. Miss Frances Vine made the most of her part of Mrs Gorringe, and the other characters were in able keeping. Mr Martin Harvey and company came on Thursday in *The Only Way*.

LEEDS.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr John Hart; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Richardson.—There is a steady continuance of good houses to report for Mr Hart's attractive pantomime, *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*, which is now in the zenith of its success at this theatre. The leading comedians, Mr J. Robert Hale, Mr Mike S. Whalien, and Mr Lionel Rignold (the latter in a notable portrayal of the Dame) have developed their parts with striking success, and their numerous encounters are productive of unstinted merriment. This week sees the return to the cast of Mr Harry Dent, who has been out for the past week or two through an unfortunate accident, and he has infused renewed vigour and humour into the part of Sunny Jim Crusoe.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr R. Ernest Liston.—*Cinderella* continues to be a great attraction, thanks in a great measure to the efforts of some clever comedians, of whom Mr T. B. Fayne, in a whimsical performance of the Page, with Mr Harry Weldon and Mr Deane Tribune as the ugly sisters are very prominent. The ladies, notably Miss Lola Patey, Miss Olive Marston, Miss Edie Rivers, and Miss Murielle Langley, are also high in popular favour.

QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs Dottridge and Longden; General Manager, Mr C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Bush.—*Laughter Land* is the name of the extravaganza submitted here this week, and it serves to exploit that amusing troupe of acrobats, the Craggs, whose clever work is the main feature throughout. Mr H. B. Lewis, Mr John Hitchin, and Mr G. Westacott are also leading lights; whilst of the ladies none do better than Miss Amy Hastings and Miss Louise Millward.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr T. G. Mooney. — A varied and attractive programme is here headed by the Klein troupe of trick cyclists, whose expert and daring feats arouse the greatest enthusiasm. The Five M.P.s provided good entertainment in a fine vocal scena. Rousby's "In Paris" panorama is an interesting electric display. Horace White is prominent with a clever ventriloquial sketch; the Cole de Losse Duo repeat their expert and humorous acrobatic and slack wire act; and a remarkably fine trapeze speciality is done by Leona Dare. Prince Kokin evokes warm approval for his Eastern juggling turn; an extremely popular musical speciality is done by those favourites Signor and Madame Borelli; the Labakans are responsible for an amusing grotesque acrobatic show; and Harry Maynard, comedian, is also appearing.

TIVOLI.—Proprietor, Mr T. Barrasford; General Managers, Messrs Chas. Weldon and Edgar O. Waller.—Those very popular entertainers, Mr and Mrs Gene Hughes, are appearing here with great success, their smart sketch being enthusiastically received. Chapender, the illusionist, also repeats former successes with his expert feats. Chas. Baron submits his amusing burlesque animal turn. Considerable amusement is derived from a clever little sketch by Hayman and Franklin. Novel acrobatic turns by Alexander and also by Alphonse Silvano, are duly appreciated, as also are the efforts of Fred Curran and Harry Leybourne, a pair of smart comedians. The programme also contains a speciality turn by Alix Lukos and contributions by Nancy St. John, comedienne and dancer.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr F. W. Wood; General Manager, Mr J. C. Whiteman; Acting-manager, Mr S. Jones.—Belle Davis is the popular star turn here, her clever piccaninnies giving a very smart entertainment. Smythson's novelty sketch, *The Lie Alarm*, occupies the bottom of the bill, and is cleverly performed. Frank Cass, vocal comedian, is popular, as also are Reilly and Taylor in a smart Dutch patter sketch. Mons. De Lil again displays ability as a conjuror; Dinah Morris's blind boy contributes a fine musical turn; and the bill also includes a ventriloquial entertainment by Professor Hulbert and Cris Masters, comedian.

LEICESTER.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Proprietor and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; Acting-Manager, Mr C. D. Leigh.—Mr J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty and the Mystic Yellow Dwarf*, entered on the concluding week of its engagement here on Monday evening, when it met again with an enthusiastic reception from a delighted house. The beautiful electric novelty, presented by Alma and Abdullah, entitled "Electra's Dream," is a source of great wonderment, and evokes the heartiest applause. La Superbe, the miniature marvel, in her terpsichorean acrobatic phantasy, is seen to considerable advantage, and is extremely popular. The principal boy, Miss Esme Gordon, secures a warm welcome for her dashing and vivacious rendering of the rôle of Prince Faithful, and Miss Daisy Stratton, the principal girl, as Beauty Allfair, charms all with her delightful performance. Miss Kempton is well placed as Silver Star, and Miss Ada Tilley scores a success as the Grand Chief. Mr W. J. Churchill causes the greatest merriment as Count Incognito, and both Mr James Chippendale as Queen Half-a-Crown and Mr Alf Bishop as King Half-a-Crown evoke incessant laughter. Mr Lonnen Meadows makes an excellent impression as the Yellow Dwarf, and stage manages the "show" with credit to himself. The Morton Trio appear as Chump, Log, and Bog, and make a hit with their harmonious singing, besides being very amusing. Mr Donald Keir as the Wicked Witch sings extremely well. Miss Lottie Stone's Royal Alexandra Troupe (eight in number) contribute a number of dances, which afford the greatest pleasure. The Sisters Cunningham also achieve success as dancers, and Little Maud Vera is popular. Mr Alfred H. Elliott, the acting-manager for the company, has made many friends here by his courtesy.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessee, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General Manager, Mr John H. Clarke.—Mr Frank M. Thorne's capital company, under the direction of Messrs Carson and Granville, is making a first appearance here this week in *Napoleon the Great*. Mr Hugh Montgomery in the name part maks a conspicuous success; Mr J. G. Maine as Paul Laczinska, a Pole, is distinctly effective; Mr Henry Earlesmere is well placed as Colonel Lavarennes; Mr Phil Harper is seen to advantage as Colonel Jules Meuron; and Mr Frank M. Thorne makes an excellent Pierre Pomponnet. Miss Maud Russell deserves warm commendation as Mdlle. Leonie Marboeuf; Miss Chrissie Dunbar is good as Marie Waleswka; Miss Marie Harcourt scores as Marcelle Choupin; and Miss Florence Thorne plays well as Mère Dumont.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED. — Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr Leonard Vidal.—At the head of the usual excellent programme submitted here is Graig's Baboon Prodigies, including "Diavoleno," in cycling the hoop. The entire performance is a truly remarkable one. At the other end of the bill are the Max Welson Four, European rope performers, who give an exceedingly clever and smart show. Milner Verren is scoring a success with his pretty song, "The Playground in the Sky;" the Jees return with their *Musical Smithy*, which goes as well as ever; the Three Sisters Ronay, the original lady clowns, give a popular and entertaining turn; the Llewellyns, Australian operatic vocalists, are heard to great advantage; Alburtus and Bartram are pastmasters in the art of club juggling; the Resuas Trio give a good display as acrobats and equilibrists; the Brothers Pueblo are capital cake-walkers and sand dancers; and the American Bioscope, always a popular feature at this hall, is showing the latest films.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter Lapworth.—A good programme here is topped by Albert Wyndham and company, in the sketch *Prince Arthur*, an excellent turn. Judge's performing cockatoos, parrots, and macaws, introduced by the Sisters Judge, are responsible for a pretty and clever display; Flo Deighton is a capital ballad vocalist; Olga gives a smart show on the trapeze; the Sisters Reveni score as duettists and dancers; George Edney, vocalist, is good; Charles Paver is a funny comedian; and Walter Lester, comedian, is also entertaining.

LEIGH.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr W. Dewhurst.—Messrs Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company in the drama *The Village Blacksmith* is the attraction here this week. Mr Sam Livesey gives a powerful portrayal of the title-rôle; Mr Jos Carter as the villain, Captain Leo, does his work admirably; Mr Geo. V. Campbell as Billy Twigg causes much amusement; Miss Laura Walker ably impersonates the part of the blacksmith's wife; Sal Parkins and Ruth Parkins are well sustained by Mrs T. C. Livesey and Miss Maggie Edwards respectively; and a clever performance is given by Little Christobel as Harry Strong. The scenery is good and the wrestling match causes much enthusiasm.

LIVERPOOL

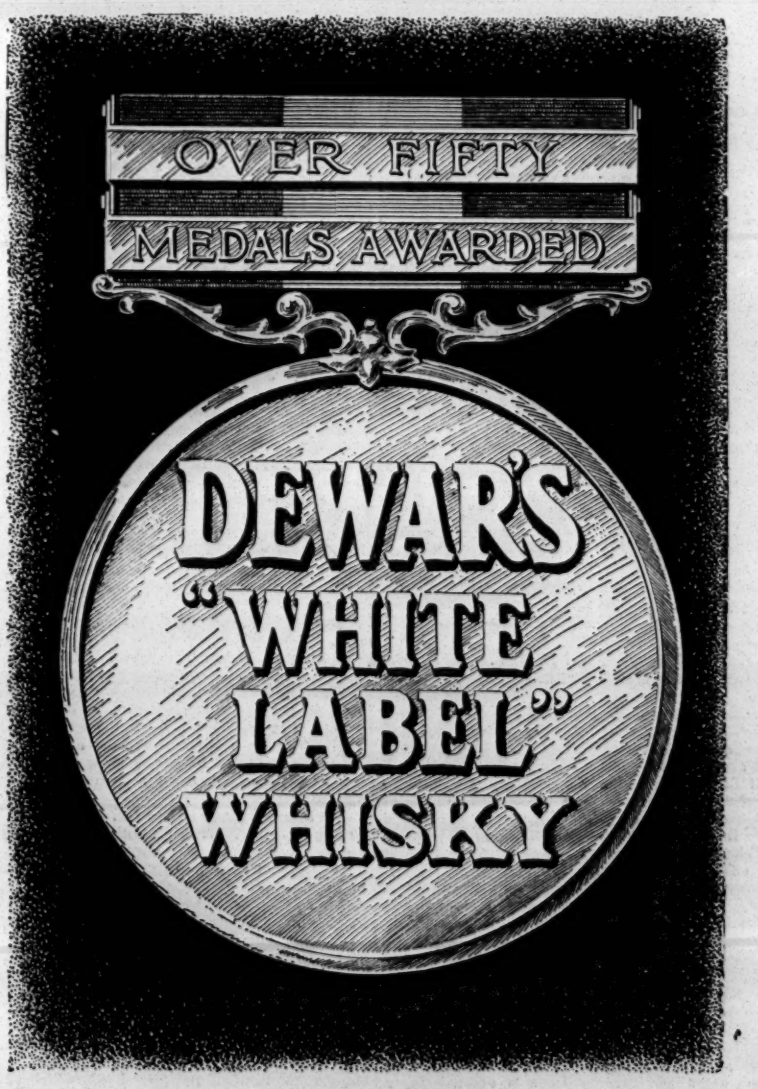
ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr M. Montgomery; Licensee, Mr J. G. Howard; Acting-Manager, Mr M. Montgomery, jun.—The pantomime *Aladdin*, which has had a successful run, terminates to-night.

LYRIC THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr Fred Coles.—*Babes in the Wood*, as played by Six Brothers Luck and their capable company, is drawing well this week. The Four Milano Girls are very clever dancers; Miss ? ? ? as a dashing serio is good; and Ray Hartley is clever in international dances.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Harris Fineberg; Acting-Manager, Mr M. Simmons.—A cleverly written play, presented by an able company, has been a strong attraction here during the week. *A London Actress*, from the pen of Miss Emma Litchfield, contains the story of a scheming woman's adventures, many striking situations being introduced. The large audiences that have enjoyed the play gave the authoress, who enacts the part of the adventuress, a most cordial reception, that lady's high standard as an actress being freely admitted. Mr Stuart Cleveland as the unfortunate Clive Crawford played with telling effect, and among the principal supporters were Mr George Wallace, who presented a good picture of a money-lending Jew; Miss Violet Lawson as the sympathetic Phyllis Crawford, and Mr Sam Wilford, in whose able hands were the lighter side of things. A quantity of excellent scenery was used.

QUEEN'S.—Proprietors, Messrs Carson and Granville; Manager, Mr Fred Granville; Business Manager, Mr Fred L. Arthur.—For the first time in Liverpool the melodrama *The Life of a Showman* has been presented here. The second act shows the interior of a circus, where a number of variety turns are given by several artistes of undoubted ability. The two clowns, played by the Brothers Testo, are particularly good. Mr George Testo Sante also gives a remarkable exhibition of strength. As the showman, Brien Leader, Mr Sante displayed much ability, Miss Amy M'Neill was a tender and repentant Agatha Winter, Miss May Warden and Master Harry Warden were a couple of smart juvenile artistes, and the low comedy work was in the able hands of Miss Alice Granville and Messrs Allen Charles and J. Clegg. The scenery was good.

EMPIRE, LIMITED. — Managing Superintendent, Mr T. A. Cook; Acting-Manager, Mr George



GRAND PRIX
ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION, 1904.

Stratton.—Karno's comedians are still here with their funny *Saturday to Monday*, and despite the fact that the sketch has been played since Boxing night it proves as strong as ever. Included in the remainder of an excellent programme are G. W. Hunter, a popular comedian, with a budget of clever stories; Charles Coborn, well known in Liverpool, who has just returned from the States; Leslie Brothers, with a comical act, entitled "Music Mad;" Tom Edwards, a clever ventriloquist, Joko and Koko, with an equestrian novelty; Frank Harwood, descriptive vocalist; the Burnellys, who give a smart turn on stilts; Will Haines, comedian; and Amber Austa, coon singer and dancer.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—In addition to a lengthy list of variety artistes a good attraction has been presented during the week in the appearance of Mr George M. Schilling, an American athlete, who is engaged in a walking tour round the world for a wager. He relates an interesting account of what he saw during his perambulations. The Yiulians are a combination of clever acrobats, and their new and surprising feats are loudly applauded; T. Nelson Downes performs some remarkable sleight-of-hand tricks with coins; the Young American Quintet, conducted by Miss Mattie Boorum, renders a number of pretty glees and dances gracefully; the Brothers Ashley submit an amusing sketch entitled *Next, Please;* Harry Drew possesses a bass voice of richness and depth, his several songs being cordially received; Farley, Rennie, and Farley introduces a humorous turn entitled *Fun at a Railway Station;* Mr A. Aldridge sings several tenor songs with satisfaction; the Paxton Trio, head balancers, perform a number of smart feats; Mountford and Walsh are capable speciality artists; and others who appear are Starr and Jerome, vocalists and dancers; and Ida Ross, comedienne.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES. — Manager, Mr M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr F. O'Toole.—Included in a well-diversified programme here this week are Harry Barclay, a favourite, who brings several new songs; Joe Huda, a smart dancer and patterer; Borrello, who performs some clever juggling; Miss Connie Nicholls, comedienne and dancer; Mr Ford Williams, baritone; and the St. Clairs, with a dramatic trifle, *The World Against Him*. The Cinématograph, showing "A Trip to the Sun," is an interesting feature of the evening.

NEW PARTHENON.—Proprietor, Mr Edwin W. Smith.—At this cosy little place an acceptable bill-of-fare has been submitted during the week. At the top are the Bros. Zampah, who are wonderful one-legged artistes. Ethel Resford and Gerald Hunt present a laughable absurdity entitled *The Widow and the Duke;* Fritz sings a number of Dutch songs in a smart manner; Fox and Melville are capable song illustrators; Andy Fagan is an able comedian and dancer, as is also Fred Roden; and Amy Melville is an accomplished comedienne and dancer.

PADDINGTON PALACE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr J. Kiernan.—There is a fine array of talent here this week. Foremost is Kurtz, who performs some remarkable juggling, his work earning for him loud applause; Richard Mentos renders some acceptable music on the mandoline; Harry Craven as an eccentric comedian causes much laughter; Cohen and Page provide a bright comedy sketch, *All the Latest;* some excellent dancing is performed by Currie and Rice; a pretty spectacle entitled *A Night with Santa Claus* is provided by Baby Macfarlane, a clever child actress; Mabel Comely sings a number of acceptable songs; and Madge Roberts is a graceful comedienne and dancer.

WESTMINSTER.—Proprietor, Mr M. Montgomery.—J. A. Wilson has been the principal artiste here this week. He is a Negro comedian and dancer of considerable versatility, and his work has been much appreciated. Agnese and Arthur Lynch render a number of smart picture songs; Harry Ray and Lillie Calden present a humorous item, *The Artist and the Maid;* Hart and Rudd are a couple of eccentric comedians; Roscoe's animals show a high degree of training; Connie Lane is a smart comedienne and dancer; as is likewise Maude Cherry.

PARK PALACE.—Director, Mr J. Kiernan.—In big type here this week is Professor Ted Heaton, the well-known diver and swimmer, who, with Sacha, gives a clever tank act. The Randles (Will and Ada) contribute an amusing trifle, *The Emigrant;* Walter Arnold sings a number of catchy songs; Hyam Long as a musical comedian is both clever and amusing; many wonderful conjuring tricks are performed by Mdlle. Alencon; the Tippets are acceptable drawing-room entertainers, vocalists, and dancers; and Mattie Crawford is a graceful comedienne and dancer.

LONG EATON.

LYCEUM THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr Thomas Meakin.—Madame Willoughby's pantomime *The Babes in the Wood* is here this week. There is plenty of variety, some good singing, and dancing. Mr B. Gardner is the Uncle; Misses Daisy and Violet Mottley are the children left in his care, both are exceptionally clever; Miss M. Lakay is Robin Hood; and Miss Winnie Wenthworth is Maid Marion. The fun is plentiful through the versatility of Brown and Harker.

MACCLESFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr W. K. Gatley.—*Goody Two Shoes* is attracting good houses here this week. The company is under the able management of Messrs Marston and Buckstone. The title-rôle is ably portrayed by Miss Marie Santley, and her singing and dancing call forth much approval. Miss Maude Western is an ideal Roland; Mr Syd Bazley as Simon Simple makes the audience roar with his exceedingly funny antics; Mr Fred A. Marston as Baron Graball cannot be too highly complimented; Mr Ted Mac works with unflagging zeal as Dame Durden; and Miss Connie Irwin as the Good Fairy and Miss A. D. Hender as the Wicked Demon are well placed.

HIPPODROME. — Lessee and Manager, Mr H. Bendon.—The programme here this week is headed by Jabez White, 9st. 8lb. champion of the world Walter Gurney, swell comic, is a pleasing turn; Barker and Rose, in *A Waif's Ambition*, meet with deserved approval; Lily Mason, serio, is a good turn; Harry Bent, mimic, amuses the audience with some clever imitations of well-known celebrities; Harry Conlin, vocalist, well maintains his popularity; Carlotta Lunn, vocalist, sings some catchy songs; and the Sisters Manning, duettists and dancers, are a sprightly pair.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr Will Smithson; Assistant-Manager, Mr Albert J. Lewis.—Mr and Mrs William Maclaren's company is here in *Proof*. Pierre Lorance is forcibly played by Mr Maclaren; Mr Richard Fulton gives a highly meritorious reading of Lazare; and Mr Kingsford Pearce is successful as Chamboran. The characters of Victor De Lagny and Duke D'Aubeterre are well filled by Mr E. St. Clare Vayne and Mr Tom Robertson. As Valentine Miss Lily C. Bandmann plays the part very effectively, and wins the sympathies of the audience. Miss Gertrude Evans acts in a praiseworthy manner as Adrienne, and Miss Wynne Hanley is well suited as Duchess D'Aubeterre.

MEXBOROUGH.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. H. Melton.—Mr J. Gar Kiddie's pantomime *Little Bo-Peep* is drawing packed houses here this week. Miss Lizzie Payne is charming in the title-rôle; Miss Flo Warner is a dashing Boy Blue; as Fairy Moonbeam Miss Norah Beverley is most graceful, and sings capitally; Mr J. Gar Kiddie's interpretation of Tommy Long is excruciatingly funny; and Mr J. W. Groves as Granny Brown is a big success. Mr E. H. Bertram is successful as Baron Hardup. The Solon Trio in their statue speciality; the Milstead Quartet of dancers; and the Hammersley ballet troupe give clever and enjoyable turns.

MAIDENHEAD.

GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs Edgar Dereve and F. L. Schmitz.—Mr Ben Greet had his No. 1 company here for one night only on Jan. 21, playing *Florodora*. The house was entirely packed in every part. On Monday Joseph Poole's Myriorama and variety combination commenced a week's engagement. The pictures are well painted, and are very smoothly manipulated, the dioramic effects being particularly good. The variety turns are of a very high order. Miss May Finch and the Veronas are redemanded for clever singing and dancing; Felix Somers deserves his warm reception as facial imitator; Mdlle. Orbasany has a very novel entertainment with performing cockatoos; and the Westwoods, for their marvellous trick-cycling act, receive unbounded applause. Mr Nat Abatt is well placed as guide and raconteur.

NEW PAVILION.—Sole Proprietor, Mr Geo. Gude.—The Daintons do a smart turn as comedy duettists and dancers; the songs and duets of Parry Jones and James Carr are a musical treat; Arthur Gilmore and Sam Mitchello are good comedians; Miss Evy Roselle and Miss Dora Dale are pleasing both in dance and song; and the duologue, "Mr and Mrs Brown," is presented by Alex and Cole.

MANCHESTER.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr W. H. Broadhead; Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—A capital pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, which was produced some weeks ago at the Grand Junction Theatre by Mr Edward Marris, and for the book of which Messrs Rogers, Lowther, and Marris were responsible, has made a welcome reappearance at the Oldham-road house, to which a big audience was attracted on Monday evening. Good as it was in the first week of its production, many improvements have taken place in this popular show, all the artists being quite at home in their development of the various parts. Miss Joey Preston makes a smart and satisfactory Dick Whittington, and Miss Mena Eckerman as Alice used a good voice to advantage and moves well in the rôle. Comic business is in the hands of Mr Fred Acton, Mr W. Frean, Mr Harry Russell, and the well-known gymnastic comedians, Messrs Rezene and Robini, all of whom carry the fun forward at a rare pace; while others who distinguish themselves vocally and otherwise are Miss Agnes Clarges, Mr Will Kashma, Miss Hulo Hodson, Miss Florence Allen, Miss Elsie Allen, Mr Ben Rowe, and Miss Topsy Holden. Interspersed throughout are the clever speciality turns of Messrs Rezene and Robini, the Brothers Kashma, equilibrists; Miss Georgina Nicol, child mimic; Madame Roma's lady aerial wrestlers; the Marions, acrobatic dancers; Benkroe, bone soloist; the comical Freans; Rowe and Holden, cake-walkers; Russell and Eckerman, tramp singers, and the Sisters Roma, club jugglers. Nothing better than this need be wished for on the road.

METROPOLE THEATRE. — Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—Katie Lawrence is the principal turn in an excellent programme here this week, and justifies her reputation as a star comedienne by the style in which she renders her various popular songs. Capital business is submitted also by Hall, the mimic; Moto, eccentric musician; the Ralston Boys, sensational vocalists; Duncan, a smart club manipulator; and the Eight Lancashire Lads, in a clever speciality act. Other good and enjoyable turns are the Walonells, in their comic acrobatic bar act; Nina Elmo, comedienne; Carr and Rose, comedy vocalists; J. P. Dane, eccentric comedian and dancer; and Oswald, in a hand-balancing speciality.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead. Mr Walter Melville's company, in *A Girl's Cross Roads*, is the attraction here this week, after a week at the Royal Osborne Theatre.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr M. Potasch.—The well-known Indian piece *Wep-ton-no-Mah*, played by the clever American Indian actress Go-won-go-Mohawk and her company, is the attraction here this week. Many realistic effects are included, and the story and staging are picturesque and dramatic. Go-Won-Go Mohawk is the centre of interest, but adequate support is rendered by Miss Minnie Goepel as the Colonel's daughter, Nellie, Mr George Courtney as the villainous Manuel Lopez, and the humorous efforts of Mr Guy D. Hackney, Mr Dan Ryan, and Miss Jessie Hart. A stirring knife fight takes place in the scene of The Indian Camp, and various interesting specialities are introduced in the second act.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Manager Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—Mr H. Hesslegrave and capable company are seen to advantage here this week in *Soft Tommy*, which is greatly appreciated. Ben Hur displays great strength, and his lifting competition is very popular; Wragg and Wragg, military athletes, give a highly finished display of swordsmanship; the Crown Trio of speciality vocalists render their songs most successfully; the Itrams are seen to advantage in a novel trapeze; and delightful musical turns are provided by Les Strads and Saxo. Other enjoyable items are supplied by Fred Casburn, comedian; Frank Tyrrell, comedian; and the animated pictures. Sadie Simpson did not appear on the night of our visit.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—The chief attraction here this week is Mr John F. Preston's company in a dramatic sketch, *The Streets of Manchester*. Culpitt, comedy magician, gives an excellent display of conjuring and hat manipulation, and is most cordially received. Jack Horsley shows ability as a bag-puncher, and gains much applause. The Three Delaries are very clever acrobats, and are seen to advantage in their speciality act, "The Demon Grotto." The animated pictures are exceptionally good, and the Countees are repeatedly recalled for their delightfully rendered harmonious duets.

TIVOLI. — Managing Director, Mr Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr Arthur B. Wilkes.—The charming French comedienne, La Jolie Titcomb, heads the bill here this week, and sings several songs in excellent style. Williams and Brown are exceptionally smart cross-talk comedians, and continual laughter follows their efforts. Walter Emerson, a capital comedian, makes a hit with his songs, "They didn't thank me" and "Another one off to America;" Mdlle. Santoi presents a pleasing scena, "The Merry Japs;" the Three Dorians go through a clever aerial act; Keene and Adams are decidedly entertaining in song, dance, and patter; La Tostia is an expert mandolinist; Nellie Navette sings and dances nicely; Lillie Le Breton is graceful on the trapeze; and Will Bell sings a capital Irish ditty with an effective dance added.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr Will Collins.—The inimitable Nellie Wallace is here this week, and her reception, more by sheer ability than popularity, is something to be proud of. Her songs are all highly amusing, and her patter and eccentric business create roars of laughter. Tilly Bébé, said to be the youngest trainer, in the world, appears with her troupe of magnificent lions, and goes through a remarkable performance. Rounds of applause are earned by Morton and Elliott for their capital musical, vocal, and phenomenal paper manipulation act. Lily Marney, comedienne, makes a big hit with "The Spanish Irish Girl," and is deservedly well received. The Selbinis provide a highly finished acrobatic, bicycle and musical pot-pourri act, which is much appreciated. Visto and his pretty daughter Irene are decidedly pleasing in a refined drawing-room musical act; Wilson Hallett is a first-rate child mimic, and creates much laughter; Charles Pastor sings a laughing song with success; and Auto and Mobil, the original comedy motorists, are clever and amusing. The American Bioscope shows some excellent films, including "The Cheeky Traveller" and "A Race for a Husband."

GRAND.—Lessees, Messrs Thomas Barrasford and Will Sley; Manager, Mr H. C. Arnold, jun.—The Sandor Trio present a first-rate gymnastic performance here this week; and the Schutzenlieserl'n Quartette of lady singers and dancers are pleasing in the extreme; the Four Andys are clever comedy acrobats; Lily Seville, comedienne, sings and dances well; Mdlle. Henrietta, in a novel musical entertainment, is well received; and Gillin, ventriloquist, creates a good impression. Other good turns are done by Lil Esplin, comedienne; Bert Evans, comedian; and Fred Bronte, descriptive vocalist. Woodrow and Lunn, who appear on the programme, did not appear on Monday night.

PALACE. — Manager and Secretary, Mr P. Watson; Assistant-Manager, Mr J. H. Stringer.—The renowned Boissets are appearing here this week in their well-known acrobatic sketch, *The Bricklayers*, their antics causing roars of laughter. Another attraction is Banker, the Canadian cyclist, who contributes a highly sensational "turn." He rides down a steep track, at the bottom of which some contrivance causes the machine and rider to throw a complete somersault over a bar, although travelling at a terrific pace; Michalinis, in their comic equilibrist act perform some smart tricks, and are deservedly well applauded; Henry A. Moore's vocal imitations of actors and comedians please greatly; Collins and Rice are seen to advantage in an amusing item, *The Ballet Girl and the Comedian;* Sybil St. Elmo, ballad vocalist, sings remarkably well; Will Cornish is a delightful handbell ringer; and George Linton appears with success as an "acrobatic bounding" artiste on the tight-rope. A capital selection by the orchestra and a series of animated pictures are included in the programme.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr E. P. Morgan; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr H. Hall.—*The Bombardment of Port Arthur*, a decidedly novel and effective naval spectacle, is proving a big attraction here this week. The scene depicted is the Harbour and Town of Port Arthur at nightfall deepening to night, with the Russian fleet at anchor in the roadstead; the Admiral's ball; advent of the Japanese fleet; torpedoing of the Tsarevitch; rival fleets in action; the Polosk on fire and sinking; Russia's crippled fleet; withdrawal of the victorious Japanese—the whole forming a vivid picture of modern warfare on the seas. The various manœuvres and mimic battles are as near reality as ingenuity can make them. A most remarkable item for a music hall, especially on the two performances nightly system, and only possible in the most up-to-date Hippodromes. From last week remains the big turn of Herr Seeth's lions. The new comers include two exceptionally clever and amusing turns by the Brothers Artois on the triple bars, and Conway and Leland, the "merry monopedes." Signorina Verera, the Italian Nightingale, sings in excellent operatic style; Harry Carsdale is successful with his farm-yard imitations; and Harry Grattan and capable company cause endless laughter with their sketch, *Packing Up*. The Choristers render an illustrated song, "Nobody seems to love me now;" and the Bioscope shows an excellent series of films.

MARGATE.

GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr W. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr C. F. Bawtree. — The musical comedy *Miss Mischief* has proved an irresistible attraction here, and as presented by Mr Godfrey Lamplugh's company, has been received with real delight. Mr T. E. Conover in the rôle of Private Harris, V.C., causes endless amusement by his quaint and humorous interpretation of the part of the ubiquitous servant. The part is sustained throughout with great dash and go, and he literally revels in the presentment. Mr Arthur Jenner as the bluff old salt, Admiral Sir H. Bethune, through whom all the mischief occurs in mistaking the maid, Mary, for his ward, Kitty, is excellent. Mr Cecil Curtis as Jack Bethune plays well, his acting and singing being alike much appreciated. Mr F. Mantell as Lord Fitz-Sherry enacts the dude well, and contributes largely to the success of the piece. Mr Fredk. Sandy makes a capital Hiram Q. Pegg, and Mr H. Ellesmere is all that could be desired as Count Von Himmelblau. In the rôle of Kitty Malone Miss Ethel Hughes is delightful. All through she plays with pleasing vivacity, her singing and dancing gaining her well-deserved encores. Miss Cissie Francess ably seconds the efforts of the heiress, as Mary Ann Smith, her maid. Miss Eileen Guilbert capably fills the rôle of Lady Orrery, and the remaining parts are all in good hands.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr E. Macknight; Business-Manager, Mr Chas. E. Hardy.—Mr H. Edwards Cecil is here this week with the farcical comedy *The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown*, the bright little piece which has amused a Margate audience before. Miss Madge Carrington acts charmingly as Angela, and Mr H. Edwards Cecil is an excellent Captain Courtenay, their vocal contributions being well received. Miss Georgie Thomas plays and sings well as Clara Loveridge, Miss Marie Jonquil also scoring as Matilda Jones. Miss Dora Eunice Eastlake is a capable Euphemia Schwartz; Mr Beresford Lovett is all that can be desired as Major O'Gallagher; Mr Humphrey Warden makes a most amusing Sergeant Tanner; and Mr Julian Hays the most mirth-provoking of music masters as Herr Von Moser. Mr Idy Freer puts in some good work as the soldier, Michael Doueherty, and Miss Rosetta M'Laren plays the Principal of the Academy with all sufficient austerity. The remaining characters are well sustained, and La Scala Troupe of dancers contribute some pleasing Terpsichorean quartets.

MIDDLESBROUGH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Theatres, Limited; Managing-Directors, Messrs Geo. and Chas. Imeson.—Mr T. Arthur Jones's No. 1 company in *Life's Sweetest Sins* is here. Mr Jones himself gives a skilful and artistic portrayal of the principal part. He is ably supported by Miss Madge Morley as Doreen Rivers. As Dr. Colbrooke Mr Oswald Douglas is successful, and the same may be said of Mr Charles Sewel's Ernie Woodstone. Mr Frank Thornton proves a capital Captain Rawlins; Mr Bertram Lee makes the most of his opportunities as Martin; Miss Amy Rudd ably sustains the rôle of Fay Colbrooke; and the Bess Grayson of Miss Sara Dudley is excellent. An interesting and novel feature of the play is the appearance of a submarine boat in the third act.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Grand Opera House Company, Ltd.; Licensee and Manager, Mr T. Hopcutt.—*A Fight for Millions* is the title of an interesting and sensational drama presented here by Mr Robert Perris's company. Mr Perris as Willie Neverwork plays with good effect; Mr V. Carlyle is an able Tom Manley; and Karl H. Edwards as Solomon Moses adds much to the enjoyment of the play. Mr George Hodges appears as Robert Mackenzie; Miss Eva Purcell makes a refined Pearl Rivers; and Miss Lottie Pearce is successful as Meg Brady.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr John Brill; Manager, Mr J. W. Thornborrow.—Bud Snyder, trick cyclist, is the great attraction here. The Lyons Trio provide an amusing sketch; Mdlle. Eldee, with "Poses Plastiques," is artistic; Musical Silvo greatly pleases; Fred Terry sings some funny nonsense songs; Frederic Neiman provides an excellent ventriloquist entertainment; and Flo Blanks pleases with her songs. The patter of Jubal and Joyce provides fun; and the Bio and the orchestra complete the programme.

OXFORD.—Lessee, Mr Wm. Peacock; Manager, Mr Wm. Ainsworth.—The Bros. Edgar provide amusement here with their patter, and another good turn is provided by the Three Schaffers, smart equilibrists. H. O. Willis meets with a good reception; the Three Goldinis are clever acrobats; and Tell and Tell, eccentric comedians, please. H. K. Bradshaw, with a sweet tenor voice, is a hit, and Anthy does some clever feats on the wire. Sam Weller, J. P. Carroll, and the Bio complete the programme.

MIDDLETON.

PARDOE'S THEATRE.—This week *Queen of the Night* is being played here. Miss Lilla Wilde enacts the adventuress artistically, and Mr Charles Sandford infuses all the necessary villainy into his performance as Philip Stoneleigh. Mr James Stillwell is very successful as the hero, and Mr E. Thorp Tracey and Mr Herbert Colley are capital comedians.

MORLEY.

ALEXANDRA HALL.—This hall has been occupied during the week by the New Century Animated Photo. Company with a capital display of pictures, including scenes from the Far East, "Alice in Wonderland," the Baltic Sea Outrage, and other notable events.

MOTHERWELL.

NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Resident Manager, Mr W. Gillespy.—Mr Fred Karno's company is paying a return visit here this week in *His Majesty's Guests*. Mr R. H. Kitchen gives a capital impersonation of Sergeant Lightning; Mr Charles F. Howard is a very good Lord Easem, being ably seconded by Miss Jessamine Newcombe as Lady Maude. Mr W. Smith is very amusing as Mr Miffin; and Messrs James Ross and C. Leoville as Selina and Bunker respectively combine with the other members of the company to make up a very strong cast.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

TYNE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Warm support continues to be accorded *Cinderella*. Mr Mark Sheridan is high in popular favour as the Baron, and enjoyable performances are those given by Mr Josh Dixon and Mr Gus Le Clerq as his daughters. Miss Bessie Featherstone makes an admirable principal boy, and the title-rôle is charmingly embodied by Miss Alice Russon. A hit has been made by Miss Lina Verdi in her imitations of well-known singers.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr F. Teale Lingham.—*The Babes in the Wood* fully holds its own in popular estimation. Miss Dolly M'Calla and Miss Hanid Alexander give immense satisfaction as the Babes. Successes have also been scored by Miss Maud Prenton and Miss Elise Cooke as principal boy and girl respectively. The American Comedy Four make welcome appearances. Mr T. E. Dunville as the Baron occasions merriment in his songs and patter, while Mr R. H. Douglas and the Poulakis afford pleasure by their performances.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr T. W. Rowe.—Mr Howell Webb's company is here this week in *The Convent Bell*, a drama which contains many sensational episodes. Welcome diversion is occasioned by the comedy scenes, of which there are an abundance, while the whole production is further varied by the musical contributions which are introduced.

NEW EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Director, Mr Richard Thornton; General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr E. Leslie Conroy.—Heading the bill here is a combination known as the Union Gatling Guards, who put on exhibition a Gatling Gun, and their manipulation of which is smart and instructive; Tom Stuart's impersonations reveal the possession of ability for this class of work; and a Scotch comedian in J. K. Macfarlane makes his first appearance here. An exceedingly skilful performance on the triple horizontal bar is given by M'Phee and Hill. Amusement is created by Burns and Evans as Alfonso and Gaston, and a similar state of things prevails when Geoffreys and Benson occupy the stage with their sketch. The Sisters Neilson are applauded for their dancing; Mdlle. Emmy with her dogs, and Beppo's monkeys are also included in the evening's entertainment.

OLYMPIA THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Thornton and Bacon; General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr Nelson Barry.—A packed house on Monday welcomed *Cinderella*, which has been transplanted here from Edinburgh. Miss May Marton enacted the part of Cinderella in pleasing style, her singing and dancing calling for warm praise. The performance of Miss Ada Twibell as the Prince was quite satisfactory, and Miss Fanny Wright displayed her customary ability as Dandini. Comedians of merit in Mr A. G. Spry (Baron) and Messrs Percy Curry and Augustus Wheatman (the Ugly Sisters) work hard for the success of the performance. The drolleries of Mr Fred Zola as Buttons are much appreciated, and Messrs Conan and Doyle, in songs and patter, create merriment. Dancing is a prominent feature, and some excellent displays are given by the Six Lancashire Lasses and the Four American Idols. The orchestra is under the direction of Mr E. T. De Banzie.

GRAND THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Business Manager, Mr E. W. Bacon.—Heatonians have a pantomime after their own hearts in *Dick Whittington*, which continues to enlist enthusiastic support. Prominent in the fun-making are Messrs Bob Selvidge and Dan Thomas; while leading honours among the ladies are easily secured by Miss Gracie Grahame as Dick and Miss Fanny Harris as principal girl. Their songs in particular are capitally given.

PAVILION THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr Thos. Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr Will H. Boardman.—The Four Cliftons, Olympian acrobats, are the principal attraction, and give a performance well worth witnessing. Tom Lloyd is a comic vocalist of ability, and contributes several amusing songs. George Penn is prominent as an eccentric musician, and plays on numerous instruments. Morritt's Blind Man excels in feats of memory and calculation, and his entertainment proves a very popular item in the programme. The Bennecelli Troupe introduce a somewhat novel turn, introducing gentlemen and lady acrobats, who perform some startling feats with apparent ease. De Henau, painter with his toes, has been seen here before, and his clever work in painting pictures, playing tunes, &c, deservedly earn for him the plaudits of the audiences. Aladini's Cockatoos are a troupe of performing birds who do many smart tricks. Charles Morritt, the magician, introduces some startling novelties, and has to respond to numerous recalls. Larry Lewis, comedian, and the animated pictures are also included in the programme.

NEWPORT.

LYCEUM. — Lessee and Manager, Mr Sidney Cooper.—*The Golden Ladder* is being performed this week here by Miss Marie Austin and E. Vivian Edmond's company. Miss Conyers Radcliffe gives a sympathetic presentation of Lillian Grant; Mr Harry Cullenford is an ideal representative of the Rev. Frank Thornhill; and Mr Frank Hill's impersonation of Samuel Peckaby is successful.

EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr O. Stoll.—A strong bill is put forward for patrons here. Duncan's dogs provide a turn that is both amusing and interesting; the Wille Brothers are a clever trio of head balancers; and Newhouse and Maud perform some clever feats in cycle riding. Morcashani, "La Belle Creole," has a wonderful voice, which she uses to advantage; Maud Ross, a clever comedienne, is popular, and a good turn is presented by the McGregors. Will Mitcham provides a lively musical turn; Lily Lena sings some catchy songs; and an electrical gymnastic novelty by Tolle D'Araignee completes a strong bill.

NEATH.

THEATRE ROYAL (LATE ASSEMBLY ROOMS).—Lessee and Manager, Mr Albert W. James.—The attraction here this week is Miss Bonwin Carlton's company in *The Plucky Nipper*. Mr Geoff Sutherland submits a manly impersonation of Captain Frank Leslie; Mr G. B. Wright as Colonel Fenwick is good; the villainous Richard Vanbrugh is well drawn by Mr Edward Fryer; Mr Edward Surrey as Bill Burgess is capital; and Mr Douglas Campbell, with songs, does well as Tommy Atkins. Miss Lilian H. Radburn is charming as Ina Fenwick; Miss Esther Lamonte is good as Daisy Paget; and Miss Bonwin Carlton as the Plucky Nipper is well received.

NORTHAMPTON.

OPERA HOUSE —Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr W. J. Andrews.—The Royal Carl Rosa opera company is here this week with the following répertoire: Monday, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, in which Madame Augusta Renard, Miss Douglas Wilson, Miss Ethel Pender-Cudlip, Mr Lewys James, and Mr Edward Davies met with a great reception; *Pagliacci* followed, in which Miss Lizzie Burgess, Herr Julius Walther, Herr Charles Victor, Mr Edward Davies, and Mr Lewys James did well. On Tuesday *Faust* was presented with Mr Edward Davies and Madame Una Bruckshaw as the primos. On Wednesday *Carmen* was played, with Madame Augusta Renard in the title-rôle, supported by Mr H. C. Hedmondt. On Thursday *Rigoletto*, and on Friday *Don Giovanni* were presented. The orchestra is of the best, the chorus most efficient, the ballet good, and the staging excellent. Mr Eugene Goossens and Mr Walter Van Noorden are the conductors.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager Mr Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr Robert Barton.—Dandy George, with his clever dog Rose heads the programme with an entertainment which is highly appreciated. The genial Tom Brantford is another good turn; Johnny Dwyer also makes a successful bid for public favour; Arthur Patmore scores as a female impersonator; George King and Tom Delaine furnish a refined comedy act entitled "At the Club;" Ailsa Douglas, soprano, meets with warm approval; Flo Burriss, descriptive character comedienne and dancer; and Gracie Logan, soubrette and a graceful dancer, are also great favourites.

NORWICH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr Fred Morgan.—Mr Milton Bode's pantomime, *Cinderella*, is attracting large audiences. Miss Addie Love both acts and sings well as Fairstar, the fairy godmother; Miss Hebe Bliss is thoroughly successful as Prince Brilliant; Miss Marie Reeves is a very pleasing Dandini; and Miss Florence Beech as Cinderella wins golden opinions for her song "In Dreamland." Miss Blanche as Rosie Romp gains approbation for her pretty dance; Mr Leo Sterling creates much fun as Baron Balmy, and entertains with solos on the side-drum, bugle, posthorn, and cornet; Mr Geo. Antill is good as Capus, and Messrs Lanton and Lane are very amusing as the Prince's servants. Mr John Nolan as Gladys and Mr Percy Dawsone as Violet are successful as the ugly daughters; Miss Maud Davey is a skilful siffleuse; and Leo Sterling is well received in his musical speciality act. Major Harry Sitherland displays ability in his rifle and bâton manipulations, and Bert Woodward is a clever trick cyclist.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr F. W. Fitt; Musical Director, Capt. Selby.—A return visit is being made here by Servais Le Roy, Mdlle. Talma, and Leon Bosco, who have received a hearty welcome. Ralph and Nellie Howard are pleasing entertainers; Princess Pauline gets much applause; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, the sweet-singing cardboard-box makers, are great favourites; Wilson Blackledge, society entertainer, is very amusing; Tate and Tate, trampolin acrobats, astonish with their novel display; Great Scott is a clever juggler and ladderite; and Charles proves himself a first-class comedian and dancer.

NOTTINGHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr Howard Finney.—To the great regret of patrons Mr Arthur has decided to withdraw *Robinson Crusoe* at the end of next week. As a pretty spectacle it has charmed, and the company engaged in the performance has made it immensely popular by the hearty manner in which they have entered into their work. Miss Madeline Du Val, Miss Mabel Osborne, the Sisters James, Miss Madge Melbourne, and Miss Nellie Christie merit the plaudits showered upon them; and uproarous laughter is drawn from all parts of the house by the genuinely comic methods of the comedians, Messrs Bob Baxter, Harry Crane, Fred Solo, Wally Scott, and the Two Austins.

GRAND THEATRE. — Manager, Mr Charles P. Cooke.—*Goody Two Shoes* has now reached its last week, and this has brought out the best resources of all the artists. The new songs, dances, and specialities presented from week to week have been received with enthusiasm, and the production throughout has well deserved the hearty welcome accorded to it. Miss Ida Gladstone (principal boy) and Miss Annie Casey (principal girl) have sung and danced with untiring zeal, and their efforts have met with the fullest appreciation. The Misses St. Julian, Bessie Deane, and F. Spencer have acted their parts with the utmost vivacity, and admirable work has been shown by Misses Issa Steel and A. Marsden. The comedians' business has not flagged in the least, and their eccentricities have met with abundant reward. Mr Charles Chard has made a thoroughly comical Simple Simon, being ably supported by Messrs Bliss and Bliss, Pete and Juno, Sidney Dean, James Kurry and Arthur Stratton.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, A. W. Bull.—*In the Ranks* always meets with a good reception, and a large audience on Monday cheered the efforts of Messrs Arthur Carlton and H. Armitage's company in no uncertain manner. Mr Edward Lloyd as the hero Ned Drayton plays capitally, and looks every inch the part. Miss Edith Blair-Staples tenderly portrays the sufferings of Ruth Herrick, gaining many audible expressions of sympathy. Mr Herbert Cecil represents boldly and incisively the villainy of Gideon Blake. Mr Arthur Palling as Colonel Wynter and Mr A. W. Chappell as Captain Holcroft give pleasing embodiments, and Mr Lionel Sullivan makes a typical Farmer Herrick. A charming Barbara Herrick is seen in Miss Daisy Norman, and Mr Eric Dane is effective as Mr Timmins. The comic element loses none of its effect as described by Misses L. Barley Clarke, Maud Darley, Harriett Russell, Flo Ravenshear, and Messrs Arthur Byron, James E. Page, and Leon Ainscliffe.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr C. H. Bowmaker.—The mannerisms of Mark Melford are funny in the extreme, and in the sketch *Black and White* his facial expressions compel roars of laughter. Salamonski and his perfectly trained horse submit a fine performance, in which the animal is put through difficult tricks. The acrobatic feats of the Szarvasi-Ferencz Troupe make a capital exhibition of clever balancing and jumping. Burke, Andrus and Frisco are as mirth-provoking as ever with their scene in Trafalgar Square; and a sketch by Burke, Moller and Teller, is also productive of laughter. Ginnett's *Rejected Remounts* seems as fresh as on its first visit, and the hilarity is contagious as the sketch proceeds. A remarkable little dog is shown by Clown Ferreros, whose knowledge of harmony has been cultivated to a high degree. Juggling by the Alaskas forms a smart item, and the Piquays obtain much applause for their acrobatic act. John Alexander and Co. add to the merriment by a sketch entitled *Troubles of a Tourist*.

NORTH SHIELDS.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr Arthur Jefferson; General Manager, Mr Horace Lee; Secretary, Mr Gordon Jefferson.—The boards here this week are occupied by Mr and Mrs Chalmers Mackey's company, which has presented *The Wearin' o' the Green* before appreciative audiences. As Barney O'Hea Mr Chalmers Mackey fills the part admirably; Mr Charles Homer is responsible for a capital impersonation of Shamus M'Dermott; Mr John C. Chamberlain gives a satisfactory rendering of Michael Kenny; and Mr H. Sainsbury scores as Sir George Courtney. As Norah M'Garth Mrs Chalmers Mackey is seen to great advantage; Miss Lalla Stanhope is clever as Biddy M'Ginn; Miss Kathleen Clare is pleasing as Ellen Fitzgerald; and the remaining parts are well sustained.

NEW CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr William Mould.—The bill here is headed by the Jansons, in their speciality act, which gains much applause; the St. Johns, comedy musicians and dancers, receive a hearty welcome; and Kalan and Kalar, novelty acrobats, give a smart performance. Miss Rose Dashwood, serio; Mr Tom Lake, actor-vocalist; Mr J. H. Clark, the singing boilermaker; and Payne's Bio-Photoscope are also successful.

NORTHWICH.

CENTRAL THEATRE. — Proprietress, Mrs S. Golden; Manager, Mr Percy Webb.—Miss Olga Audré's No. 1 company in *The Mockery of Marriage* has been here this week. Miss Audré's Alva Kenyon is an admirable piece of acting, Mr Arthur Winpenny as the villain Dick Kenyon gives a capital delineation, and is ably seconded by Mr James Dalton as Seth Pearce. Mr Charles Boult is successful as Jack Stanley, Miss Florence Gillwood constitutes an ideal Rose Vernham. The comic element of the play is extremely well looked after by Mr Will Skelton and Mrs Sydney Halling as Toby Wright and Mary Ann Barnicote respectively. Mr Harry Nelson does full justice to the part of P. C. Rice, and Little Katie is natural as Nellie Kenyon. The Four Aces deserve every praise for their clever acrobatic performance.

NUNEATON.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, the Theatre and Entertainments Company, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr Herbert Barrs's company is here this week, and each night delighted audiences have followed with keen interest the fortunes of *Cinderella*. The company is an excellent one in every respect, the dressing is elaborate, and the staging good. Miss Maggie Stuart is much in favour as Dandini; Mr Carl Frederinks makes an excellent Baron Stonio; Miss Tessie Vandean as Prince Charming is exceptionally good; and Miss Miss Louie Counsell sings and acts with great effect as the Fairy Godmother. Miss Minnie Willett is a charming Cinderella. Much merriment is supplied by Messrs Oscar Mills (Flossie) and Walter Langford (Araminta), their efforts being duly applauded. Mr Paul Pry (Buttons) and Miss Marie St. John (Pretty Polly) also call for special mention. The Ya Pyn-Keto Family contribute some clever turns, which are well received. On Thursday night Mr Cross, the popular managing director, took his annual benefit, on which occasion extra attractions were added to the programme.

OLDHAM.

ROYAL, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr George Knowles. — M. and Mdlle. Belloni's performing cockatoos; Unthan, the armless wonder; the Gladenbecks, in a clever performance on the silver rings; O. T. Fiske and Nellie M'Donough, in a comedy-drama, *Brocky's Temptation*; Mr Harry Clifford, a capital comedian; Griff, in an amusing performance; Rivington and Gordyn, who are well received in a laughable duologue; the Dainton Girls, duettists; and Geo. Formby, a very acceptable turn, form the attractions here.

GAIETY, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr E. J. Dexter.—An excellent company here includes Bayne and Hope (Ronald and Evelyn), in an effective scena entitled *An Emperor's Divorce*. Mdlle. Magna is appreciated for a classical statue act; a clever knockabout turn is submitted by the Wiltons in their triple bar act; the Two Romers are well received for their clever duets; Rim Lang, American society entertainer, is heartily appreciated; Rodin creates roars of laughter; the Dunvilles are very successful in their musical act; and Miss Della Dance, comedienne and dancer, and Raymond's Bioscope conclude the entertainment.

EMPIRE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr Hulme.—A welcome return visit of Mr C. P. Levilly's London company in *Amorelle* met with an enthusiastic reception on Monday. Mr Eric Thorne as Dr. Napoleon Bonaparte Crow kept the audience in a continual state of merriment; Miss Stella Gastelle as Amorelle was as captivating as ever; Mr John Doran in the arduous part of Jules acquitted himself creditably; Mr Newton Ide makes an ideal François; and Mr Fred Seymour is as powerful as ever as Dotard. Mr Robert Fairbanks made a capital Count. As Lesbia Miss Kitty Cavendish sang charmingly.

OXFORD.

NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr C. C. Dorrill.—This week Mr George Dance's company in *The Duchess of Dantzic* is fulfilling a most successful engagement here, the theatre being nightly packed with delightful and absolutely enthusiastic houses, who evidently appreciate the artistic treat afforded by a thoroughly efficient company in a really good opera. Miss Rita Presano in the arduous title-rôle scores a complete success, her acting and singing meeting with the keenest appreciation. Miss Alice Coverick is a dainty Renee De Saint Mesard; Miss Amy Burton is an acceptable Lizette; Miss Lilian Drake a capital Empress; while the disagreeable parts of Napoleon's sisters are played with true artistic finish by Miss Edith Carlyle and Miss May Harris. Mr Frederick Moyes gives a clever and convincing impersonation of Napoleon; Mr T. C. Maxwell sings delightfully and acts exceedingly well as Adhemar; Mr Mackesay Cullin is splendid as Marshal Lefebre; and Mr Colin Mackay is highly amusing as Papillon. The opera is splendidly mounted and staged, the chorus is strong and of excellent quality, and the company richly deserve the success they undoubtedly achieve.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr H. G. P. Wells—Mr Edward Neville's company is occupying these boards this week with *The Sorrows of Satan* and *The Anarchist Terror*. In *The Sorrows of Satan* Mr Edward Neville depicts Prince Lucio Rimanez with great dramatic skill and intensity, and may be complimented on his capital rendering of a most difficult part. As Geoffrey Tempest Mr C. T. E. O'Connor is highly successful, and Mr Gus Bowerman does justice to Lord Lynton. Mr Will White does his work well as Morris, and Mr Harry Dowling well sustains Amiel. Miss Violet Hammersley makes a most attractive Mavis Clare, and Miss Lois Esmond is well suited as Diana Chesney. Miss Cecile Byrne makes the most of Mrs Grunbes, and Miss Annie Burnette is forcible as Lady Sybil Elton.

PAISLEY.

PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr J. H. Savile.—To-night Mr Savile's pantomime *Aladdin* concludes after a most succes ful and brisk five weeks' run. It is a worthy addition to the list of successes in pantomime—and Mr Savile has produced seven in Paisley—at this house. The attractiveness of the musical numbers and the wealth of funny business account for much of *Aladdin's* popularity. Invariably the house has been crowded at every performance, matinées included. New songs and business have been introduced this week, and an extremely interesting and clever entertainment, as well as being funny, is submitted by Messrs Hess and Lisbon, in their skating speciality turn. Mr Alec Flood has stage-managed the pantomime throughout with conspicuous ability.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr Delno Fritz. — Here this week are Fee Lung, Chinese transformation juggler and back rope-skipper; the Glasgow Clinchers, vocalist; Belford, the boneless wonder; C. Gray, in his great table and pedestal act; Harry Jennings, singing, patter, and dancing comedian; and the Weimars, with trumpet and bugle calls entertainment.

TOWN HALL. — Proprietors, Magistrates and Council.—The Joseph Poole Myriorama and Myriograph is a great and decided attraction in this town at present. The exhibition is of supreme excellence, and the vaudeville combination is of undoubted ability, all the turns being vociferously applauded.

PERTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Aldridge.—Mr Charles Frohman's company is here this week in *Sherlock Holmes*. Mr Kenneth Rivington's impersonation of Sherlock Holmes is most realistic. Mr Fred Inwood's portrayal of Dr Watson is excellent, and Mr Arthur B. Murray forcibly depicts Professor Moriarty. Miss Florence Radcliffe as the suffering Alice Faulkner readily wins the sympathy of the audience, and Miss Carrie Lacey as readily gains their approbation as an actress of no mean talent in the rôle of Madge Larrabee. Mr F. Clive Ross ably acts the part of John Forman; Messrs Howard E. Laing and William Wilson are suitable exponents of Sir Edward Leighton and Count Von Stahlberg; Mr Ernest Grey shows to advantage in the part of James Larrabee, as also does Mr Harry G Wright in that of Sydney Prince. Mr Harry Mann is an able Alfred Bastic; Mr Charles Chaplin's Billy is most commendable; Messrs George Fairburn, Charles E. Scutt, T. Williams, M. M. Lomis, and R Ashford contribute towards the success as Jim Craigin, Tim Leary, "Lightfoot" M'Tague, John, and Parsons respectively; as also do Misses Ethel Gordon, Marjorie Murray, and Hattie Newcombe in the parts of Mrs Faulkner, Thérèse, and Mrs Smedley.

PETERBOROUGH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr A. Darville Vernon.—*Robinson Crusoe* is being presented here this week by Messrs May and Huntley's company. The pantomime furnishes a good all-round entertainment. Miss Dulu Burgoyne is successful as the principal boy; Miss Maud Ethelda is a pleasing Princess; and Miss Florence Kendall a satisfactory Polly Hopkins. Mr Fred May is an amusing Madame Crusoe and the eccentricities of Mr Horace Bain and Mr James May are in great favour. The Sylvian Quartette of lady dancers and Elliot and Warne make themselves popular.

PLYMOUTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Langdon Lee.—Though this is the fifth week of its run the pantomime of *Dick Whittington* is still going strong, drawing big houses and eliciting general praise. Much of the success is due to Ille Jack and Biddy, impersonated respectively by Mr Pat Waddock and Mr Frank Weir; Dick, who finds a capable exponent in Miss Margaret Ruby; Alice, bewitchingly represented by Miss May Angus-Young; and Princess Zorilda, a lively study of which is given by Miss Nellie Sheffield.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy Williams.—Mr George Dance's company is appearing here this week in *Veronique*. The piece is beautifully mounted and superbly acted, and its fortnight's stay here should be productive of liberal patronage. A conspicuous success is Mr Scott Russell as Florestan. His singing is both cultured and sweet. Another gifted vocalist is Miss Lena Maitland, who appears as Veronique's aunt, and words of praise for her efforts in a similar direction are deserved by Miss Maud Boyd, who essays the character of Agatha. Miss Gracie Sinclaire as the bride Denise acts vivaciously and pleasingly, and Mr Tom Shelford makes a popular bridegroom. Mr Leslie Holland's acting as Coquenard was very humorous, and elicited much laughter. The chorus work, like that of the principals, was very efficient.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton.—Mr Mouillot's pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* opened a fortnight's engagement here on Monday, after a successful run at Exeter. Brightly written, full of tuneful music, sparkling with good things, and capitally mounted, it goes with a swing from start to finish, thanks to the clever acting and enthusiasm imparted by one and all. Miss Rose Helene in the title-rôle is delightful, and Miss Mary Conroy as Polly acquits herself satisfactorily. Other successes are Mr Percy Cahill, Mr Anderson, Mr C. Stephenson, Mr Mat Melrose, Mr Almonte, the Misses Lalla Cowell, and Reve Canning.

PALACE OF VARIETIES. — Managing-Directors, Messrs Livermore Brothers; Manager, Mr J. Field.—A well-selected programme is submitted here this week. A more expert juggler than Chinko it would be impossible to find, his performance being astoundingly clever. Florrie St. Clair is a clever comedienne, with a good répertoire. Mr Frank Gerald and company appear in a sketch entitled *Captain Starlight*. Plenty of fun is extracted out of this turn by the Brothers Hersleb, and Harry Sheldon's tenor singing is much appreciated. Others appearing with success are Mr T. G. Callaghan, comedian; Minnie Dare, dancer and comedienne; the Hudson Powell Troupe, acrobats; and Guy Ryder, vocalist and whistler. Vernon's animated pictures are also included.

PORTH.

POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE. — Manager, Mr W. Bynoth.—This week we are favoured with a return visit of Mr John H. Tompkinson's Royal Gipsy Children. Mr Fred M'Lean, comedian, is responsible for some excellent fooling; the Musical Keiths are well received; Miss Elsie Rubina gives a graceful performance on the wire; the Lizette lady acrobats meet with great approval; and Miss Annie Knowles, trombone soloist, is loudly applauded. the vocalists are also much appreciated.

NEW HIPPODROME AND UP TO DATE CIRCUS — Proprietress, Miss Ada Alexandra; General Director, Mr D. Taylor; Manager, Mr E. Pryce.—This week the following attractions are presented here:—Hicks's Clerks (six in number), including Little Peter, the great comedian; Tom Johnstone, actor-vocalist; Three Sisters Parez, handbell ringers; Ariel and Astarte, clever gymnasts; Elliott and Elliot, the dandy-coloured coons; Roseltha, international dancer; the Marvel Trio, expert acrobats; Rabbit and Hairpin, clowns, in their *ballet d'action*; and some new and pleasing animated pictures.

PORTSMOUTH.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr T. E. Agate.—Mr Tom H. Taylor's company is appearing here this week in the drama entitled *The Female Swindler*. Lu Valroy is capably and excellently played by Miss Violet Ellicott; Miss Florrie Kelsey admirably portrays May Andrews; Jack Coulson, criminal investigator, is played with great force and precision by Mr Jerrold Heather; Mr Luke Foster has a number of parts as Coulson's factotum, and sustains them with judgment; the Geoffrey Warden of Mr Bernard Mervyn is a clever piece of work; and Abraham Mikestein is played by Mr Rule Pyott in a careful and painstaking manner.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr W. Pratt.—The programme at this well patronised place of amusement is again well varied. The four Maisanos with their eccentric musical act are very clever, their manipulation of musical instruments and juggling at the same time being greatly appreciated. Mr and Mrs E. H. Lucas with a number of scenes from Dickens is a taking turn; Franco Piper, banjoist, has scored a great success; Robert Gilbert and his troupe of performing dogs and cats is another popular item; the Jagos, American speciality artists, have had a good reception; and other artists in the bill are Demi and Semi, comedy musical act; Sisters Selwyn, speciality vocalists and dancers; Lillian Travellie, soubrette; Sam Dalton, character comedian; and J. W. Ellison, vocal comedian.

PRESTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr Stephen Pritt.—Messrs Geo. Edwardes and Charles Frohman's company is appearing here this week in *Are You a Mason?* Mr Anthony Fawcett in the rôle of George Fisher is very amusing; a clever and humorous impersonation of Amos Bloodgood is given by Mr Harry Ashford; Mr Arthur Claremont acquits himself well as Frank Perry; John Halton has an excellent representative in Mr Tom Mowbray; Mr Frank Ridley as Hamilton Travers causes much merriment; and Mr Valentine O'Connor capably depicts Ernest Morrison. Miss Harriet Trench sustains the part of Mrs Caroline Bloodgood in a perfectly natural manner; Miss Violet Graham looks and acts well as Eva; Miss Lily Beagle and Miss Isla Glynn are seen to advantage as Annie and Lulu respectively; Miss Mabel Younge is an attractive Mrs Halton; and Miss Edith Ife is quite successful in her portrayal of the uncompromising Lottie. *Hushed Up*, a comedietta in one act, by W. Hall, is presented as a "curtain raiser."

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Sawyer and Woodruffe.—Mr H. A. Jordison's company, in the *Babes in the Wood* pantomime, is occupying the boards here this week. Robin Hood, taken by Miss Madge Daley, gives some capital songs, and is deservedly applauded; Mr Edward Avon as Baron Toodle is an exceedingly clever acrobatic dancer; Little Cluley causes much amusement in the part of Bantam; Mr Rowland Hill in the rôle of Dame Peggy supplies some original jokes and patter; Marjorie finds a pretty dancer in Miss Kitty Caffrey; Misses Dolly Cullen and Elsie Jordison show remarkable ability as the Babes; Messrs Cullen and Carthy evoke endless laughter as Beery Bill and Sloppy Dick; George Chanti brings the house down with his perfect impersonations and mechanical effects; and Jordison's Empire Quartet excel in their graceful dances.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Broadhead and Sons.—A capital programme is submitted here this week. Perci Honri heads the bill, and his selections and imitations on the concertina are greatly enjoyed; Caselli and James are expert banjoists; Bell Pearl and company's musical sketch *A Bit of String* is well received; Florence gives a clever performance on the rolling globes; Ranji Singa displays astonishing skill as a magician; the Sisters Terry are exceptionally good mimics; Capt Gerald scores a success with his performing lions and dogs. Acceptable comedy entertainment is provided by Sandy and Carl, Will Saul, and Stoll Bros. in their respective turns.

RAMSGATE.

AMPHITHEATRE. — Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General Manager, Mr Henry Bowman.—*Alice in Wonderland*, put on in charming style by Messrs Lowe, Pagden, and Gilbert's company, afforded keen enjoyment to the audiences which assembled here on the first three evenings of the week and on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Miss Rosie Dane, a very clever child actress, played sweetly as Alice, sang tunefully, and danced with much grace. Mr Frank Lincoln was vastly amusing as the Mad Hatter, and all the other members of the cast filled their respective parts in a distinctly praiseworthy manner.

RAWTENSTALL.

GRAND THEATRE.—Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr J. Potter; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr J. Potter.—Messrs Preston and Doherty's excellent company is this week appearing here in *The Rich and Poor of London*. As May Braithwaite Miss Dora Dench was decidedly good; Miss Lillie Woods as Aunty Scrimp gave a clever impersonation; Miss Dora Pass as Polly Philpot was also considerably above the average; and Master Bert Dench as Dixie was equally successful. As Mark Stanley, the villain of the piece, Mr Andrew Money gave a realistic rendering; and Mr Robert Hall as Dr. Morton was very successful in his reading of the part. Mr Sidney C. Cranston was capable as Gussy Lamb, as also were Mr Tom Bowman as Dan'l Drake and Mr Jack Sydney as Lawyer Grabbam. Bill Binks had an admirable representative in Mr E. J. M'Sweeney, and as Spider Jack Mr Sidney Dench was well placed.

READING.

ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr Reginald Taylor. — Mr George Dance's company is here this week with the musical play *The Chinese Honeymoon*. Mr Philip Haydn is excellent as the Emperor Hang Chow, Mr P. Allerton Turner, plays cleverly as Chippi Chop. Mr Fred Payne is droll as Hi-Lung. Mr Foster Courtney is exceedingly amusing as Mr Pineapple. Miss Jose Collins plays with vivacity as Mrs Pineapple. Miss Alice Drummond scores as Mrs Brown. Miss Nellie Wigley is entertaining as Soo-Soo and Miss Vera Vere is an attractive Fi Fi.

ROTHERHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr W. Manning.—Mr James Kiddie's company is this week presenting the pantomime of *Little Cinderella* under the personal direction of Mr George Burton. Miss Rose Parezer is a pleasing Fairy Sunbeam, and Mr J. H Hawtrey is a great success as Malicio, the spirit of mischief. Among the mortals Miss Florence Watson is delightful in the title rôle, and Mdlle. De Rose is smart as Prince Perfect, her songs being received with much applause. Miss Susie Bevan as Dandini is very effective, her songs also receiving well-merited recognition. Miss Pollie Kiddie is a sprightly Viscount Nappe. Miss Minnie Harvey scores as Lord Stiff, and Miss Nellie Stewart is deserving of mention as Marquis De Cadie. Mr W. Saunders as Baron Shiphtolotte is very droll, and Messrs H. O. Lovell and Fred Denman are most amusing as the Baron's eldest daughters Ethel and Maud. Mr Charles Harvey is humorous as Pimples Messrs Houpla and Hecla give a special turn, and the transformation scene is exceptionally beautiful.

ROCHDALE.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED. — Managing-Director, Mr W. Robinson; General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr Charles Clucas.—*The Country Girl* is paying a welcome visit here this week. Mr Cyril Thompson has a fine voice and acts with distinct success the part of Geoffrey Challoner; Mr H. C. Morton does well as the amorous Sir Joseph Verity; Mr St. John Hamund as the Rajah of Bhong contributes one of the hits of the performance; Mr Willie Hartill as Douglas Verity; Mr Arthur Hayter as Grandfer Mummery; and Mr Scrope Quentin as Lord Anchester are each successful in their efforts. Mr Johnny Osborne again appears as Barry and keeps the audience roaring with laughter. Miss Maud Harvey makes a winsome Marjory, her vocalism being most acceptable. The Princess Melaneh is acted with conspicuous ability by Miss Nina Carlton. Miss Addie Lennard is a great favourite as Sophie, her dancing and mimicry being hugely enjoyed. Miss Edna Knollys is a capital Mrs St. Quinton and Miss May Glen charmingly enacts the part of Nan.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs Smith and Lee; Business-Manager, Mr S. L. Lee.—The Mackweys, in comedy wire act, convulse the audience with laughter at their cleverly worked performance; Carrie Leslie, vocalist; Barney Noble, comedian; Jarvis and Higgins, jugglers; Leon Edmond and Co., musicians; T. B. Talbot, comedian; Miss Olive Poole, comedienne and clog dancer; and the Cranks, comedy cyclists, make up one of the most enjoyable programmes we have had here for some time.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Hargreaves.—Harry Edson and his wonderful dog Doc submit a clever and amusing turn. The Sisters Marion, juvenile duettists, are enthusiastically encored for their well-rendered songs. Frank Coyle, comedian; Horace Monto, soldier vocalist, &c.; Fred Lloyd and Co., in a laughable sketch, *The Blind Spinster*; Robins and Collier, in *The Photographer and the Lady*; Belle Braham, illustrated song artiste; and the Empire Bioscope complete an attractive list.

RUGBY.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr E. Parker Royston.—This week Mr F. G. Kimberley's company is presenting the drama, *Bound to Win*. Mr F. G. Kimberley gives a manly and effective rendering of the part of Harry Lyndon; Mrs F. G. Kimberley as Marion Forbes displays exceptional ability; Miss Kathleen Eckhart is realistic as Gladys Orme; Mr F. Strickland as Philip Ayre deserves special mention for his able exposition; and Mr James Hont is very good as Ned Oakley. Miss Edie Machin as Winnie Oakley is graceful and artistic; Mr Horace Custins as Willie Wilkins causes much amusement; and the remaining characters are all in the hands of capable artistes.

FOSSETT'S HIPPODROME.—In addition to the usual equestrian turns, ably given by Mr Robert Fossett, jun., and Miss Fossett, an additional attraction this week is the engagement of Kardoo, the handcuff king. Another attractive turn is that of De Lougay, contortionist and acrobat; C. Beckett is very good as usual; and Otto also is well worthy of mention.

SEACOMBE.

IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr James Kiernan.—Mr and Mrs Calvert Routledge's company is here this week with *The Cricket on the Hearth*. The various immortals are excellently impersonated by their respective exponents. Mr Calvert Routledge as John Peerybingle plays with force and earnestness; Mr Sidney Sarl is a decided success as Mr Tackleton, as is also Mr David Curtis as Caleb Plummer; Porter is strongly played by Mr H. Speedwell; and Edward Plummer is adequately looked after by Mr Alex. Willis; Bertha, the blind girl, is pathetically enacted by Miss Sybil Ruskin; and the cheery and vivacious little Dot is prettily played by Miss Mary Jocelyn (Mrs Calvert Routledge), whose natural and easy style wins repeated applause.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr A. C. Harrison.—*Home, Sweet Home*, is being performed here by Mr Frank Lindo and company. Stephen Armitage is admirably depicted by Mr Lindo. Captain Gerald Gambier looks the rôle of the Duke of Ancaster capitally. That of Lucas Lyle is skilfully handled by Mr Wilson Coleman. Joan is charmingly embodied by Miss Marion Wakeford. Sybil is carefully represented by Miss Gertrude Bingham, and Dora is prettily played by Little Madge Bingham. Mr Geo. Jervis, Mr Sidney Bryant, Mr Geo. Overs, and Mr Norton Shield also do good work.

SHEERNESS.

COLISEUM.—Sole Proprietor, Mr T. C. Dorling; Manager, Mr Chas. Melvin.—A capital bill is presented here for this week, the principal item being the production of a dramatic sketch, entitled *After Many Years*, in which various scenes of everyday life are faithfully portrayed. Lu Lu and Leon, Continental jugglers, are enthusiastically received; Miss Florence M'Intyre, soprano; and Miss Alma Florence, elocutionist, meet with a good reception; and the programme concludes with the comedy sketch *My Son's Wife*.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr P. Reymond.—The programme for this week includes the Walcot combination in the comedy sketch, *Exchange is No Robbery*. Hawley and Orescent in the laughable farce, *The Messenger*, are also well received. In the variety line Mr Fred Carroll, comedian; Mr Leonard Royal, descriptive vocalist; and Miss Lillie Gainsly, comedienne, are likewise deserving of special mention. The Kendalls, in the comedy act, "All Brand New," also score.

SHEFFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr F. W. Purcell; Acting-Manager, Mr T. S. Carter.—The enormously successful annual *Goody Two-Shoes* is still delighting large audiences.

LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr John Hart; General Manager and Treasurer, Mr J. E. Beaumont.—A merry and right good old-fashioned pantomime is Mr Jas. Kiddie's *Dick Whittington*, which was played to a good house on Monday. The scenery and dresses are first-rate, the ballets are pretty, and the overture, "incidentals," and concerted finales have a distinctly musicianly flavour. Mr George Burton, who has composed and arranged all the music, has the true gift of melody, and some of the lyrics show a distinct advance on any of his former work. Like Mr J. L. Barry, the author of the book, Mr Burton is a "Sheffield Blade." The artists work together with great and commendable *esprit de corps*. Miss Bessie Willan is a pretty and vivacious Dick, and Miss Leah Laurie sings and acts cleverly as the dainty Alice. Miss Florence Hilton is again to the fore as the dashing Lord Algernon. Miss Meta Anderson is successful as the Fairy Queen. The trio of capable comedians, Mr Cyril Dundas as Fitzwarren, Mr Allan Carruthers as Idle Jack, and Mr Harry Albery as the Cook, Messrs Clifton and Gibson as Peter and Larry, cause great laughter. The Three Sisters Kilner do some agile acrobatic dances; Curtis and Vanity are clever cake-walk experts; Miss Isabel Taylor is a handsome Captain Navycutte; Mr M. V. Vido makes an active and intelligent Cat; and the Belle Troupe of dancers are deservedly applauded. The youngsters have had a grand feast of innocent fun this week at the Lyceum, for in addition to *Dick Whittington* at night, Mr E. St. Alban's company have given matinée performances of the ever-delightful fairy play *Alice in Wonderland*.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr C. W. Ramsay.—*Aladdin* still holds the boards. Those tremendous favourites and most diverting drolls August and September, are still making the rafters ring with roars of health-giving laughter, and they are ably seconded by Messrs Charles Austin, Teddy Benham, and Royce and Royston. To the great regret of her countless admirers, Miss Esta Stella, the graceful, pretty, and piquant principal girl, has been out of the cast for several nights, through indisposition. Her part has been ably sustained by Miss Dacre. Miss Ida Worsely, an excellent and refined vocalist, scores with her pretty song, "The Girl from Dixey." The Misses Conway and Bolton, in a coster song and dance, are very popular; and the terpsichorean displays of the Four Magnets are enthusiastically applauded.

EMPIRE PALACE.—General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr A. W. Young.—The shapely Mdlle. Diane De Fontenoy in her artistic poses plastique act, "The Artist's Model," is the star this week. Other performers who successfully appear are little Ulpts, eccentric; Hugh Stanton's farce company in *Bargain Mad*; Alexandre and Bertie, in their novel act, "After the Ball;" Carl and Mary, entertainers; the Coloured Meisters, glee singers; M. Vosper, a clever mimic and illusionist; Mark Leslie, the original "Dusky Prince"; and Vasco, the well-known player on "divers instruments of musick."

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr W. Marlow, sen.; Manager, Mr W. Marlow, jun.—This week's attraction is provided by Mr Edward Graham-Falcor, who is presenting his grand Christmas pantomime entitled *The Forty Thieves*. Mr W. Cyrus and Miss Maude Cyrus, with the donkey, are humorous in their comedy act; Miss Frances Manners is a most pleasing comedienne; Mr Hyam Good, the favourite comedian, is well supported by Mr Willie Kloof, who gives capital solos on hand bells and post-horn; Miss Rosa Charles is a good speciality dancer; and the Royal Raynor Trio are exceptionally clever and sensational acrobats. Praise is also due to Mr George Dix as John Willy, the donkey.

ST. HELENS.

THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr M'Leod Loader.—Mr Charles Frohman's No. 1 company is on a return visit this week with *Sherlock Holmes*. Mr H. A. Saintsbury gives a fine portrayal of the title-rôle; as Alice Faulkner Miss Vera Longden displays undoubted ability; Mr W. F. Stirling makes an effective Moriarty; Dr. Watson has a capable representative in Mr Lawrence Leyton; and Mr Leslie Carter and Miss Maud Linden are seen to advantage as the Larrabees.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs T. Barrasford, Will Sley, and F. Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr A. V. Carnel.—The trump card here this week is Miss Connie Goodwin and her piccaninnies, who are creating a furore. The Waldrons, old favourites, cause much hilarity in *The Silly Burglar*; Miss May Milburn scores well as a comedian; as does Miss Lily Turner as a descriptive vocalist. Coram gives a clever turn as a ventriloquist; and Monks and Wood, duettists; Post Mason, baritone; Mr Arthur Beecham, comedian; and Weisker's bioscope complete the programme.

(Continued on Page 16.)

ART
COLD?
THEN
BOVRIL.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Jan. 23, the Drama, entitled
"EAST LYNNE."

The attraction at the Pavilion this week is a revival of the favourite drama *East Lynne*, which, with its strong human interest and emotional situations, still retains its old drawing powers. A fine impersonation of the sympathetic Archibald Carlyle is given by Mr Ashley Page, who plays with much artistic appreciation and effect. Mr James C. Aubrey is to be commended for his admirable exposition of Lord Mountsevern, and Mr Frank Harding indicates the villainies of Sir Francis Levison without undue or enforced characterisation of wickedness. An able reading of Justice Hare is given by Mr Russell Norrie, and Mr Charles Crawford is earnest as Richard Hare, while Mr Harry Barford infuses plenty of broad humour into the part of Bullock, which keeps the audience in laughter whenever he is on the stage. As Lady Isabel Miss Marion Denvil is splendid, her acting being truly emotional and natural. The varied feelings are cleverly portrayed, and Miss Denvil well deserved the applause with which her efforts were repeatedly greeted. Miss East Robertson, who made her first appearance here this season, is well suited as Barbara Hare, and Miss Tina Mavro gives a highly finished rendering of Cornelia Carlyle. Miss Cissie Bezzant is excellent as Little Willie, and Miss Laura Thorne is capable as Joyce. Mr Cremlin makes a capital Lawyer Dill, while a charming representative of Wilson is found in Miss Kitty Cardigan. Miss Ethel La Roze is a piquant Susanne, and Miss Alice Grahame a pleasing Little Isabel. The scenery and mounting is all that could be desired.

WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Jan. 23, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Frederick Melville, entitled
"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."

Though loth to lose the pleasant charm of pantomime, there was nevertheless a certain sigh of satisfaction with which the Marylebonens settled down to witness Mr Melville's extraordinary play *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*, for come what may the West Londoners will always be true to their first love, the drama. Miss Beatrice Homer sustained the title-rôle with conspicuous ability and power. Her well-modulated voice was heard to advantage during the four trying acts, and altogether her performance calls for the highest praise. Miss Margaret Watson's study of the Italian girl Morita was another capital piece of work, her make-up and delivery being excellent. As Rose Courtenay Miss Rosabel Dodd was full of passion and energy, and Miss Nellie Jackson was particularly bright and cheery as the lively Aggie Brown. Mr Stanley Bedwell portrayed Jack Merriman with an abundance of vital energy and skill, his robust rendering of the part being much to the liking of the critical patrons of this Church-street playhouse. As Hubert Gold Mr Leyton Cancellor was well placed, giving an easy rendering of the character; and Mr Stuart Roberts was equally capable as his companion in crime, Antonio Luchessi. Raggles, a London Hooligan, was played by Mr Fred De Vere in a most amusing way, and the exertions of Mr Tubby Edlin as Tubby Herrick were much appreciated by reason of Mr Edlin's humorous delivery. Mr Frank Denis was decidedly good as Doctor Carry; Mr Renaud Lockwood was a manly Tom Redvers; and Mr Wilton Boyne was satisfactory as Lamerel. All the other parts were in safe hands, and the staging and mounting beyond reproach. Mr George Henry looked after Mr Melville's interests in front in a courteous and discriminating way.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Jan. 23, the Comic Opera, by Maurice Ordonneau and Arthur Sturgess, with Music by Audran, entitled
"LA POUPÉE."

A rise in the thermometer of merriment has been distinctly perceptible this week at the Terriss on the advent of *La Poupée*, and the pretty house has resounded with mirth at the funny incidents which surround the escapades of the fascinating doll; but even at the highest degree of hilarity the large audiences have been constrained to pause in admiration of the entrancing melodies which abound in Audran's masterpiece. No better rendering of the work could be wished than that which the celebrated Ben Greet company, under the direction of Mr J. Bannister Howard, presents. Mr Edward Thirlby skilfully develops the fun of the part of Hilarius, taking advantage of every opportunity to divert. His capers and grimaces are infinite in variety, and the witty dialogue which he is called upon to speak gains by his droll methods of delivery. Popularity is early attained by Miss Cissie Wade, who is a winsome Alesia, her movements as the doll being instinct with refinement and grace. She is all brightness and vivacity, and a flexible voice aids her in the tuneful rendering of the melodious airs, her love duets with Launcelot being very gratifying to the ear. Mr Algernon Lee is a well-graced novice as Launcelot. Excellent taste and expression marks his singing, and an unpretentious sense of humour is an agreeable feature of a well-studied impersonation. The airs and graces of the two old gallants Loremois and Baron Chanterelle are elaborately presented by Mr Harry Bishop and Mr Stanley White, their part in the trio "She is charming" being invaluable. Father Maxime has a grave and reverend representative in Mr Joseph A. Brull, who wins an encore for "A jovial monk am I," which he renders with admirable breadth and power. The humours of Balthazar are dryly accentuated by Mr Bob Anchor, who keeps well within the bounds of delicacy, and opens his mouth only to amuse. A comely Madame Hilarius is found in Miss Alice M'Farlane; Mr Clowes is a quaint Notary; and Messrs Devonport, Charles Flynn, and G. Speed are well suited in the parts of Basilique, Benoit and Angelot. Henri has a personable exponent in Miss Eva Ellis; Miss Carr and Miss Bailey are entrusted with the parts of Guduline and Jacques respectively; minor rôles are played by Miss Fenn and Miss Ward; and as the First and Second Doll Miss Violet May and Miss Florence Bedell are adequate. The opera is exquisitely dressed and the mounting is based on elaborate lines and with no apparent regard to expense. The chorus sing with remarkable precision and purity of intonation, an agreeable achievement in which they are supported by the augmented orchestra directed by Mr H. H. Shaw.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

Mr Murray Heriot this week is presenting Messrs Geo. Brydon-Phillips's company in the popular nursery tale of "Sinbad." The book, which has been written by the well-known Drury-lane author, J. Hickory Wood, follows the story very closely, and is smartly put together. Miss Jessie Preston as Sinbad is the life and soul of the pantomime, and seems to put vitality into everyone who is on the stage with her. Mr Walter King is very funny as Mrs Sinbad, and his dry, quiet humour is in marked contrast to Sinbad's hilarity. Miss Nellie Randall, a very charming and dainty Badoura, sings "My Barney" and dances admirably, and Miss Amy Maple makes a pretty, chic Zoe. Mr Fred Maple is excellent as Hindbad, being well applauded for his excellent dancing, and Messrs Esmond and Verona as the two seamen, Jack Bobstay and Ben Bunk, are prominent in the fun-making. Mr G. F. Snow and Miss Clare Farron as King Tibbles and Princess Naggles are encored for their dancing. Mr Leslie Digby, whose make-up resembles the celebrated Captain Kettle, stands out prominently as Captain Scuttle. Mr Frank Seabrook gives a very weird impersonation of Agrippa, the Old Man of the Sea, and Mr F. Kemble as Hassan plays the part well. Miss Cecilia Maude brings the part of Crystal, the good fairy, into prominence by her charming rendering of the song "The Land of Make Believe." There are not a large number of songs, but Miss Preston has a good reception for her singing of "Yo San." She also gives "Down at the Old Bull and Bush," much to the delight of the gallery boys who take up the chorus with heartiness. She joins Mr Walter King in some very diverting business, entitled "Who Killed Bill Bailey?" to the tune of "Cock Robin." Most of the company introduce specialities. The Maples give their acrobatic dancing, and also the "way they do the cake-walk in Japan," for which they receive a well-deserved encore. Messrs Esmond and Verona introduce their clever legmania performance. "Navaho" is well sung by Mr G. F. Snow, who is joined by Miss Clare Farron in a well-executed cake-walk. The scenery is on a lavish scale, and is very pretty, especially the Diamond Valley, which is a triumph of the scene painter's art. The music, which has been composed and arranged by Mr C. Johnson and Mr W. Stephenson, is smartly rendered by an augmented orchestra under the able direction of Mr W. Stephenson, and the good old-fashioned harlequinade, arranged by Mr H. Gardner, who plays clown, much to the delight of the juvenile portion of the audience, brings a most enjoyable evening to a close.

THE LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Jan. 23, the Pantomime, entitled
"SINBAD THE SAILOR."

Although late in the field with a pantomime, Mr Samuel James's production is in no way to be despised, nor is it at all inferior to the many attractive pantomimes produced by the former proprietor, Mr Acton Phillips. Knowing what is required in Hammersmith, Mr James has engaged a company that works together for the good of the entertainment, and so attains a success. Due attention has been paid to the scenery and costumes, but they are—as they should be—secondary to the providers of the fun. The pantomime is divided into two acts, and embraces sufficient of the familiar story to be made plain to the youngest member of the audience. A handsome and dashing Sinbad is Miss Daisy Silcott, who gives an excellent interpretation of the hero. Her expressive singing is also received with much favour. Mr Con Silo makes a dramatic Davy Jones, the Demon of the Deep, and Miss Ida Katerina as Coraline, the Mermaid Queen, is also seen and heard to advantage. A side-splitting Shiraz Ali, a tailor, is Mr Sid Morton, and in combination with Mr Jack M'Kenzie as Cogia Ali he succeeds in provoking much merriment. Tinbad the Tailor is comically played by Mr Dan O'Connor. Wiffles and Woffles, the twin babies of Shiraz and Cogia, as impersonated by Messrs Dale and O'Malley, are hugely appreciated, their efforts causing the heartiest laughter. Mr Bob Graham is a capital Sultan, and Captain Coddle is well rendered by Mr Charles Sando. Mr Dick M'Kay is an impressive Old Man of the Sea. Zoradee, Sinbad's sweetheart, serves to introduce Miss Ethel Dove, a smart and attractive young lady, who has quickly achieved distinct popularity during her short stay here. Her acting, singing, and dancing are of great value to the production. Prince Azan is effectively portrayed by Miss Ruby Norton, and Miss Ethel Marles distinguishes herself as the Princess Irza. The chorus sings admirably, and Mr J. Reillie deserves credit for the arrangement of the music. An amusing harlequinade is furnished by the Sando Troupe.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 23, the Negro Musical Comedy,
"IN DAHOMEY."

Dalstonians like a constant change, and the alteration from pantomime to the Negro musical comedy *In Dahomey*, which is being played there this week, is evidently quite to their taste. *In Dahomey*, the work of Mr Will Marian Cook, contains plenty of lively music and a variety of incident which provides an almost unbounded source of amusement. Mr Dan Avery and Mr Charles Hart, "the sunny comedians," are really the life and soul of the piece. Mr Avery ably represents Rareback Pinkerton, and Shylock Homestead has a humorous exponent in Mr Charles Hart. Other prominent parts in the male cast are taken by Mr Pete Hampton, Mr Fred Douglas, Mr Walter Dixon, Mr Leon Williams, Mr Walter Richardson, Mr Pete Washington, and Mr Alex. Williams. Miss Lizzie Avery, who appears as Flossie, a flower-seller, is a great favourite, and certainly her singing is inclined to make her popular wherever she goes. Miss Tiny Jones as Lucille, Miss Fanny Wise as Pansy, Miss Netty Goff, Miss Laura Bowman, Miss Stella Hart, and Miss Pauline Freeman each contribute towards the undoubted success of the performance.

EALING THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 23, the Musical Comedy, in Two Acts, entitled
"MY LADY MOLLY."

After a successful four weeks' run with the pantomime *Aladdin*, *My Lady Molly* is again paying a visit here with Mr Arthur Hart's excellent company. Miss Maud Thorne is winsome as Alice Coverdale, and has a pretty voice, which she uses with effect. Miss Agnes Tandy in the title-rôle invests the part with a charming piquancy that wins her favour, and Miss Sybil Thorne sustains the character of Hester with conspicuous ability. Miss Florence Wakeham is a typical French governess; Mr Arthur Powell creates much merriment by an excellent portrayal of Micky O'Dowd; while Mr Edmund Sherras is frank and earnest as Captain Harry Romney. Mr Stuart Alexander as Lionel Bland is all that could be desired, and the Sir Miles Coverdale of Mr Fred Hobbs is a capital performance. Miss Maude Lucy is a fascinating Maid, and dances with great ease and effect. She is supported in excellent style by Miss Maud Mandrell. The small part of Reuben Oates is successfully undertaken by Mr Thos. R. Norbury, and Mr Charles Burney is commendable as Judge Romney. Numerous pretty young ladies comprise a large chorus, who sing sweetly; and a capital orchestra is under the direction of Mr Carlton Mason.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Jan. 23, the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled
"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND."

After a month of pantomime Mr Sounes was rightly of opinion that his patrons would appreciate rather stronger fare, with the result that Mr John Wainwright and company have played *It's Never too Late to Mend* to appreciative audiences here this week. Mr John Wainwright keeps his old rôle of Tom Robinson, the convict of many aliases, and it is scarcely necessary to say that his impersonation has that breadth of conception and finish of execution only to be attained by careful study and constant practice. Every phase of the convict's character was carefully depicted, and whether trying to brain his warders with a flagstone or breaking down at the death of his fellow-prisoner, Mr Wainwright kept a firm grip on the attention and sympathy of his audience. Miss Kate Randolph gave a sweet and womanly rendering of Susan Merton, and indicated possession of the power to express genuine tenderness of feeling, notably in portraying Susan's joy and relief at the return, in the last act, of her old lover. Mr Wilfred Graham was a manly, straightforward George Fielding, speaking his lines with conviction and a refreshing clearness of enunciation. Mr Charles F. Johnson gave a virile and clearly defined representation of the Rev. Francis Eden, a chaplain of the muscular Christian type; and Mr Henry Lee acted the sneaking, cowardly attorney to the life. Mr W. R. Wilson was sufficiently vindictive as the Prison Governor; and Mr Edwin Davies was a dignified and venerable Isaac Levi; a strong and consistent impersonation of the corn-factor, Meadows, came from Mr Harold Webb, and the antics and business of Mr Fred Owen as Jackey caused much amusement. Miss Millie Wilton contributed a touching and sympathetic rendering of the boy Josephs.

"THE CHOSEN PEOPLE."

Russian Play, in Three Acts, by Eugen Tschirikoff, Produced at the Avenue Theatre on Saturday, Jan. 21, and Played in the Russian language.

Leiser Frenkel	Mr N. ORLOFF
Boruch	Mr D. MICHAILOFF
Lia	Madame A. NASIMOFF
Shloime	Mr S. KRAMSKOI
Masha	Madame O. LJALINA
Nachmann	Mr P. N. ORLENEFF
Beresin	Mr J. WRONSKI
Iserseon	Mr A. KARATAEFF
Furman	Mr A. SOROKIN
Srul	Mr D. LETKOWSKY
Au t Sarra	Madame W. KRJASHEFF
A Gentleman	Mr W. ANIKEEFF
A Peasant	Mr F. SWJETLOFF
Khaine	Madame F. LETKOWSKAJA

The title of the above drama conveys its didactic character quite easily to the English mind; but its purpose, that of exciting sympathy for the Hebrew race in Russia, would have been fulfilled better had an English version been given. The three acts are largely given to dissertation and argument, but there are occasionally periods of swift action and tragic import, and the acting—always so sincere and earnest—made a deep impression upon the audience on Saturday. We are told that Tschirikoff is a promising Russian dramatist, and that, although an orthodox Russian, shows a comprehensive grasp of their mental struggles, occasioned by the oppressive and restrictive legislation, the social and religious prejudices, and the economic difficulties to which they are subjected. The story opens at the home of Leiser Frenkel, a Jewish watchmaker, who through riots had no less than three times lost all his belongings, and only escaped alive with the greatest difficulty. Frenkel has faith in the destiny of the Jewish people; and notwithstanding his sufferings is more peaceably inclined towards the authorities than his two children Boruch and Lia (Leah), both students with advanced views, who have participated in disturbances that led to their exclusion from the University. Frenkel's faith in Zionism—a movement aiming at the creation of an autonomous Jewish commonwealth in Palestine—is shared by Nachmann, who is indeed the champion of the Zionist ideal, according to which the Jew will cease to be an eternal wanderer over the face of the earth. Nachmann is in love with Lia, who, however, has given her heart to Beresin, a young orthodox Russian. The embers of Lia's religious faith are fanned into some semblance of life when she hears her father read the Sabbath prayers; and she hesitates to tell him of her attachment to Beresin, especially as his life had been embittered by her sister's conversion to Christianity. Nachmann makes a last effort to bring Lia back to her people by pointing out to her the misery of her own kith and kin, and his words produce a deep impression. Her distress does not escape the watchful eyes of her father, and the old man is painfully agitated when he learns from Lia's own lips of her love for a Christian. It is a terrible and unexpected blow, and he implores her not to take a step fraught with such momentous consequence. He had already lost one child, and now his only remaining daughter would also leave him in his old age. Beresin arrives, but Leah excitedly demands him to go away and leave her quite alone. News is brought of the Kishineff riots, and the remainder of the act is mostly filled out with arguments concerning Socialism and Zionism. At the opening of the third act Frenkel and various members of his family are awaiting coming events. The melancholy remarks among those present are broken by the bitter reproaches of Frenkel against his son Boruch, and, on Boruch exhibiting an utter want of sympathy with his own people, he is driven from the house by his father, who breaks down on the departure of the son. At the height of the confusion occasioned by the approach of the rolters, Nachmann hands a revolver to Lia, for use at the last extremity. Beresin, too, arrives, and taking hold of Lia calls on her, as well as on her father, to leave the house. Frenkel replies: "Am I also necessary? You only need her. Let her go if she likes; I remain alone." Lia prefers to stay, in spite of every effort of Beresin. The mob at last breaks into the room, Frenkel and Beresin are murdered, and Lia commits suicide.

The play is announced to be acted by the St. Petersburg Dramatic Company; but as the performance in the Russian capital was forbidden, it means merely a dramatic company from St. Petersburg, under the direction of Mr Orleneff, who played the fierce and passionate Zionist Nachmann with unrestrained vehemence at times, but generally with strength and conviction. Madame A. Nasimoff, who played Lia, has a command of emotion that stamps her as an exceedingly fine actress. She sounded the depths of her tragic rôle, and the moving scene between father and daughter became a most touching episode in her hands. She derived the best of support from Mr N. Orloff, whose portrait of the old watchmaker was lifelike. Mr A. Karataeff did well the little he had to do as Iserssop, a Jewish mechanic, who knows no other national distinction than that between rich and poor. He says "I only know two nations, one which works much and eats little, and the other which works very little and eats very much." The strenuous rôle of Boruch found an effective exponent in Mr D. Michailoff, and there was humour in the rendering of the two characters of Srul, a newsvender, and Dr. Furman by Mr D. Lotkowsky and Mr A. Sorokin. Mr S. Kramskoi made the character of Schloime (Frenkel's manservant) stand out by his truthful and consistent portraiture; and the minor parts were effectively handled. The audience in all parts of the house were most sympathetic, and this sympathy has not been lessened during the week by the terrible tragedy in St. Petersburg on Sunday.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The concert of Wednesday evening at the Guildhall School of Music commenced with "The Maidens' Trio," by Miss Needham, which was gracefully rendered by the Misses Boult, Barker, and Lester. The voices of these young ladies blended harmoniously, and Madame Helen Armstrong had evidently taken pains in training them. Master Levin, a gifted pupil of Mr Barnett, did himself and his master great credit in Schubert's Impromptu in C minor, and Weber's Rondo in E flat. The Nocturne of Chopin in F minor required a little more expression to do it justice. But the Chopin spirit and style are rarely acquired, even by mature performers, and we shall not blame Miss Hilda Bregmann for lacking qualities that experienced artists do not always command. Sarasate's charming "Zigeunerweisen" solo for the violin was admirably played by Miss Margaret Holden. Recitations by Miss Ivy Popham, a youthful pupil of Mr Allen Beaumont, created a very strong impression, the talent of the little student being remarkable, and the teaching of Mr Beaumont equally so. Her rendering of "Heroes," by Barry Pain, was especially clever. The pretty song of Miss Grace P. Wyndham, called "Love, Toil, and Rest," had ample justice done to it by Miss Mary Williams. Mendelssohn's song, "There be none of Beauty's daughters," enabled Mr H. Everett to do himself some credit, but he did not quite reach the Mendelssonian standard. Miss Allitsen's duet, "Break, Diviner Light," was neatly rendered by Miss Glenister and Mr Atkinson. Miss Lillie Gill was heard in Gerald Lane's ballad, "So robin sang." Miss C. Fawcett in the pizzicato passages of Sarasate's Spanish Dance required a shade more finish, but pizzicato effects are not easy for a student. Miss Edith Dixon sang two songs of Reginald Somerville, and Mr Arthur Jay in a song and Miss Crabbe with a pianoforte solo concluded the concert. Mrs Charles P. Smith, as usual, superintended the young ladies, and Miss Kate Richards accompanied with skill and tact, being frequently of great service to the students.

SCENIC ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION.

The Scenic Artists' Association held their seventeenth committee meeting on Monday evening at the offices, Robert street, Adelphi-terrace, W.C. There were present Mr Walter Hann (in the chair), Messrs. E. G. Banks, Rich. Douglas, Will Hatford, W. T. Hemsley, R. C. M'Cleery, H. W. Owen, Harry Potts, Will Raphael, W. B. Spong, Geo. Tweddell, and Harry Woolls. The secretary reported that the following donations had been received since the last meeting, namely:—Geo. Herring, Esq., £1 1s.; Sir Anderson Critchitt, £1 1s.; Mr John S. Sargent, R.A., £1 1s.; Mr Fred Terry, £1 1s.; Rt. Hon. the Countess of Lytton, £1 1s.; Mrs Bethune, £3; Mr H. B. Irving, £1 1s.; Mr Gerald De L'Duckworth, £1 1s.; Mr Alfred Sutro, £1 1s.; and Messrs. David Allen and Son, Limited, £1 1s.

The following scenic artists were elected members of the Association:—Messrs Geo. S. Evans, of Ashton-under-Lyne; Phil Small, of Maida-vale; Will Hobbs, of Dover; and Edward Nichols, of Drury-lane Theatre. The following were elected honorary members:—Messrs John S. Sargent, R.A., M. Henry, and Fred Terry.

The SECRETARY reported that he had received offers from the following to lend pictures to the Association for their exhibition to be held at the Grafton Galleries in April next:—Mr H. Absolon, a painting of "Mrs Baguett," from Charles Dickens's "Bleak House," by his grandfather, the late Mr John Absolon, R.I.; Miss Catherine A. Nimino, water-colour drawing, by the late William Beverley; Mr J. Ashby Storry, "Haunted Still," by Matt. Morgan; "A Thames Backwater" and "The Last of the Old Horse" (Leicester-square), by William Beverley; "Llewellen" and "Lancaster," by W. J. Calcott; "Dining-room of the Hon. Lewis Wingfield," by John O'Connor; "Redbrook," "Sand and Sea," "Alldorf," and "The Quaker's Room," by Charles Mathews; "Lancaster Castle" and a screen worked by the late Mrs Keeley at eighty-nine years of age; from Mr G. H. Gaskin, a painting by David Cox, R.A.; Dr. D. Dyce Brown, water-colour drawing, by T. L. Leitch, a drop scene at Drury-lane Theatre; Mr J. Allen Glasse, water-colour drawings by P. Nasmyth and Clarkson Stansfield, R.A., also water-colour drawing by Pitt.

The following resolution was proposed by Mr W. B. SPONG, and seconded by Mr H. WOOLLS:—"That members who fail to pay their quarterly instalments within twenty-eight days of the date on which they are due shall not be reinstated as members until they have paid a fine of 2s. 6d. and the arrears."

The secretary was instructed not to send in future any notices of committee, or other meetings, or of subscriptions overdue, or reminders of promises of contributions to the guarantee fund, but to notify the same on the notice-board in the offices, and to advertise the dates of meetings in *The Era*.

On the nomination of Mr HARRY POTTS, seconded by Mr E. G. BANKS, Sir Philip Burne-Jones, Bart., was elected a vice-president; and on the nomination of Mr R. C. M'CLEERY, seconded by Mr HARRY WOOLLS, Mr William Harford was also elected a vice-president.

Mr H. Warner was elected to the committee to fill up the vacancy caused by Mr Harford's acceptance of the office of vice-president.

The Secretary of the Association informs us that since the committee meeting on Monday he has received offers from the following to lend the pictures mentioned to the Association's exhibition at the Grafton Galleries in April next, namely:—From Mr Walter Withall, water-colour sketch by the late W. Beverley of a drop-scene for the Old Theatre Royal and Amphitheatre, Liverpool; water-colour drawing by Clarkson Stansfield, R.A., "The Harbour of England"; "Old and New Edison Lighthouses," by Charles Ryan; drop scene by W. B. Laidlaw, "Diana and Actæon;" water-colour drawings by Richard W. M. Keen of "Mother Shipton and Father Time." From Miss Mabel Allen, pictures by the late Joseph Williams Allen. From Mrs Sarah Barclay, works by Mr Charles Tomkins; and water-colour drawings of "Venice," by Dareth Roberts, Geo. Chambers, and David Cox, R.A., &c.

The next committee meeting for election of new members will be held at the offices at 8·0 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 6.

THE HORNS CARNIVAL.

In a scene of animated gaiety and brilliancy rarely seen in Suburbia Mr R. J. Brinkley's final Fancy and Costume Carnival of the season took place on Wednesday evening. The spacious and handsomely decorated King's Hall at the Horns Hotel, Kennington, held a crowd that was large and representative, and the thorough enjoyment and comfort of the gay revellers were assiduously looked after by Mr Jean Kohl, the Horns popular manager. He was assisted by Messrs W. Simpson and A. Rose, who as M.C.'s directed the twenty-four dances on the programme with a skill and efficiency only attained by long practice. The march-past revealed character costumes in delicate hues and confections of surpassing loveliness quite bewildering in their kaleidoscopic beauty and variety. The amusing drollery and antics of the comical characters evoked much merriment. To the splendid march time of Mr A. Groves' admirable orchestra the long line of aspirants for honours passed before the lady and gentlemen judges. The first prize, an upright grand piano, was awarded Miss Mascott for a lovely electric-lighted creation entitled "A Persian Garden." The second went to Mrs Hinds, who as "The Moulin Rouge" wore an attractive costume, which won an exquisite diamond and sapphire bracelet. Mr Gates as "An Old Beau" carried off a gentleman's fitted travelling bag; Mr H. Stanford as "Nursery Rhymes," a pair of saddle-bag easy chairs; Miss Mabel Woolff as a typical and pretty "Fairy Queen" won a lady's high-grade bicycle; Miss Payne as "A Fiery Fiend," a handsome inlaid cabinet; Miss Stewart as "A Japanese Garden," a lady's fitted dressing-case; Mr Clarence as "An Absurdity" (a most effective comical character), a gentleman's fitted dressing case; Mrs Leslie Thomas as "England's Heroes," a lady's gold-mounted umbrella; Mr G. Morrison as "The King of Grease," a gentleman's gold-mounted umbrella; Mr C. Elliff as "A Market Gardener," a marble clock and ornaments; Mr Mott as "King Carlos," a combination tantalus; Mrs Gates as "The Ruling Passion," a silver tea and coffee service; Madame Katarine, "In the Snow," a handsome coal cabinet; Miss Kohler as "The Horns Poster," a case of carvers; Mr H. Dawes, a splendid female impersonation of "The Grand Duchess," a fitted tantalus; Mr Barrat as "A Toreador," a case of fish eaters; Miss Sullivan as "Nell Gwynne," a lady's fitted toilet bag; Mr Lidle as "A Matador," a silver afternoon tea set; Miss Ross as "A Horns Poster," case of fish eaters; Mr H. F. Fleth as "The Black Cat" (cigarette poster), case of fish eaters; and Miss E. Stuart as "A Japanese," a silver-mounted salad bowl and servers. Mrs R. J. Brinkley distributed the prizes, a vote of thanks for so doing being most enthusiastically carried, and acknowledged in a few well-chosen words by Mr R. J. Brinkley, the genial host of The Horns.

The growing popularity of the Horns Carnival balls was evidenced by the crowded condition of this handsome hall and the suite of rooms. Dancing was kept up with untiring spirit till daybreak.

MR EDWIN H. WYNNE played the part of Lord Fancourt Babberley in *Charley's Aunt* at very short notice on 16th inst. at the Comedy Theatre, and continued to sustain it until Mr Cooke's return. Mr Wynne was Mr Penley's understudy at the Globe, and has appeared in the character over 2000 times.

MRS. LANGTRY AND MR. ALLEN.

In the Court of King's Bench, on the 20th inst., before Mr Justice Warrington, sitting without a jury, was heard an action brought by Mr Henry Marsh Allen to recover damages from Mrs de Bathe for alleged wrongful dismissal.

Mr M'Call, for the plaintiff, stated that Mrs Langtry in the summer of 1903 was rehearsing a play called *Mrs Dering's Divorce*, for the purpose of producing it in the United States. Before July 23 a number of rehearsals had taken place, and there was in the piece a character called "Jimmy Foster," but the person playing it had not secured the approval of the defendant. In consequence she wrote to the plaintiff, asking him to call and see her, with the view to an arrangement for his taking the part. Plaintiff called, and it was arranged that he should take the character at a salary of £35 per week. The tour was to be until March, and plaintiff was to take the part, probably for the whole tour, but certainly until Jan. 1, 1904. At the time plaintiff had not seen the part, but when he studied it he came to the conclusion that it would not suit him, as it ought to be played as an eccentric character. He had at that period an offer from Mr Lewis Waller, who was organising a company to play *Monsieur Beaucaire* in the provinces, and of this offer he spoke to the defendant. Defendant dissented from plaintiff's view of the character of Jimmy Foster, and it was agreed that plaintiff should go out to America with defendant's company. The arrangement, however, was modified to the extent that in the event of Mr Clyde Fitch, the dramatist, having a part suitable for plaintiff in America, plaintiff was to be released on Nov. 1, or, at the latest, on Jan. 1. In return for this option, the plaintiff agreed to pay half his travelling expenses to New York. The play was performed at the Savoy Theatre, New York, on Sept. 7, but it was not appreciated by the public, and the defendant said to the plaintiff that she would be glad if Mr Clyde Fitch would require his services earlier than had been suggested. Plaintiff continued to play the piece until Sept. 21, when he was told by the acting-manager that another actor had been selected for the part, and plaintiff was asked to accept a week's salary in lieu of notice. Plaintiff declined. He did not play in the piece after the third week, but remained in New York, where he endeavoured to obtain an engagement, without success, until January, when he returned to England. On his arrival in London he applied to the defendant for £472 10s., being 16½ weeks' salary, from Sept. 7 to Jan. 1, less three weeks on account. Receiving no answer to that application, the writ was issued.

The plaintiff was called, and bore out in evidence his counsel's opening statement. He added that he was now playing with Mr Cyril Maude in *Beauty and the Barge*. He was recommended to Mrs Langtry by Mr Charles Hawtrey.

Cross-examined by Mr Tindal Atkinson, K.C., plaintiff said that the criticisms upon the play and his part in it would not do him any good with Mr Clyde Fitch or with the American public. His return passage cost him 75 dollars, and the charge of £21 was made by his solicitor. Before taking the part at all he told defendant that it would not do him any good, but took it because defendant was somewhat in a fix, there being no time to have any other rehearsal. He did not say that he intended to go to New York anyway, and, therefore, would play the part for the defendant for four weeks for certain. No one would go to America under at least a ten weeks' engagement. Such an engagement would carry with it the passage money. At the time he went out there was no written contract, and it was quite true that he was not very well off about then. If Mr Fitch had wanted him after the New York season of four weeks with the defendant, he should have accepted the offer. He was exceedingly upset when asked to accept a week's salary by the acting-manager, but he made no effort to see the defendant, and to ask her for an explanation. Between September and his return to England he went to various places, amongst them to Washington.

Mr Atkinson—In search of work?—No.

You were following a company?—Yes.

Interested in anyone?—Yes.

Witness here asked his Lordship if he must answer these questions, and whether these had anything to do with the contract.

Mr Justice Warrington—I cannot stop them.

Mr Atkinson (proceeding)—A lady?—Yes.

Where she went you went?—No.

Sometimes?—Yes.

Where else did you go?—To Philadelphia and Baltimore.

That is where you went between September and January?—Yes.

Did you come back with the same company?—Yes.

In re-examination by Mr M'Call as to his expenses in New York, Mr Allen said his hotel bill was £2 per day, and it cost him £1 5s. for a cab from the landing stage to the hotel.

His Lordship—I happen to know that.

Mr Charles Warner, an actor, said he saw the defendant in August, 1903, when she told him she was unable to engage his son, as she had engaged the plaintiff for the tour, but had promised to release him after ten weeks if Mr Clyde Fitch required him. If that occurred she would be glad for his (witness's) son to join the company.

In cross-examination, witness said he would swear defendant mentioned ten weeks. A four weeks' engagement would be a most unusual thing.

Mr Lomas, managing clerk to the plaintiff's solicitors, said that from inquiries he made he found the rates from New York to England in January, 1904, varied from £18 to £35. As he understood plaintiff had something better than the lowest—he put down the figure in the particulars at £21.

This close the plaintiff's case.

Mrs Langtry was called, and stated that she engaged the plaintiff, and on the same day he rehearsed the piece. On the following day plaintiff said he thought the part would not suit him, and that he wished to play sentimental parts. After some conversation plaintiff offered to play the part in New York, and it was arranged that a man should be got to understudy to take his place. Plaintiff said that in any case he would be going out next month, as Mr Clyde Fitch wanted him for a play he was going to bring out. It was also agreed that plaintiff should pay half the passage-money. No contract was drawn up, because the engagement was to be a short one. She said nothing to Mr Warner about ten weeks. What she said was that she could employ his son after the New York period. After the piece had run a fortnight in New York, she told her manager, Mr Kiralfy, to intimate to the plaintiff that another person had been engaged to continue the company's tour in the part played by plaintiff. No claim was made upon her until March in last year.

In cross-examination, witness said she did not answer the plaintiff's letter, sent by his solicitor, because she never answered lawyers' letters. When unfortunate enough to receive them she handed them to her own solicitor. She understood from the plaintiff that Mr Fitch had engaged him to play in a new piece in October.

Mr Tindal Atkinson submitted that the engagement was for four weeks certain, and four weeks only, as plaintiff was expecting to be called upon by Mr Clyde Fitch, in which case plaintiff would be able to better his position.

Mr Justice Warrington said that being in the position of a jury, and considering this case from that point of view, the conclusion he came to was that the plaintiff had not made out his claim, consequently there would be judgment for the defendant. The £35 paid into court to make up the four weeks' salary would be paid to the plaintiff. Judgment was given accordingly.

'THE FORTY THIEVES" AT STRATFORD.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

In his latest Christmas production Mr Fred Fredericks has departed from orthodox lines by dispensing with several of the generally accepted features of pantomime, relying for success on a light and bright entertainment embodying sumptuously mounted spectacular effects, plenty of songs, dances, and concerted numbers, interpolated with an easily followed story, and containing an abundance of legitimate comedy business appealing to old and young alike. In this he has gauged to a nicety the tastes of the inhabitants of the populous Eastern suburbs for whom the Borough Theatre specially caters, and the record business which is ensuing must be exceedingly gratifying to all pecuniarily interested in the production. Miss Claire Romaine, whose fourth appearance it is in Stratford pantomime, easily retains her immense popularity. The part of Ganem suits her admirably, and her distinct enunciation, her vivacity, physical activity, appropriate acting, and general joviality render her an ideal principal boy. Her songs are received with enthusiasm, the chorus of "Pennies" being taken up nightly with avidity. An effective contrast to the exuberances of Miss Romaine is provided by the eccentric drollery of Mr Nat Clifford, whose original methods of extracting mirth never fail in their object. His very appearance is irresistible, and his excessively absurd rendering of a "mock" military ditty is excruciatingly funny, whilst his intricate dancing compels wonder and applause. These two artists share the success of a farcical duet, "Prophets," in which Mr Clifford invokes the aid of some "property" rabbits, together with other amusing business; and also in conjunction with Mr R. Saker-Harlow, whose performance as the donkey could not be improved upon, they provide one of the funniest episodes of the pantomime in their cave-robbing scene. Mr Kennedy Allen makes the most of his chances as Hassarac, playing the part with a dry, ironical humour which is most effective. His attempts to assert his authority with the band as their lieutenant is decidedly comical; his cigar-shop interlude with Miss Sylvester is in genuine comedy vein, and his song, "Josey," which concludes with a very quaint dance by Mr Allen and Miss Ashton, is a highly pleasing item. Mr Dan Crawley as Cassim, who looms so largely in the story, is admirably suited, and he does not overlook the dramatic possibilities of the part in the Cave scene. Cassim's better half, Cogia, is rather a robust dame in the hands of Mr Allan Wye, but his strong voice and excellent diction stand him in good stead in the numbers allotted to him. Miss Rosie Sylvester has become a general favourite as Morgiana. She looks very sweet and dainty in the different pretty frocks she dons during the performance, and she sings and dances with captivating grace and ease. Quite an uproar of "I will's" is the response to the invitation expressed in her song "Who'll be Johnny number two?" and "Romeo and Juliet" never fails to elicit applause. Miss Vere Gerald is happily cast as Abdallah, the captain of the Forty Thieves, playing the part with a martial air and genial swagger, which suits it immeasurably, besides singing "It's Tommy who carries the gun" in very appropriate style. Miss Muriel Vox as Zoe continues to win favour for her rendering of "Under a Panama," and Miss Daisy Webb never fails to win encore verses for her chic and vivacious rendering of "Sammy," in which she has the assistance of a clever confederate in one of the boxes. Saladin and Lallah are charmingly impersonated by Miss Ethel Harry-Nash and Miss May Harry-Nash respectively, and Miss Alys Eden makes a very graceful Fairy Sesame. The solo dances contributed by Miss Ethel Ashton, the première danseuse, are greatly admired and applauded. For the excellence and smoothness of the ensemble Mr Ben Barrow, the musical director, is responsible; and Mr Arthur Linforth's expert stage-management secures a smart performance of a brilliant annual.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

Most heartily we wish many, many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Julie F. Opp, actress—Saturday, Jan. 28.
Mabel Mainwaring, actress—Saturday, Jan. 28.
Emmeline Lewis—Saturday, Jan. 28.
Frank Allen—Saturday, Jan. 28.
Phyllis Cecil—Sunday, Jan. 29.
V. Barley Clarke—Sunday, Jan. 29.
Harry Barford, actor—Sunday, Jan. 29.
F. H. Cowen—Sunday, Jan. 29.
John S. Chamberlain—Sunday, Jan. 29.
George V. Wybrow—Sunday, Jan. 29.
Vera Friscari—Sunday, Jan. 29.
John E. West, Scotch comedian—Jan. 29.
Mrs G. Adney Payne—Monday, Jan. 30.
Ghita Corri—Monday, Jan. 30.
M. Nelson Ramsay—Monday, Jan. 30.
Seymour Hicks, actor—Monday, Jan. 30.
William F. Grant—Tuesday, Jan. 31.
Kate Flinn—Tuesday, Jan. 31.
Clara Butt, vocalist—Wednesday, Feb. 1.
Vera Beringer, actress—Wednesday, Feb. 1.
Ada Melrose—Wednesday, Feb. 1.
Lily Harold—Wednesday, Feb. 1.
Grace Wilson, actress—Wednesday, Feb. 1.
Clarice Jenner—Wednesday, Feb. 1.
Gustave Garcia—Wednesday, Feb. 1.
Elise Barone—Thursday, Feb. 2.
Little Amy Manfree—Thursday, Feb. 2.
Dolores Drummond, actress—Friday, Feb. 3.
Joseph Hatton, author—Friday, Feb. 3.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 23, the Drama, entitled
"THE SINS OF A CITY."

Miss Winifred Maude and company are paying a welcome return visit this week, and playing to satisfactory business the successful drama entitled *The Sins of a City*. Miss Maude appears again as Seaweed, the adopted daughter of Donald M'Ivor, and wins all hearts by her charmingly sympathetic performance. Mr Victor Du Cane is highly successful in the dual-rôle of the twin brothers, Joe and Jasper Woodleigh, and displays considerable power of characterisation; Mr Horace E. Herbert plays Sandy M'Donald in earnest and convincing style; Mr Leslie Beaufort is an excellent representative of Ralph Blackwater, K.C., his interpretation of the part being effective and powerful; and Mr Carson Melville as Isaac Levi is very good indeed. Miss Ellen Grey gives a clever rendering of Jenny, the old Scotchwoman; Miss Marie Lyons is a powerful and impressive Lesbia; Miss Lily Seymour is good as Mrs Miggs; and Miss Jenny Hackett is bright and amusing as Midge.

MR FREDERICK VINCENT, of 7, Coburg-street, Leeds, for many years general manager of the Leeds Grand Theatre, and formerly associated with Mr John Hart and the United Theatres Company as manager in Bradford and Hull, who died on Dec. 27 last at the Albion Hotel, Manchester, at the age of fifty-five years, left estate of the gross value of £2,215, with net personalty £785. Probate of his will of Aug. 11, 1899, has been granted to his brother, Mr Harry Engel, of 10, Parson's-green, Fulham, the sole executor, to whom for his services he bequeathed £25. The testator bequeathed his diamond pin to his friend, Mr John Hart, "as a token of respect, esteem, and regard, and as an expression of gratitude for the many favours, acts of kindness, and courtesies exhibited by him to me." The testator left the whole of his estate to his wife for life, but, as she had predeceased him, his estate devolves, subject to legacies, of £50 each to his nephew, Charles Engel, and his niece, Nellie Engel, to his brothers and sisters, Marie Rogers, Annie Belham, and Harry Engel, in equal shares.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LES MERLEREAU,"
Comedy, in Three Acts, by M. Georges Berr,
Produced at the Bouffes-Parisiens, Jan 19.

Ernest Merlereau ..... M. HUGUENET
Pascal Merlereau ..... M. ANDRE BRULE
Gourgançon ..... M. BARRAL
M. D. Graissac ..... M. COLLIN
Morvillette ..... M. BENEDICT
Benjamin ..... M. RIVERS
Madame Merlereau ..... Madame DUX
Jeannine De Bréoy ..... Mdlle. DEMARSY
Flipote ..... Mdlle. DALLET
Simone De Graissac ..... Mdlle. LEBLANC

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, JAN. 26.—We have been overwhelmed with new plays within the last fortnight, but nothing particularly striking seemed to come our way. I am, therefore, all the more pleased to chronicle the genuine success scored by M. Georges Berr's latest effort. It is in every respect a charming comedy, wherein the author has hit upon the original idea of showing us a father who grieves because his son is too steady. Yes, Pascal Merlereau is a thoroughly steady youth and works hard, whilst his father is solely bent on amusement. Pascal is engaged to Simone De Graissac, but the father, thinking that every young man should sow his wild oats before marrying, sends Pascal to Paris to his college chum, Gourgançon, an old "viveur," with instructions to show the boy something of life. Two months elapse, and father Merlereau has already had to pull out something like fifteen hundred pounds for his son's pleasures. Fearing that Pascal is going too rapid a pace, the elderly gentleman starts for Paris, where he finds to his dismay that the youth is as steady as ever, and that it is Gourgançon who has been enjoying himself at his expense. And then it is Merlereau senior's turn to succumb to the pleasures of the capital; and he makes such a prolonged stay there that his wife deems it necessary to take the train to Paris. The good-natured Pascal, in order to screen his father, tries to make his mother believe that it is he (Pascal) who has spent so much money, and that it was he who offered a little villa to the frail beauty, Mdlle. Jeannine De Bréoy. But Madame Merlereau has guessed the truth. She takes her husband back to Nantes, and tactfully lets him think that she knows nothing. And Pascal will marry Simone without having sown his wild oats. It required artists of real talent to interpret this subtle comedy, and M. Bour and the author owe a debt of gratitude to the exponents of the work. Mdlle. Dux, whom we were glad to welcome once more on the boards of a Paris playhouse, gave the necessary pathetic touches to the rôle of Madame Merlereau. M. Huguenet impersonated the "flighty" father in a masterly manner; M. Barral was inimitable as the gay Gourgançon; M. Brule was a sympathetic Pascal; Mdlle. Dallet remained original without lapsing into her old eccentricities; and Mdlle Rivière threw plenty of humour into the rôle of the old aunt Elizabeth.

THE play was preceded by *Anne La Simple*, a one-act farce, by M. Maurice Allou, a mediæval anecdote, wherein Anne, the wife of an innkeeper, confesses to her husband, who disguises himself as a monk, a sin she never committed. The husband at once becomes terribly jealous, and Anne, who only wanted to convince herself that he really loved her, informs him of the trick she played on him. This trifle was capitally played by M. Bénédict and Mdlle. Bertile Leblanc

"LA PETITE BOHEME,"
Operette, in Three Acts,
by M. P. Ferrier, Music by M. H. Hirschmann,
Produced at the Variétés, Jan. 20.

Barbemuche ..... M. PAUL FUGERE
La Bretèche ..... M. PRINCE
Colline ..... M. CLAUDIUS
Arène ..... M. VAUTHIER
Marcel ..... M. ALBERTHAL
Mimi ..... Mdlle. EVE LAVALLIERE
Musette ..... Mdlle. JEANNE SAULIER
Comtesse ..... Mdlle. LEONE LAPORTE
Phémie ..... Mdlle. FOURNIER
Francine ..... Mdlle. GINETTE

Murger's *Vie de Bohême* having long ago lost all its prestige in France, it seems strange that M. Paul Férrier should have made the mistake of trotting out once more the "Bohemian," that silly type of man, the product of Murger's fertile brain, who never existed in the Latin quarter. We have lost all interest in Rodolphe, in Mimi, in Musette, in Marcel. And it was, therefore, hardly necessary to show us the masked ball which Barbemuche gives at the house of the Comtesse De La Bretèche, nor to take us to Montmorency, where Mimi goes back to Rodolphe, and Musette gives up her titled fiancé to return to Marcel. We were afraid of having to witness also poor Mimi's death; but the author fortunately spared us this. M. Henri Hirschmann had a difficult task to supply music to a work wherein there is hardly any action, but, being a musician of talent, he somehow or other got over the difficulty and gave us some bright melodies, excellently orchestrated, likely to become popular. The interpretation was fairly good. M. Paul Fugère was as funny as usual, and in the disguise of Catherine of Medicis created much merriment. Mdlle. Lavallière was a delightful Mimi, and the other rôles were well sustained. The work was beautifully mounted.

AT the Théâtre De L'Œuvre M. Lugné Poe gave an admirable performance of Gabriele D'Annunzio's *La Gioconda*, translated into French by M. Georges Hérelle. Madame Suzanne Desprès' Silvia Settata was a very fine creation, and that admirable artist was ably assisted by M. Lugné-Poe (Cosimo Dalbo) and M. Henri Burguet (Lucio Settata).

"LE CHOPIN,"
Vaudeville, in Three Acts, by MM. Keroul and Barré,
Produced at the Palais-Royal, Jan. 20.

Dartignac ..... M. GALIPAUX
Roger Boulac ..... M. HURTEAUX
Robillard ..... M. GUYON *fils*
Prince Petroloff ..... M. TREVILLE
Collardot ..... M. HAMILTON
Madame Marignan ..... Madame BERTHE LEGRAND
Josette ..... Madame AIMEE SAMUEL
Suzanne ..... Mdlle. FIERNOLD
Diana ..... Mdlle. JANE FABER
Stelle ..... Mdlle. BERLAND

MM. Keroul and Barré have performed a record feat—they made a Palais-Royal audience blush. As the plot is too peppery to be told in detail, even in Latin or Greek, I must leave to the imagination that which cannot be narrated. In Paris slang a "chopin" is a sudden fancy, a violent "love at first sight." Dartignac, a young briefless barrister, has a "chopin" for the pretty Madame Boulac. He has discarded his mistress Josette, for whom Anatole Durand, a notary, has conceived such a "chopin" that he has asked the lady to become his wife, and the wedding is to take place on that very day. But Madame Boulac's husband has his suspicions, and, despite Dartignac's assurance that Josette is still his mistress, Boulac insists on an ocular demonstration of this fact. It is an awkward predicament for the young barrister. The long arm of coincidence, however, comes to his assistance. Josette has an aunt, Madame Marignan, who keeps a kind of private hotel where no questions are asked; and, as Josette intends to spend the first evening of her wedded life under her aunt's roof, Dartignac hopes to induce the good-natured Josette to help him out of his trouble. At Madame Marignan's we witness a series of extraordinary incidents, over which I must draw a veil. Sufficient that in the end Madame Boulac's husband convinces himself that Josette, and not his wife, is Dartignac's mistress; that Josette starts for the provinces with her husband, the notary; and that Aunt Marignan continues to manage her private hotel with her customary judgment and discretion. The excellent Palais-Royal company did full justice to this "naughty" farce, which is now drawing crowded houses.

"LE GIGOLO."
Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts,
by M. Miguel Zamacoïs,
Produced at the Nouveautés, Jan. 24.

Hippolyte Serjeux ..... M. GERMAIN
Jacques Serjeux ..... M. TORIN
Antonin ..... M. LANDRIN
Edmond ..... M. GAILLARD
Honoré ..... M. KEPPENS
Nini Bellair ..... Mdlle. CARLIX
Lucie ..... Mdlle MAUD AMY
Madame Bellair ..... Madame MAUREL
Tante Delphine ..... Madame GUITTY
Clémence ..... Madame JENNY ROSE

"Gigolo" is another slang term not to be found in a God-fearing dictionary, and means a "lover," the "amant-de-cœur" of a lady of the half-world. Jacques Serjeux has for a long time past been the "gigolo" of Nini Bellair, and his parents, anxious to put an end to this disgraceful liaison, implore Lucie—Jacques' fascinating aunt—to enter into a flirtation with her young nephew and try to make him forget his inamorata. Moreover, Jacques' father and his brother-in-law, Antonin, call on Nini, under assumed names, promising her a sum of money if she breaks off her liaison with Jacques. The two elderly ambassadors, however, lose their hearts, one to Nini, and the other to Nini's friend Lelia, whilst the pretty Lucie's flirtation threatens to develop into something more serious. Things, luckily, do not go so far. The two elderly gentlemen keep clear of the two dangerous syrens, and Lucie saves herself in time from committing a terrible mistake. M. Torin as the "gigolo" was very diverting; Mdlle. Carlix made the most of the rôle of Nini Bellair; and Mdlle. Gense was intensely droll as a lady from the provinces.

A NEW ballet, *Le Voyage de Madame la Présidente*, by MM. Beissier and Leo Pouget, was brought out with much success at the Casino de Paris. The seven tableaux are beautifully mounted, and, with the assistance of the Havanas and the Brothers Ritters, acrobatic clowns, contribute a capital entertainment.

MADAME JEANNE GRANIER made her reappearance last night at the Théâtre des Capucines in *La Bonne Intention*, a little two-act comedy by M. Francis De Croisset. It is a cleverly written trifle, wherein the talented actress scored a real triumph.

THE PUBLIC, FROM THE STAGE.

Miss Gertrude Kingston on Sunday evening read a paper before the members of the O.P. Club, at the Criterion, Piccadilly, on "The Public as Seen from the Stage." The chair was occupied by Mr George Goschen, M.P., who, in opening the proceedings, paid a compliment to Miss Kingston for her efforts on behalf of a drama capable of bringing to bear upon the life of the nation an artistic, intellectual, and educational influence.

Miss KINGSTON began her essay by saying it was a great treat to her to have an opportunity of speaking her mind to the public, after having listened for some years to what the public had to say about the stage. The earlier portion of the address, however, proved to be largely occupied with considerations upon authors, actors, and actresses. Coming to the subject announced, Miss Kingston said she contended that in England there was no public. Where strong emotional scenes needed to be played the English actor or actress had to wrestle with the reserve and the shyness—some might call it the hypocrisy—of the British nation, still suffering under the aftermath of the Puritan movement. A well known French actress had observed to her last year, "I don't understand your English public. Your plays are made for children, not for grown-up men and women." She had replied to that artist, "Madam, we are a prudish nation; we don't care to look on at naked passions in the presence of strangers." "Nevertheless," objected the foreign lady, "you come and see our French plays." Miss Kingston here seemed to have lost an excellent opportunity. Instead of responding "True, madam; but we don't understand them, and we only laugh because we want to appear to do so," she only rejoined, "That is a very different matter. We always hope the man in the next seat does not understand the language." Having just returned from Germany, Miss Kingston drew comparisons unflattering to the artistic ideals of the average British playgoer. Her notion of a "charming French comedy," at the same time, was *Ma Cousine*. In art she thought the "reading British public was half a century in front of the playgoing British public," but she did not commit herself explicitly to the proposition that people who go to the theatre do not read fiction. She was applauded for the lament that we did not in this country take the theatre seriously. We never wanted to think at the play in England. The man, who was the breadwinner, frankly declared he only went to the theatre to be amused—not to learn, not to observe, and not to be interested. She hoped the book-reading public might so influence the theatre-going public as little by little to effect a liberation from the old hackneyed formulas.

Mr CECIL RALEIGH said he could not understand why English audiences should receive the expression of particular sentiments in the way they did. Whenever love was mentioned in anything like broad drama the speech was inevitably received with a titter. Mention of white mice, or of a guinea-pig, also always made the public laugh. He himself believed that the uncensored "sketch" played at present at music-halls contained a germ of future dramatic literature. The public that liked the "snippet" style in newspapers, that liked the short story very short, and the short telegram, would probably prefer its stage plays very short. The new author was to be welcomed and strenuously encouraged.

Mr ALFRED ROBBINS feared that we might hanker in vain after serious and earnest drama so long as the great majority of the public demanded over-dressed and under-dressed musical comedy. He held that barrenness was noticeable not in the English drama alone, but in the English novel as well, and even in the House of Commons. Freshness of intellect seemed to be lacking everywhere, however—in France, in America, and elsewhere, as well as here.

Mr J. T. GREIN maintained that a répertoire theatre was a necessity. We should look at art first and money afterwards, but unfortunately in England success was measured by the bounty of the pocket—how much had a man received for such and such a picture, novel, or play? The lives of the greatest artists showed us that great art was dissociated from money. Miss Kingston had seemed to regard the public as an entity, whereas it was a mass of being swayed by contrary emotions. The playgoing public here was most docile, but where severity was found it was often due to the disproportionate advertising, which, by means of paragraphs, interviews, what-not, which actors and actresses nowadays obtained.

The CHAIRMAN put forward an appeal to criticism to observe a high and pure ideal, and Miss KINGSTON briefly replied to the remarks of the speakers.

MR. C. V. HEATHCOTE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Will you kindly correct the absurd statement which is current that I succumbed early this month to the results of a revolver accident that happened last October. I am very well, and hope to start the Revival Opera Company on its career on March 1 at Plymouth.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES VERNON HEATHCOTE.
St. Katherine's Lodge, Pylle-hill, Bristol.
Jan. 26.

DEATH OF MR. C. H. STEPHENSON.

Mr Charles Henry Stephenson, the veteran actor, died on Saturday at the advanced age of eighty-two. He made his first appearance at a London theatre in the minor rôle of the Governor of the Bastille, in *Richelieu*, at Drury-lane, on Oct. 2, 1852, and subsequently he did a good deal of work in the provinces, appearing in a number of plays long since laid on the shelf and forgotten. He was the original Corporal Cassidy in the cast of the successful drama, *Jessie Brown; or, The Relief of Lucknow*, produced in the provinces in the autumn of 1858, and first seen in London four years later. The piece was described as an "American drama," from the fact that it had been presented to New York audiences for 200 nights at Wallack's Theatre before being sent to this country. In *Gwynneth Vaughan; or, The Village Coquette, The Red Mask; or, the Wolf of Lithuania, Isabelle, the Savoyard Girl; or, the Life of a Woman*, and *Ben Lid, the Son of Night; or, The Cradle of the Waves*, the deceased took part, and he supported a tragedian of some note in his day—the late James Bennett—in *Brutus, the Liberator of Rome; or, The Fall of Tarquin*. An early version of *It's Never too Late to Mend* saw Mr Stephenson as Meadows, and in adaptations of Henry Mayhew's *London Labour and the London Poor*, in *Self*, a comedy by the late Mrs Batemen (wife of Colonel Bateman, of the Lyceum), he also appeared, as well as in *France and Russia; or, The Cross of Gold; Abelard and Héloise; or, The Guardian, The Scholar, and The Nun; The Flower Girl; or, The Convict Marquis*; and *The Gondolier; or, The Three Banished Men of Italy*. He supported Madame Celeste in a piece called *Marion De Lorme; or, The Cradle of Steam*. When *The Colleen Bawn* was produced at the Adelphi on Sept. 10, 1860, Mr Stephenson appeared as Father Tom, and the play ran for 360 nights, a notable theatrical event in those days. By his admirable portrayal of the character of the benevolent priest the deceased actor greatly advanced his position in the profession, and indeed acquired a lasting reputation. When in the winter of 1868 the Marylebone, in Church-street, Edgware road, changed its title to that of the "Royal Alfred," out of compliment to the Duke of Edinburgh, and came under the management of the late Miss Amy Sedgwick, Mr Stephenson's original drama, *Pindee Singh*—a tale of the Indian Mutiny—was produced there. Prince Alfred attended the opening performance. The play, however, proved a failure, and at the end of a month was withdrawn and the theatre closed. In the meantime the author had supported Ben Webster in his original part of Triplet in a revival of *Masks and Faces* at the Olympic, and he had been in the original cast of the Adelphi play, *The Workmen of Paris*. In *The Prompter's Box*, at the same house, when Henry J. Byron assumed the part of the crushed tragedian, in *Notre Dame*, in *The Hidden Treasure* and *Hilda* (both produced at the Adelphi), and in Byron's comedies *Old Soldiers* and *Weak Women* at the Strand, the deceased veteran had original parts. One of his last appearances on the stage was in the Bristol pantomime of 1879—*Sinbad the Sailor*—which he stage-managed, in addition to assuming the responsibilities of Captain O'Skuttle. The deceased wrote several dramas, and he was for long a great favourite at Manchester.

NEW PLAYS IN PARIS.

DEC. 4. *Le Crime d'Aix*, drama, in five acts and eight tableaux, by MM. Pugol—Ambigu.
,, 5. *Le Roi Lear*, play, in twenty-eight tableaux, by Shakespeare; French translation by MM. Pierre Loti and Emile Vedel—Antoine.
,, 10. *Sainte-Roulotte*, play, in four acts, by MM. Jean Lorrain and G. Coquot—Molière.
,, 12. *Rabelais*, comedy, in three acts, in verse, by M. A. Du Bois—Bouffes Parisiens.
,, 13. *Le Bercail*, comedy, in three acts, by M. Henry Bernstein—Gymnase.
,, 20. *Madame L'Ordonnance*, vaudeville, in three acts, by M. Jules Chancel—Folies-Dramatiques.

IN the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday a sitting was held, before Mr Registrar Linklater, for the public examination of Henry Moss Szapire. Since 1896 the debtor had been engaged for several years as an actor and actor-manager, being professionally known as Martin Henry. He subsequently went to South Africa, but returned to England in September, 1899. He had since been engaged as managing-director of a limited company, also in a business at 60, Piccadilly. His deficiency account disclosed £150 loss on horse-racing and £100 in connection with a piece called *A Rake's Wife*. The examination was concluded, the accounts showing unsecured debts £1,132 14s. 1d., and net assets £19 15s.

MISS HETTIE GALE desires to thank the members of the *Aladdin* company, Ealing Theatre, for the very handsome gold bracelet presented to her, with their kind wishes, at the close of the pantomime on Saturday evening last, and also to express her gratitude to the stage hands for their present of a set of silver-mounted hair brushes and comb.

AT the Sarah Bernhardt Theatre, Paris, on Saturday, when an afternoon rehearsal of Victor Hugo's *Angelo, Tyrant of Padua*, was going on, Madame Sarah Bernhardt, while repeating a speech in the second act, suddenly fell on the floor in a faint. While she was being recovered, Madame Blanche Dufrene suddenly "went off" in the same manner. Madame Bernhardt's arm was rather badly bruised by the fall.

"CINDERELLA" AT MANCHESTER.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The promise of Mr Oscar Barrett's production of *Cinderella* at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, has been more than fulfilled, for it has not only developed into a popular success; it is also a success of the first artistic magnitude. Here and there a feature has been eliminated to make more room for the innumerable small but telling improvements which are discernible at every step of the story, and which combine to give the "show" an effect of almost entire freshness in the eye of those who see it for a second time. At the first performance, a month ago, one of Mr Conrad Tritschler's "set" scenes, the Vestibule in the Palace, was unavoidably omitted; now it provides an entertaining interlude, and is in itself a noteworthy addition to the excellent and elaborate scenery which is invariably a feature of local grand pantomime. The more formal lines of the book, indicative of the story, are less obvious also than is usually the case on first nights, and the incidents and by-play go forward with a swing and freedom which show that every artiste is perfectly at ease. The comedians especially have increased opportunities to shine, though their efforts do not overtop the very delicate and engaging business of the ladies in the popular estimation. Messrs Tom and Fred M'Naughton obtain the lion's share of the comic business, the former obviously revelling in a part brimful of opportunities, and the latter succeeding no less emphatically in a rôle comparatively taciturn, though full of quaint humour. Mr William H. Powell as Cassandra, one of the ugly sisters, leaves no doubt in the mind that he is a very capable and practised comedian, and he makes a hit with two songs, "Diddly-iddly-um" and "I'm Twenty-one;" while Mr Oliver J. Round as Chloe provides a grimly amusing companion in the joint quest for a husband of quality. Mr Norman Hall plays the Baron satisfactorily, and Miss Florence Smithers does well as the spiteful and domineering Baroness. Of the principal ladies nothing but the highest praise can be written. As the Prince Miss Millie Lindon has added, and will continue to add, many admirers to the very large circle in Manchester to whom her name stands for excellence and refinement of style. Pleasing in appearance, her delivery gives character to her lines and a significance to her songs, which seem always to have the right pitch of sentiment and the appropriate expression. "The rain came pitter-patter down" and "The fat old cat" are two well rendered favourites, a more important item being, however, a song entitled "The angel of my dreams," an exceedingly well-written and well-arranged number by Fred Leigh and Henry Pether, which is put on as a scene, with Cinderella as the objective, and which is one of the notable successes of the night. Besides these, Miss Millie Lindon is heard to great advantage in a stirring ballad, entitled "Come and be a soldier," and a Japanese ditty with dance and chorus. So excellent a Prince is deserving even of such a Cinderella as Miss Ida Rene makes, and probably no one could present a more dainty and delightful impersonation. Miss Ida Rene has every charm for the part; she is petite, pretty, youthful, full of feminine grace, and her performance, moreover, is informed with that complete art which seems like artlessness, but which can be dramatic and impressive none the less. Her singing of "Under a Panama," assisted by Miss Millie Lindon, the M'Naughtons, and Miss Gwen Howard (Lady Dainty), is in the lighter style, as may be said of "O'Reilly"—a big hit, by the way—with Mr Tom M'Naughton as O'Reilly, and a chorus; but she essays, and with remarkable success, a bigger theme in "The Rake's Progress," a song which demands much greater intensity of expression. Signs are not wanting that Miss Ida Rene has established herself as a firm favourite in Manchester, and it is but fair to add that much of the success of the pantomime is due to her charming presence and her vocal gifts. Conspicuous among the remainder of the cast is Miss Maud Venn, whose abilities as a comedienne stand her in good stead in the rôle of Dandini. Miss Venn makes a success of her "Clothes-line" song, and figures advantageously also in other vocal items. Miss Gwen Howard looks and acts well as Lady Dainty, and contributes her item "Navaho" in capital style. Miss Gladys Harvey and Miss Frances Davie also do well in minor parts. By way of speciality the Creo Brothers contribute a clever and amusing acrobatic act; and Mr W. C. Fields, the well-known eccentric juggler, is provided with a part as Freake, a palace attendant, who does some wonderfully clever business in the style familiar to patrons of the halls. Mr Field's performance is, in fact, a memorable feature of the show. All these good things, combined with brilliant scenery and effects, cannot fail to result in a most successful run, great credit being due to Mr Oscar Barrett for his enterprise in securing so excellent a cast and so magnificent a setting.

IN the full list of subscriptions for the blind actor, Mr Henry Crisp, which recently appeared in *The Era*, the sum of one guinea was acknowledged as from Mr J. F. C. Sims. This amount should have been announced as a donation from Mr George Grossmith.

MR BOURCHIER will resume the Wednesday and Saturday matinées of *The Walls of Jericho* at the Garrick Theatre on Saturday.

AT the Metropole Theatre, Glasgow, on Saturday, 21st inst., a production, for copyright purposes, took place of a sketch entitled *The Maniac*, written by Mr Arthur Jefferson, and founded on the main incident in his own play, *The World's Verdict*, recently played at the same theatre.

ALLY SLOPER'S
(ALLY SLOPER'S HALF HOLIDAY)
DIAMOND RING COMPETITION.
£100 IN RINGS.
One a week till end of Pantomime Season—and Three Final Prizes.
1st, VALUED AT £50.
Papers containing Coupons can be ordered from any Newsagent.
URGE YOUR FRIENDS TO VOTE NOW.
Address for Letters: "The Sloperies," London, E.C.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR HENRY IRVING commenced at the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, on Monday his series of farewell performances in the provinces. As might have been expected, his last appearance on the Portsmouth stage caused a "rush" for seats, and the house was crowded in every part. The reception given to Sir Henry on his entrance was hearty and prolonged, and it was some minutes before *Waterloo* could be proceeded with. To say that Sir Henry's Corporal Gregory Brewster "showed no signs of age" would be a poor compliment to the actor, but his Mathias, in *The Bells*, was as strong and intense as ever.

ENTHUSIASTIC applause followed the lowering of the curtain on the latter play, and twice it was raised to enable Sir Henry to bow his acknowledgments. In response to an undeniable demand for a speech he said, "I thank you for the far too kind and loyal greeting you have given me. It is a great pleasure to be in your renowned and historic town of Portsmouth, and I have pleasant recollections of a former visit. I hope the plays in our répertoire which are to be performed will afford you some gratification, and on behalf of myself, my colleagues, and my comrades, I desire to express our heartfelt response for your kind welcome."

THE audience at Mr Beerbohm Tree's revival of *Much Ado About Nothing* at His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday was a brilliant one, and included Mr John Hare, Miss Clara Butt, Mr Kennerley Rumford, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, the Countess of Warwick, Lady Colin Campbell, Mrs Cornwallis-West, and Major-General Baden-Powell. In one box on the prompt side were Mrs Beerbohm Tree and her little girls, and in the other the daughters of Mrs Cyril Maude, who were dressed in pink. With them, in her professional costume, was the nurse who had attended on Miss Emery during her recent long and painful illness, and who appeared to take great delight in her ex-"patient's" triumph.

A COPY of the following intimation was handed to every person in the pit and gallery:—

TO THE PUBLIC.

Mr Tree desires to ascertain directly from the patrons of this theatre whether they desire that the pit and gallery seats shall be booked beforehand, and with this view voting papers are given to each occupant of these seats. In this theatre the 2s., 3s., and 4s. seats can be booked beforehand. The advantages of booking the pit and gallery seats are obvious, and need not here be emphasised, but in voting it should be borne in mind that there may be many busy people who can only make up their minds at the last moment to go to the theatre on any particular night, and it is for their convenience that Mr Tree has held back from booking these seats.

The voting in the pit was:—Yes, 41; No, 105; 65 did not vote. In the gallery the "ayes" were 58, and the "noes" 158. Mr Grein's agents were very active, and handed every "first-nighter" on leaving a copy of his pamphlet on an English Répertoire Theatre. What with this and the excellent and informative little essay on *Much Ado About Nothing* which was included in the programme, Mr Tree's patrons had plenty to read when they got home at "twelve-thirty" on Wednesday morning.

MR GEORGE GROSSMITH has had to cancel many important engagements in consequence of the serious illness of his wife. Mrs Grossmith has been suffering for many months from an internal complaint, and an operation was recently performed by Mr Watson Cheyne. Her condition is now serious, and Sir William Broadbent is constantly in attendance. Mrs Grossmith is in great pain, which she bears with marvellous patience. Mr Grossmith has the deepest sympathy of the profession in his heavy trial, and the visits and letters of condolence at his house in Russell-square have been very numerous indeed, amongst the callers and correspondents being many individuals distinguished both in the profession and society. Mrs Grossmith is one of the most unselfish of women, and universal commiseration is excited by her heavy trouble.

MISS CONNIE EDISS was a successful defendant in the Chester County Court on Thursday. She took the Beeches, a pretty house with a delightful garden, at Addlestone, Surrey; but finding that it did not quite suit her, she sought someone last summer to take it off her hands. A Mr Chamberlayne came forward and undertook to rent the house from June 24, Miss Ediss retaining possession, with Mr Chamberlayne's consent, for three week's longer. He contended that Miss Ediss undertook to pay three weeks' rent at £1 a-week, and had given him orders to effect repairs to save her any trouble with the landlord. While frankly admitting that she had forgotten what arrangement she made about the rent, Miss Ediss was positive she had given no instructions for repairs. As a matter of fact, in August last she paid the landlord £7 10s. in discharge of all her liabilities. His Honour, Judge Russell, accepted Miss Ediss's version, and gave judgment in her favour with regard to the repairs. There was a verdict for the plaintiff for £3 rent; but his Honour said each side should pay their own costs.

THOSE who admire Mrs Langtry's serene self-possession in *Mrs Dering's Divorce* at Terry's Theatre can hardly imagine her as a reckless tomboy. Mr T. P. O'Connor, in his clever book of biography entitled "In the Days of My Youth," gives some interesting particulars of Mrs Langtry's early experiences. Her sporting career began at the age of eleven, and she was still a child when she and her brother bought a racehorse. The name of the joint purchase was Flirt; she was a bay mare of uncertain age and very uncertain foreleg. The "owners" gave the princely sum of four pounds ten shillings for her. The Jersey races were then under no rules whatever and the stakes hardly worth winning; only animals of somewhat blemished reputation and shady selling-plate antecedents ever found their way to the island racecourse.

MRS LANGTRY'S father, the Dean, was a very long-suffering and indulgent parent; but she feared the effect of introducing a racehorse to him. Flirt was therefore brought to the deanery stables as a hack, and put to steady training; and to save her brother's dignity it was Mrs Langtry who had to be responsible for taking out the alleged hack. She had to mount, or rather was thrown, like another Mazeppa, on the back of the animal, while her brother, on a perfectly safe beast of French extraction, ambled by her side. But when they reached an adjacent common the saddles were exchanged, and Mrs Langtry led the thoroughbred as well as she could on an exercise gallop. Ridden and trained in this way, Flirt won a race worth thirty pounds to the winners. This was Mrs Langtry's first success on the Turf.

SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT has kindly forwarded a cheque for ten guineas for the relief of Mr Edward Hastings, the octogenarian manager.

MR CYRIL MAUDE, whose name is so euphonious as to suggest adoption, has not chosen a *nom de théâtre*. He is the son of Captain Charles Henry Maude, and his mother was the Hon. Georgiana Henrietta, daughter of the second Baron Sudeley. Cornwallis Maude, first Earl De Montalt, who died the other day, and was the second titular Viscount Hawarden, was a cousin of Mr Cyril Maude. He is probably much prouder of his fame as an actor and a manager than of his aristocratic connection, and we merely mention these facts for the benefit of some of our readers. As Major Pendennis intimated to his nephew, it is just as well to know these little things.

THE annual general meeting of the Theatrical Managers' Association will be held on Thursday at the Tavistock Hotel, Covent-garden, at 3 30 p.m.

VISITORS to Brighton have this week enjoyed the sight—interesting to all, and pathetic to those in "the sere, the yellow leaf"—of Mr J. L. Toole taking a sun-bath in a wheel-chair. Since Mr Toole was born, in 1832, many things have happened. The motor-cars which dash by him on the front certainly had not then "arrived," though, as we see by old prints, they had been invented; and "Spitalfields Weavers" were actualities. We trust that Mr Toole is taking all the sunshine and sea air he can get. He certainly has earned his right to peace and repose.

ONE of the heartiest rounds of applause which were evoked in the course of the production of *Much Ado About Nothing* at His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday was created by an ingenious bit of stage business. The boy who sings "Sigh no more, ladies" so sweetly enters Leonato's garden, crosses the stage, and returns. As he does so, he sees lying on the ground an orange which has dropped from the tree in the centre. He drops his hat on it as if by accident, picks up both fruit and head-covering, and makes his exit, bowing to the gentlemen and exhibiting very plainly to the audience the orange held behind him in his hat.

MR H. B. IRVING will be the guest of the evening and respond to the toast of "The Drama" at the annual dinner of the O.P. Club, which will be held at the Criterion on Feb. 12. The toast of the Visitors will be proposed by the Vice-President, Mr J. M. Freshwater, to which Mr Rutland Barrington will respond, and Mr Alfred F. Robbins will propose "The Press," which will be responded to by Mr Mostyn Pigott. The President, Mr Algernon L. Collins, will occupy the chair.

MR BEERBOHM TREE took the chair on Sunday afternoon at an entertainment for the people given in Poplar Town Hall, organised by a number of labour workers in the borough. Mr Will Crooks, M.P., in introducing Mr Tree, remarked that this was his first visit to the East-end. In the West-end Mr Tree was loved and admired, but he had no more sympathetic admirers than there were in Poplar. Mr Tree, who was loudly applauded, said they were to hear a lecture on "People I Have Met." He was glad to have met—for the first time—Mr William Crooks, who was so popular in this district. Mr Crooks had said this was his first visit to the East end, but, alas!—or happily—Mr Crooks was misinformed. Twenty-seven years ago he used to play at the Garrick Theatre in Leman-street, and he had just met a friend who had recalled having witnessed his performances there. He was delighted to think that many of those who had seen him play in those days had come to witness his performances in the West-end. When playing at the Garrick every Saturday night he used to receive burnt offerings of fried fish. He thought he could claim to have been an East-ender.

MR ARTHUR BOURCHIER entertained the boys and staff of the Duke of York's School on Thursday afternoon at the Garrick Theatre to witness a performance of *Little Black Sambo and Little White Barbara*. While the lads in scarlet were marching in a fine military band took up a position in the roadway and played some inspiriting selections.

MR AND MRS KENDAL will commence their spring tour at the Theatre Royal, Leamington, on Monday week, with a répertoire including *Still Waters Run Deep*, *The Elder Miss Blossom*, and their latest success, *The Housekeeper*. Mrs Kendal gave a dinner-party at the Carlton Hotel on Sunday, among the guests being Sir Bruce Seton, Sir Douglas Straight, Sir Alfred and Lady Fripp, Mr M'Kenna, Miss Fortescue, Mr Heilbut, Lady Seton, Mrs Caulfield, Mrs Mackay, Mrs Heilbut, Captain Marshall, Mr Courtenay, Dr. Orwin, Mrs Alexander, Mr Linley Sambourne, Mr W. Grossmith, and Mrs Courtenay.

MR F. J. WATTS, the secretary of the Walsingham Club, has sent a cheque for £30 8s. 6d. to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, being the proceeds of the sale of extra tickets beyond those allowed to members or from the sale of programmes on the production of *The Finger of Fate* at the Club on the 15th inst. Mr Coltson has also received a cheque for £8 from Mr Edward Compton and Mr Milton Bode, which was obtained from the Chester Amateurs last December when a performance was given for the waifs and strays. Mr Milton Bode states that when giving the use of their theatres to amateurs a condition is made that a small percentage of the receipts shall be divided amongst the charitable institutions in which he is interested. Mr George Edwardes has sent to the fund a cheque for £2 which some amateurs have given as a slight recognition of his generosity in allowing them to give performances for charity of several songs from his operas.

SIR LAURENCE ALMA-TADEMA, R.A., who will preside at the Scenic Artists' Association's Benevolent Fund dinner, on Sunday, Feb. 19, at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent-street, will be supported by the following stewards:—Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr George Alexander, Mr Oscar Asche, Mr Edmund G Banks, Mr Dion Boucicault, Mr Arthur Bourchier, Mr Arthur Chudleigh, Mr W. L. Courtney, Dr. Geo. H. R. Dabbs, M.D., Mr Leslie Douglass, Mr Richard Douglass, Mr Gerard Duckworth, Mr Albert Gilmer, Mr S. Goldmann, Mr E. Marshall Hall, M.P., K.C., Mr Ernest Hann, Mr Walter Hann, Mr Gilbert Hare, Mr William Harford, Mr Phil Harker, Mr Frederick Harrison, Mr W. T. Hemsley, Mr M. Henry, Mr George Herring, Mr Julian Hicks, the Count Max Hollander, the Hon. C. N. Lawrence, Mr R. G. Legge, Mr Claude Lewes, Mr J. N. Lyons, Mr R. M'Cleery, Mr Jas. W. Mathews, Mr Cyril Maude, Mr Carl Meyer, Mr Joseph Mordecai, Mr Alfred Mout, Mr Lewis Nathan, Mr H. W. Owen, Mr Louis N. Parker, Mr T. Wigney Percyval, Mr A. Wing Pinero, Mr Harry Potts, Mr W. Raphael, Mr Paul A. Rubens, Mr T. E. Ryan, Mr W. B. Spong, Mr Oswald Stoll, Mr W. Telbin, Mr Geo. Tweddell, Mr Lewis Waller, Mr C. Wilhelm, and Sir Philip Burne-Jones, Bart.

MR PINERO is, as is well known, in favour of the establishment of a repertory theatre, of a "booked" pit and gallery, and of the lowering of the price of stalls. He would also advise the removal of all restrictions as to dress "in front of the house."

MR ARTHUR BOURCHIER, in reply to Mr Pinero, says if theatre rents and actors' salaries are to be reduced in order to make lower-priced seats possible, surely the present exorbitant fees demanded by our leading dramatists should also be reduced. If Mr Pinero, asks Mr Bourchier, wrote for a representative repertory theatre, would he insist on introducing into the company fresh actors and actresses to suit the parts of his play, as he and many other well-known authors do nowadays? This custom, says the manager of the Garrick, raises actors' terms, and often breaks up companies the members of which have been working harmoniously together for some time.

MR WALTER EVERARD, who recently returned from a sporting trip to Jamaica, has presented Sir Alfred Jones, the pioneer of the present Elder Dempster Line of steamers, with a memento of his visit, in the shape of an umbrella stand, constructed from the skin of a huge alligator, one of the many that fell a victim to Mr Everard's unerring aim. This particular specimen, over 15ft. long, nearly performed on the sportsman the operation of amputation. He was only saved by the opportune arrival of friendly assistance.

MR EDWARD HASTINGS, who made such a touching appeal in our columns last week, was for a long time connected with Mr Tree's management at the Haymarket. He began his stage career as an extra gentleman at Sadler's Wells when Phelps had the house. His first speaking part was at the Queen's Theatre, Tottenham-court-road, then known as "The Dusthole," but later entirely remodelled by the Bancrofts. With them Mr Hastings worked for eight years at the Prince of Wales's, and for five at the Haymarket. At the latter house, as well as at the Adelphi, he was under the management of Ben Webster. Mr Hastings was also prompter and copyist for nearly twenty years. The first plays he produced were done at the Olympic under Horace Wigan, and later Mr Hastings helped Augustus Harris, father of the late Sir Augustus, in stage-management at the Princess's.

MISS SUSAN STRONG, by permission of the Duchess of Westminster, will give a grand concert at Grosvenor House on behalf of the work amongst the poor of Pimlico, on Friday afternoon, Feb. 10, under the auspices of the Rev. Father B. Maturin. Amongst the artists who will take part in the concert will be Madame Albani, Miss Ada Crossley, Miss Susan Strong, Mr Gervase Elwes, Senor Arbos (violin), Senor Rubio ('cello), Mr Percy Grainger (piano), and Mr F. Korbay.

MR TREE'S revival of *Much Ado About Nothing* at His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday attracted some particularly early comers and long waiters. One lady arrived at 9 30 a.m. at the gallery entrance, and a second, an hour later, pitched her camp stool at the pit door.

MR AND MRS GEORGE ALEXANDER were present at a benevolent meeting which assembled at Claridge's Hotel, on Sunday, at the invitation of Julia, Marchioness of Tweeddale and Lady Samuel, to further the movement for providing soup kitchens in the borough of Stepney.

THE opening of the dramatic season at the Broadway Theatre, New-cross, will be made on Monday by Mr Martin Harvey and his company, who will appear there for two weeks. That romantic play *The Breed of the Treshams* will be the attraction for the first week, followed during the second by *The Only Way*.

MR FRED KARNO, the owner of the successful pantomime of *Cinderella*, now running at the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, has kindly consented to set apart the proceeds of the matinée performance on Monday for the benefit of Mr Walter Summers, the author and producer of the "annual." Mr Summers, who for many years past has been associated with some of the biggest productions in the country, has been in indifferent health for some time past, and he is about to take a prolonged tour, which, it is hoped, will be the means of restoring him to good health. Special attractions are announced for his benefit matinée, at which will appear the Fred Karno Troupe of comedians, in *Mumming Birds*; Miss Simeta Marsden, and Messrs Harry Tate, Bransby Williams, Jack Camp, Albert Christian, Harry Freeman, and Edwin Berwick, in addition to specialities by artists engaged in the pantomime, including Miss Winifred Hare, Miss Godwynne Earle, Miss Lilian Lee, Little Maudie Francis, Mr Neil Kenyon, and also leading performers from almost all the other local pantomimes.

MRS LANGTRY has made arrangements to raise the temperature of the auditorium of Terry's Theatre, which is now "claimed" to be the warmest in London. She was "perfectly appalled" by the coldness of the house at the production of *Mrs Dering's Divorce*.

MISS GENEVIEVE G. HAINES, an American actress, has issued the following manifesto:—"To the Catholic clergy of New York: Whereas certain critics have condemned my play, *Once Upon a Time*, as sacrilegious and ridiculing the ceremonies of the Roman Catholic religion, as a communicant, educated in a convent, I respectfully request you to withhold judgment until you have witnessed the play, for which purpose I have arranged that all clergymen shall be admitted free to any performance of my play at the Berkeley Theatre from this date on."

A SERIES of revivals will be given at the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells, in Shakespeare's Birth week, under the direction of Mr F. R. Benson and Mr Smyth-Pigott. The theatre has been redecorated and thoroughly overhauled, and under the new management is very successful. It is worthy of note that the rebuilding of the Haymarket Theatre was undertaken and completed to the day agreed on by the builders of the "Wells" Opera House, Messrs J. Jarvis and Son, and these two playhouses are amongst the handsomest in the country.

MR J. COUDURIER, the London correspondent of the Paris *Figaro*, will read a paper entitled "Why England has no Dramatist," to the Playgoers' Club at the Hotel Cecil, on Sunday, Jan. 29. Mr B. W. Findon will take the chair.

MR M. J. LANDA will read a paper to the O.P. Club, on Sunday, Feb 5, at the Criterion, on "The Dramatic Frankenstein," Mr H. H. Gordon, L.C.C., will be in the chair.

THE children's essay competition in connection with the pantomime at the Grand Theatre, Islington, has proved a bigger thing than the management anticipated. No fewer than 1,500 youngsters have sent postcards giving the story of *The Babes in the Wood*, and many of the compositions are extremely amusing. Prizes for the best essays are awarded each week.

THE Vicar of Gorleston's pantomime *Babes in the Wood* was produced at the church schools at Gorleston on Thursday. This was the third annual pantomime staged by the rev. gentleman. The cast consisted of 100 children from the elementary schools in the parish, and the schoolroom was arranged as a theatre. The orchestra was conducted by the church organist, who also acted as musical director, and the dresses and "strange beasts" were kindly lent by Mr Beerbohm Tree.

MR WALTER STEPHENS, whose offer of £5,000 towards the establishment of a répertoire theatre in London has created a good deal of interest in professional circles, holds strong opinions regarding the production of religious plays. As everybody knows, the stage presentation of Biblical scenes is prohibited by the Lord Chamberlain. Mr Stephens some time ago wrote a play entitled *Paradise Lost*, adapted from Milton's great epic poem of the same name, and another on a sacred subject adapted from one of Tolstoy's works. The Censor declined to pass these dramas on account of their Scriptural character, and Mr Stephens is at present making arrangements whereby the two pieces will be produced in America and Germany.

MR STEPHENS, whose real name is Walter J. Stevenson, is a cousin of the late Robert Louis Stevenson, the famous novelist and poet. Mr Stephens was trained for the profession of a solicitor, and is still studying for the Bar. He is the author of the farcical comedy entitled *Brown at Brighton*, and he recently completed two comedies, each in three acts, to which he has given the names of *Are You a Smoker?* and *The Wane of the Honeymoon*. Among his various enterprises he is interested in the building of variety theatres at Lewisham, Putney, and Kilburn.

"THE DIPLOMATISTS," a new two-act farcical comedy, by Sydney Grundy, will be produced at the Royalty Theatre on the 11th prox., with a cast including Mr E. W. Garden, Mr George Raiemond, Mr Charles Groves, Mr E. H. Kelly, Mr N. Holthoir, Mr Albert Sims, Miss Marie Illington, Miss Florence St. John, Miss Lily Grundy, and Miss Laura Reynolds. *The Diplomatists* will be followed by Herman Heyermans' *Case of Arson*. In this remarkable one-act piece Mr Henri De Vries, the Dutch actor, will sustain, for the first time in English, seven of the nine parts in the cast. The characters are witnesses called upon to give evidence before a court of inquiry, and include a cigar manufacturer, a police-sergeant, an innkeeper, a grocer, and a house painter. The magistrate will be played by Mr Henry Virbrat.

MR GEORGE ALEXANDER was present at the memorial service which was held at the Scotch Church of St. Columba, Pont-street, simultaneously with the funeral of Mr Robert Brough, A.R.S.A., in the burying ground of Old Machar Cathedral, Aberdeen, on Thursday.

MR TREE has so vigorously condensed the production of *Much Ado About Nothing* at His Majesty's that the performance will commence at 8·15 instead of at 8 0 o'clock, and terminate, of course, at 11 0.

MISS NORA LANCASTER supported Mr Charles Warner in the Screen scene from *The School for Scandal* last Sunday evening at the Walsingham Club. It was the clever young actress's first appearance in the part of Lady Teazle. The daughter of Miss Wallis (Mrs Walter Reynolds), her short career on the stage has been very fortunate, including an appearance in a Pinero play, *Iris*, and a long engagement with Sir Henry Irving's company.

AT the Standard Theatre, Bishopsgate, where *Her Forbidden Marriage* is continuing to attract large houses, Mr Frederick Melville, as already stated, has been offering a 22 carat gold wedding-ring to the happy couple who first enter the theatre on the Monday night. Last Monday evening, at the conclusion of the second act, Mr Melville personally handed the ring to the lucky winners, with best wishes for their happiness and prosperity on their approaching union. The wedding took place on Tuesday morning at the East London Synagogue, Stepney-green. Mr Chappell, Mr Melville's acting manager, was best man, and a large crowd assembled to cheer the happy pair.

MR DALTON ROBERTSON, a travelling actor, suddenly expired on Tuesday, the 17th, whilst staying at a coffee house in Bridge-street, Reading. The deceased, who is the brother of an American Justice of the Peace, had, it was stated, recently been rehearsing at a London theatre. Mr Robertson's widow is a member of a theatrical company, her stage name being Clare Ash. An inquest was held on the 19th inst., and a verdict of "Death from natural causes" was returned.

MR VIVIAN GRANTHAM'S spring tour of *Slaves of Passion* will start at Aldershot on Feb. 27. Mr Edward Van Biene, son of the celebrated actor-'cellist, will again be the business-manager, and Miss Kate Hallam has been re-engaged for the part of the Princess Sonia. New scenery and costumes will be provided.

MISS BEATRICE WILLEY, who has been so successfully depicting Morgiana, in *The Forty Thieves* at Fulham, will appear on Monday at the Coronet as principal girl, in the place of Miss Valli Valli, who goes to Mr Arthur's theatre in Newcastle to play in *Babes in the Wood*.—Miss Florence Nelson has been engaged by Mr F. C. Philpott for the part of Lady Fippington, in his spring tour of *The Girl from Japan* (No. 1 company).

THE Marlborough pantomime is in the last week but one of its run, and will on Feb. 6 give place to *The Duke of Killicrankie*, played by Mr Chas. Frohman's company. For the Monday afternoon of the same week Mr Purcell has arranged a flying visit from Sousa and his famous band. *Aladdin* has been an enormous success, both financially and artistically, and has thoroughly justified the high encomiums which were won by the production at its initial performance.

THE principal artists of the pantomime of *Aladdin* were presented with floral and other tributes by a crowded audience at the Brixton Theatre on Saturday evening, and Miss Eva Bayhurst an open parasol made of lilies of the valley. Miss Offord and Miss Hamilton each received two bouquets, and Miss Marion Macdonald was handed another. The comedians were also recipients of jocular marks of favour, Mr Brett having a box of cigars, Mr Nat Lewis a large bunch of carrots, and Mr Somers and Mr H. O. Cleary a large cabbage.

MR EDWARD COMPTON had the misfortune to strain his ankle on Sunday night, but, pluckily determining not to disappoint his friends the Chester public, on Monday he duly appeared in his popular impersonation of David Garrick, an apology being made for his investing the character with a limp. At the end of the evening, Mr Compton, who had been enthusiastically received throughout, addressed the following remarks to the audience:—Ladies and gentlemen—Will you permit me to thank you for the kindly warmth of your welcome back to Chester, where I always have so much pleasure in appearing, and for your generous forbearance on my somewhat ungraceful, but I hope not disgraceful, performance to-night? For the first time in my career, I have been obliged to play Mr Garrick with a limp, but I trust it has not been in other respects a "lame" or "halting" representation. I promise you that to-morrow night, when I appear as a Reformed Rake, I will meet you again on the old firm footing.

UNFORTUNATELY this promise was not destined to be fulfilled, as Mr Compton was considerably worse the next morning, and was unable to appear on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday nights. It was confidently expected, however, that he would be at work again on Friday and Saturday nights in his new play *To-morrow*. Understudies were necessarily much called upon in the emergency, and excellent work was accomplished by Messrs A. B. Imeson, G. Wallace Johnston, Arnold Lucy, Charles R. Stone, H. G. Mason and Francis Sidney.

AT an examination of the students of the School of Drama and Acting, at the Hampstead Conservatoire, held at the close of last term, Mr F. R. Benson, the principal, announced that two prizes, value £5 5s. and £3 3s. respectively, one to be given by himself and the other by the Conservatoire, would be awarded in July next to the student giving most evidence of general progress in the technique of acting, and the best elocutionist.

MR JAMES SINCLAIR, the courteous acting-manager of the West London Theatre, was the pleased recipient of a comfortable cheque from Mr William Bailey, to mark his appreciation of the untiring energy and ability displayed by him during the run of the successful pantomime *The Babes in the Wood*. All who know Mr Sinclair will congratulate him on a well-merited acknowledgment. Miss Maude Nelson, the dashing Robin Hood of the story, was also asked to accept a gold bracelet and a turquoise ring, the gifts of several admirers in front, Mr William Bailey, with a few happy phrases, making the presentation on the stage on Saturday last, to which Miss Nelson suitably replied, amidst loud cheering.

MR J. E. VEDRENNE will revive *John Bull's Other Island* at the Court for nine matinées, commencing on Feb. 7. The cast will include Mr Louis Calvert, Mr Granville Barker, Mr C. M. Hallard, Mr F. Cremlin, Mr Percival Stevens, Mr Wilfred Shine, Mr George Trollope, Mr A. E. George, Miss Ellen O'Malley, and Miss Agnes Thomas. It has been found impossible to produce *The Cradle*, by Brieux, as the second piece of the series; and Mr Vedrenne is now arranging a triple bill, which will include a new play by Bernard Shaw, entitled *How He Lied to Her Husband: a Warning to Playgoers*, a skit on the same author's *Candida*. Arrangements have been made by which Miss Mari Brema, the celebrated opera singer, will play the leading part in *The Trojan Women* of Euripides.

MR RAYMOND ROZE is one of the cleverest of our composers of "incidental music" for theatrical productions. His "night-to-dawn" intermezzo in *Much Ado About Nothing* at His Majesty's Theatre, is very imaginative and poetical, and his "leit-motif" on the entries of Dogberry and Verges is a very pretty bit of musical humour. We must protest, however, against the practice of playing music "through" which dialogue is spoken far too loudly. It should always be kept *pianissimo*, and the same applies to noises "off" and other background embellishments. The text is the principal thing, and everything else should be subordinate to its being clearly heard by the audience.

MISS LILY HAMMERSLEY, who has recently been playing Barbara Wade in *A Girl's Cross Roads*, was married at Walthamstow on Wednesday last to Mr Horace Hunter, who has been playing, and is about to again play, lead in Mr Fred Melville's *Her Forbidden Marriage* company. In the piece Mr Hunter nightly drives his bride to church in a motor-car, and he resolved that his own wedding should be "in the picture." So the wedding party were taken to church in an elegant 8 h.p. Wolseley. Mr Hunter's best man was Mr Gilbert Heron, who in the drama plays the clergyman who performs the "forbidden marriage,' and, who, in that capacity, has already married Mr Hunter to his stage bride several hundreds of times. The real ceremony went off, of course, without the villain of the piece disturbing the sacred and peaceful atmosphere of the church.

THERE will be a "celebration" at the Grand Theatre, Islington, on Feb. 25, to mark the termination of Mr George Davey's proprietorship. Mr Davey's reason for parting with the theatre, after nearly eighteen months' successful management, is that he finds he is unable to give his personal attention to two businesses. He controls a very profitable advertising concern, and as he holds the bill-posting rights over many important hoardings, it will be seen that he will not be altogether dissociated with theatrical affairs. There are not a few who will regret his severance from the Grand Theatre, for it would be difficult to find a more amiable and good-hearted gentleman. He is one of the most popular personalities in Islington, and he is regarded quite affectionately by every member of his staff.

WHEN Mr Arthur Bertram produces *Hearts Adrift* at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, on Feb. 20, his cast will include Mr Percy Rhodes, Mr J. P. Dryden, Mr Cecil Klein, Master Harry Pleon, Mr Frank Baines, Miss Maude Tremayne, Miss Beatrix Bell, Miss Ada Perry, and Miss Celestine Bertram. The tour will be under the direction of Mr Arthur Estcourt, who will play Captain Teddy.

A HANDSOMELY decorated hall, to be known as Holstein Hall, has during the past week been opened at Weybridge by Mr J. Wiltshire. The building has cost £6,000, and will seat 900 people. There is an excellent stage, and Mr Wiltshire hopes to arrange for a regular series of flying matinées. Mr Roper Spyers is taking a company to the new hall next Thursday to present *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

MR PERCY D. STANDING AND MR BERNARD J. LIELL, having acquired from Messrs Ernest E. Norris and Fewlass Llewellyn the rights of *A Gentleman of England*, which was produced in London last December and achieved marked success, intend touring the piece in the near future. The drama deals with Russian life.

MISS LILLIAN RUSSELL who was expected to join her company in the second act of *The School for Scandal* at the house of Mrs Stuyvesant Fish, a New York "society lady," has declined to do so, considering that to amuse Mrs Fish's guests as a paid performer would be beneath her dignity as an artiste.

MR CHURTON COLLINS, speaking at the Royal Institution on Thursday evening on "The Philosophy and Significance of *The Tempest*," said between 1603 and 1609 Shakespeare had been living in the infernal tragedy, but in his three last plays—*The Tempest*, *A Winter's Tale*, and *Cymbeline*—there came an entirely new note, that of forgiveness, charity, and optimism. Shakespeare got away from the infernal tragedy and gave himself up, when, as it transpired, he was to live only another three years, to the philosophy of forgiveness as shown in Christian principles. In the cast of *The Tempest* every type of character in mankind was exhibited from the highest to the lowest; thus the island was a tiny world so far as it could be made to represent humanity. The whole life of the island symbolised the truly beautiful philosophy of the Founder of Christianity, and this was the striking significance of the play, whether Shakespeare really meant it or not. And we must remember that there was more meant here than meets the ear and eye; for the play was Shakespeare's public farewell to the world.

MISS DAISY HALLING'S friends will be sorry to learn that she is a patient at the Bradwell Isolation Hospital, Chesterton, near Newcastle-under-Lyme Staffs. She is suffering from diphtheria. She will be pleased to hear from friends, but will not be permitted to reply. She is, however, progressing favourably.

IN the Court of Bankruptcy on Wednesday, before Mr Registrar Linklater, an application was made by William Stephen Bexfield, sometime known as William Villion, professor of gymnastics, for an order of discharge. The bankrupt was formerly for many years proprietor of Villion's Acrobatic Troupe, and attributed his insolvency to the loss of £670 in connection with a musical comedy called *A Race for a Wife*. His liabilities amounted to £227 16s., and his assets had realised 8s. 1d. The assistant receiver said he was informed that the liabilities had been satisfied, and the registrar granted the debtor his immediate discharge, being of opinion that he could not be justly held responsible for his failure.

MR OSWALD BRAND, the well-known playwright, and manager of the Islington Grand Theatre, has entered into negotiations to produce his series of Dickens plays at a West-end theatre before many months are over. It is Mr Brand's intention to present his pieces on the lines of a "ring," and the different parts will be entrusted to first-rate actors and actresses.

MR F. B. WOULF concludes to-day a short and successful tour with his répertoire of the Max Goldberg plays. He resumes on Monday the part of Marcus Superbus, in Mr William Greet's *Sign of the Cross* company. By arrangement with Mr John F. Preston, Mr Woulfe is touring the successful racing drama *Rogues of the Turf*. The tour commences Jan. 30 at the Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

"MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING."

Revival of Shakespeare's Comedy at His Majesty's Theatre on Jan. 24.

Don Pedro	Mr SYDNEY BROUGH
Don John	Mr LAURENCE IRVING
Claudio	Mr BASIL GILL
Benedick	Mr TREE
Leonato	Mr HENRY NEVILLE
Antonio	Mr J. FISHER WHITE
Balthasar	Master THOMAS FAMPSON
Conrade	Mr S. A. COOKSON
Borachio	Mr JULIAN L'ESTRANGE
Friar Francis	Mr WILLIAM HAVILAND
Dogberry	Mr LOUIS CALVERT
Verges	Mr LIONEL BROUGH
A Sexton	Mr CECIL YAPP
Seacole	Mr CECIL ROSE
Oatcake	Mr J. B. FRASER
Messenger	Mr S. YATES SOUTHGATE
Hero	Miss MIRIAM CLEMENTS
Margaret	Miss MURIEL ALSTON
Ursula	Miss ALICE CRAWFORD
Beatrice	Miss WINIFRED EMERY

Mr Tree's revival of *Much Ado About Nothing* is essentially "Renaissance." It is generously, almost lavishly, exuberant. It makes us realise the superb pomp and pride of life of the period. From first to last, we are under the spell of the sixteenth century, that marvellous epoch when humanity burst into eager efflorescence only to come afterwards to lassitude and rottenness. But what a time it must have been while it lasted! What splendid verve and vigour, what careless courage and intense enjoyment of life! What heroic laughter, what magnificent masquerading, and what joy in Art and existence! This is the keynote of the revival of *Much Ado About Nothing* at His Majesty's. The elaborateness, the richness, and the loveliness of the representation are intoxicating. "Messina in the sixteenth century"—Mr Tree has apprehended all that the phrase includes, and has created an "atmosphere" at the same time enervating and stimulating, overpowering and utterly delightful.

First comes the scene in the Courtyard before Leonato's house. In the background is the sunny bay, and the trees above cast a shade upon a merry party, seated at a richly spread table. Then come Benedick and his friends in most authentic suits of armour. The personages of the drama seem, as far as costumes are concerned, to have walked out of certain pictures in the National Gallery. A quick change of scene, and we are in the Armoury, "another room in Leonato's house," where takes place the preparatory conversation between Don John and Conrade. Don John shoulders out into the darkness, and then there is a change to the garden of Leonato's house. This is an exquisite stage picture indeed. On one side are steps leading to an upper level; in the centre is an immense orange tree, from the branches of which the fruit occasionally falls. Across the stage hurry merry parties of masqueraders in gay and grotesque dresses. A Punchinello sings a ballad, and is beaten out merrily with bladders. At the end of this scene, and at the end of the act, a very pretty bit of "business" is introduced. Claudio and Hero pass across, wrapt in their love-dream; and Beatrice, who has just been smitten by Cupid's dart, looks at them pensively, and walks away kissing Benedick's glove, which she has picked up.

The Dogberry and Verges scene is managed with novelty and picturesqueness. The Constable and the Headborough appear at the windows of their respective dwellings, and thence lecture the watch, Dogberry refering for his law to a thick volume. The Church scene is a marvel of reality. The immense columns have all the appearance of solidity, and a sense of space is cleverly created by the use of back-cloths behind built-up railings. The wedding costumes are superb, and the *tout ensemble* is magnificent, the stage-management of the supernumeraries being noticeably good. The last set of all is a big ballroom, the pillars of which are decked with pink ribbons and bunches of flowers. Such are a few points in this marvellous production, which teems with effective ideas and imaginative embellishments in the way of stage business.

Mr Tree's extreme liberality made the performance last till midnight, though it commenced punctually at eight; and we fear the very beautiful dawn effect, which can hardly be "hurried up," will have to be sacrificed in order to help to bring the revival within the proper limits of time. We may well leave the necessary elisions to the manager's experience and judgment. The text could hardly be curtailed further without injury to the play.

Miss Winifred Emery's welcome back to the stage was wildly enthusiastic; and, in the dainty dress of Beatrice, she stood for many seconds waiting for the applause which greeted her entrance to subside. Her embodiment was essentially charming, and was adorned with the delicate archness and winning grace which are Miss Emery's chief attributes. In her wit combats with Benedick she gave the impression, not of a shrewish girl anxious to "score" at the expense of her companions, but of a practised swordswoman, playing lightly with her weapon. The real warm-heartedness of Beatrice was cleverly suggested, and, altogether, Miss Emery's performance was winning, refined, and humorous. Mr Tree's Benedick was just the virile, soldierly character suggested by the text. Benedick's fine qualities as a soldier and a gentleman are not always sufficiently emphasised; and Mr Tree was especially effective in his delivery of Benedick's challenge to Claudio—an admirable mixture of dignity, severity, and self-restraint. In the scenes with Beatrice, Mr Tree made all his points with surpassing skill; and as no small factor of his success, his imposing "presence" in very handsome costumes must be noted. It gave one a striking idea of the appearance of a gentleman of the period. Mr Laurence Irving was an ideal Don John. He struck exactly the right note in the Armoury scene; and this Don John's malevolent smile when he fancied his schemes were succeeding spoke volumes. Mr Sydney Brough made a noble and gracious Don Pedro, hitting the *juste milieu* with much judgment. Mr Basil Gill's Claudio was excellent in every way. His diction was crisp, and his delivery admirably modulated; and he looked just the interesting youth to make a Hero overlook faults of character. Mr Henry Neville was a "grand old" Leonato, the dignity and *bonhomie* of his performance being very praiseworthy; and Mr J. Fisher White, in the scene in which the two old men scold their juniors, played with much spirit and vivacity. Mr S. A. Cookson and Mr Julian L'Estrange were thoroughly satisfactory as Conrade and Borachio, making the most of their respective rôles; and a striking success with a small part was achieved by Mr William Haviland, whose masterly treatment of the Priest's speeches was generally admired. A Dogberry who thoroughly realised the character was Mr Louis Calvert, who expressed the stolid stupidity of the personage most comically; and Mr Lionel Brough was, of course, easily excellent as Verges. Mr Cecil Yapp did well as the Sexton, and Mr Cecil Rose and Mr J. B. Fraser were commendable exponents of Seacole and Oatcake; Mr S. Yates Southgate speaking his lines well as the Messenger. Miss Miriam Clements not only looked extremely pretty and attractive as Hero, but made an excellent impression by her neat and distinct treatment of the text, and the keenness with which she took advantage of the opportunities of the part; Miss Muriel Alston was bright and lively, if a little less distinct than was desirable, as Margaret; and Miss Alice Crawford enacted Ursula with brisk emphasis and agreeable animation.

No pains had been spared to make the revival excellent in every department. Mr M'Cleery, Mr Telbin, Mr Emden, Mr Hann, and Mr Hemsley had been engaged to paint the splendid scenery alluded to above; Mr Raymond Roze had specially composed some agreeable and appropriate incidental music; Mr Byam Shaw, R.I., had designed the armour and costumes; and Mr Louis Hervey D'Egville had arranged the dances. At the close of the performance the principal artists were "called" enthusiastically, and demands upon Mr Tree for a speech were perseveringly made; but he judiciously refrained from acceding to them. Those who see *Much Ado About Nothing* in a night or two will have the advantage of witnessing even a better entertainment than that of Tuesday last. The time of performance will have been shortened; and any evidences in the acting of the effect of the nervous strain created by heavy rehearsals will have disappeared. The production will then shine forth as one of the most beautiful, the most correct, and the most artistic that have ever been given to the London public.

REPERTOIRE THEATRES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Personally I cannot see that a répertoire theatre is at all necessary in London, for in the past two years there have been so many theatres with short runs that they have practically provided répertoire, so that it is a relief to find a play running for three months, which, in my humble opinion, should be the shortest duration of a run in the interest of the art of acting and play-writing.

London is well looked after by its present caterers, and certainly the Adelphi, under Mr Otho Stuart's régime, is the nearest approach to a National theatre that we have yet had, provided he does not close his portals to non-Bensonians.

If the various promoters of the répertoire theory will combine their efforts—they cannot each expect a subsidy of £25,000—and turn their attention to the provinces, they would reap a rich reward financially and artistically. It is in the provinces that reform is most necessary, and the country is the proper nursery for rising young actors and actresses to gain their experience by constant public appearances. The London boards are not the place to learn one's business. Theatres with a good all-round stock company, competent stage director, a business manager, and adequate necessary scenery, would prove more beneficial than a plethora of répertoire theatres.

I have always understood that a national theatre was to be on the plan of the Théâtre Français—viz., a theatre where one would continually see performances by a combination of our leading actors and actresses, as one occasionally sees at a benefit matinée. But I very much doubt now whether such a theatre is needed at all.

In the excellent editorial article of your issue of the 21st inst., you state that "the Comédie Française does not depend upon the inclusion amongst its members of any leading actor or actress." That is true; it depends on its combined *personelle*, and its purity and uniformity of diction. In France, as in Germany, there is a standard of pronunciation on the stage. There is only one way of pronouncing "Mon Dieu" and "Mein Gott" permissible to characters supposed to be speaking pure French or German. On the London stage, in one playhouse, you would probably hear God pronounced five different ways, and so you would in the Church. The English-speaking nations don't seem to have settled upon any definite system of pronunciation, either on or off the stage. The Americans still stick to the very early English pronunciation which existed before Board Schools and Schools of Elocution and Acting; but at any rate on the American stage you get more uniformity of speech. Shakespeare is a good test for delivery; and the more of that food supplied to our stage nurseries the better, no matter what branch of the drama one intends to make one's definite aim and ambition.

You invited comments, Mr Editor, on Mr Grein's figures, and I claim your indulgence for this slight divergence. Mr Grein's figures seem very accurate. His salary list allows for about twenty-five artistes, ranging from £10 to £3 per week, which for all the year round would be very good remuneration. As regards an orchestra, if £20 is only to be allowed it were best dispensed with, and in its place engagements made with soloists, pianists, or violinists who were just about to make their début upon the concert platform, and are therefore fully equipped. Music incidental to a play should be heard and not seen.

Mr Grein's scheme would work admirably in the provinces, where the public are clamouring for better catering. In London they seem perfectly contented with their present fare, or will be when they have made up their minds whether they will book for the pit or not. With the booking system will disappear one of the finest advertisements for the theatre, for the long, slow-moving live column is worth twenty columns of cold print in the daily papers. To see them swarming in used to give me a thrill of excitement in days gone by, although I knew I should only receive my £2 2s. solid cash at the end of the week, but "it kind of bucked you up" to do your utmost. I shall be sorry to see the unbookable pit a thing of the past; but then I am not a playgoer, only

Yours faithfully, CHARLES LANDER.

60, Haymarket, Jan. 25.

IN *Much Ado About Nothing*, revived on Tuesday night at His Majesty's Theatre, Miss Winifred Emery makes her first appearance in the play as Beatrice, attired in a sumptuous gown of dark green velvet patterned with gold, worn over a gold satin petticoat, and cut, after the manner of those days, quite low upon the shoulders, though the sleeves are long and are furnished with big puffs slashed with gold on the shoulders.

THE scene in the garden of Leonato's house discovers Miss Miriam Clements as Hero, in a simple white dress appliquéd with velvet and worn with a wreath of flowers round the throat, and Miss Winifred Emery, in a lay version of the old ecclesiastical dalmatic made of embroidered satin and worn over a skirt of copper satin. She also wears the beautiful pear-shaped pearl that hangs from an invisible chain upon her forehead, and her hair is dressed after the manner of those times with the big plaited coronal that singularly enough is once more in vogue now. The dalmatic is a type of tunic that hangs loosely back and front, and is slit up the sides to show a complete under-dress.

MISS EMERY'S most splendid toilette is reserved for Hero's wedding, or what should have been the marriage of that hapless damsel, and the charming but short scene in the bedroom that precedes it. It is a copy of a gown from one of Titian's pictures, and the interior of the church itself must also have been faithfully copied from an ancient painting. All the vestments of the priests and acolytes, and even the gold that ornaments the chapel, is mellowed to look like a painting of old times. Of pure white there is none; even the surplices have purposely been tinted to avoid the crude effect of newly washed linen.

MISS MIRIAM CLEMENTS in these scenes wears, of course, the white robes of a bride, with a great loose tulle veil which falls from her like a cloud in the harrowing moment of her denunciation. A most becoming toilette is an apple-green taffetas dress of an earlier scene worn over a bronze-brown skirt, and with this she dresses her hair in the manner familiar to her, braided in a thick plait which is posed over the crown of her head. Miss Muriel Alston and Miss Alice Crawford as Margaret and Ursula, the gentlewomen who attend on Hero, are garbed very picturesquely in every scene.

MISS CARLOTTA LEVEY'S little son, Woodberry Kelly, jun., made his first appearance on the stage on Saturday at the matinée of *Dick Whittington*, at the Broadway Theatre, New cross, being carried on in the ship scene by Mr Ernest Rees as Martha Mixitt. The small *débutante* had a "very nice" reception from the 2,000 poor children who were being entertained by the Playgoers' Club.

DEATH OF MISS ADA NEILSON.

We regret to announce the death of Miss Ada Neilson, the wife of Mr Allen Thomas, which melancholy event took place at 9·0 p.m. on Wednesday last. The deceased lady was a sister of Lady Macfarren, the wife of the late Sir George Macfarren. Miss Neilson will be buried in Sir George Macfarren's vault at Fortune-green, West Hampstead. The funeral will start from the deceased's residence, 74, Marlborough-flats, Wilton-street, Chelsea, on Monday next at 10·0 o'clock. Miss Leonora Thomas, her daughter, sailed on Saturday last to South Africa with Edward Sass's company to play ingenués, and will not have any information about her mother's death till she reaches South Africa. Miss Naomi Thomas, another daughter, travelled from Scotland in order to be present at the bedside of her mother, but, unfortunately, arrived after life had been pronounced extinct. Miss Ada Neilson showed signs of illness during a recent rehearsal with Mr Lewis Waller's company, in which she was to have played Lady Holland. She was fifty-nine years of age.

Miss Neilson, having been successful in obtaining prizes for elocution at school, resolved to go upon the stage, notwithstanding a certain amount of opposition from some of her relatives. She went to a well-known agent, and eventually secured an engagement at the Theatre Royal, Coventry, at a small salary. Here she remained through the stock season. Her first manager was Mr John Douse, who died some ten years ago. After a period of hard work she was engaged by the late H. J. Byron for the Alexandra, Liverpool, to play Florizel, in *A Winter's Tale*, and Nerissa, in *The Merchant of Venice*, supporting the late Charles Calvert, who subsequently engaged her for the Veiled Lady, in *No Thoroughfare*. This was followed by a season at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, where she had the advantage of acting with such stars as Samuel Phelps, J. L. Toole, Barry Sullivan, Edward Sothern, and Charles Dillon, playing parts ranging from Emilia *(Othello)* to Tilly Slowboy, in *The Cricket on the Hearth*. Eventually she was engaged by the late Charles Reade to play Virginie, in *Drink*, on its first provincial tour. This was followed by a season in America, where she played Sangara, in *Michael Strogoff*. On her return to England she was secured for the Manchester production of Henry Hamilton's blank verse tragedy, *A Shadow Sceptre*, playing Princess Elizabeth with success. In the revival of *Drink*, at the Adelphi, she was the Virginie. When *The Armada* was produced at Drury-lane Miss Neilson created the part of Queen Elizabeth. She toured with the drama in the spring, and was re-engaged by Sir Augustus Harris for Lady Cholmondely, in *The Royal Oak*. She afterwards appeared as Lady Janet, in *Sunlight and Shadow*, both at the Avenue and St. James's, under Mr Alexander's management, and again returned to Drury-lane to play Virginie, in another revival of *Drink*. A tour in the provinces was followed by a visit to America with the late Wilson Barrett's company.

Photo by Langfier.

THE LATE MISS ADA NEILSON.

Here she appeared in a round of plays, including *Claudian*, *Ben-my-Chree*, *The Lady of Lyons*, *Pharaoh*, and *Our Pleasant Sins*. On her return her next important engagement was for Joanna Lightfoot, in the production, at the Adelphi, of *Shall We Forgive Her?* Later, she went on a long tour as Gretchen, in *Rip Van Winkle*.

MUCH regret has been expressed at the somewhat sudden death of Mr J. W. Austin, who for about thirty years had been associated with the orchestra of the Theatre Royal, Worcester, as musical director, and was the leader of a capital band composed of members of his own family, who were in much request in Worcester and the district around. Mr Austin had been in failing health for about twelve months, but the end came rather unexpectedly on the night of the 21st inst. For many years deceased had carried on a large music business in Mealcheapen-street. He leaves eight children and thirty grandchildren, and it is a somewhat singular fact that his death is the first in these three generations. The funeral took place on Thursday at Astwood Cemetery amidst many demonstrations of sympathy, a large number of friends and acquaintances being present, and many wreaths being sent from these and the theatre lessee and staff.

AT the usual weekly meeting of the council of the Actors' Association, held last Tuesday, the secretary stated that arrangements had been made for holding the fourteenth annual general meeting of the A.A. at the Garrick Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 23, at 3.0 p.m., and that Mr Arthur Bourchier had very kindly placed his theatre at the disposal of the council and members, and would occupy the chair upon that occasion. The account of receipts and payments and the balance-sheet for the year 1904, as prepared by the secretary and audited by Messrs Westcott, Maskal', and Co., the auditors to the Association, were presented to the council by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, and they were congratulated upon the fact that the excess of assets over liabilities amounted to £352 7s. 11d. Norah Bellew, Katharine Parry, J. Graeme Campbell, and Dorothy Clifton were nominated as candidates for election as members of the Association. The hon. solicitors reported that a manager and an artiste had agreed to refer the question in dispute to the arbitration of the joint board. Questions as to the want of sanitation, ventilation, and means of egress in case of fire at three provincial theatres were under discussion, and the secretary received instructions in connection therewith. The secretary reported the receipt of a letter from a member expressing warmest thanks for legal advice received from the hon. solicitors. The annual report of the council was settled. It was agreed that the council should recommend to the annual general meeting that a committee be appointed to report to the council on the various schemes suggested for the establishment of a Repertory Theatre, whether such a theatre were desirable, and if so, what were the best steps to take to achieve this object.

"HENRY V." AT THE IMPERIAL.

Shakespeare's Historical Play, Revived at the Imperial Theatre, on Saturday, Jan. 21.

King Henry V.	Mr LEWIS WALLER
Duke of Gloucester	Mr PATRICK DIGAN
Duke of Bedford	Mr ROY CUSHING
Duke of Clarence	Mr SHIEL BARRY
Duke of Exeter	Mr OWEN ROUGHWOOD
Duke of York	Mr J. H. IRVINE
Earl of Westmoreland	Mr B. HOLLOWAY
Archbishop of Canterbury	Mr JOHN BEAUCHAMP
Bishop of Ely	Mr ERIC SCOTT
Earl of Cambridge	Mr M. ALPHINSTONE
Lord Scroop	Mr GORDON BAILEY
Sir Thomas Grey	Mr GEORGE HAYWARD
Sir Thomas Erpingham	Mr RICHARD WYLIE
Capt. Gower	Mr EDWARD FERRIS
Capt. Fluellen	Mr A. E. GEORGE
Capt. M'Morris	Mr CECIL M'GUINNESS
Capt. Jamy	Mr B. TRIPP EDGAR
Bates	Mr W. LEBURN
Court	Mr ARTHUR AINGER
Williams	Mr NORMAN M'KINNEL
Boy	Miss KATE RUSKIN
Nym	Mr THOMAS KINGSTON
Bardolph	Mr WILLIAM CALVERT
Pistol	Mr WILLIAM MOLLISON
Charles VI.	Mr JOHN BEAUCHAMP
The Dauphin	Mr FRANK DYALL
Duke of Burgundy	Mr THOMAS M'LEOD
Duke of Orleans	Mr LESLIE BROWNE
Duke of Bourbon	Mr A. E. KINGSLEY
Constable of France	Mr HENRY J. CARVILL
A French Soldier	Mr CHARLES MEYER
Montjoy	Mr F. B. BERRETON
Governor of Harfleur	Mr FRANK WOOLFE
Isabel	Miss MARY LEWIS
Katherine	Miss SARAH BROOKE
Alice	Miss CONSTANCE WALTON
Hostess	Miss MINNIE GRIFFIN
Chorus	Miss MARY RORKE

Mr A. W. Pinero, in one of his lectures, has emphasised the importance of "praise" in theatrical criticism. It is, indeed, so much easier, and so much more profitable to the critic personally, to point out faults that the temptation to do so is not always resisted. "What a grand man!" said Voltaire's Candide of Pococurante; "nothing satisfies him!" and the feeling which the remark expressed is pretty common. We confess, however, to being disarmed by Mr Lewis Waller's production of *Henry V.* at the Imperial. We are driven by its excellence to mere microscopic detractions, such as a doubt if the Boy should speak the lines about the flea on Bardolph's nose with so much gaiety, considering that his master is just dead; a wonder that Fluellen should talk to Pistol about his "proken coxcomb" when the Welshman has been belabouring him on his back only; and a desire that the bells and music should be kept down more during the delivery of dialogue. We are almost ashamed to make these objections, considering how much pleasure this "clean and perfect" performance of the play gave us.

The keynote was struck at the commencement, when the curtain rose on Miss Mary Rorke in the classic robes of the Chorus, standing fair against a black background. Shakespeare's splendid lines came from Miss Rorke's lips sharp as steel and clear as crystal. We could easily understand how Elizabethan audiences were able to dispense with elaborate scenery, if the representative of the Chorus in that day—he would have been a lad, of course—was as winning and as inspiring as Miss Rorke.

From the commencement of the first act until the fall of the curtain on the fourth there was nothing to injure the illusion or weaken the effect of the noble text. The costumes, from Mr Percy Anderson's designs, were admirably accurate and sumptuous; but they did not intrude—they simply satisfied. The scenery—where did Messrs Hemsley and Banks get their "authority" for their swampy scenes near Agincourt?—was excellent in execution, and not overdone; and Mr Raymond Rose's thrilling music mightily stimulated the imagination. It was a Shakespearian production after our own heart.

Mr Lewis Waller is an ideal Henry V. He suggests the necessary astuteness of the character. It is an error to make Henry V. too much of a bluff soldier. He had a great deal of the craft of his father; and one has only to read his extremely acute arguments to himself on his judgment in playing the scapegrace, with a subsequent "surprise," to see what a schemer—in the good sense—he was. Not that Henry was acting all his life. As Mr Bernard Shaw points out, in his preface to *Cæsar and Cleopatra*, a great man has only to be himself to give the average individual the impression of deep cunning. But Henry was nothing less than a stupid combatant, and admirably does Mr Waller suggest this. His masculine presence, his delivery of the martial speeches, which thrill the audience like a trumpet note; the excellent judgment and modulation of his wooing of Katherine; and, above all, the magnetism of his virile personality make Mr Waller the very man to depict Henry V. in a manner to equal our imagination of the personage.

Mr John Beauchamp, by his share in this revival, shows how immensely valuable are the services of a thoroughly trained actor in a Shakespearian production. As the Archbishop of Canterbury he can do little but be distinct and dignified, though we fancy he tries to suggest the "foxiness" of the supple and wily ecclesiastic; but as Charles VI he gives a most subtle character-sketch of a noble and kingly nature fighting against the inroads of insanity. We see the old monarch's inborn courage and "haughty power of resistance" bursting through the clouds of age and imbecility. It is a striking and touching picture; and Mr Beauchamp deserves warm praise for his clever, alert, and keenly perceptive work.

Mr William Calvert's Bardolph is capital. It is "beery" without being "boozy;" and the drink-sodden condition of the seasoned toper is marked without the cheap expedients of hiccups and mispronunciations. Mr Calvert's Bardolph is a kind of Elizabethan Silenus. It is broad but not farcical, and droll without buffoonery.

Mr William Mollison is the Ancient Pistol. The part is as difficult to play to a modern audience as it must have been easy to present to the Elizabethan public, who recognised in the sordid spouter a familiar contemporary type. The more merit is due to Mr Mollison for making such a success in it. It must be mentioned that his make-up is extremely ingenious, and had a great deal to do with the diverting effect of his most acceptable interpretation.

Mr Thomas Kingston's Nym is another commendable character sketch. In appearance it reminds us of one of Callot's etchings in "The Beggars." The shallowness and the meanness of the wretched little rogue are most cleverly marked by Mr Kingston.

Miss Kate Ruskin is arch and "bonnie" as the Boy, putting all the needed expression into her delivery of the lad's lines, which she speaks with much alertness and humour.

Mr A. E. George as Fluellen is a little inclined, perhaps, to hurry over his prosier speeches; but his characterisation is excellent. He hits off the nationality of Fluellen exactly; and is a thorough Welshman, both in physique, diction, and sentiment.

Mr Cecil M'Guinness is unimpeachably Irish as M'Morris; and Mr H. Tripp Edgar makes the most of the poor part of Captain Jamy.

There are a large number of rôles in *Henry V.* which must be played irreproachably, though they are more or less equal and moderate in value. The great merit of Mr Waller's revival is that it is good all round. Though the actor may have only a few lines to speak, he speaks them well, and bears himself appropriately. From a long list of thoroughly well-played parts, we may, not invidiously, single out that of Sir Thomas Erpingham, so soundly sustained by Mr Richard Wylie that of the Bishop of Ely, entrusted with excellent results to Mr Eric Scott; that of the Duke of Exeter, ably embodied by Mr Owen Roughwood; and Mr Norman M'Kinnel's Williams, a most telling sketch of an uncompromising Englishman. Mr Frank Dyall's Dauphin only requires a little more distinctness of enunciation to make it completely creditable. The spirit of his performance is highly praiseworthy. Mr Charles Meyer depicts the conventional French coward cleverly; and Mr S. B. Brereton is a grandly defiant Montjoy. Excellent also are Mr Patrick Digan as the Duke of Gloucester; Mr Roy Cushing as the Duke of Bedford; and Mr Shiel Barry as the Duke of Clarence. Miss Mary Lewis is crisp and neat as Queen Isabel, and Miss Sarah Brooke is quite bewitching as Katharine, the part suiting her style exactly. Miss Constance Walton is a dainty Alice; and Miss Minnie Griffin earns our appreciation by not burlesquing the grim irony of the Hostess's loquacity.

The revival was received with excited approbation; and Mr Waller, who was enthusiastically called for, contented himself with saying "Thanks, thanks, and yet again thanks." In response to a demand for the author, he returned, and said: "The author is not in the house. I wish he were. We should be glad of some authors like him." *Henry V.* at the Imperial won a well-deserved triumph.

THE IRVING FAREWELL TOUR.

Sir Henry Irving and company are at the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, this week, and the playgoers of the seaside town have had the opportunity of again witnessing the performance of the leading actor of the English stage. With the satisfaction and delight which his acting always produces there is mingled, on this occasion, a feeling of deep regret that Sir Henry is on a farewell tour and is retiring from the profession with which he has been so long and so honourably connected. On Monday night the house presented a brilliant appearance, and Sir Henry, on making his appearance, was greeted in a manner that bore eloquent testimony to his great popularity. The enviable position which he holds has been gained not only by his supreme ability as an actor but also by his admirable personal qualities. The first item in the evening's programme was Conan Doyle's dramatic one act play *Waterloo*. Of Sir Henry Irving's portrayal of the veteran, Corporal Brewster, it is difficult to say anything new. It has been eulogised by so many pens, and is generally allowed to be one of the great actor's most telling impersonations. The pathos of the scene, too, is relieved by some extremely effective touches of humour, and the audience expressed their appreciation in no grudging fashion. Mr Lionel Belmore continues to present his easy and natural rendering of the part of Sergeant M'Donald, and Mr Vincent Sternroyd has met with marked success as the Colonel of the Guards.

The curtain next rose on *The Bells*, and Sir Henry repeated his world-famous study of Mathias, the burgomaster, whose murder of the Polish Jew causes him to become the conscience-stricken wretch with the haunted look in the weary eyes. Sir Henry played the part with all his old force and effect, the audience being powerfully impressed from the very first scene with Houseman, where occurs that sudden transition from the calm, self-possessed, mild scholar to the fierce, determined man capable of a cruel murder. There were repeated calls at the conclusion of the performance, and Sir Henry was at length compelled to say a few words in acknowledgment, thanking the audience for their kindness and loyalty. Mr H. B. Stanford scored in the part of Christian. The village worthies, Walter and Hans, were ably embodied by Messrs Chas. Dodsworth and James Hearn. Mr F. Tyars was a dignified and impressive President of the Court. In the part of Annette Miss May Holland did excellently. Miss Grace Hampton was well placed as Catherine, and Miss Mary Foster was good as Sozel. Tennyson's *Becket* was presented on Tuesday, with Sir Henry in the title-rôle, supported by Mr Gerald Lawrence as Henry II., Miss Maud Fealy as Fair Rosamund, and Mrs Cecil Raleigh as Eleanor. The scenery was much admired, and the incidental music, performed under the direction of Mr Sydney Faulkner, deserves mention.

AT the Majestic Theatre, San Francisco, on the 9th inst., for the first time on any stage, was produced a Biblical play entitled *Mizpah; or, the Story of Esther*, written by Mrs Ella Wheeler Wilcox, the well-known authoress and poetess, and Mr Luscombe Searelle. The play is in four acts and nine scenes, and opens in Queen Vashti's apartments, where she is waiting the pleasure of the King, who has just returned triumphant from the wars. She believes that she is not loved by her consort; and, Haman appearing on the scene and strengthening her doubts, the pair conspire to murder Ahasuerus and seize the throne. The next scene shows the banquet hall prepared for the festivities in honour of the King. In the midst of the gaiety he calls for his wife, who at first refuses to come, and then on his command appears, but only to denounce him for his infidelity. He orders her to be banished, and she is about to murder him, but is prevented by Mordecai, who, with some other Hebrew captives, is in the hall awaiting the King's pleasure. The second act shows Esther's home in a stable outside the palace walls and Mordecai's return with the news that the King is seeking a new wife. He urges Esther, for the sake of her people, to seek the monarch's favour. The following scene is in one of the palace chambers, where Esther appears before the King and fascinates him, despite Haman's attempt to have her sent from the castle as a beggar. The third act is laid in Haman's chamber, where the ex-Queen and he again plot to murder the King and to slaughter the Jews. In the gardens of the palace there is a love scene between Esther and the King; and in the ante-room of Esther's bedchamber Mordecai slays the assassins who are lying in wait for the King. The last act opens in a part of the palace grounds, where Mordecai tells Esther his reasons for killing the guards, and urges her to see the King, inform him of the truth, and thus save her persecuted race. The final scene is in the throne room. Esther enters unsummoned, but the King greets her with the uplifted sceptre. She unfolds her story and the perfidy of Haman and the ex-Queen. Haman is ordered to the gibbet prepared for Mordecai, and the ex-Queen is killed by the poisonous snake she had intended should bite Esther. The play was finely mounted.

DEATH rang down the curtain on the 8th inst. in San Francisco on the life of Ellen Cummens, "Nellie Cummings," who at one time was the leading lady for Messrs Booth and Barrett and Mr John M'Cullough. She died from asthma, in the presence of friends upon whose charity she had lived in a shabby room in that city, the rent of which she had been almost unable to pay. Yet had she lived her feet would have been set again in the dramatic paths she had trodden for upwards of thirty-six years, for John Moore, manager for Messrs Frederick Warde and Katherine Kidder, now appearing in *Salammbo*, in San Francisco, had consented to give her a chance to appear again in the plays of Shakespeare, in which she established her first fame. She was born fifty-four years ago in Boston, Mass., and her funeral was held on the 9th inst. under the auspices of the local Theatrical Managers' Association. It was in defence of Miss Cummings that Mr Maurice Barrymore, now an inmate of a sanatorium, was wounded some years ago while in Texas. A railroad man made himself offensive to the actress in a restaurant at Marshall, in that state, and when Barrymore thrashed him he shot the actor in the shoulder.

ON Thursday the *Cinderella* company, appearing at the Theatre Royal, Gloucester, played against Old Boys of the Gloucester Club in a comic costume football match, in aid of charities. In the evening the joint benefit of Miss Annie Craig and Miss Ada Lindley, principal boy and girl, was announced to take place.

ON THE ROAD, JAN. 30.

ALADDIN (DOTTRIDGE).—Theatre Royal, Hull.
AMORELLE (LONDON).—Opera House, Leicester.
AMORELLE (N.).—Theatre Royal, Stockton.
ARMADALE REPERTOIRE.—Chester.
AT WAR WITH WOMEN.—King's Theatre, Cardiff.
AUSTIN, MISS MARY.—Theatre Royal, Bury.
BABES IN THE WOOD (BODE).—T. R., Coatbridge.
BABES IN THE WOOD (EDMUNDS).—Oldham.
BABES IN THE WOOD (JORDISON).—C. T., Wigan.
BABES IN THE WOOD (LEVAINE).—P. T., Blackburn.
BANDMANN-PALMER, MRS.—G. T., Rawtenstall.
BEAUTIFUL AVENGER.—Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.
BEAUTY AND THE BARGE.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (RAY).—T. R., York.
BENSON, MR F. R. (A).—Theatre Royal, Belfast.
BENSON, MR F. R. (B).—O. H., Londonderry.
BEST MUST WIN.—King's Theatre, Walthamstow.
BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH.—Sutton-in-Ashfield.
BO-PEEP (RAY).—Theatre Royal, Rochdale.
BOUND TO WIN.—Theatre Royal, Nuneaton.
BULMER, MR.—Lyceum Theatre, Crewe.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (M.).—Wolverhampton.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (MACDONA) (N.).—Arbroath.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (MACDONA) (S.).—Rugby.
CINDARELLA (BODE).—Lyceum Theatre, Ipswich.
CINGALEE.—Chatham.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.
CONSCRIPT.—Cambridge Theatre, Spennymoor.
COUNTRY GIRL (M.).—Blackburn.
COUNTRY GIRL (N.).—Seaham Harbour.
COUNTRY GIRL (S.).—Stratford-on-Avon.
DANDY DOCTOR.—G. T., Halifax.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—Avenue T., Kettering.
DEFENDING HIS HONOUR.—T. R., Castleford.
DICK WHITTINGTON (BODE).—T. R., Leamington.
DICK WHITTINGTON (KIDDIE).—T. R., Worcester.
D'OYLY CARTE.—Theatre Royal, Portsmouth.
DUCHESS OF DANTZIC.—Bath.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—New T., Oxford.
FATAL WEDDING (M.).—Theatre Royal, Doncaster.
FATAL WEDDING (N.).—Victoria T., Stanley.
FEMALE SWINDLER.—Terriss Theatre, S.E.
FIGHT FOR MILLIONS.—Alex. T., Hull.
FLORODORA (DAVIS).—Opera House, Burnley.
FLORADORA (CALLAN).—Opera House, Workington.
FORTY THIEVES (DOTTRIDGE).—P.O.W.T., Grimsby.
FORTY THIEVES.—King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy.
FRIVOLITY.—Palace Theatre, Newcastle.
GAY PARISIENNE.—Barnstaple.
GEISHA AND GREEK SLAVE.—C. T., Reading.
GIPSY JACK.—New T., Aberdare.
GIRL FROM BOND STREET.—T. R., Gloucester.
GIRL FROM KAY'S (N.).—Cardiff.
GOLDEN LADDER.—T. R., Merthyr Tydvil.
GOODY TWO SHOES (DOTTRIDGE).—T. R., Sheffield.
GO-WON-GO-MOHAWK.—Stourbridge.
GRIP OF IRON.—Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank.
GRIP OF THE LAW.—Whitehaven.
HARVEST OF SIN.—Mountain Ash.
HARVEY, MARTIN.—Broadway T., New-cross.
HONOUR THY FATHER.—West London Theatre, W.
INDIAN MUTINY.—Stratford.
IRVING, HENRY.—G. T., Boscombe.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Bordon Camp.
LADDER OF LIFE.—Theatre Royal, Rotherham.
LAUGHTER-LAND.—Grand Theatre, Blackpool.
LIGHTNING'S FLASH.—Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.
LITTLE CINDERELLA (KIDDIE).—T. R., Attercliffe.
LONDON FIREMAN.—Queen's T., Workington.
MAN TO MAN.—Theatre Royal, Stratford.
MANXMAN.—Theatre Royal, Colchester.
MARRIAGE OF KITTY.—Crystal Palace.
MESSAGE FROM MARS.—O. H., Northampton.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—Theatre Royal, Leicester.
MOCKERY OF MARRIAGE.—Macclesfield.
MONSIEUR BEAUCAIRE.—King's Lynn.
MOODY-MANNERS (A).—Opera House, Cork.
MOODY-MANNERS (B).—Opera House, St. Helens.
MOODY-MANNERS (C).—Sanquhar.
NAPOLEON THE GREAT.—T. R., Smethwick.
NEW MEPHISTO.—Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
NORMAN V. NORMAN.—Paisley.
ORCHID.—Barnsley.
OTTO THE OUTCAST.—Miners' Theatre, Ashington.
PRICE OF HER SOUL.—Theatre Royal, Sunderland.
PRINCE OF ROGUES.—Tyldesley.
PROOF.—King's Theatre, Ebbw Vale.
PUSS IN BOOTS (BODE).—T. R., Huddersfield.
RED RIDING HOOD (ELAND'S).—Elswick.
REVENGE.—Theatre Royal, Jarrow.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Theatre Royal, North Shields.
ROYAL REVENGE (CLYNDES).—O. H., Middlesbro'.
SCARLET WOMAN.—Grand Theatre, Maidenhead.
SCHOOL GIRL (MACDONA).—Oldham.
SHERLOCK HOLMES.—Metropole T., Birkenhead.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.
SILVER KING.—Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.
SINBAD THE SAILOR (LEVAINE).—Stafford.
SIN OF HER CHILDHOOD.—South Shields.
SLEDGE-HAMMER.—Theatre Royal, Darwen.
SORROWS OF SATAN.—Carlton T., Birmingham.
STILL ALARM.—Grand Theatre, Radcliffe.
SUNDAY.—Royalty Theatre, Barrow.
SWISS EXPRESS.—Grand Theatre, Woolwich.
THREE LITTLE MAIDS (MACDONA) (S.).—Cambridge.
TRAITOR.—Keighley.
TRAITOR PRINCE.—Opera House, Wakefield.
TWO HUSSARS.—Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd.
TWO LITTLE SAILOR BOYS.—Met., Birmingham.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN (HARRINGTON).—G.T., Falkirk.
UNDER TWO FLAGS.—P. G. T., Folkestone.
VERONIQUE.—Plymouth.
VICTIM OF VILLAINY.—Empire Theatre, Dundee.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—Prince's T., Accrington.
WARNER, GRACE.—Theatre Royal, Goole.
WAY OF THE WORLD.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
WEARIN' O' THE GREEN.—P. O. W. T., Salford.
WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN.—P. T., Preston.
WOMAN'S DEVOTION.—Queen's Theatre, Swindon.
10·30 DOWN EXPRESS.—Hoyland.

A COPY OF "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

MISS MAY MARTON, who has been playing Cinderella at the Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, so successfully, was accorded a complimentary benefit by the management on Friday last week, when the theatre was completely filled, the performance being under the patronage of officers of several regiments, including the 17th Lancers, and many distinguished citizens. Evidence of Miss Marton's popularity was shown in the beautiful flowers and presents handed over the footlights, the most admired being a recherché chiffon parasol opened and used as a flower basket, with a handsome silver network bag and painted sashes attached, from the management, while a large silver mirror mounted on a four-foot easel of flowers was notable. A basket of blue hyacinths, with a large B and silver casket appended, on which was engraved the chorus of "Bluebell," was a memento of a beautiful rendering, and amongst other trophies of admiration were a valuable sable muff and stole, garlanded with flowers and ribbons. A pretty thought was a bouquet of flowers from admirers in Dundee who had been to see the pantomime.

AT the Royal Hippodrome, Salford, an exceptionally interesting entertainment is this week contributed to by Three Juggling Geraldos, Fred and Maude Vyponds, in their latest successes, *The Honeymoon*, &c.; Deakin and Rankin, Veno, Stidder, musical eccentric; Mabel La Blanche, comedienne; Wilfred, contortionist; and Wirson, head and hand equilibrist.

MR EDITOR.—Sir,—In your "Music Hall Gossip," last Saturday's issue, you say the Empire, Wrexham, was on the evening of the 20th inst. placed by Mr J. J. Scott at the service of the Mayor of Mexborough and the committee responsible for the management of the distress fund. It should have read "Mayor of Wrexham." Yours faithfully, HERBERT NICHOLLS, Manager, Empire, Wrexham, Jan 24.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

CHATTELL.—Sunday, Jan. 22, to William and Doris Chattell, a daughter.
HART.—Jan. 17, the wife of P. Hart (of Hart and Rudd, comedians), of a fine son. Mrs Hart and son doing well. 10, Auburn-street, Dublin.

MARRIAGES.

HUNTER—HAMMERSLEY.—Jan. 24, 1905, Horace Hunter to Lily Hammersley, at St. Mary's Church, Walthamstow.
WEBSTER—GALLOWAY.—Jan. 23, by licence, at St. Pancras Church, W.C., by the Vicar, the Rev. Henry L. Paget, Arthur Vavasour Webster to Rosa Galloway.

DEATHS.

CHUTE.—Jan. 26, Charles Kean Chute, aged forty-six. No flowers, by request.
HAMILTON.—Jan. 22, Maggie Hamilton, the beloved daughter of William and Margaret Hamilton, aged twenty-three, after three weeks' serious illness, at Farnworth, Bolton. Deeply mourned by father, mother, and brothers.
HARDIE.—Jan. 23, James M. Hardie, managing-director of the Liverpool Shakespeare Theatre Co., Limited.
JULEENE.—Jan. 22, at his residence at Clapham, H. F. Juleene (John Parsons), of the Juleenes, of electric orchestra fame, aged fifty-nine.
KIRK.—Jan. 22, at Lewisham Infirmary, from exhaustion following an operation for cancer, Jessie Kirk, the beloved wife of Kenneth Black, mother of Willie, Jessica, and Kenneth Black, jun., and only sister of the late Miss Helen Kirk, contralto. Scotch papers please copy.
NEILSON.—Jan. 25, Ada Neilson, actress, the wife of Mr Allen Thomas, aged fifty-nine.
NISBETT.—Jan. 23, William Walker Nisbett, aged eighty-three, the beloved father of Clara Nisbett (Mrs Tom Vine). His end was peace.
RODNEY.—Jan. 18, Charles E. Rodney (eldest son of Charles Rodney, of Bristol), at his aunt Louie's residence, 51, St. Martin's-road, Shortlands, Kent. Deeply mourned by his brother, sisters, and aunts. Australian and South African papers please copy.
STEPHENSON.—Jan. 20, at his residence, 64, Kew-road, Birkdale, Charles Henry Stephenson, Father Tom of the Adelphi, in his eighty-second year. Cremated at Anfield Cemetery, Liverpool, by his own request. His end was peace.

IN MEMORIAM.

CHAMBERS.—In memory of Mary Chambers, beloved mother of Lizzie Chambers, who departed this life Jan. 25, 1903. R.I.P.
CHAPMAN.—In loving memory of my beloved husband, David Chapman, who passed away at Wallsend-on-Tyne Show-ground, Feb. 2, 1904. Never forgotten by his sorrowing wife and daughters.
HAMILTON.—In ever-loving memory of our darling Willie, son of William and Margareta Hamilton, W. Hamilton's Excursions, who died at Dundee Jan. 25, 1894.
REZENE.—In ever-loving and sacred memory of my dear wife Polly (Cusick), Mrs Chas. Rezene (Rezene and Robini), who died Jan 31, 1903, at her residence, Anson House, Essex-road, N. Gone, but ever lives in my memory.
SKINNER.—In ever-loving memory of Maggie Zimmer (Mrs Skinner), who died at Aldershot, Jan. 30, 1893. Never forgotten.

Time but makes the sorrow greater,
As streams their channels deeper wear.

TAYLOR.—In loving memory of William Taylor, who died Jan. 29, 1901. Never forgotten by his loving widow and family.
TAYLOR.—In ever loving memory of my darling husband, James Goulde Taylor, who entered into rest Jan. 17, 1904.—J. E. TAYLOR.
TAYLOR.—In ever-loving memory of our dear father, Will Taylor (Halifax), who departed this life Jan. 29, 1901. He was loved by all. R.I.P.
WHITTINGTON.—In loving memory of John Whittington, roundabout proprietor, of Sheffield, who died Jan. 30, 1904. Deeply missed by his faithful friends. R.I.P.

THEATRICAL PATENTS.

The following abridged description is specially drawn for *The Era* by Messrs Hughes and Young, patent agents, 55 and 56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will give advice and assistance free to our readers on all patent matters.

24,486. May Beatrice Amy Bartholomew and Helena Stewart, 120, New Bond-street, London. A folding hat for use in theatres, and when travelling.

20,702. Aerial roundabouts. Patentee, J. Stewart, Polwarth-crescent, Edinburgh. Aerial machines without aerostats; propelling and steering. A beam is suspended on trunnions of the sleeve, which is carried on ball bearings by a pivot at the top of the pole. At one end of the beam is a balance weight, and at the other is an aerial machine propelled by the rider's feet or by other power. The propeller is driven by gearing, and may be raised by winding the string on the revolving handle-bar. By adjusting the aerophanes and the height and speed of the propeller the rider and machine are raised in the air, in addition to having a rotary motion round the pole.

MR A. E. SMITH'S company, with the pantomime *Aladdin*, is at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, this week. The part of Aladdin is undertaken by Miss Elsie Douglas (Mrs A. E. Smith), whose efforts afford much satisfaction. Mr Fred Ramsdale makes a very good Widow Twankey, and Mr J. H. Maxwell scores heavily as Abanazar. Mr Teddy Lennon as the Grand Vizier and the Bros. Taylor (Chinese Policemen) do a lot of clever comic business. Mr Fred Arnold (the Emperor) gives a clever illusionist speciality, and other acceptable items are given, including those by Miss Elsie Douglas, Bros. Taylor, Miss Maud Bettison (Genie of the Ring), the Four Snowdrops, pretty dancers; Mr Teddy Lennon and Mr J. H. Maxwell.

THE friends of Mrs Stewart M'Donald will be sorry to hear she is an inmate of St. Saviour's Hospital, Osnaburgh-street, Regent's-park. She would be pleased to hear from friends.

THE Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, has jumped into popularity at the first bound. The pantomime, *Cinderella*, finished its sixth week to over £500 to make room for Miss Florrie Forde in *Red Riding Hood*, and the "send off" of *Cinderella* for Newcastle on Sunday last was remarkable for an Edinburgh Sabbath. Motor-cars, carriages, and hired vehicles brought friends from all parts of the city, and the Waverley station was packed to pay a farewell courtesy to the Grand's successful artists, loud cheering manifesting their popularity.

PRESENTATION.—The young singer and dancer known as "Buster Brown," in grateful recognition of Mr Harry Lyons's services in introducing him to the music hall public at Collins's, has presented that gentleman with a solid silver match-box, beautifully engraved, as a souvenir.

PRESENTATION.—Mr Percy Kurutz, musical director at the Royal West London Theatre, was recently the recipient of a handsome silver-mounted walking-stick, presented to him by Miss Maud Nelson, principal boy, in the pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*.

ADVERTISERS and SUBSCRIBERS who are moving about, and who have their Copy of "THE ERA" sent direct from this Office, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, are requested to forward the Addresses for their Papers not later than the Tuesday in each Week.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS

Continued from Page 11.

SHREWSBURY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Business Manager, Mr W. C. Dornton.—The American novelty, *The Fatal Wedding*, is being played here this week by Mr Bert Coote's smart company. Mr Guy Hastings, a thoroughly capable actor, is seen to advantage in the part of Howard Wilson; Mr Albert Wainwright as Robert Curtis makes the best of his opportunities; Mr W. E. Chewd as Toto is droll and successful; Mr T. W. Ford in the amusing character of Peter Schwartz plays with ability; Mr Jack Waring is a capital policeman as O'Reilly; and Mr Richard F. Symons makes a good Rev. Dr. Lanceford. Miss Eva Moss is a powerful Mabel Wilson; Miss Dora Gilham looks well and plays with conspicuous ability as Cora Williams; Miss Maud Lockyer is amusing as Bridget; and Miss Emmie Thomas as Bessie, "the little mother," is remarkably clever for her years.

SMETHWICK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr C. Barnard; Manager, Mr E. Hewitson.—Pantomime is again the fare provided for the audience at this theatre, where Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's company is appearing in *Robinson Crusoe*. To Miss Vera Mayne has been allotted the part of principal boy, which she invests with charm. Her songs were well rendered and warmly encored. A delightful and fascinating little artist is Miss Nellie Moore, who, as Polly Hopkins, plays with considerable energy, and her songs are given in pleasing style. Miss Daisy Volbecque presents a dashing Captain Billie Taylor. She acts in an energetic manner, and her songs are given in capital style. Miss Bertha St. Ruth possesses a well-trained voice, which she uses to advantage as Electra; Mr Will Freeda revels in the part of Mrs Crusoe, and contributes a step dance which is appreciated; Mr George Rapley is good as Will Atkins; Messrs Bass and Guinness as Billy and Jimmy Crusoe keep the house in roars of laughter with their jokes and witticisms; Mr T. W. Johnson makes a capital King Kyapakoola, and contributes a neat sand dance; Miss Rosie Volbecque is a refined and pleasing Princess Flumexa; Mr Will Crowson manipulates the bones in a manner which gains encores nightly, and his acting as Friday is also good. The French Brothers, with tricks on the bicycle, and the acrobatic Unicyclists cause quite a sensation by their clever exhibition. The Alhambra Quartet of dancers also appear successfully.

SOUTHAMPTON.

GRAND THEATRE, Resident-Manager, Mr Sydney Paxton.—The production of *The Cingalee*, by Mr George Dance's excellent company, has been received here with the greatest enthusiasm. The company is a very strong one, including many favourite artists. Miss Ethel Negretti as Nanoya sings and acts delightfully. Mr Francis Ludlow, who possesses a powerful baritone voice, sings his numbers admirably. Mr Fred W. Pattrick, an old favourite, is as pompous and imposing as ever, and scores with his topical ditty "There's nothing much more to say." Mr Lauri De Freece (Chambhuddy) is responsible for most of the fun, and receives a cordial welcome. He is joined by Miss Mabel Sealby, a vivacious Peggy, in a number of smart duets, which bring down the house. Mr F. W. Ford gives a capital character study as Sir Peter, and Mr George Mudie, jun., lends capable assistance as Bobby Warren. Miss Madge Temple is a charm-Lady Patricia, and Miss Trissie March dances divinely, her graceful *pas seul* bringing down the house.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs J. W. Gordon.—Mr William Bourne's company is appearing here in *When Darkness Falls*. In the rôle of Helen Montrevor Miss Maud Buchanan proves herself an actress of considerable power and resource. Mr Charles Boult gives a masterly impersonation of Capt. Harold Montrevor, and Mr Frank Liston is equally successful as the Rev. Arthur Graham. Miss Lydia Hart and Miss Minnie Litchfield as Tim and Harry are both admirable, and Mr Edis J. Preston is sufficiently villainous as Capt. Woodruffe, who is well seconded by Miss Amy Venimore (Mrs Woodruffe). The comedy element is in the safe hands of Mr E. Harvey White, who scores a success.

PALACE.—Manager, Mr Charles Marte.—Herr Fritz, with his wonderful cabinet illusions, is the star artist here, and he succeeds in completely mystifying his audience. The M'Connell Trio, very old favourites, cause considerable merriment in *A Musical Mistake*. Russell and Roper, as duettists, are great, their rendering of "Excelsior" being very fine. The Eugene Family excel as aerial gymnasts, and other excellent turns are contributed by Major Moss and Son, vocal scenic artists; L. B. Athol, vocal comedian; Fred Henderson, comedian; and Eily Adair, comedienne.

SOUTHPORT.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, the Opera House and Winter Gardens Company, Limited; General Manager, Mr Alfred Hemming.—The first pantomime of the season made its appearance here on Monday, when Mr J. F. Elliston's company opened a twelve nights' engagement with *Cinderella*. Beautiful dresses, excellent ballets, and gorgeous stage settings were prominent characteristics of the production; Miss Don Harridine enacted the title-rôle with charming grace and vivacity; and Miss Mable Englehardt as Prince Rudolph; Miss Hettie Zillwood as Dandini; Miss Edith Harmer as Fairy Delight; and Miss Jessie Leslie as Master of the Horse did well. Mr Ernie Mayne in the part of Buttons, the page, was responsible for the greater part of the merriment; Mr Tatten Hall was well placed as Baron Hardupp; and Mr Fred Spencer, and Mr Tom Owen appeared to advantage as Bertha and Flossie, the two Ugly Sisters. Specialities were supplied by Silbon's miniature circus, including La Petite Carola, the youngest equestrienne in the world; and the Boris Fridkin Imperial troupe of singers, dancers, and acrobats, who gave a unique performance.

SOUTH SHIELDS.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs G. and F. Coulson.—*Revenge*, the title of the military drama in which Mr E. Hill-Mitchelson and an excellent company are appearing, abounds in pleasing and somewhat sensational incidents. Mr E. Hill-Mitchelson gives a well-studied assumption of Prince Orloff. The Capt. Vanessa of Mr Wellesley Draper is represented conscientiously. Another histrionic success is Mr Theo. Balfour as the King. Mr Arthur M'Culloch characteristically delineates Count Mussant, and Mr Fred Yarnold as Jim Jennings, A.B., and Mr T. W. Hurst as Capt. David Carr, R.N., are two agreeable exponents of comedy. Miss Lelgarde Atheling is a neat Tusha, and Miss Arace Amlers presents a pathetic embodiment of Lieut. Maurice. Cora Brook is charming as played by Miss Alice Barber, whose vivacity wins admiration. Miss Violet Carlyle is a powerful, striking, and sympathetic Queen.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Richard Thornton; General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr Geo. F. Thompson.—A clever satirical sketch entitled *For Reform*, written by Mr Hugh Stanton, and performed by the author and Miss Jessie Burgwitz, is convulsing large audiences here. A welcome return visit from Florrie Gallimore, comedienne, meets with gratifying results. Frazer and Mac submit a good musical comedy act, and the musical speciality by the Carcassi Duo is well received. An old favourite is Jimmy Shields, one-legged comedian and dancer. The American Bioscope is presenting new films, and the remaining items are Daisy Ray, sand dancer; Sisters Slater, banjoists and dancers; F. Landle, comedian; and H. F. Wilson, tenor vocalist.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr Jos. Sweeney.—The Three Henriques, the principal turn this week, appear with marked ability in an acrobatic display, interspersed with up-to-date and enjoyable patter. The eccentricities and dancing of the Jetneys are above the average. Two capable burlesque comedians are Grant and Allen, and Sam Richardson, Scotch comedian, scores. Joe Humphries, vocalist; Billy Richardson, Royal stump orator; and Mephisto, contortionist, also contribute.

STAFFORD.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Jas. Elphinstone.—*The Little Widow* is being played here this week with Miss Grace Warner as Mrs Constance Rattlebrain. Miss Warner gave a vivacious delineation of the part, and received repeated testimonies of appreciation. Sophonisba was a clever character study by Miss Kathleen Cranston. Mrs Wilkins Potter was consistently played by Miss M. Fawcett, and Emily Randall was entrusted to Miss Maud Warburton with distinct success. Mr Geo. Gordon completely justified his reputation as Wilkins Potter, and Dr Arthur Potter was in the capable hands of Mr St. Bernard Wyntour. Mr C. Macdona's No. 1 company in *A Chinese Honeymoon* is here for the latter part of the week.

STOCKPORT.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr Wm. Revill.—*Little Bo-Peep* has fully maintained the success of last week, the members of Milton Ray's company striving their best to amuse, which they succeed in doing in a very large degree. The principal boy, Miss Daisy Morrell (Ferdinand) continues to please immensely. She has an impressive style and most charming manner of singing her songs. Mr Harry Elliston, Binks; Mr Jack Hylton, Baron; and Mr W. G. Wesley, Dame, lack no efforts to keep the fun going, whilst the Four Sisters Tree, Secret Police, add their full share of pleasing entertainment to the many excellent items in the pantomime.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs Weldon Watts; General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr R. G. Elder.—Another visit is being paid here by Mr W. W. Kelly's company in *A Royal Divorce*. Mr Frank Lister as Napoleon is in every way well fitted for the part; Mr Cecil Du Gue is successful as the Marquis De Beaumont; Mr Alfred Grenville scores as General Augereau; and Mr Ernest G. Batley's Marshal Murat is very good. Mr H. Gray Dolby's Talleyrand and Dr. Corvisart are both clever impersonations. Mr Dennis Bryan's Grimaud causes a great deal of fun. Other characters are all in safe hands. Miss Edith Cole's Josephine is a capital creation, her acting being marked by a majestic grace well befitting the part. Miss Ethyle Murray's Marie Louise is cleverly acted, and Miss Helen Richmond's Stephanie is full of sly humour. As the little King of Rome Miss Maggie Cardiff plays with much intelligence.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr J. Batty; Manager, Mr W. Batty.—Some clever turns are in the programme here, including Austin and Cowan, in their favourite love duets; Master Henre, boy juggler; Sidney Lee, in new and clever conjuring; Cliff and Kean, dancers and patterers; Mayon and Marle, sketch artistes; the Three Romas as Roman gladiators; the Dayton Family, in an uncommonly skilful Risley act; and a laughable film by Payne's Bio. entitled "The Lost Child."

STOURBRIDGE.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Mr Arthur Gibbons's pantomime company is here with *Beauty and the Beast*. Miss Linda Keston as Beauty suited the part admirably, and Miss Marie Beaufort as Prince Charming pleases the audience greatly. Mr Sidney Vereker as Ko-Hop is very successful, and Messrs Will Holland and Tom Banks as the Twins create much merriment. Mr Albert E. Mann plays with conspicuous ability as Maude Hannah. The performance of Dartigan in looping the loop is clever and creates a sensation.

SWANSEA.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs David Allen and Sons, Limited; Lessees and Managers, Messrs E. Oswald Brooks and J. W. Woodbridge; Resident Partner, Mr E. Oswald Brooks.—*The Girl from Kay's* has been on her first visit to us during the week with Mr George Dance's principal company. The title-rôle is in the excellent hands of Miss Nancy Hervyn, who makes a big success. Miss Rita Leonhardt as Norah Chalmers is remarkably good and also sings well. Ellen, by Miss Maisie North, and Mrs Chalmers, by Miss Mabel Champion, are very capably represented. Mr H. C. Barry has plenty of scope in the part of Max Hoggenheimer, and takes full advantage of it, keeping the audience in continual merriment. The parts of Harry Gordon, by Mr Garnet Wilson; the Hon. Percy Fitzthistle, by Mr Leslie Roy Cathie; and Joseph, by Mr Fred Rolph, are all very ably filled, and add much to the success.

NEW STAR.—Lessee and Manager, Mr T. Morton Powell; Acting-Manager, Mr William Coutts.—The attraction at this house during the week has been the military drama *The Two Hussars*, played by Messrs Fred J. Webb and Wilson Benge's company.

NEW EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr Albert Mitchell.—The capital programme presented here this week includes Bella and Bijou, in excellent sketches; Ike Scott and Son, a pair of popular comedians; Five Delevines, in the musical mélange *Flirtation*; Clown Zertho's dogs, most cleverly trained; Syd May, an excellent mimic; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, remarkably clever trick cyclists; Ada Cerito, a sprightly comedienne; Cabby and Shirker, in a clever eccentric bar act; the Three Sisters Klos, a trio of wonderfully clever athletes; and Alexandra Dagmar, in the burlesque scena "The Duchess of Dantzic."

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr T. W. Grantham.—The artistes engaged here for the week are Mahatma, the wonder worker; Mabelle Fowler, chic comedienne; Franz A. Crisp, actor-vocalist; Rose Newport, juvenile comedy artist; Wisper, juggler; Beattie Bloom, refined comedienne; Ernest D'Albert, comedian; and Hart and Hart, variety artists.

SWINDON.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Responsible Manager, Mr Alfred Manners; Musical Director, Mr Fred H. Lucas.—After four weeks of heavy business at the Theatre Royal, Cardiff, Mr Milton Bode's fairy pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, under the business management of Mr A. Symonds, has been removed in its entirety, and opened a week's visit here on Monday. The company, a strong one, is headed by Miss Madeline Rees, whose captivating performance makes her an ideal Dick. Miss Minnie Duncan is charming as Alice, being full of life and go, and scores vocally, her songs, "Mary had a little lamb" and "The Spirit of the Cake-walk," being cleverly rendered. Miss Florence A. White is extremely bright and pleasing as Tommy Trott, and Miss Janet H. Reynolds, who possesses a sweet voice, is highly successful as May. Miss Nelly Lauraine does well as Fatima. The fun is kept at high pressure, Mr Bob Hutt as Fitzwarren and Mr Arthur E. Godfrey as Idle Jack being responsible for roars of laughter. Mr Fred Dark works hard as Matilda; Mr Alfred Lester helps the fun along as Captain; and Mr C. Morgan as Bill Oakum uses a good bass voice to advantage. Miss Lillian Graham displays remarkable dancing abilities, and Mr Tom Gilmore as the cat is a great success.

TON-Y-PANDY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs Carlton and Duckworth; General Manager, Mr Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr H. Counsell.—Messrs Carlton and Duckworth are presenting here this week *Sinbad the Sailor*. The title-rôle is well taken by Miss Rita Leslie, and Miss Kate Holloway shines as Princess Zorilda. Messrs A. Andrews and Gilbert Payne as Mrs Sinbad and Tinbad cause great amusement.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs Carlton and Duckworth; Lessee, Miss A. Alexandra; Managing-Director, Mr David Taylor.—Heading a good programme are Hicks's Clerks, comedians. By their trapeze work Aerian and Ostara gain applause; M'Cann's dogs pay a welcome return visit; Mdlle. Florizel, contortionist, provides a good turn; and La Place introduces some new mirth-making tricks.

WAKEFIELD.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Milton Ray's company is paying a week's visit in the pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast* which has proved a success. Miss Maidie Scott is capital as Silver Britton, Miss Nellie Merton sings and acts well as Beauty, Miss Maude Jay makes a handsome Prince Greatheart, Mr Rolando Martin works hard as Sammy, and his comicalities keep the house in continual roars of laughter, Mr George Rydon does good work as Sir Macintosh Mizzletoe, and Mr Edwin Garth scores a distinct success as Wilhelmina; Messrs Fyne and Hurley are amusing as the bailiffs, Spindles and Twitters; Mr Sydney Milton is capital as the Bad Fairy; and Miss Florence Overton is charming as Fairy Sunlight. A comical boxing act by Messrs Fyne and Hurley evokes much merriment; the Hayes Brothers are warmly applauded for their sand dance; Wallau, the boy jugg'er, performs some clever feats; and the Four Eldorados, a troupe of lady dancers, dance with much spirit.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Wakefield Hippodrome, Limited; Manager, Mr D. G. Mooney.—The Glenroy Troupe of male and female dancers win applause for their excellent dancing. Mr Albert Brasque and Miss Cora Duncan successfully present a smart sketch, entitled *A Dressing-Room Romance*. Mr J. H. Kavanagh, descriptive vocalist, scores; Mr Sam Shipley is an amusing comedian; Barton and Franklin provide an interesting musical turn. Other attractions are Mr G. W. Foster, eccentric comedian; Miss Beattie Worth, vocalist; and Miss Marion De Verne, ballad vocalist.

WALSALL.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Co., Limited; General Manager and Secretary, Mr W. H. Westwood.—On Monday the theatre opened with the pantomime *Aladdin*, written and produced by Stanley Rogers. Charming dresses and scenery, capital singing and dancing, and, above all, rollicking fun, are the features of the production. In the title-rôle Miss Emmeline Orford wins great favour, her most popular song being "Blue-bell," which is well received. The Princess has for an exponent Miss Constance Hamilton, who has a taking style and sings well. Mr Edwin Brett as Abanazar is a clever comedian; Mr Ted Young plays the part of Widow Twankey with commendable ability and is most amusing; Messrs Walton and Lester as the policemen, Bo-Bi and Bo-Ko, are exceedingly funny and keep the house in continual mirth; whilst Mr H. O. Clarey as Wishee Washee adds considerably to the fun. Miss Madge Haines is smart and attractive as Pekoe; Miss Florence Bernard as the Good Fairy Electra meets with much success; Mr Nat Lewis is well placed as the Emperor; and Mr Somers Bellamy does well as So Long.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Company, Limited; General Manager and Secretary, Mr W. H. Westwood.—Mr T. Edward Ward's company opened here on Monday with *Her Wedding Day*. Mr Percy Brown makes an excellent Harold Saxby; the part of Seth Margson is well sustained by Mr T. Edward Ward; and Mr Chas. H. Lester is a capable Weedon Kenyon. Miss Helen Inglelow as Dora acts with considerable skill, and Miss Ward makes a charming bride.

WALTHAMSTOW.

KING'S THEATRE.—A pleasant change from continued melodrama is to be found here in *The Maid of the Alps*, in which music plays quite as important a part as story. Mr Geo. M. Marriott's company does ample justice to the piece. A great success is made by Mr Marriott himself as Madame Potard, a part which combines all the malignity and repulsiveness of La Frochard with many subtle touches of its own. He gives a picture of melodramatic intensity such as is rarely seen. Miss Edith Finlay is a charming Louise, singing with taste and acting prettily. Lucas (Madame Potard's brigand son), has a picturesque exponent in Mr J. H. Boyde. Mr Otto Minster acts and sings well as Sir Stratton Towers, and Mr Frank Herald manages to extract some fun from the low comedy part.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr G. Adney Payne; Manager, Mr Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr Geo. F. Slatter.—Artists may come and artists may go, but Mr G. H. Chirgwin goes on for ever, prattling his funny little stories, singing his snatches of melody as only he can, and taking his audience into his confidence with a never-failing perception of what they like to hear. He still towers miles above his host of imitators. This week he makes his second bow to Walthamstow audiences, and is received as an old friend should be. He is far and away the champion "line" on a bill by no means lacking in talent, and his nightly success is "pro-digious!" Mr Johnny Gilmore renews his acquaintance with us, and proves as mirth-provoking as ever. A clever little duologue sketch, *The Lady and the Lunatic*, although built on lines that have been employed times without number, serves pleasantly to introduce Mr Bartlett as Dr. Banks, a specialist in lunacy, and Miss Muir as Lady Brownlower, his supposed patient. The lady, in a "ravishing" costume, looks a picture of beauty, and both artists play with much comedy spirit. The highly-cultivated and singularly sweet voice of Miss C. Stroud Wilson is heard to great advantage in two songs, her rendering of "Comin' through the Rye" being exquisite. The Royal Six are a bevy of lady cyclists, vocalists, and instrumentalists, who contribute a very good turn. The Toro Trio, Mexican equilibrists, are certainly wonderful, and their performance has, apparently, that spice of danger in it that renders it more attractive to at least a portion of the spectators. The Stella Troupe (eight in number) dance vigorously, and do wonders in the way of human pyramids, "splits," and somersaults. Mr Sam Mayo, appearing as deputy for a gentleman absent from the bill, sends his audience into fits with his dry humour. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope shows some admirable pictures.

WEDNESBURY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr W. J. Cranston.—This week Mr Arthur Rose's company in *The

WARRINGTON.

ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr J. Potter.—Mrs Bandmann-Palmer and company had a hearty greeting on Monday in the comedy *Nell Gwynne*. The favourite actress again scored a big success. Mr F. Skein ably sustained the part of Charles II. *East Lynne*, *Sapho*, *Mary Queen of Scots*, and *Jane Shore* are also in the répertoire.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr J. Potter: Director of Amusements, Mr F. Willmot.—George Gilbey, a most versatile comedian, has won a big success here this week. Each night the audience is convulsed with laughter. Percy Handel, the boy instrumentalist, also scores well. Capable comedians are George Nero and J. H. Bowman; a clever mimic is Calvo; and the Ambrey Brothers are experts with the rifle. T. W. Royal, clog-dancer, is well received, and charming pictures are supplied by the Royal Bioscope.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.

GRAND.—General Manager (for Mrs Weldon Watts), Mr Sidney Bacon; Resident Manager, Mr Fred Conneaux.—*Robinson Crusoe*, which is being presented for two weeks by Mr Frank Macnaghten's company, is being favourably received. As Robinson Miss Louie Herman scores a marked success; Miss Rose Bartlett is an attractive Polly Perkins; Mr Jack Foley endows the rôle of Widow Crusoe with abundance of fun, being well played up to by Harris and Worth as Sammy Sackless and Dick Draymath. In the character of the Rajah Mr Chas. Cork is warmly applauded for his rendering of the songs allotted to the rôle. Will Atkins has a capable representative in Mr Will Lytton; Mr Harry Morgan contributes to the humour as Friday; and Miss Daisy Reed and Miss Flora Leonard deserve praise for what they do as Princess Pearly-pet and Fairy Coral.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr Frank Macnaghten.—Dida, the attraction heading the bill here this week, is a complete mystery; the Gothams are a quartet of talented vocalists, who, in a sketch *Miss Greene*, have full scope to display their unmistakable abilities; Harry Thurston's imitations of popular favourites are remarkably good; the performance of Charles Serra on the white pedestal is a triumph of equilibrium; some smart and clever conjuring feats are done by Marco, the boy magician; and acceptable interludes are contributed by Ryder Davis, comedian; Pallizer's Bioscope; and Eva Ward, comedienne.

WEST STANLEY.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr Mark H. Lindon.—Messrs Armadale and Warner's company is here this week with the sensational drama, *The Face at the Window*. Mr Augustine Knight as Le Loup displays exceptional ability; as Paul Gouffet Mr T. W. Dunscombe is very good; and Henry de Brisson, by Mr Geo. Pythian, and Lucien Cortier, by Mr Alfred Warne, are excellent representations. Mr C. Alan Hineson as Peter Pottlebury is very funny; as Marie de Brisson Miss Marie Barrett is most successful; as Babette Miss Gwynne Warren is good; and as La Pinau Miss Jeannie Dempster well deserves the applause accorded her.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr T. C. Rawes; Resident-Manager, Mr D. Williams.—Messrs Garside, Knowles, and Ludlow's company is here this week with *The London Fireman*. Mr Forbes Knowles gives a spirited rendering of Hal Curtis; as Viscount Fleming Mr Arthur Pringle is a capable villain; Miss Mona Grey as Ida Curtis is excellent; and as Polly Bramble Miss Nellie Garside is very funny.

WEXFORD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr F. P. Ronan.—The Elster-Grime opera company is paying a welcome return visit here this week. *Fra Diavolo* was presented on Monday with much success. Mr Payne Clarke, though obviously suffering from a cold, made an excellent Fra Diavolo; Mr M. Kemble as Giacomo and Mr H. Murphy as Beppo were well placed; and Mr T. Partridge as Matteo was very good; Mr Gilbert King gave an admirable rendering of Lord Allcash, and Mr A. Kewley as Lorenzo made the most of his opportunities. The rôle of Lady Allcash was played in finished fashion by Miss Gilbert, and Miss Marshall as Zerlina sang sweetly and acted charmingly. *The Bohemian Girl*, *Il Trovatore*, *Maritana*, *The Lily of Killarney*, and *Carmen* are in the répertoire of the week.

WIGAN.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company; Managing-Director, Mr John Worswick.—Mr Tom B. Davis's company, under the direction of Mr Wentworth Croke, has been appearing during the week in *Florodora*. The piece is admirably staged, and the augmented orchestra and full chorus are under the direction of Mr J. H. Hutchinson. The part of Cyrus W. Gilfain is taken by Mr T. Ellis Buxton, who sings in good style. Mr Cyril Dane as Frank Abercoed, Mr Derick Knowles as Captain Arthur Donegal, and Mr Lionel Williams as Leandro are effective in their respective parts. The characters of Lady Holyrood and Dolores are excellently portrayed respectively by Miss Rene Steadman and Miss May Desmond, who dance and sing in a charming manner. The part of Tweedlepunch has a capital exponent in Mr Albert Brune.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company; Managing-Director, Mr J. Worswick.—A splendid all-round programme is provided this week at the Hippodrome. The Seven Savonas are an exceptional musical turn. Playing upon various instruments, they give that which is seldom heard in ordinary orchestration—a perfect representation of the Storm scene from *William Tell*. The Six Elliotts are excellent trick cyclists, and Frederica's terriers and performing pony in the cake-walk are capital. Wallace Whitney is a naturally gifted comedian. Larolo is an amusing equilibrist, and Rose Cabini is a refined comedienne and dancer. Beatie Forster, descriptive vocalist; Senorita Eloina, swinging trapezist; Percy Farrimond, the singing collier, who hails from the neighbourhood; and Allis and Cassati, a comedy couple, are all capital additions to an otherwise strong company.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Manager, Mr W. Birchall.—There is an all-round good company at the Empire this week, including the clever troupe, the Five Rhynes, in an entertaining comedy act. Launey and Dode, athletic domestics, stay a week longer, and Miss Flo Windsor is a male impersonator much above the ordinary. Miss Kitty Gower, international dancer; George Hastings, baritone vocalist; and *The Academy*, an extremely amusing comic sketch; and Alma Seymour and Alfred Bilford comedians, are also well received.

WINDSOR.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Licensee, Mr Fred L. Connynghame; General Business-Manager, Mr Worton David; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr Harry Nash.—*The Manxman*, adapted from Mr Hall Caine's great work, which has been played here this week by Mr Alfred B. Cross and company, is finely produced. Mr Cross's Pete is a good study of the noble-minded, tender, and true, yet badly betrayed young Manxman. Miss Minnie Watersford as Kate Cregeen, the heroine, presents a most touching picture of the wronged girl. The character is intensely pathetic, and in this respect is rendered with truthfulness and delicate artistic skill by Miss Watersford. Philip Christian, the false friend of Pete and the lover of Kate, is judiciously and effectively represented by Mr William Burchill; Mr Henry Hiller is excellent as Cæsar Cregeen; Mr Edward M'Lean is good as Ross Christian; and Miss Nancy Mitchell is pleasing and amusing as Nancy.

WIMBLEDON.

WORPLE HALL.—There was a large and enthusiastic attendance at the Worple Hall, Wimbledon, on Wednesday, to witness an excellent performance of *Floradora* by Mr Ben Greet's company. Mr Bert Danson was most energetic as Tweedlepunch, and kept the audience convulsed by his irresistible drollery. Mr Edward Chester was one of the best Gilfains we have seen, and Mr Edward Crossland played and sang well as Frank Abercoed, being well supported by Mr Dudley Hearder as Captain Arthur Donegal. Miss Daisy Lake was very strong in the part of Dolores, Miss Louie Danby was pleasing as Angela Gilfain, and Miss F. M Newman gave a charming representation of the part of Lady Holyrood, singing and acting with great vivacity. Mr Jos. R. Tate also deserves mention for his striking rendering of Leandro. The company was a very full one, and the chorus merited praise by its singing and dancing. In the last act a parody of the "Miserere" from *Il Trovatore* was admirably rendered by Mr Bert Danson and Miss Daisy Lake, and won great applause. The piece was well mounted.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr E. H. Bull and Mr Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy Percival.—This week Mr Mouillot's company is appearing here in the comedy-drama, *A Message from Mars*, this being its second visit. The company includes Mr F. Rawson Buckley, who gives an admirable impersonation of Horace Parker; Mr William H. Brougham, who is seen to great advantage as the Messenger from Mars; Mr Bruce Lindley, who makes a capital Tramp; and Mr Frank G. Dunn, who does well as Arthur Dicey. Miss May Saker is an excellent Minnie Templar; and Miss Flora Hastings is good as Miss Parker.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr Chas. Barnard; General Manager, Mr W. H. Lennon.—In consequence of the success attending Dr. Walford Bodie's visit, he has been retained here for a second week, and he has introduced the Mystic Marie, who is described as "the real Trilby," and does some wonderfully clever things apparently under the influence of the doctor. Among other things she sketches, while blindfold, the portrait of any given celebrity without any word being spoken, and plays on the piano any piece agreed upon, to the wonder and astonishment of the audience. Other items in the bill are the De Roys, conjurors; the Garden Troupe of international dancers; and several other artistes who appeared last week.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Sole Lessees, Mr Fred Benton and Mr Fred J. Little; General Manager, Mr Fred Benton.—This week's company includes the Chevalier Crowther, expert swordsman; Professor Holloway and his trained animals; Baby Lloyd, vocalist; Master Tony, in bar act; J. Swallow and H. Fossett, equestrians; and a juvenile military spectacle illustrating the Russo-Japanese war.

WORCESTER.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr Arthur Carlton; Manager, Mr Louis Karpe; Assistant-Manager, Mr Fred Le Waide.—Lovers of musical comedy have been delighted this week with the performances of *A Country Girl* by Mr Chas. Macdona's company. The "girl" had a graceful and pleasing exponent in Miss Daisy Davis, and Miss Lucie Lever made a favourable impression in the character of the Princess. The more lively parts of Sophie and Nan were very cleverly impersonated by Miss Sadie Neville and Miss Anna Robertson, whose singing and dancing afforded immense satisfaction. Mr Richard Telford (Barry), like Miss Neville, was here on a return visit, and their comical duets created great amusement. Mr Telford, a host in himself, kept the piece going from start to finish with his funniosities and laughter-moving tricks; Mr Bernard Vaughan was a dignified Rajah; Mr H. Standing, jun., a capital Geoffrey Chaloner; and other parts were well taken.

WORKINGTON.

QUEEN'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr S. Rogers.—Miss Daisy Le Roy's pantomime of *Sinbad the Sailor* had an enthusiastic reception here on Monday. Miss Edna Cragge was an engaging Sinbad. The humorous element was well developed by Mr B. Brookes as Tinbad and Mr K. Wallace as the Smuggler. Mr G. Asaf was favourably received as Mis Sinbad. Mr L. Stuart sang tastefully as Tornado; Miss Marie Weston was pleasant and competent as Fitnah; Miss H. De Grey was good as Romance; and Miss M. Carter, Miss F. Byron, and Miss Edna Cypreen did well in their respective parts. There were some good variety turns, including those supplied by Mr H. Hunter, Professor Wallace, Mr F. Daleno, the Geisha Dancers, F. Bendo, and Miss N. Coote.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr Helsby Wright.—On Monday Messrs Collins and Stevenson's *Sinbad the Sailor* company appeared here. Miss G. Rowan was a sprightly Sinbad; Mr E. Clay was vigorous as Davy Jones; Mr G. Casey was a lively Widow; and as Tinbad Mr T. Cattle was good. The female characters were well essayed by Miss A. Beresford, Miss F. Goldstone, Miss L. Rosllyn, Miss A. G. Brevett, and Miss N. Temple.

WREXHAM.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr Herbert Nicholls.—This week Leslie's animated tableaux, with a new series of pictures, has drawn good houses. Others who have added considerably to the amusement of the patrons have included Mr R. C. Note, comedian; Messrs Droll and Bryan, eccentric patter comedians; Miss Daisy Devonport, comedienne and dancer; Mr Geo. Raper, comedian; and Mr Jo-Kerr, comedian.

YORK.

ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr T. H. Barrow.—*The Orchid* was presented here on Monday by Mr Geo. Dance's company. Chief honours fell to Mr C. R. Walenn, who as Meakin had a part exactly fitted to his style. Miss Ethel Bryant was a winsome Lady Violet Anstruther, and her efforts were heartily appreciated. As Zaccary Mr Arthur P. Helmsley proved himself an excellent all-round comedian, and his dancing was smart. Mr Ernest Darrell, wonderfully made up, looked and acted Aubrey Chesterton cleverly, and Miss Madge Lucas was very amusing as Caroline Vokins. Miss Irene Desmond was a handsome and charming Josephine, and Mr G. Davy Burnaby as Guy Scrymgeour gave a most mirth-provoking portrayal.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr Sidney Brooke.—The Noisets give a clever cycle entertainment with success, and are heartily welcomed here. Harry Gray is a clever comedian. That smart quick-change artiste, Addie Donna, astonishes all, and Walter Curtis sings effectively. Fannie Robina finds much favour with her songs, and Florry Cooper is also applauded. Aga, Duncan, and Morton, and Frank Caffrey complete an excellent company.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

JOHN HOBBS.—*(1) "Cut the dialect (dialogue) and come to the 'osses" (2) At Astley's Theatre (3) He is also reported to have said at a rehearsal, "Hold hard gentlemen; here's a deal o' cackle without any good in it. I'll show you how to cut it," &c. This, we think, answers your third question.*

VENDIS.—*(1) My Lady Molly (originally produced at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, Aug. 11, 1903) was first played in London at Terry's Theatre on March 14, 1903, where it ran for several months. (2) Mr Martin Harvey produced after All, written by Freeman Wills and Frederick Langbridge, on Jan. 15, 1902. On Feb. 10 A Cigarette Maker's Romance (preceded by An Idyll of Seven Dials) was revived, and shortly after Mr Martin Harvey went on tour with it. He has not appeared at the Avenue since then.*

VAMPO.—*W. Buck was clown in several pantomimes at the Surrey Theatre, including A Prince of Pearls, produced Dec. 26, 1855; Harlequin and the Summer Queen, produced Dec. 26, 1856; and Queen Mab, produced Dec 26 1857.*

CLAPTON.—*The principal parts in the original cast of* Faust Up to Date, *produced at the Gaiety on Oct 30, 1888, were played by Miss Florence St John Miss Fanny Robina Miss Jenny M Nulty. Miss Lillian Price, Mr E. J. Lonnen, Mr Harry Parker, and Mr George Stone.*

S. J. B.—*Miss Nancy Price was the original Calypso in Mr Tree's production of* Ulysses.

J. STANLEY.—*You do not say at which theatre in Liverpool. We can, however, find no mention of either lady in our notices of the pantomimes produced at Christmas, 1903.*

A. WILLIAMS.—*The cast was as follows:—John Harmon and Rogue Riderhood, Mr G. F. Rowe; Nicodemus Boffin, Mr Sam Emery; Eugene Wrayburn, Mr Chas. Warner; Bradley Headstone, Mr John Nelson; Silas Wegg, Mr W. M'Intyre; Mortimer Lightwood, Mr C. H Stanley; Geo. Samson, Mr Such Granville; Old Wilfer, Mr L. Fredericks; Lizzie Hexham, Miss Ernstone; Charlie Hexham, Miss Emily Pitt; Bella Wilfer, Miss Rose Lisle; Lavinia Wilfer, Miss Tilly Earl; Mrs Wilfer, Mrs Holston.*

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.
No Circulars admitted to this List.

Adams, Mr Harry
Alberto, Miss
Allen, Mr W. Van
Anderson, Mrs Mary
Andre and Golden
Applin, Mr
Arthurs, Miss R.
Ashwell, Miss Lena
Bacon, Mr Chas.
Baldry, Mr H
Balmain, Mr Rollo
Banks, Miss Beatie
Barker, Mr W. G.
Barlow, Miss Heba
Bastow, Mr George
Bathurst, Mr Jelf
Beere, Mrs Bernard
Belles, The Two
Beno and Gilbey
Benson, Mr G. J.
Bonfield, Mr Edward
Brampton, Mr Kenneth
Branscombe, Mr Arthur
Broadhead, Mr
Brown, Mr Tom
Burdett, Mr Francis
Burney, Miss G.
Burton, Mr Percy
Butt, Miss Bessie
Caddick, Mr B.
Carey, Mr Charles
Caryll, Mr Ivan
Cassilo, Madame
Chapter, Mr Hal
Chattell, Mr H. E.
Chester, Miss Florence
Chever, Mr J. F.
Clarke, Miss Dorothy K.
Cliftons, Four
Cody, Young
Collins, Mr F.
Collins-Rolfe, Mr A.
Conlay, Mr Joe
Connor, Mr
Courtney, Miss K
Courtney, Miss Maude
Crano, Mrs
Crawford, Mr T.
Crocker, Mr E. K.
Cromwell, Miss C.
Cuthbert, Mrs Robert
Dagmar, Miss Marie
Dagmar, Miss Victoria
Danby, Mr Charles
Dare, Miss Minnie
Dare, Mr Vernon
Daventry, Miss Dora
Day, Mr Harry
De Bessell, Mr
De Cameo, Mr C.
De Freece, Mr Walter
Denham, Mr Geo.
De Veres, The Three
Devin, Mr W.
Dodd, Mr Harry
Doyle, Mr B.
Drury, Mr Guy
Dundas, Mr F. H.
"Eddie"
Eldlablow, Mr
Elliott, Miss Violet
Emerson, Mr C. A.
Engden, Mrs
Etherdo, Mr Henri
Fairfax, Miss Lettice
Farrell, One Billy
Fearly, Miss Maude
Ferrari, Mrs A.
Ferrari, Mrs M.
Fields, Mr Harry
Flemming, Mr Herbert
Foote, Mr C. B.
François, The Four
Freeman, Miss Dora
George Family, The
Gilbert, Mrs J. H.
Glover, Mrs Marion W.
Godfrey, Mr Arthur
Gog, Mr George
Gordon, Mr
Gower, Mr J. W.
Grahame, Mrs Jack
Greene, Miss F.
Grey, Mr Stanley
Grogan, Mr Edmund
Grovini, Mr James
Hanbury, Miss Lilly
Harcourt, Mr Fred
Hargreaves, Mr W.
Harrington, Mr Fred
Hays, Brothers
Henderson, Mrs J.
Herbert, Mrs Kate
Holly, Miss Daisy
Houdini, Miss Bessie
Howard, Miss A.
Huda, Mr Joe
Hughes, Miss Cissie
Hussey, Mr Austin
James, Mr Cairn
Jenkins, Mr I. P.
Jennings, Mr E.
Johnston, Miss Eva
Johnstone, Dr. Merlin
Jones, Miss W. Arthur
Jones, Miss K.
Kendal, Mr W. H.
Kilburn, Mr Jack
Kingston, Miss Olga B.
Kitchin, Mr Dick
Konroy and Cass, Messrs
Knight, Mr F. Hamilton
Knowles, Mr R. G.
Langdons, The
Laurence, Mr Alf C.
"Lava"
Lawrence and Giffard
Learto
Lennon, Mr O. E.
Le Roy, Mr Servais
Letine, Mr Tom
Lewis, Miss M. Jeffrey
Leybourne, Mr Harry
Lind, Miss Letty
Lingard, Mr Horace
Lindsay, Madame
Loftus, Mr Percy
Loval, Mr Nelson
Mack, Mr Julian
Maltby, Miss Ethel
Mannheim, Mr Carl
Mannon, Mr C. H.
Marcella
Mason, Mr Lol
Matthison, Miss E. W.
Mead, Mr Harold
Millar, Miss Ada
Mills, Mr W.
Milnes, Mr F. C.
M'Ilvenny, Mr Patrick
M'Laren, Mr Ian
M'Nulty, Miss F.
Montague, Miss Sybil
Morcasshani, Miss Jce
Morris, Mr M. A.
Murray, Mr Percy
Neale, Mr W. V.
Nethersole, Miss Olga
Nicoll, Miss Yetta
Nix, Dr.
Noel, Miss Cossie
North, Miss Lillie
O'Connor, Mr T. P.
Oliver, Miss Fay
O'Neill, Mr Frank
Orme, Miss Ilda
Osborne, Miss W.
O'Sullivan, Mr Denis
Parker, Mrs T.
Paull, Mrs William
Penstones, The
Pink, Mrs Wal
Pink, Mr Wal
Plumpton, Mrs E. A.
Pugh, Mrs Nellie
Ranzi, Mr George
Ray, Miss Belle
Reeve, Miss Ada
Rhodes, Mr Alf
Richards, Mr Sam
Rivington and Gordon
Roberts, Mr J. R.
Romah, Mr Bob
Ross, Mr J. W.
Rosse, Mr Russell
Rossiter, Mr Chas.
Rousby, Mr E.
Russell, Mr Charles
Sanderson, Mr G.
Scarth, Mr
Scott, Mr A.
Seaton, Dr.
Seaward, Mr
Silber, Miss G.
Sleath, Mr Herbert
Simmons, Miss Edith
Soldene, Miss E.
Somerset, Mr C. W.
Southgate, Mr
Stanley, Miss Alma
Stembridge, Mr H.
Stephens Mr William
Stephenson, Mrs Frank
St. Lawrence, Miss V.
Strachan, Miss Queenie
Stuchelme, Mr Bob
Tempest, Miss Dorothy
Testo, Brothers
Thompson, Mr A. G.
Tillet, Mr S.
Travers, Mr Hyram
Trusty, Mr Geo.
Turner, Mr Albert
Tyndall, Mrs Lewis
Tyrer, Mr A. W.
Venty, Miss Agnes
Vezzey, Miss Unity
Victor, Miss M. A.
Vint, Mrs L.
Vol, Mr John R.
Walker, Mr Harry
Waller, Mr Guy
Wareham, Mrs George
Warner, Mr H. S.
Warren, Mr F. Brooke
Webster, Mr G. H.
Welch, Mr J. A.
Wells, Mr Gilbert
Weston, Mrs Ida
Whallen, Mr Mike S.
Wilby, Mr F. F.
Williams, Mr T.
Wilton, Mr George
Wilton, Mr J. G.
Wolseley, Mr G. H.
Wright, Mr Fred
Wynne-Mathersen, Miss E.
Zerbina, Miss C.

MR EDITOR.—Sir,—In this week's issue of your paper you have in error mentioned me as Cyril Earle in your report of Sadler's Wells. It should have been, yours faithfully, CYRIL CARLE. 80, Victoria-road, Kilburn, N.W., Jan. 22.

MR EDITOR.—Sir,—Your correspondent at Bootle, in his recent notice of the performance at the Muncaster Theatre, by Mr Gus C. Livesey's company, alluded to Miss Bertha Cousins and myself. We are not members of the company. Yours faithfully, HERBERT BELMORE, 18, Ackers-street, Oxford-street, Manchester. Jan. 21.

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NAME	DATE.
Adams, Miss Nina Blake	September 17, 1904.
Aldred, Mr Charles	May 7, 1904.
Alleyne, Miss Frances	May 14, 1904.
Atom, Mr Willie	December 24, 1904.
Aubrey, Mrs W.	December 24, 1904.
Bailey, Mr Gordon	December 24, 1904.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs	May 7, 1904.
Bard, Mr Wilkie	September 10, 1904.
Barrett, the Late Mr Wilson	July 23, 1904.
Barrington, Mr H. H.	November 12, 1904
Barth, Mr Cecil	June 11, 1904.
Bartlett, Mr J. J.	July 2, 1904.
Benson, Mr F. R.	December 31, 1904.
Bertram, Miss Celestine	July 2, 1904.
Billington, the Late Mr John	September 10, 1904.
Bint, Mr Billie	September 3, 1904.
Blande, Miss Edith	June 25, 1904.
Booth, Mr J. H.	August 6, 1904.
Bostock, the Late Emma	December 24, 1904.
Bracewell, Mr Joe	May 14, 1904.
Brayne, Mr Harry	July 16, 1904.
Brough, Mr Lionel	November 5, 1904.
Browning, Mr Charles	May 21, 1904.
Butt, Mr Alfred	July 30, 1904.
Cabourn, Mr John	August 13, 1904.
Campbell, the Late Mr Herbt.	July 23, 1904.
Campbell, Miss Audrey	October 8, 1904.
Carne, Mr Joseph	May 7, 1904.
Cathie, Mr Leslie Roy	May 21, 1904.
Celli, the Late Mr Frank	December 31, 1904.
Charles, the Late Mr Fred	August 6, 1904.
Cheevers, Mr J. E.	October 1, 1904.
Chippendale, Mr James	September 17, 1904.
Churchward, Mr Hedley	January 14, 1905.
Cinquevalli, Paul	January 14, 1905.
Clarence, Miss Nellie	November 12, 1904.
Clark, Mr Cuthbert	October 15, 1904.
Clavering, Miss Marie	October 8, 1904.
Clyde, Miss Hilda	May 21, 1904.
Coleman, the Late Mr John	April 23, 1904.
Corri, Mr Clarence C.	November 5, 1904.
Craven, Mr Hawes	October 8, 1904.
Danbury, Miss Ethel	September 17, 1904
Davis, Miss Flora	September 10, 1904
Day, Mr David	October 8, 1904.
Deverell, Mr John W.	May 21, 1904.
Draco, Mr Kay	June 4, 1904.
Dryden, Mr Leo	July 16, 1904.
Dunrobin, Mr L. Race	July 9, 1904.
Edmunds, Mr Edmund	September 3, 1904.
Entwistle, Mr Harold	May 14, 1904.
Evelyne, Miss Alma	October 29, 1904.
Farrell, Miss Cissy	July 2, 1904.
Feiber, Mr H. H.	August 13, 1904.
Fineberg, Mr Harris	December 24, 1904.
Firmin, Miss Dorothy	November 19, 1904.
Franks, Mr Wilfred	May 7, 1904.
Freebar, Mr Sydney	July 30, 1904.
Fysher, Mr Edwin F.	September 3, 1904.
Gascoigne, Mrs Henry	May 21, 1904.
Gelderd, Mr James	July 2, 1904.
Garrod, Mr W. V.	July 16, 1904.
Gilbert, Mr Vivian	January 21, 1905.
Giles, Mr Edwin F.	January 7, 1905.
Gilfain, Miss Trixie	May 14, 1904.
Godfrey, Mr Dan	May 14, 1904.
Griffith, Miss Mary	October 22, 1904.
Gunn, Miss Haidée	August 6, 1904.
Harcourt-Williams, Mr E.	July 9, 1904.
Haye, Miss Helen	January 21, 1905.
Hartshorn, Mr Thomas	December 10, 1904
Henderson, Miss Millie	August 13, 1904.
Hildyard, Miss Maud	October 8, 1904.
Hiller, Mr Harry	December 24, 1904.
Hodgson, Miss Hulo	December 3, 1904.
Hollingshead, the Late Mr J.	October 15, 1904.
Howells, Mr C. E.	August 27, 1904.
Howitt, Mr Charles	August 13, 1904.
Huggett, Miss Dora	July 16, 1904.
Humber, Mr S. H.	August 13, 1904.
Hunter, Mr J. D.	July 9, 1904.
Hylton, Miss Annie	November 12, 1904.
Imeson, Miss Nita	April 23, 1904.
Inwood, Mr Fred	December 3, 1904.
Jacques, Mr Frederick	October 29, 1904.
Jose, Mr Edouard	October 8, 1904.
Kane, Mr Whitford	December 3, 1904.
Kennedy, Mr E. J.	October 1, 1904.
Knight, Mr Arthur	October 8, 1904.
Kremer, Mr Theo.	July 9, 1904.
Lacy, Mr Frank	January 14 1905.
Lang, Mr Matheson	August 27, 1904.
Leigh, Mr C. D.	January 7, 1905.
Leno, the Late Mr Dan	November 5, 1904.
Lester, Mr Harry	May 7, 1904.
Lewes, Miss Miriam	November 12, 1904
Lilly, Mr A. C	June 25, 1904.
Limpus, Mr Bernard	October 22, 1904.
Linda, Miss Cora	November 26, 1904.
Linden, Mr Ardene	September 24, 1904.
Ling, Mr Edwin	September 3, 1904.
Llewellyn, Mr Fewlass	October 15 1904.
Lloyd, the Late Mr Arthur	July 23, 1904.
Lowe, Miss Rachel	June 11, 1904.
Loyd, Mr Frederick	August 13, 1904.
Lurich, George	June 4, 1904
Lysons, Mr Arthur C. P.	August 20, 1904.
Mackintosh, Mr Drew	September 10, 1904.
Maclaren, Mr W.	September 10, 1904.

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will be held on
THURSDAY, Feb. 2, 1905,
at 3·30 p.m.,
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THE CREDITORS of the above-named Company are required on or before the 28th day of Feb., 1905, to send their Names and Addresses and the particulars of the Debts or Claims and the Names and Addresses of their Solicitors (if any) to ALBERT VICTOR GODFREY, of 18, Fleet-street, in the City of London, the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are by their Solicitors, or personally, to come in and prove their said Debts or Claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or, in default thereof, they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,—That, owing to the resignation of Mr Charles B. Cochran consequent on his departure to the United States for the purpose of founding an Agency there, it was deemed advisable to dissolve the Company by Voluntary Liquidation; but, in order that the interests of Proprietors, Managers, Artistes, and the Company's Shareholders may not suffer, an arrangement has been arrived at whereby Messrs GALENZI and SHEREK, of 4, Leicester-place, W.C., will undertake all the Duties of the late Company in connection with the Unperformed Engagements and all Renewals or Extensions thereof and Re-engagements. Artistes and others should, therefore, communicate with Messrs Galenzi and Sherek on all matters connected with their Contracts, who will, except in specified cases, receive and collect all Commissions until further notice.
Dated this 21st January, 1905.
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Solicitors for Mr A. V. Godfrey, the Liquidator.
N.B.—Artistes' Engagements will be in no wise affected by the Liquidation or this Arrangement, which does not absolve them from paying the usual Commission.

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Matrimonial Causes Jurisdiction, between EDWARD YASS CHOWNE, Petitioner, ALICE JANE CHOWNE, formerly Alice Jane Hudson, Respondent.

TO ALICE JANE CHOWNE, late of Drury-lane Theatre, London. Take Notice that the said EDWARD YASS CHOWNE has commenced a Suit against you in this Honourable Court, and is applying for a Dissolution of Marriage on the grounds of Desertion without just cause or excuse for Three Years and upwards. And take Notice that you are required to enter an appearance to the said Suit at the proper Office of this Honourable Court on or before the First Day of July, 1905, and in the event of your not doing so within the time limited, or obtaining further time, the Petitioner will proceed and the Suit be heard and determined, your absence notwithstanding. A Copy of the Petition filed herein may be had on application, free of charge, to Messrs Cannon and Son, Solicitors, 19, Wool-exchange, Basinghall-street, London, or to the Undersigned.
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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.
"The Era" Annual, 1905, is with us once again, and is very welcome. The usual stock features which make this Annual so valuable for reference have been compiled with the usual care, and the "incidentals" will favourably bear comparison with those of any former issue. They range from "Dundee Reminiscences," by Sir Henry Irving, to an endeavour to lay the "Foundations of a National Drama," by Mr Henry Arthur Jones.—Referee, Jan. 15, 1905.

FRANCIS, DAY, and HUNTER'S LIST.

	Sung by
"A B C D" (James Hargreaves) ..	Wilkie Bard
"All that harm I wish you" (R. P. Weston)	Harry Anderson
"All the little Ja-panny faces" (Harry Castling)	Mark Sheridan
"All the Girls are Lov-er-ly-over-ly" (Harrington and Thurban)	R. G. Knowles
"Anywhere there will do" (Murray and Everard)	Frank Seeley
"A Warning to Single Men" (Bateman and Pether)	Arthur Reece
"Baby Mine" (Browne and Friedman)	Miss Clarice Heney
"Blue-Bell" (Madden and Morse)..	Hamilton Hill
[Also sung by almost every Artist of note both in Pantomime and on the Variety Stage throughout the Kingdom.]	
"Boys of the Chelsea School" (Carter and Weston).....	George Leyton
"'Come in!' said Widdy Malone" (Harrington and Le Brunn) ..	Michael Nolan
"Conversations" (F. and W. Redmond)	Ambrose Thorne
"Delusions" (Phil Ray)	Phil Ray
"Doan' Cry, Little Coloured Coon" (S. F. Harrison and Neat)	Miss Harriett Vernon
"Don't Stand There ——!" (Lawrance and Gifford).....	Walter Stanley
"Farewell, my little Yo San" (Mills and B. Scott)	Tom Costello
"Frozen Meat" (T. W. Connor) ..	Alf Gibson
"Have you seen my girl?" (Mills and Scott).....	Walter Munroe
"He Kissed I Once" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Marie Loftus
"Here comes the foreigner" (Barnes and Weston).....	H. Bedford
"I did enjoy myself last night" (Lawrence and M. Scott).....	Will Johnson
"I don't mind if it amuses you!" (Leigh and Pether)	Ben Albert
"If all the stars were mine" (Smith and Stromberg)	Miss Lillian Doreen
"I'm a girl of Tennessee" (Eden and Byng)	Miss Lil Hawthorne
"I'm coming home to you" (Herbert Darnley)	Miss D. L. Clark
"I'm going to sea (see)" (Leamore and Collins).....	Tom Leamore
"I'm round there to-night!" (Wincott and Leighton)	Dan Crawley
"Isn't that like a Man?" (Paul Mill)	Paul Mill
"It's all right in the summer time" (Murray and Everard)	Miss Vesta Victoria
"It's the Poor that help the Poor" (Mills and Castling)	Miss Florrie Gallimore
"I've been a Naughty Boy all Day" (Carter and Weston).....	Miss Georgina Leonard
"Jolly Jarge" (Mills and Arthurs)	George Bastow
"Julia" (Robson and Hyde).....	Miss Gladys Mavius
"Just a Girl" (Elton and Harrison).....	Miss Minnie Cunningham
"Little Jap Horner" (F. V. St. Clair).....	F. V. St. Clair
"Ma Havannah Queen" (Gifford and Lawrence)	G. H. Elliott
"Ma Dusky Rose" (Harrington and Le Brunn	Miss Florrie Robins
"Maude! Maude!" (Barnes and Collins)	Miss Lottie Lennox
"My Little Black Pearl" (Leslie Stuart)	Eugene Stratton
"My Fiddle is My Sweetheart" (Harry Hunter)	G. H. Chirgwin
"My Japanesy Girl" (Delmar and Parry)	Hal Forde
"My Lily of the Valley" (Frank Leo).....	Miss Sable Fern
"Oh, Nancy Lee" (T. W. Connor).	Miss Millie Hylton
"One Little Cottage all Our Own" (J. F. Lambe)	Miss Dolly Harmer
"Revenges" (Dunlop and Pether)	Wallis Arthur
[Above also sung by Whit Cunliffe.]	
"She must have known!" (David and Scott)	J. E. Coyle
"She said, 'Baa! Baa! Baa!'" (Harrington and H. Allen)	Miss Florrie Forde
"She taught him a thing or two, too" (Leigh and Le Brunn) ..	Eileen Douglas
"Sit on 'em and keep 'em warm" (Wincott and Leighton)	Harry Champion
"Take this message to my sweetheart" (Mills and Castling)....	Miss Marie Kendall
"That's him! That's him! That's him!" (Mills and Scott)	Harry Freeman
"The Boarding-House Keeper" (Dickson and Randall)	Harry Randall
"The Angel of My Dreams" (Leigh and Pether).....	Miss Millie Lindon
"The Gambling Man" (Jerome and Schwartz)	Miss Carlotta Levey
"The New Insurance" (Arthurs and Lyle)	Ernest Shand
"The New Perjarma'At" (T. W. Connor).....	Gus Elen
"The Playground in the Sky" (Bateman and Pether)	Milner Verren
"There was something on his mind" (Leigh and Le Brunn)..	Miss Marie Lloyd
"The Saftest o' the Family" (Lauder and Beaton)	Harry Lauder

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1905.

PLAYS AND PATRIOTISM.

Great is the power of "Pluck;" so great that the mere depiction of it in print, on canvas, or on the boards of a theatre is sufficient to blind us to all other considerations. "He's a damned fine fellow, and I hope he will win!" cried an English nobleman after his first reading of SATAN'S speech to the other "fallen spirits" in "Paradise Lost;" and the public has always a soft place in its heart for the dashing highwayman and the bold burglar. These considerations are suggested in part by Mr LEWIS WALLER'S superb revival of *Henry V.* at the Imperial Theatre on Saturday last. The play is a grand glorification of Pluck; and the fact that in this educated and enlightened age *Henry V.* still thrills us like a bugle sounding the charge shows how much human nature there is in man, and how an individual of one's own nation can steal a horse without going to prison, when a wretched foreigner is hanged for merely looking over the hedge.

One of the characters in GEORGE ELIOT'S "Middlemarch" found that facts got in his way at times. It is a troublesome trick which facts have. They intrude upon our most "patriotic" emotions, and impair our comfortable conceit. As a matter of fact, HENRY V., after the death of his father, was in exactly the same position as NAPOLEON III. after his elevation by the *coup d'état*. He had to involve his countrymen in an entirely unnecessary war in order to drive out of their thoughts the flaws in his title to the Crown. That there might be no mistake about this, SHAKESPEARE puts the following words into the mouth of the old King upon his death-bed:—

God knows, my son,
By what by-paths and indirect crook'd ways
I met this crown.

The wily monarch goes on to advise Harry thus:—

Thou art not firm enough, since griefs are green . . .
Therefore, my Harry,
Be it thy course to busy giddy minds
With foreign quarrels.

The way in which this was managed is most clearly stated by SHAKESPEARE in the first act of *Henry V.* The clergy were shaking in their shoes at the prospect of the passing of a Bill which had been first brought before Parliament in the reign of HENRY IV., providing that the temporal lands bequeathed to the Church should revert to the Crown. It was the policy of Baron Puck, in *The Grand Duchess*, whenever his mistress showed a desire to get married—"if she lose her heart we shall lose our places," he says to General Boum—to "divert her mind;" and with that aim he declared war against a neighbouring province. Similarly it was the policy of the archbishops to divert the King's mind from the tempting notion of taking the temporal lands from them; and it was HENRY'S policy to divert the minds of his people from his unsatisfactory title. The right or justice of the matter was absolutely unimportant. Any stick will do to beat a dog with, and any quibble about "Salique law" would be sufficient excuse for a quarrel with France. The real crime which had been committed by that unhappy country was being weak. The King was old and subject to fits of insanity, and the nobles preyed so mercilessly on the people that they hardly knew which they hated most—their own countrymen or the invaders. With so little "heart" in their work, and such poor material for recruiting, it was no wonder that they were beaten at Agincourt by the little English army of jolly yeomen.

We all remember the anecdote of the lawyer who was called upon by the farmer with the news that his—the farmer's—bull had gored and killed the lawyer's cow. The owner of the deceased animal was strong in his declaration of his "damages" by this accident, till the farmer found that he had made a mistake—the murderous bull belonged to the lawyer, who then remarked that "the case was completely altered." A similar change takes place when the action of a foreigner is estimated by an Englishman. There are, in history, three notable instances of butchery. The people of Paris, when it was depleted of its troops by the necessity of beating back the invasion of the Austrians and Prussians, had a number of inconvenient enemies in the prisons. The Parisians, on certain September days, put them to death in cold blood and were therefore execrated. When NAPOLEON was at Jaffa, he took a number of inconvenient prisoners. He had them shot down in cold blood; and he also was therefore execrated. At the battle of Agincourt, HENRY V. had a number of inconvenient prisoners. He likewise had them killed in cold blood; but we never saw in print or heard spoken in English any execration of his cruel and sanguinary order.

From the point of view of impartial history, HENRY V.'s war with France was a cynical political expedient, and his prayers to the ALMIGHTY were instances of the amazing power of self-deception in the human mind. One of the greatest embarrassments of the SUPREME BEING must be caused by the confident appeals for assistance which are constantly made to Him by absolutely undeserving individuals. When, after reducing the "lean and bare labourers" of France to "carcasses of miserable creatures, wandering up and down like ghosts drawn out of their graves," the English were finally "prevailed upon to" go from that unhappy country, the DEITY was still called upon, though, perhaps, hardly with the same fervour as by HENRY V. on his invasion. It is satisfactory that there is no proof that the scene in the First Part of *Henry VI.*—in which the heroic JOAN of ARC is represented, before being burnt to death by the English, as confessing to gross immorality—was written by SHAKESPEARE.

Such is the power of Pluck, that all such unpatriotic considerations are entirely overlooked when we read *Henry V.* or see it acted. "In the aibstract," as the Scotch young lady said of love, we may sympathise with the wretched Frenchmen; in the concrete we admire the splendid valour of King HARRY, his fellow-feeling for his soldiers, his dauntless bravery, and his magnetic oratory. The power of the spell that is worked by the magic of SHAKESPEARE'S genius, admirably interpreted by the fine talent of Mr LEWIS WALLER and his excellent company at the Imperial Theatre, was never more thoroughly demonstrated than by the enthusiasm which the great fighting drama evoked on Saturday last. It was the tribute of ordinary healthy humanity to the indispensable quality of Pluck.

IN the last act of *Henry V.* at the Imperial Theatre a number of sumptuous toilettes excite much admiration. Prominent among them is the one worn by Miss Mary Lewis, who as Isabel, Queen of France, looks superb in a splendid gown and gorgeous head-dress. The head-dress, which must be uncomfortably heavy, is made of gold thickly encrusted with jewels, both large and small, of many vivid colours, and is surmounted by the crown of France, also magnificently decorated. Behind it hangs a long white veil. To soften the contour of the face a pleated flounce of white chiffon hemmed with silver is worn beneath the head-dress.

THE dress is a gorgeous one and suits Miss Lewis perfectly. The closely fitting bodice is made of pearl-grey satin bordered with ermine and trimmed about the shoulders with a very handsome jewelled strap, which hangs down the front, and the petticoat is composed of the richest oyster-white damask, embroidered by hand all over in all the colours of the rainbow, so mellowed that they strike not one single garish note. Here again there is a bodering of royal ermine. From the shoulders hangs an excessively voluminous train covered with appliqué pomegranates embroidered by hand upon a background of gold tissue. There is a lining of emerald green satin to this train and a rich bordering of ermine.

MISS SARAH BROOKE, who plays the part of Katherine, and whose scene with Henry V. is one of the gems of the play, looks delightful in her gown of gold tissue, pale blue silk and delicate, mustard-coloured crêpe-de-Chine, which last fabric composes the soft full skirt, and is covered with a vermicelli pattern executed in gold sequins. Her bodice is made of gold tissue, with a broad fichu band of gold velvet brought over the shoulders and caught together at the waist with splendid blue and diamond jewels. The gold tissue sleeves are very long, are slashed at the edges, and are lined with pale blue tissue, while there are also tight undersleeves that match her bodice. Miss Brooke's splendid dark hair is braided in two long plaits, intertwined with pearls, and on her head she wears the crown of France.

MR HERBERT BARRS' *Aladdin* is at the Theatre Royal, Worthing, this week. Miss Kitty Clayton is vivacious in the title-rôle; Miss Nelly Dyson is a winsome Princess; and Miss Ethel Condor a good Pekoe. Mr Eric Leslie is funny as the Emperor of China; Mr Herbert Grapho as Abanazar deserves much praise; Mr Billy Jackson is an excellent Widow Twankey; Mr George Harvie as Washee is diverting; and Mr Chas. Clayton as Bo Bee and Mr E. H. Cheer as Pe Leer do well. The scenery and costumes are excellent.

A DRAMA, founded on Mr T. P. O'Connor's book, "The Phantom Millions," and dealing with the great Humbert case, has been written by Mr Stephens, who was in Paris at the time of the trial of the Humberts, and collected some very valuable data regarding the whole business. Before leaving France he purchased the notorious safe which figured so prominently in the case. The safe is at the present moment stored in Paris, and Mr Stephens intends making use of it for the purposes of the play. The reason he has not yet produced the piece is that he has been unable to obtain permission to do so from the Lord Chamberlain's office, Mr Redford informing him that the presentation of the drama during the progress of the trial might still further prejudice the minds of the public against the Humberts. Since then Mr Stephens has been faced by another difficulty. After seeking legal advice in Paris on the matter, he found that he might be liable to proceedings taken by representatives of the Humbert family if he produced such a play even in this country. However, the legal obstacles, it appears, have now been removed.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES M. HARDIE.

Liverpool theatrical circles have this week been depleted by the death of Mr James M. Hardie, managing director of the Shakespeare Theatre Co., Limited, and the sad event, coming somewhat suddenly, has been deeply regretted on all hands. Mr Hardie, who was noted for his gentlemanly characteristics, occupied a position of popularity, and his courtesy and urbanity during a long association with Liverpool won for him hosts of friends, who now sincerely regret his removal by death. For years Mr Hardie's health was uncertain, and gave his family some concern. Recently he had suffered from a somewhat serious indisposition, but appeared to be improving when the end came suddenly on Monday last.

Mr Hardie's first appearance in Liverpool was at the Shakespeare Theatre some fifteen years ago, where, with Miss Sara Von Leer, he presented, fresh from the United States, the drama *On the Frontier*. The work has since been extensively toured, and has proved a success. The proprietorship of the Shakespeare underwent a change some years afterwards, and Mr Hardie and his partner became the lessees. The theatre, which has enjoyed a long run of success, was then undertaken by a limited liability company, and subsequently Mr Hardie became the managing director, a position he held to the last. Among several plays he successfully put on the road were *The Two Little Vagabonds* and *A Path of Thorns*, while he was interested in theatrical enterprises in America and England. Mr Hardie adopted the stage when a young man, and proved himself an actor of conspicuous ability, having always identified himself with drama of the serious type. He leaves a widow and family to mourn his loss. The eldest son of the deceased gentleman controls the Victoria Theatre at Broughton, Manchester.

The funeral took place yesterday at Anfield Cemetery, Liverpool, in the presence of a large attendance. The principal mourners were Mr Jas. M. Hardie, Mr Eugene E. Hardie (sons), Mr E. F. Clift, Mr J. Gaffney, Dr. H. Dubourg, Mr S. Rowlands, Mr F. Isaacson, Mr J. West, Mr Simon Jude, and Mr Lewis M'Allister. Among the general mourners were Messrs T. Bush, H. Fineberg (Star Theatre), L. Peake, H. J. Arnold (Lyric), F. Willmot (Haymarket), J. Ansonia, J. T. Malpass (director Regent Theatre, Salford, and Broughton), C. Kelzer, J. M. Smythe, J. Hughes, G. J. Smith, Calder O'Beirne, S. Southern Chiswell, J. A. Min, H. Stringer, C. M. Moss, W. Brookbank, R. H. Baker, H. Heyes, W. Crompton, H. W. Lambert, Councillor F. L. Joseph, J. J. Hewson, J. Potter (Warrington), J. R. Weisker, F. E. Weisker, J. H. Child, S. Vickers, and A. M. Haswell. The theatre staff present were Messrs T. Holmes, D. J. Callow, W. Wilkinson, R. H. Love, H. Rea, B. Lynch, J. Brady, J. Eastwood, G. Gorman, Pearse, R. Eyres, R. Banks, W. Garside, S. Williams, and J. Lolley. Beautiful floral tributes were sent by the widow, Mr and Mrs Eugene Hardie, Mr and Mrs James M. Hardie, Lucy and Lewis, staff at the front of the Shakespeare Theatre, Miss M. Stanley Burt, Ernest P. Clift, Mr and Mrs Robert J. M'Dermott, Mr and Mrs Simon Jude, Mr and Mrs Joseph West, Major Stratton (Empire Theatre), Mr Frank Jacobson, the Directors of the Regent Theatre, Salford, Mr and Mrs Malpass, David Allen and Sons, the Weisker Family, Nellie and Arthur Shirley, Mena and James H. Child, Ethel and Margery Gaffney, J. Gaffney, Mr Tom Bush and family, Mr M'Leod Loader, Mr John Ansonia, Friends London and North-western Hotel, Mr Courtneidge, and Mr Arthur Harp, the Liverpool Police Minstrels, Arnold, Beresford, and Willmott, Robert Crawford (Birmingham), Scene and Property Department Shakespeare Theatre, Mr T. H. Birch, Fred W. Wyndham, Mr and Mrs W. W. Kelly, Mr and Mrs Willmot, Shakespeare Theatre Orchestra, Electric Department Shakespeare Theatre, Victoria Theatre, Broughton; Regent Theatre, Salford; Annie and Shaw, Mr S. A. Rowlands, Dr. and Mrs Dubourg, Mr Mowbray, Mr Taylor, Mr Birtwistle, and Miss Nellie Rea. The funeral arrangements were carried out by R. M'Dougal and Co., Limited, Renshaw-street.

MR HARRY H. RIGNOLD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—In the interview you published last week you slightly misquoted me by stating that I had been under the management of Mr Andrew Ennis. It should have read "Mr Andrew Emm," the name by which the late Mr Andrew Melville was known at the time I alluded to.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY H. RIGNOLD.

Manchester, Jan. 23

OUR Cleveland correspondent writes under date of Jan. 14:—At the Euclid-avenue Opera House a musical extravaganza, *Babes in Toyland*, is being given. The book is written by Glen M'Donough, an American dramatist and librettist of note, and the music is composed by Victor Herbert. A pretty little story is told of the adventures of Allan and Jane, who run away from their home to escape the persecution of a miserly old uncle, and who come to the mythical country of Toyland. Many of the characters made famous in children's story books appear, among them being Jack and Jill, Bo Peep, and Contrary Mary. The music is bright and tuneful, the scenery good, and the book amusing. Mr William Gaston, a young Englishman born in Birmingham, plays the part of Gonzargo.

AT the Victoria Theatre, Broughton, this week the new drama *A Woman's Devotion* is the attraction. It is played by a good all-round company under the direction of Mrs T. Morton Powell, who represents a true Parisienne (Gilberte La Grande) very cleverly. Mr Frank R. Roberts as Philip Dangerfield and Miss Alwynne Ermon as Cora Eversleigh achieve much success. Miss Maude S. Drewry effectively portrays the persecuted Maisy Loyale. Richard Chesney and Paul Eversleigh are respectively in the capable hands of Mr Geo. Davis and Mr W. B. Sommerville. Roars of laughter are created by the comic business of Mr Edward Mervyn as Bob Savage, Mr W. F. Kisby as Reginald Montmorency, Miss Alice Buckland as Kitty Brown, and Miss Dot Seilby as Mrs Savage.

AT the invitation of Miss Dolly M'Calla and Miss Hanid Alexandra, the young ladies playing the parts of the Babes in Newcastle Theatre Royal pantomime, about thirty of the children appearing with them attended a musical tea party in the Royal Arcade Assembly Rooms, Newcastle, on Tuesday afternoon. A most enjoyable programme of entertainment commenced shortly after two o'clock, and was continued until between five and six. There was a cake-walk competition and also a capital variety show. The cake-walk was led off by Miss M'Calla (who has been re-engaged by Mr Robert Arthur for next year's pantomime). Miss Alexandra, and the Sisters Govell, and then followed the competitors. The Sisters Govell provided valuable prizes, and Mr Fisher acted as judge. The "babes" gave several songs and dances to the delight of all, and Baby M'Calla in an exhibition step-dance proved herself a remarkable little artiste. Lively games were indulged in, and all were led by Mr Sam Dark, who was supported in his efforts to amuse the children by the young hostesses, the Sisters Govell, Mr Charles Kinross, Miss Kathleen Kinross, Miss Ada Russell, Mr George Groves, Mr Harry Fisher, Mrs Alexandra, and others.

TWO notable examples of heredity are at present appearing at the Elephant and Castle Theatre. Mr Jo Monkhouse and Mr Harry Paulton, jun., are appearing as the wicked brothers in the successful pantomime *Puss in Boots*. They are to have a benefit on Friday, Feb. 3.

'ADREA.'

A Tragic Play, in Four Acts and an Epilogue, by David Belasco and John Luther Long. Produced at the Belasco Theatre, New York, on Jan. 11.

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

Mrs Leslie Carter has won new honours in the title-rôle of this play, and Mr David Belasco has won praise and admiration for another magnificent and wonderful production. Mrs Carter has scored many triumphs during the last few years, but never before has she received such an ovation as was accorded to her at the opening performance of this play at the Belasco Theatre. The New York critics are agreed that Mrs Carter's embodiment of Adrea is her greatest achievement, and that Mr Belasco's play is a masterpiece.

The opening scene represents the exterior of the Palace of the Kings of Adrea, an imaginary island in the Adriatic Sea. The period is A.D. 500, when Odoacer the Barbarian ruled Rome, and the Roman spirit and habits still survived in the surrounding countries. It is the "Hundredth Day," or the last day of the period that elapsed between the death of the old ruler and the crowning of the new. The time is late afternoon. Adrea, daughter of the dead King Menethus, is heir to the throne of Adrea, but cannot rule her land because she is blind. Her sister, Julia Doma, a wanton, is to reign. Julia has won the ambitious barbarian chief, Kaeso, who once loved Adrea. Kaeso comes to the coronation, and Adrea, not knowing that he has sacrificed his love to his ambition, believes that he has come to make her his wife. In a fit of jealousy Julia prompts her fool, a hideous creature called Mimus the Echo, to impersonate Kaeso and marry the sightless Adrea, Kaeso standing by and uttering not a word.

A night passes, and at early dawn Adrea comes reeling down the steps of the palace, crying in bitter anguish, and, groping her way to the foot of the great statue of her father, calls on all the gods to give her sight that she may see the hideous being to whom they have married her. A thunderbolt which strikes the base of the statue renders the jester unconscious and gives Adrea her sight. She looks into the face of the painted clown as he lies prostrate, and, being degraded and infamous in her own eyes, she goes to the Tower of Forgetfulness to give up her body to the sea; but here her father's ghost appears to her, and warns her that she is destined to rule over Adrea. The sound of the trumpets announcing the coronation of her sister Julia maddens her, and, throwing off the death robe and the weights that are to bear her down, she curses Kaeso and resolves to take the throne.

In the next scene Adrea is crowned, and she prepares to take vengeance on Kaeso, who has been made captive and is brought before her. Pretending at first to forgive him, she suddenly bursts into a fury of denunciation, and orders him to be lashed. Then she sentences him to be torn apart by wild horses. The Senate protests against such an infamous death for one who has been a brave soldier, and Adrea asks the senators to listen to her story—to listen to her as a woman and not as a queen. When the story is ended the senators clamour for Kaeso's life. Kaeso pleads with Adrea, not for his life, but for pardon for his sin. At the last moment her love for him is rekindled, and knowing that she cannot save him now she seizes her father's sword and kills him. The senators still strive to give his body to the horses, but she stands over the corpse and repulses them.

In the epilogue, eight years later, Adrea is living in Arcady, the land where she and Kaeso once were lovers. The scene is the Throne Room. Vasha, the little son of Julia and Kaeso, now the heir to her throne, is brought in. The child has been taught to hate her, but she gradually wins his friendship. The room is darkened owing to Adrea's failing sight. The child begs her to let in the light, but she tells him that if she ever looks into the sun she will lose both her eyesight and her throne. The child persists, and she then proposes that they play a game—the game of being a King. She wraps the child in the imperial robe, and places the crown upon his head and seats him on the throne. Telling him playfully not to look, she draws near the window. Still laughing, she throws it wide open and gazes straight into the sun. To the orb that destroyed her sight at birth she cries, "Take back thine own!" and staggering back to the throne turns her sightless eyes towards the child and cries, "Long live the King!"

'EAST LYNNE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Mr Moverley Sharp's letter in your last issue reads very much like "sour grapes." He and his client, Mr Armitage, are quite at liberty to do as they like, but they must not deny me the same privilege. I am as well able to fight my own battles as any man in the profession. If resident-managers are not by this time aware of my rights, I am sorry for them.

Yours faithfully, J. PITT HARDACRE.

MISS ADA REAVE and company are at the Theatre Royal, Hanley, this week with *Winnie Brooke, Widow*. Miss Reeve is admirably suited in the title rôle, and all the artistes engaged are well placed in their respective parts.

AT the Hanley Grand Theatre this week the bill is headed by Ahrensmeyer, the wonderful hypnotist; W. L. Murray, winner of the Sandow statuette, contributes an interesting strong turn; Datas is well received; Harry Wenburn is a smart comedian; the Sisters Wingrove are attractive duettists and dancers; Chas. Ulrick, the barrel king, is clever; Boswell's dogs, ponies, and donkeys are much appreciated; and Ronald Bagnall also does well.

PRESENTATION.—Mr C. W. O'Connor, the energetic Press representative at the Grand Theatre, Islington, was presented last week with a handsome silver cigarette case and matchbox by Miss Kate Brand and Miss Helen Bancroft, the leading ladies of Mr Oswald Brand's stock company. The gifts were intended as a small recognition of Mr O'Connor's services in connection with the stock season. Mr O'Connor is certainly one of the most conscientious and up-to-date press representatives attached to the London theatres.

AT the Hyde Borough Police-court on Saturday a young American named Thomas Price was brought up on a charge of having been concealed on the premises of the Hyde Theatre Royal on the previous evening. The prisoner was found by one of the theatre staff among the "flies." He asked why they had not told him before that he had no right in the theatre, as he had been there since Tuesday. In defence, the prisoner said he belonged to the halls, but had been working for *Uncle Tom's Cabin* company, which was fulfilling an engagement at the theatre that week. Price was discharged upon promising to go back to Warrington.

MISS RUBY DANZELL undertook the part of Pekoe at the Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool, on Monday, in the absence of Miss Mina Marie, and was warmly complimented.—In consequence of the sudden indisposition of Mr Linden Wyatt the part of the Grand Vizier, in *Aladdin*, at the Kennington Theatre, was recently undertaken by Mr Harry Field with decided success. Mr Wyatt resumed his rôle on Monday.—Mr Albert Ward will to-night retire from the cast of *Her Forbidden Marriage*, at the Standard Theatre, having been engaged by Mr John Hart to play the leading part in his new production, *The Blanchard Diamonds*. Mr Ward rehearses in Hull on Monday, and the new play will be produced at the Grand there on Feb. 13.

NEW MUSIC.

Mr Charles Woolhouse, 174, Wardour-street, has recently published "A Bundle of Ballads," by Alexander S. Beaumont, an esteemed musician, who always writes with expression and taste, and frequently strikes out quite original ideas. He has been fortunate in finding some charming lines to set to music in "December's Snow," by Sir A. Conan Doyle; "All in Vain," by Clifton Bingham; "Silver Sails," by Alex. C. Jackson; "Go, Little Song," by Percy Reeve; and the first song, "Echo," is translated from the French of François Coppée by St. John Hamond. The music of Mr Beaumont possesses the refined and artistic skill we have often credited him with; and in another "Bundle of Ballads" we find equal merit. "My World," by W. M'Connell Wood, who has also written a graceful song, "Ninon," sung by Miss Agnes Nicholls, also deserves special mention. "Although" is a setting of some verses by L. A. by Ernest Young, a composer who has set some pathetic verses by Matthew Arnold called "Requiescat" with infinite skill. With some lines by Heinrich Heine, "Am Ferner Horizont," Mr Young has also done well, the 'cello obbligato adding to the interest of the melody. "Although" and "My Presence" will find favour with those who love a little sentiment in a song. Mr M'Connell-Wood again appeals to us most agreeably in "A Bird Song," in which some chromatic cadences suggest the echo of the bird's woodland melody. An "Impromptu" by R. Mähling for pianoforte may be commended for the use of youthful students of the piano, being pleasing in style and sentiment and not difficult. By the same composer a "Romance Sans Paroles" for violoncello, with piano accompaniment, is worthy of consideration. We have but one fault to find. The solo is written rather too high for amateurs. But, of course, professional 'cellists will find no difficulty, and will appreciate the graceful and expressive melody, which exactly suits the 'cello. "Au Revoir," "A Morceau for Pianoforte," and a "Romance Sans Paroles," for the same instrument, by R. Mähling, have distinct merit, and Mr Beaumont's Scherzo for the piano, with the pretty title of "Psyche and Cupid," is an extremely clever and well-written piece, worthy to be played beside the works of the classic composers.

MESSRS ASCHERBERG AND CO. have published a humorous song called "A Hint," the music by P. E. Braham, words by C. H. Bovil. Miss Maud Venn has written the following verses:—

She was quite a model maid,
She was so demure and staid,
She was absolutely free from any guile;
And this artless little soul
With a youth once took a stroll,
And they wandered through the woods towards a stile.
And she stepped across with care,
For the dear was well aware
That a maid with circumspection ought to act;
And she thought "My ankle's trim,
And it's only fair to him
I should let him have an inkling of the fact."

The above lines suggest the hint that was intended for the young gentleman, who, no doubt, was quick enough to see that his fair partner was charming. "Is it the wind of the dawn?" is a setting by Harte Constante of a song by Tennyson, perhaps a little too elaborate for such an expressive song, but not deficient in merit. Ascherberg's Eighth Dance Album is just the Album for this festive season, containing as it does the kind of pieces exactly suited for the ball-room. "La Soirée," a Mazurka Elégante by Theo. Bonheur. This gifted composer has produced a charming mazurka, and the illustrated title-page representing a soirée in the open air in summer time is worth the entire price of the composition. "Remembrance, a Souvenir," with French and English words, set by Adelaide Schönberg, is a delightful little sentimental song that would be appreciated at a concert. "Erubu" is the curious title of a waltz by Sylvia Blackston, who evidently understands the requirements of the ball-room, and carries them out in a spirited fashion.

MR C. ROBERT PERKINS, the popular lessee of the Jersey Opera House, who has just returned from his honeymoon, gave a dinner at the Hotel de l'Europe, Jersey, last Saturday to his numerous friends and patrons in celebration of his recent marriage. Covers were laid for sixty, and the decorations of the large dining-room were very artistic. The host was supported by Mr Frank Fenton, Judge W. Duret Aubin, Advocate H. E. Le V. Dit Durell, Advocate C. E. Malet De Carteret, Deputy C. B. Renouf, Advocate C. V. Hawks Ford, Dr. Maxwell Le Cronice, Dr. R. Maxwell Moffat, Capt. J. Alexandre (Constable of St. Brelade's), Capt. F. J. Renouf (harbour master), Mr F. E. Le Gallais (vice president, Jersey Commercial Association), Mr W. H. Dickson (manager, Jersey Railways), and Mr A. Biddle (agent, London and South-Western Railway Company), and the list of guests included leading representatives of the merchants and tradesmen of the island. The band of the Opera House played selections during the repast.

TOASTS and an excellent musical programme followed, Mr Warwick Moore, conductor and composer of Mr Fred Mouillot's *Sleeping Beauty* pantomime, presiding at the piano. Miss Florence Vie made a hit with "The Sweetest Girl in Dixie," and in response to the unanimous appeal of the company sang "Sammy," the chorus being taken up by the entire party. Miss May Davis, daintily gowned in white, had a hearty encore for a song with guitar accompaniment, and Mr Charles Penrose gave a couple of comic ditties. Mr Frank Fenton admirably recited an amusing American story; and other singers were Messrs T. V. Arnold and E. C. Boielle.

ADVOCATE C. V. HAWKSFORD, in proposing the toast of "The Host," said that most people when about to marry notified their friends of the fact; his friend Mr Perkins, however, had acted in quite a contrary manner to the general rule. He suddenly left Jersey for an alleged brief holiday, and returned that week with the announcement "I'm married." In spite of the suddenness of the event, however, his friends were determined not to let a chance slip by of showing their appreciation of him, and among many gifts we may mention an onyx clock with ormulu mountings from the staff of the Opera House, a handsome pair of entrée dishes from his co-proprietors of the theatre, and a large silver cigarette box "from a few friends." Souvenir cards, signed by all present, including the ladies, were presented to each guest; and a most enjoyable evening terminated with vociferous cheers for Mr and Mrs Perkins.

MISS JESSIE RUTTER played Cinderella with much success at a matinée at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, last week, owing to the indisposition of Miss Ida René.—At the matinée and evening performances on the 19th inst., at the Broadway Theatre, New-cross, Miss Nora Moore played the part of Dick Whittington with success, her songs gaining repeated encores.—Mr Lewis Casson and Mr Ashton Pearse have been engaged by Miss Rosina Filippi to assist in her classes for modern comedy at the Court Theatre.

THE Grand Theatre, Fulham, will be reopened on Monday for the dramatic season by Mr Robert Arthur, with Mr Percy Hutchison's capital company in *Saturday to Monday*.

MISS JULIA WARDEN, who has played many comedy parts with Mr Edward Terry, Mr Harry Paulton, and Mr George Edwardes, and has been principal boy in pantomime, notably at the Grand Theatre, Islington, has undergone a critical operation, but we are glad to say she is now on the road to recovery.

MUSIC HALL GOSSIP.

THE Royal, Holborn, which has passed through so many vicissitudes since it replaced the smaller hall established by Weston, is to be closed on Feb. 4 for reconstruction. The present building was clumsily designed, and so much room was cut to waste in the auditorium that Mr Walter Gibbons is certain to be able to largely increase the seating capacity. Previous to closing there will be a special gala week, during which all the chief stars at present in London have promised to appear, and the stage will be directed each evening by a different agent. An entirely new and beautiful theatre of varieties is to be built, and it is hoped that the reopening will be possible in October.

THE present hall was opened on Sept. 12, 1887, under the auspices of a company of which the late Mr W. T. Purkiss was managing-director. The late Mr Sam Adams was the manager. The company failed, and in its winding-up the late Mr Newson-Smith, the founder of what has long been popularly known as the Syndicate, was officially concerned, and thus commenced his association with variety entertainment. The opening company included the late Miss Katie Seymour, who had not then commenced her long connection with musical comedy; Miss Lottie Collins, whose dancing was such a delightful feature of her turn; Mr Frank Travis, the popular ventriloquist; Miss Topsy Venn, the favourite burlesque actress of the Strand Theatre in the days of *Nemesis* and Edward Terry and Marius; the favourite trio, De Voy, Le Clercq, and Lovell, Negro comedians; the great Macdermott, Mr and Mrs Watson, and a ballet entitled *Civilisation*. Mr W. B. Fair, the singer of "Tommy make room for your uncle" and at one time the proprietor of the old Winchester Music Hall, was in the chair.

MR JOSEPH LYONS, who has always been one of the warmest and staunchest friends of the variety profession, is appealing for cash for the Music Hall Benevolent Fund. The institution is in great need of money, and the calls upon its exchequer are increasing daily. Mr Lyons hopes that the leading members of the profession will unite and put the Fund on a firm and solid basis. The art of the music halls is appreciated by both the King and the Queen, and its more fortunate professors should recognise that many of their poorer brethren and sisters in art are feeling the pinch of poverty. The appeal that has been issued by Mr Lyons is not meeting with the response that it deserves, and we make no excuse, therefore, for again calling attention to it.

MUSIC HALL and dramatic agents will combine against the licensing clause that the London County Council will thrust upon all employment agencies in their self-imposed crusade against "domestic servants' registries." A meeting was held on Monday afternoon at the offices of Messrs Amery, Parkes, and Powell, solicitors to so many members of the profession, and a definite course of action was decided upon and a chairman elected. The new Bill, which, if passed, will come into force on Jan. 1, 1906, provides that applications for a licence must be made in writing to the Council, and must specify the nature of the business which the applicant proposes to carry on, and if the applicant is considered a fit and proper person the Council may grant him a licence. Bye-laws prescribe the books to be kept, and inspection of premises is also to be provided for. Of course the Bill will be vigorously opposed.

WHEN Mr George Alexander was entertained by the Bons Frères at the Café Royal on Tuesday night Mr Bransby Williams amused the company with a very funny and clever "surprise" turn. Assuming the voice and manner of the guest of the evening he delivered a mock-serious speech introducing the names of all the plays produced by the manager of the St. James's. Mr Alexander was delighted with this proof of sincerest flattery. Mr Williams has just signed a contract to star in pantomime next winter, his first engagement in a Christmas annual. On Monday he opens at Brixton in the recitation of dramatic poems written by Mr Charles H. Taylor, accompanied by music composed by Mr Cuthbert Clarke, of the Empire.

THE music hall world will hear with no little anxiety that Miss Marie Lloyd is still very ill. A specialist was called in on Tuesday, as those who are so tenderly nursing her were not satisfied with her condition. The eminent doctor gave it as his opinion that with great care and attention he has every hope of her speedy recovery. Miss Lloyd is most anxious to return to her professional duties, as she does not like disappointing the public. She desires through our columns to thank the numerous friends who have made inquiries and sent telegrams.

ANTEDILUVIAN relics tell us that pre-historic man was fond of his "club," but we are quite in the dark as to his athletic prowess with anything less harmful than the javelin. Mr George Robey's "prehistoric peep" into the past, which some little time since afforded him excellent opportunities for the exercise of his unctuous humour, has not given us any real information on the point, though we believe he has scanned inscriptions, more or less ancient, in order to appal us by the prestige of his deeds as a gladiator. He, however, threw much light on his own merits as a footballer by his play at Clayton on Monday, when he put a strong team against Manchester City, and had the satisfaction not only of seeing his side prove successful by three goals to nil, but of scoring a goal. There were 10,000 spectators present at the match, which was played for the benefit of the unemployed at Manchester.

MR GEORGE SCOTT has just completed the first year of his management of the Alhambra. He succeeded to the position held by the late Mr Douglas Cox in January last year, and his numerous friends sent him many congratulatory letters and telegrams on Friday evening, the 21st, when he was entertained by a party of old chums at a dinner at the Queen's Hotel, Leicester-square. He was presented with an illuminated address and a gold-mounted cane.

ONE hundred and fifty members of the Eccentric Club were present at the Lyceum on Wednesday evening. Four rows of stalls were reserved for their accommodation. They were moved to laughter by the wonderful group of mechanical figures, not forgetting the bulldog, exploited by Mr E. Reynard, the ventriloquist, and the diverting business of the Harmony Four.

AT the Battersea Empire on Wednesday last a packed house was the pleasing result of Mr Lennox Barry's efforts to promote a special matinée in aid of the local unemployed of this populous district. A first-class and lengthy programme was given, and Mr Barry will have the gratification of being able to pay over a considerable sum towards the relief of the necessitous. The profession once more showed its readiness to give a helping hand to all and sundry in distress.

SEVERAL new features were introduced on Thursday evening into the programme of the London Hippodrome. Items of special interest were submitted by the Cottrell-Powell combination, who were seen in a new equestrian act, "The Dude and the Girl;" the Tourbillon Troupe of acrobatic cyclists, in staircase feats; the O'Brien Brothers, whose somersaults over the horizontal bar are a revelation of athletic grace; and the Chamberlins, whose lariat act reminds us of some of the incidents told in the stories of Texas and Mexico by Captain Mayne Reid and Gustave Aimard.

MR SAM GETHING, who has been acting-manager of the Stratford Empire since the opening of this the first of Mr Stoll's variety theatres in outer London, has just relinquished his position, having been appointed by his directors, as a mark of appreciation of his past services, to take up new duties as district manager of Mr Stoll's Empires at Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, and South Shields. He has been succeeded at Stratford by Mr T. S. Mayne, who will have the help of the present assiduous assistant acting-manager, Mr W. Beceleuch.

MR GETHING has made himself exceedingly popular during his stay in Stratford, and has prominently identified himself with the local charitable institutions, in consequence of which he was elected a member of the committee of the West Ham Hospital as well as being made a life governor of this institution and a life governor of the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich. To mark the occasion of his leaving the neighbourhood a large number of prominent residents foregathered at the Langthorne Rooms, Stratford, on Saturday last, and a presentation was made to Mr Gething of an illuminated address and a purse of gold by the Mayor of West Ham, who, in the course of a felicitous speech, testified to the good work accomplished by Mr Gething in the cause of charity.

MR GETHING was the recipient of another presentation of a more direct nature on Wednesday night, when the entire staff of the Stratford Empire congregated on the stage after the last performance, and Mr W. Beceleuch, on behalf of the employees and a few of the artists, presented Mr Gething with a suitably inscribed filled gold sovereign purse, together with a handsome present for Mrs Gething, saying a few happy words of congratulation to Mr Gething on his new appointment, and conveying to him the hearty wishes of those present for his future welfare and prosperity. Mr Gething, in returning thanks, spoke with some emotion, and said that his task as manager of the Stratford Empire had always been the easier by reason of the thorough understanding and good feeling which existed among the members of the staff.

MANY of our readers will remember Mr Sawdie, the late manager of the old Pier Pavilion at Eastbourne. For many years he managed the variety entertainments given in the plain wooden building which flourished under the name of the Pavilion. Beneath a somewhat abrupt and authoritative manner, no doubt acquired when he served in the Royal Navy, was hidden a kind and thoughtful heart. His kindly spirit was shown in the daily care he bestowed on the many birds which frequent the pier. The birds knew him as their friend, and every morning he was accompanied along the deck by dozens of his feathered friends, which were always fed with a liberal hand. His death on Wednesday of last week put an end to the faithful services he had rendered to the Eastbourne Pier Company for over thirty years.

THE Birmingham Theatrical and Variety Charity Sports have been wisely fixed for Tuesday, Feb. 28, instead of on Wednesday, as heretofore, thus meeting the convenience of all parties. Mr Lester Collingwood has been elected chairman of the executive committee, this being a most popular selection; and Mr Tom Parker, hon. secretary; Mr A. W. Matcham, assistant hon. secretary; and Mr A. Bushell, hon. treasurer, continue in office. Donations to a very large amount have already been guaranteed.

THE chief feature of the entertainment given at the City Hall, Perth, last Saturday was the wonderful performance of Picitt, a "handcuff king." Mr A. Macaulay, a local jeweller and curio dealer, challenged Picitt to extract himself from an iron collar used to confine the border counties freebooters 300 years ago. Picitt came out of the difficulty victorious, without in the slightest degree damaging the screw-lock of the necklet, the first man, Mr Macaulay avers, who ever came out of such a collar alive.

THE only lady comedian, Nellie Coleman, and her husband, Dome, the original comedy clay man, were seen last week at the Ardwick Empire by Mr Frank Glenister, and he secured both acts for eight weeks a year for three years at the London Pavilion. They sail for Africa on Feb. 4, starting from Waterloo at 11 0 o'clock.

MISS BILLIE BARLOW opened her South African tour on Monday, Jan. 16, at the Empire Theatre, Johannesburg. Her latest song, "Problems," which is written round the Jap-Russo war, was an enormous success.

AS the result of a charity concert given on New Year's Day at the Hippodrome, Stoke, Mr Frank Egerton has had the pleasure of handing a cheque, value £40 13s., to the Little Sisters of the Poor at Cobridge, North Staffordshire.

MISS CLARA NISBETT (Mrs Tom Vine) is mourning the loss of her father, Mr William Walker Nisbett, who died on Monday, much respected and esteemed, at the venerable age of eighty-three. Both Miss Nesbitt and Mr Vine cancelled their engagements for the week.

MR LEO FRITZ, of Burns's agency, will be in London on Wednesday next for a few weeks in search of some good acts for Harry Burns's north tour. All communications should be addressed to him at the Hotel Provence, Leicester-square, W.

THE sketch *Forgive Us Our Trespasses*, mentioned in our last week's issue, was duly produced at the Bow Palace on Monday. Mr Frederick Scarth was supported by a good company, including Miss Naomi Hope, the authoress.

NO news has yet been received of Miss Florrie Kendall, a cousin of Miss Marie Kendall, who was reported to have disappeared in September last. Mrs Dukien, the missing girl's mother, renewed her application for assistance in finding her at Worship-street police-court on Wednesday. Miss Florrie Kendall is twenty years old, and is described as tall, well-built, dark of hair and complexion, and when last leaving London was wearing a red plaid skirt and blouse, a fashionable hat, and a three-quarter sable cape lined with white broche silk.

MADAME KATTI LANNER has forwarded half a guinea towards the memorial to the late Herbert Campbell. Mr Robert Astley, director of the Granville, has sent 30s. for the same object.

MANY of our older readers will learn with regret of the death of Mr Juleene, of the Juleenes, who some fifteen years ago were popular with their electric orchestra. In his entertainment, which was very similar to that of Herr Schalkenbach, Mr Juleene was assisted by his clever wife, known in the world of music as Miss Dot D'Alcorn, a daughter of the well-known publisher. That lady died on Jan. 6, 1903. Mr Juleene, whose real name was John Parsons, was fortunately able to retire some years ago, and was in comfortable circumstances. For the last two years he had been ailing, and he died at his residence at Clapham, after an operation at the age of fifty-nine. Mr and Mrs Parsons came by their professional name in a curious way. They had obtained an engagement at a popular hall, and their own name was given on the contract. On reading the posters, they could not discover that they had been billed. Their protestation to the management brought the reply, "You are billed. I have given you a French name—The Juleenes."

MR HARRY HERBERT POOLE, we much regret to hear, died on Tuesday, aged twenty-six years, at the residence of his brother-in-law, Mr Will Evans, Laurel House, Laurel-road, Barnes. He was interred on Friday afternoon in the family vault at Abney-park Cemetery, the funeral arrangements being ably carried out by Mr Theophilus Dunkley. It was scarcely a fortnight since that the writer was chatting with the deceased gentleman in the Tivoli, and he then appeared to be better than usual, though it was generally known among his friends that he was delicate.

MR HARRY POOLE was the youngest son of the late Mr Poole, who was at one time proprietor of the South London. At the death of her husband Mrs Poole continued in management, and eventually entered into partnership with the late Mr Harry Ulph. The establishment became the property of a limited liability company on Mrs Poole's retirement shortly before her death, and the late Mr G. H. Macdermott at one time held a large interest in it. Young Mr Poole was appointed some years since as acting-manager at the Tivoli under the late Mr Vernon Dowsett, but resigned some time before that gentleman's death. Of late years he has been associated with the management of Rosherville Gardens, and was an excellent pioneer of the interests of his staunch friend Mr Will Evans, who married his sister, and whose sister he married. Another sister of the deceased gentleman, Miss Violet Poole, is married to Mr H. M. Edmunds, of the Albert and Edmunds Troupe.

MR B. PEARCE LUCAS'S special matinée on Thursday next at the Bedford, in aid of the funds of the North-West London Hospital, Kentish-town-road, will be graced by the presence of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of St. Pancras, who will attend in state. Among the artistes announced to appear are Houdini, handcuff king; Madame Clare Palmer, Charles Bertram, the conjuror; Al. Lawrence, America's latest comedian; the Harmony Four (who will appear by permission of Mr Tom Barrasford); Tom Leamore, Sam Mayo, Gilbert Girard, Edith Etherley, society entertainer; and other prominent people in the world of entertainment. The Princess Christian gives her distinguished patronage Mr Lovesey is working hard to make the matinée a success, and is deriving much help from an influential local committee.

PUBLIC attention being turned with suddenness to the Russian capital, the management of the Alhambra Theatre on Tuesday night varied their Bioscopic "turn" by introducing several very clear and distinct animated pictures of the chief scenes of the lamentable massacres which disgraced St. Petersburg on Sunday last. These striking films will be projected upon the screen at the Alhambra every evening until further notice.

MY FANCY, who is giving her delightful entertainment this week at the Coliseum, is delighted at the receptions that have been given her by large audiences, to most of whom her sand dancing has been a revelation. Her act is staged in the complete way that characterises every turn presented at Mr Stoll's magnificent house, and it goes better than ever.

MR PAT DOHERTY, "the Irish M.P.," may be regarded as an admirable representative of Hibernian character and humour. He has become a special favourite at the Islington Grand, where he appears in the pantomime of *The Babes in the Wood*, at the end of the gorgeous Palace scene. His new song, "The Irish Dude from Galway," has been written and composed by Mr W. T. Gliddon, the musical conductor at the Grand. It is a very catchy melody; and the ditty and dance with which Mr Doherty concludes are nightly received with much applause. Pat's popularity continues to increase, and "the Irish M.P.'s" constituency is a constantly growing one.

"A BRIDE FOR A LIVING" has obtained an extraordinary hold on the variety stage. Mr John Lawson as the inventor, with his mad despair, strikes a true note, and Mrs Lawson as the sluttish wife gives a performance that is remarkable for its strength and realism. Nothing better in the way of histrionic achievement has been seen on the lesser stage.

MR FRANK WEEKS added much to the pleasure of the children of South London by organising a little entertainment in connection with the annual treat given to them by the Mayor of Southwark. The function, which took place in the Newington Public Hall, Manor-place, Walworth, was attended by over 500 youngsters, who heartily enjoyed the ventriloquial, punch and judy, and musical "shows" kindly sent by Mr Weeks.

MR HENRI CAZMAN has removed from Battersea-park to 138, Denmark-hill, S.E., where his agency is now conducted. Friends and clients will also note his new telephone number is "Ten Brixton," a number easily remembered.

MR BRANSBY WILLIAMS has been unable, in consequence of indisposition, to appear at the South London this week, as had been announced. His place, however, has been taken by Mr V. L. Granville, who has been responsible for some interesting impersonations of well-known actors in such characters as Matthias, in *The Bells*; Svengali, in *Trilby*; and Wilfrid Denver, in *The Silver King*.

MR CHARLES BEECHAM'S firm attitude at the Paragon the other evening quelled the tide of clamour in the gallery that threatened at one time to seriously interfere with the comfort of the audience and the efforts of the entertainers. Some of the gods, indulging in a spirit of cheap raillery, began to guy the artistes, and Mr Beecham determined to immediately stamp out the nuisance. Coming to the footlights he told the roughs up aloft that he would raise the prices if the disturbances were continued, and offered a reward of 10s. to anyone giving information concerning the ring-leaders.

THE Oxford will celebrate the twelfth anniversary of its reopening on Friday evening, Feb. 17, when Mr G. Adney Payne and his fellow directors will welcome a large number of their friends. Mr Albert Gilmer, as usual, is preparing a programme of enormous length and attractiveness, and the chief stars will be crowding on to the stage to add lustre to this very pleasant carnival.

WE are to have "Dante" at the halls, for there is shortly to be produced at one of the largest London palaces for the first time in England as a profound novelty, the whole of the principal events of the life of the Florentine poet and patriot, being dealt with in the space of twelve minutes. It is being brought to England by Messrs Louis Blanchart and Claude Roberts, of Hulme, Manchester.

THE Hackney and Shepherd's Bush Empires Company shows a very satisfactory balance-sheet, and the directors recommend a final dividend of 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the past half-year, making 15 per cent. for the year. The whole of the preliminary expenses will be written off.

"MISTER WATSON," a new musical comedy scene, will be produced at the Coliseum in February. Both words and music are by Frank Leo, who has been specially commissioned by Mr Oswald Stoll to write numbers for this particular theatre.

THE secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received the sum of £11 8s. 7d. from Mr Frank Weeks, the result of his efforts with the pence box at the South London Palace during December and January.

THE monthly committee meeting of the Music Hall Sick Fund will be held on Wednesday next at the York Hotel at 2 p.m. Since the last meeting several new members have been elected.

THE 390th meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Tuesday afternoon, Mr Joe O'Gorman, chairman of the committee, presiding. Mr G. Edgar Laban, of the Tivoli Theatre and Hotel, Barrow-in-Furness, was elected as agent in that town. The secretary reported that twenty-seven new members had joined during the past week, making a total number enrolled since the commencement of 11,171.

THE price of a lady's ticket for the M.H.A.R.A. dinner and dance has been fixed at 7s. 6d., and early application should be made for all tickets from the secretary. No seats can be reserved unless purchased on or before Thursday next.

COCO, the wonderful anthropoid ape, which is said to be the nearest approach to the human ever exhibited, will commence an engagement at the Palace Theatre on Monday. We referred to this marvellous creature last week. A great attraction in Mr Alfred Butt's present programme is the Bohemian quartet, Les Dumonds. They have not appeared for some years in England. Their entertainment reminds one forcibly of Les Minstrels Parisiens, who have paid several visits to the Palace.

THE report of the London Pavilion for 1904 states that the gross receipts for the year have amounted to £55,093, and the outgoings to £40,362, leaving a net profit of £14,731. The directors recommend a further dividend of £6 per cent. for the half-year ended Dec. 31, less income tax, making £9 per cent. for the year, leaving a balance of £1,871. It is proposed to deal with this balance by writing off £925 from the furniture and fittings account and carrying forward £947. In consideration of the purchase of the lease of 1, Piccadilly, for a term of years running concurrently with the lease of the theatre, the directors recommend that the premises, &c., account be reduced £2,000 by writing off this amount from the general reserve fund. The directors greatly regret the death of their late valued colleague, Mr R. E. Villiers, in April last.

IN future it will be possible for patrons of Collins's to secure in advance the one-and-sixpenny and two shilling seats. Some difficulty is experienced in regard to booking places in the gallery, in consequence of there being none of the ordinary tip-up chairs in that part of the house; but the directors hope to arrive at a solution of the problem in a week or so.

ANOTHER innovation will come into force at the "Hall on the Green" and at the London on Monday. A chorus of about a dozen trained voices will be placed in a specially reserved box in the balcony. It is evident that the Coliseum notions of entertainment and management are spreading rapidly.

A MOST interesting turn at the Coliseum is that of the Andos, a family of Japanese performers, who come straight from Tokio. They are acrobats, contortionists, and equilibrists. They are also artists, and their work has that delightful finish and smartness that seem the heritage of the plucky nation to which they belong. Magnificently attired in native dress they remove their gorgeous capes or paletots directly they have gravely curtseyed and salaamed to the audience. There is a youthful contortionist who bends for the purpose of getting hold of a handkerchief by means of his teeth, but the surprise of the whole performance is the marvellous balancing of the chief lady of this remarkable troupe, who gracefully accomplishes all sorts of seemingly impossible feats on a high pole which has no other support than her partner's shoulders. The Andos have a special curtain, and its beauty and originality reflect credit on the artistic ability of their countrymen.

THE father and mother of Mendel are both very ill, but that unfortunate circumstance has not affected his success in Glasgow this week. The young blind pianist was tested in a rather unique and difficult manner at the Edinburgh Empire on Saturday evening last. Messrs Handel, Garth, and Co., of George-street (the leading music firm), applied to the management for permission to send one of their pianolas to test with, and selected a piece which Mr Mendel had not heard before, although he is conversant with about 2,000 compositions, classical and miscellaneous. It was a grand galop chromatique, by Liszt, the first portion of which was played over. To the astonishment of Mr Garth and the audience it was faithfully repeated by the pianist, who was enthusiastically cheered. The performance would have been wonderful even if Mr Mendel had practised the difficult chromatic scales with which the piece abounds.

SHAWLENE, the original tramp artiste, has signed a contract for America. When he opens at the London Pavilion in February he will give operatic selections of a very attractive character. His date book is satisfactory evidence of his popularity.

SINCLAIR AND WHITEFORD, who have been complimented by Mr Tom Tinsley on their performance of their smart little sketch *Getting Even*, have several more dates booked with that genial manager.

MR NAT TRAVERS, the coster comedian, sailed yesterday for Australia, where he will amuse the Cornstalks with his Cockney impersonations. He will be returning to London in September.

MISS C. STROUD WILSON has been specially engaged by Mr G. Adney Payne at the Walthamstow Palace, where she is singing "A Summer Night" and "Comin' thro' the rye" with great success. Miss Wilson belongs to a family of singers, and is highly gifted vocally.

MISS VENIE BELFRY has been captivating audiences at the Tivoli this week, as the lady of the duo known as Clark and Hamilton, and her sprightliness and vivacity go to prove that the reports of her indisposition have been quite unfounded.

AFTER a connection of several years with the leading London agents, Mr A. E. Johnson has now opened an agency of his own at 4, Brixton-road, S.W.

THE Burlings have secured a clever comedy duologue, entitled *Your Aunt*, which is proving a big success at the Star, Bermondsey, this week. It is written by that clever writer, Jack Brownson, the author of *The Workman's Dream*, *Elizabeth and the Baby*, and many other successful duologues.

A GRAND American concert will be given at the Cosmopolitan Sporting Club, 241, Marylebone-road, W., on Sunday, Jan. 29. Most of the leading American artistes are members of this popular club, and the concert will be given under their auspices. Mr Bert A. Dorman is the manager.

SUSAN HARWOOD, thirty-nine, a widow, of Aspley-road, Walthamstow, was charged, on remand, on Thursday, with stealing a pair of opera glasses, the property of Charles Woolard. The prosecutor is the refreshment caterer at the Walthamstow Palace, and the prisoner has been employed as a cleaner at the theatre. On Jan. 11 Mr Woolard missed a pair of opera glasses from the bar and gave information to the police. A day or so afterwards Detective-sergeant Knott discovered that the prisoner had pledged the glasses for 3s. and arrested her, when she admitted her guilt. A fine of 20s. and 14s. cost was imposed, or fourteen days' hard labour.

MR OSWALD STOLL will add several novelties shortly to the Coliseum bill. Among these figure *The Military Maids*, a song scena, music by Walter Slaughter, to be performed by Miss Millie Hylton; *Gollywog*, in which Mr Will Bishop, the ballet master of the house, supported by Miss Sybil Lonsdale and Miss Bessie Butt, will introduce his famous "Gollywog" dance; and a Scotch musical sketch *The Bidan' Fishwife*, a character assigned to dainty Decima Moore, who will contribute a whistling solo. Speaking of whistling reminds us that Mr J. C. Piddock, who supports Miss Berthe Palliser, "the river girl," in such delightful fashion, is a sifflеur of remarkable attainments. His notes are flutelike in quality, and his shake is about the best we have heard. Mr Stoll will present the spectacle of *Port Arthur* next month. The services of Mr Frederick Villiers, the well-known war correspondent, have been requisitioned, so that there should be perfection of stage detail.

WITH the greater possibilities to be found on the Coliseum stage, *Dick Turpin*, as presented by Mr R. A. Roberts at that palatial pleasure resort, has become a very different thing to the crude little sketch we first saw at a suburban music hall. The upper room at the Spaniards on Hampstead-heath has quite an old-world air with its antique oak furniture and its ancient clock, and the revolving stage enables us to see the escape of Dick from the Bow-street runners on the back of his faithful mare Bonnie Black Bess. Mr Roberts's acting, too, was never better. His Yorkshire man is a capital study; and we are bold enough to say that the daring highwayman has never been played with greater dramatic force. In recognising the histrionic ability displayed we must not forget to compliment Mr Roberts on his remarkable quick changes. He can give points to any of the Italian artistes who have been seen in London in what is termed a Protean entertainment.

MR ALBERT CHEVALIER began his American engagements on the 16th inst. at the Circle Theatre, New York, and received an enthusiastic welcome. Chevalier made his first bow to an American audience at Koster and Bial's Music Hall in West Thirty-fourth-street, on March 23, 1896, and in the audience that greeted him on his return to the Empire City there were many who recalled the overwhelming success he scored on that memorable occasion. In fact, everyone seemed determined to show the famous character artist that he had not been forgotten in the nine years that had passed since his last visit, and the applause was so prolonged that it began to look as though it would be entirely unnecessary for him to do anything but stand there and bow. But at last he was allowed to begin, and his first offering was a musical monologue, entitled "A Fallen Star." This was a life-like representation of an old, forgotten actor, and was warmly applauded. "Wot fur do 'ee luv ol?" was an amusing portrayal of a yokel.

DESPITE the dialect, every word was understood and every humorous point appreciated. Then came Chevalier's French song, which emphasised the singer's versatility and cleverness, and won him a hearty round of applause. But the audience was evidently waiting for something, and when Chevalier made his appearance in "the pearlies" to sing "The Future Mrs 'Awkins" it was the old scene of nine years ago repeated all over again. The audience was wild with delight, and the extraordinary demonstrations that preceded and followed his inimitable depiction of the coy demeanour of the "donah" who became Mrs 'Enery 'Awkins made all the hand-clapping that had gone before seem comparatively tame and ordinary.

CHEVALIER was recalled again and again, and the tumult resolved itself into a veritable Babel, the audience being divided into factions. Some were shouting for "Knocked 'em in the Old Kent-road" and others for "My Old Dutch," but the latter was first favourite and won the decision. Chevalier had previously told an interviewer that if the audience asked for "My Old Dutch" he supposed he would have to give it to them. The supposition was well founded. In New York this song is universally regarded as Chevalier's masterpiece, and the judgment was confirmed before the singer had finished one verse of it. But, instead of satisfying the audience, it only made them greedy for more. The indications were that if Chevalier retired without singing "Knocked 'em in the Old Kent road" they would tear the house down. So, in order to avert a catastrophe, he sang it, and sang it in the old familiar style, so that the song was just as fresh and just as good as it was years ago. The audience enjoyed every word of it, and laughed at every gesture. The house was a unit of broad grins, and when Chevalier finished there was a final expression of approval which showed that he had scored a success of which any artist might well feel proud.

MRS CHARLES SUGDEN confesses to having suffered from severe nervousness last Monday evening at the Oxford on the occasion of her first appearance on the variety stage. Her scena, *The Pictures of the Year*, opens with a chorus "off" singing "Auld Lang Syne," and deals with the events of the past year, from the war in the Far East to the visit of King Edward to Paris, from the distress in West Ham to the return of Warner's team, with the ashes, from Australia. Mrs Sugden wears a charming dress of white silk net over silver gauze, with a pointed belt, and sparkling butterflies stitched into the delicate lace and chiffon of the bodice, while the elbow sleeves are full and transparent.

THERE is generally a great variety of costume to be seen on the Palace stage, and this week has been no exception to the rule. In a new turn given by the comic juggler, Wieland, he is assisted by a lady in a smart little frock of black velvet, with stiff underskirts of Cambridge blue, and knots of ribbon of the same colour in her hair. The Japanese contortionists, Yamamoto and Koyoshi, appeared in costumes the shade of the morning and evening primrose, elaborately embroidered in gold and green. Miss Victoria Monks, who is now singing one of her favourite old songs, "You must read your answer in the stars," wears a quaintly cut pale blue coat, with strips of lace insertion and a full chiffon collar over a pink dress, the panels of the skirt being a brocaded silk of full blown roses, and the big hat adorned with shaded blue ostrich plumes. The Dumonds, another new turn, give the first part of their sketch in a room in the Latin Quarter, the three men appearing in grotesque suits of varied colours, and the one lady of the party in a Quaker bonnet and plain dress of chocolate coloured cloth. When the scene changes to a Paris drawing-room, she also has made a quick-change into a Princess evening gown of faint maize, with a bold design of huge sparkling flowers and foliage and flounces of chiffon, fading from flame colour to white, the sleeves being different in shape and tint. One of them is merely a twist of white tulle, and the other a small puff, with a flower trailing round it.

MR HARRY PHYDORA, whose latest absurdity, "The Battersea Brigade," is one of the chief hits of the Coronet pantomime, tells many amusing stories of his various tours in the provinces and South Africa. At one theatre in Johannesburg he was so much troubled with rats that he would have given half his salary for the services of a Pied Piper. They were huge and fearless, so he saturated the floor with permanganate of potash and stuck candles in the ground in the hope of frightening the rats. But it was no use. When he left the stage, at the end of the play, and returned to his room the rats were all sitting in happy little groups upon the floor, eating the tallow with great relish. This is true—Harry Phydora says so.

THE LONDON MUSIC HALLS.

THE OXFORD.

The production of a novelty and the revival of a favourite sporting sketch drew an immense house to the Oxford on Monday, and the enthusiasm shown by the audience throughout a long programme proved that Mr Albert Gilmer had once more correctly gauged the tastes of his patrons. The appearances of distinguished actresses on the variety stage is somewhat rare; but we can point to Mrs Tree, who fulfilled an engagement at the Palace, and the lamented Miss Amy Roselle, who recited at the Empire, just previously to what proved her last voyage to Australia. Mrs Charles Sugden, who appeared on Monday, comes with high credentials from the legitimate stage, and it was quite certain that so accomplished an actress would be able to do justice to the light elocutionary task involved in the recitation of some verses from the graceful pen of Mr J. E. Macmanus. He has labelled the poem "Pictures of the Year." A lonely woman, giving rein to her fancy, muses by the dying firelight. Her musings are interrupted by the voices of children singing "Auld Lang Syne" as the new year dawns. She recalls the events of 1904, and touches with much felicity of expression on such widely varying subjects as the Russo-Japanese war, alien immigration, the Beck case, the starving poor of West Ham, and Mr Joseph Chamberlain. The verse concerning the popular member for Birmingham evoked the most applause; but there was also a sympathetic cheer for the deeply wronged Mr Beck. Mrs Sugden, who looked very charming indeed in shimmering white, gave her lines with fine elocutionary power, and she was most heartily received. The reproduction of a sporting sketch so completely realising the humour of the cockney crowd at a hurdle race was a wise move, and the strong cast playing *Over the Sticks* includes Mr Joe Elvin as Plodder Pilks. Mr Elvin is, of course, the head and front of the fun, and plays the part of Plodder Pilks with the most jealous regard for cockney and sporting slang. Plodder, to oblige his brother—the real jockey—sports the pigskin and wins the Sunbury Hurdle Handicap. Riding Fireworks, by Oxford, out of Record Run, the only Joe looks positively beautiful in scarlet and light blue, and his business with Rebecca, an elderly gushing spinster, is of that irrepressibly whimsical nature that sets the house in a roar. The setting of the scene is as ingenious as it is complete, and to find anything to compare with it on the variety stage would be impossible. The race between the thoroughbreds is most exciting, and the bustle and movement of the crowd argue an immense amount of pains on the part of the stage management. All the personages that one may see on the race course are represented at the Oxford, and the sports in the audience—by no means an inconsiderable section of it—express their approval, and certify by their applause the correctness of the stage picture and the racing details. Other parts in the production are played by Mrs Bennett, who languishes most comically as Rebecca; by Miss Florence Harcourt, an attractive representative of the heroine, Jesse Ricketts; by Mr Harry Gregory, a capital exponent of the character of the trainer, Ricketts; and Mr Harry Low, who acquits himself of his responsibilities as Arthur Pilks with much success. The entertainment at this popular hall is excellent in every particular; and the applause evoked by each item proves how well Mr Gilmer caters for his supporters.

THE TIVOLI.

Mr James Howell (who may be congratulated on his recovery from an attack of influenza) and Mr Arthur Yates on Monday presented Mr Bransby Williams in a new monologue entitled *Too Late*, by Marshall Masters. The trifle is somewhat crude and unconvincing, its chief merit being that it gives the young actor some opportunity for a strenuous display of his gifts. He impersonates the commander of a regiment on the frontier who has just signed the death-warrant of a gentleman-ranker named Harwood, condemned to be shot for an offence against a native woman. The conscience of the officer condemns him. By what right does he pose as the judge of another man, when he has betrayed that man's sister? A letter from his mother telling him that Dora is dead, by her own hand, pronounces a curse on the villain who has wronged her. The words sear his very soul, and after a scene of bitter self-reproach he falls dead while uttering the words, "The eye of God is upon me," not, however, before he has heard the shots that send Harwood to eternity. Another novelty of the bill is a new song, specially written by J. M'Manus for Mr Leo Stormont, entitled "The Fighting Man." The lines speak in stirring language of our sturdy forefathers, who made England great and won for us the Empire upon which the sun never sets, and the music has a capital swing, being written in march time. Mr Stormont also recited a piece dealing in no uncertain fashion with the curse of pauper alien immigration. Mr M'Manus, who is the author, does not mince matters, and his indictment of the evil is about as uncompromising as it can be. Mr Stormont instils a deal of power and virility into his declamation, and is much applauded. Mr Whit Cunliffe's song, "I would," still grows in length, and nightly he not only adds verses, but increases his already great popularity. George and Gusti Edler present an Alpine "incident" in the most charming way. A merry Swiss boy comes to the cottage of his fräulein, who derives the freshness of her voice and the bloom on her cheek from the mountain air. Quite a coquette is Lizette—not unwilling to woo, though at first a little coy. Max is quite happy, and listens to her jödelling with rapture, a feeling that is assuredly shared by the audience. A charming scene serves as a background to the act, which is very heartily applauded. The Hungarian singers and dancers, the Sisters Mousse, are new comers on the programme since we last noticed the hall, and their singing and dancing—if nothing extraordinary—is pleasant and piquant. They are pretty, and possess excellent figures. Mr Will Evans's descriptive burlesque of the woes of the serio Lucinda Wriggle, the victim of a printer fiend, who misinterpreted her advertisement, is one of the funniest things in the programme. Lucinda's vogue is gone. She no longer tops the bill, and though she still knows her business, audiences are not so kind as they used to be, nor are managers so eager for her services. Mr Evans treats the character in the extravagantly absurd fashion for which he has become famous, and his neat concluding dance adds to his success. Mr Jack Camp revels in parody, and his quaint imperturbable style is seen at its best in a skit on "All coons look alike to me," and in a descriptive absurdity burlesquing the actor-vocalist in most whimsical style. Mr Camp, on the night of our visit, returned to the footlights and treated his audience to an ingenious piece of "spoof," which created loud laughter. Mr Sam Mayo, in the early part of the evening, entertains in his own immovable way and sweet tranquil style, which seem to combine the least exertion with the heartiest fun. "The old tin can" is not a promising subject apparently, but one only has to hear Mayo talk about it—and beat it—to discover that its very hollowness is a source of laughter. Athas and Collins are old favourites at the Tivoli, and are as alert, funny, and as amusing as ever. Miss Collins is a capital burlesque actress, and Mr Athas has eccentric notions that make him very acceptable as a purveyor of fun. Miss Louie Freear is quite herself in songs which show off her amusing low comedy to the best advantage; Miss Vesta Victoria is a fascinating riding girl; and Clark and Hamilton are as bright and humorous as ever. Mr Tom Leamore's ballet girl is quite a peach; Mr George H. Elliott breathes the spirit of romance into his poetic portrait of a coon; and Miss Dolly Harmer's comedy is one of the most enjoyable features of the programme. Other turns include Mr Harry Freeman, Miss Ray Wallace, Mr Ian Colquhoun, and Miss Radie Furman.

THE LYCEUM.

Considerable alteration was made by Mr T. Barrasford in his programme on Monday, the only turns of the opening bill retained being the Harmony Four and the Lyceum Operatic Quartet. The first "four" mentioned include Schultz, a German professor, T. C. Bergeron; Happy Hooligan, a friend of Schultz, Edward Hughes; Mike Murphy, a painter, F. M. Barrett; and Reginald Asterbitt, a man of money, A. W. Ferguson. Though the musical men are thus labelled, the names count for nothing, as one cannot be distinguished from another, there being no dialogue. When the scene opens three of them are playing cards, at which obvious and easily-detected cheating is freely indulged in. A fourth plays the piano, and the lively music of the quick step sets the Happy Hooligan jigging. He takes the stage with a glad insouciance in his dance, and lets himself go in a number of noisy tricks. He quietly robs a singing companion with a sweet tenor voice, and drowns by his obstreperous behaviour and constant row the notes of the fiddler, who is putting his soul into the fine Intermezzo from *Cavalleria Rusticana*; but he has the house with him entirely, and his antics keep the stalls, balcony, and gallery in roars of laughter. He wears on his head quite jauntily a small tin can, and expresses his acknowledgments to those who so warmly encourage him by pulling down a blind with the words "Thank you" imprinted thereon. It was the lamented H. J. Byron who created the character of the melancholy clown. In contradistinction, the clowning Hooligan positively bubbles over with merriment; his fun is recklessly exuberant, and in its smartness quite electric. We have spoken of the fiddler—an excellent performer indeed, who delights the lover of music with the fine tone and inspiring expression he puts into his playing. Towards the conclusion of their performance the musical partly become almost serious, and produce sweet cadences in such concerted numbers as "Old Mother Hubbard." The reception of the "four" is exceptionally warm; and their favouritism is well deserved. The new comers include Al Lawrence, described as a "vaudeville mimetic comedian." All good comedians should be in a sense mimetic; and Mr Lawrence, who is obviously of Irish origin, is decidedly clever in his touches of humorous characterisation. He sings a song concerning Murphy; but his wonderful brogue and quick delivery somewhat handicapped him on the opening night. His humorous patter, to which he can add indefinitely, proved to be amusing, however, his description of a trust as "a large amount of money surrounded by swindlers" causing hearty laughter. Mr Lawrence's essays in ventriloquism were effective by way of variety, though there was nothing particularly original about them. Polyphony found its best exponent in Mr Edward F. Reynard, known as America's premier ventriloquist, who has a large number of mechanical figures, most ingeniously devised and worked as cleverly as they can be. The dog in a kennel—not in a manger—is a decidedly whimsical incident in a show that is full of surprises. Laughter was in the ascendant while Mr Reynard gave examples of his art, and he most unmistakably won the favour of the audience. Dog-training seems to have reached its highest point of excellence in the delightful performance of Mr Walton and Miss Ella's canine pets, consisting mostly of black and white poodles and fox terriers. They perform most divertingly on a rotary table on which they jump through hoops, and by an ingenious leaping arrangement the dogs in combination secure a fairly good rendering on bells of "The Last Rose of Summer." An active little terrier runs the loop, and the animals thoroughly enjoy their work, even though it involves the difficult cakewalk. Excitement is provided by Staig's motor sensation, in which a teacup track is raised and lowered while safety and motor cycle races are run. Early in the evening Miss Josephine Casaboni, a favourite prima donna from the Alhambra, made a most successful appearance. She is a performer of many graces and great charm; and her elegant opening divertissement was followed by a castanet dance, which was instinct with Iberian smartness and abandon. Acrobatics loom largely in the current bill. Browning and Wally display extraordinary strength of jaw in their wonderful teeth act; the Cattaneos are up-to-date somersaulters and shoulder tumblers who perform the human arch feat with no little smartness and eccentricity; and Michelo and Sandro, who are termed equilibristic tumblers, are responsible for a remarkable series of head balancing feats with apparatus and without. Music of the highest class is to be a strong card always in Mr Barrasford's scheme of amusement at the Lyceum; and his retention of the fine operatic quartet, which made such a sensation at the opening performance, enables him to continue his plan of giving excerpts from popular operas. On Monday the prison scene from *Faust* was given with admirable dramatic effect, and the powerful high notes of the representative of Marguerite rang through the house like a clarion. Mr Louis Reeder's excellent orchestra, of course, did much to make the excerpt worthy of any opera house. Other turns in the programme are Mr Tom Finglass, whose music, singing, and dancing are reminiscent of Mr Eugene Stratton. Like the older comedian Mr Finglass chooses for his principal impersonation a coon vagabond given to serenading, and makes him scarcely less picturesque. The programme winds up with a capital show of pictures, the story told by one of the films of a misunderstanding shared by a whole village being exceedingly amusing. Mr Alfred Selwyn, the manager of the house, ably represents his chief, and it is pleasant to meet "in front" the courteous Mr George Bull, who is the press representative.

THE MIDDLESEX.

The wholesale demolition by the London County Council of rows and streets of houses in the near neighbourhood of Drury-lane does not appear to have adversely affected the receipts at the Middlesex. It may be that many old inhabitants of the district who have been compelled to live elsewhere are disinclined to allow distance to interfere with their acquaintanceship with the Drury-lane hall, and so their patronage now is as steady and regular a thing as it was in the past. No one leaves the establishment this week without waiting until the finish to see Fred Karno's company in *Early Birds*. The lively scenes centred round a coffee-stall in the salubrious neighbourhood of Whitechapel afford fine sport for everyone concerned, and to the audience as onlookers the quarrelling and upsetting of everything and everybody are excruciatingly funny. Not less so is the sequel which takes place in a doss-house, where full opportunities are again given to the wonderful agility and knockabout capabilities of the Karnos. Earlier in the evening Mr J. G. Grahame and Miss Zerlina Harrington appear in a first-rate little dramatic playlet, entitled *A Daughter of Pleasure*. The episode tells the story of Jack Redfern, junior partner in a bank, who has arrived at Paris on his way to Bruges, where he is to meet and be accepted by his sweetheart. There is a condition, however, attaching to the fulfilment of the engagement. Jack is the bearer of £10,000, which sum is to save the credit of a bank at Bruges, and unless he arrives at that place by nine o'clock the following morning his mission will meet with failure, and he will lose his sweetheart. At the hotel where he stays for the night he meets a woman of loose character, whom he had known in former years. Becoming the worse for drink in her company he is foolish enough to display his bundle of banknotes, and she is not slow to take advantage of him, finally succeeding in drugging him and secreting the notes in her dress. While he lays on the floor in an unconscious condition, and she is about to leave the hotel, her attention is attracted to a letter which has fallen out of his pocket-book. She reads the address on the envelope, and suddenly realises that her wicked intentions, if carried out, would be disastrous to one for whom she has the greatest affection. The whole of her mother's savings are deposited in the bank, and, daughter of pleasure though she be, her love for her mother is too deeply ingrained to allow her to bring ruin upon a home which she has already disgraced. In her desperation she finds a remedy for bringing Jack to his senses, and he rushes off just in time to catch the train. The sketch is extremely well acted, and Miss Harrington and Mr Grahame may be complimented on their performance. Mr Jack Lorimer may well describe himself as a versatile comedian; his sense of the ridiculous is finely developed, and, when dressed up as a woman of uncertain age, he makes one laugh by his pianoforte playing, and sings of "The dear little Shamrock of Ireland." He goes on to dance and play the piano at the same time, and then, in a burlesque voice, he renders a few lines of "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep." He certainly makes the most of his eccentric notions. Comic acrobatics and cycling are indulged in by the Bristons, who seem to be made of wonderful stuff, judging by the number of times they are thrown from their machines. Cycle falls are not regarded as a blessing by the average man on the wheel, and the problem of how to get flung from a bicycle without hurting oneself might be solved by a study of the tactics employed by the Bristons. We doubt not, though, that should less experienced cyclists attempt these feats they would be conferring a benefit on the medical fraternity. The Sisters Casselli are two charming soubrettes and speciality dancers. In the latter department they execute some very graceful and intricate movements, their turn altogether being a very creditable one. For physical strength and neatness in the performance of a series of difficult gymnastic acts we commend the Four Estrellos. The troupe, consisting of three gentleman and one lady, hail from the Continent, where their remarkable muscular feats were greatly admired. Grotesquely attired in a shabby frock suit, Mr Tom E. Hughes explains the joys of "Sleeping in Hyde Park, three seats from the gate," and then goes on to impress upon his hearers that "it is better far to be a poor man with a contented mind than a millionaire like me." Very humorously does he dilate upon his experiences of the life he leads in the neighbourhood of the Park. Miss Minnie D'Aubyn receives high praise for her clever burlesque "business," and her "Drink with me" song has a very catchy chorus, which is sung with gusto by the house. Sibb and Sibb appear in a smart exhibition with the aid of the double trapeze; Roy and Fenton present an excellent musical comedy act; and the Katos' Komical Kidgets, with their automatic theatre; the Knick-Knacks, in their comedy and speciality act; Fred Dunstone, comedian; Ethel Loftus, comedienne and mimic; George Collins, eccentric; and Fred Wright, comedian, are also attractive in their different ways.

NEW-CROSS EMPIRE.

This luxurious variety theatre appears—if possible—to increase in popularity with each succeeding year. Its seating capacity was tested to its utmost limits on the night of our visit, dulness of trade and inclemency of weather notwithstanding. The first artist to appear is Rumbo Austin, whose troupe of boys, styled parody acrobats, cause much amusement by their somewhat clumsy and ineffectual attempts to imitate their tutor in his acrobatic feats. When an abnormally fat policeman arrives to enforce order the boys attack and vanquish him, and so bring their turn to an effective termination. Miss Ida Heath follows, and is very warmly welcomed and loudly applauded for her graceful and clever dancing, representing the widely different styles of various countries She is particularly successful in her Spanish song and dance. Miss Heath looks very charming in her pretty dresses. The next contribution is that of Jas. Bard, and it is of a novel and clever kind, his performance on a slack wire, where he cleverly manipulates hoops and fires a pistol and performs many skilful tricks which must be the result of much patience and endurance compel our admiration. He has a most able assistant in a cleverly trained dog. Next come the Three Laurels, with their speciality ping-pong table; these gentlemen win unbounded admiration for their marvellously easy and smart execution of clever acrobatic feats. Lukos Herford next appears accompanied by his four dogs, who perform many novel tricks with great intelligence and with evident delight in the applause they win so deservedly. Professor Bernar's marionettes are among the very best we have seen. The apparatus is very handsome and imposing, consisting of numerous private boxes (whose occupants vigorously applaud each performer), and a large orchestra, where a musician is busily employed, and a musical director, who conducts in approved style. The entertainment on the stage of the marionette theatre is unusually good and varied, consisting of a lady balancer, a clever horsewoman, a ballet with première danseuse, and a very pretty transformation scene with electrical effects. Miss Sable Fern has good reason to be pleased with her reception nightly; she is a great favourite here, and her songs "Where is the heart?" and "My lily of the valley" were rapturously applauded. Miss Fern has a style that is quite unique, and exactly suits her audience. The next comers are the Bounding Pattersons, whose clever performance on the double and triple horizontal bar is greatly relished. Miss Marie Collins, always popular in this district, causes much amusement and loud laughter by her spirited rendering of the song entitled "The man in the moon," and later on by her quaint and characteristic method of interpreting the song entitled "A Vegetarian Husband," in which she describes the hardships of having to exist solely on a diet of vegetables and fruits. The audience enter heartily into the spirit of the song. The long and excellent programme is brought to a conclusion by the entertainment submitted by Miss Ethel Arden and Mr George Abel, entitled *Three of a Kind*. This is a farce full of excruciatingly funny situations and complications, and keeps the house in a roar from start to finish. The principals have surrounded themselves with a thoroughly capable band of artists, who work together so well that the little episode is interpreted in almost faultless style, the fun never flagging for an instant. Miss Ethel Arden is a tower of strength in herself, and reminds us of the real good work she has done in the past when her lines lay among poetic drama. Mr George Abel supports in a spirited and altogether admirable manner. This contribution is an excellent investment on the part of the management, for it sends the audience home in the best of good humour.

THE GRANVILLE.

Down Walham-green way the Granville continues to brighten the leisure hours of its patrons, and under the beneficent sway of Mr Jesse Sparrow and his locum tenens acting-manager, Mr Ernest A. Bridgen, all comers can be sure of a good strong programme, full of novelty and amusement. The principal items this week consist of the sketches, which are three in number, viz., Mr and Mrs John Lawson and company, in *A Bride for a Living; Making it Up*, acted by Mr Charles K. Cooper and Miss Laura Hansen; and *The Revolt of Man*, enacted by Phillips and Terry. The most important of these is the thrilling Zolaesque episode, *A Wife for a Living*, in which all the sordid misery of the vicious among the lower classes is vividly depicted in graphically gruesome and realistic ghastliness of wretched detail. The story is that of an unfaithful wife—pretty and charming even in her squalid rags—who flirts with a married man, a purveyor of finery on the "hire system." Kisses are his usual payment from her, and a half-brother, Joe, is aider and abettor in her villainy. David, her husband, is a hard-working, frugal man, but little suited to her ideas or mode of life. At length the unexpected return of David from "the works," which prevents her jaunt to the Derby with her lover, decides her to make away with him. Lucas, her paramour, however, has made David drunk in order to put him off the scent, but in so doing has also become intoxicated. In plying his trade he has exchanged coats with David, and being mistaken for him is hanged with the aid of the mangle in lieu of the miserable husband. The scene ends with the death of the wife owing to shock acting on a weak heart, and so this sordid scene ends. The piece is most powerfully acted, especially by Mrs Jno. Lawson, who as Love, the despicable and dreadful woman who is David's wife, creates quite a *tour de force* with as clever a bit of character acting as we have seen for some time. Despite her squalid rags and slatternly appearance, we see the brightness and animation which fascinate the victims of this revolting being. Her *joie de vivre* and wanton love of pleasure peep out from the grimy clothes and unkempt locks of this abandoned wretch, who is ready to hang her husband and the father of her child for a paltry twenty pounds insurance-money. Mr Jno. Lawson is exceedingly good as the husband David, and his passionate grief when he discovers his wife's perfidy is aptly indicated. *Making It Up* we remember seeing as a curtain-raiser at the Fulham Theatre some time since. It is the story of two lovers who have quarrelled over some trifle, and being left on an island in the lake district by the rest of their party (who are in a launch), with every prospect of having to spend the night there sans food or comforts of any kind, decide to adjust their differences. The party return ere nightfall to find them once more affianced sweethearts. The piece was well and spiritedly acted by Mr Charles K. Cooper and Miss Laura Hansen. The third sketch, *The Revolt of Man*, is a frankly farcical absurdity, which the title sufficiently explains, though we may remark that the mere man is supposed to have been some hundred years in subjection and quite accustomed to his lot, till some enterprising male informs his species of their supremacy in bygone years, and a "secret society" starts a general uprising of poor down-trodden men. Phillips and Terry are screamingly funny in this piece, especially the down-trodden man. The Ragamuffins, a quintet of pseudo street musicians, produced and controlled by Mr H. G. Pelissier, proprietor of the Follies, also supply an excellent and noteworthy turn. Their rendering of the quaint and amusing and vastly popular ditty, "Oh! what a happy race we are," is exceedingly well received, and the audience cannot have too much of this good thing. Mr Whit Cunliffe proves himself an alert and able comedian in "Girls" and "I would." Miss Winnie Derson's ditty "I don't want to go to a beautiful fancy ball," in which she declares that 'a good old Irish jig is good enough for her," is immensely popular. Mr Syd Godfrey gives some capital imitations of Joe Elvin and Chirgwin. Edwards and Espinosa in their musical and dancing act display marvellous mastery of the banjo, and Espinosa dances delightfully, like all the rest of her clever calisthenically gifted family. Clown Charlton is a capital eccentric, and his electrical orchestra is a decided novelty worked as it is at a distance, and like a harmonium—with the feet. Roy and Fenton in their comedy act, Ara, Zebra, and Vora, Miss Ruby Bijou, Mr Will Toole, Miss Lillian Lowe, the Phantos, Miss Dora Clifford, and the Edisonograph complete this capital programme.

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"THE ERA" can be obtained at any of Smith and Sons' bookstalls throughout the provinces.

MUSIC HALL HOME MATINEE.

At the Camberwell Palace, on Thursday afternoon, a matinée was given in aid of the funds of the Music Hall Home. For an afternoon performance the gathering was a good one, and the thanks of those responsible for the distribution of the fund were due to the directors of the hall for having kindly granted the use of it on this occasion. Mr J. J. Fruin, the secretary of the committee, worked hard to get up a first-rate programme, and to make the function a financial and artistic success. The members of the committee who were present were Mr Jesse Sparrow, Mr H. Cory Woodrow, Mr Teddy Giles, Mr Charles Manley, Mr Walter Norman, Mr C. Douglas Stuart, Mr Ben Woodger, and Mr Rupert Burnham. The matinée received the active support and patronage of the Terriers' Association, who were well represented. The lady collectors were quite irresistible in their claims upon the charitably disposed, and charm of manner, combined with energetic "begging," resulted in a nice little sum being netted. The fair ones who had charge of this department were Miss Marguerite Broadfoote, Miss Flo Raynor, Miss Ada Norman, Miss Marie Shackleford, Miss Ettie Shackleford, and Mrs Giles. The members of the orchestra, under the able direction of Mr Leon A. Bassett, gave their services free, as also did the stage staff, under the experienced guidance of Mr B. Broadbridge, the stage-director of the Camberwell Palace. The programme contained the names of no less than forty-six turns, but, of course, time did not permit of the full list being presented, and some of the ladies who figured in the bill allowed their talents to be employed in other channels for the benefit of the same object, a few of them taking duty as collectors.

Miss Lily Burnand sang her well-known and popular song "Cheek, cheek, cheek!" and so well was it received that she had to respond to an encore. Miss Ruth Doris, a dainty, girlish little artiste, sang a pretty song about the doings of herself and her little brother. Devere and Kenwick were responsible for a well-rendered duet, "He was a sailor boy and wore a sailor hat.' They also cleverly executed some nautical dances. Mr Woolmer Young, who came upon the stage in smart military attire, sang a song, the subject of which was one Captain Archie, who in town had the reputation of being very "starchy," and a dude of the first water. But Archie was possessed of other qualities which opportunity and circumstance alone bring out, for he proved a hero on the battlefield. Mr Young imparts quite a dramatic touch to the conclusion of the song. Miss Katie Marsh, a talented sister of talented brothers—the Harvey Boys—gave several impersonations of well-known characters from plays. Her acting in the death scene of *East Lynne* deserved special commendation by reason of the dramatic intensity and the pathetic naturalness of her characterisation. Some clever juggling tricks were introduced by Francis, whose dexterous manipulation of a cannon-ball evoked considerable amusement. Miss Flo Penley and Mr English did some clever burlesque work, not a little of it at the expense of the old-fashioned tragic actor. A laughable sketch has been written round the love entanglements of a mother and her daughter, and the result as presented by the Empire players was a most entertaining little playlet, ably acted throughout. Miss Marguerite Broadfoote voiced an old favourite to the chorus of "He-ho-rum-tum," in which a variety of topics was touched upon. An encore was demanded, but the charming comedienne was unable to respond to it in consequence of the length of the programme. The Clown Charlton, in addition to exercising himself in an acrobatic way, gave a selection on the concertina, which proved his ability as a player of that instrument The Leotard Brothers provided an exhibition of hat-throwing extraordinary, perhaps their most remarkable feat being the tossing of half-a-dozen pierrots' hats from the foot of one of the Leotards to the head of the other while the first was executing a somersault. Other artists who assisted in this charitable enterprise were Fred Eustace and company, in their sketch *Our Curate*; the Max Trevally-Harley troupe of gymnasts and acrobats, the Sisters Hall, Clark and Gold, Millie Harris, the Sisters Desmond, Forest and King, and Presto.

MISS ETHEL WALKER'S RECITAL.

A lady humourist, whose refined sketches at the piano have amused audiences at the Tivoli, and who has similarly entertained the admirers of Mr Albert Chevalier, gave proof of equal ability, at the Croydon Literary Institute on Thursday, to delight a suburban audience. Miss Walker, who combines with a prepossessing appearance an easy confidence and finished style, makes her points with artistic emphasis. The flexible quality of her voice lends agreeable variety to its intonation, and a profound sense of humour and capacity for conveying it over the footlights make her mirth-moving powers irresistible. Miss Walker's versatility was well tested on Thursday, when Nesbit's poem "The Singing of the Magnificat" figured amidst a large selection of frankly funny items, for seven of which Miss Walker was alone responsible. Among the most amusing was the musical sketch *Harmony Hall*, in which the varied accomplishments of a music-loving manége were described at the piano with rare humour, the finishing lay, "A handy little thing to have about you," being abundantly prolific of merriment. The witty lines of the songs "No" and "It does go" were brought out with the same merry results; while in the pretty ingenuousness of "The Telegram" and the satire of "The Absent Minded Lady" the fair monologuist was equally at home. In the duologue *The Crystal Gazer* Miss Walker was joined by her sister, Miss Nellie Walker, and the odd misunderstandings that spring from the mistake of a wily sorceress, who imagines that her fair visitor is seeking information of a lost dog when she is trying to trace a mislaid lover, were made very droll. The audience, as they had good reason to be, were lavish of applause, and encores were frequent throughout the evening. Many were also won by some excellent artists who contributed to the programme, among which variations on the scala by Mr Ernest Bishop and the masterly pianoforte solos of Mr Frederick Moore were appreciated to the full. Miss Carrie Herwin employed a rich contralto in "Daffodils a-blowing" and other songs, all of which were redemanded. Mr Edward W. Groocock played the accompaniments with admirable taste, and the excellence and variety of the evening's entertainment amply repaid the patronage of the crowded audience.

THE MUSIC HALL BENEVOLENT FUND.

MR JOSEPH LYONS' CHRISTMAS APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION.

	£	s.	d.
Donations already announced	73	7	6
H. F. Moss	50	0	0
F. Macblane, of Calcutta	2	0	0
John Lawson	1	1	0
Harry Conlin	0	5	0

Secretary, HORACE MARRIOTT.
Offices: 18, Adam-street, Strand.

The president wishes it to be known that the funds have almost given out, and that immediate help is required

CHARLIE OSBORNE, who has helped so many "stars" to shine, is busy with the words and music of a new musical farce for the Tally Ho Trio, who will produce it during their forthcoming engagement at the Palace Theatre. Mr Osborne's song on the St. Petersburg massacre, sung by him at the Royal last Monday night, was an uproarious success.

SHOWMEN'S MEETING.

(SPECIALLY REPORTED FOR THE ERA.)

The fifteenth annual meeting in London of the United Kingdom Showmen and Van-dwellers' Protection Association (the Showmen's Guild) was held at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Wednesday, under the presidency of Mr Fred Bibby (of Messrs J. Bibby and Co., Manchester). Amongst those present were the Rev. Thomas Horne, hon senior chaplin; Mr T. Watson Wright, Parliamentary solicitor; Mr Thomas Hurst, hon. secretary; the Rev. Mr Devereux, Vicar of St. Mary's, Hoxton, hon. local chaplain; Mr John Whiting, Mr J. H. Geoghegan, Mr Gray, Mr Hartshorn, Mr and Mrs Turnbull, Mr and Mrs Holland, Mr Toft, jun., Mr R. Tidman, Mr S. D. Mellor, Mr Marshall Hill, Mr and Mrs W. Murphy, Mr Campbell, Mr and Mrs G. H. Kemp, Mr John Studt, Mr John Studt, jun., Mr T. Read, Mr J. Wilson, Mr and Mrs B. Howden, Mr and Mrs H. Wallis, Miss Wallis, Mr A. Ball, Mr H. Hughes, Mr Andrew Purchase, jun., Mr W. Whyatt, Mr W. Bedford, Mr Gibson, Mr Thomas Smith, Mr B. T. Burnett, Mr P. Collins, Mr and Mrs E. Farrar, Mr and Mrs W. Pedley, Mr and Mrs J. Cottrell, Mr John Hastings, Mr Thomas Clarke, Mr and Mrs W. Taylor, Mr and Miss James Berry, Mr and Mrs John Barker, Mr Frank Bostock, and others.

At the opening of the proceedings the Rev. T. HORNE said that in the unavoidable absence of Lord George Sanger, who they would be very sorry to hear was lying seriously ill at his residence, Park Farm, East Finchley, he would nominate as chairman of the meeting their tried and very old friend, Mr Fred Bibby, of Manchester.

THE CHAIRMAN, who was received with cheers, said he felt it a great honour to preside over that meeting, but he deeply regretted the absence of their esteemed president, Lord George Sanger. However, he would do the best he could in that gentleman's absence. As they were aware, that was a meeting of showmen and van-dwellers, and by showmen he meant all those who followed the calling of travelling to fairs for the pleasure and enlightenment—if he might use the term—of the toiling masses—those who had to work by the sweat of their brow, closely confined in mills, factories, workshops; it was for these that the showmen endeavoured to provide amusement after a hard day's work. The entertainments were not given in gorgeous palaces made brilliant by the electric light, but the amusement provided was something which had been understood and appreciated by the masses from time immemorial. The show people tried to brighten the lives of these toilers by giving them a pure entertainment under the broad canopy of heaven. Many looked down upon the showmen's calling, and said "They are only showmen." They did not realise that so many people, from the highest to the lowest, were showmen. Why, one of the greatest showmen of the last century was William Ewart Gladstone, and a political showman of the present day was seen in Winston Churchill. And the travellers and van-dwellers were in their own line quite as bright and intelligent as the political showmen he had referred to. Referring to the revival services and the like, he said that at the present time there was a puritanical wave which threatened to overwhelm the showmen, and, indeed, entertainers of every kind, if it were not checked in its course. After a brief reference to the Parliamentary work done by their Executive Committee in opposing Bills containing objectional clauses, the chairman called attention to the report in the *Manchester Evening Chronicle* of an address delivered by the Rev. W. A. Harrison on the morals of Wigan. That gentleman's remarks did not apply to show people. He said there were six outstanding vices. The first was Sunday trading. He (the chairman) ventured to assert that no travellers present were addicted to Sunday trading; six days' hard work were quite enough for them. Mr Harrison next mentioned pigeon flying and late dancing. It was true that the showmen once or twice a year indulged in late dancing, but he did not know anything about pigeon flying. The reverend gentleman next mentioned gambling. Well, no doubt some of the travellers did sometimes engage in a game of ha'penny nap. According to Mr Harrison, two of Wigan's chief vices were immorality and drunkenness. He (the speaker) would not say that the showmen were all teetotallers; but he might remind them that they had a strong temperance organisation conducted by Miss Millington. In conclusion the chairman strongly condemned the attempt which had been made to suppress the Wigan Fair.

The Rev. THOS. HORNE, the hon. organising chaplain of the Guild, said he had a very melancholy duty to perform. Their esteemed president, the father of his people, the doyen and leader of the showmen, had been stricken by a very serious illness, and he would read them the letter he had received from Lord George Sanger, in reply to his own. It was as follows:—

Park Farm, East Finchley,
London, N.W.

My dear Mr Horne,

I thank you very much for your sympathising letter of yesterday. It is wholly out of the question my attending the meeting to-day. The fact is I cannot move off my back, from a chill which I caught on Christmas Eve. I have kept my bed, with the exception of two days, up to the present time. I have had bronchitis, pneumonia, and chronic sciatica, I think in its very worst form, and although it is not possible for me to attend the meeting, you and my fellow vandwellers, and, in fact, all concerned, have my warmest interest in your business of to-day. I herewith enclose you cheque for £100 for the good of the cause, my usual donation. With kind regards,

Yours truly, L. G. SANGER.

He moved that at the close of the meeting a telegram of condolence be sent to Lord George Sanger expressing the heartiest sympathy and the sincerest good wishes for his speedy recovery and return to vigour.

The CHAIRMAN seconded the resolution, which was put to the meeting and carried.

The Rev. T. HORNE said it was now his duty to give his annual address. From the very commencement of this work of defence he had attended the London meetings except when he had been prevented by illness or the pressure of parish work, as well as the annual meetings held in various parts of the country. It had been very interesting to him to watch as he had done the growth of this great movement, which had had for its object three very important things. First and foremost they, as citizens of the British Empire, formed an association for the protection of their common interests; they were banded together in order to enlighten prejudiced and narrow-minded public opinion, as well as to enlighten the general public as to its own interests in the ancient pleasure fairs of the kingdom. For more than fourteen years they had been associated in this common and very necessary enterprise, and had defended the rights and privileges of the showmen before both Houses of Parliament. He had interviewed archbishops, bishops, and other dignitaries of the Church, organised in the great centres of life, hon. chaplains and committees headed by local clergymen and ministers of religion. They had been able not only to inform the public upon any particular point, but had been able—as at Wigan—within twenty-four hours to concentrate all their fighting forces in defence of their own interests and those of the public. They had safeguarded the interests of a business, trade, and craft—a craft that was not of mushroom growth—and whose vocation was closely indentified with the growth of the British Constitution. There was scarcely a page in the history of the country that had not some reference to the itinerant entertainer of the people. How was the growth of the fairs explained? Nine out of ten of the old fairs had their origin in the holy days which were followed by holidays, and to which the showmen came with their entertainments. At first they consisted of a few tumblers, who, with the assistance of a trained horse, would give an equestrian performance on the village green. This, of course, was long before the circuses, the hippodromes, and the palaces of entertainment came into existence. Indeed, long before the theatre, and ages before the concert hall, the travellers and showmen of the country were the entertainers of the people. Therefore they could boast an ancestry which they could trace back to the very beginning of organised social life in England. They were intertwined with the very basis of the advance of political liberty, religion, and thought in this country. They saw on the wall behind him a large poster calling a meeting in Wigan. He landed in the town at ten o'clock on the previous Thursday, and by two that poster was on the walls and being carried about the town by board men. Before the evening was over they had circularised the whole of the Corporation and a great many of the clergy. Altogether they sent out about 400 circulars protesting against the vile aspersions made against the show people. They would find a full report of the meeting that was held at Wigan in *The Era* of this week, and they would see how their interests had been safeguarded, and that the Executive Committee were not asleep. The speaker then gave details with regard to the meeting and its successful result, and, proceeding, said he was glad to be able to tell them that the Guild had passed a very awkward corner during the past twelve months. They found that the expenditure exceeded the income, the balance was on the wrong side, and they made an appeal through the columns of *The Era* and from their public platforms for additional support. He was proud of the fact that as soon as the showmen realised the importance of the work that was being carried on in their interests they put their hands in their pockets very deeply, and liberally provided the sinews of war to carry on the defence work. The British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union—to their credit, be it said—subscribed very liberally to the Parliamentary Defence Fund work, and he had great pleasure in announcing that another good showmen's organisation, the North of England Stall Holders and Amusement Caterers' Amalgamated Society, passed a resolution at a recent meeting authorising the grant to the Defence Fund of 2s. 6d. from every subscription received by the Society. Thus they had managed to get round the awkward corner. They had been able to pay all their Parliamentary expenses, and yet had a few pounds to the good. The speaker next referred to his recent settlement in London, remarking that the Vicar of St. Mary's, Hoxton, had given him an opportunity of performing his spiritual work as a curate of the church, while at the same time he should be able to carry on, without let or hindrance from anybody, his work among the travelling showmen of the kingdom. Their thanks were also due to the proprietor and manager of *The Era* newspaper. Originally consisting of one column only, the news under "The Showman World" heading now filled a page. In *The Era* the showmen were treated not only fairly but, he thought, generously. Their meetings, &c., were properly reported, and *The Era* had always championed their cause. It was this journal that detected the venomous evil in the legislation sought to be introduced by the late Mr George Smith of Coalville. It gave him, as their hon chaplain, the greatest pleasure to look after their interests; and for the spiritual and educational work he had done he had never received the value of a shoe lace, because it would be doing them a great disservice, as people would say he was a parson who had his own axes to grind. He had, therefore, never received payment from them as their advocate in the Press, or as propagandist on the platform. He was the son of show people; he was born in a caravan and was cradled on the road. Although he eventually went to Oxford University his heart and soul were always with his own people—the people of the road. There was a story told of a Yankee and an Englishman who got into a discussion as to whether the English or American painters were the cleverest. The Englishman remarked, "We have got some beautiful paintings in our Royal Academy." "Yes," replied the Yankee, "they are all very good, but an artist down West where I come from was once commissioned to paint a sign board for a temperance hotel. He painted a table with a lovely damask cloth on it, and then a bottle of ginger beer with the cork in, but before he had time to paint the string the bottle burst and spoiled the picter." What the American painter failed to do he wanted to do—to put the string on. He wished them to bear in mind this important fact, that the executive of the Showmen's Guild were fighting their cause as well as their own. The executive gave much valuable time in organising the defence of the showmen's rights and interests, and if at the end of the year they had to admit that the society was in debt it was a dishonour and a shame to the showpeople as a body. There was not a showman present who could not afford to give 5s. as an annual subscription; and no traveller from fair to fair throughout the land had any right to the protection of the Society unless he supported it with his money. There were men present who were better able to afford "a fiver" than some could afford a "dollar." He hoped that the gentlemen of the press understood these terms. They ought to have £200 in the reserve fund, so that any corporation that was inclined to interfere with the showman would have to meet a well-organised and well-equipped association that would defend to the last penny of their resources the interests of showmen. In conclusion, the hon. gentleman strongly urged that if they wanted protection, they must join the Society, and furnish it with ample means for defence against those who, without just cause, attacked them.

Mr T. WATSON WRIGHT, of Leicester, the hon. solicitor of the Society, gave an account of the Parliamentary work which had been carried on by the Association during the past twelve months. It was started in the year 1890, its object being to oppose certain mischievous legislative proposals with which the late George Smith had a good deal to do. There were a large number of people in the country who were endeavouring to do away with the fairs, wakes, and feasts in their localities, and the Association was formed to defeat these intentions. Many of the borough councils approached the Government departments for the purpose of getting bye-laws passed that would put a stop to the holding of fairs in their respective districts. These bye-laws were carefully scrutinised by the executive of the Society, and wherever it was found that a law was bad and unconstitutional representations were made to the Home Office and to the Local Government Board, with the result that the bye-laws objected to were not adopted. At the present time the Home Office would not confirm any bye-laws unless it was satisfied that they were in accordance with the main principles of the law of the land. Thus a very great point had been gained for the showmen, and now they had very little to fear from new bye-laws. But a greater danger to their interests had arisen during the past five or six years. When a Bill was being promoted in Parliament by a local governing body with the object of obtaining some improvement it was a common practice to insert certain clauses which, if they became law, would inevitably prevent showmen from carrying on their business in certain localities. There were between fifty and one hundred local Acts applied for every year, and in 1900 they found that over a dozen of these local Acts contained clauses objectionable to showmen. The Association petitioned Parliament—either the Lords or the Commons—against the passing of these clauses into law, and were successful in their object in every instance. If these objectionable clauses had become law, the probability was that other local authorities would have followed suit, and throughout the country the business of roundabout proprietors and showmen would have been stopped. Thus a great danger had been averted by the Association. In opposing the objectionable clauses before the Parliamentary Committees they had obtained the services of the best counsel, and the absurd statements made by the witnesses called by the local bodies were completely disproved, while the witnesses called by the Association satisfied the committee that the showmen were carrying on a legitimate and lawful occupation. Mr Evan Charteris, in his opinion one of the best lawyers at the Parliamentary bar, appeared for the Association, and ably conducted the cases he was entrusted with. Last year nine Bills were promoted which contained clauses which would interfere with showmen, but through the action of the Association these objectionable clauses were withdrawn, though in some cases they were withdrawn at the last moment, thus putting the society to considerable expense in preparations for defence. The Association had a good case and good witnesses, and were therefore bound to succeed. In the Acton case the Parliamentary committee allowed the Association their law-costs—a very rare occurrence, but it was held that the proceedings by the promoters of the Bill were of a vexatious character. This Session of Parliament only one Bill containing a section calculated to interfere with showmen had been introduced. This showed that the promoters of Bills had come to the conclusion that it was useless to introduce in them unconstitutional clauses calculated to injure a respectable class of people, who had a capital of one and a half millions of money invested in roundabouts, &c. The Bolton local authority proposed to introduce objectionable clauses in a Bill, but on receiving a letter from the hon. secretary of the Association, Mr Hurst, threatening opposition, these clauses were struck out. In a Bill promoted by the Colne Corporation there was a clause to prevent any fair being held in the market-place or other thoroughfare in the town, and this had also been successfully opposed, the clause in question having been withdrawn. Thus it would be seen that the Association had more than justified its existence. They all regretted the serious illness of Lord George Sanger. He had stood forth as a bright example to every showman, and would be to the last day of his life. Mr Sanger had been a successful man, and he believed that their president had not an enemy in the world. On the contrary, he was respected and liked by all. In conclusion, Mr Wright urged his hearers to continue to stand up for their legal rights and the privileges they now enjoyed.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed "That this meeting heartily thanks the Executive Committee and officials for the good work done in 1904, and approves of the annual report."

Mr SAM MELLOR seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN next moved "That this meeting expresses, in the name of the showmen of the empire, its condemnation of the attempt to abolish Wigan Old Chartered Fair, one of England's historic fairs, and joins with the successful protest of the local showmen voiced at a recent public meeting held under the auspices of the Guild in Wigan."

Mr B. T. BURNETT seconded the resolution, which was carried.

The Rev. T. HORNE then read a list of subscriptions received.

The Rev. N. J. DEVEREUX, hon. local chaplain, next addressed the meeting, pointing out to the showpeople that a great deal depended upon themselves. They would be the observed of all observers, and would be watched by those who wished to do away with their calling. They should, therefore, be always on their guard and endeavour to show that a happy life and a religious life were quite compatible.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the usual supper and ball had fallen through this year, but Mr Read and the Committee were not in any way to blame. The small balance of £5 remaining in Mr Read's hands would be handed over to the Society's funds.

The Rev. T. HORNE said that next year they hoped to revive the supper and ball.

Mr W. TAYLOR proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, the speakers, the Press, and Messrs Read for the use of the room.

Mr T. READ, in response, said he should do in the future as he had done in the past, and explained it was not his fault that there would be no supper and ball that evening.

The CHAIRMAN also replied, and the meeting then separated.

FOOTBALL.

BRISTOL X.L.C.R. AND HARRY HARE'S ORCHESTRAL BAND ATHLETIC CLUBS v. MUSIC HALLS A.F.C.

Played on Clifton Downs on Jan. 21. The following were the teams:—

Bristol X.L.C.R. and Harry Hare's Orchestra, Band Athletic Clubs.—H. Belding (captain), goal; J. Lewis and T. Smith, backs; S. Carter, F. Stevens; and A. E. Bailey, half-backs; I. Hamlin, E. Belding, A. Mattock, H. Edwards, and H. Clements, forwards.

Music Halls A.F.C.—F. B. Nicholls, goal; J. Tyley and F. Arni, backs; T. Neagle (captain), J. Lacey, and W. Hinder, half-backs; P. Reardon, B. Cullen, F. Hansford, H. C. Douglas, and W. Meadows, forwards.

Referee, A. Hamlin (captain, H. Hare's Orchestral Band A.F.C.). Linesmen, H. Hare and A. Cox. Result:—Bristol X.L.C.R. and Harry Hare's Orchestral Band Athletic Clubs, one goal; Music Halls A.F.C., four goals. Messrs H. Clements, J. Lacey (three), and F. Arni scored the goals for their respective sides.

"HAZELL'S ANNUAL" for 1905 has reached its twentieth year of issue, and it retains all those features which render this publication so valuable as a handy work of reference. It is indeed what it claims to be, "a Cyclopædic Record of Men and Topics of the Day," and the red cover bears the appropriate Shakespearian quotation "Avaunt, perplexity." One has only to consult the copious index, alphabetically arranged, which has now become a permanent and indispensable feature, and he will find reference to any subject perfectly easy, whether it be Alien Immigration, the Fiscal Question, Freemasonry, or the Housing of the Working Classes. A large number of new articles appear in the present edition. We may, however, suggest a revision of the list of leading newspapers which omits all mention of *The Era*. As instances of the special character which is given to the present Annual, the articles on "Canals, British and Foreign," "Esperanto," "The Triple Alliance," "The Textile Industries of the World," and "Vagrancy and Labour Colonies," the accounts of the political parties of every important foreign country, the Monroe Doctrine, and the Anglo-Japanese Agreement, the biographies of Foreign and Colonial statesmen and notabilities, the summary of the most important legal decisions of the year, and the review of the chief industrial engineering schemes throughout the world, may be specified, though the list could be indefinitely extended.

BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES.—All suffering from irritation of the throat and hoarseness will be agreeably surprised at the almost immediate relief afforded by the use of Brown's Bronchial Troches. People troubled with a hacking cough, a slight cold, or bronchial affections cannot try them too soon, as similar troubles, if allowed to progress, result in serious pulmonary and asthmatic affections. See that the words "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are on the Government stamp around each box. Sold by Chemists everywhere, 1s. 1½d. per BOX.—[ADVT.]

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

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PROPOSED ABOLITION OF PLEASURE FAIRS.

(SPECIAL TO THE ERA.)

AT the committee meeting of the Showmen's Guild, held at their headquarters, the Black Lion Hotel, Salford, immediately after the Manchester annual gathering, the question of the society's action with reference to Wigan Fair was taken into consideration. Mr Thos. Hurst reported the action taken by himself and the executive officials. The correspondence was read and discussed, and it was resolved that vigorous measures be taken at once to vindicate the traduced character of the showmen.

THE Rev. T. Horne, Mr T. Watson-Wright, and Mr Hurst were deputed to go to Wigan and arrange for a public meeting at the earliest possible moment. In consideration of the fact that a large number of delegates from all parts of the United Kingdom were then in Manchester an earnest "whip" was issued to the effect that these delegates should hold themselves in readiness to go to Wigan and make a demonstration in force. The work of preliminary organisation was undertaken by the hon. chaplain at the request of the committee.

THE following morning (Thursday) found the rev. gentleman at work. Within a few hours the best public hall in the town was secured, and large posters announcing the showmen's protest meeting blazed upon every wall in "Coalopolis." A carefully-worded protest or petition was sent to each member of the Borough Council and its officials, to every clergyman and minister of religion, and to every local notability. This work occupied two typists, under the supervision of the hon. chaplain, during the greater part of Thursday and Friday. The Rev. T. Horne, on behalf of the showmen, interviewed the Mayor, the chief clerk (in the absence of the town clerk, Alderman Phillips), and other gentlemen, and the result was one of the most successful demonstrations ever held on behalf of the showmen of the Empire.

WE are indebted to the *Wigan Examiner* for the substance of the following report:—

A largely attended meeting, under the auspices of the Showmen and Van Dwellers' Protection Association (the Showmen's Guild), was held in the Old Court Hall, King-street, Wigan, on the 20th inst., "to protest," as announced, "against the proposed abolition of the Wigan Pleasure Fairs, and to answer the unwarrantable aspersions cast upon the tenants of the corporation show ground in particular, and the showmen of the empire in general." Mr Thomas Hurst, of Manchester, honorary secretary to the Guild, presided, and was supported on the platform by the Rev. T. Horne, hon. chaplain and organiser; curate of St. Mary's, Hoxton, London; hon. chaplain and organiser to the Guild, and Mr T. W. Wright, C.C., of Leicester, hon. solicitor; Mr George Green, Preston; Mr H. J. Wallis, Liverpool; Mr John Whiting; Mr Wm. Holmes; Messrs E. Clegg and T. H. Garside, of Manchester; Messrs Mitchell and Sons, Heywood; Mr J. Geoghan, Oldham; Messrs Toft and Turnbull, Dublin; General Wilmot and Mr Jas. Wilmot, Glasgow; Mr Sidney Brahm, London; Mr Tom Smith, Sheffield; Mr H. R. Hibbert, Stockport; and many others.

MR HURST said that they (the showmen) were in Wigan that night to defend themselves against the unwarrantable attacks made upon them and their calling by certain individuals. What had been said was open and notorious; everybody had seen it, and as the effect had been so widespread, so their answer must sound through the length and breadth of the land. They did not expect a chairman to do more than his allotted duty, viz., to preside over their deliberations; he, therefore, asked a fair hearing for the speakers who had the showmen's case in hand.

THE Rev. T. Horne remarked that it might be thought a curious thing to see a parson of the Church of England identifying himself with the travelling showmen, but he was not alone in this sort of enterprise, for it would be seen from the bills and posters that he was in very good company indeed. It was now more than fourteen years since the showmen found their business in considerable peril from the action of certain people who held somewhat the same ideas as others did in Wigan, and thought that the best thing they could do with the showman was to improve him off the face of the earth, and in order to do so introduced a Bill into Parliament. If that Bill had become law it would have been practically impossible for any showman to have his home upon wheels with him while attending fairs. But the showmen met and formed a trades union, as he would call it—he was a trades unionist to the backbone, and once tried to start a trades union of parsons—and they went to Parliament and knocked the Movable Dwellings Act into smithereens. The Guild represented the interests of 70,000 people carrying on an honest, straightforward, industrial employment. When the Guild was started a violent attack was made upon the showmen by a certain philanthropic gentleman.

THE whole of the Press of England was fed with paragraphs wherein this man sought to show that he had travelled with and had lived with showmen for a period long enough to justify his crusade against them. Letters in the public press by the man referred to roused his (the speaker's) indignation, and he wrote to the London papers. The result was that the showmen discovered him to be a man who would speak up for them, and invited him—he was then in Yorkshire—to come to Manchester and champion their interests at a big meeting there. The showmen were in trouble in Wigan. There were gentlemen on its Town Council who did not hesitate to use the most abusive language at their command about the showmen when they were not present to speak for themselves, snatch a vote in the Council in order to do away with the pleasure fair. These would-be abolitionists of the pleasure fairs of the people never thought of abolishing their own pleasures—oh, no! If they carried out their plans, according to their nice ideas, there would be no fair. He was there to lead a rebellion. They must not allow the men they had sent to govern the town to interfere with business that did not concern them.

LET them stick to gas, water, and sanitation. It was an act of impertinence for the Wigan Town Council to assume that they had the power to interfere with the pleasure fair against the will of the people. He was there as a lover of righteousness to appeal to Wigan for justice, not for mercy or favour. Could it be wondered at that those they saw on the platform were indignant at the cruel remarks made about them in the Wigan Town Council, and were up in arms about it? One of the representatives in the Wigan Council said that the consequence of every fair was disease, disaster, and death. These were sweeping charges; was the bringer of them prepared to prove them? Did the men around him look like dying men, like moral wrecks, or anything of that sort? Disease, disaster, and death! It was an unwarrantable assertion. The showman himself was prepared to go into the witness-box and prove that his moral character, his domestic life, his care for wife and child, and his loyalty to his King would compare favourably with that of any other class. He did not say that showmen were any better than other men, but as a minister of God he could say that they were quite as good as others. Alderman Johnson said in the Town Council that the public mind had been enlightened in regard to the iniquity of the Wigan Pleasure Fair. Did they remember ever being enlightened about it? Did he ever call a public meeting to tell them. Had he ever before told them in public or in private about this iniquity? He had been making an inquiry into this matter during the last few days, and an alderman who did his best to prevent the resolution adopted by the Council being passed told him that he had made inquiries, and had only been able to trace one case on which Alderman Johnson could found his charges. A man occupying an important position in the town should learn to use suitable language, and not get up and talk about fairs bringing "disease, disaster, and death." His story was like that of the three black crows, or of the scores of black cats on the wall, which dwindled down to one. He challenged Alderman Johnson to meet him to debate the question publicly in that hall. No fair could be abolished under the statute law of this country without the vote of the people of the town being taken. If the people of Wigan did not want the fair that was another matter. He contended that it provided cheap and harmless recreation for the multitude. There were scores employing thousands of workmen, kept up by these travelling showmen, and if these fairs were stopped there would be a great accession to the terrible army of unemployed. The showmen objected, as he did, to any interference with their business. He was prepared to vouch for the moral character of those showmen on the platform both in their home and business life. He asked for nothing but fair play for their class; and he called upon the people of Wigan to rise up in their might and tell these would-be reformers to mind their own business.

MR T. W. WRIGHT said he had had fourteen years' experience of local government. He was three years a member of the Leicester Borough Council, and had been for nine years on the Melton Mowbray County Council; therefore he could claim that he knew the methods of local governing bodies. It was a constitutional privilege, a legal right, that any man in this kingdom should, so long as he were free from crime, be able to move about from place to place without interference. If they were to approach the ratepayers on the subject, those concerned would, of course, be in some degree satisfied with their decision; but they had not been consulted on the matter in the present instance. Some years ago the matter was put before the ratepayers of Wigan, and they decided that in the interests of the inhabitants the fair should not be discontinued. In the year 1871 the Fairs Act was passed, which gave the Home Secretary the power to make an order for the abolition of any fair as might be shown by the local authority to be undesirable. He understood that the fairs in Wigan were known as old chartered fairs only. Certain powers were granted to the Corporation by the Wigan Improvement Act of 1874, and certainly wide and improper powers absolutely known to be unconstitutional against the known law, and ultra vires, because Parliament since the year 1889 had absolutely declined both in the Commons and in the Lords to sanction proposals similar to that the Wigan Council had made. There were on the Showmen's Guild over a thousand proprietors of shows, roundabouts, and other amusements, and it had been proved to the House of Commons during the last four sessions that these men had spent capital to the amount of a million and a half, and that it was not likely that they would have been so foolish as to do so if they had not known that they were catering for pleasure and recreation desired by the great masses of the people. The Wigan Council now sought of their own authority to discontinue the Wigan fair, but if the Showmen's Guild were obliged to assert its legal right, the Wigan Council would find that they could not discontinue it. If the Council decided that the fair would be better carried on on Corporation land in another part of the borough, they would then be taking a proper line; but when they claimed that they had full powers under the Act of 1871 to abolish the fair by passing a resolution, then, said the speaker, they could not do it. Since 1900 the Association had fought in Parliament no fewer than thirty corporations and other local governing bodies, including those of Birmingham, Radcliffe, Bournemouth, Blackpool, and others all over the kingdom, and the objectionable clauses on the matter in question were withdrawn. He hoped that all Englishmen would be prepared to stand up for their just and legal rights in this matter against the unwarrantable attacks of persons who might filch from them little by little their liberties. The Guild was not in existence in 1874, or it would have opposed the Bill then obtained, but the Association did not come into existence till 1889. It was usual for Parliament to allow a successful petitioner costs, but in the case of Acton, in Middlesex, Parliament allowed the Guild their costs against the local authority, considering that the Association had been vexatiously called upon to defend their interests. In the Wigan Council Councillor Bott had asked if the horse and cow fair would be abolished, and Alderman Johnson got up in a hurry and said "No." They would be obliged to permit a showman or any other person to come to Wigan and exercise his common-law right of attending that fair—and it had been proved—he could give scores of authorities for it. There was imposed upon Wigan by the Act of Parliament the duty of providing proper fairs and markets. The legal definition of a fair was this:—"It is a great annual gathering held at long periods and intervals, and markets for the purpose of sellers and buyers and exchanges of commodities, meeting together and prosecuting their business, and by enjoying themselves before they proceeded to their homes;" and these fairs were visited by many people from great distances, who spent a great amount of money in the towns they visited. The association had no desire to be defiant or to take up a hostile attitude, and if it appeared that the fair could be better conducted in another part of the town, on Corporation land, the Guild would be willing to acquiesce, provided that a reasonable site was provided, and they were willing to do anything in reason, but there was no necessity to take the drastic and unwarrantable step decided on. The speaker, after defending the showmen against the charge of causing immorality, pointing out that anything immoral in connection with their shows was precluded by the laws of the Guild, concluded by declaring that the Guild, if they were not reasonably met by the Wigan Corporation, would fight the matter to the end, no matter what was the cost.

THE Chairman invited questions, and, none being asked, proposed the resolution:—"That this public meeting of the inhabitants of Wigan objects to the abolition of the pleasure fair, and after hearing the case of the showmen attending it, considers the many statements made in the Council Chamber by those advocating the discontinuance of the pleasure fair were totally unwarranted and false, and insists that the resolution recently passed be rescinded at the earliest possible moment."

THE Rev. T. Horne seconded the proposition. He remarked that if the Council would not meet a deputation from the showmen of Great Britain as to carrying on the fair under absolutely harmless and safe conditions, the showmen would fight the question to a finish, and he told the Mayor that that morning. The Association represented an industrial capital of over seven millions and did they imagine that such an Association would take the decision of the Council lying down? The resolution was carried. The meeting was then brought to a close.

MESSRS TOFT AND TURNBULL (Dublin) have contributed £2 2s. to the Parliamentary defence, and Messrs Thurston and Sons were inadvertently omitted in our list of last week. Wm. Foster and

Co., Limited, Lincoln, and Simpkin Wilkinson and Co, Leeds, have paid hon. member's subscription for 1905. The following is the text of the "protest" of British showmen against the proposed abolition of Wigan pleasure fair:—

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND BURGESSES OF THE BOROUGH OF WIGAN.

We, the Undersigned Tenants of the Corporation Fairground, and others, the Showmen of the Empire, respectfully submit the following statement:—

1. We are engaged in a lawful, honest, and recognised industry, and we form as a body of skilled craftsmen and traders no inconsiderable portion of the industrial commonwealth. It is true that, for the purposes of our business, we are itinerants, that is to say—we follow the fairs in our yearly circuit of trade or employment. We are in every other respect citizens of the Empire and loyal, law-abiding (and we trust God-fearing) men and women, with our family life as pure, and our home affections as real and as good as the more settled denizens in town or country. We claim to be in every essential concern of life ordinary citizens, and obedient, moral, and good living subjects of our King.

2. We therefore, protest against the vile aspersions made against us and our avocation in life by certain individuals.

We most earnestly ask for a fair and equitable opportunity, in order to vindicate our character from the utterly wanton and scurrilous attacks recently made upon us by certain persons co-operating in a movement having for its object the abolition of the ancient pleasure fairs and holidays of the working Classes

No class in the artistic or the skilled industries of the Empire has shown greater progress in the perfecting of its business in its ready adaptability to modern needs, than the industry of the fairground—an avocation in life, be it remembered, touching the well-being of 70,000 people, with an outside trade with other industries linked with it and supplying its necessities of yet more vast-reaching dimensions and consequences.

We, therefore, confidently assume that the people will desire (whose pleasure fairs and holidays are being attacked) to hear the other side, and to give the people who cannot claim civic dignity and safety a fair hearing.

We propose, under the circumstances, holding a meeting in your midst, and to protest against the unjust and cruel attacks made upon us.

John Green, Preston	D. Whittle, Wigan
Wm. Mitchell and Son, Heywood	John Sharpe, Burnley
Wm. Clark and Son, Manchester	On behalf of the Corporation
T. Hurst, Pendlebury	
Wm. Holmes, Manchester	Tenants of the Fairground
Mrs Holden and Son, Accrington	
T. Payne, Shifnal, Salop	

and LORD GEORGE SANGER, President, with Messrs

H. Ashington, Leeds	Thos. Payne, Burton-on-Trent
J. W. Bostock, London	T. Read, London
E. E. Bostock, Glasgow	E. T. Read, London
F. C. Bostock, London	H. Studt, Wales
John Barker, Norwich	J. Studt, Wales
Wm. Clark, Manchester	Frank Turner, London
John Collins, Walsall	Wm Toft, Dublin
Geo. Cornwell, Bolton	D. Turnbull, Belfast
Robert Dixon, Salford	H. J. Wallis, Liverpool
Geo. Green, Glasgow	J. Wilmot, Glasgow
B. Howden, Boston	J. Whiting, Manchester
G. H. Kemp, Leicester	Councillor G. T. Tuby, Doncaster
Wm. Mitchell, Heywood	W. H. Marshall, Bradford
John Collins, Liverpool	Vice-Presidents.
F. Newall, Manchester	
Jas. Norman, London	

The Rev. T. Horne, London, Hon. Chaplain and Organiser; and T. Hurst, Hon. Secretary to the Showmen's Guild; on behalf of the whole body of showmen in Great Britain.

BURGESSES OF WIGAN! You have holidays and pleasures too little already! These abolishers of your fair and holidays take care not to deny themselves their own sort of amusement and recreation. Come in good numbers and enter your protest against this narrow-minded view of life taken by some of your representatives on the Borough Council.

AT a good fellowship meeting of the Brotherhood of British Showmen, held at their headquarters, the Black Lion Hotel, Salford, the following degrees and dignities were conferred honoris causa:—"General" John Wilmot and "President" Geo. H. Kemp.

AT the showmen's meeting at the Agricultural Hall on Wednesday, the Rev. T. Horne, in speaking of the way in which the secretary of the Association conducted the recent public meeting held at Wigan, said, "There is only one Thomas Hurst. He presided over that meeting with the aplomb, the dignity, and the eloquence of the Speaker of the House of Commons." The complimentary reference to Mr Hurst was received with hearty cheers.

MR HENRY STUDT, the well-known South Wales amusement caterer, was a patron of the Carmarthenshire Hunt Steeplechases, and was present at the races this week. Mr Studt is a native of Carmarthen.

FOR the first time for many years past there has been no supper and ball to celebrate the annual gathering "of the clans" of showland at the World's Fair during the last week in January.

MR READ, lessee of the World's Fair, has paid over a balance of £5, being, with other sums given to local charities, the proceeds of last year's ball. Mr Read was reluctantly compelled to give up the idea of continuing this social gathering at the present fair; he found himself unable to arrange suitable terms with the refreshment caterers of the hall. He trusts next year to make arrangements of a satisfactory kind, either in the hall itself or in some suitable outside hotel or assembly rooms.

THE following is the text of the telegram of condolence and sympathy sent to Lord George Sanger in accordance with the resolution passed at the annual meeting of the Showmen's Guild:—

To Lord George Sanger.
Park Farm, East Finchley.

Van-dwellers and showmen at World's Fair in meeting assembled send sincere wishes for their president's speedy recovery. They also send hearty thanks for cheque of £100.

WE have to add to the list of roundabout proprietors and showmen contributing £2 2s. or more to the Parliamentary Defence Fund the following names:—H. J. Wallis, William Murphy, Charles Farrell, William Clarke (Worcester), and General John Wilmot, of Glasgow.

IN connection with this fund, we have great pleasure in announcing that the North of England Stallholders and Amusement Caterers Amalgamated Society (Secretary, Mr Thomas Hartshorn), has allocated one-fourth, 2s. 6d. per member, of their subscriptions received towards the Parliamentary Defence work.

THE following subscriptions were received or promised after the meeting at the World's Fair on Wednesday last:—Lord George Sanger, £100; Burrell and Sons (Thetford), £5; Robert Fossett, £2; T. Read, £1 1s.; Wm. Taylor, £1 1s.; J. H. Chipperfield, £1 1s.; Wm. Pedley, £1 1s; Wm. Clarke (Worcester), £1 1s.; F. Turner, £1 1s.; Wm. Bedford, £1 1s.; Marenghi et Cie, £1 1s.; Mr Wentworth, £1 1s.; Mr Creber, £1 1s.; Mrs J. Pettigrove, £1 1s; Mr Fitts, M.S.A., £1; Marshall Hill, £1; F. F. Pope, £1; T. Davidson (M.R.), 10s. 6d.; Prof. Lloyd, 10s. 6d.; Alf Bull, 10s. 6d.; W. Wilson, 10s.; A. J. Clowes, 10s.; E. J. Clowes, 10s.; John Clowes, 10s.; and a dozen subscribers of 5s. each.

THE conference of delegates from the northern amalgamation and the Showmen's Guild met at the Royal Agricultural Hall on Tuesday evening last. The Rev. T. Horne presided. A most useful discussion and interchange of views took place, the principal speakers being Mr George Gray and Mr T. Hartshorn, for the Amalgamation, and Mr T. Hurst for the Van Dwellers' Association. A scheme was outlined whereby co-operation between all showmen trade societies might come into force, the basis of their immediate joint action being general public propaganda and Parliamentary defence. Much satisfaction was expressed at the happy and satisfactory termination of the discussion upon this matter recently occurring in *The Era*.

AT the Guild committee meeting it was resolved that the Colne (Lancs.) Corporation Bill be opposed, unless the restrictive clauses touching the show business be withdrawn. After considerable discussion re the case of Mrs Jane Pettigrove, roundabout proprietress and ground lessee and the trustee of the Lord of the Manor, Edgware, the owners of the fairs of old Edgware, it was resolved that the Rev. T. Horne, T. Watson-Wright, and T. Hurst be empowered to deal with the matter, and to afford Mrs Pettigrove all the assistance the Guild can legitimately render.

AT the Agricultural Hall, Norwich, Messrs Barker and Thurston's winter carnival is in full swing every evening, and the side shows are doing well. A guessing competition is going on this week for handsome prizes, and the proprietors deserve success for their enterprise.

INFORMATION relating to Shows and Fairs, suitable for this column, should be addressed to THE EDITOR, "The Showman World."

GATTI'S (ROAD).

"Age cannot wither, nor custom stale, Her infinite variety" might, appropriately enough, have been written of Gatti's Palace of Varieties in the Westminster-bridge road. At any rate, that seems to be the motto under which Mr Tom Tinsley has been, and is still, building up the fortunes of Messrs Gatti's famous place of entertainment. This week, for instance, there are fifteen items on the programme, each one receiving an unmistakable demonstration of approval at the hands of the audience. Arthur Prince, the nautical ventriloquist, and his cabin boy, Jim, are already known to fame, and by the manner in which the turn was presented on Tuesday night, Mr Prince evidently intends that his acquaintanceship with fame shall not close just yet. One wonders, indeed, how it is possible for him to keep up an amusing ventriloquial tête-a-tête with a cigar in his mouth all the while! Marvellous acrobats is the correct appellation to apply to the Borghetti Troupe. With surprising agility the four members of the combination execute a series of evolutions in the air, double somersaults, high jumps, and springs. Some of their feats are so daring that they almost cause one a moment's uneasiness, but the movements are so well-timed and the distances so well gauged that no mishap occurs. Perhaps the most remarkable part of their turn is seen when a very agile boy of the troupe springs on to the shoulders of a man standing on a pedestal, and then turns a double somersault in the air, finally alighting on the head of another of the acrobats. Miss Lilian Lowe has a voice of powerful range, which she employs to advantage in her rendering of "Eileen Alannah" and her two subsequent numbers—"I never knew till now how much I loved you" and "The song that reached my heart." Cliff Ryland, who undertook that "Himself" should be the subject of his entertainment, impresses his audience with the idea that "Himself" is a very diverting personage indeed. His quaint patter, his droll mannerisms, and the suggestion of being an unconscious humourist implied by his almost imperturbable countenance are the chief factors which make for his success as a comedian. One of the cleverest balancing tricks we have seen is performed by the Leotard Brothers. Three tables, the tallest of which is about 4ft. high, are placed one over the other. On the topmost table are two chairs, one of which is adjusted in a slanting direction so that the backs of the chairs touch each other. This slender edifice is mounted by one of the Leotards, who, when he has reached the highest point, balances a lighted lamp on his head. The Leotards also indulge in some extraordinary hat-throwing and catching, into the fun of which the audience enters by being invited to show their skill in the art of "bowling" a pierrot's headgear on to the heads of the Leotards. Mr Frank Coyne dilates in an amusing way upon the subject of a "cheese that had been in the family for years" and how it took everybody's appetite away when it was placed upon the dinner table. He also creates much merriment with his ditties "Shift a little bit further up" and "What is the good of a pair of kilts?" Miss Dora Lyric touches the hearts of her audience by her singing of a somewhat pathetic song about a village girl who becomes a much applauded actress but whose soul yearns after the simple life she used to lead and the simple clothing she used to wear. Then the scene is changed, and we are told about a soldier's wife who has been compelled to seek refuge in a workhouse. She, too, is yearning for the life she used to lead. The song was charmingly rendered by the young comedienne, whose other item about a barmaid at the Rose and Crown was not so well received by the audience. Sinclair and Whiteford appear in an amusing dialogue, to which is given the title of *Getting Even*. It is the story of a tiff between a young married couple, each of whom decides to give the other a lesson. The wife dresses up in male cycling costume, and the husband comes on dressed as a woman. The deception each plays upon the other is responsible for many laughable situations and passages-at-arms. Mr Fred Sinclair is decidedly good as a drunken man in the earlier part of the sketch, and makes no less an interesting character as the sham Arabella Puddleton. Miss Gracie Whiteford is a very lively personage, both as the angry wife and later on as the bogus Mr Fitzdoodle. Mr Sinclair, by-the-way, is the author of the duologue, the music to which has been composed by Mr Edmund Forman. Terry and Bentley also make for a disturbance of the risible faculties by their clever comedy duologue entitled *The Hunt*, in which there is scarcely a dry line. The lady performer gives a delightful exhibition of sand dancing during the sketch. Miss Clara Sefton is a very dainty comedienne and dancer, both her singing and dancing being awarded high appreciation. Tony Pelhall, the coloured comedian, has also proved a success at Gatti's, his patter being especially relished. Praise is equally due to Miss Violet Mills, a chic comedienne and dancer, and to Primavesi, a juggler, whose tricks are both unique and neatly performed. The animated pictures thrown upon the Mutograph screen have become quite an attractive feature of the programme at Gatti's, especially as the subjects are changed every week.

MISS LILY MARNEY successfully concludes the Stoll tour at the Ardwick Empire to-day, and returns on Monday to the Gaiety, Birmingham, where she is an old favourite—Miss Evelyn Taylor, after her long provincial tour, returns to town on Monday for three weeks only. After her three weeks' stay in town she will then commence another long provincial tour, lasting thirty-eight weeks.—Miss Clorinda Thurtell has been engaged to appear at the London on Monday week, and will afterwards start on the Livermore Tour.

MR SAM THOMSON is the latest Scotch comedian to make a success in England. His sole agent, Mr Geo. Saphrini, is fast booking him at all the principal halls, and he has had a tempting offer for London.—Dunning and Kahn and Kahn, after a successful season, leave town, but return in March for five months, their dates including the London Coliseum.—Mr Fred Curran is making things hum on the Barrasford tour with his up-to-date parodies, and if his present successes continue we shall soon be hearing him in the West-end.—The M'Kays open on Monday at the Middlesex and Walham-green after a most successful twenty-three weeks' tour.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

(SPECIAL TO THE ERA.)

THE meeting of stage employees held on Sunday last in Glasgow was the most successful ever held in that city. Most of the theatres and music halls were represented. It was decided to make arrangements to establish a club and provide a telephone for the convenience of those wanting men. It was also proposed to establish a benevolent fund. About forty new members were enrolled, and further additions are expected at the next meeting. Full particulars may be obtained from Mr J. Campbell, 1, Milton-street, Cowcaddens. The next meeting will be held on Feb. 5 at 11, Maitland-street.

MR A. GODFREY, assistant electrician at the Alhambra Theatre, who has been treasurer of the staff sick fund for many years, was the recipient the other evening of a handsome gold ring, which Mr Charles Wilson, the stage director, presented to Mr Godfrey on behalf of the members.

MR CHARLES BALLANTYNE, who was formerly many years electrician for Mr H. B. Tree, has left the Court Theatre, Liverpool, where he held a similar position, to join the electrical staff at the Coliseum. Mr George Armstrong, who was master carpenter at the Gaiety, Dublin, has been engaged to take charge of the stage in the absence of Mr Ballard, the master carpenter, the onerous duties of this position at the Coliseum having rendered it desirable that Mr Ballard should be relieved during a part of each day.

MR J. FINDLAY, who was for many years flyman with Sir Henry Irving's company, is now flyman at the Lyceum Theatre. He has not seen his way to go touring again, much to the regret of the other members of Sir Henry's staff, with whom Mr Findlay was popular. Mr W. Belcher, lately employed at the Duke of York's Theatre, has been engaged by Mr Darer in place of Mr Findlay.

A REPORT having been circulated that the American Alliance of Stage Employees would, in future, endeavour to prevent British stage employees working in America with English touring companies, Mr. Wm. Johnson, the secretary of the National Union Theatrical Stage Employees, has received a letter from the secretary of the American Alliance informing him that the statement is incorrect as regards members of the British society. They will, as formerly, be cordially welcomed. The statement, however, is correct as applied to non-members of the British society.

THE meeting of the Theatrical Carpenters' Society held last Sunday was well attended. An application for legal assistance to recover wages and payment for scenery supplied was granted. It is reported that the summonses issued to recover wages claimed from the management of *Ladyland*, lately playing at the Avenue Theatre, were withdrawn and the wages paid.

MR A. E. WOOD will be master carpenter at the Royalty during the forthcoming production at that house.

MR J. HILL, who was in the employ of Mr Telbin, recently met with an accident at His Majesty's Theatre and died in hospital on Sunday last. He was not a subscriber to the Sick or Funeral Fund, although a member of the N.U.T.S.E., but, having regard to the position in which his widow and children were left, the No. 1 Branch, to which he belonged, granted £5 from the Benevolent Fund, and assistance to investigate her claim for compensation.

THE Dublin Stage Employees' Club have been refused an excise licence. It is reported that the objecting inspector mistook a cork-extracting machine for a beer pump; and, as the club did not anticipate any objection, no arrangement had been made to watch their interests.

SEVERAL new members have joined the Heads of Departments Association in London, Liverpool, and Glasgow. Members are again reminded that nominations for office and resolutions for consideration at the annual general meeting should be forwarded to the secretaries.

MR G. H. CHAPMAN, who is widely known and respected as an able master carpenter, had a pleasant surprise last Saturday afternoon at Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee. At the conclusion of the final matinée of Mr Milton Bode's *Babes in the Wood* pantomime he was presented by the local staff with a handsome pipe in case and an engraved tobacco pouch. The presentation was introduced by Mr Sandon Perkins, the resident manager, in a few chosen words, and was made by Mr Joseph Freeman, resident master carpenter, in a happy speech.

NOTICES and reports of meetings, &c., are invited from the various societies with which stage employees are connected.

HOCKEY.

MISS ETHEL BOWMAN'S LADIES TEAM v. COTHAM AND REDLAND LADIES ATHLETIC CLUB

Played near Clifton Downs on Jan. 20. The first-name team were without Misses C Fowler, L. Belding, and G. Leonard, owing to illness. The following were the teams:—

Miss Ethel Bowman's Ladies Team.—Miss E. Bowman (captain), goal; Miss I. Bowman and Miss E. Francis, backs; Miss G. Thomas, Miss N. Bailey, and Miss M. Stewart, half-backs; Miss M. Leonard, Miss T. Maynard, Miss L. Stephens, Miss A. Mitchell, and Miss A. Bernard, forwards.

Cotham and Redland Ladies Athletic Team.—Miss M. Fisher, goal; Miss A. Gibbs and Miss M. Hamilton, backs; Miss L. Norris, Miss L. Coles, and Miss E. Lawrence, half-backs; Miss W. Bradley, Miss K. Montgomery, Miss N. Lawrence, Miss F. Hooper, and Miss M. Burgess, forwards.

Referee, Miss E. Watson (of Bath). Result:—Miss E. Bowman's XI., two goals; Cotham and Redland Ladies Athletic Club, two goals. Misses E. Francis, M. Leonard, L. Norris, and W. Bradley scored the goals.

MR W. F. FRAME gave the toast "The Immortal Memory of Burns" at the Theatre Royal, Bolton, on Wednesday, the anniversary of "Robbie's" birth.—Mr Harry Blake (of the Two Bees) has just accepted a smart up-to-date duologue entitled *The Cause of Crime*, the work of Harry Adams.—Stern and Stern will shortly return to London and introduce an original number, entitled "The Slumberers," for which they are taking encores nightly in Mr John Restall's production of *Cinderella*.

MISS MINNIE DUNCAN AND MR ARTHUR E. GODFREY will conclude a very successful pantomime engagement with Mr Milton Bode on Feb. 11, and will open with their little coster romance, *Me and 'Er*, at the Oxford and Metropolitan, on Feb. 13 for one month, with all the Payne syndicate halls to follow.

AT the Regent Theatre of Varieties, Salford, this week, are the Akimotos, Japanese troupe of equilibrists; Brinn, in his extraordinary "Pastimes on a Battleship;" the troupe of dogs, monkeys, donkey, and midget pony, introduced by Alfred Barker, assisted by Miss Rozsika; the Donator, one-legged acrobats; Maud Caswell, specialty dancer and barrel-jumper; R. Judge's eccentric acrobats, the Vaudeville Trio of comedians and dancers, and Frank Hutchins.

COLONIAL THEATRES.

AUSTRALIA.—MELBOURNE, SYDNEY.
Mr J. C. WILLIAMSON,
Manager of the Leading Australian Theatres.
HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, MELBOURNE;
HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, SYDNEY;
THEATRE ROYAL, SYDNEY.
London Representative, J. A. E. MALONE, Daly's Theatre.

AUSTRALIA.—
Mr HARRY RICKARDS'S
AUSTRALIAN ENTERPRISES:—
NEW TIVOLI THEATRE, SYDNEY;
NEW TIVOLI HOTEL, SYDNEY;
NEW GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MELBOURNE;
NEW PRINCE OF WALES'S HOTEL, MELBOURNE;
THEATRE ROYAL, BRISBANE;
TIVOLI THEATRE, ADELAIDE;
THEATRE ROYAL, PERTH.
Mr Rickards is always open to Engage First-class Artists for the above-named Theatres.
Address to the Head Office, Tivoli Theatre, Sydney.
Cable address, "Tivolian, Sydney."

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BROUGH-FLEMMING COMEDY COMPANY.
BROUGH-FLEMMING COMEDY COMPANY.
All Engagements now Complete.
Sole Managers,
ROBERT BROUGH and HERBERT FLEMMING.
London Representative,
R. GOLDING BRIGHT,
20, Green-street, Leicester-square, W.C.

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R. and F. WHEELER.
Associate Manager, G. H. SMITH.
Messrs R. and F. WHEELER now control the only Circuit of Theatres in South Africa.
The leading Theatres in
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Companies now Touring:—
The Wheeler-Edwardes Gaiety Company,
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The Moody-Manners Opera Company.
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LEONARD RAYNE
is now in England on Business
relating to his Enterprises in South Africa.
Business-Manager in South Africa,
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Portugal House, Portugal-street, W.C.

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BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—
Managing-Director, Mr TOM B. DAVIS.
Now open with "The Babes in the Wood."
For Dates for March and onward, apply to
Mr TOM B. DAVIS, Lyric Theatre, London.

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HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE,
WINTER GARDENS,
The PRINCIPAL THEATRE.
Holds MORE MONEY at ORDINARY PRICES, and has better average Business throughout the Year than any Theatre in the Town.
The most Comfortable, Elegant, and Best Equipped Theatre. Large and Well Electric-Lighted Stage and First-class Orchestra.
All Visitors to the Theatre have Free Admission to the Winter Gardens, Floral Hall, Empress Ball-room, and Pavilion Entertainments, thus Companies visiting Her Majesty's Opera House have this additional attraction, which no other Theatre can offer. Only best No. 1 Companies booked.
For Dates address, JNO. R. HUDDLESTONE, Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

BLACKPOOL COLOSSEUM.—
BLACKPOOL COLOSSEUM.
BLACKPOOL COLOSSEUM.
SEASON 1905.
Situate at the junction of the Blackpool and Lytham Tramways, on the Marine Parade, opposite the Manchester Hotel, in the heart of Blackpool.
The Building (which is 127ft. in diameter, 41ft. high to the eaves, and 83ft. to the Lantern) is Lighted by Electricity, and as a place for Animal Entertainments is unique, it being the only building in Blackpool that, in consequence of its being free from pillars and other obstructions, afforded the necessary height and space for Diavolo's performance of "Looping the Loop."
The Walls are covered with the World-renowned picture "Niagara" painted by the great artist Phillipoteau.
For the last eight or ten years Blackpool has been extending around and for miles south of the Colosseum in a marvellously rapid manner. Thousands of houses have been built and are occupied, and there has not been any place of Public Entertainment provided for the Masses of the People south of the Tower.
The Colosseum provides a long-felt want in this New and Populous Neighbourhood.
The Authorities estimate that about Four Million Persons visited Blackpool last Season.
The great Popularity of the Colosseum is shown by the fact that, although only partially occupied during a part of a Blackpool Season, upwards of 100,000 paid for Admission during the remaining part of the Season.
Offers for the 1905 Season on Sharing Terms should be made to the Undersigned, who will furnish any further information.
BLANE and RIDING,
30, Birley-street; or,
GARLICK and SYKES,
22, Birley-street, Blackpool.

BLYTH.—NEW ALEXANDRA HALL.
Feb. 1 to 11. Admission Free. "Japan," Grand Scenic, Trades, and Novelties Exhibition. Each Hall visited is transformed into a Picturesque Japanese City. One or Two Side-stall Vacancies for Scottish Tour.

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CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE (Ltd.).
Managing Director, Mr W. B. REDFERN, J.P., D.L.
A theatre among the most beautiful in England.—Sunday Times.
Vacant Dates (in Term Time, no Dramas), March 2 and 20. Vacation Time (Dramas), March 23.
Silence polite negative. Address as above.

CATERHAM, SURREY.—
Seventeen Miles from Town. Population, 9,000.
THE PUBLIC HALL. Three Minutes from Station.
Seating accommodation provided for 400 (400 extra Seats by arrangement). Permanent Stage. Dressing-rooms. Terms, per night, inclusive of Heating and Lighting, 2½ Guineas. Special terms for the week.
All communications to the Manager, J. D. ROLLS, Kinnoull, Warlingham, Surrey.

CHELTENHAM. — THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—General Manager, H. OSWALD REDFORD. The County Theatre. Visited by the Best Artists and their Companies all the year round.
"ROBINSON CRUSOE"
Pantomime now in Full Swing.
Re Dates as above,
Silence in all cases a polite negative.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

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Manager, Mr C. B. FOUNTAINE.
One of the most Up-to-Date and Successful Theatres in Scotland.
Lighted throughout by Electricity.
Stage Dimensions:—
Stage to grid, 45ft.;
Footlights to Back Wall, 30ft.;
Wall to Wall, 65ft.;
Opening, 21ft. by 25ft.;
Between Fly Rails, 32ft.
Seating Accommodation, 2,000.
Prices:—Private Boxes, 21s. and 15s.; Single Seats, 3s. and 2s. 6d.; Dress Circle, 2s.; Balcony, 1s. 6d.; Pit Stalls, 1s.; Pit, 9d.; Gallery, 6d.
Communications re Dates to MANAGER

COLCHESTER, THEATRE ROYAL.—
Sole Proprietor, Mr CHARLES MACDONA.
Vacant Dates, March 13 (?), 20, and April 17 (Three or Four Nights), May 1, and onwards. Apply to CHARLES MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, London, W

DUBLIN.—QUEEN'S ROYAL THEATRE.
Sole Proprietor and Patentee, Mr ELLIS JONES.
Lessee and Manager, Mr J. W. WHITEHEAD.
Address, Mr J. W. WHITEHEAD.
Silence in all cases a respectful negative.

DUNFERMLINE and DUMFRIES THEATRES.
Visited only by Companies of the Highest Repute.
Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr W. E. POTTS.
Bookings and Rebookings include:—
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Charles Frohman's,
Milton Rays',
J. Bannister Howard's,
Ben Greet's,
Wm. Greet's,
J. W. Turner's Opera Company,
Robt Macdonald's,
John Leopold's,
Hardie and Von Leer's,
The Craggs',
Chalmers Mackey's,
and all the principal Touring Companies.
Vacant Dates,
Dunfermline, Feb 27, March 6, and on.
Dumfries, March 27 and on.
All comms., W. E. POTTS, Theatre Royal, Dunfermline.

GLASGOW.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED. — The first Pantomime in the Kingdom, "Cinderella," produced on Thursday, Dec. 1, and still playing to record business. Press and Public enthusiastic in their praise. "The grandest show ever seen in the city."

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Proprietors, PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE CO., GT. GRIMSBY, LIMITED.
Managing-Director, JOSEPH H. CURRY.
Now Booking 1905.
Telegraphic address, "Curry, Grimsby."

HANLEY, THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Please note.—The Staffordshire Potteries for all Dramatic Purposes must be considered as one Large Town. The following Attractions are Booked for the Autumn Season of 1904:—Miss Ellen Terry and full Company, Mr E. S. Willard and full London Company, Moody-Manners No. 1 Company, Sir Henry Irving and his Répertoire Company; also the following No. 1 Companies:—"Belle of New York," "Sapho," "Earl and the Girl," "School Girl," "Girl from Kay's," "Duchess of Dantzic," Beerbohm Tree's "Darling of the Gods," "Florodora," and others. Hanley has undoubtedly the Largest Theatre and Stage in Staffordshire. Lighted by Electricity; accommodation for 3 700 People. Electric Trams and Trains after Performance to ends of the District, Longton, Stoke, Burslem, and Tunstall. Vacant for First-class Companies only, Feb. 20, 27, and onwards. First-class Pantomime Required for Christmas, 1905.
CHAS. E. ELPHINSTONE, Managing-Director.

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HULL.—THE CIRCUS—
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One of the Finest and Largest Halls in the Provinces, Fitted with Large Stage, and Suitable for Circus, Minstrels, Panoramas, Concert and Choir Parties, &c. Rental, Share, or Salary. Only a Few Vacant Dates.

ILKESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr L. F. A. ROGERS.
Vacant, March 20 and April 10, May 4, 5, and 6 (Three Nights), onwards.
Silence courteous negative.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.
BARROW.—ROYALTY T. AND OPERA HOUSE.
CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr HUGH ROBERTSON.
Vacant Dates:—Jarrow, May 1. Barrow, for First-class Musical Attractions, March 20, Easter, and various on. The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring. Consett, Feb. 20 and 27, April 3 and 17, on, with exceptions. All applications for Dates to HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.
GUERNSEY.—ST. JULIAN'S.
Out Season Population 100,000. No opposition. G. W. Train leaves Saturday Night Bath, 11 27 p.m.; Swindon, 11 28; Bristol, 11 0 p.m. Companies return following Saturday. July and August Boat leaves Southampton 12 30 midnight. Vacant Dates Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6. Apply, C. ROBERT PERKINS, Jersey.

KIDDERMINSTER.—OPERA HOUSE.
A Beautiful Theatre and pronounced success.
High-class Companies only entertained.
Holding capacity £100.
All communications, J. P. MOORE, West Bromwich.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.
Sole Proprietor, Lieut.-Col. J. A. WINSTANLEY.
No Vacant Dates Spring, 1905.
Re Autumn Dates, 1905, address,
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Royal Opera House, Leicester.

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LANCASHIRE.—Stage, 30ft. by 20ft. Proscenium. Seats 800. Balcony. District Population, 8,000. Small Stock Scenery. No Sharing.
Vacant Dates for Companies or Entertainers.
Apply, MANAGING DIRECTOR, Park House, Leyland.

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Still Playing to Enormous Business.
A Few Dates Vacant for Important Attractions.
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Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
General-Manager, CHAS. M. JULIAN.
Vacant Easter, June 19, and on,
For First-class Attractions only.
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NORWICH, THEATRE ROYAL.—Enlarged, Redecorated, Lighted throughout by Electricity. Upholstered by Dean and Co.
Weekly Matinées for County Visitors
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Manager, CHARLES P. COOKE.
Vacant Whit Week.
First-class Attraction only.
Silence a courteous negative.

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OLDHAM. — EMPIRE THEATRE.—
The Premier Theatre. Holding Capacity £200.
A Few Open Dates in May and June.
Bookings for present year includes:—
"Amorelle,"
"The School Girl,"
"The Duchess of Dantzic,"
"La Poupée,"
"The Cingalee,"
"The Prince of Pilsen,"
"The Earl and the Girl,"
"Lady Slavey,"
"The Girl from Kay's,"
"The Cardinal,"
The Carl Rosa Opera Company,
"Lucky Durham,"
the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company,
The Talk of the Town.
"The Orchid,"
"Florodora,"
"My Lady Molly,"
"Three Little Maids,"
"The Country Girl"
"Sergeant Brue,"
"The Midnight Mail,"
"The New Barmaid,"
Miss Austin, in "The Cotton Spinner;"
"The Golden Ladder,"
Mr John Hart's Company, in "The Blanchard Diamonds."
A Few Vacant Dates in May and June.
All communications to ERNEST DOTTRIDGE.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—
Managers of First-class Companies are invited to apply for Dates to Mr THOMAS LUCAS, J.P., Managing-Director.
Silence a polite negative.

PLYMOUTH. — GRAND THEATRE. —
Centrally situated in the midst of over 200,000 Inhabitants. The Most Popular Theatre in Plymouth. Playing to Record Business, and now in the Flood Tide of Success. First-class Attractions only.
For Dates, apply, Mr C. F. WILLIAMS, Grand Theatre, Plymouth.

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Open throughout the Year.
First-class Companies.
Weekly Matinées.

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Address, "DRAMATICUS," 49, Wellington-street, Strand.

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Required, First-class Attractions, for March 27, April 3, 10, and onward.
Required, First-class Attractions, for March 27, April 3, 10, and onward.
Required, First-class Attractions, for March 27, April 3, 10, and onward.
Good Business done here with First-class Companies.
Fast Booking for the Fall, 1905.
Wire or write to JAS. KIERNAN, Manager.

SOUTHEND - ON - SEA. — EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, W. MARLOW.
The Prettiest and most Popular Place of Amusement on the South-east Coast.
All the principal Attractions Booked.
First-class Companies required for Feb. 14 (Five Nights), 20, 27.
Managers please address all communications to W. MARLOW, jun., Manager, as above.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA. — PIER PAVILION.—Under Entirely New Management. Redecorated Throughout. Extra Dressing-rooms added. Electric Light, &c. Now Booking 1905. First-class Companies, Artistes, Bands, &c., communicate to MANAGER.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE OPERA HOUSE and THEATRE ROYAL.
Managing-Director, CHAS. E. MACHIN.
General Manager, PERCIVAL CRAIG.
Only Vacant Dates.
AVENUE.
March 27, May 1, 29, June 5, 12, and on.
ROYAL.
April 17, May 8, 29, June 5, 19, 26.
Managers please note Seaham Harbour is barred.
Apply, C. E. MACHIN, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

SUNDERLAND.—Correspondent Required to Supply Theatre and Music Hall Reports Weekly.
Address, "DRAMATICUS," 49, Wellington-street, Strand.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.
Lessee, CHARLES CAREY.
Vacant, Feb. 27, March 6, 20, and 27. Mr Carey can arrange a Tour of Several Weeks for a Few First-class Companies during the Summer Months; also for really Good Pantomime from Christmas Next.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE. —
Vacant March 20 and onwards, with exceptions.
Silence in all cases a polite negative for Date quoted.
Apply, SHERWOOD and COMPANY, Opera House, Wakefield.

WALSALL. — HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, THE WALSALL THEATRES Co., Ltd; Secretary and Manager, W. H. WESTWOOD.—Holds £180. Circle, 3s.; Stalls, 2s.; Family Circle, 2s.; Pit Stalls, 1s. 6d.; Pit, 1s.; Amphitheatre, 9d.; Gallery, 6d. First Vacant Dates, April 10, 17, May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, June 5 and 12.

WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE (ESSEX). —
KING'S THEATRE.
Capital Theatre in High-street.
Seats 600 People.
To Let for Season.
For terms, apply,
Mr H. PADFIELD, Portobello Hotel, Walton-on-Naze.

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Cosy, Popular, and Prosperous Theatre.
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WHITBY.—SPA THEATRE.—
Season 1905. The uncertainties attending the Change of Owners being Settled, I am prepared to Book Dates. Will Managers who have written me rewrite?
HY. WALKER

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.
Once again "The Era" Almanack makes a welcome reappearance early in the Yew Year, and recounts all that has happened in the theatrical world during the past twelve months. The register of plays produced in 1904 at the principal theatres of London, Paris, and Berlin is as valuable a feature in this most conscientiously kept record as ever, and though works of great importance are seldom given for the first time in the provinces, the information supplied concerning these productions is useful to playwrights when considering the vexed question of title. To the 1905 annual Sir Henry Irving contributes an amusing reminiscence of the days in which Shakespearian productions were certainly not overloaded with superfluous detail, and Sydney Grundy gives a graphic account of the time when he was a critic. It is further embellished by a number of photographs of popular players, together with their autographs, and a specimen of their literary attainments, which are often considerable. A melancholy interest attaches to the portraits of the dramatic artists who have passed from the scene during 1904; a goodly company, headed by that large-hearted actor-manager, Wilson Barrett. On beholding a work somewhat similar to "The Era" Almanack the late Mr Gladstone remarked that he was surprised to find that so many people were professionally engaged in the theatre, and if one of our leading actors were to discover how many people are professionally engaged in politics he would, no doubt, be equally astonished.—Court Journal, Jan. 21, 1905.

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"The Era," Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.
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COMPANIES WANTED.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, Companies for
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
April 24, May 1, 15, June 12, 19, July 10, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 15, 29, June 5, 12.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER
April 17, 24, May 8 (Race Week). 15, 22, June 5, 12, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
March 27, April 17, May 8, 15, Aug. 7. 14, 21.
CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
Vacant, April 24, May 8, 29, June 5, 12, 19, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
April 3, 10, 17, May 22, 29, June 5, 12.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
Vacant,
April 17, 24, May 22, 29, June 12, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Vacant,
Feb. 20 (Three Nights), March 9 (Three Nights), March 27.
April 10, 17, 24, May 4, 22, 29, June 5, 12.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Company,
Feb. 20 (Three Nights), Leamington; also Easter at Dalston, Reading, Chester, Pontypridd, Northampton, Leamington.
Apply, MILTON BODE, County Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for STANDARD THEATRE,
Vacant Spring, various.
TERRISS THEATRE.
March 6, 20.
METROPOLE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM,
Important Attractions for March 20, April 24.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Booked in conjunction, One Week each.
Musical Companies preferred.
Vacant Feb. 13, 23 (Three Nights, Bedford only), 27, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, and Easter.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Vacant March 2, 9, 30, April 6, and Easter.
Address, E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Good Drama, March 6.
The Theatre has just been thoroughly Renovated, a Scene Dock added, and a Full Electric Plant (Three Colours) installed. Address, HERBERT VERE.

MR. F. W. PURCELL'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for the following Dates:—Marlborough Theatre, N., Feb. 20, April 10, 24, May 15; Alexandra Theatre, N., March 6, 13, May 8, 22; Theatre Royal, Sheffield, March 6, 27, April 3, 10.
Address, F. W. PURCELL, Alexandra Theatre, London, N.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, High-class Attractions, Feb. 27, Feb. 27, March 6, April 3, 10, and May, onwards, with exceptions.
Address, HARRY YORKE.

WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, First class only, for Feb 13 (?) 20, and March 13; also Good Pantomime (not "Crusoe") for March 6.
F. LAIDLER, Prince's, Bradford.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
Vacant.
WANTED, First-class Musical Attractions, April 24, May 8 and 22, and June 5 and 19.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
Lessee and Manager, Mr STANLEY ROGERS.
WANTED, Companies, April 6 (Three Nights), April 10, onward, with exceptions.
Address, STANLEY ROGERS, Her Majesty's Theatre, Walsall.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple Companies. Two Nights. Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple, N. Devon.

KING'S THEATRE, CARDIFF.
WANTED, March 20, April 3, Best Dramas. Must be new to Cardiff.
FRANK BATEMAN.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for March 13th, Jarrow; and the 20th at Barrow.
Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, Jarrow.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies for Feb. 20, March 6, and intermediates on Add., F. B. COULDEN.

WANTED, Big Attractions, April 3, on, with exceptions, Grand, Chorley; also March 27, on, with exceptions, Radcliffe. SANTE, Radcliffe.

DUMFRIES and DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies.
Dumfries, Feb. 16, 17, 18. March 27, April 10.
Dunfermline, Feb. 27, March 6, 20, and on. Address, W. F. POTTS, Dunfermline.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 1, 8, 29, and June 12 (Whit Week). Can Negotiate for First-class Pantomime for next Christmas.
Applicants please state where Production can be seen.
Address, T. A. EDWARDES.

VICTORIA THEATRE, WEST STANLEY, DURHAM.
WANTED, Good Attractions for Feb. 27, March 6, 20, 27, April 10, onwards. Good Dramas. Can take over Three Figures. Good terms given to sound Attractions. Apply, DAVID WILLIAMS, Manager.

WANTED, a Good Attraction for March 13 and April 3.
SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport.

EMPIRE THEATRE, OXFORD.
WANTED, First-class Musical Companies, Feb. 20, 27, and on, with exceptions.
ALBANY WARD.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
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ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies.

EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
Vacant,
Feb. 27, March 13, April 24, May 1, 8, 15.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant,
Feb. 6, March 20, 27 (Three Nights only), April 3.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant,
April 17, May 1 (Three Nights only), 15, 29, June 5.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant,
Feb. 6, 27, March 6, 13, April 3, 17.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant,
June 19, July 31, Aug. 14, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, 9.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant,
April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 29.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant,
Feb. 13, 20 (Three Nights only), 27 (Three Nights only), March 6.

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant,
Feb. 2 (Three Nights), 6, 13, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant,
Feb. 6, March 27, April 3, 10, May 1, 8, 15.

KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
Vacant,
Feb. 9 (Three Nights only), 16 (Three Nights), March 20 (Three Nights).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant,
April 3, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant,
Feb. 6 (Three Nights), 13 (Three Nights), 27, March 23 (Three Nights).

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Manor House, Hayes, Middlesex.

Mr MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED. Powerful Attractions for
QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
March 13, April 17. May 8, 15, 22, on.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
March 27, April 17, 24, on.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA,
Feb. 27, possibly, Feb. 27,
March 6, 20, 27, April 10, 24, May, on.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Companies for Feb. 27, April 17, and on., with exceptions.
Silence a polite negative.
Apply, Mr C. F. WILLIAMS, Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, through obliging, First-class Attractions for
April 3, May 1, and June 5.
Address, FRANK KING.

THE PIER, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Musical Comedy, Comedy, Farce, or High-class Drama, for Feb. 27 (?), March 6 (?), 13 and 27, and various dates onwards. The Pier Theatre is the Leading Place of Entertainment in Eastbourne. Apply, G. HAYES, Manager.

WANTED, Companies, Musical or Drama. Vacant through Breach, Feb. 6 (Six Nights), Feb. 16 and 20 (Three Nights each), March 6 (Six Nights), 16th (Three Nights), and on. Strong Attraction Wanted for Easter. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum T., Stafford.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORKINGTON.
Lessee and Manager, Mr HELSBY WRIGHT.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, Feb. 13, 20, March 6, April 10. HELSBY WRIGHT, T. R., Workington. Telegrams, "Wright, Theatre, Workington."

ROYAL COURT THEATRE, WIGAN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for May 1, onwards, with exceptions. None but First-rate Productions Entertained. Bookings include Sir Henry Irving, Moody Manners, "Sunday," "Florodora," George Dance's Companies, W. Greet's Companies, &c. Address, J. WORSWICK. Managing-Director.

STANLEY, DURHAM.—ROYAL, LIMITED.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, March 6 (through misunderstanding), for the above up-to-date Theatre. Stage equal to any Production. Seven dressing-rooms. Good terms given. Share, certainty, or guarantee to the right attraction. Booked and rebooked by the best Companies. This week, "The Face at the Window"; next, "In Old Kentucky."
Feb. 6 The Original Leopolds.
Address, MARK H. LINDON, as above.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Company (Musical Preferred), Feb 20, 21, 22, Three Nights, Harrogate. Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK

THEATRE ROYAL, HULL.
WANTED, High-class Musical or other First-class Attraction, April 3.
Write, W. MORTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, NEATH (late Assembly Rooms).
WANTED, First-class Dramatic and Musical Attractions. Wire, Jan. 30, Three Nights Vacant; also Feb. 20, 27, and on. Apply, A. W. JAMES, 6, Windsor-road, Neath.

NEW PAVILION, ALTRINCHAM.
WANTED, First-class Fit-up Pantomime, to follow "Aladdin," Musical Comedy, or Powerful Drama, Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 13, 20 only. Holding Capacity nearly 2,000, Good Band, Eight Performers. Terms, FRED BUDD, Red Lion Hotel, Altrincham, near Manchester.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Companies, March 6, 13.
E. H. PAGE.

COMPANIES WANTED.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
Managing Director, Mr R. C. BUCHANAN.
The Leading Northern Theatre Tour.
Capital, £155 000.
WANTED, Wanted, Companies,
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
NEW CENTURY THEATRE, MOTHERWELL.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, AYR.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, LEITH.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.
GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, FALKIRK.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, GREENOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KIRKCALDY.
The Bookings include all the Principal Drama, Musical, and Comedy Attractions.
Important.
Managers doing business with us at New Gaiety Theatre, Leith, please note that Stockbridge is barred. The Tivoli, rechristened "The Grand," is in Stockbridge.
Address all communications to
R. C. BUCHANAN,
General Office, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.
Telegraphic address, "Bookings, Glasgow."

Vacancies at the following First-class Theatres.
WANTED, Leading Attractions only.
PRINCE'S THEATRE, MANCHESTER,
Feb. 20, June 5.
THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER,
March 27, May 1, 15, 22.
GAIETY THEATRE, MANCHESTER,
Feb. 27.
GRAND THEATRE, LEEDS,
Feb. 27.
THEATRE ROYAL, BRADFORD,
April 10, May 8
GRAND THEATRE, HULL,
March 27, April 17, June 12 (Whit Week).
GAIETY THEATRE, DUBLIN,
March 20, June 5.
Apply, JOHN HART, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LOUGHBOROUGH.
Proprietors, Messrs W. PAYNE SEDDON and GEO. ROBERTSON.
This Handsome New Theatre will be opened Next Week with "Monsieur Beaucaire."
WANTED, One or Two First-class Attractions in May.
Now booking Autumn.
OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
Vacant for Good Pantomime or Musical Show, Feb. 13 and 27.
Now Booking Autumn.
NEW THEATRE, HAWICK.
March 27, April 3, and on.
Last Three Days of each Week only Booked.
All communications re Dates,
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Opera House, Londonderry.
Next Week only, New Theatre, Loughborough.

WANTED, First-class Company,
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Vacant April 17.
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH,
Vacant April 17.
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW-CROSS,
Vacant April 10.
Apply, FREDK MOUILLOT,
4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.
Wire, "Lutanist, London."

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
Telegrams, "Montefiore, Edinburgh."
WANTED, Pantomime, Feb. 27, March 6, 13. A Certainty or Guarantee will be given a Good Production.

"Cinderella" completed its allotted Six Weeks' Run on Saturday last.
Gross for Sixth Week, £517 14s. 9d.
The Farewells were intensely Enthusiastic.
Little Zola's Benefit on Wednesday
and
Miss May Marton's on Friday
proved the Popularity of the Pantomime.

The Friday Evening was a Fashionable Function. Miss May Marton's Benefit was under Distinguished Patronage, and the 416 Orchestra Stalls were booked up by the Elite of Edinburgh.

Indebted acknowledgment is expressed to Messrs Howard and Wyndham, Ltd., for courteously allowing Mr Malcolm Scott and Mr J. T. Macmillan to kindly appear from the Royal Pantomime.

The departure of "Cinderella" for Newcastle, company of sixty, Ponies, and Six Trucks of Scenery and Baggage at the Waverley Station, on Sunday last, drew, say the railway officials, the largest concourse of people remembered at any theatrical company's departure.

The Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, may now be considered the established popular-priced playhouse of Edinburgh

Visited by the Best People
as well as the usual Cosmopolitan Playgoer.

Only Vacant Dates
this Spring are:—
Feb. 27,
March 6,
March 13.
Above held in Reserve for Pantomime.
May 22, June 26,
for Drama or Musical Comedy.

Autumn fast filling with
Best-class Drama and Musical Comedy.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for Feb. 27, March 6 and 27.
Apply,
Mr ROBERT ARTHUR,
24A, Regent-street, S.W.

GRAND THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
Under the Control of ERNEST CARPENTER.
WANTED, Big Attractions for March 13 and 20, April 10.
Only the Best entertained.
Silence a polite negative.
Address,
ERNEST CARPENTER.

ROYALTY THEATRE, LLANELLY.
Booked in Conjunction with the
NEW GRAND THEATRE, ABERAVON.
WANTED, Companies, Jan. 30 and Feb. 6
Wire, TULLY, Theatre, Widnes.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, Good Companies for Feb. 27, March 6, 20, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 27 and March 6.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

IPSWICH LYCEUM.
WANTED, Companies, March 20, May 1, 8, 15, 22.
Apply to W. G. FISK.

THEATRE ROYAL, WINDSOR.
WANTED, Attractions, Feb. 6 (?), 13, 20, March 13, April 10 (?). Last week, "Florodora." Turned sufficient money away to refill the house. Thank Chas. Maodona, Esq., "Three Little Maids."
FRED L. CONNYNGHAME.

THEATRE ROYAL, GRANTHAM.
WANTED, First-class Musical and other Attractions, last Three Nights of Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27 weeks.
Visited by all Leading Touring Attractions.
EDWARD MARRIS,
Proprietor and Manager.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
Managing-Director, JOSEPH H. CURRY.
WANTED, Good Companies for March 13, May 15 and 29; also possibly June 12. Terms and Copy of Day-Bill to J. H. CURRY, as above. Three Days' silence a polite negative pro tem.

BRIXTON THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr ERNEST STEVENS.
General Manager, J. MURRAY HERRIOT.
WANTED, Feb. 27, Easter (unexpectedly Vacant), and a few Spring Dates.
First-class Attractions only.
Brixton Theatre, S.W.

COMPANIES WANTED

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Onwards, with exceptions. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

TOWN HALL, WHITLAND, SOUTH WALES.
WANTED, Known, Vacant Dates now being Booked for Dramatic and Variety Companies, &c. Good opportunity, and every convenience Situate Junction, Pembroke, Tenby, Milford, and Cardigan Railways. Apply, PROPRIETOR, Whitland.

CHELTENHAM.—VICTORIA ROOMS.
WANTED, Company, Feb 6, Six Nights.
Apply, EDWARD B. SHERTON.

WANTED, Good Fit-up Companies, Feb. 6, onwards, with exceptions.
W. H. DUNANT PHILLIPS, Station Hotel, Aldershot.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
WANTED, April 17, May 1, 8.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 7, Sept. 4.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A DISGRACE TO HER SEX."
WANTED, Important Theatres, Feb. 13, April 24, May 1, 8
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Feb. 13, April 10, May 29.
FREDK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, March 27, May 22, June 12.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 3, 24, and On, with exceptions.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 10, May 1, 22, 29. Full No. 1 Company. All the Original Scenery and Effects The Entire Production will be under the Personal Direction of Walter Melville. Address all com., DOUGLAS BRUCE, Standard Theatre, London, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of March 20 and April 24, for the above Powerful Attraction.
Wire, to-day,
KELLY, Theatre Royal, Stockton.
Next week, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 24, May 29, July 3, on, with exceptions. CHARLES HARRINGTON, Grand Theatre, Falkirk.

MR and MRS CHALMERS MACKEY'S TOUR.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
No Vacant Dates until Nov. 20, 1905.
WANTED, Big Theatres Only, then and on.
Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, Six Nights, Jan. 30.

"THE FATAL WEDDING."
"THE FATAL WEDDING."
"THE FATAL WEDDING."
WANTED, Feb. 6 (Midlands),
Feb. 27 (Midlands),
March 27,
Easter Week, April 24.
Address, BERT COOTE, 150, Oxford-street, London, W.

"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN."
"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN."
WANTED, Feb. 27, April 3, May 1, on
ALFRED PAUMIER, Prince's T, Preston (Third Visit).

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Feb. 13 and 20.
Address,
J. W. CORDINER,
Avenue Theatre, Kettering (Return),

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, March 13, May 1,
April 17, June 12, Aug. 7,
on, with exceptions.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"WHAT BECAME OF MRS RACKET?"
"MY SWEETHEART."
WANTED, Feb. 6. Wire for Feb. 6; also Feb. 13 and 27.
STONE, To-day, Grand Theatre, Cowdenbeath; next Week, Theatre Royal, Houghton-le-Spring.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
WANTED, Weeks of Feb. 6, 13, 20, for this Really Remarkable High-class Attraction.
Wire, J. H. CLYNDES, to-day, Opera House, Coventry; Monday, Opera House, Middlesbrough.

MR and MRS F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COMPANIES,
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, Feb. 27 and March 6 for this Great Attraction. Race Horses Toured. All Scenery and Jockeys carried. Parade of Horses with Jockeys in Colours Daily. F. G. KIMBERLEY, P.O.W., Nuneaton

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Good Theatre, March 20, March 20, to follow Nottingham and precede Leicester.
Wire or write, C. M. JULIAN, Royalty, Morecambe.

"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER
WANTED, Easter Week and May 1 for this powerful Drama.
Address, EUGENE BERTRAM, Broadway Theatre, New-cross, S.E.

WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 27, for Wilson Barrett's Domestic Play, "The Sledge-Hammer." W. V. GARROD, Theatre Royal, Darwen.

Mr GEORGE KIRK and Miss MARY NEIL'S COMPANY.
"JUDY."
WANTED, Feb. 20, March 20 and 27.
GEORGE KIRK, Amphitheatre, Ramsgate.

"THE BEST MUST WIN" and
"A STOLEN BIRTHRIGHT."
WANTED, Feb. 6, 13, 27, June 5, 12, and later. Wire for Feb. 6 and 13, CHARLES DRAYCOTT, King's Theatre, Walthamstow.

JOHN TULLY'S "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
Now in Fourth Year of Continuous Tour.
WANTED, Feb. 6, Week, for this Truly Remarkable Revival.
Wire,
TULLY, Theatre, Widnes.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, May 1, on with exceptions.
FRED BULMER, Lyceum Theatre, Crewe.

"BETRAYED; or, What Men call Love."
WANTED, March 20, 27, May 1, June 5.
Refer Lester Collingwood, Esq.
CECIL DU GUE, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

The Melodramatic Masterpiece,
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
WANTED, April 3 (to oblige Mr. Savile); also April 17 and 24.
Thanks to Mr Forsdike, Mr Hemming, and other Managers for Offer of Feb. 6.
Booked at Palace Theatre, Newcastle.
ROBERT PERRIS, Alexand a Theatre, Hull.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN and SIDNEY CROWE'S SUCCESS.
"THE WAY OF THE WORLD."
WANTED, Important Theatres.
First Vacant Date March 20.
Also Easter, Whitsuntide, August Bank Holiday, and on.
MONTAGUE BEAUDYN, Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

THEATRES WANTED

"HEART OF A HERO."

WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 13, June 19, onwards.

Wire, CARSON,

Theatre, Keighley.

"A MODERN ADVENTURESS."

WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, April 10, May 29, and June 5.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"DRAMA OF LIFE."

WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 6, 20, and 27, March 13.

LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"DEFENDING HIS HONOUR."

WANTED, Theatres, March 13 and 20, April 3, 17, and May 1, onwards.

LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"SILVER KING" COMPANY.

WANTED, Dates, May 1, 8, 15, 29, Sept. 4, 11, Oct. 16.
Nov. 13, 20, Dec. 4, 11, 26.
Address,
G. M. FOLINI,
93, Penge-road, Anerley,
London.

BEAUDYN and LIVESEY'S PLAYS.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
A New Oriental Play by G. A. De Gray.
WANTED, March 6, 20, 27, April 3, June 12,
"£1,000 Reward,"
a Grand Revival on an elaborate Scale,
Wanted, March 6, on.
"The Race for Wealth,"
a Powerful Modern Play, by H. Lonsdale,
Wanted, June 12, on.
"A Beautiful Fiend,"
an Acknowledged Success, Wanted, June 12, on.
"The Days of Cromwell,"
by Chas. Rogers and E. Carter Livesey,
Wanted, January, on, 1906. Address, O. H., Wakefield.
On Tour, "Traitor Prince '(a), O. H., Wakefield.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Theatres. Only Vacant Spring Dates:—Feb. 13 (Midlands), March 27, and June 19.
Autumn Rapidly Booking. Best Theatres Only.
New Plant of Printing by Allen.
Theatre Royal, Colchester, Jan. 30.

"A FRENCH JEZEBEL."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, March 13, 20, April 24.
Elaborate Costumes. Magnificent Scenery.
Production, Palace Theatre, Newcastle, March 6.
Vacant March 13, 20, and April 24.
HARRY FOXWELL, Palace Theatre, Newcastle.

"THE PRINCE OF ROGUES."
by J. Douglas and W. Benson. Magnificent New Plant of Printing by M'Caw, Stevenson, and Orr. Also Pictorials by Allens and Hill Sifkins.
Refer any Manager visited. All offer Best Holiday Dates.
WANTED, Feb. 13 and 20 (Lancs or Yorks), April 3, to precede Walsall; April 24, to follow Stratford; May 1, 8, 15, to precede Exeter, 29; June 5, to precede Portsmouth; July 31, on with exceptions.
Apply, IAN MACLAREN, Theatre Royal, Tyldesley; next, Theatre Royal, Colne.

"SHADOWS OF A GREAT CITY."
WANTED, Big Theatres, Feb. 6, 13, 20.
HARRY FOXWELL, Palace Theatre, Newcastle.

WANTED, Theatres, "The Biggest Scamp on Earth." F. A. Scudamore's most Popular Play.
Miss Frances Delaval's Splendid Company. March 6, April 24, Aug. 7, Oct. 9, 23. Wire, To-day, Tunbridge Wells; next, King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

LYTTLETON'S "AT WAR WITH THE WORLD."
WANTED, Feb. 13, 20, 27, onwards, following Southend and Walthamstow.
Everything Reliable. Printing waiting.
GEO. LYTTLETON, Empire, Southend-on-Sea.

"ROGUES OF RUSSIA."
WANTED, Feb. 6 and 20 for Up-to-Date Thrilling Drama. Good all round Company.
Everything well done. Address, BROOKS, 32, Kensington, Liverpool.

"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH" TOUR.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for One of the Greatest Financial Successes Touring, Whit Week, Aug. 14, onwards, with exceptions. Wire, DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

"MONSIEUR BEAUCAIRE" NO. 1 COMPANY (Mr MACOWAN'S).
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 6, March 6, May 1.
Wire or write, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

"AMORELLE."
"AMORELLE."
"AMORELLE."
C. P. LEVILLY'S No. 1 NORTH COMPANY.
WANTED, March 6, Midlands.
Address,
HERBERT RALLAND, Opera House, Leicester.

WANTED, Good Theatres Feb 13 and 20 (North Preferred),
"Home, Sweet Home,"
the Greatest of all Domestic Dramas.
Mr Frank Lindo, Miss Marion Wakefield,
and Full Company.
Address, FRANK LINDO, Opera House, Blackpool.

Pantomime.
WANTED, Feb. 13, Theatre, to follow Edinburgh, for "Little Red Riding Hood."
Florrie Forde as the Prince.
Address, BRIDON-PHILLIPS, Brixton Theatre.

WANTED, for the Great Financial Success "Her Fatal Past," May 8 and few Autumn Dates.
Enormous success everywhere. Coms, T. E. WARD, T. R., West Bromwich.

WANTED, for "Life that Kills," Feb. 13, March 6, May 1, and on.
"Grip of the Law," April 24, and on through Summer;
"Bigamy," March 6, and few Spring.
FRED MOULE,
King's Theatre, Nottingham.

MRS BANDMANN-PALMER'S TOUR.
WANTED, Feb. 20 and March 13.
Address, Saturday, Court, Warrington; Monday, Grand, Rawtenstall.

WANTED, Feb. 20,
"The Conscript."
MITCHELL and BELTON, Cambridge Theatre, Spennymoor.

WANTED, for "The Lightning's Flash," Feb. 13 (North-West); March 6, Scotland.
LESLIE VINER, Gaiety, Burnley (Return).

WANTED, for "At Twelve Midnight," March 20 (follow Oxford), 27, April 3, May 8, on.
C. CLIFFORD, Theatre Royal, Margate.

"THE TRAITOR."
Messrs Mitchelson and Fineberg's Magnificent Production.
WANTED, April 24, April 24.
F. HILL-MITCHELSON, Theatre, Royal Jarrow.

"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
WANTED, First-class Theatre in South or South-west,
Easter, June 16, July 10.
EDWARD MARRIS, Grand Theatre, Halifax.

"ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE."
WANTED, March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, May 8, 29, June and July. All Scenery carried.
Fine Plant of Printing. CHARLES CLIFFORD, T. R., Margate.

"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
WANTED, Feb. 27, follow Q., Dublin; March 13, 20, April 3, 26, Week. Three Plants Special Printing. Clear Stage only required.
WALTER HOWE,
this, Theatre Royal, Barnsley; next, Empire Dundee.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"A WOMAN'S DEVOTION."
"A WOMAN'S DEVOTION."
Mrs Morton Powell as Gilberte Le Grande,
Supported by
Powerful Cast.
Magnificent Scenery and Effects.
Vacant
March 27, April 24,
Sept. 18, 26, on.
MORTON POWELL,
QUEEN'S THEATRE,
FARNWORTH, BOLTON.

MR MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates for
"GREED OF GOLD."
March 6, 20, 27, April 10.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MR MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"HONOUR THY FATHER."
Feb. 20, 27 (?), March 13, 20, 27.
A Brilliant Money-maker.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

Grand Musical Production of
Charles Dickens's Fairy Fantasy,
"THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH."
Full Chorus and Ballet.
Entire Production Carried.
WANTED Good Theatre,
Feb. 6
(Vacant through disappointment),
also Feb. 20
and onwards, with exceptions
(owing to Continuation of Tour).
Pantomime Business
can be done in Good Towns.
Can arrange for Matinées only
if desired.
The whole Production
is Beautifully Rendered,
and should not be missed.
Apply for Dates to
CALVERT ROUTLEDGE,
to-day, Irving, Seacombe; next, T. R., Norwich.

WANTED, Feb. 13 and March 13, for Miss Emma Litchfield's great success, "A London Actress," "A London Actress" Feb 13 March 13, on, with exceptions. Second Visit in Seven Months to Star, Liverpool. Press and Public Delighted. Mr Fineberg, after performance on Monday night, said:—"Cleveland, you can, with pleasure, refer managers to me. Delighted to recommend such an excellent show." Liverpool Daily Post, Jan 24, says:—Star Theatre, this week, is happy in the engagement of Miss Emma Litchfield and company. The piece is entitled "A London Actress," the authoress being Miss Litchfield. The play is in a mould which not only suits the patrons of the Star, but has qualities of a superior nature. The scenery and effects are very striking. . . . There is briskness movement, fun, and pathos all through, with very enjoyable results. The comic fight between two old women, in act four, goes with a roar of laughter and applause from start to finish.

Wire, wire, wire,
for March 13,
STUART CLEVELAND,
to-day, Star, Liverpool;
next week, P. O. W., Mexborough
(Fourth Visit).

CARSON, GRANVILLE, and THORNE'S TOUR.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this Magnificent Attraction,
Autumn Dates.
Address,
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Theatres for
James Kiddie's
Colossal Gorgeous Pantomimes,
"Little Aladdin,"
"Little Cinderella."
Vacant Feb. 27.
Vacant Feb. 27.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON, Alexandra Theatres, Widnes.

"MISS MISCHIEF."
WANTED Feb. 20 (South), also March 6, and Several Early Spring Dates, on, for
Musical Comedy, "Miss Mischief,"
by Mr Reginald Bacchus and Dr. F. Osmond Carr,
Composer of "Morocco Bound," "His Excellency,"
"In Town," &c.
An Acknowledged Success.
Beautifully Staged and Elaborate Dresses.
Everything Carried.
Address all communications, GODFREY LAMPLUGH,
to-day, Grand Theatre, Margate;
next week, Theatre Royal, Worthing.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Proprietors and Managers of First-class Theatres to know that, owing to the great success of the Marvellous Craggs' "Laughter-Land" Company at the Star Theatre, Liverpool, Harris Fineberg, Esq., offered to Rebook it for Christmas next. This offer had to be refused, as the Marvellous Craggs' Congress of Comedians will then be playing their Third Scotch four; but have booked Another Holiday Date with Mr Fineberg. Hundreds turned away on Saturday night, and Three Pantomimes in the Town. "Laughter-Land" always successful in Dramatic Theatres
Monday next, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

WANTED, March 20 and April 3, for "Hearts Adrift."
Booked and Pencilled at Grand, Birmingham; Fulham, the Camden, Crown, Peckham; Portsmouth, &c.
A. BERTRAM, Killarney, Gilmore-road, Lewisham, S.E.

WANTED, Theatres and Halls Feb. 27, onwards. New "Fun on the Bristol." Great success of Revival. Address, JAMES, Post-office, Berwick-on-Tweed.

ARTISTES WANTED

PARRINGTON AND DEW'S COMPANY.
"THE 'VARSITY BELLE."
WANTED, 'Varsity Belle, Runyard, and Conductor. 'Varsity Belle must look well as a Boy, medium height, wears trousers, good voice. Runyard, small comedian, Tich size, sing and dance.
Long Tour to suitable people.

Open Feb. 20.

Write or wire,
GEORGE PARRINGTON,
Higham Hall, Bury St. Edmunds.

WANTED, Artistes for Musical Comedy, Town and Tour. Must be Young, of Good Appearance, and Good Voice. Send full particulars to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Artistes, "The Biggest Scamp on Earth." A Clever Child, Small, but Fourteen Years of Age. Apply, Miss DELAVAL, King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

WANTED, Dramatic Artistes, Leading Lady (Robust), Leading Heavy Gentleman Open Feb. 20; Rehearse in Town Feb. 13. Address, W. E. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A FRENCH JEZEBEL."
WANTED, Really Good Heavy Lady, must have at least Four Elaborate Dresses. Rehearse, Newcastle, Feb 28. Terms, HARRY FOXWELL, Palace Theatre, Newcastle.

"THE CITY OF MILLIONS."
WANTED, First-class Actress for Heavy Lead. Must be Tall and Good Figure. Terms, references, photos (stamped envelope), to A. HAMILTON WARDEN, 2, Willowfield-road, Eastbourne.

"WOMAN OF IMPULSE" TOUR
WANTED, Leading Man, Aristocratic Military, Straight Character (Yorkshire), Old Man (Doctor), Two Responsibles. Rehearse London Feb. 20. Open 27. Photos, height, &c., terms must be quoted. Ladies' parts filled. LEONARD PAGDEN, 28, Dinsmore-road, Balham, S.W.

"THE GOLDEN LADDER."
WANTED, Comedian for Peckaby, to Double French Surgeon. Rehearse Rotherhithe Open Shakespeare, Clapham, Feb. 13. Address, with all particulars, Photographs, EDMONDS, T. R., Bury.

ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Gent., for Dutch Part, one who can jödel preferred; Acrobatic Dancers, also Chorus Ladies. Lowest terms, photos., and references.
Miss CISSIE MOXON,
Alhambra Theatre, Stourbridge.

"THE CITY OF MILLIONS."
WANTED, Recognised Actor for Heavy Lead. Must be Tall. Terms, refs., photos. (stamped envelope) to A. HAMILTON WARDEN, 2, Willowfield-rd., Eastbourne.

MOODY-MANNERS COMPANY.
WANTED, Two Dancers.
Write lowest terms, stating experience, with photograph,
WYATT, Opera House, Cork.

WANTED, for Hybert's "U.T.C." Fit-up Tour, Coloured People, with Speciality preferred. Lowest terms, &c., J. A. HIBBERT, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," P.O., Chertsey, Surrey.

WANTED, at Once, Young Lady and Gent. for Sketch, Music Hall Tour. Everything ready. Six Months' Engagement certain. Premium required returnable in salary. Photos. and particulars, with stamp, to FRANKLYN, 14, Canterbury-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, a Young and Clever Dancer, with Knowledge of Toe Dancing, for a Long Engagement. Apply, Box 1,093, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Dramatic Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement by Good Amateur Gentleman in reliable company, Good Appearance. Willing to give month free if retained for Tour. Box 1,109, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, by Pianist, Brilliant Classical Soloist, Songs, Sketches at Piano, Engagement. Miss GABRIELLE HOPE, 25, High-road, Streatham.

To Managers of Hotels, &c.
WANTED, by Select Ladies' Quartette or Quintette, Engagement. Apply, D. C., 20, Streatham-place, Brixton.

WANTED, for the H. and B. Quartette, Contracts, Home or Abroad. Free Monday. Act, Refined, Funny, Good. Music, Acrobats. 50, Shepherd-street, Bury.

WANTED, by Good Mezzo, Engagements for Summer Season. Only Good Offers Entertained. MUSIC, 18, Oriental-place, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Lady Vocalist, Young, Soprano, experienced, well-known, would like to join Quartet for this Summer.
Write,
Box 1,105, "The Era"

WANTED, Known, the Victoria Ladies' Quartette, Open to Easter and Summer Engagements. Miss ADELA SUTCLIFFE, 50, Osnaburg-st., Regent's-park.

WANTED, Known, Counter Tenor, who is also expert Mandolinist and Guitarist, would like to join established troupe. Box 1,097, care of "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Trio or Quartette Dancers, also Chorus Ladies. Panto. Tour. Open at once. HARRY COLLINS, Theatre Royal, Workington. Second Week.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Miss Doliy Elsworthy Disengaged, Panto., 1895 and 1896, Principal Boy. Three Years, Dottridge and Longden; Two Years, Grand, Islington. Next Two Weeks, Prince of Wales's, Grimsby; after, Grand, Nottingham.

WANTED, Panto, 1905-6, by Boulton and Bartenelli, now Playing Emperor, Nicey Picey, and Principal Speciality. Address, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, a Capable Man, used to Painting Scenes, Mounting, and Staging, Cinématograph Pictures.

Full particulars,
Box 1,116, care of "The Era."

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Scenery of every Description Painted to Order. Large Stock of New and Secondhand Cloths, Flats, &c., on hand. New Cloths 18ft. by 24ft. from £4. High-class Work guaranteed. Sykes's Scenic Studio, 11, City-road, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement (Permanent), by Ward-Bussell (late Grand Theatre), Scenic Artist. Dioramic Mechanical Effects (Papier-mache). 7, Fleming-terrace, Shettleston, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, William Wells, R.B.A., Scenic Studio, Theatre Royal, Preston. Cloths and Act Drops, Specialty.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Authors, Managers, to Know that Well-known and Popular Composer is at Liberty to Compose and Orchestrate Comic Opera, Musical Play, or Burlesque. Highest London and Provincial Press Opinions. Box 1,077, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Business Manager to Book Tours. Must be influential and in touch with Managers of best Theatres. State terms and references. Address, Box 1,107, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Secretary and Manager with Experience in Booking Variety Turns.
State references and salary required, in confidence, to DIRECTORS,
Regent Theatre of Varieties, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, by a Well-known Band, Good Agent. Highest Testimonials.
Box 1,056, care of "The Era."

WANTED, a Thoroughly Experienced Electrician and Gas Man. Must be sober and reliable. Apply to W. C. HORNER, Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

WANTED, Theatrical Poster Writer. Must be Practical and Steady. Apply, by letter only, stating Age and Wages, &c., to MORRIS, the Writer, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Bill-Poster. Single Man
A. E. BAST,
Orchard-street, Bournemouth.

WANTED, for Shakespearian Répertoire, Wardrobe Mistress and Baggage Master (Joint preferred). Mrs Stoltuck write.
Address, HERBERT J. MONTAGUE,
7, Handel-mansions, Handel-st., Brunswick-square, W.C.

WANTED, Known, Experienced Business Manager and Acknowledged Leading Actress are Open for Engagement and Investment in First-class Tour at home or abroad. Box 1,101, "The Era" Office, Wellington-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, Engagement, by Alfred Levison, Management, Ring Master, Stage-Manager, or General Out-door Business. A Genuine Worker, Reliable, Courteous, Energetic, Respectable, and a Total Abstainer. Now at Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh Address, care of NICOL, 19, Murieston-crescent, Dairy-road, Edinburgh. Important Notice.—Amusement Syndicates or Speculators communicate.

WANTED, by Experienced Manager, Disengaged Feb. 4 (one who is a regular Hustler), Management, Theatre or Music Hall. One or Two Houses Nightly. Can do all Bookings if required. Highest references. Wire or write, MANAGER, 113, Embleton-road, Ladywell, London, S.E.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Engagement, Acting, Assistant, Advertising, or Stage Manager. Experienced. Variety or Theatre. BAKER, 62, Baker-street, Attercliffe.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Resident Manager, Theatre or Music Hall, Vacant Feb. 4. Excellent refs. Write or wire, King's T., Gainsborough.

WANTED, Situation as Stage-Manager by Practical Man. Ten years' experience. Address, H. WILSON, Fir Bank, Berkswell, near Coventry.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Burnett at Liberty to undertake Management or any Responsible Position. Highest references, good security. Address, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Circus Agent or Manager, Assistant, Hippodrome Manager, or any Position of Trust. Energetic, Experienced Worker. Reliable, Total Abstainer. Address, CHARLES REED, Ethelburgha, Leigh-road, Leigh-on-Sea.

WANTED, Immediate Engagement, Advance, Baggage, Responsibles, Billing, &c. Willing and useful, total abstainer, excellent refs. Age, twenty-six. Box 1,115, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, G. H. Chapman, Master Carpenter, thanks Milton Bode, Esq., for Sixteen Consecutive Tours. Just concluding with "Babes in the Wood." Spring, Engaged by George Dance, Esq.

WANTED, Engagement as Advance or Bill Inspector. At Lib. Feb. 4. Late Buffalo Bill's. Good refs. HARRIS, care of Poole's, Colston Hall, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagement by Strong Youth, as Baggage-Man, and to make himself generally useful with Travelling Co. Address, P. PIDDLESDEN, 13, Warwick-road, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Situation, as Billposter or Working Manager. Over Eight Years' in Present Situation. BEADLE, Simpson's-road, Bromley, Kent.

WANTED, Known, Amy Samwells, First-class Wardrobe Mistress, Costumier. Good Cutter-out. Highest references. Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Married Couple (Respectable), want Situation as Hallkeepers in Good Theatre or Music Hall. Age, Thirty-six-Thirty-seven. No Encumbrance. Experienced. Highest refs. GEORGE PITCHER, 29, Padiham-rd., Burnley, Lancashire.

MUSICIANS WANTED

WANTED, Leader, Cornets Horn (E Flat), Trombone, Euphonium, Bombardon, and Drums. Circus business. Open Feb 6 Age, salary expected. Address, MANAGER, 38, Milligate, Stockport.

WANTED, First-class Variety Conductor for Hippodrome, Boscombe. Recent testimonials, photos, and lowest terms. Apply, SNELL-ROBINSON, Metropole Theatre, Camberwell.

WANTED, Violin and Double Bass Players for a Staff Band.

Apply to
ALFRED HAYS,
26, Old Bond-street, London.

WANTED, Good First Violin. Lowest terms and references to
LLOYD CLARANCE, New Theatre, Cornett.

WANTED, First Violin, to Combine Brass, Double Bass, to Combine Bombardon; Flute and Clarionet, to Combine Second Cornet or Tenor Horn; Slide Trombonist; Double Drummer, with Effects. Lowest terms and references in first letter, MANAGER, Roberts's Pictures, Philharmonic Hall, Southampton.

WANTED, B Flat Cornet, Sax-Horn, and Bombardon Players for Pitching. Terms, shares. SECRETARY, 39, St. Mary's-road, Hastings.

WANTED, a Good Cornet for the Newport Professional Town Band (at once) Terms, shares. SECRETARY, 95, Stow-hill, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Trombonist (Competent), to Open Monday Next.
Permanent Engagement to Steady Man.
Wire,
HORGAN, Opera House, Cork.

West Riding Asylum, Wakefield.
WANTED, a Male Attendant, who is able to Play the Euphonium, wages £30 per annum, rising £2 10s. annually to £55, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform suit every Eight Months. Applications, stating age, height, reference to character and ability, to be sent at once to the Medical Director.

WANTED, 'Cello, used to the Variety Business.
Address, with references,
J. F. ELLISTON, Grand Theatre, Bolton.

WANTED, Celloist (Smart, Young), Male, for Permanent Café Engagement.
State age, references,
and List of Solos.
Address, Box 1,095, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Good 'Cello and Viola. Must be well up in Variety Biz. Age and refs. to F. BRAHAM, M.D., Regent Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, for Dooner's Bioscope and Variety Show,
First-class Pianist.
Must read at sight. Good wages.
Permanency to suitable Person. Open at once.
DOONER, Bioscope, Bridgend.

WANTED, for Wadbrook's Electrograph, a Good Pianist. Used to Business.
Apply, Wadbrook Fair Ground, Maesteg,
for all the Week.

WANTED, Pianist (First-class), to open Monday next, must read at sight, and used to Variety Business, for Six Nights, but if suitable a longer engagement.
Wire lowest terms to HOBART, Corn Exchange, Maidstone. Byram, of Southampton, wire.

WANTED, Pianist, to Travel with Auction Mart. Those Used to the Business Preferred. C. F. ROWLEY, Rose Mount Middle-road, Sholing, Hants.

WANTED, Double Drummer, First Violin, Conductor (capable of Piano and Violin) State age, lowest terms, and send two recent references.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, Bandsmen to Enlist in a First-class Line Regimental Band (Infantry).
Extra Band Pay and Privileges.
Flute, Violin, and 'Cello Players,
Double-handed preferred.
Apply to A. S.,
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WANTED, Musicians, for Orchestral and Military Bands. Immediate and Future Engagements. Mr H. E. ANGLESS, Conductor, 78, Norwood-road, S.E.

WANTED, Full Orchestra, for Hippodrome, Boscombe. References, lowest terms (Two Performances Nightly and Two Matinées), SNELL-ROBINSON, Metropole Theatre, Camberwell.

WANTED, Musicians (Good), Immediately (Lady or Gentleman), Cello, Piano, Trombone, Flute, &c. Particulars to
CONDUCTOR, 13, Tabley-road, Holloway, London.

WANTED, Instrumentalists for Easter, Whitsuntide, and Season.
Two Performances daily. Only First-class Performers. Lowest terms and references to
F. H. JEPSON, Musical Director, the Palace, Blackpool.

WANTED, Smart Novelty Band, with Drawing and Attractive Powers, for Exhibition Week, commencing March 20, including One Sacred Concert, March 26, with or without Vocalist or other Speciality. Indifferent or Mediocre Bands don't reply.
Address, lowest inclusive terms,
HAGUE, Spa Gardens, Limited, Bridlington.

WANTED, Bandsmen wishing to Enlist for Short Periods in Militia Band Trainings to please send in at once full Name, permanent address, and name of Instrument. Address, HAWKES and SON, Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice. Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. WILLIAMS, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Telegraphic address, "Amuse, Manchester;" Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. JESSON, 96, Long-acre, London, W.C.; Telegraph address, "Amusologia, London;" Telephone, 9,827 Central. F. J. LEES, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-street, Glasgow; Telephone, 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS

WANTED, Known, T. A. Hannavy, Conductor, Duchess Palace, Balham, S.W., Disengaged with his Entire Orchestra, Feb. 4, owing to closing of Hall. Offers invited as Conductor, or Conductor-Pianist. Highest references. 106, Tredegar-road, Bow, E.

WANTED, by Leader, Engagement, Tenting Season. Good répertoire of Circus Music. Long experience. T. REYNOLDS, Marquis of Granby Hotel, Lincoln.

WANTED, by Conductor-Pianist (combine Cornet), Engagement. Resident or Touring. Smart, Steady, Good Arranger. Address, CONDUCTOR, 64, Cookson-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, by First-class Musical Director, Violinist (or First Violin), Engagement. Fifteen years' experience. In any business. Good references. Open immediately. Mr ISAAC HENDERSON, Conductor, 62, Baker-street, Attercliffe, Sheffield.

WANTED, by Conductor (Violin or Piano), Engagement, for Theatre or Sea-side Hotel. Work. Late Student at R.A.M. Address, care of P.O., Richmond.

WANTED, by Violin, Piano, Cornet, Double Bass, Combine Trombone, Engagement (Family) Experienced, Reliable. Theatre, Music Hall. Liberty Saturday. POWELL, Public Hall, Reigate, Surrey. Wire.

WANTED, by Violin, Engagement, Variety or Theatre. WARNHAM (late Leader, the Granville), 47, Black Lion-lane, Hammersmith.

WANTED, by First Violin or Second, Engagement through change of Proprietor. Could join at once. W. MONTAGUE, Hippodrome Orchestra, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

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WANTED, by Cornettist, Engagement in Orchestra, Dances, &c. H. ANGEL, 47, Stopford-road, Forest-gate, London, E.

WANTED, by Cornettist (Good), Engagement, Dramatic or Variety, through Hippodrome, Belfast, closing, Jan. 28.
Address, after, WILLIE KAYE, 133, Gordon-street, Leigh.

WANTED, by Solo Cornet, Engagement, Competent Any Business, At Liberty Feb. 4. NORMAN HOLLAND, 52, Cloudesley-rd., Islington, London, N.

WANTED, by Three Chums, Job in Travelling Circus or Menagerie, Cornet, Euphonium, and Side Drum, latter having Good Voice. Could Sing. Address, Box 1,110, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Clarionet, Engagement, Theatre or Music Hall, Can Join at Once. P. HARE, Arundel-house, Mount-parade, Harrogate.

WANTED, by Clarionet Player (Young, Good), Engagement. Good references. GOSS, 3, Hayward's-villas, Sutton, Surrey.

WANTED, by Double Bass or Bombardon, Engagement, Theatre or Variety. Any Business. Experienced. TOM PLANT, 49, Caroline-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, by Solo Double Bass, Engagement, February, on.
Address, JACQUES MILLS, Kursaal, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

WANTED, by Double Bass (Good), Engagement. Sober and Reliable. Just Concluded Three Years' Engagement. [At Liberty Feb. 6. ALLAN, 4, Bodafon-row, Llandudno.

WANTED, by String Bass, French Horn, Second Cornet (Experienced), Engagement. Just left Army. Good references. Mr WAY, Sailors' Welcome, Queen-street, Portsea.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement. Experienced, any Business Can join at once. ALF EOSTOCK, 18, Adalaide-street, Blackburn, Lancs.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement (Summer). Excellent references. GEO. STEWART, 14, Travis Lacy-terrace, Dewsbury.

WANTED, by Experienced Trombonist, Engagement, Permanent or Deputising. Apply, W. F., care of MORGAN, 12, Lark hill, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, by Trombonist (Professional), Engagement. Apply, S. J. CHERTHAM, 49, Reginald-road, Bexhill-on-Sea.

WANTED, by Trombone (Competent), Engagement, any Business. At Liberty Feb. 4. A. PARTRIDGE, 52, Cloudesley-road, Islington, London, N.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement, through closing. Experienced, Sober. Any business. TROMBONE, 15, St. Helier's-road, South Shore, Blackpool.

WANTED, by Trombone or Double Bass, Engagement. Experienced. Any business. Excellent refs. Can join immediately. MUSICIAN, Elmete House, Scholes, near Leeds.

SOUTHPORT CORPORATION MILITARY BAND.
WANTED, First Horn, B Flat Saxophone, Bassoon, Solo Cornet, Bass Drum, and Clarionet Players. Address, with references, Messrs BARTLE and RIMMER, Belmont-street, Southport.

WANTED, by French Horn, Engagement, Opera, Concert, or any business. Thoroughly experienced. HORN, Box 1,065, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Sixteen Saxaphon Players, for Voorzanger's Sax Band. Apply, BANDMASTER, 61, Warwick-road, Maida-vale, London, W.

WANTED, by Oboe Player, Engagement. Experienced, String or Military Band. Good Reference. 16, Lincoln-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, Suitable for Little Girl on 'Cello.
Mr CASSELLE, 35, Granville-square, King's-cross-road.

WANTED, by 'Cellist, Engagement in London. Small Salary.
'CELLO, 11, Clarendon-street, Pimlico, S.W.

WANTED, by Harpist (Age Seventeen), Engagement. Bath Herald, Jan. 2, 1905, says:—Undoubtedly a talented harpist. MAUD GRUNDY, 49, Haverstock-hill, London.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, through closing of Hippo, Belfast. Any Business. ALBERT BULLOCK, 17, Henryville-st., Belfast.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Re-engagement. Modern Instruments. Thoroughly Experienced and Reliable. ROBT. WALKER, 33, Salmestone-road, Margate.

WANTED, by Pianist (Conductor, Composer, and Arranger), Summer Engagement. Excellent refs. C. PEARSON, care of Mrs JUBB, Bank Cottage, Dewsbury.

WANTED, by Pianist (First-class), Engagement. Permanency preferred.
Box 1,017, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Pianist-Conductor, First-class Summer Engagement. Highest references. Address, J. DE GABRIELE, T. R., Dunfermline, N.B.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagement. Any Business. Steady, reliable, good refs. Any distance. Address, NEWTON ROBINSON, 16, Yeoman-street, Skelton-in-Cleveland.

WANTED, Engagement by Double Drums and Effects, any business. Can open at once. PALMER, Presto House, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, with Effects, Engagement F. M'CRAHAN, 31, Delaune-street, Kennington-park-road, London, S E.

WANTED, by Madame H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, Engagement. Now booking 1905. Address, 78, Norwood-road, Herne-hill, S E.

WANTED, Known, to Directors, Managers, Committees, &c., that the Famous Old British Guards Band is open for High class Summer Business, Seaside Engagement, or Exhibition Work. Enormous success last summer, Bradford Exhibition, &c., and at the Palace Pier, Brighton, where it was the most successful Band, succeeding late Lieut. Dan Godfrey. The Old British Guards Band, popularly known as "The Old Guards," numbers from Fifteen to Fifty, is the only genuine ex-Guards Band in England, and the most representative one in Great Britain. Every Member guaranteed late of crack Guards Bands. The Finest Band out of Army. Can be heard at N.S.I. Concerts. Latest Music. Most Popular Programmes. Smart, Handsome Uniforms. Everything to draw public and ensure great success. Conductor holds many Public and Official Testimonials.
A. HOLMES-DALLIMORE,
Dorville-crescent, Ravenscourt-park, W.

WANTED, by the Loyal Westminster Band (Thirty-one Professional Musicians). Engagements. Conductor, Mr O. H. CARTER, 32, Tenison-st., London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, the Original Blue Austrian Band open to Good Offers. CONDUCTOR, 53, Philpot-street, Stepney, London.

WANTED, Known, Family Band, experienced in Operatic and Dramatic Business, at Liberty for good permanency. MUSICUS, 35, Aske-road, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, by Band of Eight, together or separate, Engagement, Tenting or otherwise. H. JAMES, Leader, 15, Lower Drayton-place, Croydon, Surrey.

WANTED, Seaside Engagement for Moderate Sized Orchestra, Dancing or Selections. H. MITCHELL, Conductor 2, Newburn-road, Bradford.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an Advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of 'The Era' Advertisement Dept.,
"49, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

CIRCUS ARTISTES WANTED.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS, MARKET-PLACE, BOLTON.

WANTED, Big Sensations and Novelties; also useful Circus Artistes in all Lines, from Feb 6 onwards, from Feb 6, onwards. Nothing too Big. Must have the very best Up-to-date Turns.
Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's Grand Circus, Bolton.

WANTED, for John Henry Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh, Artistes in Every Branch of the Profession for the month of February. One or Two Good (Original) Comedians write. Full particulars, terms, and lithos., in first letter to T. W. COOKE Agent solely for Mr John Henry Cooke, 123, Kennington-road, London, S.E. Three days' silence a polite negative pro tem. Those Artistes booked for the 6th be there in good time.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE.

WANTED, Specialities of every Description; also Good Clowns, Feb 13 and on. Address, U. ALGIE.

WANTED, Specialities, Novelties, Aerial and Ground Acts for Galas.

Lowest Terms, Lithos., &c.,
LE MARE AND SON,
28, Coupland-street, Manchester.

GRAND CIRCUS, STOCKPORT.

WANTED, Feb. 6, onwards, Talent of all Kinds suitable for Arena. Artistes must say if ever appeared in Stockport.
All communications, DAVENPORT, Circus, Stockport.

WANTED, August Bank Holiday, for Kidderminster Weavers' Monstre Fête and Picnic, First-class Aerial Performers and other Artistes. Best Performers only need apply.
Lithos., Posters, and all particulars as to terms, &c., to be sent to
E. STRADLING, Batham-street, Green-hill, Kidderminster.

WANTED, for Galas, Easter also Gala Season, Acrobats, Cyclists, Comedians, Gymnasts, and Novelties. T. Wood, Caterer, Easton, Bristol.

WANTED, Five Speciality Acts for Bank Holiday, Trapeze, Bars, Musical, Vent., Bicycle excepted. M'Askell, 120, Roker-avenue, Sunderland.

WANTED, for the Principal Galas, commencing Easter Monday, High Rope and Wire Walkers, Gymnasts, Performing Animals, Trick Cyclists, Troupe Acrobats, Triple Bar Acts, and Anything Suitable for Outdoor Performance Forward Specimen Poster, Lowest Terms, and Full Particulars, to W. F. JURY, 43, Peckham-park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Good Understander for High-class Hand to Hand Act. Send Photo., state Height and Weight and Age. None but sober and reliable need apply.
Address,
HOBSON,
19, Cordova-road,
Bow East,
London, E.

WANTED, Gymnast, for Comedy Three-Bar Act. Good Knockabout. Must be Sure. Can join at once. Address, Box 1,104 care of "The Era."

WANTED, Immediately, Young Man for Triple Bars, able to do Three or Four Tricks. Particulars, EMIL, 91, Prince George-road, Stoke Newington.

WANTED, Two Acrobats, one a Good Top Mount.
Apply, Box S 837, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, a First-class Tumbler, Must be First-class.

State all particulars in first letter to
W. GRIFFIN,
Theatre Royal, Edinburgh

WANTED, One or Two Boys (Coloured preferred), age fourteen, for Tumbling and Juggling. Address P. A., 4, Gerrard-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Smart and Sober, Reliable German Groom, for Small Ponies.
Reply, CABAN, Lyric, Liverpool.

CIRCUS ARTISTES WANTED

WANTED, Groom, for Ponies, &c. Sober and Reliable. One who can Work.
Apply (letters), SPORTING ACT, Grand Theatre, Chorley.

WANTED, Circus Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Educated Lions Vacant March 6, 13, 20, and April 3; also Whit Week. Offers invited.
L. JENSEN, Proprietor of Ella's Lions.
Jan. 30, Foresters' Music Hall.
Feb. 6, Bow Palace.

WANTED, Known, Wm. Tudor's Performing Ponies, Riding Dog and Goat, also Best Turpin Mare in the Business. at Liberty after Eight Weeks' Comfortable Engagement with G. Gilbert, Esq.
Address, 35, York-road, Yarmouth.

Miss Wynema, with Reptiles, Den of Wolves, and Speciality. Own Scenery. Lithos., &c.
Jan. 30, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Managers and Agents to see this Act. Vacant Feb. 12, Crowtree-ter., Sunderland.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Great Novel Dog Act at Liberty March for First-class Tenting Show. Big Act Address, G. T., Islington, London.

WANTED, Known, Lillian Davies, Bare-back Equestrienne, at Liberty Jan. 30, for a Few Days only. Address, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton. Dog Breaker send Address.

WANTED, Known Mrs Dudley Smith and her Mare, Dainty Lass, Winner of 243 Prizes, at Liberty Jan. 30, onwards. Wire, Ohmy's Circus, Bolton

WANTED, Known, John Yelding, Bare-back Equestrian, with a number of First-class Acts; also Two First-class Trick and Manège Horses, Three Ponies, and Donkey. At Liberty to accept short Engagement. Eight to Ten Acts. Address, T. G. TRANSFIELD, Hippo., New Brompton.

WANTED, Known, Johnnie Quinn, Ireland's own Talking, Singing, and Knockabout Clown, Three successful Seasons with the Barnum of Ireland. James Lloyd, Esq.; now Fourteenth Week Continual success, Market Hall, Airdrie. Lib. Tenting Season.

WANTED, Known, Comical Walker, enormous success this week, Tivoli, Dublin; next, Grand, Manchester. Vacant Feb. 6.

WANTED, Known, Sunshine and Shadow, Clowns, Sixth Week with Hengler's Circus, Glasgow. Summer fixed. Thanks for other offers.

WANTED, Offers, Two Dominos, Pierrots and Donkey. Comic Act.
Different to all other Donkeys, never makes an Ass of himself. On the nod.
Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Jan. 6, Mayeno Trio (Two Ladies, One Gent) Gymnasts, Acrobats, Wire Clown, Entrées, fulfilling return after eight weeks, and detained for another week. Thank Managers for summer. Settled. Lib. Feb. 6, short dates. Olympia, Sunderland.

WANTED, Known, the Three Leonard's, Triple Bars, Acrobatic Chair Performers, and Clowns with Entrées, now at Liberty. Wire, 7, Melville-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte, Feb. 6, 13, with their Smart Gymnastic Act. Great success, Hippodrome, Perth.
Monday, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, Known, the Maros, Three Bar Comedians, Palace, Dundee. Free 30 Feb. 6. Wire for Monday. After, 126, Porter-street, Hull.

WANTED, Known, the Beautiful Vanda, in her Great and Up-to-Date Juggling Act on the Revolving Globe, also First-class Wire Act. Vacant Feb 6, onwards. Two Distinct Specialities.
Address,
Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, for Feb. 6 and 13, 1905, Engagement for John Fredericks Troupe, Champion Strength Statue Picture Acrobats, Head and Hand Balancers. A New Act on a Revolving Apparatus. After this no Vacancies till 1906. From America Address, 108, Lambeth-road, London, S.E. John Fredericks Troupe.

WANTED, Known, Joe Pauletti, Sensational Staircase Cyclist. Cat and Specialities, "Dick Whittington." T. P., Colne. Liberty Few Galas Summer. Two Acts.

WANTED, Known, Evansio, Celebrated Plate and Basin Spinner, a sure success, always causing Roars of Laughter, At Liberty for Jan. 30, Feb. 6, and 13, Halls, Circus, or Tours. Apply, 85, Queen st., Louth, Lincolnshire.

WANTED, Feb. 6 and 13, by Delamere Trio, the Original Comedy Equilibrists.
Communications, Palace, Attercliffe, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Vacant Monday Next, the Cedrics, Equilibristic Comedy Artistes away from all others, and complimented Everywhere. Success of Programme, Hippodrome, Castleford.

WANTED, Known that after Ten Years' Employment with Mr James Bostock, Mr Frank, and Mr E. H. Bostock's and Wombwell's Menagerie, the Three Brothers Kettering are now at Liberty to accept Engagements, one as Agent-in-Advance, next as Interpreter or Regisseur to remain with the Show; the third as Bandmaster, with his Splendid Brass Band, up till Twenty in Number, if Wanted (all Gentlemen), and capable to bring a Show along by Road or Rail. Born in Show Business, and able to Speak and Correspond English, French, German, Flemish, Dutch, Austrian, and Italian A good opportunity for an important firm who would like to have a Tour through the Continent. Splendid chance to work Fairs out here for a big show, Four and Five Weeks each Town For references, &c., address, CHARLES KETTERING, 27, Rue de la Poterie, Mons, Belgium.

WANTED, to join for Comedy Speciality, by Gymnast and Knockabout Pantomimist.
Box 1,113, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Man (Twenty-three), to Join Good Gymnast as Pupil. Good at Handstand, good Appearance, 9st., 5ft. 6in. GYM, 5, Lawrence-street, Stafford.

WANTED, Known, Two Lads, Tumblers, Knockabouts, and Buck Dancers, wish to Join Comedy or Pantomime Sketch. WIL DUNN, 3, Abercromby-st, Glasgow, East.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

ABERDEEN and DUNDEE
PALACE VARIETY THEATRES.
Booked in Conjunction with
Plymouth, Bristol, and Sunderland.

WANTED, Artistes Engaged to forward Bill Matter Two clear Weeks in advance.
Always Vacancies for Star Turns.
ERNEST SHELDON, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Variety Artistes of Every Description. Immediate Dates for Suitable Numbers. Only High-class Acts Represented.
J. Tysoe-Smith, 15A, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address. 'Engagement, Manchester.'

WANTED, Variety Artistes, Big Specialities, Star Comedians, Comediennes, Duettists, Dancers, Acrobats, Gymnasts, Knockabouts, Novelties, Feb. 6, onwards. Lowest terms, Bookings, &c., Edgar Stebbings, Agent, 23, Fgerton-street, Manchester. Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Immediate and Future Dates. Lessee and Manager, WM. MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, Suitable for Carnival. State lowest price, silence polite negative, RICHARDSON BROS., Limited, Olympia, Sunderland.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, from now, on.
Apply, Mr SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager,
H. I. ERIVINGTON.

WANTED, Comedy Star Artistes, for Immediate Dates. Nothing too Big.

WANTED, Artistes, Single and Double Turns, Feb. 27, March 13, Lady Balladist, Feb. 13. Lowest terms, Two Weeks, CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin. Can Book good Freak or Novelty.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Jan. 30, onwards, for Liverpool, Ashton, St. Helens, and Warrington.
F. WILLMOT,
Haymarket Music Hall, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artistes, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, Feb. 6 and 13. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest, Hall small

WANTED, Artistes, Concert Parties, Bands, Theatrical Companies, &c., for Pier Pavilion, Southend, February onwards. All communications to MANAGER.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, Big Specialities on Salary or Shares, for Feb. 6, 13, and 20. HUGH DEMPSEY, 42, Crowtree-road, Sunderland.

WANTED, Good Music Hall Artistes, Feb 20 and Onwards. Also a Good Pianist, to Open at Once. Address, with terms, JOHN ORTON, People's Theatre, Abergavenny, Mon.

WANTED, Wanted Wanted English, American, and Continental Artists of Every Description to forward Full List of Bookings, Lithos, and Lowest Terms. Now Booking for the Seaside. Big Stars, with any Summer Vacancies, kindly communicate with all particulars. Price no object.
Cavill and Co.,
the Premier Provincial Agency,
15, Hotham-street, London-road, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Overture, Liverpool."
Telephone, 2,140 Royal.

WANTED, Known, Artistes coming North having Immediate Vacancies send lowest positive terms and Scotch Bookings to
Fred Howard,
11, Abercorn-street, Glasgow.

THE PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, ABERDARE.

WANTED, Feb. 6, onward, Artistes of Every Description. Good Comedy Numbers, Knockabouts, Comedians, Serios, and Specialities can be booked Lowest terms. Hall very small. Call for Monday, Jan. 30, 1905. Rehearsal, 1·30. No excuse. Hicks' Clerks, Mark Anthony, Edie Endon, Wisper, Three Novells, Ranji Singa, Beatrice Bloom, Leatho, Abel and Welsh, Band. WILL GREGORY, General Manager.

WANTED, Star Artistes, Feb. 13, and onward, Comedians, Comedienne, Comedy Quartettes, Sketches, Novelties, Specialities, Sisters, Acrobats, &c. Anything that can draw No Artistes too big. Money no object Good Tops and Bottoms. Must be Artistes, refined, well dressed. Agents invited to send Weekly List.
Lowest terms, permanent address, lithos., &c.
Address, MANAGER, Regent Theatre Co., Limited,
Cross-lane, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, First-class Artists, Performances and Aerial Shows; also Ballet Troupes, June 12, July 3, 10, Aug 7, 1905. Apply, Sample Lithos, Posters, &c., to W. and J. WILDER, 29, Gt. Francis-st., Birmingham.

ACCRINGTON.—HIPPODROME (Barred by Blackburn)

WANTED, Artistes of Sterling Merit, Feb. 6 and Future Dates. Call Monday, 1·0 o'clock, Abel and Welsh, Bodina Trio, Onda and Artell, James Brady, Tom Franks, "The Great Strike," J. Kavanagh, the Redskins, "Mr Also."
Vandy's Agency,
Barnes, London, S.W.

H. Burrows Smith's Variety Agency,
65, Claverton-street, Pimlico, London.

WANTED, Artistes who have already Communicated to send Full List of Bookings.

VYPOND'S ENTERPRISES.

WANTED, First-class Al Fresco Artistes, open Rothesay, June 12 (Third Season), Good Male Voice Quartet (with large Répertoire), Comedians, Tenors, Baritones, Specialities, Harpist-Vocalists, Pianist-Vocalists. Preference given to Double-handed People Frederick Vypond, Queen's-park Hippodrome, Manchester.

Geo. Saphrini, Variety Agent, 5, King-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Star Artistes for Scotland and the North. Send full List of Bookings and absolute lowest. My Bookings this week include the Marvellous Howards, Albano Troupe, James Brady (Two Dates), Sam Thomson (Four Dates), Beaufort, Brindall and Cooper, Bonnetti and Corrie (Two Dates), Hanlon and Curtis, Donatos, Kittie Corrie, Britannia Bioscope, Arthur Bright, Maud Darlow, &c. Donatos wire address. Important.

SAMUELS' EXHIBITION PALACE,
6, BENRY-STREET, DUBLIN.

WANTED, Artistes, Double and Single Turns, and all Lines, write in for Feb. 6 and future Dates. GEORGE HARCOURT, Acting-Manager.

WANTED, Artistes of Every Description Big Comedy Acts preferred. Can Offer Six Consecutive Weeks in Scotland. Stars with odd Weeks Vacant send Full List of Bookings. Can always place them. Barred Nowhere. Artistes Booked at Aberdeen and Dundee with Vacancies to precede or follow, please forward Dates to Bentley's Agency, 169, Stamford-street, London, S.E. 'Phone, 12,706 Central.

WANTED, Big Novelties for the forthcoming Gala Season.

Caterer to all the Principal Galas throughout the United Kingdom.
James Fioni's Agency,
12, Norton-street,
Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1 686 Royal.

WANTED, Feb. 6, 13, 20, Top-Liners, the Very Best.
Geo. Aytoun's Agency,
22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, London, S.E.
Our Tom Rice now on Booking Tour.
Wires, "Andies, London." 'Phone, 1,949, Hop.
Imperial Boys' Orchestra, Oetzmann Troupe, Cummioger, Lava, P. Curry, J. G. Aitken please wire addresses.

WANTED, for Grand Theatre, Doncaster, Good Top-of-Bill for Feb. 6; also Full Companies for March 6 May 8, June 5, 19, and 26, and all July.
Full particulars to BLACK and HEYWORTH, Variety Agents, 8, Peter-street, Manchester.

THE GLASGOW SYNDICATE HALLS.
TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S VARIETY THEATRES,
GLASGOW.
One Performance Nightly at both Houses.

WANTED, Strong Comedy Acts of all Kinds, Good Singing Turns, Sensational Novelties, and Brilliant Stars for Tops, Jan. 30, and onwards. All Artists holding Contracts with Colquhoun and Armstrong should communicate at once. Future Bookings can be made for One Week Only at a time, and only those Turns capable of Working both Theatres the same night can be entertained. Bill Matter Two Weeks in advance is imperative.
S. KING ALEXANDER, General Manager,
Head Office, Tivoli Palace Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, for the Central Pier, Morecambe, Good Comedy Acts and Novelties for Whit Week, and middle July to middle September; also good Pierrot Troupe, Aquatic Acts, and other outside Attractions, from Whit Week to end September. Direct Bookings. No Commission. Send absolute lowest terms and all particulars to
E. HILL, Manager.
Silence a courteous negative.

AMERICA.
AMERICA.
AMERICA.

WANTED, Big Feature Acts. Lithos., Photos., Terms,
Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, for the Coventry Hippodrome, Variety Talent of Every Description for Present and Future Dates, Big Stars and Novelties. Nothing too big.
Apply with terms to
T. M. SYLVESTER,
Hippodrome, Coventry.

Call, Coventry Hippodrome, Monday, Jan. 30, at 1 0 o'clock.—Harry Tate, Four Burnells, Booker and Narbis, the Findens, Oscardo and Albert, Jennie Lynn, Charles Lilburn, Victoria Graves, and Ted Waite.

Wanted, for the New Hippodrome, Maidstone, the Best of Talent in Every Branch of the Variety Profession. Big Novelties, Specialities, Attractions with Drawing Powers. All must be of the Best and Absolutely New to Maidstone. Good Musical Conductor to supply Orchestra of Twelve Performers, Stage-Manager, Window Biller, and General Staff. All to open early in March.
Apply, with terms, to
T. M. SYLVESTER,
Hippodrome,
Coventry.

WANTED, Talent, All Lines.
The Leading Provincial Firm,
James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street,
Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1,686, Royal.

WANTED, Variety Talent in all Lines, Feb. 6, 13, and on, for Huddersfield. Hall Small. Bill-Poster write. SILVESTER, Wallsend-on-Tyne.

HIPPODROME, WAKEFIELD.

WANTED, the following Artistes to Attend Rehearsal at 2 0 o'clock, Jan. 30, viz.:—Herbert La Martine, Violet Beatrice, Bob Pearson, Lily Pender, Matt. Wilkinson and Company, the Solari Duo, Mili May, Walter Payne's Bio-Photoscope, and Renson and Waite. Star Turns Required, Feb. 13, and on. Nothing too Big.
All communications to
GEO. S. DOUGLASS, General Manager.
Secretary to the Hippodrome Company, Mr W. EMMETT.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, SWANSEA.

WANTED, Known, owing to Change of Management in above all Contracts under old Management are hereby Cancelled. All Artistes who hold such Contracts will be informed on inquiry whether such will be accepted. Write or wire, MANAGER

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.

WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin, All the Greatest Stars in the Profession. Acts New in Dublin for the above, the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland.
Direct
or through Agents.
All communications to
Will Sley,
41, Oxford-street,
Manchester.
Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09,144.

WANTED.—Henri Cazman's Agency, Stars and Artistes, all kinds, Monday next, Top-Liners and Bottoms for Feb. 6 13, 20, &c. Novelties and Features for West-end Theatres. Attractions for the Big Tours, &c. Comedy Acts, Specialities for Doncaster, Feb. 20, write. Excellent opportunity for Artistes who want Mr Cazman to see their Number, view to other Business.
Note. New address. Note.
Henri Cazman,
139, Denmark-hill, S.E.
My Telegraphic Address remains, "Cazmos, London"
My New Telephone Number is (10 Brixton.) 10 Brixton. (10 Brixton)

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, and Specialities, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, onwards. State Lowest Terms, Bookings, &c. I can Place You.
Jess Verno's Agency 61, West Derby-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2 076 Royal. Representative, Mr Jesse Burton.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and particulars to Brooks, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Stars, Artistes, Wanted, Every Description, Immediate and Future Dates, for Manchester, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Blackpool, Rochdale, Bolton, Eastbourne, Morecambe, Lancaster, Tynemouth, Oldham, &c. Lowest terms, bookings, permanent address, to Yates's Agency,
3, Oxford-grove, Manchester, S.W.

WANTED, Big Stars and Specialities. Nothing too Big. Send List of Bookings, sample 1 litho., and Terms Artistes on my Book keep me posted. Address Fred Neiman, Variety Agent, 74, The Grove, Camberwell, London, S.E. Sole Agent for the Deer Family of North American Indians

WANTED, Feb. 6, 13, 20, Stars in All Lines.
Stars in All Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks
Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

PALACE THEATRE, CORK.
Manager,
HENRY KEMBLE.

WANTED, Feb. 6, 13, and onward, Big Specialities, Star Comedians, Ballad Vocalists, Musical Acts, &c. Must be Refined. Send lithos, terms, &c.

Call, Monday, Jan 30.
Richard Bellony,
Harland and Rollison,
Denby and Dent,
Harley and Hardon,
Alf Levine,
Mezzetti and Mora,
Marie Santoi and her Japs,
Arthur Tiston.

WANTED, Specialities and Novelties of every description. Nothing too big Send lithos. T. E. Gilbey and Jacko write.
VINCELLE, Bloomfield-street, Derby.

WANTED, First-class Specialities and Attractions for London and Provincial Halls. Immediate Dates. Send List of Bookings to A. E. Johns, Variety Agent, 4, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, Easter, Whit, and on, Star Specialities with Litho, and Feb 6, All Lines. Gannon, Agent, West Grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Star Turns and Good Comedy Acts, Jan. 30, onwards; also Artistes in all Lines. Send full list of dates, litho., terms, and full particulars to Harry Day's Variety Agency, Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, W.C. Telephone, 6 915, Gerrard. Telegrams, "Terpsichore, London" No connection with any other firm.

WANTED, Star Turns in all Lines, for Feb 6, 13, 20, 27, and on. Fred Durham's Agency. Telephone, 15 Brixton.
1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for February, March, and all Dates through Summer of 1905, Star Turns, Tops of Bills, all the Finest and Biggest Acts Required, Price no object, for Manchester, Salford, Ashton, Bury, Preston, Liverpool, Oldham, Rochdale, Blackpool, Morecambe, Barrow, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Belfast, Dublin, Newcastle, Hull, Leeds, Brighton, Bristol, Birmingham, Bolton, Middlesbrough, &c.
New and Novel Acts can have Six Months' Solid Engagements. Send immediately. Terms, Photos, Lithos., &c., to Will Sley, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09,144 Manchester.

WANTED, a Few Good Turns. Apply to Papa Brown,
Agent,
Gaiety Music Hall,
Birmingham.

Armstrong's Agency.

WANTED, First-class Turns for Immediate Dates.
All Artistes holding Contracts for Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow, please communicate at once to Barney Armstrong or S. King Alexander, Armstrong's Agency, Under the Direction of Bernard Armstrong (Barney's Nephew), 353, Bath-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, High-class Variety Turns; Monday, onwards; also good Operator. MANAGER, Roberts' Pictures, Philharmonic Hall, Southampton.

EMPIRE THEATRE, OXFORD.

WANTED, One or Two First-class Variety Combinations, must be powerful attractions, Feb. 20, and several Later Dates. ALBANY WARD.

WANTED, Two Young Ladies, must be Slight Figures and Good-looking, to wear Tights, to work Illusions. Photos. required, which will be returned. Previous stage knowledge not required. Address, with age, height, and lowest terms, to GUSTAVE FASOLA, 16, Brighton-terrace, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, for the Music Hall, Smart Contralto (Lady). Must know Music Address full particulars in first letter, Box 1,091, "The Era."

WANTED, to Join on Saturday, Soprano or Contralto Vocalist for Illustrated Songs; also Speciality (not Vent.). Joint couple preferred. Send photos, references, list of Songs, and very lowest terms. Tour continues until after Easter. SCOTT'S ROYAL CINEMATOGRAPH CO., Post-office, Kelty, Fife N.B.

WANTED, Smart Acrobatic Knockabout Artist for Pantomime Troupe. Long Tour. Open at once. Apply, with Age, Terms, Height, &c., to HENRI REVELL, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

WANTED, Good Comedians and Refined Lady Vocalists, for Al Fresco Business commencing Whit Week. Lowest terms, LEO LESTER, Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Smart Girl, Fourteen to Sixteen, as Apprentice. Good Home,
Letters, SPORTING ACT, Grand Theatre, Chorley.

WANTED, an Operator, used to Instantaneous Photography, for the Postcard business. Indoor work. All particulars, Box 1,099, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Artistes who require Songs (Words and Melodies) write for Samples, AUTHOR, 28, Kildoran-road, Clapham-park, London, S.W. Terms from £1 1s.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ethel Yorke, the Popular Comedienne, Requires Feb. 20, 27, March 13, Good Offers Invited. 8, Carlton-mansions, Colharbour-lane, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, by Miss Eileen Conroy, popular Young Irish Vocalist and Step-Dancer, Engagements from now. Communications, Agent, E. J. Wise, 5, Cadogan-terrace, Victoria-park, London, N.E.; or, permanent address, 5, Grantham street, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Flo Atkins, World's Champion Lady Concertinist and Expert Mandolinist, Jan. 30, Hippo, Macclesfield; Feb. 6, Tivoli, Dublin. Vacant, March 6. Address, 40, Chadwick-street, West Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Baby Lloyd, Vocal Wonder, Big Success, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton; also Nellie Vann, Vocalist, at Liberty Feb. 20 27, On. Monday, CIRCUS, STOCKPORT. Owing to Great Success of Baby Lloyd, she was Presented with a Handsome Bracelet on Jan. 16 at Hippo, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Three Sisters Holman Disengaged Feb. 6, finish of Panto., Song and Dance Artists and Coon Speciality. Blanch West, Descriptive Vocalist. Perm., 116, Granville-st, Grimsby.

WANTED, Fred R. Collins Pantomimist, Knockabout Comedian, and Dancer, at Liberty. 20, Netherwood-road, West Kensington.

WANTED, Monday, on, Sidney Dolf, "The One-Man Show," Vocalist, Conjuror, and Juggler. Wires, 15, London-road, Reigate.

MR PADEY PENNINGTON'S REAPPEARANCE (after Seven Years' Retirement).

WANTED, Known, Padey Pennington is now Booking Dates for his Refined, Brilliantly Successful Two Hours' Variety Entertainment, and Bewildering, Screamingly Funny Thought-Reading, and Genuine Scientific Hypnotism; Genuine Scientific Hypnotism!!! The Best of Biographs! The Handcuff Mystery! Mimicry and Ventriloquism. Roars of uncontrollable Laughter. As given by him at St. James's Hall and throughout the United Kingdom, and also in Australia. Share or Rental. PADEY PENNINGTON, 3, Hanover-cresent, Brighton.

THE GREAT MACCANN.

WANTED, Feb. 13, 20, 27. The Famous English Concertina King, on his own Patent Instruments, value £500.
16, Dunkeld-street, Liverpool. Tel., 0,500, Anfield.

WANTED, Monday Next and Feb. 6, by Arthur Moss, the Favourite Baritone, in Own Songs. Wire, 19, Doddington-grove, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, by Miraclo, Musical Novelty Artiste, Monday next.
Wire, 18, Springfield, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Harry Brett Comedian, late Chevalier's Recitals, Feb. 6, 13. All good Songs. Address, Alhambra, Sandgate.

WANTED, Monday, Robb Gilmore, the Talented Grotesque Comedian. Starring, Victoria Hall, Sunderland. Wire quick for this Attraction.

WANTED, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, March 20, by Harry Barclay, the Popular Comedian. Another Great Hit this week. Wire, T. R., Everton, Liverpool.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, by Comedian, Monday, Feb. 6. Wire or Write, BIRCH BROOMS, 48, Newmarket-road, Cambridge.

WANTED, Monday next, H. Bryant, Funny Negro Comedian and Clever Descriptive Vocalist. Powerful Voice. Wire quick, P. P., Portsmouth. Two Distinct Turns.

WANTED, Known, Eugene Brant, Liberty Jan. 30, Hall or Tour. Funny Versatile Comedian, Smart and Clever. 168, Arlington-road, London, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Joe Mayo, the Black M.P., Lancashire's Favourite Collier Lad. Original and Copyright. Perm., Carmen-st., Ardwick, Manchester.

WANTED, Feb. 6, 13, by Alec Aubrey, England's Finest Silver Chain Gymnast. Hippodrome, Dewsbury; Monday, Circus, Bury.

WANTED, by Krudy, Great Boy Conjuror and Illusionist, Bookings for April 1, on. Piers, Hall, &c. Seaside. Agent Wanted. Care of "The Era."

WANTED, Jan. 30, by Warton, Comedy Conjuror, with the Mysterious Target. Pier Pavilion, Southport. Sunday, address, 46, Torr-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Neddy Vokes, Anglo-Continental Comedy Musical Comedian, Liberty Feb. 20, Home or Abroad. Address, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton, Sixth Week.

WANTED.—Picitt, the Muscular Master of Manacles, Handcuff Marvel without Faked Fetters, Trick Boxes, or Confederates. Searched from Head to Feet at any Moment during my Act. Conjurors' Methods Impossible. The only Act in this line that has not been copied or exposed. I am not a Conjuror, but a perfect master of the criminal's craft; 10,000 Photos. of myself were circulated in Perth, and a Gold Watch offered to the First Person who asked, "Are you Picitt?" I walked the main street for one hour without being detected. I also escaped from an Iron Collar and Fetter over 300 Years Old, placed upon me by Mr John Macaulay, Jeweller and Antique Dealer, Perth. Drew the Biggest Houses ever seen in Perth.

Open Dates May and June, for First-class Halls, Circuses, and Piers.
Also a Few Odd Days for Leading Galas.
Communications, care of Royal Imperial Pictures Co., 567, George-street, Aberdeen.
To be Forwarded. Splendid Lithos.

WANTED, Kardoc, the Handcuff King and Jail-breaker. This, Hippodrome, Rugby. Packing the House. House Full Card out Two Nights this week. Mon., Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy. Free Feb. 6, on, with Exceptions. Original This Act different from All Others, Cannot be Copied. £25 to any Man who Performs One Little Trick Performed by Me. Grand Outside Show of Police Certificates and Historical Manacles. Splendid Lithos. Box Mystery. Coloured Assistant. Sure draw.

WANTED, Feb. 6, 13, onwards, by Selby, the Handcuff King and Gaol Breaker, introducing his New Sensational Mystery, "The Escape." Good Fit-up, New Business. 114, Anne-street, Chester.

WANTED, Monday, Onwards, by Musical Howard, Conjuring and Handcuff Acts; DORIS MYDLETON, Comedienne, tremendous Success, H., Scarborough. Wire, 66, Eastborough, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Will Bell, Comedian and Dancer, and Ida Dalton, Serion and Dancer, at Liberty Monday next. Wire, Tivoli T., Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next (North), Engagement for Character Comedian and Lady, Illustrated Songs, also Bioscope. LESLIE, Hippodrome, Accrington.

WANTED, Monday next, by Walter Gurney, Comedian; Lily Mason, Serio and Dancer. One or both. Wire, Hippodrome, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Monday next, by Otto Ethardo, Comedy Juggler, and Mdlle. Pardoe, Speciality Dancer, &c. Wire, 15, William Edward-st, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday Next, the Valmores (Alf and Nance), Favourite Comedy Artists. At Liberty Monday. Screams of Laughter Nightly. Wire, Tivoli, Kidderminster.

WANTED, Known, Dat Colour dat won't come off, B. Rowe and Miss A. E. Holden, Emperor, Princess Flirtina, and Speciality, Ed. Marris, Esq's. "Dick Whittington" Panto. This, O. T., Manchester; next, R. T., Halifax.

WANTED, Monday next, by Dave Wallace, Star Comedian; Marie Tilley, Comedienne, Expert Dancer. Wire quick, Hippodrome, Newport, I.O.W.

WANTED, by the Moncktons, in Comedy Duologue, "A Woman's Curiosity," Monday next and on. 20, Borough-road, North Shields.

WANTED, Known, Dale and D'Argan, Refined Acrobatic Conjurors, are Vacant April 17 and May 8, on. 6, Dolly-lane, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Demi and Semi, Musical Act, Empire, Portsmouth. Liberty Monday. Wire.

WANTED, March 20, by the Two Daniels, Negroes, stilts, Spades, Bones, Clog and Big Boot Experts. Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

WANTED, Known, Smarte Brothers, Knockabout Acrobatic Grotesques, at Liberty Feb 6. All communications, Circus, Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, N.

WANTED, Monday next, by Keir and Allen, Eccentric Knockabout Comedians. Offers, Grand, Clapham, Saturday; after, 21, Woolman-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, Feb. 6, 13, and 20, by Warner and Wilson, Smart Cross-talk Comedians. Monday, Hippodrome, Macclesfield. A Sure Success.

WANTED, Jan. 30, also Feb. 13, to follow Portsmouth by Denton and Dale, Vocal and Patter Comedians. Good Lithos. Wire, 33, Delancy-street, Regent's-park, London

WANTED, Monday, by Droll and Dryan, Funny Comedians; and Geo. Raper, Comedian. Terrific success Empire, Wrexham. Wire for one or both.

WANTED, Feb. 6, 27, by Carl and Carr, Comedians, in a Refined and Original Comedy Act "Workhouse," usual success. This and next, Theatre Royal, Aldershot. Livermore Tour, Feb. 13 Wire Feb. 6.

WANTED, Known, Caselli and James, The World's Greatest Banjoists, Return to Town after a Three Months' successful Tour. Jan. 30, Palace, Camberwell. Open for Feb. 6 and 13.

WANTED, Known, Martino's Great Levitation Act, Nita, the Hypnotised and Suspended Maiden, at Liberty, Feb. 6, and onwards; also the Brothers Costello. Funambulist and Leg Mania Artists. Wire or write, People's Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, by the St. John's Comedy, Musical, and Dancing Turn, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13. A reliable success. 49, Oxford-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Les Prinellas, Feb. 6 and 13, for their Beautiful Vocal Scena, "A Country Flirtation." Wire, 39, Poynter-road, Bush-hill-park, Middlesex.

WANTED, Known, Comical Walker, Local Nippers; Mons. Reklaw, Globe Performer, success, this, T., Dublin; next, Grand, Manchester. Vacant Feb 6.

WANTED, Feb. 13 and 20, by the Rushforths, Song Illustrators; and King Leo, Ventriloquist. Success, G., Chatham; Monday, P., Camberwell.

WANTED, Monday, Jan. 30, and March 6, by Billy Ross and Co. Greatest Comedy Act on the Stage. Wire, 30, Morat-street, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, Tom Hall's Four Tippling Toffs and Tumbling Terrier, the Laughing Hit. This, Palace, Aberdeen; next, return Palace, Dundee. Open Feb. 6, through Hall closing. Wire or write.

WANTED, Known, Walter Roselle, Ventriloquist, at Liberty, as Lecturer or Entertainer. Address 18, Farnworth-st., Kensington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty Feb. 6, Ernie Leech, Premier Singing Ventriloquist. Write or wire, 5, Victoria-st., Crewe. Thanks to Verno.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist. Two First-class Acts. Wire, Saturday, Varieties, Leeds; then, Union-road, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Feb. 6, between Middlesbrough and Dublin, by Oakdene, Novelty Ventriloquist. Big Comedy Act, introducing Brilliant Vocal Novelties. Gorgeous Stage Setting, with Electrical Effects. Monday, Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Feb. 27, Onwards, Screaming Sketch, "Fun on the Bristol." Thirty Minutes' Laughter. Sure Draw. Address, MAURICE LOVE, Queen's Rooms, Berwick-on-Tweed.

WANTED, Known, Almonte Troupe, in active preparation, a New Pantomime Sketch, "The Troubles of a Billionaire." At Liberty Feb. 6. Address, Metropole Theatre, Devonport.

WANTED, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, for a New and Refined Sketch, "A Dressing-Room Romance." Wire, BRASQUE and DUNCAN, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

WANTED, Known, Billy Ross and Co., including Hilda Brandon, in big Act, "The Hot Member." Audience still Laughing. Liberty Jan. 30, March 30. Wire, 30, Morat-street, Brixton.

"DEFENDING THE COLOURS."

WANTED, Known, Tom Herman's Juvenile Patriotic Naval-Military Spectacle, a terrific success. All Up to Date. Palace, Derby. Vacant Dates.

WANTED, Known, Spangeletti's Stage Circus at Liberty Feb. 6. To-night, finish Two Weeks Hippo., Belfast. Monday next, Empire, Dudley.

WANTED, a Few Immediate Dates, Chard's Dog Circus, Hippodrome, Bury, till Sunday; after, 18, Springfield, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Monday, Bookings for Payne's Bio-Photoscopes. Always Up to Date. For terms and Dates apply, 106, Brixton-road, London.

WANTED, First-class Dates for Cinématographe. Neatness, Smartness, and Finish aimed at. VENIOGRAPH, 5, Queen's Wood-av., Muswell-hill, London.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Showmen and Others to Know, Greene and Company still Selling Silvermine Butterscotch, with Fortunes, 3s. gross. 104, Belgrave-gate, Leicester.

WANTED, Known, Electrical Specialities. SIMPKIN, WILKINSON, and GIBSON, 66, Kirkstall-road, Leeds, Manufacture Dynamos, Arc Lamps, Switchboards, &c., Specially for Showmen. Also Stock Cable, Globes, Carbons, Incandescents, and Every Requisite.

Tom Taylor and Sons, Launch and Boat Builders, Staines, Middlesex.

WANTED, Known, Contracts Taken for Running and Supplying Launches (Steam, Electric, and Oil Motor); also Boats of Every Description on Lakes or Artificial Water. Lakes and Artificial Water Rented for Working Electric Launches and Boats of all descriptions at Cheap Fares.
Builders and Workers of Electric Launches at Earl's Court, Crystal Palace, Glasgow Exhibition, and Cork Exhibition.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Handsellers to know Simons is the Man for Cheap Second-hand Watches and Jewellery. Send £5 for Special Parcel.

117, Houndsditch, London

WANTED, Auctioneers and Others to Know Simons is the Cheapest Place for Clocks, Bronzes, Field Glasses, and Cheap Jewellery. Best-class French Paste Stocked for the Profession. 117, Houndsditch.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that Leete's Colours and Varnishes are the Best and Cheapest in London. Vermilionettes, Permanent Reds, Carmines, Carriage and Copal Varnishes, Gold Leaf, Brushes, &c., and every Decorator's Requisite for Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Carriage Paid on all Orders £2. Write for price list or call, Leete's Colour Works, 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, the Latest in Automatic Machine Novelties for Showmen, New and Second-hand. Send for New List. Also Photos., Fortune, and Love-letters. The Best and Cheapest. Manufacturers, HAYDON and BARROW, Church-street, Islington.

WANTED, Known, Showmen's Painting, Switchbacks, Show Cloths, Scenery. Good, cheap J. DAVIS, Showmen's Artist, 4, Devon-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Showmen, Fair Keepers, &c., to send for our New List of all Fair Goods, also our Latest Throwing Game, the Bombardment of Port Arthur. Greatest hit of the year. STACEY and Co., Showman Stores, Settles-st., London, E. Established Fifty Years.

WANTED, for World's Fair, Side Shows and Novelties; also Space to Let. OWEN BAGAN, Proprietor, 66, Gallowgate, Glasgow.

WANTED, Good Side Show for Exhibition, Six Days, March 20, 70ft. by 25ft. Must be most Excellent and Attractive Liberal sharing terms. Address full particulars, HAGUE, Spa Gardens, Limited, Bridlington.

WANTED, Quick-showing Novelties for Shop, Rawtenstall, Lancs to open Jan 28. Shares. Wire, LEN WHITE, Exhibition, Market-street, Bacup.

WANTED, Novelties, Suitable for Shop Business. Good Shows can have Six Weeks. Four Large Shops. HOFFMAN, 370, High-street, Stratford.

THE ORIGINAL NOVELTY EXHIBITION, 181, OVERGATE, DUNDEE.

WANTED, for Monday, 1st, and Onwards, Quick-showing Freaks and Novelties. Salary or Shares. Wire, for Monday, FRANK MORDAUNT.

WANTED, All Kinds of Freaks and First-class Quick Showing Novelties, Feb 6, to follow De Branco's Midgets. Shares or Salary. Best position in Dublin. MAXFIELD, 9, Mary-street.

WANTED, Quick-showing Freaks and Novelties for Bristol. Central Position, Old Friends apply. Vacant Monday and Future Dates. Maxwell's Shooting Saloon and Fancy Fair, Castle-street, Bristol.

WANTED, Wire Worker, Glass Blower, Daisy Needle, Optician, Jewellery, Glass Engraver, Working Exhibits, Novelties, &c. Sisters write. DIRECTOR, Carnival, 8, Sidney-street, Manchester.

WANTED, a Young Lady Tank Performer, for Shop Business; or Young Lady, with slight knowledge of Swimming, willing to Learn. Address, Prof. CHARLES, Post-office, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, Carl Harmon's Royal Punch and Judy and Marionettes, also Bioscope, open for Engagements. 101A, Penwith-rd., Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Bailey's Punch and Judy, Close Successful Season at Crystal Palace, London. Address letters, Buxton, Derbyshire. Chair up.

WANTED, Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen to Know that Red Snake, the Indian Impersonator, concludes his Six Months' Tour with Mr John Collins on March 3 next. The same Man that caused such a Sensation at Oldham, Gorton, Farnworth, Birmingham, &c. Will advertise Grounds on Horseback. My own Dresses. Offers invited for coming Season to C. SHAW, 23, Portland-place, off Roscommon-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement with Good Circus for Tenting Season for Latest Improved Bioscope, also another Speciality. BANYARD, Post-office, Granard, County Longford, Ireland.

WANTED, Known, Lucy Moore, the Coloured Giantess (weight 40½st., age, twenty-one), Thanks Mr Hunter for Comfortable Engagement at 112, George-street, Aberdeen. Next Vacancy, March 20. Write, BOUNDS, Stewart's Waxworks, 164, High-street, Edinburgh.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED, Monday next, by Dolly Vigor, Armless Lady, Quick-showing Novelties with Good Window Flash. Best shop in Dundee. Wire for Monday. DEMPSTER, Scottish Freak Museum, 37, Overgate, Dundee.

WANTED.—Known, Alf Shirley, Versatile Entertainer, Vocalist, and Lecturer, with own Illustrated Songs and Loud-toned Portable Harmonium, at Liberty for Picture Show. Abstainer. 32, Canonbury-avenue, Highbury.

WANTED, Situation as Auctioneer. Fifteen years' experience. Shops, Hall, or Tents. Sober and steady. Apply, Box 1,098, care of "The Era."

WANTED, all Travellers to Know I have Ground to Let for Roundabouts, Shows, Stalls, and other Fair Ground Games at the following Spring and Easter Fairs:—
Hyde-road Spring Fair,
Gorton Spring Fair,
Beswick Spring Fair,
Walton-on-the-Hill Liverpool Spring Fair,
Shore Fields, Liverpool, Easter Fair;
Queen's-road, Manchester, Great Easter Fair;
also at Wolverhampton, for the Easter and Whitsuntide Fairs, held on the Corporation Ground, and same Ground as Collins's, Limited, held their last Christmas Fair on. Note.—This is the Best Easter and Whitsuntide Fair in the Black Country.
Rent Reasonable, and Nobody Barred.

All applications to be made, JOHN COLLINS, World's Fair, Scotland-road, Liverpool; or, 20, Rufford-road, Liverpool.

Wanted, to Sell cheap, and all in good order, One Set of Tandem Bicycles made by Savage, of King's Lynn, to carry Twenty-four People. Fitted with Carved Rounding Boards, Carved Droppers, Top Centre, and Pay Box. All complete, with Lamps, Tilts, Rounding Cloths, and One Waggon to carry same.
Apply, JOHN COLLINS, World's Fair, Scotland-road, Liverpool; or, 20, Rufford-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Showmen, Circus, and Menagerie Proprietors and other Amusements visiting the North of England for Easter to know that Ground is to Let in the Garrison Field, Sunderland, the only acknowledged Easter Fair in the North of England.
For terms, apply to W. MURPHY and J. COOPER, Garrison Field, Sunderland.

WANTED, Known, Spaces To Let for Shows, Roundabouts, &c., also Sea on Land for Sale or Exchange, and Double Tube Shooting Gallery to Sell Cheap, in Working Order.
Apply, J. BEAUMONT, World's Fair, Market-yard, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Known, Syndicate Exhibition, the Original and Leading One, Vacancies for Optics, Cutlery, Electro-plating, and Postcard Exhibits. Terms, 1s. 3d. per square foot, with lighting, per Ten Days' Exhibition. Good tour now in progress. Good class stands, One Exhibit only invited. Apply, B. BEHMEN, The Limes, Davenport-street, Macclesfield.

Seaforth Annual Easter Fair.

WANTED, Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen to know, Spaces now to Let; also for Globe Shooters, Emmas, Sheets, &c. Nothing barred Respectable. Rents Moderate. Good space for Circus or Menagerie. Apply, Lessee, H. WALLIS, Seaforth. Seaforth Annual Easter Fair.

WANTED, Roundabout Proprietors, Cinématograph, and Other Shows, also Stallholders and other Fair Travellers, to know that we have Ground to Let at our Fair Ground, Borough-road, Birkenhead, Easter Fair, Commencing Saturday, April 15, for Two Weeks.
This is the best situated Fair Ground in the Liverpool District, and our Christmas Carnival thereon was most Successful.
All Applications to be made in writing to P. COLLINS, Limited, Gondola Works, Walsall.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces in Exhibition, Six Days, March 20, Novelties, and other Attractions. Always a Tremendous Financial Success. Eighth Year.
Apply, HAGUE, New Spa Limited, Bridlington.

Lichfield.—Greenhill Bower. Whit Monday, 1905.

WANTED, Known, Persons wishing to Tender for the Letting of Showground at this great Midland Festival are invited to send for Forms of Tender to T. CURETON, Hon. Sec., Lichfield.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen, Roundabout Proprietors, Stallholders, and all Followers of Pleasure Fairs.
P. Collins, Limited, Gondola Works, Walsall, are now Booking Tenants for their Early Spring, Easter, Whitsuntide, and Summer Fairs. Parties Requiring Ground address as above. Respectable and Responsible Tenants quoted Reasonable Rents. Some of the Best Grounds in England as below.
Shrovetide Fairs, Longton and Lichfield.
March and April Fairs to follow.
Dudley, Quarry Bank, Cradley Heath, Stourbridge, and Brierly Hill.
Coventry, Newcastle, Staffs, Wolverhampton, Birkenhead and London.
Good Positions and round to follow to Whitsuntide.
We have Wolverhampton Market Place, Birmingham Fair,
Whit Thursday, Friday, and Saturday,
and rounds to follow up to Christmas.
Telephone address, 80, Walsall.
Telegraphic address, "Gondola, Walsall."

WANTED, to Let, Large First-class Shop, Splendid Position, Electric-light, &c. Suit Showman, Bazaars, Auctioneers, and Others. Can have Immediate Possession. Rent, £2 weekly, in advance, till April 25 next. OWNER, 8, Bank-gardens, Ryde, Wight.

WANTED, to Let, Previous to Alterations, Best Position in City, Large Shop. Suit anything. LEWENDON, Estate Agent, Hull.

BLACKPOOL TOWER, Season 1905.

WANTED, to Let, Stalls in "Chinatown," for Novelties only.
For particulars, apply, SECRETARY.

WANTED, Roundabout Proprietors and Travellers to notice that, on Wednesday, Feb. 15 next, will be sold a Quantity of Horses, Dis-used Steam and other Roundabouts, Steam Roundabout Engines, Steam Yachts, Wagons, &c. Will be Sold by Public Auction at King's Lynn. Catalogue ready by Feb. 1. Apply, SAVAGE BROTHERS, LIMITED, King's Lynn.

Exceptional Bargains.

WANTED, all Showmen to Know that we have for Sale Several Second-Hand Gavioliphones (Eighty-seven Keys), Playing by Paper Music; in Good Condition; also a Quantity of Brass Trumpet Organs, with or without Drums; and, having to make room for New Stock, we have decided to Sell these Organs at an Enormous Reduction, and no Reasonable Offer Refused. CHIAPPA and SONS, Limited, 6, Little Bath-street, Clerkenwell, London; also at 17, Milton-street, Lower Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, 8-h.p. Burrell Compound Showman's Engine, with Dynamo and Electric Plant Complete; also One Seven Figure Organ, One Two Figure Organ, and One Trumpet Organ. No one has been to see Engine or Organs. WALKER, Roundabout Maker, Tewkesbury.

WANTED, to Sell, Two Living Vans, One Rail Waggon, 17ft. long; One Road Waggon. Both in First-class condition, and fitted up ready for Immediate use.
Apply, H. J. WALLIS, Seaforth, Liverpool.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, to Sell, Rail Living Carriage, Panelled. In First-class Condition. £50.
Apply, LODER, Carriage Works, Maidstone.

WANTED, to Sell, Fine-Art Exhibition. Organ, Engine, and everything in working order. Road or Rail. Also Three Sets of Swings. Any Reasonable Offer will be taken. Reason for Selling, Retiring from Business. For Price, apply to J. COOPER, Garrison-field, Sunderland.

WANTED, to Sell, a Shuttered Booth, 30ft. by 34ft., Three Trucks, Seats, tilt (Black Birkmire); everything new, built by Howcroft. A Bargain. Brothers SILVESTER, Post-office, Whitehaven.

WANTED, to Sell, cheap, good Shuttered Booth, 56ft. back, 28ft. front, Stage, and Two other Waggons. Working order. MAYENO, Olympia, Sunderland.

WANTED, to Sell, One First-class Set of Overhead Jumpers (Savage, Maker), consisting of Fifty-six Horses, All Waggons and Accessories, complete. Ready for Taking Money, No Better Lot Travelling. Paper Organ by Gavioli and Co. Also One 10-horse Compound Traction Engine, with Electric Light Plant. The above to be Sold with Traction or without, or will Exchange for Switchback.

For further particulars apply to H. J. WALLIS, Seaforth, Liverpool.

WANTED, to Sell, Set of Platform Steam Hobby Horses, Thirty-six, with New Centre Truck, Engine, and Centre Pole, by Savage. Complete with Two-barrelled Gavioli Organ, with Drums, and Trucks to carry. Apply, GREENWOOD, Market Ground, Stalybridge.

WANTED, to Sell, Four-abreast Jumping Horses, with Paper Organ, Waggons, &c. All in Good Working Order. Apply, Olympia, Sunderland.

WANTED, to Sell, to Exhibition Stallholders and Travellers, a Good Gas Igniter. Will Sell well if stall fitted with several Incandescent Burners. Twelve months' commission on all future orders from such towns exhibited and canvassed. ROSE'S NOVELTIES, 97, Graham-road, London, N.E.

WANTED, to Sell, Cheap, Grand Working Model Colliery. Finest ever seen. Driven by Steam Electric Light. All complete, on Large New Rail Waggon, with Engine and Boiler. Send for Photos., CHARLES BOOTH, 95, High-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, to Sell, Cinématograpic Show, Complete, with or without Electric Plant, and Gavioli Organ; Booth, 30 by 48; nearly New. JAMES NORMAN, Orchard, Preston.

WANTED, to Sell, Twelve Distorting Mirrors, 6ft. by 3ft. Black Frames. Cost £240. Low Price. Apply, Box 1,043, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, Love-letter, Husbands, Babies, Black List, Marriage and Liars' Licences, &c. MEURICE, 20, Bidborough-st., W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, All Kinds, ½d. to 1d. slot. Guaranteed cheaper, better, than elsewhere. 5, Denning-road, Hampstead-heath.

WANTED, to Sell, Cheap, Three Splendid Automatic Machines, can be seen in Brighton. Particulars, G. REDMOND, Sea View, Fishergate, Sussex.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Penny Slot Pianos at Second-hand Prices, now working in London positions, by various makers. ROSE'S AUTOMATICS, 97, Graham-road, London, N.E.

WANTED, to Sell, Slot Machines, &c., of all kinds, Best and Cheapest in the Trade. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Penny Slot Machines. Send for our List of Bargains. Stock-taking Bargains all kinds. MASON, Settles-st., London, E.

WANTED, to Sell, Half-bred Ram, healthy and noble in appearance. A Freak of Nature—has Five Legs and Six Feet (all full grown). V.S. Certificate given to anyone. I. CAMPBELL, Swansfield-road, Alnwick, Northumberland.

WANTED, to Sell, Six Fine, Strong, Healthy Monkeys. Exhibited past two months in Hall. Best offer. 5, Denning-road, Hampstead-heath.

WANTED, to Sell, the Largest Oil Painting Travelling. Splendid Subject; Fortune to right man. Full particulars, Box 1,106, care of "The Era."

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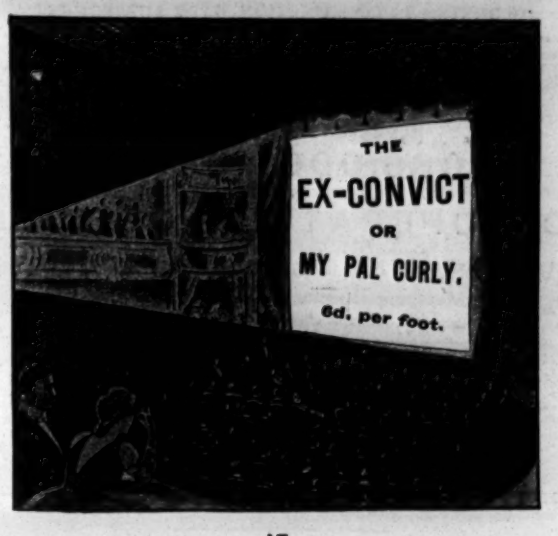

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THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:—

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal, at 1·0 o'clock, for
Leslie Bros.; "Two Old Rogues," by Driscoll and Beattie; Edie Veno, J. H. Milburn, Mueller and Coyne, Burnellys, Three Sisters Hayden, Korries, Charles Adams.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal, at 1·0 o'clock, for
Harry M. Helmsley, Fred Karno's "Early Birds," Mendel, Harry Martell, Lily Currie, Rastus and Banks, Merano, Will Candlish.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock, for
Hermann Melot, May Tyler, Bioscope, J. K. Macfarlane, Jumel's Octoroons, George Bernard, Francis and Meili, Zellars, Ben Harris and Co.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.

Proprietor, Mr GEORGE DANCE.
Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock, for
"Belle of the Orient" Co., Jan Rudenyl, Chris Richards, May Milburn, Bros. De Wynne, Vernon's Bioscope.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestra. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials must be sent to the CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, as above address, THREE Weeks before Opening, or at least TWO Weeks, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements Cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the Stage Department TWO Weeks previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope Letters marked "Private" will be delayed. Telephone, 1,399 Gerrard.

HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

OPEN-AIR ENTERTAINMENTS.

THE COUNCIL INVITE TENDERS

for the privilege of giving Entertainments during the Season 1905 on sites on the East Cliff and Beach as under:—

1.—East Cliff. The portion of the Cliff opposite the north end of Belle Vue-road.
2.—Central. The portion of the Foreshore between the culvert and the groyne west thereof.
3.—West. The portion of the Foreshore between groynes "OX" and "OXI." west of the Pier.

The successful applicants will be allowed to make a collection, but will not be allowed to charge for the use of chairs.

Full particulars should be furnished as to the nature of the entertainments proposed to be given.

Copies of the conditions to be observed and forms of tender and any other information may be obtained from the undersigned. Sealed tenders, endorsed "Open-Air Entertainments," to be delivered at my Office by Monday, Feb. 20, 1905.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender, and will consider no tender except on the prescribed form.

By Order,
JOSEPH JUBB,
Clerk to the Council.

Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Herne Bay,
Jan. 24, 1905.

BOROUGH OF SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

TO

AUTOMATIC MACHINE PROPRIETORS

THE CORPORATION INVITE TENDERS

for the Privilege of placing about

ONE HUNDRED AUTOMATIC MACHINES

on and near the

Pier during the Ensuing Season.

It is an express stipulation that the Proprietors shall, during the continuance of the Agreement, keep the Machines in Good Repair and Condition.

Sealed Tenders, endorsed "Tender for Automatic Machines," to be delivered at my office on or before Wednesday, Feb. 8, next.

The Corporation do not bind themselves to accept the Highest or any Tender.

By order,
WILLIAM H. SNOW,
Town Clerk.

Jan. 17, 1905.

LIVE STOCK NOVELTIES.—The Arriva's this week:—2 Macaws, 1 Tiger Cat, 3 Black Lemurs, 1 Mouse Lemur, 10 Amazons, 8 Marmosets, 24 Seagulls, 2 Tame Mongoose, 1 Wild Boar, 3 Black Swans, 1 Beewick Swan, 1 Cock Bloodwing, 1 Upland Goose, 1 Coatimondi, 1 Sarus Crane, 5 Rhesus Monkeys, 3 Yellow Baboons.

Wapiti Deer, These Six Imported Deer sold same day arrival; Chimpanzee, very fine Female, lowest £40; Emu, tame Adult Bird, £10; Bear, large Russian Adult, £5; Ponies, Shetland, Two Skewbalds, brown and white, for £20; Lemurs, Six very fine assorted, for £12; Baboons, forty assorted all sizes, £2 to £10 each; Mandrill, 1 good size, tame, £10. Porcupines, Wolves, Hyænas, Jackals, Kangaroos, Tiger Cats, Macaws, Parrots, Cockatoos and usual Small Birds. Open on Sundays until 12·30 only. Telephone, 6 341 Avenue. JOHN HAMLYN, 221, St. George's-street, London Docks, East.

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ARTISTES (AND THEIR AGENTS) HOLDING OR SEEKING ENGAGEMENTS AT

THE OXFORD,

OXFORD-STREET, W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12·30 o'clock.
Joe Elvin, in "Over the Sticks;" Louie Freear, Fred Ginnett, Five Whiteleys, Vesta Victoria, Pat Rafferty, Joe O'Gorman, Gus Elen, Ray Wallace, Mrs Charles Sugden, Amy Clevere, Bransby Williams, Clark and Hamilton, the Northern Troupe, Eileen Douglas, Talberto and Douglas, Walter Stanley, James Stewart, Edie King.
Manager, ALBERT GILMER.

THE TIVOLI,

STRAND, W.C.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12·0 o'clock.
Louie Freear, Leo Stormont, Athas and Collins, Jack E. Camp, Ian Colquhoun, Will Evans, Tom Leamore, Bransby Williams, Vesta Victoria, Clark and Hamilton, Dolly Harmer, Radie Furman, Whit Cunliffe, Ray Wallace, George and Gusti Edler, the Five Juilans, Sam Mayo, Harry Freeman, Fred Karno's Co., in "Mumming Birds."
Joint Acting-Managers { JAMES HOWELL. ARTHUR YATES.

THE CANTERBURY,

WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE-ROAD, S.E.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 11·0 o'clock.
Great Success of Joe Elvin and Co., in an entirely New and Original Farcical Absurdity, entitled "The Tram—Fares, Please!" Apollo, the Ideal Scotch Athlete; Special Competition during the Week for Best Attempt to Lift Sack of Flour; Jordan and Palmer, Champion Boxers; Dora Martine, Maud Courtney, Jack Lorrimer, Stella Stanley, Northern Troupe, Gilbert Girard, Grace Merton, Virginie and Pios, James Fawn, Will Evans, Tom Leamore, Leo Stormont; Special Engagement of the Phenomenal Russian Fat Girl (Age Fifteen, Weight 350 lb.).
Manager, FRED MILLER.

PARAGON,

MILE-END-ROAD, E.
Artistes are particularly requested to attend Band Rehearsals, Monday, 3·0 o'clock.
Grand Production of "Our Laundry," by the Popular Comedienne, Miss Kate Carney and Co.; Imperial Boys' Orchestra, V. L. Granville, Ray Wallace, Joe O'Gorman, New York Nippers, Jack Camp, Two Errols, Chas. Stevens, Harry Freeman, Frank Oass, Abdullah Arabs; Special Engagement of Annie Abbott, the Little Georgia Magnet, who can Lift Ten Men.
Manager, CHARLES BEECHAM.

SOUTH LONDON PALACE,

LONDON-ROAD, S.E.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12·0 o'clock.
Fred Eustace and Co., Walter Curtis, Louis Lavater, Dolly Harmer, Ruffell's Pictures, Stella Troupe, Baby Lotus, Watson Family, John Lloyd, Carr and Rose.
Manager, FRANK WEEKS.

EUSTON,

EUSTON-ROAD, N.W.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12·0 o'clock.
Annie Abbott, Park's Eton Boys, Tray and Rich, Steve Tom Costello, The Sutcliffe Family, Grace Merton, Wilson Hallett, Radie Furman, Chas. Cardow.
Manager, FRED M'AVOY.

THE EMPRESS,

BRIXTON-ROAD, S.W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1·0 o'clock.
Geo. Gray, "Fighting Parson;" Bransby Williams, Sam Mayo, Phil Ray, James Fawn, Tom Leamore, G. H. Elliott, Five Juilans, Lambert and Glover, Park's Eton Boys, Sibb and Sibb, Hal Chapter, Nellie Adams.
Manager, NELSON FRANCIS.

GRAND PALACE,

CLAPHAM.
Two Houses Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 2·0 o'clock.
The Bohemian Twin Sisters, Sadie Simpson, Ernest Ball, Alice Yorke and Co., Primavesi, The Black and White Zouaves, Harrigan and Holt, Cliff Eyland, Sisters Edwards, Ruffell's Bioscope, The Borghetti Troupe.
Manager, HARRY DAWN.

THE ROYAL,

HOLBORN.
Two Houses Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1·0 o'clock.
Matinées Daily, at 2·30.
R. Knox, S. Swift, G. Fairburn, W. Percival, Virginia and Pios., The Royal Six, Hill and Lane, the Four Arizonas, Ruffell's Bioscope, The Beer Family.
Manager, H. KETTERMAN.

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UPPER-STREET, ISLINGTON, N.
Two Performances Nightly.
Matinées, Mondays, at 2·30.
Rehearsals on Mondays, at 1·30.
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Manager, W. SPEARMAN.

DUCHESS PALACE,

HIGH-ROAD, BALHAM.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1·30 o'clock.
Chirgwin, Edie King, Forest and King, Russian Fat Girl, Lieut. Travis, The Phantos, Verno and Voyce, Charles Norton, Warden Reed and Dora Glenny, Clark and Hamilton.
Manager, CLIFFORD KING.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE,

WALTHAMSTOW.
Band Rehearsal, which all Artistes must attend, on Mondays, at 3·0 o'clock.
Yukio Tani, Imperial Boys' Orchestra, Johnny Dwyer, Nelly Lewis, Two Whites, Phillips and Terry, Elsa Joel, Bros. Lloyd, Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.
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Manager, ARTHUR J. BARCLAY.

are particularly requested to read their Contracts carefully, especially the Clause as to barring, which will be strictly enforced. Any Alteration thereof can only be effected by Special Agreement in writing with the Managing-Director. For Engagements at the Royal, Holborn; Duchess Palace, Balham; Islington Empire, and Grand, Clapham, address, Mr WALTER GIBBONS, Tottenham-court-road, W. Telephone, 6 825 Gerrard. For Engagements at the other Halls, address, Mr G. ADNEY PAYNE, Managing-Director, Oxford, Limited, 1, Tottenham-court-road, W. Office Hours, 10·0 to 4·0. Telephone No. 2,035, Gerrard.

THE METROPOLITAN,

EDGWARE-ROAD, W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1·0 o'clock.
Harry Lauder, Kate Carney and Co., in "Our Laundry;" Will Evans, in "Robinson Crusoe;" Billie Williams, Selbini, Walter Clyde, Vera Patey, Eileen Douglas, Musical Silvo, Elsie Steadman, Carl Hertz, Serenaders, Whit Cunliffe, Harry Leybourne, Lily Foy.
Manager, J. W. EDGAR.

THE CHELSEA PALACE,

KING'S-ROAD, CHELSEA, S.W.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12·0 o'clock.
Fred Karno's Co., in their Great Triumph, "Twice Nightly;" Louise Beaudet, Harry Grattan and Co., The Howards, Maynard Dakin, Martine and Son, Jeannette Latour, Hal Chapter, G. H. Elliott, and the Charming Trentanovi Lady Trapeze Artistes.
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---

THOMAS BARRASFORD TOUR.

CALLS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1905.

PAVILION, GLASGOW.
Zutka, Edna Groves, Pollo Jerome, Sid Bandon, Josephine Casaboni, Raffelo Trio, Larry Lewis, Harry Drew, Pictures, Barra Troupe.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.
Harry Ford, Vi Dell, Mr and Mrs Lucas, Miss Du Barry, Toch and Tard, Erwins, Pictures, Leonard and Francis.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
Arthur Roberts, A. Aldridge, Ida Ross, Bros. Forrest, Young American Quintet, Paxton Trio, T. Nelson Downe, La Belle Wilms, Starr and Jerome, Pictures, Jack Haggerty.

REGENT, SALFORD.
W. F. Frame, Fred Curran, Aladina, the O'Learys, Alexander, De Henau, Ted Cowan, Pictures, the Densmores.

HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Myaki Wrestlers, Florence Bill, Blind Man, the Toreadors, Brinn, Chas. Morritt, Chas. Vandyke and Co., Sydney James, Pictures, Mr and Mrs Gene Hughes.

ALHAMBRA, PARIS.
Bonhair Gregory, Nora Emerald, Vansart, Juno Salmo, Les Five Purroscoppis, Carl Reinsch, Les Yumeaux Australiens Anderson, Ricardo et Salving, Jules Kellar, Yamamoto, Vues Animees, Donaldson Frères and Ardel.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.
Colonel G. Bordeverry, Lily Flexmore, Mdlle. Haydee, Marquis Ito, Mdlle. Marvelle, Permane Brothers, Henri Abdy, the Athlones, Burton Joyce, Pictures, May Edouin, and Fred Edwards.

ALHAMBRA, HULL.
Keen and Waller, Nancy St. John, Harry Leybourne, Alice Ormonde, Alix Lukos, Fred Earle, Gus Harris, Edith St. Clare, Pictures, Vaudeville Trio.

EMPIRE, BRISTOL.
Six Brothers Luck, Frank Hutchings, Emma and Victor, Clarus Brothers, Francis Letty, Dan Llewellyn, Mons Slippere, Pictures, Four Cliftons.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.
Hebburn Band, Lily Seville, Maud Caswell, the Arleys, Alfred Barker, Philippi Bros., Chas. Steuart and Co., Gardner, Griffin, and Gardner, Amiel, Pictures, the Yiulians.

PALACE, GLASGOW.
Banker, Mollie Doon, Pichel Troupe, Carina Sisters, Charles Baron, Bennecelli Troupe, Melaire, Beattie Kent, Pictures, Leo Dryden, Tom Collins.

TIVOLI, LEEDS.
Lottie Lennox, the Evalos, Lillian, Mountford and Walsh, Schutzenlieserl'n, R. Judges, Bob Hamilton, Flora Lumière, Pictures, Sandor Trio.

PALACE, MANCHESTER.
Harry Clifford, Boissets, Prof. Thornbury, Florence, Ethel May, Bros. Ashley and Co., Tambo and Tambo, Apollo, Pictures, Laares Troupe.

HIPPODROME, OLDHAM.
Due notice will be given of the Opening.

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Matinée every Monday and Thursday.

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HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.
Chas. Majilton and Co., Geo. Neno, Lachie Thompson's Topweights, Tom and Neil, the Hamiltons, T. W. Royal, Ambey Brothers, Pictures, George Formby.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER
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Artistes please note which Halls they are booked for in Manchester and Glasgow.

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CALL, for Monday, Jan 30, 1905, and on, All Artists Engaged.

Rehearsal at 12 0 prompt. Matinée at 2.0.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Partnership between Mr R. NORMAN CONCORDE and Mr HAROLD MONTAGUE, of Bijou Villa, New Malden, Surrey, late Jester of the Scarlet Mr E.'s, has been terminated by Mutual Consent, and that the Company of the Scarlet Mr E.'s will continue to exist under the Sole Management of Mr R. NORMAN CONCORDE, of 82, New Bond-street, W.

MUSIC HALL CARDS

Alphabetically Arranged.—Limited to Three Lines

ABADAROFFS, Prehistoric Mountebanks, Monday, Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow Vacant, Feb. 20. Perm. Address, 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

ABDULLAH, ALMA, and LA SUPERBE Permanent address, 155, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

ABEL and WELSH, the Great Grotesque Comedians, Hippodrome, Accrington.

ADRIENNE, THREE SISTERS, the Motor Girls. Big Success this, Tivoli, Dublin; next, Liverpool. Address, 1, Salisbury-street, Liverpool.

AERIAN and OSTARA, World's Greatest Gymnasts. Address, 1, Brook-road, Wood-green, London.

AISTON, ARTHUR, has made an Enormous Success as Abanazar (Third Consecutive Year). Monday, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

ALBANO TROUPE, Refined Musical Speciality. The Empire, Paisley.

ALBERTO, FRED, Character Comedian and Dancer, Tremendous hit as Will Atkins, Panto., "Robinson Crusoe" Next, E. T., Bishop Auckland.

ALBINI, BLANCHE, Principal Boy, "Bo-Peep," County Theatre, Bedford. Vacant Monday. Wire as above.

ALETHEA, Contortionist. First Free Date September, 1906. London Pavilion, Dec. 26, Eight Weeks.

ALEXANDER, ROSIE finished Four Weeks, West London. Next, Colosseum, Oldham, Two Weeks. George Thursby, Alhambra, Sandgate.

ALEXANDER'S, JOHN, Burlesque Company. Palace Theatre, Leicester.

ALMO TROUPE. Next week, Theatre, Perth, South Wales.

ALMON and AIDA, Unique and Unrivalled Hand Balancing Act. This, Palace, Lincoln; next, Palace, Bradford.

ALMONTE, TROUPE, Great Success, "Robinson Crusoe" Pantomime. Metropole T., Devonport This and Next. Free Feb. 6.

ALVANTE, King of Slanting Wire, Liberty Monday; also the Human Fly. Trapeze Stage Act. 39, Maskell-street, Chorlton-on-Medlock.

ANDERSONS, AUSTRALIAN TWIN Perfect wonder-workers with the skipping-rope.—Vide Oswald Stoll. Month of February, Alhambra, Paris.

ANDOS, Japan's Greatest Troupe, Coliseum, London.

ANDYS, FOUR, Smartest of Risley and Double Somersault Artists Palace, Cork. Open for Feb. 6 and 13.

ANTILL GEO, Page, Milton Bode's "Cinderella." Next week, Lyceum Ipswich.

ARA, ZEBRA, and VOKE, Monday next, The Palace, Camberwell, Every Evening.

ARIZONAS, FOUR, Acrobatic Tumblers, Contortionist, Jugglers, and Staircase Workers. Royal, Holborn, London.

ARLEYS, England's Greatest Comedy Cyclists, in New Act entitled "On the Benches in the Park" Reg. No. 2,183. Hippodrome, Liverpool.

ARMSTRONG, HAPPY, Lightning Pyramid Drummer, Instrumentalist, and Orator. A few Immediate Dates Required. Hippodrome, Carlisle

ASHLEY, BROS., "Next, Please," Hippodrome, Liverpool; 30th P., Manchester. Fortune and Granville and G. Barclay.

ATLAS and the Beautiful Miss VULCANA, the Society Athletes, World's Greatest Artistes. 30th, Empire, Rochdale. Require Feb. 6.

ATTILLA, BROS, Athletic Gladiators. Feb. 6, 13, 20 Vacant. Gaiety, Birmingham. Next, Hippodrome, Coventry.

AUSTIN, RUMBO, in his New Budget of Comicalities. Empire, Stratford, E.

AVON and CREST, Usual Success, Jordison's "Babes in the Wood." Jan. 30, Wigan.

BAKER and BALFE, including George M. Baker's Marvellous Dancing. Stoll Tour.

BALSIGER, Palace, Lancaster; next week, Westminster, Liverpool. Liberty week, Feb 6. 13th, Empire, York.

BANDON, SID, Pavilion, Glasgow. "Sez I to myself, sez I," Alf Ellerton.

BARCLAY, GEORGE, and CO., Variety Agents. Telephone, 84, Streatham. 221, Brixton-hill, London, S.W.

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BARNARD'S Life-like MARIONETTES Universal success of our "Piccaninny" Burlesque. Jan. 30, Alhambra, Brighton.

BARRETT and KNOWLES. Fancy, all those Offers. Now who could have thought it? Alexandra, Brum; or, Tom Shaw and Co.

BARTHOLOMEW, SISTERS (VIOLET and DAISY), the Ideal Pair. Hippodrome, Bury. Jan. 30, Grand, Bolton.

BARTLETT, MISS ROSIE. This week and next, Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool.

BAWN'S AGENCY 10, Victoria-parade, Balham-hill, London, S.W. Phone, 178, Balham. Telegrams, "Orderless London."

BAYMAN, CHARLIE, Negro Comedian. A palpable hit and triumphant success nightly at the Hippodrome, Accrington. Agent Fred Higham.

BEANLAND, CHARLES, Monday next, Hippodrome, Grimsby. Agent, Harry Day.

BEATRICE, SISTERS (NELLIE and MAY), Duettists and Dancers. At Liberty. Wire or write, 35, Florence-street, London.

BEAUMONT, MISS MAUDE, Principal Boy, Robin Hood. Terrific Success. Court Theatre, Warrington

BEES, THE TWO (HARRY and FLORA BLAKE). New Indian Scena by Albert Voyce, Esq. Metropolitan and Islington Empire.

BELROSE, GEO., Basso, and MAUD DE VELIN, Soprano, Speciality Duettists and Soloists. Pantomime, P. T., Bradford. Vacant Feb. 13, 20, 27

BENET, HARRY Queen's, Poplar, 8·40; Palace, Greenwich, 9·45. Monday (Return), Barnard's, Woolwich.

BENHAM, GEORGE, Bandbox Clown, Prince of Wales, Prince's-square, Kennington-cross. Wines and Spirits Finest Quality. "The Era" taken.

BENN'S, WILLIE, Variety Agency, Eton House, Sudbourne-road, Brixton-hill. Telephone, 610 Brixton.

BENSON, ALLY M., Comedian and Whistler, big success as Buttons, in "Cinderella." March 6 Vacant. All coms., Theatre Royal, Hyde.

BENT, HARRY, the Novel Mimic; also CARLOTTA LUNN; Monday, Palace, Northampton. Agent, Fortune and Chantrille.

BENTLEY'S AGENCY, 169, Stamford-street, S.E. Manager, Horace Sheldon. 'Phone, 12,706 Central.

BERNARD, GEO., in his Latest Creation, "The Last of the Light Brigade," with Scenic Effects. Monday next, Empire Palace, South Shields.

BERNARDO, General Manager, H. Barry "Aladdin." This, Theatre Royal, Worthing; next, Lyric T., Bromley.

BEST, MR. CHARLES F., as M Bunker, "The Mountebank," Alhambra, Belfast.

BICKLEY, HARRY, Principal Comedian, Milton Bode's Company. Theatre Royal, Huddersfield.

BISHOP and VALE, Comedians, Ping and Pong, "Aladdin" Pantomime What a success! Monday, Theatre, Gateshead

BLARNEY and KENNARD, Great Success, T., Mexboro'. Kiddie's "Bo Peep" Panto., Jimmy Green and Johnny Stout. Next, Grand T., Hull.

BLISS and BLISS, Comedians. Monday, Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.

BLYTHE, MARIE, Contralto Vocalist, Sadler's Wells. Jan. 30, the Bedford. Agents, S. M. Hyman, Limited.

BOHEMIANS, THE (WILL and MADGE), Musical and Comedy Artists. This, Empire, Cardiff; Next, Empire, Swansea. G. Foster, 4, Garrick-street.

BOLTON, REG., Comedian, Vacant Feb. 27. This, Grand, Blackpool; next, St. James's, Manchester. Pantomime.

BONANZAS, THE THREE, Triple Bar Artistes, also Staircase and Hand-to-Hand Balancers Two First-class Turns. 127, Linaker-street, Southport.

BORELLI, SIGNOR and MADAME, Empire, Bradford. Agents, T. Shaw and Co.

BOSANQUET, in his Illuminated Musical Séance. Camberwell Palace.

BOSWELL, A. P., the Droll.—The Era. First Vacancy May 1. Letters, 7, Middle Market-road Great Yarmouth.

BOULTON and BARTENELLI, Emperor, Nicey Picey, and Principal Speciality. Vacant Panto. 1905-6 Address, Lyceum, Newport.

BOWERY BOYS, THE, Comedians, Boxers, &c. Shuffle and Shirk, "Dick Whittington" Panto. This, Aston; next, O. H., Coventry.

BOWMAN, J. H., Anglo-American Humourist, Vocalist, Dancer. Jan. 30, Haymarket, Liverpool. Vacant Feb. 6, 27.

BOYCE, FRANK, Vocal Comedian. Monday, Tivoli, Glasgow, second Week.

BOYLE, MARCUS My Bonny Boy, Palace Theatre, Bordesley, Birmingham.

BOYNE, ARTHUR, King's Theatre, Hammersmith. Communications, Macdermott's Agency.

BREWSTERS THE, Parts and Specialities, Messrs Little and Davis's "Sinbad the Sailor," T.R., Darlington. Miss KITTY BREWSTER, Principal Girl.

BRIGHTON GIRLS, THE, Lance and Sword Experts and Speciality Artists. This, T.R., Colchester; next, G. T., Woolwich. "Swiss Express" Co.

BRINDALL and COOPER, Comedians, Dancing Experts Starring Brit, Glasgow. Monday, E., Paisley. March 6 Hippo, St. Helens

BRITISH QUARTETTE, THE (JOHN BULL, SANDY, PAT, and TAFFY). Next Week, Argyle, Birkenhead.

BRITTON, LITTLE, Eccentric Comedian and Comedy Dancer, Great Success as Snowball, Tiller's "Ohio," Alhambra, Paris. See me bounce.

BROMLEY and FONTEIN, in Novel and Original Vocal Entertainment. Jan. 30, Pier Pavilion, Southport.

BROOKLANDS, THE (ETHEL and BELLA), Big Success. Second Boy and Girl, Prince's Theatre, Preston. Jan. 30, Court Theatre, Wigan.

BROOKS, BROTHERS, SISTERS & BRAND, Vacant for Pantomime, 1905-6. Address, Theatre Royal, Hull.

BROOKS, GEORGE H., Musical, Dramatic, and Variety Agent. 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

BROWN and ROBINSON, Soloists and Duettists. Jan. 30, Empire, Glasgow.

BRUCE and ROSS, Australian Comedy Artists, Terrific Success, Broadheads, Bury. Vacant, Feb. 6, 13. Monday, 15, John-street, Blackburn.

BURG, HAUD, and WISE. "Ye Brown Cow Inn." Monday, Empire, Shepherd's-bush.

BURGATILES, THE FOUR, Musical Pantomimists. C. W. Poole's Myriorama, Theatre, Perth, South Wales.

BURTON'S FETE, GALA, AND VARIETY AGENCY, Sheffield. The man who intends to succeed works without a time table.

CABAN, THE GREAT, with his Marvellous Sixteen Performing Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs. To-night A., Birkenhead; next, Lyric, Liverpool.

CAINE, ANDIE, Comedian, Pantomime, Kennington Theatre.

CALDEN HARRY, Enormous Success as Dame Durden, Peter Davey's "Goody Two shoes" Company. Grand Theatre, Margate.

CALLAGHAN, T. C., FLORRIE ST. CLAIR. People's Palace, Bristol. Napoli and Co.

CAMBO, the Musical Monkey. Address, 59, Urquhart-road, Aberdeen. Vacant Feb. 13, 20 and 27.

CAMERON, LOUDOUN, the Celebrated Conjuror, is "a-re workin' awa'." Jan. 30, Hippo., Wigan; Feb. 6, Royal, Oldham. Sley.

CAMERONS (JIM and MARIE), Original Comedy Duologue Artists. "The Lady Guide" On Tour.

CANDLISH WILL, Scotch Musical Nigger. Monday, Empire, Belfast; Feb. 6, Tivoli, Glasgow. Vacant Feb. 13 and 20 Direct; or, Aytoun.

CARL and CARR, in Refined Comedy Act, "Workhouse" Usual Success. This Week and Next, T.R., Aldershot. Livermore Tour, Feb. 13.

CARLTON, HENRY, the Popular Comedian, supported by his Renowned Comedy Team. Palace, Northampton.

CARMEN, HARRY, DAISY LANE, Palace, Croydon. Palace, Camberwell. Feb. 6, Coliseum, Brighton.

CARR and ROSE (FRED and ADA), in Vocal Act, "Their First Quarrel," South London and Hammersmith. Regards Jean Seul.

CARY, FRED, Abanazar, Theatre Royal, Hull.

CECIL, TOM, Comedian, Concertising in Scotland. Letters, 18, Clifton-road, Aberdeen. Star Songs Required.

CEEAMEE, Troupe on Tour. Permanent address, care of "The Era."

CHALLIS, FLO, Tremendous Favourite in Bury, Principal Boy, "Puss in Boots" Next Week, Huddersfield. Moss Tour to follow.

CHANT and CHANT, Comedy Vocalists and Patterers, enormous success, Will Atkins and Polly Hopkins. Offers invited, 1905-6. A. T., Stirling.

CHARD'S DOG CIRCUS. Wire for Monday, Hippodrome, Bury; after, 18, Springfield, Liverpool.

CHARMAN, JACK, Vocalist, this Week, Palace, Bath. Jan. 30, Gaiety, Birmingham Fully Booked.

CHARNLEY SISTERS, Baton Manipulators, Duettists, and Dancers Hippodrome, Stoke. Monday, Return, Pavilion, Leicester.

CHESTER and LEE'S MARIONETTES. Monday, Gaiety Theatre, Oldham.

CHESTER'S AGENCY. Dramatic and Variety Agents. 13, Oxford-street, Manchester.

CHINKO, the World-Famed Young Juggler. Livermore's Tour, Bristol.

CHIRGWIN, Balham and Standard. Friends kindly refrain from Copying.

CLARENCE and BELL, Bailiffs, Footmen, Millionaires, in "Cinderella." Jan. 30, Theatre Royal, Hyde.

CLARIBELL, FLORRIE, Tyrolean Songstress and Dancer, now Touring the North Permanent Address, 36, Nursery-street, Sheffield.

CLIFFE, TOM E., Title-rôle, Milton Bode's "Puss in Boots," Opera House, Bury, Success. Next, Theatre Royal, Huddersfield. Offers invited 1905-6.

CLYDES, THE (AMY and EVIE), Monday, Gatti's. Feb. 27, E., Portsmouth. P., Tottenham; P., Camberwell (Return).

CLYO, HARRY, and ROSE ROCHELLE, Remarkable Laughing Hit, Circus, Bury. Applause naturally follows. Monday, Coliseum, Brighton.

COLEMAN, ROSIE, and HARRY CONLIN, 99, Hill-street, Garnet-hill, Glasgow.

COLLEYS, Continental Comedy Acrobats, Jugglers, and Burlesque Boxers. First Vacancy, Feb 6. Monday, New Theatre, Consett.

COLLINS, GEO., Quaint Comedian Last Week, Redford, 6·30 and 9·20; Middlesex, 10·20. 410, Albany-road, Camberwell-gate, London, S.E.

COLLINS, MISS LOTTIE. Address, 368, Camden-road, N.

COMPTON, GRACEFUL GRACE. Continued success of "Bull and Bush" and "Magpie and Parrot" with J. Gar Kiddie's Panto Mon., Grand, Hull.

CONWAY TOM W. Dame, Grand, Woolwich. at Liberty Jan. 23

COOKE, STEVE, Dame, in "Dick Whittington." Opera House Coventry.

COOKSON, JOE, the Ventriloquial Prince, in his Wonderful Blackboard Trick Tremendous Success Liberty Feb. 6. Hippodrome, Newport, I.O.W.

CORNISH, WILL in his Unique Musical Bell Act This Week, Palace, Manchester; Next, Gaiety, Birmingham.

COWPER, VERNON, Continued Success as Blueskin. Jan. 30, Westminster, Liverpool.

CRAIG, ROZE, and CRAIG Trio of the World's Leading Athletes. Hippodrome, Norwich.

CRANKS, ORIGINAL, Cycling Eccentrics and Tricksters, Circus, Rochdale. Vacant 30th. Agent, Stebbings. Perm., 19, Alexandra-rd., Manchester.

CRESSER, MISS ADA, Staley's Transformation Company. Empire, Leeds.

CRESSWELLS. Address care of "The Era" Office.

CREW, J. H., and the Original MAUD MARLOW. Also their "Pigeon Pair" A Great Act Working London. Oliver and Holmes's Agency.

CROWN TRIO (E. SCOFIELD, L. DAVIDSON, W. DAVIDSON), Speciality Vocalists. This, Hippodrome, Manchester; next, Gaiety, Chatham.

CROWSON, WILL, CISSIE CONYERS, Friday, Theatre, Aston. Fairy Queen, Theatre, Darlington.

CULLANE, FRED, TRIO in "The Lady's School." Starring, Barnard's, Chatham. H. Day's Agency.

CULLEN, LITTLE DOLLY, and ELSIE JORDISON, the Ideal Babes, splendid success, Jordison's Panto., Prince's, Preston. Next, Court, Wigan.

CULLEN and CARTHY, enormous hit as the Robbers Jordison's Panto Co. Also LITTLE CLULEY, as Baron's Sec., Court, Wigan.

CURRIE, MISS LILY, Descriptive Vocalist, this week, Palace, Bordesley. Next week, Empire, Belfast.

CURRY, PERCY, Pantomime, Ugly Sister. This and next, Olympia Newcastle Agent, Fioni.

CUTHBERT, MAUD, Serio and Ballad Vocalist. Address, Bobini, Grand Theatre, Halifax.

CYCLO, Champion Trick and Comedy Cyclist. Look out for New Act. Hippodrome, Ashton.

DAINTON GIRLS, THE, Gipsy and Character Duettists. This week, Theatre Royal, Oldham.

DALE, MR. HARRY. Hippodrome Manager, Stage and Arena General Manager and Ringmaster, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy.

DALE and D'ARGAN. Creating a Huge Success with J. A. Thompson's Pantomime "Aladdin." Re-engaged for Twenty Weeks 1905-6.

DALE and O'MALLEY, the Somewhat Different Comedians. Jan. 30, Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

DANBYS, THE (CHARLES and ARTHUR). Royal Court Theatre, Warrington.

DANIELS, THE TWO as King One Lung and General Hoop-de-do-do. Success, Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

DARRELL TRIO, Refined Musical Act, including Miss MAY DARRELL Finest Lady Banjoist, Require Feb 13 and 20. Next, Grand, Sheffield.

DARWIN, the Man Monkey. Jan 30, Haymarket Music Hall, Liverpool Perm. address, 49, St. Paul's-road Moseley Birmingham

D'AUBYN, MINNIE, Burlesque Artiste, This, Middlesex; next, Gatti's.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE of Australian Trick Cyclists. Monarchs of the Wheel. Character Costumes. This, N. G. T., Leith; next, T., Kirkcaldy.

DAVIS, ALF, Comedian and Actor-Vocalist, concludes To-night, Coliseum, Brighton. Monday, Parthenon, Liverpool. Liberty, Feb. 6, 13, wire.

DAY'S, HARRY, VARIETY AGENCY, Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, W.C. Tel., 6,915, Ger. Tele., "Terpsichore, London."

DAY'S VARIETY AGENCY, 116, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. Always Vacancies for Stars and Specialities.

DAYTON FAMILY. Jan. 30, Alhambra, Attercliffe.

DE DIO, THE PEERLESS, Hansa Theatre, Hamburg, Sailing Feb. 4, South Africa.

DE RENAU and MOLLE. ALADINA, Extraordinary Rapid Painter, &c., and Wonderful Cockatoos. Jan. 30, Pavilion, Newcastle.

DELAMERE TRIO, the Original Comedy Equilibrists. Jan. 30, Palace, Attercliffe, Sheffield.

DELEVINES, FIVE, "Flirtation." Empire, Newport.

DELLER and OXFORD, the Inimitable Duo, Singing, Dancing, and Pattering. Haymarket Music Hall, Liverpool.

DENBY and DENT conclude Pantomime, Fredk. Mouillot's Company. Monday, Palace Theatre, Cork.

DENHAM, TEDDY, Enormous Success Widow Twankey, "Aladdin." Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.

DENMARK PAIR (FRED and FLORRIE), Comedy Act, "Arguments." This week, Alhambra, Sandgate. Next, Empire, Dover.

DE ROSE, MDLLE., and J. H. HAWTREY, Principal Boy, Malsio. J. Kiddie's "Cinderella," Theatre Royal, Attercliffe.

DEVEREUX'S Great Dog Act, Liberty Feb 27. The most Pleasing Show before the Public Grand Theatre, Islington, London.

DEVOVE, JAMES, and BILL, his Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Jan. 30, Empire Hippodrome, Ashton.

DIGBY, LESLIE, Comedian, Captain Scuttle, G. B. Phillips's "Sinbad." This and next, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

DIXON, CHARLEY; KATE LYND. Thank Messrs Durham, Sylvester Sage, Wilson, &c., for Jan. 23 Sorry, Full. 69, Roan-street Greenwich, S.E.

DOLF, SIDNEY DOLF, the Novelty Entertainer, concluding Public Hall, Reigate.

DOME, the Original Comedy Clay Man, Sails for S. Africa Feb. 4.

DOMINOS, TWO (Clowns), and Donkey, Comic. For Vacant Dates, Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

DON, EMMA, and her Black and White Quartette, Broadhead Tour, Third Return. Thanks Adney Payne, Esq., for Contracts.

DOODY and WRIGHT, Enormous Success, Aberdeen Retained Second Week.

DORRETTA, LITTLE, a Charming and Clever Little Acrobatic Speciality Song and Dance Artist, Touring with C. W. Poole's Royal Myriorama.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH, the Dainty Singing Maiden. Monday, Jan. 30 London, Shoreditch.

DOUGLASS, GEO. S., General Manager. Hippodrome, Wakefield.

DOVE, MISS ETHEL, Principal Girl Lyric Hammersmith Next Week, Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

DRYDEN, CISSIE, Vocal Character Actress Communications to Fred Higham, York-road, London.

DUBOIS, JAMES, Pantomime, "Forty Thieves." Monday, Prince of Wales Theatre Grimsby.

DUCKETT, BERTHA, Charming Young Vocalist and Graceful Dancer. Terrific Success, Parthenon, Liverpool. All coms., 11, Arnold-st., L'pool.

DUDLEY, LYDIA, the always successful Comedienne. Monday, Parthenon Music Hall, Liverpool. Coms. to the above

DUNCAN, Club Manipulator and Juggler; OSWALD, Staircase Performer, Hand Jumper, &c. Monday, Hippodrome, Hulme, Manchester.

DUNCAN and GODFREY (MINNIE), (ARTHUR), New Theatre, Leamington.

DUNMORE, TOM, The Essence of Quaintness Success of New Song, "It's a little bit of alright, ain't it?"

DUNNING and KAHN and KAHN, the greatest success imaginable everywhere Monday, Empire, Cardiff. London Coliseum shortly.

DURHAM'S, FRED, Variety Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

DU ROCHE, MDLLE., this Week, Surrey Theatre, S.E. Next Week Jan 30 Sadler's Wells Theatre.

EARLE and MELVILLE, Patter Comedians Big success, this Empress Hartlepool. Vacant Feb 6 Agent Required. All coms., Empress, Hartlepool.

EILEEN and MAYNIE, Juvenile Sisters, Refined Instrumentalist, Novelty Dancers. Stockton-on-Tees.

ELCOCK, AMY, Comedienne, and FLORRIE ST. ROY, Comedienne and Dancer. Great success, Tivoli, Glasgow. Vacant Monday. Wire above address.

ELDER, NELLIE, Comedienne, Speciality Tyrolean Vocalist, Liberty Mon. Next and Feb 13, and on. After Sat, Glenfield-place, Sowerby Bridge.

ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast, also LA BELLE TOSCA, Two or Three Acts. Vacant, Feb. 6 and 13. Address, Palace, North Shields.

ELLA'S, MISS, best existing Lion Show. Jan. 30, Foresters' Music Hall, London.

ELLERTON, ALF, Song Writer. Found Guilty by Dunville, Ford, Albert, Mayne, Leamore, Leonards, &c. 19, Pulross-rd., Brixton.

ELLIOTT, SILLY BILLY, Comedy Merchant. Unbounded success, Prince's, Bradford Songs Required. Vacant for Panto. next year. Rubber heels.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Address, Hippodrome, Wigan.

ELLIS, Funny FREDDY, big hit, Captain Clown, and Speciality. Care of "The Era"

ELMO, NINA, Comediennes, Metropole, Manchester. Monday, Hippodrome, Bury.

ELTENOS, THE, Comedy Triple Bar Act; TOGO, Japanese Juggler. 30th, Empire, Rochdale. Two Distinct Acts.

ELTONS, TWO, Triple Horizontal Bar Comedians, Smartest Knockabout Act on the Road. Monday, Theatre Royal, Rochdale.

ELVY, ARTHUR, Vocal Comedian. Usual Success, Grand, Bolton; next, Pav., Leicester. Good Domestic Chorus Songs Required. Cazman's Agency.

EPLETT, JESSIE, Character Vocalist, Solo Drummer, and Speciality Dancer, great success, G. T., Islington. Address, 8, Ivy-lane, Hoxton, N.

ERICK, FRED, Comedian. On Tour. At Lib. Whit Week, on. First-class Al Fresco. Coms., 428, Liverpool-st., Seedley, nr. Manchester.

ESCALADERS, THREE, Hand Balancers and Double Ladder Experts. Jan. 30, Empire, Portsmouth.

ESDALE, BROS., Refined Comedians, Vacant Feb. 13 and 27. Monday, Tivoli, Manchester. Look out for New Act.

EVANS, WILL Business-Manager, Harry Poole. Tel., 165, Richmond.

FAME, PEGGY, Referee says:—The Louie Freear of the future. Monday, Circus, Rochdale, with her parents.

FERRARIS, THE, Modern and Cosmopolitan Dancers. Grand Cirque Nouveau, Belgium.

FIELDING, ANNIE, and BERT HULL, "An Officer's Flirtation." Jan. 30, Palace, Bordesley, Birmingham.

FIELDS and ACRES, Comedy Park-keepers. Keepers of Novelty in the Park of Originality. Permanent, 115, Hope-street, Salford.

FIONI'S, JAMES, AGENCY, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." Telephone, 1686 Royal,

FLORADORA GIRLS. Era Press—Are greater favourites than ever. Second week, Metropole Theatre, Devonport. F. Mouillot's Panto.

FONTAINBLEAU, ALICE, Rolling Globe Equilibrist and Troupe of Trick and Leaping Dogs. Terms and dates, Marquis of Granby Hotel, Lincoln.

FORD, MISS CARRIE, Comedienne. Jan. 30, Circus, Leith. Thanks J. Strand, of Clydebank, for Handsome Bouquet.

FORD and HANSON, the American Musical Millionaires. Standard, Pimlico, 9 0 o'clock.

FORD, MISS RAY, Comedienne, unable to appear at Hartlepool, this week, through indisposition. Monday, Palace, Lancaster.

FORTUNE and GRANVILLE, Savoy House, 115, Strand, London, W.C. Telegrams, "Waggishly." Telephone, 1,309, Gerrard.

FRANCISCO, Juggler; and MAY MOODIE, Piccolo Soloist, Gaiety, Chatham. Next Week, Grand, Gravesend. Vacant Feb. 13 and 20.

FREDRICKS, CARL, CORDELIA, YA PYN KETO FAMILY, "Cinderella." Pavilion Theatre Buxton.

FREELAND, MR. FRANK, Song and Sketch-Writer. "Got to have it." Public Hall, Saltcoats, N.B.

FRENCH, MARIE. The Irish Gem. Sole Agent, Willie Benn, Eton House, 23, Sudbourne-road Brixton-hill, London.

FRENCH'S, GEORGE, TROUPE, and the SNOW FAMILY, on Tour. For Vacant Dates, address, 14, Second-avenue, Queen's-park, London, W.

FRIDKIN'S, BORIS, THE Great, Cossack Troupe Opera House, Southport.

GANNON, NELLIE, Haymarket, Liverpool. What a success. Ask F. Willmot, Esq. Monday, Circus, Rochdale. Harry Wright improving.

GARLAND, GUS, Ventriloquist. This Corporation H., Birtley. Requires Monday. Write or Wire for Monday, P. O., Chester-le-street, Durham.

GARRICK, MR. GUS, Sole Inventor of the Living Postcard Album. Hippodrome, Queen's-park, Manchester.

GEORGE, R. A. The Quaint Comedian and Mimic. 23, Southfields-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

GERALDOS, THREE JUGGLING, Top of Bill this week, Hippodrome, Salford. Top of Bill next week, Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne.

GERTRELLA, Dancer-Gymnast. New Act, "In Cupid's Garden." Pantomime, Opera House, Harrogate.

GIBB, HORACE, and NITA MAYEU, Proprietors, Hotel Armada, Broadmead, Bristol. Professionals always welcome. Regards to all.

GILLIN, Unique Ventriloquial Humourist. Finishes Grand, Manchester. Monday, Lyric, Liverpool.

GOLD, HARRY, Versatile Comedian. Finishes, To-night, Queen's Palace, Poplar, E.

GOLDING, R. J., Ventriloquist and Romano Conjuror. Nobility's Concerts, London. Permanent, 34, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow.

GOLIATH, the Strongest Youth in the World, thanks J. A. Thomson for Re-engagement, Panto. 1905-6. Address, 6 West Caroline-st., Blackpool.

GRANADAS, LOS, Electrifying Bounders. Free. 238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

GRAPHO and JACKSON Abanazar and Widow Twankey. Thanks for offers. Still Vacant 1905-6. Lyric Theatre, Bromley

GRAY, MR. GEORGE. "The Fighting Parson." Address, care of "The Era" Office.

GREY and WELFORD, Grotesque Boxing Comedians, in their Legitimate and Successful Act, "I'll give you Duck." Next, Broadhead's, Ashton.

GROSVENOR SISTERS (THREE), Operatic Vocalists. "Dick Whittington" Pantomime. Booked by Ernest Warner. Next Week, T. R., Chorley.

GWYNNE, FLORENCE, the Stage-struck Servant. Jan. 30, Palace, Grimsby. Vacant, Feb. 6 and 20. Agent, Syd M. Hyman

H. and S. QUARTETTE, Eccentric Acrobatic Musical Act, at Liberty Jan. 30 and on. 31, Ellison-street, Gateshead.

HALDYNE DUO. Tremendous Success, Grand, Bolton, Next, Hippo., Grimsby. Thanks for Twenty-six Weeks booked by Will Dalton with New Act.

HALL'S, TOM, Tippling Toffs and Tumbling Terriers, laughing hit, Palace, Aberdeen; next, P., Dundee. Open Feb. 6, through closing.

HANBURY, ALLAN, Comedian. Summer Offers invited. Next, C. W. Poole's Myriorama, Perth.

HANDEL and LEE, Comedy Instrumentalists. This week, T. R. Warrington. Perm., 48, Wellclose-view, Leeds. Lib. Feb. 6.

HANVARR and ANNA LEE, "The Golfer and the Maid." Surrey Theatre, London, S.E.

HARCOURT, FRED. Jan. 30, Palace, Sunderland.

HARDEEN, Still working despite bad exposures Palace, Bath Next week, Palace, Lincoln.

HARDY, the American Blondin, "King of the High Rope." Address, Niagara Villa, Doggett-road, Catford, London.

HARLAND and ROLLISON, big success, Tivoli, Dublin, Fifth Return. Monday, Jan. 30, Palace, Cork. Free March.

HARMONY FOUR, THE (T. C. Bergeron, F. M. Barrett, Edw. Hughes, Alex. Ferguson). Lyceum, London, until Feb. 27.

HARRIS and WORTH, the Assassins of Sorrow. Big success as Bailiffs, "Robinson Crusoe." Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool.

HART and CO. Dramatic and Variety Agents, 7, Lancaster-house, Ardville-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 116, Brixton.

HARVEY BOYS, the Unrivalled Boxing Comedians. Syndicate Halls Nightly. The Fighting Dummy.

HASTINGS, GEORGE; KITTY GOWER, Descriptive Vocalist, Lightning Change Character Dancer, usual success, Empire, Wigan. Offers invited.

HASTINGS, JOE, Jumper and Ideal Ringmaster. CLARA HASTINGS, Refined Comedienne. Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

HAYDER'S, MDLLE, Electric Mannikin Theatre, Pavilion, Glasgow; Jan. 30, Pavilion, Newcastle.

HEATH, JACK, Comedian, big success, Vizier Gin-Sling, big success, "Aladdin" Pantomime, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.

HEATON, PROF. TED, World's Greatest Diver and Swimmer; and Miss SACHA, Park Palace, Liverpool. Coms., 24, Alton-road, Liverpool.

HENDERSON, FAMOUS Blind Musical Genius and Concertina Soloist. Enjoying week's holiday. Monday next, Grand, Bolton.

HENDERSON, LADE, Versatile Vocalist, Big Success, Grand, Sheffield. Next Week, Palace, Derby.

HENRIETTE, The Beautiful and Accomplished Vocal and Musical Entertainer. Always a Success. Touring.

HERALD COMEDY FOUR, Gaiety, Birmingham. See Other Advert.

HERBERT, FRED, Premier Topical Vocalist. R. Warner.

HERMAN, SYD, the Original Hebrew Comedian and Actor-Vocalist. Terrific success, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy. Vacant Monday.

HILL, BARRY, and LANG Knockabout Comedians. Big Success, Met., Gateshead. Next, Hip., Ashton. Vacant Feb. 6 and 13. Wire.

HILL, ROWLAND, Ye Dame, Jordison's Pantomime. Court Theatre, Wigan.

HILL and LANE, Jan. 30, Royal, Holborn.

HILTON and HILTON, Comedy Bar Comedians. This, Empire, Belfast Jan. 30, Hippodrome, Wigan.

HOLLOWAY, MISS KATIE, Principal Girl, Theatre Royal, Ton-y-Pandy. Next week, Opera House, Cheltenham.

HOOK, WALTER W. 1,429th Consecutive Show, New Century Pictures. Middlesbrough. Monday, Temperance Hall, Bolton.

HOPE, F., the Great Sensational Trick Cyclist. This, Pier Pavilion, Southport Vacant 30th and Feb. 6.

HOPE, LITTLE ANGELA, the Charming Actress. Vocalist, and Dancer. "The Little Colonel." Camberwell Palace.

HOUSTON, HENRY, Presenting Chinese Mysteries, H. and F. Poole's No. 1 Myriorama, on Tour.

HOWARDS THE (RALPH and NELLIE), Palace, Chelsea; and Palace, Camberwell.

HULA, SISTERS, Vocalists and Expert Dancers, Liberty March 6, 13, on. Address, next, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Loughborough.

HULBERT, Ventriloquist, and DE LIL Illusionist. Liberty Monday. Saturday, Varieties, Leeds; then, Union-road, Macclesfield.

HUMBER, FANNIE, on Tour. All coms., Didcott, Ltd., 6, John-street. Adelphi, London.

HUNTER, G. W., Comedian and Raconteur. Jan. 30, Tivoli, Manchester.

HUNTLEY and PALMER, Comedians, with Wrestling Donkey. Also Acrobatic and Leaping Goat. Lib. Monday. 42, Milbourne-street, Blackpool.

HURST, W. G., the Wonderful Cat. Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, London, S.W.

HUXTER, THREE BROTHERS Feb. 6, Lyric, Liverpool. London Coliseum shortly. Permanent address, 10, Middle-street, Worcester.

IRIS, MISS LILY, Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, Robin Hood. All letters, en route.

IVESON, TONY, Resting after Two Years' Run. Marine Hotel. Barry Island, South Wales

JEROME, CHARLES, Concludes To-night Successful Engagement Britannia, Hoxton. Next week, Well-earned Rest. Sole Agents, Sydney Hyman, Ltd.

JETNEYS, THE, Darktown Aristocrats. Please don't use ma brains. Classic as ever. This, Tivoli, South Shields: Next, Central Palace, N. Shields.

JOHNSON, KID, and MAISIE PELHAM, American Novel Speciality Act, Liberty, Week, Feb 20 Address, Hippodrome, Preston.

JOHNSTON, JOHNNY, London's Star, the Musical Dandy, London Pavilion. Agent, George Barclay, 122, Brixton-hill, S.W.

JOHNSTONE, TOM Actor-Vocalist and Mimic. This Week, Hippodrome, Porth; Next Week, 30th, Palace, Croydon (Return).

JUDGE, SISTERS, with their Marvellous Performing Cockatoos, Parrots, and Macaws. Feb. 30, Grand, Sheffield. Thanks to R. Cass for Dates 1906-7

JULIAN, Demon Contortionist, big success, "Dick Whittington" Panto. Cat and Speciality. All coms., 126, Nightingale-road, Hitchin; or, M'Askell

KARDOO, the Handcuff King Monday, Hippodrome, Porth. Thanks Mr Robert Forsett for offer, Nine Months' Tour. See Artists' Wants

KARR and KOONEY, Will Atkins and Dick Deadeye. "Robinson Crusoe." Carpenter's Best. Theatre Royal, Bristol.

KATHRENA, MISS IDA, Fairy Queen, Lyric, Hammersmith. Next week, Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

KATOS, THE, Komikal Kidgets, The Cambridge.

KAVADOS, Juggler; **FLO MELVILLE,** Burlesque Artiste, big success, Palace, Derby. Monday, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

KAVANAGH, J. H., Safe-Card Comedian concludes To-night, Successfully, Hippo., Wakefield. Monday, H., Accrington. Vacant, Feb 6, 13, 20.

KAYS, FOUR, Pantomime Sketches. Spring, Summer, and Autumn Settled. All communications, Theatre Royal, Bristol.

KEENE, BILLY, and JESSIE ADAMS, Comedy Entertainers Huge hit. This week, Tivoli, Manchester.

KEITH, G. H., Vocal Actor, Concludes successful and pleasant week, Alhambra, Belfast. Jan. 30, Tivoli, Dublin, after Three Months' absence.

KEITH and MERSON, the Great Comedy Acrobatic Act. Scoring Nightly with Dottridge and Longden's "Aladdin." Theatre Royal, Hull.

KEITHS, the Original Musical, Novelty Instrumentalists and Eccentric Dancers, on Tour. Permanent address, 38, Sportsbank-street, Catford.

KELSOS, THE TWO (BILL and TOM), Comedians, create a Smile, a Laugh, a Scream, Nightly. Rotunda, Liverpool; next, Alexandra, Widnes.

KEMBLE, HENRY, General Manager, Palace Theatre, Cork.

KENDAL, BEATTIE, Dashing Character Vocalist. The Latest Manchester Success.

KERNO, LOUIS, the Neat Coon Vocalist and Dancer. Latest Success, "Ma Dusky Belle," by Gilbert Payne. Next, Opera House, Cheltenham.

KESSLER, MISS MABEL, Soprano Vocalist, Cornet, Post Horn, and Bugle Soloist. G., Hanley. Dis. Monday. 49, Market-street, Hanley.

KING and DELANE (GEO. and TOM), Vocal Comedy Act, "At the Club," another success, Palace, Northampton. Monday, Grand, Manchester.

KIOTO, N. T., Original Japanese Equilibrist. Jan. 30, returns to Camberwell Palace.

KIRK, HARRY, Comedian, Theatre Royal, Drury-lane.

KLOAT, MDLLE., Originator of Title, "An Artist's Model." Further Novelties now in Active Preparation. Monday, Empire, Greenock.

KLOOF, WILLIE, the Funny Hassarac (Guilty), Concludes To-night. Vacant on my own Monday. Any Comedy Part. Add., E. F., Southend.

KNICK-KNACKS, THE (Miss MATTIE CRONIN and HARRY OXBERRY). This, the Middlesex. Jan. 30, Palace, Southampton.

KNIGHT, STAR, Mysterious Man in Red. New Elaborate Spectacular Dumb Act. Magnificent Properties and Dresses. Agent, Wieland.

KNIGHTS, THE TWO (HARRY and FRED), in their Screaming Absurdity, "Knights of Old." At Liberty Feb 6. Jan. 30, O. H., Cheltenham.

KYDD and KYDD, Comedians and Dancers, Bailiffs, "Jack and Beanstalk," Grand, Blackpool. Next, St. James's, Manchester.

KYOTO, the Original Comedy Jap, Kyoto; also Miss MAY GERALDINE, Comedienne. Success, Palace, Cork. Jan. 30, Empire, Bradford.

LA BLANCHE, MABEL, Hippodrome, Salford; Monday, Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne. No Vacancies.

LA MARA, CHUMMIE, Principal Boy, "Cinderella" Company, Opera House, Harrogate.

LAND, FRED, Comedian. This week, Empire, South Shields. Next week, City Varieties, Leeds.

LANG, GENTLE BROTHERS. Next Week, 137, Drakefield-road, Brockley.

LANG, REM, Comedian and Burlesque Conjuror. Usual success Gaiety Theatre. Oldham.

LANTON and LANE, Perks and Pinchit, "Cinderella" (Milton Bode's Co.). Monday, Lyceum Theatre, Ipswich.

LAROLA and ROSE CABANI. This week, Hippodrome, Wigan. Monday, Hammersmith. Town, Six Weeks Barclay and Co.

LASSAH, LILLIE. This Week, Grand, Clapham, and Palace, Croydon; next week, Jan 30, Palace, Greenwich.

LAURELS, THE THREE, on the Ping Pong Table. Agents, Papa Brown, Pacey and Reeves. Empire, New-cross.

LAVELLE, BROS., Quaint Comedy Acrobats. Usual Success, Circus, Carlisle. 30th, Tivoli, Dublin.

LAYNE, GEORGE, a Smart, Up-to-date Humorous Singing Comedian. Perm. address, 67, Essingdon-street, Bolton, Lancs.

LEA and LOVELL, American Song Illustrators, Success, P., Croydon. Liverpool, &c., to follow. 15, Albert-sq., Clapham. Fortune and Granville.

LEANDER, HARRY, Vocal Comedian, "In Old Kentucky," Theatre Royal, West Stanley. New Songs by A. Meredith.

LE BRETON, LILLIE, Graceful Gymnast, big success, Tivoli, Manchester. At Liberty Jan. 30. Communications, Tivoli, Manchester.

LE CLERQ, GUS, very big success as Gertie, Ugly Sister, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.

LEE, THE Original THREE SISTERS, Acrobats. Monday next, Barnard's Varieties, Chatham.

LE FRE, ALBERT, Prince's Theatre, Bristol

LE GRAHAM, THREE SISTERS, Big Success and conclude to-night, Hippodrome, Ipswich. Monday, Empire, Dudley.

LEIGH, THREE SISTERS, Refined Entertainers, this week, Bedford, 6 35 and 9·45. Monday, E., Islington. Offers invited for Foreign Tour.

LE-MAY, TOM, the Real Musical Clown, W. Hamilton's Excursions, Kennaird Hall, Dundee.

LENNOL, MR JACK, the Unconventional Humorist. Good Offers Invited. Summer Season. Letters care of "The Era" Office.

LEONARD, FLORENCE, Soprano, This and next week, Grand, West Hartlepool.

LEONS, TWO, and MITZI, Conclude Hamilton and Motherwell Concerts. Monday, Empire, Greenock. Also MELITA.

LES CARRES, ENIE, Indisposed. Indisposed.

LESLIE BROTHERS, Jan. 30, Empire, Dublin. R. Warner.

LESTER'S, LEO, Miniature Pantomime Sketch, "Sports," absolutely New to England. Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.

LEVALLE, WALTER, F.O.S., Mdlle. LUCRECHE, London Halls. Great Success, Empress, Brixton. Next, New Pavilion, Maidenhead.

LEYBOURNE, GEORGE, General Manager, Alhambra, Sandgate. Artistes communicate, Fred Durham's Agency.

LINTON, the Greatest of all Bounding Wire Acts, great success, Palace, Manchester. Vacant Feb. 20. Jan. 30, Hippodrome, Belfast.

LISTON, MARIE, Scoring, Title-rôle, "Whittington." Communications, care of "The Era"

LISTON, MR. HARRY, MISS LORD LUMLEY, &c., the Royal Entertainers, "Merry Moments" for Concerts, Two Hours. Egyptian Hall.

LITTLE and GOODE (ADA, LUCY), in their Side-splitting Burlesque "Wanted, a Deputy." Big Hit. 20, Bilildge-place, Hunslet, Leeds.

LIZZETTE, THE FOUR SISTERS, Lady Acrobats; ELSIE RUBINA, Wire Dancer, on Tour. Opera House, Treherbert, S.W.

LLOYD, BABY, Vocal Wonder, the hit of the Programme. This week, starring Hippodrome, Wolverhampton; Monday, Circus, Stockport.

LLOYD'S, FRED, Sketch Combination, "The Blind Spinster." Jan. 30, Parthenon, Liverpool.

LOGAN, Dainty GRACIE, finishes To-night, big Success, Palace, Northampton. Monday next, Tivoli, Dublin.

LORIMER, JACK, the latest Scotch. Re-engaged Four Years, Palace, London. Exclusive Agents, T. Shaw and Co. See Back Page.

LORRISONS, THE (FRED and LILA), Eccentrics, Jan. 30, Hippodrome, Eastbourne. Day's Agency.

LOTTO, LILO, and OTTO, Trick Cyclists. 2, Lambeth Palace-road, S.E.

LOUIE, MADAME, the Original. Monday, Return, Grand Opera House, York.

LUCAS, MR. and MRS. EDWARD H., in "Scenes from Dickens." Great success this week, E., Portsmouth; next, Jan. 30 till Feb. 25, Lyceum, London

LUMIERE'S, MDLLE., ELECTRICAL FAIRY GROTTO. Usual Big Success, Alhambra, Hull. Monday (sixth Return), Tivoli, Leeds.

LYNCH, AGNESE and ARTHUR, in American Picture Songs. Monday, Westminster, Liverpool, Second Week.

LYNDON, BEATTIE, Comedienne and Dancer, London, Shoreditch. Next week, Barrow-in-Furness. Agent, Tom Claxton.

LYNN, GEORGE (Lynn and Collingwood), Speciality Dancer, with Mr John Tiller's Company, Alhambra, Paris.

LYONS, HARRY, Comedian, where Comic Singers have to take a back seat. Address, Westport, co Mayo.

MACK, JULIAN, Starring at Pier, Southport. Monday, Palace, Lancaster. Fioni.

MACS, THE NEW, Comedians. Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MAGNETS, THE FOUR, Vocalists, Acrobatic Buck and Sand Dancers, big success, Pantomime, Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.

MALCOLM, FRED, as Arthur, in Miss Kate Carney's New Production, "Our Laundry." Metropolitan and Hammersmith.

MARCONIS, THE GREAT, Electric Wonders Breaking Records at the Grand, Sheffield. Packed Nightly. Next week, Hippo., Ashton.

MARIOTTI, ADA, the Flexible Venus; MARTI and JULIETTA, the Success of Barrs' Pantomime, "Aladdin." Lyric Theatre, Bromley, Kent.

MARNEY, LILY, Gaiety, Birmingham.

MAROS, THE, Three Bar Comedians. Big Success, Palace, Dundee. Free 30th, Feb. 6. Wire for Monday. After, 126, Porter-street, Hull.

MARTIN, MISS HELEN, Jan. 30, Empire, Cardiff. Agent, Fred Higham.

MARTINETTES, ONLY THREE, Knockabout Comedians, in Panto., Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh, with John Henry Cooke. Good Gala Acts.

MARTINO, The Man Frog. Free Feb. 6, 13. Monday next, Hippodrome, Macclesfield.

M'ASKELL, Comic Conjuror, Monday next, Tivoli, High Shields. All communications, 120, Roker-avenue, Sunderland.

MAXFORD, DAN, "Out for Life." Address, 102, Rusholme-road, Manchester.

MAXWELL and FRANCES. TOM and (his Daughter) VIRGINIA. Jan. 30, Grand Theatre, Bolton.

MAYNE, ALICIA, Australian Dramatic Songstress, with Beautifully Coloured Photo-Illustrations. 12, Dover-mans, Brixton.

MAYNE, ERNIE, The Simpleton, Opera House, Southport.

MAYO. JOE (the Black M.P.), Lancashire's great Favourite Collier Lad. Sure success. Offers invited. Perm., Mayo, Carmen-st., Ardwick, Manchester.

MAYON and MARLF, Hit of the Bill, Empire, Portsmouth. Making good this week with the Stonewallers, Stockton. Monday, G., Oldham.

M'CANN'S Famous Performing Irish Terriers and Champion Leaping Dogs, Vacant Feb. 6 and 13. Address, Hippo., Porth, South Wales.

MELDON, IRENE, Comedienne and Dancer, Coliseum, Brighton. 10, Loughborough-road, S.W.

MERLIN, MAX, Crocodile. Compliments, Contracts. This, Empire, Hull. Permanent, 15A, East-parade, Leeds.

MERRY, MISS FLO. A Distinct success as Baroness in "Cinderella."—Vide Oldham Standard, Jan. 24. Monday, Theatre Royal, Hyde.

MESSER, G. F., The Enterprise, Coldharbour-lane, Camberwell, S.E. H. O. C. Meetings Every Sunday. 8 30.

M'FALL, JOHNE, Gardeners' Arms, 10, Market-street, and 5, Manse-lane, Greenock. Agent, M.H.A.R.A. "The Era" and other papers kept.

MILSTED, MISS EMMIE, Saucee, the Dainty Coloured Maid, James Kiddie's "Aladdin." Jan. 30, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

MILTON'S MARIONETTES. Address, Arthur Milton, the Marionette King, Post-office, Northampton.

M'KAYS, THE, Middlesex and Walham-green, after a most Successful Twenty-three Weeks' Tour. "That hurts."

M'NEIL, DAVE, Versatile Comedian. This, Todmorden; next, Grand, Stockton. Thanks Fioni for Contracts.

M'NEIL, SHEILA, Comedienne. Address, 148, Fountain-road, Liverpool.

MONTAGUE, LEO, Laughter-Lifter. En route Malta to Gibraltar.

MONTGOMERY, ALFRED, Up-to-date Entertainment Provider, 51, Cornwallis-road, Upper Holloway, London, N.

MOORE, DOLLY, Miniature Male Impersonator, the Child Wonder. For dates, address, Hare and Hounds, Witton.

MORELI, MISS DAISY, Enormous Success, Principal Boy, Milton-Rays'. Monday, Theatre Royal, Rochdale.

MORRIS, HARRY, Humorous Mimic and Character Comedian. This, Grand, Bolton; next, Royal, Oldham. Tyroe Smith.

MORRIS, J. C., Quaint Comedian and Patterer, Creating Laughter at Hippo., Dewsbury. Jan. 30, City Varieties, Leeds.

MOSS, ARTHUR, the Favourite Baritone, Vacant Monday and Feb. 6. Wire, 19, Doddington-grove, Kennington, S.E.

MUELLER and JOYNE. This Week, Empire, Belfast; Next Week, Empire, Dublin.

MUIR and BARTLETT, a Brilliant Success both at Palace, Walthamstow, and Queen's, Poplar. Monday, The Granville (Return).

MUNROE, MR. WALTER, "What you Love about an Irishman," Empire Theatre, Birmingham.

MURRAY, LESLIE H., Magician and Card Manipulator. Palace, Bradford; next, Palace, Blackburn.

MURRAY, LOUIS, Tivoli, Barrow. Monday, Royal, Liverpool. Communications, 11, Canterbury-street, Liverpool.

MYERS, CLEM, Ugly Sister, Stage-Manager, "Cinderella." King's Theatre, Cardiff.

MYERS, ERNIE, and LILY LONSDALE, Comedian, Principal Girl, Dottridge's "Forty Thieves." Next Two Weeks, P. O. W. T., Grimsby.

NEIMAN'S FRED, Variety and Musical Agency. 74, The Grove, Camberwell, London, S.E.

NELLIE and NORA, Musical Act, this week, Duchess Balham, 6·40 and 9·45; next, Empire, Islington. Vacant Feb. 20 and 27, March 6. Claxton.

NELSON and THOMAS, "On the Ra-Ta." Enormous Success, Bristol. Next, Palace, Plymouth.

NEWHAM and LATIMAR, in their Own New Répertoire, on Tour. Address, "The Era" Office.

NEWSOME, TOM B., Song Writer (the Safe Investment). 5, Yews-mount, Huddersfield. Sale now going on.

NEW YORK QUARTETTE, THE Original, Jan. 30, T. R., Gloucester, in Comedy. Return to Halls, Feb. 27.

NOBLE, DAN, MARIE YORKE, conclude Terrific Hit, Palace, North Shields. Thanks W. Mould, Esq. Monday, Hippo., Ipswich.

NORTHCROFT, SISTERS, the Comedy Girls, Agents, Fortune and Granville.

NOTE, R. C., Popular Comedian; DAISY DEVONPORT, Comedienne and Dancer. Two distinct turns. Always Up to Date. P., Tottenham.

NOVELLS, THE THREE, Society Acrobats and Tumblers. Next week, New Palace, Aberdare, Wales. Free Feb. 6 and 13.

OAKDENE, Novelty Ventriloquist, "Fun in a Studio." Novel Effects. Gorgeous Electrical Fit-up. Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough.

OAKLEY and JAMES (BERT and POLLY), the Great Humorous Entertainers. Jan. 30, Tivoli, Barrow-in-Furness. Tom Claxton.

OBO, BROTHERS, Laughing Comedians Big success with Tyne Ide Dialect at Theatre Royal, Blyth. Next, Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

O'CONNOR and BRADY Sixth Week, Simple Simon and Johnny Stout, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

OCTAVIA, MDLLE., Yankee Snake Charmer, Moss's Waverley Carnival.

ODELL, CHARLES, Comedian and Dancer; Miss TINA PADLEY, Serio and Balladist, on Tour. Perm. address, 206, Bamford-road, Heywood.

OLIVER, DR. J. C., Government Qualified Scientific Demonstrator; and Mdlle. JANETTA, Magic Kettle, &c. Coms., 76, Gallowgate, Glasgow.

ONDA and ARTELL, Gymnastic Pot-Pourri Act, Jan. 30, Hippodrome, Accrington.

ONDA and LEON, Conversational Gymnasts, Jan. 30, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

OSBORNE, CHARLIE, the Author, Composer, and Light Comedian. 54, Fortess-road, London, N.W.

OWEN, TOM, the Original Welsh Comedian, big success, Sister Flossie, J. F. Elliston's "Cinderella." Thanks Managers and Agents for offers.

PACEY and REEVES' AGENCY, 186, Brixton-road, S.W. 'Phone, 87 Brixton. Telegrams, "Parthenon, London."

PACKER, TOM, 75th. of Clean Comedy. All coms., F. Higham; or, 101, Kennington-road, S.E.

PALMERS, MUSICAL. Monday next, Palace, Derby. Also Miss DAISY PALMER, in Specialities.

PAYNE, GILBERT, the Popular Comedian; PATTIE FAIRLEY, Vocalist and Burlesque Actress Vacant, Feb. 27. Opera House, Cheltenham.

PAYNE'S LITTLE VAGABONDS, Top of Bill. Great success, Tivoli, Barrow. Monday, Palace Belfast. Agent, Tom Claxton.

PAYNE'S, WALTER, Bio-Photoscopes. For dates and terms, apply, 106, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

PEARCE and WARD Conclude To-night Empire, Bridgwater. Monday, Return, Hippo, Pandy and Porth.

PENDER, LILY; PEARSON, BOB, Starring this week, King's Theatre, Liverpool. Monday, Hippodrome, Wakefield. Free Feb 6 Wire.

PERMANE, W. Siberian Educated and Equestrian Bears. Barnard's, Woolwich.

PERRYS, THE Happy (GRACIE and JOE), in their Sparkling Act. First Vacancy, Oct. 9. Coms., 10, Cornwallis-street, Liverpool.

PHELPS, MISS KITTY, Burlesque Artiste, title-rôle, "Whittington." Next, Opera House, Coventry.

PHILLIPS and TERRY, "The Revolt of Man." Palace, Walthamstow, and Tour.

POLLARD, BROS. (FRED and EDWARD), Just Concluded Sisters Ugly, F. Mouillot, Esq. Feb. 6, Pal., Croydon. Letters, care of Edwd. Oranstone.

POOLE, SISTERS (ADA and LETTA), on Tour. Permanent, 29, King-street, Hull.

POOLE and POOLE (THOMAS and FLORENCE), American Comedy Act and Champion Pedestal Dancers. Monday, Hip., Grimsby. Vac. Feb. 13

PRIMAVESI, Unique Juggler. Monday, Grand Palace, Clapham. Booked through Bawn's Agency.

PRINELLAS, LES, in our own Original and Beautiful Vocal Scena "A Country Flirtation." Thanks Stebbings and others for Contracts.

PROSPER and MADAME BENN, Instrumental Sketch, "From Pavement to Stage." B., Greenwich. Fortune and Granville and Willie Benn.

PROVEANIES, THE, Champion Lady Trick Cyclists. A Sure Success. Hippodrome, Bury.

QUICK, the Man no one can Copy.

RAFFIN'S, MDLLE, Incomparable Troupe of Monkeys. Pavilion, Leicester.

RALSTON BROS. This week, Met., Manchester; next, Empress, Hartlepool. "Blind leading Blind." Bigger than ever. Bentley's Agency.

RALSTON and FRANCES. Nautical Scena, "Ireland's Little Bit of Green." Broadhead Tour. Next, Salford Hippodrome, Manchester.

RAMSDEN, B. T., Quaint and Laughing Comedian, Big Songs in study by Percival Langley, Esq. 68A, Eastbank-street, Southport.

RANO and MASON (PERCY and MINNIE), Jan. 30 Vacant through disappointment. Wires, 24, York-road, Lambeth, S.E.

RAPPO and ELLA, Continental Equilibrists and Acrobats, New Speciality Act. Metropole, Gateshead. Monday, Palace, Northampton.

RAY, HARRY, and LILLIE CALDEN, Starring Success, Westminster, Liverpool. Jan. 23, starring, Glasgow Concerts. Jan. 30, Parthenon, Liverpool.

RAY, MR. PHIL, London Pavilon nightly. address, G. Barclay and Co.; or, 3, Klea-avenue, Clapham.

READ and WRITE finish To-night most successful Engagement Macnaghten Circuit at P., Lincoln. Monday, S. Greenock.

REDFERNS, THE (RUBIE and ELSIE), Palace, Croydon. Next week, Palace, Hammersmith.

REED, MR. LESLIE, Comic Singer and Ink Slinger. Monday, Empire, Dover.

REED and LERNE, the Novel Comedians. Continued success as the Coppers, T. R., Plymouth.

REEVE, MISS EDNA, Elocutionist. Mr M. Colin's A.A.B.M. Touring Company. This, Town Hall Theatre, Brierley Hill

REEVE, MISS JENNIE. Big success at the Grand, Sheffield. Next week, Grand, Manchester.

REGAN and RYAN, a Greater Success than ever. Princess's Theatre, Glasgow (Third Season in this City).

REGINA, FRED, as Timothy Coppem, Star Traps, and Harlequin. Pantomime, Grand Theatre, Islington, N.

RENSHAW, NANCY, Laughing Negro Comedienne and Bone Soloist. Genuine success, "Robinson Crusoe" Panto E. Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

RESDAN, RITA, London's Favourite Male Impersonator and Burlesque Actress, Always a Sure Turn on any Programme. Didcott, Adelphi, London.

REX and FORD, Eccentric Patter Comedians. Monday, Albert, Canning-town. All communications, 1, Sharsted-street, Kennington-park, S.E.

RICH and RICH, Marlborough Theatre. Sole Agent, George Barclay.

RITTER, VICTOR, Refined, Artistic, Musical, Vocal, and Talking Grotesque, Liberty shortly for Tour. Particulars, 242, Dalston-lane, London.

RIVERS, VIOLET (the Melbourne Dude), Lady Comedian, Ugly Sister, Pardoe's "Cinders" Co. Oh, what a Glorious Success, W. Bromwich; next, Batley.

RIXBY, BOB, Comedian, Great Success of New Songs. Jan. 30, Palace, Greenwich. Durham's Agency.

ROBY, ELSIE, Marlborough Theatre. Sole Agent, George Barclay.

ROLANDS, THE, Herculean Acrobats and Gladiatorial Strong Men. This, Hippo., Ashton; next, Hippo., Q. P., Manchester. Liberty Feb 6 and March 6.

ROSE and ROSE, Burlesque Artistes, Jan. 30, Pavilion. Maidenhead.

ROSINI'S, MDLLE., Great Toy Menagerie of Performing Dogs, at Liberty Feb. 5. 36, York-road, Great Yarmouth.

ROSS-CLYDE COMEDY CO., THE, this, Palace, Grimsby; next (Jan. 30), Grand Theatre, Sheffield.

ROULETTA, MISS LILY, Enormous Success as Bo-Peep, Third Year. Theatre Royal, Bedford. 42, Falmouth-chambers, NewKent-rd., S.E.

ROWLEY, MR. J. W., Panto. Season, T. R., Bradford. Letters, 37, Salem-st. Also for Miss ELLA DEAN.

ROYAL, TOM W., Comedian, and the Smartest of all Clog Dancers. Big success, Royal, Warrington. Next, Hippodrome, St. Helens.

ROZEL, Le Roi de L'Air, Hippodrome, Porth.

RUSHFORTHS, THE, and KING LEO, Song Illustrators and Ventriloquist. Two Acts. Instant hit, G., Chatham. Monday, Palace, Camberwell.

RYDE and BEEMAN, Eccentric Acrobats. Always successful. Next, Aquarium, Great Yarmouth. Vacant Feb. 27, and Galas. Write above

RYLAND, CLIFF, Breakfast, Coliseum, Bed. Making them laugh, Nightly, in London.

SABINO, the Man of Many Instruments, concludes To-night, with great success, Tivoli, Kidderminster. Monday, Hippodrome, Ipswich.

SAKER, ALFRED, Secretary, Leon Victor. 17, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

SALAMBOS, THE, Touring the World, Enormous success. Letters, Tivoli Theatre, Sydney, N.S. Wales, Australia.

SALAMONSKY'S FIRE HORSE. Address, Eugene Marrder, Jan. 30, Empire, Manchester.

SAMWELLS, AMY, First-class Wardrobe Mistress, Costumier, Good Cutter-out. Excellent references, terms, and dates. Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

SANDY and CARL, Comedians. Two of the Best. This, H., Preston. Monday, 44, Oak Leigh, Tue-brook, Liverpool. It's a fine day.

SANFORD and LYONS. Tremendous success again this year in Pantomime. Grand Theatre, Brighton. Tom Shaw.

SANTOI and her Merry Japs. Complimented by Proprietors, Managers, and Agents. Success this week, Tivoli, Manchester; next, P., Cork.

SCOTT, GEORGE, Adam and Eve, High-street, Peckham. House of Call for Professionals. Near Crown T. Cars pass the Door.

SCOTT, GREAT, the Ladder King Great success, Hippo, Norwich. Vacant Monday. Agent, Foster; or, 41, Gladstone-street, London, S.E.

SCOTT, MISS WINNIE. Address all business communications, Cadle, Fioni, or Sley.

SEABORNES, THREE, Great Sensational New Act. This week, Tivoli, Dublin. Agents, Pacey and Reeves.

SEEBOLDS (SCHACK and BERTHA). Address, Lambpitt-street, Wrexham.

SELBY and MYERS, the Bailiffs, "Little Bo-Peep" Company. Jan. 30, Grand, Hull.

SELMAN, F. W., Comedian; and IVY GALLARD, Smart Soubrette. Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool. Vacant One Week Feb. 20.

SHAWLENE, the Famous Mimic and Siffleur, in London till March 20. All letters, care of "The Era" Office.

SHIPLEY, SAM, and BEATIE WORTH conclude To-night, great success, Hippo, Wakefield. Monday, Palace, Attercliffe. Always successful.

SIBB and SIBB (WILL and GERTRUDE), Refined Gymnasts, success everywhere. Gatti's and Empress. 40, South Island-place, Brixton.

SILBON'S Vaudeville Circus, Pantomime, "Cinderella," Opera House, Southport.

MR. CHARLES HARLEY
Disengaged for Spring.
20, Portland-road, Holland-park, W.

MR. and MRS. CHAS. HARRINGTON, on Tour with own Company. Lyceum T., Glasgow, Return. Edinburgh, Two Weeks, to follow.

MR. CYRIL HARRISON
at Liberty.
Opera House, Cork.

MR. and MRS. T. P. HAYNES
(Miss Rosie Lewis) Disengaged.
Letters, 1, M'Kerrell-road, Peckham, S.E.

MR. S. CREAGH HENRY.
Address,
5, Milborne-grove, South Kensington.

MR. GALWEY HERBERT,
Haymarket Theatre,
S.W.

MR. DALZIEL HERON,
Mr Forbes-Robertson's Company in America.
Letters, 39, Harpenden-road, West Norwood, S.E.

MR FRANK HILL,
Comedy Special Character, Comedy Old Men.
Disengaged. 11, Beaumont-road, West Kensington.

MR. A. T. HILTON
Disengaged. Principal Old Men, &c.
Address, 31, Crowndale-road, N.W.

MR. JOHN HITCHINS,
Dick Marlow, "Laughter Land."
At Liberty in March. Royalty, Chester.

MR. BALIOL HOLLOWAY,
Westmoreland, "Henry V."
Imperial Theatre.

MR. A. S. HOMEWOOD is now at Liberty after Four and a-Half Years with Mr E. S. Willard. Address, 86, The Drive, Fulham-park-gardens, S.W.

MR. ALFRED H. HOOK,
Business-Manager, Mr Peter Eland's "Little Red Riding Hood." Feb. 6, T. R., Seaham Harbour.

MR. and MRS. WILL HOOK
(Miss Daisy Carlton), Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr Mark Blow's Co. Feb. 6, Opera House, St. Helens.

MR. FRANCIS HOPE Thanks Arthur Hart, George Brooks Charles Macdona, and George Parrington, Esqrs re Spring Tours. Musical Comedy.

MP. and MRS. WILSON HOWARD
(Miss Carlotta Anson)
Feb. 6 Prince of Wales's Theatre, Southampton.

MR LEONARD HUBERT
will for the future adopt his own Name—HUBERT HARBEN. On Tour with Mr and Mrs Kendal.

MR. ERIC HUDSON
at Liberty March 4 Offers invited.
Feb. 6, St James's Manchester. Six Nights.

MR. RALPH HUTTON,
"The Darling of the Gods" Company.
Feb 6, Theatre Royal, Aldershot.

MR. and MRS. FREDERIC JACQUES
(Miss Minnie Rayner) Mrs Lewis Waller's Répertoire Co., "Zaza," "Vilma," &c. Feb 6, Ealing Theatre, S.W.

MR. EUSTACE H. JAY,
General Manager, Seventh Year,
National Palace of Varieties, Croydon.

MR. G. WALLACE JOHNSTON, Backbite, Hastings, Faulkland, Ormond, Adolphus, &c., Compton Comedy Company, Her Majesty's T., Aberdeen.

MR. S MAJOR JONES,
concluded Engagement at Crystal Palace.
At Liberty. Address, 101, Sugden-road, Clapham.

MR. T. ARTHUR JONES,
Touring the Success of 1904,
"Life's Sweetest Sins." Address, en route.

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Directing "I Defy the World" Tour.

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Jacky, in "Sunday" (North Company)
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Comedy Theatre,
W.

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Miss EDITH KNIGHT,
King's Theatre, Ebbw Vale.

MR. AUGUSTINE KNIGHT,
Starring as Le Loup, "Face at the Window" Co.
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Mr Chas. Frohman's "Merely Mary Ann" Co.
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MR. GEO. LAKE-GRANGE,
the Drury-lane Giant,
Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, Nightly.

MR. TREVOR LANGTON-LANE
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MP. WINGOLD LAWRENCE,
as Jack England.
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MP. and MRS. EDWARD LEROY
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MR D. LEWIN-MANNERING,
Baron Bonelli and Stage-Manager, in "The Eternal City" on Tour. Feb. 6, Borough T., Stratford, One Week.

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at Liberty. Character Parts only.
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Disengaged.
8, Cornwall-street St. George's-square, S.W.

MR. FRANK LISTON
Business-Manager. Lead, Juveniles.
William Bourne's Company. 6th, T. R., Stratford.

MR. and MRS. SAM LIVESEY
(Miss Maggie Edwards), "The Village Blacksmith" Company, Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.

MR. LEWLANS LLEWELLYN,
Haymarket Theatre, W.C.
Address, 28, Chelverton road, Putney, S.W.

MR. and MRS. STUART LOMATH,
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134, Kennington-road, S.E.

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(Miss Lily C. Bandmann), Touring own Company.
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Address,
Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.

MR. FRANK MACRAE
Disengaged.
Address, 7, Tichfield-ter., Albert-rd, Regent's-pk., N.W.

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Lew Field's Theatre,
New York City, U.S.A.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM MALLALIEU
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Feb. 6, Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

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4, Esmond-road,
Bedford-park, W.

MR. PERCY MARSHALL,
Canbury, "Lady of Ostend" &c.
Feb. 6, Theatre Royal, Hull.

MR. ALFRED MARTIN,
Advance Representative, Compton Comedy Co.
Feb. 6, Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee.

MR. HERBERT MAULE,
Returning to England about Feb. 12.
Address, 10, King-street, Covent-garden, W.C.

MR. WALTER MAXWELL.
Address,
Feb. 6, Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.

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Next, 77, Wiesbaden-road, Stoke Newington, N.

MR. DOUGLAS MUNRO
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Letters only, care of C. Munro, Savoy Hotel, London.

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MR. GUS OXLEY,
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Theatre Royal, Norwich.

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or, Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney, Australia.

MR. and MRS. FRANK E. PETLEY
(Miss Gertrude Price), Lead, "As Midnight Chimes" Company. Feb. 6 Theatre Royal, Smethwick.

MR. DONALD PRICE-EVANS,
Miss Ada Reeve's Co., Theatre Royal Portsmouth
Miss MARCELLA RUDSON (Mrs D. P.-E.) Disengaged.

MR. WALTER PURVIS.
Miss LILY BRAMMER, Singing Soubrette.
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Starring Engagement, Stephen Merrick, "The Lightning's Flash." Threatre Royal, Middleton.

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Pleasure Gardens Theatre, Folkestone.

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65A, Long-acre, London, W.C.

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Address, 112, Olney-street, Walworth-road, London, S.E.

MR. JAMES SKEA,
Character Actor. Disengaged end February.
Care of Bennett, 1, North Claremont-street, Glasgow.

MR. WILL SMITH,
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"Trip to Chinatown," Opera House, Blackpool.

MR. A. GIFFORD STACEY
at Liberty Early in March.
Address, Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. GEORGE STEEL, Leading Business, Disengaged end of February. Frank Harley, "In Old Kentucky." Next, St. James's, Manchester.

MR. T. S. M'CAUSLAND STEWART
Disengaged.
1, Farquhar-road, Upper Norwood, S.E.

MR. HERBERT ST. JOHN,
Lord Hummingtop, "New Mephisto."
Next, New Theatre, Consett.

MR. GEORGE STONE,
Resident-Manager (Eleventh Year),
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MR. HODGSON TAYLOR,
as Convict 263, "The V.C."
Feb. 6, Palace, Hull.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD THANE
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New King's Theatre, Hoxton, N.

MR. FOWLER THATCHER
Dis. Feb. 11, End of Panto., for Char, Low or Eccentric Com., Mus. Com., or Drama. G. T., Edinburgh.

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MR. E. W. THOMAS,
Returned from South Africa. At Liberty.
138, Elmhurst-mansions, Clapham; or, A.A.

MR. WYLIE A. THOMPSON.
concluded Fifth Tour "Charley's Aunt" Company.
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MR. WALTER THORNTON,
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Feb. 6, Theatre Royal, Portsmouth.

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Next, Theatre, Longton.

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David Rossi, "The Eternal City,"
Borough Theatre, Stratford.

MR. LIONEL VICTOR,
Pantomime,
Prince's Theatre, Bristol.

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Feb. 6, Pier, Eastbourne.

MR. ARTHUR WALCOTT
Disengaged.
Address, Alhambra Theatre, W.C.

MR. and MRS. CHRIS WALKER, Stage-Managing "Merely Mary Ann" Tour for Chas. Frohman, Esq Feb. 6, Theatre Royal, Bath.

MR. G. CARLTON WALLACE,
Leading Heavies, General Management. At Liberty.
Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.

MR. EDWIN WALTON,
Zadok Foxbane, "The Beautiful Avenger."
Feb. 6, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

MR. PERCY CARNE WARAM,
Playing the Biggest Scamp on Earth, P.O.W. T., Nuneaton. Good Easter and Autumn Offers invited.

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Grand Theatre, Hull.

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New Theatre.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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MASTER CYRIL SMITH,
as Geoffrey, in "Becket," with Sir Henry Irving.
Theatre Royal Plymouth.

P. P. P.
Current issue, Newcastle Weekly Chronicle
All coms, Mr Pope Pax, 18 Trinity-road, Birmingham.

IN Case of the Non-Delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publisher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers, with the time of delivery marked upon them

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.

"The Era" Annual, 1905, is with us once again, and is very welcome. The usual stock features which make this Annual so valuable for reference have been compiled with the usual care, and the "incidentals" will favourably bear comparison with those of any former issue. They range from "Dundee Reminiscences," by Sir Henry Irving, to an endeavour to lay the "Foundations of a National Drama," by Mr Henry Arthur Jones.—Referee, Jan. 15, 1905.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.

Once again "The Era" Almanack makes a welcome reappearance early in the New Year, and recounts all that has happened in the theatrical world during the past twelve months. The register of plays produced in 1904 at the principal theatres of London, Paris, and Berlin is as valuable a feature in this most conscientiously kept record as ever, and though works of great importance are seldom given for the first time in the provinces, the information supplied concerning these productions is useful to playwrights when considering the vexed question of title To the 1905 annual Sir Henry Irving contributes an amusing reminiscence of the days in which Shakespearian productions were certainly not overloaded with superfluous detail, and Sydney Grundy gives a graphic account of the time when he was a critic. It is further embellished by a number of photographs of popular players together with their autographs, and a specimen of their literary attainments, which are often considerable. A melancholy interest attaches to the portraits of the dramatic artists who have passed from the scene during 1904; a goodly company, headed by that large-hearted actor-manager, Wilson Barrett. On beholding a work somewhat similar to "The Era" Almanack the late Mr Gladstone remarked that he was surprised to find that so many people were professionally engaged in the theatre, and if one of our leading actors were to discover how many people are professionally engaged in politics he would, no doubt, be equally astonished.—Court Journal Jan. 21, 1905.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905

That vade mecum of "the profession," "The Era" Annual, has just made its 1905 appearance. In addition to the dramatic and musical calendar, the alphabetical list of new pieces, and other permanent features, there are some twenty-five stories by leading authors, actors, and actresses, including Sir Henry Irving, Mr George Alexander, Mr Sydney Grundy, Mr H. A. Jones, and Mr Walter Pasmore, all illustrated by photographs and autographs.—Sunday Times, Jan. 15, 1905.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.

"The Era" Almanack and Annual for 1905, conducted by Mr Edward Ledger, is the vade mecum of the dramatic and music-hall profession, containing as it does all an artiste desires to know in connection with the stage. A feature of the publication are the stories of adventure told by well-known artistes like Sir Henry Irving, George Alexander, Harry Pleon, John Le Hay, Constance Moxon, Walter Passmore, Fanny Wentworth, and John Lawson. Mr Henry Arthur Jones discourses wisely on the "Foundations of a National Drama." The Annual is one that will interest and amuse not only the "professional," but the general public.—Reynolds's Newspaper, Jan. 15, 1905

THE C.C.C. LEADS.

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PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

ALPHABETICAL LIST
OF
ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES.

NAME	DATE.
Adams, Miss Nina Blake	September 17, 1904.
Aldred, Mr Charles	May 7, 1904.
Alleyne, Miss Frances	May 14, 1904.
Atom, Mr Willie	December 24, 1904.
Aubrey, Mrs W.	December 24, 1904.
Bailey, Mr Gordon	December 24, 1904.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs	May 7, 1904.
Bard, Mr Wilkie	September 10, 1904.
Barrett, the Late Mr Wilson	July 23, 1904.
Barrington, Mr H. H.	November 12, 1904
Barth, Mr Cecil	June 11, 1904.
Bartlett, Mr J. J.	July 2, 1904.
Benson, Mr F. R.	December 31, 1904.
Bertram, Miss Celestine	July 2, 1904.
Billington, the Late Mr John	September 10, 1904.
Bint, Mr Billie	September 3, 1904.
Blande, Miss Edith	June 25, 1904.
Booth, Mr J. H.	August 6, 1904.
Bostock, the Late Emma	December 24, 1904.
Bracewell, Mr Joe	May 14, 1904.
Brayne, Mr Harry	July 16, 1904.
Brough, Mr Lionel	November 5, 1904.
Browning, Mr Charles	May 21, 1904.
Butt, Mr Alfred	July 30, 1904.
Cabourn, Mr John	August 13, 1904.
Campbell, the Late Mr Herbt.	July 23, 1904.
Campbell, Miss Audrey	October 8, 1904.
Carne, Mr Joseph	May 7, 1904.
Cathie, Mr Leslie Roy	May 21, 1904.
Celli, the Late Mr Frank	December 31, 1904.
Charles, the Late Mr Fred	August 6, 1904
Cheevers, Mr J. E.	October 1, 1904.
Chippendale, Mr James	September 17 1904.
Churchward, Mr Hedley	January 14, 1905.
Cinquevalli, Paul	January 14 1905
Clarence, Miss Nellie	November 12, 1904.
Clark, Mr Outhbert	October 15, 1904.
Clavering, Miss Marie	October 8, 1904.
Clyde, Miss Hilda	May 21, 1904.
Coleman, the Late Mr John	April 23, 1904.
Corri, Mr Clarence C.	November 5, 1904.
Craven, Mr Hawes	October 8 1904.
Danbury, Miss Ethel	September 17, 1904
Davis, Miss Flora	September 10, 1904
Day, Mr David	October 8, 1904.
Deverell, Mr John W.	May 21, 1904.
Draco, Mr Kay	June 4, 1904.
Dryden, Mr Leo	July 16, 1904.
Dunrobin, Mr L. Race	July 9, 1904.
Edmunds, Mr Edmund	September 3, 1904.
Entwistle, Mr Harold	May 14, 1904.
Evelyne, Miss Alma	October 29, 1904.
Farrell, Miss Cissy	July 2, 1904.
Felber, Mr H. H.	August 13, 1904.
Fineberg, Mr Harris	December 24, 1904.
Firmin, Miss Dorothy	November 19, 1904.
Franks, Mr Wilfred	May 7, 1904.
Freebar, Mr Sydney	July 30, 1904.
Fysher, Mr Edwin F.	September 3, 1904.
Gascoigne, Mrs Henry	May 21, 1904.
Gelderd, Mr James	July 2, 1904.
Garrod, Mr W. V.	July 16, 1904.
Gilbert, Mr Vivian	January 21, 1905.
Giles Mr Edwin F.	January 7 1905.
Gilfain, Miss Trixie	May 14, 1904.
Godfrey, Mr Dan	May 14, 1904.
Griffith, Miss Mary	October 22, 1904.
Gunn, Miss Haidée	August 6, 1904.
Harcourt-Williams, Mr E.	July 9, 1904.
Haye, Miss Helen	January 21, 1905.

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PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.

NEW THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Z. Andrews.—Mr Henry Bedford's company is here this week, delighting large audiences with *Gipsy Jack*. Mr Henry Bedford in the title-rôle plays capitally, and looks the part every inch. Mr John Worth is good as Mr Skinner, and he is ably seconded by Mr Alec Alexander as Gerald Skinner. Mr A. Deane Mead is an ideal representative of the Rev. Francis Harvey; Mr Sid Bedford is the cause of much amusement as Joe Banks; Miss Ada Antley acts in a praiseworthy manner as Hagar; Miss Jennie Risley does well as Jenny Huggins; Miss Bessie Bedford is all that can be desired as May Harvey; and Miss Gertrude Gilbert is charming as Dorothy Dexter. The scenery is worthy of special mention.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr Will Gregory.—The above place of amusement was opened for the first time on Monday to a crowded house. The whole arrangements for the comfort of the audience reflect great credit on proprietors and manager, and the theatre will undoubtedly prove a great boon to the public of Aberdare and neighbourhood. The star turns are Mark Anthony, who keeps the house in roars of laughter; Rangi Singa, whose mystifying tricks are loudly applauded; Hick's Clerks (six in number), great favourites; and Hanco, a handcuff expert, in some excellent feats. Pearce and Ward contribute largely to the evening's entertainment, and the same may be said of the Three Novells, with some remarkable acrobatic feats. Learto, a clever musician, and his dog Babs have a great ovation; Wisper is a comic juggler; Miss Beattie Bloom sings several songs in good style; and Miss Edie Endon, a coon vocalist, does very well indeed. Miss Olive Armdale, a descriptive vocalist, also entertains. The orchestra is under the able direction of Mr J. Carpenter.

ABERDEEN.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr H. C. Cavanah.—Mr Cyril Maude's company in *Beauty and the Barge* is drawing large audiences this week. Mr Blake Adams plays almost inimitably as Captain James Barley, and the heroine is charmingly represented by Miss May Fairclough. Mr Horace Lane acts briskly as Lieutenant Boyne; Mr Percival Wright and Mr Walter Pemberton have capital characters in Herbert Manners and Major Smedley; and Mr Fred Knight gives a decidedly humorous portrayal of Dibbs, the gardner; Lucy Dallas, Mrs Porter, and Mrs Baldwin are all admirably presented by Miss Mary Deverell, Mrs J. W. Braithwaite, and Mary Miss Griffiths. The comedy, which is finely staged, is preceded by the amusing one-act piece, *That Brute Simmons*.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.—General-Manager, Mr Ernest Sheldon.—Tom Davis and Company appear with great success in a daring and sensational turn "Whirling the Whirl," and the Australian comedians Doody and Wright appear to be even more popular than last week. Miss Florence Lambert, ballad vocalist, is most cordially received, and the Robertsons make a decidedly favourable impression in a humorous sketch *Scots Folk's Wooin'*. The blend of acrobatism and comedy introduced by Haig and Novel proved highly popular; the Zampas are clever duettists and dancers, and Angeline shows herself to be a wonderfully dexterous equilibrist. Mr Charles Gardiner eccentric comedian, is warmly welcomed; and an exceedingly interesting turn is provided by a Canadian Indian artist. The programme concludes with an excellent display of pictures by the Palace Bioscope.

ABERTILLERY.

THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Messrs Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General and Resident Manager, Mr Geo. W. Ventom.—Mr Henry Furnival's company is here in the play called *The Harvest of Sin*. Mr Balfour Dennistoun has scored a success in the dual-rôle of Harold and Arnold Mainwaring, Mr W. J. Butler, is very good as George Mainwaring; Mr E. Valentine is seen to great advantage as Paul De Brisionere; Mr W. Garret does well as St. John Haughley; Mr Fulton Millar is capital as Silas Logan; Miss Maggie English's rendering of Harold leaves nothing to be desired; Mr Furnival is successful as Tooties; the rôle of May Mainwaring is in the capable hands of Miss Louisa Peach. Miss Pattie Hastings is well received as Betty Spinks; Miss Alice Oliver's portrayal of Grace deserves praise. On Thursday and Friday the same company appeared in the successful play *Lost in Paris*.

ACCKINGTON.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr J. B. Ormerod; Manager, Mr J. E. Barnes.—Messrs Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company opened here on Monday with *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr Sam Livesey gives an excellent representation of John Strong; Captain Leo is smartly embodied by Mr J. Carter; Lucas Marler is well played by Mr Fred Wells; Mr George V. Campbell is humorous as Billy Twig; Miss Laura Walker gives a capital reading of Kate Strong; and Ruth Perkins is in the capable hands of Miss Maggie Edwards. Miss T. C. Livesey is good as Sal Perkins, and Little Christobel gives a meritorious performance as Harry Strong.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Brill; Assistant-Manager, Mr T. W. Moyes.—The strong bill provided here this week includes Mr Kavanagh, comedian; Onda and Artell, trapeze performers; the Bondina Trio; "Also," patterer and hoop roller; James Brady, comedian; Tom Franks, ventriloquist; Abel and Welch, Continental grotesques; and the Bioscope Pictures.

ALDERSHOT.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Clarence Saunes; Resident-Manager, Mr George E. Williams.—The pantomime of *Aladdin* even improves on acquaintance, and praise is reflected on Mr Arthur Carlton's company for their efforts. Madame Valentine's serpentine dance, mention of which was omitted last week, is gracefully executed, and that lady also trains the ballet.

ALTRINCHAM.

NEW PAVILION OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs Budd, Howe, and Taylor; Acting-Manager, Mr Arthur Gilman.—The third week sees no diminution of popularity in the pantomime *Aladdin*, encores being as frequent as during the opening week. Miss Pattie Fairley gives a very pretty song, "Jeannie," and rouses the patriotic feelings of the audience with "Britons born." One of the items that brings down the house is the song "The Sunday-school Teacher," which inevitably secures for Miss Clare Ingham a recall. The words and music are by Mr Frank Noble, the conductor of the orchestra. All the humorous incidents of the pantomime are materially changed, and the new jokes evoke roars of laughter.

AYR.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr Harry W. Day.—Mr Arthur Hart's company opened here on Monday with the comedy opera, *My Lady Molly*. Miss Reynold Dallas as Lady Molly acted well, and she was well supported by Miss Annie West as Hester. Miss Enid Alexander as Alice Coverdale was appropriately vivacious and frolicsome; while her governess, Mdlle. Mirabeau, had a clever exponent in Miss Belle Gray. Mr Reginald Cooper in the part of Captain Romney was manly, and he sang well; Mr Herbert Ranson made an admirable Lionel Bland; Sir Miles Coverdale as played by Mr Gordon Begg left nothing to be desired; and full honours must be given to Mr Harry Walsh for his clever and humorous interpretation of Micky O'Dowd. A chorus of ladies and gentlemen helped to make the piece go smoothly and pleasureably, while nothing could have excelled the staging and dressing.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr Armstrong Fairbairn.—The stage here has been occupied this week by the Ashton Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, who are giving three nights to the production of Pinero's farcical comedy, *The Magistrate*, and three nights to Gilbert and Sullivan's opera, *The Gondoliers*. The object is for the benefit of the funds of the local charities.

ASHTON HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr C. Revill; Director of Entertainments, Mr F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr L. Campkin.—The leading artist here for the week is Mr George Gilbey, the popular comedian; Mr Russell Hatton gives some really clever character sketches from the works of the late Chas. Dickens; the electric wonders of the Great Marconis must be seen to be appreciated. The other artists are Cordite, rope spinner and lariat manipulator; George White's Arabs in their amusing comedy scene; Les Manipulos, Parisienne dumb musicians, in their act of mystery; and the popular Waldrons, comedy duo.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr W. Leech.—The variety company engaged here for the week includes the three knockabouts, Hill, Barry, and Lang, in their comic act "A Hot Reception." Another attractive item is the juggling act of the Three Geraldos. The Three Delarus introduce a novel act, "The Demon Grotto." Mr James De Voye introduces his educated pony; Deakin and Rankin are successful with their "Hodge-Podge of Nonsense;" Post Mason is a clever baritone singer; the Two Falcons are clever hand-to-hand balancers; Mabel La Blanche, the original singer of the popular song "Blue Bell," is well received; Veno and Pictures are also pleasing features of this week's bill.

ATTERCLIFFE.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten: Resident-Manager, Mr Claude Seaton.—Mr James Kiddie's pantomime, *Little Cinderella*, is paying a welcome visit here this week. In the title-rôle, Miss Florence Watson is pleasing and successful; Mdlle. De Rose is well placed as Prince Perfect; as Dandini Miss Susie Bevan has a part which just suits her, and her songs are well received; Fairy Sunbeam has a capital exponent in Miss Rose Pareezer, who has a graceful style and whose songs are given with care and finish; Miss Pollie Kiddie is a dashing Viscount Nappe; Mr W. Saunders creates much mirth as Baron Shiphtalotte, his style is quaint and his dancing excellent; Mr Charley Harvey is amusing as Pimples, his ready wit being enjoyable; the two sisters, Maud and Ethel, are in the capable hands of Mr Fred Denman and Mr H. O. Lovell, both of whom contribute largely to the general success; Mr J. H. Hawtrey makes the part of Malicio a prominent one, and renders his songs most effectively; the numerous minor parts are in good hands. Specialities are introduced in the Ballroom Scene by Houpla and Heela, acrobats; and the Stewart Quartet of dancers. The whole is under the personal management of Mr George Burton.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr T. Allan Edwards; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Lacy Lyne.—The company engaged here this week includes Steb, comedy clay-modeller; Houston Bros comedians and dancers; Beatie Worth, vocalist; the Delamere Trio, comedy equilibrists; Rosetti, transparent painter; the Sivras, Essmann, juggler; and Sam Shipley, eccentric comedian.

BACUP.

NEW COURT THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr Richard Nightingale.—The attraction here is Mr George Testo Sante's *Life of a Showman*. One of the foremost attractions is the special scene in the circus, in which, amongst other turns, are the Brothers Testo, acrobatic musicians. One of them, Mr J. G. Sante, gives a delightful rendering of the Intermezzo from *Cavalleria Rusticana*. In this scene also Mr George Testo Sante introduces his remarkable muscular speciality, in which he successfully holds in check two powerful cart horses pulling in different directions. As the adventuress Miss Amy M'Neill is excellent, and as Marais Mr Sam Arthur is a good exponent of villainy. The comedy parts are well sustained by Miss Alice Granville, Mr Allen Charles, and Mr Johnny Clegg as Angelina Mutton, Tommy Allthere, and Ben Tintack respectively. Two smart performances are given by Miss Warden and Master Harry Warden as Lynette Leader and Dickie.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr George Stone.—Mr Louis Calvert's company, in *Sunday*, is here. The title-rôle is played with rare skill by Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay; Mr J. Edward Pearce acts admirably as Colonel Brinthorpe; and Arthur Brinthorpe is well portrayed by Mr Charles B. Vaughan. Mr Ernest A. Douglas makes a breezy and philosophical Tom Oxley; and Messrs Frederick Powell, John H. Manley, T. Norman Walter, and Whitford Kane play with successful results as Towzer, Davy, Lively, and Jacky respectively. Miss Elizabeth Watson is a vivacious Mrs Naseby, and Miss Helen Macgregor is a capable Nun.

TIVOLI.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi.—Aryama, the Japanese wonder, gives a marvellous performance on the slack wire; a versatile show is given by Oakley and James; and Harry Thurston proves himself a capable mimic. The Brighton Boys are a clever pair of acrobats; Will M'Ivor is heard to advantage; Beattie Lyndon, a clever comedienne; and Vernon's Bioscope complete the evening's entertainment.

BATLEY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr and Mrs J. Edward Whitty; Resident Manager, Mr G. M. Hurst.—The Marvellous Pardoes are paying their third return visit here this week with their comic and spectacular fairy pantomime *Cinderella*. The title-rôle is charmingly enacted by Miss Cissy Kedward; Miss Lottie Holland carries off honours as Prince Charming by her singing and dancing; Princess Rosella and Dandini have excellent representatives in Miss Nellie Rose and Miss Katie More; and the ugly sisters are quaintly represented by Miss Violet Rivers and Miss Ivey Leafe. Mr George Hyam causes much fun as Scoot; Miss May Burkett sings well as Fairy Rose Leaf; Mr Tom Griffitt renders some capital songs as Father Time; and specialities are introduced by the Marvellous Pardoes; Capita, living marionette; the Dome Trio of dancers, the Sultan Brothers, the Sisters Tyrell, and Zenith, animal impersonator.

BEDFORD.

ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter R. Wilson.—Mr C. Watson Mill's company is this week occupying the boards in the picturesque melodrama, *A Wrecker of Men*. Mr C. Watson Mill, who is the author of the piece, and under whose personal direction the play is produced, undertakes the difficult rôle of Jim Murley in a very capable manner. Mr J. W. Ryder submits a good impersonation of Ezekiel Isaacs. Guise Strange finds a clever and capable exponent in Mr Percy Horton. Mr Chas. Yorke is well suited to the part of Pharosaphus. Raildon is another clever character study on the part of Mr George Harvey. Mr Frank Oliver makes an excellent Hon. Reggie Verincourt. Eric Melville is pathetically portrayed by Mr Gibson Brooke. Miss Victoria May gives a sweet and womanly representation of Doris Melville. Miss Rosalind Tate impersonates with vigour the rôle of Risca Mallison. On Thursday and Friday Mr Lewis Waller's company produced *Monsieur Beaucaire*.

BATH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr Lewis A. Long.—Mr George Dance's company is here in the delightful comic opera *The Duchess of Dantzic*, the reception of which has been enthusiastic to a degree. A veritable triumph is achieved by Miss Rita Presano in the title-rôle, her excellent vocalism and powerful acting stamping her an actress of exceptional ability. Miss Alice Coverick makes a winsome Renee; duly haughty and dignified are Miss Edith Carlyle and Miss May Harris as the sisters of Napoleon; Miss Amy Burton does well as the maid, Lisette; a fine sketch of Napoleon is given by Mr Frederick Moyes, who grasps the part with a firmness and insight of the great Emperor's temperament that appeals with no uncertain effect upon the audience; Mr Mackesay Cullin plays the favoured François with an appropriate soldierly bearing, and sings his music in capital style. A former local favourite is Mr Thomas C. Maxwell, who as Adhemar has a further chance of gaining additional admirers, his fine baritone voice proving of great service in the numbers that fall to his share. The lighter vein of comedy is in the safe keeping of Mr Colin Mackay, who as Papillon adds another success to the many fine portrayals he has already given. The large chorus do their share in spirited fashion, while the local orchestra have never shone to greater proficiency than under the bâton of Mr B. J. Paterson, the musical director of the company.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr W. Trussell.—Starring here are Capt. Bevan's Gordon Highlanders, whose lightning drill act is watched with keen interest. Zarmo, the droll juggling comedian, creates endless amusement by his funny and smart tricks; Zaro and Arno retain their position as first-class performers upon the bars; Ruby Bijon, the dainty dancer, easily trips her way into the good graces of the audience; Olemart returns to entertain with his clever ventriloquial interlude; Mdlle. O'Gy proves herself a graceful and daring trapeze and ring artist; Russell and Roper in their vocal scena, *The Opera Singer and the Sandwichman*, gain well-deserved appreciation; and Cribb and Cribb, cross-talk comedians and dancers, complete a programme that teems with good turns.

BELFAST.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr James M'Cann; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr Wilfred Stanford.—Mr F. R. Benson and company commenced on Monday the last week of their engagement, which has been so eminently successful. *As You Like It* was presented, and the performance delighted a large audience. Mrs Benson captivated all with her admirable impersonation of Rosalind. Mr F. R. Benson as Orlando was very successful, and the reception accorded him throughout was of the most gratifying nature. Mr Cyril Keightley portrayed the part of the Duke with delightful finish. As Duke Frederick Mr Philip Saunders sustained the part with much credit to himself, and Touchstone was humourously played by that sterling actor Mr George R. Weir. Miss Gertrude Scott furnished a charming depiction of Celia, and one could not desire a better impersonation of Phœbe than that submitted by Miss Mabel Moore. Mr B. S. Pittar's impersonation of Adam reflected much credit on that excellent actor, and other rôles were capitally sustained by Miss Leah Hanman, Miss Cissie Saumarez, and Messrs Clarence Derwent, Saville Percy, Arthur Whitty, G. F. Hannam-Clark, J. P. Wilson, P. D. Owen, &c. On Tuesday evening (Students' annual night) *The Rivals* was presented before a packed house, and during the remainder of the week *The Tempest* has been played with every element of success.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr John P. Beardmore.—The chief feature of the bill here is supplied by the original Max Trevally-Harley Troupe of Trampolin acrobats, whose act has been received with much enthusiasm. Miss Addie Dorina, a clever actress, is appearing in an original duologue entitled *How She Did It*, in which she impersonates no fewer than seven distinct characters. Miss Dorina is assisted by Mr Gilbert Fernie, who fills the rôle of Peter Piper. Miss Nellie Howard and Mr Willie Collinson appear to great advantage in their absurdity, entitled *The Porter and the Parcel;* Payne's Little Vagabonds provide an attractive entertainment, their vocalism being first-class. Also appearing are Frank Cass, comedian; the Scandia Troupe, marvellous gymnasts; and Mr George Scott, comedian.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Brock.—The chief feature of the bill here this week is the pantomimical burlesque *Early Birds*, played by Fred Karno's troupe. Mendel is aptly described as the marvellous blind pianist, his selections, so cleverly rendered, being deservedly encored. The card and coin performance of Mersana is quite amazing. A clever act is furnished by Rastus and Banks, a capital duo, and others appearing are Mr Harry Martell, comedian; Mr Will Candlish, comedian; Miss Lily Currie, a charming balladist with a sweet voice; and Mr Harry M. Hemsley, in his clever imitations of children.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr Henry T. Downs.—Williams and Brown head the bill, and these clever comedians have been most successful. The impersonations of Bock Pylades are very realistic, and the cultured vocalism of Mr H. K. Bradshaw is deservedly applauded. The Three Sterrys, in their original comedy acrobatism, have been enthusiastically received, and the new pictures exhibited by Welsker Brothers' Bioscope are a great attraction. The Gordons did not appear on Monday through indisposition, but Mr C. E. Stelling deputised and introduced his wonderful performing dog. A decided feature of the performance is the hat manipulation and astounding juggling feats of Friscarl. Mr Reddick Anderson, an exceedingly smart comedian, and Miss Dolly Dorsee, comedienne, complete the programme.

BILSTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Harry Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—Mr Arthur Rose's company is here in *The Follies of Youth*. Mr Rose himself is excellent as Ralph Murdock, and is well supported by Miss Violet Macaree as Gwendoline. Both hero and heroine are in capable hands, Mr Walter Bentley consistently playing Captain Druce and Miss Laurie F. Pardy thoughtfully and carefully acting Dorothy Dornton. Mr Carter Lingford as the Colonel of the Guards is in the right place, and a sweetly pretty exposition of Little Ruth comes from Miss Bertha Hanbury. Comedy work has a fine trio of performers in Mr Fred Haming as Bob Roberts, in Mr David Beattie as Nat Thistle, and Miss Ena Russell as Kitty Hawthorne.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr Mouillot; Manager, Mr Rowland Stewart.—Mr Lewis Waller's company in *Miss Elizabeth's Prisoner* fills the bill this week. Mr Norman Partridge plays Captain Harry Peyton in dashing style; Mr Elliott Ball portrays the cowardly Colden very cleverly; the Miss Elizabeth of Miss Essex Dane is a finished study of the high-spirited girl; some excellent light comedy is afforded by Miss Leonora Braham as Mistress Sarah Williams and Mr Harold J. Carson as Mr Valentine; and as Molly Miss Marguerite Cellier is good. The play is preceded each evening by a comedietta, entitled *The Borrowed Uncle*, which is excellently rendered by Mr Arthur Somers, Mr F. Cellier, jun., Mr H. J. Carson, and Miss Marguerite Cellier.

BIRKENHEAD.

THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee, Mr W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Pell.—Mr Charles Frohman's company, in *Sherlock Holmes*, is attracting large audiences. Mr H. A. Saintabury repeats his very successful performance of the title-rôle. Mr J. W. Stirling's interpretation of Professor Moriarty is most meritorious; Mr Laurence Leyton is well suited as Dr. Watson; and James Larabee is well played by Mr Leslie Carter. Miss Vera Longdon is an admirable Alice Faulkner; and Maud Linden is an efficient Madge Larabee. The play is carefully staged.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Pell.—Mr John Tully's combination in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is doing good business. As Uncle Tom Mr William Taylor scores heavily; Mr Fred G. Kay makes the most of the thankless rôle of Simon Legree; and Phineas Fletcher is popular in the capable hands of Mr H. Cecil Pierpoint. Miss Ruby Wood is a capital Topsy.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr D. J. Clarke.—The British Quartet of vocalists and glee singers present an acceptable turn; Orpheus, in his musical entertainment, is again achieving distinction; Mr George Newburn is an exceptionally clever mimic; Miss Lilian Lowe is a charming and accomplished balladist; and Mr Charles Mildare a clever siffleur. Miss Belle Braham, in her illustrated songs; Roy and Fentor, in an entertaining musical act; Mr Harry Haytor, character comedian; and the Bioscope complete the programme. Mr Ernest Denney is musical director.

BIRMINGHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr Philip Rodway.—*The Babes in the Wood* is now in its seventh week, and increases in favour. Mr Philip Rodway continues to "score" in front of the house, pleasing everybody, press and public alike.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr Henry Johnston.—*The Forty Thieves* has provided the "open sesame" for another great success, and the "Wales's" patrons unite in Mr Graham's praises. Mr Henry Johnston, in his well-played rôle of acting-manager, has the satisfaction born of a full house nightly, and the bookings indicate a continuance of the same.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr Victor Turner.—*Dick Whittington* is presented here with much success this week by Mr J. F. Elliston's company, and it is to remain for a further period of two weeks. Miss Ethel Newman acts in a sprightly manner as Dick, and sings her songs with the utmost charm. Miss Clara Reid is well endowed for the rôle of Alice, her singing, dancing, and acting being of a high order. Miss Nelly Dade as Merely Mary Ann gives a droll study of the "maid-of-all-work," and the Misses Minnie Percy, Elsie Maynard, May Russell, and Nellie Shannon shine among the principals. Mr Tom Foy contributes an extremely humorous study of Idle Jack; Mr Bert Byrne plays an unctuous rôle as the Cook; and Messrs Jack Foy, Will Musgrave, Chas. Goff, Ted Foy, and Geo. Foy also score in the pantomime. The Matweef Hugoston Troupe create a furore, and the scenery, dresses, and processions evoke much admiration.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Lester Collingwood.—*Dick Whittington* continues to hold its own vigorously here, there being not the slightest falling off, but rather an increase, in the attendances at Mr Collingwood's home of pantomime.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Walter Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Hindle Taylor.—*Two Little Sailor Boys* serves once more to introduce Mr W. H. Hallatt and his capable company to their Birmingham admirers, and the pleasure has been mutual. Mr Hallatt is accorded a brilliant reception as Captain Tom Yorke; Mr W. H. Sams is applauded for his fine impersonation of Noel Tregarthen; Mr Leonard Booker displays the ignoble qualities of Lieutenant Redstone in a clever manner; Miss Blanche Steele once more rivets attention as Lola Grey; Miss Mabel Scudamore is sympathetic as Mildred Grey; and the "two little sailor boys," Cyril Grey and Tom Yorke, are well played by the Misses May Day and Ethel Francess. The comic element is in the capable hands of Messrs O. Power, T. E. Sinclair, and Miss Lizzie Chambers, Mr Ambrose Horton shining as Jim Royston.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr Ben Sydney.—*The Sorrows of Satan* has formed the title of this week's fare, which is tendered by Mr C. W. Somerset and company. As Prince Lucio Mr Somerset has created a deep impression; Mr Talbot Homewood has been much admired as Paul Carruthers; Mr Richard Morton has acted in good style as Crafton Lyle; Miss Leah Marlborough as Lady Delia has shown the most artistic perception; Miss Agnes Russell as Margaret Foster has acted up to the true intent of the character; and Miss Geraldine Somerset as the Hon. Ethel and Mr Keith Frazer as Fanny play in the lighter vein with much success.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr Charles Barnard; Manager, Mr Dan Barnard.—*Robinson Crusoe* is the subject of the present pantomime, played by Messrs F. J. Little and Fred Darcy's company. Miss Vera Mayne as the hero has been singled out for special favour; Miss Nellie Moore has reigned in the affections of the audience as Polly; Miss Rosie Volbecque is successful as the Princess; and Miss Bertha St. Ruth appears as the good fairy, Electra. Miss Daisy Volbecque acts in a clever and vivacious way as the Captain; Mr Will Freedo enriches the production with his humorous acting as Mrs Crusoe; Mr Geo. Snow adds to the spice with his smart witticisms as Richard Hopkins; and Messrs Bass and Guinness score as Billy and Jimmy Crusoe. Some clever specialities are also included.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr A. W. Matcham.—The Coloured Meisters are proving a great attraction here, their glees being rendered with much effect. The Five Olracs, in the humorous acrobatic act, are well applauded; a clever musical turn is done by Virto and his daughter Irene; and Vesper is a capital mimic. The Trapnell Family, acrobats; Peppo's monkeys, Mdlle. Emmy's pets, Sybil St. Elmo, Walter Munroe, and Robertus and Wilfredo are also in the company.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr Albert Bushell.—Lily Marney is here, and is as merry and lively as ever. A daring acrobatic act is done by the Patty Frank Troupe; Nita Clementa remains for another week; the Herald Comedy Quartet, Collins and Rice, Maud Wilton, Jack Charman, and Marie Wilton appear with success.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—Mr Arthur Roberts is drawing crowded houses here this week. His sketch *Where's the Count?* has met with an enthusiastic reception. La Belle Wilma gives a clever and interesting sand and smoke entertainment. Other attractive turns are done by Mattie Boorum's American Quintet, T. N. Downs, Ida Ross, Starr and Jerome, Paxton Trio, A. Aldridge and Jack Haggerty in a wrestling exhibition.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. G. Foster.—The Rossow Midgets provide an interesting boxing display here. Winona Winter and W. H. Banks are loudly applauded for their comedy sketch; as also are James' strolling players, Nellie Farrell, Ada Whitton, and the Five Bogannys.

CURZON HALL.—The Harry H. Hamilton's Excursions are drawing large houses here, amongst the variety artistes being Foo Choo, the Chinese Mystifier, who presents a clever entertainment. Mdlle. Kessanly's dogs give an interesting display of tricks, and Helen Andrews' fine contralto voice is heard to advantage. Walter Thompson adds greatly to the mirth of the audiences.

MASONIC HALL.—Catlin's pierrots are in their second week here, and are attracting large and enthusiastic audiences.

BLACKBURN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr Harry Yorke; Business-Manager, Mr Reginald Yorke.—*A Country Girl* is paying a visit this week. As Nan Miss May Glen acts and sings well; Marjory Joy is played in a pleasing fashion by Miss Maud Harvey; Mr Cyril Thompson makes a manly Geoffrey Chaloner; and Mr J. Osborne causes great amusement in the part of Barry, being well supported by Miss Addie Lennard as Madame Sophie. Mr H. C. Morton appears as Sir Joseph Verity, Mr St. John Hamund as the Rajah of Bhong, and Mr Arthur Hayter as Granfer Mummery.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr E. H. Page.—Mr Gus Levaine's pantomime *Babes in the Wood* is here this week. Robin Hood is well played by Miss Lily Ennis; Miss Beatrice Wilson appears successfully as Maid Marion; and as Dame Durden Mr Harry Levaine is very funny. Several good specialities are introduced in the Palace scene, amongst them being Comical Cris, an old Blackburn favourite, in his ventriloquial entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr F. Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr Will Murray; Acting-Manager, Mr Harry Drury.—The bill this week includes Clara Victor, descriptive vocalist; Leslie Murray, magician; Dinah Morris and her troupe; the Bandurrias; Alice Loretto and her dog; Gallagher and Hild, comedy artists; George D'Albert, versatile comedian; and Martin Conway, eccentric comedian.

BLACKPOOL

HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General Manager, Mr J. R. Huddlestone.—*Home, Sweet Home* as interpreted by Mr Frank Lindo and company is much appreciated here this week. Mr Lindo gives an admirable depiction of Stephen Armitage; David Armitage has an able representative in Mr George Jervis; Captain Gerald Gambier presents a faithful portrait of the Duke of Ancaster; Mr Wilson Coleman is good as Lucas Lyle; and Mr Sydney Bryant is well placed as the Hon. Percy. Miss Marion Wakeford is responsible for a sweet and sympathetic embodiment of Joan, and Miss Gertrude Bingham is successful as Sybil Fay. The staging is very effective.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr T. Sergenson.—The Marvellous Craggs, in possession here this week, are giving great delight to good houses in their musical, pantomimical, acrobatic absurdity entitled *Laughter Land*.

PALACE.—General Manager, Mr G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr Fred Waller.—Nellie Wallace tops the bill here this week, and her songs and patter are keenly enjoyed; Margaret Ashton, "the American girl," is a "good class" artist, whose tuneful singing brings forth rapturous applause; the Bros. Kroney appear in a sketch; Martinetti and Grossi are clever musicians; Charles Woodward sings well; Allis and Cassati are good comedians; and Maude Clifton is a pleasing vocalist.

BRADFORD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr John Hart; General Manager, Mr T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr F. Pemberton.—The charming pantomime *Cinders* continues its highly successful run here, full houses being the rule.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr N. Hepworth.—With the present week *Robinson Crusoe's* run here will be brought to a close. On last Tuesday evening Miss Lily Black, the Pretty Polly Perkins of the pantomime, had a successful benefit.

EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr J. J. Kelly.—A genuine sensation is provided here this week by Seeth's lions, and the magnificent animals are put through a thrilling performance by Herr Georg Thielbar. Cline and Clark make a welcome reappearance in their smart soon dancing and comedy; Horace White, the clever ventriloquist, is repeating his unique entertainment; the Japanese box artist Kyoto is vastly clever and entertaining; a new dramatic episode, *V.C.*, is well presented; a clever performance is given by the Cole De Losse comedians, Sinclair and Parr are capital actor-vocalists; and the Loro Quartet of musical comedians are well appreciated. Excellent turns by May Geraldine, comedienne; and by the Sisters Neilson, duettists, contribute successfully to a fine evening's entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr J. W. Berry.—There is no lack of novelty in the fine programme provided here this week. A-Ba-Be's picture post-card album is unique, and the lady who fills it does some pretty posing. Wyndham and company provide a powerful Shakespearian sketch in *Prince Arthur;* Stanert and Yondi provide an acceptable musical comedy turn; the Loma Trio do some Herculean feats as novelty gymnasts; Vandinoff is a clever lightning artist; Gilroy and Gross are expert dancers; the speciality turn submitted by the Two Jagos is smart; Almon does some astonishing hand-balancing and jumping; and Flo Deighton, soprano, contributes good songs.

BRIDLINGTON.

PEOPLE'S PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Morgan.—Miss Ada Wallis's company occupied the boards here the first part of the week with that amusing musical absurdity *The Major*. Mr A. Godfrey as Stoney proves himself a most amusing comedian, and he works hard towards the success of the piece. Mr Frank Hartley as George Goodman scores by his singing, and Mr T. C. M'Guire is a good representative of Major O'Neale. Mr Stanley Douglas is very amusing in the part of Twickham, Miss Wallis as Angelina is quite at home in the part, and her make-up as the Irish slavey and aspirant of the stage is the cause of much laughter, her singing and dancing being excellently done. Miss Alice Williams gives point to the sentimental Mrs Gampney, and as Grace Gampney Miss Ethel Poole sings and acts charmingly, as does Miss Minnie M'Quire as Hilda Marston. The National Troupe of lady dancers give some especially neat dances.

BROUGHTON.

VICTORIA, LTD.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr James W. Haworth; Manager and Secretary, Mr James M. Hardie, jun.—Mr J. F. Preston's company, under the direction of Mr F. B. Woulfe, occupies the boards this week with the historical play *Lady Godiva*. Miss Grace Lester made a good impression in the title-rôle, and Miss Georgie Walton ably assisted as Lady Aldyth. Mr Alfred D. Adams as Tom o' Coventry was seen to advantage. The evil spirits, Algar and Unwolf, were satisfactorily played by Mr Howard Barlow and Mr Clifford Marle. Mr James Duncan carefully sustained the character of Leofric, and Edgar had a fitting exponent in Mr Reginald Brown. The quaint humour displayed by Miss Madge Boulton as Elfrida and Mr Dan F. Roe as Robin Shakelbolt was very enjoyable.

BUXTON.

OPERA HOUSE.—Secretary and Manager, Mr Arthur Willoughby.—For this week we have Mr Herbert Barr's pantomime *Cinderella*. Mr Carl Fredericks was particularly happy as Baron Stonio, introducing a smart ventriloquial entertainment; Mr Oscar Mills and Mr Walter Langford caused some amusement as the Ugly Sisters; and Mr Paul Pry was an energetic Buttons. Miss Tessie Vandean was successful as Prince Charming, being well supported by Miss Maggie Stewart as Dandini. Miss Minnie Willett was a pleasing Cinderella, and attractive specialities were contributed by the Ya Pyn Keto Family and Madame Cordella.

BRIGHTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr Harcourt M. Beryl.—Miss Ada Reeve and company opened here on Monday with *Winnie Brooke, Widow*, and achieved complete success. Miss Reeve as Winnie Brooke displayed winsome acting, charming vocalisation, and graceful dancing. Miss Drusilla Wills gave a clever portrayal of the laundry girl, Eustacia Eglantine Honoria Brown. Mr Donald Price Evans was highly amusing as Hercules Grant; Mr Charles Weir was well suited as Dudley Mayne; Mr Frederick Tyrell as the Rev. Elihu Garside and Miss Alice Lawrence as Mrs Garside were very entertaining; and Mr Leon Ashton-Jarry as Julian Croft, Mr Edgar Stevens as Reginald Frampton, Miss Ruth Hazlewood as Nora Caswell, and Miss Cecile Beresford as Gracie Frampton added materially to the fun of the piece.

AQUARIUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. Bernhardt; Resident-Manager, Mr H. De Groot.—Mr Arthur St. George is successful in the Anglo-French song, "Hola," and in his scena, "Beck, the English Dreyfus;" Little Decima Brooke submits a pleasing plantation scene, entitled "Navaho Way;" Miss Addie Croker appears in an interesting dramatic sketch, entitled *Kismet;* Phil Inglis, the boy comedian and dancer, is very effective; and the entertainment is admirably supplemented by a series of excellent Bioscope pictures. In accordance with a decision of the Brighton Town Council, the theatre closes this evening.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr W. F. Crowe.—The bright and merry pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood* continues its successful career. The new songs, dances, and comic business recently introduced are warmly appreciated; all the artistes enter *con amore* into the portrayal of their respective characters, and a more amusing and refined pantomime has seldom, if ever, been produced in Brighton. At Monday's matinée 2,000 of the poorest children of Brighton witnessed the performance at the kind invitation of Mr Ernest Carpenter, who gave each of the little ones a meat pie, a bun, and an orange.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr J. L. Graydon; General Manager, Mr Ernest Lepard.—Barnard's lifelike marionettes furnish an interesting and amusing turn; Miss Fanny Wentworth, society entertainer, is highly successful in her musical sketches; Otto Schuman, an accomplished horseman, in conjunction with Miss Mona Mona, gives an excellent act with horses, ponies, and boarhounds; the Eugene Family are clever aerial gymnasts; Ena Beryl is an artistic vocalist and mandolinist; Major Moss and Son are good vocal scenic artistes; Lord, Murray, and Lord supply a good comedy athletic act, *The Intruder;* Mdlle. Saveray is a pleasing chanteuse; and L. B. Athol, a capital vocal comedian. The Alhambra pictures are very interesting.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford. — Leonard and Francis, eccentric acrobats, introduce a diverting burlesque bullfight; Toch and Tard, burlesque artists, afford much fun; the Irwins, tumblers, are effective in their comic act, "A Terrible Night;" Simms and Simms appear in a musical mélange with distinct success; Harry Ford, comedian—a great favourite here—is enthusiastically applauded for his comic songs; Mr and Mrs Edward H. Lucas merit unstinted praise for their enactment of scenes from the works of Charles Dickens; Barrington Foote and company submit *An Incident*, which includes a clever exhibition of sword-play; Miss Du Barry is a charming soprano vocalist; and Miss Vivian Dell is a clever danseuse. Animated pictures add to the enjoyment of the audience.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr A. D Norman.—A new series of Animatographs by Mr Alfred J. West depicting life in "Our Navy and Army" proves a great attraction here this week. The pictures are entertaining and instructive. Mr H. Covenay undertakes the part of narrator with great success, and the introduction of expressive music adds to the realism of the admirable entertainment.

COLISEUM.—Licensee and Director of Entertainments, Mr Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr C. Smith-Wilkes.—Janet Reeve, comedienne, sings sweetly; Cyrus Dare, comedian, is highly entertaining with his humorous stories and imitations of little children; Mabelle Fowler, chic comedienne, gives her songs with artistic finish; Harry Olyo and Rose Rochelle, speciality artistes, submit a very amusing turn; La Tostia is an expert mandolinist and a brilliant pianist; Major Newell, on roller skates, performs graceful evolutions and dances cleverly; Will Onda's company evokes hearty laughter in the pantomimical absurdity, *A Quiet Night;* and the Coliseum pictures are interesting and amusing. On Monday evening, as an extra turn, Mrs C. Smith-Wilkes (wife of the popular manager) gave a recitation of Rudyard Kipling's "Ballad of the Clampherdown" with finished elocution, and was warmly recalled.

BRISTOL.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr James Macready Chute.—On Monday and Tuesday Mr E. St. Alban's company appeared here in matinées of *Alice in Wonderland*. There was a large attendance at each performance. The musical dream-play was mounted with taste and liberality, and it was very nicely acted. Pleasing ballets were well presented, and the chorus of children from Philip Nolan's Training School did capital work. Alice was prettily played by Miss Ida Thompson, the young actress speaking her lines with distinctness and expression, and both singing and dancing well. The Mad Hatter was cleverly performed by Mr St. Alban, and he successfully introduced appropriate specialities. The cast included Miss Marie Clavering, Miss M. Maud, Miss Edith Alcoe, Mr S. Benson, Mr J. W. Hooper, Miss S. Sharp, Mr George Handel, Miss Madge Western, Mr J. E. Cowell, Mr L. Sandown, Miss J. Rogers, Miss M. Clements, Miss G. Clements, Mr T. Furgus, Mr F. Thompson, Miss O. Leary, and Miss L. Burgon, all making the utmost use of their respective opportunities. *The Sleeping Beauty*, if possible, continues to increase in popularity, as evinced by the house being full in all parts at each performance, and the morning performances on Thursdays and Saturdays are also well attended.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Ernest Carpenter. — *Robinson Crusoe* continues to attract first-rate houses—in fact, week by week the pantomime appears to get more popular. The company is good all round, the songs, choruses, and dances are pleasing, and the various specialities and comic business are quite up to the usual standard.

PALACE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs Livermore Bros.; Resident-Manager, Mr Horace Livermore; Secretary, Mr F. J. V. Welchman.—Madame Ada Colley heads the programme with a very enjoyable turn; she has a remarkably clear and flexible soprano with an extended register, and sings in an expressive and artistic style. Other turns are provided by Chinko, the smart boy juggler; Miss Florrie St. Clair, a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Harry Sheldon, a tenor vocalist of ability; Jimson's well-trained dogs; Gus Barra, in a good musical act; Brothers Hersleb, eccentric acrobatic tumblers, &c., of ability; Amandus, facial mimic; Rosina, an expert and versatile instrumentalist; T. O. Callaghan, an amusing comedian; and a new series of Vernon's animated pictures. There were special attractions on Thursday evening, this being the anniversary of the opening of the Palace.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford.—The Six Brothers Luck are successfully appearing here in their melodramatic pantomime *The Hermit;* the Four Cliftons interest with their clever acrobatic work and feats of strength; Fred Hutchins is an amusing comedian; Slippere, the blind pianiste, presents a good turn, both singing and playing well; Emma and Victor are acrobatic dancers of considerable ability; Clarus Brothers are exceptionally expert as equilibrists and rolling-globe performers; Dan Llewellyn sings tenor songs in good style; and Frances Letty is a pleasing comédienne and dancer. The performance concludes with a good display of animated pictures.

COLSTON HALL.—This is the last week of Mr C. W. Poole's popular Myriorama. The attendance has been good all along, and several benefits, with special attractions, have been arranged.

VICTORIA ROOMS.—Sousa's Band gave two performances here on Monday, the attendance both morning and evening being quite up to the average.

BURNLEY.

GAIETY.—Proprietress, Mrs T. Culcen; Manager, Mr Jas. E. Culcen.—Mr Leslie Vyner's company is paying a return visit here this week with *The Lightning's Flash*, with renewed success. Mr Leonard Robson gives a forcible interpretation of Stephen and Colonel Merrick; Gordon Garville has an excellent representative in Mr Sydney Hearns; and Miss F. Russell-Spiers is responsible for a fine piece of character acting as Kate Merrick. Miss Eva Read worthily sustains her reputation as Lulu; Mr Harry M. Vernon fairly revels in the character of Toby Gander; and Miss Blanche Vernon makes a welcome reappearance as Selina Slack.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr W. C. Hamer.—Excellent fare is provided here this week, and crowded houses are the general rule. Barton and Ashley are evoking uproarious laughter in their comic sketches; the Bros. Bellong give a decidedly smart equilibristic performance; Bantam Hercules, a local athlete, provides an excellent turn of weight-lifting; Dainty Maggie Rimmer, coon singer and dancer, is greatly appreciated; the Donatos give an exceedingly good exhibition of one-legged dancing; the Vance Bros. meet with a cordial reception; and Charles Cranston, comedian, contributes good songs. The Empire Biograph prolongs its stay.

BURY (LANCS).

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED—General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling. — Mr E. Vivian Edmonds's company is playing *The Cotton Spinner* here this week. Miss Mary Austin acts excellently as Mary Prescott. Mr John S. Haydon plays well in the title-rôle. Others in the cast are Messrs E. Vivian Edmonds, E. F. Fisher, E. C. Edwards, F. Eaglesfield, Miss May Grimshaw, and Miss Bella Power, who give good impersonations.

OLYMPIA CIRCUS OF VARIETIES. — General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling.—The Dayton Family give a clever acrobatic performance. Stelling and Revell create much amusement with their gymnastic feats. Others in the bill include J. W. Hall, comedian; Ronald Bagnall, society entertainer; Alec Aubrey, a clever performer on silver chains; May Young, a sentimental singer; and the circus-o-graph pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr W. Broadhead.—A heavy programme is presented here, including the Eight Lancashire Lads, singers and dancers; J. Wilson, bone soloist; Maud De Vena, a clever juggler; Brothers Hampson, dancers; Annie Cohen, comedienne; Stanley and Vandyke, comedians; and E. Haveley, baritone vocalist.

CAMBRIDGE

NEW THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr Frank Curzon's company gave on Monday the first performance here of *Sergeant Brue*. Mr Victor Widdicombe in the title-rôle was very successful. Mr George Barrett as Crookie Scrubbs gave one of the most amusing personations seen here for a long time. Mr E Percy Rogers cleverly played Michael Brue. Miss Violet Dene is to be highly complimented on her rendering of Lady Beckenhall, and Miss Constance Lait made a winsome Aurora Brue. Mr Cecil Burt was excellent as Mr Crank, as were Mr Arthur Stroud as Gerald Treherne and Miss Eliza Earle as Daisy.

CARDIFF.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Robert Redford.—After a year's absence *The Girl from Kay's* is making a reappearance in Cardiff, being capitally presented by Mr George Dance's company. Mr H. C. Barry is, fortunately, still with the company, and as Hoggenheimer proves to be the life and soul of the piece. His ludicrous impersonation of the rich financier sends the audience into boisterous laughter. Winnie Harborough is this time portrayed by Miss Nancy Hervyn, and a more graceful and charming exponent could not possibly imagined. Miss Rita Leonhardt does well as Norah Chalmers, and a pert and pretty Ellen is found in Miss Mabel Thornton. One of the funniest delineations of the piece is that of the hall porter by Mr Fred Ralph, while Mr Leslie Roy Cathie as the Hon. Percy is also responsible for much merry-making. Mr Garnet Wilson (Harry Gordon), Mr Samuel Lysons (Theodore Quench), and Mr Cameron Carr (Mr Chalmers) are all capitally suited in their respective parts. The chorus adds much to the attractiveness of the play.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Frank Bateman; Business Manager, Mr Robert Sawin.—The boards of the King's are occupied this week by the pantomime *Cinderella*, given by an excellent company under the direction of Mr John Restall. Miss Annie Craig works hard and does well as Prince Charming, and is rendered able assistance by Miss Ada Lindlay as Cinderella. Dandini is pleasingly portrayed by Miss Mona Macdonald, and Phyllis is equally well acted by Miss Muriel Lochner. Mr Charles Clark (Billy Burton), Mr Harry Rose (Baron Loweralotte), and Messrs Clem Myers and Dan Idle (the two Ugly Sisters) are all comedians of merit, and are mainly responsible for the success of the pantomime. Several excellent specialities are introduced. Messrs Stern and Stern, in their amusing "Ten Minutes with the Marble Statues;" Master Rochester, the wonderful boy pianist; and the Sinclair Troupe of dancers, being exceedingly good performances.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr George Alen.—A first-class programme here includes Mr A. C. Lilly and company, in a stirring military sketch *Drummed Out;* Kahn and Kahn, in their conjuring act; Miss Helen Martin, a charming singer with popular songs; Professor Dunning, ventriloquist; Starr and Leslie, speciality artistes; Walter Bellonini, juggler; Harry Bedford, comedian; Kitty Wager, comedienne; Fred Poplar, comedian; and Bros. Reiff, in their singing and dancing act.

COLCHESTER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr Chas. Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr F. Graham Macdona.—A fairly full house welcomed Mr Alfred B. Cross and company in *The Manxman* on Monday. Mr Cross himself took the part of Pete in a realistic manner, and with Miss Minnie Watersford, who played the part of Kate Cregan with marked success, was several times called before the curtain. The difficult rôle of Cæsar Cregan was admirably portrayed by Mr Henry Heller; Mr William Burchill as Philip Christian was most acceptable. Miss Nancy Mitchell undertook the part of Nancy in a most praiseworthy manner.

CORN EXCHANGE.—On Wednesday Mr Charles Clark held one of his popular evening concerts before a very large and fashionable gathering. Miss Mabel Love, in conjunction with Mr Warren-Foster, performed a charming playlet entitled *The Ordeal of the Honeymoon* in her well-known style and Mr Charles Pond was deservedly encored for his humorous stories. Cazabon, the violinist, received quite an ovation, and great success attended the efforts of the boy soprano, Master J. M. Smith. A feature of the evening was the dancing by men, and selections by pipers, of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, recently arrived in garrison. Dr. Francis Gerard was responsible for some very interesting demonstrations with "The Demon Kettle."

CARLISLE.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME.—Proprietress, Mrs P. E. Veitch; Manager, Mr C. Algie.—An excellent programme is provided for the patrons of this popular place of amusement this week. Celest, the American wire-walker and bâton manipulator, tops the bill and gives a wonderful exhibition of daring and skill, his act is received with enthusiastic applause. An original turn is provided by the Jalvans, Oriental jugglers. Smart, bright, and attractive throughout their performance, the audience would willingly see more of them. The Hannaway Brothers create roars of laughter by their comical cross-talk and their dancing brings down the house. The ever-popular Miss Fanny Robina delights her numerous admirers with several well-rendered songs; and Miss Florrie Cooper, a juvenile vocalist with a remarkably powerful and sympathetic voice, is already a big favourite. Mr Billie Bint, comedian; Armstrong, pyramid drummer and clown; and the Hippodrome pictures complete a thoroughly enjoyable entertainment.

CARMARTHEN.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr Edward Baldwin.—On Monday and Tuesday evenings Messrs Dalton and Denver's company appeared in *The Two Shoeblacks*. The chief character, P.C. Smart, is taken with power and effect by the author, Mr Haldane Dalton. Miss Madge Roselle and Little Gustave perform the parts of the two shoeblacks with much pathos; Mr Douglas Campbell as Phil Ferrett, a London thief, is clever, his songs being well given and received; Mr Walter F. Glover does well as Joe Maitland; Miss Frances J. Foley is satisfactory as Joe Maitland's wife; Mr C. Dudley Saunders is amusing as Abe Skinner; and Miss Emma Sidney as Mother Stone, the lodging-house keeper, is realistic and amusing.

CASTLEFORD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman.—*Defending His Honour* is being presented here by Messrs Carson and Granville's company. Mr John Davidson as Douglas Bryce is natural and self-contained; a well-acted character is the Stephen Grald of Mr Clifton Boyne, who brings out the villainy of the man with much realism; Mr Thompson Carruthers plays David Peller, and although the part is not great makes much of it; Mr J. Gilpin as George Duncan is decidedly good; the Irish part of Jack Damish is well cared for in the hands of Mr J. P. Marsden; and Mr Terry Davis and Mr Kenneth Black, jun., are responsible for the greater part of the humour as Richard Verison and his son, Dick Verison, both creating much laughter. As the heroine, Ethel Bryce, Miss F. Melrose-Millett makes a distinctly favourable impression; Miss Jessie Glenn shows a full appreciation of what is required of her as Miss Trixie Lucien; the part of Nurse Sugden finds a winsome exponent in Miss Gwendolin Talbot; and Mrs Edmond Lyons gives an excellent delineation of Mrs Theresa Verison.

CHATHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr Geo. G. Ridley.—*The Cingalee* company is one of Mr George Dance's, under the general management of Mr Harry B. Earle. Mr Francis Ludlow is a capital Harry Vereker; Mr Fred W. Pattrick, an old favourite here, represents Boobhamba very cleverly; Mr F. W. Ford makes a jolly old Sir Peter Loftus; and Mr George Mudie, jun., is a popular Bobby Warren. As Peggy Sabine Miss Mabel Sealby is a big success in her singing and dancing; Miss Madge Temple's Lady Patricia is a well-balanced interpretation; and Miss Ethel Negretti is a pleasing Nanoya. Mr Lauri De Frece scores all along the line as Chambhuddy Ram.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr L. B. Barnard.—Houdini, the handcuff king, is the attraction at this hall, and is not only astonishing the natives, but drawing apparently record audiences. Mr Leonard Mortimer's Combination, in *The Schemers*, and a variety company give good support.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr Frank J. Donne.—The Oallaw Trio are applauded for their wire act; Tom Brantford's songs and imitations amuse; the Four Jumels give a musical scena; and others in the bill are Ena Richards, the Crown Trio, Herbert Betts, the Five Ashleys, and the Edisonograph.

CHELTENHAM.

OPERA HOUSE.—General Manager, Mr H. Oswald Redford.—Mr Arthur Carlton's pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor* commenced a week's run on Monday. The large chorus sing with spirit. The company includes a troupe of Continental dancers, and one of the attractions is a scale-armour ballet. Miss Rita Leslie as Sinbad has a striking presence and sings many taking songs, chief of which is the tuneful "Anons." Miss Kate Holloway as Zorilda is a clever artiste, her coon dances being exceptionally good. Miss Madge Yates as Badoura made a hit with "Oh, yes, you do!" Mr L. Kerno as Bill Badeye displays a good voice in "The comic opera girl" and "Angeline;" Mr Gilbert Payne is amusing as Tinbad; Miss M. Rivington as Ferzion introduces a clever speciality dance; and the little Sisters Stewart are excellent exponents of the Terpsichorean art.

CHESTERFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr Holbery Hardy.—Messrs Arthur Carlton and H. Armitage's company hold these boards with *In the Ranks*, a piece which has lost none of its drawing powers. Mr Edward Lloyd well sustains the part of the hero, Ned Drayton; Miss Edith Blair-Staples gives a pathetic rendering of Ruth Herrick; Mr Herbert Cecil makes a bold villain of Gideon Blake; Miss Daisy Norman is a charming Barbara Herrick; Mr Eric Dane is good as Mr Timmins; Mr Lionel Sullivan is a typical Farmer Herrick; Messrs Arthur Palling and A. W. Chappell score as Colonel Wynter and Captain Holcroft respectively; and the comic element is in good hands.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr G. T. Sante; Secretary, Mr J. Clay.—Messrs Griffin and Drake are here this week presenting their pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, and are to be congratulated upon the excellence of the production. Scenery and dresses are particularly striking and tasteful, and the large company is well selected. Miss Lily Jackson undertakes Dick in excellent style, Alice being charmingly rendered by Miss Emmie Hands. Alderman Fitzwarren is capitally depicted by Mr Ben Ford. Messrs Will Dennis and Mark Lane as Idle Jack and Martha Muggins are successful fun providers; Mr Jack Simpson is good as the Cat, and Mr E. Jazon capital as the Emperor. The specialities include Mdlle. Luba De Sarema in an exceptionally smart and sensational display with a bull, ponies and dogs, &c. Jazon and White are clever in their specialities; the Sisters Grosvenor are a charming trio; the Sisters Brenton are popular dancers, and the Yorkshire Mill Lasses are well received. There is a ballet of thirty children, and Mr Walter Griffin personally superintends and manages the production, Miss Beatie Drake efficiently taking charge of the augmented orchestra.

CONSETT.

NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr Lloyd Clarance.—Mr A. E. Smith's pantomime *Babes in the Wood* is here this week. Mr J. H. Matthews is an exceptionally good Demon King; as the Fairy Queen Miss Lily Coleman sings well; Miss Edith Wallis is an excellent Robin Hood; and as Maid Marion Miss Beattie Howard is attractive. Mr Arthur Slater as the Baron and Mr Charles Gladwell as the Dame are very funny, and as Weary Willie and Tired Tim Mr Bob Padley and Mr F. Wheatcroft are highly amusing.

CLYDEBANK.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Wilson.—These boards are occupied this week by Messrs E. H. Knight and George Denham's company with the powerful drama, *The Grip of Iron*. Mr Fred Powell as Simmonet, the strangler, displays abilities of a high standard. Mr Thornton Heath as the Spanish adventurer is highly successful, and so is Mr Blundell Leyton as the honest lawyer. A part worthy of special mention is Paul Blanchard, admirably portrayed by Mr George Denham; Miss Georgie De Lara makes a charming Cora, Miss Helena Walbran gives a good account of herself as Sophie, and Miss Hilda Baynon as Marie Guerin is excellent. A couple of detective parts are effectively presented by Mr Harry Agar-Lyons and Mr John Brittain. The comedy of the drama is well looked after by Mr W. Griffin, who, as the Smiler, causes much laughter.

COATBRIDGE.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs Mary Watson; Manager, Mr C. B. Fountaine.—*The Babes in the Wood* is being presented here this week by Mr Milton Bode's pantomime company, and on Monday evening the house was crowded in all parts. Miss Ernestine Desborough artistically portrays the leading boy, Prince Rupert; Miss Veronica Brady displays talent as Rose, the village beauty; Miss Elsie Morgan appears to full advantage as Tommy, as also does Miss Annie Morgan as Daisy. Mr Ernest Sefton powerfully acts Baron Blarer, Mr Frank Couch cleverly renders William Buttons, Messrs Woodhouse and Wells prove excellent comedians as Gentle George and Cheerful Charles respectively; Mr Harry Douglas is a capable Bumble, and Mrs Maria Slapp has an able representative in Mr W. P. Sheen. Specialities, which are satisfactorily rendered, are given by Miss Brady, the Sisters Morgan, and Messrs Woodhouse and Wells.

COLNE (LANCS)

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Gerald Harding.—Miss Lena Stanton's pantomime company is here this week presenting *Dick Whittington*. Miss Stanton is graceful as the principal boy; Miss Marie Gerrard is admirable as Alice; Mr Bruce Green as Margarina and Mr Alf Brooks as Idle Jack are very successful; and specialities are given by Little Kerno, the boy comedian; the Cecil Troupe of lady dancers; Joe Pauletti, trick cyclist; and Rynfield, in his feats of strength.

CORK.

OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr John Horgan.—The Moody-Manners company opened a second week here on Monday with *Tannhäuser*. Madame De Vere as Elizabeth gave an admirable interpretation of the part. Mr Wilson Pembroke as Tannhäuser was most successful; his rendering of "Thou Goddess of Love" was particularly good. Mr Chas. Magrath as Hermann supplied a fine performance. The Wolfram of Mr William Dever was impressive, and he sang with fine effect. Miss Toni Seiter as Venus was successful. The music of the Shepherd Boy was creditably sung by Miss D. Eshelby. Mr T. C. Fairbairn as Heinrich der Schreiber, Mr J. Alexander as Reinmar, Mr F. H. Erle as Biterolf, and Mr N. Davidson as Walther were all satisfactory. *La Traviata*, *The Jewess*, *The Puritan's Daughter*, and *Maritana* were billed for the remainder of the week. Madame Fanny Moody was not able to perform last week and part of this through having caught a severe cold in Dublin.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Henry Kemble.—The turns here include the Four Anlys, who are clever acrobats and tumblers. Harland and Rollison are pleasing musical grotesques. Lilian Neville is a vocalist whose songs are most acceptable. Denby and Dent give a comedy act in which smart dialogue and vocalism form an entertaining blend. Richard Bellong is a remarkable contortionist. Alf Levine, speciality artiste, gives a clever performance on a wire rope. Harley and Hardon are a smart pair of burlesque comedians. Mdlle. Santoi introduces her Oriental scena, *The Merry Japs*. Mezetti and Mora give a clever exhibition on the triple horizontal bars.

COVENTRY.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Wm. Bennett.—This week sees a capital pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, by J. Danby, produced by an excellent company under the direction of Mr Howard Hinton. Mr Harry Rennior gives a capable and finished impersonation of Idle Jack; Mr Tom Seymour is decidedly funny as Captain Bunting; Miss Kitty Phelps is charming as Dick; Miss Daisy Clements is successful as Alice Fitzwarren, her songs being much admired; Miss Maud Leonard is quite capable as Sir Roland; Miss Gracie Clements is a pretty Fairy Goodwill; and specialities are introduced with much success by Stephens and Rennior, the Sisters Clements, the Empress Quartet of dancers, and the Bowery Boys in a boxing act. Mr Harry Cardoe makes up very well as the cat.

CROYDON.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Lawson Lambert; Acting-Manager, Mr Reginald Lawrence.—*The Duke of Killicrankie* is being played here by Messrs Charles Frohman and Arthur Chudleigh's company. Mr Scott Craven gives a highly satisfactory rendering of the title-rôle; Mr Arthur Grenville is first-rate as Mr Henry Pitt-Welby, M.P.; Mr Guy Newall is smart as Ambrose Hicks; Miss Margaret Damer is an aristocratic Countess of Pangbourne; Miss Doris Templeton is an attractive and lovable Lady Henrietta Addison; and Miss Aida Jenoure is successful in the part of Mrs Mulholland. The minor rôles are well played by Misses Helen K. Robertson, Ilene Hamilton, Lottie Belmore, and Messrs Guy B. Watson, John Waring, and J. F. Anson. The curtain-raiser is *Barbara*, in which Miss Margaret Damer (Barbara), Miss Gilliam Scaife (Lillie), Mr Pat Newall (Cecil), and Mr Frank M'Donnell (Finnicum) are seen to advantage. An admirable selection by Mr Leonard Gautier, entitled "Cinderella," is admirably played by the orchestra.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr Newman Maurice.—*It's Never Too Late to Mend* is the attraction at the Royal. Mr Charles East submits a fine, robust rendering of Tom Robinson; Mr Bernard Copping is good as George Fielding; Mr C. W. Standing is sincere as the Rev. Francis Eden, Mr Chas. Langley is commendable as Isaac Levi, Mr John Smithson is a forcible Mr Hawes, Mr Ernest Ruston gives a powerful portrayal of Mr Meadows, Mr Byron Douglas deserves compliments for his acting as Jackey, and Mr Herbert Williams is creditable as Peter Crawley. Miss Isa Bellington just touches the right note as Josepha; Miss Rose Ralph wins sympathy as Susan Merton, and the remaining characters are in excellent hands.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Resident General Manager, Mr Eustace H. Jay.—An attractive entertainment at this hall includes Mr Fred S. Partridge's excellent band; the Eight Leopolds, acrobatic wonders; Dan O'Connor, comedian, fresh from Croydon pantomime triumphs; Austin Rudd, comedian; Terry's sketch company, Harry Carmen, J. W. Ellison, Charles Johnson, Eric Graham, Millie Harris, Gladys Archbutt, Cissie Heath, Tandy and Carl, and Tom Johnson.

CREWE.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Henry Taylor.—Mr Bulmer's company is paying a visit here this week with the melodrama entitled *Sentenced for Life*. Mr H. Lloyd as Roy Stillwell plays the hero of the piece in a manly and at times pathetic manner. Mr Richard A. Green as the Rev. Martin Orris gives a dignified and consistent rendering. As Percy M'Gentle Mr F. Zara imbues the part with much humour. Miss Florence Trevoir has found her undoubted talents greatly appreciated. The rôle of Adele Gray is well sustained by Miss M. Douglas, and Miss M. Dalby has made a suitable Lady Stillwell. Bill Sharkey is ably represented by Mr T. C. Grenville, and Henry Seekwith is ably portrayed by Mr R. De Bulmer.

DERBY.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General Manager, Mr J. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr Charles Denley.—The Carl Rosa Opera Company is paying a welcome return visit here. On Monday *Tannhäuser* was the attraction. Herr Julius Walther impersonated the erring minstrel, and was as impressive as ever. The rôle of the sorely tried Elizabeth was entrusted to Fräulein Ina Tavary, a singer of repute in Berlin. She was making her first appearance in England, and, under somewhat trying circumstances, acted well her part, and proved herself the possessor of well-trained vocal powers. Other interesting features of the performance were the appearance of Mr Lewys James as Wolfram, and of Madame Augusta Renard as Venus, two altogether satisfactory assumptions. Madame Renard sang the difficult Venusberg music admirably, and equally successful was Mr James both in the Hall of Song and the peerless "O Star of Eve" in the last act. Mr Arthur Winckworth was the Landgrave, in which part his rich bass voice was heard to advantage. Under the bâton of Mr Eugene Goossens, the orchestra gave an excellent rendering of the beautiful overture, and so well did the members of the chorus acquit themselves in the march in The Hall of Song that the audience would fain have encored the number. On Tuesday, in *Carmen*, Madame Augusta Renard appeared in the title-rôle, and sang throughout with pronounced success, at the same time proving herself an accomplished actress. Mr E. C. Hedmondt as Jose sang with much feeling and spirit; Mr Chas. Victor gave a fine portrayal of Escamillo; Miss Lizzie Burgess as Micaela was most acceptable and has perhaps never been heard to better advantage; Mr Frank Arthur as Zuniga was in every way successful; Mr Arthur Hayes was praiseworthy as Remendado. On Wednesday *Lohengrin* was staged, and *Faust*, *Rigoletto*, *Don Giovanni*, and *The Bohemian Girl* were also to be given during the rest of the week.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr T. Allan Edwardes.—Miss Marie Kendall, burlesque artiste, is making her first visit here this week, and her songs, which are rendered in good style, secure her a hearty reception. The Four Musical Palmers are again to the fore with their variety entertainment; Osai Souplessi, described as "the aerial serpent on the silver rings," is well worthy of mention; Lake Henderson scores with his character songs; Lily Martell is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Pulo, is a meritorious boy juggler; Steve M'Carthy proves himself a clever comedian; while the Bioscope with several interesting pictures terminates the programme.

DUNDEE.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Will Parker; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr Alf Ross. — The Karno Trio are at the head of affairs this week, and create great hilarity with their sketch, *The Travellers' Rest*. The Brothers Edgar submit a clever "patter" show, some of their gags being very original; Will Godwin, who remains from last week, repeats his success; Jean Saul mystifies everyone with his clever Indian cabinet illusion; Fred Collins is a quaint Scotch comedian; and some fine cornet playing by D. W. Watson is much appreciated. Tom Hall's nippers are a clever set of juvenile acrobats, and a marvellous exhibition of gymnastic feats is performed by the Great Vincent.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Frank Perceval.—A thrilling domestic drama is produced here this week, entitled *A Victim of Villainy*. As Frank Manton Mr Walter Howe gives a vigorous impersonation; Mr Leonard Howe is clever in the rôle of Walter Leanox; Miss Rose Lehmann makes a sympathetic Mary Manton; and Miss Muriel Dean is a capital Alice Cavanagh. The comedy scenes are skilfully touched in by Mr J. F. Cox and Miss Adele Harvey.

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(4th week's Winner),
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DARLINGTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manageress, Mrs T. W. S. Jennings.—Messrs Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's company is here this week with *Sinbad the Sailor*. Miss Lily Beverley in the title-rôle is very successful; Mr Happy Atwood as Captain Cook scores well; Mr A. G. Hart is an amusing Tinbad; Mr Fred Dobito a good Emperor; Mr Willie Black does well as Mrs Sinbad; Miss Kitty Brewster deserves mention for her representation of Zorlida; Miss Cissie Conyers as the Good Fairy sings sweetly; and Miss Flora Buxton as the Princess is seen to advantage. The Warlocks are a couple of funny comedians, and Messrs Victor Wallace, T. Warley, and Little Tim do justice to their respective parts. Specialities are introduced by the Brewster Troupe, sword experts and dancers, and the Wallys, exceedingly clever jugglers.

DONCASTER.

NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr J. W. Chapman.—Mr Bert Coote's company is received here with great cordiality in *The Fatal Wedding*. Mr Ernest Ovttrim's assumption of Howard Wilson is voted excellent; Mr Cecil A. Collins invests the part of Robert Curtis with interest; Toto is quite safe in the hands of Mr J. Carl Lyle; Miss Theresa Osborne as Mabel Wilson is extremely fascinating; Miss Beatrice Whitney plays Cora Williams in effective style; Bridget is well presented by Miss Carrie Fenton; and Miss Gladys Rose Jones, the little mother, does justice to the part.

DOUGLAS.

NEW EMPIRE THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr Alfred Sugden.—This pretty little theatre, cleaned and redecorated, reopened its doors on Monday last, under entirely new management. The present lessee is Mr Alfred Sugden, of the Prince of Wales's and Imperial Theatres, London, and his policy is strong melodrama, adequately staged and conscientiously acted by a stock company. The play chosen for the première was a well-written sensational and emotional play, *For England's Honour*. It was received with much applause. Miss Lena Lewis as Mabel Grey displayed pathos as the wrongly accused wife, and as the Boy Sailor was most effective. Miss Marie Lisle was earnest as Stella West, and Miss Gertrude Lovell amusing as Peggy Scrubbs. Mr Robert Lena, who possesses a powerful voice and real elocutionary charm, made Lieutenant Travers a most convincing personage; Mr Ernest Percival was dignified as Captain Beresford; Mr Richard Walsh looked well and acted with vim as Gerald Tracy; Mr Frank Fox gave a clever study as Jabez West; and Mr Will Priestly was really funny as Sammy. The songs which occur in the third act were much appreciated by a large and entirely satisfied audience. There is in the winter no place of amusement open usually in Douglas, and this venture of Mr Alfred Sugden and Mr Robert Lena's should be a financial success for them, and a boon for the twenty thousand people who dwell therein.

DOVER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Limited; Managing Director, Mr F. C. Dew.—Poole's myriorama is drawing crowded houses here this week. The pictures are excellent, and a good variety programme adds interest to the evening. Miss May Fince, although suffering from a severe cold, sings well, "Good-bye little girl" proving a popular number. The Veronas, duettists and dancers, are dainty and captivating, and Mr Felix Somers, the facial king, scores in his clever impersonations. Mdlle. Orbasany's cockatoos are responsible for a clever performance; and Mr Nat Abatt as the guide and raconteur wins popularity.

DUBLIN.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Limited; General Manager, Mr Charles Hyland.—The pantomime *The Sleeping Beauty*, which has had such a successful season, entered on its last week here on Monday, on which occasion there was a crowded house, the performance being set apart for the benefit of Miss Dorothy L. Clark (Bellamour). Several special attractions were introduced by the members of the company.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Mouillot.—The pantomime *Puss in Boots*, which has entered on its second week here, is proving as attractive as on its opening night, large and appreciative audiences being present at each representation.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. W. Whitbread; General Manager, Mr Kennedy Miller.—Messrs J. K. Murray and J. M. Dawson's company is here this week with the sensational drama *Driven From Home*. Mr Aylmer J. Williams acts the part of Anthony Raybrook in an able manner, and Miss Kitty O'Hara is most effective as Margaret Bailie. Mr J. M. Dawson presents a well-studied Walter Hatherleigh, and Miss Ida Murray cleverly acts the rôle of the Nipper. Mr Cyril Harrison achieves success as Geoffrey Waring, and Miss Ella Sennett is seen to advantage as Laura Raybrook. Mr C. Stanhope capably sustains the part of Adam Marley, and as Barbara Ashdown Miss Gladys Murray is excellent. Mr Claremont Gaskell is capital as Jabez Thomas, and Mr Syd Grant as the outcast, Willie, Mr Clifford Spencer as John Anderson, Mr Julian Hall as David Wilson, Mr George Thompson as Parrat, Mr Waddington as Tom Mortlake, Mr Edward Turner as Dick Sanders, and Mr Wilson as Peter Pettifer are all satisfactory in their respective parts.

EMPIRE.—General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr A. S. Figgis.—The Brothers Leslie, in their eccentric act, "Music Mad," hold premier position here this week, and are well received; and the vocal items of the Slaters Hayden meet with appreciation. The Korries, in their "Pot-Pourri" act, are highly successful, as are also Mueller and Coyle, variety entertainers. J. H. Milburn, comedian, is as popular as ever, and Edie Veno sings her songs in a pleasing manner. Charles Adams is a vocal comedian of no mean order, and the Burnleys, stilt performers, supply an amusing turn. Driscoll and Beattie, who remain from last week, are still scoring, and the Empire pictures are entertaining.

TIVOLI.—General Manager, Mr Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr H. A. Murphy.—Imro Fox, the comic conjuror, tops the bill here, and scores a success. The Arthur Lloyd Trio, in their amusing sketch *Little Charlie; or, The Twin Sisters*, are warmly applauded, and Gladys Mavius, the Canadian coon, has a host of admirers. The Sisters Lytton, operatic vocalists, meet with approval, and Ray and Leigh are a smart pair of gymnasts. G. H. Keith is a capital actor-vocalist; and A. C. Revel, electrical juggler; the Brothers Lavelle, comedy acrobats; Gracie Logan, soubrette and dancer; and Kisbey, the call boy, are also appearing with success.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr C. A. James.—The bill here this week includes Pettigrove and Sons' marionette pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, illustrated songs, and living pictures.

SAMUELS' EXHIBITION PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr S. Samuels.—The company engaged here includes Sterling and Cashen, Marie Ford, and Denise.

DUMFRIES.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr W. E. Potts.—The attraction for the first three nights of this week was Messrs Clift and Forster's company in *Two Little Vagabonds*. Mr Wolston Foster as George Thornton was a complete success. Mr Cyril Mackay was well placed as Captain Darville. Miss Elena Lonsdale as Marion Thornton gave evidence of being an actress of great ability, playing her part in a most effective manner. Miss Daisy Royal deserves credit for a clever impersonation of Barbara Scarth. Miss Francis Ferina as Dick and Miss Eva Lumley as Wally played their parts in a most realistic manner. Miss Lottie Coleman as Sister Randall, the hospital nurse, was very natural.

DARWEN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr E. L. Ormsby.—Messrs Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company opened here on Monday in *The Sledge-Hammer*. Mr Alfred Northway and Mr W. V. Garrod as Jacob and Everard Derrick give a powerful rendering of their respective parts, and receive admirable support from Mr Charles Herberte, who capably impersonates Mathew Derrick; Mr Charles Halling, who is effective as Simon Derrick; and Mr Maxwell Davidson as Cornelius. The part of Rose Maywell is in the capable hands of Miss Bertha Kingston, who contributes some sound acting. Miss Fanny Thorne cleverly acts Martha Derrick, and Miss Ivy Ellaline Thorne as Catherine Hennis, along with Mr Frank Dallas as Sammy Shaws, No. 141, supply the fun. The fight with sledge-hammers in the last act is quite a feature of the piece.

EASTBOURNE.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr A. Standen Triggs.—Mr Charles Hamilton's admirable company is appearing here in *Peggy Machree*. To speak of Miss Marie Dainton as Peggy is to speak of a charming actress whose pretty voice and bewitching ways command the applause of a delighted audience; Miss Annie Brophie is a capital Moira; Miss Dorothy Garden a refined and subdued Emily Prior; and Miss Jenny Dawson a very pleasing Madame de la Cour. Miss Paula Von Arold as Molly uses a fine voice with excellent effect; Mr Denis O'Sullivan is a picturesque and hearty Barry Trevor, and his fine voice and artistic style make his contributions a great success; Mr Erskine Lang has a "dude" part which suits him admirably; and Mr J. Græme Campbell gives a characteristic performance as M'Dougall. Mr Marc M'Dermott is a polished Captain de la Cour; Mr Edward Fitzgerald gives a capital character sketch of the Irishman Michael; and Mr Alex. Johnstone as Sergeant Brampton sings his songs in capital style.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Samuel Lloyd.—Plenty of variety is included in the bill offered here this week. Mr George W. Leslie and company, a clever quartette, briskly and brightly play *Chums*. Mr Fred and Miss Lila Lorrison as comedy artistes keep the house in roars of laughter; Miss Fifi's excellent voice and graceful figure make her a favourite as a singer and dancer; Mr Frank Seeley in his contributions proves himself an able comedian; Mr Billy Tucker punches the ball to the interest of the audience; Miss Helena Cecile earns much applause; Grove and Chalmer appear successfully in a sketch; Mr Richard Lomas gives his life-like performance as a monkey; Miss Madge Alwood is a pleasing vocalist; and the Three Bees, and the new Hippodrome pictures complete the bill.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr George Hayes.—A good variety programme is being given here this week. The great Cee-Mee Family of aerial gymnasts are heartily welcomed; M. Francis confines dexterity and cleverness in his feats with the cannon-ball, being well supported by his funny partner, Alfred; Mr Henry Moore's successful efforts at mimicry are received with hearty applause; the turn of the Moxon Family is clever and varied; Kweery's illusion and mystery quite puzzle the audience; Miss Inez Clough is a ballad vocalist of exceptional ability; Miss Flo D'Orville is a comedienne and dancer of merit; the Sisters Dixon are capable singers and dancers; Miss Nora Noble sings and dances cleverly; and Leo Lester's dogs complete the bill.

EBBW VALE.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Manager, Mr Arthur Knight.—During the week Mr and Mrs William Maclaren's répertoire company appeared in *Proof*, *David Garrick*, *Lady of Lyons*, and *East Lynne*. In *Proof* Mr William Maclaren did well as Pierre Lorance, and Miss Lily U. Bandmann was extremely successful in the parts of Madeline and Valentine.

EDINBURGH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs Howard and Wyndham, Limited; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter Hollister.—*Jack and the Beanstalk*, like the beanstalk itself, still continues to grow—in popularity—and on Monday night a renewed hearing of the pantomime showed that it was running as smoothly and merrily as ever. Everything in the production and everyone in the cast add something vital to the general ensemble, and an admirable feature is the outstanding merit to be found in the performance of even the humblest members of the company. The ballets so well led by the talented Tiller Troupe give pleasure to a large circle, and the singing and dancing of these sprightly ladies could not be improved upon. A great favourite with the public is Master Lupino-Lane as the Young Squire, while later on in the evening his poodle dog is the very embodiment of canine sagacity and creates plenty of diversion among the little folks brigade. Another indespensable animal is Wilhelmina, the cow, so cleverly acted by Mr Harry Lupino, who is responsible for much laugter in the earlier scenes, while other parts played with plenty of spiritare Snap and Snorum, by Arthur Ricketts and Arthur Dandoe, and Smiler and Smirk, the Giant's cooks, by Griffin and Marks, who are capital acrobats. Mr George Lake Grange also fills the rôle of Blunderbore with great ability. The energetic manager, Mr John J. Lloyd, keeps things up to the mark on the stage; Mr George Burnley, master of the music, fulfils his agreeable duties as conductor with notable skill; and it is always a pleasure to see Mr Walter Hollister, the popular acting-manager—kind, courteous, and indefatigable—at his accustomed post in front.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll.—Miss Florrie Gallimore is a universal favourite, and when she tripped lightly and daintily on to the stage here on Monday the applause was loud and prolonged. With a bright budget of songs Miss Gallimore sang up to her reputation, her impersonation of a Geisha-girl being charmingly Japanese. Miss Tilly Bébé and her troupe of twelve performing lions gave a spice of excitement to the programme, and this fearless young lady's daring doings with her shaggy-maned friends evoked wonder and admiration. The Baldwin Brothers, in their unique American acrobatic act, gave a display which was as neat as it was novel, and Barrey Vox in his well-known ventriloquial entertainment, "Ally Sloper at Home," kept the audience thoroughly amused. Two tried and trusty mirth-makers were welcomed in Frazer and Mac, whose skit on a drama was funny, and whose patter was delightfully absurd. The Sisters Slater combined graceful dancing with singing and banjo playing; Geoffreys and Benson appeared in a smart and diverting duologue entitled *Spoofed*; Arthur Melrose whistled himself into favour; and Daisy Ray and the American Bioscope completed the company.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Eade Montefiore.—King pantomime continues his reign here, and with so splendid a Prince as fair and fascinating Miss Florrie Forde to represent him in *Little Red Riding Hood* it is not surprising that Mr Montefiore's enterprise should be rewarded with success. Miss Forde with her fine presence, dashing style, and well-sung catchy songs would make the fortune of any pantomime, and the manager is to be congratulated on securing so handsome and popular a principal boy. Miss Forde, who caught on so quickly on the first night, has been applauded to the echo at every performance since, and her personal triumph as actress and vocalist has been very great. Her principal songs have made a hit, and are liberally encored, the joyous and refreshing "Bull and Bush" fairly bringing down the house on each occasion. Mr Frank Dunlop is really excellent as Granny; his style is inimitable, and never fails to gain hearty approval. Mr Fowler Thatcher's Lawyer Slyfox is a perfect gem, and other parts are capitally filled by Messrs Fred Hallam, J. W. Brighten, J. E. O'Connor, and C. Brady. As the heroine Miss Gertie Gitana is very popular.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Tom Ellis.—Mr Henry Eglington's company commenced a short engagement here on Monday evening in *When the Lights are Low*, a four-act drama of absorbing interest by E. Hill Mitchelson. The performance was well sustained, and gave full satisfaction to a large audience. Mr Edward Heanley's representation of Guy Goldsworthy was at once careful and powerful, and Mr Tom Ronald, who played the villain, proved a first-rate Roland Goldsworthy. Miss G. Baring created a favourable impression in the rôle of Nan Christie, and Miss Cicely Desmond also made a satisfactory appearance.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr John Henry Cooke.—Mr Cooke has a roving eye for talent, and can always be counted on to secure the best in the market, consequently there was much to interest and amuse in the programme submitted at his unrivalled circus on Monday. Taking a prominent place was a cleverly acted extravaganza, entitled *A Prince for an Hour*; while Miss Ernestine Rosa's representations of classical statuary remain a highly attractive item. Clever performances were also given by Onda and Leon on the horizontal bar, and the Martinettes were seen to advantage in a capital knockabout turn. "Aqua wreck" still remains the grand attraction, and this wonderfully realistic water display certainly puts the crown on Mr Cooke's record as a producer of sensations on a large and lavish scale.

EXETER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Secretary and Manager, Mr Fred Pollard; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy M. Dunsford.—A crowded house greeted the first performance in the city of the Japanese play, *The Darling of the Gods*, presented by Mr J. Bannister Howard's company. Mr Alfred Goddard is thoroughly at home in the part of Kara, his portrayal lacking nothing in power and finish. Miss Inez Bensusan depicts Yo-San in a manner which leaves nothing to be desired. The rôle of the crafty Zakkuri is ably filled by Mr Edward A. Warburton, to his efforts the success of the production being in no small measure due. Rosy Sky is successfully played by Miss Edith Anton Laing; Messrs Leonard Grey and Alexander Haviland both making the most of their opportunities as Saigon and Tanda Tanji respectively.

FALKIRK.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr Horace W. Ebbutt.—Mr Charles Harrington's No. 1 American combination has held the boards and the interest of large audiences with *Uncle Tom's Cabin* during the week. Mr J. Carr as Uncle Tom brings appropriate dignity and repose to bear on a rather exacting part. As Phineas Fletcher Mr Charles Harrington gives an ideally life-like representation of the cool, business-like Yankee turned Quaker. Mr Guy P. Ellis as George Harris acts with freedom and ease. Miss Zerlina Zerbina (Mrs Harrington) brings the necessary dramatic power into the interpretation of the part of Cassy, and Little Minnie as Eva deserves a special word of praise for her natural acting. Miss Hettie Johnson as Eliza Harris, Miss Hero Hathaway as Mrs St. Clair, Miss Ida Fane as Aunt Ophelia, Mr Alfred Richards as Mr St. Clair, Mrs Carr as Aunt Chloe, Mr John Gibson as Mr Wilson, and Mr Fred Charles as Marks all perform their parts well. The part of Topsy finds a capital exponent in Miss Sylvia Stella, her quips and cranks and oddities keeping the audience in the best of humour. The piece is excellently staged, and in the great plantation scene the company gives ample demonstration of the wealth and variety of its talent, including as it does a number of real Negroes and freed slaves.

FARNWORTH.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr T. Morton Powell.—This week we have a visit from Messrs Polini and Melford's company in *The Silver King*. The title-rôle is played with excellent results by Mr H. Ford, who gives a scholarly representation. An excellent and convincing performance of the part of Jaikes is forthcoming from Mr E. George; and the Nellie Denver of Miss Lillian Bethell invokes sympathy. The play is beautifully mounted.

FOLKESTONE.

PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr H. W. Rowland.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr Mark Blow's company in the American play *At Cripple Creek* is here this week. Mr Mark Blow's impersonation of Joe Mayfield is excellent; Mr Walter Thornton acquits himself well as Martin Mason; Mr Charles D. Pitt is very good as Manuel Alvarez; Mr Reginald Harley-West is realistic as Wahketah; Mr Albert Rogers as Ben White does full justice to the part; Mr Will Hook gives a capital rendering of the rôle of Reggie Harwood; Miss Daisy Carlton looks and acts well as Maggie Mason; Miss Hope Mayne as Belle Gordon is charming; Little May Douglas takes the part of Tatto in a pleasing manner; Miss Leslie Wynne gives satisfaction as Sarah Lively; and Miss Emelie Polini is all that can be desired as Ann Marbury.

GAINSBOROUGH.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton.—Mr T. Arthur Jones and company presented *Life's Sweetest Sin* on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Mr Jones appeared with ability as Captain Harold Marston; Doreen Rivers was well played by Miss Madge Morley; Mr Oswald Douglas supplied the villainous element as Dr. Colbrooke; and the comedy parts of Bob Tanner and Bess Grayson were amusingly played by Mr Fred Russell and Miss Dudley. Mr Cecil Clayton's *Cinderella* company occupied the boards for the remainder of the week.

GATESHEAD.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Bolam and Bacon; General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon.—Diverting from the variety business, the management here are this week staging on the two-houses-nightly system a pantomime entitled *Aladdin*. It is produced by Mr Frank Macnaghten. Miss Meg Hamilton plays the title-rôle, and Princess Badroulbadour is embodied by Miss Polly Prim.

GLASGOW.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy Humphrys.—*The Forty Thieves* continues to draw large audiences at every performance, and the striking beauty of the scenery and dresses excite general admiration. The unfortunate indisposition of Miss Annie Purcell prevented this talented lady from appearing all last week, and on Monday she was still out of the cast. The part of Ganem is now filled by Miss Pearl Lyndon, whose original part of Morgiana is taken by Miss Eva Weigh. Mr Tom E. Murray is always an amusing comedian, and as Ali Baba he is suited to a nicety, finding a valuable companion in Mr Fred Griffiths, whose Donkey is one of the hits of the pantomime. Mr George Lashwood appears with conspicuous success as Abdallah, and as Hassacre Mr Henry Claff sings and acts with his usual intensity. Cassim and his wife are a humorous couple as played by Mr Percy Clifton and Mr William Benson respectively, and in the part of Fairy Sesame Miss Annie Braddan proves herself a singer of considerable ability.

ROYALTY, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr Wm. M. Downie.—*Jack and Jill* continues to meet with undiminished popularity. The principals have introduced new songs, and tokens of appreciation are frequent. Miss Frances Earle as Prince Fearless repeats her old success and is a great favourite. Miss May Merry as Jack and Miss Mabel Higson as Jill are as happy as ever in song and dance. The Princess Bountiful of Miss Florence Burdett is a charming performance. Miss Jessie Templeton as Trim and Miss May Sharples as Fantine do credit to their parts. The comedians all work hard, and keep the house in capital humour, Mr Freddy French as Ginger, Mr Leslie Stiles as Baron Deadbroke, and especially Mr Harry Conlin as Dame Durden making their parts irresistibly funny. Other favourites are Miss Millie Warde, Mr Barney Dixon, Mr Walter Watson, Mr Harry Nelson, and Mr Frank Woodville.

KING'S, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr H. Macfarlane.—This is the second week of Mr George Edwardes's company in *The Cingalee*, and audiences both large and fashionable are crowding the theatre nightly.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr Hugh Murdoch.—*Goosy Gander* continues its successful career, and has well earned the title of "the laughing success." The comedians, who could say like the little girl in the poem "we are seven," are eleven individually, and work together with a will to keep the audience thoroughly amused from the rise till the fall of the curtain. First comes Mr John E. Coyle, who as the Baron's silly son, Goosy Gander, is as funny a pantomime comedian as one could wish to see, while his little snatches of mock melodrama bring down the house. The amusing scene entitled "Quiet Lodgings" itself contains as many laughs as might have served for the entire evening. Messrs Regan and Ryan are a clever couple, and all their business, knockabout or otherwise, is smart and genuinely amusing. Mr Arthur Poole as the Baron keeps the incongruous elements of the character well in view, and another good impersonation is the Jenny Awthings of Mr Dawson Dewick, cleverly played on modern lines, without any semblance of exaggeration. Messrs John and George Preston ably add their quota of fun, and the first especially as the canny Scotchman forms an excellent foil to the more volatile humours of Mr John E. Coyle. All the comedians are smart dancers, a fact which the popular parts of the house are especially quick to appreciate. In the matter of a principal boy and girl the Princess's is again this year lucky in securing such a clever pair as Miss Lily Morris and Miss Daisy Dormer. Both have already made hits at this house, and as singers and dancers would be hard to beat. Miss Morris's dashing style makes her an ideal Fred Fearless, and she carries the audience easily with her, more particularly in her songs, in the choruses of which they join in with enthusiasm. Miss Daisy Dormer is a charming Rosey, and her dancing abilities are much above the average. She contributes several clever coon songs with appropriate dances, and never gets off without giving an encore. Her burlesque scena with Mr John Preston is extremely well done, and is one of the hits of the pantomime. The Sisters Cora make a lively second boy and girl, and also score in their various songs and dances. A special word is due to Miss Daisy Pavor for her clever dance in the Palace scene, and to two young ladies who assist Messrs Regan and Ryan in a cake walk.

METROPOLE, LIMITED.—Managing Director, Mr Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr John Dunbar.—*The New Barmaid*, under the direction of Mr Alexander Loftus, is appearing here this week. A winsome impersonator of the title-rôle is found in Miss Nance O'Neil, who acts in a manner both bright and unaffected. Miss Violet Osmund submits a refreshing study of the lady journalist, her pert, go-ahead manner and her graceful dancing making her peculiarly fitted for her part. The character of Bertie White, giving great scope for individuality, is still in the hands of Mr Joseph B. Montague, who plays it with a drollery entirely his own, and in his humorous patter gets in some very clever hits. The agile and harassed-looking Frenchman is made sufficiently laughable by Mr Frank Melroyd, and Mr Alexander Loftus makes the rôle of William a highly amusing one. Mr Leslie Austin, possessing an excellent voice, sustains the part of Captain Lovebury in good style. His various songs are well received, "Will you marry me?" being specially singled out by the audience. A very diverting Colonel is played by Mr Arthur Rodney. Miss Hilda Blanche as Brenda and Miss Jean Gilmour as Lady Moulton appear with marked success. Mr Norman Bowyer is very good as Braddy, while all the lesser characters give valuable support throughout the piece.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr J. H. Oakden.—*The Belle of New York* is the attraction here this week. In the parts of Violet Grey, Fifi Fricot, and Cora the Misses Nora Hersee, Ada Elliston, and Louie Codman vie with each other in charming with song and clever dancing, and in their vocal efforts each achieves very deserved success. Miss Florence Hersee as Kissie and Mamie displays genuine ability of a varied order in two intricate, yet very similar parts. Mr Harry A. Meymott as the elder Bronson is admirable, and in Mr H. Wardroper, who sings in fine style, he has a worthy coadjutor in carrying on the "business" which falls to him and Harry Bronson. Mr Walter Emro's Polite Lunatic is well studied, as is the Blinky Bill of Mr Maurice Holmes, a sufficient of merit, who is encored for his clever whistling. Mr Walter Uridge as Kenneth Mugg is inimitable. Mr C. M. Johnston as Doc Snifkins is portly, genial, and subduedly amusing. Messrs Yeoman and Cody are excellently cast as the Portuguese Twins, and the lesser rôles are finely represented. The chorus sings with great spirit and tunefulness, aided by an augmented band under Mr Ernest Hartmann.

EMPIRE, LIMITED.—District Manager, Mr Sam Gething; Resident Manager, Mr Arthur Aldin.—Walthour and Kreamer are showing here their ingenious horse versus bicycle act on the movable track and cylinders; Brown and Robinson display great musical ability in their act "Harmony in the Kitchen;" Harry Lawson is a comedian with a good style, and proves popular; the Jackson Family, in their varied musical act, are well received, their selection from Flotow's *Martha* being specially good; Arthur Lennard's well-acted songs are much appreciated; Morris and Morris are clever and amusing eccentric acrobats and comedians; and Billy Hobbs's coon songs and dances are well rendered. Lily Tiso, the Sakers, and Little Uno are also in the programme.

TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr S. King Alexander; Acting-Managers, Messrs Fred C. Ewing and T. J. Colquhoun.—The programme provided at the above halls this week includes Savarvaroff, Russian wrestler, who met and defeated several local champions on the opening night; the Finneys, the well-known aquatic performers; the Abadaroffs, acrobats; Bandoni, instrumentalist; J. P. Carroll, military tambourine player; Alf Walker, Negro comedian; Lilian Rigby, instrumentalist and dancer; Marion Edwardes, vocalist; Appo, table expert; Joe Mac, comedian; Preston and Balmain, in illustrated song; Frank Boyce, character vocalist; the Two Graces, comediennes; and Bendon's Bioscope.

PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs Rich Waldon and Thos. Barraford; Assistant Manager, Mr H. M'Kelvie.—Leo Dryden is here, and his song-scenas, old and new, are highly popular, "The Miner's Dream of Home," "Garrick," and "Freedom and Japan" being included in his list. Nelson's Newsboys give a clever varied turn of song and dance. Pichel Troupe are wonderfully smart and neat acrobats. Carina Sisters contribute an enjoyable musical turn. Chas. Baron's burlesque menagerie proves as amusing as ever. Beattie Kent is a smart serio and dancer. Melaine is a neat lady wire-walker. The Bennesetti Troupe give an acrobatic and balancing display. Mollie Doon, a taking young singer; Tom Collins, comedian; and the animated pictures complete a varied programme.

BRITANNIA.—Lessee, Mr James Anderson; Manager, Mr Harry Henfrey.—The Cadona Trio top the bill here this week, appearing in their screaming absurdity, *The Corsican Brothers*. Cambo, the musical monkey, is also a clever turn, while the sketch entitled *A Night in Ireland*, interspersed with song and story (given by the popular lessee), is highly appreciated. John Lorimer, tenor, is heard to much advantage in numerous songs. Miss M. Blair, soprano, captivates the audience with her charming voice. Frank Sauterons, champion jumper, gives a capital exposition of trick jumping. The other members of the company include J. Mackie, Scotch comic; Duncan and Morton, comedians; the Britannia Bioscope; and an amateur wrestling tournament.

HARMONIC CONCERTS.—Musical Secretary, Mr William Biggam.—The Howards are, without doubt, clever mystifiers, and completely bewildered the audience; the Scottish Troubadours, instrumentalists, are universal favourites; Mr Hubner's Animatograph is much enjoyed; Jack Chambers and E. H. Edwards achieve success in their respective turns; Florence Lambeth and Robert Robertson, in their sketch, *Scots Folks' Wooin'*, display much humour; Jack Mills is an energetic comedian. Cissie Arris, a clever dancer; Esther Hood, soprano; and Robert T. Meikle, bass, complete a good bill.

GLOUCESTER.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Owners, Messrs C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr W. H. Weller.—Following the pantomime we have Mr E. Oswald Brooke's company in the musical comedy *The Girl from Bond-street*. Miss Marie Vere as Lucy Harvey gives a neat representation, and Lottie Harvey, a variety artiste, is briskly enacted by Miss Viola Keith. Miss Maud Beard as Mrs Harvey is seen to advantage; Mr Campbell Goldsmid proves an excellent Earl of Seacombe; Mr George Watts does well as Sir George Fielding; Mr F. R. Heaton enhances his reputation as the Hon. Archie Green by his clever acting; and Miss Ivy Alberto as Edna Vanderbilk, an American heiress, with a very decided accent is successful; Mr Edward De Vere as Micky Mulvarney makes the most of his many opportunities; Miss Ethel Russell is quietly effective as Lady Fielding. The New York Quartet dance in capital style, and Mr Louis La Rondelle, who is responsible for the lyrics and music, conducts the orchestra and the chorus efficiently.

GOOLE.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr John E. Tomlinson.—On Monday Miss Grace Warner, supported by Mr George Gordon and company, opened here in the musical farcical comedy *The Little Widow*. The rôle of Mr Wilkins Potter is cleverly embodied by Mr George Gordon; Mr St. Bernard Wynton as the medical student impersonates the character with the necessary dash and go, singing his numbers in capital style; as Auguste Bonsier Mr Dan Clifford is a great success; and Mr Vynor Rayner makes a good Morton. Miss Grace Warner is charming in the title-rôle, her singing and acting proving exceptionally good; Miss Marion Fawcett is an excellent Mrs Wilkins Potter; Miss Maud Warburton sings and acts capitally as Emily Randal; and Miss Kathleen Cranston causes roars of laughter as Sophonisba. *My Artful Valet* was billed for Wednesday, with Mr John E. Tomlinson (lessee) in the cast.

GREENOCK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, the Executors of the late Mr Alex Wright; Managers, Messrs A. B. Wright and J. J. Wright.—Mr J. Rice Cassidy is here this week with a powerful company in *The God of War* and *Dan, the Rake*. The former piece was played on Monday. Mr J. Rice Cassidy as Dandy Donovan created much fun; Mr Frederick Biron gave a vivid portrayal of Count Cortes; Mr Stephen Crossley was an excellent Carlos Armado; Mr Frank Orchard ably filled the rôle of Rega Alvado; and Mr Joe Cuthbertson did well as Señor Armado. Mr Frank Copeland played Lord Beamer in a way that left nothing to be desired; Mr Charles Crosby was good as Marcio; and Mr Storman Wallet made the most of his opportunities as Dr. Roderigo. Miss Lillian Clare was a bright and attractive Dolly Daly; Miss Ada Roscoe was all that could be desired as Señora Alvado; and the same may be said of Miss Florence Halton as Madeline Alvado.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr H. L. Skivington.—This week's company here includes the Zaros (ladies and gentleman), acrobats, a clever turn; Read and Write, a first-class pair of duettists and dancers; Mdlle. Melita, a charming transformation dancer; the Hearts, expert and amusing dancers and comedians; Tell and Tell, eccentric comedians and equilibrists; Kate Gourlay, a pleasing coon singer and dancer; Mitzi, an able Japanese juggler; and Mdlle. Koët, the artist's model.

GRIMSBY.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr S. Tolfree.—The annual pantomime opened here on Monday, Messrs Dottridge and Longden's *Forty Thieves* being presented. It has proved an extremely entertaining show, with plenty of amusing comedy and good songs. Miss Dolly Elsworthy as Ganem made a dashing principal boy, her dancing being especially admired. Miss Lily Lonsdale was most pleasing as Morgiana, and her singing of Arditi's "Il Bacio" was one of the hits of the pantomime. The drolleries of Mr Ernie Myers as Harsarac were greatly diverting; Mr Cliff Dover was amusing as the dame, Cogia; and Mr James Danvers made a jovial Ali Baba. Miss Cissie Kingsley was an imposing figure as Abdallah. The antics of the donkey, Moketta, represented by Mr James Dubois, created roars of laughter. Mr Dubois also introduced his inimitable impersonation of a monkey. The performance of the Achmed Ibrahim Troupe of Bedouin acrobats was possibly the most popular item of the pantomime. Their skill in human pyramid building and somersault throwing is astounding. The Reed Oetzman Troupe also contributed a laughable pantomimic sketch.

NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr Steuart Cecil.—To say that Dida has astounded the Palace audiences this week is to mildly describe the sensation caused. Lockhart's elephants are another popular turn, and Raffin's educated monkeys are also the cause of much interest. A clever display of foot juggling and equilibristic work is given by the Wartenburg Brothers; the Wynford Brothers have proved themselves smart barrel jumpers; and other turns are given by Lilieth Leyton, in a sketch, *The Order of the Bath*; Lauri Wylie's mimicking mannikins; Florence Gwynne, in a musical scena, "The Stage-Struck Servant;" and the Sisters Wyngrove, duettists and dancers.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr T. Allan Edwardes.—Performances by trained animals have become a feature at the Hippodrome. This week De Gracia's baby elephants have delighted audiences with their quaint performance. The trio of infantile leviathans are exceptionally well trained, and there is a distinct spice of novelty about the feats they perform. A pantomimic sketch, embracing a lot of surprise, trick, and knockabout comedy work, is given by the Revell Troupe; Kavados has given a clever display of juggling and cannon ball manipulation; and others who have contributed to the programme are Flo Melville, burlesque artiste; Chas. Beanland, comedian; the Haldyne Duo, in a comedy speciality; Fred Horsfall, mimic; and C. Hurst, ventriloquist.

GUERNSEY.

ST. JULIAN'S HALL.—Sole Lessee, Mr C. Robt. Perkins.—Mr Frank Fenton's company opened here on Monday with the domestic drama *Still Waters Run Deep*. Mr Fenton was consistently good as Mr Mildway; Miss Louise Vansittart deepened the impression previously made by her clever and finished embodiment of Mrs Sternhold; and Miss May Cull capably played Mrs Mildway. Mr Bellendon Clarke impersonated Captain Hawkeswood with earnestness, and the Peter of Mr F. Elton deserves special mention. At the conclusion of the

performance Mr Fenton addressed the audience, proffering his thanks on behalf of the members of his company and himself for the kindly way in which they had been received.

HALIFAX.

GRAND THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling.—Mr Edward Marris's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, which is here this week, will take rank amongst the best of touring pantomimes. It is a very entertaining show, replete with variety, and goes throughout with a merry swing. Miss Joey Preston has the name-part, and is thoroughly successful in it. Miss Mena Eckermann is a dainty and charming Alice; her songs are particularly well given, and her dainty dancing and general deportment are eminently suited to the part. Plenty of fun accrues from the work of Messrs Fred Acton, Harry Russell, W. and P. Frean, Rezene and Robini, who all deserve praise. The cat is smartly undertaken by Will Kashma. The specialities are numerous, and add to the success of the pantomime.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Frank Macnaghten.—A cleverly worked pantomimic and acrobatic sketch is admirably performed by the Pickard Troupe here this week; Miss Ella Shield and her quartet of dancers do a particularly smart turn of vocalism and dancing; Joe Almasio has a clever and amusing turn; Hall and Earl are very funny in their work, which of itself is very clever; Percy Hannan has a rich voice, and sings patriotic songs with power and expression; and the Sisters Desmond can always rely on a good reception in Halifax.

HANLEY.

ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr Chas. Elphinstone.—Mr Frederick Mouillot's company is here with *My Lady Molly*. Mr George M'Closkie as Mickey O'Dowd shows exceptional ability. Lady Molly has a worthy exponent in Miss Beatrice Edwards. Miss Zoe Gilfillan as Alice Coverdale acts admirably. Miss Mabel Carr does well as Madeline Mirabeau. The part of Captain Harry Romney is safe in the hands of Mr Albert Chapman, and that of Lionel Bland is cleverly sustained by Mr Ernest Mozart. The rôle of Sir Miles Coverdale is in the capable hands of Mr H. Godwin Hunt. All the other characters are well portrayed.

GRAND, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr C. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr James Wynes.—Rousby's "In Paris" heads the bill this week. The show is a triumph of scenery and lighting. Arthur Reece is a refined and accomplished artist. The Hartley Wonders contribute a wonderful jumping exhibition; the Garganis, comedy acrobats, are amusing and clever; Messrs Morton and Elliott do some excellent paper tearing, and their singing and dancing are excellent; Miss Maggie Walsh sings admirably; and the Olympian Quartet vocalise well. Miss Amy Sullivan is a smart comedienne. Griff does a wonderful juggling act, and is as funny as ever. A capital sketch, *My Landlord*, presented by the Lavers and Lake comedy company, is much appreciated.

HARROGATE.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr Cyril Fielding-Smith.—Messrs Forge and Dalton's clever company, in the pantomime of *Cinderella*, commenced a week's engagement here on Monday. Miss Chummie La Mara as the Prince and Miss Lizzie Primmer in the title-rôle and Miss Julie Alexander as the Page were each a great success, and received hearty applause. Mr C. T. Challoner as the Baron's Page is good; whilst Mr F. C. Brooke and Little Tony as the ugly sisters are the cause of much fun. Mr Johnny Chippendale is an excellent Baron. The speciality turns are remarkably good.

HARTLEPOOL.

EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; General Manager, Mr Harry Burns.—Auto Atlas is causing quite a sensation with his exhibition of feats of strength, in which he lifts by his teeth a fully equipped motor-car carrying two persons. Tom Lloyd, an old favourite, has to do four turns before his audience are content; the Brothers Ralston are successful in their song, "Blind leading the blind;" Sydney Lee gives a smart conjuring entertainment; his card manipulations are very neat; Hector and Paulus are well received in their equilibristic feats; Bertha Norwood is a dainty singer and expert dancer; and Sam Thompson's Scotch comedy is highly amusing.

HASTINGS.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Geo. H. Gaze.—On Monday Mr Samuel James's company with the pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor* opened a fortnight's visit here. The scenery is pretty, the dresses are tasteful, and the chorus is pleasingly notable. Miss Daisy Silcott played charmingly in the title-rôle, and her songs were well rendered. Miss Ida Katerina won much approval in song and dance. Miss Ethel Dove delighted the audience as Zoradee. Messrs Dale and O'Malley created much merriment as the Twins; the comic element was further contributed to by Mr Alfred Donohoe as Coglia Ali, Mr Dan O'Connor as Tinbad, and Mr Sid Morton as Shirsze Ali. All were quaint, whimsical, and alert. Mr Dick M'Kay's Old Man of the Sea was notable, and the harlequinade by the Sando Troupe was amusing.

HASTINGS PIER PAVILION.—Pier Master, Mr R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr J. D. Hunter.—Mr Edward Neville's company are drawing fairly good houses to witness the play entitled *The Sorrows of Satan*. The piece is well staged. Mr Edward Neville takes the character of the uncanny Prince Lucio in a masterly manner. Geoffrey Tempest could hardly have been in better hands than those of Mr O'Connor. Lady Sybil Elton is well represented by Miss Annie Brunette. Miss Rosie Neville is smart as her sister Phyllis. Miss Violet Hammersley is natural as Mavis Clare, and Miss Lole Esmond is an acceptable exponent of Diana Chesney.

ST. LEONARD'S PIER PAVILION.—Pier-Master and Entertainment Manager, Mr Elvey Thomas.—The Kursaal orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr Val Marriott, is nearing the end of their season. They still delight the lovers of high-class music, and the concerts here continue to be well patronised.

HIPPODROME.—General Manager, Mr Harold Penny.—The artistes engaged here this week include Mr George Victor, comedian, and the comedy gymnasts the Brothers Venola, who cause great amusement by their clever performance. Miss Eily Adair is an attractive comedienne and dancer. A musical absurdity is introduced by Miss Zeta Gray, who possesses a remarkably good soprano. Mr Wal Grace and Master Hillier are associated with her in the sketch. Herr Fritz proves himself a highly gifted and quite original illusionist. The Sisters Selwin are charming duettists and dancers. The American mimic Mr Harold Hughman is well applauded. An original operetta by the M'Connell Trio is a great success.

HORWICH.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Sandiford.—Hamilton's Excursions, after an interval of seven years, are paying a return visit, and vividly bring to mind the changes during the past few years. No longer the time honoured canvas panorama, but animated pictures (excellently presented by the Bioscope, operated by Mr Charles Ralph), provide a most enjoyable evening's entertainment. The musical numbers under the direction of Mr Felix Hamilton and the description given by Mr C. Bowen are thoroughly up to the mark. Variety is supplied by Santo in a very amusing and smart ventriloquial sketch, and Zidney in a remarkable performance of equilibrism.

HOYLAND.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Owner, Mr Arthur Carlton; Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr G. S. King.—Mr Horace Stanley's company is here in the sensational drama, *The 10 30 Down Express*. The author of the popular play lent valuable aid by the brisk and breezy style in which he personated Sam Wagstaffe; Lieutenant O'Malley was played with fine spirit by Mr H. T. Wood; Mr Scott Leighton gave evidence of good acting power in his depiction of James Inderwick; Mr Harry L. Day was an astute Huntley Mason; and Miss Effie Bartlett imparted grace and effectiveness to her portraiture of Bessie Leigh.

HUDDERSFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy G. Arthur.—Hilarity clean and continuous is the keynote of Mr Milton Bode's pantomime of *Puss in Boots*, which is here for the week. The comedians are capable and untiring. Mr Harry Bickley is crisp and effective as Dame Shortly; Mr Tommy Nelldon, a merry Miggles, is a good dancer; Mr Billy Harman's incisive style is displayed as Baron Rumphiz; and Mr Joe English imparts a diverting mock dignity to his impersonation of King Grabbus. Miss Flo Challis, an attractive principal boy, in her part of Colin introduces such popular successes as "Blue Bell" and "The Old Bull and Bush" with flattering results; Miss Orpha Paris sings with taste and dances well as Phyllis; Miss Hetty Lee is smart as Prince Rudolph; and Miss Odeyne Spark makes a very charming Princess Ivy. A distinctly clever animal impersonation is contributed by Mr Tom E. Cliffe as Slyboots, his dancing being original and well executed. Miss Essie Cregeen uses a fine, well-cultured voice as the fairy queen, Felina. Specialities are provided by the Dandinis, comedy jugglers, and the Edene Troupe of skilled acrobatic dancers. The dresses are harmonious in colouring and effective in design. The scenery, all of which is carried for the production is very pretty.

HYDE.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr Joseph W. Maloney.—Mr John Walters's company is here this week in the pantomime, *Cinderella*. Miss Constance St. Bride makes a smart and dashing Prince Charming, and sings with artistic effect; Miss Florence Drew as Cinderella looks pretty and sings most creditably; Dandini and Flighty Flirt have two graceful impersonators in the Misses Billy and Dolly Linn, whose duets and dances are loudly applauded; plenty of boisterous fun is provided by Messrs George Reeves and T. H. Solly as the two Ugly Sisters; Mr Ally M. Benson as Buttons and Messrs Clarence and Bell, who appear in a number of rôles. Miss Vera Vizard warbles tunefully as the Fairy Dewdrop. The principal specialities are Omega, the queen of the wire, and the Onatis Troupe of Algerian jugglers, both turns being exceedingly clever. The pantomime is excellently mounted.

ILKESTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr L. F. A. Rogers.—The boards are occupied this week by Mr William Greet's company in *The Sign of the Cross*. Mr F. B. Woulfe presents an excellent study of Marcus Superbus, and Miss Evelyn D'Alroy is a charming Mercia, both artists receiving well-earned applause. Miss Ivy Millais is deserving of the highest praise for her capital rendering of Stephanus. Miss Alma Bolton (Berenice) and Miss Cissie Carlton (Dacis) are artistes of no mean ability. Mr A. Bernhardt Turner poses well as Nero, and Miss Nellie Bonser suitably takes the part of Poppæa. Mr Frank Wood is very effective as Glabrio. Mr Charles Aldred as Tigellinus is a clever exponent, and Mr J. Wetherall scores as Lucinius.

INVERNESS.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Cameron Burgess.—*Little Red Riding Hood* is being presented here by Miss Rose Monerieff's company. Miss Monerieff takes the part of Red Riding Hood; Mr W. E. Matthews is very funny as Granny; Mr George Tearle does well as Baron Badlot; Mons. Levano performs some wonderful feats in turning somersaults, and is loudly applauded. Specialities are given by the Diamond Quartet of lady dancers, and the Coopers, musical experts.

IPSWICH.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. G. Fisk.—Mr Milton Bode' pantomime of *Cinderella* has been played here this week to good houses. Mr Leo Stirling makes a droll Baron Balmy; the step-daughters are grotesquely represented by Messrs J. Nolan and P. Dawson; the Prince and Cinderella are both portrayed by clever Miss Hebe Bliss and Miss Florence Beach, whose singing is loudly applauded; and Mr George Antill as the page Capers is humorous.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr Fred Barrett.—The programme arranged here for the week includes the following attractive turns:—Miss Marie York, a vivacious singer and dancer; Dan Noble and Burn, comedians; Ada Vernon, burlesque vocalist; Hooper's Poses Plastiques; Stanley Greenop, banjoist; and Berg, whose marvellous feats as a "strong man" evoke much applause.

KEIGHLEY.

QUEEN'S THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs Carson and Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Barnes.—Messrs Mitchelson and Fineberg's company in *The Traitor* opened on Monday to a good house. Mr John C. Carlyle essayed the dual-rôle of Prince Rudolph and Colonel Nervi, and was quite successful. The Chief of Police (the Traitor) was played in a masterly manner by Mr Stephen Scanlan; Captain Ross was in the capable hands of Mr T. W. Hurst; Mr Frank Sutherland created much amusement as Jack Boult; Miss Isabel Hunt acted with touching pathos; Miss Ruth Shepherd scored as Zula; Miss Frances White was an excellent Countess Zicka; and Miss Hettie Senior distinguished herself as Elise Duprez.

KETTERING.

AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Payne.—This week we have a welcome return visit from Mr H. Swinerd's *Dare-Devil Dorothy* company, under the able direction of Mr J. W. Cordiner. In the title-rôle Miss Marjorie Cecil is seen to advantage, and Miss Kathleen Garnon is capable as Ruth Montrose; while Miss Nellie Harcourt is most entertaining as Judith. Mr Cecil W. Parke plays Captain Fielding in excellent style, and scores a distinct success by the able manner in which he renders the vocal numbers allotted to him. Mr Henry C. Ward as the unscrupulous Captain Dudley presents a powerful impersonation; Mr Wilfrid Carr is successful as Featherstone; and Mr W. G. Hearson as Smith and Mr Alf Stretton as Hawkins are deserving of praise. The comedy character of Silas Crump is in the able hands of Mr Arthur Verne, who proves himself a comedian of no mean ability. The clever dancing of the Sisters Blake is deservedly appreciated.

KIDDERMINSTER.

NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr R. C. Gudgeon, jun.—Playgoers here this week have a rare treat in a visit from Mr Edmund Tearle, supported by Miss Kate Clinton. In *The Three Musketeers* Mr Tearle gives a wonderfully strong rendering of the part of D'Artagnan, and Miss Kate Clinton makes a realistic Miladi. The company is strong all round, and the plays, which include *Ingomar*, *Macbeth*, and *Under the Red Robe*, are excellently mounted.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors, Messrs Lister Reekie and Howard Stephens.—The company here includes Van Gelder, a really marvellous conjuror, whose tricks are new; Le Warren, a ventriloquist in the front rank; and Sadie Dana, Elton Moyes, Lillie Hustler, Alice Williams, and "The Prima Donna and Tramp."

KIRKCALDY.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr Rex Sugden.—Messrs Little and Darcy's company has been appearing here this week in *The Forty Thieves*. Miss Minnie Silcott is a dashing Captain of the Forty, Miss Violet Silcott a bright and smart Ganem, and Miss Marie Silcott a charming Morgiana. Hassarac and Hasadric are played by Messrs Malone and Conley in a quaint and amusing manner; Mr Will Dalby and Mr Ted Wotton are successful as Ali and Cassim Baba; Mr James Ferguson as Cogia Baba is excellent, and the Woodbee Wonders do a very smart acrobatic burlesque act. The famous Daunton Shaw Troupe of trick cyclists are exceedingly clever in their smart and interesting turn.

LANCASTER.

ATHENÆUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Hy. Wilkinson.—On Monday a well-filled house assembled to welcome Mr A. E. Smith's pantomime, *Aladdin*. Mr J. H. Maxwell gives prominence to the rôle of Abanazar; Mr Fred Ramsdale makes the most of the part of Widow Twankey; the Grand Vizier has a humorous representative in Mr Teddy Lennon; and as Catcho and Nabbo the Bros. Taylor work hard. The title-rôle is undertaken in a highly satisfactory manner by Miss Elsie Douglas, and Miss Kate O'Neill as the Princess is charming, her singing being a special feature. Specialities are introduced by Miss Elsie Douglas, Bros. Taylor, Miss Maud Bettison, Arnold, illusionist; Four Snowdrops, dancers; J. H. Maxwell, and Madam Helen Godfrey, the musical directress, also plays various instruments.

PALACE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs W. J. Fergusson and John Porter.—Heading the bill here this week is David Poole, ventriloquist, in a clever sketch. Percy Maye, lady impersonator, is highly appreciated, as also are the Bros. Llodge, gymnasts. Walter Payne's animated pictures, Miss Ray Ford, comedienne; Billy Richardson, stump orator; and Julian Mack, comedian, complete the bill.

LEAMINGTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr Harry Esden.—Mr Milton Bode's *Dick Whittington* pantomime holds sway here this week, and is attracting large and enthusiastic houses. It goes with an irresistible swing all through, and indeed it could hardly do otherwise with three such jovial and hard-working comedians as Mr Bob Hutt, who takes the rôle of Fitzwarren, Mr Arthur E. Godfrey, who appears as Idle Jack, and the old favourite, Mr Fred Dark, whose part is that of the "plain but interesting" cook, Matilda. Miss Madoline Rees is an altogether charming figure in the title-part, while Miss Minnie Duncan is a vivacious Alice. Little Miss Lillian Graham quite brings the house down in her dainty dances and songs as the Fairy Claribel, and Miss Florence A. White's smart embodiment of Tommy Trott appeals greatly to the audience. Mention must not be forgotten of Mr Alfred Lester (Captain Scupper), Mr Clifford Morgan (Bill Oakham), who fine voice is heard to advantage in several songs, Miss Nelly Lauraine (the Empress Fatima), Miss Janet H. Reynolds (May), and Mr Tom Gilmore, who makes a clever cat. The chorus is a strong one, and with the augmented orchestra does some efficient work; while the staging is worthy of the highest praise, the scene in the Grand Hall of the Emperor's Palace being one of the finest things of its kind seen on the local stage. The whole pantomime is produced under the able management of Mr E. H. Beaumont.

LEEDS.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr John Hart; General Manager, Mr J. Richardson.—Excellent business continues to be done by *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*, new songs and new dances having been introduced with unqualified success by all the leaders.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr R. Ernest Liston.—*Cinderella* continues a most successful career, and a general improvement is to be noted all round. Mr Deane Tribune, Mr Harry Weldon, and Mr T. B. Fayme are the moving spirits in the way of comic business, and their efforts keep the audience in a state of continual hilarity. The ladies, ably led by Miss Olive Marston and Miss Lola Patey, are ever pleasing and attractive.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Dottridge and Longden; General Manager, Mr C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr Charles Bush.—The management here are reaping a rich reward for their commendable enterprise in getting the transference of the pantomime and company of *Dick Whittington* from the Borough, Stratford, for the house contains a crowded and enthusiastic audience at every performance. The piece opened for a four weeks' run on Monday, and has been voted an immediate success. Miss Carlotta Levey is at once a prime favourite as Dick, her singing and acting reaching a high plane of excellence; Miss Maude Noel is a captivating Alice; and Miss Nora Guy plays the Princess in taking style. Of the fun makers, Foreman and Fannan are much in evidence, their parts of Captain Taffrail and Ben Bobstay giving scope for many mirth-provoking encounters. Mr Ernest Rees is an amusing Dame, revelling in his many opportunities; Mr Harry Kilburn and Mr Harry Rogerson in the parts of Fitzwarren and Idle Jack are excessively humourous; Mr Johnny Fuller is a very successful Cat; Messrs Kelly and Gillette do their wonderful billiard table acrobatic business amidst general applause; and the clever Tiller Troupe of dancers are a feature.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr T. G. Mooney.—The leading attraction here for this week is Staley's Novelty Transformation Act, a remarkable quick-change musical scena. A popular entertaining turn is that of the Dandies, in vocal and instrumental tit-bits, and a most cordial reception is accorded Charles Diamond and Miss Beatrice for their fine musical act. Glee-singing by the Four Royal Welshmen is distinctly popular; that clever and artistic comedienne Miss Ella Retford again finds great favour; Frank Harwood is an actor-vocalist of ability; and another strong favourite in the vocal line, George Adams, is again appearing. The Aurora Troupe do marvellous feats in acrobatics on cycles; Leona Dare repeats her expert gymnastic feats of last week; and the bill is completed by Martin and Quigg, a clever pair of eccentrics.

TIVOLI.—Proprietor, Mr Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Messrs Chas. Weldon and Edgar O. Waller.—That very popular favourite Miss Lottie Lennox opened here on Monday to a full house, and received a warm and demonstrative welcome. The Landor Trio of strong men and gymnasts are an interesting feature, and the Evalos are very entertaining with comic jugglery and gymnastics. R. Judge's performing dogs are a decidedly clever lot, and Mountford and Walsh shine in comedy and speciality business. Other good turns are subscribed by Lillian, expert trick cyclist; Bob Hamilton, Scottish comedian and instrumentalist; and Flora Lumiere, the well-known serpentine and fire danseuse.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr F. W. Wood; General Manager, Mr J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr S. Jones.—Wal Pink and company lead here with a mirth-provoking farcical sketch. An accomplished vocal entertainment by Les Ruebens, duettists, is thoroughly appreciated; the Bosanquets win great favour with their smart and humorous comedy turn; Dan Conroy and J. C. Morris each score a success as eccentric comedians; the Raymond Trio of specialists also make a good impression; and further comic contributions from Fred Land complete the bill.

LOWESTOFT.

MARINA.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Ernest A. Smith.—The attraction this week is Mr Walter Melville's company in *A Girl's Cross Roads*, which is carefully mounted and dressed. The leading parts are powerfully sustained by Miss Hilda Beverley (Barbara Wade) and Mr Charles Franmore as John Meadows. The remaining parts are well treated.

HIPPODROME.—Miss Mabel Love, together with a number of variety artists, paid a flying visit here on Monday evening.

LEICESTER.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; Acting-Manager, Mr C. D. Leigh.—Mr C. P. Levilly's company is here in the popular comic opera, *Amorelle*. Included in the cast are two big Leicester favourites, in the persons of Miss Stella Gastelle, in the name-part, and Mr Eric Thorne, as Dr. Napoleon Bonaparte Crow. Both are conspicuous portrayals which evoke the highest admiration. Mr John Doran deserves great praise for his clever work as Jules; Mr Fred Seymour scores a success as Dotard; and both Mr Newton Ide as Francois and Mr Robert Fairbank as the Count are very good. Miss Kitty Cavendish plays and sings delightfully as Lesbia; and Miss Madge Avery makes a capital Marina. An attractive chorus and augmented orchestra are under the direction of Mr Harry Rushworth, and Mr Herbert Ralland is general manager for the company.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General Manager, Mr C. D. Leigh.—Mr James Willard is presenting Messrs Dottridge and Longden's company here this week in the domestic drama, *The Midnight Mail*. The company is a good one, and the scenic effects are a feature. Miss Mildred Carr as Nancy Brewer and Mr Fred G. Evison as Billy Brewer shine in their parts. Mr George Harvard is in every way excellent as Harry Steyne, the same remark applying to Miss Ada Oakley as Mary Steyne. Mr Alec Alves does well as Leonard Royle; Mr Arthur Gilroy as Hassan Padisha is well placed; Mr C. P. Wentworth makes a good impression as Jasper Thornleigh; and Mr Charles M'Cann is good as Donald Craig. Miss Dolly Gilroy is popular as Patty; Miss Daisy Clifford is well suited as Lady Phyllis; and Miss Jennie Weston is capital as Mrs Mildmay.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr Leonard Vidal.—A good show here includes Fred Sinclair and Gracie Whiteford, in a smart musical duologue, entitled *Getting Even*, in which these clever artists are scoring a success, the laughter being loud and incessant. Burke, Moller, and Teller, in the farce-comedy sketch *The Professor and his Pupils*, is another very popular and clever turn. The Alaskas, in their juggling and comic tumbling, prove most entertaining; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco convulse the house with their sketch, *In Trafalgar-square*. The Szarvasi-Ferencz Troupe of Hungarian singers, dancers, and acrobats, are well received; the Picquays score with their unique acrobatic display; John Alexander and company are responsible for much hearty laughter with their sketch entitled *Troubles of a Tourist*; Clown Ferreros, assisted by his dog musician and leader, gives a good turn; and the American Bioscope is again included.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter Lapworth.—Jordan and Harvey, the Transatlantic Hebrew comedians, the star turn this week, give a very good turn; the Ross-Clyde comedy company have a laughable sketch, *I Must Have It*; Hannah and James are clever foot equilibrists; Walter Driscoll is a capital comedian; the Sisters Charnley are popular duettists and dancers; and other artists contributing entertaining turns are Ryder Davis, actor vocalist; Arthur Elvy, comedian; Rosie Cass, comedienne; and Eva Ward, burlesque artist.

LEIGH.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr W. Dewhurst.—Mr Ernest R. Abbott and company are appearing here this week with the drama, *A Wife's Triumph*. Mr Geo. C. Doughty does justice to the character of Frank Wilton. Mr W. H. Garbois is a powerful Ellis Jordon. Mr Edward Ouston scores as Julius Hartman. Mr Ernest R. Abbott's effective rendering of Robert Dewhurst is very successful. Mr W. H. Davis-Brown as Stubbs and Miss Constance Medwyn as Margery Crib are amusing. The part of Bessie Dewhurst is sympathetically rendered by Miss Ada Abbott. Miss Jessie Mason as Alice Wilton is also commendable. Miss Elsie Jones as Little Frank speaks her lines well.

LIMERICK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr Robert Fogerty.—The Kennedy Miller dramatic company, from the Queen's Theatre, Dublin, and under the management of Mr Dane Clarke, opened a week's engagement on Monday with Mr J. W. Whitbread's new drama, *Sarsfield; or, a Story of the Siege of Limerick*. The title-rôle was finely enacted by Mr Robert Faulkner; as General De Gentele Mr Dane Clarke was histrionically clever; the Duke of Wurtemberg had a capital exponent in Mr Albert Sinclair; and as Terry Hogan we had the best impersonator of the true Irish character in Mr James O'Brien. The part of Lord Sinclair was cleverly acted by Mr Thomas Rooney, and as Hans Osterdam Mr Harry Richardson was very effective. Messrs Davey and Fielden successfully essayed the parts of Parrah Roach and Oing Rafferty; and as Molly Blake the acting of Miss Arnott was exceedingly clever. Miss Monica Kelly was a delightful Elly Blake; Miss Helen Forrest was a charming Lady Rose; and Lady Honor De Burgh was pathetically presented by Miss Annie Hylton.

LIVERPOOL

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager Mr M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr M Montgomery, jun.—After the close of a successful season's pantomime the popular north-end house has resumed its customary dramatic fare. Good public support has during the week been accorded to *The Way of the World*, played by Montague Beaudyn and Sidney Crowe's company. The work deals principally with circus life, and contains a good deal of excellent writing, several of the scenes being very striking. Miss Sidney Crowe filled the part of a lion-tamer with credit, and received cordial applause; a capital villain was portrayed by Mr Herbert Skardon; and Mr M. Beaudyn, an actor of ability, presented the part of a circus rider with satisfaction. Other artistes who afforded support were Miss Vivienne, the strong woman; Miss Irene Munroe, an equestrienne; and Miss A. Clunn, an heiress.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr Fred Coles.—Packed houses are nightly to be seen at this theatre witnessing the Original Six Brothers Luck in their pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*. Of course, the chief laughter-provoking parts are taken by the Brothers. Mr Fred and Mr Ernest are screamingly funny as the Two Robbers; Miss Mabel's Robin Hood is decidedly well played; Maid Marian has a pretty representative in Miss Hylda Dugdale; and Miss Mabel Danby and Miss Ray Hartley suit the parts of the Babes admirably. The chorus has been well trained, and the pantomime is well staged. Other very good turns billed are Caban, who gives a fine exhibition of animal training; Dot Stanley, a pretty dancer; Gillen, whose ventriloquial abilities are loudly applauded; and J. W. Bray, character vocalist.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Harris Fineberg; Acting-Manager, Mr M. Simmons.—After a long absence from Liverpool, the ever acceptable *Lights o' London* has this week been played to crowded houses at the popular Star. The company responsible is a comparatively new one, under the guidance of Mr Herbert Hollister, and despite the fact that this is only the opening of a tour, the play was given with much satisfaction. Then again the scenic effects were good. The audiences of the week received the old-time favourite with keen attention, and to artists accorded hearty greetings, those being specially honoured being Mr Hollister as Seth Preene, Mr Henry Lonsdale as Harold Armytage, Miss Jeannie Burgoyne as Bess, Mr Percy Compton as Jarvis, Miss Emilie Dawson as Mrs Jarvis, and Mr Ernest Mayne as the lodge-keeper.

QUEEN'S.—Proprietors, Messrs Carson and Granville; Manager, Mr Fred Granville; Business-Manager, Mr Fred L. Arthur.—A capital all-round company has this week played to large audiences the smartly written musical comedy, *The New Mephisto*, and the change from the customary melodrama appears to have been highly appreciated. The company engaged was Mr W. H. Kirby's No. 1 London, embracing several artistes of a high class. The chorus was numerous and powerful, and the scenery extensive and appropriate. Altogether the work was admirably presented. Mr Albert Weston, an accomplished comedian, had the rôle of Mephistopheles, and the several characters attaching thereto were given with a completeness and humour that always brought down the house. Mr Willie H. Vernon was a humorous host of the inn; the Captain Meredith of Mr Clarence Lindon was clever; Miss Nellie Burdette proved a bright and vivacious Dolly Pilgrim; and Miss Marion Armitage created great laughter with her Becky. Credit is also due to Messrs Herbert St. John and Arthur Randall as the humorous Lord Hummingtop and Major Bantam. The orchestra was largely supplemented, and the efforts of the Thalian Glee Singers proved acceptable.

EMPIRE, LIMITED.—Managing Superintendent, Mr T. A. Cook; Acting-Manager, Mr George Stratton.—The present is the last week of the Karno company of comedians, who since Boxing Day have occupied the principal position on the bill with their *Saturday to Monday*. Mr Nelson Jackson acquitted himself with credit as a society humourist, and told several funny tales; Mr Tom Edwards is a ventriloquist possessing rare abilities, and put in a second week, to the delight of all his auditors; Rose Archer gave a fine exhibition of mimicry; the juggling of Prince Kokin was followed with interest; and others in the programme were the Rales, Three Victorias, George Bohee, Katie Butler, and Charles Vincent.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—The charming edifice in West Derby-road, which has proved so extremely popular to the vast residential district of the eastern part of the city, has throughout the week been patronised by large audiences to witness, as usual, a capital programme. Foremost there appears the Hebburn Brass Band, winners of the £1,000 trophy, contested for at the Crystal Palace. The Yiulians remain another week with their marvellous acrobatic work; and the Arleys as trick cyclists and acrobats are very acceptable. A great deal of amusement was provided by the Phillipi Bros., with their item, "Shunting;" Charles Steuart and company present a screamingly funny farcical trifle, *The Water Cure*; and Gardner, Griffin, and Gardner give a neat musical sketch, entitled *The Rat Catcher*. Others in the bill are Lily Seville, comedienne and dancer; Maud Caswell, dancer and barrel jumper; Alfred Barker, assisted by Miss Rozsika, with their smart performing animals; and Amiel, contortionist.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr F. O'Toole.—Here this week *Muldoon's Picnic*, played by Mr James M'Grath's company, has been the principal item, and has created great laughter. Mr T. E. Gilbey, with his rocking ladder, has proved a smart turn; Mr Si Silvio is an accomplished skate dancer; Mr Alec Thomas, a humorous blackface comedy artiste; and others in the bill are Miss Eunice Titiens, vocalist; Mr Bill Bailey, comedian and dancer; and Mr Louis Murray, actor-vocalist.

NEW PARTHENON.—Proprietor, Mr Edwin W. Smith.—An acceptable programme has been given here during the week. At the top is Fred Lloyd and company, with a laughable trifle, *The Blind Spinster*, which has proved very acceptable; Baroni and Kemp are a couple of excellent quick-change artistes, their work provoking wonderment; and others are Alf Davis, comedian and actor-vocalist; Nancy Lee, comedienne; and Lydia Dudley, comedienne. The Royal Bioscope has a number of capital slides.

PADDINGTON PALACE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr J. Kiernan.—Heading the bill here this week is Mr Charles Carte with his sketch company in *A Noble Brother*. The work has been well received, being full of humour. Hyam Long proves himself an expert musical comedian; Doris Brookes receives warm applause for her singing; and others in the programme are Nora Bedford, impersonator; J. A. Wilson, baritone; Mamie Collins, dancer; J. Bryce Methven, elocutionist; Gertrude Holmes, contralto; and Payne Reynolds, comedian.

WESTMINSTER.—Proprietor, Mr M. Montgomery.—Verno and Voyce's sketch company in *Jack Sheppard* heads the bill here this week, and are well received. A clever little comedy, entitled *A Bit of String*, is given by the Harris L. Bell and Lilly Pearl company; Mr Gus Balsiger shows himself to be an expert trick instrumentalist and smart comedian; Agnese and Arthur Lynch, song illustrators, remain another week; and others in the bill are Barney Stuart, impersonator; Maudie Ford, comedienne and dancer; and the Two Clarkes, with their rolling globe.

PARK PALACE.—Director, Mr James Kiernan.—At the head of the bill here this week is Miss Madeline Clifford, with her musical sketch company, in *Wife and Fortune*. Jack and Evelyn present a funny act called *Come Into the Office*; Percy Boucher sings a number of smart coster songs; and others who appear are Harry Tresham, vocalist; Dalton J. Bosher, comedian; Edith Elliott, burlesque actress; Florrie Hall, soubrette; and Jack Stewart, comedian.

HAYMARKET.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Fred Willmot.—Included in the programme presented here this week are Goggin and Davis, with their comedy acrobatic act; Darwin, who performs several tricks on the trapeze; Burton and Groves, comedians; Mr and Mrs Paul Knox, entertainers; Deller and Oxford, with a comedy turn; and J. H. Bowman, comedian.

LONDONDERRY.

OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr W. Payne Seddon.—Mr F. R. Benson's North Shakespearian company is here this week, and opened on Monday with *The Taming of the Shrew*. In this Mr Henry Herbert as Petruchio achieved a distinct success, and gave a fine rendering of the part. Mr T. A. Shannon as Lucentio was very successful. Mr Arthur Phillips as Grumio was decidedly good, and Mr Elphinstone made a typical Biondello. Miss Katherine Boyce played Katherine very well indeed, and Miss Christie Laws was good as Bianca. Miss Maud Garth in the small part of the Widow received a deserved encore for her singing of "Should he upbraid," in the last act. Other plays staged during the week were *Hamlet*, *Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night*, *School for Scandal*, and *Merry Wives*.

LONG EATON.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Thomas Meakin.—Following the pantomime, Mr Geoffrey Fulton's company is here this week in *The Poor Must Live*. This modern drama deals with an industrial dispute, and Miss Olive Fulton figures prominently as Olga, a leader of the people. Mr Pan E. Draco carefully represents the Earl of Marswood, whose son, known as Drummond Tredegar, is well embodied by Mr Charles Francis. Miss Mary Mallalieu effectively plays the part of Dorothy Murdoch, the earl's niece; and Mr C. Brereton Borer appears with success as Clifton Manville. There is plenty of variety, including some taking vocal numbers.

LONGTON.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr H. S. Howard.—Dr. Walford Bodie is this week favouring the district with another visit—his third—and the business is bigger than at any previous time. In his introduction of Mystic Marie for the first time here, the Doctor gives an item of absorbing interest. Before that part of his exhibition styled the "cure"

several of the cases treated at his first visit—three years ago—came forward voluntarily, and expressed their great appreciation to the Doctor of the lasting effects of the benefits received at his hands. In the programme are excellent variety turns by La Petite Bella, Little Dolly Robson, Miss Helen Henri, the Sisters Lyle, Norman Mills, the De Roys, conjurors; and highly pleasing dances by the Gordon Troupe.

MACCLESFIELD.

ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr W. K. Gatley.—Miss Olga Audre's company is here this week with *The Mockery of Marriage*. The piece is well-staged and capitally played. Mr Winpenny enacts with success the rôle of Dick Kenyon; Mr Charles Boult depicts in manly style the part of Jack Stanley; Miss Florence Zillwood gives a sympathetic rendition of the rôle of Rose Vernham; Miss Olga Audre maintains her reputation as an actress of ability, and gives an excellent interpretation of Alva Kenyon; Mr Frank Dalton makes a good Seth Pearce; the part of Joseph Vernham is successfully performed by Mr Harold Graham; and Mr Will Skelton is admirable as Toby Wright. Mrs Sydney Halling renders valuable services as Mary Ann. Included in the play is a sensational act, in which the Four Aces are seen to advantage.

HIPPODROME. — Lessee and Manager, Mr H. Bendon.—Martino, contortionist, in his original speciality "A Nest of Vipers," astounds the audience by his marvellous feats; George Wyres is a quaint comedian in every sense of the term; Lily Turner, serio and dancer, is as pleasing as ever; and Harry Osmond, musical comedian, is making a good impression. Flo Atkins, lady concertinist, is a good turn; the Sisters Ely, duettists and dancers, come in for a good ovation; Mexican Mac, sharpshooter, is a novel turn; and also in the bill is Lillie Le Breton, lady gymnast.

MAIDENHEAD.

NEW PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr Geo. Gude.—Walter Lavalle, coster comedian, has made a great hit this week, his choruses being heartily taken up by the audience. Miss Nellie Lucrece is received with favour, and Ward and Wylie contribute an amusing eccentric comedy act.

MAIDSTONE.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Manager, Mr J. W. Beeslee.—The attraction here this week is Professor Hobart in a clever electrical show. He also effects some marvellous cures of rheumatism, paralysis, &c. Other appearing are Professor Golding, ventriloquist; Queenie Palmer, ballad vocalist; Weary Willy and Tired Tim, comedians; Chas. Dalmaine, vocalist; Louis Bans, comedian; and the American Bioscope

MANCHESTER.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr W. H. Broadhead; Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead. — The quality of Mr Walter Melville's dramas invariably ensures a good attendance of the public, and on Monday at this theatre the attraction of a fresh piece, *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*, filled the house. Like all its predecessors, the play is well knit, sensational, and full of varied characters, all strongly defined, while the company, under the direction of Mr Douglas Bruce, have every qualification necessary to a forcible and adequate rendering. Mr Edwin J. Collins and Miss Ada Marius are excellent in the heroic rôles, and Mr Frank Adair as the villainous Caversham, supported by Miss Marie M'Auley as a London adventuress, supplies sinister interest in capital style. Other good parts are well played by Miss Ethel Bracewell, Mr Wingold Lawrence, Mr Fraser Brunner, and Miss Nellie Brunton, the humorous relief being capably provided by Mr G. Hammond Asquin and Miss Daisy Maynard.

METROPOLE THEATRE. — Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead. — Mr Arnold Bell and company, in *Ben-my-Chree*, are always an attraction to local playgoers, and their performance of the well-known drama rises to a really high level of excellence. Mr Arnold Bell's delineation of Dan Myirea is the central point of interest, though the strength of his performance is matched in its way by the sympathetic acting of Miss Frances Campbell as Mona. Mr Cuthbert Imree as the Governor and Mr Joe Bardsley as Hommy-Beg are notable among the remaining members of the cast.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—*When a Man Hates*, a drama new to local theatre-goers, is presented here by a clever company under the control of Miss Olga Audre, Mr Travis Green, and Mr Arthur Hinton. The story justifies its description as a remarkable play. It is, at any rate, highly sensational in setting and in development. Mr Arthur Hinton is seen in the part of Pietro Danelli, and is supported by Miss Leila Zillwood as Olga Gwynne. They are responsible for some very fine acting at various junctures, especially toward the close. Appreciable support is given by the remainder of the cast, notable among whom are Mr Frank Brunelle, Mr Ploens Gains, Mr Gerald Byrne, Mr Tom Taylor, Miss Marie E. Robertson, and Miss Marion Forrester. The staging is excellent.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr M. Potasch.—A very entertaining pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, is presented here this week by a company under the direction of Messrs Haddon and Loader. The old story is, of course, subjected to the usual irresponsible variations, during the progress of which a number of entertaining specialities are introduced. Miss Bessie Shelley is full of "go" as Jack, and Miss Pattie Bella makes a dainty Dora, niece of the squire. Mr Jay Laurier gets some excellent fun out of his part of Silly Billy, and the same should be said of Mr Reg. Bolton as the Squire, Messrs Kydd and Kydd as the squire's flunkeys, and Mr Harry Harrop as Dame Trotter. These enliven the proceedings also with a selection of popular songs and duets. A fine transformation dance by Miss Cissie Trent, and the vocal efforts of the Cameron Glee Singers are well worthy of praise. The scenery and dresses are brilliant, and quite up to the elaborate requirements of pantomime.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Manager Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead. Leo Tell, who as a sound mimic is second to none, tops the bill here this week, and provides a most entertaining turn. Very pleasing also are the Brontes, who cause much merriment with their *Saucy Maud* sketch. The Vyponds render their songs in good style, and prove very popular. Sandy and Carl dance exceedingly well, and have some amusing patter. Other items are provided by Oswald, in a meritorious hand-balancing act; Duncan, a very clever club manipulator; Mdlle. Yetta, in graceful and novel wire act; Ralston and Francis, in a musical nautical scena; Wilfred, contortionist, who sets the laws of anatomy at defiance; and Charles Summers, comedian. Animated pictures complete

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Broadhead.—A capital sketch, *Fun in a Drawing-room*, contributed by Curtis Leo and his Black Piccaninnies, is one of the attractions this week. Sylvesto, lady contortionist, is the possessor of a most supple body; Stidder gives an eccentric performance, introducing imitations on musical instruments; and Hall, the mimic, faithfully reproduces farmyard sounds. Wirson is an equilibrist of merit; Alfred Seigel, who claims to be the champion middle-weight wrestler of the world, shows much talent; and Emmie White sings and dances well. Other items of interest are the Three Romas, gladiatorial acrobats; Little Dando, eccentric comedian, and Leon Rolfe, ventriloquist.

TIVOLI. — Managing Director, Mr Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr Arthur B. Wilkes.—G. W. Hunter, the well-known comedian, provides a much-appreciated turn here this week, has some funny stories to tell, and makes a hit with his song, "We're getting more enlightened every day.' The Stavordale Quintet, as usual, create a good impression with their delightful musical performance on the banjos and harp. La Belle Unita and Paul appear in an effective gymnastic act; the Three Sisters Collins are first-rate comediennes and dancers; and highly amusing are Tee and Tee, musical eccentrics. The Brothers Esdale are smart comedians; Blake, Cohen, and Elsie Page are most entertaining; Poppy Williams is a dashing comedienne who sings two songs; Mabel Clifford, comedienne, is very pleasing; and the Three Sisters Kay are refined comediennes.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr Will Collins. — Considerable laughter follows the efforts of Mark Melford and company, in a bright sketch *Black and White*; and of Frank Gerald and company in a farcical sketch *A Breach of Promise*. An exceptionally good turn is that of the Max Welson Four, whose performance on the hanging ropes is clever, highly finished, and artistic. The Llewelyns, Australian operatic vocalists, are deservedly applauded; Keno, Welch, and Montrose are clever comedy acrobats; and the Resaas Trio, acrobats and equilibrists, have some decidedly novel and original business. An enjoyable turn is Llo Lill, who sings "Navahoe," with an effective dance added, and "Bedella," with burlesque pictures. The Brothers Pueblo meet with a hearty reception, their dancing being particularly good; Milner Verren, vocalist, pleases with his song "The Playground in the Sky;" and capital films are shown by the American Bioscope.

GRAND.—Lessees, Messrs Thomas Barrasford and Will Siey; Manager, Mr H. C. Arnold, jun.—Chapender, the great illusionist, heads the bill this week, and successfully mystifies the audience with a series of excellent tricks. Delightfully entertaining are King and Delane in their comedy act, with good patter and songs; De Marse presents a novel and effective shooting act; the Three Henriques are clever and amusing acrobats; and Wallace Whitney, eccentric comedian, sings two songs, and is well received. Other enjoyable items are Jennie Reeve, comedian; Beatie Foster, serio; Bessie Lind, comedienne and dancer; Reklaw, rolling globe performer; Comical Walker, with acrobatic nippers; and a series of animated pictures. A complimentary benefit to the genial manager, Mr H. C. Arnold, jun., was given last (Friday) night, when a special programme was gone through.

PALACE — Manager and Secretary, Mr P. Watson; Assistant-Manager, Mr J. H. Stringer.—The Boissets are again to the front, and are this week presenting, with decided success, their amusing and realistic sketch *Wild West*. Apollo, an ideal athlete, gives his artistic strength performance, and offers £10 to the local man who can carry off the stage a sack of flour weighing over 280lbs. Ethel May is a pleasing comedienne with a good voice, and is also a graceful dancer. Professor Thornbury, the lightning cartoonist, is well received; Tambo and Tambo are clever tambourine manipulators; the Brothers Ashley appear in a funny sketch *Next, Please;* and Harry Clifford, comedian, and Lulu Gould, comedienne, contribute a song each. A popular selection by the orchestra—second to none in Manchester—and an excellent series of animated pictures complete.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr E. P. Morgan.—The novel naval spectacle, *The Bombardment of Port Arthur*, remains in the bill here, and is likely to prove a big attraction. Besides this there are several excellent items in the current programme. The Klein Family are exceptionally good trick cyclists, their performance including some sensational and original feats. Considerable humour is added by a really funny coloured juvenile, who, besides being full of the quaintest antics, is wonderfully clever. Eugen Marrder, with special diabolical music, introduces his highly trained horse in an apparent sheet of flames. Subsequently the horse executes several dances in a surprising fashion. Grais's baboon prodigies, including Diavolio, the loop cycling baboon, is another instance of animal training, and is a well-received turn. Remarkably clever are the Two Butterflies, juvenile gymnasts, in a neat performance. Datas proves himself a man of marvellous memory; Alburtus and Bartram know all there is to know in the club juggling line; Fox and Melville are popular; and "Daddy" (illustrated song) is pleasingly rendered by the choristers. The Bioscope shows some realistic pictures.

MARGATE.

GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr F. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr C. F. Bawtree.—For three nights, commencing on Monday, Mr Charles Macdona's company appeared with great success in the musical play *Three Little Maids*. The singing has been excellent, and the dancing particularly good. Miss Vera Vallis, Miss Nellie Groves, and Miss Mabel Lavelle were charming as Ada, Hilda, and Edna Branscombe, their vivacity being infectious. Madame Ilma Norina made a pleasing Lady St. Mallory, and Miss Laura Wright was a very capable Gretchen, her singing and dancing winning for her repeated applause. Miss Mabel Sarl was excellent as Miss Price, and the Misses N. Cunningham, Gertrude Luiche, and Evelyn Hardy were well placed as the protégées of Lady St. Mallory. Mr Arthur Longley gave prominence to the part of Lord Cheyne, acquitting himself well and Mr Edgar K. Favelle made the most of Brian Molyneux, his singing being effective. Mr Gus Oxley was vivacious as Cupid, the caddie, his really clever dancing evoking much applause. Mr W. Piercy Morgan was good as the Rev. Mr Branscombe, and Mr Jules Charmettes was capital as M. De L'Orme, his well-executed 'cello solo being much appreciated.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr E. Macknight; Business-Manager, Mr Chas. E. Hardy.—During the week Mr Horace Moseley's company has been appearing in the comedy-drama *Parson Thorn*. Mr Ormonde G. Smethurst has played to distinct advantage in the title-rôle of the Rev. John Thorn, M.A., and Miss Clara Knowles has been excellent in Miss Dorothy Thoroughgood. Miss Jessie Chandler has played Lady Maud Dashwood with the necessary spice of wickedness; and Mr Jack Haughton has put in some good work as Sir Geoffrey Dashwood. Mr Herbert Wilson as Paddy O'Quirk and Miss Mollie George as Dotsy Doddles have made the representation bright withcomedy, songs, and dances.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr Will Smithson; Assistant-Manager, Mr Albert J. Lewis.—This week the attraction is *The Golden Ladder*, played by Miss Mary Austin and Mr E Vivian Edmunds' company. Mr Harry Cullenford appears to advantage as the Rev. Frank Thornhill. Miss Conyers Radcliffe is equally successful as Lillian Grant. Able support is given by Mr Frank Hill as Samuel Peckaby and Mr J. Milne Taylor as Michael Severn. Mr Graham Winford does well as Peranza. Mr Dan Mining is effective as Jim Dixon. Mr Edward Bikker is satisfactory as John Grant. Mr Raymond Chester as Noah Learoyd and Miss Nellie Graham as Mrs Peckaby are capable.

MEXBOROUGH.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. H. Melton.—Miss Emma Litchfield's company is playing here this week in *A London Actress*. Mr S. Cleveland gives a fine interpretation of the hero Clive Crawford; Mr F. Radcliffe is capital as the breezy Captain Mannering; Mr L. Lingard is well placed as Lieutenant Kingston; and Mr George Wallace imparts humour to the character of the Jew, Moses Mendoza. Miss Emma Litchfield displays rare dramatic skill in her treatment of the rôle of Hilda Mannering; Miss V. Lawson is a graceful and pleasing Phyllis Crawford. For the last three nights of the week the drama *The Guiding Star* is billed.

MIDDLESBROUGH.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr J. C. Imeson.—Mr J. F. Elliston's company in the pantomime *The Sleeping Beauty*, transplanted from Leicester, opened a fortnight's run at the Royal. The principal boy, Miss Esme Gordon, scores a warm welcome for her dashing and vivacious rendering of the rôle of Prince Faithful, and Miss Daisy Stratton as Beauty Allfair charms with her delightful dances and songs. Miss Ada Tilley pleases as the Grand Chief, and Miss Mabel Kempton makes the most of her opportunities as the Silver Star. Little Maude Vera is successful and the Sisters Cunningham do exceedingly well. The comedians are a fine lot. Mr W. J. Churchill is irresistibly funny and Mr Alf Bishop is amusing, and, with Mr James Chippendale, scores a big hit as King and Queen Half-a-Crown. Mr Lonnen Meadows, in his original creation, "The Yellow Dwarf," does well, and the singing of the Morton Trio is most enjoyable. Miss Lottie Stone's Troupe contribute some pleasing specialities. The beautiful electric novelty presented by Alma and Abdallah is a source of great wonderment, the stage being at one period one mass of varied coloured lights. Another enjoyable item is provided by La Superbe. The dresses and scenery add much to the success of the pantomime, and every credit is due to Mr Lonnen Medows for its setting, especially the finale, when some exquisite Anglesey jewellery, supplied by Mr Smurthwaite, of Hull, are presented.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Grand Opera House Company, Ltd.; Licensee and Manager, Mr T. Hopcutt.—Mr J. H. Clyndes' company is here in the romantic play, *A Royal Revenge*. Mr Clyndes himself appears as Estevan Alvarez, and gives a portrayal which leaves nothing to be desired, and he is well supported by Miss Bessie Alma as Manuel Mondega. Mr Charles Gordon is seen to a distinct advantage, and Mr James Willoughby ably sustains the rôle of the miser. Mr Jack Bigwood appears as Michael Sancha, and Mr John Cecil and Mr W. J. Gould do exceedingly well in their respective rôles. Mr Geoffrey Broughton makes the most of the part of King of Spain. Miss Evelyn Shannon is successful as Cora Casilda. The other rôles are ably sustained, and the costumes were in keeping with the general excellence of the work.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr John Brill; Manager, Mr J. W. Thornborrow.—A capital programme is presented here. Charles Coborn heads the bill, and his turn interests the audiences immensely. Boyd and Gilfain, who are no strangers to the Middlesbrough audience, meet with an enthusiastic reception. In a sketch entitled *Mixed Drinks* they keep the audiences in a merry mood. M. Gintaro, the Japanese society juggler, provides an interesting turn, whilst J. C. Manley, character vocalist, is a favourite, and Sam Redfern contributes some amusing patter. Walter Emerson proves an enjoyable turn; the Two W.'s win favour; Frank Bernard and company in a sketch, *Hello*, are well received; and the films on the Bioscope complete the bill of fare.

OXFORD.—Lessee, Mr Wm. Peacock; Manager, Mr William Ainsworth.—Les Francois Family in a pot-pourri act, are the chief attraction here. Frank Cafferty, comedian, is a favourite with audiences, and the Sisters Maginel and Mullinl provide a pleasing musical speciality turn. They are supported by Campkin, cyclist; Mark Milton, eccentric comedian; the Werners; Oakdene, ventriloquist; and the Three De Veres in a pot-pourri act.

MORECAMBE.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee, Lieut. Julian Malvern; General Manager, Mr C. M. Julian.—Miss Daisy De Roy's pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*, has been presented during the week by an admirable company. Miss Edna Cragge makes a handsome hero, and scores in her songs, "Bluebell" and "The Old Bull and Bush." Miss Marie Weston is a capital principal girl, Miss Hilda De Gray sings with much charm, and plenty of comedy is provided by Messrs W. Wallace, Geo. Asap, Geo. Welch, Frank Daleno, and Harry Hunter. Mr Fred Brudo, the well-known contortionist, is excellent as the old man of the sea; Miss Rosa Walmsley's Troupe, of which Miss Nellie Cook is the principal, provide some charming measures.

MOTHERWELL.

NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr W. Gillespy.—The pièce de résistance this week is the sensational drama *Sherlock Holmes*. Mr Kenneth Rivington gives a realistic portrayal of the famous detective; the Doctor Watson of Mr Fred Inwood is well conceived; Mr Arthur B. Murray is responsible for a good performance of Professor Moriarty; Miss Florence Radcliffe gains appreciation by her pathetic acting as Alice Faulkner; Miss Carrie Lacey wins applause as Madge Larrabee; Mr Ernest Grey acts well as James Larrabee; Mr F. Clive Ross is smart as John Forman; and Messrs Howard E. Laing and William Wilson are suitable exponents of Edward Leighton and Count Von Stahlberg. Mr Harry Mann is an able Alfred Bastic.

NEWPORT.

LYCEUM. — Lessee and Manager, Mr Sidney Cooper.—The pantomime *Aladdin* is being played here this week by Mr J. D. Hunter's company. Mr J. D. Hunter as the Widow Twankey is exceedingly droll, and Miss M. Sadie makes a charming Aladdin, full of life and sparkling with merriment. The singing is good, the dresses are pretty, and the scene of the Feast of Lanterns at the close is very picturesque. Specialities are introduced, the most striking of which is the performance of Mdlle. Bartenelli, the novel contortionist, on the golden column.

EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr O. Stoll.—A strong bill is presented here this week. Alexandra Dagmar is appearing as "The Duchess of Dantzic," and displays some capital acting and singing. Bella and Bijou, old favourites, are accorded a warm reception; Clown Zertho's dogs provide a turn that is both novel and attractive; and the Three Sisters Klos exhibit wonderful skill and strength in their unique athletic tricks. Syd May's wrestling skit with a dummy is extremely funny; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, trick cyclists, have to be credited with a daring performance; and Ada Cerito gives entire satisfaction with her sprightly songs. Cabby and Shirker, in an eccentric bar act, are clever; Ike Scott and Son are amusing comedians; and the musical mélange *Flirtation*, by the Five Delevines, has proved attractive.

NORTH SHIELDS.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr Arthur Jefferson; General Manager, Mr Horace Lee; Secretary, Mr Gordon Jefferson.—Mr W. W. Kelly's company with *A Royal Divorce* has proved very attractive here this week. As Josephine Miss Edith Cole gives an artistic portrayal; Mr Frank Lister is equally successful as Napoleon; Mr Cecil Du Gue as the Marquis De Beaumont displays ability; and Mr H. Gray Dolby wins favour as Talleyrand. Mr Alfred Grenville is distinctly good as General Augereau; Mr Ernest G. Batley plays with success the part of Marshal Murat; and Mr Dennis Bryant makes quite a hit as Grimaud. As Stepphanie Miss Helen Richmond is seen to advantage, Miss Ethyle Murray shines as Marie Louise, and Miss Maggie Cardiff gives a satisfactory representation of the King of Rome.

NEW CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Wm. Mould.—The Leopold Leglere acrobats, in their clever act, are meeting with a hearty reception here. Messrs Smith and Johnson, comedians, in "The Real Nahavo," score a decided success; the Jetneys, coloured comedians, are popular; Mdlle. Vanda performs some smart juggling feats on the rolling globe; and Mdlle. Nanoni, soprano; La Belle Tosca on the silver wire; and the Bio-Photoscope make up a good bill-of-fare.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

TYNE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Novocastrians have set the seal of their unqualified approval on *Cinderella*, which is now in the height of its great success. Ever conspicuous among the comedians is Mr Mark Sheridan, whose amusing performance constitutes a leading feature of the pantomime. Mr Josh Dixon and Mr Gus Le Clerq are also prominent and successful throughout. The acting and singing of Miss Bessie Featherstone as Prince Caramel are excellent indeed; the Cinderella of Miss Alice Russon is a singularly winsome performance; Miss Lena Verdi's efforts as Dandini continue to meet with well-deserved approval; and the lively and amusing business contributed by the Egbert Bros. never fails to please.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr F. Teale Lingham.—Capital entertainment is provided by *The Babes in the Wood*, which continues to enlist popular support. New songs and jokes have been introduced, and these tend to freshen up the performance. Miss Elise Cooke, the charming representative of Maid Marion, has unfortunately had to relinquish the part owing to a domestic bereavement, and her place is now taken by Miss Valli Valli, who makes a most excellent substitute. A palpable hit has been scored by both Miss Dolly M'Calla and Miss Hanid Alexander as the Babes. Miss M'Calla acts and sings in a particularly bright and unaffected manner, and her dancing is remarkably neat and clever. The pianoforte solo by Miss Alexander is always encored.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr T. W. Rowe.—*The New Frivolity*, an up-to-date version of the farcial musical absurdity in which the Leopolds have for so many years distinguished themselves, is again being presented here by that well-known combination, and, needless to say, their united efforts have resulted in a particularly bright and lively performance.

OLYMPIA THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Thornton and Bacon; General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr Nelson Barry.—This huge auditorium is packed at each performance of the pantomime, *Cinderella*, which has achieved a phenomenal success here, but the all too short engagement terminates to-night (Saturday).

GRAND THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Business Manager, Mr Ernest W. Bacon.—*Dick Whittington* pursues its career of extreme prosperity. Miss Gracie Grahame makes a spirited representative of Dick, and scores particularly in her various songs. A charming Alice is Miss Fanny Harris, who is seen to the best advantage in her songs and dances. Among the comedians Mr Bob Selvidge as Idle Jack and Mr Dan Thomas as the Cook are prime conspirators in the scheme of fun-making.

NEW EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Director, Mr Richard Thornton; General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr E. Leslie Conroy.—The Five M.I.'s are now appearing at this hall, where they are presenting with much acceptance their picturesque and pleasing vocal entertainment entitled *Five Minutes before Lights Out*. The Japanese Guards are a troupe of ladies who give a smart exhibition of lightning cavalry drill. A capital display of head balancing is submitted by the Three Nevarros, and very entertaining is the musical performance of the Borellis. Carl and Mary Ohm exploit a troupe of trained animals, and Lyane and Geks are clever contortionists. A satirical sketch, *For Reform*, as performed by Hugh Stanton and company, causes much laughter. Amusing comedians in the Two Bostons are well to the fore, and H. F. Wilson affords pleasure by his tenor singing. Jimmy Shields, the one-legged comedian, meets with well-deserved approbation.

PAVILION.—Managing-Director, Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Will H. Boardman.—We are having a visit from Colonel G. Bordeverry, the rifle and pistol shot expert, who is ably assisted by a lady who displays much cleverness with a rifle. Marquis Iton, in an acrobatic sketch of a somewhat novel nature, performs tricks with cannon, shot, and shell; Mdlle. Haydee's mannikin theatre is a leading feature in the programme; the Permane Brothers score a success with their parody, "The Nightingale's Courtship"; and The Athlones, Herculean athletes, two clever performers, give an enjoyable exhibition of feats of strength. Henri Abdy's canine hippodrome is a somewhat novel show; and Mdlle. Marvelle's performing cockatoos and macaws are well received. Lily Flexmore shows much ability as a legmania danseuse; and Burton Joyce, described as a singing raconteur, is also included in the programme. Up-to-date animated pictures are shown at each performance.

NORTHAMPTON.

OPERA HOUSE —Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr W. J. Andrews.—Mr Mouillot's principal *A Message from Mars* company is here this week on a return visit.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr Robert Barton.—The programme is headed this week by Percy Honri, the well-known concertinist, who, in solos, songs, and stories, keeps his audiences well amused. Rappo is a clever equilibrist and acrobat, and has a charming assistant in Mdlle. Ella. Jubal and Joyce afford some excellent amusement as eccentric comedians. Harry Bent is a good mimic. Carlotta Lunn, American comedienne; Rosa Gilbert, serio and dancer; and Henry Carlton, comedian, furnish the remainder of the entertainment.

NORTHWICH.

CENTRAL THEATRE. — Proprietress, Mrs S. Golden; Manager, Mr Percy Webb.—Mr Herbert Fuller's company, under the direction of Mr Francis Everard, is fulfilling an engagement here with *A Triple Vengeance*. Mr F. C. Wybert is distinctly successful as Harry Gilbert; Mr J. P. Henderson makes the most of the small part of Daddy Lingham; and Mr Francis Everard gives a fine performance as the miser, Silas Grindstone. Mr H. Evan Gibbon is well suited as Jim Darkey; Mr Fawcett Lomax is worthy of all praise for his depiction of Bill Smith; and Mr Harold Wallace gives an exceedingly fine portrayal of Detective Peter. The humorous characters of Charlie Kelly and Angelina Hobbs could not be better placed than they are in the hands of Mr William Gardiner and Miss Edith Leslie respectively. Miss Gertrude Mitchell is very effective as Clarissa Beringer; Little Florrie Sorsby is highly satisfactory as Reggie Gilbert; and Miss Agnes Collier's Rita Lingham is a most successful and sympathetic delineation. *The Passion of Life* was played on Thursday and Friday.

NORWICH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr Fred Morgan.—Mr and Mrs Calvert Routledge's company is here this week with *The Cricket on the Hearth*. Mr Routledge is excellent as John Peerybingle; Mr Sydney Sarl deserves every praise as Mr Tackleton; Mr David Curtis wins golden opinions for his representation of Caleb Plummer; and Mr Alexander Willis is good as Edward Plummer. Miss Sybil Ruskin excites much sympathy as Bertha; Mrs Jas. Thurlow as Mrs Fielding and Miss Lilian Burleigh as May Fielding are admirable in their respective parts; Miss Dora Lewis as Tilly Slowboy creates much amusement; and Mrs Calvert Routledge deserves every commendation for her excellent rendering of the part of Dot. Mrs Marion Ryder does well as Fairy Queen.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr F. W. Fitt; Musical Director, Capt. Selby.—Heading the bill here is Mdlle. Rosina Casselli and her Chihuahua dogs from Mexico, who give an admirable performance and receive hearty approbation; Vanola, the Venezuelan antipodeste, exhibits some remarkable tricks; Craig, Rose, and Craig are clever gymnasts; the Rosaire Bolereo Troupe are excellent in their comedy bar act; Ray and Milesare expert jugglers; the Sarnthaler Troupe (six ladies and two gentlemen) give a pleasing musical and dancing turn; Zanfretta and Naplo are grotesque and musical knife grinders; Fred Durnstone scores as a character comedian; and Dan Filmer proves himself an eccentric dancer. The Bioscope exhibits some amusing pictures; and Capt. Selby and his band add to the evening's amusement.

NOTTINGHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr Howard Finney.—The last week of *Robinson Crusoe* has now been reached, and the bright entertainment will see its close to-night. The week's audiences have been excellent, and all the artists have had special attention and approbation from enthusiastic admirers. The attractive appearance and dainty singing of Miss Madeline du Val and the winsome manner of Miss Mabel Osborne have made them firm favourites, and Miss Nellie Christie's humorous delineation of Topsy has formed a feature of the production. Amongst the comedians Mr Bob Baxter's refined and amusing Widow, Mr Wally Scott as Friday, the eccentric dancing of Mr Fred Solo, and the comic juggling of the Two Austins stand out as exceedingly meritorious performances, and Miss Madge Melbourne has proved an engaging little artist.

GRAND THEATRE. — Manager, Mr Charles P. Cooke.—The new realistic drama *Rogues of the Turf* is being played here this week by a very capable company. Miss Helen Stewart as Marion is very good both in style and appearance, and her vigorous methods are well contrasted by the gentle manner of Miss Hilda Shirley as Nellie Flaxman and the boisterous fun of Miss Mabelle Barlow as Phyllis. Mr John F. Preston is specially engaged for the rôle of Joe Flaxman, and it could scarcely be in more capable hands. Mr A. Wilmott makes a thoroughly aristocratic-looking baronet, and Mr Ernest R. Allen as Arthur Somerton has no little to do with the success of the production. Broad humour is supplied by Mr Harry Benson as Sam Flaxman, and as the principal villain, Dudley Clifton, Mr Walter S. Clifford is eminently successful. The portrayal of the character of Moses Solomons, the Jewish sharper, is entrusted to Mr H. H. Rignold, who extracts the very utmost from his opportunities. Mr C. Jackson and Mr Alfred Wade as Peter Dawson and Steve Burton are excellent, and the other parts are well played.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, A. W. Bull.—*The Life that Kills* is exciting to the uttermost degree, and every point is made to tell by Messrs Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholls's company. Mr Moule essays the rôle of Kendal Croat, a villain of the worst type, and Miss Cathleen Cavanagh ably supports him as Brenda Croat. Mr Ernest G. Fare makes an earnest and conscientious hero as Hector Rodney, and Mr Morris Maud capitally portrays the ne'er-do-well, Valentine Telford. Captain Montague finds an excellent exponent in Mr A. G. Smith-Neil, and Mr Geo. Clarke is satisfactory as Doctor Brackley. Miss Lucy Murray is highly successful in the dual-rôle of Tom and Johanna Dicks, and Miss Marie Menzies plays with sympathetic tenderness as Laurie Linden. The humorous relief is supplied by Messrs A. Hall Menzies and Wilton Drury.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr C. H. Bowmaker.—The Wille Brothers occupy premier position on the bill this week, and their feats of head-balancing are really very wonderful. Newhouse and Ward present an admirable turn of clever and farcical cycle trick riding, and well deserve the generous rounds of applause their performance evokes. Miss Lily Lena is a comedienne of no mean abilities, and La Belle Creole Morcashant is seen to great advantage. The lovely dresses of these latter two artists deserve a special word of comment. The Three Sisters Ronay are justly described as a trio of charming girls in a novel musical act, and Maud Ross is an expert dancer. Another speciality musical act appears on the programme, being provided by the M'Gregors, who are very clever. Will Mitcham is a funny fellow in the musical comedian line. The Human Spiders give an electrical gymnastic performance which is highly appreciated, and the programme is completed by Duncan's highly trained collies.

NUNEATON.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, the Theatre and Entertainments Company, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr and Mrs F. G. Kimberley's company is here this week with *Bound to Win*. Mr Kimberley does full justice to the part of Harry Lyndon, Mrs Kimberley adapting herself well to the rôle of Marion Forbes. Good work is done by Miss K. Eckart as Gladys Orme, Miss Edie Macklin as Minnie Oakley, Miss Nancy Davies as Winnie Winsome, and Mr Edgar Morgan as Horatio Buffet. The remaining parts are successfully embodied by Mr Sydney Rennef, Squire Forbes; Mr F. Strickland, Philip Ayre; Mr James Hont, Ned Oakley; Mr Horace Custins, Willie Wilkins; Mr Fred Tenaur, Joe Blake; Mr Harry Lyndon, Detective Shirley; Mr L. Hont, George Moore; Master Willie Atom, Mr Sam Warren, Mr Harry Hont, and Mrs James Hont, and others.

OLDHAM.

ROYAL, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr George Knowles.—This week Senor Pepi is well received in his sketch *Love Always Victorious;* the Marvellous Autos receive due appreciation for their musical act; a bright vocal entertainment is provided by Austin and Cowan; Frank Coyle, comedian, is heartily received for his patriotic and topical songs; Auto and Mobil create roars of laughter by their motor acrobatic act; Charles Pastor, the laughing comedian, is irresistible; Conway and Leland, "the merry monopedes," receive unbounded applause; and Harry Morris, mimic, and Miss Violet Wilton, soubrette, are duly appreciated.

EMPIRE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr Hulme.—Mr Charles Macdona's production, *The School Girl*, is here, with Miss Nellie Hodson in the title-rôle—a charming presentation. Miss Kate Forster as the Mother Superior sings "When I was a little girl" with charm of voice and manner; Miss Jenny Bonney as Cicely Marchmont is very successful; Miss Madeleine Maude as the artist's model is most effective; and Miss Florrie West and Miss Alice Sands are clever as dancers. Mr Charles Adeson as the Colonel is provokingly funny; Mr Max Copland as Sir Ormsby St. Ledger is a humourist; the part of Edgar Verney, the artist, is in the capable hands of Mr Alec Chentrens; and Mr Alfred Leslie as Tubby Bedford is most effective.

GAIETY, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr E. J. Dexter.—A capital programme is presented here this week, including Harry Lynn and company, in their side-splitting sketch *Blind to the World;* Shang Hai, eastern magician, give a remarkable performance; the Seltina Troupe of acrobats are greatly appreciated; Mayon and Marie are successful in their comedy duologue; Chester and Lee's marionettes prove a great attraction; the Sisters Zara are well received in their smart dances; the Bros. Levett introduce clever work into their vaulting act; Mark Tapley is duly appreciated for his comic songs; and the Bioscope has some new pictures.

OXFORD

NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr C. C. Dorrill.—Mr William Greet's company is this week presenting for the first time here that charming musical play, *The Earl and the Girl*. Mr Reginald Switz fairly revels in the amusing part of Jim Cheese, and scores heavily right through the play; Mr Alec Fraser sings pleasantly and acts brightly as Dick Wargrave; Mr Haddon Cave is excellent as Hon. Crewe Boodle; Mr H. B. Brandeth is sufficiently

terrifying as the fire-eating Uncle of the heiress; Mr F. W. Cane is very smart indeed as Downham, the solicitor; and Messrs W. T. Hybert and G. Hayes do well as Mr Talk and the landlord. Miss May Fraser wins all hearts by her delightfully fresh and fascinating performance as Elphin Haye; Miss Cynthia Carey is admirably suited as Liza Shoddam; Miss Maud Adams is indeed "great" as Mrs Black, the strong lady; Miss Maud Aston is a pleasant and taking Daisy Fallowfield; and Miss Mary Morison is an admirable Virginia Bliss.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr H. G. P. Wells.—This week witnesses the third return visit of Mr John H. Morton's company here with *The Rajah of Ranjapore*. As Horatio Chicks Mr Alvin Sawyer is full of vivacity, and is well disguised as the Rajah, while Mr W. Harrison is capital as Thistles. Mr Philip Percival does well as Ernest Travers, Mr Harry Cornwall makes an effective Captain Hertage, and Mr Arthur Reid is at home as Mr Stubb. Mr George Trevor does his work well as Ted Perkins; Miss Minnie Blackmore is successful as Edith; Miss Marion Walker makes the most of Eliza; and Miss Nell Ascott is well placed as Primrose. Some effective dances are contributed by other members of the company.

PAISLEY.

PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr J. H. Savile.—Mr Chas. H. Phelps and company, with *One Woman's Wickedness*, is here this week. Miss Amy Dalby does remarkably well as the long-suffering Lillian Craggs, and Miss Florence Lloyd submits a powerful impersonation of the unscrupulous Janet Raymond. Mr Chas. H. Phelps plays with effect and force as Jem Craggs, and Mr Lawrence Brien is capital as Philip Beaufort. Continuous merriment is occasioned by the humorous assumptions submitted by Miss Ethel Asbury as Jenny Jiggles, Mr George Bryne as Lord Algernon Fitznoodle, and Mr Arthur Ferris as Limpy Harry. Miss Florence M. Daly admirably enacts Aunt Crasy, and the Marienne Beaufort of Miss Frances Jessop is cleverly interpreted. Mr Hubert Humphreys is good as Paul Roque, as is also Mr Carlton Harget as John Fossett.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr Delno Fritz.—Excellent turns are being submitted here this week by the following:—The Albana Troupe, in their refined musical speciality act; Arthur Bright, comedian and Milanese piper; Bonnetti and May Corrie, in a refined eccentric juggling act; Sheila Barrett, serio and dancer; Bob Nicol, mimic; and Brindall and Cooper, comedians, patterers, and sand dancers. The Empire Cinématograph is showing a series of new pictures.

PENTRE.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Owners, Messrs Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr Eugene Hardie. — Mr Sanderson Moffatt's company is accorded a hearty welcome here this week in *A Woman Adrift*. Sir John Inglesby, a difficult rôle, is in the capable hands of Mr Joseph Mallane; Cora Leigh is admirably interpreted by Miss Phyllis Hamilton; Miss Phyllis Graham deserves praise as Rupert; and the national characteristics of Jibbs, Rhoderick, and Dennis are cleverly portrayed by Messrs Charles Wilson, Robert Harvey, and Watson Hume. Miss Maude Merrick as Molly is exceedingly good; and Mr Sanderson Moffatt sustains the rôles of Ferdinand and Don Leo Castro with admirable effect.

PERTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Aldridge.—Mr Savile has assuredly surpassed all his previous successes here in the production of *Aladdin*, his fifth Perth pantomime, which is on the boards for a fortnight and is drawing crowded houses nightly. To Miss Florence Wilton is entrusted the title-rôle, and most faithfully does she act the onerous part, her vocal talent, especially the rendering of "Bluebell," being highly appreciated; Miss Gertrude Branscombe as the pretty, winsome Princess Badroulbadour at once becomes a prime favourite; Miss Gladys Warren is well placed in Bohee, and gives a delightful rendering of the popular "Navaho," having to respond to vociferous applause; Miss Florrie Somers is all that can be desired in the part of Petti Sing; Mr Willie Garvie (an old favourite) is in his element, and thoroughly amuses the house throughout as Widow Twankey. To this end he is ably assisted by Mr James Grant as M'Kasrac, and to Mr Will Sherlock in the rôle of Abanazar also falls a creditable share of success. Mr Karl Mora acts the part of Ting-a-Ling with becoming majesty; Mr T. W. Kelly scores as the Vizier, So-Sli; the Boston Twins, Frank and Ross, as Hi-Spy and Li-Ying-Tung, prove themselves vocalists of no mean talent; Miss Kitty Jones is a charming exponent of Flamma, and Miss Isa Stirling does well as Circe. Misses Lucie and Minnie Victoria are seen to great advantage as Souchong and Congou respectively; Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of lady dancers ably sustain their reputation.

PETERBOROUGH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr A. Darville Vernon.—The attraction here this week is Mr Edward Marris's company in *As Midnight Chimes*. Mr Melville Bickford cleverly acts the rôle of Luke Dezzard; Mr Frank E. Petley as Dave Stannard submits a fine study of the hero; and Miss Gertrude Price sustains admirably the part of Mary Stannard. Mr Walter Wilby as Ezra Gamble and Mr Dan Parker as Limpy Mudge play their parts with success; Miss Iris M. Ward does well as Zamora; and a special word of praise is due to Miss Minnie Ethel as Little Davy. The fun-making is entrusted to Miss Nita Imeson as Suzette and Mr James Salter as Tat Spavin, and both are highly successful in their task.

PLYMOUTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Langdon Lee.—This is the closing week of the pantomime, *Dick Whittington* having proved a great attraction, besides enhancing the reputations of several who have been prominently associated with the production.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy Williams.—*Veronique* terminates a fortnight's engagement here this week. It is being played to full houses by Mr George Dance's company, which is an exceptionally clever one.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Arthur Carlton.—The pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe* concludes here this week. Thanks to good acting and sumptuous staging it has achieved a great success, Mr Mouillot's company working hard to ensure it.

PALACE OF VARIETIES. — Managing-Directors, Messrs Livermore Brothers; Manager, Mr J. Field. — The well-known coster comedian, Alec Hurley, tops the bill here this week and contributes some taking songs, besides appearing in an amusing sketch. Boswell's circus is another popular turn, and Lozelle, the gymnast, is also a favourite. Miss Alexandra Edwin sings well, and E. T. Sheldon's whistling solos are very fine. Miss Marion Hood is a clever comedienne, and Nelson and Thomas provide a diverting sketch. Animated pictures are also included in the programme.

PONTYPOOL.

ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs C. W. and J. R. Poole; Resident-Manager, Mr J. H. Stephens.—Mr and Mrs Fred Benton's specially selected company is presenting *A Marriage of Vengeance* here. A feature of the play is the excellent interpretation of Stella Burgon by Miss A. Harrison Tate; Mr Charles Coventry as Clynne Earnscliffe enacts his part with telling effect; and Mr George A. De Cray has exactly the commanding presence necessary in the part of Max Rheinhardt. Mr E. Charles shows power in his impersonation of Monsieur Cadot, and Mr Alfred George Fry as Paul Earnscliffe also deserves special mention. Miss Etta Turner plays the part of Amelia with great effect, and the Elsie Dean of Miss Maud Stuart is creditably presented. The play is beautifully dressed.

PORTH.

POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr W. Bynorth.—Charles W. Poole, of myriorama fame, is here this week, opening on Monday to an excellent house. The pictures are quite new, and are much appreciated. A capital series of animated photos are also shown. The variety company includes the Avondale Quartet, in refined comedy and favourite songs; the Four Burgatiles, musical pantomimists, are an excellent turn; Mons. Henri, Herculean equilibrist, deserves mention for his clever performance; the Almo Trio, horizontal barrists meet with great approval; Prof. Fanning's Merry Fantoches are amusing; Mr Cecil F. Couper, deputy guide and vocalist, scores in his impersonation of the "Railway Porter." On Thursday a matinée was held, the entire proceeds of which, by the generosity of Mr Poole, were handed over to the Porth Cottage Hospital.

NEW HIPPODROME AND UP TO-DATE CIRCUS.—Proprietress, Miss Ada Alexandra; Managing-Director, Mr D. Taylor; General Manager, Mr E. Pryce.—A capital programme here includes Prof. Macean's troupe of Irish terriers and leaping dogs, who give a very creditable performance; Harry Leaton, comedian, is well received; the comedy duo, Pearce and Ward, burlesque boxers, dancers, are exceedingly good; Kuro and his comical donkey afford much amusement; the Radium Girls are successful; the Kozokerins, comedy gymnasts, are very humorous; Cyrus and Maude, the merry monarchs of music; and the Alskarno Troupe of Risley performers, meet with approval. Tuesday evening was set apart for the benefit of the clown, Hairpin.

PORTSMOUTH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr Armstrong Bell. — The D'Oyly Carte principal répertory opera company opened here on Monday with *The Gondoliers*. The Duke of Plaza Toro was ably played by Mr C. H. Workman; Mr Fred Billington gave a capital interpretation of Don Alhambra Del Bolero; and the Brothers Marco and Giuseppe Palmieri were undertaken by Messrs Pacie Ripple and Albert Kavanagh, who gave a very meritorious performance. Gianetta, Miss Norah Maguire, and Tessa, Miss Jessie Rose, made two charming Contadines. Miss Theresa Rassam as the Duchess of Plaza Toro was admirable. The week's programme includes *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *Trial by Jury*, *Yeoman of the Guard*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Princess Ida*, and *Iolanthe*.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr T. E. Agate.—Mr F. Jarman's company with the Anglo-Russian drama, *In Dark Siberia*, is in possession here for the week. Mr W. T. Riley impersonates in a manly fashion the hero, Captain Victor Gordon; Major Waroff, the arch scoundrel of the piece, is forcibly depicted by Mr Wilson Howard; the persecuted Princess Natalie Oloff, Gordon's wife, is admirably portrayed by Miss Carlotta Anson; Mr Louis Weston as Sergeant Petrovitch and Miss Linda Riley as Ivanova are responsible for the comedy side of the drama.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr W. Pratt.—An excellent bill is provided for the week here. Carl Mysto, with his mysterious box trick and his manacles, wins hearty approval. The Calcotts, musical speciality artists, are very diversified; J. W. Rickaby, burlesque character comedian, is an old favourite; Bessie Travis, lady ventriloquist and pianist, is clever and amusing; the Escaladors, double-ladder performers, are distinctly good; Hamilton Hill, Australian baritone, gives some excellent songs with great expression. The programme includes Ivy Adelaide, chic comedienne; Hughes and Elliott, vocalists and dancers; Sisters Oswald, novelty dancers; and Will Farrell, lightning express comedian.

PRESTON.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr Stephen Pritt.—*The Bookmaker*, presented by Mr Stephen Pritt's company, is a strong attraction here. The Earl of Harborough has an excellent representative in Mr Fred Mitcalf; Gerald is capably depicted by Mr R. Austin Smith; Mr Owen M'Gweney's convincing presentment of the Marquis of Budleigh is highly praiseworthy; Mr J. B. Elliott acquits himself creditably as Captain Carew; Mr W. Montgomery is well suited as Mr Mortmain; and Mr Wilfred Mangan commendably fills the part of James. Mr Stephen Pritt gives a humorous and sympathetic impersonation of the title-part, and Mr Geoffrey West is quite at ease and genuinely amusing as Bubbles. Miss Louie Peebles is charming and natural in her portrayal of Lady Jessie; Miss Alberta Clegg makes a winsome Sybil; and Mrs F. Mitcalf is seen to advantage as Polly.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs Sawyer and Woodruffe.—Messrs Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company in *Why Men Love Women* is appearing here. Mr Paumier makes a powerful Gerald Fielding. Mr Bensley Evans cleverly depicts Serge Staniloff. Tommy Fitzherbert is well played by Mr W. S. Hardy. Mr Edwin Lever successfully impersonates the Maharajah of Balore. Mr R. Calvert Haws in the rôle of the Rev. Edward Grey is appreciated. Mr A. Radford fills the part of Ghundra Singh in praiseworthy style. Miss Annie Saker displays great ability as Violet Livingstone. Miss Olive Lanty enacts Muriel Zoluski in convincing style. Mr H. Roberts as Orlando Figgins, Miss Queenie Nigel as Birdie Summertop, Miss Violet Godfrey as Baby Winterbottom, and Miss Marie Glynne as Matilda Figgins ably provide the humorous element.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead.—Woolford's Circus provides an enjoyable entertainment here. Akimoto's Troupe of plucky Japs are brilliant equilibrists, jugglers, and balancers. Kid Johnson and Maisie Pelham, American novel speciality artists, contribute a pleasing turn. Culpitt does some clever conjuring, and displays versatility in his quick-change impersonations. The Flying Zedoras perform difficult gymnastic feats very gracefully; Geo. Foyle's songs are appreciated; Gerald Mount is a successful vocalist and mimic; Robins and Collier's sketch, *The Photographer and the Lady*, evokes roars of laughter; and Alba and Amba gain rounds of applause by their mirth-provoking comedy juggling act. Mr Clement Freeman, the courteous resident acting-manager of this well-appointed hippodrome, carefully attends to the comfort of its patrons.

RADCLIFFE.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr Jas. Boothman.—There is a great attraction this week in the welcome return visit of Messrs Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company in the American drama *The Still Alarm*. The natural and easy style of Mr Matthew H. Glenville as Jack Manley wins repeated applause; Mr Paul Lovett displays ability as John Bird; Mr Tom Beasley is good as Willie Manley; the make-up and acting of Mr F. Osmond as Doc Wilber deserve special praise; and Mr Lewis Gordon is a capital Franklyn Fordham. Mr Frank Wilson as the Messenger Boy is also good. The part of Elinore Fordham is skilfully handed by Miss May Lovett; and Miss Mabel Veritan is a typical Mrs Manley. Miss Connie Meadows is most satisfactory as Carrie Wilber.

RAMSGATE.

AMPHITHEATRE. — Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General Manager, Mr Henry Bowman.—*Judy; or, The Fatal Hand*, has been staged with considerable success by Mr George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's talented company this week. Miss Florrie Groves as Judy plays in a manner which calls for distinct praise, and audiences have not been slow to recognise the fact. Mr George Kirk is thoroughly at home in the powerful rôle of the detective Grip; as the unworthy Duburg Mr R. Ferris performs in eminently satisfactory fashion; Miss Violet Langley is similarly effective as Madame Blake; Mr W. Vane is a capital hero as Sterling, the banker; and the dual part of Alice and Polly is sustained with marked skill and versatility by Miss Mary Neil. Mr W. Casy is really humorous as Jim, the coster.

RAWTENSTALL.

GRAND THEATRE.—Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr J. Potter; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr J. Ellis Miller.—Mrs Bandmann-Palmer is paying a welcome return visit this week with her fine répertoire company, and on Monday opened with *Sapho*, which met with a gratifying reception. As Sapho Mrs Bandmann-Palmer proved herself as clever as ever, giving a powerful and artistic impersonation. Her efforts were ably supported by Mr F. Skein, who as Jean Gaussin was thoroughly efficient and natural. Mr George Munroe as Cæsar Gaussin was distinctly humorous, and his scenes with Miss K. Herbert (Divonne Gaussin) were always enjoyable. Mr Fenton as Dechelette, Mr E. Grogan as Caouda', and Mr W. Trant as Lacoeur were excellent in their respective parts, as indeed were all the other members of the cast. The week's programme includes *Nell Gwynn*, *Mary Queen of Scots*, *Leah the Forsaken*, and *Jane Shore*.

READING.

ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr Reginald Taylor. — Mr Mouillot's chief company is playing here this week, the popular Japanese opera, *The Geisha*, being the attraction, with the exception of Friday night, when *A Greek Slave* was produced. The first-named opera was also performed at a well-attended matinée on Wednesday. Miss Violet Moors acted and sang with great ability as O Mimosa San; Miss Florrie Saunders was a great success in the part of Molly Seamore; Mr Edward Carlton was exceedingly amusing as Wun-Hi; and Miss Violet Kenyon did well as O Juliette Diamant. Mr Arthur Carlton was satisfactory as Reginald Fairfax, and Mr Lionel Braham as the Marquis Imari sustained his part well.

ROCHDALE.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED. — Managing-Director, Mr W. Robinson; General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr Charles Clucas.—Milton-Rays' company, with the pantomime *Bo-Peep*, is the attraction here this week. It is replete with boisterous merriment, and some capital dancing is submitted. The scenery is exceptionally pretty. The title-rôle is sweetly acted by Miss Ada Wright; Miss Daisy Morell makes a dashing Ferdinand; and Little Boy Blue has a lively and vivacious exponent in Miss Lily Wright. The Four Sisters Tree are prominent with some excellent dancing and singing as the Secret Police, &c. Miss Ethel Patrick as Kitty Clover and Miss Maude St. John as Molly Dump are both successful in their respective parts. Mr Harry Elliston is funny and amusing as Binks, and the traditions of the bad Baron are in the safe hands of Mr Jack Hylton. Mr W. G. Wesley makes up well as Dame Trott, and creates roars of laughter; the Two Eitons as Simple Simon and Johnny Stout introduce a clever horizontal bar performance; and the Marblesque Trio are both clever and amusing. Mr H. V. Morgan as the Gipsy King also deserves a word of praise for his capital impersonation.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES — Proprietors, Messrs Smith and Lee; Business-Manager, Mr S. L. Lee.—An excellent all-round bill-of-fare is provided here this week. The Dillons, in a novel gymnastic display, are both clever and amusing; Massona is a smart juggler, and manipulates hats, balls, and billiard cues with wonderful dexterity; Will Souls, in his laughing comicalities, is a popular turn; and the Ettenas, as globe speciality artistes, evoke hearty applause. Nellie Gannon, vocalist and dancer; Peggy Fame, comedienne and dancer; Harry Wright, character comedian and extempore vocalist; and Rice, Rose, Davis, and the Half, with a most amusing sketch, are also in the list.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Hargreaves.—The programme submitted this week includes Atlas and Vulcana, who display extraordinary strength and agility in weight lifting, Vulcana in classic poses also displays a wonderful set of muscles. Gold and Stirling submit a pleasing musical sketch, *The Street Singers*; Percy Farrimond is accorded a storm of applause for his fine vocalism; J. H. M'Cann, comedian and roller-skate dancer, is most successful; Satsuma performs some marvellous conjuring tricks; Davis and Davis, refined comedians, give a novel comedy act with a startling termination; and the Empire Bioscope and an extra turn by Mike Cray, who keeps the audience roaring with laughter at his comic conjuring tricks, complete the list.

ROTHERHAM.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr W. Manning.—Miss Renee Glendower and company are providing the attraction this week with *The Ladder of Life*, under the personal direction of Mr C. Finch-Hatton. Mr Tyrone Power is seen to advantage as General Gordon, and Mr Roy F. Gascoigne scores as Colonel Macgregor. Mr C. H. Matthews gives a careful rendering of the part of Fergus Gordon, and Mr Roy Milton is a manly Lieutenant David Gordon. Miss Winnie De Lacey as Little Gordon speaks her lines with intelligence, and Miss Hilda Young is a sprightly Mary Jane Jolliboy. Miss Renee Glendower gives a life-like portrayal of Mother Flint, an old hag, and Miss Flora Leslie is pleasing as Meg Merrilees. Miss Stephanie Barry as Olga Sobinsky submits a careful and effective rendition of the part, and the Feros are responsible for a capital acrobatic turn.

DRILL HALL.—Messrs H. and F. Poole are again here for their annual visit with the famous Myriorama, which is, as usual, quite up to date. The specialities are of a very high class, including the Maysumas, Japanese acrobats; "Houston," the marvellous Chinese magician; the George French Troupe of acrobatic cyclists; the Snow Family; and Mr Frank Lyndon, novelty instrumentalist, who also acts as guide.

RUGBY.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr E. Parker-Royston.—The first three nights of this week Mr Charles Macdona's company presented *A Chinese Honeymoon*. As the Emperor Mr Stene Louch plays with marked ability, and Mr Louis Ashmeade is excellent as Chipple Chop. Mr Maxwell Stewart is droll as Admiral Hi Lung, and Mr Arthur Foote gives an acceptable and artistic rendering of Tom Atherton. Mr Sidney Burt is most successful in his clever and humorous rendering of the part of Mr Pineapple. Miss Ettie Cinders as Fi Fi displays great talent and vivacity, working hard and scoring a success. Miss Alice Newton as Mrs Pineapple proves herself to be a charming and clever actress, and Miss Daisie Dale and Miss Marie Ford are very acceptable as the Bridesmaids. Miss Florence Hallam as the Princess Soo Soo is seen to great advantage. Her acting is most artistic, and she sings with excellent taste. The remaining characters are all adequately represented.

FOSSETT'S HIPPODROME.—A very strong programme is presented this week. Miss Marie, in her scene act on horseback, displays great daring and ability. Mr Fossett, in addition to his usual very clever equestrian performance, introduces his wonderful performing mare Maud. La Belle Rosa gives an able performance on the violin, zither, and mandoline. Mr Charles Beckett, in addition to his usual acceptable turn, gives a very clever exhibition on the flying rings. Miss Nellie Fossett makes her first appearance before the public, and displays great natural ability and daring, and bids fair to become an accomplished equestrienne. Collin and Irene give a clever entertainment as second-sight experts and illusionists. The Brothers Smarte are very good, and Mr Fossett, in a scene from the late Boer War, called "The Despatch Rider," is successful.

RUNCORN.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr H. W. Caddick.—A dramatic treat is provided this week in the shape of Miss Marie Dagmar's company with *A Life's Revenge*. Mr Fred C. Somerfield gives a powerful rendering of Prince Strogoroff; Mr John F. Traynor submits an admirable study of the down-trodden serf, Paul Starovitch; Mr Walter Roberts as the venerable Michael Orloff is excellent; Mr T. G. Kane presents an impressive picture of the straightforward Englishman, Maurice Trevor; Mr Sidney Ernest as Nicholas, Mr Chas. E. Warne as Colonel Tumbleoff, Mr Geo. C. Hall as Clarence Chesterfield; Miss Maudie Grayson as Daphne Dashaway, and Miss Amy Hughes as Acoulina are responsible for much light comedy of an entertaining character; Miss Amy Ellam is a forceful Marcia Vittoria; and Miss Marie Dagmar displays tact and ability as the Princess Vanda Ivyala.

SALFORD.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr Harold Goulden.—The Irish musical costume play *The Wearin' o' the Green* has evidently not lost in popularity, from the fact that on Monday a full house was drawn to witness it. As Barney O'Hea Mr Chalmers Mackey is very droll, Miss Lalla Stanhope as Biddy M'Gian ably assisting him, and their singing and dancing are well received. Norah M'Grath is pleasingly presented by Mrs Chalmers Mackey. Villainy is well depicted by Mr J. S. Chamberlain as Michael Kenny. Mr Charles Homer is a manly Shamus M'Dermott, and sings with spirit. Mr John Neville gives an amusing study as Sergeant Yorke. Mr A. Macaulay as Connor Martin, Mr H. Sainsbury as Sir John Courtenay, Mr Henry Danson as Gerald Courtenay, and Miss Adele Liddon as Mrs M'Dermott also render able support.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Licensee, Mr G. Wilberforce Turner; Manager and Secretary, Mr Frederick Yates.—It will be noticed that this week there is a change in the management of this theatre by the death of Mr James M. Hardie and the withdrawal of Mr Thomas Barrasford. This does not, however, alter the class of entertainment, and a thoroughly enjoyable one is given this week. A very amusing turn is that of the peculiar comedian, Fred Curran; W. F. Frame is also funny with his "Scotchman in China;" an exceedingly smart cycle riding act on a table is given by Alexander; De Henau dexterously uses his feet in painting or otherwise; and other acceptable turns are given by the O'Learys, burlesque acrobats; Aladina with her troupe of performing cockatoos; the Densmores, in their pantomime sketch *Early Morning in the Kitchen*; and Ted Cowan, quaint comedian. Some good animated pictures complete the programme.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr J. B. Taylor.—Good value is given twice nightly to large houses. A considerable portion of the programme is taken up by Mr H. Hesslegrave as Soft Tommy Shuttleworth, with the assistance of Mr G. Francis, Mr Basil Hillier, Miss K. Perowne, Mr D. Harcourt, Mr Jackson Rogerson, and Miss Maud Marsden, in a sketch entitled *Soft Tommy*. Acceptable turns are also provided by the Sisters Marion, two young high-class vocalists; the Stoll Brothers, comedy wrestlers; J. P. Dane, eccentric comedian and dancer; Harleno, a smart paper manipulator, &c.; Countees, clever humorous duettists; Gregson Comedy Three, in their mirth-provoking novel sketch; Fred Casburn, comedian; and Ben Hur, strong man and athlete, together with the animated pictures.

L. AND N. W. PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietress, Mrs S. A. Higham; Manager, Mr Sam Higham.—This week's company includes Mr George Love, comedian; Miss Alice Rodney, serio; Mr Jack Fernley, comedian and expert dancer; and Mr Sam Higham, vocal comedian.

BRIDGE HOTEL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Tom Bradbury.—Mr Arthur Lee, versatile comedian; Miss Florrie Blanche, ballad vocalist; and Mr Ted Sykes, banjo soloist, &c., are among those providing a pleasant entertainment this week.

SALISBURY.

COUNTY HALL.—Proprietor, Mr Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr T. Brinsmead.—Miss Kitty Irving's pantomime company is appearing here this week under the direction of Mr S. J. Liddicoat. The book is written round the popular story of Dick Whittington, and Miss Marie Liston appears as the principal boy, with Miss Gracie Perry as Alice Fitzwarren. The Sisters Cousins introduce some clever dancing, and Mr Fred Ellis is responsible for most of the fun.

SCARBOROUGH.

PEOPLE'S PALACE AND AQUARIUM.—Managing Director, Mr Wm. Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr Walter Kitchingman.—Messrs May and Hunter's pantomime is fulfilling a six nights' engagement here with *Robinson Crusoe*. Miss Florence Kendal acts and dances well as Polly; Miss Beattie Wilson's fine voice is heard to advantage as Sally; Miss Lulu Burgovne plays Robinson Crusoe effectively; Mr Fred May is a capital Madame De Crusoe; and Mr Horace Barri does well as Will Atkins. Mr Frederick Golding puts in good work as a lightning cartoonist, and Mr Tom Warne plays some pretty airs on the xylophone. Little Doris Myddleton, the child comedienne, is deservedly encored for one or two well-rendered songs.

SEACOMBE.

IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Jas. Kiernan.—Messrs. Geo. Edwardes's and Charles Frohman's company is attracting good audiences here this week with *Are You a Mason?* Mr Anthony Fawcett is a natural and gentlemanly George Fisher; Mr Harry Ashford a capital Amos Bloodgood; Mr Arthur Claremont leaves little to be desired as Frank Perry; and Eva (Mrs Perry) is equally well played by Miss Violet Graham. John Halton is well sustained by Mr Tom Mowbray, Mrs Halton being cleverly depicted by Miss Mabel Younge. Mr Frank Ridley is decidedly comic as Hamilton Travers; and Miss Edith Ife makes a clever character of Lottie. Mr Valentine O'Connor is decidedly successful as Ernest Morrison; and Annie and Lulu are charmingly portrayed by Miss Lily Beagle and Miss Isa Glynn respectively. The smart little comedietta entitled *Hushed Up* is the curtain-raiser.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr A. C. Harrison.—*A Country Girl* is drawing crowded houses here this week, the delightful comedy being presented in capital style by Mr Charles Macdona's company. It is also attractively mounted and dressed. Mr Guy Williams is a most capable Geoffrey Challoner; Mr Walter Champney as Barry proves himself a first-rate comedian; the Rajah of Bhong is submitted in pleasing style by Mr Jack Parson; Sir Joseph Verity is well presented by Mr Wallace Bosco; and Mr W. Besley Beltran as Douglas Verity and Mr George Stone as Granfer Mummery do good work. Marjorie is artistically played by Miss Beatrice Rowe, whose vocal efforts are much enjoyed; as Nan Miss Kathleen Comber displays vivacity and charm; Sophie is prettily embodied by Miss Amy Dewhurst; and as the Princess Miss Gertrude De Lacy is very good.

SHEERNESS.

COLISEUM.—Sole Proprietor, Mr T. C. Dorling; Manager, Mr Chas. Melvin. — Mr Harry Firth's company is here for this week with the pantomime *Cinderella*. In the title-role Miss Madge Osmond is a distinct success; as Prince Perfect Miss Dora Denmark makes a capital boy; Mr J. Binns and Mr H. Haines as the Ugly Sisters are responsible for a lot of fun; and the Baron Pebbly Beach, as delineated by Mr E. Wilson, is well received; Messrs Marsh and Morris as the Prince's footmen are decidedly amusing. The specialities include Edouard Earle, card manipulator; Sisters Godfrey, speciality dancers; Lieut. Chas. Valvo, ventriloquist; and others.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr P. Reymond.—The Walcot Combination is here again for this week in the successful production of the dramatic sketch *A Human Spider*. Other equally meritorious items include Miss Lillie Gainsley, comedienne; Mr Fred Carroll, comedian; and Hawley and Crescent, comedy sketch artistes.

SHEFFIELD.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr F. W. Purcell; Acting-Manager, Mr T. S. Carter.—Messrs Dottridge and Longden's *Little Goody Two Shoes* finishes its Sheffield run this week, and on Monday the company and entire *mise-en-scène* of the pantomime *Cinderella* from the Alexandra Theatre, London, will be transferred direct.

LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr John Hart; General Manager and Treasurer, Mr J. E. B. Beaumont.—On Monday Mr Compton, the charming Miss Haidée Gunn, Mr Charles Stone, and other clever artists appeared to a good house in *The School for Scandal*, and other comedies billed were *A Reformed Rake*, *The Rivals*, *David Garrick*, *To-morrow*, and *She Stoops to Conquer*.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr C. W. Ramsay.—*Aladdin* will finish its career at this theatre to-night. On Wednesday those drolls, Messrs August and September, took a well-deserved benefit, and last night was fixed for the special night of the pretty Pekoe, Miss Maude Esmond, whose coon songs have been a pleasing feature.

EMPIRE PALACE.—General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr A. W. Young.—Engaged here this week are the Union Gatling Guards in a realistic sketch illustrative of actual warfare; Belle Davis and her little African piccanninies in a smart act; Mabel Hind, comedienne; Sisters Jonghmanns, duettists; Les Vencentinas, skaters; the Wotpert Trio, Continental acrobats; Madame Alice Simmons, operatic vocalist; Albert Whelan, Australian entertainer; M'Phee and Bill in a good horizontal bar act; and the Fitzroys, a smart pair of gymnasts, in a society aerial act.

SHREWSBURY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Business Manager, Mr W. C. Dornton.—Mr Leslie Norman's smart and capable company is here this week with *A Trip to Chinatown*, which goes more merrily than ever. Mr Chas. Seguin is highly amusing as Welland Strong; Mr Jerrold Manville makes a droll and lively Ben Gay; Mr Leslie Norman acts with ability as Rashleigh Gay; Mr Oswald Grey merits praise as Norman Blood; Mr Will Smith is a capital waiter; Mr S. Champion an effective Slavin Payne; and Mr Ewart Drake an amusing Jones of Chinatown. Miss Kitty Marion, who has a fine stage presence, sings and acts with considerable ability as Mrs Guyer; Miss Daisy Revett is thoroughly successful as Flirt; and Miss Florrie M'Innes as Tiny Gay acts her part creditably. Miss Winifred Davies is good as Isabel Dame; and Miss Frances Errol is vivacious as Willie Grow.

SMETHWICK.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr C. Barnard; Manager, Mr E. Hewitson.—Frank M. Thorne's company, under the direction of Messrs Carson and Granville, is here this week with *Napoleon the Great*. Mr Hugh Montgomery gives a thoughtful and vigorous portrayal of the title-rôle; Mr Henry Earlesmere is a clever Colonel Lavarennes; Mr Phil Harper is seen to advantage as Colonel Jules Meuron; Mr J. G. Maine as Paul Laczinska is distinctly effective; as Pierre Pomponnet Mr Frank M. Thorne infuses plenty of humour into the part; Mr C. W. Spencer makes a decided hit as Sergeant Choupin; and Mr Louis Edmonde is deserving of mention as Monsieur Fouche. Miss Chrissie Dunbar is both fascinating and accomplished in her portrayal of Marie Waleswka; Miss Maud Russell is all that can be desired as Mdlle. Leonie Marboeuf; Miss Marie Harcourt is a vivacious Marcella Choupin; Miss Florence Thorne plays well as Mere Dumont; and Miss Adelaide Cromer is a sprightly Lisette.

SOUTHAMPTON.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs J. W. Gordon.—Notwithstanding the strong counter attraction large audiences have been witnessing Frederick Melville's successful drama *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. The cast is a capital one, special mention being made of Miss Beatrice Homer, who, in the title-rôle, has proved herself an emotional actress of undoubted ability. The mounting and staging are excellent, and the play, which bristles with exciting incidents, is followed throughout with intense interest.

PALACE.—Manager, Mr Charles Marte.—Franco Piper, an expert banjoist, wins loud applause for his artistic and clever musical turn, Lind? Les Voces, operatic duettists; Dot Hardy, comedienne; Knick Knacks, dancers; Lizzie B. Raymond, comedienne; Will Harvey, comedian; and Rhoda Brothers, in their equilibristic act, all appear with conspicuous success; and the Bioscope is as popular as ever.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr W. Marlow, sen.; Manager, Mr W. Marlow, jun.—This week's attraction is provided by Mr Geo. Lyttleton and established dramatic company, who are presenting the powerful domestic comedy melodrama, in four acts, entitled *At War With the World*. The play meets with well-merited success, and the scenery is pretty. Squire Redfern finds an able exponent in Mr Geo. Lyttleton, jun.; Mr Geo. Lyttleton, sen., well portrays Tom Redfern; Mr Leslie K. Manton takes the character of Hugh Redfern, known as Farmer Maddox, creditably; Thornton Westmeare, the adventurer, has a clever exponent in Mr A. E. Johnstone; Mr F. J. Lewis as Gregory Blotts makes a humorous character; Jack Arkwright is well presented by Mr Lyon Farwell; Miss Lilian Beaumont gives a winsome portrayal of Edna Maddox; Miss Nora Kingsley does well as Mrs Leslie; and Miss Helen Farnell is pleasing as Mabel Leslie.

SPENNYMOOR.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr Herbert Vere.—Messrs Mitchell and Belton's company is appearing here this week in *The Conscript*, which, after an absence of nine years, is again meeting with favour. Miss Mary Dawson stands out conspicuously for her admirable rendering of N

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

ST. JAMES'S.

On Friday, Jan. 27, the Play, in One Act, by Alfred Sutro, entitled
"A MAKER OF MEN."

Cuthbert Farringdon .... Mr W. Graham Browne
Edith Farringdon ..... Miss Edith Olive
A Maid ..... Miss Barbara Hannay

Mr Alfred Sutro is the playwright who has been quite powerful in preaching a strong sermon against the morals of a certain section of society and at the same time in embodying his discourse in a successful play, well constructed, dramatic, and full of clever character-drawing. On Friday, the 27th ult., he followed his own example—*The Walls of Jericho*—at the St. James's in what is practically a duologue, containing a strong and admirably written treatise on the duty of the married woman of the middle classes, as a mother, wife, and companion, and we may say at once that his essay made an irresistible appeal to a large audience. Cuthbert and Edith Farrington, both representatives of educated gentility, have a refined home, but the sum of three hundred pounds per annum hardly represents luxury, and the husband, a bank clerk, at the rising of the curtain is anxiously awaiting a letter that he hopes will make a change in his fortunes. He has applied for the post of branch manager, and if successful his income will be doubled. There will be less drudgery for Edith, who superintends the ménage and the training of the three boys with the help of one small servant. They will be able to keep another domestic; they will occasionally afford a stall at a theatre, a dinner at a restaurant, or other little extravagances that are at present outside the scope of Cuthbert's present salary. The letter arrives, and is a sore disappointment. It is his last chance, and he has lost it. The good fortune is not to be his, and Cuthbert bitterly reproaches himself. He had been a "rotten" failure in life; opportunity had knocked at the door, and he had not opened it. It was not mere influence that had kept him unpromoted while younger men stepped over him; it was want of ability. Edith opposes his unreason by sweet reasonableness. With the unerring tact and sympathy of a woman of high culture she battles his pessimism. She talks of her children—the three boys who have been given to them. What better nurse could they have than their own mother? What greater privilege could a woman have than the training of her own children? It was a blessed responsibility, and she would fulfil it by being a maker of men! Slavery, drudgery—it was never that! It could not be so in a home ruled by love, since love is the only thing that counts in this foolish world. The husband becomes reconciled to disappointment by the delightful optimism of an ideal wife, and the curtain falls. The thesis is beautifully written, and though *A Maker of Men* is not dramatic, it sounds a deeply sympathetic note, and its reception was of the most cordial character. Miss Edyth Olive, who has of late been doing excellent work in classical rôles, pictures the loving wife and mother in a way that goes straight to the heart. Such tenderness, sincerity, and charm are rare. High hopes and lofty ideals could not find more eloquent utterance. Mr W. Graham Browne, whose early speeches were somewhat hurried, made the irritable self-reproaches of Cuthbert Farringdon sound quite natural, and gave excellent support generally. Miss Barbara Hannay had nothing to do as the maid, so that the little play resolves itself into a duologue. Visitors to the St. James's should on no account miss it.

Life is not taken seriously in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, and the brilliant persiflage of that comedy may be heartily enjoyed not once, but many times. There are two important alterations in the cast since we last noticed it. The place of Mr Sydney Brough, who is now at His Majesty's, is taken by Mr Eric Lewis. His Lord Augustus Lorton is an imperturbably good-tempered noodle, but unmistakably a gentleman; and Mr Lewis, though always putting such exquisite polish on his work, never forgets his humorous chances, but makes the very most of them. Another new comer to the cast is Mr Robert Horton, who does duty for Mr Vane Tempest in the rôle of Dumby. The part is not a great one, but it has an important place in the author's comedy plan, and Mr Horton is absolutely correct in his treatment of it. Miss Marion Terry is better than ever as Mrs Erlynne, and the scene between the mother and daughter in Lord Darlington's rooms, which is the most dramatic in the piece, is admirably treated by both Miss Terry and Miss Braithwaite. Miss Fanny Coleman as the Duchess of Berwick is a most amusing society *grande dame*—in this instance a compound of shrewdness and common sense. Mr Ben Webster makes the most of his chances in the last two acts of the play, and Mr C. Aubrey Smith presents the brilliant talker and lady-killer Lord Darlington as a reasonable and even a sympathetic personage. Mr Leslie Faber gives excellent emphasis to the many good things uttered by Mr Cecil Graham; and the characters of Lady Plumdale, Lady Cowper-Cowper, Lady Jedburgh, and Lady Agatha Carlisle are handled with refinement and delicacy by Miss Pauline French, Miss Eileen Lewis, Miss Elinor Aickin, and Miss Coresandio Hamilton. The comedy goes exceedingly well, and is punctuated with laughter throughout.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Jan. 30, the Play, in Three Acts, by Eugen Tschirikoff, entitled
"THE CHOSEN PEOPLE."

A particularly interesting and appropriate engagement this week is the visit direct from the Avenue Theatre of the St. Petersburg dramatic company, under the direction of Mr P. N. Orleneff, in Eugen Tschirikoff's play, *The Chosen People*. As this was fully noticed in our columns of last week we need only say that the success obtained by the sincerity of the performance at the West-end was fully assured on Monday evening by the close and earnest attention with which the audience followed every incident in this somewhat lengthily drawn-out tragedy. Madame A. Nasimoff gave a powerful rendering of Lia, and Mr N. Orloff was natural as the old watchmaker, Leiser Frenkel, while Mr P. N. Orleneff as Nachmann, the Zionist leader, presented a vigorous interpretation of the part. A well-studied reading of Boruch was given by Mr D. Michailoff, and Mr A. Karataeff was capital as Isersson. Mr J. Wronski was well placed as Beresin, and capable impersonations of Furman and Srul were given by Mr A. Sorokin and Mr D. Letkowsky. The remaining characters were in good hands, and the one scene, Frankel's Shop and House, was a well-built set. Mr Charles Aves, the musical conductor, is to be congratulated on the exceptionally fine playing of the Pavilion orchestra, the overture, "Rosamunde" (Schubert), "Hungarian dances" (Brahms), "Berceuse" of Godard, and "Songs without Words" (Mendelssohn), being brilliantly executed and greatly appreciated.

THE BRITANNIA.

On Monday, Jan. 30, the Drama, by James Willard, entitled
"A WOMAN'S PLUCK."

The successful pantomime season at this theatre terminated on Saturday night, and drama again has occupation of a stage which was for so many years specially associated with this form of entertainment when the famous Hoxton house was under the management of the late Mrs Sara Lane. Mr James Willard's play was originally produced at the Crown Theatre, Peckham, on June 1, 1903, under the title of *The Crimson Horseshoe*. The heroine of the story is a young girl known as Jessie Pope, who is supposed to be the child of poor parents, but is really the heiress to the property of Sir Noel Fordyce. She was kidnapped, it appears, when a child, and having been taken charge of by some wandering gipsies, was adopted by Matthew Pope, a blind basket maker. The villain of the play is a certain Dick Darrell, who claims to be the heir presumptive to Sir Noel Fordyce, but he does not have all his own way, for he finds a match in Grace Daremont, his mistress, who has learnt the noble art of self-defence. This comes in very useful when she discovers that Grace has been subjected to the unmanly persecution of Darrell. She puts on the gloves and gives him "the soundest thrashing he has ever had in his life." In spite of this severe lesson, however, he attempts to murder Jessie by throwing her into the river, but she is rescued by her sweetheart, Winston Dale, and the lovers are eventually made happy. Miss East Robertson has been specially engaged for her original rôle of Grace Daremont, and she again played the part with a spirit and vigour that made her performance one of supreme excellence. She was specially successful in the scene with Darrell already mentioned, and which gives the play its new title. Mr Arthur Burne acted well as the hero, Winston Dale; and Mr Frank Harding gave a clever rendering of Dick Darrell. Mr J. C. Aubrey was successful in his delineation of Jim Daremont, known as "the Tiger." Mr Tom Wallace displayed considerable humour as Roger Pippin, a Punch and Judy showman, and was capitally supported by Miss Marie Wright as Mrs Pippin; Mr Harry Pleon, jun., scored as the precocious youth, Bertie Daredevil; and Mr Brian Daly was good as Mathew Pope. Miss Jessie Yatman in the part of Jessie Pope won general favour. Miss Julia Summers did well as Mrs Pope, and other female characters were creditably played by the Misses Emily Dowton, Gladys Anderson, Marie St. George, and Daisy Price. Mr T. Teversham appeared as Sir Noel Fordyce, known as "the Mad Squire;" and other parts were entrusted to Messrs Paul Peters, Chas. Groves, John Willet, J. P. Ellis, and others. The varieties this week include an original series of illustrated pictures and Mr Arthur Gilbert, character comedian.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Jan. 30, the Drama, in Four Acts, by C. R. Clarke and H. R. Sylva, entitled
"HONOUR THY FATHER."

The Marylebone devotees of drama turned up in full force to welcome the return visit of Mr T. Morton Powell's company in this successful play from the Imperial Theatre. The rôle of Gabriel Garth was sustained in forcible fashion by Mr J. W. Evelyn, his work throughout the evening denoting earnest interest in his part. The villainous Duncan Bly found an excellent exponent in Mr Juan De Alberti, who lent conspicuous distinction to a trying character. Mr Walter Dale as Mike Copplestone acted in a rollicking style, quickly becoming a warm favourite, and Mr W. H. Melrose as Ned Pennycomequick must be commended for a good rendering of a part not overburdened with possibilities. As Jack Halyard Mr Douglas B. Watson played in a cheery, breezy manner, whilst Mr Claude Merton had his hands full, for in addition to stage-managing the production he acted the dual-rôle of Job Merry and George Bloggs in capital style. Miss Mabel Coleman portrayed Lilian Garth in a natural and easy way; Miss Kitty Russell threw plenty of energy and spirit into the part of Mercy Merry; Miss Lizzie Moorley was a pert and vivacious Poppy Cornleigh; Miss Maud Grey was well placed as Violet Wilfred; and Miss Kate Newton scored as Gertrude Garth. The mounting of the play left nothing to be desired, and in front Mr Morton Powell's interests were looked after in a capable way by Mr Frank Eden.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Jan. 30, the Comedy, by Frederick Fenn and Richard Pryce, entitled
"SATURDAY TO MONDAY."

Last Saturday the run of the pantomime at the Grand, Fulham, came to an end, and on Monday the ordinary season began. The opening piece was that "irresponsible comedy," *Saturday to Monday*, by Frederick Fenn and Richard Pryce, played by a capital company organised by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr Percy Hutchison. The company appeared to treat it more as a farce than a comedy, and there is much to be said in favour of this line of action. In most parts it is more farce than comedy, and the frank acceptance as farce of all that part which deals with the disillusionment of the too-confiding ladies serves to minimise the jarring effect which the rather heartless joke of Lord Culver might otherwise produce on the finer feelings of the sensitive playgoer. But, in addition to the farce, there is a pleasant vein of real sentiment running through the play. Mr Stuart Champion was excellent as Lord Culvert both in his reckless and his tender moods. Miss Moyra Creegan, who adds much charm of manner to a singularly fine presence, won all sympathies as Mrs Wendover. Mr Dallas Welford made a clever character study of the part of the utterly absurd Pidding, and Miss Adeline Lester was equally amusing as Lady Diana. Mr Edwin Ling as a typical stage curate and Miss Madge Burton as his parochially minded sister were another laughable couple. Miss Kitty Doyle made a charming ingénue, and Miss Charlotte Mead as Miss Skeat, Miss Leyton as the maid, Thompson, with Mr Jack Hampton as Lord Culvert's secretary, Probyn, gave satisfactory renderings of their respective parts. Mrs Wendover's dinner gown was a dream of beauty, and the scenery should also have a word of praise, especially the set for act two, the Garden at Mrs Wendover's, with the river in the background. Altogether the company was most satisfactory, and although most of the play was farce—or very near it—there was not a trace of vulgarity or horseplay in words or "business." The curtain-raiser was *Judged by Appearances*, a little piece of more than average merit, in which Mr Dallas Welford as the despised husband who could not persuade the burglar to shoot him showed what he could do in a more serious rôle than that of Stanley Pidding. He was well supported by Miss Doyle and Messrs Ling and Hampton.

SHAKESPEARE, CLAPHAM-JUNCTION.

On Monday, Jan. 30, the Great Drury-lane Drama entitled
"THE WORLD."

After a successful run of pantomime, this theatre has reverted to drama, with an excellent example in *The World*, which was the first melodramatic hit made by Sir Augustus Harris at "The Lane." The company is good and thoroughly up to its work. Miss Beatrice Fay as Mary, the persecuted heroine, plays a difficult part with power and effect. The chief villian is most capably represented by Mr Francis Hawley; Mr Stuart Lomath as Sir Clement Huntingford plays in manly fashion; the Mose Jewell of Mr Johnny M'Elroy is very funny; Mr Jackson Hayes as Martin Bashford gives a vigorous and acceptable rendering of the part; Mr Payn Warburton plays Langley, the villainous lawyer, to the life; the Doctor Hawkins of Mr Valentine J. Cooke is an excellent study; and Mr Edward Beecham as the dying castaway wins the sympathies of the house. Miss Maud Scott acquits herself well as Ned, and Mabel Huntingford, the ill-treated wife, is sympathetically presented by Miss Octavia Noel. Miss Ida Irving as the fiancee of Dr. Wyndham dances well in tableau nine, and gives a capable rendering of the part.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 30, the Play, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE ETERNAL CITY."

Mr Bannister Howard's company, which is this week presenting Hall Caine's play *The Eternal City* to Dalston audiences, is meeting with a large amount of appreciation. The chief character in the play, that of the Baron Bonelli, is taken by Mr D. Leslie Mannering, who acts with courtly dignity and seems to thoroughly enter into the true spirit of the part. Mr Frederick Victor represents David Rossi, member of the Chamber of Deputies, and he makes an earnest and energetic champion of the cause of the people. Pope Pius XI. finds an excellent exponent in Mr F. Vernon Travers, who is evidently fully aware of the necessity of maintaining a calm and impressive demeanour in the representation of such a character. Mr P. L. Julian as Bruno Rocco (Rossi's friend), Mr E. Stanton Sharp as chief of the Roman police, and Mr Edward Clowes as Father Pifferi, a Capuchin friar, sustain their parts with due regard to effect. Miss Helen Haye in representing Donna Roma Volonna (Bonelli's ward) essays a task to which her talents supply the necessary element of success. The audience come to the conclusion as the representation proceeds that she is more sinned against than sinning, and Miss Haye is the recipient of much applause. Others representing female characters are Miss Edith King, Madame Rubardt, Miss Renee De L'Estrade, and Miss Mara Maltby; the cast also including Messrs T. Russell, W. Roberts, Cronin Wilson, C. Stafford, A. G. Brown, Russell Thorndike, R. Court, R. R. Moore, Percy Barlow, and D. Yarrow. The scenery throughout the five acts is particularly effective.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, Jan. 30, the Play entitled
"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."

The enormously successful pantomime *Dick Whittington* came to an end on Saturday night, and was succeeded on Monday by a widely different form of entertainment viz., the engagement of Mr Martin Harvey in the play entitled *The Breed of the Treshams*. In Lieutenant Rearsby Mr Martin Harvey has a part that fits him exactly. He is admirable in all the varying phases of the character. A more enjoyable performance it is impossible to conceive. The broad effects are beyond praise, and the close study of every minor detail of the part is admirable. Mr Harvey is excellently supported by the veteran actor, Mr Fred Wright, whose Colonel Bagshaw is a capable piece of work; and by Mr Charles Glenney, who sufficiently emphasises the villainy of Colonel Clement Rutherford, and adds much to the success of the play by his powerful rendering of the parts. Mr George Cookes acts remarkably well as Sir Henry Curwen, and makes the character one of the most interesting in the cast. Mr Reeve Denbigh exactly realises the cowardly braggart Captain Stanhope; Mr Leonard Craske is good as Captain Rashleigh, Mr Eugene Wellesley is a clever Lieutenant Willoughby; Mr Percy Anstey is quietly effective and convincing as Cornet the Hon. Francis Tresham. The remaining male parts are in the competent hands of Messrs Arthur Maude, A. Manefield, P. Hewland, P. Alexander, and R. Havers. Miss Coleridge is an interesting Margaret Hungerford; Mrs Bagshaw is admirably acted by Miss Edith Coleman; Miss Bessie Elder is good as Helena Pierrepont; and last, but by no means least, clever Miss N. De Silva shows by her artistic representation of Batty what good work she can do when she has the chance. There were numerous "calls" at the end of the acts.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 30, the Play, entitled
"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND."

Mr John Wainwright's company is doing full justice to Charles Reade's famous play, which seems to increase in popularity as the years go by. Mr Wainwright as Tom Robinson is a host in himself—he brings out every point with the skill of the legitimate artist. He is ably supported by Mr Wilfred Graham, whose George Fielding is excellent in every way. Mr Charles F. Johnson is very good as the tender-hearted Mr Eden, whose earnest work as prison chaplain appeals so strongly to the audience. An exactly opposite character is that of Mr Hawes, the governor of the model prison, which is graphically rendered by Mr W. R. Wilson. Mr Henry Lee's Peter Crawley is an excellent character-study. Mr Edwin Davis is a picturesque and powerful Isaac Levi, Mr Harold Webb is a sufficiently hard-hearted and unscrupulous Meadows, Mr Fred Owen causes unbounded merriment by the antics of Jackey, Mr W. R. Weldon acts well as Mr Merton, and the same remark applies to Mr Charles Carlton as William Fielding. Miss Kate Randolph is a pleasing and capable Susan Merton, while Miss Minnie Wilton's sympathetic rendering of the part of the ill-fated lad Josephs wins all hearts. The remaining characters are in good hands.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Jan. 30, the Musical, Pantomimical Comedy,
"THE SWISS EXPRESS."

The Brothers Renad are here this week with their amusing burlesque, *The Swiss Express*. Messrs Charles and Frederick Renad are, of course, the life and soul of the piece, and well do they acquit themselves, for it is difficult to imagine anything funnier than their impersonation of the two footmen. The clever way in which they work together and play into each other's hands is itself worth seeing, and adds largely to the success of their performance. That their efforts are fully appreciated is plainly evident from the attitude of the audience, with whom it is indeed a case of "laughter holding both its sides." Valuable assistance in the direction of mirth-providing is rendered by Mr Wilford Bailey, whose richly humorous impersonation of Dr. Gull calls forth shouts of laughter. Miss May Heart makes a winsome Virginia. She acts with ease and grace, her singing and dancing also being much appreciated; Miss Nellie Fern hits off the part of Mrs Squeeze to a nicety; Mr George Martin is responsible for a droll rendering of Rob Rollingstone; Mr Alec Wylie plays Dudley Green with a good deal of dry humour; and Mr George Power as the hotel-keeper and Mr H. Alexander as Squeeze contribute considerably towards keeping everyone in a good humour. The smaller parts are carefully and capably rendered, and the play is mounted and staged excellently. A notable and acceptable feature of the entertainment is the clever dancing and bright singing of the Brighton Girls.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Jan. 30, the Play, in Three Acts, by Louis N. Parker, entitled
"THE CARDINAL."

Following upon a most successful pantomime season Mr Peter Davey, the managing-director of the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, presented his patrons on Monday with that pathetically interesting play, *The Cardinal*, which was brought entire from the St. James's Theatre, and was produced under the personal direction of the author. Mrs Russ Whytal's company was a very strong one all round, and gave a rendering that was eminently creditable to all concerned. The central figure in the production, Cardinal Giovanni di Medici was played by Mr Philip Cuningham, who succeeded in enlisting the sympathies of the audience from the rising of the curtain till the end by an eminently clever portrayal of the cleric torn by conflicting emotions. Mrs Russ Whytal as Filiberta also achieved a great success, her acting being most impressive. A very clever impression of the swaggering outlaw, Andrea Strozzi, was given by Mr Douglas Gordon, and Miss Katherine Maude was most lovable and pathetic as the Cardinal's mother, Clarice De Medici. Other parts most ably filled were those of Giuliano De Medici by Mr Gerald Kay-Souper, Francisco by Mr Harold Sims Standing, Honoria by Miss Freda Bramleigh, Guido Baglioni by Mr George Ingleton, and Bartolommeo Chigi by Mr Oscar Ayde. The play was beautifully mounted in the matter of scenery, and the costumes were magnificent.

A SAD bereavement has befallen Mr Thomas, the Emperor, in Mr Arthur Carlton's *Aladdin* company, he having lost his wife. The deceased lady was buried on Tuesday.

THE recently discovered and presumably unique copy of the First Quarto edition of Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*, 1594, has been purchased by Messrs Sotheran and Co., of the Strand, at a price approaching £2,000.

"GREAT FRIENDS."

A Comedy, in Three Acts, by G. S. Street, Produced by the Stage Society at the Court Theatre, on Sunday, Jan. 29.

Dick Trenderby ..... Mr Vernon Steel
Charles Pontemarx ..... Mr G. M. Graham
Watkins ..... Mr Fewlass Llewellyn
Lady Caroline Pontemarx ..... Miss Helen Rous
Sydney Baldwin, M.P. .. Mr Dawson Milward
Lady Raffin ..... Miss Gertrude Kingston
Grace Pontemarx ..... Miss Dorothy Grimston
The Duke of Surrey .... Mr Percy D. Standing
Sir William Raffin ..... Mr George Trollope
Footman ..... Mr Philip Williams
The Rev. the Hon. Herbert Pontemarx ..... Mr Herbert Grimwood

This new comedy was produced at the Court Theatre on Sunday night, and matinée performances were given on Monday and Tuesday. Since it was founded six years ago, the Stage Society has been responsible for the production of a number of plays—good, bad, and indifferent; and the members can be congratulated on having, at least, given an opportunity to the aspiring unknown dramatist. The Society has also done commendable work in staging foreign pieces, translated into English; and their performances attract a certain class who are ever ready to welcome the unconventional play, whether it be comedy or drama. In a piece from the pen of so clever a writer as Mr G. S. Street, one may be certain of finding good work, and though *Great Friends* is disappointing in certain important respects, it contains much more than an average share of witty dialogue and there are some excellent sketches of character. The plot, however, is not strong, and there is too much talk, good as it is. The story turns upon the love affairs of Sydney Baldwin, a rising young politician, who may be a very astute member of Parliament, but is somewhat wanting in tact and discretion in the management of his own affairs. While paying a visit to some friends in the country he meets and falls in love with a young girl named Grace Pontemarx; but he continues his friendship with Lady Raffin, the wife of Sir William Raffin. Now this lady does not bear a very good reputation, and as Mr Baldwin is constantly seen in her society he is severely taken to task by various people. First of all, Lady Caroline Pontemarx, a very plain spoken dame, has something to say on behalf of her daughter, Grace. She warns him against the designing Lady Raffin, but he assures her that they are only friends, and nothing more. A similar warning comes from Baldwin's uncle, the Duke of Surrey, and even his secretary and former schoolfellow Dick Trenderby rather nervously tenders the same advice. In spite of all this, however, Baldwin consents to accompany Lady Raffin and her husband to the opera. It should be said that the latter is suffering from the effects of early dissipation, and is a poor feeble creature, a mere puppet in the hands of his wife, a bright, witty woman of the world. The events of the second act take place in the drawing-room in Sir William Raffin's house. Baldwin has broken his leg through falling over the cat on the doorstep of the house, and is under the care of Lady Raffin, who has assumed the office of nurse. Even Sir William thinks it time that his guest took his departure, and the invalid, who has to be wheeled into the room, has another bad quarter of an hour with Lady Caroline, who speaks her mind very strongly concerning his conduct. Baldwin resents being lectured by his future mother-in-law, as he sees no just cause for it, and, in a spirit of defiance, he accepts an invitation to spend the Whitsun holidays with the Raffins at their country house in Hampshire. The result is that Lady Caroline writes breaking off the engagement with her daughter; and Sir William, who finds Baldwin very much in the way, talks petulantly of going to see his solicitor with a view to a separation. Matters are in this condition when Grace herself, accompanied by Dick Trenderby, makes her unexpected appearance at the Raffins' country mansion, and the enemy is defeated. Baldwin, who has hitherto shown considerable indifference towards the young girl who admires and loves him so devotedly, has a feeling of jealousy aroused by the knowledge that Trenderby is about to ask Grace to become his wife, and the result is that the engagement is resumed, Grace taking her rescued lover back to town with her.

Mr Dawson Milward played the difficult part of Sydney Baldwin in an easy, natural manner that did him much credit. Mr Vernon Steel was capital as young Dick Trenderly, and Mr G. M. Graham submitted a clever sketch of the caddish Charlie Pontemarx who has embarked in business as an agent for a boot manufacturer, and is a hopeless failure. Mr Percy D. Standing, with a slight touch of the Wyndham manner, was good as the Duke of Surrey; and Mr George Trollope very ably depicted the peculiarities of Sir William Raffin, even to the nervous movements of the lips of the man who has become a physical wreck. Miss Gertrude Kingston presented an admirable study of Lady Raffin, the attractive woman of the world who finds in Baldwin a sympathetic companion. Miss Helen Rous played well as Lady Caroline Pontemarx, whose husband, a very preachy cleric who is henpecked, had a good exponent in Mr Herbert Grimwood. Miss Dorothy Grimston was girlish and pleasing as Grace Pontemarx, and two men servants given to betting on the sly were ably represented by Mr Fewlass Llewellyn and Mr Philip Williams.

EALING THEATRE.

On Monday, Jan. 30, the Opera,
"IL TROVATORE."

Mr J. W. Turner's English opera company presented on Monday *Il Trovatore* on a first visit to this house, and the results achieved were most successful. Mr F. J. Hargrave as Manrico is a fine, vigorous actor and singer, displaying great emotional power, and Mr T. Griffiths gives a good embodiment of the Count Di Luna, and sings with great effect. The Leonora of Miss Alice Booden exhibits capacity of a very high order, her singing being one of the successes of the evening. Miss Lizza Stock as Inez gives evidence of a finely trained and mellow voice, and Miss Mabel Dennis as Azucena also deserves praise. Mr G. H. Ridding as Ferando and Mr A. Wooton as Ruiz are well placed. The largely augmented orchestra, which was under the able direction of Mr T. Lawton, left nothing to be desired. The following operas are in the week's programme:—*The Bohemian Girl*, *Faust*, *The Lily of Killarney*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, and *Maritana*.

THE 250th performance of *Sergeant Brue*, at the Strand Theatre, took place on Saturday evening. The play is running merrily.

AFTER the performance of the Christmas pantomime *Puss in Boots*, at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, on the 26th ult., the two pantomime companies sent out by Mr Peter Davey, the enterprising manager, in *Goody Two Shoes*, and who finished a tour of four week on the previous Saturday, joined the Kingston company, and, with a number of invited guests, had a very pleasant evening with dancing and games. In the course of the evening the health of Mr and Mrs Peter Davey was drank with musical honours, and similar compliments were paid to Mr Victor Stevens and Mr T. Taylor. The successful five weeks' run of *Puss in Boots* closes at the Royal County Theatre to-night.

PRESENTATION.—After the closing performance of *Dick Whittington* at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham-junction, on Saturday evening a handsome cheque was presented on behalf of the company by Miss L. Shaw to Mr J. W. Hemming, who so successfully produced and stage-managed this pantomime. Mr Hemming is very popular with Shakespeare audiences, and this presentation was made amid unmistakable signs of approval from all present.

"A GIRL'S FALSE STEP."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Harold Whyte, Produced for the First Time at the King's Theatre, Hoxton, on Monday, Jan. 30.

Ned Dornton ..... Mr Ronald Adair
Lemuel Lee ..... Mr Lionel D'Aragon
Timothy Tunks ..... Mr Fred Richards
Jim Peters ..... Mr Victor Rowland
Inspector Stone ..... Mr Roy Cochrane
Constable Clark ..... Mr Wm. Mankell
Warder ..... Mr Major Mason
Joe Bloggs ..... Mr W. White
Criss Lee ..... Miss Doris Whyte
Milly Markly ..... Miss Louise Hampton
Dora Markly ..... Miss Eugenie Magnus
Patty Tunks ..... Miss Winnie Whyte
Sall Scowler ..... Miss Fanny Wallace
Matron ..... Miss Summerfield
Daisy Dornton ..... Miss Florrie M'Kay

Dramatic enthusiasts exist in large numbers at Hoxton, where Mr Leonard Mortimer has provided for the poorer classes a Temple of Thespis at which plays are given on the twice-nightly system at prices consistent with their resources. On Monday he "offered" a new drama from the pen of Mr Harold Whyte, a playwright who in *True to the Queen*, *Fettered Lives*, and other productions has given evidence of his ability to provide melodrama for the masses. He is well aware of the popular appetite for sensation, and it must be said that in his latest effusion he feeds it to repletion. There are flashes of originality in the story, which, however, are obscured by the necessities for excitement, but of sound pathos and thrilling episodes there are plenty, and the piece is constructed with so much ingenuity that the audience on Monday entered thoroughly into the story and were kept engrossed throughout. One of the "worst women in London" is the central figure of the play. Prior to the opening she had contracted a marriage with a gipsy named Lemuel Lee, but having tired of him had had him sent to prison on a false charge of theft, and deserted him and their boy. After many years she has found in Ned Dornton, a young gamekeeper, the object of her maturer affections, and, believing the gipsy to be dead, wishes to marry Ned, and tells him so. Ned, however, is more impressed by Dora's sister Milly Markly, though he has never told her of his love. In order to turn his affections from her, Dora tells Ned that it was Milly who had had an intrigue with Gipsy Lee, and Milly, obedient to an undertaking which she had given to her dying mother to protect her sister, when confronted by Ned with the impeachment, does not repudiate it, even though Lee himself turns up to claim his wife. Ned, in the excess of his grief at losing Milly, admits his love for her, which so enrages Dora that in a fit of jealousy she stabs him in the back, throwing the crime upon the shoulders of her sister. The deed is witnessed by a lad named Criss, the son of Lem Lee and Dora, who, knowing nothing of his relationship to his mother, is instinctively attached to her, and so devoted that he will not clear Milly, who is found guilty, and sent to penal servitude, together with the gipsy. She spends seven years in prison, and meanwhile Ned, who has recovered from the blow and believed Dora's story, has married her; but their life is unhappy, for Dora has taken to drink and holds her husband in contempt, believing, not without reason, that he still feels a tenderness for Milly. An escape from the prison is effected by Lemuel Lee, who undermines the walls with gunpowder. Lee makes his way to Dora's house, and is about to wreak vengeance upon her, when Ned's knock is heard at the door, and Lee takes refuge in the adjoining room, where Ned and Dora's child is asleep. When he is discovered, Lee protects himself by holding the youngster between him and Ned's gun, and makes off with the wounded child. He is met by Milly, who also escaped from gaol, and she induces him to part with the girl, whom she takes to her lodgings, the rent of which is overdue. She is about to be turned out by the heartless landlady, when Dora, who has taken the room over her head, arrives, and in a moment of repentance pays the sum in arrears. Finding her own child ill on the bed, she hastens out to raise money upon her sister's ring, but the pawnshops are closed, and she steals from the first passer-by, who happens to be Ned Dornton. The police trace the unhappy woman to Milly's lodgings, where Milly again becomes the victim, but Ned refuses to prosecute. Milly applies for situation as housekeeper to Ned, not knowing who the advertiser is, and is instrumental in preventing a burglary by Lemuel Lee, who is induced by Ned to confess that Dora is his wife and that it was her hand that struck the cowardly blow. There is consequently no bar to the union of Ned and Milly, her sister, Dora, escaping her gipsy husband's vengeance by taking her own life.

The stock company at the King's Theatre were well adapted to the various parts. Mr Ronald Adair possesses all the attributes requisite in the hero of the play, and acted with sincerity, declaiming vigorously the thrilling lines which fall to the rôle of Ned. A moving impersonation of Milly Markly was given by Miss Louise Hampton, who graces every phase of the character, whether as the sweet and gentle nurse or as the deeply wronged and innocent girl. A vivid picture of female depravity was drawn of Dora Markly by Miss Eugenie Magnus, who in accent and manner cleverly suggested the passionate and vindictive woman who has forfeited human respect by her inebriety and callousness. Mr Lionel D'Aragon gave a highly-coloured portraiture of the gipsy Lemuel Lee, investing the part with deep intensity and portraying his vicious propensities with undoubted skill. Mr Fred Richards as Timothy Tunks, a relieving officer, supplied the comedy of the piece, and did it very ably, and Miss Winnie Whyte as his wife Patty made every use of the comic possibilities of the part. A realistic impersonation of a cripple boy was given by Miss Doris Whyte, who acted with striking poignancy the part of the ill-used lad; Miss Florrie M'Kay made an agreeable child of Daisy Dornton; Miss Fanny Wallace improved her chances of making mirth as a female gaolbird, and a warder and an inspector were well enacted by Mr Victor Rowland and Mr Roy Cochrane, the latter gentleman also discharging the duties of producer.

COVENT-GARDEN BALL.

The fancy dress ball at Covent-garden held on the 27th ult. again attracted a large number of dancers as well as spectators. The charming variety of beautiful costumes was as striking as ever. A dress entitled "Forget-me-not" attracted much attention and was greatly admired. On a pale blue satin ground there were hand-painted portraits of such distinguished people of the past as Lord Salisbury, Wellington, Sir Augustus Harris, Fred Leslie, Nellie Farren, Dan Leno, and Sir Arthur Sullivan. The hat was of forget-me-nots, and that symbolic little flower was put to effective use in other parts of the dress. There was also a "Russia and Japan" costume, a half-and-half dress, the "Kimono" being beautifully painted. A "Morning Star" dress was also much admired; it was of pale blue satin, smothered in chiffon, and silvered over with stars and electric light. A little belated was "A New Year's Greeting," yet pretty, and of the ordinary run of dresses there were many. Mr W. Clarkson was successful in gaining first prize (ladies) for the dress already mentioned entitled "Forget-me-not;" the first gentlemen's prize for a dress called "Baltic Seas," and others for "Westeria," "The Rajah of Bhong," &c. The procession took place at two o'clock, when the many valuable prizes presented by Messrs Rendle and Forsyth were awarded, and thereafter dancing proceeded merrily until the early hours of the morning.

THE 100th performance of that scathing satire on smart society *The Walls of Jericho* will take place at the Garrick Theatre to-night.

ALLEGED DEARTH OF DRAMATISTS.

M. J. Coudurier's lecture explaining "Why this Country has no Dramatist" was delivered to the members of the Playgoers' Club, at the Hotel Cecil, on Sunday evening. M. Coudurier is the London correspondent of the *Figaro*, and, in introducing him, Mr B. W. FINDON, the chairman, assured his auditory that the lecturer came to them with no desire whatever to traduce those writers whom the people of this country admired or revered as dramatic authors. What M. Coudurier wished to show, explained Mr Findon, was that the dramatic art of Paris was superior to the dramatic art of London—in which task, perhaps, he would not experience very great difficulty. Mr Findon added, amidst applause, a tribute to M. Coudurier for the good work he was doing by making known to the people of Paris what was going on here.

M. COUDURIER, promising that his address would be so brief as to render the description "little speech" more fitting for it, said he had naught to do with the choice of the title for what had been announced as his lecture. What he had intended was to come amongst them and say something about the French drama. In his own opinion, M. Paul Hervieu was the leading dramatist of France, and he trusted that his hearers would be able to decide, after meditation upon the writings of Hervieu and other Frenchmen, whether in England a real dramatist did exist. The man who dared to write plays which made people think was, to his own mind, a dramatist, as distinguished from a playwright; and, that being his opinion, he evidently could not speak of the greater number of English plays. What was interesting in life was the fight of the passions, and the nature of the consequences which might follow when once the passions were aroused. Paul Hervieu had studied the perturbations of married life. *Les Tenailles*, for instance, dealt first with the inability of a woman to escape from an obnoxious marriage-tie if the husband did not consent, and then with the inability of the husband to escape from it when he discovered that his wife had subsequently become unfaithful, but had no tangible proof to produce so long as she chose to deny it. A child had been born which was not his; the father of the child had died; and the ostensible parent had always loved the child, believing it to be his own. Hervieu merely posed interrogations in his plays; he did not supply answers. *Le Dédale* and *La Course du Flambeau* illustrated other aspects of the same dramatist's mode of contemplating conjugal problems. M. Coudurier also cited Daudet, and "even Capus," but did not quote from their works. In conclusion, he requested a debate as a means of eliciting an expression of belief in the existence of an English dramatist somewhere.

"RED RIDING HOOD at the KING'S, HAMMERSMITH.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

All things must have an ending, and it is a matter of general regret in Hammersmith that Mr J. B. Mulholland's third annual must terminate to-night in consequence of arrangements long since entered into. It is understood that *Red Riding Hood* has been the most successful of the pantomimes produced here, and Mr Mulholland may be heartily congratulated on the fact that it appeals to and has been received with the utmost enjoyment by old and young alike. The unnamed author who neatly interwove the story of Red Riding Hood with that of Robin Hood, and incidentally introduced such characters as Boy Blue and King Richard Cœur de Lion, did his work cleverly. But no pantomime could be considered satisfactory without an adequate combination of artistes to interpret it, and we can confidently say that the cast provided by Mr Mulholland could not have been bettered. In the title-rôle Miss Empsie Bowman has created numbers of friends by her dainty acting and singing. Miss Isa Bowman, another member of a talented family, has thoroughly justified her second year's engagement by giving a rendering of Boy Blue which it has been a pleasure to witness. A very handsome and picturesque Robin Hood is Miss Gwladys Elvey, who scores tremendously, and Miss Hilda Antony, a pretty and winsome Maid Marian, has captivated all observers. Little John and Will Scarlett have been admirably undertaken by Miss Maude Duval and Miss Ina Alston. Mr Russell Wallett has made an immense hit as Dame Durden, and is a welcome accession to the ranks of pantomime comedians who can be funny without being coarse. Friar Tuck found a jovial representative in Mr Joseph Rowland. Mr Arthur Laceby has distinguished himself as the bold bad Baron, and his original style has quite caught on. Two very droll comedians are Messrs Bennett and Martell, who as Johnny Stout and Johnny Green have caused genuine and uproarious laughter. Mr Lloyd Morgan as King Richard acted and sang pleasantly, and Mr Arthur Boyne as Billy Bailey proved himself humorous. The Witch of the Wood was powerfully acted by Mr Tom Warren, and Mr Fred Leoville made a capital Wolf. Much praise is due to Mr Lloyd Townrow for his excellent stage-management, and the original and selected music of Mr Fritz B. Hart, the musical director, is deserving of commendation. The dances arranged by Miss Ina Alston have been admired, and Miss Enid Erroll's dancing has won vigorous applause. The lavish display in dresses and scenery has brought forth the highest praise. In the front of the house Mr Frank Carlyon has displayed great tact and ability in his arduous duties of acting-manager, which are manifold in the case of a highly successful pantomime.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

Most heartily we wish many, many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Zena Dare—Saturday, Feb. 4.
Hilda Trevelyan—Saturday, Feb. 4.
May Vaudrey—Saturday, Feb 4.
Daisy Carlton—Saturday, Feb. 4.
Madge Ellis—Saturday, Feb. 4.
George Brandes—Saturday, Feb. 4.
Edmund V. Campbell—Saturday, Feb. 4.
W. Casey—Saturday, Feb, 4.
Herbert Craven—Saturday, Feb. 4
Sir Henry Irving—Monday, Feb. 6.
Brandon Blake—Monday, Feb. 6.
Ethel Francess—Monday, Feb. 6.
Dora Dench—Monday, Feb. 6.
Fanny Wentworth—Monday, Feb. 6.
Minnie Turner—Monday, Feb. 6.
Essex Dane—Monday, Feb. 6.
Louise A. Sydney—Monday, Feb. 6.
Alice Capel—Monday, Feb 6.
Margaret Broadfoote—Monday, Feb. 6.
Eade Montefiore—Monday, Feb. 6.
Charles E. Johnson—Monday, Feb. 6.
Fred Guinness—Monday, Feb. 6.
George Anthony—Monday, Feb. 6.
Harry Bristow—Monday, Feb. 6.
Bob Lord—Monday, Feb. 6.
Greta Garnier—Tuesday, Feb. 7.
Cissie St. Elma—Tuesday, Feb. 7.
Alfred Bishop—Tuesday, Feb 7.
Millie Hylton—Wednesday, Feb 8.
Dora Dench—Wednesday, Feb. 8.
Kate Newton—Wednesday, Feb. 8.
Florence Dalton—Wednesday, Feb 8.
Marion Forrester—Wednesday, Feb. 8.
Ettie Spalding—Wednesday, Feb. 8.
J. W. Rowley—Wednesday, Feb. 8.
David Denard—Thursday, Feb. 9.

MR C. D. LEIGH, the acting-manager for Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley at the Royal Opera House, Leicester, has assumed for the present also the acting-management of the Theatre Royal, of which Colonel Winstanley is the sole lessee.

"THE POOR MUST LIVE."

A New Drama, in a Prologue and Four Acts, Produced at the Queen's Theatre, Longton, on Monday, Jan. 23.

CHARACTERS IN THE PROLOGUE.

The Earl of Marswood .... Mr PAN E. DRACO
Captain Dick Harding .. Mr O. BERRETON BORER
Sam Sully ..... Mr ARTHUR TRAIL
Countess of Marswood .. Miss MARY MALLALIEU
Sal Darling..... Miss JENNY BOSTOCK

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY.

The Earl of Marswood .. Mr PAN E. DRACO
Donald..... Mr CHARLES FRANCIS
Clifton Manville ..... Mr O. BERRETON BORER
Sam Sully ..... Mr ARTHUR TRAILL
Dick Sully ..... Mr HERBERT CLIFTON
Booker Holdsmith ..... Mr DICK THOMAS
Bertie Miggs ..... Mr ALBERT SPENCER
Jack O'Moods ..... Mr GEORGE ARMOUR
James ..... Mr J. LEA HAIR
Dorothy Murdoch ..... Miss MARY MALLALIEU
Sal Darling..... Miss JENNY BOSTOCK
Moya Darling ..... Miss PATTIE ELLIOT
Ada ..... Miss AMY ROACH
Olga D'Eyncourt..... Miss OLIVE FULTON

This new play was first presented at the Queen's Theatre, Longton, on the 23rd ult., by Mr Charles Fulton's company. The action opens at Marswood Hall, where Captain Harding recognises in the Countess Marswood an old sweetheart, she having by marriage attained an affluent position such as the Captain was unable to give her. He again makes love to her and endeavours to persuade her to elope with him. Her husband, the Earl, after a violent scene with his wife, obtains a confession; and then follows what appears to be a very strange arrangement — the Earl and Captain Harding agreeing to decide who should possess the lady by the cutting of cards. Captain Harding is not fortunate, and thereupon commits suicide. As a punishment to his wife the Earl gives into the keeping of an old servant her son, telling her that she shall never see him again. The servant, however, dupes his master. Clifton Manville, described as a society blackguard, subsequently appears on the scene, and, learning that the Earl desires to leave to his ward, Dorothy, his fortune, endeavours to secure her in marriage. Dorothy, however, has a liking for Drummond Tredegar, the child brought up by the coachman, and who occupies the position of farm bailiff on the estate. Drummond is made the victim of a conspiracy. The plotters are led by Olga D'Eyncourt, known as "The Vengeance," who, having failed to secure the hand of the Earl (his wife being dead), endeavours by her machinations to marry Drummond. The plot develops and introduces Olga agitating a revolt—"the poor against the rich"—and culminates in an attack on Marshwood Hall. Olga offers to tell Drummond the secret of his parentage provided he joins the agitation. He declines, and hence becomes an object of Olga's hate. After the plotters' schemes have been foiled, Clifton Manville offers to bring back to the Earl his son, on being paid £10,000. This the Earl agrees to, and the play ends with the betrothal of Dorothy and Drummond.

Dorothy Murdock is charmingly represented by Miss Mary Mallalieu. Although suffering from a cold Miss Olive Fulton gave a powerful portrayal of Olga. Mr P. E. Draco was distinctly good as the Earl. As Drummond Mr Charles Francis did well. The part of Clifton Manville was satisfactorily presented by Mr O. B. Borer. Miss Jenny Bostock as Sal was realistic, and was successfully supported by Mr A. Traill as Sam Sully. The comedy was in good hands, Mr Dick Thomas creating merriment throughout. Mr Herbert Clifton worked hard, and introduced some taking impersonations. Miss Pattie Elliott as Moya Darling was also a favourite. Special scenery has been painted for the play by Mr J. Barry Parker.

THE LATE MR. CHARLES KEAN CHUTE.

Mr Charles Kean Chute, who died on the 26th ult., was a brother of Mr James Macready Chute, proprietor and manager of the Prince's Theatre, Bristol. He had suffered for some time from a rather unusual form of complaint, an enlarged spleen, and on Jan. 9 he went to Brighton for a fortnight. He derived much benefit from the change, and Mr Milton Bode offered him an engagement in one of his companies. Unfortunately the improvement in health was only temporary. He returned to town on Monday, the 23rd ult. On the following Thursday he was seized with an apoplectic fit, from which he never recovered. The deceased was born at Bath in 1858, and was the fifth son of the late Mr J. H. Chute, well known in the West of England as an actor and manager. He was named after Charles Kean, who was his godfather, and was educated at Hayman's School, Hampstead, and the Grammar School, Warminster. After completing his education he was articled to Messrs Smith and Heathcote, architects, Manchester; but his inclinations were towards a theatrical career, and he made his appearance as Gregory, in *Romeo and Juliet*, at Sadler's Wells. In 1883 he played Geoffrey Ware, in *The Silver King*, and the following year Theorus, in *Claudian*. He appeared as Victor De Riel, in *Impulse*, the part created by the late Mr Arthur Dacre. In 1886, with Miss Bateman (Mrs Crowe), he appeared as Nathan, in *Leah*. He was Bob Levitt, in *Mary Warner*, and the Rev. Michael Cristy, in *His Wife*, produced at Sadler's Wells Theatre. In the spring of 1887 he embodied Frank Morland, in *The Harbour Lights*, and in the autumn of the same year was George Benson, in *The Shadows of a Great City*, a part that he was still playing in the following spring. After appearing as Jack Lovell, in *Pleasure*, Mr Chute was engaged for the part of John Silkstone, in *The Bells of Haslemere*, a character that he resumed in the spring of 1889. His next appearances were as Nicholas Morland, in *Harbour Lights*, Dick Redmayne, in *The Silver Falls*, and Dick Redcliffe, in *Alone in London*. In 1890 he embodied the Spider, in *The Silver King*, Levison, in *East Lynne*, and Captain Macdonald, in *The English Rose*. In 1892 he represented Clifford Armytage, in *The Lights o' London*. In 1897 Mr Chute went on a tour to South Africa. He appeared in *Quo Vadis?* at the Adelphi, also in *The Man in the Iron Mask* and as Louis Percival, in *Jim the Penman*. He toured a *Lady Slavey* company, and was business-manager of *The Messenger Boy* tour. In 1903 he fulfilled an engagement with Mr Walter Melville as acting-manager at the Adelphi. In 1888 and two following years he appeared in the Christmas pantomime at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol.

MR CECIL CLAYTON'S company is at the Theatre Royal, Windsor, this week with the pantomime *Dick Whittington*, written by and produced under the direction of Mr Clayton himself. Miss Millie Beckett is a smart and handsome Dick Whittington, and Miss Gertie Lovedale is lively and pert as Alice, both singing, dancing, and acting with finished skill. Miss Gertrude Gray is graceful and charming, and, richly attired in the part of the Good Fairy, her admirable singing enhancing her success. Alderman Fitzwarren finds an excellent representative in Mr Albert Evremond; Mr James Glover is a most laughable Idle Jack; Mr Tom Kenealy's Angelina (Alderman's cook) is intensely humorous; Mr Edward Frere is remarkably diverting in the character of Captain Mainbrace, of the good ship Prince Hector; and Mr Clyto's Tom, the faithful cat, is exceedingly clever. All the other parts are adequately filled. Clyto, a marvellous gymnast and contortionist; Hercules, a strong man; and the Gaiety Girls contribute smart and clever turns, and a lovely transformation scene concludes the "show."

THE matinée and evening performances of *King Henry the Fifth*, at the Imperial Theatre, now begin at 2·15 and 8·15 respectively.

THE "CHECKOGRAM."

"A moral machine" is the shortest description which Mr Albert Marsh gives to the Checkogram, his clever invention for delivering, receiving, and registering tickets or checks for theatres, halls, and other places of public entertainment, and his appliances for registering at a distance all admissions by turnstiles to exhibitions, athletic and race grounds, railways, factories, works, &c.

A representative of *The Era* was present on Thursday afternoon at a demonstration of the Checkogram given to the theatrical managers at the Tavistock Hotel by Mr Marsh, who went to considerable trouble to explain the working of the instruments. Mr Marsh claims that his machines will prevent that "shrinkage" in the receipts at box-offices, &c., which is such an old theatrical trouble, and he also claims that the knowledge that what is happening in a box-office can be electrically communicated to a manager in his private room will act as an incentive to smarter attention on the part of employees whose duty it is to handle money. "Under the present system," says Mr Marsh, "most theatres have a set of tickets printed for each day in the week, and, allowing that the box-office is booking boxes, stalls, and circle, there would be three sets of tickets for each day. If the theatre is booking one month ahead, allowing twenty-four playing days to the month, the box-office under the present system would have seventy-two distinctive sets of tickets in operation. To check these tickets each day evidently on the face of it entails a great amount of labour. With the Checkogram appliances all this is obviated, as the manager can at any moment during the day, without stirring out of his own office upstairs, or wherever it may be, see exactly the number of tickets sold. With my system it is impossible to issue a ticket without the knowledge of the management. A notice is posted in a prominent position stating that all tickets must be perforated, and the act of perforation causes registration in the manager's private room. Even if the box-office keeper inadvertently issued a ticket without perforating it, his cash would be in excess of the value of that ticket, and if he gave no account of the sale the ticket on being presented at the theatre would be immediately handed over to the management, who would naturally ask the box-office keeper in the first place to give a reason why the ticket was not perforated; and, in the second place, why the money for the same was withheld."

In regard to the unreserved parts of the house, all metal and tape tickets would be discontinued by Mr Marsh's method. A metal ticket has its disadvantages from a sanitary point of view; and, so far as the roll tickets are concerned, there always has been, and always will be, some difficulty in checking them. Under the Checkogram system the ticket used is of a patent fibre substance, which is unbreakable, washable, durable, and is one-fifth the weight of metal. These tickets, which can be had in different colours to denote the different parts of the house, are not handled by the money-taker at all. They are given to him enclosed in strong teak-wood columns, each column capable of holding from 150 to 200 tickets. The "columns" are secured in such a way as to preclude the possibility of opening without breaking the mechanism, and when once a ticket is removed from the column it is absolutely impossible to put it back. The Checkogram ejectors are placed advantageously right or left of the window of the box-office, and the money-taker inserts the columns of tickets into the slots provided for that purpose and proceeds to business. By turning a handle conveniently fixed at the top of the ejector, the tickets drop out one by one and as rapidly as are required. As the tickets are removed, their number is not only registered on the ejector itself, but in the manager's room. In due course the tickets pass into the hands of the check-taker, who places them in the receiving box. As each one is thrown down the aperture of this box its number is registered on a dial outside the box as well as on the indicator-board in the manager's office.

The utility and the labour-saving qualities of these appliances cannot be too strongly recommended to proprietors and managers of theatres and music-halls, who, we doubt not, will not be long in availing themselves of a patent which is the outcome of fourteen years' study on the part of Mr Marsh. As Mr Marsh points out, his system does away with the objectionable practice of posting people in various parts of the house for the purpose of checking the different employees. Mr Marsh's machines check the business as a whole, and even save the expense of the regular accountant, for all the manager has to do is to unlock his check-box and instruct a subordinate to recharge the teak-wood columns with tickets. The matter of the electricity used is a very simple one. In point of fact, all that Mr Marsh employs in the working exhibition of the models of his interesting appliances is a four-volt dry battery.

Three of the Checkogram registering presses have been in use at Drury-lane Theatre during the run of the pantomime of *The White Cat*, and have, we understand, proved eminently satisfactory. The circular platen of this perforating checker is divided into two parts, one of which is for "reserved seats current" and the other for "reserved seats advance." Each half has a certain space apportioned to the different denominations of reserved seats, and all the operator has to do is to turn the platen round until the name "Boxes," "Stalls," or "Circle" is facing a certain point, when he presses down the perforating handle. In this way no ticket can be sent outside or wrongfully used without the knowledge of the management, no ticket can be resold, and no ticket can be returned to the management as not having been sold.

In regard to the Checkogram turnstiles, here also one is guaranteed a speedy account of admissions and correctness of the takings. The manager can tell to a unit, any moment during the time that the turnstiles are operating, how many people have passed through, as all admissions are instantaneously registered in the manager's room, no matter how many turnstiles may be used, or what the distance may be. This turnstile is admirably adapted for big exhibition grounds, racecourses, &c.

It is worthy of mention that every part of the Checkogram apparatus is exceedingly neat, well made, and convenient in size, both for box-office and manager's room. The machines can be seen at 150, Oxford-street, next door to the Princess's Theatre.

MR SINCLAIR NEILL (formerly of Mr Forbes Robertson's and Mr F. R. Benson's companies) has been adding to his laurels at Belfast. The other evening he appeared, assisted by a capable company of clever amateurs, in two one-act pieces, *Dream Faces* and *The New Sub*, and considerably enhanced his reputation by the remarkable excellence of his acting, which was undoubtedly convincing. The performance, which was under distinguished patronage, took place in the Ulster Minor Hall, and was thoroughly successful.

AT the Shakespeare Theatre, on Monday, a copyright performance was given of *Her First False Step*, a drama, in prologue and four acts, by Myles Wallerton and Francis Gilbert.

THE game of hockey played by the teams of the R.N. Barracks and *Veronique* company at Keyham recently, had the following result:—*Veronique*, 7 goals; R N. Barracks, 6 goals. In the *Veronique* team were Miss Leslie, Mr E. Holland, Mr Robertson, Miss Barton, Mr B. Kennefick, Miss Anderson, Mr L. Holland, Miss Sinclaire, Mr T. Shelford, Miss Brand, and Mr E. Cresfan.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DAS GERETTETE VENEDIG."

Drama, in Five Acts, by Hugo Von Hofmannsthal, Produced at the Lessing, Jan. 24.

Priuli ..... Herr SAUER
Doifio ..... Herr FORBST
Pierre ..... Herr RITTNER
Jaffier ..... Herr BASSERMANN
Belvidera ..... Fräulein TRIESCH
Bedomar ..... Herr MUELLER
Renault ..... Herr REICHER
Seine Schwester ..... Fräulein ALBRECHT
Capello ..... Herr GRUNWALD
Aquilina ..... Fräulein SCHIFF
Mulattin ..... Fräulein PEPPLER
Brambilla ..... Herr KURTH
Hofmeister ..... Herr MARX
Ein Altes Weib..... Fräulein STOLLE
Gerichtsvollziehen ..... Herr PAULI
Officier..... Herr STIELER
Lakai ..... Herr DIETRICH
Mädchen ..... Fräulein ROTHE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, FEB. 2.—Herr Von Hofmannsthal is always an interesting, conscientious, and, usually, powerful writer. He is an Austrian, living at Vienna; he is very young and dedicated entirely to the new dramatic school. At the same time, he not infrequently draws his subject from the Ancients, as in the case of *Elektra*, which enjoyed such success here and elsewhere. *Das Gerettete Venedig* is adapted from the English dramatist, Thomas Otway's, tragedy entitled, I believe, *Venice Preserved*. The adaptor has, of course, inspired the play with his own strong individuality, and the effect is eminently pleasing. It will not be necessary to expound the plot at length; a good deal is historical, a good deal imaginary. The action passes in the seventeenth century, at the time when Venice was a republic. The first act details somewhat laboriously the condition of things in general, introducing Captain Pierre (dismissed from the republic) and Jaffier, with his wife, Belvidera. Walter Scott has told us all this in a far more interesting manner, and the act fell rather flat. Later on, however, when Hofmannsthal shakes off all other influences and becomes himself, he rises to considerable heights, both in language and conception. He depicts the friendship of Pierre and Jaffier, and the weakness, the cowardliness of the latter in a masterly manner. The third act, where Belvidera implores her husband to save himself by betraying his friends, the conspirators, to the Senate, and where he finally yields against his better instincts, is remarkably powerful, and perhaps the best in the play. The last act, too, is full of great beauty of language and convincing force. It shows us the death of Pierre, for whose delivery the courtesan Aquilina has vainly implored. Some of the characters are superfluous, but the principal figures are drawn by an artist's hand, and cannot fail to impress the audience. The cast was admirable, and author and artistes were rapturously applauded after each act.

YET another new operetta, the three-act *Juxheirat*, by Franz Lehars, has made its appearance at the Central. Outwardly, it was an enormous success, encores being the order of the evening. The music is pretty and at times above the mediocre, even laying claim to some originality, while the effective mounting had a good deal to do with the cordiality of the reception. Were some energetic cuts undertaken the piece would have more chance of holding the boards for any length of time than it has in its present condition. Julius Bauer is the author of the libretto, which is not much in itself, although the main idea is to some extent amusing. The scene is laid in and near Newport, America. The young widowed daughter of the millionaire Brockwiller, though fair, is avowedly set against a second marriage, her experience of the matrimonial tie having been disappointing. She has even founded a league with many equally-minded friends, whose motto is "Los vom Manne." Papa Brockwiller desires to see his daughter a Countess, and has selected as a son-in-law, Count Harold Von Reckenburg, who—like Barkis—"is willing." To overcome the proud beauty's animosity a ruse is planned. She is informed as a great secret that the Count's twin sister—who resembled her brother so closely that as children their mother could not tell them apart—is coming to her disguised in man's attire to woo on her brother's behalf. The young widow is so indignant that she determines to marry the stranger, and so make fools of everyone and expose the shameful trick. This she does, but as soon as the marriage ceremony is concluded she finds she has been duped and that she is in reality the Countess Von Reckenburg. In a rage she demands a separation, but that being refused she goes away, as she declares, for ever. It is but a woman's eternity, however, and in three months time, in a romantic hunting lodge among the mountains, the married pair come to an understanding, the Countess deciding that her husband is not such a bad fellow after all. The cast was fairly adequate; the composer conducted and was very heartily applauded.

THE National Theatre, as was prophesied last week, has not wasted much time on *Die Zauberglocke*, but has produced another novelty, and this time with success. *Gute Nacht, Herr Pantalon*, a one-act comic opera, by Albert Grisar, is so old that it is forgotten by everybody and comes in the light of a new work—better, too, than many a modern opera of the same type. The book is merry enough without laying claim to much originality. Isabella and Lelio—the lovers—have been betrothed to each other in infancy by their parents. They object to the arrangement on growing up, but discover that they have loved each other all the time. Much in the style of *The Merry Wives* is one of the scenes, where Lelio is carried to his sweetheart's house in the linen basket; the whole work is, in fact, somewhat similar to Nicolai's music, and contains some very melodious passages. The interpretation was a good one, and Kapellmeister Saenger conducted in his customary efficient manner. There were three one-act works in the programme, the second being Henri Berénz's mimodrama *Die Hand*. The rôle of the dancer Vivette was admirably given by Fräulein Fernande Robertine. *Die Schöne Galathée*, by Suppé, concluded the evening, and met with a very cordial reception; on the whole, the National had one of its "good" nights, which have been few and far between lately.

THE cast of *Die Neugierigen Frauen*, Wolf Ferrari's charming opera, running at Theatre des Westens, underwent a change last week as regards the impersonation of Rosaura. Fräulein Magda Burchardt, a very talented young operatic singer already mentioned in your columns, gave the rôle, which is one of the most important in the opera. She sang and acted delightfully, gaining golden opinions from audience and critics alike. Fräulein Burchardt created the title-rôle in Herr Von Chelius' new fairy-opera *Die Vernarrte Prinzessin* recently with great success. The work was produced at the Court Theatre at Schwerin in the presence of the Grand Duke and Duchess and other distinguished persons.

"BANNERMANN," the latest play of Herr Otto Ernst, made its first appearance on any stage at Hamburg, at the Stadt Theatre, on Wednesday. It met with an exceedingly cordial reception, the author being called before the curtain repeatedly and enthusiastically applauded. We are to have the play here very shortly.

"RUBEZAHL," three-act opera, by Hans Sommer, is the next novelty at the Royal Opera. Herr Knüpfer sings the name-part, Fräulein Destinn and Herr Kraus have both important rôles. Dr. Richard Strauss will conduct.

AMATEURS AT WOOLWICH.

In connection with the Charlton-park Cricket Club an amateur dramatic performance was given on Monday last at the Freemasons' Hall, Woolwich, which was much enjoyed by the members of the club and a large circle of friends. The play chosen for presentation was that favourite stand-by of amateurs *A Pair of Spectacles*, and it may safely be said that, outside the profession, it would have been difficult to find a cast more fully up to its work. Miss Mabel Raynes was well suited to the part of Mrs Goldfinch, which she played with a commendable absence of nervousness. Mrs J. R. Johnson acted in a natural and unaffected manner as Lucy Lorimer. In the small rôle of Charlotte, the parlourmaid, Miss Hilda Sales did creditably. In the rôle of Benjamin Goldfinch Mr H. P. Gibberd showed much insight, his impersonation showing much careful study. As Uncle Gregory Mr J. R. Johnston was commendable, and Mr C. T. Turpin as Percy proved himself capable. Mr D. J. Falkner was satisfactory as Dick, and a fairly forceful impersonation of Lorimer was given by Mr T. H. Klasen. Mr S. K. Mills was amusing as a shoemaker, and Messrs W. F. Whitehorn and W. Bumpus made something of small parts. The scenery was kindly lent by Mr Clarence Sounes, and the hearty thanks of all concerned were due to the management of the Grand Theatre for the mounting of the piece.

"THE BABES IN THE WOOD" (Mr Henry Eglington's company) is at the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells, this week. Miss Cissie Williams and Miss E. Leoville give a clever study of the Babes, while Miss Tilly Stewart makes a dashing Robin Hood, and is well supported by Miss Florence Brandon as Maid Marion. Miss Ella Rose as the Fairy Queen is a capable vocalist. Mr Harry Harcourt as the wicked Baron and Mr H. Eglington as the Dame keep the fun going. The Three Geronds are responsible for some clever acrobatic dancing, and Mr Reuben Kitchen's animal impersonation is also a feature of the production.

MISS ADRIA HILL AND ROBERT AYRTON'S répertoire company is appearing at the Theatre Royal, Wallsend, this week in *Under Two Flags* and *The Shadow of the Cross*. The first-mentioned was staged on Monday night. Mr Robert Ayrton gives a capital rendering of the Hon. Bertie Cecil, and Mr Annesley Hely plays with considerable power as Colonel Chateauray. Mr Harry Rutland and Mr Hylton Warde score as Lord Brockingham and Ezra Baron respectively. Miss Adria Hill gives a powerful portrayal of the part of Cigarette.

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THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

A meeting of a special committee convened by the Mayor of Bath was held at the local Guildhall on Saturday last to make arrangements for the reception of Sir Henry Irving on the occasion of his unveiling the tablet to Quin, in Pierrepont-street, on Feb 17. It was decided to give a complimentary luncheon to the celebrated actor in the Banqueting Room of the Guildhall, following the unveiling ceremony, which is fixed for noon. The price of the luncheon ticket will be 10s 6d., which will include contribution to the piece of plate or some such gift which will be presented to Sir Henry as a memento of the occasion. The luncheon will be attended by many members of the dramatic profession, including Mr Lewis Waller.

Lady Bancroft will address the Duchess of Newcastle's drawing-room meeting, at 36, Grosvenor-place, on Thursday afternoon, in aid of the Victoria Home for Invalid Children, which was established by the Princess of Wales. Royalty, in some form, is expected to be present.

Miss Marie Tempest, we are sorry to hear, has been out of the bill of *The Freedom of Suzanne* at the Criterion Theatre since Wednesday from indisposition. Miss Tempest is one of our few *comédiennes*, and we can ill spare her, even for a few days, from the boards. However, her part has been admirably filled by her sister, Miss Florence Tempest, and Miss Marie Tempest will be back at work again on Monday.

Mr Henry Arthur Jones, in a speech made on Monday night, suggested that the City Fathers should put the site of the Royal Exchange up for sale by auction, and should hand over the proceeds to a committee for the endowment of a national English drama. Mr Jones also stated that for twenty-five years he had vainly spoken to the English play-going public on the drama; and had vainly tried to enforce one or two of the plainest, simplest truths, without, so far as he could judge, the least result.

Mr Jones's latter statements remind us of the o.ptive in the old Alhambra version of *La Périchole*. In the last act there is a scene in a prison, into which the hero and heroine are cast. They hear someone at work on the wall of the dungeon; and presently a stone gives way and a long-bearded fellow prisoner enters by an aperture He explains that for thirty years he has been cutting his way through the wall with a small implement, expecting to find himself eventually in the open air; instead of which, by an error in direction, he is but in a different cell. He is, however, still sanguine. "It is only another thirty years," he says cheerfully, and "*I have still my little pen-knife!*"

Lady Barnes, sister of Miss Violet Vanbrugh and Miss Irene Vanbrugh, will soon return with her husband, Sir Hugh Barnes, K.C.V.O., from Burmah. The Misses Vanbrugh are the daughters of the late Venerable Herbert Barnes, prebendary of Exeter. Sir Hugh Barnes had a distinguished official career, being Lieutenant-Governor of Burmah and President of the Central Committee for the Delhi Bazaar in 1903. The third daughter of the late Prebendary, who, as Miss Angela Barnes, was one of our most promising violinists, will come back with Lady Barnes from Burmah. She is the widow of the late Captain Mallaby.

Mrs Kendal, on the 25th ult., opened the second day of the parish church bazaar at Sneinton, near Nottingham, which was held in the local Institute. Amongst those present were Bishop and Mrs Baynes and Canon Godber. The Vicar, the Rev. the Hon. R. M. Dalrymple, in introducing Mrs Kendal, briefly explained the objects of the bazaar, remarking that Mrs Kendal was no stranger in Nottingham, at one time having attended Sneinton Parish Church. She had always been open-handed and warm-hearted, and ready to give her services to any cause deserving help.

Mrs Kendal then declared the bazaar open, remarking humorously that she wished to see all the stalls cleared, and then the next day they could sit down and write cheques. She was very open-handed, as the vicar had said—in receiving cheques. Mrs Kendal expressed her delight at being able to renew some friendships which had never entirely left her. The vicar had referred to her readiness to help, but she did not want to have to come to Nottingham again for the £600 they now required. She advised those present to buy everything, and not to make bargains. A vote of thanks was accorded Mrs Kendal on the motion of Bishop Baynes, seconded by Mr C. F. Hole, and a lady presented her with a beautiful bouquet. During the afternoon entertainments were given, and Mrs Kendal contributed two dramatic recitals. The proceeds of the bazaar on Tuesday amounted to £45.

Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore, after a very successful season in New York, left that city on Monday for a tour including the principal American and Canadian towns. At the conclusion of the performance on Saturday Sir Charles in a speech of thanks recalled the circumstance that his beginning of professional life was made in America, and said that after eighteen years' absence he found his friends still loyal.

Mr W. V. Gareod, in some amusing "Experiences of Actors," which Mr Pope Pax has been writing for the *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle*, tells an anecdote of his early days, when he was engaged for the heavy lead in *The Dangers of London*. In the second act a scene represents a cutting on the Great Eastern Railway. Bound and gagged, the hero is placed across the rails, and an express train is "due" to come through the tunnel. The villains leave the hero to his fate, but a friend of his chances to be in the neighbourhood, and pulls him off the rails just as the train dashes across the stage.

The company was at the Prince's Theatre, Llandudno, and one night, by an oversight, the train was started before the "friend" had performed his timely office. The mistake was not discovered until the train was in full view of the audience. To continue its journey meant a terrible (stage) death for the hero and plenty of (real) bruises for the actor. So that obliging train, to "work up" whose "entrance" the entire company had gathered in the "wings," and exerted themselves to the utmost in the way of banging drums, shaking perforated cigar-boxes filled with dried peas, thumping tea-trays with bunches of umbrella ribs, and rubbing together chunks of wood covered with sandpaper, calmly backed into the tunnel again until the line was cleared. When it did complete the journey the audience applauded heartily, as if it were all part of the play. Some contended that the engine-driver detected a signal against the train, and, though ignorant of the cause, of course obeyed it. Others thought that the driver was "the right sort of man," who had an inherent interest in the defeat of vice and the triumph of virtue.

Mrs Patrick Campbell, her admirers in England will be glad to hear, left the hospital at Philadelphia on Wednesday, having quite recovered from the effects of the recent accident to her knee.

Mr E. A. Abbey, R.A., who was the principal guest at the Authors' Club dinner on Monday, has always been fond of subjects drawn from the drama. Among his pictures of this class are "Richard III. and the Lady Anne," exhibited in 1896; "Hamlet," shown in 1897; and "King Lear's Daughters," which appeared at the Academy in 1898.

Captain Marshall's new play *The Lady of Leeds*, a farcical romance in three acts, will be produced at Wyndham's Theatre on Tuesday, with a cast including Mr Weedon Grossmith, Mr C. M. Lowne, Mr A. Vane Tempest, Mr E. F. Meads, Miss Nancy Price, Mrs Theodore Wright, and Miss Maude Wynter. The scene is laid in Venice. The story is a modern one, and the idea, like those of so many of the author's works, is somewhat fantastic Mr Weedon Grossmith will play an eccentric Englishman, Miss Nancy Price will enact the daughter of a very wealthy English tradesman, and her chaperone, a *grand dame* who has undertaken to pilot the heiress through society, will be depicted by Mrs Theodore Wright. Mr Vane Tempest will appear as a young Irish lord, and Mr Lowne as a retired colonel.

Mrs Langtry did not "turn up" when the time approached for the rising of the curtain on *Mrs Dering's Divorce* at Terry's Theatre on Monday evening, and much anxiety was felt on her account. She dashed in, however, just in time, having been delayed by an accident. She went down to Newmarket on Sunday; and was driving in her brougham to the station on Monday afternoon to catch the 3·30 train, when she was run into by a motor-car. Mrs Langtry jumped out when the crash came, and was severely shaken but uninjured, though the brougham was a wreck. She appeared in *Mrs Dering's Divorce* with unabated nerve and coolness.

Sir Charles Wyndham, Miss Evie Greene, Miss Mary Moore, Mr Edward Terry, and his London company, and Mr Courtice Pounds appeared on Wednesday afternoon at an entertainment in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, in aid of the local Free Hospital.

Mr Edward Terry has reconsidered his decision to return to England at the conclusion of his engagement in New York, and will visit several large cities in the States, subsequently undertaking a short tour in Canada.

Sir Henry Irving continues his triumphal career along the South Coast. The receipts at the Grand Theatre, Southampton, on Monday, on the occasion of his appearances in *The Bells* and *Waterloo* created a record for the house. The "previous highest" was on the occasion of Sir Charles Wyndham's flying matinée of *Davy Garrick* in November, 1902. Monday night's record was beaten on Tuesday, and again on Wednesday evening. So far as the public is concerned Sir Henry might keep in harness for many years to come.

The matinée concert, arranged by Mr Aubrey Fitzgerald, given before a large and distinguished audience on Thursday, at Maidenhead Town Hall, was in every way a success. A "choice selection" of glees was splendidly rendered by the Apollo Glee Party, including Messrs Ben Millett, Fred Hayes, F. Blackburn, and J. B. Dudley. Miss Marie Studholme delighted everyone with "The Interfering Parrot" and "The Gay Tomtit;" and Miss Kitty Gordon charmingly sang "Ma Chérie." Mr Aubrey Fitzgerald's humorous songs, delivered in his peculiarly "dry" manner, were immensely enjoyed; Mr Charles Brown proved himself a favourite with "The only one the poor girl had" and "The Paradise they call Park-lane;" and Mr Maurice Farkoa would have sung till midnight if he had yielded to the repeated insistent encores which he received. The accompaniments were ably played by Messrs Frank Tours and Mr Arthur Wood. The artistes, of course, appeared by kind permission of their respective managers.

Mrs T. P. O'Connor, the wife of the author of "Lord Beaconsfield, a Biography," and "Gladstone's House of Commons," made an excellent start as a playwright; and it is surprising that she has never followed it up. Of her version of *Cellx qu'on Respecte*, which was produced at the Great Queen-street Theatre in 1901, we wrote at the time, "Much of her dialogue and the drawing of the chief character are amusing, and there are delightful moments in the play. The clever and popular lady may be urged to try again." Perhaps Mrs O'Connor's fashionable functions are so exacting that she has no time for mere scribbling, and has "given up to 'society' what was meant for" the stage.

The Checkogram, Limited, gave an exhibition of its checking appliances at the Tavistock Hotel on Thursday last. The inventor of the machine, Mr Albert Marsh, well-known in English and Colonial theatrical circles, and the managing director of the company, gave a graphic demonstration of the various machines to an audience including Mr Beerbohm Tree, Mr Isaac Cohen, Mr J. F. Elliston, Mr F. Fredericks, Mr Dudley Bennett, Mr Milton Bode, Mr W. W. Kelly, Mr E. H. Bull, Mr Edward Marris, and Mr T. Sergenson

One has only to invent an incident and use it for purposes of fiction for it to be eventually "plagiarised" in real life. Some time ago a story written by Frank Desprez, the author of "Lasca," the "cow-boy" poem which is so often and so admirably recited by Miss Esme Beringer, appeared in *London Society*. The "notion" was that of an actress who was travelling with a Shakespearian company in the United States. She has a jealous (female) rival in the company; and this rival, when they are touring in the Wild West, procures a rattlesnake, and substitutes it for the property asp used in a performance of *Antony and Cleopatra*, in which her enemy enacts the Egyptian Queen. This week an actress named Fräulein Reubke, appearing at the Munich Theatre, found when she retired to her dressing-room a bonbonnière on her toilet table with a note in which the actress was asked to open the box. When she lifted the lid she discovered a viper. The lady fainted, and the snake spared her life.

Some time since we announced that Miss Lottie Venne was soon to appear in *Veronique* at the Apollo Theatre as the Countess De Champ Azur, the rôle originally sustained on the production of the opera in English last May by Miss Rosina Brandram. Miss Venne was, until recently, prevented by indisposition from undertaking the part, but she is now playing it with all the demure drollery which has made her such a favourite in characters of the aristocratically comic kind.

Quite a gloom has been cast over the members of the pantomime company at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, by the death last Saturday of one of their number—Mr Charles Kinross—at the early age of twenty-one. He became unwell on the 26th ult., and succumbed to an operation for appendicitis. The deceased, who occupied a position in the chorus, was very popular with his colleagues; and only a few days before his death he was a willing worker at the children's party given by Misses Dolly M'Calla and Miss Hanid Alexander. The funeral took place at St. Andrew's Cemetery last Tuesday, and was attended by Mr and Mrs Storr (parents), Miss Kathleen Kinross (sister), and nearly all the members of the pantomime company. Wreaths were sent by the London chorus ladies, the troupe of dancers, Mr Gordon Hutton, Mr H. M'Calla, Miss Ada Russell, Miss Dolly M'Calla, Miss Madge M'Calla, Miss Gladys Greening, Miss Maud Anderson, Mrs Kiernander, Nurse Bruce, the chorus gentlemen, his parents and sisters, and a handsome floral tribute from the principals of the company.

Mr Charles Frohman has secured the rights of the new comic opera, *La Petite Bohème*, by Paul Ferrier and Henri Hirschman, now being played at the Théâtre des Variétés, Paris. Mr Frohman will produce a version of the play in London and New York in the autumn.

Mr G. A. Cooke (of Maskelyne and Cooke's) passed away at his residence at Twickenham on Thursday morning at four o'clock. The deceased gentleman, who had been suffering for some time from paralysis, had not taken any active part in the entertainment at the Egyptian Hall for a year or more. It was generally understood both by press and public that he was a partner in the amusement enterprise that first drew the public to Piccadilly some thirty-one years ago, but such was not the case. Mr Maskelyne was the founder, inventor, and sole proprietor; Mr Cooke, always a staunch comrade and devoted friend, was the confidential assistant.

The two became associated at Cheltenham, where Mr Maskelyne, before he was drawn so irresistibly yet so opportunely, to the footlights, was in business as a watchmaker and jeweller. They each played the cornet in a Volunteer band, and when Mr Maskelyne discovered, quite by accident, the secret of the rope-tying tricks and cabinet séance of the Davenport Brothers he found a volunteer assistant in Mr Cooke, who acted as confederate in his friend's exposé of the pretensions of the celebrated brothers.

At first a performance was given before friends, but the reputation of Mr Maskelyne soon spread, and he was invited by the Duke of Beaufort to Badminton, and by Lord Fitzhardinge to Berkeley Castle, to give his experiments at private parties. About this time the new conjuror and illusionist became acquainted with a Mr Coleman, a leading spiritualist, and accepted an invitation to perform at the Crystal Palace, where a séance was given in a room specially fitted up, and hung with red baize. It was a brilliant summer day, and the sun, streaming through a hole in the baize, illumined Mr Maskelyne's face with a sort of halo, and this little incident was regarded by the audience—most of whom were spiritualists—as a sign that the séancist was one of the elect, and refused to believe that the exposition was merely trickery, in which Mr Cooke assisted, insisting that the chief performer was endowed with mystic gifts.

Mr Maskelyne's first professional performance in London was at the Great St. James's Hall, and such was his success that he ventured on renting the Egyptian Hall for three months. He stayed for thirty-one years, Mr Cooke always assisting him as a faithful confidant—a rôle he played most admirably. He was quite without mechanical aptitude, and used to say:—"You tell me what to do, and how to do it, and it shall be done." And it always was, without any mistake. In the early years of his career Mr Maskelyne used to work alone, and often stayed in his workshop till four in the morning. He did not allow even friends to enter this sanctum, his only companion being a favourite parrot, a bird with an extensive vocabulary, and much given to terse observations. "But he did not hinder me," says Mr Maskelyne, "as he never expected a reply." "Psycho" and "Zoe" were among the first children of his brain.

Mr Cooke of late years occasionally appeared in the magical farces that became a feature of the entertainments at the Piccadilly home of mystery; but the part that suited him best was that of a confederate. In this he was unequalled. Mr Maskelyne speaks with great affection of his old friend and life companion, whose loss he keenly regrets. That regret will be shared by a wide circle of friends.

Mr W. S. Penley, Past Grand Treasurer of Grand Lodge of England and Grand Treasurer Nominate of English Mark Masons, will be installed as Worshipful Master of the Savage Club Lodge, 2,190, at Freemasons' Hall on Tuesday.

Mrs Brown Potter, who is busily rehearsing *Madame Du Barry* at the Savoy Theatre, has secured as an item in the Louis XV. mounting of the play a genuine seventeenth-century harpsichord. Mrs Potter has lived at Versailles, and resided for a number of years in France, so she is well acquainted with the *mise-en-scène* of the Du Barry's career.

Sir Henry Irving, with his usual widely embracing sympathy, has telegraphed his congratulations to the gentlemen responsible for the production of *The Luck of the Brians*, the village play which was performed on Monday by working men of Hildenborough, in Kent. Sir Henry's "wire" ran:—"My heartiest congratulations; all success to play, and warmest greeting to players. The movement is a splendid one, and will, I trust, be widely followed. It would make for much pleasure and happiness, widen the world for many minds with the seeds of wholesome fancy, and yield abundant harvest."

Mr George Edwardes has arranged to tour *The Duchess of Dantzic* in the United States next season with the company now playing in the piece in New York, and has also entered into an agreemens to produce *Veronique* in the "Empire city," with the London company at the termination of the run of the delightful opera at the Apollo.

Mr James Welch, who had to resign his part in *The White Cat* at Drury-lane the other day from illness, and is in the South of France, has received by post his part in Mr R. C. Carton's new play *Mr Hopkinson*, shortly to be seen at the Avenue Theatre, and will soon return to London to appear in the comedy, which will be produced by Mr Frank Curzon. All Mr Welch's admirers will be ready to congratulate him on his reversion to his real sphere of talent.

Mr Arthur Bourchier writes in defence of the actor-manager system against an attack in a contemporary:—"Permit me to point out that Messrs Clayton and Cecil gave Mr Weedon Grossmith some of his finest opportunities in the old Court days and that only a few years ago Sir Charles Wyndham and I engaged him for the best part in *The Noble Lord*. Mr Lowne was brought to the front by Mr J. L. Toole, and Miss Nancy Price by Mr Tree."

Senor Manuel Garcia, who invented the laryngoscope, will complete his hundredth year on March 17, when a demonstration will be made in his honour by laryngologists of every nationality. In order not to overtax the strength of Senor Garcia, the addresses will for the most part be only formally presented, and the whole duration of the proceedings will not exceed one hour. Senor Garcia is still strong in health, and his mental powers are unimpaired. In addition to Spanish, his native tongue, he speaks English, French, and Italian fluently.

Just before the fall of the curtain on the pantomime of *Puss in Boots*, at the County Theatre, Kingston, on Saturday night, the entire company assembled on the stage, and Mr and Mrs Peter Davey, the enterprising manager and his esteemed wife, were presented, by Mr R. Entwistle, the stage-manager, on behalf of the company, with a handsome pair of silver-cased claret jugs as a token of the respect and goodwill of the company. The gifts were accompanied by an address, and a handsome spray bouquet of lilies and violets was also given to Mrs Davey.

In acknowledging the gifts Mr Davey spoke of the cordial relations that had existed between himself and all the members of the company. During the evening Mr Entwistle was presented by Mr and Mrs Davey with a silver cigar-case, and Mr J. H. Russell, the popular chef d'orchestre, received a silver spirit tea kettle from the same generous givers.

Mrs Kendal made one of her most amusing speeches at the banquet of the New Vagabond Club, at the Criterion Restaurant, on Thursday, amongst the 350 guests being the Lord Bishop of Ripon, and Mr and Mrs George Alexander. Mrs Kendal, in returning thanks for her health being drunk, said she laid claim to having been a vagabond from her birth. Her forbears before her for generations were also vagabonds. There was also another title to which her ancestors might have laid claim—rogue. Let them picture to themselves all these jolly rogues and vagabonds with light hearts and purses, going from town to town and learning their work in that great dramatic school, nature. For nature was art, and art was simplicity, and those were the only two things that made good actors. Art and acting both began with the same letter, but somehow they afterwards drifted apart.

They all remembered the story of the old woman who was dressing her child to go to a party, and said to her, "Sarah, leave off fidgeting about your sash. If you keep worriting it like that, don't you know your skirt and bodice will part company?" So it was with art and acting. They could always learn what they liked about the art of the past, because they could all read, and they could all see the art of the present; but, as for the art of the future—well, they could hope for the worst. And they should hope for the worst, and they might hope for the worst, because in the near future the Kendals were coming to town.

Mr Frank Curzon will revive *Our Flat* at the Comedy Theatre early in February with Miss Pollie Emery and Mr Willie Edouin in the cast. Mr Edouin as Nathaniel Glover is irresistible, and all his admirers will be glad to see him again in the part which he created at the Prince of Wales's Theatre in 1889.

Miss Kate Flinn has the gift of attracting interesting people—doubtless because she is so interesting herself—and a complete list of the successful singers on the stage and platform who have studied with her is a long one. Miss Annie Hughes is one of her most recent pupils; Miss Hilda Trevelyan has been benefitting from Miss Flinn's teaching for a much longer time; and Miss Mabel Hackney (Mrs Laurence Irving) is another well-known actress on the list, which includes Miss Constance Dreyer, who made such a hit in *A Princess of Kensington*; Miss Gaynor Rowlands, who sang so prettily in *My Lady Molly*, and is now at the Gaiety; Miss Nance O'Neill, whose fine voice is serving her in good stead in the title-part in *The New Barmaid* on tour; Miss Vera Beringer, the heroine of *A Coming Race*; Miss Mabel Garden, the clever daughter of Mr E. W. Garden; Mrs Arthur Collins, one of the many talented amateurs in whom Miss Flinn is interested; and Miss Sarah Brooke, who sings chansonnettes in such dainty style.

Mr Walter Beaumont, who is to play in the revival of *Our Flat*, at the Comedy Theatre, is not likely to forget a certain occasion during his first London engagement, years ago, when he was playing in *The Star of India*. He had to bind the hero to the trunk of a tree. The change from the previous scene was made in the dark, and on this eventful night both the actors saw on entering that the necessary tree was absent from its usual place. They mutually decided to speak the lines, however, struggle, and do the binding "off." Unfortunately, the carpenters below the stage, not knowing that the lights were on and the scene commenced, pushed up the tree through the ground just after Mr Beaumont had threatened the hero. The audience, delighted at this surprising proof of the villain's power, greeted its appearance with uproarious applause.

Messrs Harrison and Maude will produce at the Haymarket Theatre, when the run of the successful *Beauty and the Barge* comes to an end, an English version of M. Pierre Wolff's three-act comedy *Le Secret de Polichinelle*. The adaptation will be made by Messrs Robert Marshall and Louis N. Parker, and the cast will include Mr Edmund Maurice, Mr Charles Bryant, Miss Carlotta Addison, Miss Helen Ferrers, and Miss Jessie Bateman.

Mr George Edwardes, who left New York on Wednesday for this country, has decided to establish an American branch of his business. Mr Edwardes will in future endeavour to visit the States at least once a year.

Mr F. Lumsden Hare is going to take up the part of Sir Francis Chesney, in *Charley's Aunt*, which has hitherto been played by Mr Brandon Thomas, at the Comedy Theatre, next week. Having returned two months from a most successful three years' engagement in Australia, Mr Hare has lost no time in getting to work once again in the old country. He has been engaged by Mr Walter Reynolds to play the lead in his (Mr Reynolds's) new play, to be produced in Nottingham at the end of this month, followed by a special week at the Camden Theatre. Mrs Lumsden Hare (Miss Frances Ruttledge) accompanied her husband to the Antipodes, but played under Mr Bland Holt's management, while her husband was with Mr Williamson. They were both delighted with the generous audiences "down under."

Mr Charles Frohman's touring company in *Merely Mary Ann* will begin a season of twenty weeks at Bath on Monday. The title-part will be played by Miss Grace Armytage Noble; and Mr Alexander Calvert appears in Mr Henry Ainley's rôle, and Mr Reginald Dance in that originally sustained by Mr Gerald Du Maurier.

Mr Norman V. Norman gave a performance of *David Garrick* at the Theatre Royal, Lincoln, last week before a large and fashionable audience, which included the Dean, and Mrs Wickham, of Lincoln. Mr Norman was afterwards the recipient of a letter from the Dean thanking him for the pleasure which that dignitary had derived from witnessing the performance.

The fourth of Ally Sloper's diamond rings for the popular pantomime actresses has been received by Miss Kitty Tims, one of the charming "boys" in the *Puss in Boots* pantomime at the Elephant and Castle Theatre. Mr Sloper himself made the presentation at Thursday's representation of the annual, when a crowded house exhibited tremendous enthusiasm.

Mr Percy Hutchison, with whom a representative of this paper had a chat a few days ago, has some suggestions to offer with a view to coaxing into the theatre those people of the unco' guid order who never visit a playhouse. "I do," said Mr Hutchison, "believe in healthy plays and I think we should try to improve our audiences and not to allow deterioration to set in."

"With regard to the provinces, with which I, as a manager, am mainly concerned, I would invite a clergyman of every denomination to witness the representation of our plays free of charge. After he had seen the piece, I would request him to give me his views—in short, a candid criticism—and to say frankly what portion, if any, of the play he would not like his own congregation to witness. In this way, I believe we should gradually get the better-class people into the theatres, and I feel certain that if regular church and chapel-goers were to patronise the drama it would undoubtedly be to the good of the drama and the dramatic profession. Of course, I don't mean to preach sermons, because the theatre, after all, is only a place for amusement and recreation for the mind. And at the same time, I consider that every play should contain a moral, and a good one at that."

Mr Arthur Bourchier, in continuance of his friendly controversy with Mr A. W. Pinero, respecting actors' salaries and authors' fees, says:—"That brilliant dramatist Mr Pinero strangely misunderstands my contention, and although I am fully aware that a trade question of this kind is of little or no importance to the public, would you very kindly allow me to point out that Mr Pinero completely avoids my contention, which is that, if the leading actors are to lower their salaries in order that the manager may lower his prices of admission, then the leading authors should lower their rate of 'percentage of the receipts of the house.' It would be impossible to reduce one's chance of profit unless one were able proportionately to cut down one's heavy risk in the working of a theatre. Further, outside any question of fees, the conditions imported by our leading authors into their proposed contracts with managers are running them (the authors) into the danger of making the acceptance of their plays impossible through their desire for supremacy."

Miss Ellen Terry will be the guest of the Gallery First Nighters' Club at a dinner to be held in her honour on Sunday, March 12, at Frascati's. The president of the club, Mr T. Brandon, will be in the chair.

Mr George Alexander announces the final performance of *Lady Windermere's Fan* at the St. James's Theatre, and the last three matinées will be given to-day and next Wednesday and Saturday. Mr Alexander is busily rehearsing Mr Alfred Sutro's play entitled *Mollentrave on Women*.

Miss Marianne Caldwell laid the foundation of her skilful and delightful work as a comedienne in Miss Sarah Thorne's memorable stock company. Miss Caldwell has agreeable remembrances of old days at the Court Theatre, when the late John Clayton "presented" Mrs John Wood in never-to-be-forgotten farcical comedies, and Miss Caldwell made such a hit, in *Mamma*, in the part of a maid speaking broken French. She was the original Sergeant Shooter, in *The Amazons*, and, more recently, sustained a pair of good parts in two London successes at the same time, starting her evening's work in *The Schoolgirl*, at the Prince of Wales's, rushing away to appear in *The Light that Failed*, at the Lyric, and ending where she commenced, having just time to get back for the last act of the musical comedy.

Sir Henry Irving has accepted the invitation of Mr F. R. Benson and the Memorial Committee that he and his company should play *The Merchant of Venice* at the Stratford-on-Avon Festival, on April 24. It is quite in accordance with the "fitness of things" that Sir Henry should grace the occasion by the performance of a Shakespearian masterpiece.

Although Miss Tita Brand acted her first part only three years ago, she is already well known, and her experiences include several London engagements, tours, about seventeen appearances in Shakespeare, and no less than thirty-four parts all told. She is cast as Gloria in the revival of Mr Bernard Shaw's play, *You Never Can Tell*, at the Court Theatre, next May. Beginning her work in Mr Ben Greet's pastoral company, Miss Brand actually played Juliet on one occasion, and the Nurse on another, before the first anniversary of her début came round. One of her most trying experiences occurred in her first year, when she appeared as Lady Milford, in Schiller's *Kabale und Liib*, while suffering from a severe attack of influenza.

Mr George Grossmith has cancelled all his engagements, including his spring tour, in consequence of the serious illness of Mrs Grossmith, who has for her constant attendant Dr Warren Davis, Sir William Broadbent having been called in for a first consultation of the case.

Mr William Gillette will be seen here in May in a new play called *Clarissa*. Mr Charles Frohman has changed his plans so as to enable Miss Maude Adams to extend the run of *The Little Minister* at the Empire Theatre, New York, to the middle of March, when Mr Gillette will appear for four weeks in *Sherlock Holmes*. After this he will present *Clarissa* outside New York, subsequently bringing it to London.

Mr Martin Harvey, on his recent visit to the Leamington Theatre Royal, wrote a very complimentary letter to a local journalist. In it Mr Harvey said:—"I should like to tell you how much I enjoyed appearing before your responsive audiences once more, a pleasure I have not experienced since my 'prentice days some few years back. We have played *The Only Way* some seven hundred times now in various parts of the globe, and never before has the wit of the dialogue been so keenly appreciated and relished. Humour, in our own country at least, meets with a ready recognition at once, but wit is different, appealing to a much rarer intelligence and a much more alert mind, and there were points of pure wit in the dialogue which have never met with response before. This seems like a base flattery of your fellow townsmen, but it is the truth, and not altogether remarkable when one remembers one is in the countryside which produced a Shakespeare. It also gives me much pleasure to testify to the admirable management of the theatre, and to the ready and willing help we met with from the staff—who can do so much to carry a production to success."

Mr George R. Foss, who is instructor and stage-manager of the Neville Dramatic Studio, tells many amusing stories of the would-be actors and actresses who visit that popular establishment. Some time ago he was approached by a somewhat elderly lady, who made anxious inquiries as to the pecuniary prospects of a successful beginner. Mr Foss asked whether she had any idea of the difficulties and hard work involved. "Not much," she answered cheerfully, "but I've quite made up my mind. I've been a teacher of swimming for a great many years, but as I'm getting a little old for that, I thought I had better go on the stage."

In marked contrast to the young girl who wishes to study Juliet at her first lesson was a lady whom Mr Foss could not induce to speak at all. He thought, at the preliminary interview, that she was extremely shy, but when she came for a lesson he was quite unable to make her say more than a word at a time of the simple little speech she had been asked to learn, and she insisted on taking a course of six lessons. Mr Foss, who is a brother of Mr Charles Fulton, started his theatrical career in 1881. He was one of the founders of the now extinct Society of Dramatic Students, stage-managing most of the productions of that clever little group of young players. He has also done good work for the Browning Society, and was associated with Mr Ben Greet's Academy of Acting before he joined Mr Neville.

Apropos of aspirants for the stage, Mr George Grossmith, who is good nature itself, once consented to give his candid advice to a lady who was a complete stranger to him, and very anxious to enter the profession. She called at his house, and he found her—to put it mildly—as unprepossessing as it is possible for a lady to be. At the end of her song she looked severely at "Gee Gee," and waited for his verdict. "I don't wish to discourage you," he began, kindly, "but I am afraid your voice is hardly adapted—perhaps in a character part you might——" "Character part!" exclaimed the lady, indignantly; "what do you mean by that? Can't you see I'm an 'ongénue'?"

MR. H. A. JONES ON ART.

Mr HENRY ARTHUR JONES took the chair at the House Dinner of the Authors' Club on Monday night, when Mr E. A. Abbey, R.A., was the principal guest.

In proposing the health of Mr Abbey, Mr JONES said:—Gentlemen, I haven't the least notion why I am thus honoured on this occasion. I cannot lay claim to any practical knowledge of his art. Such poor drawing powers as I possess have been employed in quite another direction, and in another sense. For twenty-five years I have vainly spoken to the English playgoing public on the drama; I have vainly tried to enforce one or two of the plainest, simplest truths, without, so far as I can judge, the least result. Having been entirely unsuccessful in speaking upon an art that I do know something about, I trust that, by the simple operation of the law of human cussedness and irrationality, I may meet with unbounded success in speaking upon an art about which I know nothing.

I will yield to none of you in my admiration of the distinguished painter whom we have assembled to honour to-night. Mr Abbey has many older friends than I, many who are better qualified to speak of his personal gifts and charm; but I am sure they would all bear witness, as I do, to his being a companionable man, a staunch comrade, a jolly good fellow. I am sure this warm humanity, this active comradeship, this good-fellowship, is an almost necessary basis of character for a great artist. I like to think of all the great Italian painters popping into their pictures all the other great artists around them, their personal friends, without the least notion that such a thing as jealousy could ever creep into this best of all possible worlds. I often wish some such solidarity existed amongst us in the dramatic world. It does, to some extent. I have lately seen sketches of myself in the daily papers done by two leading actor-managers—sketches in words, I mean—I will say nothing of them, except that I rejoice to find that the art of caricature is not extinct among us. Well, our guest of to-night lives in a serener world than ours of the theatre, and I am sure every one of his brother artists would claim for him that he is a good clubbable fellow, and they would all join with us in drinking his health on that count alone.

Now I pass on to speak about his art. Perhaps the only excuse I have for standing here to-night is contained in that fine old saying, "There is but one art!" An artist can make no greater mistake than to try to force one art to do the work of another; for instance, a novelist to attempt to express in a description of landscape what only a painter can rightly express, or a dramatist to try to give that minute and realistic portraiture of everyday life which only a novelist can render successfully. But there is a sense in which the various arts are but streamlets and currents of the self-same creative energy, which, according to its outlet, frosts our window panes with fairy forests these winter mornings, or blazes in Turner's sunsets, or leaps into the strangely beautiful discordant harmonies of the chorus in Samson Agonistes. "There is but one art."

I may, perhaps, then try to cover my ignorance of the painter's art by some illustrations fetched from a sister art. And, first of all, I cannot go wrong if I apply to our guest of to-night an epithet which I am sure you will say is richly deserved. It is an epithet which critics sometimes apply when they wish to be disdainful, or mildly insulting. I have borne that epithet myself for some years past, and to-night I find a convenient chance of ridding myself of it. I am going to pass it on to you, my dear Mr Abbey. I am going to call you—I hope you won't mind it, I hope you won't attempt to deny it—I am going to call you "prolific." There is an obstetrical twang about it. It conjures up a punctual British matron, with her attendant monthly nurse. But it has other associations. There is scarcely a great name in painting or literature that may not be labelled 'prolific." And I may surely fix it upon our guest to-night. I suppose most of us remember his delightful work in black and white, contributed to the American magazines. That alone was a very considerable artistic achievement. He next impressed us with his bold painting of Shakespearian scenes, notably the Richard the Third. We are all familiar with illustrations to Shakespeare, both in canvas and on the boards—improvements, the artists sometimes call them. In nothing is Shakespeare's hardy greatness shown more than in the fact that he has managed to survive his illustrators. Sometimes he survives his exponents on the boards. If anyone wishes to estimate Mr Abbey's greatness as an illustrator of Shakespeare, let him go to the British Museum and see the collection of illustrations to Boydell's Shakespeare. That was at the end of the eighteenth century. Great sins are constantly committed in Shakespeare's name, but, even in the long gallery of crime done for Shakespeare's sake, it would be hard to beat Boydell's collection of indiarubber monstrosities. Enormous sums were expended on getting the best artists to illustrate our national bard. Let those illustrations be brought out and compared with Mr Abbey's Shakespearian pictures, and it will be recognised that, in our guest of to-night, we have a truthful, searching, and, I may say, an inspired illustrator of Shakespeare.

The same qualities of careful and painstaking archæology, and the higher qualities of splendid colouring, and of great, complete, and satisfying design, are also shown in Mr Abbey's picture of the City Companies, which is carefully hidden under a bushel, in a dark corner of the Royal Exchange. It is noticeable that when we do get a fine picture, or fine work of art, we are apt to make it an object-lesson for showing our immeasurable British contempt of all art whatever. But even muffled in the foggy seclusion of the Royal Exchange, the picture throws out its bright influence on the surrounding gloom, and tends to cheer the half-dozen or so dispirited loiterers who wander aimlessly and listlessly round the building. I do not know what purpose the Royal Exchange serves. It makes the worst picture gallery I have ever entered. I inquired what it was, and why it was. I was told that it was built to be a meeting-place of merchants. Gentlemen, if those depressed loafers who wander round the Royal Exchange are present-day British merchants, no measure of fiscal reform will save this country from financial ruin. With very great respect I venture to suggest to our City fathers that they should put the Royal Exchange to some useful purpose, that they should see it no longer made a loafing place for depressed British merchants and a grave for British art. I very humbly propose that they should put the valuable site up to auction, and hand over the proceeds to a committee for the endowment of a national English drama.

I hope our City fathers will take note of my modest suggestion, and that it will be acceptable to them. Meantime, if any one of you chance to have business Citywards, spare a few minutes to go into the Royal Exchange and look at Mr Abbey's picture of the two City companies making up their feuds. It shows a great colourist, a great designer, a great composer. And these qualities are even still more apparent in Mr Abbey's most recent picture of the Coronation. I suppose it would be impossible to put a painter to a more embarrassing and difficult task than the stupendous one which Mr Abbey has just finished. It was a task that demanded in its executant many accomplishments besides those of a painter—tact, patience, resource, social charm, and adroitness. During the reign of our late Queen it was said with some brutality, and also, it must be owned, with some truth, that Charles I. was the only English sovereign who ever knew or cared anything about art. I think something recently has been done to correct that opinion and to remove that reproach.

If anyone wishes to discover how finely Mr Abbey has executed a most difficult commission, I will again ask that a comparison be made. Let his gorgeous and glowing canvas of the King's Coronation be placed alongside the paintings of state ceremonies executed during the reign of our late gracious Queen. Perhaps you can recall the series of paintings that serves at once to commemorate and to render grotesque the state events of the great Victorian era. On recalling these series you will, I am sure, agree with me that Mr Abbey has emerged triumphantly from one of the severest ordeals that a modern painter could submit himself to. You will see how strenuously and how successfully he has grappled with a giant labour. You will applaud the taste that selected so fine a painter to portray so memorable an event, and you will own that we have made some advance towards that ideal future, when the greatest artists of England will be employed in perpetuating the memory of the greatest national events, and when the most powerful patronage in the realm will be naturally bestowed upon our greatest artists, to the honour alike of the giver and the receiver.

Gentlemen, a friend of mine congratulated me yesterday on being called upon to speak about painting, because, as he ingeniously and ingenuously put it, at any rate, it would stop me for the time from speaking about the drama. He was a bad judge of character. I have already shown some tendency to drag in Charles the First, and I now perceive a chance of putting that deceased gentleman to some further use. A recent critic of the drama has, with a zeal almost equal to my own, called upon those in high places to rescue the English drama from its present degradation. It can no longer be truthfully urged that Charles the First was the only English monarch who has understood and patronised English painting. Perhaps, before long, it may also be claimed that a great and growing force of taste and authority is gathering round the efforts of some of us to place our national drama upon a footing of security as an art amongst its sister arts, to obtain some recognition for it as a thing apart from mere empty amusement.

Gentlemen, I have spoken of such of Mr Abbey's works, and of such aspects of them, as came most readily to my mind.

You scarcely expected me to use the jargon of art schools in toasting our guest to-night. I don't understand that jargon, and I have none of it at the tip of my tongue. I have spoken as an outsider, and a member of the public, and I am conscious how sadly I have failed to do justice to my theme. There is so much of Mr Abbey's work that I ought to have remembered and praised. You will supply my deficiences from your own memory. You will all call to mind his many fine pictures shown at Burlington House during the last twenty years. One picture I would like you to dwell upon as you drink this toast—the picture of the Crusaders. I will call it a great and memorable picture. The face of the youngest of the Crusaders was lighted with a sacred fire, a deathless hope. "There is but one art." Let the young Crusader's face stand to-night for a symbol of reaching after that never-to-be-attained ideal, a symbol of the sacred fire, the deathless hope, that burn unquenchably in every true artist.

Gentlemen, I ask you to drink to our guest of to-night, fine draughtsman, splendid colourist, superb designer, prolific artist, and withal jolly good fellow.

FUNERAL OF MISS ADA NEILSON.

The funeral of Miss Ada Neilson, the wife of Mr Allen Thomas, took place on Monday morning. The deceased lady, who was a sister of Lady Macfarren, was buried in Sir George Macfarren's vault at Fortune-green, West Hampstead. We gave in our last issue a detailed account of the deceased's successful career as an actress. The principal mourners were Mr Allen Thomas (the husband), Miss Naomi Neilson (eldest daughter), Miss Davis (representing Lady Macfarren), Miss Emmie Price, Madame Paul Cinquevalli, Mr George Laing, Mr Brandon Thomas, Mr Charles Price, and Mr and Mrs Brandon. Floral tokens of regard and affection were received from the following:—Lady Macfarren; Madame Cinquevalli, wreath; Mr and Mrs Don Stewart, wreath; management and principals of *Aladdin* company, Ealing Theatre, cross; Mr Cecil Rose, wreath; Miss Dorothy Thomas, wreath; Miss Phyllis Thomas, wreath; Mr and Mrs Charles Lander, anchor; Miss Emily Levettez, wreath; Mr Thomas and family, Middlesbrough, wreath; Charles Price and family, Birmingham, wreath; Mr George and Miss Sophie Laing, Edinburgh, wreath; Mrs and Miss Devonport, flowers; and Mr Brandon Thomas, wreath.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Collinson, of St. Saviour's, Chelsea, who gave an eloquent address. He said:—Some there are who tell us that we should not be sorry at the departure of a Christian from this world. I am sorry for the man who cannot be sorry at the burial of a Christian man or woman. He must have the heart of a stone. But then there is sorrow and sorrow. There is excusable grief, and there is the inexcusable gloom of despair; the former has its place at the graveside of one we love, the latter no place there. When the South African War was raging I went to Southampton to see a dear friend embark for Cape Town. I bore up well until the great ship moved away from the pier, and then—I confess it—I broke down—I felt as if my heart would break, and I cried bitterly. I waited there in the gathering mist of the winter evening until no trace of that vessel was to be seen. I found that everyone had gone away. I was alone. I had come to see my friend off. It was an awful trial, and I felt it keenly. The sorrow was terrible, but it was not gloomy despair, for God told me that we should meet again before many years had passed, and I dried my tears. Well, now we are are just seeing a friend off on a long journey; but we must look forward to the day when we shall meet again. The act-drop has fallen, but—God be praised for it—not the curtain. That will never fall in the life of a man or a woman. Only one scene in the life of our departed sister has been enacted. She belonged to that noble profession whose mission it is to idealise the commonplaces of this life, to refine and educate us; that noble profession which does so much to lift London up from the grim commonplaces of this workaday world, and without which this England of ours would be very much the sadder and poorer in every way. She is now with God. "The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and there can no torment touch them." To-day we lay her body to rest, and what better prayer can we pray than the old prayer of our beloved Catholic Church: "May she rest in peace. May God give her everlasting light and refreshment." In all our sorrows and troubles here we may look heavenward to our dear Saviour, who died for us, and we may ask Him to hasten the day when we shall all meet again in that blessed country where there will be no more partings, where the Lamb will wipe away all tears from our eyes.

TO-NIGHT'S is the last performance of the pretty pantomime *Red Riding Hood* at the Coronet Theatre. Miss Beatrice Willey, fresh from her pantomimic triumph as Morgiana in *The Forty Thieves* at Fulham, is enacting the part of Miss Muffit, vice Miss Valli Valli, who has reverted to the Newcastle production of *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Willey introduces the popular song and chorus "Under the Panama" which is most effectively rendered, and goes with unmistakable swing and sparkle. Miss Madge Vincent now sings the pretty song "Farewell, my Little Yo San," and Miss Dorothy Firmin sustains the rôle of Red Riding Hood in the evening, Miss Dora Fraser only appearing at matinées. The part of Jill also has a new exponent in the pleasing person of Miss Peggy Primrose.

CHAT WITH MR. PERCY HUTCHISON.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

The system under which Mr Percy Hutchison controls the various touring enterprises sent out in his and his mother's name is one of high principles and sound business ideals. And to that, perhaps, may be attributed no small measure of the success which has attended the Hutchison enterprises.

Miss Emma Hutchison had her first taste of managerial work in 1885 with *The Golden Ladder*, which enjoyed a prosperous career of two years' duration. It was supplanted by that merry farce *Pink Dominos*, which ran for five consecutive seasons in the provinces. In 1891 two plays by Bronson Howard, namely, *Brighton* and *Truth*, were added to Miss Hutchison's répertoire, and a little later came *The Great Divorce Case*, *Betsy*, and *Sauey Sally*, the last-mentioned being produced by Miss Hutchison at the Southport Opera House. An arrangement was subsequently entered into with Mr Henry Arthur Jones for the provincial production of *The Bauble Shop*, with which Miss Hutchison toured until 1896, when she took Mr R. C. Carton's *The Squire of Dames* on the road. A little later Messrs Louis N. Parker and Murray Carson's delightful old-world play, *Rosemary*, was taken out, and was well received by country playgoers. In November, 1897, Mr H. A. Jones' famous comedy, *The Liars*, was produced at the Criterion Theatre, and shortly afterwards the Hutchison management sent out no less than three companies with this piece. Mr Henry Neville was specially engaged for Sir Charles Wyndham's part, which, by the way, he had played at the Criterion during the latter's illness. As might be expected with Mr Neville at the head of a good company, *The Liars* proved a great provincial success. Miss Hutchison also promptly secured the travelling rights of *The Manœuvres of Jane*, by the same author, and that piece, too, turned out to be a money-maker.

In 1899 Miss Hutchison organised three companies to present Mr Haddon Chambers's masterpiece, *The Tyranny of Tears*, Mr Henry Neville being again specially engaged to play the part of Parbury in the principal company. Another company started from the Haymarket Theatre with *The Manœuvres of Jane*, the author's clever daughter, Miss Winifred Arthur-Jones, appearing as Jane and Miss Hutchison herself playing Miss Beechinor. In the spring of 1900 a tour of *The Dancing Girl* was arranged under the direction of Mr Percy Hutchison, Miss Arthur-Jones taking the title-rôle. Then followed Mr R. C. Carton's *Lady Huntworth's Experiment*, Mr Jones's *Mrs Lane's Defence* (in which Mr Henry Neville took the part of the judge, Sir Daniel Carteret), Mr Isaac Henderson's comedy, *The Mummy and the Humming Bird*, which was travelled by four companies; *The Country Mouse*, by Mr Arthur Law, and *The Little French Milliner*. Last autumn Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr Percy Hutchison had five companies touring with plays from West-end theatres. In *Mrs Gorringe's Necklace* Miss

Photo by Ellis and Walery.

MR. PERCY HUTCHISON.

Hutchison sustained the part created by Miss Marie Illington at Wyndham's Theatre, while Miss Gertrude Burnett appeared as Mrs Gorringe, and Mr Yorke Stephens in Sir Charles Wyndham's part. *The Liars* and *Mrs Dane's Defence* were other pieces that went out at the same time, the casts including such names as those of Mr Henry Neville, Miss Lilias Earle, and Miss Italia Conti. Arrangements were then made with Messrs Frederick Harrison and Cyril Maude for the provincial rights of *Cousin Kate*, last year's Haymarket success, Miss Hutchison securing Miss Madge M'Intosh to enact the title-role. This play is still being toured by the same management.

Mr Percy Hutchison, who, by the way, is a nephew of Sir Charles Wyndham, and was associated with that gentleman's enterprises for a period of eight years, has some original views to offer on a variety of subjects connected with the theatre. First and foremost he has a strong complaint to make anent the terms given by local managers to touring proprietors. "Not only are the terms of the contracts unfair," says he, "but the requirements of many local managers are excessive. You have a thousand different things to provide that you never had to provide in years gone by. The travelling manager has to pay for his artists, his play, his printing, and railway fares, and I do not think he should be required to dip deeper into his pocket for further expenses. Frequently he is asked to pay for advertisements on tramcars, for postage of circulars, for library commission even, and in some of the country playhouses he is debited with a £30 bill for advertisements and printing. I have been called upon to pay £35 for the latter item. In referring to the provincial theatres, I also wish to include in that category the suburban houses, which have deteriorated simply because the local manager will not give reasonable terms."

Dealing with the question of provincial representations, Mr Hutchison expresses the opinion that it is a mistake for the artists of a touring company to endeavour to give an impersonation of the London actors and actresses in the original cast. They should give an original performance of the parts themselves and not present a copy of what others have done before them. Mr Hutchison supervises all the rehearsals of his own companies, and he strongly impresses upon his people the necessity of employing their own ideas in the acting of a part.

"The actor's lot nowadays," he goes on to say, "is far better than it was even fifteen years ago; in fact, during the last eight years a wonderful improvement has taken place. I attribute this—what I may call social advancement—to the fact that we get a better class of men and women in our companies, and they certainly take a more conscientious view of their profession. There is not so much indulgence in idle pursuits, the result being a healthier tone all round. The members of my companies, for instance, go in for swimming, long walks, cycling, hockey playing, and even from the literary point of view the present day Thespian is vastly superior to the old style. He is much more intelligent, and—what I consider most necessary to the man who is supposed to represent upon the stage people of different types of character and different nationalities—he keeps himself *au fait* with the history that is being made in all parts of the world. I have always been a firm advocate, even during my association with Sir Charles Wyndham, of searching the provinces for talent. I feel sure it is there we can come across some of the finest actors as well as good, useful people. I think if the London managers were to thoroughly sift the provinces, it would be greatly to their advantage in casting their plays. I believe, however, in sending a London success into the provinces with a star. I have had with me Mr Henry Neville, Miss Annie Hughes, Mr Yorke Stephens, and Mr Arthur Roberts, and found that the extra money expended in salaries more than repaid me."

Speaking generally Mr Hutchison is of opinion that the provincial actor is far better off than his London confrère. "The London actor may get more remuneration, but how long does his engagement last unless he is one of the chosen few? A reliable provincial actor receives a small salary, but he can depend upon thirty or forty weeks' work, and if he be a conscientious, intelligent, and hard-working man he can make a very good thing out of a country engagement. Some of my people have been with me eight and ten years, and they obtain a higher salary and a longer contract every year. Needless to say, the longer they are with me the more they improve in their acting."

"May I be allowed to inflict on you my views as to the school of acting? My own opinion is that a school of acting may be of use up to a certain point but it will never make actors. I believe in the old saying that actors are born, not made, and, to my way of thinking, the only successful school of acting is that wide one constituted by actual experience on the stage. Of course, in the ordinary school of acting, an aspirant to histrionic honours may acquire a few rudiments of the work connected with the stage. In proof of my argument and the argument that actors are born, not made, out of all our leading actors and actresses, how many of them have been through a dramatic school? Take Sir Henry Irving, Mr Beerbohm Tree, Mr George Alexander, and Mr Cyril Maude—did they receive their training at a school of acting?"

"Then," concludes Mr Hutchison, "above all, do let us have healthy plays. We ought to try to improve our audiences and not allow degeneration to set in."

SIR HENRY IRVING'S FAREWELL TOUR.

At the Grand Theatre, Southampton, a record house welcomed Sir Henry Irving and his company on the first three nights of this week. Enthusiasm had an undercurrent of regret, for the famous actor was paying his farewell visit prior to his retirement. On Monday evening the performance opened with *Waterloo*, in which Sir Henry appears as Corporal Gregory Brewster. This was followed by *The Bells*, in which Sir Henry repeated his famous study of Mathias, the burgomaster, a portrayal in which Sir Henry is seen absolutely at his best. Mr H. B. Stanford as Christian, Mr Charles Dodsworth as Walter, and Mr James Hearn as Hans won golden opinions; whilst among the ladies Miss May Holland gave a delightful portrayal of Annette. The other characters were well sustained, and the staging was a scenic triumph. The applause was loud and continuous, and the vast audience would not be satisfied until Sir Henry had appeared two or three times after each act and bowed his acknowledgments. Finally, at the close of the performance, he addressed a few words to his auditors, thanking them for their generous and inspiring greeting. The curtain fell amidst enthusiastic applause, and it was an event which will live long in the memories of those privileged to be present.

On Tuesday another great treat was afforded playgoers, when a magnificent performance of *Becket* was given before a crowded and delighted audience. Sir Henry's interpretation of the Archbishop was very fine, and deeply impressed the audience. Miss Maud Fealy as Rosamund was charming, and Mrs Cecil Raleigh was excellent as Eleanor. Mr Gerald Lawrence was admirable as Henry II, and the other members of the lengthy cast all rendered capable assistance. Sir Henry was again forced to appear before the footlights in response to torrents of applause, and expressed his thanks for the cordial greeting he had received—"It was a delight to be in Southampton once more, and it was a delight for him to see them receive this beautiful play in such a spirit and with such satisfaction. He thanked them as their loyal and loving servant from the bottom of his heart."

On Wednesday *The Merchant of Venice* was produced with a completeness which reflected great credit on all concerned. Another splendid reception awaited Sir Henry as Shylock, one of his greatest creations. Miss Edith Wynne Mathison was conspicuously successful as Portia, and Mr Gerald Lawrence exceptionally good as Bassanio. The mounting and staging of the play were most beautiful and effective, and the incidental music was well rendered under the direction of Mr Sydney Faulks. At the conclusion of the Court scene the applause was so vociferous that Sir Henry, after repeatedly bowing his acknowledgments, stepped forward in his Jewish robes and thanked the audience in the following words:—"Ladies and gentlemen,—I always find one of the most difficult parts I have to play is that of the grateful man, and I realise that difficulty very much to-night in appearing in this peculiar guise of this not very forgiving old gentleman. It is my privilege to thank you, and it is impossible to thank you adequately for the greeting you have given us. The best of friends must part, and I am truly sorry we have to part to-night. I would like to thank many friends—many old friends—for I had many old friends in Portsmouth and Southampton, who are old friends still, forty years ago. I still have very cherished memories of their kindness, and I shall also carry away with me pleasant memories of your kindness. No players could have been received with greater favour than you have received us, and we are most grateful for your kind and gracious greeting. I would also like to thank the Press for its generous appreciation of our work, and a very old and valued friend of mine, the manager of this theatre, Mr Sydney Paxton. I have known him for many years, and I knew his father before him. He came to me as a little bit of a boy, and I told him if he wanted to be an actor he would soon have to start and try. He made a start and became an actor, and got on very well, and fortunately became the manager of this theatre, and I congratulate you [on having so conscientious a manager as you have. Sydney Paxton is a man who wants to make the theatre a place of recreation for sober-minded and intelligent people, and I think he will succeed. In leaving you I take away a fresh sheaf of happy memories, and I hope I am leaving behind me something that you will think of kindly, and with goodwill. If so, I shall count myself in nothing else so happy. I hope you will always remember me, and think of me as your most grateful and loving servant. I hope on some occasion in future to meet you again, but to night I wish you goodbye, with God bless you in my heart." Mr Sydney Paxton, the energetic manager of the theatre, and his staff worked indefatigably to cope with the enormous crowds that nightly besieged this popular playhouse, and are deserving of the highest praise for the successful manner in which the whole of the arrangements were carried out.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"DARIA,"
Lyric Drama, in Two Acts,
by MM. Adolphe Aderer and A. Ephraïm,
Music by M. Georges Marty,
produced at the Opéra, Jan. 27.

Daria ..... Mdlle GENEVIÈVE VIX
Boris ..... M. ROUSSELIÈRE
Ivan ..... M. DELMAS
Le Pope ..... M DINARD
Garde ..... M. CAILLOT

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, FEB. 2.—M. Georges Marty, the composer of *Daria*, having received a gold medal at one of the Conservatoire competitions, and being, therefore, a "Prix de Rome," was entitled to have one of his works produced on one of our lyric stages. But, as this regulation does not stipulate any special time, M. Marty had to wait five-and-twenty years before his opera saw the footlights. In one respect it came at an opportune moment, for the story deals with the sufferings of the Russian peasants at the hands of the wealthy classes. Those, however, who attended the first night in the hope of witnessing a political demonstration must have been disappointed. Paris audiences are rarely demonstrative, and the Opéra public is known for never giving way to anything in the shape of emotion. It is a pretty story, prettily told. Daria, a young serf, has been honoured by Boris, her master, with special attentions. But, having got tired of the poor girl, he has left for the capital to marry an heiress, and Daria has remained behind under the care of Ivan, a serf like herself, who has always loved her. When Boris returns and offers his former mistress a sum of money for the "services" she rendered him, the outraged girl seizes a whip and attempts to strike him, whereupon the incensed Boris orders her to be knouted. But from the crowd of moujiks a gentle voice is heard beseeching the master not to strike a woman; and Boris, recognising Ivan, tells him that if he loves her he can save her by making her his wife. In the second tableau we are in the humble dwelling in the forest where Ivan has taken his wife. They lead a peaceful, happy life, but suddenly Boris turns up. He has been hunting the forest, he has lost his way, and asks Ivan to give him a bed for the night. In reality he has bethought himself of Daria, and wants to win her back. His plan is to make Ivan drunk, and then trust to luck. And Ivan, pretending to be overcome with drink, dances and sings, and finally drops down near his axe in the corner of the hut. Boris meanwhile speaks softly to Daria, until, seeing Ivan motionless on the ground, his brutal nature takes the upper hand, and he seizes the woman roughly. Then Ivan starts up, throwing himself on Boris, and kills him; after which he places the body on the bed, sets fire to the hut, and disappears with his wife in the forest. M. Marty, in his attempt to give the so-called "local colouring," has introduced too many well-known Russian airs, which are specially striking in the choregraphic parts. Musically speaking, the second act is by far the best, and sustains well the tragic movement in the last scenes. M. Delmas gave a superb rendering of the rôle of Ivan; and in the terrible scene wherein he dances before Boris he showed himself as great an actor as he is a singer. It is not often that an ungrateful rôle is assigned to a tenor, but here is a curious instance. Boris is the villain in the piece, and it was M. Rousselière, the tenor, who impersonated him. He acquitted himself, however, well of his task, and the same can be said of Mdlle. Vix, a charming Daria.

SOMEHOW or other our allies the Russians are not in luck just now. Whilst the Opéra produced a play which is rather up to date as regards recent events, the Porte-Saint-Martin has come out with a revival of *Resurrection*. In being transferred from the Odéon to the Porte-Saint-Martin the work has certainly gained, although of the old cast we have met neither Dumeny, nor Janvier, nor Boutharr. They have been replaced by MM. Calmette, Maxence, Poggi, Valney, &c., who form an excellent *ensemble*. Only Madame Bady has reappeared as La Masloma, the part which she created at the Odéon.

WHERE there is smoke there must be fire; and although at the Odéon they deny that there is any question of a change of management I know for a fact that the Fine Arts Ministry is anything but pleased with last year's financial results at this playhouse. The Odéon being subsidised by the State, our Minister of Fine Arts has a voice in the matter, and he did raise his voice to a pretty high pitch. The rumour that M. Gémier was to replace M. Ginisty is simply absurd. Gémier, great actor as he is, has shown himself the worst of managers during his tenure of office at the Renaissance; and he would not even dream of placing himself at the head of the Odéon. The ideal man for that post would, of course, be M Antoine; but there are difficulties in the way. A few years ago, when M. Ginisty was appointed, M. Antoine was officially nominated "understudy." The two gentlemen, however, quarrelled right from the start; and M. Antoine, tired of seeing his advice never followed, threw up his position and founded the theatre that bears his name, and which has paid big dividends to its shareholders, whilst the poor Odéon kept on struggling against adversity. If, therefore, M. Antoine is placed at the head of our second Théâtre-Français, it will be M. Ginisty's turn to disappear. But, worse than that, the Théâtre-Antoine would disappear as well, a loss which all lovers of the drama would deeply deplore. And if the Paris theatre-going public had a voice in the matter they would sooner see the Odéon continue its silly career than lose the famous and popular Théâtre-Antoine.

M. GUSTAVE GRILLET (writing under the pseudonym of Jean Tabrick) has finished a play, in five acts, called *Les Pierrots*, which will very likely be brought out at the Ambigu.

THE next novelty at the Nouveautés will be *L'Ange du Foyer*, a farcical comedy, by MM. De Flers and De Caillavet.

THE Scala announces for to-night the première of *Coco Barmaid*, operette, in two acts and five tableaux, by M. P. L. Flers.

M. SAMUEL, the manager of the Variétés, has more faith in revivals than in new productions. Having already unearthed some of the old works by Offenbach and Hervé, he now has put into rehearsal Audran's *Miss Helyett*, wherein Mdlle. Eve Lavallière will appear in the rôle created by Mdlle. Bianca Duhamel. The next new operette at that playhouse will be André Messager's *Les Dragons de l'Impératrice*, with Mdlle. Germaine Gallois and Mdlle. Mariette Sully.

THE month of December last has been a lucky one for the Comédie-Française. Their accounts show gross takings of 276,826 francs for forty-one representations—an average of 6,751 francs per representation. The work that brought in most money during those four weeks has been M. Capus' *Notre Jeunette*.

M. ANTOINE has received a new play in twelve tableaux, by M. Védel, one of the translators of *King Lear*.

MRS T. MORTON POWELL'S company, in *A Woman's Devotion*, under the business-management of Mr Arthur Clifton, is at the Queen's Theatre, Swindon, this week. Miss Maude Drewry's treatment of the part of Maisie Loyale is thoroughly natural and easy; Mr T. Morton Powell must be highly commended for his clever embodiment of Gilbert Le Grande; the cowardly Philip Dangerfield and the treacherous Cora Everaleigh have capable exponents in Mr Frank R. Robertson and Miss Alwynne Ermon; Mr Geo. Davis gives a manly representation of Richard Cheaney; and Mr W. H. Somerville does well as Paul Everaleigh, also undertaking the duties of stage-manager. Messrs Edward Mervyn and E. T. Kiabey, with Misses Alice Buckland and Dot Selby, ably fill the lighter parts.

ON THE ROAD, FEB. 6.

ALADDIN (DOTTRIDGE).—T. R., Bury.
AMORELLE (N.).—Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.
AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES.—Smethwick.
AUSTIN, MISS MARY.—T. R., Rochdale.
BABES IN THE WOOD (BODE).—O. H., York.
BABES IN THE WOOD (EDMUNDS).—Oldham.
BABES IN THE WOOD (LAVAINE).—T. R., Macclesfield
BANDMANN-PALMER, MRS.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
BEAUTY AND THE BARGE.—H. M. T., Dundee.
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (RAY).—L. T., Eccles.
BELLE OF NEW YORK.—King's T., Motherwell.
BENSON, MR F. R. (A).—T. R., Bournemouth.
BENSON, MR F. R. (B).—Gaiety Theatre, Ayr.
BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH.—Nuneaton.
BO-PEEP (RAY).—Prince's Theatre, Accrington.
BULMER, MR.—Met. Theatre, Birmingham.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (M.)—Hull.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (MACDONA) (N.).—Dunoon.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (MACDONA) (S.).—Grantham.
CINDERELLA (BODE).—County Theatre, Reading.
CINGALEE.—Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
COUNTRY GIRL (M.).—Barrow.
COUNTRY GIRL (N.)—Houghton.
COUNTRY GIRL (S.)—Shrewsbury.
COUSIN KATE.—King's Lynn.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—Gainsborough.
DARLING OF THE GODS.—T. R., Aldershot.
DEFENDING HIS HONOUR.—G. T., Burnley.
DICK WHITTINGTON (BODE).—T. R., Chatham.
DICK WHITTINGTON (KIDDIE).—H. M. T., Walsall.
DICK WHITTINGTON (MARRIS).—T. R., Stockport.
D'OYLY CARTE.—Fulham, S.W.
DUCHESS OF DANTZIC.—Oldham.
DUKE OF KILLICRANKIE (LOVEL).—Belfast.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—Kennington.
ETERNAL CITY.—Borough, Stratford.
FATAL WEDDING (M.).—T. R., South Shields.
FATAL WEDDING (N.).—Theatre Royal, Jarrow.
FEMALE SWINDLER.—Theatre Royal, Aston.
FIGHT FOR MILLIONS.—Palace Theatre, Newcastle.
FLORODORA (CALLAN).—Athenæum T., Lancaster.
FLORODORA (DAVIS).—Opera House, Middlesbro'.
FLORODORA (HOWARD).—Weymouth.
FORTY THIEVES (DOTTRIDGE).—Great Grimsby.
FORTY THIEVES.—Kilmarnock.
FRIVOLITY.—Theatre Royal, Stanley.
GAY PARISIENNE.—Basingstoke.
GEISHA AND GREEK SLAVE.—T. R., Worcester.
GIPSY JACK.—Grand Theatre, Aberavon.
GIRL FROM KAY'S (N.).—Leicester.
GOLDEN LADDER.—Terriss T., Rotherhithe, S.E.
GOODY TWO SHOES (DOTTRIDGE).—G. T., Derby.
GO-WON-GO-MOHAWK.—Birkenhead.
GRIP OF THE LAW.—T. R., Workington.
HARVEST OF SIN.—T. R., Mountain Ash.
HARVEY, MARTIN.—Broadway Theatre, S.E.
HER FATAL PAST.—O. H., Treherbert.
HONOUR THY FATHER.—Alex. Theatre, Widnes.
I DEFY THE WORLD.—Pontypridd.
INDIAN MUTINY.—T. R., Croydon.
IRVING, HENRY.—Theatre Royal, Plymouth.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Wadhurst.
LADDER OF LIFE.—Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.
LADY OF OSTEND.—Theatre Royal, Hull.
LA POUPEE.—G. T., Boscombe.
LAUGHTER-LAND.—Royalty Theatre, Chester.
LIGHTNING'S FLASH.—Theatre Royal, Middleton.
LITTLE ALADDIN (KIDDIE).—Q. T., Keighley.
LITTLE CINDERELLA (KIDDIE).—T. R., Blackburn.
LONDON FIREMAN.—Queen's Theatre, Workington.
LUCKY DURHAM.—Grand Theatre, Southampton.
MAN TO MAN.—T. R., Stratford.
MANXMAN.—Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.
MARRIAGE OF KITTY.—Crystal Palace.
MERELY MARY ANN.—Theatre Royal, Bath.
MESSAGE FROM MARS.—Brixton Theatre, S.W.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—Mexborough.
MOCKERY OF MARRIAGE.—Theatre Royal, Lincoln.
MOODY-MANNERS (A).—Opera House, Burnley.
MOODY-MANNERS (B).—Court Theatre, Wigan.
MOODY-MANNERS (C).—Lanark.
NAPOLEON THE GREAT.—Court T., Warrington.
NEW MEPHISTO.—New Theatre, Consett.
NORMAN V. NORMAN.—Paisley.
ORCHID (EDWARDES).—K. T., Hammersmith.
ORCHID.—Hartlepool.
OTTO THE OUTCAST.—Gaiety Theatre, Leith.
PROOF.—Metropole Theatre, Devonport.
PUSS IN BOOTS (BODE).—O. H., Northampton.
RED RIDING HOOD (ELAND'S).—Seaham Harbour.
REVENGE.—Theatre Royal, Sunderland.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.
ROYAL REVENGE (CLYNDES).—Middlesbrough.
SATURDAY TO MONDAY.—Cambridge.
SCARLET WOMAN.—Grand Theatre, Maidenhead.
SCHOOL GIRL (MACDONA).—Halifax.
SHERLOCK HOLMES.—Oxford.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
SILVER KING.—Theatre Royal, Stalybridge.
SINBAD THE SAILOR (LEVAINE).—Birkenhead.
SIN OF HER CHILDHOOD.—Spennymoor.
SLEDGE-HAMMER.—T. R., West Bromwich.
STILL ALARM.—Theatre Royal, Hyde.
SUNDAY.—Theatre Royal, Darlington.
SWISS EXPRESS.—Camden Theatre, N.W.
THREE LITTLE MAIDS (MACDONA) (S.).—Norwich.
TRAITOR.—Theatre Royal, Merthyr.
TRAITOR PRINCE.—Theatre Royal, Pontypool.
TRIP TO CHINATOWN.—Opera House, Blackpool.
TWO HUSSARS.—Abertillery.
TWO LITTLE SAILOR BOYS.—G. T., Chorley.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN (HARRINGTON).—L. T., Glasgow.
UNDER TWO FLAGS.—Opera House, St. Helens.
VERONIQUE.—Dalston.
VICTIM OF VILLAINY.—Grand Theatre, Nelson.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
WARNER, GRACE.—New Theatre, Ilkeston.
WAY OF THE WORLD.—Theatre Royal, Ashton.
WEARIN' O' THE GREEN.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE LOW.—Stanley.
WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN.—T. R., Dewsbury.
WOMAN'S DEVOTION.—Grand Theatre, Walsall.
10·30 DOWN EXPRESS.—Loughborough.

A COPY OF "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

THE annual meeting of the Hyde Theatre Royal shareholders was held on Saturday, Alderman W. T. Sherry, J.P., presiding over a large attendance. A satisfactory half year's working was announced, a profit equal to a dividend of nearly 5 per cent. having been made. Councillors S. Fildes and James Kemp were elected directors, and Mr Hugh Howarth was reappointed auditor.

MR F. NORREYS CONNELL, at a recent meeting of the Irish Literary Society, was announced to lecture on "Some Irish Dramatists." He made some remarks about Sheridan and Goldsmith, and then proceeded to highly praise Mr Bernard Shaw. Some of his hearers protested that if a play were written in English, and if the characters and the scenery were not Irish it could not be called an Irish play; and an interesting discussion on this "nice" point followed.

THE George Mence Smith Scholarship for male vocalists at the Royal Academy of Music has been awarded to Joseph Melvin Nightingale. The adjudicators were Messrs Richard Cummings, William Shakespeare, and Fred Walker. The Sainton Scholarship for violinists has been awarded to Elsie Winifred Owen. The adjudicators were Messrs Frank Arnold, Josef Bláha, and A. Burnett.

THE Marlborough pantomime *Aladdin* finishes to-night a six weeks' run, and for the opening of his dramatic season Mr Purcell has secured that delightful comedy *The Duke of Killicrankie*, which will be presented by a capital company under the management of Messrs Charles Frohman and Arthur Chudleigh. Sousa and his band will appear at a flying matinée at the Marlborough on Monday.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

DEATHS.

ALLEN.—Jan 5, at Malton, Mrs Edwin Allen, aged fifty-one, beloved mother of Mrs Eugene E. Hardie.

BRYANT.—Jan. 27, at Windsor, the wife of W. Bryant, professionally known as Sophie Barlette, music hall artist.

COOKE.—Feb. 2, at his residence at Twickenham, G. A. Cooke (of Maskelyne and Cooke), in his eightieth year.

ELLIOTT.—Dec. 18, 1904, at Calcutta, Augustus Elliott, of the original troupe of coster acrobats.

GOLDSTON.—Jan. 3, at the General Hospital, Calcutta, from malarial fever, James Mayer Goldston, professionally known as Mokana, aged twenty-three.

JONES.—Jan. 28, Mrs Jones, mother of Mr Glanmore Jones, of the New York Comedy Four.

KINROSS.—Jan. 29, at Newcastle, Charles Kinross, of *The Babes in the Wood* pantomime company' aged twenty-one.

POOLE.—Jan. 24, at Barnes, of consumption, Harry Herbert Poole, aged twenty-six.

WALLEY.—Jan. 27, at Burslem, Willie, aged seven years, the dearly beloved son of Mr and Mrs W. Walley. Gone from his broken-hearted parents and devoted Ada.

God called a little one unto Him.

IN MEMORIAM.

COLVERD.—Mr J. J. Colverd, who entered into rest, Feb. 7, 1903. Gone, but not forgotten by his beloved wife and family.

COX.—In ever loving memory of Douglas Cox, who died Feb. 2, 1904.

God rest the dear old man.

DIEY.—In ever-loving memory of my dear husband, Captain Alfred Diey (Alexander M. Aitcheson), who died Feb. 1, 1901. Never forgotten by his loving wife and sons.

FOR SYMPATHY.

THOMAS.—Allen Thomas, his daughters, Naomi Neilson and Leonora Thomas, thank the great numbers of dear friends for sympathy. Those who do not get replies, through this medium kindly accept our grateful and heartfelt gratitude.

ALLEN THOMAS.

PANTOMIME BALL AT STRATFORD.

To commemorate the very successful pantomime *The Forty Thieves*, at the Stratford Borough Theatre, the popular proprietress, Mrs Ellis Fredericks, invited a large number of those connected with the pantomime and personal friends to an evening party at the Stratford Town Hall on the 27th ult., about 150 being present. Dance music was provided by the full orchestra of the Borough Theatre, and at the interval a choice repast was provided. Speeches were necessarily brief, but those given were felicitous and to the purpose, it being an occasion for general upstanding and toasting when the charming hostess was prevailed upon to say a few words. Mrs Ellis Fredericks said that her enjoyment was centered in her guests, and as they were happy so was she, and she hoped to meet them again on many such future festive occasions. Among those present were Mr and Mrs A. E. Abrahams, Mr and Mrs Sam Fredericks, Mr Fred Fredericks, Miss Ethel Ashton, Miss Rosie Sylvester, Mr Dan Paulton, Mr Arthur Lingforth, Miss Daisy Webb, Mr and Mrs Allan Wye, the Misses Ethel and May Harry-Nash, Mr Spencer Darrell, Mr and Mrs Frank Rothsay, Miss Vere Gerald, Miss Muriel Vox, Mr and Mrs A. E. Barnes, Mr and Mrs Ben Barrow, Mr Charles Webb, Mr Ben Webb, Mr R. Saker-Harlow, Mr and Mrs Walter Harding, Mr and Mrs Sam Silver, Mr and Mrs Albert Lee, Mrs Symonds, Mr and Mrs Stern, Mr, Mrs, and Miss Lewis, Mr and Mrs Thomas Holden, Mr and Mrs E. F. Colverd, Mr and Mrs Arthur Boyne, Mr J. Leslie Stewart, Mr and Mrs E. Herring, Mr and Mrs T. Anderson, Mr T. S. Mayne, Mr Chas. Beecham, and Mr Bert Ashton, who successfully carried through the duties of M.C. An interesting interlude was the flashlight photographs taken by the Stratford photographers Messrs Edwards and Co. The early workers were passing to their daily tasks ere the merrymaking ceased and the company dispersed.

MISS JOSIE BELTRAM, who was so long on tour with the late Mr Osmond Tearle, and is now fulfilling her third engagement with Mr Arthur Milton, recently undertook the part of Bo-Peep at short notice, and was complimented highly by the management.—Owing to the illness of Miss Daisy Silcott, Miss Ruby Norton is playing principal boy in *Sinbad the Sailor* at the Gaiety Theatre, Hastings, and Miss Harlow is sustaining Miss Norton's original rôle of Prince Azon.—Mr Herbert Darnley, after concluding his engagement as Mrs Crusoe, and as stage-manager of the Camden Theatre, will join Mr Macdona's *School Girl* company.

MR GERALD BALFOUR, president of the Board of Trade, received at the Leeds and County Conservative Club, in the afternoon of the 27th ult., a deputation representing the Leeds Music Sellers' Association, who were accompanied by representatives of two London houses. They called attention to the extensive prevalence of musical piracy, and a case was mentioned in which a seizure had been made of 247,000 copies of printed music, the weight of which amounted to between four and five tons. In that case the cash receipts amounted to £45 a day, of which two-thirds were profits. Mr F. G. Jackson, solicitor to the Association, said that they desired that the sale of the music should be made a criminal offence. Mr G. Balfour, in his reply, said that he supported Mr Galloway's Bill of last year, and he would certainly support it again if it were again brought in. As to the Government taking up the Bill, he was not in a position to give any distinct answer.

MUCH excitement was caused in the Camberwell-road last Saturday evening, when the police seized about one hundred and fifty thousand copies of alleged pirated music, the owners being a Limited Liability Company, with offices in the centre of London. For the purposes of storing the contraband property they had hired a warehouse in Boundary-lane, Walworth, and to this they were traced by the officials of the Musical Copyright Association. The spoil was conveyed in two vans to Kennington-lane Police-station.

MISS GRACE LESTER, who concludes to-night a successful starring engagement with Mr F. B. Woulfe in the Preston répertoire company, is re-engaged for the part of Diane, originally created by her in Mr Moule's successful play *Bigamy*, opening on Feb. 6 at Great Yarmouth.—Owing to the unavoidable absence of Miss Alice Lloyd at the Crown Theatre, Peckham, last Saturday morning, the part of Cinderella was admirably sustained by Miss Natalie Ralph, who is to be congratulated upon her pleasing performance.—Mr Harry T. Whittaker, the musical director of the Grand Theatre, Fulham, was presented on Saturday night last with a handsome silver cigarette-case from the members of the *Forty Thieves* company.—Mr F. B. O'Neill, Mr Martin Harvey's courteous business-manager, is, we are sorry to hear, ill and confined to his bed, though on the high road to recovery. His place has been taken very kindly by Mr Eugene Bertram.—Mr and Mrs Frederic Jacques (Miss Minnie Rayner) have been re-engaged by Mrs Lewis Waller for her spring tour, 1905, to play Nathalie and Joly, in *Zaza*, and other parts in her répertoire. They now enter their fifth year under Mrs Lewis Waller's management.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS
Continued from Page 11.

SOUTH SHIELDS.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs J. and F. Coulson.—Mr J. A. Campbell and company are here, in *The Sin of Her Childhood*. Little Edith artistically pourtrays Little Mary in the prologue, to afterward appear successfully as Eric Dugdale. Miss Mary Fulton displays charm and intense emotion adequate to realise the character of the girlish and unselfish Mary Hazel; Stephen Haysel is ably embodied by Mr Austen Milroy; Mr Henry Hargreaves advantageously handles the rôle of the Rev. Alan Tray; Mr Fred Elvin is an amusing and typical stage Irishman as Barney O'Reilly. Little Dot Moss, banjoist, vocalist, and dancer, who finds favour as Hannah Spry, was given on Friday night a complimentary benefit.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Richard Thornton; General Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr Geo. F. Thompson.—Herman Melot, the wonderful conjuror, notwithstanding his previous visits here, proves as mystifying as ever, the large audience being kept in an excellent mood by his undoubted ability. Some bright coon songs and dances are submitted by the Juma Ostoroons; Francis and Melli, in a funny musical act, are responsible for hearty laughter; the boxing feats of Ben Harris's pair of midgets are novel and enjoyable; J. K. M'Farlane is an entertaining Scotch comedian; the Larells submit a good bar act; the American Bioscope, as on past occasions, is excellent. May Tyler, comedienne, and Geo. Bernard are the remaining turns.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr Jos. Sweeney.—Downey's living pictures are admittedly the turn of the week. Barton and Franklin are entertainers of a varied and distinct style; M'Askell provides some appreciative comic juggling; and the bill also includes Cissy Curlett, Chas. Milner, Bardon, and Walker and Legg.

STAFFORD.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Jas. Elphinstone.—Mr Gus Levaine's pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor* is here for the week. The title-rôle is played with dash by Miss Kitty Bishop; Miss Elsie Ide is a charming Prince Izor; Miss Flo Richardson a dainty Fatima; and Mr Ernie Clyde has a good opening for his acrobatic eccentricities as Tiabad. Messrs Charles Arnett and Tom Ashby are full of rollicking fun; Mr Edward Haswell portrays Captain Kettle capably; Mrs Sinbad is a humorous delineation by Mr Charles Howard; and the Princess Izza is played with grace by Miss Marie Harding.

ST. HELENS.

THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr M'Leod Loader.—The Moody-Manners opera company, under the management of Mr J. St. Clair, is paying a return visit here. On Monday *Tannhäuser* was presented with the greatest success. Elizabeth was finely played by Miss Enriqueta Crichton, her acting and vocalisation being excellent; Mr Edward Arthur scored a distinct success as Tannhäuser; Mr T. H. Wood's bass voice sounded to great advantage in the music of the Landgrave; and in Wolfram Mr Walter Barrett found a part well suited to him. The choral work, under the bâton of Mr Harrison Frewin, was enthusiastically applauded. On Tuesday *Faust*, with Mr Charles Carter in the title-rôle, Miss Teify Davies as Siebel, and Miss Crichton as Marguerite, was thoroughly enjoyed. Other operas included in the programme are *La Traviata*, *Lohengrin*, *Carmen*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, and *The Bohemian Girl*.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Manager, Mr A. Vic Carnell.—Mr Charles Majilton and company in *Round the Clock* head the bill here this week. Mr George Formby, comedian, repeats his former successes. Others in an excellent programme are Mr George Neno, comedian; the Hamiltons, vocal comedy artistes; Ambey Brothers, dancers and acrobats; Mr T. W. Royal, clog dancer; and Lachie Thompson's Top-weights (Tom and Nell).

STOCKPORT.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr Wm. Revill.—The Stockport Garrick Society is occupying the boards here this week, presenting *The Rivals* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, under the direction of Mr Ryder Boys.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—This establishment reopened on Monday, under the lesseeship of Messrs Davenport, with an array of talent of an excellent character, which includes Tom Atroy, a clever juggler and hoop manipulator; the well-known Hanneford equestrian quartet; and the amusing acrobats, Turle and Turle, among others.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs Weldon Watts; General Manager, Mr Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr R. G. Elder.—Mr C. P. Levilly's company in the pretty comic opera *Amorelle* opened here on Monday. As Dr. Napoleon Bonaparte Crow Mr Leon Simkins is responsible for much humour; Mr Arthur Elwin's Count of Cideaux is done in a refined way; Mr Arthur Cozens as Jules acts in a pleasing style and sings artistically; Mr Arthur Granby's François is also good; and Mr George Paulton's Harpagon is marked with much realism. As Dotard Mr Fred Carrington helps a good deal to keep the mirth moving; Amorelle is daintily acted and sung by Miss Dot Stephens; and Miss Ada Grey's Lesbia is cleverly impersonated. Miss Carlotta Blondin's Marina is humorously sustained, and the rest of the cast and chorus work in a way which leaves little to be desired.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr J. Batty; Manager, Mr W. Batty.—Some very good turns figure in the bill here, and good business is the result. The principal items include the Mackweys, in their bustling acrobatic knockabout act; the De Breans, in a Japanese juggling and shadowgraph show; the O'Malleys, funny patterers, &c.; and Katie Laurence, who successfully renders several catchy ditties. The bill also includes Joe Humphrey, comedian; Cora Grey, a good ballad vocalist; Weston and May, in their vocal sketch *Married Life*; Dave M'Neil, comedian; and Payne's Bio.

STOKE.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr H. F. Miller.—Mr T. Allan Edwardes, of the Grand Theatre, Derby; the Hippodrome, Grimsby; and Palace, Attercliffe, the present proprietor of this establishment, is presenting that clever and accomplished artist Miss Vesta Tilley, who on Monday had quite an ovation. Miss Tilley, in a neat speech, thanked her audience for their kind reception. The Ducros Trio, in a smart aerial act, are keenly appreciated; H. O. Wills, comedian, sings a screamingly funny song; the Belmonts are track cycle riders of much daring and ability; Bayne and Hope are seen in a capital sketch, *An Emperor's Divorce;* Flo Varley is a smart comedienne; the Electrones, in a comedy cycle act, are both amusing and clever; and Dan Kennedy, Irish vocalist, is much appreciated.

STOURBRIDGE.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton. — Go-Won-Go-Mohawk, the American Indian actress, and company are paying a visit here with the drama written by herself, called *Wep-tonno-mah*. She greatly pleased the audience, and introduced the two Indian horses which in no small degree contribute to the success of the drama. The antics of Messrs Guy D. Hackney, Dan Ryan, and Miss Jessie Hart gained rounds of applause. Miss Minnie Goepel was a pleasing Nellie Stockton, and Mr C. W. Charles was good as Colonel Stockton. Mr George Courtenay was an efficient villain in the rôle of Manual Lopes, and mention should also be made of Messrs Isaac Shawcross and Theo Alker.

SUNDERLAND.

AVENUE THEATRE. — Proprietors, Sunderland Theatres, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr Chas. E. Machin; Business Manager, Mr Percival Craig.—Mr Machin's fifteenth annual will "ring down" its final curtain to-night, after a six weeks' run. Miss Louise Willis has worked assiduously as the hero, and her various solos have all been rendered with great verve and culture. Miss Jessie Merrilees' Alice has also been pleasing, her vocalism having been favourably received. Miss Kitty Upton's Prince of China has been conspicuous as well as meritorious, and Miss Marion Scott's Princess Nicey Piecy deserves the plaudits invariably given. Miss Daisy Weston's dancing is smart and tricky, her *petite* personality proving exceedingly taking. Mr Wm. Vestor has during the past week successfully sustained the rôle of Idle Jack, and the Harrison Bros. also prove amusing. Considerable fun, although somewhat outside the limits of pantomime, has been caused by Zalmer, a local hypnotist. Tuesday's performance was marked for its festive character, presents of various kinds to the principals being the order of the evening.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Sunderland Theatres (Limited); Managing Director, Mr Chas. E. Machin; General Manager, Mr Percival Craig.—*The King's Pardon* is the attraction here this week. Mr Chas. Whitlock gives a vivid portrayal of Clifford Yorke, and Mr Charles Stirling makes a successful Noel Blake. Mr Charles E. Leicester is excellent as Spence Broughton, and Mr Harry Belford is most amusing as Major Dobbs. Miss Georgina V. France is pleasing as Barbara Yorke; Miss Pollie Denville is a bright and charming Phyllis; and Miss Violet B. Clarke leaves little to be desired as Marjorie Yorke.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Sunderland Palace, Limited; Managing Directors, Messrs Livermore Bros.; Acting-Manager, Mr G. V. Wybrow.—The principal feature here this week is Fred Harcourt, magician and illusionist, whose various tricks are deservedly applauded. An excellent turn is that of the Five Sisters Warren, acrobatic and trick cyclists. The Mezzettis, in their gymnastic act, receive a cordial welcome; Lillian Warren scores in her illustrated songs; Vasey and Ramsey contribute a clever comedy dancing act; the Sisters Olive prove themselves to be vocalists of exceptional merit; and Cliff and Kean, comedy artistes; Alf Chester, comedian; and Vernon's animated pictures also contribute to the entertainment.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Sutton Theatre Syndicate; Manager, Mr Edward Gray.—Miss Frances Delaval and company are playing here *The Biggest Rogue on Earth*. Mr Percy Carne Waram as Derrick Knight gives a masterly rendering; Miss Frances Delaval as Naomi Belvedere, the music-hall star, succeeds in gaining applause; Miss Patty Groves portrays Mother Hawke most effectively; Mr Evan Roberts does good work in the juvenile character; and the singing and dancing of Miss Sybil Hammersley gain well-merited approval.

SWANSEA.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs David Allen and Sons, Limited; Lessees and Managers, Messrs E. Oswald Brooks and J. W. Woodbridge; Resident Partner, Mr E. Oswald Brooks.—The Negro musical comedy, *In Dahomey*, by the Negro composer, Mr Will Marion Cook, with its coloured company, has been a big attraction here during the week. Specially responsible for this are the antics, singing, and smart dancing of Mr Dan Avery and Mr Chas. Hart, who as Rareback Pinkerton and Shylock Homestead are the life and soul of the piece. Worthy of mention also are Miss Pauline Freeman (Rosetta Lightfoot) and Miss Laura Bowman (Cecilia). Mr Oscar Hanke is the musical director.

NEW STAR.—Lessee and Manager, Mr T. Morton Powell; Acting-Manager, Mr William Coutts.—The attraction at this house during the week has been Mr Lingford Carson's thrilling drama, *The Heart of a Hero*, played by Messrs Carson and Granville's company, under the personal direction of Mr Charles E. Johnson.

NEW EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr Albert Mitchell.—An excellent programme provided here this week includes Happy Fanny Fields, as amusing as ever; Harriet Vernon, who again charms everybody; the Alfonso Trio, in a novel and clever juggling turn; Carrie Laurie's juveniles, who are warmly applauded; O'Gust, the artistic and clever mimic; Alf Gibson, the popular and quaint comedian; Ethel Ra Leslie, a capital character vocalist; the Bohemians, clever musical and comedy artistes; Charles Deane, comic; and the Brothers Horne, in their boxing sketch.

PALACE.—Musical Director, Mr P. H. Smith.—The following are the engagements at this house for the current week:—The Bensons, American duettists; Arthur Stacey, top-boot dancer; Dora Clifford, comedienne; Minnie Dare, dainty dancer; Tom P. Carroll, comedian and dancer; the Palace pictures; Jack Hyder, coster comedian; and Augustine and Hartley, barrel jumpers.

WALSALL.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, LIMITED.—General Manager and Secretary, Mr W. H. Westwood.—The pantomime *Aladdin* opened here last week, and is still attracting large audiences at each performance, matinées included. The company is a capable all-round one. It is a decidedly good pantomime, with plenty of fun, crisp jokes, capital songs, neat dancing, and effective scenery. The artists work hard. The music has been composed and arranged by Mr Frank Bradsell, and the dresses are bright and effective.

GRAND THEATRE, LIMITED.—General Manager and Secretary, Mr W. H. Westwood.—Messrs Preston and Doherty's company, under the direction of Sydney C. Cranston and Sidney Dench, is appearing here this week in *The Rich and Poor of London*. Mr Sidney Dench wins much popularity by a powerful rendering of Spider Jack, a performance in which he exhibits considerable versatility. Miss Dora Dench is prominent with a capital portrayal of May Braithwaite. Miss Marie Mamey displays skill and power as the adventuress, Ruby Redgrave. Other parts are adequately filled, and the drama is carefully staged.

WEDNESBURY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr W. J. Cranston.—Mr T. Morton Powell's company, in *The Greed of Gold*, is paying us a return visit here this week. Mr Carthage Caldeleugh gives an artistic rendering of Harry Wood; the rôle of Arthur Errol is powerfully portrayed by Mr Charles Coleman; Mr Walter M. Cameron as Cull Snig, a tipster, creates much amusement; the part of Conn Creamer is characteristically rendered by Mr H. Creamer; Mr B. Fox gives an able embodiment o' Tom Wolstead, the dumb man; as Dora Miss Daisy Halling proves a decided success; Miss Grace St. John as Mrs Mary Maxwell does excellent work; and the rôle of Patty Mayfield is in the worthy hands of Miss Winnie Donovan. Miss Hetty Woods wins warm applause for her interpretation of Cecil.

WEST BROMWICH.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr J. P. Moore.—Mr T. Edward Ward's company in *Her Fatal Past* is playing here. Mr T. E. Ward in the part of Jonathan Buckstone Nobbs displays humour; Mr Percy Brown is all that can be desired in the character of Mark Desmond; Leonard Fernside is in the capable hands of Mr Bernard Dunstan; Mr Victor Mason is very successful as Dicky Bird; Miss Helen Ingelow shows talent as Bella De Lara; and Miss Ward's Honor Symes displays that lady's talent to the utmost. Little Holly Haslewood gives a childlike rendering of the part of Little Leonard, and Miss Marguerite Thorne is excellent as Martha Springwell.

WAKEFIELD.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Messrs Beaudyn and Livesey's company, in the melodrama *A Traitor Prince*, is appearing here this week. Mr G. M. Montanini gives a powerful rendering of Prince Rao; Mr Alex. Temple submits an able rendering of Lieutenant Frank Derrick; Mr E. Carter Livesey keeps the house in extremely good humour as Billy; Mr Austen H. Longford scores in the dual-parts of Richard Vane and Colonel Vane; and Mr William Artrand is efficient as Kara. Miss Lilian Roseberry admirably sustains the part of Lolo Vane; Miss Beatrice Western is effective as Vashti; Miss Cissie Cleveland is vivacious as Pansy; and Miss Jane Massey makes a impression as Mrs Blossom.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Wakefield Hippodrome, Limited; Manager, Mr Geo. S. Douglass.—Mr Herbert La Martine, eccentric dancer and bâton manipulator, meets with hearty appreciation in his smart turn; Miss Mill May is a clever protean artiste; Mr Matt Wilkinson and company present an interesting sketch entitled *That French Woman*; the Solari Duo, a couple of lady instrumentalists, win favour; Renson and Waite are an amusing comedy couple. Other engagements are Mr Bob Pearson, vocalist; Miss Lily Pender, comedienne; Miss Violet Beatrice, ballad vocalist; and Walter Payne's Bio-photoscope.

WALTHAMSTOW.

KING'S THEATRE.—For the current week the management rely upon a very excellent performance of Mr Sydney Spencer's drama *The Stolen Birthright; or, A Father's Sin*, and the company engaged in its exploitation is that of Messrs Charles Draycott and H. B. Peppin. The play, the scene of which is laid in Rome about the beginning of the nineteenth century, is of absorbing interest, incident following incident with startling effect. Mr Charles Draycott plays Count Marco Taddeo, the Prefect of Police, and, generally speaking, "the villain of the piece," in admirable style. About Mr Draycott's villainy there can be no doubt. A fine breezy interpretation of Andrea Celsi, Prince of Naples, is given by Mr Robert Watson, whose handsome presence and ringing voice make every line of an arduous part tell with effect. Mr H. B. Peppin scores all along the line as Prince Antonio, while Miss Lilian Watson Loyde as Miranda plays with mingled grace and distinction. Miss Maud Hetherington is a bright and vivacious Nita. The other characters in a long cast are carefully played by Messrs F. Aldworth, Henry Monte, Frank G. Kent, G. Forde Road, Oswald Oldham, J. H. Smith, Henry Hazell, and S. A. Sewell; and Miss Alma Henson. The costumes are particularly brilliant, and the general mounting of the play leaves no excuse for cavil. The theatre orchestra, under the direction of Mr Sheridan Gordon, does full justice to the incidental music.

WARRINGTON.

ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr J. Potter.—Mr Peter Thompson's pantomime company is here this week, and a hearty reception has been accorded *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Maude Beaumont as Robin Hood scores well, acting with a dash and go which wins for her many admirers. She possesses a capital voice, and is nightly encored. Miss Molly Hackett is a charming Maid Marion, and Miss Katie Leon scores as Blue Bell, the good fairy. Mr J. Templar Ellis is an amusing Baron, and the Danbys as the two ruffians are eccentric in every detail. The Sisters Grahame as Bertie and Cissie, the two babes, are well received, and in several duets their voices blend admirably. Miss Fannie Humber is a dashing Will Scarlet, and Miss Nellie Hilton does well as Little John. Miss Minnie Moran as Dorothy Dimple, Miss Rosa Walmsley as Polly Primrose, and Mr Willie Barrett as Simple Pimple complete an excellent cast. The specialities are exceptionally good, including Herman Urquhart, foot equilibrist; the Yankee Quartet of vocalists; Miss Rosa Walmsley, skipping-rope artist; Little Renee, male impersonator; the Danbys, Hungarian dancers; and Fannie Humber, musical speciality. The musical director, Mr Arthur Lester, has under his control a capable chorus.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr Willmot.—Good business is again done here, and a capital programme is sustained by Ward and Adams, eccentric comedians, Coram, ventriloquist; Emma Don and company, sketch artists; Alf Farrell and Harry Hilton, comedians; Bert Holmes, vocalist; Carne Curre and his remarkable dog; and the Royal Bioscope.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.

GRAND.—General Manager (for Mrs Weldon Watts), Mr Sidney Bacon; Resident Manager, Mr Fred Conneaux.—Mr Frank Macnaghten's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, upon this, its second week, retains the reputation it gained last week. Mr Frank Cork continues to be popular in his song, and the fun of Mr Jack Foley as Dame and Harris and Worth as Sammy and Dick is maintained, and a duet by Miss Louie Hurman as Crusoe and Mr Harry Morgan as Friday finds appreciation.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr Frank Macnaghten.—Crowded houses nightly fully appreciate the attractive fare provided this week. Heading the list are the Glenroy Troupe of national dancers, whose smart and graceful exhibition earns well-deserved applause. Selbo's club and plate manipulations are clever. The Anglo-Dutch eccentricities of Reilly and Taylor are exceedingly funny. Some well-trained terriers are put through a remarkably smart performance under the direction of Mdlle. Frederico. The triple bar act by the Walonells is clever and amusing. Well-marked appreciation is shown for Frances Haskoll's illustrated songs, and the Clarks' banjo selections are an exceptional treat. Palliser's Bioscope completes the bill.

WEST STANLEY.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr Mark H. Lindon.—Mr J. F. Elliston's company is here this week with *In Old Kentucky*. Miss Amy F. Hermanns is a realistic Madge Brierley, and as Frank Harley Mr George Steel is equally good. Miss Beatrice Shirley is a bright, capable Barbara Grafton; as Alethea Harley Miss Edith Halford is all that can be desired; Mr A. S. Bankes does justice to the part of Colonel Beauchamp; and as Jasper Grafton Mr Eric Hudson is well placed.

VICTORIA THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr T. C. Rawes; Resident-Manager, Mr D. Williams.—Mr Bert Coote and company are fulfilling a six nights' engagement here in *The Fatal Wedding*. Mr Herbert Humber as Howard Wilson does well; and as Robert Curtis

with the artistes at the Hippodrome and Spargo, the Lancashire musical athlete, gave a very acceptable miscellaneous performance at the Hippodrome in aid of the Mayor of Wigan's Poor Relief Fund.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company; Managing-Director, Mr J. Worswick.—The Seven Savonas, musicians, and the Six Cycling Elliotts, continue their engagements for another week. Wragg and Wragg, dexterous swordsmen; Florence Platt, vocalist; Hilton and Hilton, clever and amusing gymnasts; Frank Cumminger, world's record sand dancer; and Steel and Laing, in their novel acrobatic and dancing speciality, are well received. Harry Edson's intelligent dog, Doc, performs some exceedingly clever tricks. Fatma Daird, American prima donna, sings in fine soprano voice and with excellent method. Loudoun Cameron, conjuror, and W. H. Morgan, vocalist, add to a first-rate programme.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Manager, Mr W. Birchall. —The Cedrics, in a new act; R. C. Note, character comedian; Miss Daisy Devonport, comedienne and dancer; and Miss Flo Windsor are popular. Droll and Dryan, comedians and burlesque artistes; Miss Nellie Arnold, comedienne; Geo. Raper, comedian; and Wood and West, American comedy couple, complete the list of artistes in a good all-round company.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr E. H. Bull and Mr Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy Percival.—A second visit of Mr George Dance's company in *A Chinese Honeymoon* is being highly appreciated by local audiences. The representation is in the hands of an excellent company, which includes Mr Philip Haydn in an admirable impersonation of Hang Chow; Mr P. Allerton Turner, who does well as Chippi Chop; Mr Percy Yorke, who makes a capital Tom Atherton; Mr Fred Payne, a good Hi Lung; and Mr Foster Courtenay, whose impersonation of Mr Pineapple is most diverting. Miss Vera Vere takes the part of Fifi, and her delineation is both clever and amusing; Miss Nellie Wigley is a charming Soo-Soo, her singing being good; Miss Jose Collins is an attractive Mrs Pineapple, dancing in capital style; Miss Alice Drummond is an effective Mrs Brown; and the remaining parts are well filled.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr Chas. Barnard; General Manager, Mr W. H. Lennon.—The Brothers Artois, who head the bill this week, give a clever performance on the parallel bars; Kitty Clover and company are seen in a sketch, entitled *Not a Word;* and the other items in the programme include Stylo, hoop manipulator; the Wedburns, comedians; Silent Tait, "komical konjuring quaker;" Hurman, unique juggler; Beatrice Bonnie, comedienne; Saxo, musician; and Mattie Crawford, skipping rope dancer.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND HIPPODROME. —Sole Lessees, Mr Fred Benton and Mr Fred J. Little; General Manager, Mr Fred Benton.—This week's entertainment is provided by Vesto, king of the air; Chevalier Crowther, swordsman, retained from last week; Clowns and other variety artistes; while a special attraction is provided in a representation of *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, which gives occasion for a capital display of horsemanship.

WORCESTER.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL —Lessee, Mr Arthur Carlton; Manager, Mr Louis Karpe; Assistant-Manager, Mr H. Wards.—Mr James Kiddie's capital company is appearing here in *Dick Whittington*. Miss Bessie Willow as Dick plays and sings very well, and possesses a fine figure. Miss Leah Laurie as Alice sustains the part admirably. Knockabout fun is provided by Clifton and Gibson, and the Sisters Kilner and the La Belle Troupe of Parisian dancers win much applause in the ballet scenes. Mr W. V. Vida is an agile cat, and Miss Meta Anderson, the fairy, sings finely.

PUBLIC HALL.—Mr Arthur Carlton is experimenting with a two-shows-a-night variety entertainment at the Public Hall this week, for which he has engaged the Spanish Goldena Troupe, the Lestard Clowns, the Monas, the Mezondas, Miss Elsie Croft, Will Dalton, and other well-known performers, with a series of animated pictures.

WORKINGTON.

OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr Stanley Rogers.—H. J. Callan and Wentworth Croke's company presented *Florodora* on Monday to a large audience. Mr C. Y. Fixett was good as Gilfain; Mr Wm. Everard sang and acted well as Frank; Mr A. Lenville was humorous as the showman; Mr F. Graus was popular as Arthur; and Miss V. Leslie was graceful as Dolores, her singing being artistic. Lady Holyrood as impersonated by Miss Cissie Sephton was charming, and her singing, acting, and dancing caused her to be loudly encored. Miss May Yates was an attractive Angela.

WORTHING.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—The new musical comedy *Miss Mischief* occupies the boards here this week, being successfully presented by Mr Godfrey Lamplugh's excellent company. Mr T. E. Conover as Private Harris, V.C. is the life and soul of the piece, working indefatigably from start to finish. Mr Cecil Curtiss as Captain Jack Bethune possesses a fine presence and an excellent voice, and soon installs himself a general favourite. Mr Fred Sandy as Hiram Peg, M.S.A., presents a typical American. Mr Fred Mantell as Lord Percy Fitzsherry portrays the character of a dude admirably, causing much laughter. Mr Arthur Jenner is good as Admiral Sir H. Bethune, and Mr H. Ellesmere scores as Count Von Himmelbleau. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon Miss Evelyn Hughes as Kitty Malone, her singing and dancing being greatly appreciated. Miss Criselle Frances as Mary Ann Smith, maid to Kitty, successfully enters into the spirit of the part. The chorus, under the able direction of Mr Spencer Dickenson, acquit themselves admirably.

YORK.

ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr T. H. Barrow.—The Milton-Rays' pantomime company opened on Monday in *Beauty and the Beast*. Mr Rolando Martin as Sammy causes much diversion and is an expert dancer. Mr George Rydon is a comedian of the first rank. Sir Mackintosh Mizzletoe in his hands is a most amusing personage. Mr Rydon's impersonation is of unusual excellence. Miss Maidie Scott is a great success as Silver Button. Petite and pretty, this clever little lady finds great favour. Miss Nellie Merton is a dainty Beauty whose efforts are greatly appreciated, and Miss Maude Jay looks and acts well as the Prince. Specialities are introduced by the Four Eldorados, the Hayes Brothers, Fyne and Hurley, and Wallau, who as a juggler claims first rank.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE —Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr Sidney Brooks.—The Tokio Troupe are a great attraction here this week. The Smythsons in their sketch are exceptionally clever, and Cavern and Cave in their comedietta are also good. The Lannons are duettists and dancers of acknowledged merit; and Henri, the boy juggler, is received with applause. Marie Gibson sings well, the Comedy Quartet are unique in their business, and Signor and Madame Louie are somnolists of a high order.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EDWARD CRACHY.—*The song you refer to was called "La-di-da," and it was written by Mr E. V. Page We believe it was first sung by Miss Nellie Power.*

B. HALDANE.—*As far as we know, but we cannot say for certain, the title has not been used. A drama entitled* The Seal of Silence *was produced some time ago.*

T. W.—*Mr Harry Randall played the Widow Twankey in* Aladdin, *at the Camden Theatre from Boxing Night, 1902, onwards. At the end of February he played in* The Babes in the Wood *at the Prince of Wales's, Liverpool.*

D. D.—The Notorious Mrs Ebbsmith *was produced by Mr John Hare at the Garrick March 13, 1895.*

PERCY.—The Light that Failed, *produced at the Lyric, Feb. 7, 1903, was transferred on April 20 to the New Theatre, where it ran till June 20.*

T. K.—*Carlo Valerio, a tight-rope dancer, was killed while performing in Cremorne-gardens, Jan. 23, 1863.*

CAMBSIDER.—Jim the Penman *was produced at the Haymarket on the afternoon of March 25, 1886, and went into the evening bill at that theatre on April 3, same year*

J. (WINDSOR).—*See the County Court officials or the solicitor who acted for you on the former occasion.*

W. K.—*You must yourself make the inquiries. We cannot undertake to do so*

OLD STAGER.—*The event you refer to occurred at the Aston Opera House, New York, May 7, 1849*

MATER.—*Perhaps if you put the matter before a magistrate he will instruct an officer of the court to call upon the lady*

W. MARDEN.—*At a copyright performance the play must be given as it is to be presented, that is as regards dialogue and situations. You must not "multiply copies" of a novel by taking the dialogue thereof wholesale. See the case of Mrs Hodgson Burnett v Seebohm re* Little Lord Fauntleroy. *If the author could show that anyone had taken his material he could proceed against the taker under the* Little Lord Fauntleroy *decision.*

A. J.—*Miss Mary Anderson revived* The Winter's Tale, *at the Lyceum, on Sept. 10, 1887. Macready staged it in 1843. James Anderson in 1850 and Chatterton in 1878, with Charles Dillon as Leontes, Edward Compton as Florizel, and Miss Wallis as Hermione. These three revivals were at Drury-lane. Phelps gave a notable revival at Sadler's Wells in 1845. Charles Kean's revival was given at the Princess's in 1856.*

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Asche, Mr J. F.
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Caddick, Mr B.
Callan, Mr John
Carey, Mr Charles
Carney, Mr Tom
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Catlin, Mr
Chattell, Mr H. E.
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Denham, Mr Geo.
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Devin, Mr W.
Dexter, Mr William
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Dundas, Mr F. H.
Dunmore, Mr
Edwards, Mr
Eldiablow, Mr
Emerson, Mr C. A.
Engden, Mrs
Etherdo, Mr Henri
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Farrell, One Billy
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The cast also includes Mr Sydney Valentine, Mr O. B. Clarence, Mr H. Nye Chart, Miss Kate Serjeantson, Miss Muriel Beaumont, Miss Elfrida Clement.
Matinée every Wednesday and Saturday, at 2·30.

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Twice Daily, at 2·30 and 8·30,
CHARLES FROHMAN
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Lessee and Manager, OTHO STUART.
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OSCAR ASCHE and LILY BRAYTON.
Matinée every Wednesday and Saturday, at 2·30.

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SIXTH GERMAN SEASON.
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday next, at 8·30,
ROSE BERND,
by Gerhart Hauptmann.
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, at 8 30,
MASKERADE, by Ludwig Fulda.
Saturday Matinée, 2·30, ROSE BERND.

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All coms., Sounes, Woodlawn, Blackheath, London.

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Monday, Feb. 6, Mr Frank Curzon's No. 1 Company, in
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Matinée, Thursday, 2 30.
Mon., Feb. 13, Mr Geo. Edwardes's No. 1 Co., in "Orchid."
Mon., Feb. 20, Mr W. Greet's No 1 Co., in "Earl and the Girl."
Feb. 27. Mr O. E. Hamilton's No. 1 Co., in "Peggy Machree."
Now booking remaining Spring and Autumn, 1905.
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Now Booking remaining Spring and Autumn Dates, 1905.
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EDGWARE-ROAD, W.
Feb. 6,
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Feb. 13,
"The Swiss Express."

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Monday, Feb. 6, 1905,
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To be followed by Varieties and Farce.
Popular Prices.
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To-day, at 2 0 and 7 30, Last Performances
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"Red Riding Hood."
Monday, Feb. 6, Mr George Edwardes's Chief Company, in
THE ORCHID.
Feb. 13, "The Earl and the Girl."
Note.—March 27 may be available in consequence of the discontinuance of "The Cherry Girl" Tour.
The King's is one of the most luxurious and completely equipped Theatres in or out of London, as it is also one of the largest, holding £250 at Usual Prices—6d. to 5s. Address, Mr Mulholland.

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Mr G. Brydon-Phillips's successful
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Matinées, Wednesdays and Saturdays.
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Rosie Lloyd, the New Macs, Edgar Romaine,
Earle and Earle, Mary Thorne,
and a New Series of Biocope Pictures.
Every Evening, at 7·45,
and Saturday Matinée, at 2·0.
Manager, Mr ALFRED BUTT.

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Lightning Programme. Fred G. Brooke and Company, in "Todd, Fleet-street;" Frank Coyne, Allis and Cassati, Harry Leybourne, Connie Milton, Blake and Granby, in "The Man in Possession"; Dot Hardy, Gus Garrick, the New Biocope, Montague Biggs, Theo Bouwmeester and Co., in "Who is Guilty?" Dan Conroy, La Tostia, Stuart and Morgan, Edith Finlay, Professor Fuller's Wonder, "Astarte," the Aerial Nymph.
Commence 7·15. Saturdays, One Hour earlier.

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All Artistes are notified that they must send their full bill matter in two clear weeks before opening. Rehearsal, 1·0 o'clock, Mondays. All Artistes engaged must attend. Artistes not complying with the above rules are subject to having their contracts cancelled at the option of the Management.

HAMMERSMITH PALACE.—
Proprietor, J. C. COE.—Monday, Feb. 6, 1905, and during the week, Wal Pink and Jeff Vendome's Co., of Laugh Extractors, in a Dumb Show Delirium, "The Daybreakers;" the Edisonograph, Elsie Steadman, Katie Lawrence, the Imperial Boys Orchestra, Two Krolle, J. Wilkes and Dog, Henry Hallam and Josephine Stanton in "A Broken Journey;" Abdullah Arabe, including Fatima; Frank Darwin, Mill May, Geretti Sisters, Charles Whittle, Harry Walker, Bennett and Martell, Geo. M. Marriott and Powerful Co., in a grand production of an Original Sensational Sketch, entitled "A Woman of the World." Doors open 7·15; commence, 7·35 Acting-Manager, Lewis Vincent.

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YORK-ROAD, BATTERSEA. General Manager, Mr LENNOX BARRY. Secretary, H. G. Stower. Monday, Feb. 6, 1905, and Twice Nightly, Rachel Lowe, J. G. Johnson and Company, Ida Brophy, Fernando, Charles Johnson, Nelson Hardy, Gladys Huxley, Alder and Amber, Walter Payne's Bioscope.
Doors open 6·30 and 8·50.
Commence 6·50 and 9·10. Telephone, 206, Battersea.

BATTERSEA EMPIRE,
Special Notice.—Commencing Next Week, there will be a Special Matinée every Wednesday at 2·30 p.m., and all Artistes holding Contracts for this Hall are requested to note this.
Mr LENNOX BARRY will be pleased to receive applications from Artistes who are willing to give their Services at these Matinées in view of Prospective Engagements.

ROYAL STANDARD MUSIC HALL
(Facing Victoria Station).—Proprietor and Manager, Mr T. S. DUKES.—One House Nightly. Monday, Feb. 6, at 9 45, the Great Ahrensmeyer, the Cowboy Hypnotist; Fred S. Peake and Co., in "The Hypocorite;" Hamilton Hill, Peterman's Song Sheet, Amy Clevere, Stewart and Morgan, Katie Lawrence, Alber and Amber, sisters Albert, Demi and Semi, George Edney, Eadie Anderson, Edisonograph, and others. Open 7·30 (Saturdays 7 0 o'clock); commence 7·40 (Saturdays 7·20, with Augmented Company). Telephone, 503, Westminster. Assistant-Manager, Mr M. Volny.

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Great Change of Company, Monday, Feb. 6. Mr F. G. Brooke and Combination, Lear'o, Belle Harcourt, the Woolhats, Ray Stella, the Gartells, Ivy Adelaide, the Arundals, Joe Dale, Nellie Cotter, Walter Payne's Bio-Photoscope.
Acting-Manager and Chairman, Mr W. Leaver.

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Full Band Rehearsal every Monday, 1·0 o'clock.
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Two Artists for Resident Permanencies.
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Wanted, Artist experienced at Interiors.
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Monday next, Feb 6,
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Feb. 19 (Sunday),
BENEVOLENT FUND DINNER,
IMPERIAL RESTAURANT, REGENT-STREET,
at 8·0 p.m
Sir LAWRENCE ALMA-TADEMA, R.A., in the Chair.
Tickets (including Wine), £1 1s each, of any of the Stewards; or from the Secretary, H. LAWRENCE HARRIS, 5, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.
Monday, April 10,
Opening of Exhibition of Scenic Art at the Grafton Galleries, Bond-street.
One Shilling Admission Tickets (available any one day) can now be obtained of the Secretary, 1s. each, or in books of twenty-one for £1.

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Jan. 31, 1905.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
to Artists and Others who have obtained Contracts from MACDERMOTT'S AGENCY that they must Pay their Commissions due in respect of these Engagements direct to the Agency, at No. 6, UPPER ST. MARTIN'S-LANE, as no other person is authorised on behalf of the Agency to receive the same.
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NOTICE is hereby given that the FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the ACTORS' ASSOCIATION will be held at THE GARRICK THEATRE, CHARING-CROSS-ROAD, LONDON, on THURSDAY, FEB. 23, 1905, at 3·0 p.m., for the following purposes, namely—
To receive a Report and Accounts of Expenditure and Receipts and Liabilities and Assets.
To elect One President, Twelve Vice Presidents, and Fourteen Members of the Council, and an Auditor or Auditors, and to transact any other Business of the Association brought before the Meeting by the Council, or by any Member who shall have given to the Secretary Seven days' written notice thereof.
Notice is also given that any two Members of the Association whose Subscriptions for the current year are paid, may, within Seven days prior to the said Meeting, give to the Secretary a notice or notices signed by them, nominating any qualified Member or Members of the Association as a Candidate or Candidates for the Council. Such notice or notices must contain the name and address of the proposed Candidate or Candidates, and be signed by him or them
Dated this Jan. 24, 1905.
By Order of the Council,
CHARLES CRUIKSHANKS,
Secretary.
10, King-street, Covent-garden.
The Chair will be taken by ARTHUR BOURCHIER, Esq.
All Members are entitled to attend, and every Member whose Subscription for the current year is paid is entitled to vote.

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FRANCIS, DAY, and HUNTER'S LIST.

	Sung by
"A B C D" (James Hargreaves) ..	Wilkie Bard
"All the harm I wish you" (R. P. Weston)	Harry Anderson
"All the little Ja-pansy faces" (Harry Castling)	Mark Sheridan
"All the Girls are Lov-er-ly-over-ly" (Harrington and Thurban)	R. G. Knowles
"Anywhere there will do" (Murray and Everard)	Frank Seeley
"A Warning to Single Men" (Bateman and Pether)	Arthur Reece
"Baby Mine" (Browne and Friedman)	Miss Clarisse Heney
"Blue-Bell" (Madden and Morse)..	Hamilton Hill
Also sung by almost every Artist of note both in Pantomime and on the Variety Stage throughout the Kingdom.]	
"Boys of the Chelsea School" (Carter and Weston).....	George Leyton
"'Come in!' said Widdy Malone" (Harrington and Le Brunn) ..	Michael Nolan
"Conversations" (F. and W. Redmond)	Ambrose Thorne
"Delusions" (Phil Ray)	Phil Ray
"Doan' Cry, Little Coloured Coon" (S. F. Harrison and Neat)	Miss Harriett Vernon
"Don't Stand There ——!" (Lawrance and Gifford).....	Walter Stanley
"Farewell, my little Yo San" (Mills and B. Scott)	Tom Costello
"Frozen Meat" (T. W. Connor) ..	Alf Gibson
"Have you seen my girl?" (Mills and Scott).....	Walter Munroe
"He Kissed I Once" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Marie Loftus
"Here comes the foreigner" (Barnes and Weston).....	H. Bedford
"I did enjoy myself last night" (Lawrence and M. Scott).....	Will Johnson
"I don't mind if it amuses you!" (Leigh and Pether)	Ben Albert
"If all the stars were mine" (Smith and Stromberg)	Miss Lilian Doreen
"I'm a girl of Tennessee" (Eden and Byng)	Miss Lil Hawthorne
"I'm coming home to you" (Herbert Darnley)	Miss D. L Clark
"I'm going to sea (see)" (Leamore and Collins).....	Tom Leamore
"I'm round there to-night!" (Winoott and Leighton)	Dan Crawley
"Isn't that like a Man?" (Paul Mill)	Paul Mill
"It's all right in the summer time" (Murray and Everard)	Miss Vesta Victoria
"It's the Poor that help the Poor" (Mills and Castling)	Miss Florrie Gallimore
"I've been a Naughty Boy all Day" (Carter and Weston).....	Miss Georgina Leonard
"Jolly Jarge" (Mills and Arthurs)	George Bastow
"Julia" (Robson and Hyde).....	Miss Gladys Mavius
"Just a Girl" (Elton and Harrison).....	Miss Minnie Cunningham
"Little Jap Horner" (F. V. St. Clair)	F. V. St. Clair
"Ma Havannah Queen" (Gifford and Lawrence)	G. H. Elliott
"Ma Dusky Rose" (Harrington and Le Brunn	Miss Florrie Robina
"Maude! Maude!" (Barnes and Collins)	Miss Lottie Lennox
"My Little Black Pearl" (Leslie Stuart)	Eugene Stratton
"My Fiddle is My Sweetheart" (Harry Hunter)	G. H. Chirgwin
"My Japanese Girl" (Delmar and Parry)	Hal Forde
"My Lily of the Valley" (Frank Leo).....	Miss Sable Fern
"Oh, Nancy Lee" (T. W. Connor) .	Miss Millie Hylton
"One Little Cottage all Our Own" (J. F. Lambe)	Miss Dolly Harmer
"Revenges" (Dunlop and Pether)	Wallis Arthur
[Above also sung by Whit Cunliffe.]	
"She must have known!" (David and Scott)	J. E. Coyle
"She said, 'Baa! Baa! Baa!'" (Harrington and H. Allen)	Miss Florrie Forde
"She taught him a thing or two, too" (Leigh and Le Brunn) ..	Miss Eileen Douglas
"Sit on 'em and keep 'em warm" (Winoott and Leighton)	Harry Champion
"Take this message to my sweetheart" (Mills and Castling)....	Miss Marie Kendall
"That's him! That's him! That's him!" (Mills and Scott)	Harry Freeman
"The Boarding-House Keeper" (Dickson and Randall).....	Harry Randall
"The Angel of My Dreams" (Leigh and Pether).....	Miss Millie Lindon
"The Gambling Man" (Jerome and Schwartz)	Miss Carlotta Levey
"The New Insurance" (Arthurs and Lyle)	Ernest Shand
"The New Perjarma 'At" (T. W. Connor).....	Gus Elen
"The Playground in the Sky" (Bateman and Pether)	Milner Verren
"There was something on his mind" (Leigh and Le Brunn)..	Miss Marie Lloyd
"The Saftest o' the Family" (Lauder and Beaton)	Harry Lauder
"The Seaside Sultan" (C. W. Murphy)	Miss Vesta Tilley
"The Statue in Trafalgar-square" (Arthurs and Lyle)	George Lashwood
"The Truth or a Lie?" (Barnes and Weston)	George D'Albert
"The Ugly Duckling" (Murphy and Lipton)	Miss Edith Courtney
[Above also sung by Park's Dean, and Miss Phyllis Dare.]	Eton Boys, Miss Ella
"The Workhouse Gate" (Shelley and Philpot)	Herbert Shelley
"Then She Started Tickle-ing" (Mills and Carter).....

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1905.

IN THE LIONS' DEN.

The grand old showman who is now lying painfully ill at his fine farm at Finchley has the sympathy, not only of his brethren "on the road," but of many in the dramatic and variety professions. To Lord GEORGE SANGER the nomadic, out-door life, with all its hardships, is, so to speak, the very breath of his nostrils. With all his wealth, GEORGE SANGER is ever uneasy in summer-time unless he is travelling. As the spring days lengthen the veteran showman, like the hero of *Le Chemineau*, hears the country "a-calling;" and he has to answer to the call or mope and pine. There is a fascination about the showman life which is felt even by outsiders. As we stood not very long ago in the immense shed in which Lord GEORGE SANGER stores his wild animals in the "off-season," we were keenly sensible of the spell. In the centre, round a blazing fire, stood in a circle a magnificent group of elephants. A grand old lion lay in a cage almost at our elbow; shaggy, indistinct shapes were dimly perceived in the distances; quaint goats and strange sheep wandered and browsed amongst the wheels of the vans; and, in the dim light in the interiors of these, pairs of green eyes glowed mysteriously. The methods of training wild beasts, too, are full of interest; and each creature has a character and an individuality of its own. One animal may be of a heavy, phelgmatic disposition; another may be slow and stupid; a third subject to fits of unreasonable and ungovernable rage; another curious and inquisitive, making him incessantly restless; another nervous and timid; and yet another will show a fussy and irritable nature, and refuse to perform unless all the circumstances are just as he considers they should be.

All sorts of ideas are current as to the "cruelty" used in training lions to perform in public. As a matter of fact, for six weeks the trainer devotes himself entirely to winning the confidence of the animal. The trainer, and the trainer alone feeds him, and attends to his little comforts. When a certain *entente cordiale* is established, the cub—if it is a cub born in captivity—is rubbed and stroked with a stick till he comes to take a delight in the caress. Then the hand is used to pat and stroke the young lion. If, however, the animal is full-grown, he is collared and chained after a preliminary process of conciliation, and the trainer enters the den and "improves the acquaintance." It will surprise many who have read of the use of "red-hot irons" &c., that the only weapons of defence which the trainer uses when he comes to deal with the lion unchained are a stout oak stick and a chair. Should the lion spring on the trainer, the latter turns the legs of the chair towards him.

The next stage is to edge the chair over until the man is near the beast, and to rub him with the stick, and then pat him. This goes on until all alarm and overt enmity have been eradicated. Then comes the instruction in his performance, obedience in which is rewarded with a small piece of raw meat. By first laying a stick on the floor, getting the lion to walk over it, and gradually raising it each time till he is obliged to jump, the foundation of his leaping lessons is laid; and so he is led on till he becomes an accomplished public performer. If a lion seize a keeper or a trainer, the best way to make him let go is to turn a hose on him. It stops his breath for a time, and he loosens his hold to gasp.

It will amuse most of our readers to be told that after a few appearances in public wild animals become "stage struck." They are stimulated by the applause of an enthusiastic house, and perform indifferently before a cold audience. They are also subject to "stage fright" before they become accustomed to the sight of the audience; and they then lose "their cues." They particularly dislike any change in the apparatus or the routine of their "acts," and resent it strongly. They do not, consequently, oppose "long runs."

The influence which the trainer has over his pupils depends entirely on the fact that they are kept in ignorance of their own power. So strongly do animal teachers realise this, that, should a wild beast, in play or by accident, seriously injure his master, the latter never lets him know what he has done. On one occasion, for instance, a lion named Wallace struck at Mr FRANK C. BOSTOCK, the celebrated animal trainer, in pure playfulness; and the claws went through high boot and clothing and became stuck in the thigh. The lion got frightened and pulled the claws out, together with a good-sized piece of flesh, causing intense pain. Yet the trainer showed no signs of being hurt, and quietly sent the lion back to his cage before summoning assistance. The lashes laid on the animal with the whip during performances are mere pretences, parts of the daily programme; and the growls and snarls they evoke are protests against being made to do something when the animal feels lazy. If, by accident, one of these light blows "lands" on some sensitive part of the body so that the animal is really hurt, it is very possible that he may be completely spoilt as a performer, may "strike work" permanently, or "go bad"—that is, become dangerous.

The resource shown by animal trainers is extraordinary. In 1889, when Mr BOSTOCK'S menagerie was at Birmingham, a very rebellious African lion jumped from his own cage into another to which he was being transferred with such force that he caused the waggon to move away upon its wheels. Then, seizing his opportunity, he sprang out and took to the streets. In his flight he passed the opening of a sewer, and jumped down it. As he made his way along the sewers of Birmingham he stopped at each man-hole to roar, driving some of the inhabitants almost crazy with terror. In order to avoid the riot which seemed imminent, Mr BOSTOCK conveyed a tamed lion to the mouth of the sewer, in a waggon covered with canvas. A pretence of capturing the fugitive was then made; the canvas was removed; and the harmless animal was taken back to the menagerie followed by a procession of thousands of reassured people, 40,000 of whom visited the show.

The real "Simon Pure," however, was still at large in the sewer, though luckily he had stopped roaring. Mr BOSTOCK, with three trusty henchmen, his big boarhound, and hundreds of policemen and sewer-men armed to the teeth, assembled at dead of night for the hunt. A cage was placed at the entrance of the sewer, and Mr BOSTOCK and his three men descended. In order to protect himself from a blow from the lion's paw, Mr BOSTOCK placed over his head a large iron kettle. This fell off, and made such a terrific noise when rolling and crashing down that the lion, who just finished a desperate fight with the boarhound, in which the latter was vanquished, turned tail and ran away. As he fled, he came to an eight-foot "drop," in falling down which he caught his hind legs in one of the slip-nooses which had been lowered from the various manholes to entrap him, and became suspended by his hind legs. Thus handicapped, he was still further bound, and was dragged by force to the cage.

On another occasion Captain BONAVITA, a well-known trainer, was exercising his lions in the arena in private, when the electric light went out, and he was left in darkness. He could hear the animals creeping nearer to him in the dark, ready for a spring. All he could do was to swing his stick round his head steadily, and when he hit something soft he knew that a lion had been close upon him. He kept the stick whirling till his arm ached, and he felt that he was on the point of fainting. Just as he was about to give up, the light "came on" again, and showed the animals about to attack him. The sudden glare, however, confused them. He had just strength to order them back to their cage and fasten the door, and then he collapsed entirely.

Lion-trainers smoke and drink very little; and positively dare not lead dissipated lives. In some curious, incomprehensible way, wild animals detect the loose-liver, and will not recognise his authority. If he loses the magnetic power called "nerve," his career as a trainer is better ended.

All must have admired the fine physique of animal trainers; but few, perhaps, realise the moral power which they have to exercise. If a trainer degenerates below a certain very high standard of coolness and courage, his life is at once in jeopardy. He is perforce a "very perfect knight;" and he must have that instinctive penetration into character which was the Napoleonic gift, so as to realise the complex nature of his pupils and act upon his perceptions. Animal trainers are born, not made. They are like artists; they adopt their vocation urged by a natural instinct. Mr FRANK C. BOSTOCK—to whose admirable information on the subject, adroitly compiled by Miss ELLEN VELVIN, we are indebted for the facts in this article—was brought up by his father for the Church of England, and was educated at Kelvedon College. But the hereditary gift was too strong, and he became one of our greatest lion-tamers and trainers. Modern wild beast training is both an art and a science; and one in which there are few proficients, because, besides intelligence, complete courage is one of the requisites of success. There can be no strain upon the nerves greater than that which is placed upon the man who, night after night, has to dominate a crowd of *carnivora*. Yet, considering the number of trainers, fatal accidents are remarkably few; and the percentage of death from this source is very much smaller than that from falls in the hunting-field.

"ROSE BERND."

A Play, in Five Acts, by Gerhart Hauptmann, Produced at the Great Queen-street Theatre, on Thursday, Feb. 2.

Bernd	PHIL. LESING
Rose Bernd	ELSE GADEMANN
Marthel	ELSA SALBERG
Cristoph Flamm	HANS ANDRESEN
Frau Flamm	IDA WEISS
Arthur Streckmann	HANS STOCK
August Keil	ADOLF WALTHER
Hahn	THILO ULRICH
Heinzel	G. F. SCHWIRGER
Golisch	KARL BERGER
Kleinert	F. STERN
Die alte Gollischen	ADELE MEYSEL
Die Grossmagd	PAULA BUSSARD
Die Kleinmagd	GRETE LANGFRIED
Ein Gendarm	BRUNO WIBURGER

The performance for the first time in London of a drama by Gerhart Hauptmann is a theatrical event well calculated to interest a large number of English playgoers. The author of *Rose Bernd* has made a reputation as a dramatist by his powerful plays, illustrating for the most part the lives of the lower middle and the lower classes. The scenes in his plays are often sordid and repulsive, it is true, but their realism cannot be denied. He presents intensely vivid pictures from life; and though opinions may be divided as to whether certain subjects are suitable for stage treatment, the ability displayed by the author is generally acknowledged. The story unfolded in *Rose Bernd* is unpleasant, but the tragic elements in the life of a peasant girl are revealed with masterly power and perfect sincerity. Rose Bernd is engaged to be married to a bookbinder named Keil, who is respectable and religious, but does not shine as a young girl's lover. Rose, however, has been courted by Flamm, the hereditary "headman" of her village, and he would marry her but for the fact that he has a wife who is a hopeless invalid. The girl has a third admirer in Streckmann, a mechanician, and he, knowing of Rose's relations with Flamm, exercises such a terror over her that she becomes his mistress. But one day he loses his temper and insults the girl, and this leads to a quarrel between him and Keil. Streckmann strikes Keil, and is summoned for the assault. Rose takes a false oath, but both Flamm and Strickmann admit their relations with the girl. The painful story concludes with the confession made by Rose that not only has she sworn in court falsely, but that she has also murdered her child. The performance by the excellent company of German actors under the direction of Herr Hans Andresen and Herr Max Behrend was in all respects admirable, in spite of the fact that the important part of Frau Flamm was sustained at short notice by Fräulein Ida Weiss, owing to the sudden indisposition of Fräulein L'Arronge. She played the part with much charm of manner. The title-rôle was embodied by Fräulein Else Gademann, who scored a genuine artistic triumph in the part of the simple country girl. Herr Hans Andresen did well as Flamm, and Herr Adolf Walther admirably depicted Auguste Keil, the unfortunate lover, who was to have become the husband. Hauptmann's play will be performed every night until next Thursday evening, when Ludwig Fulda's *Maskerade* will be given for the first time in London.

MR. FRANK ROTHSAY'S BENEFIT.

The Stratford Borough Theatre presented quite a gala appearance on Thursday afternoon, the occasion being the annual complimentary benefit to the popular acting manager, Mr Frank Rothsay. All the higher-priced seats were well filled, and the pecuniary results must have been extremely gratifying to the bénéficiaire. The theatre was kindly lent for the occasion by Mrs Ellis Fredericks, and the whole of the staff at the back and front of the house, together with the orchestra, volunteered their services, as well as the artistes, with two exceptions, of this year's highly successful pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*. The first half of the entertainment was provided by the pantomime, and advantage was then taken by the bénéficiaire to say a few words of thanks to the artists for their services, and to those in front for their attendance. He told the audience that the enthusiasm with which they had received him filled him with diffidence as to how to express his feelings. He had been in Stratford eight years, and he told them that on remarking this fact to Mrs Ellis Fredericks on a previous occasion she expressed the happy wish that he would be with them another eight years. To use an appropriate quotation, he, like Myles-na-Coppaleen, could only say, "I'm a proud man to-day." As far as the pantomime was concerned they would be pleased to know that it was essentially a Stratford pantomime, all the scenery and properties having been designed and created in Stratford, and it was produced by a Stratford man, in the popular general manager, Mr Fred Fredericks. At the conclusion of Mr Rothsay's speech Mr Sam Fredericks appeared on the stage, and in the name of several of the pantomime artists and one or two friends, presented Mr Rothsay with a very handsome tea and coffee service as a token of esteem and regard. The following contributed towards the entertainment provided:—Band of the 4th V.B. Essex Regiment, conductor, Mr Thos. Bidgood; Miss Dolly Harmer, whom many remembered from previous Stratford pantomime triumphs; Mr Bransby Williams, who gave two well-contrasted poems; Miss Elsie Leslie, Miss Ethel Ashton, Mr Harry Paulton, whose drollery simply convulsed the audience; Mr Kennedy Allen, Miss Ethel Harry-Nash, Miss May Harry-Nash, Mr and Mrs Allan Wye, who presented an entirely new farcelet, *What Happened to Watt*, of which more will be heard in the future; Miss Muriel Vox; Miss Vere Gerald, who accompanied herself at the piano in two entertaining items; Miss Nellie Gladwell; Mr Edgar Romaine, in a new ditty, which has all the elements of success; Miss Rosie Sylvester, as dainty as ever, in "Johnny Number Two; Miss Daisy Webb, who had the able assistance of "Herr" Linforth, in "Sammy;" Messrs Condon and Preston; Mr Austin Melford, whose recitation was vociferously received; Mr Henri Cazman; and Master Avery. Much praise is due to Mr Arthur Linforth for his smart stage-management, and the front of the house was well looked after by Messrs Sam Fredericks, Bert Ashton, A. E. Barnes, Sam Silver, and G. N. Finlay.

THE Bandmann-Dallas opera company, which left England on Oct. 8 for the West Indies under the personal direction of Mr Maurice E. Bandmann, has met with great success at each place it has visited. Mr Bandmann has augmented the company to the strength of sixty, and it is now on its way from New York to open at the Teatro San Martin, Buenos Aires, on March 15. This will be the largest English company that has ever visited South America.

NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

LONDON.

JAN. 2. *The Coming Race*, adapted from Bulwer Lytton's novel of the same name by David Christie Murray and Nevil Maskelyne (Reopening)—St. George's Hall.
,, 2. *Bells Across the Snow*, drama, in four acts, by W. Bevan Robinson—Greenwich Theatre.
,, 5. *The Talk of the Town*, musical comedy, by Seymour Hicks, music by H. E. Haines, lyrics by Charles Taylor, additional numbers by Hamish M'Cunn and Evelyn Baker—Lyric.
,, 5. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, romantic comedy, in four acts, by Orczy-Barstow (originally produced at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, Oct. 15, 1903)—New.
,, 10. *White Magic*, fairy play, in one act, by Netta Syrett, music by Dalhousie Young—St. James's.
,, 18. *Mrs Dering's Divorce*, light comedy, in three acts, by Percy Fendall (originally produced in London at the Camden Theatre on Nov. 14, 1904)—Terry's.
,, 21. *The Chosen People*, Russian play, in three acts, by Eugen Tschirikoff (played by a Russian company)—Avenue.
,, 26. *The Impertinence of Nancy*, play, in three acts, by Roland Bottomley—Queen's-gate Hall.
,, 27. *A Maker of Men*, play, in one act, by Alfred Sutro—St. James's.
,, 28. *Zwei Glückliche Tage*, farcical comedy, in four acts, by Franz Von Schönthan and Gustav Kadelburg (German season)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
,, 30. *Great Friends*, comedy, in three acts, by G. S. Street (produced by the Stage Society)—Court.
,, 30. *A Girl's False Step*, drama, in four acts, by Harold Whyte—King's Theatre, Hoxton.

PROVINCES.

JAN. 5. *At Cripple Creek*, American play, in four acts—Theatre Royal, Dover.
,, 9. *The Blackmailer*, Irish American drama, by Nellie Whitbread—Queen's Royal Theatre, Dublin.
,, 19. *A Woman's Past*, drama, by H. F. Housden—Metropole, Devonport.
,, 23. *The Poor Must Live*, drama, in a prologue and four acts—Queen's Theatre, Longton.

REVIVALS.

JAN. 21. *Henry the Fifth*, Shakespeare's play (revived by Mr Lewis Waller)—Imperial.
,, 24. *Much Ado About Nothing*, Shakespeare's comedy, arranged in three acts by H. Beerbohm Tree—His Majesty's.

PARIS.

JAN. 11. *La Massière*, comedy, in four acts, by Jules Lemaître—Renaissance.
,, 12. *Le Patrimoine*, comedy, in three acts, by Ambroise Janvier—Odéon.
,, 13. *Petite Peste*, comedy, in three acts, by M. Romain Coolus—Vaudeville.
,, 16. *La Conquete de l'Air*, play, in four acts and five tableaux, by C. Audigier and Paul Gery—Ambigu.
,, 18. *L'Instinct*, play, in three acts, by H. Kistemaekers—Molière.
,, 18. *La Soutane*, play, in three acts, by Arthur Bernède—Molière.
,, 19. *Les Merleriau*, comedy, in three acts, by Georges Berr—Bouffes.
,, 20. *La Petite Bohême*, operette, in three acts, by H. P. Ferrier, music by H. Hirschman—Variétés.
,, 20. *La Gioconda*, play, by Gabriele d'Annunzio—L'Œuvre.
,, 20. *Le Chopin*, vaudeville, in three acts, by MM. Keroul and Barré—Palais-Royal.
,, 24. *Le Gigolo*, farcical comedy, in three acts, by Miguel Zamacois—Nouveautés.
,, 20. *Le Voyage de Madame la Présidente*, fantaisie, in seven tableaux, by Bernier and Leo Pouget—Casino de Paris.

BERLIN.

JAN. 1. *Josefine Martens*, comedy, in three acts, by Lothar Schmidt (at a matinée)—Neue Freie Volksbühne.
,, 11. *Die Gross Leidenschaft*, three-act comedy, by R. Auernheimer—Deutsches.
,, 11. *Das Nachtmahl der Kardinäle*, one act play, by J. Dantas—Deutsches.
,, 14. *Die Neugierigen Frauen*, musical comedy, in three acts, by G. Wolf-Ferrari, words by Count Surgana—Des Westens.
,, 19. *Modell*, four-act comedy, by H. Katsch—Berliner.
,, 24. *Das Gerettete Venedig*, five-act drama, by H. Hofmannsthal—Lessing.
,, 27. *Gute Nacht, Herr Pantalon*, one-act opera, by A. Grisar—National.
,, 28. *Die Juxheirat*, three-act operetta, by F. Lehars—Central.
,, 31. *Der Kilometerfresser*, three-act farce, by Curt Kraatz—Thalia.

"HIS MAJESTY'S COASTGUARDS"

An Original Dramatic Sketch, by Edward Ranier. Produced at the Bow Palace on Monday, Jan. 23.

Harry Briant	Mr FRED MONTI
Tom Wilton	Mr ARTHUR BARNES
Stephen Helston	Mr HENRY WATSON
Warder King	Mr CECIL BARCLAY
Marie Helston	Miss ALICE MAUDE
Mat Marden	Mr EDWARD RANIER

The plot of this new sketch is briefly as follows:—Harry Briant and Tom Wilton, fast friends, fall in love with Marie Helston, who marries Harry. Tom, however, bears no malice. The sketch opens with Stephen Helston (Marie's father), who is living with his son-in-law, Harry Briant, meeting on Rockford Beach Mat Marden, a notorious smuggler and forger, with whom he had been connected in former days. Influenced by fear of Marden, he consents to help him steal some of the cargo from Harry's vessel. Tom Wilton, hearing a false account of the loss, as good as accuses his old friend Harry of being the thief, and the latter, in a sudden burst of temper, rushes at Tom. In the struggle Mat Marden, who has picked up Harry's knife, stabs Tom unseen, and Harry is accused of the murder. In the next scene—on the way to the prison—Stephen Helston and Marie contrive to free Harry from his handcuffs, and he very cleverly slips them on to Marden's wrists whilst the latter is taunting him with his misfortune. In the confusion Harry escapes with some of his shipmates, and the warders rush off with Marden in mistake. In the last scene, Mat Marden's house, justice is done by Stephen Helston denouncing Marden, and the latter is almost torn to pieces before being finally secured by the warders. The sketch was well acted throughout, and received, what it deserved, an unqualified approval from the packed audience. Mr Fred Monti was manly and earnest as the hero, a hasty tempered but good hearted sailor. Mr Arthur Barnes as Tom Wilton, his chum, deserved all praise for a piece of good acting, and Mr Henry Watson as Stephen Helston must be highly commended for his study of a repentant wrongdoer. The other parts were all well filled, and a special word must be given to Mr Edward Ranier, who contributed a very powerful delineation of the villain, and whose acting was one of the chief features of a very successful production.

NEXT week, the pantomime of *Cinderella*, so successfully produced by Mr Isaac Cohen at the Crown Theatre, on Christmas Eve, is to be the attraction at the Pavilion Theatre, Mile-end.

MR. HARRY TATE'S BENEFIT.

There was a crowded audience at the Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, on the evening of the 27th ult., when the clever and popular favourite comedian Mr Harry Tate, who plays the part of Abanazar in *Aladdin*, took his benefit. Besides giving his well-known imitations of Joe Elvin, George Robey, R. G. Knowles, and Harry Lauder, Mr Tate introduced three of his amusing sketches. First, he was the amateur golfer with a small "caddie" whose solid, half-contemptuous expression of face is alone responsible for much merriment. Next Mr Tate appeared as the "josser" fisherman who is in difficulties from the very beginning, and finally upsets the fishing punt, attendant and all. In this sketch much fun is caused by the man from whom a fly has been ordered, and by the youth who has a distinctly original, not to say primitive, method of catching fish. Finally Mr Tate caused renewed laughter by his impersonation of the gentleman whose motor breaks down, and is accused of furious driving by a policeman. The progress of the pantomime was frequently interrupted by extra turns. From Mr Purcell's Stoke Newington Theatre—the Alexandra—came Miss Winifred Hare who sang "Anona," assisted by the Canadian Comedy Four, with her usual charm of manner. Another visitor from the Alexandra was Mr Neil Kenyon, who gave his topical ditty, "Tra-la-la," with much success. Miss Vesta Victoria made a hit as the riding girl, and Miss Lottie Collins also scored with a song and dance. Kelly and Gillette, appeared in their clever act, "Fun on a billiard table," and were much applauded. Other special turns included Messrs Joe Elvin, Harry Lauder, and Phil Ray, each of whom met with a most enthusiastic reception. Every lady artist who appeared was presented with a bouquet of flowers. Miss Simeta Marsden played the part of Aladdin with much spirit, and Miss Nancy Langtyre was charming as Princess Badroulbador. Excellent work was done by Miss Elsie Roby as Cheekee, Miss Vera Marshall as Pekoe, the Vizier's son, and Miss Lizzie Daniels as Nicee. Mr George Brooks was comical and alert as Mrs Twankey, Messrs Rich and Rich were alert as the two policemen, and valuable assistance was given by Mr W. Fullbrook as the Grand Vizier and Mr J. W. Wilkinson as the Emperor of China. Miss Maisie Crichton and Miss Aubrey Ashton as the Genii of the Ring and the Lamp deserve mention. The grand jewell ballet was much admired, as was also the grand porcelain procession. Miss Lottie Stone's Royal Troupe of dancers came in for special recognition. There was a loud call for the beneficiaire at the final fall of the curtain, and he briefly thanked the audience, the company, the extra turns, the orchestra, and all who had contributed to the success of the benefit performance. Last night Messrs Rich and Rich took their benefit, when extra attractions were forthcoming. The pantomime finishes its successful run to-night, and is to be transferred in its entirety to the Crown, Peckham, for a fortnight.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The concert in the theatre on Wednesday evening was a good specimen of a students' concert and reflected credit upon those who took part in it. The pianoforte playing in particular deserved special commendation, beginning with Miss Dora Beeson, who in the famous Polonaise in E flat of Chopin proved herself a player of high merit. Few students would have done so well, either in mastering the graceful style of the composer or in executing the many difficult passages with which the polonaise abounds. Miss Gertrude Forrester was another Chopin player, but a few suggestions may be made in her case, chiefly respecting her future endeavours rather than with the idea of blame. Every performer naturally has a certain idea of style and tempo, but we think Miss Gertrude Forrester erred in taking Chopin's lovely Ballade in A flat so slowly. The composer himself used generally to condemn the pianists of his time for playing his works too fast, but Miss Forrester's tempo was slower than ordinary, and in consequence the ballade lost much vitality. Miss Florence Nightingale, who was heard in Chopin's Nocturne in C minor, played with considerable taste, and in "La Campanella," by Liszt, displayed much command of the keyboard. The violinista were to be commended. Miss Blanche Kettle produced a good tone, and her execution was neat and finished in the Romance of Max Bruch. Miss Maud Davidson gave the Adagio from the Suite in G, by Ries, the excellent violinist who for so many years assisted at the Monday Popular Concerts, and who wrote clever pieces for the instrument. The Adagio was given with taste and skill by Miss Davidson. Some excellent vocal contributions have to be chronicled. Miss Lilian Tooley succeeded well in "Beloved, it is morn," by Miss Aylward. Miss Nellie Major in "Che Faro," the famous air from Glück's *Orpheus*, sang carefully, but needed a little more dramatic expression. Mr Byndon Ayres, in his treatment of "Mary of Allen Dale" and "Phyllis," displayed a good voice and an unaffected style, and Miss M. Arnold deserved praise for her rendering of Bohm's "Still is the night." "From wave to wave," Edward German's clever song, was effectively rendered by Mr W. J. Dryden, and Miss Maud Kennedy did herself credit in "Peace and Rest," by Batten. A duologue, by James Dale, called *A Lesson in Patience*, concluded the concert. It describes a discussion between a youthful wife and her husband, the cross purposes of the young couple causing no little amusement. The author and Miss Ethel Gannon, pupils of Mr Allen Beaumont, played cleverly. Mrs Charles P. Smith exercised her customary care with the young ladies, and Miss Kate E. Ward accompanied admirably. The concert was warmly appreciated by a large audience.

HISTORY OF THE DRAMA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Mr Louis N. Parker opened a discussion at South-place in the February of 1901, taking for his subject, "Should the Drama Instruct?" In the course of the discussion which followed I asked, in view of the fact that, in the absence of books, Elizabethan audiences looked to the play for instruction in history, if similar teaching could be supplied by our own dramatists. In his reply Mr Parker said he considered that this should be done by our best playwrights. He himself was willing, if an audience could be secured, to write a drama dealing with a historical London subject. Now we hear of the Sherborne pageant-play, written by Mr Parker, which will be performed in June, in celebration of the founding of that town 1,200 years ago. I congratulate the dramatist upon the redemption of his promise, but I am selfish enough to long for a London subject. A masque of the seventeenth century would, I believe, be certain to secure an audience.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT LAWSON,
62, Beaconsfield-road, Tottenham. Jan. 31.

MR EDITOR.—Sir,—With reference to Thomas Price, a young American, who was found in the flies of the Hyde Theatre, permit me to say that he was not a member of my *Uncle Tom's Cabin* company. He had been working on the stage as a scene-shifter during our stay at Warrington.

Yours faithfully, CHARLES HARRINGTON.

BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES.—All suffering from irritation of the throat and hoarseness will be agreeably surprised at the almost immediate relief afforded by the use of Brown's Bronchial Troches. People troubled with a hacking cough, a slight cold, or bronchial affections cannot try them too soon, as similar troubles, if allowed to progress, result in serious pulmonary and asthmatic affections. See that the words "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are on the Government stamp around each box. Sold by Chemists everywhere, 1s. 1½d. per Box.—[ADVT.]

MUSIC HALL GOSSIP.

The solution of the sketch question is still vexing the souls and trying the tempers of proprietors in the area of London theatredom, but a "way out" has been discovered in the outer Metropolitan district. At Richmond Theatre, which quite recently became a music hall worked on the popular plan of two houses a-night, *The Belle of the Orient* was presented by Mr J. Peterman and company without let or hindrance, because the house is being worked under a double licence. That for music and dancing has been granted by the Surrey County Council, and that for the drama by the Richmond Borough Council.

Thus a sketch for the production of which the Oxford was heavily fined can be quite legally given at a place ten miles away. At Walthamstow Palace, too, a legal status similar to Richmond obtains, and Mr A. J. Barclay, endowed with a dramatic and music hall licence, produced a pantomime during the Christmas season. To Mr Henry Gros, Mr J. L. Graydon, Mr G. A. Payne, or Mr Henry Tozer the plan of a double licence might commend itself in any future drafting of a bill to alter the present licensing system, and what is possible at Walthamstow and Richmond ought to be feasible at Fulham or Brixton, or even in the Edgware-road.

Miss Malie Lloyd, her many friends will be glad to hear, is a little better. On Monday Dr. Jackson Lang was called in, and he stated that the invalid would have to keep her bed another six or eight days, and have very careful attention. The popular little lady is more cheerful now that she knows that her enforced imprisonment in her room is not to last very much longer. There have been numerous inquiries concerning her from friends in all parts of the country, and among the callers last Sunday were Miss Vesta Tilley, Miss Lily Burnand, and Mr J. L. Graydon.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the National Palace of Varieties, Croydon, will be held on Monday at Hummums' Hotel, Covent-garden, at half-past eleven when a resolution to confirm an agreement, dated Jan. 20, 1905, between the company and Mr Gardiner Hales and Mr Walter Gibbons for the purchase of the building by the latter gentleman will be put.

Mr Gus Elen, who will star at the Empires, Birmingham and Leeds, during the next fortnight, will motor to the Midland metropolis on Sunday, starting from his residence at Balham at about ten o'clock. The route will be viâ St. Albans, Dunstable, Fenny Stratford, Daventry, Coventry, and then Birmingham (about 120 miles). The popular comedian, who will be accompanied by Mrs Elen, hopes to arrive in Brum at 4·30 or 5·0 o'clock. He has driven his motor some 9,000 miles without mishap, and naturally hopes that the same good luck will continue for his next 9,000. It will not be for want of care.

The death is announced of Miss Sophie Burlette (Mrs W. Bryant), who passed away at Windsor, on Friday, the 27th ult. The deceased artiste, when in her teens, was one of the Oxford Four, principal dancers in the ballets produced there by Mr Paul Valentine in the eighties, and was one of Mrs Conquest's pupils, her contemporaries being Kate Vaughan and Alice Dunning, better known in the theatres as Miss Lingard, the original representative of Sister Mary, in the play of that name, and also of Pauline March, in *Called Back*, produced at the Prince's Theatre, May 20, 1884. Later in her career Miss Burlette became associated with principal parts in sketches produced at the halls by the late Mr Ambrose Maynard.

In these trifles Miss Burlette had as fellow-players Minnie and Dot Marlo, Johnny Hanson, Fred Williams, Annie Lyall, and Kate Seymour. She and Miss Lyall succeeded to the parts of the two servants originally represented by the Sisters Mario in the "Dromio" sketch, entitled *Pepper and Salt*, originally written round the twin Brothers Wems, who bore a striking resemblance to each other. The deceased lady was a most capable artiste and an excellent dancer. The remains were interred on Wednesday in Windsor Cemetery, and among those present to pay a last tribute of respect to her memory was Mr Henry Joyner. Much sympathy was shown by tradespeople of Windsor, where the deceased had resided for twelve years past.

Mr Fred Bowyer, the well-known pantomime writer, and part-author of *The New Barmaid*, has rewritten *The Little Stowaway*, the popular sketch which in his salad days he adapted from the late Mr Arthur Matthison's story. It was produced with a splendid model of the deck of an Atlantic liner at the Paragon in the late eighties by Mr G. A. Payne. Miss Jenny Hill scored one of the triumphs of her artistic career in the title-rôle. After a few nights it was found necessary to secure a good actor for the part of the Captain, the rôle being played in turn by Mr W. Farren, jun., Mr W. C. Day, and Mr A. C. Lilly.

Other actresses who have played the part since Miss Hill was taken from us in 1891 have been Miss Alice Maydue and Miss Claire Romaine. A grand production of the new version has been arranged for an early date in March at the Canterbury and Paragon, the scenery, dresses, and properties being all new. The sketch will be under the management of Mr George Abel and Miss Ethel Arder.

Giant Machnow, who will appear at the London Hippodrome, owing to the difficulties of transport, has been delayed on his journey from Berlin. He will arrive at Queenborough at 6·10 a.m. on Tuesday next, and, after two hours' rest, will be entrained for London. A special pantechnicon van has been chartered to convey him to the Hippodrome, where he will appear for the first time at the afternoon performance. The management of the Hippodrome have deemed it necessary to engage a staff consisting of twenty-one private detectives to keep a watch from the moment of his arrival until his departure from England. The precautions are very necessary, as the giant, being a Russian, may be subjected, at some opportune moment, to an unlooked-for indignity in the neighbourhood of Soho. Mr William Pierrepont, of 27, Chancery-lane, W.C., has been deputed chief of the surveillance party. The Brobdingnagian will hold a reception in the buffet, and, through his manager, will be pleased to answer all questions that may be put to him.

The monthly meeting of the Music Hall Sick Fund was held on Wednesday at the York Hotel, Lambeth. Mr Pat Carey (president) occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs Frank Heath (hon. treasurer), W. J. Walnrath, Tom Carney, and J. Mulcaster. The secretary submitted a list of new rules, which, after some discussion, were approved, subject to their being passed by the registrar. The secretary reported that since the abolition of the compulsory medical examination of candidates and the extension of the age limit several new members had joined, and applications from music hall professionals for particulars of the society were coming in at a much increased rate. The chairman expressed his confidence in the future of the society, which he said stood upon a sound financial basis, and was becoming better recognised amongst the members of the profession as a going concern. It was to be hoped that in due time the society would receive the cordial support of some of the leading London and provincial music hall managers. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Selma Braatz is not at the Birmingham Gaiety this week, Mr Oswald Stoll having served an injunction. Tina Clementine, with her clever animal act, is retained from last week in her stead.

Mr J. C. Whiteman, general manager of the City Varieties, Leeds, took his annual benefit on Thursday and Friday last week, when the company was augmented by a formidable array of talented artistes from the local pantomimes and halls. One monster programme only was submitted each evening. The benefit at each performance was a huge success.

The Local Government Board have declined to sanction the application of the Brighton Town Council to borrow £12 000 in order that the Brighton Aquarium might be put into thorough repair and let on lease. In their letter to the Council the Whitehall authorities say that they cannot avoid the conclusion that the financial aspect of the matter was not sufficiently considered. The Council should seriously consider whether it would not be wiser to sell the undertaking. On Thursday the Council decided to ask Whitehall for sanction to borrow £16,000 in order to carry out the amended scheme, and emphatically refused by vote to sell the institution.

Dr. Walford Bodie has commenced his triumphal provincial tour, after his phenomenal success in London, at the Empire, Wolverhampton, where for the last two weeks he has been packing the large building twice nightly. On Saturday night at the conclusion of his performance he was recalled again and again, and the stage was literally strewn with flowers thrown by the audience. Despite the fact that it was his eighth visit he has again broken all records, and was offered two weeks' return; but could only accept one. This week he is playing to record business at the Queen's Theatre, Longton.

The Great Rubie (Mrs Walford Bodie), who is making a great hit in the London halls, had to cancel several of her engagements owing to an accident to her right shoulder, the ligaments being torn while she was introducing the electric duel with one of her mediums. She has gone to her Highland home in Macduff, where she will rest for a while, and will open again, as soon as she is well, in London at the West-end halls, with a big provincial tour to follow.

Mr Charles Coborn convened a meeting on Friday, 27th ult., at the Small Lecture Hall, Brown's Library, Liverpool, and explained the objects of the Music Hall League. A resolution sympathising with the new society's aims, and pledging the support of the artistes present at the meeting, was eloquently moved by Mr Harry Mountford, and seconded by Mr G. Jimson. Several well-known artistes were added to the provisional committee. Mr Charles Baldwin occupied the chair.

Fred Harcourt is meeting with phenomenal success in the provinces with his remarkable illusion, "The Mysterious Lilith," which is proving a big drawing card everywhere. The climax of the bewilderment of the audience is reached when this mysterious lady skips in mid-air. Fred Harcourt remains in the provinces till July, when he returns to London, opening at the Colliseum.

Mr Walter Stockwell, who is now starring as mine host of Thompson's Hotel, Bridge-street, Bristol, tenders his sincere thanks to the following for their kind telegrams and letters on his opening day. Among the Terriers good wishes were sent by Messrs W. Norman, Wright, Parsons, Olrac, Woodger, Lawrence, Woodrow, Rudolph Whiteley, Ben Whiteley, Softley, Flakey, King, Harvey, Maisner, Hough, Cornish, F. Neiman, Humphreys, Henderson, Spot, Katto, Packer, Nyman, A. Simmons, Harry Lester, Burnham, Hopter, Tom Tinsley, D. White, Tom Barton. The artistes and friends who joined in the congratulatory chorus were Hardeen, Mack, the Wedburns, Joe Elvin, Harry and Flora Blake, Horace Livermore, George Nelson, Fred and Clara, Nellie and Peggy, Fox, Hilda Maud, Heely, Mrs Wilson, Alice and Frank Haldyne, Donne, the Sivronis, D. Bentley, Horace Simms, and Ho'z.

The Hippodrome, Accrington, has become the property of Messrs Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker. After being closed for extensive alterations, it will reopen on the 13th with a strong company. The bookings are in the able and experienced hands of Mr Willmott.

The complimentary benefit accorded Mr George Dobler, the energetic acting-manager of the Belfast Imperial Hippodrome and Circus, on Wednesday, the 25th ult, was a great success. The crowded audience included the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Belfast and many officers of the West Yorkshire Regiment. A fine programme was provided of no less than twenty-five turns, including several local performers, and by kind permission of Messrs F. W. Warden, Charles Brock, and H. T. Downs the following artistes appeared:—Booker and Narbis, Stylo, Charles Diamond, Harry Lawson, Herbert Halpin, and Mr H. Keith. Mr Dobler (who, by-the-way, is a son of the late lamented Herr Dobler, the famous magician) has every reason to feel proud of his popularity in the Northern Capital.

The Tivoli announces a number of changes in the programme for next week, the chief novelties being Ovida and Ludine, a new and effective illusion, and Drawee, in an original comedy juggling act.

Mr Fred C. Ewing, on the occasion of h's leaving the position of acting-manager at the Tivoli Theatre, Glasgow, was the recipient of a handsome present in the form of a valuable dressing case. The presentation took place at the close of the performance on Thursday evening, the 26th ult., in presence of a large attendance of the staff of the house. Mr Walter Macdonald handed the gift to Mr Ewing, and made a few kind and complimentary references to that gentleman's ability, tact, and courtesy, and wished him continued prosperity. We understand Mr Ewing, who was deeply touched by the kindness of his Glasgow friends, has given up theatre management for the present, having been appointed to a good commercial position in the metropolis.

Mr Quinton Gibson, who has been running the Hippodrome, Scarborough, had an excellent benefit at that house on the 25th ult. For the first time in the history of the popular Yorkshire health resort, variety entertainments have been given nightly for nine months, and Mr Gibson has won a measure of success hitherto quite unknown in the town. Until he took the direction of the place it had always been closed during the winter months, and there is widespread regret that his tenancy has now ceased—through no fault of his own.

His bespeak drew an immense house, and the compliment was paid to Mr Gibson was thoroughly deserved. Further evidences of his popularity were forthcoming in valuable gifts—tokens of friendship showered upon him by Mr George Bernard, who spoke for Mr Gibson's kind friends in front and behind. A gold watch, suitably inscribed, came from Scarborough friends and artists; a very valuable claw-set diamond ring from Mrs Edward Earlsmere, Scarborough; a silver cigar-case from the staff; and a case of fish carvers from some lady friends. Mr Gibson, in his speech of thanks, said the presents would be a happy reminder of a successful and enjoyable tenancy of the Hippodrome, in which his efforts to meet the popular taste had been so eminently successful.

Mr Harry Bawn has been appointed the general manager for all Mr Walter Gibbons's music halls. No better man could have been entrusted with so responsible a position, and Mr Bawn's long experience both as variety entertainer and manager will stand him in good stead in the fulfilment of his new duties.

Mr H. Ketteman, the acting-manager of the Royal Music Hall, will say good-bye to his Holborn friends to-night, as the house is to be closed until October in order to allow of structural alterations. Mr Kettemann will be found installed as manager of the Grand, Clapham, on Monday.

Mr Edward William James, who has just been appointed to the management of the Duchess Palace, Balham, and started on his duties at that hall on Monday, was, until Saturday last, the acting-manager of the Grand, Clapham, under Mr Bawn. Mr James has been a comic singer in his time, and his commercial experience includes seven years with Messrs Spiers and Pond, Ltd. He was for some time the assistant manager of the White Hart Hotel, Windsor.

Mr Sam Mayo produced a new song entitled "Programmes" at the Royal on Wednesday. In this he has the assistance of a boy selling programmes among the audience. Just as Mr Mayo arrives at the pithiest part in each verse the youth cries out "Programmes!" Finally, in apparent disgust, the comedian buys the three remaining programmes from the boy; but shortly afterwards the lad reappears with his arms full of a fresh batch. The idea struck the audience as decidedly funny.

Miss Vesta Tilley made her first bow to a Potteries audience at the Stoke Hippodrome on Monday. She was evidently much touched at the exceptional warmth of her reception, and she voiced her thanks in the following words:—"Ladies and Gentlemen,—Allow me to thank you very much for your kindness, and to say how delighted I feel to think that on this my first appearance here you treat me to such a grand reception. I am very proud of your reception of me. During the week I trust I shall have the pleasure of introducing more songs to you, and I shall vary my programme as much as possible during my stay. Once more let me thank you, and may I remain ever your humble servant."

A committee has been formed to arrange a matinée at the Hackney Empire early in March next, in aid of the North-eastern Hospital for Children in the Hackney-road, of which Mr Leslie J. Stewart has been elected chairman. The handsome theatre has been placed at the service of the committee by Mr Oswald Stoll for the occasion entirely free of cost. Very generous assistance is being offered by the profession, and the event, being under the most distinguished patronage, promises to be a distinct success. The hospital has lately been in straitened circumstances, so much so that it is announced that some of the wards will have to be closed, and poor sick children turned away from its doors, unless substantial aid is immediately forthcoming.

A final reminder of the M.H.A.R.A. dinner an dance to-morrow at the Trocadero. Members and friends are requested to apply for their tickets at once, so that their seats can be reserved. Mr Harry Randall, the chairman, will "receive" at 7 30.

Miss Carlotta Levey, who has been making a hit as Dick Whittington at the Broadway Theatre, New-cross, had a very successful benefit there on the last night of the pantomime. Her niece and godchild little Dolly Levey made a highly favourable impression on her début as a toe soloist, her dancing being quite of the classic pattern of Taglioni. Miss Carlotta, by special request, sang her old success "Bill Bailey," and had to acknowledge the gifts of many beautiful bouquets and baskets of flowers from warm-hearted friends. She was also very much gratified by the receipt of a very handsome present from Miss Maudie Noel.

Mdlle. De Dio, the famous danseuse, leaves to-day (Saturday) by the s.s. Kenilworth Castle for South Africa, under the management of Messrs Hyman. She has just returned from a most successful three months' tour in Germany, having visited Dresden, Berlin, and Hamburg. She will return to England in June to play the Moss and Stoll tour, and also a special starring engagement at the Palace Theatre, after which she will return to the Continent. Mdlle. De Dio is booked solid until the end of 1908. She will also take to South Africa her latest enterprise, one of her now famous albums "A Ba-Bé's Picture Postcards."

Miss Lizzie St. Quentin, the well-known actress and vocalist, will shortly produce at a leading West end hall an entirely new and original dramatic "episode," in one scene, entitled *Her Dearest Friend*, which has been specially written and composed for her by Messrs John P. Harrington and George Le Brun. In this dramatic and musical morceau Miss St. Quentin will impersonate two characters—those of a volatile French actress and a young English married woman, "her dearest friend."

Messrs C. W. Murphy and Dan Lipton have just provided Mr Barney Armstrong with a budget of new songs, with which he purposes returning to the music-hall stage, after a retirement of three and a half years. Mr Edward Lewis has also secured some of their latest humorous efforts; and Mr J. T. Macmillan, who so long played the part of Mr Pineapple, in *A Chinese Honeymoon*, at the Strand Theatre, will, on the completion of his pantomime engagement, also exploit in London several songs by the same firm.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs Jones, mother of Mr Glanmore Jones, of the New York Comedy Four, which took place on Friday, the 28th ult. The sad news was conveyed to Mr Jones just as he and his colleagues were about to open the evening performance of *Dick Whittington* at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham. The funeral, which took place on Monday, was attended by many sympathisers and friends.

Mr J. E. Nolan, for many years so honourably known as the leading spirit in the firm of Nolan and Jackson, is to be the recipient of a complimentary benefit on the evening of the 13th inst., at the Athenæum, Goldhawk-road, Shepherd's-bush, W. Advancing age and practical retirement from music hall agency entitle this much-respected gentleman to such acknowledgment, for among the most popular artists of the day are to be found many who date their success from the time Mr Nolan exerted his power on their behalf. Prominent among these is Miss Louie Freear, who has very naturally volunteered a graceful compliment by promising to appear for the benefit of an old friend in his declining business years. On behalf of an esteemed friend and colleague, Mr Ben Nathan, the smart agent, witty raconteur, and popular artist, has promised to give his services, as also has Mr Victor Buziau, the celebrated violinist, of His Majesty's private band. Other willing assistance will be afforded by Mr Richard Temple, the famous Savoyard; Mr Kelson Trueman, tenor; Mr Robert Ganthony, Miss Bessie Coleman, and Mr H. T. Lea. The hon. stage-manager will be Mr Guy Waller. It is to be hoped that many, at least, of those artists who can remember the good services of the veteran will, by purchasing tickets, proclaim their thanks for the efforts of Mr Nolan in the past. Tickets can be obtained of Mr B. Soane Roby, 14, Whitcomb-street, Pall Mall, W.

"The Fighting Parson" has been protected in all countries. Mr George Gray has not disposed of any rights. The piece will be run in conjunction with *The Road to Ruin*, and will have the advantage of a most elaborate mounting and a combination of a hundred people.

Mr Maskelyne intends to commence a series of "magical matinées" at the St. George's Hall in about a month's time. The entertainments will be similar to those given at the old Egyptian Hall, and Mr Maskelyne informs us that Mr David Devant will appear at these matinées in his famous conjuring performance.

The Empire announces next week an almost entire change in the variety part of the programme. While *The Dancing Doll* fairy divertissement, with Mdlle. Genée, remains the principal attraction, new turns will include Miss Marquis, assisted by Mr Dassie, who, with the aid of six little trained cobs, will give what they term an equestrian carnival, Briano's monkeys, Stelling and Revell, Bud Snyder, a trick cyclist, and Carlotta, "the human dragon."

A new sketch, entitled *Blackmail*, will be presented next week at the Surrey. It has been written by Mr John Douglass, the author of *A Dark Secret*, *No Man's Land*, and other plays which have been classed under the generic term "tank drama." There will be a real water sensation, and the chief parts will be played by Miss Ida Millais (who excels as a swimmer), Mr Henry Herne, and Mr Julian Cross.

It is with regret that we have to record this week the death of two European artistes in India. Augustus Elliott, of the original troupe of coster acrobats, and Mokana, the young handcuff performer. Mr Elliott had been some forty-five years in the profession. While performing with his son, Gus Le Dial, and his three daughters at Warren's Circus he was taken ill suddenly, and died at Calcutta on Dec. 18. There was an impressive funeral, as the old gentleman was highly respected. Mr Warren has kept the family on under a new contract with Gus Le Dial, the son, in his father's place.

Mokana, the handcuff monarch, only arrived in Bombay in October last with the Coronation Circus, and, after a successful season, went up country on a tour. He was taken ill with fever at Asansol, but kept at work till he was sent on to Calcutta. He seemed to rally, but the day after Mr Jenkins, the proprietor, visited him he quietly passed away. He was very popular.

Duse Mohamed, the Egyptian actor-author, who has made a name for himself on the legitimate English stage, is now turning his attention to the halls. His tragic costume sketch, *The Jew's Revenge*, which was produced with such éclat at George Conquest's benefit at the Surrey Theatre last July, will be done by him and his company at Portsmouth next month, where he makes a four weeks' stay. Duse Mohamed, being "the only English-speaking actor the East has ever produced," should prove a novel and interesting acquisition to the halls.

The 391st meeting of the executive committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Tuesday afternoon, Mr Joe O'Gorman, chairman of the committee, presiding. The secretary reported that sixty new members had joined during the past week, making a total number enrolled since the commencement of 11,231.

The London Pavilion has paid an average dividend of 11 per cent. during the last eighteen years. At the meeting of the shareholders on Tuesday, when a dividend of 9 per cent. for the year was agreed to, Mr Hugh Astley, the chairman of the company, paid a tribute to the late Mr R. E. Villiers, a valued colleague, and spoke very feelingly concerning the loss of Mr Dan Leno, whose engagement at the hall extended over twenty-six weeks in the year. A matter which was inimical to large dividends was, he said, the enormous increase in salaries. One artiste who was glad to sign contracts with the London Pavilion at £8 per week lately refused to accept an engagement at a town which is two hours' journey from London under £175 per week. Mr Sutton, in seconding the motion for the passing of the report and accounts, said that they had good reason to expect better times. The sum of £325 was voted to the directors as extra remuneration.

In pursuance of a policy of quick-change editing Mr Dan Leno was secured in 1902 for one day for the editorial chair of the *Sun*, with a very favourable result. If a comedian can edit a newspaper, why cannot an editor manage a music hall. Why not? says in effect the *Daily Mirror*. So it has come about that Mr Thomas Barrasford is to surrender next week the control of the new and splendid Lyceum, and the reins of management will be held by the journal mentioned. A revised tariff of admission will reduce the stalls to 2s. 6d. and the gallery to 3d. The two entertainments nightly are timed to commence at 7 0 and 9 15, and there will be matinées on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Mr George Alexander will recite on the two last-mentioned afternoons. Eleven hundred free seats have been reserved for Monday afternoon. Mr Barrasford has agreed that any profits on the week will be given to charity.

Mr Charles Wilmott, the well-known author, has been an invalid since he wrote the successful pantomime *Babes in the Wood* for the Brothers Luck, and this will explain his silence and apparent inactivity to some of his correspondents.

Mr Oswald Stoll invited 700 boys of the Duke of York's School to attend the noon performance at the Coliseum Theatre yesterday. The band of the school was to perform a selection of music.

Under the patronage of her Royal Highness the Princess Christian, a special matinée performance was given on Thursday afternoon at the Bedford (kindly lent by Mr B. Pearce Lucas), in aid of the North-West London Hospital, Kentish-town. During the proceedings Lord Rathmore, chairman of the hospital, proposed from the stage a vote of thanks to the Mayor and members of the St. Pancras borough council for their presence and support. The net proceeds amounted, it was stated, to £250.

There was a large audience, and it was evident that the leading tradesmen of St. Pancras had taken the affair in hand, and were putting much enthusiasm into their exertions. The stewards included Mr Widdicomb, a prominent local journalist, and programmes, prettily designed by Mr Harold Trill, were sold at fancy prices by some of the nurses at the hospital. Among the entertainers were Houdini, the handcuff expert; Mr Charles Bertram, with card tricks and his envelope mystery; Madame Clare Palmer, who accompanied herself on the harp in "Kathleen Mavourneen" and "The Minstrel Boy;" Will Edwards, a local comedian; Little Thomas, late of the Mohawks; and Bosanquet, with his wonderful instrument. Other names on the special bill were Lill Gorman, the Haywards, Harry Gray, Marie Blythe, Frank and Free, Tom Leamore, Bros. Lang, Little Carmen Sylva, Gilbert Girard, Frank Coyne, Edith Etherley, Montague Biggs, Al Lawrence, Sam Mayo, Ivy Dawn, Bernard Russell, Hayman and Franklin, Sydney Leigh, Terry and Bentley, the Harmony Four, Alma Gray, Corporal Mayes, Miss Georgina Morriss.

THE HIPPODROME.

Though in the beautiful spectacular production, *Butterflies in Fairyland*, at the Hippodrome, Mr Frank Parker has provided for his patrons an attraction sufficient in itself to draw the public to that most comfortable and well-managed place of entertainment, the management here is always on the alert to improve and strengthen its programme, and several interesting alterations have been recently made in it. The Chamberlains are a couple of expert lassoo performers, who swing the rope in many graceful circles, and exhibit much skill in noosing and knotting it, the male performer also wielding a bull-whip very cleverly. Alexandra and Bertie perform on a "see-saw" placed across a trapeze. From one end of this see-saw a smaller trapeze is suspended; and on this the male artiste in ordinary morning dress, hangs inverted, the lady standing, in evening dress, on the other extremity, keeping the balance. Then both suddenly change their costumes, and appear in acrobatic attire, the female artiste showing in the act which follows much strength as a "bearer." Marcelline is as lively and active as ever, and his leaps are as astonishing as his drollery is diverting. The O'Brien Brothers perform six different double somersaults on the triple bar. A most astonishing feat is achieved by one of them, who turns a somersault from the first bar, passes the second, and alights on his hands on the third bar. A sensational turn is done by Mdlle. Louise and Robert Cottrell. It is called "American sport on horseback." Both the lady and the gentleman are in fashionable walking dress. Standing on the backs of a pair of white horses, they go through some daring and difficult evolutions, the lady eventually sustaining her comrade, who stands upon her shoulders as the steeds career round the circle. The Cottrells are first-rate in their line; and the female artiste is both vigorous and skilful. Mr Leon Morris introduces his six lively and well-trained ponies, including the redoubtable "Bannerman," with whom the funny and athletic "Nigger," John Hedge, has such amusing bouts of burlesque wrestling. Vasco, the "mad musician," performs on twenty-five instruments in the course of fifteen minutes with a versatility and musical accomplishment which secure for him hearty applause, some of his comic business creating much laughter. An important engagement at the Hippodrome is that of Chung Ling Soo, the Chinese conjuror, whose sensational feat of catching half-a-dozen bullets fired from guns loaded in sight of the audience brings down the house. Six assistants, dressed as Chinese soldiers, are drawn up in line in the arena, and at the word of command they "let fly" at Chung Ling Soo as he stands on the stage holding a plate in his hands. Simultaneously with the explosions the plate turns upwards, and the six bullets, which have been marked by members of the audience, are seen rolling upon it. Chung also has a well-managed illusion, in which a little girl is put into a huge gun, a big cannon ball being pushed in afterwards. On the gun being fired, the ball is impelled into the arena, and the girl comes running out from the back of the auditorium. Several other ingenious and effective items are included in this week's entertainment at the Hippodrome. The Tourbillon Troupe of acrobatic cyclists do some smart things, one of the ladies, seated on her "bike," bumping up a long flight of steps. Woodward's seals and sea lions are marvels of training, and the accuracy of eye possessed by them is extraordinary. To have brought these strange creatures to the point of dexterity in balancing, &c., which they exhibit must have required remarkable patience and a rare gift for such teaching. There apparently inert amphibia are capable of the most startling adroitness. Our notice would not be complete without reference to the orchestra conducted by Mr Clarence Corri. Amongst the selections which it performs is a serio-comic fantasia, by Tobani, called "A Trip to Coney Island." All the incidents in a visit to the Southend of New York are illustrated in music. In this way are symbolised the rush to the boat, the voyage, and the landing on the island. A heavy thunderstorm comes on with thunder and lightning. Sunshine follows. The train arrives at Manhattan Beach just in time to hear Gilmore's Band perform the Anvil Chorus, and a signal for Paine's fireworks is given, followed by cannon shots and an imitation of skyrockets. In the realistic details of the fantasia the members of the orchestra freely assist with imitations. The name of Mdlle. Marguerite, with her equestrian fantasy, is also on the Hippodrome bill.

Chevalier T. H. Crowther, who concludes to-day his second week's contract at the Hippodrome, Wolverhampton, had to refuse upwards of 500 roubles offered him to give his marvellous display of swordsmanship before the officers of different regiments at St. Petersburg, Monsieur Ciniselli declining to give his permission. However, in Warsaw Crowther gave several private exhibitions, his most enthusiastic admirer being Prince Carlos, son of Don Carlos. The Chevalier is now negotiating with both Japanese and Russians for a natural heating apparatus for the field.

At the Cosmopolitan Sporting Club, on Sunday, the American artistes who are members of the Club gave their first entertainment, which was voted a huge success. Their second concert takes place next Sunday, Feb. 5, when all American artistes are invited to attend. The club is under the management of Bert A. Dorman, well-known in sporting and variety circles.

At the Islington Empire on Friday, the 27th, Mr Bobbie Hall, who recently made quite a hit as Master Goosey in the pantomime of *Little Red Riding Hood*, at the King's Theatre, Walthamstow, produced, as an extra turn, a new and original scena entitled *The Postman*. He was supported by Mr R. B. T. Williams and Miss Nellie Charters. At the end of the scena Mr R. Williams gave an exhibition of sword exercise, from the time of the Romans to the present day, and was loudly applauded for his grace and dexterity. *The Postman* should be heard of again before long.

Messrs Rich and Rich, who have largely contributed to the unprecedented success of Mr F. J. Elliston's pantomime *Aladdin* at the Marlborough, Holloway, definitely arranged to take their grand complimentary benefit yesterday (Friday), when they were supported by Mr Sam Mayo and numerous other first-class turns.

The only Willie Clarkson was responsible for the design and manufacture of the dress, "The Persian Garden," that gained the first prize for ladies at the recent fancy dress carnival at the Horns, Kennington.

The committee of the M.H.A.R.A. have decided, on the proposition of Mr Albert Voyce, seconded by Mr Douglas White, to forward cheques of £20 each to the two railway and the two music hall charities—namely, the Railway Benevolent Institution, the Railway Servants' Orphanage, the Music Hall Benevolent Fund, and the Music Hall Home Fund. At the annual general meeting of the Association held last October it was found that there was a total of £200 available for charitable purposes; but at the time only £30 to each of the four charities named was voted, the balance of the money, amounting to £80, being held in hand for an emergency fund. With the good reserve fund now standing to the credit of the Association, it was not thought desirable nor necessary to retain the sums of money which have now been voted to the benevolent institutions connected with the railway companies and the variety profession.

THE LONDON MUSIC HALLS.

THE PALACE

An important item in the programme of the Palace Theatre at present is Coco; surnamed the "Human Baboon." This animal is certainly an extraordinary example of natural aptitude developed by careful training. His trainer, who is a quaint comedian, enters, grotesquely made up, followed by the baboon, in miniature male attire. They seat themselves at a table; and Coco, while his master's attention is engaged by the *menu*, slyly kisses the pretty waitress. His master lights match after match for his pipe, each being adroitly extinguished by the mischievous but amusing animal. Then some food is brought upon a plate, and is abstracted by Coco, when his trainer is not looking. These and many minor antics are done with a very diverting appearance of impulse, and with a most comical resemblance to humanity. Coco is certainly a clever baboon. All he does is done well; and he might even, we think, easily be taught to do even more. A decided hit is made at the Palace by Mr Horace Goldin, who has some startling illusions to present to his patrons here. Mr Goldin's feats are done with exhilarating rapidity. A young lady is placed on a big cannon, which is fired; whereupon a couple of boxes, one within the other, come sliding down, on ropes, from the upper part of the house to the stage. In the inner box is found the lady in question, Miss Jean Fransiola. She is subsequently seen sitting on a trapeze which hangs from a balloon at the back of the stage. A pistol is fired; and she disappears only to "turn up" in a receptacle on the stage. Then there is that famous trick in which a number of ducks are marvellously extracted from a tub full of water, together with many other surprising items, all of which evoke hearty plaudits. Mr Goldin is warmly recalled at the Palace, and makes a neat and humorous speech, in which he remarks, with significance, that he is "not a Chinaman." That really extraordinary ventriloquist, Mr Arthur Prince, is high in the estimation of Mr Alfred Butt's patrons, with whom he is an established favourite. His patter is funny, his appearance is excellent, and his ventriloquism is carried to a point very near perfection. The Dumonds present a pleasing variation on the "Parisian minstrel" idea. They first appear in a Quartier Latin garret; and then the scene is changed to a handsome *salon*, where they play on mandoline and violin, greatly to the delight of the audience. The New Macs are particularly good as dancers; and the audacious absurdity of their dialogue evokes very hearty laughter. Miss Rosie Lloyd has a bright and refined appearance, and delivers her songs with a distinct enunciation which is very agreeable. Wieland, with his ear-boxing machine and other "oddments," brings down the house; and his turn is deservedly applauded. His burlesque juggling with a small cannon, made of indiarubber, is extremely droll; and the variety and quaintness of his entertainment ensure its success. Mr Lew Wells, in a musical comedy act, performs with credit on the saxophone and the flute; and Miss Mary Thorne sings two American ditties. The Follies repeat their amusing "Bill Bailey" medley. The preliminary remarks by the supposed manager of the panto. are now omitted. We miss them, as they prepared the audience for the fun which follows. The gaiety and go of the Follies is unquenchable, and their "skit" on the second-rate "annual" is excruciatingly funny. Amongst the interesting items shown here by the Bioscope are pictures taken in a slate quarry in North Wales; "Curling," and views of a travelling caravan passing through the celebrated Khyber Pass on its way from Cabul to Peshawar, a most interesting film with its camels, asses, and Oriental wayfarers. Also in the list are a panoramic view of Paris from the Seine, and some coloured depictions of fireworks. The music for the Bioscope has been well composed by Mr Herman Finck, who conducts the capital orchestra at the Palace in its performance of his own "Monte Carlo" march, and of Luigini's "Ballet Egyptien," both of which are admirably executed.

THE ROYAL.

Much water has flowed under the bridges since the Royal, reconstructed, beautified and much enlarged, was re-opened under the auspices of a limited company, with the late Captain Purkiss as managing-director and Mr Sam Adams as manager. We never were able to discover the name of the architect who designed the then new building, but like the old London Pavilion, rebuilt two years later, it left much to be desired. Mr Walter Gibbons, who in April last added the Royal to the music halls he controls in the metropolis, is by way of reforming the house altogether. The area of the site is very extensive, and the new entrances will take in the supper rooms next door. Mr Frank Matcham's services have been retained, and we may be quite certain that the designer of the Coliseum will put up a house that will answer every requirement of modern luxury, and that will form an addition to metropolitan variety houses of which Holborn will be proud. The seating accommodation is to be 2,500, and the policy of two houses a night will be continued. It is hoped that it will be possible to open the new house in October next.

Previous to the lengthy cloture a gala week is being given, and two very large houses on Monday listened to an excellent programme, to which several extra turns contributed. Early in the evening Hill and Lane, miniature duettists, showed considerable promise in their short comedy scenes, and rapidly ingratiated themselves. Coon impersonators are as thick as blackberries in September; but Stirtevant Swift asserted his claims to public approval as a swell coon, and quite succeeded in winning it. Mr R. Knox is one of the large contingent of mimics, and rapidly hit off the peculiarities of various stars of the music halls, being especially successful in his treatment of the mannerisms and voice of Mr Will Evans. Mr George Fairburn, in his earlier career, was also a mimic; but he made his appearance on Monday as a barber, and described with a decided touch of humour his various customers. The "tonsorial artist" should be an excellent student of human nature, and Mr Fairburn can easily add to his portrait gallery of characters. An impersonation of the Chadband or Stiggins type came from Mr Hal Chapter, who gave eloquent advice in his song, "Oh brothers and sisters do." Miss Cissie Dryden, a natty little girl, gave an impersonation of a jockey, in a song descriptive of the pleasurable excitement of riding to win. A jockey dance followed, and in this the lady especially distinguished herself. Mr Will Percival, an exponent of clog dancing, stepped forth in all the bravery of a silver champion belt, which he stated was won by him in a contest some years since. Mr Dan Leno on his first appearance at the Oxford was similarly accoutred, and for versatility and eccentricity his terpsichorean exhibition has never been equalled. Mr Percival takes the art quite seriously. He beat out his single and double shuffles very perfectly on a small pedestal, and the clang of the wooden shoon rang out in pleasant rhythm. Miss Mab May was another dancer who won a hearty reception for her legmania, which included the kicking of a tambourine above the head. Acrobatics were represented by four youngsters—three girls and one boy—known as the Arizonas. Their act is a pot-pourri of hand balancing, contortionism, club and ball juggling, and foot equilibrism, so that there could be no complaint of lack of variety. The quartet are smart, and in their numerous feats won hearty recognition of their merits. "Alien immigration," which is one of the burning questions of the day, was cleverly illustrated on Ruffell's Bioscope, and on Monday considerable feeling was displayed when the pictures of immigrants landing were shown on the screen. A vivid contrast to this series of films was the departure of English emigrants from Liverpool, and one sees the embarkation of British manhood with no little regret. A most attractive turn of the bill was found in the Royal Six, German girls, who, after manœuvring on bicycles, appeared with drum and cymbal, and sang "Oh, listen to the band" in their native language. The programme was wound up by the Deer Family of American Indians who speak English exceedingly well. One of the ladies sang a character song with no little ability. On Monday Mr Fred Higham, the well-known agent, assisted in the superintendence of the stage.

THE PARAGON.

Mr Charles Beecham is fortunate this week in being able to present Miss Annie Abbott, the little Georgia magnet. She invites members of the audience to come upon the stage and match their collective strength against her own, unaided. The result is remarkable, to say the least. Miss Kate Carney is as lively as of old in her new episode, which goes by the name of *Our Laundry*, whose authors are Messrs George Arthurs and Harry Castling, the overture and incidental music being by Mr Geo. Le Brunn. The scene is laid in the Blue House Laundry, which, we are told in a song, is situated somewhere in Camberwell. Into this abode of starch and linen and flat irons there enter various ridiculous personages. One elderly female brings her husband's "dickey" for the wash; another has a Russian handkerchief which the laundry forewoman (Miss Kate Carney) advises the owner to send to St. Petersburg to be cleansed; and a third curious character divests himself of his shirt and awaits unrobed while it is receiving the attentions of the wash-tub. Miss Kate Carney has some entertaining repartee for each of her customers, and the little sketch is intensely funny throughout. Her songs, "At our Laundry" and "Martha," accompanied by rollicking choruses, go with a fine swing, and are heartily taken up by the audience. A word of praise is due to the composers of the charming melodies with which the episode is interspersed. Mr Jack Camp sings in a quaint style and with quaint patter his popular number about a policeman and a jolly Jack Tar, his turn receiving enthusiastic applause. The New York Nippers appear in their laughable pantomime *Bedtime*, and although this is not the first time the Nippers have been at the Paragon, their performance is as much enjoyed as at its first presentation. Miss Ray Wallace gives her interesting series of imitations of well-known music hall artistes. Her impersonations of Miss Kate Carney in "'Liza Johnson," Miss Lil Hawthorne in "I'm a girl of Tennessee," Miss Vesta Victoria, and Miss Victoria Monks are quite artistic in their way, especially as Miss Wallace plays her own accompaniment. Mr Harry Freeman contributes three songs in his racy style, his "I'm not a man who seeks notoriety" and "That's him, that's him, that's him," proving most popular. Mr Charles Stevens, on the other hand, appeals to the more serious and sentimental emotions of his hearers, his verses on "Music, lovely music," telling in a graceful manner how different thoughts and different remarks—some of them commonplace enough—come as the sweetest of melodies to human ears. The Abdullahs, Arabs of pyramid and tumbling fame, execute some astonishing evolutions to the accompaniment of deafening "whoops." Their turn is a very exciting one to witness, the continuous side-to-side jumps of Fatima, appropriately termed "the child wonder," exhibiting marvellous agility. The various feats of the troupe are simply bewildering, rapidity of movement characterising their doings throughout. La Belle Nello provides something of a sensation in the direction of a contortionist and hand-balancing act, her series of non-stopping somersaulting being specially commendable. Mr Joe O'Gorman can always rely upon a good reception, his diverting Irish patter and his description of the whimsicalities of one O'Reilly creating roars of laughter. The Two Errols present a smart comedy leaping act; Miss Ruby Aston nightly adds to her reputation as a chic comedienne and dancer; and the instrumental, vocal, and dancing entertainment of the Imperial Boys' Orchestra is proving a welcome item in the programme. These "Kilted Kiddies" still have in their midst those talented young performers, Master David Williams, solo cornet player; Master Morgan, the boy soprano; and Master George Macfarlane, the champion Highland dancer and winner of forty gold and silver medals. Mr George Gray and his company in *The Fighting Parson* bring a highly satisfactory bill to a happy conclusion.

HAMMERSMITH PALACE.

Mr J. C. Coe has many interesting numbers in his current scheme, and the varied character of his scheme of amusement shows that he has a real perception of the needs of a popular and up-to-date entertainment. The bill is blessed with a sketch, and the name of Mr John Lawson is a guarantee that the domestic episode of martyrdom, *A Bride for a Living*, for which he is responsible, will be distinguished by sensationalism and just a little polemics. Our exhaustive review of the piece on its first production, and the notice given to it last week at the Granville, absolve us from any further analysis of the plot. Suffice it to say that Mrs Lawson, whose dramatic aptitude has been shown so conspicuously in many of her husband's previous triumphs, wins a great artistic success by her portrait of Louie Faber, the slatternly, pale-faced wife who may be seen any day in any of the mean streets of our metropolis. The character is quite Ibsenlike in its fidelity to uncompromising realism, and the young actress is entitled to the highest compliments on her achievement. Mr John Lawson is an earnest representative as David Faber, the inventor, whose speeches on the abuses of instalment systems and wrong mission methods he delivers with much conviction. Mr E. S. Vincent, accustomed as he is to the rôle of the stage villain, has done nothing better than his Lucas Paulton, who is called on the programme the universal provider. Mr Bailey Cohen completes the cast as Josephus Faber. The chief comedian of the bill is Mr Gus Elen, who sings of the cabby with a college eduction, and praises, in his own quaint way, the virtues of ale. Mr Elen is a favourite at Hammersmith, and his songs strike quite a new vein of humour. An interesting item on the bill is the clever exhibition of animal training given by Max Gruber, whose pets, a horse and an elephant, perform entirely at liberty. The pachyderm is as gentle as his equine companion, and the two walk round the stage together, both animals keeping pace. The horse then lies down, apparently dead, and the elephant most carefully walks over his body, never once touching him. He also carries off Max Gruber in his trunk, and this final display of complete concord between the animal and his trainer brings down the house. Early in the evening Miss Sadie Simpson, an alert and intelligent little comedienne and dancer, has a warm reception for her song, "Farewell, my pretty Angelina," the "good-bye" of a sailor man who has to answer to duty's call. Linden and Howard, in *A Quiet Rehearsal*, submit an amusing burlesque of melodrama, the gentleman distinguishing himself as a pianist, dancer, and humourist. Miss Hettie Chattell—whose long engagement at the Hippodrome has considerably enhanced her reputation—as an impersonator of the sterner sex, appears perfectly groomed in the swallow tail of civilisation, and looking very handsome. Miss Chattell very cleverly set forth in song the different ideas of love held by a soldier, a fireman, and a mother—the last being enshrined in a tender verse. In her comedy item she enlarges on the difference in a man's beheaviour when courting and when married. Miss Rose Cabani, a smart comediennne, sings with much point "Why don't you make the girl your wife?" and "Is this the first time?" Mr Harry Anderson sings with heartiness "Toasts,' and "Let's have a holiday to-day, boys;" Lea and Lovell have appreciated numbers in "Day by Day" and "A picture no artist can paint." The Sisters Redfern contribute a banjo song and dance, and their medley of popular airs on that instrument is most popular. Harry Calvo, vocal mimic, possesses a falsetto voice of remarkable clearness, and sings the air of "Killarney" both as a soprano and as a baritone. In his imitations of children's voices he is quite realistic, and his command of dialect is shown in the replies of lasses of various towns to the request for a kiss. Bonnie Goodwin's piccaninnies are wonderful dancers, and one of them possesses a voice of singular sweetness. Larolo, besides being a juggler of smartness and originality, is a real humourist and a fine acrobat, as is proved by his backward and forward somersaults. His efforts are untiring, and his reception is most flattering. The Edisonograph presents a series of most entertaining films. Other turns in the programme are Carr and Rose and Jack Lorimer.

DUCHESS, BALHAM.

The handsomely appointed variety theatre on Balham-hill seems to have gained quite a settled place in the affections of the inhabitants south of Clapham-common. The convenience of two performances nightly may have something to do with this happy state of affairs, but even that advantage is of secondary consideration to the all-round excellent programmes that are presented. The first turn on the bill is that of Miss Edie King, whose attractive mixture of singing and dancing always secures high appreciation wherever she appears. Very neatly does she perform dances representative of Scotland, Ireland, and England. Verno and Voyce, who are favourites here, are presenting an interesting little scena, *Capital and Labour*, which teaches a lesson that might well be taken to heart by working men. No better advice than that which passes between Verno and Voyce, one as the employer and the other as the servant, could be given to the labouring artisan class. Labour leaders might take the hint. Our old friend, G. H. Chirgwin, is also here this week. The Kaffir tuft of hair on the crown of the head, the white eye, and the chimney-stalk shaped white silk hat are in as good a condition as ever, and the white-eyed one's comicalities are as laughter-forcing as anything upon the stage. His references to the Russian fat girl who precedes him are very diverting. Then he causes some commotion amongst his audience by telling them to choose the title of the song he is to sing. The majority—at least, we presume they are the majority, for they make the most noise—give their vote in favour of "The Blind Boy;" ergo, "The Blind Boy" is sung as only Chirgwin knows how to sing it. His deliciously quaint patter, in which he deals with a variety of topics and individuals, notably one "Rottenwhisky," whose identity it is not difficult to establish, creates huge merriment. Eccentric acrobatic dancing has two able exponents in Forrest and King, who seem to possess most extraordinary powers of contortionism, and whose equilibristic evolutions are an amazingly neat exhibition in themselves. Ventriloquism in different languages and in tones of the human voice representative of the different stages of life is made attractive by that master of the art, Lieut. Travis. He disguises one of his figures so that it shall assume a variety of characters, including those of a little boy, a girl, a Frenchman, and, lastly, a Chelsea pensioner — the last-mentioned quite an artistic portrayal. Mr Warden-Reed and Miss Dora Glenny contribute a cleverly written and amusing duologue, entitled *Married or Photographed?* The sketch, for such it is, concerns the complications which arise from a young lady calling at a wrong address to be photographed. The man whose flat she enters by mistake has been advertising for a wife, and he at first imagines that his fair visitor is one of the selections sent to him by his matrimonial agents. The situation becomes rather complexing, but, in the end, all ends happily, and the would-be photographed becomes the bride-elect. The appearance of Clark and Hamilton is always the signal for a burst of applause, and the patrons of the Duchess are not slow to recognise the entertaining absurdities of the ragged, dishevelled "millionaire." In a surprisingly short time the two talented artistes change into Japanese costume for the song "My Yokohama Queen," which is one of the most enchanting melodies ever written. Phantom shapes who come and go, and who appear and disappear with that mysterious suddenness which is the birthright of every well-bred phantom, are the heroes in a novel entertainment entitled *The Mystic Ship*. The good folk who are responsible for this pantomimic diversion by white-robed ghosts appropriately call themselves the Phantos, and they are not unknown to fame as apparitions. However, the way in which human skulls roll about the floor is not as gruesome as one might think. On the contrary, there is real fun to be derived from the antics of these frolicsome phantoms. From the shadowy and supernatural we come to the material—the very material—as embodied in the physical fulsomeness of Miss Lucie, the Russian fat girl. This young lady is sixteen years of age, and weighs 350lbs. Mr Charles Norton in his imitations chooses such well-known variety stars as R. G. Knowles, T. E. Dunville, Wilkie Bard, and Harry Lauder, and he is an admirable substitute for the originals.

THE SURREY.

With an ever-varied programme Mr Frank Macnaghten is giving his clientele here a most delightful entertainment "twice nightly," while his *locum-tenens*, Mr Chris Wordsworth, has the satisfaction of seeing this splendid house filled with a Saturday's audience the first five nights of the week and a holiday one on Saturdays, who follow with keen enjoyment the dozen turns that fill in with pleasurable excitement the two hours allotted to each house. The principal items this week are the dramatic episode *Anarchy* and the uproariously funny equestrian novelty *Ginnett's Remounts*. The most absorbing of these is the former, and just now with such stirring times in Russia *Anarchy*, with its violent methods, is of more than ordinary interest. Mr Frederick Maxwell and company are responsible for the representation of the many stirring incidents. As De Verney Mr Frank Carlile is duly malignant, wily, and sinister. Mr Frederick Maxwell as Gilbert Newton is excellent. His manly earnestness makes itself felt, and in the duel with the villain De Varney in the billiard-room the excitement becomes intense. As the heroine, Ellen Gray, Miss Lois Du Cane is not only pretty, but acts throughout with a charming grace and power. Mr Gerald Blake understands perfectly his responsibilities in the part of Leonard Gray. The other characters are carefully handled by Mr George Kempt as Karl, an Anarchist, and Mr Sam Harcourt as the detective Morris. The staging deserves a special word of praise. In strong contrast to *Anarchy* are Claude Ginnett's clever troupe of performing horses in *Rejected Remounts*, an interlude that creates an abundance of genuine merriment. Their intelligence reflects the highest credit on their trainer. Mr Claude Ginnett, jun., as Mr Gudgeon, the retired fishmonger in want of a steady nag, displays remarkable horsemanship in trying the capriciousness of the buck jumpers Merry Legs and High Flyer. As Sam Sly, the horse dealer, Mr Claude Ginnett invests the character with a horsey wit that provokes constant merriment. Miss Ginnett as Sally has little to do, but does that little well; and the same may be said of Mr Richard Hall as Captain Coe and Mr Alf Jephson as Bob, the groom. Rita and Roma afford much amusement and wonderment, Rita for her marvellous acrobatic dances and contortions, and Roma, for his puritanical horror of his fair companion's antics, so powerfully and amusingly depicted by his facial expression. Billy Williams, an Australian comedian, has soon established himself a warm favourite, his songs "They're all alike to me," with its whistling chorus, and a parody on "A girl wanted there," being full of unctuous humour. The Balsanos are a merry and mirth-provoking quartet of clever triple bar performers, their happy combination of comedy and acrobatic skill winning favour. Kittee Corrie sings and dances charmingly; Edie Gray and her White Coons create harmony in a series of coon and plantation melodies; Kit Keen, a coloured coon, sings well, dances well, and gives an admirable bone solo—"The Anvil Chorus" from *Il Trovatore*; and Miss Amy Russell's rendering of "Queen of Love" and "Good Night Beloved" wins her a well-merited recall; Miss Minnie Wren, in her sentimental song, "The boy that looks after his mother," touches the hearts of her hearers, and her topical ditty, "What price a girl like me?" is full of vivacity. Edwards and Espinosa are clever banjoists and dancers. Their manipulation of this difficult instrument in a series of popular airs is not only a severe tax on their physical and musical powers, but tests the undeniable efficiency of the Surrey orchestra, whose director, Jacques Bruske, deserves a special word of praise.

ROYAL ALBERT.

Canning-town continues to be well served by Mr Charles Relf, who is unremitting in his efforts to provide constant attractions, and whose long experience enables him to satisfy in every particular the wants of his numerous patrons. The dramatic sketch is of the greatest importance in the scheme of amusement, and the current week's bill contains one well calculated to keep the audience in a state of continual excitement. The playlet is enacted by Mr G. V. Brooke and company, and is entitled *The Scum of the Earth*, one of its chief characters being Britton Royal, a ne'er-do-well who gives the sketch its title. When we first make his acquaintance, however, at a fancy dress ball, he has apparently made up his mind to turn over a new leaf, for we see him a smart, alert young fellow, who quickly determines to help virtue in distress. He has come to the ball as the Duke of Enfield, and the first person he encounters is Alice Chester, heiress to the Crawford estates, who has been the victim of a scoundrelly solicitor, Bernard Conway, and a scheming couple, Stuart Henderson and Sybil Austin. Sybil passes as Alice Chester, and Henderson as her father. When the real Alice comes on the scene to make good her claim to the estates, she is denounced as a wanton by Conway, in whose service she has acted as typewriter, and who has made dishonourable proposals to her, and when she produces her proofs this heartless villain, with the aid of Sybil and Henderson, manages to steal them and to place banknotes in their place. It is then that the "scum of the earth" comes to her assistance. He recognises Sybil as the woman he believes to be his wife, but it transpires that she had been previously married. He is also able to produce proofs that he is young Crawford, and that a will was made at the last moment in his favour, and after frustrating the trio of evildoers in most determined and effective fashion, the way is cleared for his union with the sweet and sorely-tried Alice, who is, under the circumstances, in no way disturbed that another has a right to the wealth she supposed should have been hers. The playlet, which is decidedly better written and more interesting than the majority of lurid fragments of melodrama that are known as sensational sketches, was exceptionally well enacted by Mr Fred G. Brooke and his company, and was tastefully mounted and dressed. An entertaining interlude was the humorous monologue of Ben Lloyd and Harry Elvin, entitled *The Black Valet*, in which one of the duo enacts a "star" music hall artiste who is in a fix owing to his inability to find a partner to work with him in an important engagement he is offered. His valet, as a last resource, offers to take the place of the required Negro comedian, and as an evidence of his ability for the rôle gives a coon song and a well-executed sand dance, his companion gaining approval with a sentimental item. Miss Evie Hamilton, a smart and dainty little comedienne, was especially successful in "La Belle Parisienne," the popular number from *The Belle of New York*, her accompanying dance being marked by much grace and finish, and her comedy selection "I'm a bachelor girl" and her concluding song and dance, "Just a chain of daisies," were also keenly enjoyed items. Will Pinchin secured approval for his dexterous step and clog dancing, the latter being especially skilful; and the pathetic song of Miss Kitty Clay, "If you should see your sister," won for her loud approval. Her ditty in lighter vein, "She wanted to be one of the girls," likewise earned for her applause, and her concluding Terpsichorean effort was appreciated at its true worth. Other attractive items in Mr Relf's varied and excellent programme were contributed by the Casino Girls, brass and string instrumentalists; Ella and Rose, comedy artistes; Mdlle. Fillis, in her clever globe-walking act; Howard Baker, drummer and comedian; and Rex and Ford, comedians. Walter Payne's Bioscope continues to supply a series of interesting and amusing films; and the courteous and genial Mr Walter Leaver occupies the chair with his usual watchfulness and tact.

THE METROPOLE.

In spite of the strong competition in the variety world this cosy little theatre has evidently established itself in the favour of Camberwell pleasure-seekers. The best of the dozen turns in Mr Jack De Frece's current programme is a bright and amusing scena written by Chris Davis, and set to charming music by Mr Julian H. Wilson. It is entitled *The Water Nymph*, and is presented by Miss Peggy Lennie and Mr Walter Hast. The slight plot concerns the adventure of a naval officer. Lost on the shores of an island he, to while away the time away, indulges in song. Much to his astonishment an immense shell opens, and discloses a beautiful sea nymph, Coraline, a daughter of Neptune, awakened after a slumber of a thousand years by the sweet cadences of the young officer. Coraline plies him with a series of questions about the world she has just awakened to, and what may be termed the Galatea idea is humorously worked. Naturally, the mere mate falls madly in love with his nymph, but she tells him she will be imprisoned in her shell again should any earthly creature give her anything. Carried away by his passion for her, he kisses her. She instantly goes back to her shell, which closes over her, and she is lost to him for ever. The success of this little musical comedy was instantaneous and well merited. The Beckwith lady swimmers, who include Miss Agnes Beckwith, the champion lady swimmer of the world, give a graceful and interesting aquatic entertainment in the limited space of an immense glass-fronted tank. In this Miss Beckwith and a fair young companion indulge in sewing, gathering shells, and acrobatic tricks under the water, and win enthusiastic applause and a double recall. Mahatma, a mystical lady, gives some clever demonstrations of thought-reading. Seated blindfolded in view of the audience, she casts up with marvellous rapidity and correctness an addition sum chalked on a black-board by a member of the audience. Mahatma invites anyone to play nap with her, and forecasts the winner of a game between two members of the audience. Harry Hughes, a quaint little comedian, has two amusing ditties in "A little bit out of shape" and "I'll open the door for you." His clever dancing brings him an abundance of honours in the shape of tumultuous applause. The Sisters Edwards, charming and youthful comediennes, sing a coon song—"My Starlight Queen"—which, with its accompanying dance, is notable for displaying their untiring activity and vivacity. Mr Harry Lane gives due effect to his song, "Good-bye, little girl, good-bye;" Leo, the Australian variety picture artist, introduces a novelty in demonstrating the artistic effects that may be produced by the manipulation of a bundle of coloured rags and smoked glass. Under his active and skilful hands are produced, with marvellous accuracy and rapidity, portraits of Admiral Togo and General Nogi; and landscapes, seascapes, and river views also add to the variety of his most interesting turn. Mr Ted Saunders is a mimic of no mean merit. His reproductions of Mr Lawson, in *Humanity*, Mr R. G. Knowles, and Mr Harry Lauder are good. Mr J. R. Val in his song "Oh that box of cigars!" tells an amusing story; and the pictures on the Royal Metrograph graphically depict "The Merry Coalheavers," "Oh, My Little Mary," "The Amorous Militiaman," "Tramps in Clover," and "A Raid on a Thieves' Den." Mr A. F. Parnell, the acting-manager, looks after the comfort of all comers with unfailing courtesy and attention.

LONDON ON THE BIOSCOPE.

FINE SERIES OF PICTURES AT THE ALHAMBRA.

A triumph of cinématography! Not one person who witnessed the production of the magnificent series of pictures descriptive of "Living London," as the title tells, will disagree with our verdict. Mr Charles Urban has before shown us what wonders his ingenuity and enterprise can lay open to the public, but on Monday he excelled all his previous efforts, for these scenes of metropolitan life form the finest set of Bioscopic views that has yet been presented to an audience. In his selection of London's most interesting places and phases of life, Mr Urban has had the valuable assistance of Mr George R. Sims, and the result is an unequalled assortment of magnificent photographs. The opening picture bears the title of "London Sleeps," and depicts a couple of benches on which are seated a ragged man and woman representative of the derelicts of this great city, to whom the cares and worries of existence are lost in the unconscious state of the human mind which Lord Byron once described as "a sweet forgetfulness of life." The next view, "London Awakes," brings us to Knightsbridge, just above Hyde-park, where we see some of the early traffic, and the road-repairing gang starting upon the duties of the day. Then there follow in succession—and looking even more attractive in their counterfeit presentments than in their solid reality—Buckingham Palace, the Mall, St. James's-park, the Change of the Guard outside St. James's Palace, and the King and Queen riding in State to Open the Houses of Parliament. A typical scene of London life is that representing the Victoria Embankment, with individuals of all classes of society promenading thereon. Equally vivid and lifelike are the views of London Bridge, the Customs House, the Tower Bridge rising and closing, the Tower of London from Tower-hill, and the Battery. Going further east we arrive at the Docks, where the spectacle of the labourers carrying all manner of heavy loads, while others are engaged in dumping refuse, is one of extreme animation. The Minories and Whitechapel are next visited, and perhaps the most amusing pictures are those which are given of Ghetto-land on a Sunday morning. Business in Petticoat-lane — Middlesex-street, to give it its proper and more dignified name—is in full swing. And what a "swing" it is! Here on one side is the "Kosher King," one Mr Barnet, whose fat figure and partially bald head are of themselves a distinct personality in the East-end. But what a motley crowd does the Ghetto bring forth on a Sabbath morning! The faces of many of these Yiddisher folk remind one forcibly of the pictures of Biblical scenes and people one admired so often in childhood's days. There is your recently deported alien, of rugged feature, dishevelled hair and ill-kept beard. He looks like a bit of old history beside your Jew of the clean-shaven chin and the perfect command of English. We turn down a side street. "Eels, tuppence a handfull!" And how they are scrambled for! What keen bargainers are these Jewish women! How intently they survey every portion of the anatomy of the different species of poultry on sale at the stalls! Trusts Jewess for getting at the truth where a fowl of doubtful age is concerned. From Whitechapel we are taken to Deptford, where a temperance procession, with its many-coloured and many-mottoed banners, is wending its way along one of the principal thoroughfares. The clerical figure on horseback, leading the demonstrators, is that of the Rev. Dr. Mantell. Costers with their barrows are next brought before our notice. Into one scene a touch of humour is imparted, for "the moke's down" and she doesn't feel particularly inclined to get up very quickly. The concluding pictures are the result of a 'bus ride from the West-end to the heart of the City. Trafalgar-square appears more beautiful and noble on the screen than it does at this period of the year, when winter's gloom tends so much to belittle our London. Eastwards down the Strand we go, past the Law Courts into Newspaper Land—Fleet-street, the buildings on either side of which look like tremendous advertisement hoardings, with all the multi-coloured and multi-sized signs attesting to "largest circulations"—and from thence up Ludgate-hill, where we are treated to a magnificent view of St. Paul's Cathedral, and onwards to the Mansion House and the Bank of England, stopping by the way to get a glimpse, and a good glimpse too, of the little ceremony which was performed last year when the King was presented at Holborn Bars with a handsome pearl-mounted sword.

It was only to be expected that when Mr George R. Sims and Mr Charles Urban joined forces, the outcome of their united efforts would be something surprising in novelty and interest. Perhaps it is wrong to use the word novel in speaking of London, at any rate when addressing Cockneys who know their city. But even to many Londoners some of the pictures in "Living London" will come, if not as a revelation, at least a surprise. There are many people in this Metropolis who have never been farther east than Temple Bar and to whom the Ghetto is an unopened book. No less than 280 different photographs were required to make up this delightful collection.

In a museum in Cologne can now be seen a Finnish giantess, aged twenty-four, whose height is 7ft. 2⅜in. She is well proportioned and intelligent.

Mr Charles Cunningham and company will produce their new and elaborate production, entitled *The King's Hat*, at the London Pavilion on Monday next. The other new turns will be Walter George, Madge Mayfield, Francis, Hermance Bros., Vermetti and Dionne, Maynard Daykin, and Dora Clements.

The Stavordale Quintet, who finish a most successful starring tour to-night at the Tivoli, Manchester, open at the Canterbury and Paragon on Monday next. During their provincial engagements they have secured return dates all along the line.

Presentation.—As a memento of his recent visit to the Falkirk Grand Theatre and Opera House, Dr. Walford Bodie has presented Mr Horace W. Ebbutt, the popular resident-manager of the theatre, with a beautiful gold cigarette case, in the clasp of which there is a pretty torquoise stone. On the case is the inscription, "From Dr. Walford Bodie to Horace W. Ebbutt as a mark of esteem."

Makes the Skin as Soft as Velvet.—Beetham's "Larola" preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, chaps, irritation, tan, &c., and Keeps the Skin Soft, Smooth, and White. Invaluable for the Complexion. Delightfully Soothing and Refreshing after dancing, cycling, motoring, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. Beetham and Son, Cheltenham.—[Advt.]

THE COLISEUM.

In Mr Oswald Stoll's first programme at the spacious pleasure house in St. Martin's-lane, no more exhilirating contribution is to be found than *Barney in Connemara*. If the doings in the typical Irish village, so artistically painted by the artist in distemper, are an example of the Hibernian behaviour under the much-reviled English rule, then there can be no injustice to Ireland. Barney is quite as much of a broth of a boy as Boucicault's Conn, the Shaughraun, and he is most coquettishly wooed by that sweetest of colleens, Miss Decima Moore, who sings with lilting gaiety and abandon the song of the title. Other gossoons and colleens fill the stage, and the hearty jollity, the infectious vivacity of the whole thing is very enjoyable. *The Last Load* is redolent of country life in the thirties, and though in the limits of a scena there can be but faint adumbrations of character, still the bucolic types introduced into the village add to the vraisemblance of this picture of rustic rejoicing. The scene by Mr R. C. M'Cleery is a very pretty one, and the Squire is represented in robust and hearty style by Mr J. C. Piddock, who sings extremely well. Miss Sylvia Sablanc, the Squire's daughter, looks pretty in the quaint Victorian dress, and gives pleasant emphasis to her song. She further delights the house as "The Pickle Girl" among the pickle jars at Brosse and Clackwell's. There is nothing "jarring" in the harmony or in the costumes of this scene, and the dancing girls who assist are full of life, enery, and sparkle. Mr N. Lambelet's music is most effective, and Mr Bruce Smith's scene is as ingenious as it well can be. My Fancy, who is one of the latest acquisitions to the first programme, has won a name in all parts of the world as a sand dancer. We know of no rival to this very attractive young lady, whose marvellous celerity of step and rhythmic movements keep the attention of the Coliseumites quite absorbed. In an elegant brown satin knickerbocker costume she foots it with untiring agility, with unerring precision and with a charm all her own. She has eight young ladies to assist, but they only emphasise her own deftness and skill. In the early portion of the programme a pretty series of transformations is unfolded under the title of Theodor Hugo's "Fata Morgana." A lady in diaphanous garments of white, standing on a platform, draped in black, is the "medium" of many chaste and beautiful chromatropic effects. She flutters as a gorgeous butterfly; at times she is a parterre of beautiful blooms; and an entrancing final picture is the apotheosis, "Polar Star."

The acrobatic feature is the performance of the marvellous Lukens, four well-set-up gymnasts, who give a fine exhibition of muscular skill and activity from a specially constructed platform, at each end of which are steel uprights with fixed bar and platform. Two of the Lukens hang head downwards, and the two lighter men, swinging between the uprights, accomplish a series of pirouettes and single and double somersaults—to catch—with an ease and grace that move the audience to enthusiastic applause. Acrobatism figures largely in a "huge joke," presented by Manning's entertainers. The scene is the steam room of a Turkish bath, kept by an American gentleman, who "makes it hot" for a gouty patient in more ways than one. The attendants, just to show their agility, somersault from a table, and take a clean leap over the guv'nor's head. He seeks refreshment at the telephone, and is disappointed to find that other and weightier things besides beer are "on tap." He finally "takes the flure" in a series of bewildering feats, in which the element of eccentricity is never lacking, and the generous applause meted out to the trio is well deserved. The Mayvilles (Harry and Elsie), in presenting their original Lilliputian novelty act, are heartily encouraged in their clever character duets; and items in the bill that meet with the heartiest applause are the trapeze business of Pitt and Cute, who have a strong sense of the humorous, and the song, "Blue Bell," so well rendered by Mr Allan Morris, who is assisted by the Coliseum choir. *The Derby* is the grand musical spectacle that winds up each of the performances.

The fresh numbers in the second performance include the Andos, happy little Japs, who perform with wonderful coolness a series of equilibristic feats that demand the greatest nicety of balance. The performance by a little girl on a long pole balanced on his shoulder by the chief member of the troupe is a very remarkable exhibition of skill, and the tension is much relieved when the performer slides down to the security of the stage. One of the youths does a remarkable rope-climbing feat, by ascending the hempen causeway by means of his toes, without any other aid to balance than a Japanese umbrella. He concludes the performance with a rapid slide down the rope—a feat that brings down the house. The Andos wear the richest and most gorgeous vestments, and their show is novel, curious, and interesting. They do not forget that their kindred are our allies, neither do the audience. The Florenz Troupe of Continental acrobats seem to have sounded "the last word" in shoulder tumbling. The youth who plays the part of top-mounter does a marvellous upward single somersault on to the shoulders of a column three men high, and this fine feat is followed by the human column toppling to the stage. We could give no adequate idea in pen and ink of the doings of the Florenz Combination, and it would be therefore useless to attempt further description of a show that is of the highest class. Of Mr R. A. Roberts as Dick Turpin we spoke last week, and the scenas *The River Girl*, *The Bells' Parade*, and other items have all been previously described. Mr Harry Lamore's slack wire-walking act is an eccentric exhibition that we believe is also new since our last visit.

THE MUSIC HALL BENEVOLENT FUND.

MR JOSEPH LYONS' CHRISTMAS APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION.

	£	s.	d.
Donations already announced	126	13	6
Joseph Lyons	5	5	0
Walter Gibbons	5	0	0
Geo. Danvers, jun.	0	3	0

Collected by Albert Darnley, Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

Albert Darnley	0	10	6
Barrett and Knowles	0	5	0
Chas. L. Ludlow	0	2	6
Will Letters	0	2	6
Hilda Carelli	0	2	6
Gertie Douglas	0	2	6
Hettie Lind	0	2	6
Miss Melton	0	1	0
Florence Stevenson	0	1	0
Saml. Lockridge	0	1	0

Collected by Mark Sheridan, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.

F. W. Wyndham	5	5	0
Mark Sheridan	2	2	0
Egberts	1	1	0
Bessie Featherstone	1	0	0
Lina Verdi	0	10	6
Josh Dixon	0	5	0
Gus Le Clerq	0	5	0

Correction.—The £50 donation announced last week as from H. E. Moss should read as from H. E. Moss and Oswald Stoll.

Secretary, HORACE MARRIOTT.
Offices: 18, Adam-street, Strand.

The president wishes it to be known that the funds have almost given out, and that immediate help is required

The illness which prevented Mr Austin Rudd from appearing during the last week of the Shakespeare, Clapham, pantomime, has now left him, and, having so far recovered, he has been working Croydon and Collins's.

"THE ERA" SHILLING FUND FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

Total to date, 1612½ shillings.

	Shillings.
Thomas Barrasford	700
M. H. A. P. A.	400
Lily Burnand	42
L. C. J. Livermore	42
C. Mannering	31½
Paul Cinquevalli	21
Gus Elen	21

Collected by Mr Walter Stockwell, £1 14s.

	Shillings.		Shillings.
The Sivronis	2	P. Palmer	1
Randoni	2	F. Durant	1
Walter Stockwell	1	B. Jordan	1
Walter Wallis	1	Percy Murray	1
R. G. Fox	1	Grove Duo	1
Fitzroy	1	W. Munroe	1
Miss F. Chester	1	G. Barclay	1
W. Oliver	1	H. Simms	1
Richard Cars	1	Jack Richards	1
J. Spain	1	J. Laws	1
T. Callaghan	1	Jack Lorimer	1
T. Fitzroy	1	Mrs H. Simms	1
Jack Charman	1	Denmark Pair	1
Annie Laurie	1	H. H. Braham	1
Nellie Lewis	1	Eyre Wimfred	1
Walter Bartley	1	Frank J. Woods	1

Collected by Mr J. Sparrow, £2 9s.

J. Sparrow	10	Nellie Wilson	1
Wal Pink	2	Emma Don	1
Barton and Franklin	2	P. Murray	1
F. Reeves	1	J. B. Peterman	1
L. Dreams	1	Fitzroys	1
J. Fortune	1	Alf Auckland	1
Harry Goodson	1	T. C. Callaghan	1
W. Bentley	1	Rex Fox	1
R. Cass	1	Jordan	1
Mezondos	1	Pedlar	1
Tee and Tee	1	Bob Hanlon	1
Rossi and Vaughan	1	Laure	1
A. Veno	1	Travis	1
B. Monks	1	E. J. Sheldon	1
E. G. Bale	1	Tacius	1
Dandy George	1	G. H Elliott	1
W. Stockwell	1	Stewart and Morgan	1
Valveno	1	C. Heath	0½
C. Chapman	1	Annie Laurie	0½
H. Cazman	1		

Collected by Harris and Worth, Macnaghten's Touring Pantomime, "Robinson Crusoe," £1 1s.

Harris and Worth	2	Miss Daisy Reed	1
Will Lytton	1	Miss Vivien	1
Jack Foley	1	Miss Harding	1
Miss Hurman	1	Miss Stewart	1
Chas. Cork	1	Mr Baines	1
Miss Leonard	1	Mr Charles Hylton	1
Miss Ivy Gallard	1	A. May	1
Mr James	1	W. Whylie	1
Harry Morgan	1	R. H. Barker	1
Miss Dora Langham	1	Miss Bartlett	1

Collected by Mr Fred Spencer, J. F. Elliston's "Cinderella" Company, York, 16½s.

Sisters Meredith	1½	Mabel Englehardt	1
Ernie Mayne	1	Hettie Zillwood	1
Tom Owen	1	Mamie Stuart	1
Tatten Hall	1	Belle Worstencroft	1
Don Harriadine	1	Carola	1
Fred Spencer	1	Lewis Leslie	1
Jack Lane	1	Marie Rayburn	½
Madcaps	1	Marie Lindner	½
Ted Houghton	1		

Collected by Mr Joe Lawrence, 19s. 6d.

Tray and Rich	2½	Ben Whiteley	1
Henry Clarke	2½	Harry Grey	1
Fenton and Harrison	2½	Syd Godfrey	1
Tom Tinsley	1	Reginald Rutter	1
Ras B.	1	Ted Leopold	1
Joe Hughes	1	Ariel and Astarte	1
Ben Elen	1	Forest and King	1
T. W. Wright	1		

Collected by Mr Harry Barnard, £1 2s. 6d.

Harry Barnard	10	Alec Jacobs	1
Henry Cazman	1½	Wooly Jacobs	1
David Phillips	1	Charlie Edwards	1
Ben Phillips	1	Charlie Booty	1
Lewis Phillips	1	H. C.	1
Joe Phillips	1	Mr Golding	1
Horace Barnard	1		

Collected by Grell and Grey, at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, Pantomime, "Cinders," £3.

John Hart	20	Hida Burman	1
J. W. Rowley	5	Miss Payne	1
Grell and Grey	5	C. Chambers	1
Rose and Calvert	2½	Will Ratcliffe	1
Carlton	2½	Cyril Rawden	1
F. Fowler	2½	E. W. Daunton	1
Katie May	2½	Mrs Keene	1
Leo Grieve	2½	J. Simpson	1
J. E. Nightingale	1	E. Dickson	1
D. Drew	1	Chorus Gents	1s. 7d.
Maud Holland	1	A Friend	1s 1½d.
Marie Daltra	1	Children	9½d.
Irene Verona	1		

Collected by Miss Nellie Christie, £2 8s.

Nellie Christie	20	Wally Scott	2
N. Coleman and Dome	5	Fred Solo	2
Tossing Austins	4	M. D. V.	1½
Mabel Osborn	3	Sisters James	1½
Virto	2½	P. L. F.	1
A. Kelsall	2½	Miss Castleton	1
Box Baxter	2		

Collected by Mr Tom Vine, £1 7s. 6d.

George Gilbey	5	Baby Violet M'Farlane	1
W. J. Churchill (Willie)	2½	George Bernard	1
Clara Nisbett	2½	Charles Frazer	1
Tom Vine	2½	Beattie Worth	1
Five Royal Zerbinis	2	John Sylvester Sage	1
Les Kyasyas	2	Peter Leckie	1
Fielding and Hull	2	Marie Mason	1
E. W. Selman	1	Mr Cumminger	1

Collected by Walton and Lester, Brixton Theatre, S.W., £1 7s.

Chard and Clarey	5	May Kent	1
Brett and Orford	5	A. W. Banwell	1
Walton and Lester	5	Somers Bellamy	1
Nat Lewis	2½	Madge Haines	1
Ted Young	2½	Art Bewlay	1
Frank Bratsell	2		

Collected by Mr E. A. Bridgen, the Granville, Walham-green, £1 10s.

Chas. Dixon	1	Lily Simmons	1
Kate Lynd	1	Francis and Melli	1
Harry Lane	1	Edisonograph	1
Bella Bright	1	V. L. Granville	1
Tom E. Hughes	1	Victor Newman	1
E. W. Manning	1	Lieut. Albini	1
Great Scott	1	Tambo and Tambo	1
L. Lennox	1	Will Toole	1
Les Vocos	1	Ruby Bijou	1
Sisters Caselli	1	Arthur A. Davenport	1
Lydia Dreams	1	Edwardes and Espinosa	1
Gus Hindell	1	Dora Clifford	1
Ida Royston	1	The Phantos	1
G. Onllaw	1	Cissy Dryden	1
Chas. Wren	1	John Lawson	1

Will the collectors for Mr Thomas Barrasford's appeal for the Music Hall Home Fund kindly send in their lists to *The Era* Office to the hon. treasurer, Mr F. H. Pedgrift. They will be duly announced in our next issue. Those artistes who desire a collecting card please apply to Mr J. T. Fruin, secretary, 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E.

Mr Fred Sinclair and Miss Gracie Whiteford are very gratified at their success in Leicester this week in their comedy duologue *Getting Even*.—Mr W. F. Frame will introduce his showman's song, with a performing bear, at the Hippodrome, Norwich, on Monday.—Mr Harry Burns is still rapidly improving, and hopes soon to be in harness again.—Henderson and Williams have just produced a new absurdity entitled *The Troubles of a Photographer*, introducing trick cycling, mandoliner, and their own trick scenery.

At Sadler's Wells on Monday and through the week an interesting feature will be a singing competition in connection with Miss Lottie Lennox. Prizes to the value of £20 will be given. Mr Julius Simpson, manager here, is making this historic house more popular than ever. Next week he has arranged for the reappearance of a sketch, entitled *The Lost Woman*, by F. G. Brooks and company, which twelve months ago was very successful here.

A CHAT WITH "MY FANCY."

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

The charming lady who has bestowed upon herself the stage name of "My Fancy" has seen summer's sun and winter's snow in many different climes. She has experienced a heavy storm in a Michigan village, which blew her travelling waggon off its track and caused it to become submerged. She has danced on gold quartz in Western Australia; she has sat under the shadows of the domes and minarets of Cairo and Alexandria; she has gazed in admiration at the scenic splendours of Ceylon and Colombo; she has marvelled at the sublime beauty of an Indian sunset, and has listened to the Brahmin priest calling the faithful to prayer from an Indian mosque; she has witnessed the South African sky become blackened by legions of locusts; and—she is now in the greatest city in the world, delighting audiences with her exquisite sand-dancing at a hall of wonders known by the name of the Coliseum. And yet, after a multitude of doings in a multitude of places, the lady has years of youth still in front of her.

My Fancy was born in St. Louis, U.S.A., and commenced her stage career at the early age of eight, when she joined a travelling company, which had its fair share of the vicissitudes of theatrical life during a tour through America. My Fancy was then one of the Macumber Sisters—the other lady wasn't really a sister, but that didn't matter—their business being singing and sand dancing. And here My Fancy tells us that she never received a lesson in dancing, so that the daughter of Jupiter and Mnemosyne must have been the muse that presided over her birth. That the mythological genius known as Terpsichore has favoured My Fancy there seems little doubt—the clever artiste's audiences have always borne willing testimony to her remarkable talents. Of course, she admits she has practiced her art, and, for the matter of that, still practices it every day. In an American comic opera company she, while little more than a child, introduced some speciality dances in the different scenes. Very thoroughly did My Fancy experience what it means to "go through the mill." She has shared the joys and sorrows of the caravan-dweller, and if you are lucky enough to get her into a talkative mood you will hear many amusing yarns about the Romany of the New World. When she was with a travelling circus company, it was her duty in the daytime, along with other members of the troupe, to take part in what was described as a "grand processional parade." And My Fancy laughs as she recalls that the imposing pageant, with a goodly space between each unit, stretched out to a distance of some twelve yards. At that period she learned to do everything, including bar-walking, trapeze acts and general acrobatics, and illusions after the style of the "sleeping beauty" order.

Some people may not be aware that My Fancy is not known in her native country by that name. She came over to England eleven years ago

Photo by Hana.

MY FANCY.

making her first appearance in London—and in this country for the matter of that—at the Pavilion, Piccadilly-circus, where she performed her sand and buck dances. She stayed for six weeks at the Pavilion, and was immediately engaged for a similar period at the Oxford. The late Mr Charles Morton, who witnessed her turn at the latter house, gave her a month's contract for the Palace Theatre, but the lady proved such an attraction at the Shaftesbury-avenue hall that she remained there for sixteen weeks. Up to the time of appearing at the Oxford she was known as Mae Rose Baker, and it was on the programme at that establishment that she first assumed the *nom de guerre* of My Fancy. After London she went into the provinces and into Ireland, appearing later for a couple of months at the Folies Bergere in Paris. This was followed by a short stay at Liverpool, at the old Alexandra Theatre (now known as the Empire), and then came a trip to New York for the opening of Hammerstein's Olympia, supposed to be the finest place of amusement in the world until the London Coliseum was built. She returned to England for a few days in order to prepare for her voyage to South Africa, where, at the Johannesburg Empire and Royal Theatres, she delighted large audiences with her wonderful dancing. Back again to this country for a long provincial tour, then to Australia, under the management of Messrs Garner and Harry Rickards, it will be seen that My Fancy was kept pretty well on the move. At Coolgardie, in Western Australia, she danced on gold quartz, there being no sand obtainable at the time. She tells us that she enjoyed playing before the rough and ready gold-digging crowds that used to assemble wherever a programme of entertainment was organised.

Upon her later adventures it is scarcely necessary to touch. Of course, she came back to England. One night she was performing at the Grand Theatre, Clapham. A Mr Harry Bawn was in the same company of artists appearing that week. He and My Fancy had met before, and at the very same place of amusement. They now met again, and it seemed to Mr Bawn that the lady's stage name flowed rather naturally from his lips. He thought that the two words, "My Fancy," fitted in rather well with his own ideas as to the lady. He came to the conclusion that there was more in the cognomen than most people imagined, and a few years ago he helped My Fancy to fulfil her name in a way it had never been fulfilled before—at the altar of Hymen. They have an interesting little son, who is fast threatening to become a dangerous rival to his mother, for in their pretty home at Clapham the youngster has taught himself quite half a-dozen steps in dancing, and, by the way, makes his own music.

After leaving the Coliseum My Fancy starts upon the Stoll tour, at the conclusion of which she hopes to pay a visit to America.

MESSRS. PACEY AND REEVES.

THEIR NEW ADDRESS.

The scene that met our eyes on Wednesday morning was quite an animated one. The venue was a large room at 186, Brixton-road, S.W., and some half-dozen people were engaged in the troublesome duty of putting things to rights in a new office. There was the arrangement and hanging up of pictures, for instance, and all the irritating details connected with the placing of furniture in suitable positions, refixing of books and photographs, &c. Curiously enough, Mr Sam Mayo, the well-known comedian, was the busiest of all. He had determined that the pictures in Messrs Pacey and Reeves' new offices should be hung in an artistic manner. And there was humour in his hanging. Hammer in one hand, cord in the other, and tin-tacks stuck in his cigarette as a sort of convenient pin-cushion, he tumbled over chairs and other obstacles in a way that was comical to behold. Of course, such scenes are a rarity in a variety agent's office, where, in the ordinary course of things, strict attention to business is as much insisted upon as in any commercial establishment. But a little gaiety at an opening celebration could be forgiven; and, after all, Mr Mayo did work hard.

During an interval in a heated argument, in which a cruel allegation of cock-eyed picture-hanging was hurled against Mr Mayo, we succeeded in getting into conversation with Mr Tom Pacey. "I regard Brixton as an admirable neighbourhood for a music hall agency," said that gentleman. "Seventy-five per cent. of our variety artists live round about here. York Corner is played out, and the telephone has to some extent rendered it unnecessary for agents to conduct their business in one specified area, as was the custom years ago. In the long ago proprietors had to visit agents in the Waterloo-road, but now agents must run round to see managers. And how much more agreeable it is for us to be able to look out upon a pleasant thoroughfare than to be cooped up in one of the dingy and old-fashioned buildings of York-corner. Only part of this house is set apart for the purposes of our agency, and the other portion I use as a residence. The advantage of this lies in the fact that it is possible for me to receive telephone messages at any time of the day and night. I feel certain that an agent can transact as much business in Brixton as in the Strand. The managers do not come after you; you have to go after them."

Nothing, we should imagine, could be more convenient than the establishment which Messrs Pacey and Reeves have fitted out at 186, Brixton-road, and the change they have made will doubtless be appreciated by many of the artistes whose names are upon the books of the firm. As Mr Pacey remarked—What cannot be done by means of the telephone can be effected by personal calls; and there need be little fear that the success which has attended the well-directed energies of these two gentlemen will be continued, and even improved upon, in their new premises. Mr Pacey has had some nine years' experience as a music-hall agent; while his partner, Mr Fred Reeves, has been performer, proprietor, manager, and agent. A combination of two gentlemen, who have had a first-class commercial training, and, moreover, are intimate with theatrical affairs and with the requirements of variety audiences, cannot but be productive of good in the interests both of performers and proprietors. Mr Reeves will probably be best remembered as the late manager of the Hammersmith Palace of Varieties, and everybody in the profession knows what an extremely profitable undertaking that hall became under his capable directorship. It was Messrs Pacey and Reeves who arranged the six days' record contracts for Mr Sam Mayo, whereby the latter performed nine turns a night for a week. It was through their agency, too, that Datas, "the man of memory," secured a twelve months' engagement at the Palace Theatre without a break. We are sure their innumerable friends will join with us in wishing Messrs Pacey and Reeves even greater prosperity in the future in their Brixton home than they have enjoyed in the past down Waterloo way.

Owing to the closing of the Royal, Holborn, Mr Frederic D. Wood, musical director, and his orchestra have been transferred by Mr Walter Gibbons to the Duchess Palace, Balham, during the rebuilding of the Holborn house.

Mr Walter George, with songs and musical sketches at the piano, will return to the London Pavilion on Monday next.

Miss Kate Carney has again secured the services of clever Mr Fred Malcolm, comedian and dancer, in her new musical episode, *Our Laundry*.

The Sisters Bartholomew (Violet and Daisy) are opening at the Chelsea Palace on Feb. 13, after a most successful three months' tour in the provinces.

Miss Ronalds had a party at the Lyceum last Wednesday night, which included Prince Arthur of Connaught, Mr Marconi, who has just become engaged to a charming Irish girl, and Mrs Ritchie.

The Preston family are winning many triumphs in pantomime this season. Miss Jessie, who has played for several Yuletides at the Pavilion, Mile-end, is giving a vivacious embodiment of Sinbad in the pantomime of that name that is being run by Mr G. Brydon Phillips. Unfortunately the production was "burnt out" at Crouch-end, but it has been most successfully presented at Dalston, and is this week at the Brixton Theatre, where the staff in front of the house on Saturday last paid Miss Preston a high compliment by presenting her with a beautiful bouquet. Her sister Joey is touring as Dick Whittington in Mr C. Morris's company; and the Brothers Preston (George and Jock) have made a big hit at the Princess's Theatre, Glasgow, in *Goosey Gander*, Jock being principal Scotch comedian.

Mr Will Newman, music hall comedian, has just passed away at a nursing home in Westbourne-square, the cause of death being congestion of the lungs, which supervened on Bright's disease.

Miss Gabrielle Hope, who read our interview with Mr Harry Lyons last week, in which he stated that he was of opinion that the music hall audiences of to-day would listen to classical music, was encouraged thereby to write to Mr Lyons, with the result that she has been engaged to play a classical solo in a piano sketch at Collins's to-night. We do not think Miss Hope is the first lady to play a pianoforte classic on the variety stage. Miss Jennie Gabrielle (now Mrs Latona) introduced such works at the Metropolitan and other halls some ten years ago.

Mr Sidney B. Smith, late of 7, St. Ambrose-grove, Liverpool, has removed his headquarters to London—viz., to 34, Cleveland-mansions, Brixton-road, S.W.

At the World's Fair in the Agricultural Hall, on Saturday, 6,000 union children, who were the guests of the lessees of the exhibition, enjoyed themselves to the utmost. Among the multiform amusements were free roundabouts, free railway trips, free views of the excellent circus, and, perhaps, most important of all, opportunities of "slipping the slip." It was a pleasure to witness the keen enjoyment of the youngsters, each of whom was presented with oranges and buns, as, seated on mats, they zig-zagged down the narrow corrugated way from the tower to the ground.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

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(SPECIAL TO THE ERA.)

One remarkable outcome of the annual meetings of the Showmen's Guild this year has been the number of enquiries as to its work and methods which have come from all parts of the country. A gentleman of Devonshire writes to the hon. chaplain:—"I should be glad to have particulars of the Showmen's Guild, as I am much interested in the Showmen travelling Devon and Cornwall. I should be glad to meet you in London in February some time, to discuss the education of the traveller's children. Anything done for that little understood (and I must say misunderstood) class has my warmest sympathy, and I am glad to think that a priest of my own church is connected with the movement."

It is such communications as these that encourage the executive of the Guild in its many-sided enterprise for the well-being of the men, women, and children who travel the fairs to earn their daily bread. It has also been very gratifying to take note of the unanimous chorus of approval and sympathy sounded by the entire Press of the British Empire. How different this is to the state of affairs fifteen years ago, when showfolk were regarded as a sort of upper caste of Gipsydom. We have changed all that, and to-day, as a necessary and integral portion of the great world of entertainers, dramatic, equestrian, mystic, musical, and mimetic, showmen hold their own, never a day behind the fair, but always two days before the morrow.

It is a curious comment on the action of the City Fathers of Wigan (not its people) in their crusade against pleasure fairs that America, the land par excellence of State education and universal enlightenment, is actually now paying a premium to showmen—English showmen most of them—to develop show business and establish fairs in its towns and states. In a conversation with Mr George H. Kemp, president of the Showmen of the British Empire, we were told of the encouragement given to showmen in the United States. First, the great states fostered the movement to establish fairs known as "state fairs." Some great centre was fixed upon, with the special regard to railway accessibility. Then some great show, say for instance, the Barnum-Bailey Combine, the Forepaugh Aggregation, or James W. Bostock, with Wombwell's Menagerie, and other shows and roundabouts brought over from the old country, formed the nucleus of a fair. It was not a question of how much the showmen would pay for ground-rent, but how much they would want to come. This offer of the State was accompanied in most cases by proposals on the part of the great railways to convey the whole of the show paraphernalia to the fairground free.

Let us clearly accentuate this startling fact and its bearing upon the discussion now going on between the people and their rulers in Wigan. America, a new country, arrives at the conclusion to foster shows, not on the strength of sentiment or time-honoured tradition, but entirely and only because it pays and that it encourages trade, commerce, and social advancement; and is seeking now to establish not only State fairs, but the equivalent of our minor fairs, feasts, and wakes.

In a further conversation with Mr Fitts, of Coney Island renown, who is at present in this country, to establish a branch of a fairground mechanical novelty syndicate, we obtained strong confirmation and still more startling facts and figures with regard to the phenomenal growth of showman enterprise in the United States, very largely engineered by British showmen, like the Bostocks and President Kemp.

COPYRIGHT LIST OF FAIRS, WAKES, AND FEASTS FOR FEBRUARY, 1905 IN ENGLAND.

Feb. 2. Reading	Feb. 13. Harrogate
Feb. 4 Blidworth	Feb. 13 King's Lynn
Feb. 4. Kineton	Feb. 14. Biggleswade
Feb. 5 Nantwich	Feb. 14. Dorchester
Feb. 13. Beaconsfield	Feb. 22 Kendal

The Misses Mitford and Bond, after an absence of four years, opened their well-appointed portable Bijou Theatre at Melton Mowbray this week. The répertoire company has been well selected, and is playing with success to large audiences.

Messrs J. Barker and C. Thurston this week conclude their Winter Carnival at the Agricultural Hall, Norwich, having had a most successful season. Their gondolas have been well patronised, and the Cinématograph entertainment has been entertaining and pleasing. The guessing competition for valuable prizes has excited the keenest interest in the crowds nightly assembled. The side shows have also done well. They include H. Westrop's, Abbott's, and John Holmes's doll saloons; Geo. Hurn's, H. Westrop's, and R. Holmes's shooting saloons; T. Bond's switchback board; J. Holmes's cokernut shoot; W. R. Rudd's ring competition; Osborne's and R. Holmes's fancy stalls, and Mackintosh's toffee saloon, giving plenty of amusement to all visiting the hall.

Mr Jacob Studt's World's Fair is still going very strong at the Victoria Hall, Southampton, the various attractions being well patronised.

In a recent article of ours on "British Shows and Showmen" we attributed to the late William Sanger the honour of being the inventor of the steam roundabout. We were slightly in error. Mr William Sanger was the inventor of "Sea on Land," a vast improvement on the earlier type of steam-driven roundabouts, and the germ idea, in its "roller" motion, of switchbacks and Venetian gondolas. We are, however, in receipt of a communication from Mr Thomas Hurst, secretary of the British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union, and hon. secretary of the Showmen's Guild, to the following effect:—"The inventor of steam roundabouts was my father, the late Mr Wm. Hurst, of Bolton. He, in conjunction with Mr Thomas Bradshaw, also of Bolton, made and worked the first set of steam horses that were run. They were set up on the site of the present Town Hall at Bolton."

We should be glad to receive from showmen and roundabout makers any useful information they may have with regard to the development of the roundabout business.

In a conversation we had with Mr Hurst at Bolton Fair, he furnished the following interesting particulars:—His father had been to Blackpool where he saw upon the sands a small set of hobby-horses driven, as most of our midget sets of horses now are, by a crank handle, the owner supplying the motive power by hand. Mr Hurst, on his return to Bolton, consulted a brother mechanic as to the possibility of moving a set of hobby-horses by steam. They set to work and planned and made the first set of steam horses.

It is curious that Mr Thomas Hurst, the son of the inventor, is the organiser of the Roundabout Proprietors' Trade Society, and their actual leader in the movement for the defence of British fairs and of show traders' rights and privileges.

We also again draw attention to the importance of insurance against fire and other risks. Mr Pope, of Abingdon-on-Thames, is rapidly coming to the front in this connection.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

(SPECIAL TO THE ERA.)

THE first annual dinner of the working staff and friends of the Britannia Theatre, Hoxton, took place on the stage, by kind permission of the proprietors, on the 27th ult., at midnight. Mr J. E. Stubbs presided, and was supported by Mr E. Abbott, Mr J. M. East (general-manager), and Mr Brian Daly. About sixty sat down, among whom were Miss M. Barber, Miss Daisy James (principal boy in the pantomime), Miss Gracie Taylor, Mr. A. Hyman, Mr Geo. Lupino, Mr Tom Wallace, Mr Charles Jerome, and other members of the company.

AFTER dinner a concert was given, during which Mr J. Deveraux, on behalf of the members of the company, presented Mr J. M. East with a travelling bag, a silver snuff box, and silver cigar holder. In thanking them for the presents Mr East paid some compliments to the working staff. He said it was the best staff he had ever worked with, and that he would do his best to make them contented, but it was a case of "give and take," and he hoped in the future the old staff would do their best to help him to uphold the old flag of the "Brit." At the conclusion of Mr East's speech the company sang "For he's a jolly good fellow."

THE arrangements for the dinner and concert were highly satisfactory, and the chairman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr J. Summerfield, flyman; Mr W. F. Holloway, master carpenter; and Mr G. T. Webb. Mr J. Summerfield responded, and said he had worked at the "Brit." for sixteen years, and that in that time he had seen five changes in the management. He hoped that the present management would prosper. What pleased him was to see several present who had been members of the staff for the past twenty years. Mr Holloway, the master carpenter, said, in responding, that he had worked with many different staffs, but his present staff was the best he had ever had, and he hoped they would stay with him as long as he was master carpenter.

AMONG those who contributed to the concert programme were Messrs G. Stray, J. Summerfield, G. M'Leave, G. Leach, A. Penny, W. T. Holloway, C. Nevill, A. Wright, W. Williams, H. Smith, A. M'Leave, W. Yates, T. Norris, and C. Lowden. The chairman proposed "Success to the Proprietors of the Britannia and to Mr J. M. East and Artists of the Pantomime." Mr E. Sagrott was the accompanist. The stewards were Messrs C. Lowden and J. Riley. Mr E. Sagrott was treasurer, and Messrs W. F. Holloway and G. T. Webb secretaries.

THE annual dinner of the staff of the Grand Theatre, Islington, will be given at the Nag's Head Hotel, Covent-garden, on Sunday evening, Feb. 12 Mr J. Davey, proprietor of the theatre, will preside.

MR FRED COLLINS, who was formerly property master at the Britannia Theatre, and later at His Majesty's Theatre, is now property master for the New Theatre.

MR H. PORTER will be master carpenter and Mr L. R. Chantrell property master at the Avenue Theatre.

MR A. E. WOOD has resumed his old position as master carpenter at the Royalty Theatre.

MR A. ERNOTT, who was for many years property master at the Lyceum Theatre for Sir Henry Irving, and who has recently been on tour with Miss Ellen Terry, is now property master at the Savoy Theatre.

THE annual general meeting of the No. 1 Branch, N.U.T.S.E., will be held on Feb. 19 in the St. George's Hall, Westminster-bridge-road. Nominations for office and notice of resolutions to be submitted to the meeting should be sent at once to the secretary, 29, Wellington-street, Strand.

A MEETING of theatrical stage employees will be held in Glasgow to-morrow at 11, Maitland-street. All employees are invited to attend.

A MEETING of stage employees will be held to-morrow evening at 8·0 o'clock at the Royal Standard Hotel, Flemming-street, Kingsland-road, E.

AT a committee meeting of the Scenic Artists' Association, to be held at 8·0 o'clock on Monday next at their offices, 5, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., the balance-sheet of the association to Dec. 31, 1904, as audited, will be presented.

THE secretary of the Scenic Artists' Association (Mr H. Lawrence Harris) notifies us that he is issuing a limited number of season tickets at 5s. each for admission to the private Press view, the opening ceremony of the exhibition, and daily for the week of April 10, including the entertainments every afternoon. He thinks that when the programme and catalogue of the exhibition are published these season tickets will command a premium. 1s. admission tickets may now be had of the secretary either singly, 1s. each, or in books of twenty-one for £1.

At the Scenic Artists' Benevolent Fund Dinner, to be held on Sunday fortnight, 19th inst., at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent-street, W. The chair will be taken by Sir Lawrence Alma Tadema, R.A., supported by the Count Max Hollander, the Hon. C. N. Lawrence, and Messrs George Alexander, Oscar Asche, Edmund G. Banks, Dion Boucicault, Arthur Bourchier, Arthur Chudleigh, W. L. Courtney, Geo. H. R. Dabbs, M.D., Leslie Douglass, Richard Douglass, Gerard Duckworth, Chas. Frohman, Albert Gilmer. S. Goldmann, E. Marshall Hall, M.P., K.C., Ernest Hann, Walter Hann, Gilbert Hare, William Harford, Phil Harker, Frederick Harrison, Herman Hart, W. T. Hemsley, M. Henry, Robert E. Howell, G. P. Huntley, George Herring, Julian Hicks, R. G. Legge, Charles Lewis, J. N. Lyons, R. C. McCleery, Jas. W. Matthews, Cyril Maude, Carl Meyer, Joseph Mordecai, Alfred Moul, Lewis Nathan, H. W. Owen, Louis N. Parker, T. Wigney Percyval, A. Wing Pinero, Ambrose Poynter, Harry Potts, W. Raphael, E. Vivian Reynolds, Paul A. Rubens, T. E. Ryan, W. B. Spong, Oswald Stoll, J. G. Symes, W. Telbin, Geo. Tweddell, Lewis Waller, C. Wilhelm, and Sir Philip Burne-Jones, Bart. (honorary secretary to the Benevolent Fund Dinner).

THE secretary begs that members and friends of the Association who propose to take tickets for the Benevolent Fund Dinner will send in their applications immediately, as the accommodation at the Imperial Restaurant is limited to a certain number.

NOTICES and reports of meetings, &c., are invited from the various societies with which stage employees are connected.

DR. CARL HERRMAN, hypnotist, electrician, and vitapathic healer, has arrived in England, after an absence of more than ten years in America and the Colonies. He opened his first engagement at the Hippodrome, Coventry, where he created the healthiest kind of impression, every house being filled to overflowing. He commences a tour with Mr Broadhead, of Manchester, on Monday.

MR EDITOR.—Sir,—In your notice last week of the Prince of Wales Theatre, Southampton, you stated that it was the part of "Mrs Woodruff" which was played by me. It should have been "Mrs Montrevor." Yours faithfully, AMY VENIMORE. *When Darkness Falls* company, Stratford, Feb. 1.

COUNTY COUNCIL AND AMUSEMENTS.

(SPECIALLY REPORTED FOR THE ERA.)

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring-gardens.

DUKE OF YORK'S THEATRE.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported that they had considered a plan, submitted by Messrs T. W. Coffin and Sons, showing the proposed method of fitting hurricane doors in the passage which leads to the stage door at the Duke of York's Theatre, St. Martin's-lane. There appeared to be no objection to the proposal, and they recommended accordingly. Agreed to.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

The committee had considered a plan, submitted by Mr B. Crewe, showing the positions of boilers and heating apparatus in connection with the Plenum heating and ventilating system proposed to be installed at the Lyceum Theatre, Wellington-street, Strand. They recommended "That Mr B. Crewe be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the plan submitted by him provided the following conditions be complied with:—(1) That the separation between the apartments containing the apparatus and the other parts of the theatre be constructed of fire-resisting materials to the satisfaction of the Council. (2) That the cover protecting the terminals on the motor in connection with the ventilating fan be lined with insulating material to the satisfaction of the Council." Approved.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

The committee had considered a plan, submitted by Mr C. T. Helmsley, on behalf of Mr George Alexander, showing how it is proposed to divide up, by means of arms, the pit seating at St. James's Theatre. They recommended "That Mr C. T. Helmsley be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the plan submitted by him with regard to the proposed division of the pit seating at St. James's Theatre." Agreed to.

SOUTH LONDON MUSIC HALL.

The committee had considered plans, submitted by Messrs Wylson and Long, showing how it is proposed to give effect to Nos. 1, 24, 51, 68, 69, 70, and 86 of the suggestions made by the Council for the improvement of the South London Music Hall, London-road. The suggestions in question involve alterations in respect of the exit arrangements from the gallery and balcony, refreshment rooms on the o.p. side of the stalls, and the stage exit and openings between the dressing-room staircase and the stage. The committee recommended "That Messrs Wylson and Long be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the three plans submitted by them with regard to the proposed method of dealing with the suggestions made by the Council for the improvement of the South London Music Hall, provided the following conditions be complied with:—(1) That all recesses and projections be properly defended. (2) That the private rooms and offices be separated from the public portion of the hall by means of fire-resisting materials and door. (3) That the gallery staircase be entirely separated from the balcony staircase by fire-resisting materials. (4) That the stage be separated from the dressing-room staircase by means of a fire resisting door." Approved.

FIRE-PROOFING SCENERY.

The committee reported:—The Council on March 1, 1904, adopted new rules to be observed by the licensees of premises licensed by the Council for public entertainments. One of these rules provides that all scenery, [wings, sky borders, cloths, draperies, gauze cloths, floral decorations, properties, hangings, curtains, &c., whether on the stage, in the auditorium, or in other parts of the premises, must be rendered and maintained non-inflammable. The amended regulations issued on Nov. 1, 1904, by the Lord Chamberlain for the theatres in his Lordship's jurisdiction contain a similar provision. A considerable time has elapsed since the rule in question came into force, but we are informed that it is as yet by no means generally complied with. We have, therefore, caused a letter to be sent to the managers of theatres licensed by the Council calling their attention to the necessity of complying strictly with the rule in question. The Lord Chamberlain has taken similar action with regard to the theatres in his Lordship's jurisdiction. It is unnecessary to dwell upon the danger of fire caused by large quantities of highly inflammable scenery on the stage where, even apart from the scenery, the risk of fire is naturally greatest, and we feel that the Council will wish that the strongest possible action should in future be taken to secure compliance with the rule requiring scenery to be made and maintained fire-resisting. We report the facts for the information of the Council and with a view to giving publicity to the matter.

GAIETY THEATRE.

The Improvements Committee reported:—It is provided in an agreement between the Council and the Gaiety Theatre Company, dated May 6, 1901, supplemental to the agreement dated June 23, 1899, referred to in the Council's Improvements Act of 1899, that the company shall build upon the site therein referred to a new theatre according to plans, elevations, &c., to be approved by the Council, and, further, that if the Council should require such elevations, or any of them, to be of a different and more elaborate or more costly character, design, or materials, the company shall comply with the Council's requirements, on condition that the increased cost, if any, thereby entailed shall be paid by the Council. We have now to report that Mr A. T. Franklin, of the firm of Messrs Franklin and Andrews, quantity surveyors, the arbitrator to whom the matter was referred, has awarded that the requirements of the Council did properly entail on the company increased cost, and that the amount of such increased cost is £17,217. This amount, together with the costs (£716 7s.) of the arbitrator in making his award, is, in accordance with the agreement, payable by the Council, and we have therefore forwarded the accounts to the Finance Committee, with a view to payment being made. We may add that the company's claim amounted to £28,000.

Mr HUNT considered that this was an appalling figure, as it was only for the embellishment of the building, so, as it was said, to make it worthy of the site. As regards the architectural features of the theatre, he did not wish to indulge in any comments, but he did not regard it as a thing of beauty and a joy for ever, and if nearly £18,000 had been expended on architectural improvements, he failed to discover the point where it could be shown on the building. He regarded the proposal as absolutely throwing away the ratepayers' money for the purpose of enriching an already rich company.

Mr DAVIES, the chairman of the committee, in reply, said the point was that this was not letting land to the Gaiety people whereon to build a theatre, but it was the purchasing of the company's interest in the old theatre and the land on which it stood, and reinstating them in a new site. There was a feeling both inside and outside the Council that the class of property to be erected on this site should be worthy of London. The Council was not in a position to compel these people to put up a building that would be a credit to London, but they had succeeded in doing so by the means reported on by the committee. The claim by the company was about £28,000, but the Council had been released by payment of something under £18,000, and the committee were advised that these were the best terms the Council were likely to obtain. The subject then dropped.

ON Saturday last, at the Pavilion Theatre, Winter Gardens, Southport, was produced for copyright purposes, a military sketch, entitled *Valiant of the 9th*, by Harry C. Robinson.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE.

With that keen appreciation of the advantages of perpetual variety invariably marking the weekly arrangements with which Mr Arthur J. Barclay tempts the public into the cosy and luxurious house under his management, the present programme at the Walthamstow Palace contains quite a number of items eminently calculated to afford pleasure to the spectators. The natural result of this wise and liberal policy is that at every performance the large house is full to repletion, while ripples of laughter and roars of applause testify to the general enjoyment. For absolute popularity with the Palace patrons, from the front row of the stalls to the back of that part which an artiste last week spoke of as "the top-shelf," the palm must be awarded to the Japanese wrestler, Yukio Tani, the fame of whose deeds had preceded him. The interesting and wonderful achievements of the alert little man are watched with breathless attention. A particularly pleasing entertainment is that of the Imperial Boys' Orchestra, otherwise the "Kilted Kiddies." This band of happy-looking youngsters, resplendent in Highland dress, play their various instruments in fine style, and in a manner that suggests most careful training. Miss Nelly Lewis is a good burlesque actress, with a fine presence and an excellent voice. In an amusing duologue, *The Revolt of Man*, in which are shown the dire straits to which poor man may be reduced "a hundred years hence," and how he is finally "emancipated," Phillips and Terry play with much drollery, delivering their humorous lines with point and energy. The little sketch is played to a running accompaniment of laughter. Mr Johnnie Dwyer sings two songs with all his old force and distinctness. The Two Whites—one of whom is a "darkie"—sing with spirit and do some clever sand dancing. Miss Elsa Joel, a handsome lady, exquisitely apparelled, gives some very artistic imitations of different styles of singing—French, Italian, and English. The Brothers Lloyd are loudly applauded in their original and sensational double-rope act, which is accomplished without the aid of balance poles. Their various feats are rendered with a neatness, dexterity, and precision that quite entitle the performers to their hearty reception. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope is still popular, and the pictures this week are well calculated to maintain their reputation.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The concert of Friday, Jan. 27, opened with the beautiful quartet for strings, Op. 18, No. 3 of Beethoven, which was played with much taste and a creditable balance of tone by Vera Warwick Evans, Herbert Kinze, Frank Bridge, and Charles Warwick Evans. The Ballade in G minor, of Chopin, enabled Miss Eva Rowe to display real gifts, as an interpreter of the Polish composer, not at all common in a student. Generally students altogether fail to realise the qualities of the poetical pianist, whose music kept alive the national feeling so long that when the brutal Cossacks wrecked Chopin's house in Warsaw they smashed his piano and threw the broken fragments out of the window to their comrades below, who made a bonfire of them, aiding the flames by tossing on scores of his charming letters. The Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue of Thiele, for the organ, though vastly inferior to Bach, has some merits, justice being done to it by Mr Harold Rhodes. This fine organ might be heard more frequently, especially as the Royal College has several students amply qualified to display the fine qualities of the instrument which Sir Hubert Parry so generously presented to the college. The vocal music was generally interesting. "Murmuring breezes," by Jensen, was given with good expression by Mr Frank Smith; Spohr's "Rose softly blooming" was rendered with grace by Miss Ina Hill; and a song of Grieg was interpreted with considerable effect by Miss Maggie Kirkbride. A Quintet in E minor, for piano and strings by the Scandinavian composer Sinding, although not, perhaps, one of his most inspired compositions, pleased owing to its careful rendering. The accompanist was Mr J. H. Bannister, who fulfilled his duties carefully and artistically.

THE London County Council have had to defray the cost of the additions to the approved plans of the new Gaiety Theatre to the amount of £17,217, the sum which has been awarded by the arbitrator, and also £716 7s. costs. The company's claim, however, amounted to £28,000.

MISS ISABEL JAY, who has just returned from a week's stay at Brighton, in order to recuperate from a nervous attack, is, we are glad to see, once more back again playing her old part in *The Cingalee*, at Daly's.

MR RUSSELL ROSSE will commence a two weeks' engagement at the Royalty Theatre, Glasgow, on Monday, when he will produce the Strand comedy *Facing the Music*, by arrangement with Mr Gerald Alexander. This will make Mr Rosse's sixth visit with his own companies to Glasgow within six months.

MR PERCIVAL CRAIG, the popular manager of the Avenue Theatre, Sunderland, was last week the recipient of a benefit. The occasion was marked by a bumper house, and quite a host of old and new friends journeyed to the Wearside borough to testify their appreciation of the bénéficiaire and to assist in an entertainment given, in addition to the pantomime, in his honour.

"PIGGY MACHREE" will open next week at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, and then will commence a tour of six weeks round the London suburban theatres, with Mr Denis O'Sullivan and Miss Marie Dainton in the cast.

THE annual contest between Mr F. R. Benson's company hockey team and that of Queen's College, took place at Malone Park, Belfast, on the 25th ult. The scores at the conclusion of the game were:—Queen's College, four goals; Mr Benson's Company, one goal.

MR LAURENCE GRANT AND MR MALCOM BARRINGTON will begin their tour of *Joseph Entangled* at the Coronet Theatre on Monday, with a company including Mrs Mouillot, Miss Claire Cavendish, Miss Evelyn Maxwell, Mr Guy Lane, Mr Leveson Lane, and Mr Grant. In the course of the tour they will produce two new pieces, one a three-act farce by Judge Parry, at Dublin; and the other a new one-act play, of strong dramatic interest, by Miss Beatrix De Burgh and Mr Lawrence Grant.

AT Mr James Macready Chute's theatre, the Prince's, Bristol, the annual theatre collection in aid of the local hospitals was made on Saturday last, and £35 18s. 4d. was added to the Lord Mayor's Hospital Sunday Fund.

MR ALFRED MANNERS, since he became sole lessee of the Queen's Theatre, Swindon, has made an annual collection in that popular theatre in aid of the local hospital. This year, on the visit of Mr Milton Bode's excellent pantomime *Dick Whittington*, the principals of the company succeeded in collecting, in an interval in the performance, the sum of £7 13s. for that deserving institution.

MISS KATHLEEN GRAY has in active rehearsal a new and original song-scena, in two scenes, entitled *Poppy land*, which she will shortly produce in London. It has been specially written and composed for her by Messrs Alf. J. Lawrance and Harry Gifford. Miss Maud Esmond's new and successful song "Two little tell-tale eyes," by the same authors, is in the press, having been secured by Messrs Hopwood and Crew, Limited.

MR. BENSON AT BELFAST.

The annual Students' Night took place on Tuesday last at the Theatre Royal, Belfast. The students of Queen's College formed in the usual procession, and, numbering several hundreds, marched together through the city to the Theatre Royal. They were arrayed in a variety of costumes, including those of costers, clergymen, clowns, warriors, columbines, pierrots, and powdered lackeys. The piece presented was *The Rivals*, and Mr and Mrs Benson were warmly applauded in their respective rôles of Captain Absolute and Lydia Languish; Mr G. R. Weir created much laughter by his happy assumption of Bob Acres. In the course of the evening Mrs Benson was presented with a lovely bouquet by the students composed of lily of the valley and white tulips, interspersed with asparagus plumosa, with long streamers of same tied with the college colours, blue and black. This was lowered from [the gallery to the stage and gracefully accepted by Mrs Benson amidst a scene of great enthusiasm. In response to loud demands, Mr Benson came forward and said:—"I hope there is no person here present who is not content. I am sure there is no dissatisfied person on this side of the footlights at any rate. I beg to thank you for your splendid reception—splendid even for Belfast, where you have spoiled us by your welcomes. On occasions like this it is my privilege to offer to the dwellers on Olympus our humble hymn of praise. O, great Olympians, we offer to you our hearty thanks for your condescension in coming amongst us mere mortals—for having laid aside the garb of learning, and appearing in the artless raiment of coryphée, clergyman and clown, columbine and coster, and dusky potentate from Afric's sunny strand. O, great Olympians, we thank you for your gifts—your gift of song and your gracious gift of flowers, and for your gift of laughter, which prevents the world, however learned it may be, from ever growing old. Above all, we thank you for the great friendliness that you have shown us for many years in Belfast. In our many wanderings one of our pleasant experiences is to frequently meet old Queen's College men, and when we do foregather I assure you that we have very many pleasant topics of conversation, and amongst those topics are occasions like this evening, and occasions when we have had the pleasure of meeting you in the playing fields. We thank you very much for all the friendliness and encouragement you have shown us, and we offer you as good-night the wish that when you go out to your work in the world you may meet some such measure of friendliness, encouragement, and good-fellowship Good-night." As in former years there was a musical programme between the acts, songs being rendered by several of the students, and by Messrs M'Elroy, Cahal O'Byrne, S. M'Caughey, and W. Howard.

A MEETING of the Touring Managers' Association was held at Mr Bannister Howard's office yesterday afternoon. The secretary mentioned the case of a manager, who was not a member of the association, but who had asked them to arbitrate upon a dispute between himself and a member of the Actors' Association. It was agreed that the arbitration boards of the two institutions should confer, with a view to a settlement of the difficulty.

ANOTHER subject brought before the T.M.A. concerned a complaint which had been received respecting a railway company who were deviating from the rule as to the size of trucks allowed to travelling companies under the three-quarters fare regulation, which came into force some time ago. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Railway Clearing House, pointing out the interference with one of the clauses.

ANOTHER member of the T.M.A., whose scenery was damaged during transit, owing to insufficient sheeting, claimed compensation from the railway company. The latter, however, sheltered themselves under the risk note, and declined to admit liability, and the Association decided to take the matter up.

MR EDWARD MARRIS'S *Dandy Doctor* company goes out on its sixth year of tour early in March. This successful musical play has been brought up to date by the introduction of new numbers. There are not many pieces of the class that can face the entire summer and play thirty weeks a-year; but this has been the case with *The Dandy Doctor*.

MISS DORA POOLE, of the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, has probably established a record as an understudy. At the Thursday matinée, on the 26th ult., Miss Poole, who is one of the chorus ladies in *The Sleeping Beauty*, was called upon to take the place of Miss Zena Dare, principal girl, and in the evening performance on the same day, when Miss Dare was able to appear, Miss Lil Hawthorne, the principal boy, was indisposed, so Miss Poole was called upon to assume that character. She had less than an hour's notice, and she had not had an opportunity of rehearsing the principal songs. Miss Poole is possessed of a pure and well-trained voice, she is a good elocutionist, and has a charming stage presence. We understand that Miss Poole is new to pantomime, and for four years has not been on the stage. Originally she was trained by Mr Paul Valentine as a vocalist and dancer, but retired into private life owing to delicate health. However, Miss Poole accepted a chorus engagement in the Prince's pantomime, and has thus made a highly successful re-entry into the theatrical profession.

MESSRS ALFRED NORTHWAY AND W. V. GARROD'S excellent revival of the late Wilson Barrett's domestic drama *The Sledge-Hammer* is everywhere meeting with success. Return dates have been offered at all theatres visited, and every manager who has witnessed the production has immediately booked it. The spirited fight with sledge-hammers in the Forge scene has created a sensation, and the bookings extend as far ahead as the end of November.

MR FRITZ ZORN'S new three-act farcical comedy *The Designers* will be produced at the Brixton Theatre on Monday week, with a cast including Messrs W. Hargreaves, Edmund O'Grady, William Luff, and Frank Lister; and Misses Dorothy Sidney, Mignon Hester, and Ina Rozant. It will be preceded by a one-act piece called *The Happiest Day of His Life*, by W. F. Downing.

MR ERIC FENTON, who has done good work with Mr George Edwardes's No. 1 company, and was stage-manager under Mr Callan in *The Medal and the Maid* company, is engaged by Mr Frohman to play the Irish comedian O'Gorman in *Merely Mary Ann*, opening at the Theatre Royal, Bath, on Feb. 6.

THE death took place on Monday, at Altrincham, of Mrs Johnson, wife of Mr William Johnson, co-proprietor of the Royal Court Theatre and Royal Theatre of Varieties, Warrington, and the Grand Theatre, Rawtenstall. The deceased lady had been an invalid for a considerable number of years, but bore her malady with great fortitude.

TO-NIGHT the sixty-second and last performance of the extremely successful pantomime *Red Riding Hood* will be given at the King's Theatre, where the ordinary season will commence on Monday with Mr George Edwardes's chief company in *The Orchid*. This piece paid its first visit to Mr Mulholland's theatre precisely a year ago, and it is worth noting that then, as now, it was flourishing at the Gaiety Theatre. It is frequently imagined that visits to district theatres during the original run of a piece are injurious to business in the West-end, but Mr George Edwardes has no such misgivings.

NEW THEATRE, LOUGHBOROUGH.

The new Theatre Royal, which has been built on a good site in that town, was opened on the night of the 26th ult. with *Monsieur Beaucaire*.

After the orchestra had played the National Anthem Mr PAYNE SEDDON stepped to the footlights and made a short speech. He said that when the old theatre was destroyed four years ago, and Mr Robertson and himself undertook to provide theatrical entertainments at the Town Hall they had little idea that the course of events would lead to their building a theatre. So pleasant had been their associations with the Town Hall, the officials, and Corporation that they might have been content to continue running the Town Hall as a theatre, but after four years the fact was forced upon them that they were providing amusement for an up-to-date people, that the tastes of their patrons were going ahead, and that they must either move with them or be left behind. He was sure they would agree with him that the building was a credit to Mr King, the architect, and to the builder, Mr Faulks, who had erected it in the record time of fourteen weeks. They were proud of the fact that the furnishing by Mr Armstrong, painting by Mr Shepherd, and electric fittings by Mr Gadaby was all local work. Each of these gentlemen had taken a keen personal interest in the building. The acoustic properties, they found, were perfect, and a splendid view could be obtained from every seat in the building. Unfortunately, a report had gained currency that all seats were booked for that night, and this accounted for the numerous vacant seats. There were several additions and minor alterations to be made before the theatre was completed, but he was sure they would make allowance for this, and for the fact that they were not opening at the best season of the year for securing the best theatrical companies. They had, however, been able to arrange for some very good attractions. They would be able on the new stage to present grand opera as it had never been mounted before in Loughborough. They hoped to produce plays to suit their patrons' varied tastes, and another season to be able to provide still better companies. They would be guided by the patrons in the selections, for, as Shakespeare put it, "The drama's laws the drama's patrons give, and those who live to please must please to live." Mr Robertson and himself hoped to live to please them, and they also hoped they would all feel at home in that theatre and look upon it as their own little Loughborough theatre.

Congratulatory letters and telegrams from Sir Henry Irving, Mr Charles Wyndham, Mr Beerbohm Tree, and other leading members of the theatrical profession were read.

The MAYOR (Alderman T. Mayo, J.P.) wrote regretting his inability to attend the opening of the theatre in consequence of being still confined to the house by his recent accident. The enterprise Messrs Seddon and Robertson had shown in providing the town with a modern and up-to-date theatre deserved every encouragement, and he trusted their new venture would prove an unqualified success.

A CONCERT, in aid of the *Referee* Children's Dinner Fund, will be held at the Camberwell Palace, on Sunday, Feb. 12. From the list of talented artists who have already kindly promised their valuable aid a very successful entertainment should take place, and this deserving fund benefit considerably thereby. The programme will include amongst others:—Miss Annie Bartle, Miss Maggie Godsmark, Miss Edith Temple, and Miss Queenie Leighton, Mr Leo Stormont, Mr Bransby Williams, Mr Hamilton Hill, Mr Edgar Wallace, and Mr R. A. Roberts.

MR WILL ELLERSLIE AND MISS FLORRIE BRAY have just concluded a five weeks' engagement with Mr Quinton Gibson at the Hippodrome, Scarborough, with the pantomime sketches *Sinbad the Sailor*, *Babes in the Wood*, *Cinderilla*, *Red Riding Hood*, supported by four other artists and thirty local children.

MR TOM E. HUGHES has just published his dude song, "I'm one of the Upper Ten," with Charles Sheard and Co. It is from the pen of William Hargreaves, who has written the new comedian a funny number entitled "I'm not so looney after all."

IN accordance with the suggestion adopted at the last general meeting that future interim dividends should not exceed five per cent., the directors of the Palace Theatre have declared an interim dividend of five per cent., less income tax, payable on the 14th.

MR LENNOX BARRY, the general manager of the Battersea Empire, has decided to inaugurate a special matinée at his hall every week. The first will be held on Wednesday next, when Mr Barry has secured the services of a number of prominent artists.

MR TOM WOOTTWELL, who has been suffering from throat trouble, has had to cut out all his songs from *The White Cat* at Drury-lane, but is now all right again.

THE Alhambra directors report that the gross receipts for the year 1904 amounted to £87,115. After providing for debenture interest, &c., £3 179, the net profit for the year 1904 amounts to £9,192, and with £5,384, the amount brought forward, the net balance to the credit of revenue is £14 576. The directors recommend that £2,000 be applied in reduction of the freehold and buildings account, that a dividend of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, for the year, being £6,000, be now paid, and that the balance, £6,576, be carried forward. The dividend will be payable on Feb. 6 The directors have taken the earliest advantage of powers secured to the company under the trust deed relative to the 1895 five per cent. debenture stock, by which they have been enabled to reduce the interest on that stock to 4 per cent.

MESSRS ELIOT STOCK have sent us a copy of Mr Harold Ford's excellent little book on "The Art of Extempore Speaking" which is now in its fifth edition, having been revised and enlarged. There are so many persons to whom the power of immediate and effective oratory is useful, that the practical hints contained in this volume will find many to welcome and value them. Mr Ford first proceeds to define extempore speaking, and then tells his pupil how to attain fluency. The rules for the general preparation of the extempore speaker are distinctly described; and a whole chapter is devoted to memory. The method of analysing a subject is also treated very judiciously; and the book ends with an essay on how to conclude a discourse.

MR EDITOR.—Sir,—In your notice of the Ashton Hippodrome of last week you mentioned George White's Arabs as wonderful acrobats. They did not appear, their place being taken by, yours faithfully, THE MUSICAL PALMERS. Palace, Derby, Feb. 1, 1905.

MR EDITOR.—Sir,—Your correspondent for South Shields mentioned last week in his report "Sam Richardson, Scotch comedian." It should have been, yours faithfully, SAM THOMSON, Scotch comedian. Empress Theatre, Hartlepool. Jan. 30

MR EDITOR.—Sir,—In your issue of Jan. 28, you mentioned me as appearing at the Hippodrome, Macclesfield. I have never played there. This is my seventh week as Dame at pantomime at the Royalty, Glasgow.—Yours faithfully, HARRY CONLIN, 99, Hill-street, Garnethill, Glasgow, Jan. 30, 1905.

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Now open with "The Babes in the Wood."
For Dates for March and onward, apply to
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Vacant,
Feb. 27,
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Everybody charmed with this magnificent temple of the drama.
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Mr Wilson Barrett said it was the most perfect theatre he ever performed in.
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Every Comfort and Convenience provided for the Patrons of this lovely Theatre.
Each portion of the Theatre is provided with separate Refreshment Rooms.
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BLACKPOOL COLOSSEUM.
BLACKPOOL COLOSSEUM.

SEASON 1905.

Situate at the junction of the Blackpool and Lytham Tramways, on the Marine Parade, opposite the Manchester Hotel, in the heart of Blackpool.
The Building (which is 127ft. in diameter, 41ft. high to the eaves, and 83ft. to the Lantern) is Lighted by Electricity, and as a place for Animal Entertainments is unique, it being the only building in Blackpool that, in consequence of its being free from pillars and other obstructions, afforded the necessary height and space for Diavolo's performance of "Looping the Loop."
The Walls are covered with the World-renowned picture "Niagara" painted by the great artist Phillipoteau.
For the last eight or ten years Blackpool has been extending around and for miles south of the Colosseum in a marvellously rapid manner. Thousands of houses have been built and are occupied, and there has not been any place of Public Entertainment provided for the Masses of the People south of the Tower.
The Colosseum provides a long-felt want in this New and Populous Neighbourhood.
The Authorities estimate that about Four Million Persons visited Blackpool last Season.
The great Popularity of the Colosseum is shown by the fact that, although only partially occupied during a part of a Blackpool Season, upwards of 100,000 paid for Admission during the remaining part of the season.
Offers for the 1905 Season on Sharing Terms should be made to the Undersigned, who will furnish any further information.

BLANE and RIDING,
30, Birley-street; or,
GARLICK and STEER,
22, Birley-street, Blackpool.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

BURSLEM—Correspondent Required to Supply Theatre and Music Hall Reports Weekly.
Address, "DRAMATICUS," 49, Wellington-street, Strand.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE (Ltd.).
Managing Director, Mr W. B. REDFERN, J.P., D.L.
A theatre among the most beautiful in England.—Sunday Times.
Vacant Dates (in Term Time, no Dramas), March 2 and 20. Vacation Time (Dramas), March 23.
Silence polite negative. Address as above.

CATERHAM, SURREY.—
Seventeen Miles from Town. Population, 9,000.
THE PUBLIC HALL. Three Minutes from Station.
Seating accommodation provided for 400 (400 extra Seats by arrangement). Permanent Stage. Dressing-rooms. Terms, per night, inclusive of Heating and Lighting, 2½ Guineas. Special terms for the week.
All communications to the Manager, J. D. ROLLS,
Kinnoull, Warlingham, Surrey.

CHELTENHAM. — THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—General Manager, H. OSWALD REDFORD. The County Theatre. Visited by the Best Artists and their Companies all the year round.
"ROBINSON CRUSOE"
Pantomime now in Full Swing.
Re Dates as above,
Silence in all cases a polite negative.

CHELTENHAM. — VICTORIA ROOMS (late Corn Exchange), HIGH-STREET. Lessee and Manager, EDWARD B. SHENTON (late Lessee of the Old Theatre Royal and Assembly Rooms). Available for Entertainments, Concerts, Lectures, &c. Share or Rental. Seat 1,000 Persons. Full Dramatic Licence.

COATBRIDGE, N.B.—
THEATRE ROYAL.
Proprietrix, Mrs MARY WATSON.
Manager, Mr C. B. FOUNTAINE.
One of the most Up-to-Date and Successful Theatres in Scotland.
Lighted throughout by Electricity.
Stage Dimensions:—
Stage to grid, 45ft.;
Footlights to Back Wall, 30ft.;
Wall to Wall, 65ft.;
Opening, 21ft. by 25ft.;
Between Fly Rails, 32ft.
Seating Accommodation, 2,000.
Prices:—Private Boxes, 21s. and 15s.; Single Seats, 3s. and 2s. 6d.; Dress Circle, 2s.; Balcony, 1s. 6d.; Pit Stalls, 1s.; Pit, 9d.; Gallery, 6d.

Communications re Dates to
MANAGER.

COLCHESTER, THEATRE ROYAL.—
Sole Proprietor, Mr CHARLES MACDONA.
Vacant Dates, March 13 (?), April 17 (Three or Four Nights), May 1, 8, and onwards Apply to
CHARLES MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, London, W.

DUBLIN.—QUEEN'S ROYAL THEATRE.
Sole Proprietor and Patentee, Mr ELLIS JONES.
Lessee and Manager, Mr J. W. WHITEHEAD.

Address, Mr J. W. WHITEHEAD.

Silence in all cases a respectful negative.

DUNFERMLINE and DUMFRIES THEATRES.
Visited only by Companies of the Highest Repute.
Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr W. E. POTTS.
Bookings and Rebookings include:—
George Edwardes',
F. R. Benson's Principal and North Companies,
George Dance's,
Charles Macdona's,
Charles Frohman's,
Milton Rays',
J. Bannister Howard's,
Ben Greet's,
Wm. Greet's,
J. W. Turner's Opera Company,
Robt Macdonald's,
John Leopold's,
Hardie and Von Leer's,
The Craggs',
Chalmers Mackey's,
and all the principal Touring Companies.
Vacant Dates,
Dunfermline, March 6 and on.
Dumfries, March 27 and on.
All comms., W. E. POTTS, Theatre Royal, Dunfermline.

GLASGOW.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr R. C. BUCHANAN.—The most Popular Theatre in the city. Patronised by the elite of the West of Scotland. The "Cinderella" Pantomime now in Ninth Week of run.

GREENOCK, THEATRE ROYAL.—
Lessees, THE EXECUTORS of the late ALEXANDER WRIGHT; Managers, A. B. WRIGHT and J. J. WRIGHT.—Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1905. First-class Companies only. Silence a polite negative.

GREENOCK.—
ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—The New Theatre to be Opened in August, 1905. Now Booking only No. 1 Attractions. All communications re Dates, to
R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.
Proprietors, PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE CO., GT. GRIMSBY, LIMITED.
Managing-Director, JOSEPH H. CURRY.
Now Booking 1905.
Telegraphic address, "Curry, Grimsby."

HANLEY, THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—
Please note.—The Staffordshire Potteries for all Dramatic Purposes must be considered as one Large Town. The following Attractions are Booked for the Autumn Season of 1904:—Miss Ellen Terry and full Company, Mr E. S. Willard and full London Company, Moody-Manners No. 1 Company, Sir Henry Irving and his Répertoire Company; also the following No. 1 Companies:—"Belle of New York," "Sapho," "Earl and the Girl," "School Girl," "Girl from Kay's," "Duchess of Dantzic," Beerbohm Tree's "Darling of the Gods," "Florodora," and others. Hanley has undoubtedly the Largest Theatre and Stage in Staffordshire. Lighted by Electricity; accommodation for 3,700 People Electric Trams and Trains after Performance to ends of the District, Longton, Stoke, Burslem, and Tunstall.
Vacant for First-class Companies only,
Feb. 20, 27, and onwards.
First-class Pantomime Required for Christmas, 1905.
CHAS. E. ELPHINSTONE, Managing-Director.

HOXTON.—Correspondent Required to Supply Reports Weekly of the Britannia Theatre.
Address, "DRAMATICUS," 49, Wellington-street, Strand.

HULL, THEATRE ROYAL—
Sole Lessee, WM. MORTON.
Bookings this year include:—Moody-Manners Opera (Two Weeks), Mr Tree's Production, "The Tempest," from His Majesty's Theatre, London; "Sign of the Cross," Martin Harvey, Mrs Russ Whytal, in "The Cardinal," "Florodora," "The Prince of Pilsen," Mrs Lewis Waller, "Sunday," "The Duke of Killicrankie," Durward Lely and Wm. Mollison's Company, in "The Bonnie Brier Bush;" "Our Boys," Mr Louis Calvert's Company, in "The Garden of Lies," Mr Tree's Shakespearian Répertoire Company. Vacant at the Theatre Royal for High-class Attractions, May 1 and 15.
Note.—The New Alexandra Theatre (Morton's, Limited) Caters for the Drama-loving Public, and is a uniform Success. Holding Capacity, 3,000. Popular Prices. Sliding Roof. Smoking permitted.
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HULL.—THE CIRCUS.—
General Manager, EDWARD EMERSON.
One of the Finest and Largest Halls in the Provinces, Fitted with Large Stage, and Suitable for Circus, Minstrels, Panoramas, Concert and Choir Parties, &c. Rental, Share, or Salary. Only a Few Vacant Dates.

ILKESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—
Licensee and Manager, Mr L. F. A. ROGERS.
Vacant, March 20 and April 10, May 4, 5, and 6 (Three Nights), onwards.
Silence courteous negative.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.
BARROW.—ROYALTY T. AND OPERA HOUSE.
CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr HUGH ROBERTSON.
Vacant Dates:—Jarrow, May 1. Barrow, for First-class Musical Attractions, March 20, Easter, and various on. The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring. Consett, April 3 and 17, on, with exceptions. All applications for Dates to HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.
GUERNSEY.—ST. JULIAN'S.
Out Season Population 100,000. No opposition. G. W. Train leaves Saturday Night Bath, 11 27 p.m.; Swindon, 11 28; Bristol, 11 0 p.m. Companies return following Saturday. July and August Boat leaves Southampton 12 30 midnight. Vacant Dates Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6. Apply, C. ROBERT PERKINS, Jersey.

KIDDERMINSTER.—OPERA HOUSE
A Beautiful Theatre and pronounced success.
High-class Companies only entertained.
Holding capacity £100.
All communications, J. P. MOORE, West Bromwich.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.
Sole Proprietor, Lieut.-Col. J. A. WINSTANLEY.
No Vacant Dates Spring, 1905.
Re Autumn Dates, 1905, address,
GEO. M. SLATER,
Royal Opera House, Leicester.

LEYLAND PUBLIC HALL
LANCASHIRE.—Stage, 30ft. by 20ft. Proscenium. Seats 800. Balcony. District Population, 8,000.
Small Stock Scenery. No Sharing.
Vacant Dates for Companies or Entertainers.
Apply, MANAGING DIRECTOR, Park House, Leyland.

LLANDUDNO.—NEW GRAND THEATRE. Seats 1,200.
Dates open, Three Nights, Whit Week,
July 6 to 31, Sept. 4, onwards.
A. G. PUGH,
Llewellyn-chambers, Llandudno.

MORECAMBE.—ROYALTY THEATRE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
General-Manager, CHAS. M. JULIAN.
Vacant Easter, June 19, and on,
for First-class Attractions only.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, Clarence, Pontypridd.

NORWICH, THEATRE ROYAL.—
Enlarged, Redecorated, Lighted throughout by Electricity. Upholstered by Dean and Co.
Weekly Matinées for County Visitors.
Now Booking 1905.
Address, FRED MORGAN, as above.

NOTTINGHAM.—GRAND THEATRE.
Manager, CHARLES P. COOKE.
Vacant March 13 though transferring.
First-class Attraction only.
Silence a courteous negative.

OLDHAM. — EMPIRE THEATRE.—
The Premier Theatre. Holding Capacity, £200.
Vacant Dates, Easter Week, and several in May and June, for No. 1 Attractions only.
All communications to ERNEST DOTTRIDGE.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—
Managers of First-class Companies are invited to apply for Dates to
Mr THOMAS LUCAS, J.P.,
Managing-Director.
Silence a polite negative.

PLYMOUTH. — GRAND THEATRE. —
Centrally situated in the midst of over 200,000 Inhabitants. The Most Popular Theatre in Plymouth. Playing to Record Business, and now in the Flood Tide of Success. First-class Attractions only.
For Dates, apply, Mr C. F. WILLIAMS,
Grand Theatre, Plymouth.

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Open throughout the Year.
First-class Companies.
Weekly Matinées.

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SEACOMBE. — IRVING THEATRE. —
Required, First-class Attractions,
for March 6, 27, April 3, 10, and onward.
Good Business done here with First-class Companies.
Fast Booking for the Fall, 1905.
Wire or write to JAS. KIERNAN, Manager.

SOUTHEND - ON - SEA. — EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, W. MARLOW.
The Prettiest and most Popular Place of Amusement on the South-east Coast.
All the principal Attractions Booked.
First-class Companies required
for Feb. 14 (Five Nights), 20, 27.
Managers please address all communications to
W. MARLOW, jun., Manager,
as above.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA. — PIER PAVILION.—Under Entirely New Management. Redecorated Throughout. Extra Dressing-rooms added. Electric Light, &c. Now Booking 1905. First-class Companies, Artistes, Bands, &c., communicate to MANAGER.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE OPERA HOUSE and THEATRE ROYAL.
Managing-Director, CHAS. E. MACHIN.
General Manager, PERCIVAL CRAIG.
Only Vacant Dates.
AVENUE.
March 27, May 1, 29, June 5, 12, and on.
ROYAL.
April 17, May 8, 29, June 5, 19, 26.
Managers please note Seaham Harbour is barred.
Apply, C. E. MACHIN, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.
Lessee, CHARLES CAREY.
Vacant, Feb. 27, March 6, 20, and 27. Mr Carey can arrange a Tour of Several Weeks for a Few First-class Companies during the Summer Months; also for really Good Pantomime from Christmas Next.

WALSALL. — HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, THE WALSALL THEATRES Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, W. H. WESTWOOD.—Holds £180. Circle, 3s.; Stalls, 2s.; Family Circle, 2s.; Pit Stalls, 1s. 6d.; Pit, 1s.; Amphitheatre, 9d.; Gallery, 6d. First Vacant Dates, April 10, 17, May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, June 5 and 12.

WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE (ESSEX).—
KING'S THEATRE.

Capital Theatre in High-street.
Seats 600 People.
To Let for Season.

For terms, apply,
Mr H. PADFIELD, Portobello Hotel, Walton-on-Naze.

WEST BROMWICH, THEATRE ROYAL.—Open All the Year Round.
Cosy, Popular, and Prosperous Theatre.

All communications to J. P. MOORE, on the Spot.

WHITBY.—SPA THEATRE.—
Season 1905. The uncertainties attending the Change of Owners being Settled, I am prepared to Book Dates. Will Managers who have written me rewrite?
HY. WALKER.

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"The Era," Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

COMPANIES WANTED.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.

WANTED, Companies for
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
April 24, May 15, June 12, 19, July 10, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 15, 29, June 5, 12.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER
April 10, 17, 24, May 8 (Race Week), 15, 22, June 5, 12, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
March 27, April 17, May 8, 15, Aug. 7, 14, 21.
CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
Vacant, April 24, May 8, 29, June 5, 12, 19, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
April 3, 10, 17, May 22, 29, June 5, 12.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
Vacant,
April 17, 24, May 22, 29, June 12, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Vacant,
Feb. 20 (Three Nights), March 9 (Three Nights), March 27.
April 10, 17, 24, May 4, 22, 29, June 5, 12.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Company,
Feb. 20 (Three Nights), Leamington;
also Easter at Dalston, Reading, Chester, Pontypridd, Northampton, Leamington.
Apply, MILTON BODE, County Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.

WANTED, Important Attractions, for
STANDARD THEATRE,
Vacant Spring, various.
TERRISS THEATRE.
March 6, 20.
METROPOLE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM,
Important Attractions for March 20, April 24.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
Grand Theatre, Newcastle,
Feb. 20 (?), March 13, 20, Onwards.
Olympia Theatre, Newcastle,
Feb. 20, Onwards.
Queen's Theatre, Gateshead,
March 6, On.
Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool,
May 8, On.
Theatre Royal, Stockton,
Feb. 27 On.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Luton now doing excellent Business.
Musical Companies preferred.
Vacant Feb. 23 (Three Nights, Bedford only). Wire.
Weeks Feb. 27, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, and Easter.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Vacant March 2, 9, 23, 30, April 6, and Easter.
Address, E. GRAHAM-FALCON,
County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Feb. 23 (Three Nights), Bedford; Feb 27 (Six Nights), Luton. E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

NEW THEATRE, LOUGHBOROUGH.
One of the Prettiest Theatres in the Provinces. Opened with "Monsieur Beaucaire." Vacant May 15 and 29. Now Booking Autumn.

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.

WANTED, Good Pantomime (First in),
Feb. 13 and 27, Only Vacant Dates this Season.
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Opera House, Londonderry.

ROYALTY THEATRE, LLANELLY.
Booked in Conjunction with the
NEW GRAND THEATRE, ABERAVON.
Railway journey twenty-two miles.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical Attractions Preferred.
Address,
JOHN TULLY, Borough Theatre, Heywood.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr HARDING THOMAS.

WANTED, Good Drama, Vacant April 10 and 17. The Theatre has just been thoroughly Renovated, a Scene Dock added, and a Full Electric Plant (Three Colours) installed. Address, HERBERT VERE.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.

WANTED, First-class Attractions,
March 6, 27, April 10,
and May (with exceptions).
Address, HARRY YORKE.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
Lessee and Manager, Mr STANLEY ROGERS.

WANTED, Companies, April 6 (Three Nights), April 10, onwards, with exceptions.
Address, STANLEY ROGERS, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

QUEEN'S THEATRE,
KEIGHLEY.
Vacant.

WANTED, First-class Musical Attractions,
April 24,
May 8 and 22,
and June 5 and 19.

DUMFRIES and DUNFERMLINE.

WANTED, High-class Companies.
Dumfries, Feb. 16, 17, 18, March 27, April 10.
Dunfermline, March 6, 20, and on. Address, W. E. POTTS,
Dunfermline.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 13, 20, 27, and onwards,
with exceptions.
Now Booking Autumn.
For terms, please address,
P. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Proprietor.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal,
Peterborough, Companies, Feb. 20, 27,
March 6. Three Nights.
A. D. VERNON.

WANTED, First-class Attractions
for March 6.
Apply, Mr ROBERT ARTHUR, 244, Regent-street, S.W.

WANTED, Wanted, Companies,
Theatre Royal, Rugby,
Feb. 23, 24, 25, March 6, 20, 27, April, 10, 17, October, on,
for New Theatre.
A. F. CROSS, Prince of Wales's, Nuneaton.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple Companies, Two Nights. Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple, N. Devon.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies.

EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
Vacant,
Feb. 27, March 13, April 24, May 8.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant,
March 27 (Three Nights), April 3, 24, May 1.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant,
April 17, May 1 (Three Nights), 15, 29, June 5.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant,
Feb. 27, March 6, 13, April 3, 10, 17, 24.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant,
June 19, July 31, Aug. 14, Sept. 4, Oct. 2.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant,
April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 29.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant,
Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 13, 20, April 3, 13 (Three).

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant,
Feb. 6, 13, March 13, 20, 27, April 3.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant,
March 27, April 3, 10, May 1, 8, 15.

KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
Vacant,
Feb. 9 (Three Nights), 16 (Three Nights),
March 20 (Three Nights).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant,
April 3, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant,
Feb. 6 (Three Nights), 13 (Three Nights), 27, March 2?.

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.

All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Manor House, Hayes, Middlesex.

GRAND THEATRE, BRIGHTON.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Big
Dramatic Attraction
for
Feb. 27.

ERNEST CARPENTER.

WANTED, Wanted, Pantomimes.
Wanted, Pantomimes.
Wanted, Pantomimes.
Mr Buchanan is prepared to
Purchase several Pantomime Productions
for next Season.
Full particulars and price to
General Office,
Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

RAMSGATE.
SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE.
Sole Proprietor, Lord GEORGE SANGER.
Manager, HENRY BOWMAN.
Entirely Redecorated. Open all the Year Round.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Feb. 27 (through obliging); also a Few Good Season Dates.
Open for Musical Attractions Only.
Address, HENRY BOWMAN, Manager.

WANTED, First-class Company,
Feb. 27.
Wire,
ELPHINSTONE,
Theatre Royal, Hanley.

MARINA THEATRE, LOWESTOFT.

WANTED, First-class Attraction for Easter.
Unexpectedly Vacant. Address, E. A. SMITH.

WANTED, a Good Attraction for March 13.
SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport.

GRAND THEATRE, SWANSEA.—Lessees and Managers, E. OSWALD BROOKS and J. W. WOODBRIDGE.

WANTED, First-class Companies (no Dramas), for following Dates:—Feb. 16 (Three Nights), March 6, 13, April 10, May 29, June 12, 19, 26; also few good Autumn Dates for No. 1 Attractions only.
Apply, BROOKS and WOODBRIDGE, G. T., Swansea.

VICTORIA THEATRE, WEST STANLEY, DURHAM.

WANTED, Strong Attractions for March 6, 27, April 10, 17, also Easter and Whit Week.
Bookings include "Fatal Wedding," "Silver King," "Power of Gold," "Life's Revenge." Giving First-class Terms to First-class Attractions. Apply, DAVID WILLIAMS, Manager.

WANTED, Big Musical Attractions, April 3, on, with exceptions, Grand Theatres, Chorley and Radcliffe. Address, SANTS, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WANTED, Companies Vacant Feb 16 and 20 (Three Nights each), March 6, and on. Also Easter. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies for Feb. 20, March 6, 13, and intermediates, on. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 1, 8, 29 and June 12 (Whit Week). Can Negotiate for First-class Pantomime for next Christmas.
Applicants please state where Production can be seen.
Address, T. A. EDWARDES.

NEW AVENUE THEATRE, KETTERING.

WANTED, Good Company, Musical Drama or Varieties or Pantomimes, March 20, 27, April 10, May 8, 15, 22, June 12 (Whit Week). FRANK PAYNE.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted Companies,
Prince of Wales's, Nuneaton.
March 13 (to oblige Manager), three Nights, Nuneaton, Three. Rugby, March 20, May and June, with Various Autumn. A. F. CROSS.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL,
LINCOLN.

WANTED, First-class Dramatic Attraction for April 3. Good Musical Shows for June 5 and 12. Also Vacant, Aug. 7, on. Address, FRANK KING.

COMPANIES WANTED.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

Managing Director, Mr R. C. BUCHANAN.
The Leading Northern Theatre Tour.
Capital, £155,000.

WANTED, Wanted, Companies,

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
NEW CENTURY THEATRE, MOTHERWELL.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, AYR.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, LEITH.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.
GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, FALKIRK.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, GREENOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KIRKCALDY.

The Bookings include all the Principal Drama, Musical, and Comedy Attractions.
Important.
Managers doing business with us at New Gaiety Theatre, Leith, please note that Stockbridge is barred. The Tivoli, rechristened "The Grand," is in Stockbridge.

Address all communications to
R. C. BUCHANAN,
General Office, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.
Telegraphic address, "Bookings, Glasgow."

WANTED, First-class Company,
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Vacant April 17.
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH,
Vacant April 17.
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW-CROSS,
Vacant April 10.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT,
4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.
Wire, "Lutanist, London."

MR. F. W. PURCELL'S THEATRES
WANTED, First-class Companies, for the following Dates:—
Marlborough Theatre, N., April 10, 24, May 15;
Alexandra Theatre, N., March 6, 13, May 8, 22;
Theatre Royal, Sheffield, March 6, 27, April 3, 10.
Address, F. W. PURCELL,
Alexandra Theatre, London, N.

Notice.
WANTED, Known, owing to the Suspension of Tour of "The Girl from Bond Street," the following dates are Vacant:—
O. H. HARROGATE, Feb. 20, 21, 22.
COL. T., OLDHAM, March 13.
T. R., BELFAST, March 20.
O. H., BLACKPOOL, March 27.
ST. J. T., MANCHESTER, April 17.
N. T., ABERDARE, May 15.
C. T., WARRINGTON, May 22.
Apply immediately, to the respective Managements; or, to E. O. BROOKS, Co-Lessee, G. T., Swansea.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Proprietors, Messrs CARSON and GRANVILLE
WANTED, Companies, March 13 possibly Vacant. Important Attraction.
Address,
FRED GRANVILLE.

MR MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions,
Star Theatre, Swansea.
March 6, 20, 27, April 10, 24.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

NEW ROYAL THEATRE, KING'S LYNN.
Lessee, J. BANNISTER HOWARD
WANTED, Good Drama, Feb. 10 and 11. Also Companies for Feb. 13 (Three Nights), Feb. 27 (Three Nights), March 2nd (Three Nights) March 27 (Three Nights), April 3rd (Three Nights), and Easter.
Address, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

Easter Vacant. Easter Vacant.
WANTED, Good Companies for Easter at King's Lynn; also Ryde and Ventnor. All Three Best Dates of the Year.
N.B.—The Isle of Wight is always packed with visitors at Easter. Last Easter at Ryde nearly £200 Three Nights.
Address, J. BANNISTER HOWARD, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
WANTED, Companies, March 13, May 29, June 5, and possibly Whit Week.
Terms and Day-Bill to J. H. CURRY, as above.

THEATRE ROYAL, WINDSOR.
WANTED, Big Attractions, Feb. 16 (Three Nights, Drama), 20, March 13, April 10 (Musical).
CONNYNGHAME.

TOWN HALL, WHITLAND, SOUTH WALES.
WANTED, Known, Vacant Dates now being Booked for Dramatic and Variety Companies, &c. Good opportunity, and every convenience Situate Junction, Pembroke, Tenby, Milford, and Cardigan Railways. Apply, PROPRIETOR, Whitland.

THE PIER, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, Companies, Musical Comedy, Comedy, Farce, or High-class Drama, for Feb. 27, March 6, 13 (?), 27 (?) April 17, and various Dates onwards. Will Book Six Nights (or Three Nights in conjunction with Tunbridge Wells when possible). The Pier Theatre is the Leading Place of Entertainment in Eastbourne. Apply, G. HAYES, Manager.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity.
Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Onwards, with exceptions. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

WANTED, Strong Society Play for Special Week.
Miss MAUD MAY, Simonside Hall, South Shields.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
WANTED, April 17, May 1, 8.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 7, Sept. 4.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A DISGRACE TO HER SEX."
WANTED, Important Theatres, Feb. 13, April 24, May 1, 8.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Feb. 13, April 10, May 29.
FREDK MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, March 27, May 22, June 12.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 3, 24, and On, with exceptions.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 10, May 1, 22, 29. Full No. 1 Company. All the Original Scenery and Effects. The Entire Production will be under the Personal Direction of Walter Melville. Address all com., DOUGLAS BRUCE, Standard Theatre, London, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, March 13, May 1, June 12, Aug. 7, 14, on, with exceptions.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

WANTED, Weeks of March 20 and April 24, for the above Powerful Attraction.
Wire, to-day,
KELLY, Theatre Royal, North Shields.
Next week, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, April 24, July 3, on.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Lyceum Theatre, Glasgow, Return, Edinburgh, Two Weeks, to follow.

MR and MRS CHALMERS MACKEY'S TOUR.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
No Vacant Dates until Nov. 20, 1905.
WANTED, Big Theatres Only, then and on.
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool,
Six Nights, Feb. 6.

THEATRES WANTED

Mr BERT COOTE'S COMPANIES.
"THE FATAL WEDDING."
"THE FATAL WEDDING."
"THE FATAL WEDDING."

WANTED, March 20 (Midlands),
Easter Week, April 24,
May 1—15.
Address, CECIL BARTH, General Manager, 150, Oxford-street, London, W.

CARSON, GRANVILLE, and THORNE'S TOUR.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this Gigantic Attraction, August on with exceptions.
Address,
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

MR MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"HONOUR THY FATHER."
Feb. 20, March 13, 20, 27.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Theatres. Only Vacant Spring Dates:—Feb. 13, Feb. 13 (Midlands), Wire; March 27 (North), June 19 and 26 (South).
Summer and Autumn Rapidly Booking.
Best Theatres Only.
New Plant of Printing by Allen.
Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne, Feb. 6.

BEAUDYN and LIVESEY'S PLAYS.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
A New Oriental Play by G. A. De Gray.
WANTED, March 6, 20, 27, April 3, June 12 (?),
"£1,000 REWARD,"
a Grand Revival on an Elaborate Scale,
Wanted, Autumn Dates.
"THE RACE FOR WEALTH,"
a Powerful Modern Play, by H Lonsdale,
Wanted, Various Autumn.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND,"
an Acknowledged Success.
"THE DAYS OF CROMWELL,"
by Chas. Rogers and E. Carter Livesey,

Wanted, January, on, 1906. Address, O. H., Pontypool.

"Miss MISCHIEF."
WANTED Feb. 20 (South), also March 6, and Several Early Spring Dates, on, for
Musical Comedy,
"MISS MISCHIEF,"
by Mr Reginald Bacchus and Dr. F. Osmond Carr,
Composer of "Morocco Bound," "His Excellency," "In Town," &c.
An Acknowledged Success.
Beautifully Staged and Elaborate Dresses.
Everything Carried.
Address all communications, GODFREY LAMPLUGH, to-day, Theatre Royal, Worthing;
next week, Queen's Theatre, Swindon.

LYTTLETON'S "AT WAR WITH THE WORLD."
WANTED, Feb. 13, 27,
to Precede and Follow Margate, March, onwards.
Everything Reliable. Printing waiting.
GEO. LYTTLETON, E., Southend; next, K., Walthamstow.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY,
"WHAT A WOMAN DID."
Sixty-fifth Week of Continuous Successful Tour.
WANTED, Feb. 27 (Vacant through transfer, to oblige W. Morton, Esq., Hull), March 6 (Three Nights), 13 (Midlands), April 10, 17 (must be Large Town), and onwards, with exceptions, including Whit.
WILLIAM A. ARMOUR,
To-day, T. R., Ton-y-Pandy; next, King's, Cardiff.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
WANTED, Weeks of Feb. 27, March 13, 20, for this Really Remarkable High-class Attraction.
A Sterling Play. Splendid Production.
A Strong Company.
J. H. CLYNDES, Opera House, Middlesbrough.

"WHAT BECAME OF MRS RACKET?"
"MY SWEETHEART."
WANTED, Feb. 27, Feb. 27, to follow St. Helens.
March 13, onwards, with exceptions.
STONE, H. M.'s T., Aberdeen.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Wanted, Feb. 20
Address,
J. W. CORDINER,
T. R., Peterborough, Three; K. T., Gainsborough, Three.

MRS BANDMANN-PALMER'S TOUR.
WANTED, Feb. 20 and March 13.
Address, Saturday, Grand, Rawtenstall; Monday, Gaiety, Dublin.

"BETRAYED; or, What Men call Love."
WANTED, March 20, 27, May 1, June 5.
Refer Lester Collingwood, Esq.
CECIL DU GUE, Avenue, Sunderland

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Big Theatre,
March 20, March 20,
to follow Nottingham
and precede Leicester.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, C. T., Pontypridd.

"THE SLEDGE HAMMER," by Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 27. Only Vacancy. W. R. GARROD, T. R., West Bromwich.

"RICH AND POOR OF LONDON."
WANTED, Feb. 13 and 20
Wire, PRESTON, Grand, Walsall Wire.

ALFRED PAUMIER and WALTER HOWARD'S
"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN,"
"UNDER THE RUSSIAN FLAG."
WANTED, Feb. 27, April 3 (South), May 1, on. Now Booking Autumn. ALFRED PAUMIER, to-day, Prince's, Preston; next, R., Dewsbury.

WANTED, Feb 20, to follow Rotherham,
"The Conscript."
Wire, MITCHELL and BELTON, Cambridge T., Spennymoor.

Miss BLANCHE ST. ALBANS and
J. LEICESTER-JACKSON'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Theatres, for May 15, on, precede Queen's, Liverpool.
Apply, J. LEICESTER-JACKSON, Royalty, Morecambe.

"SHADOWS OF A GREAT CITY."
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Feb. 20, Easter onwards.
HARRY FOXWELL, Opera House, Cheltenham.

"SILVER KING" COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, May 1, 8, 15, 29, Sept. 4, 11, Oct. 16, Nov. 13, 20, Dec. 4, 11, 26.
Address,
G. M. POLINI, 93, Penge-road, Anerley, London.

WANTED, for "At Twelve Midnight," March 20, 27, April 3, 10, onwards. Booked at Dublin, Wolverhampton, Pontypridd, Oxford, Windsor, Edmonton, &c. C. CLIFFORD, Theatre Royal, Margate.

MR and MRS F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COMPANIES.
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, Feb. 27 and March 6 for this Great Attraction. All Scenery carried. Racehorses Toured and Paraded Daily with Jockeys. F. G. KIMBERLEY, P. O. W., Nuneaton. Next, Prince's, Bradford (return).

"THE BEST MUST WIN" and
"A STOLEN BIRTHRIGHT."
WANTED, Feb. 6, 13, 27, June 5, 12, and later. Wire for Feb. 13,
CHARLES DRAYCOTT, King's Theatre, Walthamstow.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, April 3rd and 10th
FRED BULMER, Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, Big Theatres,
March 13, April 24, onwards,
to follow Palace T., Newcastle (Production).
Miss Edith Blande in the Title-rôle.
Elaborate Costumes, Magnificent Scenery.
HARRY FOXWELL, Opera House, Cheltenham.

"THE TRAITOR." MESSRS MITCHELSON AND FINEBERG'S Magnificent Production.
WANTED, Wanted, April 24,
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Theatre Royal, Sunderland.

THEATRES WANTED.

"HEART OF A HERO."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 13, June 19, onwards.
Wire, CARSON,
Theatre, Keighley.

"A MODERN ADVENTURESS."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 27, April 10, May 29, and June 5.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 13, 20, and 27, March 13.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"DEFENDING HIS HONOUR."
WANTED, Theatres, March 13 and 20, April 3, 17, and May 1, onwards.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

Mr GEORGE KIRK and Miss MARY NEIL'S COMPANY
"JUDY."
WANTED, Feb. 20, March 20 and April 3.
GEORGE KIRK,
Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Feb. 27 (?), March 13, 20.
Miss Winifred Maude and Company,
"THE SINS OF A CITY,"
by Nita Rae.
This piece was produced July 27, 1903, and has been running continuously ever since.
"THE SINS OF A CITY."
Production equal to any Touring Company of picked artists.
"THE SINS OF A CITY."
Twenty Varieties of specially-cut Printing.
Summer Dates.
Miss Winifred Maude is prepared to negotiate with Managers for Special Three Weeks' Stock Playing.
"The Sins of a City"..... By Nita Rae.
"The Convict"..... By Fred Jarman.
"The Stowaway"..... By Tom Craver.
Each piece a production in itself, with Special Scenery, Special Printing, supported by a First-class Company.
General Manager, Mr VICTOR DU CANE.
Feb. 6, Amphitheatre, Ramsgate.

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
WANTED, Important Theatres for March 13 (?) and April 10, March 13 (?) and April 10. Only Vacant Spring Dates. Other Bookings include: Royalty, Chester; Prince's, Bradford; Grand, Hull; Metropole, Birmingham; Lyceum, Sheffield; Grand, Islington, Rotherhithe, Fulham, &c. H. HOLLISTER, to-day, Star, Liverpool; Monday, King's, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

FRED S. JENNINGS and FLORENCE HARLE Present
"WHY WOMAN SINS,"
by W. P. Sheen and Fred S. Jennings.
One of the Most Successful Dramas ever Toured.
WANTED, March 13, between Portsmouth and Swansea, March 27, April 3, 10, 17, and few Later Dates.
FRED S. JENNINGS,
Ealing Theatre, London, W.

WANTED, for "Life that Kills," Feb. 13, March 6, May 1, and on.
"Grip of the Law," April 24, and on through Summer;
"Bigamy," March 6, and few Spring.
FRED MOULE, Grand Theatre, Rawtenstall.

WANTED, Good Theatres for
James Kiddie's
Colossal Gorgeous Pantomime
"LITTLE CINDERELLA."
Vacant Feb. 27.
"LITTLE ALADDIN."
Vacant March 6.
Address,
THOS EWINTON, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

HARRY FIRTH'S "CINDERELLA" PANTOMIME.
WANTED, through Extension of Tour, owing to enormous success,
Feb. 27, to follow Amphi., Ramsgate;
March 6, 13, South preferred.
Last Week we were Breaking all Records at Mr Transfield's Hippodrome, New Brompton. The Management Delighted, and Offered his First Vacant Date for a Return Visit. This Week, at the New Coliseum, Sheerness, Turning Hundreds away Nightly.
Vacant Feb. 27, March 6, 13, South preferred.
No Dates, write,
HARRY FIRTH, Theatre Royal, Worthing.

WANTED, Big Theatres (Yorks or Midlands), March 6, for Griffin and Drake's record Pantomime, "DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT."
Another Record broken at Darwen last week, Receipts, £340 3s. 11d., made up as follows:—
Monday, £ 9 8s. 9d.; Tuesday, £43 5s. 9½.;
Wednesday, £45 14s. 6d.; Thursday, £58;
Friday, £66 10s.; Saturday (Matinée) £30 6s. 5d.;
Saturday (Night), £76 18s 6d. Total, £340 3s. 11d.
Opened Monday at Chorley. House packed floor to ceiling. Refer Santo. Company of Fifty-four and Seven Specialities Travelled. Managers with March 6 Vacant, wire (to-day), E. C. JAZON, G. Theatre, Chorley; Monday, Court Theatre, Bacup.

WANTED, for Mr. Macowan's "MONSIEUR BEAUCAIRE" COMPANY (NO. 1)
March 6, May 1.
Wire or write,
CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH." Miss FRANCES DELAVAL'S Splendid Co. F. A. Scudamore's Popular Play.
WANTED, Theatres, March 6, and April 24, Aug. 7, and a Few June and Autumn Dates Wire, Sutton-in-Ashfield. Next, P.O.W., Nuneaton.

"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
WANTED, Feb. 27, March 13, 20, April 3. Three Plants Special Printing.
Twenty-seventh Week. Clear Stage only required.
WALTER HOWE,
E., Dundee; next, Grand, Nelson.

The Melodramatic Masterpiece,
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
WANTED, April 3 (to oblige Mr. Favile); also April 17 and 24.
Thanks to Mr Forsdike, Mr Hemming, and other Managers for Offer of Feb. 6.
ROBERT PERRIS,
Palace Theatre, Newcastle.

WANTED, few Good Lancashire Theatres, Autumn, 1905, for the Greatest of all Good Women Plays, "Her Fatal Past." Dubious Managers please refer J. Ormerod, Harris Fineberg, J. Culeen, E. B. Goulden, &c. This Play appeals to the hearts of the Mill Girls of Lancashire and Yorkshire as no other play can, and Record Houses are the result. Coms., T. E. WARD, O. H., Treherbert.

"ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE."
WANTED, March 20, 27, April 3, 10(?), 17, 24, May 8, 29. Booked at West London, Hammersmith, Dublin, Birkenhead, Portsmouth, Ramsgate, Newcastle, Glasgow, &c. C. CLIFFORD, T. R., Margate.

"LA POUPEE."
WANTED, Good Theatres (Midlands), Feb. 20, April 3 and 10.
J. BANNISTER HOWARD, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

THOMAS THORNE and CO.
WANTED, Feb. 20, to Follow Brighton, "Our Boys," or Répertoire. RUSSELL ROSSE, 10, King-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Theatres next Season, for the Mascot Pantomime, "Aladdin."
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN and SIDNEY CROWE'S Success.
"THE WAY OF THE WORLD."
WANTED, Important Theatres.
only, as this is a really Big Production. First Vacant Date Easter, also Whit., August Bank Holiday, and on. MONTAGUE BEAUDYN, to-day, Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool; next, T. R., Ashton-on-Lyne.

THEATRES WANTED.

MESSRS ADDISON BRIGHT AND WALTER MAXWELL'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, for
"LITTLE MARY."
Vacant March 13 (North).
"MERELY MARY ANN."
Vacant March 20 (North).
WALTER MAXWELL,
Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.

MR BARRS' "ALADDIN."
WANTED, Feb. 20 and 27. Specialities include Ada Marjutti, Bernardo, Marti and Julietta, Grapho and Jackson, Empire Quartette. This week, Bromley; next, Greenwich. "East Lynne." Wanted, March 27, April 17, May 1. Miss Oswald and Star Co. Magnificent Reserved Pictorials by Allens, &c.
HERBERT BARRS,
Theatre Royal, Coatbridge, N.B.

WANTED, Good Theatres for Madame Willoughby's Panto., "Babes in the Wood," Feb. 20, 27, March 6 and 13. Complimented by Management, and Second Week here. Wire, J. Arnold, Dramatic and Variety Agent, Hippo., Castleford.

"THE LIGHTNING'S FLASH."
Mr LEONARD ROBSON and first-class COMPANY.
WANTED, Feb. 13 (Three Nights) and Easter. Highly successful week at Queen's, Dublin. Each night's receipts better at Burnley than last visit.
LESLIE VYNER, Theatre Middleton, Lanc.

WANTED, Theatres, with Stage Room and Holding Capacity for what the Public want, a New and Original Attraction, "The Life of a Showman."
Manager Granville says:—
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
Dear Mr Sante,—I am highly satisfied with your production of "The Life of a Showman," and am agreeably surprised to find that it is a good, sound drama, and not a "one-man show" as some might imagine from the title. The circus interest being so cleverly woven into the plot makes the play decidedly novel and attractive. You should make a lot of money with this show, and if your receipts will only keep up to the Queen's average you will. All good luck.
Faithfully yours, FRED GRANVILLE.
Vacant March 20, May 1, and Autumn.
Address, G. T. SANTE, this, Bacup; next, Bilston.

WANTED, Known, Harry Reynolds' Minstrels have a Few Vacant Dates during April and May only. Also open to Good Offer for Easter, Good Theatres, Pier Pavilions, &c. Twenty Minstrel Star Artistes in the most Sparkling, Varied, and Attractive Show before the public. A Real Draw. Return Dates Everywhere. Excellent Pictorials. Tenth Year of Increasing Success. Permanent address, 104, Great Dover-street, London, S.E.

ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for THE BANDMANN-DALLAS TOURS.

TOUR B.
SOUTH AMERICA.
Opening Teatro San Martin, Buenos Ayres, March 15, 1905.

Wanted, for the Bandmann-Dallas Opera Company, numbering Sixty People (under the Personal Direction of Maurice E. Bandmann),
a First-class Comedian
to share Principal Comedy Parts.
A Good Musical Director (Pianist)
Six Pieces carried.
A Brilliant Principal Dancer,
must be in every respect Tip Top
(Salary no object to the Right Applicant).
Ballet of Twenty carried.

TOUR C.
THE EAST.

A First-class Principal Soprano,
to share principal Soprano Rôles.
Must be Young, Pretty, and possess Good Voice.
A Thoroughly Up-to-date Comedian to share Principal Comedy.

A First-class Musical Director (Pianist).

Applicants please state clearly whether applying for Tour B or C.

All Hotel Expenses paid by the Management, therefore all Salaries clear.

Address,
stating lowest terms,
enclosing recent photograph
(with stamped envelope),
giving permanent address,
and
shortest telegraphic address,
to
HENRY J. DALLAS,
Bandmann-Dallas Companies,
Gibraltar,

Please note, letters 1d. ½oz.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, a Good Responsible Gentleman, also Lady and Gentleman for Small Parts and Understudies.
All particulars,
EDMUND TEARLE, Opera House, Dudley.

WANTED, Artistes for Musical Comedy, Town and Tour. Must be Young, of Good Appearance, and Good Voice. Send full particulars to NELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Known—Experienced Actor has Vacancy for Lady and Gentleman (Amateur). Thorough Instruction and Immediate Public Appearance. Premium required. Long Salaried Engagement Address, for Interview, Box 1,034, care of "The Era"

WANTED, Lady or Gentleman wishing to Gain Experience and Introduction to Variety Theatres Communicate, letters only first instance, to W. P., 108, Alderney-street, S.W.

WANTED, a Few very Smart Chorus Ladies for late Spring Engagements. Letters only, AUGUSTUS BINGHAM, 3, Air-street, Piccadilly, W.

"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
WANTED, a bright young Soubrette for Servant's Part in above. Rehearse in London Feb. 20. State experience, lowest terms, &c., to EUGENE BERTRAM, Broadway Theatre, New-cross, S.E.

WANTED, "A Fight for Millions." Aristocratic Old Lady (about 5ft. 5in.), also Child over Fourteen (to look younger). Must be joint. Rehearse Manchester, Feb. 13. Photos., lowest terms, last two references (or no notice taken), ROBERT PERRIS, P. T., Newcastle.

WANTED, Smart Responsible Gentleman (to Sing preferred); also Smart Agent (must dress well). Age, height, last two references, photo., to GRACE WARNER, this, T. R., Goole; next, T. R., Ilkeston.

WANTED, Low Comedian, Well up in Dumb Show. Lowest terms, Letters only. No Callers. MURPHY and LIPTON, 14, Walcot-gardens, London, S.E.

WANTED, Twenty Tall Chorus Ladies for Liverpool Season. Open Feb. 13, Pantomime Lowest terms, &c., HERBERT BARRS, Theatre Royal, Coatbridge, N.B.

WANTED, Known, an opening occurs in well-known Concert Party for a Good Bass and Soprano. Preference given to those who are Accompanists. Splendid opportunity for Experience. Small salary and fares. Full particulars, age, fee expected, photo., &c., T., 101, Springbrook-road, Hither-green

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WANTED, Good-looking Young Ladies as Vocalists, Instrumentalists, and Dancers. Permanent Engagement. Apply, EDWARDS, 173, Bow-road, London, E.

WANTED, a Young and Clever Dancer, for Permanent Engagement, beginning March, for one of the Best Troupes.
Apply, Box 1,093, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Dramatic Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

ARTISTES' WANTS.

To Managers of Hotels, &c.
WANTED, by Select Ladies' Quartette or Quintette, Engagement. Apply, D. C., 20, Streatham-place, Brixton.

WANTED, for the H. and S. Quartette, Contracts, Home or Abroad. Free Monday. Music, Acrobats. Gardeners' Arms, North Shields.

WANTED, Known, Hopton, Taylor, Hilton, Refined Humorous Recital, Dramatic Sketch, and Musical Artists, Booking for Piers and Pavilions. TAYLOR, 10, Coop-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, in Musical Comedy or Comic Opera, by Lady of Good Appearance, with Strong Well-trained Mezzo-soprano Voice. Would Pay Moderate Premium to Good-class Company. Write, Box 81, care of 54, New Oxford-street, W.C.

PANTOMIME ARTISTES WANTED.

JAMES KIDDIE'S PANTOMIMES.
WANTED, Comedian, for Dame; also Ugly Sister.
Full particulars, lowest terms, references to JAMES KIDDIE, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

WANTED, Principals and Quartette of Dancers, for Easter Pantomime. Photos., terms and particulars, to Brooks, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury, avenue, W.

WANTED, for Pantomime, Artistes, All Lines. Principal Boys, Girls, Comedians Free for 1905-6, Invited to communicate with us, with particulars and terms. We are Negotiating with First-class Theatres only. Say where to be seen during the next Few Weeks.
Address, Geo. Aytoun's Agency,
21, Wilson-road, Camberwell, London, S.E.
Wires, "Antics, London."
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Established Eighteen Years.

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WANTED, Contracts for Scenery of every Description. Good, Effective, Cheap. DAVIS TURNER, Scenic Artist, 4, Devon-street, Liverpool.

MISCELLANEOUS.

HURRY'S RESTAURANT, KING'S-CROSS, N.
WANTED, Known, always pleased to see Old Friends, New Friends, their Friends, or Anybody's Friend.
Yours always,
HARRY PARADISE.
Noted for Wm. Younger's Celebrated Ales.

WANTED, Gent. for Business Management, Musical Comedy. Tour Booked. Lowest terms. Must invest small Capital. Address, MAURICE LOVE, Athenæum, Maryport.

WANTED, Young Gentleman to Learn Duties of Acting-Managment and Play Small Part. Apply, CRANSTON and DENCH, King's Theatre, Nottingham.

WANTED, Experienced Property Master, to combine Duties of Bill-Inspector.
Apply, with references, Theatre Royal, Darlington.

WANTED, An Inspector. Lowest terms, full particulars, references. Apply, MANAGER, Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Edward S. Michel, Lessee of the Assembly Rooms, Bath, formerly Manager Alexandra Palace, Brighton Aquarium, &c., is open to undertake the Management of any Summer Place of Amusement with his usual energetic and hustling methods. The Man who can Double Receipts Anywhere. Would Rent, or Share, or Remuneration Dependent on Results. Address, 10, London-street, Paddington, W.

WANTED, Known, Alfred Levison at Liberty, Management, Advance, Ring-Master, or Trustworthy Situation, Halls, Theatres, Circuses, Piers, Gardens, &c. A conscientious hard worker. Now with Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh. Address, care of NICOL, 19, Murieston-crescent, Dalry-road, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Experienced Business Manager and Acknowledged Leading Actress are Open for Engagement and Investment in First-class Tour at home or abroad. Box 1,101, "The Era" Office, Wellington-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, Situation as Stage-Manager by Practical Man, not afraid of work. Ten years' experience. For terms and references address, H. WILSON, Fir Bank, Berkswell, near Coventry.

WANTED, Business or Acting Management in First-class Theatre. Highest references. Twelve Years' Experience. J. HAGUE, 15, Belgrave-crescent, Eccles.

WANTED, Engagement, as Acting-Manager in Music Hall or Variety Theatre. Thoroughly understands running the Two Houses a Night System. A genuine worker, courteous, and reliable. Used to control of Large Staff. Write, Box 1,132, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Authors, Managers, to Know that Well-known and Popular Composer is at Liberty to Compose and Orchestrate Comic Operas, Musical Play, or Burlesque. Highest London and Provincial Press Opinions. Box 1,077, care of "The Era" Office.

Give me Good Printing and Success is Certain.
WANTED, Known, Jas. Ashworth, the Live Agent, Vacant Monday next. Concluded Engagement with W. T. Rushbury. Address, P.O., Milliom. Open for Bill-Inspectorship.

WANTED, Situation, in Town, Country, or Tour, by a Practical Master Carpenter. Thorough Bench-hand. Late Master Carpenter, T. R., Plymouth; P. O. W. T., Birmingham; Duke of York's, Adelphi, and Garrick Theatres, London. Address, S. J. KESSELL, 62, Swinton-street, Gray's Inn-road, London.

WANTED, Engagement by Practical Carpenter (own Tools). Reliable. Open to all offers. Height, 6ft. 1in. F. STONE, 6 Basinghall-st, Tunbridge Wells.

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WANTED, Situation, for Well-educated Youth, aged nineteen, in hall, office, or any capacity. F., 229, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Situation as Working Housekeeper, professional lady or gentleman. Good plain cook. Excellent needlewoman. A. B., 1, Prima-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Known, Respectable Married Couple require Situation in any good Theatre or Music Hall. Age, thirty-six, thirty-seven. No encumbrance. Life-long experience. Highest references. GEORGE PITCHER, 29, Padiham-road, Burnley, Lancashire.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, for Monday, Feb. 6, Smart Conductor; Business, Twice Nightly, Variety. Also for Bury, Feb. 13, Double Bass (Variety). Apply, stating terms, &c., to PERCY B. BROADHEAD, Hippo., Manchester.

WANTED, Violin, to Combine Cornet or Harmonium, Permanent Engagement to Steady Man. State age, lowest terms, to BERT BOWDEN, Manager Eliza Tiller's Marionettes, New Inn-yard, Witney, Oxon.

WANTED, Euphonium (Good) for Town Band (Pitching). Permanent. Shares.
F. PHILLIPS, Market-place, Southend-on-Sea.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, DUNDEE.
WANTED, a 'Cello Player (Good), Immediately. Permanent Engagement to Competent Man. Apply, with terms, &c., H. E. LOSELY, Musical-Director.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, 'Cello Player, for Palace, Leicester. Apply, stating names and addresses for references and salary required, to CSWALD STELL, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

OPERA HOUSE, PORTH.

WANTED, Good Orchestral Pianist. Preference given to one who combines Violin. Apply, lowest terms and reference (open Feb. 13, permanency). POOLE.

WANTED, Pianist (Good). One do Turn, Piano Preferred. MANAGER, Robert's Pictures, Philharmonic Hall, Southampton.

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WANTED, Military Band of about Sixteen or Twenty Performers for Broadstairs, July-September, Ten to Twelve Weeks. Apply, ARTHUR HOLT, Broadstairs.

WANTED, Lady Instrumentalist and Vocalist. Instruments preferred, Violin and Mandoline. Must be young and good figure. Box 1,126, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Novelty Band, with Drawing and Attractive Powers, for Exhibition Week, commencing March 20, including One Sacred Concert, March 26, with or without Vocalist or other Speciality. Indifferent or Mediocre Bands don't reply. Address, lowest inclusive terms, HAGUE, Spa Gardens, Limited, Bridlington.

WANTED, Musicians for the Alhambra Palace, Morecambe, ten days Easter, seven days Whitsuntide, Nine Weeks' Season commencing July 10. FRANK B. BEARD, 101, Balsall-heath-road, Birmingham.

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WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS

WANTED, Known, T. A. Hannavy, Conductor, Duchess Palace, Balham, Dis. Feb. 4. Offers invited as Conductor or Conductor-Pianist for good Music Hall or Theatre (London or Suburbs). Highest refs. Reason of being disengaged with my entire orchestra owing to closing of Royal, Holborn. 106, Tredegar-road, Bow, E.

WANTED, as Bandmaster or Cornet, Engagement. Any Business. Circus or Touring Company. Could supply Good Band. Just terminating at Agricultural Hall. COOK, 9 Cloudesley-place, London, N.

WANTED, by Pianist-Conductor, First-class Summer Engagement. Highest references. Address, J. DE GABRIELE, T. R., Dunfermline, N.B.

WANTED, by Violin, Piano, Cornet, Double Bass, combine Solo Slide Trombone (Family), Engagement. Well experienced, Opera, Drama, variety. Wire or write, CONDUCTOR, 43, Rothes-road, Dorking, Surrey.

WANTED, by Violinist (First-class), Engagement, Leader or First Violin, in London. Young. B., 38, Wilmington-square, Rosebery-avenue.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement. Any Business. A. CHAPMAN, 23, Woodseeker-road, New-cross, S.E.

WANTED, by Violinist or Leader (First-class), Summer Engagement. Box 1,118, care of "The Era"

WANTED, by First Violinist (Experienced), Permanent Engagement as Conductor or Leader. Address, Box 1,119, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Second Violinist, Re-engagement. C. W. MARSHALL, Grand Theatre, Croydon.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement. Well Experienced. Highest references. A. KUHN, 93, Aylmer-road, Shepherd's-bush London, W.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement in Orchestra to Play Solos. High-class Repertoire. Experienced. B., 67, St. Agnes-place, Kennington-park, London.

WANTED, by Cornet, Violin, and Arranger, Engagement. Now at Liberty. A. C. JONES 24, West Stewart-street Greenock, N.B.

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement. Any Business Good references S. CLAYSON, 126, High-street, Margate.

WANTED, by Clarionet, Engagement, Hotel, Theatre, or any Business References, Address, CLARIONET, 21, Corporation-rd, Bournemouth.

WANTED, by String Bass, French Horn, Second Cornet (Experienced), Engagement. Just left Army. Good references. Mr WAY, Sailors' Welcome, Queen-street, Portsea.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Solo or Orchestra, Engagement, February, on. Address, JACQUES MILLS, Kursaal, St. Leonards-on-Sea

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WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement. Competent. Good references C., 18, Hill Top-mount, Roundhay-road, Leeds.

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WANTED, by Viola (First-class), Permanent Engagement. Address, Box 1,120, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, by Lady 'Cellist and Vocalist Combined), Engagements in Quartettes or Bands. Would Deputise. Experienced. References. Box 1,123, care of "The Era."

WANTED, as 'Cellist, Engagement by Young Man, Slight Experience. Double Handed, any Capacity. Apply. Box No. 1,121, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Cellist (Experienced), Solo and Orchestral, at Liberty for Easter. Whitsuntide, and Summer Season. Box 1,129, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, Suitable for Little Girl on 'Cello. Mr CASSELLS, 35, Granville-square, King's-cross-road.

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WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, for Theatre or Variety. Can Open at once Good refs. HARRY CHAMBERLAIN, Palace T., Grimsby.

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagement. Fourteen Years' Experience, Variety, Drama Business. Quick reader, good refs., steady, reliable, any business, any distance. PIANIST, 16, Yeoman-street, Skelton-in-Cleveland.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

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WANTED, by Pianiste, Immediate Engagement. Quick Sight Reader. MS. Arranger; Accompanist. KATE THORNTON, 7, Church-st, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, by Double Drummer (Good) with Effects, Engagement from Circus to Music Hall. COOKE, 60, Ashburner-street, Bolton, Lancs.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, with Effects, Engagement. Theatre or Music Hall. F. M'CROHAN, 31, De Laune-street, Kennington-park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, by Double Drummer and Effects (Experienced), Engagement. Any business. E. MORGAN, 57, Camden-street, Camden-town, London.

WANTED, Known, to Directors, Managers, Committees, &c., that the Famous Old British Guards Band is open for High-class Summer Business, Seaside Engagement, or Exhibition Work. Enormous success last summer, Bradford Exhibition, &c., and at the Palace Pier, Brighton, where it was the most successful Band, succeeding late Lieut. Dan Godfrey. The Old British Guards Band, popularly known as "The Old Guards," numbers from Fifteen to Fifty, is the only genuine ex-Guards Band in England, and the most representative one of Great Britain. Every Member guaranteed late of crack Guards Bands. The Finest Band out of Army. Can be heard at N.S.L. Concerts. Latest Music. Most Popular Programmes. Smart, Handsome Uniforms. Everything to draw public and ensure great success. Conductor holds many Public and Official Testimonials. A. HOLMES-DALLIMORE, Dorville-crescent, Ravenscourt-park, W.

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WANTED, Known, the Original Blue Austrian Band open to Good Offers. CONDUCTOR, 53, Philpot-street, Stepney, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Chas. Blaker's Famous Orchestra, Ladies and Gents. Highest testimonials. Satisfaction guaranteed. Address, Garden Cottage, Broad-street, Cambridge.

WANTED, by the Loyal Westminster Band (Thirty-one Professional Musicians), Engagements. Conductor, Mr O. H. CARTER, 32, Tenison-st., London, S.E.

WANTED, by Caledonian Orchestra, Engagement for Summer Season. A Superior Combination of Ladies and Gentlemen. Decided Novelty. For particulars apply, Box 1,133, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, the Victoria Ladies' Quartette, Open to Easter and Summer Engagements. Miss ADELA SUTCLIFFE, 50, Osnaburg-st., Regent's-park.

WANTED, Seaside Engagement for Moderate Sized Orchestra, Dancing or Selections. H. MITCHELL, Conductor 2, Newburn-road, Bradford.

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"Littlehampton."

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KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS, BOLTON.
WANTED at Once, the Greatest Stars in England, Big Novelties and Startling Sensations in all Lines; also useful Circus Artistes. A Big Turn write for Feb 13. Bigger the better. Anything that can Follow the Marvellous Howards, who have been a great Success.
Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's Grand Circus, Bolton.

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WANTED, First-class Circus Acts for Whit Week and onwards; also Good Tops and Bottoms of Bill for Grand Theatre, Doncaster, for March 6, May 8, June 5, 19, and 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31.

Call for Monday, 10 o'clock.
Phil Herman, Marie Yorke, Wilfrid, the Dooleys, Dan Noble, Ladies' Quartette, U. C. Ugo, Revill Hall, Empire Bioscope, and Madame Louie

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for April 1, 1905, on, Long Engagements, Equestrian Families, with or without own Horses. Only Big Numbers need apply. Send photos. and conditions, Mr SIDNEY, Cirque Hollandais, 23, Rue Trois Frères, Paris. Humel Family requested to write.

HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS OF VARIETIES, DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.
Directors, C. H. POWELL and F. J. CONNOR.
WANTED, Known, Communications Invited from Artistes in the Equestrian and Variety Profession for the Forthcoming Summer Season, commencing in July. Box 1,127, care of "The Era" Office.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE.
WANTED, for Feb 13, and on, Specialities of Every Descriptions. Artistes please state if they have played Carlisle before, when, and where. Address, C. ALGIE.

GRAND CIRCUS, STOCKPORT.
WANTED, for Feb. 13 and Onwards, Talent of Every Description. Say if New to Stockport. Communications to DAVENPORT, Circus, Stockport.

WANTED, for Powell's Hippodrome, Auckland-road, Cambridge, Good Clown and Agouste, to open Monday. Wire lowest terms. Also Good Useful People, Feb. 13, 1905.

WANTED, for Galas, Easter, also Gala Season, Acrobats, Cyclists, Comedians, Gymnasts, and Novelties. T. Wood, Caterer, Easton, Bristol.

WANTED, Whitsuntide, Aerial and Ground Specialities in all Lines. No Act too Big. Memos, Lithos. Gannon, Agent, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, for Galas, June, July, and August, Troupe of Trick Cyclists, High Rope Act, Performing Animals, Gymnasts, and anything suitable for Outdoor Performance. Forward specimen Litho., lowest terms, to W. F. JURY, 49, Peckham-park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Cirque Pinder, First-class Cycling Act, for Touring Season, commence Feb. 24. Address, PINDER, Montaubon, France.

WANTED, a Good Comic Acrobat Young and Reliable. State all in letter to Box 1,124, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Horizontal Bar Performer. State Tricks and salary required. E. D., Gymnast, Circus of Varieties, Bury.

WANTED, Antipodean, Expert at Standing on his Head (Boy, Sixteen to Seventeen). Apply, 35, Whitcomb-street, W.C.

WANTED, Girl or Boy, Fourteen, for Acrobatic Business. Those who wrote write again. Last Address. TOM HALL, Tivoli, Glasgow.

CIRCUS ARTISTES WANTED

WANTED, Sober and Reliable Groom, with Breeches and Boots. A German Groom preferred. Reply, CABAN, Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, Circus Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED Known, Miss Ella's Best Existing Lion Show (no Rival) Vacant March 6, 13, 20, and April 3. London preferred. For particulars, apply, Feb. 6, Bow Palace, Bow; 13th, Palace of Varieties, Croydon.

WANTED, Known. Miss Wynema and Carl's Sketch, "Jungle and Ice," including Songs, Reptiles, Den of Wolves, and Marvellous Rifle Shots. Own Scenery, Lithos. Vacant Monday. Permanent address, 81, Campbell-street, High Shields, South Shields. Good Agent Wanted.

WANTED, Known, Mrs Dudley Smith, with her mare, "Dainty Lass," winner of 243 prizes, in Novelty Leaping Act. Cannot be copied. At Liberty for Stage or Ring. Agents please note, and apply to Ohmy's Circus, Bolton.

WANTED, Known, the R. Yelding's Equestrians Finish their Second Successful Engagement at the Royal Agricultural Hall, London, Saturday, Feb. 4. Liberty, from Feb 6, with a Number of First-class Acts. Turns to Suit Stage or Ring, with one of the Finest Broken Horses in the Business; also First-class Wire Show, and the Animated Football. Address, YELDING, 61, Liverpool-road, Islington, N.

WANTED, Offers, Two Dominos, Pierrots and Donkey. Comic Act. Different to all other Donkeys, never makes an Ass of himself. On the nod. Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Little Valdo, the famous Clown and Comedian, Disengaged for a Few Weeks from Monday next. Now appearing with phenomenal success, and received with a roof-lifting reception nightly—a common occurrence. Circus, Stockport.

WANTED, Known, Little Paddy, the Popular Clown, Sixth Week, King Ohmy's Circus, Bolton, at Liberty Feb. 13. Good Entrées including my Bantam Cocks, &c. Address, Circus, Bolton.

WANTED, Known, Sunshine and Shadow, the Greatest of all Clowns, Hengler's, Glasgow, until further notice.

WANTED.—Neddy Vokes, Continental Musical Comedian, Talking, Knockabout Clown, Open for Tenting. Address, Hippo., Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, the Maros, Comedy Three Bars Performers. Monday, Hippodrome Barrow-in-Furness. Liberty Feb. 13, 20. Coms., as above.

WANTED, Known, Onda and Artell, Gymnastic Pot-Pourri Act, at Liberty Feb. 6 and 13. Wire, Hipprodrome, Accrington.

WANTED, Feb. 6 and 13, Mayeno Trio, Two Ladies, One Gent, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Wire, Knockabout Clown, Up-to-Date Entrées. Wire, Olympia, Sunderland, till Sunday; after, the Sands, Carlisle.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte, Smartest of all Lady and Gentleman Gymnastic Pot-pourri Acts. Free Feb. 13, 20. Address, Palace, Aberdare, Wales.

WANTED, Known, the Three Leonards, Triple Bars, Acrobatic Chairs Act, Hand-to-Hand Balancing; also Comic Clowns, with entrées. Finish To-night, with Great Success, Ohmy's, Bolton. Monday, Circus, Cambridge. At Liberty Feb. 20.

WANTED, Known, Seltina Troupe, Lady and Gentlemen Acrobats (Seven in Number) also Bros. Lenett, Vaulting Act, Vacant for Monday. Gaiety, Oldham.

WANTED, Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27, 1905. After this no Vacancy till 1906, return from America, for John Fredericks Troupe, Champion Strength, Statue Pictures, Acrobats, on a Revolving Apparatus. A New Act, and Head and Hand Balancers. Three Ladies, Two Gentlemen. Wire for Feb. 6. Address, 108, Lambeth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Feb. 6, 13, by Mdlle. De Vena. Unique Lady Juggler. Wire, Hippodrome, Bury.

WANTED, Known, Alice Fontainbleau and Great Troupe of Trick and Leaping Dogs, also Speciality Rolling Globe Act and Thoroughbred Liberty Horse. Marquis of Granby Hotel, Lincoln.

WANTED, Known, to the Highest Bidder, at Liberty for Tenting, Joe Hastings, the Famous Jumper, Ringmaster, and Orator. Appearance combined with unexampled Talent. J. Lloyd writes:—Dear Hastings,—Many thanks for the way you pushed my business. I shall be glad to engage you again at any time.—J. LLOYD, Commercial Hotel, Ballymena. Joe Hastings, the Literary Man of the Circus World. Gipsy Shows with German Bands save stamps. Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Engagement by Eccentric Acrobats as good Tumbler, Catcher, and Second Men. Apply at once, STOKER, 21, Greek-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Dates, for Electric Lighting Plant; also Water Carnival, Produced Speciality, Portable Electric Light Plant for Sale or Contract. Wire, for Hippodromes, Circuses, Shows, &c., REYNOLDS, near Coton, Cambs.

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ABERDEEN and DUNDEE PALACE VARIETY THEATRES.
Booked in Conjunction with Plymouth, Bristol, and Sunderland.
WANTED, Artistes Engaged to forward Bill Matter Two clear Weeks in advance. Always Vacancies for Star Turns. ERNEST SHELDON, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Variety Artistes of Every Description. Immediate Dates for Suitable Numbers. Only High-class Acts Represented. J. Tysoe-Smith, 15A, Oxford-street, Manchester. Telegraphic Address. 'Engagement, Manchester.'

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, to Open Albert Hall, Jarrow, March 6, on. Good Cinematograph Turn write. THOMPSON, 72, High-street East, Wallesend

WANTED, Variety Artistes, all Lines, Monday next, onwards, doing Double and Single Turns. Wire for Monday. MANAGER, Hippo., Castleford.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Combinations, Novelties, Pierrots' Shows (in and outdoor) Stalls, Shies, Swings, Roundabouts, World's Fair, June 5 till October. MANAGER, Hippodrome and Grounds, Llandudno.

WANTED, Variety Artistes, all Lines, Novelties for present and future dates. Lowest terms, Vacant Dates, &c., G. YATES, 29, Newington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Immediate and Future Dates. Lessee and Manager, WM. MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, Suitable for Carnival. State lowest price, silence polite negative, RICHARDSON BROS., Limited, Olympia, Sunderland.

WANTED, First-class Artists, Performances and Aerial Shows; also Ballet Troupes, June 12, July 3, 10, Aug. 7, 1905. Apply, Sample Lithos, Posters, &c., to W. and J. WILDER, 29, Gt. Francis-st., Birmingham.

WANTED, Artistes, Single and Double Turns, Feb. 27, March 13, 27. Lowest terms, two weeks, CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin. Good Novelty Wanted for March.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Star Artistes, Serios, Comedians, immediate and onwards. Harry Burns's Agency, London, Hartlepool, and Manchester. Telegrams, "Burns, Empress." Telephone, 0231. Call, Monday, 1·0 p.m., Empress, Hartlepool. Fred Harcourt, Lillith, Lillian Warren, Jack Pleasants, Donatos, Edie Endon, Speeks and Thorne, Burns' Bioscope. Call, Monday, Tivoli, Shields. Tom Lloyd, Hector and Paulus, Sydney Lee, Tom Berrick, &c. (Signed) HARRY BURNS.

HIPPODROME, STOKE-ON-TRENT; PALACE, DERBY; HIPPODROME, GRIMSBY; PALACE, ATTERCLIFFE.
WANTED, Artistes, and Startling Attractions, in All Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. All particulars to T. ALLAN EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

YARMOUTH and LOWESTOFT HIPPODROMES.
All correspondence concerning above places, address, GEO GILBERT, The Old Hall, Reedham, Norfolk.

WANTED, Artistes, for Easter Week, onwards.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager, H. L. SKIVINGTON.
WANTED, Comedy Star Artistes, for Immediate Dates. Nothing too Big.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Feb. 6, onwards, for Liverpool, Ashton, St. Helens, and Warrington. F. WILLMOT, Haymarket Music Hall, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines for Scotch Concerts and Music Halls; also Good Combinations for Britannia, Glasgow, for Feb. 6 and 13. JAMES ANDERSON and SON, 6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-class Artistes for Fêtes and Galas, Easter, onwards. Terms, Tarras send address, EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, from now, on. Apply, Mr SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists all Lines. Must be Big Acts. Apply, Willie Benn, Variety Agent, Empire, Burnley.

WANTED, Artistes, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small sketch Companies, Feb. 13 and 20. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest, Hall small

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes, all Lines. Big Specialities, Feb. 13, onwards, for Manchester, Dewsbury, Coventry, Rochdale, Carlisle, Bury, Oldham, Brighton, Swansea, Bolton, Belfast, Birmingham, &c Terms, Bookings, EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. Telegrams, "Stebbings, Manchester."

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Feb. 13 and 20, near Cardiff Address, WILL ONDA, Kenwyn Villa, Penwortham Preston.

HIPPODROME, MACCLESFIELD.
Lessee and Manager, Mr HARRY BENDON.
WANTED, Artistes, Feb. 13th and on Good Combinations write. HARRY BENDON.

WANTED, Artistes, All Lines, Monday Next, Feb. 6, Pentre, S Wales. Wire, till Saturday night, Coliseum, Brighton; after, Pentre.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, Big Acts on Share or Salary, Feb. 13 and 20. Address, HUGH DEMPSEY, Corn Exchange, Boston, Lincs.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, for Feb. 13, onward. Any Good Drawing Novelty write at once. TOM PRICHARD, Empire Palace, Dudley.

THE PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, ABERDARE.
WANTED, Feb. 13, onward, Artistes of Every Description. Good Comedy Numbers, Knockabouts, Comedians, Serios, and Specialities can be booked Lowest terms. Hall very small. WILL GREGORY, General Manager.

H. Burrows Smith's Variety Agency, 65, Claverton-street, Pimlico, London.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Music-hall Artistes.

WANTED, Star Artistes, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, Morecambe. Late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c Telegrams, "Value, Morecambe." Now travelling, but letters next week to Morecambe, as usual.

WANTED, Artistes, of Every Description, for Scotland and the North. Geo. Saphrini, Variety Agent, 5, King-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artistes of Every Description. Good Comedy Acts for Feb. 13, 20, North, and Top of the Bill for March 20, 27. The Bigger the better. Can always place Good Turns known to me. Send in List of Bookings and Lowest Terms. Artistes who have immediate weeks at liberty please send address for the next two weeks to WALTER BENTLEY, 169, Stamford-street, London, S.E. 'Phone, 12,706 Central. P.S.—Will the following artistes please communicate:—The Two Eltons, Drew and Alders, Paul Courtney, Marie Weston, Fee Lung, Learto and Dog, Tony Iveson. Contracts Await Them.

WANTED, Star Artistes, Feb 20, and onward, Comedians, Comedienne, Comedy Quartettes, Sketches, Novelties, Specialities, Sisters, Acrobats, &c. Anything that can draw. No Artistes too big. Money no object Good Tops and Bottoms. Must be Artistes, refined, well dressed. Agents invited to send Weekly List. Lowest terms, permanent address, lithos., &c. Address, F. YATES, Manager, Regent Theatre Co, Limited, Cross-lane, Salford, Manchester.

HIPPODROME, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, the following Artistes to Attend Rehearsal, Monday, Feb. 6, at 2 0 o'clock, viz.:—J. W. Hall, Poole and Poole, D. W. Watson, Sisters Terry, A. P. Boswell, Wragg and Wragg, Payne's Bio-Photoscope, and Lew Wells. All communications to GEO. S. DOUGLASS, General Manager. Secretary, WALTER EMMETT, Hippodrome Company.

BRITANNIA MUSIC HALL, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Known, all Artistes Holding Contracts through my late manager, George Saphrini, should communicate with Subscriber to have same countersigned, otherwise they are null and void. JAMES ANDERSON, Lessee.

M'Askeil's Travelling Variety Agency.
WANTED, Clients to Notify Fresh Bookings. 120, Roker-avenue, Sunderland.

WANTED, Feb. 13, 20, 27, Stars in All Lines. Stars in All Liner. Full up for Smaller Items. State Towns at Liberty for. Can fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks. Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Big Stars and Novel Acts, Nothing Too Big. All Artistes on my Book keep me Posted. Send bookings and terms, with permanent address, to Fred Neiman, Alexandra Hotel, Bradford. Sole Agent for Deer Family of North American Indians.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, and Specialities, Feb. 6, 13, onwards. State Lowest Terms, Bookings, &c. I can Place You. Jess Verno's Agency, 61, West Derby-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2,076 Royal. Representative, Mr Jesse Burton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for February, March, and all Dates through Summer of 1905, Star Turns, Tops of Bills, all the Finest and Biggest Acts Required, Price no object, for Manchester, Salford, Ashton, Bury, Preston, Liverpool, Oldham, Rochdale, Blackpool, Morecambe, Barrow, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Belfast, Dublin, Newcastle, Hull, Leeds, Brighton, Bristol, Birmingham, Bolton, Middlesbrough, &c. New and Novel Acts can have Six Months' Solid Engagements. Send immediately. Terms, Photos, Lithos., &c., to Will Sley, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester. Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester." Telephone, 09,144 Manchester.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin, All the Greatest Stars in the Profession. Acts New in Dublin for the above, the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland. Direct or through Agents. All communications to Will Sley, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester. Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester." Telephone, 09,144.

Armstrong's Agency.
WANTED, First-class Turns for Immediate Dates. All Artistes holding Contracts for Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow, please communicate at once to Barney Armstrong or S. King Alexander, Armstrong's Agency, Under the Direction of Bernard Armstrong (Barney's Nephew), 353, Bath-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Musical Turn, Novelty Act, or Good Variety Turns, also Ten Window-Billers. Open Monday. ROBERTS, Philharmonic Hall, Southampton.

SAMUELS' EXHIBITION PALACE, 6, HENRY-STREET, DUBLIN.
WANTED, Known, always Vacancies for Reliable Double and Single Turns, &c. Good Novelty can Open at once. Absolute lowest in first letters. Artistes known to me write. GEORGE HARCOURT

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and particulars to Brooks, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Star Turns in all Lines, for Feb. 13, 20, 27, and on. Fred Durham's Agency. Telephone, 15 Brixton. 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, Star Turns for Every Hall of Note in the United Kingdom. Pacey and Reeves, 186, Brixton-road, S.W. Pacey and Reeves. 'Phone, 87 Brixton. Pacey and Reeves. Telegrams "Parthenon, London."

WANTED, Star Turns and Good Comedy Acts, Jan. 30, onwards; also Artistes in all Lines. Send full list of dates, litho., terms, and full particulars to Harry Day's Variety Agency, Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, W.C. Telephone, 6,915, Gerrard. Telegrams, "Terpsichore, London." No connection with any other firm.

WANTED, Several Good Turns, for March 6 and 20, and April and May, and all Descriptions of Artistes for August and Forward Dates. Address, General Manager, GEORGE WELDON, Hippodrome and Circus Varietes, Foundry-st., Dewsbury.

WANTED, Star and Variety Turns of Every Description, open Two Nights East Dulwich, Feb. 18, 20. Terms must be low. MANAGER, 52, Landells-road, East Dulwich, S.E.

THE GLASGOW SYNDICATE HALLS.
TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S VARIETY THEATRES, GLASGOW.
One Performance Nightly at both Houses.
WANTED, Strong Comedy Acts of all Kinds, Good Singing Turns, Sensational Novelties, and Brilliant Stars for Tops, Feb. 13, and onwards. All Artists holding Contracts with Colquhoun and Armstrong should communicate at once. Future Bookings can be made for One Week Only at a time, and only those Turns capable of Working both Theatres the same night can be entertained. Bill Matter Two Weeks in advance is imperative. S. KING ALEXANDER, General Manager, Head Office, Tivoli Palace Theatre, Glasgow.

AMERICA. AMERICA. AMERICA.
WANTED, Big Feature Acts. Lithos., Photos., Terms, Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
WANTED, through disappointment, Monday next, Big Attraction. Salary or Share; also couple of Useful Turns. Artistes in all Lines communicate for Feb. 13 onwards. All communications to TAYLOR, Tywica House, Pontypridd.

Furneaux's Fêtes Thirty-third Year.
WANTED, Specialities and Novelties for above. Send Pictorials and Terms J. H. FURNEAUX, the Royal Windsor Castle Diamond Jubilee Caterer, 40, Thorpe-road, Forest-gate.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted Proprietors, Managers, and Artistes to please Note that Sydney B. Smith, late of 7, St. Ambrose-grove, Liverpool, has Removed to 34, Cleveland-mansions, Brixton-road, London, S.W., where all communications should be addressed. Performers of Every Description Required for Immediate and Future Dates. All Turns not Booked London write in immediately, with Full List of Bookings and Absolute Lowest Terms. Sidney B. Smith, Variety Agent, 34, Cleveland-mansions, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, Comic Sketch Company, able to do Single Turns. Four weeks. Lowest terms, DAVID REID, Britannia Varieties, Glasgow.

WANTED, Tall Ladies for Music Hall Scena; also Good Acrobatic Dancers. Apply, 2 0 to 4·0, to-day (Saturday), 3, Percy-street, Tottenham-court-road.

WANTED, Tall, Refined Actor for Comedy Dude, in Music Hall Sketch. Prefer Singer. Comfortable shop to right man. Photo. and refs. first letter, PRO., 39, Union-passage, Birmingham.

WANTED, Smart Knockabout Patterer for Sketch. Apply, lowest terms, S. S., 106, Wilcox-road, South Lambeth, London.

WANTED, at Once, Scotch Piper, with Own Pipes and Highland Costume. Send lowest terms to Benson's Hall, Grimsby.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, for the Coventry Hippodrome,
Variety Talent of Every Description
for Present and Future Dates,
Big Stars and Novelties.
Nothing too big.

Apply with terms
to
T. M. SYLVESTER,
Hippodrome, Coventry.

Call, Coventry Hippodrome, Monday, Feb. 6, at 10 o'clock, for George Gilbey, the Waldons, the Maples, Fredrico's Dogs, Johnny Bowman, Lynn, the Cladics, May Oliver, Mountford and Ellis.

Wanted, for the New Hippodrome, Maidstone,
the Best of Talent
in Every Branch
of the Variety Profession.
Big Novelties,
Specialities,
Attractions with Drawing Powers.
All must be of the Best
and Absolutely New to Maidstone.
Good Musical Conductor
to supply
Orchestra of Twelve Performers,
Stage - Manager,
Window Biller,
and
General Staff.
All to open
early in March.

Apply,
with terms,
to
T. M. SYLVESTER,
Hippodrome,
Coventry.

Wanted,
all whom it may concern,
to Know
that the Undersigned are unanimous in
Thanking
Mr T. Sylvester, Manager of the Coventry Hippodrome,
for the courtesy and consideration shown
during this week's most comfortable engagement.
We consider this notice Privileged, in view of the various
statements made to us as to his management.
Signed,
DR. CARL HERRMAN,
CHAS. WOODWARD,
JOHNNY WORMAN,
THE THREE BOSTONIANS,
THE LADIES' COMEDY QUARTETTE,
PHIL HERMAN,
MAY YOUNG,
JACKLEY TRIO.
Jan. 28.

WANTED, Hypnotic Subjects (Genuine),
Good Cataleptic Subject also write, for Tour.
Apply, MANAGER, 28, Orchard-street, Lincoln.

WANTED, First-class Cinématograph
Operator. Used to Arc and Lime.
Must have excellent references.
Address, Box 646,
London Press Exchange, Limited, 15, Strand, W.C.

The H. H. Hamilton's Excursions.
WANTED, Several Picture Workers, only
Men used to Advertising in the Daytime need write, men used to Working Effects, &c., with Panorama, will be preferred; but Respectability and Sobriety are indispensable. H. F. STIRLING, General Manager, Curzon Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Flo Atkins, World's
Champion Lady Concertinist and Expert Mandolinist. This Week, Hippodrome, Macclesfield. Feb. 6, Tivoli. To Follow, Belfast and Cork. Vacant March 6 Address, 40, Chadwick-street, West Gordon, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Miss Madge Roberts,
Characteristic Comedienne and Dancer, at Liberty Feb. 6. Big Success, Paddington Music Hall, Liverpool. Wire, 38, William Henry-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Quinton Gibson wishes
to Thank all who helped to make his Benefit a record one (acknowledged the largest audience ever seen in the Hippodrome, hundreds being unable to gain admission), and to Specially thank Artistes and Townsmen for Handsome Presents—a gold watch beautifully inscribed, large claw diamond ring, silver cigar case, silver fish-carvers, and scores of wires and letters of good wishes.
Expect to open another place shortly.
All communications to permanent address,
Tivoli House, Scarborough.

WANTED, by Carl Verdi, the Musical
Marvel (vide press, The Era), Monday next; also the 13th and 27th. Managers in want of a successful and up-to-date act wire 174, Blackburn-road, Accrington.

WANTED, Monday next and Later,
Chevalier Crowther, Champion Skater and Expert Swordsman. Two Acts. Wire, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Monday next, also 13th and
20th, by the Never-Fail Comedian'
J. H. KAVANAGH. Wire, Hippodrome, Accrington.

WANTED, Known, H. Bryant, Eccentric
Negro Comedian and Baritone Vocalist. Lib., One Week, Monday Next. Clifford wire. Address, 13, Churchroad, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Gilbert Serony,
Comedian, 6ft., is the finest Heavy Man in Sketches you can find. Refer E. H. Williams, Esq., "Merrie Men," Rhyl.

WANTED, Known, Bandoni, the Original
Concertina King, Wants Feb. 7-27. Wire, care of MITCHELL, 115, Main-st., Anderston, Glasgow.

WANTED, by Phil Barry, Comedian,
Vocalist, Dates Feb 6 and 13.
Wire, 41, St. Mary's-square, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED.—Picitt, the Muscular Master of
Manacles, Handcuff Marvel, without Faked Fetters or Trick Boxes. Searched from Head to Feet at any moment during my Act. Conjurors' methods impossible. Touring Scotland, under the Management of Mr G. Walker, for Twelve Weeks, and drawing Record Houses Everywhere. Vacant April 10; also open Dates May and June, for Ring, Stage, or Piers. Also a few odd days for Leading Galas only. Big Sensational Top of Bill Act.
All communications care of
ROYAL IMPERIAL PICTURES Co.,
567, George-street, Aberdeen, to be forwarded.
Splendid Lithos.

WANTED.—Kardoc, the Handcuff King,
Feb. 20, on, with exceptions. Startling Lithos, Large Photo. Block, Police Certificates, &c. See Card.

WANTED, Feb. 6 and 13, by Frank
Hilbert, who has been Causing Great Excitement and Drawing Packed Houses in London and the Provinces with his Exposure of Handcuff and Trunk Mysteries. I am the Originator of this Act, and have never been Connected with any other Handcuff Manipulator. Only above Dates Vacant. Rebooked Moss Tour. Fully Booked until September.
Wire, 65, Maclise-flats, Westminster, London.

WANTED, Immediate Dates for Juvenile
Military Spectacle, "Russo and Japan War." Everything First-class. CLARKE, Westminster Music Hall, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagements, Conjuring, Second
Sight, and Cinematograph. Three Distinct Turns. Now Booking Piers, &c. Artistes write in for my Walton Pier Pavilion Season. Six Weeks from July 24.
Prof. LENTON, 15, Grange-terrace, Wood-green, N.

WANTED, Known, the Man in Red is
Deputising this week for Zutka at the Pavilion, Glasgow. See Card. Wieland's Agency.

WANTED, Dates for Piers, Pavilions,
Galas, for Professor Retene's Royal Combination, "Mirth, Magic, and Mystery." "Our Happy Family," Ventriloquial show, and Punch and Judy. Three good Turns. Open for Whit or Easter. Address, RETENE, 4, Devon-street, Liverpool.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, the Knotts (Alf and
Will), Liberty Feb. 6 on. Incomparable Patterologists, with a Rattling, Lively, Up-to-the-times Act, Sometimes Original, Frequently Funny. Often we "go" Big and Sneak Encores. Singles, including Good Vent. Show, if Wanted. Managers, dare you try our act? We Travel an Ambulance for your sakes. 12, St. Mary-street, Ilkeston.

WANTED, by Dan Idle and Lillie Barring-
ton, Feb. 6 and 13. Finish To-night Sixth Year with J. Restall's "Cinderella," King's Theatre, Cardiff.

WANTED, by Phillips and Terry, Monday
next, Feb. 13, and 20, through misunderstanding. Wire or write, 50A, Hambalt-road, Clapham.

WANTED, March 20, by the Two Daniels,
Negroes, Stilt, Spades, Bones, Clog, and Big Boot Experts. Theatre Royal, Darwen.

WANTED, by Demi and Demi, Musical
Act, Jan. 13 and 20.
This, People's, Portsmouth; next, Standard, Pimlico.

WANTED, Feb. 6, Lead and Lead, Comedy
Duettists. Thank G. Moore, Esq., offer, Return, Hippodrome, Castleford. 21, Belgrave-street, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Oscardo and Albert,
Illuminated Grecian Gladiators, want Feb. 6, 13, 20. New. Wire, 15, New Hampton-road, W., Wolverhampton.

WANTED, by Chant and Chant, Comedy
Vocalists and Patterers, Feb. 13, 20, 27.
Scotland or North. Wire, Arcade Theatre, Stirling.

WANTED, by Sandy and Carl,
Monday, Feb. 6, through Change of Date.
Wire, Hippo., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, by the St. Johns, Comedy
Musical and Dancing Turn. A reliable success everywhere. Feb. 13 and 27. Hippodrome, Barrow.

WANTED, March 20, by the Two Daniels,
Original Negro Character, Laughable High Stilt Duettists, Theatre Royal, Darwen.

WANTED, Monday next, by Lee and
Arden, Musical Comedy Sketch Artistes.
Wire, 162, Walworth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Monday, by Turle and Turle,
famous Comedy Gymnasts, Two distinct rattling, rollicking, Comic acts, Circus, Panto., or Variety. Big Success, Sure Draw. Hippo. Circus, Stockport. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Comical Walker, Local
Nippers; Mons. Reklaw, Globe Performer, Enormous success, this, Grand, Manchester. Vacant, Monday. Wire.

WANTED.—Tom Hall, and his Tumbling
Toffs and Tippling Terriers. Big success on return, P., Dundee. Complimented by Mr Sheldon, who said: Will be pleased to give you returns when you want. Vacant Feb. 20. Next week, Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Clarke's Nippers
Vacant Feb. 13 through Barring Clause. Wire or write, Pavilion Varieties, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Feb. 13, by Darrell Trio, Variety
Entertainers and Banjo Experts. Big Success, this week, G., Sheffield; next, Gaiety, Birmingham. Wire.

WANTED, Known, the Rushforths and
King Leo, Song Illustrators and Ventriloquist, Two Acts, Lib. 13, 20. Wire, Palace, Camberwell; after, P. H., Worcester.

WANTED, Feb. 20, 27, by the Musical
Japs (Tokio Trio), Grand Novelty Electrical Act. Address, Opera House, Wakefield.

WANTED, Monday; also Feb. 13, by
Billy Rose and Company, Greatest Comedy Act on the Stage. Splendid Lithos. Wire, 30, Morat-st., Brixton.

WANTED, Feb. 20 (Six Weeks), by Grieve,
Practical Ventriloquist. Offers invited. 4, Brooklyn-road, Shepherd's-bush, London, W. The pantomime of "Aladdin," at the Victoria Theatre, has had the additional advantage of Mr Robert Grieve's clever ventriloquial performance this week with a nightly change of his realistic and humorous portrayals.—Neath Gazette, Jan. 14, 1905.

WANTED, by Percival Wright's Vaudeville
Company, Halls, Piers, &c., June, onwards. Eight Star Turns, including Musical Act and Latest Piccures. Salary, Shares or Rental. Care of "The Era."

WANTED, Feb. 6 and 13, Conway and
Garland's Comedy Sketch, "Left in Charge" Really Funny. Refined Singing, Clever Acting. Managers booking direct need have no fear. Proof! Immediately booked after first performance for Broadhead Tour (Seven Weeks). Refer W. B. Broadhead, Esq. Wire, CONWAY and GARLAND, 52, Brunswick-street, Manchester.

"DEFENDING THE COLOURS"
WANTED, Known, Tom Herman's Juvenile
Patriotic Naval and Military Spectacle, always success. Next week, Palace, Derby. Vacant Dates.

WANTED, Feb. 13, for Matt Wilkinson's
Screaming Comedy Act, "The Registry Office." Palace, Atterolliffe, Feb. 6.

WANTED, Feb. 13, 20 (to follow Regent,
Salford), for New Sketch, "A Dressing-room Romance." Address, BRASQUE and DUNCAN, Regent Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, Known, Tatters Troupe, Comic
Novel Military Sketch, "Siberia." Russian Costumes. Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Spangeletti's Comedy
Circus Speciality, including Brown and Spink, Comedians, also Dogs and Pony, Free Feb. 6 and 20.
Wire for Cheap, Good Act, Empire, Dudley.

WANTED, Engagements, "Mystic Kettle,"
latest Experiments; or Animated Photographs. Can Illustrate Songs, Dissolving Effects.
BRANDON MEDLAND, 44, Lorrimore-road, Kennington.

WANTED, Engagement by Experienced
Cinématograph Operator, reliable, excellent references. Box 1,128, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, a Reliable
Cinématograph Operator is prepared to give Single Exhibitions. Electric or Lime, Town or Country. Terms, OPERATOR, Box 1,146, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Bookings for Walter Payne's
Bio-photoscopes. The Best and Latest Pictures. Vacant for Summer Season. Pier or Pavilion. 10,000ft. of Films for Sale. Address, 106, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, Feb. 13, One Week, for
Animated Pictures. Bang Up-to-date
Address, ALBERT SAYERS, Theatre Royal, Rochdale.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED, Known, Electrical Specialities.
SIMPKIN, WILKINSON, and GIBSON,
66, Kirkstall-road, Leeds,
Manufacture Dynamos, Arc Lamps, Switchboards, &c., Specially for Showmen. Also Stock Cable, Globes, Carbons, Incandescents, and Every Requisite.

Tom Taylor and Sons, Launch and Boat Builders, Staines, Middlesex.

WANTED, Known, Contracts Taken for
Running and Supplying Launches (Steam, Electric, and Oil Motor); also Boats of Every Description on Lakes or Artificial Water. Lakes and Artificial Water Rented for Working Electric Launches and Boats of all descriptions at Cheap Fares.
Builders and Workers of Electric Launches at
Earl's Court, Crystal Palace,
Glasgow Exhibition, and Cork Exhibition.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Handsellers to
know Simons is the Man for
Cheap Second-hand Watches and Jewellery.
Send £5 for Special Parcel.

117, Houndsditch, London

WANTED, Auctioneers and Others
to Know
Simons is the Cheapest Place for
Clocks, Bronzes, Field Glasses, and Cheap Jewellery.
Best-class French Paste Stocked for the Profession.
117, Houndsditch.

WANTED, Showmen to Know, Greene and
Co. still Selling Silvermine Butterscotch, with Fortunes, 3s. gross. 104, Belgrave-gate, Leicester.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED, Showmen to Know that Leete's
Colours and Varnishes are the Best and Cheapest in London. Vermilionettes, Permanent Reds, Carmines, Carriage and Copal Varnishes, Gold Leaf, Brushes, &c., and every Decorator's Requisite for Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Carriage Paid on all Orders £2.
Write for price list or call,
Leete's Colour Works, 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

Fire. Fire. Fire.
WANTED, Known.—Have you Insured
with Mr Pope, the Showman's Fire Insurance Man? If not, hurry up, before you have a Fire.
Send Post-card To-day to
F. F. POPE, Abingdon-on-Thames,
who will call on you anywhere.

WANTED, Known, Showmen's Painting,
Switchback, Galloping Horses, Showcloths, Scenery. Good, cheap. DAVIS TURNER, Showmen's Artist, 4, Devonstreet, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen, Shooting
Range Proprietors, &c. Please note.—Send for our New 1905 List. Bang Up to Date. Also particulars of our New Throwing Game, the Bombardment of Port Arthur. Established Fifty Years. STACEY and Co., Showman Stores, Settles-street, London, E.

WANTED, Good Side Show for Exhibition,
Six Days, March 20, 70ft. by 25ft. Must be most Excellent and Attractive Liberal sharing terms. Address full particulars, HAGUE, Spa Gardens, Limited, Bridlington.

WANTED, Side Shows of Magnet Power,
with Window Show, write in for Big Shop in City. Will Valius, Miss Moore, Bear Lady, or Midgets write. Gas on. Letters or telegrams, to open next week J. ESTHER, 101, Bishopsgate Without, London.

WANTED, First-class Shows.
Pickard's American Museum,
Glasgow.

WANTED, for Llandudno Hippodrome and
Palace Grounds, June 5 to October, In and Out-door Shows, Swings, Shies, &c. Shares and Rentals. MANAGER.

WANTED, Novelties, every Description,
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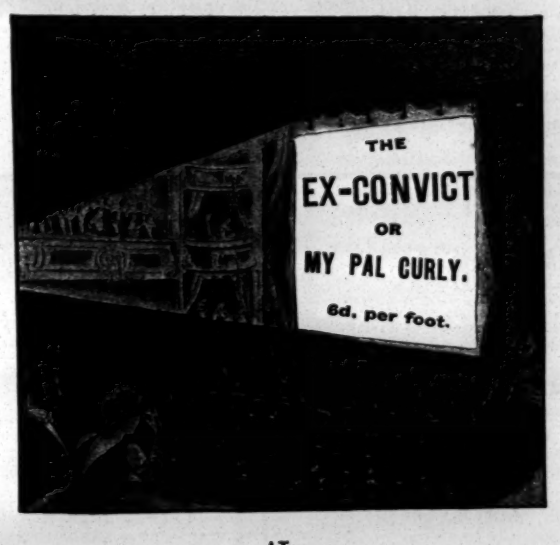

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EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock, for
The Dandies, Lyane and Geks, Tom Edwards, Virto and Irene, M'Phee and Hill, Three Nevarros, Walter Munroe, Lillie Langtry, Four Mac Governs, Carlo and Male.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock, for
Agoust Family, Caledonian Boys, Charles Adams, Edie Veno, Five Olracs, Mueller and Coyne, Prince Kohin, Korries, Two Butterflies, Trapnell Family, Sisters Jonghmanns, Rose Archer.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS

Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock for
Vesta Tilley, Three Victorias, Tom Stuart, Amber Austa, Aurora Troupe, Will Haines, Mark Leslie, George Bohee, Bioscope, Hugh Stanton's Co. in "Bargain Mad."

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PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

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Japanese Guards, Cline and Clark Chas. Cunningham's Co. "V.C.," Fitzroye, Baldwin Bros., Robertus and Wilfredo, Jimmy Shields, Signor and Madame Borelli, Cole De Losse, Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal, at 2·30 o'clock, for
Tilly Bebe, Florrie Gallimore, Daisy Ray, Geoffreys and Benson, Arthur Melrose, Jackson Family, Frazer and Mac, Carl and Mary Ohm, Barney Vox, Loro Quartette.

EMPIRE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal, at 2·0 o'clock, for
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EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal, at 1·30 o'clock, for
Harry Lauder, Daisy Mayer, Clark and Argyle, H. F. Wilson, Burns and Evans, Harry Lawson, Peppo's Monkeys, Little Ulpts, Three Donals, Collins and Rice.

EMPIRE THEATRE, CARDIFF.

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EMPIRE THEATRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal, at 3·0, for
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EMPIRE THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal, at 3·0, for
Bella and Bijou, Syd May, Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, Ike Scott and Son, Clown Zertho, Five Delevines, Alexandra Dagmar, Ada Cerito, Cabby and Shirker, Sisters Klos.

NEW PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.

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Rehearsal, at 1·0, for
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Rehearsal, at 1·0, for
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Rehearsal, at 2·30, for
G. H. Chirgwin, Duncan's Dogs, Newhouse and Ward, Morcaschani, The M'Gregors, Will Mitcham, Maud Ross, Toile D'Araignees, Lily Lena, Wille Bros.

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ALHAMBRA, HULL.

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EMPIRE, BRISTOL.

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PALACE, GLASGOW.

Charles Morritt, Larry Lewis, Iben Obed, Marvelle, Marquis Iton, Blind Man, R. Anderson, Henri Abd, Pictures, Johnny Dane.

TIVOLI, LEEDS.

Jack Haggerty and Wrestlers, Lily Flexmore, Harry Drew, Vaudeville Trio, Melsine, Pichel Troupe, V. J. De Henau, Gus Harris, Mdlle. Aladina, Edith St. Clare, Pictures, the Densmores.

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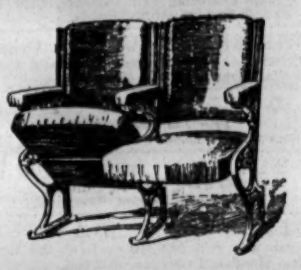

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BEANLAND, CHARLES, Monday next, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent. Exclusive Agent, Harry Day.

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BEST, MR. CHARLES F. as M'Bunker, "The Mountebank," Grand, Hanley.

BICKLEY, HARRY, Principal Comedian, Milton Bode's Company. Opera House, Northampton.

BISHOP and VALE, big hit as Ping and Pong, in "Aladdin" Pantomime. Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.

BLANCHARD, Lion Comique, Lion Comique, the Modern Leybourne.

BLARNEY and KENNARD, Great Success as Jimmy Green and Johnny Stout, "Bo-Peep" Panto., Grand, Hull. Next, Irving T. Seacombe.

BLISS and BLISS, Comedians, Monday, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

BLYTHE, MARIE, Contralto Vocalist. Feb. 6, Foresters'. Agents, S. M. Hyman, Limited.

BOHEMIANS, THE (WILL and MADGE), Musical and Comedy Artists. This, Empire, Swansea. Next, Empire, Newport. G. Foster, 4, Garrick-st.

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BOWMAN, J. D., Anglo-American Humourist and Tricky Dancer. Feb. 6, Hippodrome, Coventry. Vacant Feb. 27, March 6, onwards.

BOYCE, FRANK, Vocal Comedian, just concluded Four Weeks in Scotland. Booked to return. Monday, 6th, T. R., Oldham.

BOYLE, MARCUS, My Bonny Boy, Palace Theatre, Bordesley, Birmingham.

BOYNE, ARTHUR, Britannia Theatre, Hoxton. Communications, Macdermott's Agency.

BRASQUE, ALBERT; CORA DUNCAN, in a New and Refined Episode, "A Dressing-room Romance." Address, Regent Theatre, Salford.

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CAMERON, LOUDOUN, the Celebrated Conjuror, is "aye workin' awa'." Feb. 6, Royal, Oldham. Sley.

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CANDLISH, WILL, Scotch Musical Nigger, Empire, Belfast; next week, Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow.

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CHANT and CHANT (JACK, ALICE). Elgin Courier.—The heartiest applause of the evening went to Chant and Chant. Arcade Theatre, Stirling.

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COOKE, STEVE, Burlesque Comedian. Dame, in "Dick Whittington." Grand Opera House, Burton.

CORNISH, WILL, Unique Musical Act. This, Gaiety, Birmingham; next, Empire, Wolverhampton. Thanks to Oswald Stoll, Esq., for kindness.

COSTELLO, BROTHERS, TWO, Comedy Acrobats and Legmania Artists. At Liberty Monday. Wire, People's Palace, Lake-road, Portsmouth.

COWPER, VERNON, Continued Success as Blueskin, in "Jack Sheppard." Feb. 6, Hippodrome, Salford.

COX, ERNEST H. G., Disengaged. Light Comedy, Musical Comedy, Juveniles. All communications, 8, Darlan-mansions, Fulham, S.W.

CRAY, LITTLE MIKE, Comedy Juggler, and His Acrobatic Dog, Doole. This Week, Empire, Rochdale; Next Week, Gaiety, Oldham.

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CROXON, ARTHUR, Versatile Mimetic Comedian. Vacant Feb. 6, 13. St. George's Hall, Bradford.

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CUTHBERT, MAUD, Serio and Ballad Vocalist. Address, Robini, Theatre Royal, Stockport.

CYCLO, the Swell Bicyclist. Mirth on Wheels. Hippo., Ashton; next, Empire, South Shields.

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DANBYS, THE, the North Pole Explorers. Queen's Theatre, Longton.

DANIELS, THE TWO, as King One Lung and General Hoop de-do-do, "Robinson Crusoe," Theatre Royal, Darwen.

DARDINI, GEO., and his Black Assistant, the Draw and Success of Milton Bode's Pantomime.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE, Australian Trick Cyclists. Monarchs of the Wheel. King's T., Kirkcaldy; next, King's, Kilmarnock.

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DAVIS, ALF, Concludes To-night, Parthenon, Liverpool. Vacant, Feb. 6 and 13. Per. address, 1, Cleveland-street, Mile-end, London.

DAY'S, HARRY, VARIETY AGENCY, Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, W.C. Tel., 6,915, Ger. Tels., "Terpsichore, London."

DAY'S VARIETY AGENCY, 116, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. Always Vacancies for Stars and Specialities.

DAYTON FAMILY. Feb. 6, Gaiety, Birmingham.

DEDIO, Empire, Johannesburg, South Africa.

DE BENAU and MOLLE ALADINA, Extraordinarily Rapid Painter with his Toes, and Wonderful Cockatoos. Address, Tivoli, Leeds

DELAMERE TRIO, the Original Comedy Equilibrists. Feb. 6, Palace, Derby.

DELEVINES, FIVE, New Act "Flirtation." Empire, Nottingham

DEMI and SEMI, Musical Act. This, People's, Portsmouth; next, Standard, Pimlico.

DENBY and DENT, Comedians. Monday, Regent Theatre, Salford, Manchester.

DENHAM, TEDDY, Concludes to-night, Widow Twankey, Alexandra Sheffield. Monday, Hippodrome, Hastings.

DENMARK PAIR (FRED ALLSOP and FLORRIE BECKWITH). Feb. 6, M., Camberwell. Vacant Summer. Al Fresco Business. Offers invited

DENT, BERT, Manager, Barnard's Palace, Greenwich, S.E.

DE ROSE, MDLLE., and J. H. HAWTREY, Principal Boy, Malino. J. Kiddie's "Cinderella," Theatre Royal, Blackburn.

DEVOYE, JAMES, and BILL, his Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Feb. 6, Tivoli, Barrow-in-Furness.

DIGBY, LESLIE, Versatile Comedian and Dancer, Captain Scuttle, "Sinbad." Vacant Monday. Wire, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

DIXON, CHARLEY; KATE LYND, Monday, Feb. 6, Regent Theatre Salford. First Vacancies, April 24, July 24, Nov. 13.

DOBITO and BUXTON, Operatic Duettists. Encored Nightly. Royal, Darlington. Monday, Royal, Leigh.

DOLLY, AGNES and MAUD. Sweet Singing Cardboard Box Makers. Required April 3, 17, and 24 Monday, Palace, Lincoln.

DOME, the Original Comedy Clay Man, South Africa.

DOMINOS, TWO (Clowns), and Donkey, Comic. For Vacant Dates, Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

DOODY and WRIGHT, Feb. 6, Tivoli, Glasgow.

DORMER, DAINTY DAISY, Principal Girl Princess's, Glasgow; Christmas, Principal Girl for Messrs Howard and Wyndham.

DORRETTA, LITTLE, Acrobatic Song and Dance Artist, Touring with C. W. Poole's Royal Myriorama.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH, the Dainty Singing Maiden. Monday, Feb. 6, Palace, Blackpool.

DOVE, MISS ETHEL, Principal Girl "Sinbad the Sailor," Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

DOVER, CLIFFE, Dame, Dottridge and Longden's "Forty Thieves." P. O. W., Grimsby. Funny Songs required.

DRYDEN, CISSIE, Vocal Character Actress. Communications to Fred Higham, York-road, London.

DUCKETT BERTHA, Charming Young Vocalist and Graceful Dancer. Enormous Success. Mon., E., Nottingham. All coms., 11, Arnold-st., L'pool.

DUDLEY, LYDIA, finishes To-night, enormous success, Parthenon, Liverpool. Mon., Camberwell P. Coms. to 30, Walcot-sq., Kennington-rd., S.E.

DUNCAN, Club Manipulator and Juggler; OSWALD, Staircase Performer, Hand Jumper, &c. Monday, Salford Hippodrome.

DUNCAN and MORTON, Comedians. This week, Britannia, Glasgow; next, Hippo., Dewsbury.

DUNMORE, TOM, The Essence of Quaintness. Thanks E. De Vere for Contracts Feb. 6, Empire, Bow.

DUNNING and KAHN and KAHN, Tremendous success everywhere Monday, Empire, Swansea. Coliseum shortly. Stoll Tours 1905-6-7-8.

DURHAM'S, FRED, Variety Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

DU ROCHE, MDLLE., this Week, Sadler's Wells Theatre. Next Week, Feb. 6th, Alhambra, Brighton.

EDNAS, THE, Harmonising Vocalists and Expert Dancers, Scoring Nightly, Babes, Panto. This, New Theatre, Consett; next, Queen's, Farnworth.

ELCOCK, AMY, Comedienne; FLORRIE ST. ROY, Comedienne and Dancer. Monday, H., Eastbourne. Vacant Feb. 13, One Week.

ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast, also LA BELLE TOSCA, Two or Three Acts. Vacant, Feb. 20 and 27. Address, care of P.O., Ton-y-Pandy, S. Wales.

ELLAS, MISS, best existing Lion Show. Feb. 6, Palace, Bow, London.

ELLERSLIE, WILL, FLORRIE BRAY. Wish to Thank Quinton Gibson, Esq., for Comfortable Five Weeks with my Panto. Sketches.

ELLERTON, ALF, Song Writer. Found Guilty by Dunville, Ford, Albert, Mayne, Leamore, Leonards, &c. 19, Pulross-rd., Brixton.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Address, Palace Theatre, Northampton.

ELMO, NINA, Comediennes, Hippodrome, Manchester. Agents, Day's Agency.

ELTONS, TWO, Triple Horizontal Bar Comedians, Smartest Knockabout Act on the Road. Monday, Prince's Theatre, Accrington.

ELVY, ARTHUR, the Popular Vocal Comedian, usual success, Pav., Leicester; next, Grand, Sheffield. Cazman's Agency. Will Alex. Kendal write?

ENGIE and EDGAR, a Musical Absurdity. "Week In, Weeks Out," big hit. Communications, 4, Berwick-st., Manchester.

EPLETT, JESSIE, Character Vocalist, Solo Drummer, and Speciality Dancer, great success, G. T., Islington. Address, 3, Ivy-lane, Hoxton, N.

ERICK, FRED Comedian. On Tour. At Lib. Whit Week, on. First-class Al Fresco. Coms., 428, Liverpool-st., Seedley, nr. Manchester.

ESCALADERS, THREE, Hand Balancers and Double Ladder Experts. Coms., Feb 6 15, Hasford-street, St. James's, Bristol.

ESDALE, BROS., Comedians, Vacant Feb. 13, 27. Look out for New Act. Potter by Keith and Merson. Monday, Haymarket, Liverpool.

EVANS, WILL WILL EVANS. Tel., 165, Richmond.

FAMF, PEGGY. Undoubtedly (as the Referee remarked) the Louie Freear of the future. Monday, Hippodrome, Ashton.

FERRARIS, THE, Modern and Cosmopolitan Dancers. Grand Cirque Nouveau, Belgium.

FIELDING, MISS ANNIE, and MR BERT HULL, "An Officer's Flirtation." Monday, Empire, Middlesbrough.

FIONI'S, JAMES, AGENCY, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." Telephone, 1686 Royal.

FITZROYS, Society Gymnasts. Feb 6, Empire Palace, Hull.

FLORADORA GIRLS Conclude To-night most successful Panto Engagement with F. Mouillot, Esq. Monday, Euston and Metropolitan.

FORD, MISS RAY, Refined Comedienne. This week, Palace, Lancaster; Monday, Palace, Swansea. Belfast and Bury to follow. Vacant Feb. 27.

FORD and HANSON, the American Musical Millionaires. Broadhead's Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne.

FORREST'S, EDGAR, Comedy Company, success, Two Weeks, King's T. of V., Liverpool. Vacant Feb. 13. 9, Gill-st., London-road, Liverpool.

FORTUNE and GRANVILLE Savoy House, 115, Strand, London, W.C. Telegrams, "Waggishly." Telephone, 1,309, Gerrard.

FRANCE and FRANCIS, Comedians and Acrobatic Grotesques, Hippodrome, Dewsbury. Monday, Palace, Cork.

FRANCISCO, Juggler; and MAY MOODIE, Piccolo Soloist, C., Gravesend. Star, Bermondsey. Vac. Feb. 13, 20 and 27. Address, Bermondsey.

FRANKLIN TROUPE, Original, of International Fingers and Expert Dancers, Vacant Feb. 6 and 13. Address, care of "The Era." De Vere.

FRANKS ORIGINAL, Sensational Cyclists and Eccentrics. Panto. Specialty, P., Blackburn. Vacant Feb. 6. Pav., 19, Alexandra road, Manchester.

FREANS, THE, Refined Comedians and Dancers. Big success in Panto. Next week, Theatre Royal, Stockport.

FREDRICKS, CARL, CORDELIA, and YA PYN KEYO FAMILY, Parts and Specialties, "Cinderella" Theatre Royal, Coalbridge.

FREELAND, MR FRANK, Song and Sketch-Writer. "Got to have it." Corn Exchange, Kilmarnock, N.B.

FRENCH'S, GEORGE, TROUPE, and the SNOW FAMILY, on Tour. For Vacant Dates, address, 14, Second-avenue Queen's-park, London, W.

FRIDKIN'S, BORIS, THE Great, Cossack Troupe Opera House, Southport

GANNON, NELLIE, Circus, Rochdale, a Brilliant Success. Monday next, Willmot's Hippo., Ashton-under-Lyne. HARRY WRIGHT ditto.

GELDER, VAN, Humorous Magician; LILLIE BUTLER, Soubrette and Dancer. Complimented. Tivoli, Kidderminster.

GEORGE, WALTER, Musical Sketches (at the Piano), London Pavilion and Collins's. Address, 36, Marquess-road, Canonbury, N.

GERALDOS, THREE JUGGLING Top of the Bill this week, Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne. Next week, Q.P. Hippodrome, Manchester.

GERTRELLA, Dancer-Gymnast. New Act, "In Cupid's Garden." Pantomime, Opera House, Wakefield

GILLIAN, Unique Ventriloquial Humourist. Lyric, Liverpool. Monday, Hippodrome, St. Helens.

GOLD, HARRY, Comedian Successful Song-Scena, "Cloudland" Monday, Feb. 6 Empire, Dover.

GOLDING, R. J., Ventriloquist, and ROMANO, Conjuror. Two Sound Acts. Permanent, 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow, London.

GOLIATH, the Strongest Youth in the World Few Summer Dates Vacant. Re-engaged Panto. 1905-6. Address 6, West Caroline-st., Blackpool.

GRAHAM, ERIC, MILLIE HARRIS, This week, Palace, Croydon. Feb. 6, Gatti's. Regards to Gus Balsiger.

GRANADAS, LOS Electrifying Bounders. Free. 238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

GRANT, JAMES, Enormous Success in Panto. as Scotch Comedian. Address, T. R., Perth. Authors communicate

GRAPHO and JACKSON, Comedians. We are blamed for the success of a record pantomime. Greenwich Theatre, S.E.

GRAY, MR. GEORGE. "The Fighting Parson." Address, care of "The Era" Office.

GREEN, BRUCE, Comedian. Scoring a terrific success as Dame, in Miss Lena Stanton's "Dick Whittington" company. M. T., Hoyland.

GREY and WELFORD, Grotesque Boxing Comedians in their Legitimate and Successful Act, "I'll give you Duck." Next week H. Hulme.

GRIFFIN and MARKS, Great Success as the Acrobatic Cooks "Jack and the Beanstalk," Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.

GROSVENOR SISTERS (THREE), Operatic Vocalists, "Dick Whittington" Pantomime. Booked by Frost Warner. Next Week, T. R., Bacup.

GROVINIS, Hengler's, Glasgow.

HAIG and NOVEL, on Tour. Return to Town, Feb. 20, Granville, London, Middlesex, Palace, Paragon, Canterbury, E., Brixton, to follow.

HALL'S, TOM, Tippling Toffs and Terriers, hit, this, Palace, Dundee. Next, Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow. Open Feb. 20.

HAMPSON BROS., Tremendous Success on the Broadhead Tour and Booked Returns till 1909. Conclude Hip., Bury. Monday, Manchester.

HANDEL and LEE Comedy Instrumentalists, on Tour. Permanent address, 48, Wellclose-view, Leeds.

HANVARR and ANNA LEE, "The Golfer and the Maid," Permanent address, 17, Newlands-st., Everton, Liverpool.

HARCOURT, FRED Liberty Feb 27. See other Advt. Monday next, Empress, Hartlepool.

HARDEEN, Still working, despite bad exposures. Palace, Lincoln.

HARDY, the American Blondin, "King of the High Rope." Address, Niagara Villa, Doggett-road, Catford, London.

HARLAND and ROLLISON Success, Palace, Cork. Vacant March. Address, after Saturday, 18, Springfield, Liverpool.

HARLOW, EMMIE, Second Boy. Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

HARMONY FOUR, THE (F. C. Bergeron, F. M. Barrett, Edw. Hughes, Alex Ferguson). Lyceum, London, until Feb. 27.

HARRIS and WORTH, Assassins of Sorrow. Big success as Bailiffs, "Robinson Crusoe." Thanks for offers T. R., Rotherham.

HART and CO. Dramatic and Variety Agents, 7, Lancaster-house, Ardville-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 116, Brixton.

HARTLEY, FRANK Marvellous Boy Juggler. [Grand, Clapham, Feb 6.

HARVEY, CHARLEY, Principal Comedian, Kiddie's "Cinderella," Vacant March 13; also Panto., 1905-6. Offers invited. Monday, Theatre Royal, Blackburn.

HASTINGS, GEORGE; KITTY GOWER, Descriptive Vocalist, Lightning Character Dancer, Tivoli, Manchester. Offers invited. Agent, Stebbings.

HAYDER'S, MDLLE., Electric Mannikin Theatre, Feb 6, Hippodrome, Liverpool.

HEATH, JACK, Comedian, big success, Vizier Gin-Sling, big success, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

HEATON, GEORGE, Male Impersonator; "OUR GIRLS," Comedienne and Dancer. G., Oldham. Liberty May 1. Offers E., Wrexham.

HEATON, PROF. TED, World's Greatest Diver and Swimmer; and SACHA, the most accomplished Lady Swimmer. Mon., P. Palace, Liverpool.

HENDERSON, FAMOUS, Blind Musical Genius and Concertina Soloist, big hit, Grand T., Bolton. Monday next, Pavilion, Leicester.

HENDERSON and STANLEY QUARTETTE, in their Comedy Acrobatic Musical Act. At Lib. Feb. 20 and on Monday next, T., Cork.

HENRIETTE, the Beautiful Young Vocal and Musical Entertainer, Touring. A charming young musician of exceptional talent.—Manchester Press.

HERALD COMEDY FOUR, Regent Theatre, Salford.

HERBERT, FRED, Premier Topical Vocalist, Hippodrome, Eastbourne R. Warner.

HERMAN, SYD, IVY LENNARD, the Original Hebrew Comedian, Refined Songstress. Thanks J. Kiernan and C. Algie, Esqs., for Contracts.

HILL, BARRY, and LANG, Knockabout Comedians Success, H., Ashton Vacant Feb. 6 and 13. Wire 24, Berwick-st., C.-on-W., Manchester.

HILL and LANE, A New Turn. Feb. 6, People's Palace, Tottenham.

HILL, ROWLAND, Ye Dame, Lyceum Theatre, Crewe.

HILTON, FLORENCE, Male Impersonator. Success James Kiddie's "Dick Whittington" Panto., T. R., Worcester Monday, H. M. T., Walsall.

HILTON and HILTON, Comedy Bar Comedians. This, Hippodrome, Wigan. Feb. 6, Public Hall, Worcester.

HOOK, WALTER W 1,436th Consecutive Show, New Century Pictures. Feb. 6, Temperance Hall, Bolton.

HORTON and LINDER, Comedy Chinese Three-Bar Artistes and Double Clowns. Ninth Week, Hengler's New Cirque Glasgow.

HOUSTON, HENRY, and MDLLE. HELENE RESKE, Presenting Chinese Mysteries, Fifty-fifth Week, H. and F. Poole's No. 1 Myriorama.

HOWARD, PANSY VERE, Vocalist and Dancer. Watch for New Act. Address, "The Era."

HOWARDS, THE (RALPH and NELLIE). Grand, Clapham-junction.

HULA, SISTERS, Vocalists and Expert Dancers, at Liberty March 6 13, on. Address, New Theatre, Aberdare.

HULBERT, Ventriloquist, and DE LIL, Illusionist. Two First-class Acts. For Vacant Dates, apply, Pavilion, Leicester.

HUMBER, FANNIE, Society Entertainer. Court Theatre, Warrington. Feb. 6. Theatre Royal, Longton

HUNTER, G. W., Comedian and Raconteur. Feb 6, Palace, Grimsby.

HURST, W. G., the Wonderful Animal Impersonator, at Liberty for Fêtes and Galas, Flower Shows, &c. Address, Egerton-street, New Brighton.

HUXTER, THREE BROTHERS, resume duties Feb 6 at Lyric, Liverpool. P., 10, Middle-street, Worcester.

HYAM, GEORGE, and NELLIE ROSE, playing Principal Parts in Pardon's Panto., Theatre Royal, Batley; Monday, Miners' Theatre, Ashington.

IMPOSTICARDOS, LES, Continental Posturing, Juggling Act, Liberty Feb. 13, 20. All coms., Sunninghill, Chevening-road, Kensal-rise, W.

IRIS, MISS LILY, Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, Robin Hood. All letters, en route.

JAMES, GEORGE, Comedian, still scoring as Fitzwarren, Miss Lena Stanton's "Dick Whittington" Co. Next week, Metropole T., Hoyland, Yorks.

JAPS MUSICAL, TOKIO TRIO, Vacant Feb. 20, 27. Brilliant and Talented Act. Address, Opera House, Wakefield.

JOHNSON, KID, and MAISIE PELHAM, American Novel Speciality Act, on Broadhead Tour This week, Hip., Preston. Feb. 6, Hulme. Liberty 20th

JOHNSON, T. W., the Dusky Dandy, Success with "Robinson Crusoe" Panto., T. R., Aston; next, O T. Manchester All coms., en route.

JOHNSTON, JOHNNY, the Musical Dandy. Exclusive Agent, George Barclay, 221, Brixton-hill, S.W.

JUDGE, SISTERS, with their Marvellous Performing Cockatoos, Parrots, and Macaws. Feb. 6, Palace, Dundee. The Bird Show par excellence.

JULIAN, big success in my New and Original Act. All coms., 126, Nightingale-road, Hitchin.

KARDOO, the Jail Breaker, concludes To-night, Ton-y-Pandy; next, Col, Sheerness, Return, as successful as ever. See Artists' Wants.

KATHRENA, MISS IDA, great success, "Carnival of Toys." Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

KATOS, THE, Komikal Kidgets, Star, Bermondsey.

KAVADOS, Juggler, big success, Hippodrome, Grimsby; Monday, Empire, Portsmouth.

KAVANAGH, J. H., Comedian, renders some very funny songs.—Accrington Observer. Vacant Monday. Wire, Hippodrome, Accrington.

KERNO, LOUIS, Neat Coon Vocalist and Dancer, conclude Panto., A. Carlton's "Sinbad," Opera House, Cheltenham Palace, Aberdare.

KEENE, BILLY, and JESSIE ADAMS, Comedy Entertainers, in Class Duets. Didcott's Agency, 6, John-street, Adelphi, W.C.

KEITH and MERSON, the Great Comedy Acrobatic Act, conclude T. R., Hull; Monday, T. R., Bury. Laurie Graydon and Fioni.

KENDAL, BEATTIE, Dashing Character Vocalist. The Latest Manchester Success.

KESSLER, MABEL, Soprano Vocalist, Cornet, Post Horn, and Bugle Soloist, Disengaged Monday, Feb. 6. Wires, 11, Frougham-ter., Liverpool.

KIMBERLEY BOYS, this Week, Crystal Palace, The Robbers; next Week, Hippodrome, Norwich, Ourselves.

KLOET, MDLLE., "An Artist's Model." Further Novelties in Preparation. March 6 Vacant, Owing to Theatre Closing. Address, Palace, Glasgow.

KLOOF and RAMSAY, Musical Novelty Duo, Vacant March 6. Thank E. G. Falcon, Esq., re next Pantomime 33, Elgin-crescent, Kensington, W

KNICK-KNACKS, THE (Miss MATTIE CRONIN and HARRY OXBERRY) this, Southampton Feb 6, Alhambra, Brighton.

KYDD and KYDD, Comedians "Jack and Beanstalk," St. James's, Manchester. Monday, Royal, Barnsley. Vacant Feb. 27, One Week.

KYOTO, the Original Comedy Jap, Kyoto; also Miss MAY GERALDINE, Comedienne. Feb. 6, Alhambra, Belfast. See Advert Back Page.

LAKE, LEW, and COMPANY, "Bloomsbury Burglars." Metropole, Manchester.

LA MARA, CHUMMIE, Principal Boy, "Cinderella" Company, Royal Opera House, Wakefield.

LAND, FRED, Big Success. Comedian. City Varieties, Leeds.

LANG, GENTLE BROTHERS. 137, Drakefell-road, Brockley.

LANG, REM, American Society Entertainer, Original Comedy Conjuring Act. Hippodrome, Manchester.

LANTON and LANE, Milton Bode's "Cinderella" Pantomime, County Theatre, Reading.

LAROLA. This week, Hammersmith (Two Return Dates). Monday, the Euston and London, Shoreditch Agent, Geo Barclay and Co

LASSAH, LILLIE. This week, Palace, Greenwich; next week Feb. 6, Theatre Royal, Woolwich.

LAURELS, THE THREE, on the Ping Pong Table. Agents, Papa Brown, Pacey and Reeves. Empire, Shepherd's-bush.

LAURIE, Vocalist and Expert Dancer. "Babes" Pantomime Monday, Q. T., Faramouth. Vacant Feb. 20; also 27; also Pantomime, 1905-6.

LAVELLE, BROS., Quaint Comedy Acrobats, conclude To-night, Tivoli, Dublin. Feb 6, Alhambra, Belfast.

LAYNE, GEORGE, a Great Humorous Singing Comedian with a Big Voice. Three New Songs by Bob Alosco v. Three Big Numbers.

LEA and LOVELL, American Song Illustrators Monday, Haymarket, Liverpool. 15, Albert-square, Clapham Fortune and Granville.

LEANDER, HARRY, Vocal Comedian. "In Old Kentucky," St. James's Theatre, Manchester.

LE BRETON, LILLIE, Graceful Gymnast, greater success than ever, Hippodrome, Macclesfield. Vacant Feb. 6 Wire, Hippo., Macclesfield.

LEE and ARDEN. Friends please refrain from using our Original Gag. "The bridge is broke."

LEE, THE Original THREE SISTERS, Acrobats. Terrific Success, Barnard's, Chatham. Next Week, Collins's Music Hall, Islington, N.

LE FRE, ALBERT, Prince's Theatre, Bristol

LE GRAHAM, THREE SISTERS, Thanks for Offers for America. Enormous Success, Empire, Dudley.

LEIGH, THREE SISTERS, Refined Entertainers. E., Islington. Address, care of Fortune and Granville, 115, Strand, W.C.

LE-MAY, TOM, the Real Musical Clown, W. Hamilton's Excursions, St. Margaret's Hall, Dunfermline, N.B.

LENNOL, MR JACK, the Unconventional Humorist Good Offers Invited. Summer Piers and Spas Letters care of "The Era" Office.

LEON and LEONI, Musical Act, Usual Big Success, Encored Nightly. This, Prince's, Blackburn. Next, T. R., Macclesfield. Require Feb. 27.

LEONS, TWO, and MITZI, Great Success, Empire, Greenock Monday, Empire, Paisley. Also MELITA. And we still get there.

LES CARRES, ENIE, Indisposed. Address, care of "The Era" Office.

LESLIE BROTHERS, Feb. 6, Empire, Belfast. R. Warner.

LESTER, WALTER, Comedian. Big Success, Macnaghten Circuit. Vacant Feb. 13, March 20. This, G., Sheffield; next, P., Bath. Verno.

LEVALLE, WALTER, FOS., Mdlle. LUCRECE, Great Success, Pavilion, Maidenhead. Feb. 6, Col., Sheerness. Thanks Will Sley.

LE WARREN, Ventriloquist, with his Merry Mascots; also SADIE DANA, Coon Vocalist, Tivoli, Kidderminster. Mon., E. Dudley. Lib. Feb 13

LEYBOURNE, GEORGE, General Manager, Alhambra, Sandgate. Artistes communicate, Fred Durham's Agency.

LINTON, the Greatest of all Cable Performers. Big success, Palace, Manchester. Vacant Feb. 20. Address, Hippodrome, Preston.

LISTON, MR. HARRY, MISS LORD LUMLEY, &c., the Royal Entertainers, "Merry Moments" for Concerts, Two Hours. Egyptian Hall.

LITTLE and GOODE (ADA, LUCY), in their Side-splitting Burlesque "Wanted, a Deputy." Big Success. 20, Billiedge-place, Hunslet, Leeds.

LIZZETTE, THE FOUR SISTERS, Lady Acrobats; ELSIE RUBINA, Wire Dancer, on Tour. Theatre, Maesteg, South Wales.

LLOYD'S, FRED, Sketch Combination, Parthenon, Liverpool. Monday, Westminster, Liverpool.

LOGAN, Dainty GRACIE, finishes To-night, usual Success, Tivoli, Dublin. Monday next, Alhambra, Belfast.

LORIMER, JACK, the latest Scotch. Re-engaged Four Years, Palace, London. Exclusive Agents, T. Shaw and Co. See Back Page.

LORRISONS, THE (FRED and LILA), Eccentrics. Queen's, Poplar.

LOTTO, LILO, and OTTO, Trick Cyclists. 2, Lambeth Palace-road, S.E.

LOUIF, MADAME, the Original, Starring, Opera House, York. Next (Return), Grand, Doncaster.

LOVELACES, THE, Only Real Irish Song Illustrators, and the best. This, Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh. Next, Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough.

LUCAS, MR. and MRS. EDWARD H., in "Scenes from Dickens." Vacant Feb. 6 13, and 20. This, Hippo., Brighton. Fortune and Granville.

LUMIERE'S, ELECTRICAL FAIRY GROTTO. Usual hit, Tivoli, Leeds. Monday (Eighth Return), E., Bristol. Second Visit in Seven Weeks.

LYNCH, AGNESE and ARTHUR, with American Picture Songs. Westminster, Liverpool; Monday, Palace, Belfast.

LYNDON, BEATTIE, Comedienne and Dancer, concludes To-night, T., Barrow-in-Furness. Monday next, Collins's.

MACK, JULIAN, the Up-to-date Doomsday Book. All communications, Jas. Fioni, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

MACS, THE NEW Palace Theatre, 10.20 Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MALCOLM, FRED, as Arthur, in Miss Kate Carney's New Episode, "Our Laundry." Metropolitan and Paragon.

MALCOLM, GEORGE, Comedian and Dancer, with Miss Kate Carney's New Production, "Our Laundry." Met. and Paragon.

MALONE and CONLEY, Hasarac and Hasaric, Third Year, F. J. Little's "Forty Thieves." Next, Theatre, Kilmarnock. Liberty Feb 20.

MALVA, J. H, Ventriloquist and Master Mimic, concludes To-night, Pavilion, Southport. Next week, Empire, Wrexham. Liberty Feb 13

MARJUTTI, ADA, the Flexible Venus; MARTI and JULIETTA, on Tour, Barrs' Pantomime. Greenwich Theatre, London, S.E.

MARNEY, LILY, Gaiety, Birmingham.

MAROS, THE, Three Bar Comedians. Two of the Funniest Next, Hippodrome, Barrow. Liberty Feb. 13, 20. Address, above.

MARTINETTES, ONLY THREE, Knockabout Comedians, Liberty end of Feb. Third Successful Season, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

MARTINO, The Man Frog. An Artistic Performance. Free Feb. 13. Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

MARTINO'S Great Levitation Act, NITA, the Hypnotised and Suspended Maiden. At Liberty Monday and on. People's Palace, Portsmouth.

MARTIN, MISS HELEN, Feb 6, Empire, Swansea. Agent, Fred Higham.

M'ASKELL, Comic Talking Conjuror, First Vacancy, March 13. 120, Roker-avenue, Sunderland.

MAXFORD, DAN. Mons Sardou and Marie Rivers, waiting to hear from you. 102, Rusholme-road, Manchester.

MAXWELL and FRANCES. TOM and (his Daughter) VIRGINIA. Feb. 6, Empire, Middlesbrough.

MAYE, PERCY, Resumed Business Jan 30, Palace, Lancaster. Thanks all friends for inquiries. Monday, Pier Pavilion, Southport (Return).

MAYNALL, ALF. Pantomime, "Puss in Boots," Theatre Royal, Dublin.

MAYNE, ALICIA, Australian Dramatic Songstress, with Beautifully Coloured Photo-Illustrations. 12 Dovermans, Brixton.

MAYNE, ERNIE, The Simpleton. Grand Theatre, Bolton.

MAYNE, VERA, Feb. 6, Osborne Theatre, Manchester. One of the most successful Principal Boys before the public.—Vide Press.

MAYO, JOE (the Black M.P.), Lancashire's Favourite Collier Lad (Original and Copyright). Book this Turn. Carman-street, Ardwick, Manchester.

M'CANN'S Famous Performing Irish Terriers and Champion Leaping Dogs, Vacant Feb '13. Address, Palace Varieties, Aberdare, S. Wales.

MELDON, IRENE, Comedienne and Dancer, Empire, Islington. Address, 10, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W.

MERRY, MISS FLO, Paroness, in "Cinderella." Thanks Miss Ella Dean for permission to Sing her Song. Monday, O. H., Radcliffe.

MESSER, G. F., The Enterprise, Coldharbour-lane, Camberwell, S.E. H. O. C. Meetings Every Sunday, 8.30.

M'FALL, JOHN E, Gardeners' Arms, 10, Market-street, and 5, Manse-lane, Greenock. Opposite Empire Theatre. "The Era," &c., kept

MILSTED, MISS EMMIE, as Saucee, the Dainty Coloured Maid, in J. Kiddie's "Aladdin." Feb. 6, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

MILTON'S MARIONETTES. Address, Arthur Milton, the Marionette King, Post-office, Northampton.

M'KAYS, THE, Middlesex and Granville Monday, Palace, Bradford.

M'KENZIE, JACK, and MAY, Natural Comedians of the A 1 Class. Resting after Panto. Grand Hotel, Langley Moor, Durham.

M'NEIL, DAVE, Versatile Comedian This week, Grand, Stockton; next, Pier Pavilion, Southport. Fioni, Liverpool

MOHAMED, DUSE, the Egyptian Actor-Author, in his Own Costume Sketch, "The Jew's Revenge." See Advertisement.

MONTAGUE, LEO, Laughter-Lifter. En route Malta to Gibraltar.

MONTGOMERY, ALFRED, Up-to-date Entertainment Provider, 51, Cornwallis-road, Upper Holloway, London, N.

MOORE, DOLLY, Miniature Male Impersonator, the Child Wonder. For dates, address, Hare and Hounds, Witton, Birmingham.

MORELI, MISS DAISY, Enormous Success, Principal Boy, Milton-Rays'. Monday, Prince's Theatre, Accrington.

MORRIS, HARRY, Character Comedian and Mimic. Big Success, T. R., Oldham; Monday next Vacant. Wire "Engagement."

MORRIS, J. C., Quaint Comedian and Patterer, City Varieties, Leeds. Feb. 6, Empire, South Shields.

MORTIMER, MAUDE, Originality, Prince. In the enormously successful Pantomime "Cinderella," Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

MOZZETTO, Prince of Boy Jugglers. Will A. Smart and S. Rands communicate? P., Liverpool.

MUELLER and COYNE. This Week, Empire, Dublin; Next Week, Empire, Liverpool.

MUIR and BARTLETT. Again a tremendous Hit both at the Royal and Granville. Monday, Palace, Camberwell.

MUNROE, MR. WALTER, "What you love about an Irishman," Empire Theatre, Sheffield.

MURRAY, LESLIE H., Magician and Card Manipulator. Palace, Blackburn; next, Pier Pavilion, Southport.

MURRAY, LOUIS. Anticipation portends disappointment. Monday, Palace, Blackburn.

MYERS, CLEM, Comedian and Raconteur. Address, care of "The Era" Office.

MYERS, ERNIE, and LILY LONSDALE, Messrs Dottridge and Longden's "Forty Thieves." Principal Girl and Comedian. P. O. W. T., Grimsby.

MYSTERIOUS MAN IN RED, Deputising this week for Zatka at the Pavilion, Glasgow. Wieland's Agency. See Wanted Page.

NEIMAN'S FRED, Ventriloquial Minstrels. Empire, Bradford.

NELSON and THOMAS, "On the Ra-Ta." Enormous Success, Livermore Tour. Monday, Granville, Walham-green.

NEWHAM and LATIMAR, in their Own New Répertoire, on Tour. Address, "The Era" Office.

NEW YORK QUARTETTE, THE Original (FLO, DOT, DAISY, MIRIAM). Feb. 6, Theatre, Hereford, in Comedy.

NOBLE, DAN, Comedian; and MARIE YORKE, Comedienne, conclude big hit, Six Songs Nightly, Hippo., Ipswich. Next, Grand T., Doncaster.

NORTH, J. W., Comedian. The Man with the Green Socks. Permanent Address, 100, Hartington-street, Moss-side, Manchester.

NOTE, R. C., Popular Comedian; DAISY DEVONPORT, Comedienne and Dancer. P., Portsmouth. Thanks Fred Durham for contracts.

OAKDENE, Novelty Ventriloquist. Gorgeous Electrical Setting. Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough; next, "Aladdin" Panto., P. T., Altrincham

OBO, BROTHERS, Laughing Comedians. Continued success with J. Walters' "Robinson Crusoe." Theatre Royal, Darwen, Lancs.

O'CONNOR and BRADY Simple Simon and Johnny Stout, Seventh Week, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

ODELL, CHARLES, Comedian and Dancer; Miss TINA PADLEY, Serio and Balladist. Permanent address, 206, Bamford-road, Heywood.

OLGA, MDLLE., the Dainty Gymnast. At Liberty Feb. 13 and 20. Wire or write, Palace, Bath. Next, Grand, Sheffield.

OLIVE TRIO. Please address all communications Miss Kittie Olive, Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

OLIVER, DR. J. C., The King of Scientific Wonder-workers; also Mdlle. JANETTA, the Tricky Jap. Liberty March, on. 76, Gallowgate Glasgow.

ONDA and ARTELL, Gymnastic Pot-Pourri Act, at Liberty Feb. 6 and 13. Wire, Hippodrome, Accrington

ONDA and LEON, Conversational Gymnasts, Permanent address, 24, Brook-street, Preston.

OSBORNE, CHARLIE, the Author, Composer, and Light Comedian. 54, Fortess-road, London, N.W.

OSMOND, MADGE, Dainty Young Male Impersonator, Big Success, Panto Tour. The Coliseum, Sheerness; next, Theatre Royal, Worthing.

OWEN, TOM, the Original Welsh Comedian This Week, Opera House, Southport. J. F. Elliston's "Cinderella." Next Week, Grand, Bolton.

PACEY and REEVES' AGENCY, 186, Brixton-road, S.W. 'Phone, 87 Brixton. Telegrams, "Parthenon, London."

PACKER, TOM, 75in. of Clean Comedy. Hippodrome, Cambridge. F. Higham.

PALMERS, MUSICAL. Monday next, Hippodrome, Norwich. Very big success this Week, Palace, Derby.

PARR and GRAVETTA, in their Great Double Pot-pourri Speciality, Hamilton's Excursions, Dundee.

PATTERSON TROUPE, THE, Sensational Gymnasts, will shortly appear in England.

PAYNE'S, WALTER, Bio-Photoscopes. Always Vacancies. Films for Sale. For dates and terms apply, 106, Brixton-road, S.W.

PEARCE and WARD, Comedy Couple. This week, New P., Aberdare. Monday, Hippo., Perth. Offer invited for March.

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PERRYS, THE Happy (JOE and GRACIE), a Bit of the Best of Everything. First Vacancy Oct. 9. Coms., 10, Cornwallis-st., Liverpool.

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PLANTS, THE TWO, Vocal Musical Act, Liberty Feb. 6, Great Success. This, E., Shildon. Next, Witton Park, Co. Durham. Offers invited.

POLLARD, BROS., and KITTY GREY. FRED, the Popular Parodist, Palace, Croydon. Vacant Feb 27, March 13 and 20.

POOLE, DAVID, Novelty Ventriloquist. This week Top of Bill, Palace, Lancaster. Next week, Argyle, Birkenhead.

POOLE, SISTERS (ADA and LETTA), on Tour. Permanent, 29, King-street, Hull.

POOLE and POOLE (THOMAS and FLORENCE) Monday, Hippodrome, Wakefield. Vacant Feb. 27.

PRIMAVESI, Unique Juggler. Monday, Palace, Croydon. Booked through Bawn's Agency.

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MR. W. H. GARBOIS,
as Ellis Jordan, "A Wife's Triumph" Co. Theatre Royal, Coatbridge.

MR. W. V. GARROD,
Lead, "The Sledge-Hammer."
Grand Theatre, Plymouth.

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Good Offer Invited.
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MR. DOUGLAS GERRARD,
Lancelot (Lead), in "Merely Mary Ann."
Address, Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.

MR. VIVIAN GILBERT, Horatio, Lorenzo, Paris, Tressel, Christian, in "Bells," &c. Feb. 13, Gaiety, Leith.

MR. ALFRED GODDARD,
Prince Kara, in "The Darling of the Gods."
Leamington and Cambridge.

MR. DOUGLAS GORDON,
Stozzi, "The Cardinal."
Feb. 13, Theatre Royal, Hull.

MR. J. LYNWARD GRAHAME.
Address,
Duke of York's Theatre, W.C.

MR. ARCHIE CARLAW GRAND,
Peter, with Messrs Bright and Maxwell's "Merely Mary Ann" Co., Feb. 13, O. H., Coventry.

MR. FRED GROVE
and Miss EMILY GROVE. "Merely Mary Ann" Co. Grand, Southampton.

MR. LAURENCE GROVE,
Noel le Jolys, in "If I were King" Co.
Feb. 13, N. T., Cambridge; 16th, T. R., Grantham.

MR. CHARLES HALLING,
Simon Derrick, "The Sledge-Hammer."
Grand Theatre, Plymouth.

MR. JACK HAMES, "The King's Pardon" Co. Good Summer Offers invited. Stockton; 13th, Grand, W. Hartlepool.

MR. W. HARGREAVES,
as John Huggins, in "The Designers."
Brixton, Six Nights, Feb. 13.

MR. FREDERICK HARKER
Disengaged.
"Berkeley." Chester-road, Erdington, Birmingham.

MR. CHARLES HARLEY
"A Country Mouse" Co.
Feb. 13, Crystal Palace.

MR. MORRIS HARPER,
Acting Manager. "Peggy Machree" Co.,
Feb. 13, Grand Theatre, Fulham, S.W.

MR. and MRS. CHAS. HARRINGTON,
on Tour with own Company.
Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, Two Weeks.

MR. CYRIL HARRISON
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At Liberty. Leading Business.
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at Liberty for Autumn.
Address, Freemasons' Club, Richmond.

MR. R. CALVERT HAWS, Light and Eccentric Comedy Dudes. Offers for Autumn Invited. Feb. 13, Lyric, Hammersmith.

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Comedy, Special Character, Comedy Old Men. Disengaged. 11, Beaumont-rd., W. Kensington.

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Imperial Theatre.

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MR. and MRS. WILL HOOK (Miss Daisy Carlton), Miss Ida Molesworth & Mr. Mark Blow's Co. Feb. 13, Opera House, Blackpool.

MR. FRANCIS HOPE Thanks A. A. Bertram, Esq., for Offer to Create Com. Part, "Hearts Adrift." 5, Elders-st., Scarboro-

MR. WILSON HOWARD and CARLOTTA ANSON, in the Comedy Duo., "My Military Mash." 38, Grove-crescent-rd., Stratford, E.

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MR. ERIC HUDSON
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"The Darling of the Gods" Company.
Address, care of "The Era."

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National Palace of Varieties, Croydon.

MR. G. WALLACE JOHNSTON, Backbite, Hastings, Falkland, Ormond, Adolphus, &c. Compton Comedy Co., Her Majesty's T., Dundee.

MR. S. MAJOR JONES
At Liberty.
Permanent address, 101, Sugden-rd., Clapham, S.W.

MR. and MRS. THEO. JONES
(Ada Mansfield), T. J., Title-rôle in "Jack Sheppard" Co. Feb. 13, Hippodrome, Norwich.

MR. F. JOYNSEN-POWELL,
Concluded Season, Grand T., N. At Liberty.
Address, 49, Waldemar-avenue, Hurlingham, S.W.

MR. WHITFORD KANE,
Jacky, in "Sunday" (North Company)
Address, Theatre Royal, South Shields.

MR. OGILVY KEITH.
Address,
Charlmont, Western-parade, Southsea.

MR. and MRS. WALTER KENION
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MR. C. B. KESTON,
Mr. Brandon Thomas's "Charley's Aunt" Co.
Feb. 13, Kennington Theatre, S.E.

MR. CLAUDE KING,
Juvenile Leading Business. Care of Messrs. Sass and Nelson, Standard Theatre, Johannesburg.

MR. AUGUSTINE KNIGHT,
Starring as Le Loup, in "Face at the Window." Athenæum Theatre, Lancaster.

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Address,
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MR. FRANK LACY,
Mr. Charles Frohman's "Merely Mary Ann" Co. Feb. 13, Grand Theatre, Southampton.

MR. JAMES R. LA FANE,
Manager and Stage-Director, Mr. Mouillot's "Geisha" and "Greek Slave" Cos. C. T., Kingston.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES LANGLEY
(Jessie Price), at Liberty, Jointly or Singly.
180, New Kent-road, S.E.

MR. WINGOLD LAWRENCE,
as Jack England,
Feb. 13, Theatre Royal, Smethwick.

MR. EDMUND LEA,
Address,
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MR. AUSTEN LENTON,
Principal Comedy, at Liberty Feb. 27.
Panto., T. R., Sheffield, Three Weeks.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD LEROY
(Edith Mumford). Disengaged. 13, Southdene-road, Anerley, S.E.

MR. ALFRED LESTER,
Comedian and Character Artist. Disengaged.
Address, 10, King-st, Covent Garden, London, W.C.

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MR. ARDENE LINDEN,
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Feb. 13, Opera House, Torquay, Six Nights.

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MR. FRANK LISTER,
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Business Manager, 13th, T. R., Leicester.

MR. and MRS. SAM LIVESEY (Miss Maggie Edwards). "The Village Blacksmith," Prince's Theatre, Preston.

MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN,
Haymarket Theatre, W.C.
Address, 28, Chelverton-road, Putney, S.W.

MR. STUART LOMATH,
Lead, "The Fatal Wedding." Mrs. Lomath Disengaged. Feb. 13, Alhambra T., Stourbridge.

MR. ARTHUR LONGLEY,
as Lord Cheyne, "Three Little Maids."
Theatre Royal, Aldershot.

MR. HARRY LORREANO, Comedian and Stage-Manager, concluded Ealing panto. Dis. Panto. Mus. Com., Drama. 55, Chalk Farm-rd.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM LOWE,
Osmond Tearle Répertoire Company.
Address, en route; or, 41A, Myrtle-street, Liverpool.

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Mr. Douglas Bruce's Tour "The Girl Who Lost Her Character." T. R., Smethwick.

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on Tour with own Co., "Wearin' o' the Green."
En route; or, Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

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MR. and MRS. WILLIAM MACLAREN
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Feb. 13, Opera House, Torquay.

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Address,
Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.

MR. FRANK MACRAE,
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Add., 7, Titchfield-ter., Albert-rd., Regent's Park.

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MR. H. F. MALTBY.
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Feb. 13, Theatre Royal, Merthyr Tydfil.

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MR. MAITLAND MARLER,
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Feb. 13, New Theatre, Burton-on-Trent.

MR. ALFRED MARTIN,
Advance Representative. Compton Com. Co.
Feb. 14, King's Theatre, Galsgow.

MR. HERBERT MAULE,
Arriving to-day by Mail Steamer "Walmer Castle" from South Africa. Address A. A.

MR. WALTER MAXWELL.
Address,
Feb. 13. Opera House, Coventry.

MR. G. MAYOR-COOKE,
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At Liberty. Character Comedy etc.
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MR. and MRS. HUGH METCALFE
(Miss Vyvyan Montgomery). H. M., "Between Two Women" Co. Feb. 13, King's, Cardiff.

MR. HUGH MONTGOMERY,
MARIE HARCOURT, Napoleon and Marcel, in "Napoleon the Great," Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. and MRS. G. MORETON-WILLIAMS (Miss Marie McAulay). Arrangements complete. Feb. 13, T. R., Smethwick.

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Address,
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MR. and MRS. TOM MOWBRAY
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Address, T. R., Exeter, Feb. 13.

MR. SINCLAIR NEILL
Disengaged. Juvenile Lead.
Crown Chambers, 64, Royal-avenue, Belfast.

MR. H. ADAIR NELSON.
Address, Eccentric Club,
Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

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Juvenile or Heavy Lead. Offers invited.
Spring. Hippodrome, New Brompton, Kent.

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"The Sledge-Hammer" Tour.
Grand Theatre, Plymouth.

MR. NORMAN A. OVERTON,
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Address, 10, Ospringe-road, N.W.

MR. and MRS. E. H. PATERSON
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MR. WILFRED E. PAYNE
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Address, 90, Guilford-street, W.C.

MR. and MRS. KINGSFORD PEARCE
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MR. ASHTON PEARSE,
Adelphi Theatre.
Perm. address, 65, Redcliffe-rd., South Kensington.

MR. HERBERT PEARSON,
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MR. and MRS. FRANK E. PETLEY
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MR. FELIX PITT,
Disengaged for Three Weeks. Town only.
86, St. George's-road, Southwark, S.E.

MR. E. J. PRESTON and MISS AMY VENIMORE, Lead and Heavy Lead. Dis. Feb. 20. E. J. P., Bus. Manager. T. R., Leicester.

MR. DONALD PRICE-EVANS,
Miss Ada Reeve's Co., Northampton.
Miss Marcella Hudson (Mrs. D. P. E.), Disengaged.

MR. WALTER PURVIS.
Miss LILY BRAMMER, Singing Soubrette.
Victoria Theatre, Broughton, Manchester.

MR. WALTER RAYNHAM,
Aristocratic Old Men and Character Parts.
At. Lib. Feb. 27. 224, Hainton-st., Great Grimsby.

MR. ALBERT E. RAYNOR
Disengaged.
21, Grove-park-gardens, Chiswick.

MR. WILTON REED,
Disengaged. Heavies or Management.
17, The Avenue, Southsea.

MR. W. E. RICHARDSON,
Disengaged.
Address, 129, Lavender-sweep, Lavender-hill, S.W.

MR. ARTHUR RICKETTS,
At Liberty shortly, for Musical Comedy.
Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.

MR. HARRY H. RIGNOLD,
"The Rogues of the Turf" Company.
Theatre Royal, Castleford.

MR. WALTER L. RIGNOLD,
S.-M., "Cinderella," Prince's Theatre, Manchester. Disengaged Feb. 20. Offers invited.

MR. and MRS. GORDON ROBEY,
All communications to
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MR. LEONARD ROBSON,
Starring Engagement, Stephen Merrick,
"The Lightning's Flash." O. H., Workington.

MR. G. STAPELTON ROCHE,
Disengaged. Light Comedy, &c.
Address, 32, Kelvedon-road, Fulham, S.W.

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MR. BERTIE ROSS,
Great Success at Palace, Bristol. Address, care of Herbert Darnley, 18A Brixton-road, S.W.

MR. E. W. ROYCE,
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MR. ARTHUR ROYSTON.
Address,
Eaton Lodge, Hampton-on-Thames.

MR. HARRY RUSSELL,
Eccentric and Light Comedy.
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MR. VERNON SANSBURY,
Feb. 13, West Pier, Brighton. Disengaged,
Feb. 20. Leading Juvenile Business.

MR. and MRS. MICHAEL SHERBROOKE (Miss Alice Arden). At Liberty.
34, Margaretta-terrace, Chelsea, S.W.

MR. FRANK SHERLOCK,
Bugle, "The Girl from Japan." Canterbury and Walmer, three nights each.

MR. WILFRED E. SHINE,
"John Bull's Other Island." Disengaged
Feb. 25. Address, Court Theatre.

MR. JOHN B. SHINTON, Resuming original part (Lead), "When Woman Hates,"
Feb. 13, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Southampton.

MR. GEORGE SHIRLEY
Disengaged. Business Management.
65A, Long Acre, London, W.C.

MR. EDWARD SIDNEY,
Disengaged. Comedy and Character.
Address, 112, Olney-st., Walworth-rd., London, S.E.

MR. JAMES SKEA,
Character Actor, Dialects, Sing. Dis. Feb. 25.
Care of Bennett, 1, North Claremont-st., Glasgow.

MR. A. GIFFORD STACEY
at Liberty Early in March.
Address, Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. WILFRED STANFORD,
at Liberty. Acting or Stage Management, and Parts. Address, T. R., Belfast; or A.A.

MR. JAMES STEVENSON
At Liberty.
Address, 360, Kennington-road, S.E., or Agents.

MR. and MRS. W. S. STEVENSON
(Miss Evelyn Robson). Disengaged Feb. 27.
Offers invited. Address, Court Theatre, Warrington.

MR. GEORGE STONE,
Resident-Manager (Eleventh Year),
Royalty T. and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness.

MR. E. STORY-GOFTON,
Disengaged.
Address, 10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

MR. WALLACE STRANACK,
Disengaged the end of March.
Feb. 13, Theatre Royal, Darlington.

MR. AUGUSTIN SYMONDS
Disengaged, Man., Parts (Com. Char.) KATE PARRY, Juv., &c. Shakespeare T., Clapham, S.W.

MR. ALGERNON SYMS
Dis. Shortly. Feb. 14, T. R., Barnsley.
Permanent address, 3, Springdale-road, London, N.

MR. TAPPING
Disengaged. Parts and Stage-management.
28, Leyland-road, Lee, S.E.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD THANE
(Louise Hampton),
New King's Theatre, Hoxton, N.

MR. FOWLER THATCHER,
concluded Panto. Disengaged. Comedy, Character, Management, Drama or Musical Piece.

MR. ALLEN THOMAS
Address,
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MR. E. W. THOMAS,
Returned from South Africa. At Liberty.
138, Elmhurst-mansions, Clapham; or, A.A.

MR. RAYMOND THOMAS at Liberty for Heavy Lead or Character.
74, Doddington-grove, Kennington Park, S.E.

MR. WYLIE A. THOMPSON,
concluded Fifth Tour "Charley's Aunt" Company. Disengaged. Bridgen, Bexley, Kent.

MR. WALTER THORNTON,
Miss Ida Molesworth & Mr. Mark Blow's Co.
Feb. 13, Her Majesty's O. H., Blackpool.

MR. GEORGE TRAILL
Disengaged. Character Bus., Comedy, or Old Men. Add., 17, Manchester-st., Gray's Inn-rd., W.C.

MR. A. W. TYRER, Horace Holmcroft in "New Magdalen," Feb. 13, O. H., Tunbridge Wells; Feb. 16, D. P. T., Eastbourne.

MR. FREDERICK TYRRELL,
Rev. Elihu Garside, "Winnie Brooke, Widow," Feb. 13, Opera House, Northampton.

MR. GEORGE UNWIN, at Liberty
Feb. 20. Lead. Terminating with Mr. Tom H. Taylor. This, Met., Birmingham.

MR. and MRS. CHAS. B. VAUGHAN
(Miss M. Lewes). Engaged, Lead, "The Garden of Lies" Co., T. R., South Shields.

MR. ALBERT VERNON,
Musical Director, "Kitty Grey."
Feb. 13, Dalston.

MR. and MRS. C. VERNON-PROCTOR
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P. P. P.
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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.
"The Era" Almanack and Annual for 1905, conducted by Mr. Edward Ledger, is the vade mecum of the dramatic and music-hall profession, containing as it does all an artiste desires to know in connection with the stage. A feature of the publication are the stories of adventure told by well-known artistes like Sir Henry Irving, George Alexander, Harry Pleon, John Le Hay, Constance Moxon, Walter Passmore, Fanny Wentworth, and John Lawson. Mr. Henry Arthur Jones discourses wisely on the "Foundations of a National Drama." The Annual is one that will interest and amuse not only the "professional," but the general public.—Reynolds's Newspaper, Jan. 15, 1905.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.
That vade mecum of "the profession," "The Era" Annual, has just made its 1905 appearance. In addition to the dramatic and musical calendar, the alphabetical list of new pieces, and other permanent features, there are some twenty-five stories by leading authors, actors, and actresses, including Sir Henry Irving, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Sydney Grundy, Mr. H. A. Jones, and Mr. Walter Passmore, all illustrated by photographs and autographs.—Sunday Times, Jan. 15, 1905.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews.—Mr. A. Gibbon's company, with *Beauty and the Beast* is the attraction here this week. It is replete with boisterous merriment and capital dancing. The scenery is exceptionally pretty. The rôle of Beauty is sweetly acted by Miss Linda Keston; Miss Marie Lawrence makes a dashing Polly Perkins; and Dandy Veller has a lively and vivacious exponent in Miss Janet Lawton. Mr. Will Holland as Reginald Augustus, and Mr. Tom Banks as Sybil Irene are both successful in creating roars of laughter. Mr. Albert E. Mann makes up well as Maude Hannah; Mr. Sydney Vereker, as Ko-hop, is responsible for much laughter; Mr. Geo. Honey scores as Hardupp; Mr. Chas. Ellis is in his element as Low Down; Miss Marie Beaufort becomes a favourite as Prince Charming; and Miss Gertrude Wright is a delightful exponent of Amoroso. The Four French Idols are prominent with some excellent dancing. "Looping the Loop," by the original Datrigan, causes great excitement.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Will Gregory.—An excellent bill-of-fare is provided here this week. The Bros. Lang, refined comedians, in their novel comedy act, establish themselves firm favourites; Roseltha is a graceful dancer; Louis Kerno, a vocalist of no mean order; the Bensons, in their vocal and comedy acts, meet with approval; Fred Hill, comedian, appears with conspicuous success. An acceptable turn is that provided by Ellis and Ellis, high-class coon vocalists; Mona McDonald, comedienne and vocalist, is popular; Prof. McCann and his performing dogs give a wonderful performance; Ariel and Astarte, gymnasts, are also great favourites. *The Young Recruits*, played by the Hudson Troupe, sends the audience into roars of laughter.

ABERDEEN.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah.—The Compton comedy company, which pays the town a welcome visit this week, opened on Monday with *The School for Scandal*. Mr. Edward Compton played with all his usual dash and brightness as Charles Surface, and Miss Haidée Gunn made a delightfully piquante Lady Teazle; Mr. Henry Crocker gave an excellent impersonation of Sir Peter Teazle; Mr. A. B. Jameson was a capital Joseph; Uncle Oliver was admirably played by Mr. Charles R Stone, and Miss Mackenzie represented Maria with fine taste. The repertory for the week includes *A Reformed Rake, Davy Garrick, To-Morrow*, and *She Stoops to Conquer*.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr. Ernest Sheldon.—Nelson's Newsboys show exceptional vocal and dancing talent, and are most cordially received; the Brothers Edgar are popular as eccentric comedians; an amusingly clever acrobatic exhibition is given by the Zaro Troupe; and Vincent shows equal dexterity as an acrobatic table expert. Other successful turns are contributed by Louis Hardt, "The Boy Samson;" Souplessi, "aerial serpent on the silver rings;" Mr. Fred Terry and Mr. Will Godwin, clever comedians; and the Two Rubies, sprightly vocalists and dancers.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General and Resident Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom.—By way of a change of programme, the management has this week engaged Mr. and Mrs. Victor André and company of entertainers. Mrs. André, in her "Dream Visions," is really wonderful. Mr. Victor André, in "Floretum," a new magical spectacular floral creation, is very good; Yoko and Hama, Japanese wonder workers, are clever; Miss Edith May Ayrton is a talented solo violinist.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—The Milton Rays are here with a bright and sparkling pantomine. Miss Daisy Morell acts in a sprightly manner as Ferdinand; Miss Ada Wright is well placed in the role of Little Bo-Peep; Little Boy Blue is charmingly played by Miss Lily Wright; the Four Sisters Tree may be complimented on their singing and dancing; Miss Maud St. John gets any amount of fun out of the part of Molly Dump; Miss Ethel Patrick gives a neat performance of Sir Runan Runemin; and Fairy Sunlight is well represented by Miss Marie Beck. Mr. Harry Elliston keeps the house in a roar from start to finish as Binks the Bounder; Mr. W. G. Wesley as the Dame is a host in himself; and The Eltons are two of the best bar performers we have had here. Mr. Jack Hylton is both quaint and clever as The Baron; and Lawyer Graball is an excellent performance by Mr. H. V. Morgan.

ALDERSHOT.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—*The Darling of the Gods* is providing quite a treat for the frequenters of this house of amusement, and nothing but praise can be given to Mr. Bannister Howard's talented company, which, by the way, includes some old friends of Aldershot theatre-goers. These are Mr. Leonard Grey, Mr. L. St. G. Lowther, and Miss E. Anton Laing; Mr. E. A. Warburton gives a fine portrayal of the important rôle of Gakkuri; and Mr. Alfred Goddard's manly conception of Kara is in every way a success. Mr. Leonard Grey's presentment of Saigon is marked by ability, and in the final scenes he also portrays Priest Banza with effect. Miss Inez Bensusan is a gifted actress, and her excellent interpretation of Yo-San is highly successful; Mr. Alex. Haviland gives a good account of himself as Tonda; and Mr. Ralph Hutton as Kato is capital, as also is Mr. L. St. G. Lowther's Inu; Miss Stella Wynne is a good Singing Girl; Miss Edith Anton Laing as Rosey Sky is clever; and the other members of the large company do well. Much praise is due to Mr. S. C. Sinclair for his stage-managing. Mr. Michael Dempsey is manager to the company.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—*The Way of the World* is adequately presented here by Messrs. Beaudyn and Crowe's company. The villain is capably portrayed by Mr. Herbert Skardon; and the wicked circus lady is boldly outlined by Miss Sidney Crowe.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. C. Revill; Director of Entertainments, Mr. F. Wilmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. Campkin.—The principal athletic sensation of the week at the Hippodrome is the appearance of Zaro Troupe of lightning acrobats and tumblers. The next item of prominent interest is the burlesque business of the Sivronis, in "Opera Gone Mad." The other artistes are Harry Wright, extempore vocalist; Nellie Gannon, the popular Hibernian singer; Lachie Thomson's top weights; Tom and Neil in a boxing and wrestling act; Peggy Fame, a dainty comedienne; Alf. Farrel and Harry Hilton, Irish comedians and dancers; Bert Groves, actor-vocalist; and the Bioscope new pictures.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—This week's programme includes Werson, the renowned head and hand equilibrist; Stoll Bros., three comedy wrestlers; Dinah Morris and her troupe, in a musical scena, "The Lost Coon," assisted by Bessie Morris, dancer; the Harlem Bros., unique sand dancers; The Collier Boy, the famous blind musician; The Brontes in their comedy sketch; Valosky, the Russian expert with the roller skates; Ford and Hanson, who furnish great fun as well as astonishment by their wonderful musical gifts; Fred Casburn, a refined comedian; and Thirza Hurst, in male impersonations.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Seaton.—Mr. T. A. Jones is presenting *Life's Sweetest Sins* here during the present week. Mr. T. Arthur Jones is an excellent representative of Captain Harold Marston; villainy is ably interpreted by Mr. Oswald Douglas as Doctor Colbrook, who is assisted in his schemes by Mr. George R. J. Austin as Kimberley Coutts, and Mr. C. Vernon Proctor as Rev. Edward Grey. Mr. Fred Russell, in the comedy part of Bab Tanner, is highly amusing, and Mr. Bertram Lee is good as Martin. Miss Madge Morley plays with care and finish as Doreen Rivers; Miss Amy Rudd gives a meritorious performance of Fay Colbrook; and Miss Sarah Dudley is a vivacious Bess Grayson.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwards; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne.—A varied and attractive programme is being submitted here. The Five Zerbinis give a refined and artistic musical act, with beautiful electrical effects. Will Bell is a smart Irish comedian and expert dancer; Alec. Aubrey gives a clever performance on the electric silver chains; the Eltenos are seen in a comic, horizontal bar act; Violet Beatrice renders several Irish songs in good style; the Sheffield Photo. Co. gives a number of fine cinematograph pictures, which are highly appreciated, and Matt Wilkinson and Company, in a sketch entitled *That French Woman*, cause much laughter.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—This week is chiefly devoted to Shakespeare, and Mr. F. R. Benson's B company is responsible for the productions, which include six evening performances and a matinée on Saturday afternoon. The capabilities of the company were seen to advantage in the opening piece on Monday, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Mr. Henry Herbert's Sir John Falstaff was a very fine piece of acting. Too often Falstaff is turned into a buffoon, but Mr. Herbert was dignified and restrained, and every gesture a study. The Fenton of Mr. Courtnay Foote was a striking contrast to the Slender of Mr. Ivan Leslie, and that is tantamount to saying the parts were well played. Shallow and Sir Hugh Evans were in the capable hands of Mr. Arthur Fayne and Mr. A. Phillips. Ford and Page were likewise played by artists of merit in Mr. F. Owen Chambers and Mr. T. A. Shannon. The Host of the Garter was found in Mr. James Annand—artistic and prominently good in everything he does; while the Dr. Caius of Mr. C. H. Croker-King was a truly wonderful piece of acting. Simple and Rugby were well played by Mr. Alex Begbie and Mr. Holiday Attley; and Miss Phyllis Back as Robin, the page, did the little she had to do with grace and wit. The merry wives were Miss Maud Garth as Mrs. Ford and Miss Roxy Barton as Mrs. Page, and they justified the title in the heartiness of their acting. Miss Geoghegan as Mistress Quickly was admirable, and so was Miss Christie Laws as Ann Page. On Tuesday night, the only departure from Shakespeare was made in the production of *She Stoops to Conquer*.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—Pantomine is again the order here, and Messrs. Griffen and Drake's company in *Dick Whittington* is doing excellent business. Miss Lily Jackson is prime favourite as Dick, her singing and acting evoking much applause; Miss Emmie Hands makes a charming Alice; and plenty of fun accrues from the work of Mr. Ben Ford as Alderman Fitzwarren, and Mr. Mark Lane as Martha Muggins. The cat is smartly undertaken by Mr. Jack Simpson; Mr. Ted Lambert makes a bold Demon King, his fine voice being heard to advantage; Miss Gladys Wells uses a well-cultured voice as Fairy Blue Bell; and the specialties include Mdlle. Luba De Sarama with her Transkakasia Sports; the Estos, speciality artistes; the Yorkshire Mill Lasses; the Sisters Branton, skipping rope dancers; and the Sisters Grosvenor, operatic vocalists. Miss Beatrice Drake ably conducts the augmented orchestra.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. George Dance's Co., in *A Country Girl*, is here. Mr. Cyril Thompson is a capital Geoffrey Chaloner, and Mr. H. C. Morton a characteristic Sir Joseph Verity. Mr. St. John Hamund plays the Rajah of Bong in good style; and the Princess Melaneh is well embodied by Miss Nina Carlton, whose singing is excellent. Mr. J. Osborne as Barry, is responsible for much of the fun; and the Sophie of Miss Addie Lennard is a piquant and winsome performance; while Miss Maud Harvey, as Marjory Joy, and Miss May Glen, as Nan, both act and sing with artistic grace.

TIVOLI.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—Marlor and Dunham give a wonderful triple bar act; Bert Leslie pleases with some popular songs; and Levano is a marvellous Arab tumbler. The Pueblo Bros. give a capital show, and the Gladenbecks supply a neat hand-balancing and ring act. Pleasing performances are also given by Bud Primrose, octoroon sand dancer; Clive Watts, a refined raconteur; and Mr. James de Voye's educated pony is worthy of mention.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—A critical and fashionable audience assembled on Monday to witness the first performance in the provinces of Mr Israel Zangwill's comedy, "Merely Mary Ann," by Mr Charles Frohman's company. In the title-rôle Miss Grace Armytage Noble exhibits a characteristic innocence in the earlier acts, and finally develops confidence and ease, to accord with Mary Ann's position in society. The difficult character of Lancelot is handled by Mr Alex Calvert with ability; Peter has a capital exponent in Mr Reginald Dance, Mr Fred Grove creates plenty of humour as the Rev Samuel Smedge; Mr Frank Lacy scores easily in his one scene as Herr Brahmson; and a gentleman who has very much in common with this popular artiste's style is Mr Wm Wilson as Lord Tottenham. Miss Alice Esden makes a hit as Mrs Leadbatter; Rosie is carefully eracted by Miss Mabel Garden; Miss Madge Johnstone brings her ripe experience to bear upon the small part of the Countess Foxwell; and the other society ladies find tactful representatives in Miss M. Alison Alexander (Lady Chelmer), Miss Hilda Dick (Lady Tottenham), Miss Millicent McLaughlin (Hon. Mrs Fitzgerald), Miss Pearl Gardner (Rowena), and Miss Amy Thomas (Lady Glynn).

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr W. Trussell.—Mr George D'Albert continues to give of his best, both new and old, and his success here is greater than ever. Permane's bears remain a firm attraction; the Sisters Petram, who are announced as the only lady fantoches entertainers, meet with much applause; Steel and Laing gain a success in their smart acrobatic dancing speciality; Max Sterling, illusionist, mystifies all by his dexterity; Gilroy and Gross, as sand dancers, are praiseworthy; and Walter Lester, comedian, opens the programme.

BATLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. M. Hurst.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company opened here on Monday with *Greed of Gold*. Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh gave a good interpretation of Harry Hood; Mr. Charles Coleman's delineation of Arthur Errol was capital; Mr. Walter M. Cameron submitted a humorous portrayal of Cull Snig; and Mr. T. G. Warry was well received as Mr. Brightstone. Miss A Verity was a sympathetic Dora Hood, and Mrs. Mary Maxwell was in the safe keeping of Miss Grace St. John. Miss Winnie Donovan acted well as Polly Mayfield.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—This week the boards are occupied with Mr. Sanderson Moffat's company in the drama, *A Woman Adrift*. Cora Leigh, the much-wronged heroine, is pathetically represented by Miss Phyllis Hamilton; and the somewhat difficult rôle of Rupert Ingleby is capably undertaken by Miss Phyllis Graham. Mr. Joseph Millane as Sir John Ingleby presents a good portrayal of this character. Mr. Sanderson Moffat plays with vigour the dual rôles of Ferdinand Castro and Don Leo Castro. The humour of the piece is well sustained by Mr. Chas. Wilson as Jibbs, Mr. Robb Harvey as Roderick, Mr. Watson Hume as Dennis, and Miss Maud Bruce as Molly. Miss Mabel Rose submits a satisfactory rendering of Stella.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M'Cann.—Mr. Leigh Lovel's company is here with that delightful play, *The Duke of Killiecrankie*. The company is in every respect an excellent one, and a great success has been achieved by Miss Octavia Kenmore, who, as the Lady Henrietta Addison, acts with rare charm and ability. The title rôle is undertaken by Mr. Herbert J. Bentley in a polished and easy style. Much praise must be accorded Mr. Lovel, who so capitally sustained the rôle of Mr. Henry Pitt-Welby M.P. Special commendation is due to Miss Naomi Neilson, who is admirable in the part of Mrs. Mulholland; Miss McAimee Murray furnishes a cantal impersonation of the Countess of Pangbourne; and the small part of Mrs. McBayne is carefully sustained by Miss Helen Tytler. Other rôles are ably sustained by Messrs. F. Danvers-Yates, H. Douglas Cottell, Vernon West, and R. Houghton. The principal piece is preceded by a comedietta, entitled *Clause Number Six*, in which Miss Helen Tytler and Mr. F. Danvers-Yates appear to much advantage.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. John P. Beardmore.—The chief position at this handsome theatre is occupied by that clever comedian, Mr. Wal Pink, who, with his talented company, is appearing in the funny sketch, entitled *Peggy*. Much success has been created by Romain's musical act; a fine acrobatic display has been given by the Abadaroffs; and the smart triple bar act by Dezmonti and Mora is a decided feature of the entertainment. The Lynchs (Agnese and Arthur) appear in their bright and charming act, in which they introduce American picture songs with much success. Miss Lilian Rigby, in her musical act; Mr. Tom Yorke, comedian; and the Palace Pictures complete the bill.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Brock.—Leslie Bros. head the bill, and delight all with their musical act. Mr. Arthur Lennard, comedian, upholds his reputation with his capital songs; Mr. J. H. Milburn, the evergreen comedian, is as funny as of yore, and commands deserved success; Morris and Morris are clever acrobatic comedians; Brown and Robinson must be congratulated on having made a big hit; the three Sisters Hayden return with their tunefully-rendered songs; and Mr. Billy Hobbs is a first-class comedian and clever dancer. Also appearing are Miss Lily Tiso and Miss Lizzie Fletcher, comediennes.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The British Quartette head the bill, and please all with their vocal selections. Kyoto is a remarkably smart contortionist; Miss May Geraldine is a fascinating serio; and Weisker Bros.' Bioscope exhibits some pleasing and novel pictures. Robins and Collins appear to great advantage in their musical comedy scena, entitled *The Lady and the Porter*. Ray and Lee, clever comedy gymnasts, have been accorded a good reception. The Bros. Lavelle, comedy acrobats, are well received, as is also Miss Gracie Logan, vocalist and dancer. Messrs. Juan and McQuee, comedians, complete the bill.

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—Mr. George Testo Sante has brought here *The Life of a Showman*, in which he, as Brien Leader, introduces his notable feats of strength. Excellent work is submitted by Miss Amy McNeill, as Agatha Winter; a very good exposition of Stickers is submitted by Mr. J. K. Walton; Mr. Sam Arthur makes the most of the part of Hendrick Marnis, and obtains good support from Mr. Johnny Clegg as Ben Tictac, and from Miss May Warden as Lynette Leader. Mr. Allen Charles amuses as Tommy Allthere; and Master Harry Warden does well as Dickie.

BIRKENHEAD.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. Gus Levaine's pantomime company, in *Sinbad the Sailor*, is here the last week of Mr. W. Kelly's lesseeship. The entertainment is an excellent one of its class, and has a capital representative of the title-rôle in Miss Kitty Bishop who is ably seconded by Miss Marie Harding, a captivating Princess Irza; Mr. Charles Howard, as Mrs. Sinbad; Mr. Charles Arnett, as Nothing; Mr. Tom Ashby, as Less; Mr. Ernie Clyde, as Tinbad; provide plenty of amusement. Varieties are given by the Zola troupe of acrobats; the Bertinis in their musical act; Ashby and Hearn, in their statuary show; Mdlle. Alberto, ropewalker; Lance and Lane; and the Brothers Loyal.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Miss Go-won-go-Mohawk and her American-Indian company are again here with *Wep-ton-no-Mah*, and she obtains her accustomed cordial reception. She is admirably supported by Mr. C. W. Charles, who is very effective as Colonel Stockton. Captain Franklin is well played by Mr. Isaac Shawcross; Mr. George Courtney is an efficient Manuel Lopez; and Miss Jessie Hart is a delightful Nellie Stockton. Mr. Guy D. Hackney and Mr. Dan Ryan supply the comedy element, and the piece is liberally staged.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Datas, in his remarkable feats of memory is a leading attraction, as also are James and Marie Finney in their clever aquatic entertainment. Conway and Leland, the merry monopedes, are an attractive turn; and Miss Elsa Joel is an operatic vocalist and mimic of undoubted ability. Fisk and McDonough afford amusement in their well-sustained sketch. *Brocky's Temptation*, and Mr. Harry Clifford, comedian, Mr. David Poole, ventriloquist, Mr. Dick Geldard, comedian, and the Bioscope, complete an excellent programme.

BIRMINGHAM.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Rogers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr Henry Johnston.—*The Forty Thieves* continues to march to popularity and, incidentally, plunder, with unflagging *esprit*. Mr. Wilkie Bard as Ali Baba has increased his local prestige a hundred fold, and his big song, "O, O, capital O," is ecstatically received; Messrs. Geo. Le Clerq and Ben Brown, as the two hobbledehoys, furnish a carnival of mirth; Mr. Ainslie Burton is humorous as Cassim; Mr. Jno. Brabourne acts like a veritable queen of pantomime dames; and Mr. Phil Smith avails himself well of the opportunities given to Hassarac; Miss Alice Oppitz is an exceptionally fine and inspiring Abdallah; and Miss Marie Campbell as a most irresistible "boy" (Ganem); and Miss Minnie Hunt, as Morgiana, have the audience at their feet.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*Dick Whittington* has met with excellent support since its induction here last Monday week with Mr. J. F. Elliston's company. Mr. Tom Foy infuses a "Yorkshire relish" to the rôle of Idle Jack with his vigorous broad-tongued northern accent, which, be it said, is much enjoyed; Mr. Bert Byrne gives him invaluable aid with his comic business as the Cook; Mr. Ted Foy invests the part of the Cat with many rare and diverting qualities; and Mr. Jack Foy as Scuttle, Mr. Will Musgrave as First Mate, and Mr Chas. Goff as Fitzwarren, are successful. Miss Ethel Newman is a favourite for her pretty and charming ways as Dick; Miss Clara Reid acts, sings, and dances with exquisite taste as Alice; and the chorus and mounting are excellent. Miss Nelly Wade should not be overlooked as Mary Ann, and the Matweef Hugoston Troupe are again a success.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*Dick Whittington* has been playing to crowded houses here since Boxing night, and is now more successful than ever. Miss Florence Burns is handsome, clever, and popular as the hero; and Miss Nellie Valentine realises the character of the sweet English maid, Alice, to perfection; Mr. Will Letters has made his mark as the Emperor, and also in conjunction with Messrs. Barrett and Knowles, who are responsible for clever work as Silly Peter and Lazy Larky.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Walter Melville; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Sentenced for Life*, presented by Mr. Bulmer this week, has drawn excellent houses. Miss Madge Douglas as Adele Gray proves very popular; Mr. Edward B. Louis acts a manly part as Lieut. Roy Stilwell; Mr. Ernest Vaughan is conspicuous for his ability in the rôle of Capt. Paul Derrick; Mr. C. Wordley Hulse is successful as the Rev. Martin Orris; Mr. Walter Purvis shines as Percy M'Gentle; and Messrs. T. C. Glenville and Frank Zara do good service as two convicts.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben Sydney.—*A Marriage of Vengeance*, by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Benton's company, constitutes an attractive bill here. Miss A. Harrison-Tate stars as the villainess, Stella, and dislike for the character is tempered with admiration for the actress. Mr. Louis Norman, in the villain's part, Geoffrey Fannock, never fails to score; Mr. Alf Geo. Fry acts with force as the hero, Paul Earnscliffe; and Miss Maud Stuart is rewarded with much sympathy for her soulful rendering of the heroine's part, Elsie Dean. The comic rôles are exceedingly well represented by Mr. Seymour Perry as Bob and Miss Etta Turner as Amelia.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; Manager, Mr. Dan Barnard.—*The Female Swindler* continues its exciting career before enthusiastic Aston audiences, which have been well served by Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company. Miss Violet Ellicott as the Lady Swindler has won the widest admiration; Miss Florrie Kelsey enacts the heroine's rôle, May Andrews, gracefully; Mr. Bernard Mervyn gains tokens of success as Geoffrey Warden; Mr. Geo. Unwin is popular as Harold Travers; Mr. Jerrold Heather shows much ability as Jack Coulson; and Mr. W. Shaw is applauded for his clever acting as the detective; Mr. Luke Forster portrays a number of comic rôles successfully; Mr. Rule Pyott is well applauded as Mikestein; and Miss Evelyn Marrable is blithe and merry as Mary Ann.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. W. H. Matcham.—Gus Elen is a comedian of whom Birmingham audiences never tire. His inimitable coster impersonations provoke loud and prolonged applause. An extremely smart acrobatic act is displayed by Keno Welch and Montrose; the Burnleys are experts on stilts; and Mabel Hind, in her Japanese scena, and Belle Davis with her pickchicks, are most entertaining. Driscoll and Beattie, Charles Vincent, Madame Alice Simmons, the Raies, and Mdlle. Emmy's dogs, complete the bill.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—The principal attraction this week is Cliffe Berzac's sensation, *The Race for the St. Leger*, which is most ingeniously represented on a revolving platform. The Drayton Family perform some new and difficult acrobatic feats with accuracy; the Elysian Troupe, in their musical and vocal entertainment, are of a high order; the Smithsons, in a smart sketch, are very entertaining; Verno and Voyce remain another week; and other popular artistes are Frank Cass and Arthur Reece, comedians; Gilbert Girrard, animal impersonator; and Amy Reece, comedienne.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The diversified and well arranged programme this week is headed by Leonard and Francis is an acrobatic burlesque bull fight; the Philippi Bros., in their latest success, *Shunting*, are well received; Maud Caswell is applauded for her efforts as a dancer; Lily Seville and Nancy St. John are clever comediennes; and Alix Lukos, R. Judge's troupe of acrobats, Toch and Tard, De Marse, and the Laros Troupe come in for a large share of applause.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. George Foster.—One of the most skilful and interesting cycling turns we have had is that of the Klein Family; Richard List with his wrestling bears gives a novel performance; Ben Harris and The Boxing Midgets, in a comedy sketch, *A Promising Pupil*, are exceptionally smart; the Lumars have a novel electric acrobatic act; Dan Colquhoun's fine voice is heard to advantage; and Morton and Elliott, harmonica players and vocalists; and Albert Whelan, are responsible for entertainments of a high order.

BLACKBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Business-Manager, Mr. Reginald Yorke.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomine of *Cinderella* affords a welcome change of fare here. Miss Florence Watson appears with success in the title rôle; Mdlle. de Rose is a charming Prince Perfect; and Miss Susie Bevan is equally effective as Dandini; Mr. Charles Harvey is an amusing Page; Mr. Will Saunders a very good Baron; and Messrs. Houpla and Hecla provide attractive specialties.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—*The Village Blacksmith*, with Mr. Sam Livesey in the principal part, is drawing good houses here. Mr. Joseph Carter is very good as Captain Leo; Mr. Geo. V. Campbell supplies the comedy element as Billy Twigg; and Miss Maggie Edwards, Miss Laura Walker, Mrs. T. C. Livesey and Miss Edith Giddens are also very good in their respective parts.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Nacnaghten; General Manager, Mr. Will Murray; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Drury.—An excellent programme is furnished here by Barton and Ashley, Whit Cunliffe, Hall and Earle, the Gothams, Rita and Roma, Louis Murray, Sisters Maginel Mullini, Russell and Roper, and the Wallonells.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. Leslie Norman's company is here this week with *A Trip to Chinatown*, in which Mr. Charles Sequin as Welland Strong, Mr. Will Smith as Noah Heap, and Miss Kitty Marion as Mrs. Gwyer make the most of their opportunities

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. J. Sergenson.—Mr. C. W. Somerset and company are paying a return visit here with *The Sorrows of Satan*. Mr. Somerset repeats his masterly portrayal of Prince Lucio; Miss Agnes Russell presents a charming picture of Margaret Foster; Miss Leah Marlborough capably sustains the part of Lady Delia; and Mr. Talbot Homewood gives a sound impersonation of Paul Carruthers.

PALACE.—General Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—There is no particular star here this week, but the programme is one of all-round excellence, the contributories including Hugh Stanton, in a sketch; Morny Cash, comedian; the Scottish Meister Glee Singers; Bert Brantford, comedian; The Wedburns, vocalists and comedians; Spring, Spring, and Carlo, acrobats; May Milburn, singer and dancer; and the Original Garganis, comic acrobats.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. George E. Good.—This theatre reopened on Monday night after a week's closure. Mr. Good, after twelve years' experience with the late lessee, Mr. Arthur Jefferson, now becomes lessee and manager. During the brief closure Mr. Good has made important improvements in the seating arrangements. A new act drop—the subject being a view of Dartmouth—has been admirably painted by Mr. Wm. Francotter, the resident scenic artist. On Monday evening, after the playing of the National Anthem and the overture by the orchestra, Mr. Good made his bow to the audience, and in a few well-chosen words expressed his thanks. play, *Sappho*, with Miss Annie Bell in the title-rôle. The piece was well received. Mr. Good was the recipient of a wire from his late chief, Mr. Arthur Jefferson, dated Metropole, Glasgow, wishing him every success in his new undertaking. At the conclusion of the performance hearty congratulations were heard from all parts of the house.

BOLTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—*My Lady Molly*, here again on a welcome return visit, is being presented by a capable company. Miss Beatrice Edwards gives an acceptable rendering of the name-part; Miss Zoe Gilfillan is clever as Alice Coverdale; Miss Mabel Carr as Hester, and Mdlle. Darcier as Mdlle. Mirabeau, are alike good; Mr. Albert Chapman is excellent as Capt. Romney; Mr. Ernest Mozar is good as Lionel Bland; Mr. Godwin Hunt ably sustains his part of Sir Miles Coverdale; and Mr. George McCloskie is seen to advantage as Mickey O'Dowd, his songs, "Ballinasloe" and "Don't Whistle so Loud," being encored.

GRAND THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A distinct change has been made in the programme here, where Mr. Elliston has produced one of his successful pantomimes, *Cinderella*. Miss Don Harridine gives a charming interpretation of the heroine, her dancing and singing being admirable; Miss Mabel Englehardt imparts plenty of go to the production as Prince Rudolph; Miss Hettie Zillwood is a sprightly Dandini; Miss Edith Harmer sings well as the Fairy Godmother; and much amusement is created by Mr. Ernie Mayne as Buttons; Mr. Tatten Hall as Baron Hardup, and Mr. Fred Spencer and Mr. Tom Owen as the ugly sisters. During the performance Silbons's miniature circus with La Petite Carola, appears; also Lottie Stone's Madcap troupe of dancers.

BOSCOMBE.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—The Ben Greet company is here this week with *La Poupée*. Mr. Algernon Lee plays Launcelot in good style; Mr. Harry Bishop is excellent as Loremois; and Mr. Stanley White's representation of the Baron Chanterelle is well received. The dollmaker finds a capable representative in Mr. Edward Thirlby, whose capital impersonation raises many a hearty laugh; and mention must also be made of Mr. Joseph A. Boull, as Father Maxime, and Mr. S. Anchor, as Balthazar. Miss Margaret Ainsworth plays Madame Hilarius effectively, and Henri finds a vivacious exponent in Miss Eva Ellis. Miss Cissie Wade's interpretation of Alesia is received with marked favour.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—Mr and Mrs F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company is here this week. *Othello* was played on Monday night. Mr Benson gave a finished rendering of Othello; Mr Arthur Whitby's reading of Iago was a fine effort; and the Desdemona of Mrs Benson was full of charm; Mr Cyril Keightley, as Cassio, distinguished himself, as did Miss Gertrude Scott, in the part of Emilia. Others deserving special mention were Mr H. O. Nicholson, as the Duke of Venice; Mr Percy D. Owen, as Roderigo; Mr B. A. Pittar, as Brabantio; and Mr Philip Sanders, as Montano. The other productions for the week include *The Merry Wives of Windsor, Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, The Taming of the Shrew, King Lear*, and *Twelfth Night*.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Pemberton.—*Cinders* continues its merry run, and crowded audiences testify to the popularity of Mr. Hart's charming pantomime, and the theatre rings nightly with laughter and applause.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—There was a crowded audience to witness the final performance of *Robinson Crusoe*, on Saturday evening, the enthusiasm and applause being prolonged throughout the performance. On Monday, the regular dramatic season was commenced, with Mr. and Mrs. Kimberley's company, in the sporting drama, *Bound to Win*. Mr. Kimberley gives a spirited performance of Harry Lyndon, and Mrs. Kimberley is most effective as the persecuted Marion Forbes. Squire Forbes has a capable exponent in Mr. S. Rennef; Philip Ayre, the villain, is represented with power and effect by Mr. F. Strickland, whose shady accomplice, Gladys Orme, is well played by Miss Kathleen Eckhart. The humour is well brough out by Miss Edie Maclin, in the part of Winnie Oakley, supported by Mr. H. Oustens and Mr. E. Morgan.

EMPIRE. — Moss Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. J. Kelly.—Once again Fred Karno's company of comedians (including the irresistible Fred Kitchen) and the band of the 1st Regiment Estrellian Guards, are affording delight to big audiences here, in the humorous extravaganza, *Saturday to Monday*. In addition, there are excellent turns presented by T. C. Callaghan, comic vocalist; Florrie St. Clair, a pretty dancer; Diamond and Beatrice, clever and accomplished instrumentalists; Fred Neiman, an entertaining ventriloquist; Leona Dare, a remarkable artiste on the trapeze; Frank Harwood

applause showed that there was still plenty of attraction in the piece. Mr. Arnold Bell, as Dan Myirea played better than ever. He had an excellent Mona in Miss Lilian Earle. Davy Fayle and Kitty in the hands of Mr. Wm. C. Reid and Miss Violet Campbell caused much laughter. Mr. F. C. Robson portrayed Ewan Myirea with spirit. Mr. F. C. Barlow as the Deemster, and Mr. Dan Farrough as the Bishop, with Mr. Cuthbert Imrie as the Governor, cleverly supported.

BURNLEY.—GAIETY.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Culeen; General Manager, Mr. Jas. E. Culeen.—Messrs. Carson and Granville's Company is appearing here this week in *Defending His Honour*, Mr. John Davidson gives a good embodiment of Douglas Bryce; Mr. Clifton Boyne is seen at his best as Stephen Gerald; George Duncan is well represented by Mr. Henry Gilpin; Miss F. Melrose-Millet is a clever Ethel Bryce; Miss Belle Etard makes a satisfactory Jane; Mr. Terry Davies gives good effect to the character of Richard Verison; Jack Damish has a capable exponent in Mr. J. Russell-Bogue; Mr. Kenneth Black is a successful Dick Verison; Mrs. Edmond Lyons and Miss Jessie Glenn give excellent support as Mrs. Theresa Verison and Miss Trixie Lucien; Jack Bryce is cleverly portrayed by Miss T. Elton; and Harry Bryce by Miss May Smart; Mr. Thompson Carruthers is an able David Peller.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Mr. Howard Hinton's pantomime company is here this week with *Dick Whittington*. In the title rôle Miss Kitty Phelps acquits herself with distinction, her singing being a special feature; Miss Maud Leonard infuses plenty of dash into the part of Sir Roland; and Miss Gracie Clements as Fairy Goodwill shows much promise, and in conjunction with Miss Daisy Clements (Alice Fitzwarren), in their coon song and cake walk fairly take the house by storm. The Princess Charming of Miss Violet Welsh is finished and pleasing. The comic element, in the hands of Mr. Mount Stephens, Mr. Harry Renmor, Mr. Tom R. Seymour, Mr. Steve Cooke, and the Bowery Boys, is first rate, and much hearty laughter is caused. In the Palace scene specialities are introduced by The Empress Quartette of Dancers, The Bowery Boys, and Mr. Harry Cardoe, contortionist, who also impersonates the Cat with much cleverness.

BURY (LANCS).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's pantomime *Aladdin* is here this week. The scenery and dresses are remarkably good. Large audiences have welcomed the principals, which include Mr. Fred Cary as Abanazar, a funny and versatile artist. He is ably assisted by Mr. Fred Graham as Widow Twankey, and the Bros. Brooks as Policemen. Miss Mimi Fisher is a dashing Aladdin; and Miss Harriet Fawn a winsome Princess. Specialities are given by Miss Cassie Walmer, sand dancer; Les Belles Americaines, dancers; Keith and Merson, acrobats and contortionists; and the Bros. Brooks.

OLYMPIA CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The programme here is up to the usual standard of excellence, and includes the Glenroy Troupe of dancers; the Mackweys, comic wire and acrobatic act; the Dillons, novel gymnastic entertainers; Mario, juggler; Codge, street arab whistler; and Smith and Johnson, coloured duettists.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. Broadhead, Jun.—Leo Tell, mimic; the Three Romas, gladiatorial marvels; Guy Ryder, whistler and vocalist; Emmie White, comedienne and dancer; and George Foyle, comedian, are in the bill this week.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Miss Emma Hutchison's company, under the direction of Mr. Percy Hutchison, is here with a return visit of *Saturday to Monday*. Mr. Stuart Champion is as good as ever in his character of Lord Culvert; Miss Moyra Cregan plays with much charm as Mrs. Wendover; Mr. Dallas Welford gives a clever character sketch of Pidding; and Miss Adeline Lester is equally successful as Lady Diana.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—Cardiff playgoers have this week the opportunity of witnessing the charmingly romantic play, *Miss Elizabeth's Prisoner*. The piece is presented by Mr. Lewis Waller's company, under the direction of Mr. Peter Davey. A fine piece of acting is that of Miss Essex Dane, who, as Miss Elizabeth, gives a portrayal that calls for high commendation. Another clever delineation is given by Mr. Norman Partriege, his representation of Captain Peyton being a very creditable performance. Mr. J. Harold Carson as Mr. Valentine gains much applause, and, with the valuable assistance of Miss Leonora Braham as Mistress Sarah, enlivens the audience considerably by his quietly amusing impersonation. A capital John Colden is found in Mr. Elliott Ball; Mr. Arthur Somers does well as John Edwards, and equally successful is Miss Marguerite Cellier as Molly. The curtain raiser, *The Borrowed Uncle*, is very amusing.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business Manager, Mr. Robert Sawin.—*What a Woman Did* has been presented this week, for the first time, in Cardiff, by Mr. W. A. Armour's capable company. The impersonation of Elise de l'Orme, by Miss Dora Price, stands out as an admirable performance. The company is composed of artistes of more than average histrionic ability, every part being carefully and realistically portrayed.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—A capital programme here is presented by the Venetia Kelinos, in their speciality act; Ambrose Thorne, in his light-comedy songs; Cora Caselli, in a Spanish rôle, with dramatic song and national dance; the comedy duo, Ross and Grayson, in *The Professor and the Pupil*; Lily Burnand, comedienne; Burg, Hand, and Wise, in a humorous acrobatic comedy act; Arthur Gill, with his Yokel speciality; the operatic xylophone experts, Baker and Balfe; F. V. St. Clair, the well-known comedian, who writes his own songs; the Musical Lady Juggler; and Les Brunin.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman.—Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's company opened here on Monday with *A Wife's Triumph*. Mr. George C. Doughty and Miss Ada Abbott win much sympathy as Frank Wilton and Bessie Dewhurst, while Mr. W. H. Garbois as Ellis Gordon and Mr. Edward Ouston as Julius Hartman arouse a storm of indignation by the clever realisation of their sinister parts. Miss Elsie Jones is a favourite as Little Frank, her acting being very smart for one so young; Mr. Ernest R. Abbott deserves great praise for a clever and life-like impersonation of Robert Dewhurst, a Yorkshire squire. Miss Jessie Mason gives a charming portrait of Alice Wilton. Mr. W. H. Davis-Brown as Stubbs, a trainer, is most satisfactory. The light side of the piece is provided by Mr. Edwin Keene as Ben Bradford and Miss Constance Medwyn as Margery Crib, both creating much laughter. Mr. D. Pentland is successful as Chas. E. Rylan, and Mr. W. Firth makes a capital Lopez.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. George G. Ridley.—This week we have the second pantomime of the season, *Dick Whittington*. The company is toured by Milton Bode, and the entire pantomime is produced under the stage management of Mr. E. R. Beaumont. In face and figure Miss Madoline Rees makes a capital Dick, and finds many admirers. Favourable mention must be made of Miss Janet H. Reynolds as May, her vocal numbers ranking among the most prominent items of the production. Tommy Trott is ably impersonated by Miss Florence A. White. The dancing of dainty Lillian Graham as the Fairy Claribel is spirited and graceful. Mr. Arthur E. Godfrey is an amusing Idle Jack; and Miss Minnie Godfrey does well as Alice Fitzwarren. Mr. Bob Hutt scores as Alderman Fitzwarren; Fred Dark gives a good account of himself as Matilda the cook; while the antics of Mouser the cat afford evidence of Mr. Tom Gilmore's acrobatic abilities.

CHELTENHAM. — OPERA HOUSE. — General Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Mr. Harry Foxwell and company opened on Monday a three-nights engagement with *The Shadows of a Great City*. Mr. Foxwell soon secured the sympathies of the audience as Tom Cooper, the hero; Miss Sheila Walsh acted well as Nellie Standish; Miss Mollie Monaghan made a lively Biddy Roonan; Mr. Charles Vivian as George Benson was a convincing villain; Mr. Howell Stevens gave a smart impersonation of the pawnbroker Jew; and Mr. Newton Pearce as Jim Farren caused roars of laughter. On Thursday and Friday, Mr. and Mrs. Kendal paid a welcome visit in *The Housekeeper* and *The Elder Miss Blossom*.

VICTORIA ROOMS.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. B. Shenton.—This week Mr. Erno Aguzzi's Star Vaudeville company is drawing well. Adrim and Oram greatly amuse with their rag-time eccentricities; and Leo Selwyn astonishes all beholders, and fully establishes his claim to the title of the "Handcuff Prince."

CHESTERFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Miss Remo Glendower and company, with *The Ladder of Life*, under the direction of Mr. G. Finch-Hatton, are the attraction here this week. Mr. Tyrone Power as General Gordon is seen to advantage; Mr. Roy F. Gascoigne as Colonel Macgregor scores a success; Mr. C. H. Matthews gives a careful study of the part of Fergus Gordon; Mr. Roy Milton makes a manly Lieutenant David Gordon; Miss Winnie De Lacey as Little Gordon shows intelligence; Miss Hilda Young is a vivacious Mary Jane Jolliboy; Miss Renee Glendower in the rôle of Mother Flint is a true portrayal of an old hag; Miss Flora Leslie is a pleasing Meg Merrilees; Miss Stephanie Barry as Olga Sobinsky is effective; and The Feros give a capital acrobatic turn.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Sante; Secretary, Mr. J. Clay.—Mr. H. W. Hallat's strong company is here this week with the excellent drama, *Two Little Sailor Boys*. Mr. Hallat as Capt. Tom York scores a decided success; Mr. W. Sams gives an admirable rendering of Noel Tregarthen; Mr. Leonard Booker cleverly undertakes the part of Lieut. R. Redstone, Mr. Tom E. Sinclair being responsible for a humorous portrayal of Ben Baxter. Miss Blanche Steele gives an exceptionally fine embodiment of Lola Grey. Miss M. Scudamore is a sympathetic Mildred Gray. The two sailor boys, Cyril Grey and Tom York, are successfully undertaken by the Misses May Day and E. F. Green, while Mr. Oscar Power as Jack Jolly, A.B., Mr. Ambrose Horton (Jim Royston), and Miss Chambers (Lucy Wilson) are effective in their respective impersonations.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Wilson.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Charles March's company, in the drama *The Priest of the Temple*. Mr. Charles March is highly successful as Valerius; Decus Fronto has a worthy exponent in Mr. Percy Ballard; Miss Marie North as Præstantia is excellent; Miss Violet Crawford scores heavily as Polita; and Mr. Henry Nixon as Appius Herdonius, a Tiberian chief, is worthy of praise. Other parts are well played by Mr. Stanley May as Hermanus; Mr. John Simpson as Camellius; and Mr. Sam Mewha as Alertius.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs. Mary Watson; Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Mr. Herbert Barrs' pantomime company is here this week with *Cinderella*, and on Monday opened to a full house. Mr. Carl Fredericks shows excellent talent as Baron Stonio; Mr. Oscar Mills and Mr. Walter Langford, as Flossie and Arminta respectively, give admirable renderings; and Mr. Paul Pry successfully portrays Buttons. Miss Minnie Willet, in the title rôle, is a great favourite; Miss Tessie Vandean makes a clever Prince Charming; and Miss Maggie Stewart shows ability as Dandini. The specialities include the Ya Pyn Ket Family, Oriental magicians; the Gaiety Girls dancers; Madame Cordelia, the Chameleon Sylph; John Bull, ventriloquist; and Paul Pry, whistler.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Professor F. R. Crocker and his horses are here for the week and are attracting good audiences. Intermixed with the clever equine feats are shown a number of humorous cinematograph pictures, which cause much amusement.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Messrs. J. K. Murray and J. M. Dawson's company opened a week's engagement here on Monday in the sensational drama, *Driven from Home*. Mr. John M. Dawson as Walter Hatherleigh filled the part successfully; Mr. Aylymer J. Williams did well as Anthony Raybrook; Miss Emilie Dawson was interesting as Margaret; Miss Ella Sennet supplied a convincing study of the persecuted heroine, Laura Raybrook; Miss Ida Murray acted the part of the Nipper cleverly; and Miss Gladys Murray made an excellent Barbara Ashdown. *The Streets of London* was billed for Friday.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The programme presented here includes Payne's Little Vagabonds in their vocal comedy act; Eileen Conroy, an excellent vocalist; France and Francis, comedians and dancers; the Henderson and Stanley Quartette, speciality artistes; the Sisters Lytton, two operatic vocalists; the Three Henriques in a clever acrobatic turn; G. W. Foster, vocalist and patterer; and the De Breans, premier sciographists.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company is the successful musical comedy, *Sergeant Brue*, is paying a welcome visit here this week. Mr. Victor Widdicombe gives a capital rendering of the title rôle; to Mr. T. A. Shale is entrusted the part of Crookie Scrubbs, his quaint humour being much admired; Mr. Cecil Burt gives a capital illustration of Mr. Crank, a typical magistrate; Mr. Albert Sealey makes a good lawyer, Matthew Habisholm; Mr. E. Percy Rogers is responsible for a great amount of fun in the part of Michael Brue; Miss Constance Lait is well received as Aurora Brue; and Miss Violet Dene gives a satisfactory impersonation of Lady Bickenhall. An augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. H. R. Mathews.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—Mr. H. A. Jordison's powerful company is here this week with *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Madge Daley makes a dashing Robin Hood, her acting and singing being greatly admired; Mr. Rowland Hill imbues the character of Dame Peggy with unctuous humour; Maid Marian is played by Miss Ada Martine with great vivacity; Mr. Edward Avon displays much cleverness in the character of Baron Toodle; the Babes are very prettily played by Little Elsie Jordison and Little Dolly Cullen; and Litle Clutley is very entertaining as Bantam. Specialities are given by Mr. George Chanti, The Empire Quartette of Dancers, and Avon and Crest. Messrs. Cullen and Carthy force the fun cleverly; and Phyllis and Marjorie are ably depicted by Miss B. Brookland and Miss K. Coffrey.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Lawrence.—Messrs. Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell's company is paying a first visit to Croydon with *Little Mary*. Miss Ethel Dane acts the rôle of Moira Loney with all the skill and tact of an accomplished actress; Miss Elspeth Dudgeon is good as the Countess of Plumleigh; Miss Margaret Nyblon is efficient as Lady Milly; and Miss Beatrice Kelston submits a faithful rendering of Eleanor Grey. Mr. George Mudie shows high histrionic ability in the rôle of the Earl of Carlton; Mr. George A. Brandram proves himself a sterling actor by his artistic impersonation of Sir Jennings Pyke; Mr. Arthur Kightley is admirable as Lord Rolfe; Mr. Louis Edgard is painstaking as the Earl of Plumleigh; Mr. Ean Macdonald is well suited as Dr. Topping; and Mr. F. J. Watts deserves a word of praise as Deighton. The first piece is the vivid and well-written one act play *The Monkey's Paw*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel Jones; Acting-Manager, Mr. Newman Maurice.—Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company is on a return visit here with the realistic drama *The Indian Mutiny*. Miss Kate Bruce deserves all praise for her portrayal of Mrs. Major Ingleby; Miss Agnes Kingston is a capital Kate Ingleby; and Miss Maud Digby is commendable as Ghuz-nah. Mr. H. Ryeland-Leigh puts in good work as Lieutenant Manley; Mr. H. P. Brandon renders valuable aid as Captain Manley; Mr. W. S. Tindall gives a creditable impersonation of Major Ingleby; Mr. John Hignett is amusing as Terry O'Brien; and Messrs. Villiers Stanley and J. S. Shedden are adequate as Nebu Singh and Abul Khan. Mr. John Reillie's orchestra renders yeoman service during the intervals.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Resident General Manager, Mr. Eustace H. Jay.—The week's bill here is affording satisfaction. Lidden and Hayward give a smart turn; Edie Hamilton excels as a dancer; Primavesi is an expert juggler; Dolly Harmer is a bewitching comedienne; Talberto and Douglas are a droll pair; Bessie Friars is a clever ventriloquist and pianist; Kioto, Japanese equilibrist, wins applause; the Two Whites, American eccentrics, are worth seeing; Flo Beck is a neat comedienne, and Florence Manners a lively burlesque actress; the Zenary Brothers are great in an acrobatic act, *A Meeting at the Club*; Harry Lane is an entertaining comedian; Violet Mills a taking serio; Fred Pollard an untiring comedian; and Lena Hicks is appreciated.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manageress, Mrs. T. W. S. Jennings.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company is presenting *Sunday* here this week. Miss Jean Sterling MacKinlay, in the title rôle, is a charming and clever actress, and her performance is greatly admired. Mr. J. Edward Pearce as Colonel Brinthorpe is excellent. Mr. Charles B. Vaughan plays the part of Arthur Brinthorpe in a capable manner. Mr. Ernest A. Douglas gives a fine rendering of Tom Oxley. Messrs. Fred. Powell as Towzer, John H. Manly as Davy, T. Norman Walter as Lively, and Whitford Kane as Jacky, are all successful as the "boys."

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. E. L. Ormsby. — Mr. John Walters' pantomine, *Robinson Crusoe*, is proving a great attraction here this week. In the title-rôle Miss Rose Harvey pleases all by her smart acting and tasteful singing. Miss Fanny Adamson is an ideal principal girl; Miss Bertha Cousins makes a dashing Captain Kettle, and Miss Kittie Major is a capital Dolly Fairweather. Mr. Shaun Glenville, a most amusing Dame Crusoe, introduces some clever singing and dancing; Mr. Fred Alberto is excellent as "Will" Atkins, and as Ebenezer and Julius Cutpurse the Brothers Obe are an exceptional pair of comedians, and along with Billy Crusoe, undertaken by Mr. Tom Drum, keep the house in roars of laughter. Miss Emily Liske is prominent as Fairy Liberty, as is Mr. J. C. Roberts as King Neptune. The Two Daniels are energetic as King Lung and Hoop Do Do, respectively, and Miss Nancy Renshaw is vivacious as Princess Piccalilli.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General Manager, Mr. J. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's pantomine, *Goody Two Shoes*, from the Theatre Royal, Sheffield, opened a fortnight's campaign here on Monday, and met with an excellent reception. There are no less than six high-class comedians all working harmoniously together, and whose efforts do much to secure the success of the production. Messrs. Downes and Langford, who impersonate Truthful Tommy and Phil the philosopher, Mr. Henry F. McClelland as Baron Grab, Mr. Geo. French as Simon, Mr. Fred Lincoln as Dame Fanny, and Mr. Harry Rousby as Sandy Sopps, are a host in themselves, and their songs and jokes are of a decidedly fresh, wholesome, and stimulating character. In the name part Miss Minnie Cunningham sings and dances admirably. Miss Georgina Leonard scores distinctly as principal boy, her presentment being as dashing as it is resourceful. Miss Rose Tilley as Peter Piper, and Miss Rita Rhylle as Dolly Dimple, are both praiseworthy in every way; and special mention should also be accorded to the Mephisto of Miss Amy French and the Benevolentia of Miss Molly Wolstenholme; while Miss Sheila Redgrave and Miss Hilda Stewart figure very acceptably as Frank Frisby and Pansy Blossom. A special feature is the engagement of the Five Sunbeams, who contribute a series of charming dances. The pantomine is magnificently mounted. Mr. H. W. Harwood is the general manager, and Mr. W. Ainsley Fox the musical director.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Allan Edwardes.—The Sarnthaler Troupe of Tyrolean singers and dancers form the star turn here this week; their performance is indeed attractive. Essman, a smart juggler, does several creditable feats; Sleath and Aldin appear in a pleasing musical scena; Walter Wallis acquits himself well as a comedian; Antley is a clever wire walker; and the Delamere trio of comedy equilibrists are praiseworthy. A special feature of the programme is a naval and military spectacle, arranged by Mr. Tom Herman. In this, fifty local children take part, and it proves a pleasing success.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—A capital variety combination is in possession of the boards here. Phil Herman, comedian, is well received; Marie York, chic comedienne, is engaging; U. C. Ugo, magician, is distinctly clever; Revill Hall, society humorist, is exceedingly funny, and an adept in orchestration; Madame Louie, second sight monarch, is mystifying. The other members of the company also excel.

DOUGLAS. — EMPIRE THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Sugden.—Mr. Robert Lena, who made a success last week with *For England's Honour*, makes a bold bid for public support by playing two sterling melodramas this week—to wit, *Who is the Man?* and *A Mother's Love*. The first mentioned play occupied the boards the first four nights of the week. It was admirably acted by Miss Lena Lewis, Miss Marie Lisle, and Miss Gertrude Lovell, in leading parts. Mr. W. Prestby was intensely interesting as the villain, and Mr. Robert Lena, in various disguises, was adroitly artistic as the Detective. The other characters were well played by the members of the company.

DOVER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr. F. C. Dew.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson and company are appearing here this week in *A Soldier and a Man*. Miss B. Doyle portrays the rôle of Rose Melbury with much charm; Norah Melbury is well interpreted by Miss Daisy England; and Miss Hilda Leslie as "Sergeant," Jane Wicks is energetic and amusing; Mr. A. Clifton Alderson appears to particular advantage as Harold Sinclair; Mr. Paul Beckett's stage villainies as Hubert Walgrove are marked with all the callous cynicism and brutality necessary; and Mr. Edward Fenton gives a striking study of Lieut. Pelham. As David Melbury, Mr. W. A. Norman submits a clever rendering of the feeble old man; and Mr. Henry C. Maroney is excellent as the austere Col. Sinclair; Mr. Harry F. Wright is conspicuously successful as the manly Jim Farrow; Mr. H. K. Ayliffe is strong and consistent as Jake Harding; Mr. Charles Perry as Col. Westerton gives a capital impersonation of the bluff old soldier; Mr. T. Kirkwood is decidedly humorous as Sergt. Wicks; and Mr. J. Balderton plays well the part of Major Bassett.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Limited; General Manager, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mrs. Bandman Palmer and company opened here on Monday with *Mary, Queen of Scots*. Mrs. Bandman Palmer, in the title-rôle, submitted a highly emotional and artistic representation, which won for her hearty applause. The part of the Earl of Leicester was played in an able manner by Mr. F. Skein, and Miss K. Herbert gave a careful study in the rôle of Queen Elizabeth. Mr. E. Grogan excellently portrayed the Earl of Mortimer, and Miss Bruce Joy was seen to advantage as Gertrude. The Earl of Shrewsbury, as played by Mr. A. St. Aubyn, was an admirable performance, and Mr. Sydney Bland was capital as Lord Burleigh. Mr. G. Munroe was well placed as the Earl of Kent, and Mr. Durand was successful as Burgoyne. *Nel Gwynne*, *Leah*, *the Forsaken*, and *East Lynne*, are billed for the remainder of the week. On Thursday and Friday nights the theatre was devoted to amateur theatricals in aid of Lady Dudley's Fund.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing - Director, Mr. Mouillot.—This popular pantomime, which entered on its third week here on Monday night, continues to draw crowded houses.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; General Manager, Mr. Kennedy Miller.—*When London Sleeps* is being played here this week by Mr. C. Finch Hatton's company. Mr. Walter H. Wilson ably sustains the part of Captain Rodney, and Miss Mabel Cluer gives an effective portrayal of Queenie Carruthers. The part of David Englehart is played in an acceptable manner by Mr. Albert Wray, and Miss Hilda Clyde makes an admirable Hilda Carode. Mr. Edward Vivian acts the part of Furnaby Fuller capitally, and Miss Evelyn Clare is good as Maudie de Friere. Bob Jones, alias Signor Roberto Jonesio, has an able exponent in Mr. Paul Graydon, and Miss Nellie Birchenough is well suited in the rôle of Signorina Robertio Jonesio. The parts of the Hon. Bertie Broomhead and Mark Blackwood are successfully played by Messrs. Charles Digby and Elwyn Hurst, and Miss Nellie Hook as Carrie Jones and Mr. Darcy Kelway as Sammy are both satisfactory in their respective parts.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. S. Piggis.—The principal item here this week is Fred Karno's Troupe of Comedians, in their pantomimical burlesque, *Early Birds*, which causes much laughter. The several selections played by Mendel, the blind pianist, are favourably received, and Rastus and Banks are seen to advantage as "The Major and the Maid." Harry Helmsley's imitation of children meets with success, and The Sakers, comedy duettists, are a diverting pair. The pantomime absurdity *Hilarity* is entertaining; and Harry Martell is a smart comedian and dancer. Little Uno, boy comedian, makes a decided hit, and Katie Butler, a vivacious comedienne, merits applause. The Empire pictures are also attractive.

TIVOLI.—General Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Les Francois, in their Pot Purrie acrobatic act, are a great attraction here this week, and meet with a cordial reception. The Gordons, in the sketch *He, She, and It*, are appreciated, as is also Herman Priscari, hat manipulator and juggler. Williams and Brown, cross-talk comedians, score a success; and The Steens supply a clever act. H. K. Bradshaw is an excellent tenor vocalist, and Della Doree a pleasing comedienne and dancer. Other turns who contribute are Satsuma, Oriental worker; Flo Atkins, concertinist and mandolinist; and Ted Waite, comedian.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The bill here includes Pettigrove and Sons, marionettes; pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*; illustrated songs, living pictures, and J. D. Dunne, pianist.

SAMUELS' EXHIBITION PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. S. Samuels.—The company here includes Mildred Vaughan, comedienne and dancer; Lead and Lead, comedy duettists; Kolney Hatch, comedian; George Arnold, baritone; George Harcourt, descriptive vocalist; and Sheelah, palmist.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company is this week occupying the boards here in *Dan the Rake* and *The God of War*. The former was produced on Monday. Mr. Frank Orchard made a capable Colonel Flamer, and as Lieutenant Charles Kavanagh Mr. F. Copland was a success. Captain Tom Cooper found an able exponent in Mr. Frederick Biron. Mr. George Horder was good as the High Priest of Sivan. Mr. S. Crossley made an impressive General Lake. The comedy element was in the hands of Mr. Cassidy as Dan Donelly, who showed himself to be a master of the art. Miss Lilian Clare ably supported him in her part of Madge. Miss Ada Roscoe was an acceptable Mrs. Donelly.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. Standen Triggs.—Mr. J. P. Sousa and his celebrated band gave a concert here on Wednesday evening.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and his company are appearing here in *The Manxman*. Mr. Cross undertakes the rôle of Peter in a masterly manner, and proves himself an actor of much ability. Mr. William Burchill is a handsome, dignified, and polished Philip; Mr. Henry Heller is an incisive and forceful Cæsar Cregan; Mr. Edward McLean is a humorous Ross Christian; and the smaller characters receive capable treatment. Kate Cregan finds a fine exponent in Miss Minnie Watersford, and her emotional scenes are particularly able and convincing. Miss Nancy Mitchell is a pretty Nancy, and Miss Leslie Adair a refined and subdued Miss Christian.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—In the interesting and clever sketch, *A Daughter of Pleasure*, Mr. J. G. Grahame, jun., displays the work of a capable actor, and his careful, earnest work grips the attention; Miss Zerlina Harrington is an effective Elsie; and Mr. A. Bradshaw a capable Alphonse. Miss Agnes Molteno, in a cultivated voice sings her songs to the delight of the audience; Miss Dora Martini is a novel and daring trapeze-worker; Hurman is a neat and pleasing juggler and hoop manipulator; Mr. Andy Burn is a successful comedian, and one of the smartest step-dancers seen here; the Three Sisters Chester dance neatly to their own banjo accompaniment; Mr. Fred Herbert's topical verses appeal to the audience; Miss Florrie St. Roy sings and dances well; Miss Amy Elcock step-dances neatly; Saxo contributes a popular musical act; Miss Fin remains from last week; and the Hippodrome pictures complete the programme.

EBBW VALE.—KING'S THEATRE.—Sole Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Arthur Knight.—A special attraction was provided at this place during the first three nights of the week, when Messrs. Fred J. Webb and Wilson Benge's company appeared in *The Two Hussars*. Harry Alford was powerfully portrayed by Mr. W. Benge; the unpopular part of Captain Paul Villiers was well acted by Mr. F. J. Webb; one of the successes was Robert Runn, by Mr. Louis Nanton. Mr. V. Vivian made a typical Colonel Manners; Miss Lallah Price was amusing as Molly Cutts; and Sergeant McFinnie was ably taken by Mr. G. Paradise.

MARKET HALL.—Lessees, The Market Hall Company; Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Light.—On Wednesday the Ebbw Vale Amateur Dramatic Society gave a performance of *Still Waters Run Deep*, and the farce, *To Oblige Benson*.

EDINBURGH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Limited.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Hollister.—The pantomime of *Jack and the Beanstalk* attracted another large and well-pleased audience to this theatre on Monday evening, when the entertainment went brightly and briskly as ever. The comedians work with a will, and Mr. Malcolm Scott caps their absurdities with the quaintest drolleries, his fiscal policy speech making way now for a diverting sketch depicting a visit to a dentist. Mr. Ambrose Manning and Mr. J. P. Macmillan give able assistance, and many comicalities are painlessly extracted from the scene. Miss Lily Harold's new song, "Little Yo San," is cordially received, and the vocal contributions of Miss Daisy Le Hay and Miss Cecilia Wilman are nightly appreciated and applauded.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Limited; General Manager, Mr. G. T. Minshull.—*The Duchess of Dantsic* is proving a big source of attraction here, and is nightly received with an enthusiasm which augurs well for the remainder of the month's run. The scenery and dresses call forth hearty encomiums, and the performance of Mr. George Edwardes's company is universally admired. An additional interest has been lent to the cast by the appearance of a fresh Madame Sans Gêne. Owing to the absence of Miss Amy Augarde, Miss Kate Traill, who had been playing Grand Duchess of Bery and Cleves, was a week ago called upon to undertake the leading lady rôle, and on Monday night we found her sustaining the part of the Merry Duchess with marked ability, and acquitting herself with a brilliancy which captivated and delighted the house. Her assumption of the character of the nimble-witted Catherine was in every way dramatically alive, and acting with verve and singing with vigour, Miss Traill's success has been assured from the first. It is worthy of record that this talented lady was at one time a pupil in the Edinburgh Ladies' College. Mr. Matthew Brodie's Napoleon—a part he plays with consummate skill—remains an important feature of the performance, and the singing of Mr. Herbert Clayton and Mr. Reginald Kenneth is much enjoyed by the public. Mr. T. W. Volt revels in the delicate comedy of Papillon, and the dainty acting and sweet singing of Miss Lillian Digges as Renée and the smart appearance of Miss Luna Love as Lisette are also pleasurable elements of the evening.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—Mr. Harry Lauder is one of the strongest not "saftest" of the family of comedians, and saving Vesta Tilley and Albert Chevalier, a bigger draw than he cannot be found in the provinces. This sterling artiste, who can blend so many diverse elements in his homespun studies of character, was in his best form on Monday, and enjoyed a grand reception from an overflowing house. Although colded a bit he got through four songs, and retired amid tremendous applause. Miss Daisy Mayer, who is a delightful dancer, made a welcome reappearance, while the National dances of Clark and Argyle were also cordially applauded. Collins and Rice, speciality artistes, and Burns and Evans, comedians, contributed capital turns, and the fooling of Little Ulpis and the antics of Peppo's Monkeys were favourably received. Mr. H. F. Wilson (tenor), Mr. Harry Lawson (comedian), and The Three Donals (athletes) complete the week's company.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—This is the last week of *Little Red Riding Hood*, the pantomime being withdrawn on Saturday to make room for novelties previously arranged for. Business during the past week has been excellent, and we are sure everybody is sorry to part with Miss Florrie Forde, who has been the mainstay of the production in every sense of the term. Of course adequate support has been given all round, both by Miss Gertie Gitana, the charming heroine, and by the comedians whose praises we have already sung. The performance has been a notable example of first-class artistes working cordially together, and we hope Mr. Brydon-Phillips will bring the same company round in a similar entertainment very soon.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Tom Ellis.—After nearly twenty years' touring in the provinces, thanks to the enterprise of Mr. Ellis, Arthur Shirley's world-famed drama, *The Grip of Iron*, is paying a first visit to Edinburgh. The play, which was heartily received, drew a large and appreciative audience, and the performance by Messrs. E. H. Knight and George Denham's company was all that could be desired. The mounting was strikingly effective, and the last scene, "The Drawing-room of Lorentz de Riba's Villa," a stage arrangement of unusual magnificence that secured the producer an immediate call. The principal character of Jagon, *alias* Simmonet, is sustained with vivid realism by that powerful actor Mr. Fred Powell, who, it is stated, has played the part for close on 6,000 times with only a single evening's break. Here is a record of histrionic achievement that should start a medal and order of merit, and we are sure the profession at large, from the illustrious Sir Henry himself to the humblest volunteer in the ranks, are in this instance proud of so distinguished a comrade. Mr. Powell was splendid in the various heavy scenes as Simmonet, while in those where he figured as Jagon he revealed a fine sense of humour that was greatly enjoyed by the audience. Mr. Blundell Lenton gave a highly finished rendering of Paul Blanchard, and Mr. A. G. Poulson Turner made a picturesque appearance as the Spaniard, Lorentz de Ribas. Mr. John Coghlan, who is also acting-manager, gave an artistic rendering of the ardent Robert de Belfort, and Mr. Harry Agar Lyons, a gentlemanly actor at all times, was seen to unusual advantage as Alphonse de Coucou, a detective. Mr. John Brittain represented the old school in the same line cleverly, and Mr. George Denham, as a nondescript convict, proved a comedian of the first water, causing uproarious merriment in his principal scenes. Marie Guerin was played with charm-

ing grace by Miss Hilda Baynton, while Miss Georgie de Lara displayed notable power all through her brilliant impersonation of Cora Simmonet. A better Sophie Blanchard than Miss Helena Walbran could not be found, and she stirred the sensibility of the audience with her intensely emotional acting from first to last. Other parts by Misses Sybil Smith and Pope Royal were satisfactorily filled.

Cooke's Royal Circus. — Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—The end of the season here is approaching, and this week will see the last of the great spectacle *Aqua-Wreck*, which has drawn well and fully realised the expectations of the management. *A Prince for an Hour* continues, and the singing and dancing of La Paloma has proved very attractive. The Three Martinettes have introduced an amusing sketch, and turns by the Yoricks and the Wambas have been well received. The Bioscope pictures are also given with success.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Pollard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—*Are You a Mason?* played by Messrs. Geo. Edwardes and Chas. Frohman's company, is the attraction here this week. Mr Arthur Claremont very ably portrays the character of Frank Perry, and Mr. Harry Ashford as Amos Bloodgood is extremely successful, and the same remark applies to Mr. Anthony Fawcett who as Angelina's long-lost daughter was very funny. Miss Violet Graham was a bright and vivacious Eva; Miss Edith Ife proved more than capable as Lottie; and Miss Harriet Trench as Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood was a marked success.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. W. Ebbutt.—Mr. Fred. Karno's company in the dramatic extravaganza, *His Majesty's Guests*, has held the boards here this week. The leading part is that of Sergeant Lightning, which is filled with the utmost success by Mr. R. H. Kitchen, whose undoubted powers as a comedian are greatly appreciated. He is well supported by Mr. Wellesley Smith (Mr. Miffin), Mr. Charles Cardon (Fritz), Mr. Charles F. Howard (Lord Easem), Miss Doris Ainsley (Dolly), Miss Clara Moore (Miss Manly), Miss Jessie Newcombe (Lady Maude Easem), and the other members of a numerous company.

FARNWORTH.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell.—Mr. A. E. Smith's company is here with *Bold Robin Hood*. The characters are all in good hands, and the performance runs merrily from beginning to end. As Robin Hood Miss Edith Wallis gives a sprightly rendering of the part, and is largely responsible for the success of the show. Maid Marion has a pretty representative in Miss Beatie Howard, who also works with unflagging zeal from first to last; Mr. Arthur Slater, as Baron Balderdash, is prominent as a fun-maker, and indulges in some capital whistling solos; the Dame Quisby Diggs of Mr. Charles Gladwell is a very humorous character indeed, and he fully deserves the reception accorded him; Messrs. Bob Padley and F. Wheatcroft, as Wearie Willie and Tired Tim, cause much amusement. Good singing is forthcoming from Mr. J. H. Matthews as the Demon King; and Miss Lily Coleman makes a pretty and dignified Fairy Queen; the Bluebell Quartette of dancers give a pleasing performance. The scenery and mounting are excellent.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Frederick E. Philpott's No. 1 company, in *The Girl from Japan*, is the attraction here. Mr. George Hudson as Lord Allenbury is excellent; Mr. Charles Lupton deserves every praise as Sir Mulberry Flippington; Mr. Percy Baverstock is equally successful as General Baugh; Mr. H. Carlyle Pritchard's portrayal of the Rev. John Smith gives satisfaction; and Mr. Colet Dane as Horatio Binks is provokingly funny. Mr. H. Benson does well as Hans Creton; Mr. Frank Sherlock wins favour as Bingle; Miss Rita Tomkins is a capable Polly Perkins; Miss Florence Nelson is seen to advantage as Lady Flippington; Miss Effie Rydon is good as the Countess De La Rue; Miss Jean Van Dalle gives a good rendering of the part of Maud; and Miss Madeline Stone Humphries as Violet displays great vivacity.

GATESHEAD.—Metropole Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Resident Manager, Mr. J. Straughan. —This is the second and closing week's stay of the pantomime *Aladdin*. The singing and dancing of the principals are now of a taking character, and Miss Meg Hamilton as Aladdin makes the most of the part. Miss Polly Prim continues to give a good embodiment of the character of Princess Badroulbadour, while as Widow Twankey Mr. Will Crackles is responsible for much amusement. A capital portrayal of the character of Abanazar is given by Mr. Fred Lawrence, and Messrs. Bishop and Vale get much out of the respective characters of Ping and Pong. Miss Gracie Moore, who last week was unable to sing owing to a severe cold, now contributes a song, which is much appreciated.

GLASGOW. — Theatre Royal, Limited. — Managing Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—In Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's latest successful pantomime *The Forty Thieves*, Miss Annie Purcell (who was recently indisposed) had a great reception on her reappearance on Monday evening. Messrs. Tom E. Murray, George Lashwood, Fred Griffiths, Percy Clifton, Wm. Benson, Miss Pearl Lyndon, Miss Annie Braddan, and Miss Marcella Chevalier are still first favourites; while the dancing of The Diamond Troupe of Dancers is excellent.

Royalty, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie. —The last week of the very successful run of the pantomime of *Jack and Jill* has proved not the least successful of the lot. The proprietors of the theatre and Mr. John Tiller are to be congratulated on their first joint venture at this house. It has proved thoroughly enjoyable, and is funny without a trace of vulgarity. The versatile Ginger of *Jack and Jill*, Mr. J. French, was accorded a crowded house at a benefit given him on Tuesday, and the popular Misses May Merry and Mabel Higson, who essayed the title parts, were announced for a similar and well-deserved compliment on Thursday evening. Mr. Downie, the courteous Acting-Manager, has managed "the front" during the runs with conspicuous credit to himself and all concerned.

Royal Princess.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—At this house the pantomime *Goosy Gander* continues its prosperous career, and the principal performers are enjoying a degree of popularity that is pleasant to witness. Among those who have specially endeared themselves to the patrons here are Miss Lily Morris in the part of Fred Fearless; Miss Daisy Dormer as Rosey Posey; and Mr. John E. Coyle, who appears in the title rôle. Messrs. Regan and Ryan are diverting as Sunny Jim and Cloudy Jim; while a charming second boy and girl are found in the Sisters Cora. The Baron of Mr. Arthur Poole is an amusing bit of burlesque, and some excellent fun is provided by Mr. Dawson Dewick as Jenny Awthings, and by Messrs. John and George Preston as Peter and Sampson, respectively.

Metropole — Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Dunbar.—Messrs. Scudamore and Richmond's company is here in *The Beautiful Avenger*, with Miss Nannie Meade in the title-rôle. In her disguise as Victor Stanhope she makes a powerful impression, and is equally successful in her impersonation of Vashti Volta, the avenger of her sister's wrongs. Mr. Algernon Syms, as Telford, the artist hero, gives a manly rendering of the part; while the wandering waif Baldie is feelingly acted by Miss Lilian Morgan. A trying character—that of Edna Volta—is successfully portrayed by Miss Cissy Podmore. A pair of thorough scoundrels are strongly presented by Mr. Edwin Walton as the elder Foxbane, and Mr. Chas. T. Does as Herman, the son. The fun of the drama is kept merrily going by Miss Lilian Hawkins as Arabella, Mr. Bert Ellis as Peregrine Patch, and Mr. Arthur Richmond as Jim Jahms, a ragged, unkempt tramp.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—That sterling old favourite *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is the attraction here, and Mr. Charles Harrington's company gives an excellent performance. Mr. J. Carr makes a striking figure of Uncle Tom, and the tone of resigned pathos throughout is most effective. Mr. Charles Harrington again appears as the good-hearted St. Clair, and Miss Zerlina Zerbini is clever as the vindictive Cassy. Miss Hettie Johnson acts with excellent effect as Eliza Harris, and Mr. Guy P. Ellis is well suited as George. Mr. "Nemesis" Rogers repeats his strong embodiment of the slave-owner, Legree. Miss Sylvia Stella infuses a wealth of humour into her rendering of Topsy. Mr. Fred Charles, as the lawyer Marks, also helps the fun along. Two short parts, very well played, are the Mrs. St. Clair of Miss Hero Hathaway, and the Emmeline of Miss Emma Stewart. Little Minnie as Eva speaks her lines with good emphasis and effect. The plantation scenes are good, and the coloured choristers sing with admirable taste and precision.

Empire, Limited.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Aldin.—Tilly Bébé and her lions give an attractive and daring example of animal training and control. Florrie Gallimore is getting a great reception here on her first visit since her Australian triumphs, and is fetching the audiences with her catchy songs, both new and old. The Jackson Family repeat their excellent musical turn, a first-rate contribution. Carl and Mary Ohm give an enjoyable circus act, with ponies, dogs, monkeys, and bears. Barney Vox is heartily received in his smart ventriloquial business. Loro Quartette contribute a smartly diversified musical turn. Geoffreys and Benson appear in an enjoyable sketch, *Spoofed*. Daisy Ray, a neat sand dancer; and Arthur Melrose, whistling comedian, complete an excellent programme.

Tivoli and Queen's, Limited.—General Manager, Mr. S. King Alexander; Acting Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—A strong bill of fare is presented here this week. Tom Davies's Trio in their cycling performance exhibit great nerve and daring, and are much appreciated. Gladys Mavius, the Canadian Coon, sings in a refined and finished manner, and makes a decided hit. Ethel May, comedienne, makes a creditable appearance, and the Two Graces are charming comediennes. Amongst lightning painters Herry Thornbury holds a foremost place. The Australian comics, Doody and Wright, create the heartiest laughter in their farcical performance, and Tell and Tell, comedy acrobats, submit a capital entertainment. Tom Hall's Nippers are diverting, and Gravetta and Parr are interesting in their turn, giving several life-like impersonations. Will Candish, Charles Gardener, and Fred Collins are comedians of much ability; and Clown Ferron introduces his performing monkey and dog. Bendon's Bioscope is a special feature.

Palace. — Proprietors and Managers, Rich Waldon and Thomas Barrasford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. M'Kelvie.—The entertainment provided here this week is up to the usual high standard. Charles Morritt, magician, tops the bill. The wonderful Blind Man, in marvellous feats of memory and calculations; Andy Higginson, comedian; Marquis Iton, Japanese gymnast; J. P. Dane, comedian; Mdlle. Marvelle and highly-trained cockatoos; Larry Lewis, comedian; Henri Abdy's Canine Hippodrome; Reddick Anderson, character comedian; Iben Obed, Arabian equilibrist; and the Animatograph, with a series of up-to-date pictures, combine to make an excellent evening's entertainment.

Britannia.—Lessee, Mr. James Anderson; Manager, Mr. Harry Hemfrey.—Notable among the present week's engagements at the well-known resort in the Trongate are the Bros. Bothwell, whose "strong-men" feats, with heavy weights, are well known. Two local newsboys in solo and duet selections earn considerable applause, while the Britannia bioscope shows a number of entertaining pictures. Mr. Anderson is again to the fore with a flower-girl competition, and among the other artistes who merit the appreciation of large audiences nightly are Zanoni, a daring gymnast; Tit and Tat, comedians; the Five Devlins, whose clog dancing is a big attraction; T. A. Hennessy, patriotic vocalist; Carrie Bernhardt, serio and dancer; and the Cardona trio. The earlier evenings of the week were devoted to amateur wrestling, which is once more in great vogue in Glasgow. Mr. Harry Hemfrey, manager, had a benefit on Thursday evening, when many attractive extra items were given.

Harmonic Concerts. — Musical Secretary, Mr. Wm. Biggam.—The Hamonic have concluded their annual competition for vocalists, and have brought forward several clever amateurs who are certain to be heard of in the future. In addition, a varied programme was contributed to by Prince Fee Lung, the conjuror; Polly Heath, the versatile vocalist and dancer; W. E. Hilton, Scotland's own ventriloquist; Archie Jack and W. C. McPhie, vocalists; and Rae and Calden, in their amusing act entitled *Peculiarities*.

GLOUCESTER. — Theatre Royal. — Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. W. H. Weller.—Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale, supported by an excellent company, is this week paying a welcome return visit. The repertoire consists of *The Bells*, *The Vicar of Wakefield*, *David Garrick*, the Screen scene from *The School for Scandal*, and *Trilby*. On Monday *The Bells* was the attraction, and Mr. Hoggan-Armadale gave a powerful and scholarly rendering of Mathias. Miss Violet Wilson acts with grace and charm as Annette; and Madame Mathias is effectively presented by Miss Marie Florence; Mr. Fred Emery makes a soldierly Christion; Father Hermann and Fritz are capitally played by Mr. W. F. Clitherow and Mr. Henry Osman respectively; and Miss Kate Evelyn is good as Lucille.

GOOLE.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John E. Tomlinson.—Mr. F. S. Gilbert's Grand Opera Co. opened on Monday with *The Bohemian Girl*. Miss Faith Laborde's Arline was full of charm and ability; Mr. F. S. Gilbert merited the cordial recognition he received in the rôle of Thaddeus; Mr. F. Halpin was effective as Count Arnheim; Miss Grace Parish acted with spirit the part of the Gipsy Queen; and Mr. Fletcher Sansome was a capital exponent of Devilshoof. Miss Kate White was highly successful as Buda. The chorus and general musical forces were controlled by Mr. Charles Bye. "The Daughter of the Regiment," "Satanella," "Faust," and "Maritana," are also in the bill.

GRAVESEND.—New Public Hall and Theatre. —Secretary and Manager, Mr. R. Feaver Clarke.—The Lyric Amateur Dramatic Society gave a charity performance here on Wednesday evening of *My Friend the Prince*, for the benefit of the local hospital. The comedy was admirably staged and well presented. Of the cast the Mr. Tannaway of Mr. Frank Willoughby was a really polished enactment, and the part of his son was in the hands of Mr. Rodney Hill. The real Prince of Pannonia was cleverly represented by Mr. J. P. Fitzgerald, and Mr. Redman as the Prince's Chancellor did well. Mr. Cheek was irresistibly droll as Ambrose Pinning, and Mr. Manners as Godolphin, the other counterfeit Prince, was decidedly meritorious. The Princess Pannonia was artistically taken by Miss Hilda Treen, and Poppy and Pansy Jannaway were both capably sustained by Mrs. Holland and Miss E. L. Croombes respectively. The Gilberte Picarde of Miss Ashbee was an easy and natural performance; and as Shottery, Mr. Rawson, and as Bennett, Mrs. Cheek, both were good.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—Royal Aquarium.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Messrs. Fred Moule and Alfred Denville's company occupies the boards this week with the powerful play, *Bigamy*. Miss Grace Lester gives a fine rendering of the exacting rôle of Diana de Courcelle; Miss Elsie Capell is effective as Sylvia Dresden; Lilian Lambkiss is capitally played by Miss Lydia Mannington; Mr. Ernest J. Farr is successful as Lionel Craven; and Sir Charles Dresden is well represented by Mr. Colin Hazlewood.

GREENOCK. — Theatre Royal. — Managers, Messrs. H. B. Wright and J. J. Wright.—Mr. Charles Frohman's company is here this week with *Sherlock Holmes*. Mr. Kenneth Rivington makes a decided hit as the famous Detective; Mr. Fred Inwood distinguishes himself as Dr. Watson; Mr. Arthur B. Murray portrays the villainous Professor Moriarty with great success; Mr. F. Clive Ross ably fills the rôle of John Forman; and Mr. Howard E. Laing gives a careful embodiment of Sir Edward Leighton. The part of Count Stahlberg is excellently played by Mr. William Wilson, and Mr. Ernest Gray does well as James Larrabee. Mr. Harry Mann makes a first-lass Alfred Bassic, and the same may be said of Mr. Harry G. Wright as Sidney Prince. Miss Florence Radcliffe as Alice Faulkner acts admirably; Miss Ethel Gordon is a capable representative of Mrs. Faulkner; Madge Larrabee is in the able hands of Miss Carrie Lacey; Miss Marjorie Murray does good work as Therese; and Miss Hattie Newcombe does justice to the part of Mrs. Smeedley.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. S. Skivington.—The bill here is headed by Jean Seul, the Indian Mystery; Len Lever, the Coffee Coloured Coon, appears in the scena, *Shall I stay or Go?* and is heartily applauded; Weimars, Lord Roberts' trumpeter, does a good turn; Joe Mac, patter comedian, is particularly funny; Bonnetti and Corrie are clever jugglers; Mountford and Walsh, speciality artistes, are much appreciated; and new pictures are shown on the Cinematograph.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales' Theatre.—Managing Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant Manager, Mr. S. Tolfree.—The second week of the run of Dottridge and Longden's pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, has proved every bit as successful as the first. Several new features have been introduced. Fresh business was presented by the comedians, and there was a budget of new songs, for which Miss Lily Lonsdale, Miss Dolly Elsworthy, Miss Cissie Kingsley, Mr. Ernie Myers, Mr. James Danvers, and Mr. Cliff Dover were responsible.

New Palace Theatre.—Managing Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General Manager, Mr. Steuart Cecil.—G. W. Hunter, the smart raconteur, has entertained the Palace audiences this week, and his amusing stories have been much appreciated. The quaint performance of Joe Almasio, described as a jumping juggler, was also popular. Vandinoff's lightning oil paintings have excited much interest, whilst the same may be said of the musical turn given by the Bandurias. Excellent songs were contributed by Lily Black and Baker Belphor, the latter possessing a pleasing baritone voice. Other turns were given by the Loma Trio, gymnasts; Cliff and Kean, comedy artists; and Tom Parker, comedian.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The popular burlesque artiste, Marie Kendall, has paid her first visit to Grimsby this week, and has met with the complete approval of the Hippodrome patrons. The Zampahs, a couple of one-legged performers, have given a display of acrobatic work that was wonderful, considering the difficulties under which they labour. Others contributing to the programme were Lade Henderson, a talented vocalist; Walker and Lake, a couple of smart patter artists; Cavern and Cave, who appeared in an amusing comedietta; Steve McCarthy, comedian; and the Seebolds, instrumentalists, together with some excellent Bioscope pictures.

HALIFAX.—Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr W. Robinson; General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling.—*The School Girl* is having a remarkably successful week here. Mr Charles Macdona's company is thoroughly competent, and the combination of capable principals, a sound chorus, suitable setting, and tasteful dressing result in deserved success. Miss Nellie Hodson plays Lillian with discrimination, tact, and sound judgment; Miss Kate Forster does admirable work in a dual rôle, her singing being delightful; Miss Jenny Bonney is attractive as Cicely; Miss Bessie Maddox is thoroughly successful, and sings with point and effect; and Miss Madeline Maude is responsible for good work. Mr Alec Chantrens plays Verney with taste and sings his numbers admirably; Mr Chas. Adeson gives a delightful character study of General Marchmont; Mr Alfred Leslie is a very funny comedian; Mr Charles W. Anson does justice to his part; and Mr. Max Copland plays the absent-minded St. Leger very well. Mr Louis Laval has the orchestra and chorus well in hand.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr Frank Macnaghten. —The Halifax Amateur Opera Society are in possession here this week, and are giving a praiseworthy rendering of *The Gondoliers*.

HANLEY.—Royal, Limited.—Managing Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone.—The attraction this week is Mr. Louis N. Parker's beautiful play, *The Cardinal*. The piece is presented by Mrs. Russ Whytal and company, and the outcome is a really splendid performance. Mrs. Russ Whytal, in the part of Filiberta, gives an interpretation of the highest possible standing, which meets with all the desired appreciation; Mr Philip Cunningham, as Cardinal Giovanni di Medici, acts with much skill, and his portrayal is excellent; Miss Katherine Maude does well as Claricia de Medici; Mr. Gerald Kay-Souper, as the brother of the Cardinal, shows his usual exceptional ability; Mr. Harold Sims Standing, as Francesco, is well placed; Mr. W. A. Reed and Miss Kitty Wells are good as Pietro and Valentine; Mr. Oscar Adye gives a clever representation as Bartolommeo Chigi. All the other parts are admirably played, and the mounting is, as usual, all that could possibly be desired. Next week Sir Henry Irving is to appear for three nights and one matinée. Nearly all the seats are booked, and business is sure to be record.

Grand.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. James Wynes.—The bill this week is headed by De Gracia's Baby Elephants, in a truly wonderful performance, which is much appreciated; Geo. Leyton returns, and, as usual, meets with great success, his scena, *Britannia's Babes*, being really excellent; Joe Boganny's "Lunatic Bakers" contribute a truly wonderful performance, their Risley business being particularly fine; Sydney James's strolling players are much appreciated, their versatility being marked, and the entertainment generally being of a capital order; Chas. Best, the indiarubber man, is excellent; Miss Tiny Arnold is a distinct success, her dancing being "non plus ultra"; Cyril Dare, the society entertainer, does well; The Redferns, as banjoists, are particularly good: Gallagher and Hild are dancers extraordinary. Business at this house continues excellent.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cyril Fielding Smith.—Mr. Lilford Arthur's company, supporting Mr. Charles Collette in Glen Macdonough's farcical comedy, *Jones' Jaunt*, commenced a three-night's engagement here on Monday. Mr. Collette, as Stanley Jones, was responsible for roars of laughter. The other parts were very ably sustained by Miss Rosamund Bury, Miss Ruby Chester, Miss Irene Ross, Miss Mabel Luxmore, and Mr. E. Beresford, Mr. David Sellor, Mr. Aubrey Mallalieu, and Mr. E. Wintour. The comedy was preceded by a comedietta, *The Lady Wrangler*. *The New Barmaid*, under the direction of Mr. Alexander Loftus was billed for Thursday.

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Crag; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—Lilith, the Mysterions, at the head of the bill here, causes considerable sensation; Jack Pleasant, at all times welcome, is adding to his host of admirers; Lillian Warren's Pictures are pretty; and the Donatos are old favourites. Fred Harcourt is as smart as of old, and has some interesting and mystifying tricks; Edie Eudon gives an entertaining dance; Speeks and Thorne take well in their mace swinging and buck dancing; and Burns's Bioscope is an attraction.

HASTINGS.—Hippodrome.—General Manager, Mr. Harold Penny.—An excellent company of artistes is appearing here. Mr. Teddy Denham gives a good turn as a comedian and dancer; an attractive vocalist is found in Miss Blanche St. Marie; the Clarion Trio of comedians cause great fun; Miss Dollie Denton comedienne, receives great applause; a musical duologue, enacted by Mr. Fred Sinclair and Miss Gracie Whiteford, is highly amusing; Mons. Carl Hertz gives a remarkable series of illusions, which are quite sensational in their effects; Mr. Tom Dunmore keeps the audience in good humour; Mr. Frank Sylvo is very original and quaint with juggling; the new bioscope has some pleasing and effective pictures.

Hastings Pier Pavilion.—Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's large No. 1 company are occupying the boards here, in the sensational drama, entitled *A Wrecker of Men*. The play, which is intensely interesting, is rendered more so by the effective staging and mounting. As Jim Murley, the burglar, Mr. Watson Mill is excellent; Mr. J. W. Ryder, as Ezekial Isaacs, is a good representative of the Hebrew persuasion; in the character of Guise Strange a true piece of acting is given by Mr. Percy Horton; the unthankful part of Risca Mallison is splendidly shown by Miss Rosalind, who gives a charming rendering; Miss Victoria May successfully depicts the part of Doris Melville.

HEBBURN.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson; Acting Manager, Mr. Thos. Robson.—On Monday a farewell benefit was given to the lessee, on his leaving the district. Needless to say, the house was crowded. Mr. Jackson has done much for Hebburn, in other ways than the excellent management of the theatre, and will leave many friends behind. The popular artistes who gave their services were as follows:—Adam Tomlinson, the favourite comedian of this district; Rhoda Paul, the young impersonator of Miss Vesta Tilley; Messrs. James Foy and Bros. Roberts, the Hebburn Garrick Trio; Mr. F. Daniels and Co., in the dramatic sketch, *A Father's Vengeance;* Harry Sutton, comedian; J. McElvogue, Scotch comedian; Fred Cohen, card manipulator; Doyle and Gibson, eccentric comedians; Scatter and Son, comedians; Jos. Cumming and G. W. Scott, vocalists; John McCarthy, ventriloquist; Miss Jeffries, mandolinist; Fred Forde, comedian; Misses Findlay, vocalists; and Jas. Christie, light baritone. The theatre is now closed for an indefinite period.

HEREFORD.—Garrick Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; General-Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank J. Pitt.—The musical comedy entitled *The Girl From Bond Street* is here this week. Mr. F. R. Heaton, as the Hon. Archie Green, is excellent, and the Earl of Seacombe has a good representative in Mr. Campbell Goldsmid, who possesses a good voice, his songs being well received. An attractive Lucy Harvey is found in Miss Marie Vere, who sings very sweetly; Miss Viola Keith appears as Lotty Harvey; and Mrs. Harvey is played in capital style by Miss Maude Beard.

HIGH WYCOMBE.—Town Hall.—On Saturday evening the Ben Greet Company (under the direction of Mr. J. Bannister-Howard) paid a visit here in *La Poupée*. The piece was well staged, and the acting throughout was up to the average of this well-known company. Mr. Edward Thirlby as Hilarius was excellent, and as Alesia Miss Cissie Wade was a great success. Mr. Algernon Lee and Mr. Joseph A. Brull were heard to advantage in the items attributed to Launcelot and Father Maxime respectively, and as Loremois and Baron Chanterelle Messrs. Harry Bishop and Stanley White depicted these aged gentlemen admirably. As Madame Hilarius Miss Alice McFarlane ably sustained her part; and Henri was well played by Miss Eva Ellis.

HULL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Mr. Lawrence Brough's company in *The Lady of Ostend* is amusing the public here this week. Mr. Percy Marshall is capital as the father-in-law. In the title-rôle, Miss Buchanan is excellent; and the Fussy Frenchman is well represented by Mr. Lawrence Brough.

Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Local Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—George Dance's *A Chinese Honeymoon* company is being represented here this week. Mr. Phillip Haydon is an acceptable Emperor; Mr. Foster Courtenay is one of the best possible Pineapples; and Miss Vera Vere is a commendable Fi Fi. The piece's vitality, to all appearances, remains unimpaired.

Alexandra Theatre, Morton's, Limited.—Resident Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*Because I Love You* is the attraction here. Mr. Horace Buckley fills the comic rôle ably; and Miss Nell Ingram as Cleopatra Cotton has a rôle in which she is seen to advantage.

Palace Theatre—Moss Empires, Limited.—A small dramatic sketch, *V.C.*, from the pen of Mr. Sutton Vane, is catching on here this week. Smart and entertaining are Signor and Madame Borrelli in their burlesque operatic act; and the Japanese Guards, represented by a troupe of young ladies, go through some evolutions with skill.

The Empire.—Lessee, Mr. Jno. Sylvester Sage.—Lasmar and De Louie occupy the premier position here in a gymnastic act; the Evalos give an excellent juggling show; Benson's Royal Marionettes submit an interesting entertainment; "Mr. E." contributes some genuine fun; Florence Carlow is a comedienne of merit; the Empire sketch, *£500 Reward*, is amusing; and Fred Hudson and the Bioscope complete the programme.

The Circus.—Resident Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—The Biograph Animated Photos, which entered upon a fortnight's stay here on Monday, received a very warm welcome. *The Whirling of the World* is very interesting. Miss Rachael Benham rendered two songs with admirable taste.

HUDDERSFIELD. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—The Carl Rosa Opera Company began its week's visit with many signs of welcome, on Monday. A full house came to hear such well-established favourites as *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *I Pagliacci*. The former work was notable for the dramatic fervour and brilliant singing of Madame Augusta Renard, in the part of Santuzza, the bright purity of tone displayed by Miss Ethel Pender-Cudlip, as Lola, and the clearness of method evidenced by Mr. Edward Davies as Turiddu, and Mr. Lewys James as Alfio. In the Leoncavallo work, Herr Julius Walther showed all his old-time fire as singer, and revealed a much-developed gift as an actor in the part of Canio. Herr Charles Victor is gifted with a baritone voice of pure quality and flexibility, which, with his natural and finely-pointed skill in declamation, was a great success in his work as Tonio. Miss Lizzie Burgess entered fully into the part of Nedda, with highly satisfactory result. Messrs. James and Davies completed a fine cast. Tuesday brought a production of the evergreen *Faust*, in which Madame Una Bruckshaw was the Marguerite. Singing with cultured method, she improved all through the work, and fairly took the house by storm with her intensely ardent rendering of the final act. Mr. Arthur Winckworth played Mephistopheles on accepted and appreciated lines. Mr. Lewys James sang well as Valentine. Miss Anna Hope made the most of her opportunities as Siebel; while Miss Douglas Wilson, as Martha, emphasised the humorous vagaries of the foolish old guardian. The chorus sings with smartness in attack, the soprano and contralto sections being particularly brilliant. Under the skilful guidance of Messrs. Eugene Goossens and Walter Van Noorden, the much-augmented orchestra was a noticeable help. The other works down for performance are *Rigoletto*, *Lohengrin*, *Don Giovanni*, *Tannhäuser*, and *Maritana*.

HYDE. — Theatre Royal, Limited. — General Manager, Mr. Joseph W. Maloney.—Excellent business is being done here this week by Messrs. Mathew H. Grenville and Fred Osmond's *The Still Alarm* company. The piece is admirably staged, the scenic effects in the third act especially being most realistic. Mr. Mathew H. Grenville submits a fine study of the hero, Jack Manley; Mr. Paul Lovett, as John Bird, cleverly depicts the villainous side of human nature; Mr. Tom Beasley makes a capital Willie Manley; Mr. Fred Osmond is funny as Doc Wilber; Mr. Lewis Gordon dignified as Franklyn Fordham; and Mr. Milton C. Curtis amusing as Joe Jones. A charming impersonator of Elinore Fordham is found in Miss Mary Lovett; Miss Mabel Veriton makes an excellent Mrs. Manley; and Miss Connie Meadows throws plenty of life into the part of Carrie Wilber.

ILKESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*Rogues of the Turf* is being played here this week by Mr. John F. Preston's company, under the general management of Mr. F. B. Woulfe. The rôle of Arthur Somerton is ably filled by Mr. Ernest R. Allen, and that of Nellie Flaxman by Miss Hilda Shirley. Mr. Harry Benson and Miss M. F. Barlow, as Sam Flaxman and Phillis Worzell, evoke much hilarity. Mr. W. H. Barlow, as Joe Flaxman, plays admirably. Messrs. Walter Clifford and H. H. Rignold act well as the Rogues of the Turf, Captain Dudley Clifton and Moses Solomons. Miss Helen Stewart, as Marion Lady Heathcote, is an acquisition to the piece.

IPSWICH.—Lyceum Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. G. Fisk.—Mr. Arthur Hart's *My Lady Molly* company has paid a return visit to Ipswich this week. The title-rôle is charmingly sustained by Miss Agnes Tandy, whose acting and singing are much applauded. Mr. Arthur Powell as Mickey presents a most humorous impersonation, and Mr. Edmund Sherras displays fine vocal abilities in the part of Captain Romney. Mr. Fred. Hobbs, as Sir Miles, Mr. Stuart Alexander, as Lionel Bland, render able assistance to the cast; and other parts receive full justice from Miss Maude Thorne, Miss Florence Wakeman, Miss Sophy Grundy, and Messrs. Thomas R. Norbury, Alfred Grant, and Daniel Logum.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Fred. Barrett.—The new turns at the Woodbridge-road place of entertainment this week include the clever comedian, Cliff Ryland; the Rosaire Boleros Troupe of acrobats; Mr. Hayward's vocalists and dancers; Puto, boy juggler; Harry Nation, character comedian; Kate Holloway, comedienne; Nellie and Nora, instrumentalists; and the Sisters Charnley, duettists.

JARROW.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—Mr. Bert Cootes Co. is paying a welcome visit with *The Fatal Wedding*. Mr. Herbert Humber gives an excellent rendering of Howard Wilson; Mr. Oliver Rogers plays forcibly as Robert Curtis; Mr. Tom Macfarlane is quite at home in the part of Toto; Mr. Charles Kenney is well-placed as Peter Schwartz; and Mr. Jack Waring gives a good embodiment of O'Reilly. Miss Nona Hoffe gives a charming rendering of Mabel Wilson; Miss Gertrude Harrison plays Cora Williams, the adventuress, to perfection; Miss Harriet Clifton is a humorous Bridget; and Miss Marjorie Lawrence proves herself a first-class juvenile actress, as Jessie, the little mother.

JERSEY.—Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. Robert Perkins.—Mr. Frank Fenton and Company is appearing here in Justin H. McCarthy's play, *If I were King*. Mr. Frank Fenton undertakes the rôle of François Villon, a part which he successfully filled here some six months ago. Mr. E. Bellenden Clarke plays Louis XI.; and the character of Huguette du Hennel is acted by Miss Louise Vansittart. Miss Elsie Roberts appears as Katherine de Vaucelles, and the numerous remaining characters are well represented.

KEIGHLEY. — Queen's Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietors, Messrs Carson and Granville: Acting-Manager, Mr Frank Barnes.—The third pantomime company of the season, Mr James Kiddie's *Little Aladdin*, holds the boards here this week. The performance goes with a swing from start to finish. Aladdin is impersonated by Miss Marie Beresford, who looks and acts the part most pleasingly. Her performance is refined, and her song, "Little Yo San," is highly appreciated. Wittie Wattie Walton's Widow Twankey is a capital piece of work, deserving all the applause it gets. While Mr Arthur Aiston is on the stage there is always plenty of laughter, and his Abanazar is one of the hits of the pantomime. Miss Emmie Milstead, a clever artiste, impersonates Sancoe, her song, "Navahoe," and sand dance creating a furore. An old Keighley favourite, Mr Fred Buxton, as the Emperor, and Miss Mabel Roberts, as Radia, receive quite an ovation for their rendering of "Alice, Where art Thou?", sung as a duet. The Princess is played with much ease and grace by Miss Nellie Royd. Prince Pekoe is artistically interpreted by Miss Mina Marie. Bossi and Wrong 'Un are very amusingly represented by The Two Kelsos, two very good knockabout performers, who introduce several novel items. Mr Walter Aubrey is a creditable Wun Lung, and Mr Ralph Roberts a successful Wishee Washee. Mr Henry May, Miss Minnie Groves, Miss Ruby Danzell, and Miss Margery Seymour ably assist. The scenery is extremely good, and the mounting of the production deserves high praise.

KILMARNOCK.—King's Theatre.—Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting Manager, Mr. A. Hales.—On Monday, Messrs. Little and Darcy's pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, opened here. As Cogia Baba, Mr. Jas. Ferguson could not be improved upon; Mr. Geo. Beverley, as Ali Baba, is also very good; great praise is due to the Misses Silcott for the pleasing rendering of the parts of Abdullah, Ganem, and Morgiana. The Three Woodbee Wonders create great amusement in their acrobatic act, and the five members of the Daunton Shaw troupe of trick cyclists are a great success.

KING'S LYNN.—New Royal Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Bannister Howard; Business Manager, Mr. H. Leonard.—Miss Emma Hutchison is presenting the popular comedy, *Cousin Kate*, this week, under the direction of Mr. Percy Hutchison. Miss Edith Walker is a delightful and attractive Cousin Kate; Mr. Walter Ringham as the easy-going

laughter. Mr. Fred Rolph, as the hall porter, Joseph, is a great success; and Mr. Leslie Roy Cathie is in every way excellent as the Hon. Percy Fitzthistle. Mr. Garnet Wilson is capital as Harry Gordon. Both Mr. Samuel Lyons as Theodore Quench and Mr. Cameron Carr as Mr. Chalmers are good. Miss Nancy Hervyn plays throughout with a vivacity and charm as Winnie Harborough that win for her much applause. Miss Rita Leonhardt scores as Norah Chalmers; and as the maid Ellen Miss Mabel Thornton is also to be complimented. The attractive and pretty chorus and augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Victor Champion, are features that call for special praise.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Lieut.-Col. J. A. Winstanley; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. C. Candler.—The boards are held here this week by Mr. Gus C. Livesey's company, who presented before a good house on Monday the new drama *The Crimson Club*. Mr. Gus C. Livesey, as the hero Richard Fenton, and Miss May Wyniard as the heroine, Muriel Lockwood, are seen to considerable advantage. Miss Frances Waring does well in the rôle of Julia Marsden, and Mr. Lionel Thompson is clever as Sir Philip Garside. Mr. Reginald Shaw is the cause of much hearty laughter as Reginald Adolphus Garside. On Friday evening *A Trip to Belle Vue* and *The Dumb Man of Manchester* were underlined for presentation.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Vidal.—The premier position on this week's first-class and diversified programme is held by the one and only G. H. Chirgwin, who secures a cordial reception on making his appearance. Chirgwin has always something fresh, and his allusions to various events are smart, and are heartily applauded. The Brothers Wille are unquestionably the finest head-balancers that have visited Leicester, their turn, which is both remarkable and daring, winning the admiration and applause of all parts of the house. Duncan's highly-trained dogs display a sagacity and cleverness that speak volumes for the manner in which they have been trained. Newhouse and Ward, one a very clever cyclist and the other a tramp comedian, give a popular show. Toile D'Araignée, the human spiders, present an electrical gymnastic novelty with great success. Miss Lily Lena, a most attractive comedienne, receives her usual warm welcome. La Belle Creole Morcaschani, the eccentric baritone chanteuse, is scoring a big success. The M'Gregors are seen and heard to advantage in their musical speciality. Maud Ross, comedienne and expert dancer, and Will Mitcham, vocal and musical comedy artist, also give entertaining turns.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Martin Henderson, the blind musician, gives a pleasing and clever turn here, which proves very popular. The Sisters Desmond, character duettists, are again scoring their usual success. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope, showing some entirely new films, is always a welcome addition to the programme here. Hyam Long, musical comedian, gives a good show. Professor Hulbert is an entertaining ventriloquist. Clara Victor is a capital descriptive vocalist. Mons. De Lil pleases with his illusions and card manipulations. The Sisters Grover, duettists and dancers, also entertain.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Dewhurst.—Mr. Fred J. Little's and Mr. Fred Darcy's company is this week occupying the boards here with *Sindbad the Sailor*. Miss Lily Beverley plays charmingly in the title rôle; Miss Kittie Brewster is well placed as Zorilda; Miss Cissie Conyers sings creditably as the Good Fairy; Capt. Cook has a humorous representative in Mr. Happy Attwood; Mr. A. G. Hart is an amusing Timbad; and Mr. Willie Black excellent as Mrs. Sindbad; Mr. Fred Dobito sings well as the Emperor; the Warlocks contribute plenty of amusement; the Brewsters sword experts and dancers, and the Walleys, jugglers, are great favourites.

LIVERPOOL.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. French; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Beltram. — The children's pantomime of *Little Red Riding Hood* concludes to-night.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.—Good business has, during the week, been done at the popular north-end house with the production of *The Sign of the Cross*, played by Mr. William Greet's No. 1 company. The presentation was certainly a good one, some sixty persons being concerned, while the scenery was appropriate. As Marcus Superbus, Mr. F. B. Woulfe was excellent; the Mercia of Miss Evelyn D'Alroy won the sympathy of the audience; Mr. A. Bernhardt Turner proved an effective Nero; and Mr. Charles Aldred was a good all-round Tigellinus. Other artistes who acquitted themselves with credit were Miss Ivy Millais as Stephanus, Mr. J. Wetherall as Lucinius, and Mr. Robert Hare as Flavius. Miss Jessica Ford rendered songs, and Miss Violet Holland was a graceful dancer.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—*The Babes in the Wood*, presented by the Six Brothers Luck, still continues to draw excellent business, its mirth-provoking propensities being brought well to the front by Messrs. Fred and Ernest; Miss Mabel Thorne makes an admirable Robin Hood. Other artistes billed include Peggy Pryde, comedienne; Imro Fox, an exceedingly amusing comic conjurer; the Brothers Huxter, acrobats; and Lily Turner, vocalist.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. H. Fineberg; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Simmons.—After a successful tour through the country, *The Voice of the People*, which was initially produced at this theatre in May last, has paid a visit this week. The principal members of the cast are almost the same as those who first played the work, Mr. John F. Preston, the author, enacting with all his former ability the part of Barry Phelps, the unfortunate sandwich-man and distressed actor. Mr. A. D. Adams proved a capital parson and social reformer; Mr. Clifford Marle presented with dramatic power the character of the sweater; Mr. Weldon Atherstone, as the scoundrel's son, played with effect; Mr. W. Howard Barlow submitted a well-acted Jem Butterworth, Morris's Jackall; and Miss Gertrude Godart portrayed a sympathetic Liz. There were a number of local scenes shown, the play dealing with life in Liverpool, and some astonishment was expressed when, in front of a grand view of St. George's Hall, was seen the original Punch and Judy show, surrounded by children, just as may be witnessed every day in Lime-street. Then, again, the smashing by the infuriated mob of the public-house windows proved a very effective episode.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Granville; Manager, Mr. Fred Granville; Business-Manager, Mr. F. L. Arthur.—A capital rendering of the old-time popular play, *The Wearin' o' the Green*, has been given here this week. The company responsible for the production is controlled by Mr. Charles Mackey, and is in every way admirable. The costumes were picturesque, and the scenery satisfactory; while the orchestral work added greatly to the completeness of the work. Mr. Charles Horner was the Shamus McDermott, a capital rôle, and, possessed of a good voice, rendered several popular Irish songs, which were loudly applauded. The Irish comedian of undoubted ability, Mr. Chalmers Mackey, was the great strength of the drama as Barney O'Hea, and he kept his audience in roars of laughter with his love-making scenes. Miss Lalla Stanhope was a dainty Biddy McGinn; to Mr. H. Sainsbury credit is due for his Sir George Courtney; Mr. John S. Chamberlain was a powerful Michael Kenny; and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey afforded much satisfaction as Norah McGrath.

EMPIRE, LIMITED. — District Manager, Mr. T. A. Cook; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Stratton.—At the head of the bill here this week are the Agoust Family, with their sketch, *Juggling in a Café*, which is exceedingly funny and clever; the Trapnell Family of graceful and talented acrobats provide a good turn; the Caledonian Boys' orchestral and concert combination are cordially received for their good work; a smart juggler is Prince Kokin; the old favourites, the Three Sisters Jonghmanns, with their singing, are warmly greeted; Rose Archer proves herself an accomplished mimic; and others in the programme are Mueller and Coyne, novelty variety entertainers; the Five Olracs, comedy artistes; the Two Butterflies, juvenile gymnasts; the Korries, American entertainers; Charles Adams, comedian; and Edie Veno, comedy artiste.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Foremost in the bill here this week is Colonel G. Bordeverry, who gives an astonishing exhibition of rifle and pistol shooting. The Bounding Pattersons are watched with keen interest in their flying bar act; Brinn displays enormous strength and marvellous balancing powers with heavy shells and guns; Alexander provides an original act in cycle riding on a table; Mdlle. Haydee is highly entertaining with her eccentric manikin theatre; La Belle Wilma produces with much skill and rapidity pictures in sand and smoke; and the remainder of the bill is occupied by Alice Ormonde, comedienne; The Forrests, musical eccentrics; Fred Earle, comedian; and Bob Hamilton, comedian and instrumentalist.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. O'Toole.—A big attraction here this week has been Will Hebden's musical comedy in eight scenes, entitled *A Day in Paddy's Market*, the name applied to a quarter in Liverpool where secondhand clothing is sold. The work is full of uproarious fun, and Mr. Will Hebden, a comedian of ability, undertakes four characters, each of which is a source of much laughter. The company supporting him is a large one, and there is much scenery used.

NEW PARTHENON. — Proprietor, Mr. Edwin W Smith.—Among the principal attractions here this week are Messrs. Ray and Calden, a couple of versatile comedy artistes, who provide an amusing act, entitled *Peculiarities*; Vance Brothers submit a smart trifle, *Sharp and Flat*, into which they introduce some clever work on musical instruments; George Bernard is a pleasing actor-vocalist, and among his contributions is an effective rendering of "The Charge of the Light Brigade;" Mdlle. Henriette gives a refined musical turn; Mozzetto for a boy, is a capable juggler; and Harry Graham is a comedian and dancer of ability.

PADDINGTON PALACE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr. J. Kiernan.—Jack and Evelyn are paying a return visit here this week, with their laughable sketch, *Come into the Office;* Professor Ted Heaton, assisted by Sacha, gives his well-known tank act; the Barger Trio provide a diverting sketch, entitled *Quits; or, Easily Deceived;* Wallace Whitney is a comedian with many funniosities; Beatie Foster shows herself to be a finished serio and descriptive vocalist; and Rose and Rose are a couple of able vocalists and dancers.

WESTMINSTER.—Proprietor, Mr. M. Montgomery.—A big attraction has been here during the week, in the form of a juvenile military spectacle, entitled *The Russo-Japan War*, in which some sixty boys and girls are engaged. The sketch has been arranged and produced by Mr. J. Clarke and contains several novel features. Large audiences have testified their appreciation. Another capital turn is that of Fred Lloyd and Co., with the laughable sketch, *The Blind Spinster;* the Brothers Allison are warmly applauded for their amusing singing and dancing; Miss Florence Deighton is the possessor of a good soprano voice; and others in the programme are J. J. Plant, comedian; the Sisters Selwyn, vocalists and dancers.

PARK PALACE.—Director, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. Percy Boucher and his company are at the ton of the bill here this week, with their sketch, *When Rogues Fall Out*, which, possessing some considerable merit, has been well received. A good turn is provided by Harry Tresham, actor-vocalist; Jack Stewart is a comedian of ability; the neat singing of Florrie Hall gained for her some recognition; Dalton J. Bosher showed himself to be a capable character comedian; and others in the bill are Edith Elliott, burlesque actress; and Rosa Lenmann, vocalist.

HAYMARKET. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Willmot.—At the top of the bill here this week is Lady Mansel, with her juveniles, who give a neat concert rehearsal; the Esdale Brothers are refined comedians; the song illustrating of Lovell and Hart proves interesting; and others who appear are the Three Sisters Ernest, vocalists; Young Igo, clog-dancer; Herbert Maden, comedian; and H. O. Bone, tricky golfer.

LONDONDERRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Charles H. Phelps is here this week playing *One Woman's Wickedness*. As Jem Craggs, Mr. C. H. Phelps is very good, and Mr. Lawrence Brien makes a clever Philip Beaufort. As Lord Fitznoodle, Mr. George Byrne is capital. Miss Amy Dalby plays Lillian Craggs very well; and as Janet Raymond, Miss Florence Lloyd is good.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Meakin.—This week, Mr. Henry L. Osmond's company is appearing in *The God of Night*. The piece is well staged, the fire scene being of a thrilling nature. Mr. Osmond figures as the Detective in many guises, and he is ably assisted by Miss Winifred Chalmers as Mona Brayton. Little Mabel Hall is Gervaise, her acting and singing being applauded. Mr. Herbert Woodin and Miss Madge Palmer keep the fun going. Mr. A. P. Harold sings well, and his whistling solo is a feature. Miss Maud Yorke is vigorous as Natalie.

LONGTON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. S. Howard.—Mr. Peter Thompson's company, with *Babes in the Wood*, is here. The Sisters Grahame, as the Babes, are great favourites. Miss Maude Beaumont gives a dashing impersonation of Robin Hood; Miss Mollie Hackett is a winsome Maid Marion; the Good Fairy is successfully presented by Miss Katie Lever; and boisterous fun is created by the Danbys. Messrs. W. Barratt and F. Paget, as the Baron's Page and Friar Tuck, successfully assisting. Mr. J. T. Ellis is good as the Wicked Uncle, and Mr. Fred Danvers does well as the Nurse. Specialities are presented by Herman Urquhart, a clever equilibrist; The Yankee Quartet of dancers, Little Renee, an entertaining impersonator; Miss Fanny Humber in a musical act, and Miss Rosa Walmsley, a graceful and expert dancer.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Business-Manager, Mr. George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Louis Beaufort.—Mr. Horace Stanley's company in the *10.30 Down Express*, is appearing here this week. Mr. Scott Leighton plays James Inderwick effectively; and Mr. Horace Stanley (Sammy); Mr. Harry T. Wood (Jack O'Mallery); and Mr. A. E. Francis (Blotherby Baggs), are all good. Miss Evelyn M. Walton as Letitia Leigh is admirable, whilst Miss Effie Bartlett (Bessie Leigh) and Miss Kate Kilpack (Peggy Potts) render valuable assistance.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Proprietor and Manager. Mr. E. A. Smith.—This week we have the second pantomime of the season in *Dick Whittington*, ably presented by Messrs. Marris and Kirby's company. The scenery and dresses are particularly bright. Mr. W. H. Kirby is seen to advantage as Idle Jack, and others worthy of note include the Misses Winifred Preece (principal boy), Mamie Iris (principal girl), Cordelia Knight (the good fairy), Josephine Preece, Vera O'Connell, and Messrs. Dickie Clare, H. A. Griffiths, Walter Nugent, J. R. Tyrrell, Geo. Harris, and Ryde and Beeman.

MACCLESFIELD. — ROYAL. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Pantomime again occupies the boards here this week, Mr. Gus Levaine's company presenting *Babes in the Wood*. Mr. Harry Levaine is very funny as Dame Burden. Miss Beatrice Wilson is good as Maid Marion, her interpretation of the part meeting with general approval. Miss Lily Ennis, as Robin Hood, is quickly a favourite with the audience. The speciality acts introduced are very attractive.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. Bendon.—An attractive programme. The Three Royal Temples, glee singers, are making a hit here this week. The Three Pirmans, in a novelty pantomime act, are pleasing. Les Bantiste, jugglers, &c., have some novel tricks. Tom Johnstone, vocalist and mimic, is again here. George Rapier, comic vocalist, is a good turn; Iris May, charming vocalist, is well received; Chris Baker, eccentric comedian, is a funny turn; and Droll and Dryan, patter comedians, evoke laughter.

MAIDENHEAD. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. Edgar Dereve and F. L. Schmitz.—Miss Scott-Watson pays us a welcome return visit with *The Scarlet Woman*, *Trilby*, and *East Lynne*. The former powerful drama was originally produced at this theatre nearly two years ago, and the fact that it has till now had an uninterrupted and successful tour justifies our opinion as to its worth. The central figure (Marie Brandon), a character specially written for Miss Rosalind Scott-Watson, is particularly exacting, but the actress enters thoroughly into its spirit, and presents a conception which is at once repellent and weirdly fascinating. The deserted husband is forcibly played by Mr. Reginald Fox; Miss Gracie is natural and pathetic as the lost Jeanne; Miss Muriel Allyne plays well as Margery Honor; and Mrs. Scott-Watson is satisfactory in the small but important part of Mrs. Desmond. Mr. David Vane makes a good villain; Mr. F. Lawrence is quiet but convincing as Philip Gordon; and an amount of fun is provided by the two ruffians, Joe and Jack Cartwright, played energetically by Messrs. J. E. Cowell and Tom Wheeler. Comic relief is capitally provided by Mr. Tot Squires (Samuel Hopkins), Miss Ruby Hamilton-Belasco (Charlotte) and Miss Lorenzo (Fauchette), the fight between the latter two being very laughable.

MANCHESTER.—ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. W. H. Broadhead; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. Fred. J. Little and Mr. Fred. Darcy's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, was staged here on Monday, and attracted a large audience. The show is very bright and amusing, adhering throughout to traditional lines, and employing a large number of capable artistes. Miss Vera Mayne figures as Robinson Crusoe, and uses a fine voice to advantage; while Miss Nellie Moore gives an agreeable rendering of Polly Hopkins. Much good comedy is supplied by Mr. Will Freedo as Mrs. Crusoe; and Messrs. Bass and Guinness as Billy and Tommy Crusoe. The best performance is, however, that of Mr. Will Crowson as Friday, into which he infuses considerable and varied talent. Others who shine in the cast are Misses Daisy and Rosie Volbecque, Mr. Geo. Rapley, Miss Bertha St. Ruth (a capital singer), Mr. G. Snow, Mr. A. Irons, and Mr. Fron. A strong element of speciality business adds to the enjoyment. Foremost are the French Brothers, exceedingly clever acrobatic uni-cyclists. Besides these are the Alhambra Quartette of accomplished acrobatic dancers; and a smart exhibition by Mr.T.W. Johnson, buck and sand dancer. The dresses and scenery are elaborate and pleasing.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—No less a star than Charles Coborn, the well-known London comedian, tops the bill here this week, and is accorded a hearty reception. Excellent turns also are Stidder, musical eccentric; H. O. Wills, the comedian with the "peculiar" voice; and Ernesto, a smart juggler and equilibrist. Good business is added by Deakin and Rankin, comedians; Sterling and Cashen, American speciality artistes; the Gregson Comedy Trio, in a novel sketch; the Lavers and Lake Comedy Co., sketch artistes; Chas. Summers, eccentric comedian; and Chris. Masters, comedian.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. Walter Melville's drama, *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*, is the attraction here, after a week at the Royal Osborne Theatre.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Potasch.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's company gave a capital performance of *In Old Kentucky* here, on Monday night. The piece is of course well-known to local playgoers; but its attractions are so many and varied that it is always sure of a large share of patronage. The heroic interest is well brought out by Mr. Geo. Steel and Miss Amy F. Hermann, the sinister element receiving adequate interpretation at the hands of Mr. Eric Hudson and Miss Beatrice Shirley. Comedy is much to the fore, Mr. Harry Leander, Mr. Willie Large, and Master P. Francis doing well in this direction; while telling specialities are introduced by Mr. Jimmy James, banjoist and bone-player; Mr. Will Whittaker, bird imitator, &c.; and Messrs. Gibbs and Perkins, Dahomey eccentrics. A stud of thoroughbred horses appear in the third act, adding considerably to the interest and realism of the staging.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Oscar Barrett; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—This week sees the installation of pantomime here for a period of a month. It is Mr. T. F. Doyle's version of *The Sleeping Beauty*, produced recently at Dublin by Mr. Geo. M. Slater, under the supervision of Mr. John Hart. This is equivalent to saying that it is pantomime on a large scale, and that it is successfully presented needs hardly to be said. Well-known artistes figure in the principal rôles, all of whom work well up to their reputations. Miss Dorothy L. Clarke does exceedingly well as Bellamour, the principal boy; her singing is remarkably good, and she scores in all her songs, especially "I'm Coming Home to You," and "Good-bye, Little Girl, Good-bye." Miss Lucie Caine is well placed as Beauty, being a very charming actress, and also a neat dancer; while the singing of Miss Louie Collier, as the Good Fairy, is, in itself, a treat. Miss Adeline Yohle does well in the part of Bonne Bouche, the King's page. Of the comedians, Mr. Harry Maxam has a strong and amusing part as Tom Noddy; Mr. Horace Wheatley is prominent as Lord High Everything; Mr. Arthur Rigby makes a hit as the nurse; Mr. Fred. Russell (the well-known ventriloquist) does very well as Queen Elfrida Ann; and Mr. Pixton Roxborough figures satisfactorily as the King; while the Anartos, as a pair of woodcutters, deserve special mention for their excellent comic business, and a clever musical act. The pantomime is enlivened throughout by graceful dances, tuneful songs, pretty dresses, and effective scenery; the Koh-i-noor troupe contributing notably to the dancing; and there can be no doubt that for the next few weeks *The Sleeping Beauty* will attract full houses.

HIPPODROME (Hulme).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Fanny Ribina heads an excellent programme here this week, rendering her songs in good style, to the great satisfaction of the audience. The Ross Clyde Combination cause much merriment in their capital sketch, *I Must Have It;* and very daring and clever feats, in mid-air, are performed by the Flying Zedoras on the trapeze. Florrie Cooper, a pleasing comedienne, scores with several good songs; the Brothers Hampton patter amusingly and dance smartly; Grey and Welford raise much laughter with their boxing act; Swan and Stanley are seen to advantage in their hat manipulation speciality; Rem Lang amuses with some burlesque conjuring tricks; and Johnson and Pelham are entertaining American artistes. Other enjoyable items are E. Haveley, baritone vocalist, who sings to illustrated songs; Billy Bint, comedian; and a series of animated pictures.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—An excellent entertainment is offered here this week. Ben Hur, the sack-lifting athlete, heads the bill, and gives a highly satisfactory turn; Harry Pleon has some amusing patter; the Sisters Russell make a big hit with their humorous duets; and the refined and finished singing of Mabel La Blanche meets with much applause. The Three Juggling Geraldos introduce a good club swinging act; Fred and Maude Vyponds present a pretty sketch, entitled, *The Honeymoon*; and Mdlle. Yetta goes through a clever and graceful performance on the wire. The Three Dorians are smart gynasts; the trick skating of H. E. High causes considerable merriment; Ralston and Francis deserve mention for a nautical musical scena; and the animated pictures are up to the usual standard.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Maggie Duggan, the well-known burlesque artiste, is the top star here this week, and meets with a flattering reception. Another well-received turn is that of Hal Forde, a capital comedian, whose patriotic songs are much appreciated. Lottie Siegenberg scores a distinct success in her quick-change vocal sketch, *The Lazy Slavey;* Frank Coyle, with humorous songs and funny stories, causes much amusement, and the Japanese Princesses are clever hand-balancers; Massona gives a juggling performance of much merit; Renson and Waite are capital smile-raisers; and Blanche Haddon, soprano, has a good voice. Harry Luck, eccentric character comedian; and the Dagmar Wonders, acrobats, also contribute enjoyable turns.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Collins. — The programme here is full of good things. Dida? a remarkable illusion, creates considerable surprise. An empty tank is filled with water in view of the audience, a few seconds elapse, and a temporary covering being whipped off, a lady appears therein. From the tank she descends sopping wet, to be joined in a few minutes by another lady, produced in the same wonderful manner! Burke, Moller, and Teller are dancers of exceptional ability, and their turn is deservedly met with rounds of applause. Another well-received turn is the Szarvasi-Ferencz troupe of Hungarian singers, dancers, and acrobats, who do some astounding tricks. Clown Ferroros contributes a novel musical item, and introduces a cleverly-taught poodle; the Picquays are highly-finished acrobatic balancers, one of whom concludes with a novelty in the shape of a hand sand dance. A delightful turn is the musical act of the three charming Sisters Ronay, and their efforts are warmly received. Howard and Collinson are well-known in Manchester, and their item, *The Porter and the Parcel*, is as successful as ever. *The Troubles of a Tourist*, a sketch presented by John Alexander and Company causes some laughter; and the Alaskas score hugely in a juggling and comic tumbling act. A local attraction is shown by the Bioscope — Manchester City v. Lincoln City; and absolute screams of laughter follow the development of the film, A Lost Child.

GRAND.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomas Barrasford and Will Sley; Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—Dr. Walford Bodie, the renowned mesmerist and worker of modern miracles, is the attraction here this week. On Monday night, at the first house, a remarkable change was wrought in a girl of twelve, who had been paralysed in the wrist and foot for over ten years. Subsequently a number of young men, under the hypnotic influence of the Dr. Bodie, caused roars of laughter by their antics. Norman Mills, "the real John Bull," scores with his song "One of the Light Brigade"; Helen Henri is a refined operatic vocalist; the Garden Troupe sing and dance well; Les Fontaines present an amusing marionette show; whilst other enjoyable items are those of the Sisters Lyle, duettists and dancers; La Petite Bella, comedienne; and the animated pictures. Little Dollie Robson, the Coatbridge Wonder, and Tim Duriah, comedian, did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

PALACE.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. P. Watson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stringer. — Yukio Tani the famous Japanese exponent of Ju-Jitsu; and the renowned Boissets in their amusing pantomimic sketch, *The Evening Party*, are the chief attractions this week. On Monday night Yukio Tani met a local wrestler, named Porter, who was disposed of in 3min. 15sec. and also Acton, of Wigan, who was beaten after a stiff bout in 9min. 2sec. Maggie Rimmer is a charming comedienne who sings nicely and dances gracefully; George Turner is an amusing comedian; George Newburn, one of the best mimics before the public as usual came in for a hearty reception; and the Black and White Zouaves gave an effective exhibition of drill and wall scaling. Others who contribute to the programme are the Wyffs, in a funny sketch, *A Parson's Mishaps;* Ronald Bagnall, society entertainer; George Neno, comedian; and Charles Craston, comedian. A capital selection, and interesting pictures complete the programme.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan. —Tina Clementa tops the bill this week, with her dogs that loop the loop, and her highly-trained horse. Another well-received turn is Clown Caban and his sixteen cleverly trained ponies. Mdlle. Florizell is a gymnastic contortionist, with a remarkably flexible body; the Teims Troupe go through a neat, graceful, and dexterous acrobatic performance; the Hoopers are clever hoop manipulators and jugglers, with some very laughable eccentric business; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, in their scena, *An Echo of a Covent Garden Ball*, create much amusement; and Gerald Mount is entertaining at the piano. William Holles and company, including Nannie Goldman, are responsible for a capital musical comedy mélangé; and the Choristers render "Eileen Alannah" (illustrated song), with success. The grand naval spectacle, *Bombardment of Port Arthur*, remains in the bill, and is a decided attraction.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. E. MacKnight; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Hardy.—The military drama, *On Circumstantial Evidence*, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clifford's company, has been having a successful run here this week. Mr. Charles Clifford, the author-manager, gives an excellent interpretation of the character of Capt. Hamilton. Mr. A. M. James is especially good as Sir Lawrence Kinloch, whilst Mr. Leonard Williams does well as Jack Ogilvy. Mr. J. Sturton is effective as General Garibaldi; and Mr. J. Holt plays Sergeant Cavour capitally. Mr. Harry Cooke is particularly amusing as Jeremiah Tobin; and the remaining male characters are all in safe hands. Miss Gladys Clifford is a pathetic and clever Tim, the homeless waif; Miss M. Tremeor is a pleasing Polly Smithers; and Miss Maud Camfield a charming and sympathetic Violet Ogilvy; Miss T. French does remarkably well as the twin sisters, Olga and Mary Brandoni.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert J. Lewis.—Messrs. Mitchelson and Fineberg's company is appearing here this week in *The Traitor*. Mr. John C. Carlyle, as Prince Rudolph, acts with dignity and reserve; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan, in the name-rôle, contributes a clever study; Mr. T. W. Hurst plays with quiet effect as an English Captain; Miss Isabel Hunt, as the young lieutenant, acts with much pathos. Well-played characters are the Zula of Miss Ruth Shepherd, Countess Zicka of Miss Francis White, and the Elise Duprez of Hettie Senior, Mr. Frank Sutherland as Jack Boult, Miss Anena Walton as Cen Cen, Mr. Edward Swinton as General Hertz, and Mr. Edward Lowrie as Soff, contribute clever comedy scenes. The play is mounted with much effect.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE. —Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company is playing here this week in *The Midnight Mail*. Mr. Geo. Harvard gives a powerful embodiment of Harry Steyne; as the ne'er-do-well, Billy Brewer, Mr. F. G. Evison plays the part admirably; Mr. Ed. Forbes does well as Leonard Royle; and Mr. A. Gilroy scores as Hassan Padisha; Mr. Chas. McCann plays capitally as Donald Craig. Miss Ada Oakley fills the arduous rôle of Mary Steyne with infinite credit and distinct ability; Miss Elsie Greene gives a thoughtful interpretation of the character of Lady Eustace; and Miss Mildred Carr is thoroughly satisfactory as Nancy Brewer.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — OPERA HOUSE. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Hopcutt.—Mr. Tom B. Davis's company in the comic opera, *Florodora*, is here this week. Mr. Albert Bruno appears as Tweedlepunch, which he plays successfully; and Mr. Ellis-Buxton does well as Cyrus Gilfain; as Reginald Langdale Mr. M. De Martigny is pleasing, and Mr. Lionel Williams appears as Leandro; Mr. Cyril Dane is successful as Frank; Miss Rene Steadman as Lady Holyrood is charming; Miss Daisy Byford is an attractive Angela; and Miss May Desmond finds favour as Dolores.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. Brill; Manager, Mr. J. W. Thornborrow.—Maxwell and Francis made a welcome return visit, and in a flirtation comedy act make a great hit. Addie Dorina, in a duologue, *How She Did It*, is a favourite, and the Eugene family are highly applauded for their smart feats. Capt. A. J. Bevan's squad of Highlanders give an interesting turn, and the instrumental speciality performance of Orpheus is pleasing. Maude Ford dances prettily; and Fielding and Hull provide a good vocal turn. Some amusing films are shown on the bioscope.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty*, entered upon its last week on Monday. It is one of the best pantomimes that have visited the Royal, and the energetic manager, Mr. Imeson, is to be highly congratulated upon the fact. The stage manager, Mr. Lonnen Medows, who, since his arrival in Middlesbrough, has made many friends, took a benefit on Friday, and it was a complete success.

OXFORD.—Lessee, Mr. William Peacock; Manager, Mr. William Ainsworth.—The De Wynnes head the bill here in an equilibristic turn, and do exceedingly well, and May Lilian Levey is very successful. They are supported by La Belle Rosa, instrumentalist; Bell and Pearl, musical artistes; Tom Bassett, comedian; Baroni and Kemp, quick change artistes; Andy Fagan, comedian; Collin and Irene; and the Lovelaces, song illustrators.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company has paid a return visit this week in the *Belle of New York*, and to a crowded house Mr. Harry A. Meymott gave an amusing representation of Ichabod Bronson; Mr. Harold Wardroper submitted a good display as Harry Bronson; and as Karl Von Pumpernick Mr. Walter Emro was very good. As the Belle Miss Nora Hersee was very clever and gained a good share of the applause. Miss Florence Hersee was sprightly as Mamie Clancy, and her clever singing and dancing captivated the audience. Mr. Colin M. Johnston scored as "Doc." Snifkins, and had an amusing partner in Mr. Maurice Holme as Blinkey Bill. Miss Ada Elliston was very charming as Fifi Fricot, and her singing gained due appreciation. Mr. C. A. James was good as Mr. Twiddles, and the rest of the company generally helped to make up a delightful night.

NEATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albert W. James.—The attraction here this week is Miss Olga Audré and Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company with the stirring drama, *When a Man Hates*. Mr. Arthur Hinton, as Pietro Danelli, is remarkably good; and Miss Leila Zillwood gives a realistic performance of the adventuress, Olga Gwynne; Mr. Graham Arthurs submits a manly delineation of Lawrence Hastings; and Miss Marion Forrester is a sweet and pathetic Letty. Mr. Gerald Byrne is clever as Paul; the character of Sir Rupert Treharne is in the able hands of Mr. Ploen Gains; and Mr. Tom Taylor, as Peter, and Miss Marie E. Robertson, as Dolly, are very funny. On Wednesday, *The Sorrows of Satan* was given by the same company.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Business-Manager, Mr. Ernest W. Bacon.—*Dick Whittington* entered upon the last week of its most successful run here on Monday. Complimentary benefit performances have been accorded several of the principals this week. That of Miss Gracie Graham, the spirited representative of Dick, took place on Tuesday. Among the extra attractions was the appearance of a precocious juvenile in Miss Madge McCalla, who was announced to give an exhibition of step dancing, in which she is an adept for her years. Dan Thomas, the Eliza of the pantomime and a comedian of much merit, appealed to his friends on Thursday, and the following night found Mr. Bob Selvidge, the humorous representative of Idle Jack, in the proud position of bénéficiaire.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—An American drama, entitled *A Fight for Millions*, is being performed here by Mr. Robert Perris's company. There are many exciting episodes in this transatlantic production, a feature being made of the representation of a submarine boat at the bottom of the Hudson River; and the wireless telephone is also introduced. Some spirited acting is supplied by Mr. V. Carlyle as the hero, Tom Manley. His opposite in characteristics, Richard Dudley, has an effective exponent in Mr. Horace Booth. Mr. Robert Perris gives a clever and enjoyable performance as Willie Neverwork; and Mr. Karl H. Edwards is also quite successful in his embodiment of the amusing rascal Solomon Moses. Miss Eva Purcell makes a pleasing Pearl Rivers; and the Helen Dudley of Miss Elma C. Turner is an excellent impersonation; and Miss Lottie Pearce a bright May Brady, sings and dances acceptably.

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OLYMPIA.—Lessees, Messrs. Thornton and Bacon; General-Manager, Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Nelson Barry.—On account of the enormous success of the first Olympia pantomime of *Cinderella*, arrangements have been made for extending its run here until February 18. The large building has been crowded to excess at each performance, and nearly 2,000 persons paid for admission during the second week of its career in Newcastle. The great success achieved is, in a great measure, due to the manner in which the various members of the company work together. It would be difficult to find a daintier "Cinders" than Miss May Marton, who excels as a vocalist and dancer, and has made many friends in this city by the excellence of her impersonation. Ada Twibell is a dashing Prince Rupert, and Fanny Wright is a sprightly Dandini. The chief fun providers are Messrs. A. G. Spry (Baron de Guile), Percy Curry and A. Wheatman (the Ugly Sisters), Little Zola (Buttons), Conan and Doyle (Henry and Herbert). Specialities are introduced by the Six Lancashire Lasses and the Four American Idols. The pantomime is produced under the direction of Mr. Eade Montefiore.

NEW EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Leslie Conroy.—Staley's transformation act is a remarkable illustration of what can be accomplished in the way of a quick change, and the musical performance which is introduced is very acceptable. Hermann Melot, with his clever feats of legerdemain, is again a prime attraction; Alex. Gay, described as "the bricklayer conjurer," succeeds in mystifying his audience with a variety of tricks performed in a neat and skilful manner. A "midget" turn is given by the Rossows, who display their prowess as acrobats and boxers. A versatile and entertaining act is that contributed by Winona Winter, who is assisted by Mr. H. Banks; the Four Royal Welshmen distinguish themselves as vocalists, and, similarly, the Sisters Meredith receive applause for their efforts. Rackett and Hazard, in a musical act; Martin and Quigg, eccentric comedians, and George Adams, vocalist, further strengthen the programme.

PAVILION.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—One of the best programmes ever submitted for the approval of Newcastle audiences is being presented at the Pavilion this week, with the result that the hall has been crowded at each performance. Arthur Roberts, assisted by Miss Ruby Celeste and company, appears in a pot-pourri, entitled *Where's the Count?* Mr. Roberts is given full scope in this and succeeds in provoking one continual roar of merriment. The Carina Sisters are artistic musical performers of much ability; Sydney James introduces an original ventriloquial, whistling and mimetic scena; Mr. and Mrs. Gene Hughes give their popular sketch, *A Matrimonial Substitute*; and the Barra Troupe are masters of a large number of musical instruments, and also introduce much humour into their performances; Bertha Pertina does not belie her name as a "dancing phenomenon"; Sid Bandon scores heavily in a song descriptive of the life of an engine-driver; and Tom Collins contributes medley songs. Beattie Kent, comedienne and dancer; Mollie Doon, comedienne; and the up-to-date animated pictures are also included in the programme.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr Sidney Cooper.—*In Dahomey* is this week being played to a good house. The chief burden of the work devolves upon Mr Dan Avery and Mr Chas. Hart, extremely clever comedians, in the rôle of Rareback Pinkerton and Shylock Homestead. Miss Laura Bowman and Miss Fanny Wise sing well, and the whole of the company play their parts with success. Some of the songs are particularly taking. The Cake Walk, in the last scene, is certainly one of the most striking features of the show.

EMPIRE.—Moss's Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr O. Stoll.—Happy Fanny Fields, who heads the bill here, fully sustains her reputation as a really original artiste. Harriet Vernon, popular as ever, is accorded a warm reception. The Horne Bros. are responsible for a very amusing turn; and O'Gust, the mimic, is given a hearty welcome. Alf Gibson, a quaint comedian, sings a couple of new songs. A praiseworthy turn is that of the Alfonso Trio, who do some extraordinary juggling; and the Bohemians, clever musical and comedy artists, secure warm recognition. Ethel Ra Leslie, character vocalist; Chas. Dean, a comedian of merit; and Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten artists, provide good turns.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—Mr. Milton Bode's pantomime, *Puss in Boots*, is here this week. Miss Flo Challis has a charming presence and looks extremely well in her several handsome costumes as Colin, and is highly successful in her popular songs; Miss Hetty Lee is a lively representative of Prince Rudolph; Miss Orpha Paris is a pleasing and successful Phyllis; Miss Odeyne Spark, a good singer and brilliant dancer, is a captivating Princess Ivy; Miss Elsie Creegan is a graceful Fairy Queen. Mr. Joe English as King Grabbus, Mr. Billy Harman as Baron Rhumphiz, and Mr. Tommy Nelldon as Muggles, the miller's eldest son, are full of fun and merriment. Mr. Harry Bickley plays Dame Shortly in an amusing style; Mr. Tom E. Cliffe is very good as Slyboots, the King of Cats; the Dardinis, the inexplicable comedy jugglers, furnish a clever comic turn; the Edene Troupe of Lady Dancers contribute with skill and grace a variety of charming dances.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—The Seven Savonas, musical marvels, head the programme this week in their well-known entertainment, with its marvellous electrical effects. The Elliotts, a sextette of lady and gentlemen cyclists, score a big success. Sam Lee, comedian and mimic; Ted Fields and Fred Acres, comedy park keepers; De Ora, a favourite gymnast; Miss Rose Waller, vocal comedienne, and Queenie Palmer, ballad vocalist, furnish the rest of the entertainment.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; General-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee; Secretary, Mr. Gordon Jefferson.—Mr. Charles Chard's company opened here on Monday with the pantomime, *Goody Two Shoes*. Miss Annie Casey, in the title rôle, created a very satisfactory impression, and Miss Ida Gladstone, as Roland, also came in for a hearty reception. Mr. Charles Chard, as Simple Simon, infused plenty of vigour and humour into the part; Mr. James Kurry, as Sammy Sopps, was very funny; Mr. Sidney Dean was good as Dame Freckles; and Mr. Arthur Stratton successful as Baron Grab. The specialities are provided by the Mikado Troupe of Dancers; the Sisters St. Julian, who deserve special mention; Messrs. Pete and Juno; and Messrs. Bliss and Bliss.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—Messrs. Rice, Rose, Davis, and the Half, in their comedy sketch, are at the head of the bill here, and have made a hit; Messrs. Craig, Roze and Craig, gymnastic experts, introduce some marvellous feats; and Mr. Smiler Lee, comedian, is clever. The Hoytes, in the speciality act; Messrs. Ray and Miles, speciality artistes; Miss Ada Kingsley, comedienne; and the bio-photoscope, are all well received.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Manager, Mr. Percy Webb.—Mr. Herbert Fuller's company, having accepted a second week's engagement here, has been seen in the following plays:—Monday and Tuesday, *The Fiends of London*; Wednesday and Thursday, *The Sorrows of Satan*; and Friday, *East Lynne*. The company is the same that appeared last week, and in every way fully maintain the high opinion already formed of it.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Charles Macdona's excellent company occupies the boards this week with *Three Little Maids*. Miss Vera Vallis as Ada Branscombe, Miss Nellie Groves as Hilda Branscombe, and Miss Mabel Lavelle as Edna Branscombe, were each charming in their representation. Miss Vallis's song, "Men," was received with much applause. Miss Groves's songs, "The Miller's Daughter" and "I mean to be a real town lady," were equally appreciated; and Miss Lavelle's rendering of "Do you think you've known me long enough?" was good. Madame Ilma Norina, as Lady St. Mallory left nothing to be desired; Miss N. Cunningham as Lady Rosemary Beaulieu, Miss Gertrude Linche as Vencha Grafton, and Miss Mabel Sarle as Lady Marjorie Crichton, were admirable. Miss Grace Hardy, as Miss Price, did excellently well; Miss Laura Wright created much laughter as Gretchen, being ably assisted by Mr. Gus Oxley as Cupid. Mr. Arthur Longley as Lord Cheyne caused endless amusement with his eccentricities; Mr. Edgar K. Flavelle was successful as Brien Molyneux; and Mr. Jules Charmettes, as M. de l'Orme, displayed much skill as a 'cello soloist; Mr. W. Piercy Morgan was excellent as the Rev. Branscombe.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt; Musical Director, Capt. Selby.—Mr. W. F. Frame, the genuine Scotch comedian, heads the bill. He is a host in himself, in his funny songs and sayings, and gets a warm welcome on his return visit. The Sutcliffe Troupe, novelty acrobats, pipers, and dancers, have a good reception; the Musical Palmers are a good musical turn, especially when Miss Daisy Palmer acts as conductor; Austin Rudd, as a comedian, is much appreciated; Cissy Curlett is an excellent mimetic vocalist, and does some good farmyard imitations; Les Bois are good burlesque jugglers; and Shang Nia, the Chinese Magician, gives some mystifying tricks. The Bros. Llodge are very entertaining as silver chain athletes, and the Kimberley Boys complete a first-class entertainment.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finny.—An old friend has turned up again this week, to wit, *Charley's Aunt*, and the uproarious laughter of Monday night spoke volumes as to its popularity. Mr. Stanley Cooke essays the dear old lady, and his study of the character is so cleverly conceived, so crisp and dainty, that he never fails to "get home" on every point. The two college chums are capitally portrayed by Messrs. Arthur Soames and Richard B. Mason; Misses Violet Cooper and Geraldine Greville, as Kitty and Amy, act naturally; and Miss Lena MacNaughten makes a charming Donna Lucia, her embodiment being dignified and convincing. Mr. Lumsden Hare gives a capital study of Sir Francis Cheoney; and Mr. F. D. Ord presents the fussy Spettigue with admirable tact; Miss Dorrie Roberts as Ela Delahay and Mr. Sydney Compton as Brassett help in the general success. The piece is preceded by *Fourchette and Co.*

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—The Osmond Tearle Répertoire Company is occupying the boards this week with an interesting programme, including *Hamlet*, *Virginius*, *The Lady of Lyons*, *David Garrick*, *Richard III.*, and *The Merchant of Venice*. The last-mentioned play was given on Tuesday before a crowded audience. Mr. Alexander Marsh realised fully the crafty character of Shylock, and sustained the part with undoubted ability and finesse; Miss Millie Ford's conception of Portia was praiseworthy in the extreme; Mr. Charles Kingsley was in every way an admirable exponent of Antonio; and Miss Ruth Nightingale acted the part of Jessica in a bright and winsome manner. Mr. Cyril Este upheld the dignity and gravity of the Duke of Venice; Bassanio and Gratiano were capitally represented by Messrs. Ernest Griffin and John Paley; Mr. Vivian Gilbert was easy and natural as Lorenzo; and Mr. Philip Gordon gave full play to the humour of Launcelot Gobbo.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. W. Bull.—Messrs. Preston and Doherty's company is drawing large audiences this week with *The Rich and Poor of London*. Miss Dora Dench makes an altogether charming nurse as May Braithwaite; Miss Mary Ramez impersonates the adventuress, Ruby Redgrave, with force and intensity; and Miss Lillie Woods realises perfectly the peculiarities of the unthankful part of the baby farmer, Auntie Scrimp; Mr. Sidney Dench is a host in himself as Spider Jack; Mr. F. Danner acts with care as the Earl of Ravenswood; and Mr. Robert Hall sustains the rôle of Doctor Leonard Morton with great success. Rascality has a fine exponent in Mr. Andrew Money, who gains the heartiest execrations for his vigorous portrayal of Mark Stanley; and Mr. Sidney C. Cranston continues to play his original part of Gussy Lamb to the evident enjoyment of the audience.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Bowmaker.—There are no more popular entertainers here than Bella and Bijou, and their three sketches on Monday evoked the heartiest laughter. Mr. Syd May's impersonations are so thoroughly clever that they lose none of their freshness, and his comic wrestling bout with a dummy caused screams of merriment. A burlesque scena, *The Duchess of Dantzic*, showed to perfection the versatile talents of Alexandra Dagmar; Clown Zertho's dogs showed marvellous sagacity; and, as trick cyclists, there are no finer exponents than Lotto, Lilo, and Otto. The Five Delevines combined mirth and melody in an acceptable form; and a fund of humour was provided by Ike Scott and Son. The Three Sisters Klos submitted an athletic exhibition, both graceful and daring; Cabby and Shirker made a comical pair in a bar act; and Ada Cerito was applauded in a clever song.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Miss Frances Delaval and company are occupying the boards this week with *The Biggest Scamp on Earth*. Miss Delaval ably represents Naomi Belvedere; Mr. Percy Carne Waram is well suited to the part of Derrick Knight; and deserving commendation are Mr. Hamilton Urquhart, as Sir Aubrey Knight; Mr. Evan Roberts, as Vivian Wakefield; Mr. William H. Burton, as Napoleon Hawke; Mr. P. Stewart, as Joe Piper; Miss Dorothy Mahomed, as Irene May; Miss Sybil Hammersley, as Molly Sterling; Miss Patty Groves, as Mother Hawke; and Miss Doris Denman, as Bobby.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hulme.—A cordial reception was accorded Mr. George Dance's production, *The Duchess of Dantzic*, on Monday. Miss Rita Presano, in the title-rôle, acquits herself admirably; as Napoleon Mr. Frederick Moyes was commendable; and Mr. Mackesay, as the Duke, was excellent. Miss Lilian Drake did well as the Empress. A powerful chorus, an augmented orchestra, fine scenery, and gorgeous costumes add to the interest of this successful production.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Knowles.—A pleasing programme is being presented at this popular house. Mr. Mark Melford's successful sketch, *Black and White*, is heartily appreciated. The Musical Rosina is well received for her selections; The Coloured Meister Glee Singers are popular in concerted pieces; Amandas is remarkable for his impersonations of celebrities; Milner Verren is successful with sentimental songs; Loudoun Cameron gives a clever conjuring entertainment; Mdlle. Yvette introduces a miniature hippodrome of performing ponies and dogs; and Mdlle. Howell, comedienne, and Frank Boyd, character comedian, are well received.

GAIETY LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—A first-class company here this week includes Little Mike Gray, whose comedy, juggling, and acrobatic dog create roars of laughter. Harry Bant is well received for his clever mimicry; Chas. Bayman, eccentric negro comedian, is heartily appreciated; The Percys are successful in their duetts and speciality performance; Carlotta Lunn, ballad and descriptive vocalist, has a powerful voice; G. Chatterton is a smart banjoist; The Venola Bros. give a clever performance of comedy gymnastics; and Joe Golding and Dorothy Sterling, vocalists and duettists, and the Bioscope, are other attractions.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—On Monday Mr. Charles Frohman's company, with Mr. H. A. Saintsbury in the title-rôle, commenced a successful engagement here with *Sherlock Holmes*. Mr. Saintsbury's performance was a finished and artistic one, and met with instant appreciation; Mr. Laurence Layton was successful as Dr. Watson, in whose hands the doctor was a most interesting personage; Mr. J. P. Kirkwood was a capital Forman; Mr. Leslie Carter a forbidding and impressive James Larrabee; while Mr. W. F. Stirling held the house with his powerful rendering of Professor Moriarty. Miss Maud Linden was a prepossessing and effective Madge Larrabee, and Miss Vera Longden gave a delicate and pleasing impersonation of Alice Faulkner.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. G. P. Wells.—Mr. Cecil Clayton's company is proving a considerable attraction here this week with the pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, which is admirably played and staged. Mr. Albert Evremond proves himself a clever and versatile actor as Alderman Fitzwarren, and Mr. J. Glover is a favourite as Idle Jack; Mr. Tom Kenealy makes a vivacious Angelina; while Mr. Clyto is praiseworthy as Tom, the Cat. Miss Millie Beckett is a charming Dick Whittington, and Miss Gertie Lovedale is sprightly and dainty as Alice. As the Good Fairy Miss Gertrude Gray scores immensely with her delightful singing. Some attractive specialities are introduced. Clyto, as gymnast and contortionist, is especially clever; H. Bishop, lightning contortionist, is an adept at his art; Hercules gives an exhibition of feats of strength; and the Gaiety Girls, acrobatic dancers, receive a cordial welcome.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—A dramatic treat to patrons of this house is the return visit of Mr. Norvan V. Norman, with Miss Beatrice Wilson and company in *Under the Red Robe* and *Nell Gwyn*. Both pieces are capitally placed upon the stage, besides being well represented. In the former play, Mr. Norman's Gil de Berault is a well-thought-out and convincing assumption, and Miss Wilson's Renche de Cocheforet is a very impressive, emotional, and tenderly human piece of characterisation. Mr. Robert Hilton is seen to striking advantage as Cardinal Richelieu; Mr. Henry Morgan displays ability in the dual-rôles of Marquis de Pombal and Henri de Cocheforet; Clon is interpreted in a highly satisfactory manner by Mr. Lionel Gadsdon; Mr. Percy H. Vernon distinguishes himself by a clever sketch of Captain Larolle; and Mr. W. Marshall is excellent as Lieutenant Manet. Miss Margaret Frame is praiseworthy as Madame de Cocheforet, and Miss F. Glossop Harris is capital as Suzette. Minor rôles are all adequately filled.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—Another excellent company is engaged here this week, which includes James Brady, comedian; Mdlle. Melita, international dancer; the Two Leons, acrobatic song and dance and character duettists; Mdlle. Leo-Ville, conjurer and illusionist; "Yorkshire Tom," mimic; Mitzi, in a Japanese juggling and acrobatic entertainment; and Musical Wilbert.

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—*Aladdin* continues its second week here with a success even more pronounced than the first. Several extra features are introduced, in addition to new and popular verses. The roller skates are particularly prominent; and, altogether, the success has been most gratifying.

PETERBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—*Dare-Devil Dorothy* is being played here this week by Mr Henry Swinerd's company. Mr Cecil W. Parke makes a capital George Fielding; Mr H. C. Ward is successful as Capt. Edward Dudley; Mr Arthur Verne as Silas Crump scores a great success, and is ably partnered by Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith. Miss Marjorie Cecil makes a favourable impression as Dorothy; and the part of Ruth is cleverly taken by Miss Kathleen Garnon.

PLYMOUTH.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams.—Mr. F. Melville's stirring drama, *Between Two Women*, holds the boards here this week, and despite exceptionally strong counter-attractions, is filling the capacious house nightly. The hero, Harry Millard, finds a very able exponent in Mr. Harry Marlow, and the difficult part of James Durwood is cleverly represented by Mr. Fred Morgan; Mr. Hugh Metcalfe makes a dignified and courageous Rev. Philip Carton; and as Major Strangeways and the Earl of Millard Castle both Mr. G. R. Montford and Mr. Frank Powell respectively do well. A touch of delightful comedy is introduced by Mr. Frank Ayrton. Miss East-Roberton, Miss Vashti Wynne, Miss Alice Bowes and Miss Madge Seymour also deserve commendation for their acting.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Manager, Mr. J. Field.—A varied programme this week includes Burke and McVoy, whose astounding evolutions evoke enthusiastic applause; J. W. Rickaby's character songs are amusing; several cleverly trained animals owned by Jimson, provide an interesting and funny turn; Lind is a revelation as a female impersonator; Miss Grace Merton has a superb voice, which she uses intelligently and artistically; Miss Ruby Bijou dances nimbly; and there is a sketch entitled, *Hello*, by Frank Bernard and company; a musical dialogue by Monks and Wood; and animated pictures.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. Carlton.—Mrs. William Maclaren's company is appearing here this week in *Proof*, and full justice is being done to the piece. Mr. Maclaren portrays Pierre Lorance, and together with Miss L. C. Bandmann, the heroine, displays considerable ability. Mr. Richard Fulton and Miss Gertrude Evans also acquit themselves with credit. *David Garrick* and *The Lady of Lyons* are also in the répertoire.

PORTH.—POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr W. Bynorth.—The attraction here this week is Mr J. D. Hunter's pantomime, entitled *Aladdin*. To Miss M. Sadie is entrusted the title-rôle, and most faithfully does she act the part. Miss Elsa Drull is a great favourite as the Princess Balbroudar; Mr Fred Boulton is decidedly good as the Emperor; Mr Victor Vernon deserves mention as Abanazar; The Vizier is ably represented by Mr Dick Tubb; the Widow Twankey is meritoriously played by Mr J. D. Hunter, who is responsible for roars of laughter; Miss Vera Dudley, as Pekoe, meets with approval, and receives applause for her Coon song and dance, "Navaho"; Nicey Picey is also successfully played by Miss Ivy Boulton; Mr George Mayer, as Wisher, and Mr Ben Boden, as Washer, are also amusing. The specialities introduced in Act 2 include Mdlle Bartenelli, contortionist, who gives a capital performance; the Verona Jap Quartette of lady dancers; the Four Sisters McQueen, operatic vocalists; and the Eccentric Boultons, musicians and dancers, who meet with a hearty reception. The spectacular finale, The Feast of Lanterns, is much admired.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—The smart musical comedy, *Winnie Brooke, Widow*, presented by Miss Ada Reeve and company, is here on a return visit. Miss Reeve, in the title-rôle, has lost none of her piquant, captivating, and resourceful acting, her songs, "Woman" and "Born, not made," being re-demanded, and her duet with Reginald Frampton warmly applauded. Mr. Charles Weir made a capable Dudley Mayne; Mr. Edgar Stevens was a manly Reginald Frampton; Julian Croft, in the hands of Mr. L. Ashton Parry, was a capital study; Mr. Harry Halley played Montague Brent in a hearty and jovial manner; Mr. Frederick Tyrrell was successful as the Rev. Elihu Garside. The Toby Blossom of Mr. Ulick Burke, and Hercules Grant of Mr. D. Price Evans were praiseworthy; Gracie Frampton and Nora Caswell were ably portrayed by Miss Cecile Beresford and Miss Ruth Hazlewood; Miss Alice Lawrence was admirable as Mrs. Garside.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. Frederick Melville's production, *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*, has been presented here during the week to large audiences, Miss Beatrice Horner taking the name part. The impersonation was very clever and impressive. Mr. Stanley Bedwell's Jack Merriman was a capable performance; the scoundrel, Hubert Gold, was in the safe hands of Mr. Leyton Cancellor, who gave a finished portrayal; Mr. Charles Barrett, as Antonio Luchessi, was good; and the Tom Redvers of Mr. Renaud Lockwood was convincing; the revengeful Italian girl, Morita, was capitally played by Miss Margaret Watson.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—One of the principal items in a well-varied bill of fare at this hall is Otto Schuman's equestrian act of horses, ponies, and boarhounds. Minnie Wren, comedienne, sang well, and had a great greeting; Kitty Clover and company, in their sketch, *The Set of the Ballet*, were much liked; Sisters Caselli, soubrettes and eccentric dancers, had an immense reception; Alexandra Edwin, soprano vocalist, was very pleasing in her efforts; Weight and Elton, speciality artists, were entertaining and amusing; Kavados, juggler, was clever in his business, and had a good reception; The Bristons, comic acrobatic cyclists, brought down the house; also appearing are Harry Cook (peculiar patter comedian) and Bert Dansie (humorous and descriptive vocalist).

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. A. E. White's company is here this week in *Aladdin*. The leading characters are successfully impersonated by Miss Maud Bettison, Miss F. M. Sinclair, Miss Elsie Douglas, Miss Kathleen O'Neill, Mr. F. Arnold, Mr. Teddy Lennon, Mr. J. H. Maxwell, and Mr. Fred Ramsdale. Fun is a prominent feature in the production; the music is tuneful, and the scenery picturesque.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Messrs. Marston and Buckstone's company in *Goody Two Shoes*, occupies the boards here this week.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident-Manager, Mr. Clement Freeman.—At the head of the bill here this week are the Arthur Saxon Trio, in some wonderful feats of strength. The Countess are heartily applauded for their duties; Linton gives a clever display on the springing wire; Henry Carlton and company's comedietta, *One Night Only*, evokes much laughter; Stanley and Vandyke contribute a mirth-provoking sketch; Rappo and Elia acquit themselves well in their speciality. Little Dando is an amusing comedian; Annie Cohen, comedienne, provides a good turn; and the Eight Lancashire Lads are successful in their singing and clog dancing.

RAMSGATE.—AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—Miss Winifred Maude and company have been appearing here, under the direction of Mr. Victor Du Cane, in the interesting drama, *Sins of a City*. The play is full of human interest, Miss Maude being especially successful in the part of Seaweed (afterwards known as Norah); Mr. Leslie Beaufort does excellently in the rôle of Ralph Blackwater, K.C.; as do also Mr. Horace E. Herbert as Sandy McDonald and Miss Jennie Hackett as Madge, the servant. Mr. Du Cane appears with admirable effect in the dual-part of Joe Woodleigh and Jasper Woodleigh, the twin brothers.

RADCLIFFE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr Jas. Boothman.—On Monday Mr John Walters's company opened here with the pantomime *Cinderella*. Miss Florence Drew played charmingly in the title-rôle, and her songs were well rendered; Miss Constance St. Bride, as Prince Charming, is rightly so-called, and her singing is excellent; Misses Billy and Dolly Linn, as Dandini and Flighty Flirt, are popular duettists and dancers; and the singing of Miss Vera Vizard (who takes Dewdrop, the Fairy Godmother) is a special feature. Mr Geo Reeves and Mr T. H. Solly, as the two ugly sisters, are in strong evidence. Messrs Clarence and Smith and Mr Ally M. Benson supply some boisterous fun. Mr Arthur Hickman, as the Baron, deserves a word of praise; and Omega, the Queen of the Wire, and the Onatis Troupe of jugglers present a successful turn.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Co-proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Ellis Miller.—An excellent performance was given here on Monday, when Messrs. F. Moule and E. D. Nicholls's company opened with the drama *The Life that Kills*. Miss Kathleen Cavanagh scored heavily as Brenda Croat, and Miss Marie Menzies gave a delightful embodiment of Laurie Linden, whilst Miss Lucy Murray was a great success as Johanna Dicks. As the hero, Hector Rodney, Mr. Ernest G. Fare, was decidedly clever, and as the Rev. Theodore Rodney Mr. William E. Passmore gave a faithful rendering of the character. Mr. Wilton Drury, as Samuel Flatfoote, was very amusing, and with Jack Jolliffe (Mr. A. Hall-Menzies) was responsible for many humorous situations. Mr. Alfred Burrow, as Terence Malone, was also very successful.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor.—Mr. Milton Bode's company is here this week with the fairy pantomine, *Cinderella*. The piece, which has been produced by Mr. Bode, under the able stage-management of Mr. Charles A. Wenman, is lavishly mounted, the costumes being very rich and tasteful, and the scenery magnificent. The Ball-room scene is highly effective, and the grand transformation scene, "The Birth of the Rose," is very artistic. Miss Florence Beech makes a fascinating Cinderella; Miss Hebe Bliss a dashing Prince Brilliant; and Miss Marie Reeves a dapper Dandini. Messrs. John Nolan and Percy Dawson create great merriment as the two ugly sisters; Mr. Leo Stirling is droll as Baron Balmy; Mr. George Antill is capital as Capers the Page; Miss Addie Love is charming as the Fairy Godmother, and the other parts are in good hands. A variety of excellent specialities are introduced, including some clever imitations of birds by Miss Maud Dewey, lady whistler; Leo Sterling, in a clever musical act; Major Harry Sitherland, in expert rifle and bâton manipulation; and Bert Woodward, coon trick cyclist.

ROCHDALE.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Clucas.—Miss Mary Austin and company are this week paying a welcome return visit with *The Cotton Spinner*. Mr. Edwin F. Fisher admirably sustains the part of Lord Northbury; Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds portrays with power and earnestness Arthur Northbury. Mr. Frank Eaglesfield cleverly presents the part of Foster Cunningham; Mr. J. S. Haydon again appears in his old rôle of John Prescott, a part he has made quite his own; Mr. Ernest C. Edwards is the fiery Major Stratton, with Miss Bella Power as Lady Charlotte Needy, are mainly responsible for the humorous element; Constance Harrington is acted with success by Miss May Grimshaw; and Miss Mary Austin wins all hearts by her clever conception of Mary Prescott. A series of animated pictures are thrown on the screen before the curtain and between the acts, creating a new feature here, which is greatly appreciated.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee; Business-Manager, Mr. S. L. Lee.—R. Pringle's North American Animated Photos. are the attraction here this week. Some really fine pictures are shewn, both instructive and amusing, the audience displaying great interest throughout. In addition, Mr. J. K. Reynolds and company, including Miss Maude Yarrell, submit a sensational sketch, entitled *Conscience*, in which the wreckage of a drawing-room suite forms a prominent and startling feature.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—The Lukushima troupe of Japanese equilibrists perform some wonderful feats of balancing; Haig and Novel are exceptionally smart as eccentric comedians; the Haydon Comedy Four, with a capitally written musical sketch, entitled *Captured by Brigands*, are accorded hearty applause; George Trustz; Fred Bronte, actor vocalist; Billy Williams, Australian comedian; Lil Esplin, character comedienne; and the Empire bioscope complete an attractive programme.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident Manager, Mr. W. Manning.—*Robinson Crusoe* is being presented here this week under the personal supervision of Mr. Macnaghten, the management being in the capable hands of Mr. Fred Baugh. Miss Louie Hurman is pleasing in the title-rôle; Miss Rosie Bartlett is a sprightly Polly Perkins; Miss Delia Cherry a breezy Midshipman Merry; and Miss Dora Langham scores as Nancy Lee. Mr. Will Lytton as Will Atkins is a remarkable villain; and Mr. Jack Foley an amusing Dame Crusoe. Messrs. Harris and Worth as Sammy Sackless and Dick Drymaath respectively are capital knockabouts; and Mr. Charles Cook is deserving of mention as the Rajah; Friday is capably portrayed by Mr. Harry Morgan; Miss Flora Leonard as Fairy Coral is seen to advantage; and Mr. B. R. Adford deserves recognition as Davy Jones.

RUNCORN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. H. W. Caddick.—Mr. Herbert Fuller's company is here with *Fiends of London*, a drama of the usual sensational type. Mr. R. C. Gear does well as Sir Horace Bream; Captain Crawley, the "heavy" part, affords plenty of scope to Mr. Hugh Carmichael. An interesting feature is the work of Mr. Herbert Fuller as the jockey, Bob Archer; Miss G. Hastings enlists considerable sympathy by her true portrayal of Laurie Christie, the persecuted heroine; and Miss Emily Lewis is bright and entertaining as Flossie Sprigg. The efforts of Mr. H. Delmar as Peter Shark, Mr. Harold Weston as Joe Ormerod, Mr. James J. Newell as Mat Christie, Miss Alice Lane as Mother Murphy, Miss Edith Leslie as Friscie Gilliard, and Little Gladys as the juvenile Sally Frost and Tim, are also well rewarded.

RYDE, I.W.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr J. Bannister Howard.—Messrs John A. Thompson and J. D. Hunter's pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*, filled the theatre at each performance on the first three nights of the week. Mr John A. Thompson himself takes the part of Dame Trot, and extracts every ounce of fun from the character. He is ably backed up in his efforts at mirth-making by Mr Fred Anderson and Mr McLovell Rowland, whose antics are highly amusing as Tommy Green and Simple Simon. Mr Chas. W. Coleman is a diverting Baron Sherlock Holmes, and Mr Albert Victor is good as Wolferino. Miss Ella Willmer is a piquant Red Riding Hood, and Miss Jessie Corri sings well as Boy Blue; Miss Blanche Bayley is a dashing Prince Allfair, and Miss Essie Prenton (Rosa), Miss Ethel Ashley (Marjorie Daw), and Miss Annie Rose (Johnny Horner) fill their parts capably.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Messrs. Carson and Granville's No. 1 company occupies the boards this week with *A Modern Adventuress*. Violet Meredith is capitally presented by Miss Beatrice M. Anderson, and Mr. E. M. Hamilton cleverly assists her as Wallace Danton. Mr. Leonard Aardale deserves much praise for his study of the Italian Pietro Donelli. The trying part of Vivette Delby is well sustained by Miss A. Defoe. Mr. Royce Carlton as Harry Delby, Mr. G. D. Knight as Wm. Delby, Mr. Leonard Montgomery as Steve Meredith, and Mr. G. P. Lester as Walter Beal are well placed. Plenty of fun is provided by Mr. E. Roland as John Crompton and Miss E. Custance as Sally Hodges.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Licensee, Mr. Wilberforce Turner; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Frederick Yates.—The Herald Comedy Four head the bill this week with their singing and dancing speciality; Charley Dixon, comedian and dancer, gets much applause for his comicality; a clever sketch is given by Brasque and Duncan; and other good turns include Kate Lynd, up-to-date comedienne; Newland Major, ventriloquial humorist; Cape Girls, vocalists and dancers; The Two Melvernes, marionette act; the Skandia Troupe of marvellous gymnasts and acrobats; and Denby and Dent in a barber's shop comedy act.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, M. J. B. Taylor.—The entertainment here is thoroughly enjoyable. Mystification and fun are provided by Dr. Carl Herman, hypnotist, electrician, and scientist; Curtis Leo and his black piccannini are much applauded for their *Fun in a Drawing-room*; a clever sketch, *Jack Sheppard*, is given by Albert Voyce's Company. Other notable items are given by Edie Sylvesto, unique contortionist;

young lady dancers; Mr. Walter Munroe, the old and welcome favourite, in new and catchy songs; Virto and Irene, in a drawing-room and musical act; and Tom Edwards, the talented mimic and ventriloquist, with his mirth-provoking figures, including the irrepressible "Curly."

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Business Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—A return visit this week of Mr. Charles Macdona's company in the musical comedy, *A Country Girl*, is especially welcome, since Mr. Richard Telford, an inimitable Barry, again delights his audience with his versatile talent. Mr. Herbert Standing, junior, is a most capable Geoffrey Chaloner; Mr. Bernard Vaughan as the Rajah of Bhong merits praise, his songs being very effective; Mr. W. O. Billington as Sir Joseph Verity acts with care and ability; Mr. F. H. Sharp is quite successful as Douglas Verity; Mr. Harry Playfair in the character part of Granfer Mummery acts cleverly; Mr. M. Raven makes a capable Lord Anchester; and Mr. Aubrey Carr plays creditably the part of Lord Grasmere. Miss Daisy Davis is a pleasing Marjorie Joy; Miss Lucie Lever acts and sings most effectively as Princess Mehelaneh; Miss Sadie Neville as Madame Sophie displays conspicuous ability; and Miss Anna Robertson is a vivacious Nan.

SMETHWICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—The exciting drama entitled *As Midnight Chimes*, played by Mr Edward Marris's company, is the attraction here this week. Mr Melville Bickford as Luke Dezzard gives a powerful portrayal of a difficult rôle. Mr James Salter, as Tat Spavin, introduces some excellent humour, and his singing and dancing are much appreciated. He is well supported by Miss Nita Imeson, as Suzette, a sprightly French maid. Miss Frank E. Petley, as Dave Stannard, submits a capital interpretation of his part; Mr Walter Wilby, as Ezra Gamble, Mr Percy Maitland, as Nat Wilson, Mr John Mayall, as Detective Pollard, Miss Gertrude Price, Miss Iris M. Ward, and Miss Minnie Ethel are also distinctly good.

SOUTHAMPTON.—GRAND.—Mr. William Greet's Company is paying its first visit here in Wilson Barrett's successful play, *Lucky Durham*. Mr. William F. Grant is clever as John Durham, his remarkably fine acting calling forth loud applause; Mr. Henry de Solla is a successful Lord Mountfallon; Mr. Daniel McCarthy lends able support as Richard Vallerton; and Mr. Paul Belmore is an admirable Reginald Steighton. Miss Emily Levettez, as Lady Mountfallon, gives an interesting portrayal; and the remaining parts are well played.

PRINCE OF WALES.—Great local interest is centred in the appearance here of Mr. Fred Jarman, who is a native of Romsey. His company is this week appearing in the Anglo-Russian drama, *In Dark Siberia*, and they achieve a huge success. The acting throughout is splendid, and the scenery and effects are extremely realistic.

PALACE.—Manager, Mr. Charles Marte.—Leo Dryden, a big favourite here, is scoring a great success with his well-sung descriptive songs. "For Freedom of Japan" being enthusiastically received. Fanny Wentworth is very successful with her musical sketches; and an interesting turn is given by Preston and Balmain, in their illustrated songs and duets. Lord, Murray, and Lord are boisterously received for their clever athletic act, "The Intruder"; and other capital turns are given by Harry Desmond, Burns and Bentley, Bijou Russell (a dainty dancer), and The Kings.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE.—General Manager, Mr. Alfred Hemming.—*The Drama of Life*, a powerful and interesting play, is the attraction here. The drama has been previously seen here, and the return visit is undoubtedly a popular one. The staging and scenic effects are excellent. Jerrold Ord, in the part of the Banker, Harry Beech, gives a forcible and effective portrayal; while John J. Hooker is a clever exponent of the character of Walter Beech. As Lady Jane Wilde, Miss Muriel Inglis plays with sympathy; and the remaining numerous characters are ably sustained.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark.—Under most auspicious circumstances, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark opened the renovated Pavilion under the title of Palace of Varieties on Monday evening. The initial performance was crowded, and was graced by the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress. The programme was of a most attractive character. The various turns comprised Hagedorn's Wonderful Grotto and Fairy Fountains, which were received with much enthusiasm; Barrington, eccentric pianist; Morton and Bowman, in a clever sketch; Victorian Troupe of Imperial Singers and Dancers; Percy Farrimond, singing collier; Harry Norris, comedian; and Dorothy Frostick, a clever and pleasing young dancer.

PAVILION (PIER).—Lessee, Mr. Chas. Parker; Manager, Mr. J. N. Mertz.—Bock Pylades in his remarkable impersonations, Julian Mack, comedian, Percy Maye, Victoria Dagmar, are all included in a good programme at this popular place of entertainment.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—Mr. Bert Coote's company is paying a return visit here in *The Fatal Wedding*. Mr. F. Ernest Owttrim capitally embodies Howard Wilson; Mr. Cecil Collings, as Robert Curtis, makes the most of the part; Miss Theresa Osborne is a charming and agreeable Mabel Wilson; and a sufficiently dramatic interpretation of Cora Williams is submitted by Miss Beatrice Whitney. Mr. J. Carl Lyle as Toto, Mr. Cyril Melton as the stolid Peter Schwartz, and Miss Carrie Fenton as the garrulous Bridget, all gain favour. Jessie, "the Little Mother," is delightfully represented by Miss Gladys Rose Jones.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. George F. Thompson.—A side-splitting concoction, entitled *Motoring*, is given by Harry Tate's company, the fun keeping the audience in one continual roar of laughter. Horace White, in his ventriloquial entertainment, again merits the applause of the patrons; Ella Retford is a dainty comedienne; and Cyclo figures successively as a trick and comedy cyclist. The American bioscope is as popular as ever; and Signor Pepi, quick-change artist, in his comic sketch, introduces eight characters; the Two Bostons, J. C. Morris, and the Sisters Neilson, are other attractions.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Jos. Sweeney.—A varied programme, including Tom Lloyd as principal turn, is being keenly relished here. Mr. Lloyd bristles with quaint mannerisms and witty sayings; Hector and Paulus submit as equilbrists, one of the finest turns of its kind seen here; Sydney Lee furnishes some highly commendable conjuring; the Carcassis Duo appear in an entertaining musical act, *The Lost Child*; and other films are distinctly shewn on the Royal Italian bioscope; and Tom Berrick, the black titbit, and Gertrude Moore, also contribute.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—The second visit of Mr J. A. Campbell's company, in *The Sin of Her Childhood*, bids fair to become as popular as the first. Miss Mary Fulton displays much intensity of emotion and pathos in the trying rôle of Mary Haysel; Mr Henry Hargreaves, both in mien and language, is a typical curate as the Rev Alan Gray; as Stephen Haysel Mr Austin Milroy shows much artistic work in his rendering of a gentlemanly villain; Mr Fred Elvin, as Barney O'Reilly, submits a humorous sketch of the good-natured Hibernian; Little Dot Moss does her work to everyone's satisfaction, and shows herself to be a clever little banjoist, vocalist, and dancer; Little Edith is charming as Eric; whilst, as Mrs Haysell, Miss Jennie Hicks puts in some good work.

STALYBRIDGE.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Leighton Rooke.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's *Silver King* company is again here. Mr. Herbert Ford and Miss Lilian Bethell have been happily selected for the parts of Wilfred and Nellie Denver, whilst Mr. Edward J. George, in the character of Jaikes, is too well known to need any special notice. Mr. Charles Levey is capital as the Spider.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr. M'Leod Loader.—Miss Ida Molesworth's and Mr. Mark Blow's company occupies the boards here this week with *At Cripple Creek* for the first two nights, and *Under Two Flags* for the remainder of the week. The company is one of all-round excellence, and includes Messrs. Mark Blow, Walter Thornton, Charles D. Pitt, Reginald Harley-West, Albert Rogers, and Will Hook; Misses Emilie Polini, Hope Mayne, Daisy Carlton, May Douglas, and Little Tatto.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmott; Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Hanco heads the bill here, and other strong turns include Mr. Bert Holmes, Cordile, The Ashers, Gillen, Brothers Kroney, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Knox, and Mr. Martin Conway.

STOCKPORT.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Pantomime again this week; Mr. Edward Marris's company in *Dick Whittington* fulfilling a week's engagement. Mr. Harry Russell as Jack, the idle apprentice; Mr. Peter Freans as the Man before the Mast; and Weston and Jackson as McFlip and O'Flop are a quartette that keeps the fun continuous and hearty; Miss Joey Preston as Dick, sings and dances pleasingly, and is deservedly appreciated; Miss Mena Eckerman is most charming as Alice. The specialities include the amusing trapeze artistes, Rezene and Robini; the Brothers Kashma, clever equilibrists; Miss Georgina Nicol, a pleasing vocalist; the Freans, comedy ball punchers; Madame Roma's, lady ariel wrestlers; the Sisters Roma, exceedingly clever club jugglers; and the coloured pair, Ben Rowe and Topsy Holden, in a graceful and entertaining exhibition of the cake-walk.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Davenport.—A combination of varied talent here this week is headed by the genuinely funny clown Rabbit, an undoubted favourite. E. Hanneford, in his jockey act, is a great success; and Mr. Frank Whiteley negro comedian, is clever and amusing; the Zalvanus, jugglers and balancers, give a pleasing entertainment, and the Four Andys, acrobats, command much appreciation. Among others are Darwin, the man monkey; Lyle, musical comedian; and Miss Lily Garton, top-boot dancer.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs. Weldon Watts; General Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—*The King's Pardon* is being presented here by Mr. Frank Macnaghten's company. As Noel Blake, Mr. Charles Stirling plays with great effect; Mr. Charles Whitlock's Clifford Yorke is quiet in the heroic manner; Mr. Charles A. Leicester's Spence Broughton is both pleasant and spirited; Mr. Harry Belford's Major Dobbs is funny and clever; as the cunning lawyer, Amos Neal, Mr. Jack Hames does well; and Mr. Val W. Gully's Ebenezer creates roars of laughter. Miss Georgina V. France as Barbara Yorke is pathetic; Miss Violet B. Clarke's Marjorie is good; and the Phyllis of Miss Polly Denville is full of vivacity.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. Batty; Manager, Mr. W. Batty.—A programme full of talent here is headed by the Royal Tokio Troupe of Japanese, who show some remarkable feats. Also in the bill are George Bendon, the white coon; the Jansens, in a novel gymnastic show; M. Gintaro, clever top-spinner and juggler; Fred Horsfall, a good mimic; Emma Don, and her black and white coons; De Voy, Hurst, and Fredericks, in a laughable sketch; and Payne's Bio., with new subjects.

STOKE.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr H. Miller.—This week another capital programme is submitted here. The premier position is held by Charles Matthews, the jumper, in a smart and exceptionally clever performance. The Three Sisters Macarte contribute a clever and artistic turn; the Lannons are dancers of extraordinary ability; Little Beatie shows much promise as a dancer; Zanfretti and Napio are seen in a droll musical turn; Lieutenant Frank Travis, in his ventriloquial performance, is indeed wonderful; Syd. Godfrey is a comedian with good songs; and Chas. Beanland also meets with success. The Hippodrome pictures are, as usual, excellent.

STOURBRIDGE.—ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren are visiting us with the drama, *The Face at the Window*. The parts of Lucio Delgado and Paul Gouffet, entrusted to Messrs. Augustine Knight and T. W. Dunscombe, were most artistically presented; Mr. Alfred Warne, as Lucien Cortier, was capital; and Miss Marie Barrett won favour as Marie de Brisson; Mr. C. Alan Hineson did well as Peter Pottlebury; and Miss Gwynne Warren as Babette was excellent.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; General-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company in *A Royal Divorce* is playing a welcome return visit here this week. Miss Edith Cole's rendering of the Empress Josephine is strikingly realistic. As Napoleon, Mr. Frank Lister leaves nothing to be desired, and is seen at his best in the Fontainebleau Palace scene. Miss Ethyle Murray gives a fine presentation of Marie Louise; whilst Miss Helen Richmond causes much mirth by her coquettish acting as Stephanie de Beauharnais. Mr. Cecil Du Gue is seen to advantage as the Marquis de Beaumont; and as Grimand Mr. Dennis Bryan is amusing; Mr. H. Gray Dalby makes a capital Talleyrand; and Miss Maggie Cardiff is pleasing as the little King of Rome.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; General-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company in the romantic military drama *Revenge* is drawing large houses here this week. Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson undertakes the part of Prince Orloff, and acquits himself in excellent fashion; and Captain Loris Vanessa finds a capable exponent in Mr. W. Draper. Mr. Theo. Balfour gives a capable rendering of the King; and Miss Grace Aimer's portrayal of Lieut. Maurice is commendable. Mr. Arthur McCullock is amusing as Count Mussant; and Mr. Edwin Jenner makes a manly Captain David Carr. Miss Lily Roselle plays most effectively as Draga Vanessa; Miss Alice Barber is pleasing as Cora Brook, and the Queen is in the able hands of Miss Violet Carlyle.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George V. Wybrow.—Another excellent programme is provided here this week. Chinko, juggler, performs some exceptionally clever feats, which are heartily appreciated; Mystery Gauge, Canadian Indian artist, obtains a flattering reception; the Kira Cingalese Troupe, in their native dances, is quite an original turn; Sam Redfern is a comedian of no mean order; Ted Karno and Coy. cause considerable amusement in their absurdity, *The Traveller's Rest*; Mabelle May and Lillian Lowe, vocalists; K. and K. in their musical masquerade; and Vernon's animated pictures also contribute to the entertainment.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Sutton Theatre Syndicate; Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—*A Chinese Honeymoon*, presented by Mr. Chas. Macdona's company, opened for a three nights' stay on Monday. Chief among the artists are Miss Ettie Cinders, who plays the part of Fifi, her comedy and vivacity meeting with general appreciation; Miss Florence Halaam, as Soosoo, has a charming manner and a most pleasing voice; and Miss Alicia Norton as Mrs. Pineapple. Mr. Stearne Laugh as Hang Chow, Mr. Maxwell Stewart as the High Admiral, and Mr. Sydney Birt as Mr. Pineapple, embody their parts exceedingly well; as also does Mr. Arthur Foote, the Tom Hatherton. For the last three nights of the week Mr. Herbert Hollister's *Lights o' London* company was playing.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners; Musical Director, Mr. F. H. Lucas.—On Monday a large audience witnessed with keen interest the first performance in this town of the new musical comedy, *Miss Mischief*, capitally played by Mr. Godfrey Lamplugh's company. Prominent features of the piece are the well-balanced chorus, under the baton of Mr. Spencer Dickenson, and the excellence of the scenery and dresses. Miss Evelyn Hughes must be complimented on her genuine success as Kitty Malone, her singing and dancing making her very popular; Miss Crissie Frances, as Mary Ann, is bright and pleasing; Miss Eileen Guilbert is seen to advantage as Lady Orrery; as Private Harris, V.C., Mr. T. E. Conover keeps the audience in roars of laughter; Mr. Cecil Curtis plays the part of Jack Bethune with good effect his rendering of the song "The Girl that I Met in Dover," being highly appreciated; Mr. Frederick Sandy gives a remarkably fine impersonation of the American, Hiram Q. Pegg; and Mr. A. Jenner succeeds in making the most of the part of Admiral Sir H. Bethune. To Mr. Fred Mantell is entrusted the stage management, and he also extracts much fun from the rôle of Lord Fitzsherry.

TAMWORTH.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Proprietors, the Town Council; Manager, Mr. F. Hughes—Mr. Chas. Macdona's *Country Girl* Company paid a return visit here on Saturday. Miss Daisy Davis was a charming Marjorie; Mr. Standing appeared to great advantage as Geoffrey Challoner; Mr. Richard Telford, as Barry, created much merriment; Miss Lucie Lever was good as the Princess; and Miss Anna Robertson deserves commendation as Nan. Mr. Julian Graham, the courteous manager, was in charge of the front of the house.

TON-Y-PANDY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General Manager, Mr. Sam. Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Counsell.—Messrs. Carson and Granville's company, in *The Heart of a Hero*, is a great attraction here. In Mr. F. W. Goddard the audience soon recognise a former local resident, and appland his fine rendering of the part of Jim Resdale; Wilfred Marl is well played by Mr. C. E. Johnson; Nell Resdale is undertaken in a praiseworthy manner by Miss Cissie St. Elmo; and Miss L. Langley shines as May Ryder.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Lessee, Miss A. Alexandra; Managing-Director, Mr. David Taylor.—Prince Ishmael (conjuror), who heads the bill here, gives a good turn; Abel and Welsh also occupy a prominent place in the programme; Bainetto, Aerial Marvel, displays great skill; and the Alaskarno troupe meet with great approbation.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. R. Smerdon; Secretary, Mr. A. Pearse.—Miss Iva Rozant's *The Designers* company drew a crowded house on Monday. Mr. E. O'Grady did well as Mr. Currie; the quiet humour of Mr. Arthur Dennis as Percy Loraine was appreciated; and the facial by-play of Mr. Frank Lester as Toddlebury, and the natural quaintness of Mr. W. Hargraves as John Huggins, were very effective. Mr. William Luff as the Stage-struck Clerk was exceedingly good; and Mr. Herbert Lloyd's representation of "the plain workingman" Roodge was a clever study of contemporary life. Miss Iva Rozant as the love-sick Rachel was typically sentimental, and Miss Dorothy Sidney was a very satisfactory Mabel.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr Charles Carey; Manager, Mr F. E. Manaton.—The pantomime season has been succeeded by a week of the drama, *Judy; or, the Fatal Hand*, being presented by a strong company, in which the leading rôles are sustained by Mr George Kirk, as Grip, and Miss Mary Neil, in the dual part of Alice, the victim, and Polly, the coster, of whom she gives a thrilling impersonation. The clever child actress, Miss Florrie Groves, in the title-rôle as Judy, the street child, also gives a pathetic study. The other members of the company also give able support, including Mr R. Ferris, Mr W. Vane, Mr W. Casey, Miss Violet Langley, and Miss Annie Mitchell. On Thursday Sousa and his band attracted two full houses.

WAKEFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Messrs. Forge and Dalton's pantomine, *Cinderella*, opened a week's engagement here on Monday. Miss Lizzie Primmer is an accomplished Cinderella, her singing and dancing ing favour; Miss Chummie La Mara, an attractive and dashing Prince Paragon, sings in excellent style; Dandini is smartly rendered by Miss Julie Alexander; Mr. Chas. T. Chaloner is capital at Peter; the Ugly Sisters are capably represented by Mr. Fred C. Brooks and Little Tony; Mr. Johnny Chippendale as the Baron proves droll; and Mr. John Forge and Mr. Ted Lemiere do well as Nabber and Nailem; Miss Gertrude Saville is pleasing as Pert; Miss Louie Dennison looks well as Fairy Sunshine; and Miss Sylvia Brooks is successful as Scribendi. The specialities are the Swift Trio of cyclists, who contribute a clever turn; Messrs. Forge and Lemiere in a musical act; the Quartano Troupe of Dancers; and the Original Musical Japs.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Wakefield Hippodrome, Limited; Manager, Mr. Geo. S. Douglass.—An attractive programme is provided this week here. It includes Mr. J. W. Hall, eccentric comedian, who has scored a distinct success; Messrs. Wragg and Wragg, military athletes, who perform excellent feats of swordsmanship; the Sisters Terry, baby mimics; Mr. A. P. Boswell, black comedian, in a smart chair balancing act; Lew Wells, musical tramp, who contributes an interesting turn; the Two Pooles, clever slab dancers; and the Gibbons photoscope.

WALLSEND.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Tony Richardson.—Messrs. Collins and Stevenson's pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*, is the attraction here this week. Miss Gertie Rowan is a dashing Principal Boy, and scores with her songs; Miss Florence Goldstone makes a fascinating Princess, and Miss Annie G. Brevitt is seen to advantage as Haidee. Mr. George Casey does well as Mrs. Sinbad, whilst Mr. Tom Cattle as Tinbad and Mr. Billy Moore as Captain Scuttlemen, are responsible for most of the fun. In the Palace scene some excellent specialities are introduced, including Percy Victor's Wonderful Dog Minstels; the Zaza Girls, acrobatic dancers; Eddie Clay, the tramp musician; Johnny and Edna, in their Cake-Walk; and Mr. Dan Harley, acrobatic clog dancer.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, LTD.—General Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—*Dick Whittington* was produced here on Monday, and Mr. James Kiddie's company is playing to good audiences. Miss Bessie Willow as Dick is successful, and her charming singing delights everybody. The acting of Miss Leah Laurie, in the character of Alice, leaves little to be desired; Miss Florence Hilton is sprightly as Sir Algernon de Mash; Miss Isabel Taylor as Captain Navycutte, and Miss Maud Hinton as Jock Heaveh, are worthy of special mention. Miss Meta Anderson, the Fairy Queen, has a good voice, which is heard to advantage in several songs. Mr. Allan Carruthers is making himself quite a favourite as Idle Jack; Mr. Harry Albery is extremely diverting as Amelia Florence, the cook; and Mr. W. V. Dido deserves great praise for his clever imitation of the domestic cat. Messrs. Curtis and Vanity are exceedingly good in the Cake Walk.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—General Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—The boards here this week are occupied by Mrs. Morton Powell's company in *A Woman's Devotion*. Mr. G. Gaisford cleverly represents the character of Richard Chesney; Philip Dangerfield is cleverly impersonated by Mr. Frank R. Robertson. As Paul Eversleigh, Mr. W. B. Somerville is all that could be desired. Mr. F. Hodson creditably acts the part of Bob Savage; Miss Maude S. Drewry is well placed as Maisie Loyale; and Mrs. Morton Powell makes a charming Gilberte Le Grand.

WALTHAMSTOW.—PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr G. Adney Payne; Manager, Mr Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr Geo. F. Slatter.—A programme of more than ordinary interest is provided here this week. Mr Walter Stanley sings a couple of songs in good style; Miss Eileen Douglas is an attractive comedienne and dainty skirt-dancer; the Golden Michalini win almost boisterous applause by their really clever equilibrism and juggling; Mr Gus Garrick is extremely quaint; and an interesting sketch, *La Belle Parisienne*, is capitally played by Messrs Fred Eustace and company. The Bransbys are good duettists, their coster scena being their best achievement. The Five Whiteleys repeat a performance that delights the public. The sensation of the bill is the appearance of the twin-formed Bohemian Sisters, Rosa and Josepha, who meet with a great reception. Ruffell's bioscope pictures are of more than usual interest.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr. J. Potter.—Mr. Frank Thorne's company, under the direction of Messrs. Carson and Grenville, is here this week in the romantic drama, *Napoleon the Great*. Mr. Hugh Montgomery, in the title-rôle, scores a big success, his lines being given with rare declamatory force; Mr. Henry Earlesmere acts well as the unscrupulous Colonel Lavarcunes; Mr. Phil. Harper is well placed as Colonel Jules Meuron; and Mr. J. G. Maine submits a clever character sketch of Paul Larzinska. Mr. Frank M. Thorne is most effective, and the humorous element is ably sustained by him, in conjunction with Mr. C. W. Spencer and Miss Marie Harcourt. Mr. Louis Edmonde is an effective Monsieur Fouché, Minister of Police; Miss Chrissie Dunfar plays with dignity as Marie Walewska; and Miss Maud Russell is a graceful Madame Marbœuf.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmot.—Another capital company is here this week, and Walter King, the eccentric chorus comedian, scores well. The Royal Bioscope, manipulated by Mr. Wieskvi, shows a series of charming pictures; J. H. Harris is a versatile comedian; and the Wynfords are jumping experts; Les Manipulos, Parisian magicians, supply an excellent turn; and equally successful are the Maremis Electric Wonders; Walter Emmerson, comedian; and Russell Hatton, sketch artist.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—Mr. John Wainwright's Co. is here in *It's Never Too Late to Mend*. Mr Wainwright, in the important part of Tom Robinson, proves himself a capable artist; as George Fielding, Mr Wilfred Grahame gives a powerful interpretation; Mr Charles F. Johnson exhibits considerable skill in his portrayal of the Rev. Francis Eden; Peter Crawley is cleverly enacted by Mr Henry Lee; and Mr Edwin Davis is warmly appreciated in his rendering of Isaac Levi. Miss Kitty Randolph makes a sprightly Susan Merton; Miss M. Ashton does well in the rôle of Mary; and as Josephs Miss Millie Wilton is seen to advantage.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. P. Moore.—Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company, in the well-known drama, *The Sledge Hammer*, is drawing good houses here this week. Mr. Charles Herberte has scored a distinct success as Mathew Derrick, and an excellent study of his three sons, Everard, Jacob, and Simon, is given by Messrs. W. V. Garrod, A. Northway, and C. Halling. Special mention should be made of Mr. Frank Litchfield, as the lively Tom Walker; the Sammy Shaws of Mr. Frank Dallas is worthy of praise; and the same may be said of Miss Ivy Ellaline Thorne in the part of Catherine Hennis. Miss Bertha Kingston wins the sympathies of all by her impersonation of Rose Maywell.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—TOWN HALL.—The entertainment by Mr. F. W. Cockrill's concert party recently was an indisputable success. The principal and most enjoyable turn was that of Miss Ethel Walker who, at the piano, contributed humorous musical sketches, which have certainly not been eclipsed here. Jack Macdermott, in a musical sketch, had to respond to an encore richly deserved; Mr. J. P. Ling scored heavily in his *Little Drama*, which was excruciatingly funny; harp solos were contributed by Miss Aidee Le Moire, and enjoyable baritone songs by Mr. W. Donaldson Spark.

GRAND.—General Manager (for Mrs. Weldon Watts), Mr. Sidney Bacon; Resident Manager, Mr. Fred Conneaux.—A decided success has been achieved here by the booking of Mr. George Dance's company in *The Orchid*. Mr. Ernest Darrell, in the rôle of Mr. Aubrey Chesterton, is quite satisfactory; as Meakin, Mr. Charles R. Walenn is funny, and in conjunction with Mr. Edmund Page as Comte Raoul, creates unbounded laughter in the duel scene. Dr. Ronald Faussett has a capable representative in Mr. Edmund Hollick, and Mr. G. Davy Burnaby capitally plays the part of the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour. Lady Violet Anstruther is daintily represented by Miss Ethel Bryant; Caroline Vokins is amusing in the hands of Miss Madge Lucas; and as Thisbe, Miss Chrissie Ralland is well placed. Zelie is capably played by Miss Sylvia de Lacy, and Zaccary effectively presented by Mr. Arthur P. Hemsley.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—The place of honour on the bill here is given to A Ba Be's Picture Post-card Album—a most novel and artistic display of living pictures. Lockhart's wonderful elephants go through a performance that creates astonishment; Frances Haskoll, in an electrical illusory novelty, *The Vocal Chameleon*, is the delight of everybody; Lilieth Leyton is a decided success in a sketch, *The Order of the Bath*. She is assisted by Mr. J. G. Bentham. Martinetti and Grossi, in an amusing sketch, give evidence of musical ability; the Dancing by Viviana is pretty and neat; Percy Hannan, the Boy Baritone, is well received; and the Two Jagos contribute an enjoyable turn.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. Charles W. Poole's Myriorama is paying a welcome return visit here this week. The up-to-date pictures and animated photographs are much appreciated. In addition, an excellent variety programme is provided. The Royal Comedy Four are well received in their humorous sketch; Coma gains much applause as an ambidexteriologist; and Little Henny is successful as an acrobatic danseuse. The Three Condos are clever equilibrists; and Fanning's Fantoches gain ample applause. Harry Raymond is loudly applauded for his singing of "Navaho;" and the Musical Schaffers are a pleasing turn. Funny Chef creates much laughter; and Mr. Arthur Craven is an excellent guide and lecturer.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark.—Mr. Gordon Starkey's company is engaged here in *A Message from Mars*. As Horace Parker, Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee is excellent, and a capital performance is that of Mr. W. Lockhart, as The Messenger; Mr. Percy Tyler is good as a tramp; and Mr. A. Collins Rolfe acts well as Arthur Dicey. Miss Violet Auberies is smart and thorough as Miss Parker; and a pleasing performance is submitted by Miss Edith Cuthbert as Minnie.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company; Managing-Director, Mr. John Worswick.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company is here this week in a series of grand operas, including: *Faust, Cavalleria Rusticana, La Traviata, Maritana, Lohengrin, Carmen*, &c.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company; Managing-Director, Mr. J. Worswick.—An excellent programme is furnished this week at the Hippodrome. Selma Braatz is a young lady juggler of the first order; E. J. Sheldon and George Scott are clever and amusing comedians; and Henri Cazman, quick-change artiste, wins much applause. The Sisters Marion are pleasing juvenile vocalists; and Florence Yaymen, American comedienne; Charles Majilton in a farce entitled, "Round the Clock"; Belle Braham, vocalist; and the Bros. Artois, comedy artistes, complete a most satisfactory list of performers.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Manager, Mr. W. Birchall.—A capital programme is provided this week. Currie and Rice are most entertaining comedians; Mayon and Marie are clever sketch artistes; and Pat Murphy is a pedestal trick dancer; Miss Clive Poole, comedienne; Barney Noble, versatile character comedian; Miss Chrissy Evelyn, comedienne; Prof. Warton, sleight of hand expert; and Miss Lily Clifford, Tyrolean vocalist, complete a good list.

WINDSOR.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Licensee, Mr. Fred L. Connynghame; General Business-Manager, Mr. Worton David; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Nash.—A diverting entertainment has been provided for the Royal borough by Mr. John H. Morton and company, who have been playing *The Rajah of Ranjapore*. Mr. Alvin Sawyer as Horatio Chicks, and Mr. Bert Harrow, as Thistles, the principal comedian, are both clever and funny; Mr. Harry Cornwall does well as Mr. Stubb; Mr. Arthur Reid presents a capable impersonation of Captain Hertage; and Mr. Philip Percival achieves success as a baritone. Miss Nell Ascott, as Primrose, also sings with sweetness and culture; Miss Marion Walker, as Eliza, the housemaid, is sprightly and vivacious; and Miss Annie Trevor, Miss Minnie Blackmore, and Mr. George Trevor fill minor parts with sufficient skill.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—Nothing brighter, prettier, or more brilliant in the way of scenery, costumes, and stage effects generally has been seen on the boards of the Wolverhampton Theatre than is being displayed this week in *The Earl and the Girl*, played by Mr. William Greet's company. The part of Jim Cheese is taken by Mr. Reginald Lurtz, whose impersonation is both clever and amusing, nothing but laughter being heard while he is on the stage. As Dick Wargrave Mr. Alec Fraser is excellent; and other male characters are ably filled by Mr. Haddon Cane (Hon. Crewe Boodle); Mr. H. B. Brandreth (Bunker Bliss); Mr. Frank W. Cane (Downham); and Mr. W. T. Hybert (Mr. Talk). Miss Mary Fraser fills the part of Elphin Haye in a charming manner, and sings nicely; Miss Cynthia Carey is capital as Liza Shoddam; Miss Maude Aston is smart and chic as Daisy Fallowfield; and Miss Maud Adams as Mrs. Shimmering Black, and Miss Mary Morison as Miss Virginia Bliss, are noticeable for their fine appearance.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—The droll and peculiar comedian George Formby heads the list this week. Goggin and Davis give an acrobatic performance; Prince Fee Lung is seen to advantage as a conjuror; The Bollingers present some clever pictures in rags; and Will Cornish is a smart musician. Marie Wilton, vocalist and dancer; De Vere and Kenrick; Chas. Russell, and the Bioscope also appear in the programme.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—Mr. Mouillot's principal operatic company is here this week in *The Geisha* and *A Greek Slave*. Presented on Monday evening before a good house, the first-named had a cordial reception, most of the popular numbers being encored. The principals were Miss Violet Moore (O Mimosa San), Miss Florrie Saunders (Molly Seymour), Miss Aubrey Ashton (Lady Constance), Miss Violet Kenyon (Juliette), Mr. Lionel Braham (Marquis), Mr. J. Hornby (Captain Katana), Mr. F. P. Wilfrid (Wun Hi), an efficient substitute for Mr. E. Carlton, who accidentally sprained his ankle, and Mr. H. Reynolds (Takemine). The opera was brilliantly mounted.

A second week of variety entertainment, arranged by Mr. Arthur Carlton, has been given at the Public Hall this week, the artistes being the Spanish Goldena Troupe, the Deveres, Will Dalton (humorist), Leo (ventriloquist), the Hiltons (athletes), Hafiz (magician), the Rushforths, and Miss Vokey Gaylor (vocalists).

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Mr. Harry Firth's pantomime, *Cinderella*, is here this week. Mr. E. Wilson is good as the Baron; Cinderella is charmingly portrayed by Miss Madge Osmond; Miss Dora Denmark makes a capital Prince, her fine contralto voice being greatly admired; Miss Maudie Francis, as Dorothy, is a highly capable dancer; Mr. J. Binns, as Butterina, and Mr. H. Haines, as Margerina, the Baron's twins, greatly add to the go of the piece by their eccentricities; and Miss Ethel Moher, as Dandini, is extremely good.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Drama, in Five Acts, by George R. Sims and Wilson Barrett, entitled "THE GOLDEN LADDER."

The succession of well-tried and popular plays which Messrs. Walter and Frederick Melville are providing at the Terriss is proving very attractive. This week has brought the sterling melodrama, *The Golden Ladder*, with which the earlier renown of the late Wilson Barrett is associated, and in the construction of which the practised pen of Mr. George R. Sims has been worthily employed. Thrilling situations multiply throughout the piece, and nothing could exceed the enthusiasm of the patriotic residents of Rotherhithe when a file of British bluejackets, landed from a man-of-war, are brought face to face with the French at Madagascar, and prevent a premeditated attack on the English mission house. Incidents of domestic and pathetic interest are also numerous, and of comedy scenes there is no lack. The performance of the piece by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. Vivian Edmonds's company closely approaches perfection, and in each case the suitability of the players to their parts is evident. An excellent example of the militant parson is supplied by Mr. Harry Cullenford, who invests the Rev. Frank Thornhill with all the chivalry and virility that is his due. Stalwart of figure and earnest in expression, he makes the character of surpassing importance, and, if occasionally he falls into a little over-accentuation, that may be put down to an excess of emotion that at other times proves invaluable. Miss Conyers Radcliffe makes of Lilian Grant a gentle and lovable personage, and where the pathos of the part calls for adequate expression Miss Radcliffe excels. Neither does she fail in the proper expression of indignation, and the intensity of the innocent woman rebutting a cruel charge of murder is powerfully effective. Mr. Graham Winsford enters thoroughly into the villainy of the Greek mercenary Peranza, and a flexible voice and a keen humorous perception enable him to give colour to every variety of the rôle. The bolder evil-doing of Michael Severn is accomplished with dramatic skill by Mr. J. Milne Taylor, who becomes very passionate in the part, delivering the lines with impressive power. Mr. Dan Mining divides himself equally between comedy and iniquity as Jim Dixon, and of both phases of the character he gives a rendition than which nothing could be better or more effective. The part of the pastrycook Peckaby is played by Mr. Frank Hill, a comedian of the old school of the very best type. He exacts abundant laughter as the price of his drollery, and the ludicrous situations in which he is concerned are put in the most comic light, the effect being irresistible. Mrs. Peckaby is treated in a similarly quaint style by Miss Nellie Graham, and the vagaries of Victoria, the comely young daughter, are pleasantly performed by Miss Jessie Gillette. Miss Janet Wakeling may be heartily commended for her performance of the native girl Rossomazy, and the ferocity of Rao, the Malay servant, is well assumed by Mr. Eric Thomson. Little Vera makes a winsome Lily, and speaks very prettily. As Lieutenant Valnois and Dr. Lemair, both of the French Navy, Mr. Hartland Rowe and Mr. W. Chambers are efficient; while the gallant attributes of Captain Jackson are finely suggested by Mr. Frank Martin. The parts of Mr. John Grant and Noah Learoyd are well placed in the hands of Mr. Edward Bikker and Mr. Raymond Chester; Miss Fanny Morse plays satisfactorily as Mrs. Dixon; Miss Alvina Mining is duly eccentric as Prisoner No. 2; and the rest of the long cast is well represented. The difficulties of the heavy mounting have been cleverly overcome, some of the sets, notably that of Hampstead Heath by night, being admirable.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Comedy, by Henry Arthur Jones, entitled "JOSEPH ENTANGLED."

The pantomime season being now virtually finished in Suburbia, the dramatic season has once more started at the Coronet, with Messrs. Lawrence Grant and Malcolm Barrington's company, in Mr. H. A. Jones's clever comedy, *Joseph Entangled*, with Mrs. Mouillot and Mr. Lawrence Grant in the principal parts. Mr. Henry Arthur Jones has written this serio-comedy on the same lines as his other brilliant social satires, such as *The Liars*, *The Whitewashing of Julia*, &c., and every phase of this domestic storm in a tea-cup is clearly and concisely shown. Mrs. Mouillot acts with her customary charm of manner, and aptly indicates the fascinating femininity of Lady Verona, who loves a mild flirtation, and is throughout the victim of circumstances beyond her control. She also cleverly enables us to understand the storm of jealousy and the rage of unrequited love which her gentle, soft, insinuating manners could arouse in a man who once began to suspect and doubt her honesty. Mr. Lawrence Grant gives an admirable portraiture of the devil-may-care Sir Joseph Lacy, who, having sown his wild oats, is quite prepared to reap the heavy harvest of trouble and discredit which a really innocent escapade seems likely to develop into. His bright moments and his tender passages are alike admirable. Mr. Hugh Ardale ably tackles the unthankful part of the jealous husband, Hardolph Mayne; Mr. F. H. Denton is vastly amusing as the good-natured, irresolute numskull, Harry Tavender; Mr. Charles Levison Lane contributes a clever little character-sketch as the peace-making man of the world, Jermyn Pyecroft, with his peculiar views on life and "the thing called honour"; Mr. Arthur Bell is quite satisfactory in the small part of Gerald Fanmore; as the eccentric genius, Professor Tofield, Mr. Everard Digby causes considerable amusement; and Miss Alys Read, as Lady Joyce Fanmore, the cause of all the matrimonial pother, and Miss Evelyn Maxwell, as the gossiping Mrs. Harry Tavender, are well in the picture and eminently satisfactory. Mr. Guy Lane (who also stage manages) and Miss Claire Cavendish do excellent work as Knapman and his better half, whose endeavour to smooth things over for their young master and mistress only serve to further complicate matters. The *pièce de résistance* is preceded by the curtain-raiser, by Cosmo Hamilton, entitled *Jerry and a Sunbeam*, which is brightly and agreeably interpreted by Miss Evelyn Maxwell, as the enterprising husband-seeker and heiress, Mary Bellasis, and the honest but stupid solicitor, Jerry Corbett.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Musical Pantomimical Comedy entitled "THE SWISS EXPRESS."

The pantomime, after having had a most successful run, was withdrawn on Saturday last, and on Monday Messrs. C. and F. Renad occupied the boards with their mirth-provoking absurdity, *The Swiss Express*. It is a capitally managed production, and is full of merriment from start to finish. The Renad Brothers are hosts in themselves, and as the two footmen they are extremely diverting. Their innumerable devices for causing laughter seem to be inexhaustible. The scene on the Swiss Express still remains as funny as ever. The brothers are supported by a very capable company. Mr. Wilford Bailey is delightful as Dr. Gondimar Gull, and keeps the fun going all the time. Another humorous impersonation is that of Dudley Green, as played by Mr. Alec Wylie, who scores heavily in the part. A winsome and dainty Virginia is found in Miss May Hart, who has a couple of songs which make her a great favourite, her dancing being also a source of pleasure. Mr. George Martin makes a capable Bob Rollingstone; and Mr. George Power a most amusing landlord of the Black Bear. Mr. H. Alexander, as Septimus Squeeze, adds to the humour of the play, and Mr. Harwood Cooper is in every way excellent as Jack Gadabout. There are various other minor characters, which are suitably filled. The Four Brighton Girls give a clever sword and lance display, and also execute some neat dances, all of which meet with much approval. The stage effects are in every way complete, and there is a good deal of trick scenery, which is made the most of, with excellent results. It is evident that *The Swiss Express* has still a long run before it.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Pantomime, written and invented by Fred Bowyer, entitled "CINDERELLA."

After a successful season at Peckham, the pantomime of *Cinderella* has been transferred in its entirety to the Pavilion, and opened to a large and enthusiastic house on Monday. The book, by Mr. Fred Bowyer, is smartly written, and while keeping up continuity in the story, which is told in a very quaint and humorous style, abounds with quips and jokes, which are well taken up by the audience. The music, arranged and composed by Mr. Henry Sprake, who is conducting for this engagement, is light and sparkling, and whilst introducing many popular airs, contains a quantity of original composition which is deserving of special mention. Miss Alice Lloyd, an ideal Cinderella, acquits herself admirably in all respects. Whether acting, singing, or dancing, this clever artist endows everything she does with charm and piquancy, and speedily wins the admiration of all. Miss Rose Hamilton makes a dashing Dandini, her fine presence, sweet vocalisation, and graceful dancing contributing in no small measure to the success she attains. Grace and elegance unite with the art of the comedienne in her impersonation of the gay young gallant, in whom so much of the interest of the production centres. Miss Hamilton's popularity at Peckham was recently proved when she was awarded the "Sloper" prize of a diamond ring by an overwhelming public vote, and if there is any more jewellery going under the same conditions in Mile-end, Miss Hamilton seems in a fair way to secure it, such a phenomenal favourite has she become. Her appearance in her several costumes is entirely captivating, and when she sings, as she does often, the delivery of the words and the well-studied action compel admiration. To hear her render "The Smartest Boy in Town" is thoroughly to grasp every point of a song teeming with topical hits, which have won many recalls, a compliment which in nearly every instance has attended her vocal efforts. Miss Hamilton is also heard to advantage in her song, "The Hoodoo Landlord," which, with effects and hidden chorus, is vociferously redemanded, and her success is well deserved. Miss May Mars, an elegant and bright Prince, soon becomes a general favourite, her vocal efforts being rewarded with loud applause; and Miss Zillah Price possesses a clear voice of great flexibility, which she displays to advantage in the rôle of the Fairy Godmother. Mr. Jake Friedman, an excellent Baron Buckshot, introduces some capital business, his "One Man Opera" fairly bringing down the house. Charlotte finds an exceptionally droll representative in Mr. Dan Crawley, who is excruciatingly funny. This gentleman has a large fund of quaint humour, and keeps his audience in the best possible spirits. A masterly impersonation of Jane is given by Mr. Charles Sloman, who is to be commended for his make-up and clever acting. As Peter, Mr. W. T. Thompson endows the part with much that is original and amusing, his songs and dances evoking some of the heartiest applause of the evening. Mr. Arthur Lawrence is a powerful Snagfang, his fine well-trained voice being heard to good effect in his song, "The Brigand Bold." Special praise must be given to Miss Katie Bell, as Lord Gadfly, and Miss Flossie Bell, as Lady Mildred. Both these ladies are excellent vocalists, and dance in a charming manner. The Brothers Ethairien, as Ginger and Stoney, are clever in their business, and supply much fun that is novel and laughable. Mr. Edward Sillward is to be highly congratulated on his realistic performance of the gorilla, Beauty, one of the finest animal impersonations ever given on the boards. Miss Jessie Beaumont is most satisfactory in the part of Sir Percy Loosecash; and efficient representatives of Beaujolais and Caramel are found in Miss Lillie Smith and Miss J. Williams. Miss Gladys Harvey is a bewitching Chrystolis, and Mr. Harry Bristow works hard as the Landlord. The scenery is elaborate, the dresses are in admirable taste, and the *tout ensemble* is extremely pleasing. The arduous duties of stage-manager are in the experienced hands of Mr. Fred Boustead, who has been indefatigable in his efforts, being loyally assisted by his capable lieutenant, Mr. Harry Bristow. The whole has been produced under the personal superintendence of Mr. Isaac Cohen, to whose excellent administrative powers all congratulation is due.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Musical Comedy, in Three Acts, by Owen Hall, Composed by Liza Lehmann, entitled "SERGEANT BRUE."

The run of the pantomime having been brought to a successful termination on Saturday last, the spring season opened on Monday, *Sergeant Brue*, still in the height of its popularity in the West-end, being the attraction for the present week. The company, which is under the direction of Mr. Frank Curzon, has evidently been selected with care and discrimination. The play is adequately mounted, and more than a passing word of praise is due to the dressing of the piece. Mr. Edward Kipling, in the rôle of Sergeant Brue, originally played by Mr. Willie Edouin, contributes an exceedingly droll impersonation, and he is responsible for a considerable amount of the laughter heard during the evening. Another clever and finished piece of acting is supplied by Mr. George Barrett, as Crookie Scrubbs, and Mr. Charles Hanbury is satisfactory as Michael Brue. A characteristic sketch of Mr. Crank comes from Mr. Campbell Bishop. A bright and engaging Aurora Brue is found in Miss Hilda Antony, and her performance is one that is of great value to the production. The Lady Bicknell of Miss Eleanor Estelle is in every way a pleasing performance, and full advantage of every opportunity the part affords is taken by Miss L. Zambray as Daisy, the servant. Other parts are capably filled by Messrs. Thomas Holding, Archie Croft, Paddy Dupres, W. H. Page, Ivor Harvey, and Michael Watson.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Feb. 6. "THE DUKE OF KILLICRANKIE."

The pantomime of *Aladdin* finished its very successful run on Saturday amid a scene of great enthusiasm, and before a large and enthusiastic audience. The artistes have all worked hard and well together; the scenery and dresses could not possibly have been improved upon; and the music has been fully up to the general excellence of the production. Mr. Purcell's "right hand," Mr. Manager Yeulett, has been indefatigable in his endeavours to secure the comfort of his numerous patrons, and his marked ability in this respect has been much appreciated. This week more merriment has been evoked by Robert Marshall's farcical romance entitled *The Duke of Killicrankie*, and every character is adequately filled. Mr. Scott Craven, in the title-rôle, gets every particle of value out of the part. As Mr. Henry Pitt-Welby, M.P., Mr. Arthur Grenville affords evidence of his histrionic abilities, and is greeted with general applause. As the glue-maker's wealthy widow, Mrs. Mulholland, Miss Aida Jenoure could scarcely be excelled; every action and word fit the situation with remarkable precision. The talent of Miss Doris Templeton is manifested in the natural manner in which she renders the part of the Lady Henrietta Addison. Miss Margaret Damer is to be congratulated on her assumption of the rôle of the haughty Countess of Pangbourne. Mr. Pat Newall gives a good performance of the small part of Ambrose Hicks, and Mr. Guy Watson and Miss Helen K. Robertson capably undertake the rôles of Mr. and Mrs. MacBayne, caretakers at Crag o' North. The remaining characters are adequately portrayed. On Monday afternoon a flying visit was made by Sousa and his band.

THE BRIXTON.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Play, entitled "A MESSAGE FROM MARS."

After a successful season of pantomime a return this week is made to the usual dramatic fare with a visit from Mr. Mouillot's principal company in Robert Ganthony's well-known play, *A Message from Mars*. It is interpreted by an excellent company of artistes, and is mounted in admirable style. The character of the selfish Horace Parker has a capable representative in Mr. F. Rawson Buckley, and Mr. W. H. Brougham's fine physique and excellent voice stand him in good stead as the Messenger from Mars. The tramp of Mr. Bruce Lindley is a very effective study, and Mr. Frank Dunn is well placed as the American Arthur Dicey. Miss May Saker makes a pretty and sympathetic Minnie Templer, and Miss Flora Hastings is excellent as Horace's aunt, Miss Parker. Miss Peggy E. Yeoman acts well as the Servant Bella, so does Miss Joan Meredith as Mrs. Clarence. The smaller parts, which are in capable hands, are undertaken by Mr. H. E. Lanceley, as Dr. Chapman; Mr. E. French, as Sir Vivian, an astronomer; Mr. Lionel West, as Mr. Ferguson, Horace Parker's solicitor; Mr. J. Truswell Holt, as a policeman; Mr. H. M. Davidson, as Sir Roland Wright; Mr. Louis Cabaret, as Mr. Shillingford; Miss Elsie Walton, as a flower girl; Miss Vera Corona, as a poor woman; and Miss Elsie Crisp, as a little girl; and Miss Teresa Vanbrugh, as Polly, and all lend their valuable assistance to make the performance a success. The orchestra, under the capable direction of Mr. George Bonner, plays some capital selections during the intervals, and the courteous and popular assistant-manager, Mr. R. W. Allum, is still studying the comforts of his numerous patrons.

SHAKESPEARE, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Musical Comedy by James T. Tanner and Lionel Monckton, entitled "THE CINGALEE."

Mr. George Dance's chief company, which has been appearing in this pretty musical comedy this week at the Shakespeare Theatre, is a very good one. The scenery and dresses are bright too, and the whole production goes with a swing. Mr. Lauri De Frece, as Chambhuddy Ram, and Miss Mabel Sealby, as Peggy Sabine, take the honours of the piece. Mr. De Frece is very capable, while Miss Sealby is a bright, pretty, and accomplished singer and dancer. Miss Ethel Negretti, as Nanoya, is distinctly good in both singing and dancing. Mr. Fred W. Pattrick has made a great success as Boobhamba, receiving numerous encores. Mr. George Mudie, jun., sings well as Bobby Warren. Mr. Francis Ludlow is deserving of praise as Harry Vereker, while Mr. F. W. Ford brings out all the humour of the part of Sir Peter Loftus. Miss Madge Temple makes a dashing Lady Patricia Vane, while Miss Trissie March, as Angy Loftus, delights everyone with her dainty dancing. In minor parts the following deserve notice:—Misses Poppy Wilkinson, May Curtis, Iris Grosvenor, and Minnie Muir; and Messrs. Erne, Bates, Nix, Taylor, and Carter.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, the Opera, entitled "MARITANA."

Many of those in Woolwich who are fond of good music well rendered have had ample opportunity this week for the gratification of this taste, for Mr. J. W. Turner has been here with his English Opera Company, his répertoire consisting of *The Bohemian Girl*, *Maritana*, *Il Trovatore*, *Faust*, *Carmen*, and *The Daughter of the Regiment*. On Tuesday *Maritana* was given, and was well received by an appreciative audience. Miss Kitty Brownless made a dainty and interesting Maritana, her graceful acting and general charm of manner adding to the value of her impersonation, while her clear soprano voice was heard to advantage in several well-known numbers; perhaps her greatest success was with her song, "The Harp in the Air." Miss Jessie Dennis played Lazarillo in spirited style, and made a hit with an excellent rendering of "Alas! those Chimes." Miss Maud Esdale did as well as possible with the small part of the Marchioness. Mr. J. W. Turner acted with all his old force, energy, and adaptability as Don Cæsar de Bazan, and sang several favourite numbers with great success. His version of "Let me like a soldier fall" was most enthusiastically redemanded. As Don José Mr. Tom Griffiths acted well, and used his fine voice with discretion and power, his happiest effort being perhaps his rendering of "In happy moments day by day." Mr. Sidney Clifford gave an excellent account of himself as Charles II., his good bass voice being much appreciated, and Mr. Richard Cummings was a comical Marquis de Montefiore. The singing of the chorus was in every way admirable, the excellent rendering of the concerted numbers being a special feature of the performance.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Musical Play entitled "THE ORCHID."

The pantomime having run its allotted career, gave way on Monday evening to Mr. George Edwardes' still running Gaiety success, played by his chief touring company. Than the second edition of *The Orchid* it may be confidently said that there is no brighter musical comedy to be seen and heard in all London, for Mr. Tannar has an interesting story to tell, and his dialogue is smartly written, while the music of Messrs. Ivan Caryll and Lionel Monckton, with the additional numbers of Mr. Paul Rubens, is decidedly pleasant to the ear, and demands for repetition frequently occur. Entirely new and elaborate costumes and scenery are provided, presenting a veritable feast of colour for the eye to gaze upon. The company, last but by no means least, is in some respects changed from the last visit, and certainly strengthened. Miss Rita Everard makes a decidedly piquant and graceful Lady Violet Anstruther, and sings her songs with a distinctness that enables them to be thoroughly appreciated. Caroline Vokins is happily played by Miss Gertrude Aylward, whose amusing acting causes much hilarity. An animated performance of Josephine Zaccary is given by Miss Gertrude Gilliam, who uses a pleasing voice with good effect. Miss Amy Payne renders Thisbe, the private secretary, in very bright fashion. Miss Ethel Griffies acts charmingly and looks handsome as the adventuress, Zelie Rumbert, and the Countess Anstruther is well played by Miss Katie Leechman. Mr. Charles Brown admirably sustains the part of the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour, which he endows with much life, and Mr. Donald Hall is seen to much advantage as Dr. Ronald Fausset. An exceedingly able "take off" of a well-known politician is contributed by Mr. Ellis Ogilvie, who acts cleverly as Mr. Aubrey Chesterton, the orchid enthusiast. Mr. Clifford Seyler presents a lifelike portrait of the highly excitable Comte Raoul de Cassignat, and his two seconds, M. Fontenbras and M. Merignac, are capably enacted by Mr. E. G. Woodhouse and Mr. E. Rutland. The Registrar is a laughable piece of fooling by Mr. Frank Hector. Mr. E. W. Colman provides a genuinely humorous performance of the orchid hunter, Zaccary, and his nimble dancing meets with popular approval. The heartiest of laughter is caused by the really funny picture of Meakin presented by Mr. George Gregory, whose appearance alone gives rise to smiles. The orchestra is ably controlled by Mr. Ernee Woodville.

WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, entitled "A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."

When first this notable play of Mr. W. Melville's was submitted for the approval of the West Londoners, it met with a most cordial reception, so that on the night of our visit this week, we were not at all surprised to find a crowded, enthusiastic audience assembled to welcome its return. Mr. Charles Franmore's portrayal of the old farmer, John Meadows, was replete with those characteristic touches that are only vouchsafed by an actor of wide experience. Mr. Cecil A. Melton acted Jack Livingstone in forcible fashion; Mr. John Brooks was efficient in every way as Luke Ramsden; and Mr. P. Barry-Lewers was responsible for a satisfactory and powerful rendering of Cuthbert Lumley. The vagaries of Toby Turvey found ample expression at the hands of Mr. Fred Ingram, his drolleries being well backed up by Tilly Vane, a part piquantly played by Miss Lilla Norden. The important rôle of Barbara Wade was sustained by that accomplished actress, Miss Hilda Beverley, in a most convincing way. In the third and fourth acts her acting touched an exceedingly high level, and made a great impression on the minds of the Marylebone playgoers, who were most lavish with their applause, and justly so. As Nellie Meadows, the erring farmer's daughter, Miss Nell Oliver looked and acted decidedly well, whilst Miss Grace Richardson was pleasing and dainty as Constance Cornell. Of the minor characters, mention may be made of Mr. Chas. Terry (Dr. Watson), Mr. David Borone (Joe Coyle), and Mr. Charles Dowe, as the pickpocket Crofts. Mr. Bert E. Hammond is the manager and stage director for Mr. W. Melville, the front of the house being looked after by Mr. James Sinclair in his accustomed genial way.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Musical Comedy, in three Acts, entitled "KITTY GREY."

Mr. C. St. John Denton's principal touring company has been appearing in this successful play at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, during the week, and it has been witnessed by a numerous audience each night. The comedy has been made even more attractive than when it was at Kingston last, by the introduction of new songs and dances, and of other features, which were most favourably received. Mr. St. John Denton's company, a numerous and most capable one, gave a clever and intelligent interpretation of the comedy, the musical part of which was especially well enjoyed, several of the numbers having to be re-sung in response to the applause evoked. Miss Hilda Guiver made a successful appearance in the title rôle, which she filled with much ability. Mr. Wensley Russell played Sir John Binfield with tact, and Miss Eily Helene was an agreeable Lady Binfield. Miss Hilda Scarisbrick was admirable as Saide de Poulson, and Miss Emily Stevens earned favour by her rendering of the part of Mrs. Bright. The part of the King of Illyria was in the capable hands of Mr. Robert White, jun., and that of Lord Plantagenet was ably filled by Mr. Leslie Harris. The play was admirably mounted, and there was a full chorus and augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Albert Vernon.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 6, "THE MIKADO."

At the Grand, the D'Oyly Carte répertoire opera company is giving a series of performances of the best-known Gilbert and Sullivan operas. The week opened on Monday with *The Mikado*. The company is a capable one, and a crowded house fully appreciated a good performance. *The Mikado* has now taken rank, one might say, as a classic, and is nearly as full of quotations as *Hamlet*. But it appears to enjoy perrenial youth, and the familiar songs, with their tuneful melodies and extraordinarily clever versification, as well as the quaint dances, were received with unstinted applause, and encored again and again. Mr. C. H. Workman took the important part of Ko-Ko, and caused much amusement. So also did Mr. Fred Billington as Pooh-Bah, his ponderous manner and dry humour being quite in keeping with the best traditions of the part. Mr. Pacie Ripple played and sang well as Nanki-Poo, and Mr. Albert Kavanagh was a jovial representative of the Mikado. Miss Norah Maguire was Yum-Yum, and was well supported by Miss Jessie Rose and Miss Alice Lisle as the other two little maids from school, while Miss Theresa Rassam sang finely as Katisha. *Iolanthe* was billed for Tuesday, *The Pirates of Penzance* for Wednesday matinée, *The Gondoliers* for Wednesday night, the *Yeomen of the Guard* for Thursday, and *H.M.S. Pinafore*, followed by *Trial by Jury*, for Friday.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Play in Four Acts, by Hall Caine, entitled, "THE ETERNAL CITY."

Saturday last saw the termination of pantomime at the Stratford Borough Theatre, and Monday night ushered in the first of this year's bookings in *The Eternal City*. The piece had a cordial reception on this, its second, visit to Stratford, this time under the régime of Mr. J. Bannister Howard, the members of whose company all acquitted themselves with credit. Mr. D. Lewin Mannering makes a suave, calculating Baron Bonelli, his acting being always incisive and convincing. Mr. Frederick Victor looks well, and plays with power and fluency as David Rossi. Mr. F. Vernon Travers imbues the character of Pope Pius XI. with a reverential air, and his utterances are duly impressive. Mr. P. L. Julian is responsible for a fine piece of acting as Bruno Rocco; Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp plays with distinction as Commendatore Angelelli; Mr. Charles Stafford takes full advantage of the chances offered him as Charles Minghelli; and Mr. A. G. Brown cleverly realises Tomaso. Miss Helen Haye essays the arduous rôle of Donna Roma, with complete success, acting throughout with admirable restraint and artistic finish. Miss Edith King as Elena, Madame Rubardt as Francesca, Miss Rêne de l'Estrade as Nattalina, and Miss Mara Maltley as Princess Bellini all do exceedingly well. Minor rôles are carefully handled.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Drama in Four Acts, by William Bourne, entitled "VOICES OF LONDON."

Mr. Wm. Bourne's company, in *Voices of London*, provides the dramatic attraction for the current week at the Stratford Theatre Royal, and the piece secured a most favourable reception on Monday night. The author himself is playing Arthur Leyland, and the part gains much from Mr. Bourne's virile and earnest interpretation. Mr. Ellis J. Preston depicts in cool and callous style the villainy of Eustace Courtney, his graphic portraiture rendering the miscreant extremely distasteful to the more susceptible among the audience. Mr. Arthur Rich plays with an unctuous humour and plausibility, which exactly suits the canting hypocritical Jeremiah Mogford; and Mr. Frank Liston acts with much expression as Rev. Stephen Woodleigh. Mr. Will Clement, as the artist, Gustave Lorrimore, makes the most of his opportunities; Mr. E. Hartley provides a fund of mirth as Joe Baxter; Mr. Davidson is decidedly excellent as Eldred St. Austin; and Mr. G. Frank plays appropriately as Dr. Meredith. Miss Amy Vennimore, whom we remember previously in heavy parts, acts with considerable charm, and in entire sympathy, as Eleanor Lyle; and Miss Alys Eden, as the artist's model, Stella Denton, meets with much success. Miss Lydia Hart has plenty of scope, as Polly Turner, for her undoubted ability in soubrette parts, and is very amusing and clever; Miss Clarrie Ash contributes a natural embodiment of Mrs. Lyle; Miss T. Godwin plays well as the vindictive Nurse Chapman; and Miss Kate Edwards scores as Nurse Watson. Minor parts are in capable hands.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Comic Opera, entitled "VERONIQUE."

Mr. George Dance's company is presenting the comic opera, *Veronique*, with great success here this week. Miss Maud Boyd, who appears as the chief character, Agatha (Madame Coquenard), has some enviable natural charms which aid her materially in the assumption of a part which, under such circumstances, becomes doubly fascinating. Coquenard is a character very well played by Mr. Leslie Holland, and Mr. Ivan Berlyn, as Lonstot, a bailiff, is decidedly amusing. Miss Ruth Lincoln, in the title-rôle of Veronique, is quite successful, and imparts a good deal of expression to certain passages. Mr. Scott Russell, as Florestan de Vallancourt, makes a robust hero, and his powerful voice is heard to advantage in the duets which he sings with Veronique. The duet entitled "Swinging" takes the fancy of the audience wonderfully. Miss Gracie Sinclair, as Denise, a simple country girl, is a favourite.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Musical Comedy, in Two Acts, by Seymour Hicks and Ivan Caryll, entitled "THE EARL AND THE GIRL."

Last Saturday, the run of the pantomime *Aladdin*, at the above theatre, came to an end, and on Monday the ordinary season began with Mr. Wm. Greet's company in that charming musical play, *The Earl and the Girl*, which is being presented for the first time in Suburbia. Mr. William Stephens, as Jim Cheese, kept the audience in roars of laughter, and his droll jokes followed one on the other so quickly that one feared to laugh too heartily, for fear of missing the next sally. His song, "I'd be Satisfied," and quaint dancing were uproariously successful. Mr. Percy Carr has a pleasing voice and manner, and was well suited to the part of Dick Wargrave, scoring one of the successes of the evening in that very pretty number, "The Cosy Corner Girl"; Mr. Fred Hill was excellent as the Hon. Crewe Boodle; the part of A. Bunker Bliss, the really terrible uncle, was taken by Mr. William Walshe, who is made for the part; Mr. Will Hindson was very smart as the Yankee solicitor, Downham, his rapid patter keeping the house well amused; Mr. Talk, the Israelitish solicitor, was admirably played by Mr. J. C. Graves. Miss Aimee Grey, a sweet and fascinating Elphin Haye, was responsible for a charming rendering of "Roses"; Liza Shoddam, Jim Cheese's "little bit of all right," was an amusing piece of character acting by Miss Dot Carey, who is full of gaiety; Miss Gladys Fontaine, as Mrs. Shimmering Black, the "strong lady," was, to say the least, striking; Miss Florence Imeson made a fascinating Daisy Fallowfield; and Miss Helen Langton was admirable as Miss Virginia Bliss. An excellent chorus worked really very hard, and the scenery was most effective. A pretty effect at the end of the first scene, the Fallowfield Arms, was produced by thousands of little paper hearts, which rained down upon the actors from the flies.

EALING THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Drama, in Five Acts, entitled "ZAZA."

The habitués of Mr. Carlton's playhouse will have no reason to complain of the fare put before them this week by Mrs. Lewis Waller and her excellent company in *Zaza*, *Vilma*, and *Miss Jack*. A fine reception was accorded Mrs. Waller, who paid a previous visit a short time ago. Mrs. Lewis Waller, as Zaza, is skilful in the portrayal of emotion, and has fine opportunities for the exercise of both the tragic and pathetic moods, of which she makes full use. Mr. T. Edmunds, as Cascart, furnishes a very successful impersonation, and Mr. Eric Mayne gives a careful representation of Bernard Dufresne. Miss Kate Kearney, as Rosa Bonne, with an affliction of the heart that is always requiring a little stimulant, creates roars of laughter by her eccentricities; and the fascinating Miss Rosemary Rees gains unstinted applause for her admirable efforts as Floramine. Miss Alice Langley, as Alice Morel, is a favourite; the Nathalie of Miss Minnie Rayner deserves praise; Mr. Edgar J. Coyne, as the Duc De Brisac, is well placed; and Mr. T. Henessey creates a favourable impression as Jacques Rigault. Little Miss Maude Ray is sweet and ingenuous as Toto. The pretty Misses Ethel Rainforth, Lottie May, Mabel Turton, and Madge Beresford are effective in their respective parts of Lolotte, Niniche, Adèle, and Juliette; and the charming Miss Ethel Warwick, as Madame Dufresne, is quite successful. The play is well staged, and the dresses are pretty. The orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. A. E. Blythe.

THE BRITANNIA.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Drama, by Arthur Shirley and Ben Landeck, entitled "SAVED FROM THE SEA."

Messrs. Shirley and Landeck's play, *Saved from the Sea*, has always been a strong favourite with audiences who like their dramatic fare strongly spiced with sensational incidents, but also with a distinct flavouring of broad comedy. This wholesome blend is found in the drama which is this week affording unqualified delight to the patrons of the Britannia, at Hoxton. The career of an honest fisherman, whom almost overwhelming misfortunes render undesirably conspicuous, is not only interesting in itself, but one's feelings of sympathy are frequently aroused for one who is the victim of much undeserved ill-luck, and who has to pass through an extremely severe ordeal ere the dark clouds of despair break, and the sunshine of happiness again brightens his life and the lives of those dear to him. Charged with the crime of murder, Dan Ellington, the sturdy young fisherman, is unable to prove his innocence; and it seems inevitable that the law of the land must take its usual course. He endures all the tortures of the condemned cell, and then marches forth calmly and bravely to meet his fate. But for once, at least, the innocent man escapes the extreme penalty of the law. The machinery of the scaffold is at fault, and as it, after repeated attempts, cannot be made to act, the condemned man escapes death. He also, with a fellow prisoner, gets away from the gaol, and makes his way to the locality where his devoted wife and little boy are living. The man with him, Peter Scalcher, is shot at and mortally wounded. Aware that he is dying, he makes the long-delayed confession that he and the villainous adventurer, Richard Fenton, committed the crime attributed to Dan Ellington, who will, of course, receive the usual "free pardon." Mr. C. A. East gives a faithful and vigorous portrayal of Dan Ellington, the fisherman hero, who bears himself with dignity and restraint, even at the most nerve-trying moments. Miss Rose Ralph, as Nancy Ellington, the fisherman's wife, plays with a womanly charm of manner than is most effective. Mr. Frank Harding presents a particularly vivid portrait of Peter Scalcher, the private enquiry agent, making a powerful impression, particularly in the last act. Mr. J. C. Aubrey is successful in depicting to the life

the repellant, unscrupulous adventurer, Richard Fenton. Mr. John M. East does well as Jim Weaver, Dan's mate. Mr. Tom Wallace is an amusing representative of Jenkins, whose sweetheart, Polly Blake, has a smart exponent in Miss Marie Wright. Mrs. Emily Dowton is a capital Mrs. Blake; and little Miss Maud, as Jack, Dan's child, wins applause. Mr. Willie Scott appears as Billy Snooks, "Barnum's black banjoist," and the minor characters are in safe hands. The scenery and staging are deserving of favourable mention. The variety programme this week is contributed to by Miss Ethel Dunford, a refined and pleasing comedienne, who sings two songs in good style; and Mr. Arthur Boyne, who scores with his ditty, "Hold Up Your Hand." The programme concludes with Mr. John M. East's laughable farce, entitled *A Wife in Reserve*.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Feb. 6, the Drama, entitled "DRIVEN FROM HOME."

A capital representation of this famous domestic drama is being given at the Elephant and Castle Theatre this week, and very good houses testify nightly their approval. All the original elaborate effects are introduced, and the scenery is particularly good. Mr. Walter Melville plays the double rôle of Tom Mortlake and Dick Saunders, and infuses into both parts an amount of energy that elicits the warmest appreciation. Mr. Ernest E. Norris works hard as Willie, the outcast, and his artistic ability enables him to give a portraiture that is remarkably realistic. In the character of Anthony Raybrook, Mr. Howard Templeton is very successful. Mr. Harry Paulton, jun., as John Anderson, scores an instantaneous success; and Mr. Jo. Monkhouse, as Jabez Thomas, acts with a quiet dignity that is convincing. Mr. Paige Lawrence is excellent as Walter Hatherleigh, and Mr. Frank Stone contributes a clever study of Anthony Raybrook's unscrupulous nephew, Geoffrey Waring. A manly exponent of the British workman is Mr. Dudley Hayes, as David Wilson. Miss Eva Dare is admirably suited in the character of Margaret Bailey, and her natural brightness and charm are thoroughly admired by the audience. Miss Judith Kyrle acts exceedingly well as Barbara Ashdown, and Miss Winnie Waller, as Walter Hatherleigh the younger, plays with conspicuous finish and distinction. The drama was well received on Monday evening, the harmonious working of the artistes assisting in no small degree the success of the performance. The orchestra, under the skilful bâton of Mr. Nurmberger, rendered several musical selections in excellent style.

"MOTHER GOOSE" AT MANCHESTER.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

What may be called the revised version of *Mother Goose*, now running at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, under the direction of Mr. John Hart, is a huge success, and a fine compliment to the experience and foresight of the producer. It is, perhaps, no less a compliment also to the readiness of Mr. George Robey as a comedian, in whom, one need not hesitate to say, the success is centred, and whose performance on the opening night was as full of elaborate humour, studied and spontaneous, as it is after weeks of trial. This must not be taken to imply, however, that Mr. Robey's performance is the same each night; it is, in the smaller details, continually changing—some new joke, new business, or even a new inflection of the voice, gives fresh interest to his unique comicalities in the title-part. Mr. J. Hickory Wood's arrangement of the story has already been set forth in these columns; it is quite interesting in itself, while affording the amplest opportunities for pantomimic display. It includes scenery and business for the sophisticated, and a capital idea of a fairy Gooseland for children, a place at which one must arrive by balloon, and where a grand Congress of Geese is seen, the occasion being a momentous Trial of Mortals, who are quaintly condemned to be eaten by geese, as mortals eat geese at Christmas, but who are happily rescued by the valiant Colin on his arrival with a magic feather from the good Fairy Heartsease. The introduction of several Scotch characters and a hunting scene are also conspicuous in the movement, the grand ballet at the "meet" being a very elaborate spectacle; while at the magic pool, in which Mother Goose recovers her youthful beauty, a wonderful pageant of water nymphs is seen. All these remain in the memory as separate and magnificent examples of scenic art. Of the characters, Mr. George Robey is pre-eminently successful as Mother Goose, and his songs, "Solid, Substantial, and Thick," "I said 'O!'" and a character duet with Miss Ethel Haydon, "Business and Pleasure Combined," all bring him rounds of delighted applause. Miss Hilda Jacobsen plays Colin, the principal boy, with her usual refinement, and her fine voice is heard to advantage in "Bluebell," "The Land of Snow," and various duets. Miss Venie Clements has a nice style for the part of Jill, and renders her vocal items, "The Wise Old Owl" among them, with credit. Most of these songs are embellished by illustrated backgrounds and choruses in character. Another clever artiste of repute is Miss Daisy Jerome, who plays the part of a Dutch servant, Gretchen, in her well-known, clever, and dainty fashion. Miss Jerome's song, "The Gibson Girl," is most successful. Of Mr. Robey's supporters in the comic department, Mr. George Bastow merits first mention. He plays Jack, the quaint and easy-going son of Mother Goose, in distinctly clever and amusing fashion, incidentally delivering himself of sundry comic songs, "What d'ye want to talk about it for?" among them. Little Ganty is most conspicuous among the remaining comedians, his burlesque coon song being quaintly done, and his vivacity much enjoyed. The Brothers Valdo are commendable as the donkeys, and all the minor parts are in good hands. Of the supernaturals, Mr. Harrison Brockbank is the demon Malignum, and sings his song "Butterfly" in splendid style; while Miss Ethel Haydon as the Fairy Heartsease is graceful, pleasing, and very successful in her principal vocal effort, "Farewell my little Yo-San." The Two Cabiacs repeat their remarkable acrobatic speciality with increasing success. There is every probability of *Mother Goose* having a long run.

"THE BELLS OF HASLEMERE" is being presented at the Theatre Royal, Rugby, this week by a first-class company. Mr. Leonard York as Frank Beresford acts in a very effective manenr, and Mr. Montague Turner is exceptionally good in the rôle of John Silkstone. Mr. Charles A. Chandler as Captain Vere leaves nothing to be desired, and Mr. Douglas Hamilton as Matthew Brookfield is excellent in every way; as Reuben Armstrong, Mr. Charles Cecil gives an able and artistic reading. Mr. Fred F. Allen as Joseph Thorndyke, and Mr. Powell James as Captain Salem are both good. Miss Henrietta Polini as Evelyn Brookfield acquits herself in a most creditable manner, and Miss Stafford Smith as Dorothy Kemble gives every ratisfaction. Miss Mary Hardacre as Mary Northcote is a great success, and Miss Florence Chandler as Norah Desmond is worthy of commendation.

AN attractive programme is submitted at Fossett's Hippodrome, Rugby, this week. Mr. Robert Fossett, jun., and Miss Fossett add to their popularity by the introduction of several new items. Mr. Thomas Fossett gives a capital exhibition, and in conjunction with Mr. Robert Fossett, a very effective dual turn is presented. Mdlle Emmie displays exceptional grace as an exponent of l'haut école, and in addition to her ability as an equestrienne gives a charming representation of the Duchess of Gainsborough. Miss Nellie Fossett is establishing herself as a favourite, and the clowns, Tell and Bill Bailey, cause roars of laughter. Their comic shooting match is very good. Otto's efforts to amuse give great satisfaction; and a comic sketch, in which various members of the company appear, is much appreciated. The Bonello Troupe are good, both in their representation of groups of statuary and as acrobats.

"MAISIE."

On Thursday, Feb. 4, a new four-act play, written by Frederick Davenporte and Joseph W. Boyling, produced at the Grand Theatre, Southampton.

Dr. Morton Forrester	MR. JOSEPH W. BOYLING.
Squire Leighton	MR. ALBERT COOPER.
Joe Roland	MR. HEATHER WILLIAMS.
Arthur Boynton	MR. REGINALD EARLE.
Ralph Lee	MR. ALBERT WILLSON.
Dick Donovan	MR. IVAN GASTON.
Percy Darwin	MR. JULIAN BRUCE.
George Walton	MR. PERCIVAL CARSLEY.
Gibson	MR. FRED PERCIVAL.
Weston	MR. REGIE BRIGHT.
Jack Forrester	MR. FREDK. DAVENPORTE.
Roma	MISS LIL O'BRIAN.
Molly	MISS NELLIE GOURLEY
Eliza Roland	MISS B. DESBOROUGH.
Maisie	MISS MABEL HILLMAN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT).

The authors of *Maisie* are deserving of the highest praise for writing a piece which appeals to the sympathies of an audience. The plot is well sustained, and the charmingly witty dialogue, with its wholesome humour and pathos, is heartily welcomed. Jack Forrester, a rising young barrister, and five chums are on a fishing expedition in the village of Fairfield. The "boys" are boisterously hilarious, and are successful in keeping old Joe Roland, keeper of the inn at which they stay, in a state of "fidget." They are having high times, and have just arranged an "up the river" picnic, when the hero is called home by peremptory message from his father. It is here that he finds himself in love with the innkeeper's niece, Maisie, and before leaving ascertains that his feelings are reciprocated. Confessions are made on both sides. Jack leaves the simple country maid, promising to return in a day or two, and eventually to make the subject of the story his wife. His proud father, however, jealous of the old name, has heard of the "flirtation," and, having in collusion with his friend and neighbour, Squire Leighton, other intentions, makes his desires known to his son. The wife they would have for him is Roma, the squire's daughter; but Jack, stating that such a thing can never be, tells his father his intentions. The doctor raves, then pleads, and, added to these, Jack's sister pleads on behalf of the old name and the squire's daughter.

Promising to continue as the "kindly and sympathetic Jack Forrester" before the fiancee chosen for him, our hero still determines to make the country maiden his wife, but prior to his return to the village his father and the squire, on whose estate lies the old inn, visits the Rolands, and Maisie, overhearing remarks made to her uncle and aunt, sacrifices her affection, and tells the visitors there is nothing between Jack and herself, repeating the story to young Forrester when he subsequently appears. Misunderstanding Maisie's motives, Jack marries the Squire's daughter; but his heart is still in the little fishing village, and the relations between the married pair become strained. It is not until Jack hears of Maisie's death that the climax is reached; he breaks down with grief, and, taunted by his wife on the earlier love affair, he approaches a state of collapse. Struck with remorse, she throws off her callous indifference, promises to behave better in future, and so everything ends satisfactorily.

The acting throughout was capital, Miss Mabel Hillman making a delightful and attractive Maisie. Mr. Fredk. Davenporte, as the easy-going young barrister, Jack Forrester, was seen at his best in the more serious phases of the character. Mr Joseph W. Boyling gave a clever and consistent performance of Doctor Morton Forrester, and Mr. Albert Cooper, admirably made up, was capital as the bluff old Squire. Miss Lil O'Brian, as the irresolute and inconsiderate Roma, deserved praise for her smart performance. A typical character sketch was given of the country innkeeper by Mr. Heather Williams, who received effective support from Miss Blanche Desborough. Miss Nellie Gourley was an attractive Molly.

"BABES IN THE WOOD" AT BIRMINGHAM.

(SECOND EDITION.)

The Babes in the Wood, which Mr. Tom B. Davis produced a week before Christmas Eve with such marked success at the new and beautiful Theatre Royal, Birmingham (which he brought into being), has now entered into its second edition, and the first good impressions are but enhanced by the alterations, improvements, and additions that have been effected. First, it may be re-affirmed that Mr. Bert Gilbert is the bulwark of the pantomime. His comedy is light, effervescent, and always successful and unaggressive. His songs are rendered with good emphasis and point, and, whether on his own account, or in concert, his work is clever and unselfish, and directed for the main good. Such is Mr. Gilbert's Baron. Mr. J. F. McArdle has developed his part into a capital type of pantomime dame, than which nothing better could be desired, and his principal vocal effort, "It's all right in the summer time," suits him and the rôle he so well assumes down to the ground. Some of Mr. McArdle's best work is accomplished in company with Mr. Bert Gilbert, who, as the "male biped who conducts the emporium," in the second half of the pantomime, "plays" to the elderly and garrulous female depicted by the excellent comedian aforesaid. This "shop scene" affords the most excruciating fun for both ladies and gentlemen, to say nothing of the children, who are transported with delight at the eccentricities of the shopman and "buyer," plus a patent step-ladder, which is warranted to save the purchaser the trouble of mounting it. In this scene, Mr. Fred Farren, who has crept into favour as Towser, the faithful canine protector of the Babes, takes the audience by surprise as a very clever coon actor, in which guise he executes a highly-intricate and smart sand dance, utilising the Baron's "sugar" for the sand. He also acts here in company with Mr. Fred Walton, who, as the Toy Soldier, has fairly earned the fame he indubitably enjoys. Indeed, Mr. Walton's share in the success of the production is incalculable, and his clever dumb-show, depicting a little dispute between two real toy soldiers about a medal, which is argued at length, and finally settled by the ordeal of the "toss" is extremely clever, interesting, and diverting. This is only one of the many good features that distinguish his performance. Messrs. Henry Wright and Daley Cooper continue to figure as the Robbers with the success that met their efforts on the opening performance; and the Eight of Hearts lend their exhilarating saltatorial exercises to the ensemble. Miss Lily Iris has stamped her individuality on the production as Robin Hood, singing a number of songs, including that Japanese idyll, "Yo-San," with dainty taste; and Miss Gladys Ward, in her delightfully played part of Marian, renders "Navahoe"—now assisted by Mr. Fred Farren—with many encores. Miss Ward is also heard to advantage in "Dixie Land." This, to show the capital variety at hand, is immediately preceded by one of Mr. Bert Gilbert's excruciatingly funny scenas, in which he figures as a nervous man driven to remorse by his inhuman treatment of the Babes. Herein Mr. Gilbert, accompanied by his dog, Snatcher, convulses the house, and Snatcher meets an untimely end. The Babes have attracted much attention in the respective and engaging persons of Miss Phyllis Dare and Miss Maidie Andrews, as Charley and Cissie. Both these young ladies are accomplished actresses, combining ability with charm. Miss Mabel Lait, as Robin Hood's foremost follower, Will Scarlet, infuses a healthy vigour and much grace into the rôle; and Miss Monica Sayer imparts a dainty distinction to the character of Dorothy. The Misses Janet Hunter and Leonie Dixon who *literally* "dance attendance" on Mr. Walton in the restaurant scene, deserve a word of praise for their smart and alluring dancing measure; and the Misses Dollie Neville, Alice Davies, Louie Mavis, Mildred Clair, Nina Glyn, and Jeannie Christoe disport successfully as well as charmingly as Foresters and Village Maids. The pantomime has been a spectacular and sartorial triumph from the first, and scenes like Nottingham Market Place, The Archery, The Baron's Emporium, and Robin Hood's Palace, will carry their impressions for years. Toy Country is curiously quaint and pretty, with its shy little toy housemaid, amorous toy postman, and jealous toy policeman, all prettily enacted by children. The procession of living toys is conducted to the fullest possible advantage, the impression being heightened by the quaint orchestration, illustrative of the various scenes, of which there are four. We seem to breathe the very atmosphere of toy-land, and, emphatically, this is where we would "take the children." The beautiful dresses continue to elicit a buzz of admiration at every performance. Mr. Guy Jones and his orchestra contribute towards the general success; and Mr. J. Paul Callan continues to supervise the pantomime, which will run at least another month.

"THE CAP-MAKER'S DAUGHTER."

A Romantic Play in One Act,
by Herbert T. Rainger,
Produced by Amateurs at Victoria Rooms,
Cheltenham, on Friday, Feb. 3.

Sir Thos. Bell	MR. E. WEAVER.
Master Fowler	MR. H. T. RAINGER.
Dale	MR. W. H. BANKS.
Robin	MR. F. REA.
Llanthony	MR. LYN RAINGER.
Abraham	MR. LESLIE REA.
Joane	MRS. BARTHOLOMEW.
Alice	MISS NORAH A. PROSSER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

This new one-act piece formed part of a programme of amateur theatricals, in aid of the Victoria Nursing Home, Cheltenham. The scene is laid in a hall of Sir Thomas Bell's house, near the North Gate, within the ancient city of Gloucester. The period is the sixteenth century, the action taking place on Christmas Eve, 1530. The play opens with an animated domestic scene, in which the time-honoured custom of hanging the mistletoe is observed. Sir Thomas has invited two friends to dinner, and, to Alice's delight, the first of these proves to be Master Fowler, the adopted son of a wealthy knight of Deerhurst, for whom she has conceived a deep affection. The betrothal of the young couple follows. The second guest is Dale, who brings with him a sample of sweetmeat calculated to test the temper and disposition of the adorable Alice. It transpires that it is Sir Thomas's quaint custom, as a species of thanks-offering in return for his worldly prosperity, to entertain a beggar from the streets every Christmas Eve. The bibulous specimen introduced in Abraham on this occasion proves to be Master Fowler's father. That young person, overcoming his disgust, decides to dutifully stand by the thieving old reprobate, and a great struggle ensues betwixt love and pride in fair Alice's bosom. Love conquers, and she promises to wait for her lover until he has reformed his drunken father. The old man, however, proves to be not wholly a bad sort, and is deeply moved by the young people's unselfishness. During their affectionate farewell, he slips out silently, unnoticed, into the snowy night and the lonely world. The play was well received, the plot being less ambitious than Mr. Rainger's previous effort, *The Bitter Sea*. The characters are well drawn, that of the beggar showing much originality; the dialogue flows easily, and contains some lines of considerable poetic charm; and altogether the play shows great promise. The interpretation, too, was excellent, and the cast, which included the author himself, could hardly have been better selected outside the profession.

"CINDERELLA"

(FROM THE GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.)
IN NEWCASTLE.

Third Week Opened Monday, Feb. 6.

"'In consequence of huge success, arrangements have been made to extend the run of *Cinderella* for two weeks longer.' So reads the advertisement, and no one familiar with the production at the Olympia, Northumberland-road, Newcastle, will be surprised to hear of such a decision being arrived at, for the pantomime of *Cinderella* achieved immense popularity right from its introduction to this city. In the sense that it has attracted enormous crowds—overflowing audiences almost at every performance—it fulfils the boast of having 'captivated the city,' and its success is evidently destined to be continued to the end, for there was again a very large audience present last evening. To repeat the chief characteristics of the pantomime is unnecessary; it will be sufficient to indicate again that it is a product singularly mirthful and bright, it contains a number of 'swinging' songs and plenty of dainty dancing, and, not the least important thing, it has the advantage of being presented by an all-round capable company. The comedians, of whom there is a clever and representative contingent, contributed their "business" last evening with great spirit, and created irrepressible hilarity in every part of the auditorium. . . . The audience showed unmistakable appreciation of the production."—*Newcastle Daily Journal*, Feb. 7.

"No attempt was made by the large audience at the Olympia Theatre, Newcastle, last night, to conceal its satisfaction that *Cinderella* is to stay to delight Tynesiders for another fortnight. Practically every song, humorous or sentimental, received an encore, and an equally vociferous greeting was accorded to the dancers. With so much appreciation shown their efforts, the company sang their sweetest, cracked their funniest jokes, and danced their sprightliest. They are sure of big houses during the remainder of their stay."—*Evening Mail*, Feb. 7.

"Though only engaged for a fortnight's run, the *Cinderella* pantomime at the Olympia, Newcastle, has been such a big success that the management has decided to continue the show for another fortnight. There was again a crowded house last night, and the extravaganza was enjoyed to the full. Notable features of the pantomime are the singing and dancing. The fun is fast and furious, and there is not a dull moment throughout."—*Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, Feb. 7.

A VERY interesting matinée performance will take place at His Majesty's Theatre, on the 28th inst., when the students of Mr. Tree's dramatic school, will carry out a programme including the first act of *The Schoolmistress*, which will be rehearsed and produced by Mr. Fred Kerr, a pantomime sketch, without words, invented and staged by Madame Cavallazzi, with music by Mr. Wenzel, some scenes from *A Winter's Tale*, prepared by Mrs. Crowe, and rehearsed by Mr. William Haviland, and the first act of *Caste*, stage-managed by Mr. George P. Bancroft, under the supervision of Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, various dances being arranged by Mr. Herbert d'Egville. The gold medal given by Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft will be presented to themost successful student. This public performance will be an excellent test of the value of the instruction and training at Mr. Tree's dramatic academy.

MR. GUILLAUME LEONE has just accepted the post of musical director at the Grand Theatre, Maidenhead—a position which he held for some considerable time, and with much success, under the previous management.

"THE PRINCESS AND THE PHILOSOPHER."

A Musical Comedy, in Two Acts,
Written by Mr. Charles M. Heslop,
With Music by Miss Mabel Goyder,
First Performed at the Assembly Room,
Agricultural Hall, Norwich, on Thursday, Feb. 2.

Brooke Trench	MR. CHAS. M. HESLOP.
Lord Shrivenham	MR. P. GLANDFORD BACK.
William Crum	MR. FRED DOGGETT.
McMurgatroyd Mepps	MR. NEVILLE HOWLETT.
Mrs. Mepps	MISS CAYLEY.
Mrs. Berkeley Streeter	MRS. RIVERS FLETCHER.
Edna Brooklyn	MISS GLADYS BLYTHE.
Violet Vereker	MISS CLARE WILSON.
Winnie Wendover	MISS URSULA BACK.
Sadie Somerset	MISS MARJORIE BOLINGBROKE.
Faith	MISS IDA DOGGETT.
Hope	MISS MURIEL RYE.
Charity	MISS ETHEL KING.
Sylvia	MISS E. VIVIAN WILSON.

The plot is an amusing one, and the piece stands far ahead of the author's earlier efforts. Brooke Trench, the owner of the Manor House, Somersham, has been away from home for five years, and in his absence the place has become the resort for all the idlers of the village, headed by the gardener, William Crum, and his daughters, Faith, Hope, and Charity, who are intent on thwarting the efforts of Mrs. Mepps, the caretaker of the house, to gain the reluctant affections of their father. Adjoining the Manor House is The Lodge, which Mrs. Berkeley Streeter, a Society "widowette," has converted into a "Finishing Academy" for the daughters of millionaires desirous of entering the "Smart Set." Mrs. Streeter is expecting a visit from the Princess Sylvia of Mauritania, whom she once met at Trouville, and Mrs. Mepps has just received a telegram announcing the imminent arrival of her long absent son, McMurgatroyd Mepps, a London billiard marker, a gentleman with a soul above his calling. Upon his arrival he learns from his mother the state of affairs at the Manor House, determines to be incognito, and terrorises his mother and the stupefied Crum into passing him off as the Count of St. Leger, who has rented the Manor House from Brooke Trench. So far all goes smoothly, but Mrs. Streeter's visitor, the Princess Sylvia, is coming incognito under the title of the Countess of St. Leger, and Mrs. Streeter jumps to the conclusion that the Count is the husband of the Countess, and exerts herself at once to bring the "husband" and "wife" together, and many complications arise. But Brooke Trench, who has styled himself a philosopher, with no particular pretensions for the title, unexpectedly returns, and in the Princess, who is no princess but a new pupil, Miss Sylvia Macham, he recognises one whom he has been silently worshipping for the past three years. At first he passes himself off as the new gardener, and Crum assumes him to be a mythical rival sweetheart of Mrs. Mepps, named Harris, and ignominy is heaped upon Brooke Trench. Finally, the latter, after much complication, is united to Sylvia, and all are made happy. The music is excellent, and much praise is due to Miss Mabel Goyder in this connection. The proceeds of the performances are to be given to the restoration fund of the Church of St. Peter Mancroft, the grandest church in the city, conspicuously seen in the Market-place. Of the performers, Mrs. Rivers Fletcher was quite at home as Mrs. Berkeley Streeter, her song "Modern Methods." being well received. Miss E. Vivian Wilson acquitted herself with ability as Sylvia, and Miss Ethel King, as Charity, was entitled to much praise for her songs. Miss Cayley, as Mrs. Mepps, was full of drollery; and Miss Gladys Blythe, as Edna Brooklyn, was everything desirable. Mr. C. M. Heslop became a warm favourite, and the song "The Manœuvres." and the pendant dance were capitally rendered. Mr. P. Glandford Back well fitted the part of Lord Shrivenham, and Mr. Fred Doggett was humorous as the old gardener. Mr. Neville Howlett was exceedingly good as McMurgatroyd Mepps.

BANDURRIAS
AT THE PALACE, GRIMSBY.

THE Five Bandurias are exceedingly clever instrumentalists, their musical ability being of a very extensive character. Nothing short of an encore would satisfy the audience, and even when this was responded to they were not satisfied.—*Grimsby Telegraph*, Wednesday, Feb. 8.

We have not space to go into much detail, but we can say in a word that all their work is excellent. Quite a masterly set of selections is given on the guitar, mandoline, with accompanying instruments, by the Bandurrias, and they were recalled. It is not one of the usual noisy performances that too often pass muster in the crowd, but a clever and refined musical achievement.—*Grimsby News*, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 1905.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Sidney Crowe—Saturday, Feb. 11.
Lydia Flopp—Saturday, Feb. 11.
Jessie Browning—Saturday, Feb. 11.
Frank Hudspeth—Saturday, Feb. 11.
Arthur Webb—Saturday, Feb. 11.
Will Onda—Saturday, Feb. 11.
Frank Lyndon—Saturday, Feb. 11.
Charles F. Meadows—Saturday, Feb. 11.
Marie Lloyd—Sunday, Feb. 12.
Katie Barry—Sunday, Feb. 12.
Joe Maynall—Sunday, Feb. 12.
Lillie Woods—Monday, Feb. 13.
Alice de Roy—Monday, Feb. 13.
Kathleen Russell—Monday, Feb. 13.
Carrie Ellis—Monday, Feb. 13.
Alice Fontain—Monday, Feb. 13.
Georges Jacobi—Monday, Feb. 13.
William P. Vane—Monday, Feb. 13.
Jack Hames—Monday, Feb. 13.
Hettie Hamer—Tuesday, Feb. 14.
H. J. Hitchens—Wednesday, Feb. 15.
Bessie Frank—Wednesday, Feb. 15.
Olive Loftus Leyton—Wednesday, Feb. 15.
Lalla Stanhope—Thursday, Feb. 16.
Meldon Irene—Thursday, Feb. 16.
Will Ellerslie—Thursday, Feb. 16.
Edward German—Friday, Feb. 17.
Colonel W. F. Cody—Friday, Feb. 17.

IN the Court of King's Bench, on Saturday, before Mr Justice Bigham, in the case of Hawkes v. Henderson, the plaintiff, as assignee of the debt, sued Mr A F. Henderson, theatrical manager, to recover £479 odd, money alleged to be due from the defendant to a Mr Perryman. The defendant denied liability, and pleaded the Statute of Limitations. Mr. Frampton, for the plaintiff, said that in 1895 and 1896 Mr Perryman and the defendant were interested in a play called *The New Boy*, and at the end of 1896, or the commencement of 1897, the sum of £250 was due by the defendant to Mr Perryman in connection with the venture. The defendant was further indebted to Mr Perryman in the sum of £100 for some furniture; but his lordship would not be troubled with that matter, as the defendant had paid the amount into court. As to the sum of £250, the defendant had pleaded the Statute of Limitations. The learned counsel proceeded to read certain letters, which, he said, contained an unconditional acknowledgment of the debt, from which a promise to pay could be inferred. In one of the letters the defendant said that if he had a million sterling Mr Perryman should have half of it. Mr Justice Bigham, after perusing the correspondence, held that there was no unconditional acknowledgment of the debt from which a promise to pay could be inferred. He, therefore, held judgment for the defendant, with costs.

THEATRICAL FETE AT GLASGOW.

A well-organised theatrical parade, followed by sports, took place last week in Glasgow, the proceeds being for the fund to provide "Boots for the Bairns," started some time ago by a local newspaper. The idea was approved and heartily endorsed by the many artistes in the city at pantomime time, and an influential committee, headed by Mr. Tom E. Murray and the managers of all the places of amusement, planned and carried out the theatrical parade, which resulted in a very handsome addition to the fund, due mainly to the untiring efforts of the lady artistes from the theatres and halls, who were assiduous in their work. The parade itself proved a good draw, and all the pantomimes sent their contributions, in the shape of comic tableaux vivants on lorries or other vehicles, and bands of musicians; while from Bostock and Wombwell's travelling Zoo came a good display of elephants and camels. The sports at Ibrox Park, the ground of the Rangers Football Club, were well patronised, and the reputation of the profession for athletic prowess was excellently maintained. The results were as follows:—

120 Yards Flat Handicap (Staff).—Winners of heats: H. Andrews, Royalty (scratch); R. Hay, Royal (10); J. Humphrys, (Royal); R. Ingles, Royal (6); — Mitchell, Empire (5); J. Docherty, Royal (scratch); R. Swann, Hippodrome (2); — Finlay, King's (scratch); Fred Griffiths, jun., Royal (3). Final: 1, Hay; 2, Andrews; 3, Docherty.

50 Yards Children's Race.—1, Miss Hilda Jackaway; 2, Miss Belger; 3, Miss Paine.

70 Yards Ladies' Egg and Spoon Race.—1, Miss Stockwell; 2, Miss Daisy Dormer; 3, Miss Monti.

50 Yards Human Wheelbarrow Race.—1, Bros. Griffiths, Royal; 2, W. Horton and H. Grovini, Hengler's.

100 Yards Firemen's Race.—1, Beaton; 2, Darling; 3, McDonald.

50 Yards Lady Artistes' Race.—1, Miss Dormer; 2, Miss Harries; 3, Miss Kennedy.

One Mile Bicycle Handicap, open (amateurs), under S.C.U. Rules.—First heat: 1, D. McCulloch, Grand National C.C. (180yds.); 2, J. McQuade, Govan (200); 3, D. Flynn, Pollokshaws C.C. (25). Second heat: 1, D. Watson, Govan United C.C. (180); 2, A. Bridgett, Govan C.C. (180); 3, J. R. Rankine, Pollokshaws C.C. Final: 1, Watson; 2, Bridgett; 3, McQuade. Won by about two lengths after a spirited race. Time, 2mins. 22 1-5secs.

One Lap Managers' Race (scratch, over hurdles).—1, Arthur Aldin, Empire; 2, Ernest Wright, Royalty; 3, T. Milligan, Queen's; 4, George Russell, Royal. The Empire manager ran with excellent judgment, and took the lead at half-distance, watching his men all the way up the straight. The Royalty assistant-manager ran pluckily, and fell after passing the tape.

50 Yards Comic Costume Race.—1, Willie Bell, Hengler's; 2, Fred Griffiths, Royal; 3, G. Jennings, Hengler's.

50 Yards Animal Race.—Fred Griffiths, Royal.

Five-a-side Football Competition.—Preliminary round: Partick Thistle beat Rangers. Second round: Third Lanark beat Partick Thistle, and Queen's Park beat Celtic. Final: Third Lanark (Raeside, Comrie, McIntosh, Coll, and Crerar) beat Queen's Park (M. Houston, R. Hart, R. G. Nisbet, "H. A. Alexander," and T. M. Miller) by 1 goal to 0.

Half-mile Flat Handicap (Staff).—1, J. Docherty, Royal (Scratch); 2, H. Andrews, Royalty (20); 3, A. Pitt, Royalty (scratch). The winner showed excellent style.

One Lap Consolation Race.—R. Swann, Hippodrome.

100 Yards Musicians' Race.—1, — Walter, Tivoli; 2, P. Jordan, Hengler's.

Tug-of-War for Murray-Lashwood Challenge Shield and ten gold medals to winners.—Final: Empire beat Hippodrome in clever and decisive fashion.

100 Yards Ladies' Dressers' Race.—1, Miss Cameron, Royal; 2, Miss Johnstone; 3, Mrs. McCulloch.

COMPTON COMPANY ANNIVERSARY.

Mr. Edward Compton, on Tuesday night, at Her Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, celebrated his 24th anniversary as a touring actor-manager. Mr. Compton has a record of which any actor or manager might be proud, and apart altogether from his own inimitable impersonations, which are everywhere known and admired, he has preserved some of the finest gems that dramatic literature can boast. Mr. Compton tours with an excellent all-round company, bestowing the most minute care and supervision upon his productions, and the greatest possible pains are taken that the smallest part should be as perfect as the leading rôles. The perfection of Mr. Compton's system and the artistic quality of his work may be gathered from the fact that his company has the reputation of being one of the best schools of acting. Many brilliant actors and actresses whose services are now claimed by the London playgoer, may attribute their success to the admirable training they received under Mr. Compton.

After the second act of *A Reformed Rake*, on Tuesday night, Mr. COMPTON, who was received with immense enthusiasm, spoke as follows:—Ladies and Gentlemen,—Many and sincere thanks for your presence here to-night. It is good to be back in Aberdeen once more; it is good to be able to say with Campbell, "Ye crags and peaks, I'm with you once again," and it's better still, as a Mackenzie, to be able to say, with Burns, "Hail! land o' cakes, and brither Scots." And now about to-night's celebration—the completion of twenty-four years' hard labour with the Compton Comedy Company. How do I feel about it? Well, I must own to a great pleasure and a little natural pride, for I believe such an event is absolutely unique in theatrical annals. When I started out on Feb. 7, 1881, I was told that I was a rash young man, that old comedy, like Shakespeare, "spelt ruin," and that I should live to repent my foolhardiness in sackcloth and ashes. And yet here I am, after twenty-four years, still holding aloft the standard of legitimate comedy, not by any means sitting on any stool of repentance, but standing up before you elated with triumph, flushed with success, and more than ever determined to emulate Tennyson's brook, and "go on for ever." During the period I have named I have always taken care to have a first-class all-round company. I have always rehearsed every play thoroughly and often, and I have always costumed them correctly and well. I have revived numbers of old comedies and produced several new ones, and I have always clung to the ideal I started with—namely, to play only such pieces as made for good; and I think my audiences will bear me witness that "the evening's amusement" has always borne "the morning's reflection." But there is one thing I am very sensible on—the constancy and support of the Press and the public all over the country, without which I could have done nothing. "Beggar that I am, I am even poor in thanks, but I thank you," and I can never thank you enough. By the way, I must not forget to tell you that to-night marks a double celebration, for my Mr. David Garrick, who first came into being on Feb. 7, 1884, attains his majority to-night, and at last comes of age. I hope when you greet him to-morrow evening you will find "the rising young actor" going strong and well, and not looking a day more than his twenty-one years. Again let me thank you for your attendance and enthusiasm to-night, and permit me to wish you "a grateful, warm adieu."

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Henry Irving, who entered his sixty-eighth year on Monday, could not have chosen a more suitable birthplace than Keinton, near Glastonbury, where he first came into existence. Keinton is, indeed, "far from the madding crowd." There is not the least fear of the "birthplace" being visited by too many tourists. It is out of the way, even in a very out-of-the-way county of England. From Glastonbury, one drives for miles over an almost featureless country, divided by "rhines" or water-ditches. Keinton itself is one of those happy hamlets which have no history, and the house in which Sir Henry was born is only remarkable for the excessive plainness of its architecture. The place gives one the impression that it had made one great effort, had produced an eminent English actor and had then "rested on its laurels."

Although Sir Henry was born in sleepy Somerset, the early years from which an individual takes his strongest impressions were lived in Cornwall. His boyhood was passed at Hasletown, near St. Ives. Those who are familiar with the Cornish coast scenery, with its deep blue sea, rugged cliffs, bright with many colours, and weird expanses of moor and "tor," can easily understand how young Irving's imagination grew amongst such surroundings. Near Hasletown, on a hill, is an obelisk of grey granite, which a local barrister, in times past, built as a monument over his tomb. He, however, changed his mind, was interred elsewhere, and left the obelisk in trust, on condition that every fifth year, a party of matrons and virgins, headed by the Mayor of St. Ives, in his chain of office and robes, with the rector of the parish, and a body of musicians should walk to the summit of the hill, and, forming a circle round the obelisk, should dance a measure and chant a psalm. Probably Sir Henry Irving often witnessed this curious ceremony. His love for Cornwall is still keen; and he is very fond of visiting Boscastle, a few miles north of the celebrated Tintagel.

Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, Mrs. Humphry Ward, and Mr. Stuart Wortley, M.P., were among those present at the annual meeting of the Victoria Home for Invalid Children at Margate, which was held on Thursday at 36, Grosvenor-place. The Duchess of Newcastle presided. The Home was founded in 1892, chiefly by the efforts of the present Princess of Wales, and has for its object the treatment of the sick children of the poor. Their cause was well pleaded by Lady Bancroft, who stated that all the leading artists in the profession, including Sarah Bernhardt, had given their services to this work. A little help might save a child body and soul. She concluded by saying that a great lesson was contained in an old epitaph:

That I spent, that I had;
That I gave, that I have;
That I left, that I lost.

Amongst the audience at Wyndham's Theatre on Thursday night at the production of *The Lady of Leeds* were the Duchess of Marlborough, Baroness de Meyer, Mrs. Claude Watney, Lord Burnham, Lord and Lady Essex, Lord Granby, Sir Squire Bancroft, Sir Rivers Wilson, and Lady Lathom.

There were several really bright lines in the dialogue of the play. The *parvenue* of the piece suggests that the proverb, "See Naples and die," is intended to emphasise the badness of Italian cookery; and the sham Arch-Duke, when he finds he is irresistibly attracted to her, remarks that he is "feeling quite morganatic."

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Williams (Miss Emily Spiller) have only just received the news of the death, on Jan. 13, of Mr. Isaac Spiller, the father of the last-mentioned. He had attained the age of 77, and was for the long period of 27 years with the Moore and Burgess Minstrels as first violin.

M. Coquelin, the distinguished French actor, does not see what we want with a repertory theatre. "Do you suppose," he says, "the English stage has waited for a repertory theatre to do all the things you mention? Only last summer, in London, I attended a marvellous performance of *Julius Cæsar*, in a *théâtre de genre*. Some time ago, too, in a similar London theatre, I witnessed *The Tempest* put on with a wealth of artistic taste and talent such as would be difficult to meet with elsewhere. There is no necessity for an English national repertory theatre, because the repertory is being played on all sides, and played extremely well, into the bargain."

"Then, again," he continues, "with what would you feed your repertory theatre? With Shakespeare, Congreve, and Sheridan? With the delightful plays of my old friend, Henry Arthur Jones? With Pinero, Bernard Shaw, and your brilliant little band of clever dramatic authors? Do you think this would be sufficient to stage in the same theatre night after night before the same public of habitual playgoers, on whom such a theatre must necessarily rely?"

M. Coquelin thus clinches his argument: "Are you aware that a repertory is very quickly used up and exhausted? In France there are many good unpublished plays suitable for a national repertory theatre, but I beg leave to doubt if your English repertory is as 'extensible' as ours. You have many splendid actors and actresses in England, really artists. Indeed, I go so far as to say you have more stage artists than any other nation; but put all these talented actors and actresses together in a repertory company and see the extraordinary mixture they would make. What is essential to success in a great national repertory theatre is complete homogeneity such as exists at the Théâtre Français, and I am convinced that you would never acquire this homogeneity."

Mrs. D'Oyly Carte is suffering very severely from an attack of rheumatism and lung trouble. She is confined to her room, and her doctor does not allow her to see visitors, as talking would bring on a cough. We hope sincerely that Mrs. Carte will make speedy progress towards recovery. She suffers most from enforced idleness.

In the Court of King's Bench, on Monday, before Mr. Justice Ridley, the case of Cotton v. Newspaper Syndicate (Limited) and another, which is an action based on a contract, was mentioned by Mr. Rufus Isaacs, K.C. He said he appeared for the plaintiff, and he asked that the hearing should be fixed for Tuesday, Feb. 28. The plaintiff in the case was Miss Ada Reeve, and she was touring round the country fulfilling engagements. It was essential that she should be called, and it was impossible for her, except in the week named, to get to and from London to attend the trial and fulfil her engagements. The plaintiff's advisers had communicated with Messrs. Lewis and Lewis, solicitors for the defendants, and they saw no objection to the case being fixed on that day, if the judge approved. The judge fixed the hearing for the date mentioned, subject to the list of the preceding Monday.

Mr. Edward Terry will conclude his successful season of eight weeks in New York on Saturday, Feb. 18. Notwithstanding several "blizzards," described as the worst since 1888, Mr. Terry has every reason to be satisfied with his first appearances in America. On Monday, Feb. 20, he will commence a tour, in the course of which he will visit some of the principal cities in America and Canada, under the management of Messrs. Liebler and Co., of New York.

Sir Squire Bancroft was present at the celebration of the Dickens Anniversary by the "Boz" Club, at the Savoy Hotel, on Tuesday, and dramatic art was also strongly represented by Sir Francis Burnand, Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. Sydney Grundy, Mr. Louis N. Parker, Mr. George Alexander, and Mr. H. B. Irving. Mr. Comyns Carr delivered an eloquent panegyric on the great novelist.

Mr. Edward Rose, dramatist, dramatic critic, and actor, who dramatised *The Prisoner of Zenda* and *Under the Red Robe*, died Dec. 31, aged 55 years, and left estate valued at £18,586 gross, and £15,199 net. Having in his lifetime carried out to some extent his intention of furthering the study of economics, he left £15 a year to complete the education of Enid Bransom at the London School of Economics, and £50 to permit Leila Catherine Sexton to finish her studies and take her degree. He left £200 each to William Staunton Sherrington, Charles Scott Sherrington, George Stuart Sherrington, and Alexander Cumming, £100 to Dr. T. Scott Battam, and the residue of his property in trust for his wife during her widowhood, and to pay annuities of £100 each to his daughters on attaining 25 years, and an annuity of £500 to Mrs. Rose in the event of her re-marriage, a commission of 10 per cent. to the collector of royalties on his works, and the ultimate residue, subject to various provisions and limitations, in trust for his daughters.

The valedictory visit to Plymouth of Sir Henry Irving was anticipated with a great deal of interest, and the eminent actor has this week received a characteristic West Country welcome—enthusiastic and demonstrative. His appearance at the Theatre Royal on Monday synchronised with his sixty-seventh birthday, and this lent added importance and interest to the event. The vast crowd gave a most cordial welcome to Sir Henry, pent-up feeling finding relief in prolonged plaudits when the gerat actor entered as Corporal Brewster in Sir Conan Doyle's episode, *Waterloo*. Time and again Sir Henry had to bow his acknowledgments, and a similar scene of enthusiasm was witnessed at the conclusion of the second part of the programme, *The Bells*, in which the part of Mathias enables Sir Henry fully to display his great gifts. *Becket* was staged the following night, and on other occasions *The Merchant of Venice* and *Louis XI.* were given. Sir Henry was entertained to luncheon on Thursday by the Plymouth club. His speech on that occasion will be found in another column.

Miss Cecilia Loftus, all her old friends will be sorry to hear, has been taken seriously ill, while appearing at Akron, in the State of Ohio, America, and has been obliged to cancel her engagements. Miss Loftus was taken ill while appearing in Mr. Zangwill's *Serio-Comic Governess*, and fainted on the stage. Her doctor attributes her collapse to overwork. She is now in hospital; but we hope soon to hear of her recovery.

Mr. George Alexander had a tremendous reception at the Lyceum on Wednesday evening, when he recited two poems to a delighted audience, which included Miss Ellen Terry. His first selection was some verses entitled "A Lock of Hair," a little story of a boy-and-girl love affair, which Mr. Alexander delivered with remarkable delicacy and humour. Then, with effective orchestral accompaniment, he delivered the ballad from *If I Were King*, with the refrain, "Where are the snows of yesteryear?" This went with remarkable swing and spirit, and Mr. Alexander at its conclusion was recalled with enthusiasm.

Miss Terry, who was in a box, had the attention of the audience called to her in an amusing manner. The "Harmony Four" were "discovered," as they used to say in the old stage directions, playing cards. "Here is the queen," said one of the quartet. "Queen of what?" asked another. "Why, the queen of the house," replied the first speaker, rising and pointing to Miss Terry. The audience applauded loudly, and a young man in the stalls sprang to his feet and cried, "Three cheers for Miss Ellen Terry!" Miss Terry, who was "visibly affected," came to the front of the box, and bowed again and again.

Mr. Edward Hastings, the octogenarian manager, has received the following subscriptions:—Sir Squire Bancroft, £10 10s.; Mr. Herbert Beerbohm Tree, £10 10s.; Mr. Cyril Maude, £5; Mr. C. Murray, £5; Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, £2 2s.; Miss Agnes Ingreville, £2 2s.; Miss Davies Webster, 10s.; Mr. W. Staveley, 5s.; Mr. Compton, 5s.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier will take *The Walls of Jericho* to the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, on Monday afternoon, for a flying matinée. Mr. Bourchier, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, and the Garrick Theatre company will present Mr. Sutro's piece to the Bristolians, and will return to London in time for the ordinary evening performance. The company will leave Paddington at nine in the morning, and arrive at Bristol at noon. The performance will commence at half-past one, and the curtain will fall about four. Mr. Bourchier and his company will leave by the quarter to five train, and reach Paddington at ten minutes to seven, in time to get to the Garrick and appear in the piece.

Mr. Charles Brookfield states that as he and Mrs. Brown Potter and Mr. Gilbert Hare most amicably differed in opinion as to the extent to which an adapter is justified in diverging from the line of the original author's work, he simply asked them to give the work of adapting M. Jean Richepin's play, *Du Barry*, to someone else. Mr. Brookfield adds that he could not, with satisfaction to himself, make the alterations in the play that Mrs. Potter and Mr. Hare desired, so he decided not to touch the piece. "Our parting is in every sense a friendly one," he says.

Mr. George Alexander will produce Mr. Alfred Sutro's new three-act comedy, *Mollentrave on Women*, at the St. James' Theatre, on Monday evening, with a cast including Mr. Eric Lewis, Mr. Norman McKinnel, Mr. Leslie Faber, Mr. Robert Horton, Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds, Mr. Gerald Jerome, Mr. E. H. Brooke, Mr. Murray Carrington, Miss Marion Terry, Miss Lettice Fairfax, Miss Nora Greenlaw, and Mrs. Kemmis.

Miss Tita Brand, daughter of Miss Marie Brema, will begin early in May a short season at one of the principal West-end theatres with Shakespeare's *Othello*. Miss Brand herself will sustain the part of Desdemona, and Mr. Hubert Carter, who recently made such a success in Marlowe's *Faust*, will be the Othello. Then will follow Franz von Schonthan's well-known poetic play, *Renaissance*, which will be metrically translated by Miss Alix Greeven (Mrs. J. T. Grein). It is also Miss Brand's intention to give a triple bill in a series of matinées, which will include a famous French playlet, entitled *Punchinello*, the English version of which is written by Mr. Hubert Carter, and perhaps a new one-act opera by an English composer. The business arrangements will be in the hands of Mr. B. A. Meyer.

By the kindness of Mr F. W. Wyndham, through his able lieutenant, Mr F. C. Sutcliffe, Mr G. M. Steinson, the Vice-Chairman of the Printing and Publishing Sub-Committee of the National Lifeboat Institution, has been granted the use of the Tyne Theatre for a Grand Matinée on Thursday, February 23. Although Mr Steinson's principal object is the Lifeboat Saturday Fund, he is quite aware that the success of any such matinée must be due to the artists taking part in it; so he has arranged that half the proceeds be devoted to the Actors' Benevolent and the Music Hall Benevolent Funds. Such an excellent example is well worthy of imitation.

Mr. Charles Frohman, with reference to an announcement which has appeared to the effect that the English rights of *Leah Kleschna*, a play by Mr. Charles McLellan, which has been produced with so much success in New York, have been bought by a prominent English actress, asks us to state that the rights in this drama for Great Britain and Ireland have been secured by him. Mr. McLellan ("Hugh Morton") is the author of *The Belle of New York*. His heroine in *Leah Kleschna* is a thief, and the daughter of a burglar. As she is trying to break open a safe she is discovered by a politician and philanthropist, called Paul Sylvaine, who reforms and saves her. Mr. Frohman will present the drama at a West-end theatre about Easter, with Sir Charles Wyndham as Paul Sylvaine. It is hoped that the rôle of Leah Kleschna may be played by Miss Lena Ashwell.

At the Aldershot Police-court, on Monday, Ronald James Carpenter, of Ealing, was charged with stealing a brooch, valued £5, the property of Mr. Allen Thomas. Mr. Thomas was playing the Emperor in *Aladdin*. The prisoner, who is said to be the son of a retired major, was discharged, the magistrates observing that they did not wish to spoil his prospects, especially as the prosecutor had strongly appealed on prisoner's behalf. The costs, amounting to £2 9s., were paid.

Mr. Douglas Gerrard, having just finished an eighteen months' engagement as juvenile lead with Mr. Tree's companies, playing David Rossi in *The Eternal City*, and Prince Karu in *The Darling of the Gods*, has been specially engaged to play Lancelot in *Merely Mary Ann*, on tour, opening at Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield, next Monday.

Mr. Imre Kiralfy will dispense entirely with ballets and spectacles in the bold scheme of amusement which he is outlining for his new pleasure grounds at Shepherd's Bush. He will, he declares, have nothing which he has ever had before. Every idea will be new. Exhibitions and sports competitions will form the bases of attractions. The exhibitions will be official, and something of the character of those held in 1851 and 1861, but even in them the method and principle will be entirely novel, and attempts will be made to surpass anything yet done at Paris, Chicago, or St. Louis.

St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, closes its doors today, and will at once be demolished. The last concert will take place this afternoon, and many artists who have been associated with the hall in the past will take part. Mme. Blanche Marchesi will sing, and Mlle. Janotha (who has played 300 times in the hall) will give solos. Florizel von Reuter will also play. The concert will open with "O Memory," by Leslie, and at the conclusion the National Anthem and "Auld Lang Syne" will be given, Mme. Marchesi leading the singing, whilst four grand pianos and the organ will join in. The hall was opened on March 25, 1858, having been built at a cost of £70,000. The first concert held in it was one in aid of the Middlesex Hospital, and was attended by the Prince Consort. The only surviving soloist who took part then is Mr. Santley.

The Prince and Princess of Wales witnessed the performance of *The Walls of Jericho* at the Garrick Theatre, on Thursday night.

Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss Kate Cutler, Miss W. Hart-Dyke, Mr. Dennis Eadie, Mr. E. W. Garden, Mr. George Grossmith, jun., and Mr. Bransby Williams have kindly consented to give their services at a performance which will be given at St. George's Hall on the afternoon of the 16th inst., in aid of the Fairy-Tale Society.

Mr. George Davey, the popular lessee and manager of the Grand Theatre, Islington, will, on the 25th inst., the last day of the run of the pantomime, take a special complimentary benefit on his retirement from the management of the Grand. A fund has been established to present him with a tangible token of esteem from all in connection with the theatre and the inhabitants of Islington. The pantomime for this occasion will be augmented by extra items. Mr. O'Connor, the Press representative of the Grand, is acting as secretary and treasurer of the fund. Mr. Oswald Brand, the manager of the Grand Theatre, Islington, who is so well-known for his many adaptations of the various works of Dickens, is arranging to produce at a West-end theatre, in the forthcoming season, a new stage version of "Dombey and Son," and also his adaptations of "Bleak House," "Little Nell," and "Oliver Twist," which were so successfully produced in Islington some time since.

Mr. Luscombe Searelle has achieved a striking success with his new poetic play *Mizpah, or the Story of Esther*, which he has written in collaboration with Ella Wheeler Wilcox, the famous American authoress, and which scored a triumph on its production at the Majestic Theatre, San Francisco. Three companies have been formed to travel the play in the United States, and another special company will open in New York in May, following on to London in due course. Mr. Searelle has had many tempting offers to lease the play, actually declining one proposal of $100,000. A public reception was organised in Mrs. Wilcox and Mr. Searelle's honour at the Town Hall, San Francisco, on Jan. 29. The title of *Mizpah*, by the way, has been used before, as Mr. J. B. Mulholland produced a play of that name some twenty years ago, and toured it constantly.

Mr. Russell Rosse will take a company to the Royalty, Glasgow, for two weeks, commencing on the 13th inst., and playing *Facing the Music* and *Pair of Spectacles*. Mr. Rosse will also have a company appearing in *Our Boys* at Brighton West Pier, next week.

Mr. Melville's "Lucky Wedding Ring," which he is presenting to the first engaged couple entering the Standard Theatre to witness his drama, *Her Forbidden Marriage*, has been awarded to a young couple of Dalston, and the wedding takes place at Hackney Old Church to-day. The ring was presented on the stage last Tuesday night, by Mr. Melville, and is the fourth wedding ring that has been bestowed in this way at this theatre since Christmas.

An appeal has been set on foot by Mr. A. F. Henderson, general manager to Sir Charles Wyndham. The gentleman on whose behalf Mr. Henderson is exerting himself is Mr. Percy Ellis, who has held the position of acting-manager at the Shaftesbury, Terry's, Avenue, and Wyndham's Theatres, and whose most recent appointment was that of assistant-manager at the New Theatre. Mr. Ellis was obliged some nine months ago to relinquish active participation in business affairs in consequence of his suffering from consumption. So serious is his condition that he was refused admission at the Brompton Hospital some months ago, as no hope could be held out of his recovery.

Mr. Ellis's condition is rendered all the more painful from the fact that his protracted illness has completely crippled him financially. Mr. Henderson has just issued a circular letter, in which he says:—"Having a great personal regard for Mr. Ellis, I am anxious to relieve him during the last few weeks of his life, and at the suggestion of a few personal friends, I am getting up a subscription for him. I should be very grateful for any assistance towards this most deserving case." Friends of Mr. Ellis and others who would like to assist in the kindly work of relief to one who has for many years relieved others should address their subscriptions to Mr. Henderson, at the New Theatre, St. Martin's-lane.

Messrs. Frederick Harrison and Cyril Maude have lent the Haymarket Theatre for a complimentary benefit matinée on the afternoon of the 17th inst., on behalf of M. Orleneff, Madame Nasimoff, and the company of Russian actors who are now in London. M. Orleneff and Madame Nasimoff will appear in two one-act comedies in Russian, introducing some singing and dancing. Mr. Tree will be seen in *The Ballad Monger*; Miss Winifred Emery, Mr Cyril Maude, Mr. Sydney Brough, and Mr. Edmund Maurice, will enact the screen scene from *The School for Scandal*; and Miss Ellen Terry will be certain to have a tremendous reception in *Nance Oldfield*. Sir Henry Irving has telegraphed expressing his sympathy with "these countrymen of Tolstoi, the practical advocates of that writer's ideals of toleration and concord." Mr. A. F. Henderson has undertaken the management of the matinée.

Mr. Edward Terry, who is now visiting the principal cities in America and Canada, under Messrs. Liebler and Co.'s management, has met with Madame Réjane while on his travels, and has arranged with the French actress to occupy his theatre for three weeks in June.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier will shortly send on tour a first-class company with Mr. Alfred Sutro's highly successful play, *The Walls of Jericho*, for which money is still being refused at the Garrick Theatre at eight performances a week. The strong dramatic action and wholesome tone of *The Walls of Jericho* should appeal powerfully to provincial playgoers. The tour will be under the direction and management of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux.

Mr. Oswald Brand, the manager of the Grand Theatre, Islington, whose success with his many adaptations of the various works of Dickens was so pronounced, is arranging to produce in the West End during the forthcoming season a new stage version of "Dombey and Son." Among other works by Mr. Brand will be seen the adaptations of "Bleak House," "Little Nell," and "Oliver Twist," which were given in Islington some time ago.

There was very nearly a catastrophe at Birmingham last Friday week. Some of the principal artists appearing in *The Forty Thieves* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre—including Miss Minnie Hunt, Miss Alice Oppitz, and Mr. Wilkie Bard—were out on a little spin to Kenilworth, when the engine of the car in which Miss Minnie Hunt rode became overheated, and not until after an hour's hard work was the danger averted, the theatre being eventually reached just in time for the performance.

A new play by Messrs. C. Harvard Pierson and Robt. P. Oglesby, entitled *The Blanchard Diamonds*, is to be presented by Mr. John Hart for the first time at the Grand Theatre, Hull, on Monday evening next. The play, which is styled a comedy-drama in four acts, is being produced under the direction of Mr. T. F. Doyle, and the cast will include Mr. Walter Russell, Mr. Edmund F. Kennedy, Mr. Benson North, Mr. Lancelot Usher, Mr. Edward Rochelle, Mr. Albert Ward, Mr. Joseph Rowland, Mr. Joseph Hudson, Mr. John Hart, Mr. R. Lines, Mr. Harry J. Morgan, Mr. F. Jameson, Mr. Chas. Caunt, Mr. W. Larkin, Miss Julie Kennard, Miss May Congdon, Miss Maud Hildyard, Mrs. Richard Edgar, Miss Nlelie Dallas, and Miss Hilda Holt.

Miss Daisy Halling, who is a patient at the Bradwell Sanatorium, Chesterton, Staffs, with diphtheria, wishes to thank all friends who have written, and to explain that it is against the rules of the hospital for her to reply. She is making favourable progress, and expects to be able to leave the hospital in about six weeks.

Mr. Walter Hann presided at the eighteenth committee meeting of the Scenic Artists' Association, at Robert-street, Adelphi, on Monday. There were also present, Messrs. Edmund G. Banks, W. T. Hemsley, H. W. Owen, William Raphael, Geo. Tweddell, Harry Woolls, Richard Douglass, R. C. McCleery, Harry Potts, W. B. Spong, H. Warner, and Mr. H. Lawrence Harris (secretary). Mr. Henry Arthur Jones and Mr. F. H. Pedgrift were unanimously elected honorary members of the Association, and the following scenic artists were duly elected members, namely:—Mr. Cattermole Cathrey, of Bristol; Mr. E. G. Humphries, of Wands worth Common; and Mr. Gwilt Jolley, of Etaples, France. The secretary announced that he had recently received the following additional donations to the Benevolent Fund:—Mr. Robert Caney, £2 2s.; Sir Henry Irving, £2 2s.; Mr. Herman Hart (London Exhibitions), £4 4s.; Mr. J. G. Symes, 5s.; Mr. A. P. Bowyer, £1 1s.; Mr. W. H. Kendal, £2 2s.; and Mr. J. Fisher White, 10s. 6d. The balance-sheet of the Association for the eight months' ending Dec. 31, 1904, as audited by the honorary auditors, was presented and approved by the committee.

The committee of the Scenic Artists' Association, on Monday, Sir Henry Irving's birthday, sent him a congratulatory telegram, to which Sir Henry replied: "Kindest greetings and most hearty thanks to one and all."

Mr. Arthur Bourchier has received from the Rev. H. Ward, of Amotherby Vicarage, Malton, a letter, saying:—"Why we clergy are so keen on what you are doing is, I fancy, this: We are for ever trying to preach such truths, but we never have the audience! The Mormons are not there! A West-end theatre is a place of worship they still attend, and they have got to listen to what you say, and I think it must flash a sudden light into many a long-drugged conscience. But I must think you run a great risk. What if they only go to the stalls on condition there shall be no sermon? Shall you lose your audience soon, as we parsons do? For you are now a preacher every night, and your target is before you."

Mr. Norman A. Overton has been re-engaged for his old parts by Messrs. Haddon and Loader.—Miss Violet Ellicott, who is concluding a successful sixteen months' engagement in the part of Lu Valroy, the female swindler, which she created in London, and afterwards played on tour under Mr. Walter Melville's and Mr. Tom H. Taylor's managements, has received many pleasant testimonials, in the shape of letters and presents from all parts of the house.—Miss Violet M. Harley has been re-engaged by Mr. Percy Hutchison for the "star" part of Angela, in his *Country Mouse* company (North), opening at the Crystal Palace on Monday.—Miss Vera Leslie has been engaged by Mr. F. R. Benson for his season at the Coronet Theatre.—Mr. Henry Doughty has returned from a tour in the West Indies, where he has been playing the leading parts in a very extensive repertory.

Messrs. Robert Brough and Herbert Flemming have now completed all arrangements for the first twelve months of their Australasian tour. Mr. Flemming is already on his way to Melbourne to look after the local interests of the new firm, whilst Mr. Brough is busy rehearsing the company here in *Beauty and the Barge* and *The Walls of Jericho*. Amongst the artists engaged are Miss Beatrice Day, who made a name for herself in South Africa; Miss Winifred Fraser, Miss K. Gordon Lee, and Miss Ethel Cooper; Messrs. Carter Pickford, Philip Leslie, Edgar B. Payne, and J. Paulton. Both managers will also be included in the casts. Through the courtesy of Messrs. Maude and Harrison, the production of *Beauty and the Barge* will be an exact replica of that at the Haymarket.

Mr. Lionel Rignold, who has been delighting the Leeds public by his clever performance of Mrs. Crusoe at the Grand Theatre, returns to town the end of this month. He is negotiating with a well-known author for the production of a new comedy in the spring.

Little Miss Maudie Francis, the talented eleven year old daughter of the popular manager of the Empress Theatre, Brixton, who has achieved such marked success with her portrayal of the part of Dolly in Mr. Fred Karno's pantomime of *Cinderella*, produced at the Stoke Newington Theatre, will probably be seen again this year with Mr. Albert Chevalier. She has had numerous offers of engagements for next season's pantomimes, but her father has withheld his decision for the moment. The little lady, who for six weeks at Stoke Newington charmed audiences by her graceful and clever performance, is now appearing in the same pantomime at the Sheffield Theatre Royal, where a visit of three weeks' duration is being made.

Mr. Lewis Waller has, by means of his autographs, collected a further sum of £5 2s. 6d., and sent it to the Actors' Benevolent Fund.

Mr. H. Lawrence Harris, of 5, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., informs us that he has taken up the London agency of the Valley Water Mills Colour Co., Keynsham, near Bristol, and will be happy to submit to scenic artists and others specimens of their colours. The Valley Water Colour Co. recently sent a donation to the Benevolent Fund of the Scenic Artists' Association.

Mr. Eade Montefiore, whose management of the Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, has resulted in complete success, will in future place his faith on home-bred musical productions. Arrangements have been made to stage a Scottish musical play entitled *A Trip to the Highlands*, viâ the Waverley-station to Oban and Braemar, with a company of forty, including a troupe of sixteen dancers from Paris, national specialities being also introduced. Staged for one month at Edinburgh, in April, the production will be afterwards taken on tour, while for the summer Mr. Montefiore proposes to give a season of extravaganza, an Oriental burlesque being prepared for later use. Mr. Fred Locke, the well-known Scotch pantomime writer, will supply the book, while Mr. E. T. De Banzie will be responsible for the music, several settings of which are to be supplied by a well-known Society lady in Edinburgh.

Mr. J. F. Elliston received 131 telegrams of congratulations on the occasion of his benefit on Wednesday, Jan. 25. The first message, handed in at Portsmouth at 9.2 a.m., was from Sir Henry Irving, and read as follows:—To J. F. Elliston, Theatre Royal, Bolton.—"May I offer my hearty congratulations on your worthy success for a quarter of a century? May your success be continuous, and your loves increase as your days do grow.—Henry Irving."

Mr. Fritz Zorn, the author of the new farcical comedy, *The Designers*, which will be produced at the Brixton Theatre on Monday evening next, is a native of that suburb, having been born there in the early seventies. Although a new-comer as a playwright, Mr. Zorn has already made his mark in the literary world with his humorous novel, "Bunce, the Bobby, and the Broads," which has run through many editions. *The Designers* will be presented by Miss Ina Rozant's company, including such capable artists as Messrs. W. Hargreaves, William Luff, F. Lester, and Herbert Lloyd.

Mr. Hall Caine's play, *The Christian*, in an Icelandic translation, has been produced at the Reykjarik Theatre, in Iceland, for several consecutive performances, awakening an unusual amount of interest and enthusiasm in the arctic regions.

Mr. George Edwardes, who left New York on Wednesday by the s.s. Baltic, of the White Star Line, is due back in London next Thursday.

Mrs. Theodore Wright, owing to indisposition, was obliged to resign the part of Lady Anne Wilmot in Captain Marshall's new play, *The Lady of Leeds*, produced on Thursday at Wyndham's Theatre. The part was taken up by Miss Fortescue, who sustained it very crisply and brightly.

King Oscar of Sweden has conferred upon Mr. George R. Sims the knighthood of the Norwegian Order of St. Olaf, first class, not only on account of Mr. Sims's abilities as a journalist, but also in recognition of his spirited championship of the cause of the much-injured Adolf Beck.

At the meeting of the London County Council, on Tuesday, the Improvements Committee presented an important report with reference to the letting of the central portion of the crescent site formed in connection with the Holborn to Strand improvement. The site in question has an area of about 123,350 square feet, and lies between Aldwych and the Strand, being bounded on the east and west by the 50ft. approach roads which it is proposed to form between the Strand and Aldwych. It has frontages of about 630ft. to Aldwych, about 410ft. to the Strand, and about 230ft. to each of the approach roads between the Strand and Aldwych.

The proposal has been made by Mr. W. Gilbert Scott, F.R.I.B.A., and Mons. Ernest Gérard, acting on behalf of a French syndicate, who have prepared a scheme for dealing with the property as a whole. It is proposed to erect on the middle portion of the site a fine stone building of commanding architectural features. This central building will cover an area of about 32,500 square feet, and will be of an average height of about 60ft. It will consist of a basement with ground and first floors only, containing large galleries for use in connection with art and industrial exhibitions; a French theatre and a French restaurant and café of the highest class will also be included in the central block of buildings. Beyond the central block of buildings the site will be enclosed by shops, with basements and ground and first floors only, the height above the ground level being about 27ft. The space between the central block and the shops will be laid out as gardens, and ornamented with fountains, statues, and flowerbeds. A charge will be made for admission to the grounds. The roofs of the shops will be used as a promenade, to which access will be obtained from the gardens. It is also proposed to erect an open-air theatre for summer use. The promoters anticipate that the buildings surrounding the site will be let to French jewellers, bootmakers, milliners, confectioners, stationers, &c., or will be used as clubs, offices, or for other commercial purposes. The promoters make their offer entirely dependent upon their being permitted to apply for a licence for the sale of food, beer, wines and spirits to be served at tables by waiters, but no bars are desired, except such as are usually allowed in theatres licensed by the Lord Chamberlain.

The Committee reported in favour of the acceptance of the proposal, pointing out "that instead of the site being almost covered with lofty buildings, as usually happens in the case of valuable sites in the central parts of London, a large portion of the site will be laid out as gardens, and the buildings in the remainder will be restricted in height. A novel and artistic feature will thus greatly add to the amenity of this important part of London." At the request of the Chairman of the Committee, the consideration of the report was deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"L'AMOURETTE."

Comedy, in Three Acts, by M. Pierre Veber, Produced at the Théâtre Antoine, Feb. 3.

Maingant ..... M. ANTOINE.
Mazure ..... M. FRANCES.
Laverton ..... M. MOSNIER.
Tapageur ..... M. DEGEORGE.
Emile ..... M. VARGAS.
Jeannine ..... MDLLE. ANDREE MERY.
Marthe ..... MDLLE. DE VILLERS.
Mdlle. Penseriaux ..... MDLLE. ELLEN ANDREE.
Mme. Laverton ..... MDME. DELIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, FEB. 9.—We expected better things from that clever playwright, M. Pierre Veber, than *Amourette*, his latest production at the Théâtre Antoine. The dialogue is bright, and frequently witty, but the personages are too uninteresting, too sketchy to appeal to us in any way. Jeannine and Marthe, the daughters of M. Laverton, have both fallen in love with Claude, a fascinating but penniless youth. Claude prefers Jeannine, but as the young ladies are rich he is quite prepared, if needs be, to take her sister. When, however, he asks Laverton for Jeannine's hand, he meets with a refusal. The old man will not have Claude for a son-in-law at any price. Moreover, he wants his eldest daughter to marry Emile, Claude's friend, who is rich, and holds a fine position. Claude and Jeannine then decide to run away. The young man borrows a few pounds, and in his friend Emile's motor-car starts off at full speed. But it turns out a miserable fiasco. Claude shows himself awkward and inexperienced, whilst his companion, a spoilt child, cannot put up with the least fatigue. Before they have gone very far their car breaks down, and they are obliged to take refuge in a dirty little inn. Both are cross and wretched, and in their hearts pleased when old Laverton suddenly makes his appearance and brings the couple back to Paris. Claude had enough of Jeannine's company, and the latter has come to the conclusion that she will be much happier with the less fascinating but upright Emile. Marthe, less sentimental and exacting than her sister, has no objection to Claude; and Laverton is so glad to see his eldest daughter comfortably settled that he allows Claude to marry Marthe. The interpretation was excellent.

FAR superior to *L'Amourette* is *Les Manigances*, a comedy in one act, by M. Alfred Athis, also brought out at Antoine's. Victor and Charlotte have lived together for four years as husband and wife, and have led a remarkably happy life. The two lovers are always together, except one evening in the week, when Victor visits some friend to have a game of cards. It is there that he meets a young girl whom he would like to marry. But he thinks of Charlotte, and, not knowing what to do, goes to his friend Marcel for advice. As it happens, Marcel has been secretly in love with Charlotte for a long time past, and gladly offers to take charge of her—provided the lady consents. The thing having been duly settled, in principle, they decide that Marcel is to broach the subject to Charlotte. But Victor, in his desire to spare the young woman's feelings, rather complicates matters, and when he goes to her to discuss the affair they fall into one another's arms. They love one another more than ever, and nothing will separate them. This smartly written, clever little comedy was admirably played by M. Signoret, M. Bonarel, and Mme. Jeanne Lion.

THE third piece produced at Antoine's was *Les Experts*, a one-act play by M. Benières, wherein the author, in an amusing manner, shows how the world is fleeced by the lawyers. A workman has met with an accident, and claims £400 damages from his master. The tribunal appoints two experts. Master and man are anxious to come to an amicable settlement, but such an arrangement would not prove profitable to the lawyers. So they complicate matters; and, when both parties finally fix on a sum of £100, the workman receives from the experts a couple of guineas. The rest is gone in "expenses." La Fontaine, in his fable 'The Oyster and the Litigants," has already told a similar tale, but M. Benières has modernised it, and given us a somewhat exaggerated but amusing tableau of malpractices which, unfortunately, happen too often.

"THERESE RAQUIN," which was revived at the Odéon last night, was given for the first time at the Théâtre de la Renaissance, in July, 1873, then under M. Hostein's management. Zola's novel, on which the play is founded, dates as far back as 1867. The artistes who created the work—including Mme. Marie Laurent—are all dead. In 1892 one single performance was given of *Thérèse Raquin* in aid of a charity in which Zola himself was interested. The Odéon has now placed this fine literary production permanently in its répertoire. Madame Zola assisted at the rehearsals.

WHILST on the subject of the Odéon, I would like to mention that M. Ginisty's contract with that playhouse does not expire till 1908; and, without his consent, no change in the management can be effected. Something, however, must be done, the past year having shown that M. Ginisty sadly wants someone by his side to make a more judicious selection as regards the plays to be brought out at that theatre.

AT the Vaudeville the piece to follow *La Petite Peste* will be *La Retraite*, the well-known play by Franz Adam Beyerlein, which had—and, I think, still has—such a phenomenal success in Germany. The French translation is by MM. Rémon and N. Valentin. Curiously enough, in the work which plays in a military milieu, there is only one woman's rôle. This has been entrusted to Mdlle. Marthe Mellot, the Titiana in *Les Oiseaux de Passage*, at Antoine's.

"TRISTAN AND ISOLDE" is now making the "maximum" at the Opera. The last takings were nearly £800. This eagerness on the public's part will, however, soon wear itself out. Wagner—I am sorry to say—does not appeal to the masses in France, by whom he is not understood. Society men and women in Paris go to hear the German master's works because it is "fashionable" to do so. I noticed the same thing with the *Walkÿre*, *Lohengrin*, &c. The receipts on the Wagner nights dwindled more and more, until they came to a level below that of French composers. The average Parisian will always prefer Gounod; and *Faust*, at the present moment, is still beating every other work in the way of takings.

VICTOR HUGO'S masterpiece, *Angelo, tyran de Padoue*, just revived at the Sarah Bernhardt Theatre, has, of course, lost nothing of its literary beauty. But it appears woefully old-fashioned, and we can with difficulty realise that when given at the Comédie-Française it roused the audience to such a pitch of excitement that the evening generally ended in a free fight between the adherents of the romantic school and its opponents. It is not necessary to relate here the story of how Rodolfo, the handsome cavalier, is loved by Catarina and by La Tisbé; the former the wife, and the latter the mistress, of Angelo, Tyrant of Padoua. When La Tisbé discovers her lover's liaison with Catarina she thinks only of revenge. But when she realises that Rodolfo prefers her rival she despairs, and nobly sacrifices herself. Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, as La Tisbé, and Mdlle. Blanche Dufresne, as Catarina, were admirable in their rôles. The same praise, however, cannot be bestowed upon the rest of the cast.

PRESENTATION.—Dr. Bodle, at the conclusion of his last week's engagement at the Queen's Theatre, Longton, presented the energetic manager, Mr. H. S. Howard, with a very handsome gold enamelled match-box as a token of appreciation.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS MARION STERLING.

MISS MARION STERLING gained her experience in the theatrical profession in stock business. In the summer of 1892 she was engaged to play Mrs Smith, in *Bootles' Baby*; and in the following year Mr Hugh Moss engaged her to play Humpty in the same piece, which tour lasted about eleven months. The next year Miss Vincent engaged her to play Lady Wargrave, in *The New Woman*, which she did for about fourteen months. In the spring and autumn of 1897 she played Lady Appleby, in *The Shop Girl*, Mr Mouillot's Co., and in the January of 1898 following Mr. F. Latham engaged Miss Sterling for the Adelphi Theatre. After the tragic death of Mr W. Terriss and the withdrawal of *Secret Service*, he retained her for Mrs Brown Potter's season, during which she played Madame Richard, in *Charlotte Corday*, and Madame Deschapelles, in *The Lady of Lyons*. At the close of this season she was engaged by Mr Charles Hawtrey, for Lady Pamela Mallison, in *Lord and Lady Algy*, at the Comedy Theatre. Her next engagement was with Mr George Arliss's comedy, *The Wild Rabbit*, under Mr Stanley Cooke's management, and in the autumn she was secured by Mr. F. Latham for *On and Off* tour. In the spring of 1900 she had a special six weeks' engagement as Mrs Van Bureen, in *The Absent-Minded Beggar*, and in the autumn she was secured by Messrs George Day and Wentworth Croke for Mrs. Callender, in *The Christian*, and on April 13, 1901, she sailed for South Africa, under Messrs. Sass and Nelson's management. Some of the parts she played were Lady Harborough, *The Second in Command*; Queen Dowager, *The Royal Family*; Miss Pillenger, *Lady Huntworth's Experiment*; Mrs Gilwattle, *The Man from Blankley's*. Miss Mrs Gilwattle, *The Man from Blankley's*. Miss interesting of my professional life. On the journey from Kimberley to Port Elizabeth we were held up at Naauport (by the British) some ten hours, while the Battle of Craddock was being fought. I think it was about nine o'clock at night when we were allowed to resume our journey. I am thankful to say that nothing happened on that occasion—I mean of special gravity—but the Boers heliographing from hill to hill, as we passed through a valley, the lonely sentinels posted along the line, in the still night, and in the grey dawn a troop of soldiers watering their horses at some pools in a hollow near the railroad—shadowy and making no sound as they rode away into the mist—I was told Craddock was close by—all this seems nothing much to speak of, but it somehow kept one's nerves tense at the time."

Miss Sterling was again in England by Christmas, and was engaged in the following February to play Mrs Ericson, in *When We Were Twenty-One*. She also appeared in Mrs Langtry's production of *Crossways*, at Manchester, in the autumn. In August, 1903, she played Lady Brocklehurst, in *The Admirable Crichton*, on tour. Since then she has been engaged by Mr. F. Topham Ben Greet Pastorals, for Dame Quickley, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Queen Altèmire. *The Palace of Truth*, and to create the part of Lady Warrender, in Mr H. M. Paull's comedy, *My Lord from Town*.

Photo. by Hana.

MISS MARION STERLING.

MISS LALLA STANHOPE.

MISS LALLA STANHOPE made her first appearance at the early age of twelve months, as the "baby," in *The Woman of the People*, at the Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, under the management of her father, Mr Butler Stanhope. By a strange coincidence the same play was performed the night she was born. When she was about seven years old she toured as the child in her father's play, *The Gombeen's Gold*. During the tour of three years she paid her first visit to the Metropolis, and had the exciting experience of being lost in London. Getting separated from her parents in a crowded thoroughfare, she missed them, and wandered on and on. Eventually, becoming bewildered and frightened, she stood still and began to cry. The usual crowd soon collected, and a policeman appeared on the scene, and, upon learning what was the matter, was proceeding to take her to the nearest police-station, when fortunately she was able to remember the name of the theatre at which she was playing. He at once escorted her there, and restored the lost one to her anxious parents, much to their delight, and also that of the company, several of whom were scouring the neighbourhood in every direction. During that week she had the honour of singing before the Duke of York (now the Prince of Wales).

After leaving school, Miss Stanhope again toured with *The Gombeen's Gold*, this time playing the light comedy part, Mollie (originally played by her mother), and also Constance, in *The Three Musketeers*. Her first engagement away from her father's management was with E. C. Matthews, to play Eily, in *The Colleen Bawn*, and Moya, in *The Shaughraun*, and during the tour the company visited the Theatre Royal, Dublin, where she had the honour of playing Eily on the command night before the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Countess Cadogan, the Duke and Duchess of St. Albans, the Duchess of Abercorn, and the Earl and Countess of Meath. Lord Roberts was to have been present, but was called suddenly to London to take command of the troops for South Africa. Miss Stanhope then joined Mr Arnold Bell's stock season at the Grand Theatre, Newcastle. A special engagement followed with Mr J. F. Graname, at the Prince of Wales's, Birmingham, to play Lucy, in *Our Flat*. Then came a stock season at Chesterfield, with Mr. Melville Bickford. She was next engaged by Mr Chalmers Mackey for Biddy, *The Wearin' o' the Green*. After two years' continuous engagement, she was secured by Messrs Dottridge and Longden to create the light comedy part Chouette, in *A City of Sin*. She toured with this play, and was re-engaged for the autumn to play juvenile part, *Ilma*. A stock season with Mr Hugh Montgomery at Edinburgh and Glasgow followed, Miss Stanhope playing Rose Dean, *The Wages of Sin*; Ned, *The World Against Her*; Mary Vaughan, *Called Back*; Barbara Dale, *The Wages of Sin*; and also creating the waif, Willie, in Mr Montgomery's play, *The Life Beyond*. Later she was engaged by Mr Alfred Lester for a stock season at the Theatre Royal, Cardiff, to play Arrah Meelish, in *Arragh-na-Pogue*, Abigail, in *Nell Gwynne*, Moya, &c.

Photo. by Stanley

MISS LALLA STANHOPE.

MR. WILLIAM LOWE.

Mr. WILLIAM LOWE was born at Aberdeen, where he studied elocution and many Shakespearean parts for three years, under the tuition of Mr. Peter Crone, an old actor, who had played with John Philip Kemble. Well coached in stage-craft, he commenced his theatrical career at the Park Theatre, Liverpool, on Easter Monday, 1857, was so pleased with his performances that she engaged him for a season at Dundee. Messrs. Walter Roberts, Lindo Courtenay, C. A. Clark, Ben Ware, and Miss Marion Cutriss being the principal members of the company, and the visiting stars Kean Buchanan, Joseph Proctor (both American tragedians), Samuel and Robert Roxby, John Coleman, and Miss Maggie Aiken. Associated with such artistes, the young histrion soon showed marked signs of ability in many parts, especially as Cool, the Valet, in *London Assurance*. In rehearsing the part of Achmet, in *Jessie Brown* he narrowly escaped suffocation. Before being hoisted to the flies, at the end of the second act, by order of Mr. John Coleman, a white handkerchief was bound round the spy's face, the rope being tied inside, at the nape of his neck, giving the appearance of the victim having been hung thereby. To heighten the illusion, a detached piece of rope was knotted round his throat, while the main one was fastened to a hidden belt under the armpits. "A splendid effect," said John, giving the hoisting signal. As Achmet dangled in the air, the rope, enforcing the law of gravitation, so tightened the handkerchief round his nose and mouth that he could not breathe. In the ascent, he struggled, and kicked of the stage-manager's hat, which caused some laughter. Mr. Walter Roberts, judging it was an act of distress, and promptly perceiving the cause, cried, "Lower the rope; the man is suffocating." In the confusion, the order was tardily accomplished, and the victim was in a state of collapse when dumped on to the stage. Happily he soon recovered, and has never forgotten John Coleman's "splendid effect," and that probably his life was saved by kicking off a man's hat. At the end of the Dundee season he joined Mr. Edmund Glover's companies at Greenock and Glasgow, where he stayed three years, and played important parts with Miss Helen Faucit, Louise Keely, Mr. Montagu Williams, Sir William and Lady Don, Edward Righton, George Vincent, Henry Ashley, &c. Leaving Glasgow, Mr. Lowe went to Belfast, and there supported Ira Aldridge, the African Roscius, and Charles Dibdin Pitt, as Cassio, in *Othello*, Gabor, in *Werner*, and Edmund, in *King Lear*, &c. Afterwards engaged by Henry Webb, he opened at the Queen's Theatre, Dublin, playing Snuffles, in *Dinorah Under Difficulties*, Mr. J. L. Toole appearing as Dinorah. In the celebrated comedian's répertoire he played Bumble, in *Oliver Twist*, and other character parts. Messrs. T. C. King, Charles Rice, John Clark, and Miss Charlotte Saunders came starring here, with whom he impersonated old men successfully. Mr. Frederick Macabe, of *Begone Dull Care* fame, was a member of the company. To gain practice in leading business he appeared at John Day's theatre, Dundee, in a round of the principal Shakespearean characters, and was author of three pieces produced there, viz., *Bonnie Prince Charlie*, *The American War*, and *The Terror of the Tay*. Then followed seasons at Hull and Norwich. At the latter place he became melodramatic leading man, playing Diavoletti Arbaces, in *The Flower Girl of Pompeii*, Mr. Oakley, in *The Jealous Wife*, &c. In 1862 he returned to his native city, Aberdeen, to join Mr. McNeill's company as heavy man, and supported Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean as the Ghost, Coitier, and Gibby, in *Hamlet*, *Louis XI.*, and *The Wonder*. Here he met Miss Fanny Wallis, the talented leading lady, who, at the end of the season, became his wife. From that date he supplied successful pantomimes for Scottish theatres, notably, *Tam-o'-Shanter*, *Let Glasgow Flourish*, *Edina, Scotland and Her Shires*, *Bonnie Dundee*, *Hallowden*, *Watty and Meg*, *Rampant Lion*, *Sinbad*, and many others from nursery tales. Mr. Lowe has written a number of comedies and dramas, and produced *Spoons*, *Wanted, Crocodile*; *Abbot of Aberbrothock*, &c., and likewise published *The Reapers*, a pastoral play, ballads, recitations, &c. A long succession of engagements ensued with Mr. William Sidney, at Richmond, Norwich, King's Lynn, and Greenwich; with Mr. Sefton Parry, at the Holborn Theatre, London, in *The Antipodes*; and five seasons with Mr. Alexander Wright, at Greenock, where he was a special favourite in such parts as the Dougal, in *Rob Roy*, Doctor Pangloss, in *The Heir-at-Law*, Jock Howieson, in *Cramond Brig*, &c. In special productions and tours of *Guy Mannering* he played Dandie Dinmont and Dominie Sampson, to the Henry Bertram of Mr. Sims Reeves and Mr. W. H. Turner, Mrs. Lowe being Meg Merrilees. Then followed successful engagements for thirteen years with Miss Marriott, in whose company he alternately appeared as Ratcliffe, Dumbiedykes, and David Deans, in *Jeanie Deans*, the Baillie, in *Rob Roy*, Burleigh in *Elizabeth*, &c. Still touring with the Osmond Tearle Répertoire Company, now under the direction of Mr. Herbert J. Montague, as principal old man and woman, Mr. and Mrs. Lowe have received signal marks of approbation from the public, press, and managers, for their various performances and faithful services as thorough and gifted artistes.

Photo by Otto Sarony.

MR. CECIL A. COLLINS.

Photo by Urbinsky.

MR. WILLIAM LOWE.

MR. CECIL A. COLLINS.

MR CECIL A. COLLINS, before commencing his professional career, played upwards of fifty parts with various amateur clubs and societies around London and in the provinces. He then accepted two professional engagements, one being Montano, in *Othello*, with Alexander Bohun, and the other Sergeant Jones, in *A Merry Marchioness*, with C. W. Macabe, and was so successful in these parts that he decided to take acting up altogether. Mr Collins made his first appearance (walking on) in *A Lady of Quality*, at the Comedy Theatre, London, under Mr Bea Greet and Mr J. B. Mulholland's management. Then followed a short tour in Shakespearean and old comedy répertoire, when he played various parts. Following two tours of *The Sign of the Cross*, in which he played Licinius, Tigellinus, and, later, Glabrio, with Mr Ben Greet, came a short summer tour in Shakespeare with Mr Rawson Buckley, when Mr Collins had the experience of playing ten new parts in one week, including the Duke, in *Othello*, Charles, in *As You Like It*, &c. He then rejoined Mr Ben Greet's own company as assistant stage-manager in *A Royal Family*, later becoming stage-manager for two tours. A season of pastoral plays followed, in which Mr Collins was called upon to play Don John and Fabian at a few hours' notice without a rehearsal. In the summer of 1901 Mr Collins produced and managed a special tour of *The Sign of the Cross*, and the following Christmas he was engaged as general and stage-manager and to play Sid Prince in *Sherlock Holmes*, later acting the title-rôle, Professor Moriarty, and Jim Larrabee, in the same piece. The following summer Mr Collins was engaged by Mr Ben Greet to produce *Sherlock Holmes* (three companies), which he did with every success. Following this, he staged *The Eternal City*, and played Bruno Rocco for Mr J. Bannister Howard, and engaged two more companies at the termination of the tour. Mr Collins sailed in August, 1903, to America, under Mr Charles Frohman and Mr Ben Greet's management, to represent Mr Greet and play Feste in *Twelfth Night*, and the Prince of Morocco, in *The Merchant of Venice*, which he did with great success. Other parts Mr Collins has played are De Haas, in *On 'Change*, Sam Gerridge and Hawtree, in *Caste*, Arthur Merrick, in *The Scarlet Flower* (a new production), Tom Wrench, in *Trelawney of the Wells*, &c.

THE DRAMA IN PITTSBURG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PITTSBURG, PA, JAN. 15.—*The Wizard of Oz*, a musical extravaganza, the book and lyrics of which were written by L. Frank Baum, while the music was supplied by Paul Tietjens and A. Baldwin Sloane, occupied the boards of the Nixon Theatre last week. The play is a delightful fairy tale, which reminds one a great deal of *Alice in Wonderland*. A sweet little Kansas girl with her playmate, a cow named Imogene, a scarecrow in search of brains, and a tin woodman in search of a heart, are the principal characters, while there is no lack of fairies, munchkin youths and maidens, flowers, &c. The scarecrow and the tin woodman come in for much applause. Miss Anna Laughlin is a sweet Kansas girl; and the rôles of the scarecrow and tin woodman are successfully undertaken by Messrs. Fred A. Stone and David C. Montgomery.

A POPULAR authoress with the American public is Lottie Blair Parker, who has written *Way Down East*, *The Redemption of David Corson*, and several other successful plays. Her *Under Southern Skies*, which was produced at the Gaiety Theatre last week, has been on the road for almost four years, and still holds its own, drawing crowded houses wherever it is performed. It is a love story full of emotional situations, and also rich in comedy which has the sunny south for its background. A woman who leaves her broken-hearted husband and little girl in order to follow a worthless fellow, who casts her off as soon as he has squandered her money, her return to her home after sixteen years on the birthday of her daughter, the reconciliation—this is the story in brief, around which many touching events are grouped, which go to make a pleasing play. In Miss Minnie Victorson Lelia Crofton, the heroine of the play found a charming exponent of the character. She was ably supported by the rest of the numerous company.

MESSRS. NIXON AND ZIMMERMAN produced Willard Spencer's comedy opera *Miss Bob White* at the Duquesne Theatre during the past week. Two young millionaires, Artie Tre Billion and Billy Van Million, have lost an election bet to an English duke. By the conditions of the bet they have to become tramps for two months and not make any use of their fortunes during that period. In their wanderings they come to Friend Samuel Rodd's farm, where they apply for work. They get it with a vengeance, and here their sufferings and the fun of the comedy take place. Miss Livingston, a society belle of New York, who loves one of the millionaires, learns of the bet, and, disguising herself as a milkmaid, takes a situation at the same farm and succeeds in fascinating the man she loves. At the expiration of the two months the millionaires return to their beautiful home on the Hudson, whither all their new friends are invited. Miss Bob White, the milkmaid, turns out to be a charming society belle, and Tre Billion has no trouble in obtaining her hand.

THE DRAMATIC FRANKENSTEIN.

A lecture was given last Sunday evening at the Criterion to the members of the O.P. Club by Mr. M. J. Landa on "The Dramatic Frankenstein." The chair was taken by Mr. H. H. GORDON, L.C.C.

Mr. LANDA compared Frankenstein to the playgoing public of the present day, which had made the actor, or more particularly the actor-manager, into a monster by flattery, and by excess of interest in the actor rather than in the play. Mr. Landa referred to former times, when the play was the principal thing and the players of very little account; and compared those days unfavourably to the present ones, when the drama, he asserted, is of secondary interest in comparison to popular players, elaborate effects, and gorgeous dresses. Mr. Landa's attack was directed chiefly against a well-known actor-manager, whom he practically accused of converting a Shakespearean play into a variety show.

In the debate which followed, Mr. ARTHUR COLLINS, the president of the club, remarked that we must remember that acting is an art which has more publicity given to it than any other. The actor was always before us, and was represented in the written and pictorial Press.

MR. J. T. GREIN advocated the election in England of a Minister of Fine Arts, and said that so far as Art is concerned we have no national conscience. He urged less elaboration in the drama of to-day, and referred with enthusiasm to the classical simplicity of a production of *Romeo and Juliet* in Manchester last week. Provincial playgoers, said Mr. Grein, do not visit the theatre in the same spirit as London playgoers; they go because the theatre is part and parcel of their lives; London playgoers, because it is part and parcel of their digestion.

MR. CARL HENTSCHEL thought that the drama was at a low ebb, the public preferring musical plays. Mr. Tree had given us Shakespeare run on musical lines because the public wanted it. Personally, Mr. Hentschel preferred Shakespeare as played by the Benson Company. He wished that somebody would build a theatre on the lines of the Coliseum and the Lyceum, where one could get a comfortable seat at a low price.

MR. PHILIP CARR is strongly in favour of a repertory theatre. Admitting, he says, that among our many actors of talent we have few who would subordinate themselves to the routine of a repertory system; admitting, even, that the multiplicity of theatres in London supplies one large and perpetual repertory; there is still the fact that there are many plays, modern, classical translations of foreign masterpieces, new works of untried authors, and the more serious work of popular writers, all of which will command a public, but not a public for six months. And there is no theatre in London where such plays can be produced for a week or a fortnight only—at any rate, intentionally for a week or a fortnight. Of course, "short runs" are sometimes compulsory

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DER KILOMETERFRESSER,"

Farce, in Three Acts, by Curt Kraatz,
Produced at the Thalia, Jan. 31.

Kugelberg	Herr Thielscher.
Frau Kugelberg	Fraulein Brahms.
Mary	Fraulein Ballot.
Trude	Fraulein Wehling.
Forster	Herr Bartels.
Fritz	Herr Schlotthauer
Kleefeldt	Herr Helmerding.
Frau Kleefeldt	Fraulein Abarbanell
Reinbold	Herr Olfers.
Broemser	Herr Formes.
Minna	Fraulein Wannovius
Auguste	Fraulein Schotz.

BERLIN, Thursday, Feb. 9.—It would be an utterly impossible undertaking to detail all the complications of this whimsical work. Plot there is as good as none, and the author's motto appears to be "a laugh at any price." He has written a number of improbable scenes round as many loosely connected episodes, but he has taken care that the characters are genuinely amusing, and that the dialogue is brisk. Above all, the piece is in excellent hands; Herr Thielscher—the original Charley's Aunt, of whom we are justly proud—was, of course, entrusted with the chief rôle, and well indeed did he support his reputation. Herr Helmerding (another clever comedian) gave the part of an actor, great only in his own estimation, with excessive humour, and other rôles were capitally sustained by Fräuleins Ballot, Abarbarnell, and Wehling, and Herren Schlotthauer and Bartels. *Kilometerfresser* is, by the way, the nickname for a motorist with racing proclivities. Notwithstanding—or, possibly, on account of—the nonsenical comicalities it contains, the piece made a very favourable impression, and will no doubt run for some time. The author was called before the curtain repeatedly, and very cordially applauded.

At the Berliner on Friday two plays of Molière's in the translation and adaptation of Ludwig Fulda—*Der Zwist der Verliebten* and *George Dandin*—were produced. It was an interesting evening, and may be recorded a success. Herr Fulda is at home in work of this kind, and he has not lost a point of the original. Both pieces were remarkably well interpreted, the impersonation of the rôle of Dandin by Herr Robland being, perhaps, the best of the evening.

Flotow's pretty little opera—and one too seldom done—*Alessandro Stradella*, is being given at the National, and drawing well. Herr Reinhardt sings the title-rôle with a pleasing, well-cultivated voice, although his acting is lacking in many ways, and the other artistes, particularly Frau Raabe-Burg (as Leonore), give good all-round renderings.

The Neues Theatre has been trying its hand at Shakespeare, with a fair amount of success. *Der Sommernacht's Traum* (*Midsummer Night's Dream*) was produced on Saturday, the management having done its utmost in the way of selecting the cast and mounting the play. The charming music of Mendelssohn-Bartholdy was adequately rendered, and made its customary impression under the leadership of Herr Gustav Hollander. The rôles of the lovers were acted by Fräuleins Höflich and Heims, by Herren Von Winterstein and Ekert, all four excellent artistes. Herr Engels played with wonted humour the part of Bottom—in which he is thoroughly at home—and Herr Arnold (the creator of the Serenissimus rôle) was delightfully funny as Thisbe. Fräulein Eibenschutz was a pleasing Titania, but somewhat disappointing were Fräulein Durieux and Frau Eysoldt as Oberon and Puck. The play was received with enthusiasm, artistes and manager being overwhelmed with applause.

Hauptmann's striking drama *Die Weber* has been revived at the Lessing with a magnificent cast, the principal actors being the same as at the production of the piece twelve years ago. Of Fräulein Lehmann's Luise, of Herr Sauer's Old Hilse, and of Herr Rittner's Moritz Jaeger it would be impossible to speak too highly. The applause grew from act to act, until Dr. Brahm was compelled to appear in the name of the absent author.

It is not generally known that Ibsen—who is as a rule never turned from his course—once allowed himself to be over-persuaded in the matter of the ending of a play. It was at the first production of *Nora* at Munich. The famous actress Frau Niemann-Raabe was giving the name-part, and, fearing the desertion of her husband and children by Nora would damage the play, begged Ibsen to alter the last scene, and reconcile the heroine to her surroundings. Ibsen, who wished to be approved of in Germany, consented after a good deal of demur, but the *finale* fell very flat, and was never repeated. The next time Nora resolutely said adieu to her husband, and started forth in search of "das Wunderbar," and the results are matters of history.

Herr Georgе Hirschfeld's new drama *Nebeneinander*, which is to be produced at the Lessing on Saturday, is being looked forward to with intense interest. The best actors of the company are down for the cast.

The latest novelty at the Residenz—where Herr Richard Alexander reigns in his double capacity of manager and our most famous comedian—is *Hotel Pompadour*, a three-act farce by MM. Mars and Xanrof, the German translation by Max Schoeman. It is a genuine and typical Parisian farce, full of the light, graceful badinage which German pieces, as a rule, lack, and—needless to say—furnished with the requisite piquancy. As the play has certainly been described in your columns at the time of its original production in Paris, a narration of the impossible, but entirely amusing, plot will be superfluous. A word as to the brilliant cast, which has not its equal for pieces of this class in all Berlin. Herr Alexander is as indefatigable as he is many-sided. Laying aside his "bomben-rôle" in *Herkulespillen*, he takes up that of Canibel on the following night, and each part might have been written for him, so admirably does it fit him. His humour is so absolutely irresistible that the audience frequently broke out into applause—amidst flattering "roars"—by open stage. Fräulein Körner (as Madame Canibel) supported the clever actor-manager in the best possible manner, and other rôles were capitally taken by Fräuleins Witt and Roland and Herren Seldeneck, Georg, Bach, and Leisner. There is no doubt at all but that *Hotel Pompadour* will prove a first-rate draw for a long time to come.

Herr Sigismund Lautenburg, the former lessee of the Residenz Theatre, has not altogether retired from public life. A capable actor always, and at his best in Ibsen, Herr Lautenburg, happily, is not giving up the stage yet awhile. He is arranging a series of Anzengruber performances at the Deutsches in May with an excellent company, including Frau Hansi Nisi and her husband, Herr Josef Jarno, both of Vienna; Fräulein Schoenchen, Herren Thaller and Martinelli, and others.

"Die Bruder von St. Bernhardt," five-act play by A. Ahorn, is to be produced at the Deutsches this evening. There has been a good deal of discussion and much bad blood in connection with this new work, which has been forbidden by the censorship in some parts of Germany.

A new Elsa has made a successful appearance at our Royal Opera—Fräulein Marie Ekeblad. The lady possesses a most melodious and dramatic voice, and her acting in the rôle of Elsa was highly sympathetic. The part of Lohengrin was taken by Herr Kraus, who was indisposed, and therefore less effective than usual. Fräulein Reuil's Ortrud I have mentioned before as an altogether inadequate impersonation, but Herr Bertram, on the other hand, was admirable as Telramund.

Or wonder-children there has been no lack in the world of music lately, but quite the most marvellous of the long list is the twelve-year-old Russian violinist, Mischa Elman, who has just gone back to St. Petersburg before going to England. Young Elman is practically no child-wonder, but a ripe virtuoso with an artist's soul, and all the critics here put him before any living violinist of his age. Of a truth, one is tempted to believe in the transmigration of souls when one hears the wonderful little lad; it seems impossible that such phenomenal technique, such breadth and power, coupled with such deep feeling, can be produced in only twelve years of life. Mischa's last concert here on Friday was another triumph; his execution of Tschaikowsky's and Wieniawski's concertos brought down the crowded house, and he was recalled twenty-six times.

A BERNARD SHAW COMEDY.

Mr. Bernard Shaw is one of the privileged few who is able to write without one eye on the actor-manager and the other on the theatre box-office; but he is going to prove one day in London, as he has proved in New York, that he can think out a play that will fit the one and cause the other to be besieged. Were he to give us a "theatrical" piece, in the full conventional sense of that much mis-used adjective—well, he would not be Bernard Shaw; and, as he would be the last one to complain of being unappreciated by the mass of Cockney playgoers, he may be left to tilt at stage conventions, and to evolve from his inner consciousness such amusing satire as we find in *John Bull's Other Island*, which was revived for a series of matinées on Tuesday at the Court. A red-hot politician belonging to any party would intensely enjoy Mr. Shaw's clever cynicism and shrewd criticisms of the Gladstone policy in Ireland. One does not stop to examine the logic of the Shaw dicta that dis-establishment has strengthened the so-called Irish Church; and that nothing would weaken the Catholic Church so much as giving it the status of establishment, because we suspect that he is poking fun at political doctrinaires. He may tell us that the abolition of landlordism and the creation of a peasant proprietary is merely an aggravation of an admitted evil by substituting one class for the other, or he may talk of land nationalisation; but he would not expect us to pay him the poor compliment of taking him seriously. The continual laughter that was heard throughout the Court Theatre on Tuesday afternoon was joined in by the Prince and Princess of Wales, who occupied a private box.

The satirical piece was capitally played by a cast including many of those who were the original representatives of the characters on the production of the piece in November last by Messrs. J. E. Vedrenne and Granville Barker. Mr. Louis Calvert repeated his success as Tom Broadbent, who is quite English, with the innate confidence and self-esteem of the race. Mr. Calvert asserts the Shaw theses with an irresistible emphasis and a sturdy self-sufficiency that bring out to the full the author's ironical humour. Mr. Percival Stevens is again a characteristic exponent of Tim Haffigan, the Irishman with an array of grievances that could never possibly be reformed, even with the most beneficent scheme of Home Rule that statesmen could devise. The peevish tone and the crescendo of indignation were intensely Hibernian. Tim is continually checked in his exuberant bitterness by Barney Doran, a part played in excellent fashion by Mr. Wilfred Shine. Mr. C. M. Hallard succeeded in making a most favourable impression as Larry Doyle, whose assertion of certain views on landlordism and the Church prevent his election. Mr. J. D. Beveridge has quite the benevolent manner and dignified assurance that one expects to find in the highest grade of the Irish priesthood; and his Father Dempsey was an impersonation of genuine interest. Mr. George Trollope imparted the necessary traits to the character of Hodson; Mr. Granville Barker was well placed as Keegan; Mr. F. Cremlin was particularly good as Corney Doyle; and Mr. A. E. George supplied a neat sketch of Matthew Haffigan. Miss Agnes Thomas was firm, incisive, and amusing as Aunt Judy; and Miss Ellen O'Malley realised the sweetness and charm that belong to Nora. The piece was mounted with great care.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The concert of Wednesday last at the Guildhall School of Music had some creditable features, especially in the vocal department, which would have been worthy of still greater commendation if the students had not in some instances attempted too much. For example, Miss Mabel Needs chose the great air from Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, "Hear ye, Israel," a number that taxes the vocal resources of the most experienced artiste. It also requires the utmost dramatic expression, and is therefore trying to a student, however gifted. We do not deny that Miss Mabel Needs is a very clever and cultivated young vocalist, and we feel certain that with such good advice as Madame Medora Hensen can give her, she will do ample justice in time to Mendelssohn's fine music, only it is desirable to wait a little longer. Besides "Hear ye, Israel," demands the contrast of chorus and orchestra. In the song, "Lovely Night," by Landon Ronald, Mr. Reginald Crawford employed a good voice and style with great effect. Mr. Crawford promises to become a really excellent singer. Miss Muriel St. John did well in Hope Temple's simple but pleasing ditty, "Rory Darling"; and Miss Winifred Boult was successful in Denza's pretty ballad, "You." In "A Dream of Paradise" Miss Harriet French displayed vocal skill, and Mr. Gracie did himself credit in the popular melody, "Dio Possente," from *Faust*. Miss Louise Goulden opened the concert with Raff's graceful "La Fileuse," which was neatly executed. Miss Mary Cooper played so well that she made us regret the choice of such poor music as Thalberg's "Tarantella," which is but a feeble example of his powers as a composer. Miss Catherine Gwillim merited commendation in the Adagio and Finale from Beethoven's Sonata in E flat, Op. 27; and Miss Lydia Basset won hearty applause in a piece by Sinding, although it concluded the concert. Miss Ruby Eager, in a violin solo by Franz Ries, displayed no little command of the instrument, and Mr. Norman Attwell proved himself a capable 'cellist in Romberg's old-fashioned Concerto in D minor. Miss Edith Tailby recited *Pyramus and Thisbe*, by Saye, with much spirit, and Miss Kate E. Ward rendered efficient assistance as accompanist. Mrs. Charles P. Smith, as usual, had charge of the young ladies.

A performance was given at the Criterion Theatre, on Friday, the 10th inst., for copyright purposes, of a play in four acts, by Israel Zangwill, entitled *Jinny the Carrier*.

One of the most dramatic incidents in real life that have occurred of late was the attempt of the brave Lady McNeill to save Glyn Prichard from drowning. The Memorial Fund, which was opened to commemorate her tragic death, will be devoted to the endowment of a bed in the Leicester Infirmary, and the erection of a window in Carlton Curlieu Church, Leicester. The fund will be closed on Feb. 28. Any friends wishing to subscribe can send amounts to the Fund at the Bank of England, Burlington Gardens, W., or to the Rev. A. W. Rokeby, Carlton Curlieu Rectory, Leicester; or Mr. Alfred Suart, Burton Overy, Leicester.

HISTORIC PROVINCIAL PLAYHOUSE.

By T. H. BARROW.—IX.

Among the memorials of past dramatic triumphs (perhaps a few disappointments—who knows at this late stage?) is a day bill announcing the final leave-taking by Mrs Siddons of the York public. In the theatre annals of the Eighteenth Century the severance of Mrs Siddons's active association with the stage was memorable, hence my proposal to give the full text of an historic placard:—

"Not acted here these twenty-seven years.—Mrs Siddons's final leave of the York audience and the last night of the company's performing till Easter week.—Theatre Royal, York.—On Saturday evening, March 21, 1812, his Majesty's servants will revive Shakespeare's play of *Measure for Measure*, as altered by J. P. Kemble, Esq., and repeatedly performed this season at the Theatre Royal, Covent-garden, with distinguished attraction and applause. Duke, Mr Cummins; Angelo, Mr Evatt; Escalus, Mr M'Gibbon; Claudio, Mr Wilks; Lucio, Mr Mansel; Frederick, Mr Cope; Leopold, Mr Willis; Friar Peter, Mr Daniels; Provost, Mr Foster; Froth, Mr Jarman; Elbow, Mr Kelley; Pompey, Mr Russell; Abhorson, Mr Wood; Barnadine, Mr Hall; Thomas, Mr Hope; Mariana, Mrs Evatt; Francisca, Mrs French; Mrs Overdone, Mrs Ward; Isabella, Mrs Siddons, the last year of her ever appearing on the stage. After which the musical farce of *Paul and Virginia*:—Don Antonio, Mr Wood; Tropic, Mr Hall; Paul, Mr Payne; Dominique, Mr Russell; Alhambra, Miss S. Decamp; Diego, Mr Daniels; Sebastian, Mr Cope; Sailor, Mr Hope; Virginia, Mrs Sterling; Jacintha, Miss Matthews; Mary, Mrs Ward. To begin at a quarter before seven o'clock. Tickets: box, 4s.; pit, 2s. 6d.; first gallery, 2s.; upper gallery, 1s. Second price: box, 2s. 6d.; pit, 1s. 6d.; first gallery, 1s."

I have a copy of that rare publication the *Yorkshire Magazine* (for June, 1786), which contains an excellent wood-cut portrait of Mrs Siddons—below which the editor adds this flattering couplet:—

And what bold Parasite's officious tongue
Shall dare to tax Calista's Name and Guilt?

Mrs Siddons had a long and honourable connection with the ancient city. Isabella, in *Measure for Measure*, seems to be one of her favourite portrayals. Indeed, she had distinguished herself in the part in 1786—nearly twenty years prior to her final retirement from the stage. Her performance in that year drew from an ardent admirer the following lyrical rhapsody, which appeared in print over the author's modest initials—F. W.:—

Queen of the human heart! whose potent skill,
The fiercest natures can with ease controul,
Who leads astonish'd fancy where she will,
"And in elysium wraps the list'ning soul!"

Grief, Terror, Madness, Pity, Love, Despair,
With awful zeal upon her glances wait;
While Sense and Reason with unceasing care
United stand to guard her regal state.

There let her sit secure in honour plac'd
(Applauding shouts resounding forth her name),
Sustain'd by Merit, while her head is grac'd
With wreaths entwin'd by Virtue and by Fame.

Could anything enshrined in language be sweeter or tenderer in its expression?

So far as I can ascertain there is no record that the York theatre underwent any important alteration from the time Baker completed it in 1765 till 1822. A large doorway in Mint-yard which led to the gallery and the stage was originally the only entrance to all parts of the house. In the event of a large audience, patrons proceeding to boxes, pit, and gallery (there were not circles in those days) had to press forward to the pay-box in an indiscriminate mass, and separate themselves after securing their tickets. Internally the theatre was quadrangular, with a row of boxes at each side of the stage. Below the stage boxes were the stage doors. At these Charles Surface was wont to make his exit in the famous Screen Scene in *The School for Scandal*. Brass sconces were fixed all over the house, which was illumined during public performances with wax candles. This was the general condition for over half-a-century. The time came, however, when considerable improvements were imperative.

In 1822 the interior was altered from quadrangular to semi-circular, on the model of Covent-garden Theatre. Two tiers of side and front boxes were constructed with access to convenient and well-decorated lobbies, and there were added one front and two side galleries. Brilliant glass-mounted gasaliers were fixed, gas took the place of wax candles, the front of the boxes was richly decorated in basso-relievo (executed from designs in the Temple of the Parthenon at Athens), and the pilasters of the proscenium were painted in imitation of Sienna marble by a Leeds artist named Rhodes. Another important alteration was the division of the public entrances. The gallery door was, as I have said, in Mint-yard, now St. Leonard's-place. In Blake-street was constructed a spacious vestibule for patrons of boxes and pit, who in that apartment separated for the different parts of the house. Off the landing of the first lobby was an elegant saloon. The pitites, on the other hand, proceeded from the vestibule to their seats on the ground level, as at present. Voluntary contributions defrayed the greater part of the cost of these improvements, the fund being augmented by a grant of £200 by the Corporation of York. The theatre as altered and enlarged was computed to hold at ordinary prices (boxes 4s., pit 2s., gallery 1s.) about £150.

Samuel Parsons, who is described as one of the comedians of the stock company, sprang into local literary fame in 1822 by the publication of a work with the title "Life and Poetical Trifles." With what subjects the author specially dealt I am at this distance of time unable to say; but he was sufficiently ingenuous to admit that he was in indigent circumstances and that he had been induced to publish the work by public subscription in order "to snatch this neglected Son of Thespis from the jaws of want."

The ladies of the York theatre at this period included Miss Foote, afterwards Countess of Harrington, Miss Chester, and Mrs and Miss Glover. Of Miss Chester comparatively little is, I believe, recorded; but Mrs Glover was a capable actress. In June, 1822, she played the character Hamlet at the Lyceum Theatre on her benefit night. The house was packed. In a stage box were Edmund Kean, Michael Kelly, Munden, and the Hon. Douglas Kinnaird. Kean, after the first act, went round to the stage, greeted Mrs Glover with both hands, and exclaimed rapturously, "Excellent, excellent!" She, obviously in a spirit of raillery, replied, "Away, you flatterer! You come in mockery to scorn and scoff at our solemnity!" Boaden describes Mrs Glover as the ablest actress in existence in 1833. R. C. Leslie some time before this referred to her as possessing a commanding figure, but being monstrously fat.

(*To be continued.*)

Mr. Editor,—Sir,—In the notice of the production of *The Poor Must Live* last week, you referred to Mr. Charles Fulton's company. I beg to inform you that the piece is under the sole control of Mr. Geoffrey Fulton.—Yours faithfully, C. Brereton Borer (Acting-Manager). Grand Theatre, Luton, Feb. 9.

An interesting special turn was given during the performance of *Dick Whittington* at the Theatre Royal, Windsor, on Friday, the 3rd, by Master William Flowers (son of Mr. Flowers, of Windsor), who very skilfully rendered an imitation by the mouth of a gramophone reproducing the song "In Old Madrid."

COUNTY COUNCIL AND AMUSEMENTS.

(specially reported for "the era.")

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens.

OPENING OF NEW THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS.

The following report was received from the Theatres and Music Halls Committee:—We desire to draw attention to the practice which obtains with regard to the opening of new theatres and music halls. It is the custom for the person for whom a new theatre or music hall is being erected to fix, many months beforehand, a date for the opening of the premises. Contracts with artistes are entered into, and all arrangements definitely made for opening on this date, which is often decided upon without due regard to the exigencies of construction. It almost invariably happens that when the advertised date of opening approaches the building is in an unfinished condition, and it is only by working night and day that there is any possibility of getting it sufficiently finished for the Council to issue a certificate to enable it to be opened at the advertised time. The result is that the Council is asked to certify the building the moment it is completed—perhaps only a few hours before the advertised time of opening. When it is remembered that the Council's inspection of a new or reconstructed theatre or music hall entails a minute and careful comparison of every part of the building with the plans approved by the Council, and exhaustive examinations of the electric lighting and heating arrangements, it is obvious that the Council's officers ought to be allowed some few days after the completion of the building to make their inspections, whereas it is generally the case that they have to make their inspections whilst the workmen are still engaged upon the building, and before the removal of the scaffolding, and consequently a great deal of time is wasted in going over the ground several times. But a much more serious objection to the system is that an undue amount of responsibility is thrown upon the chairman of the committee and the Council's officers, if they are called upon to decide, a few hours before the advertised time of opening, when all the seats have been sold to the public, whether the premises are in a fit condition to be opened.

During the past Christmas recess no less than five places—the Coliseum, the Lyceum, St. George's Hall, the Haymarket Theatre, and Drury-lane Theatre—were opened, the first-named being an entirely new building, and the others having been entirely reconstructed. The Coliseum was advertised to open on Dec. 19, and we inspected the premises on Dec. 7, when much work remained to be done. Our last meeting was held on Dec. 14, and the matter had, therefore, to be left to the chairman and vice-chairman of the committee. An inspection was made by our chairman on the morning of Dec. 19, when it was found that the whole of the scenery was of a very inflammable character, and that in many other important particulars the work was incomplete. The opening had, therefore, to be postponed till Dec. 24. On Dec. 23 an inspection was made by the vice-chairman of the committee, who then found the arrangements such that he was able to authorise the opening. Owing to the incomplete state of the work and the consequent postponement of the opening, some of the officers of the Council were engaged for several weeks in inspecting the building.

The Lyceum was advertised to open on Boxing Day. We were informed before our adjournment for the recess that the building could not possibly be sufficiently complete for inspection before Dec. 24. The vice-chairman of the committee, accompanied by the Council's officers, inspected the building on that date. The arrangements were found to be incomplete in many most important respects; for instance, the fire curtain was not finished, the electric lighting installation was so incomplete that it had not been possible to make any test, and some of the seating was not fixed, so that it could not be seen whether the gangways would be satisfactory. The management stated that it would be possible to finish everything before the advertised time of opening on Dec. 26, but the vice-chairman pointed out that, even if this were so, the Council's officers would not be afforded any opportunity of inspecting the building and making the necessary tests of the fire curtain and the electric lighting and heating arrangements. It was consequently decided to postpone the opening until Dec. 31, and as a matter of fact, it was not until the morning of Dec. 31 that the arrangements could be reported sufficiently complete to allow of the premises being opened. In the case of St. George's Hall, the opening had to be postponed because of unfinished work, but the Haymarket Theatre was sufficiently completed to be allowed to open on the advertised date, viz., Jan. 2, although it was only at the last moment that it could be certified. In the case of Drury-lane Theatre, the Council was relieved of any responsibility in connection with the opening, as the arbitrator, by the terms of his award, provided that the work of complying with the award should be done to his satisfaction.

We think the Council will feel that the state of things which now generally obtains should, if possible, be altered, and that sufficient time should elapse between the completion of a building and the date upon which it is desired to open it for public entertainments to allow the Council's officers to survey the premises and report to us, and for us to make an inspection, if necessary. We purpose informing owners in future that they must make such arrangements as will enable this to be done, and we report the facts for the information of the Council, and with a view to giving publicity to the matter.

SUPPLEMENTAL ESTIMATE.

The committee reported:—Our attention has been drawn to the fact that our expenditure under the head of "Theatres and Music Halls—surveying" will exceed the amount of £5,205 provided in the estimates, and that it is necessary for us to submit a supplemental estimate in respect of our expenditure under this head. The expenditure, which was not provided for in the estimates, but has been incurred or sanctioned, consists of £180 incurred in connection with the arbitration proceedings in respect of the Theatre Royal, Drury-lane, which amount is, however, recoverable; £100 for the inspection of electric lighting arrangements at places of entertainment; and, £50 for the purchase of mathematical instruments, making a total of £330. It is probable that £50 of this amount will not be required during the year 1904-5, thus leaving a balance of £280, for which sum it is necessary to submit a supplemental estimate. As before stated, £180 of this amount was incurred in connection with the arbitration proceedings with regard to Drury-lane Theatre, and is recoverable, as by the terms of the arbitrator's award the cost of the award has to be borne by the proprietors of the theatre; thus making the net increase in the estimates for the year £100. The committee recommended "That the supplemental estimate of £280 be approved, and that expenditure not exceeding that sum be sanctioned in respect of the expenses in connection with the surveying, &c., of theatres and music halls."—Agreed to.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

The committee reported that they had considered two slip tracings submitted by Mr. B. Crewe, showing a deviation which has been made from the plans approved by the Council for the reconstruction of the Lyceum Theatre. The deviations in question related to an alteration at the foot of the stairs on either side of the pit. The committee recommended "That Mr. Crewe be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the two slip tracings, submitted by him, with regard to the proposed alteration, provided slopes be formed to the satisfaction of the Council in the place of the two lowest steps."—Approved.

NON-INFLAMMABLE SCENERY.

Mr. Yates, the chairman of the committee, in reply to Sir Algernon West, said a rule was adopted some time ago that all scenery should be rendered non-inflammable, and the committee sent out a circular to all licensees ordering them to carry out that recommendation. He regretted, however, to say that these instructions had not been carried out as well as the committee wished, and in a report which was being prepared the individual cases of failure to comply would be set out.

AN IMPORTANT PROPOSAL.

The Improvements Committee brought up a long report recommending that a lease be granted to a French syndicate for a site between Aldwych and the Strand, for the purpose of erecting a French theatre, restaurant, art galleries, and industrial exhibitions.

Mr. Davies, the chairman of the committee, asked that the whole matter might stand over for a week.

This was agreed to.

NEW MUSIC.

The *Everyman* cantata is founded on the old morality play by H. Walford Davies, who has composed a very effective and artistic cantata on the subject of the quaint mediæval piece for four solo voices, chorus, and orchestra. It is published by Sidney Riorden, Noel-street, Oxford-street, W. As the composition is numbered Opus 17, it will be seen that the composer is no novice. He has, indeed, won a reputation in the ranks of native musicians, and in this work has shown great ability in writing music exactly suited to the quaint old play. *Everyman* has been somewhat compressed, and some obsolete expressions omitted, to make it suitable for present-day performances. It has been questioned whether the cantata is fitted for amateur choirs. We think that is exactly what the work is designed for, the only difficulty being that a good basso, tenor, soprano, and contralto are required for the solos. These demand competent vocalists, but the composer has wisely refrained from making the vocal solos too abstruse, and with great judgment he has given the portions supposed to be spoken by the Almighty to the chorus. This at once disposes of any charge of irreverence. The pianoforte accompaniments are artistic and appropriate, and fairly atone for the absence of an orchestra when that assistance is not readily to be obtained. In short, we can without hesitation recommend Mr. Davies's cantata to the consideration of any cultivated amateur choir, and as the pianoforte score is published at the low price of three shillings, it is available to all musical amateurs. It is unnecessary to remind our readers of the high moral tone of the subject, and to those who have yet to make acquaintance with it we may suggest that *Everyman* bears a considerable resemblance to Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," the main difference being that here the allegories of the grand old tinker are put in a dramatic shape. In many parts the cantata rises to the dignity of an oratorio, and it gives us pleasure to record that it is written by an English musician.

"Songs of the Sea," by Henry Newbolt and C. Villiers Stanford, is published by Messrs. Boosey and Co. Mr. Newbolt has written some spirited verses chronicling the doings of our naval heroes and other events of nautical interest, and Sir Charles Stanford has set them to music of excellent quality. One of the most characteristic is "Drake's Drum," a picture of old nautical days, with "sailor lads a-dancing heel and toe," but all the time listening for "Drake's drum" to warn them of the approach of the foe. Sir Charles Stanford has no superior in setting such lines to music. His melodies have the true nautical flavour.

Heller and Co., Wells-street, Oxford-street, send "Alpine Roses," a pretty Valse de Salon, by J. E. Peilgen, none the worse for occasionally echoing a phrase of Chopin, but the composer does not slavishly follow his great model. He has ideas of his own, and uses them skilfully. The same musician has a swing song, entitled "Siciliana," with a pleasant refrain. "La Marguerite" is a lively drawing-room solo for the pianoforte, by Arthur Thompson McEvoy. The Rondo in C for pianoforte, by Pascal Needham, has a flavour of the old masters, and may be recommended as a study. "Autumn Leaves" is an intermezzo in A flat, by Ernest Crooke, having somewhat the character of a gavotte. It is well written and artistic. "Adieu," a song composed by Hugh Redwood to verses by C. R. Glover Davis, is almost old-fashioned in its simple pathos. Mr. Gordon Wilson is one of those favoured writers whose effusions are accepted by the King. Such has been the fortunate fate of his ballad, "My Soldier Boy," set to music by Colet Dare. Another composition of Mr. Gordon's is "The Empire Song," the music by A. W. Deeley. It is clear that Mr. Gordon is no "little Englander." He rejoices in the breadth and power of the British Empire. "Nanette," by the same author, is a song in praise of a maiden thus named. "My Own Sailor Lad" is a descriptive ballad, and another of a similar character is "I'm a Simple Maiden," with music by Colet Dare. Still another ditty by Mr. Gordon is "I'll be a Soldier, Dada," in which an old veteran is supposed to be listening to his little boy as he sings a patriotic refrain. Mr. Gordon publishes his works at his address, Noel-street, Watford, Herts.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

On Thursday evening the Royal College concert opened with the Quintet for Strings of Schubert in C Major, Op. 163. The quintet occupies nearly an hour in performance; but it was so carefully played on this occasion that none complained of tedium, and the extreme beauty of some portions amply atoned for its "long drawn out" sweetness. The executants were the Misses Harrison, two youthful and gifted young ladies, and Messrs. Parsons, Bridge, and Ivor James. Another admirable performance was that of Schumann's Adagios and Allegro for Violoncello and Piano, in A Flat, Op. 70, by Mr. F. Gustom Parkington and Miss Alice Cotton, who did themselves great credit. Arensky's Trio for Piano and Strings, in D Minor, concluded the concert, the players being Olive Blume, Gwendoline Pelly, and Charles Warwick Evans. The vocal music was interesting, the first item being "Absence," by Berlioz, to which justice was done by Miss Amy Crosland. Two charming duets by M. Saint-Säens were given by Miss Florence Nixon and Mrs. Aubrey Millward, who were very successful, and whose voices blended well. A recitation of "A Royal Princess," by Christina Rossetti, was given with much grace by Miss Dilys S. Jones, who displayed considerable elocutionary skill.

At the New Opera House, Kidderminster, this week, we have a welcome return visit of Miss Daisy de Roy's up-to-date pantomime *Dick Whittington*. Mdlle. Lucretia is at once a favourite as Dick; Miss Daisy de Roy is a most captivating Alice; and Miss Toppy Lytton plays the Princess in taking style. Of the fun-makers the Barrasford Boys (James and Percy) are much in evidence as Captain Shipwreck and Bosun, the parts giving scope for plenty of mirth. Mr. Paul Courtney is a humorous Alderman Fitzwarren, and Mr. Sidney Dooley an amusing Eliza. Mr. H. Blunt as Idle Jack is excessively humorous. Roe and Roe in their trapeze act are good, as also are Rose Walmsley's Quartet of lady dancers.

ON THE ROAD, FEB. 13.

ALADDIN (KIDDIE).—Grand Theatre, Doncaster.
ALADDIN (SAVILLE).—Theatre Royal, Greenock.
ARMADALE REPERTOIRE.—Shrewsbury.
AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES.—Nuneaton.
AUSTIN, MISS MARY.—Ashington.
BABES IN THE WOOD (EDMUNDS).—Manchester.
BABES IN THE WOOD (LEVAINE).—Atterclife.
BEAUTIFUL AVENGER.—Theatre Royal, Barnsley.
BEAUTY AND THE BARGE.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (RAY).—A. T., Hull.
BELLE OF BANGALORE.—Avenue Theatre, Kettering.
BENSON, MR. F. R. (A).—T. R., Bournemouth.
BENSON, MR. F. R. (B).—O. H., Dunfermline.
BLANCHE'S DIAMONDS.—Grand Theatre, Hull.
BO-PEEP (KIDDIE).—Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.
BOUND TO WIN.—Lyceum Theatre, Newport.
BULMER, MR.—Victoria Theatre, Broughton.
CARL ROSA.—New Theatre, Oxford.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (M.).—Chesterfield.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (MACDONA) (N.).—Ayr.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (MACDONA) (S.).—Spalding.
CINGALEE.—Cheltenham.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—H. M. T., Dundee.
CONSCRIPT.—Theatre Royal, Rotherham.
CONVENT BELL.—P. T., Portsmouth.
COUNTRY GIRL (M.)—Preston.
COUNTRY GIRL (N.).—Morpeth.
COUNTRY GIRL (S.).—Kidderminster.
COUSIN KATE.—Croydon.
CRIMSON CLUB.—Victoria Theatre, West Stanley.
DAN THE RAKE.—Newcastle-on-Tyne.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—Long Eaton.
DEFENDING HIS HONOUR.—Theatre Royal, Aston.
DICK WHITTINGTON (KIDDIE).—Walsall.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—Star Theatre, Swansea.
D'OYLY CARTE.—Theatre Royal, Brighton.
DUCHESS OF DANTZIC.—Stockport.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—Hammersmith.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—Bolton.
FATAL WEDDING (M.).—Theatre Royal, Colne.
FATAL WEDDING (N.)—Theatre Royal, Darlington.
FATAL WEDDING (S.).—A. T., Stourbridge.
FEMALE SWINDLER.—Met. Theatre, Birmingham.
FIGHT FOR MILLIONS.—P. O. W. T., Salford.
FLORODORA (CALLAN).—Queen's T., Keighley.
FLORODORA (DAVIS).—Theatre Royal, Bury.
FORTY THIEVES.—Theatre Royal, Jarrow.
FRIVOLITY.—Grand Theatre, Blackpool.
GAY PARISIENNE.—Bognor.
GEISHA AND GREEK SLAVE.—County T., Kingston.
GIPSY JACK.—Theatre Royal, Neath.
GIRL FROM BOND STREET.—Lyceum T., Eccles.
GIRL FROM KAY'S (N.).—Nottingham.
GOLDEN LADDER.—Shakespeare Theatre, S.W.
GO-WON-GO-MOHAWK.—Darwen.
GRIP OF THE LAW.—Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.
HARVEST OF SIN.—T. R., Mountain Ash.
HARVEY, MARTIN.—Camden Theatre, N.W.
HER FATAL PAST.—New Theatre, Aberdare.
HONOUR THY FATHER.—Queen's Theatre, Dublin.
IRVING, HENRY.—Exeter.
LADDER OF LIFE.—Theatre Royal, Sunderland.
LADY OF OSTEND.—Opera House, Burton.
LA POUPEE.—Opera House, Leicester.
LAUGHTER-LAND.—Grand Theatre, Chorley.
LIGHTNING'S FLASH.—Opera House, Workington.
LITTLE CINDERELLA (KIDDIE).—R. T., Barrow.
LUCKY DURHAM.—Grand Theatre, Boscombe.
MAN TO MAN.—Theatre Royal, Stratford.
MANXMAN.—Theatre Royal, Hyde.
MARRIAGE OF KITTY.—Lyceum T., Stafford.
MERELY MARY ANN.—G. T., Southampton.
MESSAGE FROM MARS.—County Theatre, Reading.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—Accrington.
MOCKERY OF MARRIAGE.—Grand Theatre, Luton.
MOODY-MANNERS (A).—Opera House, Southport.
MOODY-MANNERS (B).—Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.
MOODY-MANNERS (C).—Whitehaven.
NAPOLEON THE GREAT.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
NEW MEPHISTO.—Whitehaven.
ORCHID (EDWARDES).—Alexandra Theatre, N.
ORCHID.—Paisley.
OTTO THE OUTCAST.—King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy.
PRINCE OF ROGUES.—Grand Theatre, Rawtenstall.
PROOF.—Theatre Royal, Torquay.
RED RIDING HOOD (ELAND'S).—Spennymoor.
REVENGE.—P. O. W. T., Great Grimsby.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.
ROYAL REVENGE (CLYNDES).—A. T., Sheffield.
SAPHO.—Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
SATURDAY TO MONDAY.—Hanley.
SCHOOL GIRL (MACDONA).—Harrogate.
SHERLOCK HOLMES.—Grand Theatre, Halifax.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.
SILVER KING.—Osborne Theatre, Manchester.
SINBAD THE SAILOR (LEVAINE).—Middleton.
SIN OF HER CHILDHOOD.—Theatre Royal, Crook.
SLEDGE-HAMMER.—Grand Theatre, Plymouth.
STILL ALARM.—Opera House, Wakefield.
SUNDAY.—Theatre Royal, South Shields.
SWISS EXPRESS.—West London Theatre.
THREE LITTLE MAIDS (MACDONA) (S.).—Aldershot.
TRAITOR.—Opera House, Perth.
TRIP TO CHINATOWN.—Opera House, Dudley.
TWO HUSSARS.—Lyceum Theatre, Pentre.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN (HARRINGTON).—Edinburgh.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN (TULLY).—Blackburn.
UNDER TWO FLAGS.—W. G. T., Blackpool.
VERONIQUE.—Deptford, S.E.
VICTIM OF VILLAINY.—Queen's Theatre, Swindon.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—Prince's Theatre, Preston.
WARNER, GRACE.—Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.
WAY OF THE WORLD.—Theatre Royal, Macclesfield.
WEARIN' O' THE GREEN.—New T., West Stanley.
WHEN A MAN HATES.—C. T., Pontypridd.
WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE LOW.—Glasgow.
WOMAN'S DEVOTION.—King's Theatre, Nottingham.
WORLD'S DESIRE.—Theatre Royal, Seaham Harbour.

THE Prince of Wales's Theatre and Hippodrome at Wolverhampton was seriously damaged by a fire which broke out in the front part of the house on Sunday morning last. The extent of the damage is estimated at £1,100.

MR. TOM FOY, who has made such a hit as Idle Jack in J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, has entered into a three years' contract with that astute manager.

MR. WALTER BEAUMONT, who has just finished an engagement of ten weeks in *Charley's Aunt*, at the Comedy, has, by the courtesy of Mr. Brandon Thomas, who has kindly released him, been secured by Mr. Frank Curzon to support Mr. Willie Edouin in *Our Flat* and *Off the Rank*.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—Your correspondent for the Pavilion, Maidenhead, in last week's *Era* mentions Walter Lavalle. It should have been, yours truly, WALTER LEVALLE.

MR. FRANK VERNON, owing to the success achieved by him in the production of *A Winter's Tale* in America for Miss Viola Allen, has received an offer to produce a new play for her. Mr. Vernon will chiefly be remembered in England for his performance of Defarge in *The Only Way*, with Mr. Martin Harvey.

MISS VERA FORDYCE gives her 300th performance of Kitty, in *The Marriage of Kitty*, to-night, at the Crystal Palace Theatre. She has been playing this part since February in last year, and has never yet had to call upon her understudy. On all return visits of this company the reception accorded to her has been most cordial, and testifies

AMUSEMENTS IN PITTSBURG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PITTSBURG, JAN. 23, 1905.—A busy week was seen at the Nixon, when Mr. Charles Frohman's company presented Augustus Thomas's clever comedy, entitled *The Other Girl*. The play, which has a champion light-weight pugilist for its hero, who through a mistake as to his real identity, enters the exclusive set of a Fifth Avenue New York family, and makes love to an heiress, abounds in comical and witty situations, and at the same time affords the play-goer an opportunity of peeping into New York life of the best kind. In the role of Mr. Sheldon, the boxer, Mr. Lionel Barrymore has ample opportunities of displaying his versatility, which he does with the ease of a good actor. Another well-acted part was that of Dr. Clifton Bradford, the athletic parson, by Mr. Richard Bennett. The heiress and her companion were well interpreted by the Misses Doris Keane and Mabel Roebuck, while the rest of the company helped to make the performance a thorough success.

MR. HARRY DAVIS, the enterprising proprietor of the New Alvin Theatre, has secured Miss Amelia Bingham, Mr. Henry Woodruff, and a number of other first-class actors, for a limited stay, in order to present some of the latest plays in the most perfect way possible. The first of this series of performances was the production of Clyde Fitch's four-act comedy, *The Climbers*, last week. As Miss Bingham created the rôle of Blanche Sterling, it is scarcely necessary to say that she gave a delightful delineation of the character, while the support which she received from Messrs. Woodruff, Dodson Mitchell, William McVay, and the original stock company, resulted in an admirable presentment of this delightful work. *The Climbers* is to be followed by another work from the same pen, entitled *The Frisky Mrs. Johnson*.

"THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIST," a drama by Wm. B. Gray, which was produced at the Gaiety during last week, is a play with a moral, and has temperance for its key-note. Still, the drama is so cleverly written that no objection can be raised to its being more fitted for presentation in a church than on the stage. A capable company, under the direction of Mr. Harry Martell, introduced the drama to Pittsburg, and afforded the numerous audiences that crowded the theatre nightly genuine pleasure. A special feature of the performance is the singing of several beautiful solos by Master Will Nelson, a former soloist of Trinity Church, New York, and Master Floyd Hunt, of Grace Church, St. Louis. The former lad has a history that is quite touching. It seems that some ten years ago a farmer who was returning from the market one dreary autumn night to his home near Buffalo heard somebody crying as he approached his house. Leaving his wagon, he took his lantern, and endeavoured to ascertain the cause of the noise. He presently discovered a golden-haired lad, who begged to be afforded shelter for the night, as he had lost his way. The farmer was so charmed with the boy's sweet, innocent face, that he took him in, and brought him up as his own son. The lad soon gave signs of possessing a beautiful voice, and when he was taken to New York, he easily secured a position in the choir at Trinity. Now he charms the people that go to see *The Volunteer Organist*.

"THE DUQUESNE" was occupied by Kellar, the magician, and Paul Valadon, the exponent of pure sleight-of-hand. Among the many clever tricks, the Levitation of Princess Karnac, the Simla Seance, and a drum that can't be beaten, proved most mystifying.

MR. THEODORE KREMER'S latest comedy-drama, entitled *The Woman Who Did*, was presented by Messrs. Forrester and Mittenthal's company at the Bijou, during the past week, under very favourable circumstances. *The Woman Who Did* is a comedy-drama, turning on the deep love of a greatly-wronged man, who forgives his wife all the intense pain and suffering which her faithlessness had caused him, and rehabilitates her in the sight of the world by taking her once more to his heart and home. One of the most thrilling incidents in the play is met with in the second scene of the third act, when, during a performance at a theatre in New York, the unhappy man witnesses a play portraying his misfortune. Stung beyond endurance, he rises and protests, when the principal actor, who turns out to be his wife's lover, levels a pistol at him, and fires twice in succession without hitting him. As he is about to fire once more, the faithless wife interposes, and with a pistol covering him, commands her lover to desist from his murderous intent. Mr. Edwin Brandt gave a very touching interpretation of the part of John Putnam, the unhappy architect. The vile deceiver, Charles Mansfield, was ably presented by Mr. William Tulley, while Miss Ruth Holt made a convincing Ruth Putnam, the heartless wife.

THE patrons of the Empire were entertained with one of the brightest and merriest musical farces seen at this house during the current season. The play is very appropriately named *My Wife's Family*, and is full of fun and frolic. Presented by a most homogenous company, recruited by Mr. Bert St. John, the farce received a very satisfactory handling, and pleased immensely throughout. The chief fun-creators are Messrs. Hal. Stephens and Harry Linton, who do their work neatly and well. There is also a musical couple, in the person of Mr. J. Edwarde Pierce and Miss Marie Rosslyn, who come in for much applause for their well-rendered vocal numbers.

THE top line on last week's programme at the Grand was occupied by the favourite comic opera comedienne, Della Fox, who rendered with much taste some of her famous song hits. Another good item were the Zancigs, in feats of mind-reading and second sight. The three Yoscarys presented some clever acrobatic tricks. Harry Rochez's ponies and dogs were much admired. Some extraordinary trapeze work was done by the Aerial Smiths. Billy Carter entertained with banjo, songs, and monologue. Wenona and Frank did some marvellous shooting feats. *A Night in Venice* was a refined musical idyll of the seventeenth century, presented by Messrs. S. Sciarretti and A. Cibelli.

THE farce comedy, entitled *Looney Doings at Luna Park*, and the nautical musical extravaganza called *Around the World in the Airship Jeannette*, which were submitted by Edward D. Miner's American burlesquers at Harry William's Academy last week, proved to be extremely mirth-provoking productions, which kept the audience in good humour from first to last.

THE Terriers' monthly concert held last Sunday was a record. Over one hundred visitors were present, in spite of the counter attraction of the Music Hall Railway Association ball. During the evening Miss Flo. Raynor obliged with "Four Chapters" and "Bread and Cheese and Kisses"; Miss Norman rendered "Father in Heaven Above"; Andie Caine was heard to advantage in "My Novelette" and "The Girl in the Big Black Hat"; Slade Murray gave "Hard to Say" and the evergreen "Balaclava"; Bert Morris was effective in two humorous numbers; and Walter Norman obtained his usual ovation for "Spelt with a Great Big B" and "Longshoreman Billy." "Alice where art thou?" was delightfully sung by W. Lang Murray, a new member. A feature of the programme was the singing of the once-famous ditty of "Sweethearts and Wives" by Mr. Weston. Walter Norman was an efficient musical director, and the chair was ably filled by H. Cory Woodrow, the W.T. for the month, who contributed "Ostler Joe" and his music hall skit, "In the Brave Days of Old."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LEROY.—*No agents that we know of supply "supers," except by request. The super master attached to theatres and halls where "supers" are employed engages the "supers" required.*
HAROLD WOOD.—*Charles Seel (Fredk. Charles Brown), music-hall comedian, died Dec. 20, 1903.*
C. MORTIMER.—*We are unable to inform you.*
W. NEWMAN.—*Dorothy was produced at the Gaiety, Sept. 25, 1886, and was played at that theatre until the third week in Dec., when it was removed to the Prince of Wales's. Mr. Hayden Coffin played Harry Sherwood in the original cast. The ballad "Queen of My Heart" was introduced in the piece when it had been running about a fortnight.*
OLD KENT ROAD.—*Miss May Whitty made her first appearance at the Court Theatre, Liverpool, in 1881. Soon after she came to London and played at the Comedy and the St. James's Theatres, after which she appeared as Kate Hardcastle and Lady Teazle on tour. She joined the Lyceum Company in 1895.*
M. P.—*The Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon, was opened April 23, 1879, and the first performance was* Much Ado About Nothing, *with the late Helen Faucit as Beatrice and the late Barry Sullivan as Benedick.*
R. S. J.—*A Country Mouse was transferred from the Prince of Wales's to the Criterion on April 21, 1902, and on July 14 from the Criterion back to the Prince of Wales's, where it ran until Aug. 23, 1902.*
FRED.—*Sir Arthur Sullivan's "Lost Chord" was first sung by Mme. Antoinette Sterling at one of the London Ballad Concerts at St. James's Hall, in Feb., 1877.*
A BAKER.—*The theatre and music hall managers have not come to any agreement as to the length of sketches. The number of actors in the cast, &c. There is, however, every probability that the vexed question will be settled within a few days, on the basis of a time limit of 30 minutes and the employment of six principals.*
E.J.A.S.—*Write to S. French & Co., theatrical publishers, Southampton Street, Strand.*
STANLEY COOKE.—*A pantomime entitled* The Spider and the Fly, *was produced at the Britannia Theatre on December 25, 1880. We can find no other record.*
WALTER STEPHENS.—(1) *We believe there has never been a debate in Parliament on the question.* (2) *The "Review of Reviews" publishes in every issue a list of the leading magazines and their contents, to which you might refer for information.*
CONECTICUS.—*Dorothy, comic opera, by B. C. Stephenson, with music by Alfred Cellier, was first performed at the Gaiety Theatre, London, on September 25, 1886.*

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

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Barrington, Mr H. H.	November 12, 1904.
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Benson, Mr F. R.	December 31, 1904.
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Blande, Miss Edith	June 25, 1904.
Booth, Mr J. H.	August 5, 1904.
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All Artistes are notified that they must send their full bill matter in two clear weeks before opening. Rehearsal, 1.0 o'clock, Mondays. All Artistes engaged must attend. Artistes not complying with the above rules are subject to having their contracts cancelled at the option of the Management.

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WILSON BARRETT, ESQUIRE, DECEASED.

Pursuant to the Statute 22 and 23 Vic., Cap. 35.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all Persons having any Claims against the Estate of Wilson Barrett, late of Cheddington Rectory, in the County of Buckingham, Actor and Author, deceased, who died on the 22nd day of July, 1904, and whose Will with one Codicil thereto was proved in the Principal Registry of the Probate Division of His Majesty's High Court of Justice on the 24th day of August, 1904, by the Reverend Frank Heath, of Cheddington Rectory aforesaid, Clerk in Holy Orders, one of the Executors named in the said Will, are hereby required to send in particulars of their Claims to me the undersigned on or before the 25th day of March next, after which day the said Executor will Distribute the Assets of the Deceased among the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have had notice.

Dated this 8th day of February, 1905.

A. W. VAISEY,
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and
Devereux Chambers,
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FRANCIS, DAY, and HUNTER'S LIST.

	Sung by
"A B C D" (James Hargreaves)	Wilkie Bard
"All the harm I wish you" (R. P. Weston)	Harry Anderson
"All the little Ja-pansy faces" (Harry Castling)	Mark Sheridan
"All the Girls are Lov-er-ly-ov-er-ly" (Harrington and Thurban)	R. G. Knowles
"Anywhere there will do" (Murray and Everard)	Frank Seeley
"A Warning to Single Men" (Bateman and Pether)	Arthur Reece
"Baby Mine" (Browne and Friedman)	MissClarisseHeney
"Blue-Bell" (Madden and Morse)	Hamilton Hill
[Also sung by almost every Artist of note both in Pantomime and on the Variety Stage throughout the Kingdom.]	
"Boys of the Chelsea School" (Carter and Weston)	George Leyton
"'Come in!' said Widdy Malone" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Michael Nolan
"Conversations" (F. and W Redmond)	Ambrose Thorne
"Delusions" (Phil Ray)	Phil Ray
"Doan' Cry, Little Coloured Coon" (S. F. Harrison and Neat)	Miss Harriett Vernon
"Don't Stand There —!" (Lawrance and Gifford)	Walter Stanley
"Farewell, my little Yo San" (Mills and B. Scott)	Tom Costello
"Frozen Meat" (T. W. Connor)	Alf Gibson
"Have you seen my girl?" (Mills and Scott)	Walter Munroe
"He Kissed I Once" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Marie Loftus
"Here comes the foreigner (Barnes and Weston)	H. Bedford
"I did enjoy myself last night" (Lawrence and M. Scott)	Will Johnson
"I don't mind if it amuses you!" (Leigh and Pether)	Ben Albert
"If all the stars were mine" (Smith and Stromberg)	Miss Lilian Doreen
"I'm a girl of Tennessee" (Eden and Byng)	Miss Lil Hawthorne
"I'm coming home to you" (Herbert Darnley)	Miss D. L. Clark
"I'm going to sea (see)" (Leamore and Collins)	Tom Leamore
"I'm round there to-night!" (Wincott and Leighton)	Dan Crawley
"Isn't that like a Man?" (Paul Mill)	Paul Mill
"It's all right in the summer time" (Murray & Everard)	Miss Vesta Victoria
"It's the Poor that help the Poor" (Mills and Castling)	Miss Florrie Gallimore
"I've been a Naughty Boy all Day" (Carter and Weston)	Miss Georgina Leonard
"Jolly Jarge" (Mills and Arthurs)	George Bastow
"Julia" (Robson and Hyde)	Miss Gladys Mavius
"Just a Girl" (Elton and Harrison)	Miss Minnie Cunningham
"Little Jap Horner" (F. V. St. Clair)	F. V. St. Clair
"Ma Havannah Queen" (Gifford and Lawrence)	G. H. Elliott
"Ma Dusky Rose" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Florrie Robins
"Maude! Maude!" (Barnes and Collins)	Miss Lottie Lennox
"My Little Black Pearl" (Leslie Stuart)	Eugene Stratton
"My Fiddle is My Sweetheart" (Harry Hunter)	G. H. Chirgwin
"My Japanesy Girl" (Delmar and Parry)	Hal Forde
"My Lily of the Valley" (Frank Leo)	Miss Sable Fern
"Oh, Nancy Lee" (T. W. Connor)	Miss Millie Hylton
"One Little Cottage all Our Own" (J. F. Lambe)	Miss Dolly Harmer
"Revenges" (Dunlop and Pether)	Wallis Arthur
[Above also sung by Whit Cunliffe].	
"She must have known!" (David and Scott)	J. E. Coyle
"She said, 'Baa! Baa! Baa!'" (Harrington and H. Allen)	Miss Florrie Forde
"She taught him a thing or two, too" (Leigh and Le Brunn)	Miss Eileen Douglas
"Sit on 'em and keep 'em warm" (Wincott & Leighton)	Harry Champion
"Take this message to my sweetheart" (Mills and Castling)	Miss Marie Kendall
"That's him! That's him! That's him!" (Mills and Scott)	Harry Freeman
"The Angel of My Dreams" (Leigh and Pether)	Miss Millie Lindon
"The Gambling Man" (Jerome and Schwartz)	Miss Carlotta Levey
"The Hoodoo Landlord" (Lambe and Mellor)	Miss Rose Hamilton
"The New Insurance" (Arthurs and Lyle)	Ernest Shand
"The New Perjarma 'At" (T. W. Connor)	Gus Elen
"The Playground in the Sky" (Bateman and Pether)	Milner Verren
"There was something on his mind" (Leigh and Le Brunn)	Miss Marie Lloyd
"The Saftest o' the Family" (Lauder and Beaton)	Harry Lauder
"The Seaside Sultan" (C. W. Murphy)	Miss Vesta Tilley
"The Statue in Trafalgar Square" (Arthurs and Lyle)	George Lashwood
"The Truth or a Lie?" (Barnes and Weston)	George D'Albert
"The Ugly Duckling" (Murphy and Lipton)	Miss Edith Courtney
[Above also sung by Park's Eton Boys, Miss Ella Dean, and Miss Phyllis Dare.]	
"The Workhouse Gate" (Shelley and Philpot)	Herbert Shelley
"Then She Started Tickle-ing" (Mills and Carter)	Pat Rafferty
"Therein Lurks Unseen Danger" (E. W. Rogers)	Arthur Rigby
"There must have been a fire somewhere" (Bateman and Richards)	H. Randall
"There's another one out of work" (T. W. Connor)	George Brooks
"Three Makes Jolly Fine Company" (Rogers and Collins)	Arthur Lenrard
"Topsy-Turvy" (Geo. Rollit)	Arthur Roberts
"'Twas a Dark and Stormy Night" (Alf Ellerton)	T. E. Dunville
"Up in Scotland" (Arthurs and B. Scott)	Whit Cunliffe
"What's the Good of a Pair of Kilts?" (Murray and Everard)	Frank Coyne
"When I Woke Up in the Morning" (F. W. Leigh)	Sam Mayo
"Why Shouldn't we Fight for Our Own? A Tale of the P. and O." (Bateman and Pether)	MissKate Lawrence
"You are a White Little Girl" (Swaffer and H. E. Darewski, jun.)	Miss Winifred Hare

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1905.

PLAYS AND PESSIMISM.

MR. ALEXANDER H. JAPP, in his recently-published estimate of ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON, makes the following interesting remarks:—

Considering his great keenness and force on some sides, I find R. L. STEVENSON markedly deficient in grip on other sides—common sides, after all—of human nature. This was so far largely due to a dreamy, mystical, so far perverted, and, so to say, often inverted, casuistical, fatalistic morality which would not allow him scope in hatred of scoundrels. Mr. PINERO was wrong when he told the good folks of Edinburgh at the Philosophical Institute, that it was lack of concentration and care that made STEVENSON a failure as a dramatist. It was elsewhere that the failure lay. STEVENSON was himself an unconscious paradox, his weakness being that he wished to show strong and original, by making the villain the hero of the piece. Now that, if it may, by clever manipulation and dexterity, be made to do in a novel, most certainly will not do on the stage, because, for one thing, there is in the theatre a very varied yet united audience which has to give a simultaneous and immediate verdict; an audience not inclined to some kinds of overwrought subtleties and casuistries, however clever the technique. *Beau Austin* should be re-writ—re-writ especially towards the ending, and the scandalous Beau tarred and feathered, metaphorically speaking, instead of walking off at the end, in a sneaking, mincing sort of way with no more than a little momentary twinge of discomfort at the wreck and ruin he had wrought, by having acted as a selfish, snivelling poltroon and coward, though in fine clothes, and with fine ways and fine manners, which only, from our point of view, make matters worse.

Pessimism, both in plays and novels, is the result of low vitality. When people are out of health, they believe that the world at large is diseased also. Both HENLEY and STEVENSON were, more or less, invalids. When a whole class or nation becomes morally or physically anæmic, the same phenomenon is observable. "The honest people could rule the world if they chose," said VOLTAIRE; "unfortunately they are most of them cowards." But VOLTAIRE'S bark was worse than his bite; and he lived in an age when justice was hard to get. Still he *did* get it in the end, for Les Calas. The pessimism of modern French literature is purely personal to the authors. Look at a portrait of ZOLA, for instance. Is it possible that the original could take an optimistic view of life? Look again at a likeness of SCOTT. Can we imagine Sir WALTER a pessimist? The spirit of any art depends upon the view taken of life by the artist. If ZOLA had written "Rob Roy," he would have probably made Rashleigh Osbaldistone end by "ratting" to the government side, and living respected and prosperous," and would have sent Frank and Diana to die in exile of some painful illness; just as the good woman in *L'Assommoir* is "brought down" to do "charing" for the adventuress, and "*faire dodo*" with the sexton for a mourner. Modern pessimistic literature "pays" because there are so many unhealthy people in every civilised community. Civilisation, while it reduces the death rate, increases the number of *cretins*. To use the cant phrase, "there is a public" for "dirty colour" and despondency. In more robust days, it was just the opposite. The hero was always brave and clever; and he *always won*. This may have been going to one extreme; but, surely, it was better than going to another, and always making him lose. The reason why a theatrical audience will not tolerate a play which takes the latter course is not, as has been cynically suggested, that its members are effusive hypocrites, but that a theatrical audience is a widely representative assembly, with a solid experience of life. Mr. TULLIVER remarked, on his death-bed, that "the raskills had been to many for him"; but the "raskills" very often meet their matches in honest men. It is not the general experience that craft, subtlety, and cynical self-seeking conduce to satisfaction, prosperity, and happiness. Looking at the world at sixteen, one is often tempted to believe this, but at forty one alters one's views. Why, asks one of the characters in DUMAS'S *Question d'Argent*, do so many people think that vice prospers and virtue goes unrewarded? And the *raisonneur* of the play replies, "Because they will not wait for the end."

The dramatists of a robust age often show the honest men ruined by the "raskills," they invariably make us feel that the latter "get the worst of it," both in life and death. Take, for instance, the careers of Cassio and Iago. Cassio, at starting, has not, apparently, a hundred-to-one chance. Not only is Iago such a subtle knave that the really intelligent personages of the drama believe him honest; Cassio is kind, affectionate, and open-hearted, with a very dangerous "weakness." But, in the end, what happens? Iago is carried out to be tortured, while Cassio "rules in Cyprus." And, putting aside the "ending,"—Othello's short agony of remorse and quick death-thrust, and Iago's long hell of "cunning torment"—Shakespeare always makes us feel that it is better to have been Othello than Iago, and that the General's triumphs and Desdemona's love were clearly bought by inferiority in the arts of deception and duplicity.

SHAKESPEARE, in short, drew life as he saw it; and he "saw it whole." He did not pretend that the hero always wins; he showed that the result depends upon circumstances. He was very far from holding the dreary and depressing tenets of M. BECQUE and the authors of the *comédie rosse*. SHAKESPEARE'S view of life was absolutely sane. There was no "bee in his bonnet," no demon of dyspepsia perching upon his pen. He had, by the bye, an excellent object lesson in BACON. The author of the Essays was the wisest and most cold-blooded "raskill" of the Elizabethan period. He took bribes as a judge, and he sacrificed his friend and benefactor to his interest in the most cold-blooded ingratitude. But BACON, with all his shrewdness, "made a mess" of his life. One large fraction of it was passed in scheming and being snubbed; and another as a disgraced and detected courtier. ESSEX, with all his faults, had a better time of it, even if he did die a little younger than BACON did. We agree with Mr. JAPP that Mr. PINERO omitted to mention STEVENSON'S real weakness as a dramatist. Possibly the omission was made because the lecturer himself has, unconsciously, yielded to the influence of the prevailing pessimism in literature; and because the author of *The Gay Lord Quex* and *A Wife without a Smile* is—shall we say it?—just a little inclined to *rosserie* himself.

"THE LADY OF LEEDS."

A Farcical Romance, in Three Acts, by Robert Marshall, Produced at Wyndham's Theatre, on Thursday, Feb. 9.

Jerome Robinson	Mr. WERDON GROSSMITH.
Col. Claverhouse Hodge	Mr. C. M. LOWNE.
Lord O'Gorman	Mr. A. VANE TEMPEST.
Giacomo	Mr. E. F. MEADS.
Butler	Mr. JOHN RHODES.
Hotel Waiter	Mr. CHARLES FERRARO.
Gondolier	Mr. ERNEST WILLETT.
Miss Euphemia Chitty	Miss NANCY PRICE.
Lady Anne Wilmot	Miss FORTESCUE.
Carruthers	Miss MAUD WYNTER.

Captain Marshall, we are afraid, is suffering from his success, and getting careless. We owe so many delightful evenings to the author of *His Excellency the Governor*, that we find it hard to be unkind to the writer of *The Lady of Leeds*; and the audience at Wyndham's on Thursday seemed to feel as we do. They neither "booed" nor applauded at the conclusion of the performance; they simply rose and left the house in the approved American fashion of expressing indifference. Yet there is an excellent idea in the piece. The notion of turning *The Lady of Lyons* into a modern comedy was a good one; the mistake was in taking so little trouble to develop the germ. *The Lady of Leeds* is a mere first sketch of a comedy; and if Captain Marshall could take his piece off, and "put in" a few weeks more work on it, it might be made a genuine success. At present, what there is of it is amusing; the trouble is that there is so little. It is very much "too thin."

The Claude Melnotte of the farcical romance is Jerome Robinson, an ex-waiter. He has saved a couple of hundred pounds, invested part of it in forming a syndicate for the exploitage of a new mechanical cork which he has patented, and has lost the rest at "the tables." So he finds himself in Venice, stone-broke and despondent. Also staying at the Hotel Fritz is a great heiress, the daughter of a deceased ginger-beer manufacturer. Her name is Euphemia Chitty, and she is anxious to get into "good" society. With that view, she has engaged a certain calm impecunious aristocrat, Lady Anne Wilmot, to chaperone and pilot her, paying her ladyship a thousand a year for her services. Colonel Claverhouse Hodge and Lord O'Gorman, two gentlemen of moderate incomes, have in turn proposed to Miss Chitty, and been rejected; and, in revenge, they agree to impose Robinson on the lady as an Archduke. The introduction takes place; and Euphemia falls in love with him. He takes her out in a gondola, and they fall into the canal, appearing wet through, but engaged. Then Miss Chitty, to test her fiancé's disinterestedness, hands him a false telegram, stating that she is ruined, and is delighted to find that he does not desire to "cry off" in consequence. Eventually they go off to get married; but on the way Robinson loses heart, and confesses his imposture. As, however, he learns from Australia that his father, who emigrated to the colony, has made his fortune, and has been created a knight, and as his patent cork invention turns up trumps and makes money for him, Miss Chitty resolves to make the best of the situation and to annoy the schemers by marrying her adorer.

The first act of *The Lady of Leeds* is decidedly the best of the three; the second and third are disappointing. Robinson's blunders are often too obvious and egregious for the rather intelligent specimen of his class which he is, at other times, represented to be; and there is too great a contrast between the real wit of the dialogue and the cheaper jests which are introduced.

The artistes engaged in the cast of *The Lady of Leeds* made the most of their opportunities, and the piece was played unimpeachably all round. Mr. Weedon Grossmith is always good in parts like that of Jerome Robinson. He understands exactly how vulgar to make them—vulgar enough to be funny, but not too vulgar to exclude sympathy from the personage. Mr. Grossmith glided over the weak places of the dialogue with great tact, and made the ex-waiter a very amusing and fairly agreeable individual. Mr. C. M. Lowne, an ideal walking gentleman, played Colonel Claverhouse Hodge with just the colourless completeness required for the rôle; and Mr. A. Vane Tempest was in every way satisfactory as Lord O'Gorman. Miss Nancy Price, with her "put on" drawl and clever suggestion of want of culture, was a most natural and diverting Miss Euphemia Chitty; and Miss Fortescue, with her clear, sharp enunciation, perfect repose, and calmly polished style, was an ideal Lady Anne Wilmot; Mr. E. F. Meads and Mr. Ernest Willett making picturesque and effective gondoliers. Mr. John Rhodes was efficient as a butler, Mr. Charles Ferrars doing well as an hotel waiter, and Miss Maud Wynter deserving praise as Carruthers. It will be a pity if the excellent idea of turning *The Lady of Lyons* into a modern comedy should be utterly thrown away. Will not Captain Marshall reconsider and "write up" his work?

Mr. Frederick Norton gave his diverting musical monologue before the performance of the "farcical romance," his imitations of a number of Scotchmen proposing each others healths being specially funny, and his sketch generally "going" extremely well.

HENRY IRVING AT PLYMOUTH.

SIR HENRY IRVING was on Thursday entertained at luncheon at the Plymouth Club, by the Chairman, Mr. C. F. Williams, and members. The Mayor of Plymouth (Mr. R. W. Winnicott) presided, and had on his right Sir Henry Irving, and on his left the Chairman of the Stonehouse District Council (Mr. Isaac Pearse).

After luncheon, the MAYOR said that a letter had been received from Lord Mount Edgcumbe, who regretted very much his inability to be present. His lordship felt sure that Sir Henry Irving would have a magnificent reception from those who would now have the pleasure of meeting him, and had not had that pleasure so often as his lordship had. Sir Joseph Bellamy also wrote regretting that the consequences of his recent accident still kept him to his house. He said that he had been an admirer of Sir Henry Irving and of Sir Henry Irving's great gifts for very many years, and he should have liked very much to have met him in private life, and to help to make him feel that he had a host of friends in Plymouth.

The MAYOR then proposed, in eulogistic terms, the health of Sir Henry Irving. The speaker said he was not wanting in appreciation of Sir Henry's great ability. The cheering masses, and those occupying high positions in social life, were always ready to hand the laurel to the successful, but when success had been obtained by perseverance, that man had won for himself, as well as for the profession he adorned, the homage they were prepared to render Sir Henry to-day. There was scarcely a periodical in the civilised world which had not given a sketch of the story of Sir Henry's pathway to fame. One side of Sir Henry's character appealed to all classes of the country without distinction—his benevolent attitude towards those less fortunate than himself—and his large generosity, which had always been unflinchingly given in any great or good cause, was the admiration of everyone. There were to-day benevolent institutions that owed their existence almost entirely to Sir Henry, and he was sure they were all delighted to welcome him there and give him a downright Devonshire hearty welcome. They trusted that Sir Henry would come to them again, even after he had retired from those great duties in which he was now engaged. Let them hope that the many years of well-earned rest that were to follow would bring him happiness and peace. He asked them to drink to the toast of the health of Sir Henry Irving.—The toast was accorded musical honours.

SIR HENRY IRVING, in reply, said: Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—There is no welcome like a West-country welcome, and I say that as a West-countryman, and as one who feels very deeply your inspiring and joyous greeting, I am sincerely indebted to you for the kindness which has prompted this gathering, and I thank you especially, Mr. Mayor, for the interest you have had in bringing these friends together, and for presiding over us to-day. Believe me, gentlemen, that if I acknowledge this most friendly toast of yours in a very few words, they are none the less expressive of a grateful sense of obligation. You have spoken very generously and kindly, much more so than I deserve, of what I have done; and you have spoken in most flattering terms—although I am sure they were sincere on your part—concerning my career. I have simply been a devoted servant of an art which is among the humanising influences that none of us can afford to ignore. The dramatic profession, or calling, or vagabondage, or whatever you may please to name it, like all others, has its ideal, and that ideal I have always striven to uphold in a career that is now drawing to its close; but this striving of mine to uphold my calling did not begin with me, and it will not cease when I am gone. My most fervent wish is that others who will carry it on in the future will receive from you support and sympathy as staunch as you have given me to-day. There may be great changes of theatrical taste; they seem to be very rapid, like the taste in many other things. I was very much interested yesterday to learn that—I think it was at the end of last week—700 young fellows who wanted to know the reason why I got in a train at Plymouth and started off to Newcastle-on-Tyne. Well, that is a change from my early days; and I am very glad to see that there are changes taking place and signs of changes. This sort of change in itself is a good thing for a certain class of people; though you must not overdo it. Again, I was very glad to see in a little village in Kent the other day, that two or three worthy gentleman (it was a dull place, and they were a saddened lot of poor fellows: they were all right, but had nothing to occupy themselves with, and naturally fell back into unpleasant and nasty ways, as people in villages always do) conceived the idea that they should get up a play. They said: "We will have a play written; they shall produce this play; they shall revive what our forefathers experienced—some joyousness among our people; they shall cultivate their imagination, and they shall give themselves something to live for, as they did in the old days—when they had morality plays, and miracle plays, and guise-dancing plays, such as I remember so well when I was a boy in this part of the world. Now all these things making for good, and leading to the same thing that led Drake across that water, and led Raleigh too. Yet, gentlemen, whatever may be the changes in theatrical taste, you may be sure that the theatre will always remain a great instrument of social organisation. You will take what I mean seriously. It is a great instrument as it exists, either for good or for bad. It is a terrible one for bad, and it is a most useful one for good. But it is you who determine; you, gentlemen, you citizens; it is you who exercise, and you especially, Mr. Mayor, much influence in civic life. You should see that the highest standards are upheld, and that the theatre should not cease to be a spur to honourable ambition. Here in Plymouth in the old days, in Mr. Newcombe's early days (I say nothing about Vincent Crummles, who must have been associated a little with Plymouth, though, perhaps, more with Portsmouth), here in those days you had a stock company, which maintained a close bond between the players and citizens of the town. Am I right, that there was an old gentleman, a sort of Methusaleh, the oldest actor that ever lived, Mr. James Doel, who belonged to that stock company? I had not the pleasure of knowing him, but I believe he flourished very well. His age was beyond belief, so that it reminded me of a story I heard on the other side of the water. A gentleman was introduced, with much pleasure on his part, to Mr. Methusaleh, and he said to him, "Well, Mr. Methusaleh, I am very proud to meet you. I have heard a great deal about you. They tell me that you are a pretty considerable age." "Well," he replied, "Yes, sir, I was seven hundred and thirty-one on my last birthday." "Really, were you?" said the gentleman. "Well, it is a great pleasure to meet you. Seven hundred and thirty-one! Dear me! Looking at you at this distance, I should not have taken you for more than seven hundred and thirty." Well, gentlemen, I won't occupy you; but that system of stock companies, I am afraid, is gone. I fear that there is little in modern enterprise that stimulates local interest in the drama in the same degree; and this is all the more reason, perhaps, why the agencies of that healthy relish, which does much for a right and intelligent cheerfulness in theatrical matters, should receive all the encouragement we can give to them, can give to plays of a good and wholesome character. It is a true pleasure to find anywhere a theatre well-conducted. It is not always the case, I am sorry to say, in travelling about the country; but I congratulate you on possessing a manager who has so much interest in his theatre, and in making it a place of entertainment for sober-minded and intelligent people, as my friend here, Mr. Williams. Mr. Mayor, I am not here to lecture you on the theatre, but I thank you most warmly for the welcome which you have given me to Plymouth, a city that one can hardly think of without emotion, from its magnificent historic associations for England, and not alone for England, but for the whole free world. I assure you that I shall carry with me memories of your more than friendly greeting, and my association to-day with your ancient and beloved city; and I hope, as Mr. Mayor has hinted to me, that at some future time I may have the privilege of meeting you again—when my work is over, and when we may sit around the social board with, perhaps, you gentlemen numbering yourselves as my guests.

'LORD GEORGE" AND THE LIONS.

Mr. George Sanger lies in a room on the ground floor of his farm house at East Finchley. His bed is placed near the window, with a curtain so arranged that he can see who goes in and who goes out of his front gate. From the big shed at the bottom of the farmyard comes the roaring of a lion, left alone, like the "last rose of summer," while his brethren are receiving visitors at the World's Fair. Lord George has had a bad time of it lately. He has been "down" with three or four troubles, the greatest of which has been sciatica. To relieve his intense agony he has been blistered, and blistered again on "top of that"; and at intervals a fit of coughing interrupts his quaint descriptive speech. Yet the old showman's heart is as cheery and stout as ever; and when we "draw" him on the subject of wild animals, he responds "with all the pleasure in life."

"I never had much trouble with lions," he remarks reflectively, "I always found them all right. You see, wild animals are exactly like human beings; they love those who treat them kindly and attend to their wants. No, I never had any trouble with lions. Mine were always too fond of me to give me any."

"But, surely, you must have had *some* little difficulties? What was that about the lions who got loose under the stage once?"

"Oh, you mean in Paris, at the Porte St. Martin Theatre," says Mr. Sanger, kindling at the remembrance. "Yes, that *was* a little awkward. I had a contract to make the arrangements for a drama called *The Forest of Bondy*. It was written around a 'sensation.' A lover is supposed to be walking in the forest with his lady. Suddenly, in the distance, sounds the roaring of lions. The lady, of course, is dreadfully disturbed. The lover, brave as the King of Beasts himself, reassures her. 'While I am with you, you are safe,' he says. The lady, notwithstanding her affection for him, and her belief in his prowess, is a little bit anxious. She knows his noble nature, but she would prefer a better security. So she begs him to help her up a tree. The roaring sounds louder; the lions are approaching. The gentleman selects a suitable tree, and assists his lady-love to mount into its boughs. As for himself, he knows no fear; he will not climb from craven terror of mere *carnivora*. Then a mob of raging lions rushes on to the stage, ready to tear the audacious intruder into pieces. The lady screams. 'Alas! he is lost!' But she has reckoned without the magnetic strength of the lover's personality, without the influence of his EYE. He raises both arms in the air; he fixes his gaze on the angry and agitated animals. 'Back to your dens, ye brutes! Back, back!' he cries, suiting the action of his arms and hands to the words. Overcome by the Majesty of Man, the lions quail before his superb predominance. They hang back, and crowd together in a frightened heap. They are cowed, crushed, confounded; and then down comes the curtain."

"How did you manage to work it?"

"I planned and made the necessary apparatus, with the help of a working blacksmith, a very clever little chap. We first had a sketch done of the scene in the usual way—a thick forest, all gnarled branches and foliage. Then, from this design, we made a screen of iron gas-piping. You will understand that the shape of each trunk and branch was followed in piping; so that, when the ironwork was firmly put together there was a very strong framework, which was to go right across the stage. On this we fixed, cut out in profile, the forms of the trunks, branches, and masses of leaves. At intervals we left apertures fairly large, but just too small for the lions to get their heads through. When all was finished and painted artistically, it looked exactly like an ordinary forest-scene. To enact the lover, we secured a magnificent French negro—or rather a negro who spoke French—nearly seven feet high. He was attired in a very splendid costume; and when he dominated the lions at rehearsals he looked really magnificent.

"The lions' cages were placed in the abyss of darkness and disorder under the stage. Of course, when on the boards they were simply in a larger cage, and were quite unable to do any mischief. How it happened I don't know; but, in the evening, an hour or so before the time for the performance, the Directeur of the house came to see me. I shall never forget that man's face. It was not only pale, it was distorted, almost beyond recognition, by terror. 'Monsieur Sangère!' he cried, 'Monsieur Sangère! I am ruined! I am lost!'

"'What's the matter?' I enquired.

"'Ze lions! Ze lions!'

"'Well, what about them?'

"'*Ils se sont echappés! Zey are loose!*'

"'Loose—where?'

"'Undare ze stage! We will not be able to give ze performance! Ze public will be *enragé! Je suis perdu!*'

"When I got down to the theatre I found it was as he had said. Somehow or other the lions had managed to get out of their cages, and were roaming about in the cellarage I have alluded to. I called for volunteers; but no one seemed anxious to put himself forward. So I had to do the job alone. I can tell you, I didn't half like it.

"When I got down under the stage, at first I could see nothing; but I could hear the 'pad-pad' of the lions' feet as they walked about. I called to them by their names; appealing to their good nature, so to speak. After a bit I began to be able to see their eyes, and 'locate' their positions.

"You must understand that the cage they in habited was at one end of the place; and, standing about, was a lot of old 'flats,' worn-out scenery, &c. I got one of these, and, carrying it before me like a shield, I began to 'edge' the lions up towards their cage. Then I got another scene; and, using it in the same way, I gradually built the animals into a kind of pen. By working very cautiously, and being careful not to hurry them, I finally got them up against their cage; when, finding that their area was circumscribed, and being in error as to the stability of their surroundings, they one after another went in; and I slipped round a flat, and pushed the bolts."

"And then your troubles were over for the evening?"

"Not a bit of it! That was nothing to what followed. When I had finished with the lions, I found that my magnificent French negro had 'got loose' in another way. The fact was that his splendid courage having got wind amidst the hangers-on of the theatre, they had not only given him liquor enough to make him quarrelsome, but had so inflated him with self-conceit that he was swaggering about, demanding a fabulous salary, and threatening not to 'go on' unless he got it—paid in advance and on the spot, you understand."

"That was worse than the lions; the only difficulty with them was to get them to go in."

"Lions," says Mr. Sanger amiably, "have the greatest contempt for drunkenness. If an intoxicated or partly intoxicated man enters a menagerie, they are 'on the rampage' and uneasy at once. It is one of those curious things in nature that we know, but are not permitted to understand. Whatever other faults they may have—and I never found much the matter with them myself—lions are always sober. That you *can* say for them. But this negro wasn't drunk, you understand, in the proper sense of the word, but only abusive and obstreperous. Well, I wasted no words on him; I just took off his costume, put it on myself, sent for a stick of black grease-paint, and began to 'make-up' for the part. The sight of my preparations had an immediate effect on the 'nigger.' He threw himself on his knees, begged me to forgive him, and promised never to offend in the same way again."

"And you pardoned him?"

"What do *you* think?" says Mr. Sanger. "Why, I told you, he was nearly seven foot high! The show took splendidly; the audience went almost 'off their heads' with excitement. So did the Directeur, who, oblivious of the fact that my cheeks were thick with black grease-paint, took me in his arms, cried over me, called me his preserver, and hugged me and kissed me till, what with the perspiration, the tears, and the 'slobbering,' we both cut a very comical appearance.

"No," concludes Mr. Sanger, pensively, "I can't say I ever had much trouble with lions."

MISS FLORENCE TEMPEST, Miss Marie Tempest's understudy, who was called upon at a moment's notice last week to assume the leading part in *The Freedom of Suzanne*, did so with the greatest success, reproducing Miss Tempest in appearance, voice, gesture, and effect, with marvellous accuracy. Miss Florence Tempest, who, even off the stage, bears an astounding likeness to her sister, made on this occasion her first appearance in London. In the provinces, under the name of Miss Florence Neville, she has played in the *Marriage of Kitty* with the Marquis of Anglesey's company.

MR. W. S. PENLEY, the Worshipful Master of the Savage Club Lodge, 2,190, was present on Tuesday, at Freemasons' Hall, at the annual gathering of the lodge for the installation of a Worshipful Master for the year. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Herbert Johnson, the W.M. Amongst the Past Masters of the lodge who were present were Mr. Henry Neville, P.Assist.G.D.C.; Mr. Harry Nicholls, G.St.B. (P.M. of the Lodge); and Mr. Robert D. Cummings, G.St.B. Mr. Herbert Johnson installed Mr. W. S. Penley, the Senior Warden, who at the last regular meeting was unanimously elected as W.M., in the Master's Chair. Mr. Johnson was invested as Immediate Past Master, and received a Past Master's jewel. Messrs. Crandon Gill and Holmes Kingston were the Wardens; Mr. Edward Eden Peacock, P.M., the Treasurer; Mr. Eugene Barnett, P.M., the Secretary; and the other offices were filled by Messrs. Rob. Sauer, P. N. Hasluck, Robb Harwood, Lovett King, W. J. Ebbetts, P.M., P.G.Steward, Oliver Fry, S. R. Blundstone, E. G. Salmon, T. Fletcher Fullard, and G. F. Swan (Tyler). After a banquet at Freemasons' Tavern, an entertainment was supplied by Misses Annie Bartle, Ethel Bevans, and Jessie Jolly, with Messrs. Barton McGuckin, Franklin Clive, Robb Harwood, Malini, Mostyn Pigott, Hugh Wright, Harrison Hill, Reginald Groome, Tom Brown, E. J. Odell, Charles Capper, E. G. Salmon, Arthur Helmore, W. L. Barrett, and Lovett King. Mr. Albert Fox was the accompanist.

THE French Society of Dramatic Authors and Composers are the defendants in an action which is being heard in Paris by the First Supplementary Chamber of the Civil Tribunal of the Seine. The plaintiffs are two managers of theatres and two dramatic authors. M. Roy, one of the managers, pleads that after a promise had been given, the Society of Dramatic Authors and Composers refused to treat with him relative to his control of the Bouffes. The other manager, M. Richemond, of the Folies Dramatiques, enters his action because the society refused to renew his contract. M. Chancel, one of the dramatists, has a play at the Folies, but he has been put under a ban by the Society, which is a great power in French stageland, and is so strong that prohibited playwrights are practically "boycotted" by the managers. Another author, M. Forest, is in fear of being put on the black list; and the pair of playwrights have joined their manager in the action against the society and its committee. The rules of the society are surprisingly strict. No French dramatist is allowed to have a play of his performed in a theatre which has no contract with the Society, and authors are barred from entering into private contracts with managers at "fees" inferior to those established by its regulations. Each theatre has to give 100f. worth of tickets to the author who is a member of the Society. He sells them to an agency for 50f., and they are then offered outside the house at prices lower than those of the box-office. The managers offered 50f. a day to avoid this scandal and disadvantage to themselves, but the Society's statutes were opposed to such an arrangement. The case is still proceeding.

MUSIC HALL GOSSIP.

MISS MARIE LLOYD'S condition on Wednesday caused some little anxiety to her medical adviser, and to her family, but the report printed in an evening paper on Wednesday was unnecessarily alarming to the little lady's myriad of admirers. Later bulletins have brought the reassuring intelligence that she is making rapid progress towards recovery, and hopes to leave London in the course of the next ten days. To-morrow is Miss Lloyd's birthday, and in the congratulations that she will receive on her approach to convalescence the words, "Many happy returns of the day," will have an unusually hearty and sincere significance.

THE optimistic report that the vexed question of music-hall sketches will be settled in a few days, was confirmed in our office on Friday, by a popular sketch artiste. The lines of agreement he laid down were a time-limit of thirty minutes, the employment of six principals, no restrictions as to scenery, and twenty supers. Later in the day we consulted a gentleman who has been in touch with the whole question and the chief people concerned, since the Palace prosecution, and he does not speak hopefully of any settlement. Captain Jessel will have charge of the Bill for legalising sketches in the ensuing session.

AN additional feature of interest was added on Saturday to the race for the Derby at the Coliseum. While the stage is revolving at high speed, a crowded grand stand is brought on, and the extraordinary effect which is produced is obtained by means of an overhead railway, which crosses the stage.

THE OXFORD anniversary, which will be held on Friday evening next, is the great annual festival of the music hall year, and commemorates the reopening of this popular hall twelve years ago. From the strength and variety of the special programme, which will include most of the leading artistes in the profession, it bids fair to outdo all previous records.

THE members of the Music Hall Artistes' Railway Association are entitled to the heartiest congratulations of the profession on the immense progress that has been made in their organisation, which celebrated its eighth birthday on Sunday at the Trocadero. The gathering was impregnated with the spirit of jollity, and it was a sight to see Mr. Harry Randall pacing the cake-walk with an admirable partner. Of course, such a brilliant example was followed, and the infection was caught by even the oldest newspaper man present.

THE comment made by Mr. Hugh Astley at the recent meeting of the London Pavilion is no new one, and the terms now obtained by the turns that have won the highest place in the public regard are ever on the up-grade. One artiste, said Mr. Astley, who was glad to sign contracts at the London Pavilion at £8 per week, lately refused to accept an engagement at a town which is two hours' journey from London under £175 per week. It must be remembered that the barring clauses raised by rival syndicates and combinations are largely responsible for the big salaries. Exclusive engagements naturally mean exclusive terms; and, as an example of the demand for the services of the stars, we may quote an instance of a genial "patter merchant" who has just signed a contract with the Payne group of halls until 1912 at £1,500 a year.

A FUNNY face and droll methods may easily lead to a Prime Minister's salary; and therefore the shrewd manager who after a trial performance secures a new comedian for a term of years at a comparatively low salary, considers himself a lucky man. Leybourne, who at one time earned £120 a week, was paid about £4 a turn when he first came to London, and it is doubtful whether Arthur Roberts, when he was singing "If I was only long enough," earned more than this. The late Mr. George Ware, who pioneered Miss Marie Lloyd during her teens and later, prophesied from the stage of the Oxford that that comedienne's salary would one day reach three figures. That prophecy has long since been fulfilled.

MISS ELLEN TERRY was the occupant of a box at the Lyceum, on Wednesday afternoon, when Mr. George Alexander fulfilled a special engagement, and recited "A Lock of Hair." A graceful reference was made to the distinguished and popular actress by one of the Harmony Four. Miss Terry expressed to Mr. Thomas Barrasford and Mr. Alfred Selwyn her admiration of the fine house, and said that it did not seem very long since she was acting at the old theatre with Mr. Alexander. She had a most enthusiastic reception on reaching the street.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS was the special turn at the Lyceum on Thursday evening, when he appeared with the Gibson girls from the Vaudeville, headed by Miss Camille Clifford, and sang "Rip Van Winkle" from *The Cherry Girl*," and "A Quaint Old Bird" from *The Catch of the Season*. Mr. Hicks had to get back to the Vaudeville, but the Lyceum audience became so enthusiastic, that it was with very great difficulty that he got away.

THE designs of the new Royal are well placed in the hands of Mr. Frank Matcham, whose latest building, the Coliseum, marks a new era in variety enterprise. It is intended to place the new Royal stage on the right hand, or southern, side, where it used to be in Mr. Weston's time, and the seating accommodation will be increased by an additional tier. Mr. Walter Gibbons hopes to welcome the public in October next to a building finely equipped in every way, and luxurious to the last degree.

MR. ARTHUR ROBERTS is one of the latest devotees of "the maddening motor." The short provincial tour that he started on the day following his departure from the Palace Theatre ends at Bristol next week. He made a very swift run from Brighton in his new car the Sunday before last, leaving "London-by-the-Sea" at half-past eleven in the morning, and reaching town in time to catch an early afternoon train to Birmingham.

THE decline in the revenue indicated by the reduction in the dividend on the ordinary shares of Moss' Empires, Ltd., from 12½ to 10 per cent. for 1904, is explained on the appearance of the directors' report and accounts by the fact that, in addition to a set-back of £27,800 in the trading profit, a sum of £9,748 is required to pay the dividend on the new shares, while the capital represented thereby has not been to any large extent remunerative. The directors expect, however, that the Liverpool Olympia will be opened at Easter, and the Glasgow Coliseum within a few months thereafter, and they express confidence that both these buildings will add largely to the company's profits.

MR. H. E. MOSS has relinquished his position as a managing-director, but retains his seat on the board and his position as chairman. In future Mr. Oswald Stoll will be the sole managing-director for a period of at least five years, while Mr. Frank Allen will act as assisting-director and chief of the staff. A reorganisation of the staff on a system of district and departmental management, from which the directors anticipate greater efficiency and economies in working expenses, is being rapidly carried through.

THE many friends of Mr. Chas. H. Taylor will be sorry to hear that he is suffering from a sharp attack of influenza at Torquay.

THE numerous friends of Mr. Johnny Thornborrow, the popular and able manager of the Empire, Middlesbrough, will regret to hear that he has had another serious attack of his old complaint, and his condition is grave. Mr. Thornborrow's benefit is announced for the 22nd.

MR. SYLVESTER SAGE concludes his lesseeship of the Empire at Hull this week. Monetary losses and bad trade are the causes of his relinquishing management. He has carried on the place for four years. On Thursday and Friday nights he has a "Farewell" benefit, which will be contributed to by volunteers from both the theatres and the halls.

THEY were having "high jinks" at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, on Monday, for on that day Mr. Byron Bicknelle, the clever clay modeller, and the Mustapha of the pantomime, took unto himself a wife in the sweet and pretty Miss Marie Campbell, who is scoring as Ganem. It had been intended to keep the matter a profound secret, and the ceremony was enacted at a Registry Office with despatch, albeit we are told that the bride missed her "cues"—from insufficient rehearsal, we suppose—and that the bridegroom dropped the ring at the critical moment. However, the "contract" was signed by both parties in firm, bold letters, the witnesses' names being Euphemia Kiddie, Annie Palmer, and Stephen Edward Eastbury. The party enjoyed a wedding breakfast served at a local hostelry, where, the secret having leaked out—as such secrets should—a merry crowd gathered with congratulations.

RECOGNISING with sweet reasonableness that marriage could not be allowed to interfere with business, the happy pair "went back to work," appearing at the matinée as well as at the evening performance, where Ganem met with a merry reception under a heavy shower of confetti and more congratulations, plus Mr. J. F. Graham's blessing. The audience caught the infection, through the adoption by the comedians of white rosettes, and the band played the Wedding March. For the rest, the wedding cake was carried to the dressing-room, where the bride held a reception. The wedding evoked much public interest and the best of good wishes, Miss Campbell having become most popular for her sprightly acting, dainty looks, and undoubted ability.

MR. RICHARD THORNTON, of South Shields, has a magnificent motor carriage, to carry four persons inside, and two out. It is a Daimler machine of 25 horse-power, fitted up in superb style, the seats inside being on pivots. There is a removable table, luncheon cupboards, warming arrangements, speaking tube, and instruction dial to the chauffeur. The material of which the car is constructed is of the very best kind, and the workmanship displays the highest skill. The thick plate-glass windows are draped with rich curtains, and the one at the front and that at the back can be thrown open when desired.

MR. HENRI CAZMAN states that he has played excerpts from the works of the classical composers at the music halls. In our paragraph on the subject last week we referred only to the first *lady* who gave classical selections on the pianoforte at the halls. The principle is worthy of extensive imitation, and the day is not far distant when first-class performers will give as a selection in a music hall entertainment pianoforte concertos, with orchestral accompaniment. In fact this has already been done at the Palace Theatre by Mr. Herman Finck's orchestra.

MR. WILLIAM GOULD, who at a former professional concert on the R.M.S. *Kenilworth Castle* collected £25 for the Actors' Benevolent Fund, gave another concert on the R.M.S. *Norman* for the Music Hall Benevolent Fund, and collected £9. Mr. Gould writes:—"If my brother and sister professionals going to or coming from South Africa will only keep the ball rolling, both worthy charities will derive a nice little income."

MRS. M. JUDGE (of Judge's Cockatoos) sends us the following interesting letter from her son:—"We had a terrible time of it in Lodz (Russia). Over 190,000 men were out on strike. Juliette saw a man shot as she was going to the theatre. We were sitting on Saturday evening in the little theatre restaurant when all of a sudden about 500 people came in to see if anyone was working.

"My animals (Alaska's sea lions) were on the stage, and Juliette was frightened they would do something to them, so she went out and spoke to the ringleaders, and said, 'I am Juliette, and I am on strike as well; nobody is working in the theatre.' They then went to the restaurant, and commanded the people to close and go home. Every place was closed, and the town was under military protection. I only had enough fish for the animals to last two days.

"The director of the theatre recommended us to take a waggon, and go to a village two hours from Lodz. We took his advice, and had got about half-way out of the town when a number of Cossacks came galloping after us, and ordered us to stop. They inquired who we were and where we were going, and then let us go. On our arrival at the village we took train to the nearest village to the German frontier, which we eventually crossed with thankful hearts in a blinding snowstorm."

THE Four Harveys, whose present engagement at the Alhambra ends in a couple of weeks, commenced to work on the wire when they were small children. Their father, a clever foot equilibrist, is an Englishman, their mother is German, and the two boys, Alvin and Percy, with their sister, Ella, speak both languages. The other member of the charming little party, Martha, is a cousin. Miss Ella Harvey was only six when she first performed in public, and she has been steadily improving ever since; one of her best tricks, that of turning a cartwheel, having taken three years to accomplish successfully. The Four Harveys are always assisted in their act by a tall young lady, who wears most effective Court costumes of various colours, passes them the flower-decked, lacey parasols, that take the place of old-fashioned balancing-poles, and encourages them with quiet little "asides," in English and German. Surprising as it seems, this is Mrs. Harvey, who has been their sole teacher, and without whom they never appear. She is always taken for the elder sister, instead of the mother, of the boys and girls.

MR. PADEY PENNINGTON, the Scientific Hypnotist, Thought-Reader, Ventriloquist, and Society Entertainer, will shortly make his re-appearance in public, after seven years retirement. His last appearance was in Australia. He will be supported by a first-class up-to-date variety company, and is booking a tour of theatres and halls.

THE extraordinary meeting of the National Palace of Varieties, Croydon, was held on Monday, at the Hummums, Covent Garden, to discuss a special resolution concerning the future proprietorship. The meeting was adjourned until Monday week.

THE late Mr. G. A. Cooke, whose death we recorded in our columns last week, made his last appearance at the Egyptian Hall in *The Entranced Fakir*, in which he played the part of Sam Mugridge, who was "levitated", by Mr. Maskelyne, who was seen to much advantage in the rôle of an honest old showman.

THE question has been asked by musical critics why first-class singers consider that they lower their status as artists by singing at music halls; and Mr. Oswald Stoll has replied with the engagement of Miss Alice Esty, the well-known operatic prima donna, and Mr. Robert Cunningham, the Australian tenor, who will appear in the Miserere scene from *Il Trovatore*. Mr. Cunningham will, of course, be the Manrico, and Miss Esty the Leonora. The staging will be in keeping with the fine traditions of the house.

MADAME ALICE ESTY, the famous operatic prima donna, who will open on Monday at the Coliseum in a scene from *Il Trovatore*, made her début in England at a Patti concert at the Albert Hall. Her success was instantaneous, and she was immediately approached by concert and operatic managers. Madame Esty, however, decided to go into grand opera, and joined the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, making her first appearance as Michaela. During the time she was with the Carl Rosa combination, she appeared in the leading prima donna rôles, including Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, over one hundred times, and the part of Eva in *Die Meistersingers*, which she sang for the first time in English in this country.

MADAME ESTY was specially engaged to sing the part of Mimi in Puccini's opera, *La Boheme*, at Covent Garden, on the occasion of the first performance of that piece in England. Her success on the concert platform has equalled that of the operatic stage, for she has sung at the leading musical festivals, and at the most important choral and orchestral concerts throughout Great Britain.

THE clever lady made her American début in the rôle of Juliet at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, where she created quite a furore. Madame Esty, who possesses a pure soprano voice of wonderful flexibility and rare quality, has a répertoire of some forty operas, and appeared with marked success at Drury-lane Theatre last spring as prima donna in the Moody-Manners Opera Company. On one occasion she sang, by command, before her late Majesty Queen Victoria, at Balmoral Castle, when she was presented with a truly royal gift, consisting of a magnificent pearl and turquoise brooch.

MR. ALFRED BUTT has also an idea that the best traditions of high-class music might be revived at the Palace, which, it will be remembered, was originally opened as the Royal English Opera House by the late Mr. D'Oyly Carte in 1891, and he will therefore stage a musical episode composed by Sir Alexander MacKenzie, who is not exactly a stranger at a music hall, as some time since he conducted an instrumental composition of his own at the Alhambra. The libretto is the work of Mr. Henry A. Lytton, the well-known Savoyard. The result of this collaboration will be seen at the Palace for the first time on the evening of Monday, the 27th.

MISS LOUISE BEAUDET'S success in her clever scena, "Touring the Varieties," has secured for her three return dates with Mr. Henri Gros at each of his halls, and Mr. George Adney Payne immediately placed the charming burlesque artiste in the Oxford bill of Feb. 20, after seeing her at the Chelsea Palace. She will take a well-earned rest next week.

DURING the performance of *The Mumming Birds* at the Tivoli on Tuesday evening, a young athlete in the stalls, who evidently took the parody of a wrestling bout quite seriously, accepted the "spoof" challenge of the amusing M.C. He was making for the stage, when he was stopped by an attendant, who told him that the whole business on the stage was a huge joke. He was not satisfied, however, and persisted in his endeavour to reach the stage. Eventually he had to be removed from the hall.

AT the *Referee* Children's Dinner Fund Concert, to be given at the Camberwell Palace to-morrow evening, an exceedingly attractive programme of varieties will be presented. Amongst those who have promised to appear are Messrs. Martin Harvey, Lionel Brough, R. A. Roberts, Bransby Williams, Leo Stormont, and Misses Queenie Leighton, Jessie Preston, Maude Danks, Mary Glover, Annie Bartle, and Maggie Goldsmark.

THE "Reign of Terror," and the rule of the *sans-culottes*, supply the structure and characters of the dramatic playlet, *A City of Shadows*, which was produced at the Cambridge on Monday. The piece is founded briefly on the help and succour given to an aristocrat and his wife by Elise, who bears the significant title of "the spirit of the guillotine." At first, Elise would have a sweet revenge, but softer feelings eventually prevail, and as the red-capped mob enter, the fugitives escape by a secret door. Miss Esther Phillips is powerful and passionate as Elise; Mrs. Stanislaus Calhaem, as the mother of Elise, is admirable; Miss Millie Luckstone's study of the young wife is interesting and sympathethic; and Mr. W. Glenney has plenty of aristocratic dignity as the marquis.

CAPTAIN S. C. BROWN, of the R.M.S. *Norman*, called, on Monday, at the office of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund, and handed to the Secretaries a cheque for £9, being the proceeds of a concert on board his vessel on his homeward journey from South Africa. The concert was given on Saturday, Jan. 28, and was a great success. Mr. and Mrs. Gould, and Miss Helen Chorles were indefatigable in their efforts, as were also the Commander and the band. The President and Committee of the Fund tender their thanks to all concerned.

THE 392nd meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Joe O'Gorman, chairman of the committee, presiding. The secretary reported that 51 new members had joined during the past week, making a total number enrolled since the commencement of 11,282. Several cases of refunds for members were dealt with.

DUNCAN AND GODFREY open at the Oxford and Metropolitan on Monday with their now famous coster duologue, *Me and 'Er*. Some time in March they intend producing an entirely new and original coster scena, entitled *The Busmen's Beano*. In this we are promised something of quite an original character, and something that has never been attempted in the coster line before.

MR. HENRI GROS naturally objects to being bound over by a police magistrate in the sum of £10 to come up for judgment if called upon; and on his behalf Mr. Philip Rutland applied on Tuesday to Mr. Paul Taylor, at the Marylebone Police Court, to restore to the list for hearing an adjourned summons, taken out in October last, by the Theatrical Managers' Association, against Mr. Gros, for permitting the Metropolitan to be used for the performance of *The Fighting Parson*, for which offence the company was fined £180 on Oct. 28. Notice of appeal was given by the company, and in the result the penalty was reduced to £90. Mr. Gros now desired that the summons against himself should be disposed of. Mr. Paul Taylor pointed out that in being bound over no reflection was cast upon Mr. Gros's moral character. He was of opinion, however, that in so dealing with the summons against Mr. Gros, his colleague, Mr. Curtis Bennett, finally adjudicated upon the case; but, if Mr. Gros thought to the contrary, he had better make the application to Mr. Bennett himself at the Westminster Court. Mr. Rutland said he would take that course.

WE are officially informed that the Directors of the New Tivoli, Ltd., have decided not to declare the interim dividend usually paid at this time of the year, although it has been earned. The decision has been arrived at on account of the strenuous competition in the music-hall world.

PREPARATIONS for the production of the spectacle of *The Siege of Port Arthur* at the Coliseum are being rapidly pushed forward. Mr. Bruce Smith's scenes and panoramas have been completed. The "book" written by Mr. Roland Carse has been perfected, and the music, by Mr. Walter Slaughter, has already been rehearsed. Most of the rumours in circulation with regard to the postponement of the production have been erroneous. There has been no cause for the delay in the presentation of the scena excepting the elaborate nature of the production, and the difficulty of compressing the incidents of the attack and the defence of Port Arthur into the necessary time which can be permitted for it in accordance with Mr. Oswald Stoll's programme arrangements. It is intended, we understand, to present those particular incidents of the siege which have attracted the special attention of the public, including the final assault and the meeting of the Russian and Japanese Generals in connection with the capitulation.

THE movements of the troops in their attacks upon the forts will be shown, and over 200 soldiers will take part in the fighting on the stage. Cavalry, infantry, artillery, and Cossacks will be seen in action, and forts will be stormed and captured. In order that the scenes presented should be accurate, the Coliseum will have the advantage of the assistance of Mr. Frederick Villiers, the special artist who was with the besieging Army, and who saw every phase of the fighting. His personal experience of the naval and the military operations are proving of great value to the management. As to the naval side of the spectacle, the revolving stage and its sub-division into three separate tables, which can be moved in either direction, will enable Mr. Marshall Moore to present an extensive view of the harbour and the outer sea, and gunboats and battleships, the designs of which will be exact reproductions of the originals, will be shown in action. Even searchlight effects will be secured by the lighting arrangements, which have now been developed for the purpose. Warships will be shown, apparently steaming at full speed, and there will be illustrations of torpedo practice, mines, and other methods of modern warfare.

THE management of Collins's have for years past given an annual entertainment and treat to the inmates of the Islington Infirmary. This year that pleasant and charitable function took place on Wednesday afternoon, when Mr. Charles Hector and Mr. Harry Lyons conducted all the members of the orchestra and a number of artistes in omnibuses to the infirmary. The kindly disposed ladies and gentlemen who turned up to amuse the poor people were Miss Maud Courtney, Mr. Arthur Gilbert, Mr. Tom Costello, Mr. Pat Doherty, Mr. Slade Murray, Mr. Harry Champion, Miss Beattie Lyndon, and Miss Ena Richards. Bronson's Bioscope added to the attractiveness of the entertainment by the exhibition of an interesting series of animated pictures. The inmates of the infirmary were presented with boxes of snuff, tobacco and pipes, and their gratitude for the generosity of the management of Collins's was touchingly demonstrated.

DURING the return journey to Islington Green an unfortunate accident occurred. Mr. Harry Lyons piloted the foremost omnibus to the hall, another 'bus following in his wake, while behind that Mr. and Mrs. Hector drove in a hansom cab. The horse attached to the latter vehicle either attempted to dash away or swerved violently, with the result that the animal collided with the rear of a tramcar. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hector were violently thrown out of the cab, and, although severely shaken, we understand they escaped without serious injury.

MR. HARRY LYONS is inaugurating quite a new departure in the way of turns at Collins's. He has arranged with Mrs. George Daventry—the well-known actress who was for so many years associated with her late husband in touring the sensational drama, entitled *The Indian Mutiny*—to appear at the hall on Islington-green to-night. Mrs. Daventry will give illustrated recitals of topical interest, accompanied by specially composed music, the entire performance lasting about a quarter of an hour. Mr. J. O. Stewart, the well-known Scotch actor, who has just finished a successful pantomime engagement at the Camden Theatre, will also be seen and heard at Collins's this evening in a recitation of Burns's famous poem, "Tam o' Shanter."

MISS MARGARET RADCLIFFE, who was one of the guests at the Grand Theatrical Ball, held at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, on Thursday last week, wore a very handsome costume of cream *point de Poulle* lace, the pattern of which was traced with delicate mauve chenille. Full flounces of accordion chiffon edged the gracefully trained skirt; and the low bodice, which had a lace berthé richly trimmed with brilliants, suited Miss Radcliffe's tall, stately figure to perfection. This talented young artiste has, by the way, been secured for pantomime next Christmas by Mr. Fred Wyndham.

MR. THEO BOUWMEESTER, the Dutch actor, who has been so successfully presenting his episode, *Incendiarism; or, Who Is Guilty?* at the Middlesex this week, is the son of Mrs. Theo Mann Bouwmeester, the Dutch Sarah Bernhardt, who was decorated by the late King of the Belgians. His uncle, Louis Bouwmeester, also had the highest reputation as an actor on the Dutch stage, and was also honoured by Royalty. With such family traditions, it is no wonder that Mr. Theo. Bouwmeester is enthusiastic in regard to his art, as one may readily learn by the earnestness and nervous intensity he displays in the seven parts he plays in his piece, which he himself translated into English. It was performed in England as far back as May, 1904.

OWING to the stage of the Alhambra being daily required for rehearsals of the forthcoming elaborate new ballet (full particulars of which will shortly be announced), the "Urbanora Matinées" will be temporarily suspended after to-day. Meantime, the realistic films from Port Arthur hold their place in the evening bill, to which a distinct novelty is added in the charming sporting act presented by Miss Kitty Traney.

AT the annual ordinary general meeting of the Alhambra, held last week at that theatre (Mr. Alfred Moul in the chair), the directors' report and balance-sheet were unanimously agreed to, and a dividend of 10 per cent. was unanimously approved and adopted.

MR. LENNOX BARRY, who was some nine weeks ago appointed business-manager of the Battersea Empire, and is now the general-manager of that house, has effected a number of improvements in the hall in the direction of decorations, &c., which have been greatly appreciated by his patrons. Mr. Barry started, on Wednesday afternoon, a series of mid-weekly matinées, and the result of the first afternoon's performance was most gratifying.

WHEN Miss Loie Fuller makes her appearance at the Coliseum on Monday she will present a new scena, *The Dance of the 1,000 Veils*," the beautiful effects of which will be enhanced by the use of the new illuminant radium.

MISS AMY CLEVERE is actively engaged in rehearsing a new musical scena, of South American Indian interest, entitled *Paleface Queen*, which has been specially written and composed for her by Messrs. John P. Harrington and George Le Brunn, and which she purposes producing in a week's time at the Tivoli.

MISS GLADYS MONTAGUE, a juvenile American exponent of coon dances and other terpsichorean arts, and the winner of three gold medals in the States, is about to appear at a leading West-end music hall, in an entirely new and original répertoire, expressly written for her by Messrs John P. Harrington and George Le Brunn, which embraces, amongst other numbers, two with the titles, "The Hoodoo Girl" and "How They Danced."

MISS SYLVIA SABLANC, the daintiest of Crosse and Blackwell's "stage" employees at the Coliseum, is suffering from loss of voice, and during the latter part of the week her place has been taken by Miss Bessie Butt, who appears as "My Little Black Pearl" with Mr. Eugene Stratton. This clever little lady has infused such go into the song, followed by such lively dancing, that she has established herself in the good graces of audiences, artistes, and managers alike, and has been complimented on all sides. Miss Butt will be remembered as having played Susan, in *The Toreador*, Sophie, in *A Country Girl*, and Thisbe, in *The Orchid*.

AT the Camberwell Palace on Saturday night, after the singing of "The Boys of the Chelsea School" by Mr. George Leyton, that popular vocalist presented Wm. Freestone, a Crimean veteran, aged seventy-one, with £6 1s. 6d., obtained by selling penny copies of the song in the hall during the week. William Freestone has only 9d. a day to live upon from the Government, and Mr. Leyton deserved the deafening cheers which greeted him for his kindness. He has collected over £700 for these old soldiers in different parts of the country during the past two years.

MR. SAM MAYO'S two latest successes, "The Old Tin Can" and "Programmes!" have both been purchased for publication by Messrs. Chas. Sheard and Co. at a heavy figure.—Carl and Carr, who have just finished a successful pantomime season with Mr. Arthur Carlton, at the Ealing Theatre, start on the Livermore tour next week.—Messrs. Conway and Tindall will produce their new farcical musical duologue, *Goosebury Junction*, at the Battersea Empire on Monday.

MR. FRED G. BROOKE, who is playing in the dramatic sketch, *Todd, Fleet-street*, put a little too much vehemence on Monday evening into the evil deeds of the notorious Sweeney, and, in hurling missiles during the last scene in the barber's shop, he struck the leading lady, Miss Dora Deane, on the face with a bottle, inflicting serious cuts, and causing her to become unconscious. The curtain was rung down, and medical aid was promptly summoned.

MR. FRITZ YOUNG, of Sells and Young, who has been in America for the past four years, has just arrived in town on a visit of business and pleasure combined. He is thinking of producing a novel pantomime, to be played by three performers, and has also been seen in the land of patent agents. Fritz is a man full of original ideas.

MR. WILL MEATON, who so ably assists Mr. Harry Tate in his sketches, *Motoring*, *Fishing*, and *Golfing*, was the recipient of a handsome silver-mounted walking-stick, on his (Mr. Tate's) benefit night, at the Marlboro' Theatre, Holloway, in the pantomime of *Aladdin*.

A FIRE broke out at the Wolverhampton Hippodrome on Sunday, partially burning the building. The auditorium itself has been only slightly damaged, but the entrances, vestibules, ticket office, and refreshment bars have suffered severely, so that for the present the building is to remain closed, and all engagements with the staff, as well as with artists, are cancelled.

MR. W. A. BENNET, who has had experience as a journalist, has been appointed Press representative by Mr. Oswald Stoll for his suburban and provincial Empires. He commenced his duties at the Holloway and Hackney Empires this week.

THROUGH the kind invitation of Mr. Oswald Stoll, over 700 boys from the Duke of York's Military School witnessed the twelve o'clock performance at the Coliseum on the 3rd inst. The excellent band of the school, conducted by Sergeant-Major McMurphy, occupied the space between the orchestra and the stalls, and they performed with great success a selection from *The Orchid*, and the school march, "Sons of the Brave." At the conclusion of the entertainment a bag containing buns and oranges, and a picture of the Coliseum, was presented with Mr. Stoll's good wishes to each lad, and the youngsters gave ringing cheers for the management before they left the theatre.

MISS DAISY JAMES leaves town for a short tour, and returns on April 3 to the London, Collins's, and Hammersmith.—Miss C. Stroud Wilson has been engaged by Messrs. Keith, Prowse, and Co., for thirteen weeks at the Victoria Pier, Folkestone, commencing Whit Monday.—Miss Alicia Mayne, Australian dramatic soprano song-illustrator, leaves town this week for a two months' tour, returning in the middle of April to fulfill her London engagements.

WHITEHALL has already refused to allow the Brighton Council to borrow £12,000, and an amended scheme involving the expenditure of £16,000 upon the local Aquarium is now put forward by the Corporation. The ratepayers, in a protest, point out that since the Corporation purchased the Aquarium it has been carried on at a gigantic loss, that there is no demand whatever for another theatre or like place of amusement, as has been amply proved by the result of the Corporation trading, and that Whitehall's suggestion that the Council should sell the institution is one meriting serious consideration.

MR. ERNEST MONTEFIORE has secured a powerful little scena from the pen of that promising sketch writer, Victor C. Rolfe, entitled *The Little Nipper*. It will shortly be seen in the London halls. *The Little Colonel*, Mr. Montefiore's musical and dramatic triologue, starts on a short provincial tour on Monday at the Hippodrome, Norwich.

MR. SAM MAYO has just acquired a couple of funny songs from the clever pen of William Hargreaves. One is distinctly novel, and bears the title, "The most miserable man on earth!" The other is a very original number, entitled "My little dog was with me all the while!" of which we may expect great things.

MR. HARRY RANDALL, on Wednesday, entertained a hundred children to a high tea at Drury Lane Theatre. Each of the youngsters was given a couple of oranges at the conclusion of the feast, and all enjoyed themselves immensely.

THE Wrestling Competition for Amateurs proved so great a success at the Britannia Music Hall, Glasgow, that it had to be carried into a third week, and was finally decided on Tuesday last. A handsome large bronze clock, a centre piece and two side pieces, and a beautiful flower stand were the three prizes which Mr. Anderson provided for no fewer than sixty-eight entrants, the finalists all being excellent exponents of the art.

THE LONDON MUSIC HALLS.

LONDON PAVILION.

Mr. Frank Glenister, the popular manager of this well-established place of amusement—which by some is said to stand on the finest site in Europe—is especially fortunate in his discovery of new turns. It was only the other week that we hailed the advent on the stage of the Piccadilly-circus house of a Scotch comedian, whose name, if we are not mistaken, will be occupying a prominent position on the bills of the metropolitan halls before the year is out; and now we have to welcome in Mr. Maynard Dakin a comic singer—quite English, we believe—whose methods bear the stamp of refinement, but whose humour is none the less effective. He does not affect either the red nose or the loose trousers, but depends on a sharp, incisive style and well-written verses. In his number concerning a worried householder, he is particularly happy, and wins genuine applause. Other new-comers to the London Pavilion are Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Berry, who are labelled "burlesque sketch artistes," a description that does not quite fathom the depths of their comicality. Mr. Berry has the genuine *vis comica*, and his facial expression never fails to evoke laughter. He represents the worried husband, troubled with a singing wife. She gives him trills for breakfast, roulades for luncheon, and recitatives for dinner. Urgent protestations are in vain; but at last he hits upon a plan whereby the warblings of the would-be Patti are completely checked. To her high falutin' ditties he replies with the prosaic refrains of comic songs, and the plan works excellently. The turn is one big laugh from beginning to end, and Mr. and Mrs. Berry bid fair to make as big a name as Mr. and Mrs. Harry Clifton did in the days when the music halls were in their teens.

The scheme of amusement submitted by Mr. Glenister includes a sketch dealing with that strenuous period of English history that belongs to the waning years of the Commonwealth and the advent of Charles the Second, the "merry monarch." The title is *The King's Hat*, and it is produced by Mrs. Charles Cunningham and company. Charles Tudor plays a benevolent part. While in hiding at the Great Hall, Thursby Manor, he discovers the villainy of Colonel Digby and Captain Meers, fellow guests with him of Sir Reginald Delauney, who is the victim of the grossest form of card swindling that it has been our lot to witness on the stage. Delauney loses all his fair estates, and nothing is left but a valuable pearl necklace. Egged on by the unscrupulous Digby, Delauney hopes that the luck will turn, plays his last stake, and loses. The swindling is discovered, and a plot to entrap the fugitive King is foiled. Sir Reginald is made a peer, and his reconciliation with Lady Delauney (Violet), from whom he had been long estranged, brings down the curtain. The piece is played quite in the romantic spirit. Mr. S. T. Ewart, as Sir Reginald, cuts a gallant figure, and realises the hopeless passion for gambling that possesses that reckless young nobleman. Mrs. Charles Cunningham is sweet and commendable as Violet, Lady Delauney; Mr. C. Brooke would improve his rendering of the King by a little more vigour; Mr. H. H. Stewart is an effective Colonel Digby, whose creature, Captain Meers, is adequately presented by Mr. F. France; and Mr. Arthur Fitzgerald, as the loyal Serrier, makes an interesting figure of the old servitor.

Early in the evening Mr. Athas and Miss Collins provide a capital variety show, their singing and dancing and the acrobatics of the gentleman bringing down the house. Miss Dora Clements is the newest lady mimic, and her bright and engaging style is happily fitted for her imitation of Miss Gertie Millar, in her song, "Little Mary," from *The Orchid*. She also catches with much exactness the mannerisms of Miss Connie Ediss and Miss Marie Lloyd. Athletic turns are always a prominent feature of Pavilion programmes, and we have two fine specimens of muscular activity in the Hermance Brothers, one of whom forces the fun by the clown's favourite trick of removing a number of waistcoats. Their feats are all difficult, and some of them are of striking originality. Vermette and Dionne, horizontal bar performers, leap like cats from bar to bar, and swing to catch under and over, turning double somersaults with grace and ease. They were not quite successful, on the night of our visit, in swinging from the first bar and catching the third, and very wisely abandoned the feat. Alethea's charm and lissomeness rob her feats of contortion of any of the creepiness that often mar similar displays; and Francis, who is a juggler and cannon-ball manipulator, contributes a very fine exhibition of his prowess, the show being much increased in its attractiveness by his comic assistant. Music and comedy were never more happily allied than they are in the entertainment of the Motramos, a lady and gentleman who keep the house in continuous roars of laughter. The versatility of their musical gifts is supplemented by the vitality of their comedy. Mr. Motramo is a capital comedian, and his fatuous self-assertiveness in his burlesque sketch of a dude is very whimsical. As a mere record of their musical achievements we may mention that the Motramos play the flute, the trombone, the saxhorn, and the piano, but so do other musical turns, but without that happy *insouciance* that keeps Pavilion audiences in the highest state of hilarity. Mr. Chris Richards, surely the quaintest leg-mania dancer that we possess, has funny little ways, and has become quite a favourite. Philosopher Ray is as enlightening as ever with his abbreviated English; Arthur Prince is an incomparable ventriloquist; and Mr. Harry Grattan's company, in the sketch, entitled *Packing Up*, supply an excellent wind-up to the programme, to which Mr. Walter George, a capital pianoforte humourist, contributes a musical trifle, which he calls "A Funny World." Other turns announced on the bill are Miss Alma Gray, a fine step dancer; Miss Elsie Steadman, who sings with point and expression a society song, concerning the joys and opportunities of courting up-river; Mr. Will English, comedian; and the Emlyn Jones singers, who are heard to advantage in the selections, "Good Company" and "A Dream of Paradise." Mr. William Cobbett is a pleasantly urbane assistant manager; and Mr. Bond Sayers is rightly proud of his orchestra.

THE EUSTON.

There is a run just now upon people of abnormal size as attractions for the variety houses, and much curiosity and no little mirth have been caused at the popular house opposite the big railway termini by the appearance of Miss Lucie, the Russian fat girl. Of the measurements of this Muscovite *puella obesa* some particulars are given by a lecturer, who assures the audience that the coy Slav maiden is not "ill-convenienced" by the immense amount of adipose tissue—some twenty-five stone in all—that she has to carry about with her. Everybody is interested to learn that Lucie, who appears with her mother, has a calf measuring 23½in., and an ankle of a circumference of 13in. We should say that she is "a gentle sort of girl," though she does not occupy exactly the position of the heroine of Mr Will Evans's song of that name, which he sings with much humour. His pretence of embarrassment at the possible misinterpretation by the audience of what he calls the break-off portion of the refrain is a point in the interpretation that he very humorously emphasises. His well-prepared impromptu burlesque of *Robinson Crusoe* has plenty of obvious extravagance, and he is much encouraged. Another comic star in Mr Fred McAvoy's attractive bill is Mr Joe Elvin, who is appearing with a specially-selected company in *The Wrong House*, one of those furiously farcical incidents which Mr Wal Pink knows so well how to write, and Mr Elvin how to play. The Cockney comedian represents an inebriated reveller, who has been making a night of it with his friend Snooks. A strong-minded wife tells him from an upper window that "her husband"—good, easy man—has been "in bed for hours." "Who am I, then?" anxiously inquires Mr Elvin, immediately adding "There's been a misdeal somewhere!" Of course there is a favourite gag. In this case it is "You're blind," a phrase which is applied to all the male characters during lucid intervals in the tipsy jollity, in which the only Elvin is seen and heard at his best. He is an immense favourite with the Eustonians, who also have a hearty welcome for Tom Leamore, who presents an amusing skit on the descriptive singer with limelight effects. As a scraggy female in short skirts Mr Leamore cuts a comical figure. "Sally in the ballet" is representative of a type of caricature not unfamiliar on the music-hall boards, and comedians of a past day have made humorous capital out of the ancient ballerina's "anticipations of the past." Mr Leamore is fairly well provided with patter, and his concluding dance brings down the house. Slippere, the blind pianist, is a much-favoured turn. What may be termed trick-playing is a strong point of his performance. He executes with facility, as is shown by his rendering of one of Tito Mattei's Grand Valses de Concert on a grand with the keys covered. Standing with his back to the piano, he accompanies himself in "Rocked in the cradle of the deep," and further demonstrates his versatility by singing, with a Japanese fiddle obbligato, the beautiful Irish melody, "Eileen Alannah." The New York Nippers present a very lively show, with plenty of variety and comedy to recommend it; and Miss Radie Furman as a Dutch-American girl is not so well endowed with patter as her predecessor and prototype, Happy Fanny Fields. She, however, brings down the house in the dance imitations of a drum solo. Larola is one of the smartest acrobats we have seen, but he is also a clever juggler with a beatific sense of humour. His plate-spinning is followed by somersaults from a table, which he holds on his chin by balancing it on one of the legs. He has also a difficult trick with a lamp and glasses, and, by way of a special finale to his show, he takes flying leaps over chairs and table. Mr Harry Freeman's perky and hilarious style commends him in his comic songs, and Miss Rose Cabani's efforts in serio-comedy are highly valued. Mr Victor Opperman leads an excellent orchestra here, and Mr Charles E. Wellman is a courteous acting-manager.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

A good programme, a good manager, who looks after the comfort and convenience of his patrons, and a cosy house, are the chief desiderata in the making of a successful music hall. That the first commodity is invariably provided at the Empress Theatre, Brixton, and that Mr. Nelson Francis provides in his own person the second, there can be little doubt. The establishment itself is both convenient and cosy, as everybody in Brixton will admit. Sixteen items, all of first-rate quality, grace the bill this week. There are, however, a couple of changes. Miss Irene Meldon appears as a deputy in the absence of Miss Childie Stuart. Miss Meldon has a sweet soprano voice, which is heard to advantage in her song, "My English Maid." She also presents some pretty pictures in the direction of the poetry of motion, her dancing throughout being extremely graceful. Mr. Dan Conroy, the comedian, has a couple of amusing songs to offer, one entitled, "I Didn't Know whether I ought to," and the other being a burlesque on "Bluebell." In both he makes good use of his remarkable powers of facial expression, which are no small factor in his success as a comedian. "Touring the Varieties" is the name given to a scena presented by Miss Louise Beaudet. First she tells us all about the "Darling of the Ballet," and addresses herself, in turn, apparently to members of the audience, and then to three of the gentlemen in the orchestra. The conductor comes in for the best share of her banter, and the situations which she forces upon him and other "mere males" is heartily relished by the audience. A change of dress, and then we get "The Game of Shams Called Life," in which several interesting little stories are told in an entertaining manner. One of them concerns a burglar and a banker. The former pays a visit to the latter late at night, while the man of money is fast asleep. Bill Sykes is a desperate man, and vows that any interference with his plans will mean the death of the interferer. In the end he kills the banker, and as the revulsion of feeling creeps upon him in the awful reflection of what he has done, he suddenly looks down at the face of the murdered man, and recognises his own brother. "A Flower Girl in the Streets of London" is Miss Beaudet's concluding "variety." Wan and pale of face, scantily attired, and with the conventional shawl thrown round her shoulders, we are introduced to the retailer of the daintiest of Nature's goods. There is, we learn, a mother lying seriously ill in the little garret called home, and her life almost depends upon the earnings, however meagre, of the flower-girl. Appeals to "Buy my flowers" fall heedlessly on the ears of London's ever-rushing crowd. Necessity, however, knows no law, and the appeal at last becomes a piteous, despairing demand, in heaven's name. And in heaven's name it is answered, for a sovereign is dropped into the girl's hand. Sorrow turns to joy, tears to a shout of delight, as the receiver of the coin recognises what a blessing has been conferred on the invalid mother. The little series of character sketches are cleverly portrayed by Miss Beaudet, who receives the sympathetic appreciation of the audience. We cannot help thinking that a more suitable title could have been chosen than "Touring the Varieties." We suggest "The Varieties of Life," or "Episodes of Life." Mr. Reuben Hill renders in capital style a serious and a humorous song. The first told us that love was blind, and yet in the end we learnt that the lovers were not blind to each other's affections. Mr. Hill has a nice tenor voice, which seems to us to afford evidence of higher things, were he to give himself up to a classical training. His singing of "Liberty Hall" showed him to possess in no small degree the natural instincts of a born comedian. Mr. Jack Lorimer is delightfully comical in his songs and dances and other "business." His "Dear Little Shamrock of Ireland," as sung by an old lady, is intensely funny, and he is equally laughter-provoking with his pianoforte imitations of a banjo, and his mimicking of a little girl reciting. A world of nonsensical notions is crowded into the turn of Wilson and Waring, their comedy duologue being so full of quips and cranks that one's face is "on the move" all the time they hold the boards. In the place of Mr. Fred Elton, who has been unable to perform, Miss Myra Stanfield, the accomplished young comedienne, sings a couple of songs, one of which, "Visitors are Requested not to Touch," deals in an amusing manner with a number of topics. Extremely neat and agile are the acrobatic feats of the Zenary Brothers, some portions of their act causing one to hold one's breath for a few seconds at the daring nature of the springs and jumps indulged in by these athletes. Artistic and graceful are the contortionist attitudes and postures in which La Belle Nello appears. The lady seems to have wonderful command over every limb in her body. Commendable, too, are the dancing and singing of the Collins Stella Troupe, consisting of eight pretty girls in handsome costumes. Frank and Free submit a diverting comedy act; Scott and Pearce give a smart burlesque act; and Mr. Charles Stevens, whose achievements as a comedian we have before referred to, and Messrs. George Gray and company, in *The Fighting Parson*, are also here this week.

MRS. JOHN LAWSON

IN "A BRIDE FOR A LIVING."

"There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." And so it is, especially with the members of the theatrical profession. One may toil and toil, perhaps with credit, and yet without signal success. Perhaps the parts were wrong; perhaps the circumstances were unkindly. There are actors and actresses who have gone through life with the wrong parts, and with the circumstances unkindly; and ended a career of disappointment in a sentiment of disgust.

But when the success does come, how wise to grip it bodily, and follow where it leads. Such is the case of Mrs. John Lawson. For some time now, under the careful tuition of her husband, she has progressed step by step. She was a modest serio when he first knew her; more recently, a useful and effective performer in his sketches. It was *A Bride for a Living* that lifted her bodily from such a position to one of real prominence. The regular attendant at the theatre sees much acting that is a weariness of the flesh. Now and again he comes upon something so vivid, so faithful in portraiture, so fascinating, that it pays him for all the weariness. It puts him in possession, for a few minutes only, it may be, of the delight of play-going; makes him a full citizen of the land of make-believe. So it is with Mrs. Lawson's Slum-Lady Macbeth. The sketch is a good one; and would, we doubt not, make its way unaided. With the co-operation of Mrs. Lawson, we regard it as one of the most distinguished dramatic entertainments of the time. Its establishment at a West-end hall, for a run, ought to be immediate.—*Music Hall*, Feb. 10, 1905.

GRAND, CLAPHAM.

The ambition of Mr. Walter Gibbons to make abundant provision for the amusement of the public is realised at every hall he controls, the Grand Palace, at Clapham-Junction, of which Mr. Harry Bawn is manager, being particularly favoured this week. In the strong and well-assorted programme an attraction of a special kind is to be found in Miss Annie Abbott, "the Little Georgia Magnet," who still exercises her magnetic influence over the strongest of the sterner sex, not in the usual feminine way, but by establishing a "contact" by means of placing her little finger on the face. Half a score Battersea stalwarts assemble nightly on the stage, and the *petite Americaine* successfully resists their united efforts either to raise her from the ground or to move her from her position, once she has expressed her determination to remain. Miss Abbott, who also demonstrates her powers of "hypnotic suggestion" at a distance, conducts her experiments with a cheeriness that embellishes the phenomenal feats she performs, and gains many laurels. Mr. Joe O'Gorman, who receives a popular ovation, selects "Pepita Maguire" as the subject of a quaintly-written serenade of a sweetheart, who appears to combine the personalities of a Spanish senorita and an Irish colleen. Mr. O'Gorman's anecdotes are freshly compounded, and his rich brogue lends a fascination to his stories of "Patsy O'Flanagan," and add greatly to their effect in arousing unbounded mirth. A new version of "Three Men Went a-Hunting" also supplied means of merriment, and the audience are energetic in recalling the comedian, who has afforded so much enjoyment. Bugle and cornet are employed by the Musical Howards in their entertainment, the music of which is merged in the exquisite fun which is developed in a series of droll attempts by the male musician to play "The Broken Melody," and in the assistance of his lady companion, who is a charming comedienne. The claims of St. Cecilia are nevertheless conceded by her at the end, when she gives an excellent rendering of "Let me like a Soldier Fall" on the cornet, being afterwards joined by her partner in a duet of "The Old Brigade." Miss Kitty Rayburn awakens tender feelings with her song of "My Old Man and Me," a ballad of homely sentiment, in which marital felicity figures. Miss Rayburn long since found the most vulnerable points in the armour of sadness which is said to surround the pleasures of the nation, and the shafts of wit contained in "The Christening" are made to pierce the most hardened—to such purpose does the charming artiste employ her gifts of low comedy. Forest and King indulge in dancing in many varied forms, of which a dainty little maid supplies clever specimens. She is particularly expert in a maze of "Catherine wheels," for which she is cordially applauded, no less hearty being the cheers bestowed on the male performer, who does some marvellous acrobatic work on a table. Frank Hartley, the boy juggler, makes himself handy with hat, stick, and cigarette, and other impedimenta, eventually pressing chairs and tables into the service of his art; and the Mozondos, in their barrel and tumbling act, combine fun and skill effectively. The vitality of Miss Kitty Beresford, in her song of "The Parasol," is greatly to be admired, the effect of a taking refrain being aided by a pair of twinkling feet in an accompanying dance. Mr. Charles Osborne touches exhaustively on topics of the day, his references to matters of burning interest being loudly acclaimed. Miss Alma Bignell contributes valuably to the programme, and the evening is ended with the sketch, *For the Honour of the Regiment*, in which the Bertie of Mr. Frank Hardie still shines conspicuously, and in which the support of Mr. Wm. Felton, Mr. George Grahame, Mr. C. Lilford Delph, and Miss Irene Carlton is invaluable.

THE SOUTH LONDON.

"Work, boys, work, and be contented!" is the refrain Mr. Johnny Dwyer sings nightly at the South London Palace. And the "boys" do work—in applauding the clever comedian, for very contented are they with his performance. Mr. Dwyer deals with a variety of current topics, including, of course, the Russian revolt, about which he has a few stirring things to say. Mr. Wilson Hallett is a clever mimic of children's ways and children's chatter, and he causes a good deal of merriment by his imitations of the irresponsible remarks of the little ones, and his portrayal of many of their characteristics. A veritable worker of wonders is Herr Fritz, who seems to be able to conjure forth at will all manner of articles, as well as various specimens of the feathered tribe. His tricks are smartly and neatly executed. Davis and Davis, in their novel comedy act, explain how to get over one of the greatest difficulties in the path of some men who are bound Cupid's way. One of the Davis's comes on the stage dressed up as a girl, the disguise being most effective. The turn is a most laughable one. Gymnastic exercises on a wire in mid-air seem as comfortable an operation to Celest as walking is to the ordinary individual. One of his most daring feats in this direction involves his mounting a ladder, while the base of the ladder is balanced on the wire. Celest also knows well how to manipulate a heavy baton, his nimble twirling and whirling of the weapon exciting general admiration. Mr. George Fairburn discourses in an entertaining fashion on the many types of men a hairdresser is called upon to attend to. Miss Victoria Monks, as usual, makes her entry and her exit to the accompaniment of volumes of loud applause. As usual, too, there is a noisy outcry from the "gods," who compete with one another in the noisiness of their demands for such-and-such a song, for the clever American comedienne has left pleasant memories of all the ditties she has sung. She appears in two of her songs, "There's a Girl Inside," and the extremely popular "If You Want to Have a Row, Wait till the Morning," the melody of which is chorused with gusto by the gallery. Miss Monks has a delightful style of her own, which would almost make any song a success. Mr. Frank Gerald presents his dramatic sketch, *Captain Starlight*, in which he shows conspicuous ability as an actor in the title-part. This sensational equestrian spectacle, as it is called, has been written by Mr. Gerald, who is the author of several other successful "episodes." *Captain Starlight* possesses considerable merit from the point of view of authorship, and it is well played throughout by Mr. Gerald's little band of followers, the leading lady being Miss Evelyn Vaudray. The Florodora Girls, speciality artistes; Little Queenie May, the juvenile wonder; Kitty Clay, comedienne and dancer; and Ruff's Imperial Bioscope also contribute to an attractive programme.

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

A leading feature in the excellent programme at the Holloway Empire this week is Selkirk's naval spectacle entitled *The Handy Man*, performed by one hundred Holloway children. The scene represents the deck of a man-of-war, and here is given a series of drills and exercises by the young people of both sexes. The girls take their turn first, and show alertness in their drill. Next come the boys, who are in command of a young lady, who represents a naval officer. The lads display expertness in gun and other military exercises. After they have had their turn a little comedy is introduced, in which a diminutive Jack Tar takes a prominent part, the boys and girls gathering round in a semi-circle to enjoy the fun and frolic. Another diversion is introduced when the young lady already mentioned sings an appropriate song, which is received with applause. The production finishes in dramatic style in the form of a naval attack, the victory of the sailors being signalised by cheering and other demonstrations of joy. The spectacle is a very pretty and interesting one, and, besides, it gives useful employment to an appreciable number of Holloway boys and girls. Another turn which affords great delight is that given by Paul Sandor, whose circus entertainment is on novel lines. A number of dogs are made up to look like small ponies, and on the back of each is firmly seated a doll representing a lady or gentleman rider. For the supposed edification of a lady and gentleman in a motor-car the animals go through a circus performance. The figures in the car, as well as those on horseback, are cleverly worked by Mr. Sandor, who exercises his ventriloquial powers with amusing results. This is particularly the case when one of the "ponies" appears with a "lion" on its back, and the King of the Forest is prevailed upon to answer questions. The well-trained dogs represent a jumping pony, a waltzing pony, a quick-stepping pony, and a pony that travels on three legs. Altogether, this is a capital show. Ludwig Amann is here again with his truly admirable impersonations of characters and notabilities. Recent additions include the leading Russian and Japanese Generals, and amongst other eminent people whose portraits are thus cleverly presented are the late Mr. Gladstone and the living Mr. Chamberlain and Presidents Loubet and Roosevelt, the series concluding with a capital representation of His Majesty the King, whose popularity is attested by the applause with which his picture is received. Unthan, "the armless wonder," continues to make remarkable use of his feet, which in his case take the place of hands. He plays the fiddle, draws a cork from a bottle, and pours out a glass of wine, from which he drinks. He also smokes, and has a hand at nap, concluding his performance by playing a solo on the cornet. Mr. Pat Carey, the popular Irish comedian, makes a hit with his ditty, "They were all Irish," and his step dancing is very neat. Mr. Johnny Gilmore is also in the bill, and does well with his songs, "I didn't get home for weeks" and "All through that Navvy." Signorina Verera sings the Jewel song from "Faust" in admirable style, and meets with a very favourable reception. So, too, do the Bros. Webb, amusing clowns, who show much artistic skill in their handling of various musical instruments. Walker and May, coloured singers and eccentric dancers, also contribute. The experienced musical director at this well-patronised theatre of varieties is Mr. Thomas Gray, and Mr. Charles W. Adams is the energetic acting-manager.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, Dec. 13, 1904.—Miss Tittell Brune holds sway at Her Majesty's Theatre in Mr. J. C. Williamson's magnificent production of *Theodora*. Never in the history of the Australian stage has an actress, practically unknown to playgoers, so completely captivated her audiences by genuine artistic merit as has Miss Brune. Certain it is that as long as Miss Brune likes to stay, or as often as she likes to come, she will be heartily welcomed and lustily cheered. *Theodora* will be repeated to night and to-morrow, *Sunday* on Thursday, and the season will conclude on Friday with *Romeo and Juliet*.

"The World" was one of Mr. Bland Holt's earliest successes, and his own impersonation of Moss Jewell lives in the memory of playgoers. Of the original cast of principals he alone remains. J. L. Hall and H. N. Douglas are dead, Myra Kemble has long since retired, and Charles Holloway has become an actor-manager on his own account. But the story and sensations are as strong as in 1882, and Mr. John Brunton has framed the play in most befitting scenery. The chief novelty in the cast is the casting of the company's traditional villain, Mr. Albert Norman, as the hero, Clement Huntingford. The explosion, the lunatic asylum, the wreck, the raft, the Crystal Palace, and the fancy dress ball, with its electric ballet, all are as attractive and as loudly cheered as ever. Mr. Holt's Christmas bill at the Theatre Royal will be *A Desperate Game*.

Mr. J. C. Williamson's Bio-Tableaux opened at the Queen's Hall on the 10th, and achieved instant success.

SYDNEY, Dec. 20.—Miss Tittell Brune concluded her season at Her Majesty's on the 16th, with *Romeo and Juliet*. The theatre was packed, and Mr. J. C. Williamson's staging of the Shakespearean tragedy was greatly admired. Miss Brune acted better than at any time during her stay, and floral offerings were as numerous as the applause was fervent. When the curtain fell, the young American actress was called many times, and a speech was insisted on. Miss Brune unaffectedly, but warmly, thanked the Sydney public for its appreciation and support (unprecedented for the month of December), and Mr. Williamson and Mr. Ramaciotti for their personal kindness and courtesy to her. She said, "You laughed with Sunday, you sighed with Juliet, you encouraged me as Theodora, and you took me to your hearts as the Eaglet." People waited at the stage door until midnight to get a farewell glance at the favourite. Miss Brune will not return to Sydney until the end of 1905. Meanwhile she will tour the other States of the Commonwealth and New Zealand.

The Gilbert and Sullivan series of revivals began at Her Majesty's on the 17th with *Patience*. The occasion was remarkable for two things. First the acting of Bunthorne by Mr. Howard Vernon, who created the part in 1881 in this city. On Saturday he acted, sang, and danced better than ever before. It was also a noteworthy occasion, because Miss Dolly Castles made her début in *Patience*, having only previously appeared at a matinée in Melbourne. The young Australian sang well, and in acting and speaking surprised all who expected a crude novice. Another newcomer was Mr. Frank Wilson (from the Savoy), who was Colonel Calverly, a crisp impersonation. Mr. Charles Kenningham had the comparatively small part of the Duke of Dunstable. It was well done, as is all his work. The Archibald Grosvenor of Mr. John Ralston, clear of diction and resonant of voice, and Major Murgatroyd fell to Mr. H. H. Wallace. Miss Celia Ghiloni as Lady Jane sang the music in excellent form, and her violoncello scene evoked laughter and applause. The three ladies Angela, Ella, and Sophie were charming in appearance, style, and vocalism as represented by Misses Aggie Thorne, Vinie Deloitte, and Sara Hyman. Mr. W. Ford was a funny Mr. Bunthorne's solicitor.

The American Travesty Stars at the Palace are running through their previous répertoire with Miss Celia Mavis and Mr. Edwin Lester in the parts formerly played by Miss Maud Amber and Mr. Winfield Blake.

The Tivoli has Hackenschmidt as its chief attraction; this is his last week, as it is also the last of the Frasettis, Tom Dawson, Irving Sayles, Miss Hilda Lane, Kearns and Rosslyn, the Diamond Duo, Lal Logic, Tom Leonard, Carden Wilson, Doris Baker, and Wanda Radford. Remaining are the Salambos, Historicus, James Opie, and Harry Atkinson.

Mr Harry Rickards, his company, and Mr. W. F. Hawtrey, and Miss Winifred Austin, give a matinée at the Tivoli to-morrow to raise funds for a Christmas dinner to 1,000 poor people. The City Council grants the use of the basement of the Town Hall for this charitable purpose.

Wirth's Circus in Phillip Park is doing holiday business, the latest attraction being "Chifalo" in his daring feat called "Kilpatrick's Death Trap."

This week's bill at the Tivoli, Kidderminster, is headed by Rozel in his daring high-rope performance; Lillie Barrington, Dan Idle, J. H. McCoy, Marie Leon, The Longfords, and Leslie and Player. Miss Alma Curzon, who is also billed, was unable to appear on Monday, owing to the loss of her dresses on the railway.

"THE ERA"

SHILLING FUND

FOR THE

MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

Total to date, 1804½.

	Shillings.
Thomas Barrasford	700
M.H.A.R.A.	400
Lily Burnaud	42
L. C. J. Livermore	42
C. Mannering	31½
Paul Cinquevalli	21
Gus Elen	21
Rozel	1

Collected by Mr Walter Stockwell, £1 14s.

	Shillings.		Shillings.
The Sivronis	2	P. Palmer	1
Bandoni	2	F. Durant	1
Walter Stockwell	1	B. Jordan	1
Walter Wallis	1	Percy Murray	1
R. G. Fox	1	Grove Duo	1
Fitzroy	1	W. Munroe	1
Miss F. Chester	1	G. Barclay	1
W. Oliver	1	H. Simms	1
Richard Cass	1	Jack Richards	1
J. Spain	1	J. Laws	1
T. Callaghan	1	Jack Lorimer	1
T. Fitzroy	1	Mrs H. Simms	1
Jack Charman	1	Denmark Pair	1
Annie Laurie	1	H. H. Braham	1
Nellie Lewis	1	Eyre Wymfred	1
Walter Bartley	1	Frank J. Woods	1

Collected by Mr J. Sparrow, £2 9s.

J. Sparrow	10	Nellie Wilson	1
Wal Pink	2	Emma Dou	1
Barton and Franklin	2	P. Murray	1
F. Reeves	1	J. B. Peterman	1
L. Dreams	1	Fitzroys	1
J. Fortune	1	Alf Auckland	1
Harry Goodson	1	T. C. Callaghan	1
W. Bentley	1	Rex Fox	1
R. Cass	1	Jordan	1
Mozondos	1	Pedlar	1
Tee and Tee	1	Bob Hanlon	1
Rossi and Vaughan	1	Laure	1
A. Veno	1	Travis	1
B. Monks	1	E. J. Sheldon	1
E. G. Bale	1	Tacius	1
Dandy George	1	G. H. Elliott	1
W. Stockwell	1	Stewart and Morgan	1
Valveno	½	C. Heath	½
C. Chapman	1	Annie Laurie	½
H. Cazman	1		

Collected by Harris and Worth, Macnaghten's Touring Pantomime, "Robinson Crusoe," £1 1s.

Harris and Worth	2	Miss Daisy Reed	1
Will Lytton	1	Miss Vivien	1
Jack Foley	1	Miss Harding	1
Miss Hurman	1	Miss Stewart	1
Chas. Cork	1	Mr Baines	1
Miss Leonard	1	Mr Charles Hylton	1
Miss Ivy Gallard	1	A. May	1
Mr James	1	W. Whylie	1
Harry Morgan	1	R. H. Barker	1
Miss Dora Langham	1	Miss Bartlett	1

Collected by Mr Fred Spencer, J. F. Elliston's "Cinderella" Company, York, 16½s.

Sisters Meredith	1½	Mabel Englehardt	1
Ernie Mayne	1	Hettie Zillwood	1
Tom Owen	1	Mamie Stuart	1
Tatteu Hall	1	Belle Worstencroft	1
Don Harriadine	1	Carola	1
Fred Spencer	1	Lewis Leslie	1
Jack Lane	1	Marie Rayburn	½
Madcaps	1	Marie Lindner	½
Ted Houghton	1		

Collected by Mr Joe Lawrence, 19s. 6d.

Tray and Rich	2½	Ben Whiteley	1
Henry Clarke	2½	Harry Grey	1
Fenton and Harrison	2½	Syd Godfrey	1
Tom Tinsley	1	Reginald Rutter	1
Ras B.	1	Ted Leopold	1
Joe Hughes	1	Ariel and Astarte	1
Ben Elen	1	Forest and King	1
T. W. Wright	1		

Collected by Mr Harry Barnard, £1 2s. 6d.

Harry Barnard	10	Alec Jacobs	1
Henry Cazman	1½	Wooly Jacobs	1
David Phillips	1	Charlie Edwards	1
Ben Phillips	1	Charlie Booty	1
Lewis Phillips	1	H. C.	1
Joe Phillips	1	Mr Golding	1
Horace Barnard	1		

Collected by Grell and Grey, at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, Pantomime, "Cinders," £3.

John Hart	20	Eida Burman	1
J. W. Rowley	5	Miss Payne	1
Grell and Grey	5	C. Chambers	1
Roze and Calvert	2½	Will Ratcliffe	1
Carlton	2½	Cyril Rawden	1
F. Fowler	2½	E. W. Dauuton	1
Katie May	2½	Mrs Keene	1
Leo Grieve	2½	J. Simpson	1
J. B. Nightingale	1	E. Dickson	1
D. Drew	1	Chorus Gents.	1s. 7d.
Maud Holland	1	A Friend	1s. 1½d.
Marie Daltra	1	Children	9½d.
Irene Verona	1		

Collected by Miss Nellie Christie, £2 8s.

Nellie Christie	20	Wally Scott	2
N. Coleman and Dome	5	Fred Solo	2
Tossing Austins	4	M. D. V.	1½
Mabel Osborn	3	Sisters James	1½
Virto	2½	P. L. F.	1
A. Kelsall	2½	Miss Castleton	1
Box Baxter	2		

Collected by Mr Tom Vine, £1 7s. 6d.

George Gilbey	5	Baby Violet M'Farlane	1
W. J. Churchill (Willie)	2½	George Bernard	1
Clara Nisbet	2½	Charles Frazer	1
Tom Vine	2½	Beattie Worth	1
Five Royal Zerbinis	2	John Sylvester Sage	1
Les Kyasyas	2	Peter Leckie	1
Fielding and Hull	2	Marie Mason	1
B. W. Selman	1	Mr Cumminger	1

Collected by Walton and Lester, Brixton Theatre, S.W., £1 7s.

Chard and Clarey	5	May Kent	1
Brett and Orford	5	A. W. Hanwell	1
Walton and Lester	5	Somers Bellamy	1
Nat Lewis	2½	Madge Haines	1
Ted Young	2½	Art Bewlay	1
Frank Bratsell	2		

Collected by E. A. Bridgen, the Granville, Walhamgreen, £1 10s.

Chas. Dixon	1	Lily Simmons	1
Kate Lynd	1	Francis and Melli	1
Harry Lane	1	Edisonograph	1
Bella Bright	1	V. L. Granville	1
Tom E. Hughes	1	Victor Newman	1
E. W. Manning	1	Lieut. Albini	1
Great Scott	1	Tambo and Tambo	1
L. Lennox	1	Will Toole	1
Les Voces	1	Ruby Bijou	1
Sisters Caselli	1	Arthur A. Davenport	1
Lydia Dreams	1	Edwardes & Espinosa	1
Gus Hindell	1	Dora Clifford	1
Ida Royston	1	The Phantos	1
G. Onllaw	1	Cissy Dryden	1
Chas. Wren	1	John Lawson	1

Collected by Mr Joe Boganny, £3 3s.

Joe Boganny	10	W. Larner	1
E. B. Teena	5	Henry Scanlon	1
Tom Prichard	5	A. E. Jersey	1
Kimberley Boys	2½	Tom J. Morton	1
Will Poluski, jun.	2½	Tom Crawys	1
Mignon Tremaine	2½	Connie Leon	1
Kate Hardren	2½	Will Moua	1
Frank Hilbert	2½	S. Major Jones	1
Dora Grove	2½	Tom	1
Nemo	2½	C. Lang	1
Violet Frew	2½	Tee and Tee	1
W. C. Walford	2	Fred Leighton	1
Kathleen Gray	2	Clarie Hilbert	1
R. Jenson	2	Massona	1
Claude Clifton	2	Will Freedo	1

Collected by Mr Tom Fancourt, 13s.

Tom Fancourt	1	Harry Gribben	1
Jennie Ruble	1	Billy Elliott	1
George Belrose	1	Oliver Conroy	1
Ruby Winstone	1	Max Stirling	1
Lily Black	1	J. Brannhan	1
Beatrice Renee	1	George Bendon	1
Erbert Stevens	1		

Mr Frank Weston, £2 0s. 6d.

Brothers Forrest	3	Permane	1
M. Walton	2½	Hilgert Arkas	1
Nellie Wallace	2½	Tom M'Imray	1
T. Nelson Downes	2	W. G. Pratt	1
Al. Lawrence	2	E. B. Mayor	1
Ed. F. Reynard	2	E. Y. Stevens	1
T. F. Griffiths	2	Francess Letty	1
Densmore	1	Dan Llewllyn	1
Alexander Braatz	1	Warly Marus (Marus Bros.)	1
Raffaelo Trio	1	Emma and Victor	1
Yinlians	1	Slippere	1
F. Finklestein	1	The Four Cliftons	1
S. Okimoto	1	Phil Lack	1
R. Royce	1	Adolph Luck	1
D. Crombie	1	Falcons	0½
E. Leonard	1		
Vock et Var	1		

Collected by Mr T. S. Lonsdale, £3 14s. 6s.

Capt. E. H. Warren-Wright	20	Kit Keen	1
Prof. Wingard	2	The Davenports	1
W. Pratt	2	The Four Jumels	1
Sherrys	2	Walter Payne	1
L. Whybro	2	Lillie North	1
A. Borghetti	2	G. Collins	1
Four Maiseuos	2	T. Loader	1
Sisters Selwyn	2	Les Sprays	1
F. J. Barnard (Barnard's Marionettes)	1½	W. Martini	1
T. C. Gannon	1	F. Thorne	1
T. S. Lonsdale	1	Leslie Race	1
Ralston Bros.	1	France Piper	1
Tom Parker	1	The Jagos	1
Howard and Collinson	1	J. W. Ellison	1
Lee and Bentley	1	Sam Dalton	1
Leopolds	1	R. Gilbert	1
Millie Howell	1	E. H. Lucas	1
Sisters Hall	1	Wal Douglas	1
Dora Lyric	1	Carl Mysto	1
Arthur Reece	1	Hamilton Hill	1
Sisters Charnley	1	Alec Huline	1
Hanson	1	Hughes and Elliott	1
E. H. Williams	1	T. W. Rickaby	1
		Calcotts	1
		Will Farrell	1

Collected by Miss Bessie Willow, Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield, £2 4s.

James Byrne	5	W. V. Vido	1
T. Swinton	5	Allan Carruthers	1
James Kiddie	5	Mela Anderson	1
E. Shelton	2½	Harry Albery	1
Tom Lawson	2½	Leah Laurie	1
Bessie Willow	2	Bella Taylor	1
Curtis and Vanity	2	Conductor	1
Clifton and Gibson	2	A. Jones	1
Florence Hilton	2	S. Bigwood	1
Sisters Kilner	2	A. Blake	1
Harry Friedman	1	Herbert Newton	1
Muddles	1	Cyril Dundas	1

Will the Collectors for Mr Thomas Barrasford's appeal for the Music Hall Home Fund kindly send in their lists to *The Era* Office to the hon. treasurer, Mr F. H. Pedgrift. They will be duly announced in our next issue. Those artistes who desire a collecting card please apply to Mr J. T. Fruin, secretary, 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E.

HERBERT CAMPBELL MEMORIAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—A memorial to the late Mr. Herbert Campbell in the shape of a bust, either in marble or bronze, is to be obtained, and placed, if possible, in the vestibule of the Theatre Royal, Drury-lane, the scene of so many of his triumphs. Mr. Harry Randall has kindly consented to act as president, and Mr. Edward Ledger, of *The Era*, as treasurer to the fund.

It is the intention of the committee to engage an artist of repute to execute this work to the memory of the above-mentioned generous and genial comedian. The committee will esteem it a great favour if his old friends and admirers will assist in making this memorial a success. All subscriptions will be duly acknowledged in *The Era*.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK HEATH,
(Secretary).

Committee Rooms, Hummums Hotel, Covent-garden, W.C., Nov. 2.

Sums received.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
A. Magnus	10	10	0	Lydia M. Roberts	1	1	0
Henry Joyner	5	5	0	Thomas Mason	1	1	0
Mr William Harris	5	5	0	C. Chuck	1	1	0
Joe Elvin	3	3	0	S. A. Graddage	1	1	0
G. W., J. R., and F. H. Fortescue	3	3	0	G. H. Chirgwin	1	1	0
Herbert Lawford	2	2	0	C. Chuck	1	1	0
Robert Astley	1	10	0	G. W. Fortescue	1	1	0
Marie Lloyd	1	1	0	J. R. Fortescue	1	1	0
J. Hickory Wood	1	1	0	F. H. Fortescue	1	1	0
H. Comfort	1	1	0	Mrs M. A. Hearn	1	0	0
Weedon Grossmith	1	1	0	W. Clarkson	0	10	6
Jesse Sparrow	1	1	0	A Lazarus	0	10	6
Pat Doherty	1	1	0	Mrs C. L. Lawson	0	10	6
G. A. E. Hussey	1	1	0	Mrs White	0	10	6
Gus Elen	1	1	0	Richard Box	0	10	6
Thos. Cracknell	1	1	0	Katti Lanner	0	10	0
Arthur W. Bray	1	1	0	A. May	0	5	0
				M. M. M'Neill	0	2	6

Per Harry Randall :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Harry Randall	5	5	0	J. Bernard Dickson	1	1	0
Robert Jay, Esq.	5	5	0	W. Willett	1	1	0
Eugene Stratton	2	2	0	Hugh J. Ward	1	1	0
Little Tich	2	2	5	C. Temperley	1	1	0
Eccentric Club	2	2	0	Charles Hector	0	10	0
A. Duffy	1	1	0				

ALEXANDRA PALACE.

On Saturday evening, in the Central Hall, the Alexandra Palace Choral and Orchestral Society, under the conductorship of Mr. Allen Gill, gave a sucessful performance of Sir Charles Stanford's "The Revenge," the words by Lord Tennyson. This was followed by the "Jewel Song" from *Faust*, the recitative and air being excellently rendered by Madame Louise Burns. Mr. G. D. Cunningham's solo and organ concerto were listened to with due appreciation. The air from *Judith*, "God Breaketh the Battle," sung by Mr. Charles Sanders, was rapturously encored, and he replied with "Sigh no more Ladies." The Italian Symphony, "Andante and Tarantella," by the orchestra, brought the first part of the concert to a conclusion. German's "Welsh Rhapsody" opened the second part. This work was written for the Cardiff Festival of 1904. It introduces some well-known Welsh airs, including "Hunting the Hare," "The Bells of Aberdovey," and "The March of the Men of Harlech"—all of which numbers were meritoriously executed. Madame Louise Burns's sweet soprano was heard to great advantage in the song "The Lord is My Shepherd," in which she was accompanied by the composer, Miss Kate Cholditch Smith, on one of the finest organs in England.

MISS ROSAMOND LEY'S RECITAL.

At the Bechstein Hall, on Tuesday evening, Miss Rosamond Ley gave her first Pianoforte Recital, under the direction of M. Vert, to a fashionable, crowded, and appreciative audience. She played Schumann's Sonata in G minor, Chopin's Impromptu in F sharp, Op. 36, Polonaise in C minor, Op. 40, Barcarole, and Brahm's Intermezzo, Op. 118, with remarkable brilliancy and technique. Miss Ley also gave admirably Chopin's "Ballade in F Minor," Ed. Schütt's "Concert Paraphrasen uber Walzer von Johann Strauss," and Liszt's Melodies, Polonaises, and Rhapsodie Hongroise. The above selections were interspersed with some charming songs by Miss Mary Morgan, whose rich contralto won hearty appreciation. The accompanist, Mr. Ivor Morgan, deserves a special word of praise.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Harry Lorreano, producer and stage-manager of Mr. Arthur Carlton's highly-successful Ealing pantomime, *Aladdin*, was presented on Saturday last, at the Theatre Royal, Aldershot, with a very handsome portmanteau, travelling gloves, and cigar case, by the members of the company, as a mark of their respect. Miss Jennie Richards made the presentation in a very appropriate speech.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES RAILWAY ASSOCIATION DINNER.

WHERE is Bohemia? asks Mr. Henry Hamilton in his fine play *Harvest*. Anywhere, everywhere! On Sunday evening it had its temporary abode at the Trocadero, where a large and representative gathering of the variety profession gave itself over to the heartiest enjoyment, and swelled the chorus of congratulation that was sounded on all sides concerning the immense progress of the Music Hall Railway Association. This society germinated some eight years since, as the result of a meeting of a few artistes at a Lambeth hostelry. A provisional committee was formed, and the weakly plant, favoured by the encouragement of the railways, became, with the dawn of the century, a hardy tree, well established in the confidence of the profession. The advantages it offers seem to increase year by year. An excellent system of agency, by which parties of artistes are continually advised as to the cheapest systems of travelling, has been among the chief and most valuable results of the working of the Association in the provinces, and several of these gentlemen were present on Sunday evening to receive the congratulations of their friends in the profession on their highly valued labours. But gallantry compels us to give the first place among these agents to Mrs. Egerton, who is perhaps better known in the two hemispheres as "Ma" Egerton, who is the presiding genius of the American Bar in Lime-street, Liverpool, a professional house as well known as the York in Waterloo-road. Mrs. Egerton is always an honoured guest at these pleasant réunions, and from her place of honour on the left of Mr. Eugene Stratton she responded in a short and kindly speech to the toast of "The Ladies," which had apparently been forgotten in the list on the menu. Her reception was of the heartiest description. Mr. Harry Randall, the President of the Association, was the chairman of the occasion, and set a good example by making his speech commendably short. He referred in sympathetic terms to the regrettable absence of Miss Marie Lloyd, but had some good news for the guests when he informed them that the latest reports concerning the bright little lady's health, that most of them had probably read in Sunday morning's papers, were much exaggerated, and that he was pleased to say that Marie was making most favourable progress to convalescence. In 1903, it wil be remembered, the late Mr. Herbert Campbell presided over the annual function; and his fellow-player, Mr. Dan Leno, filled the position in 1902. Mr. Randall made a touching reference to his dear friend Campbell, and referred in the most eulogistic and kindly terms to his predecessor at Drury-lane—the comedian who could never be replaced, the comedian of the century.

The Association is still anxious to secure a further reduction of the privileged number travelling on tour from five to three. Some five years ago, when an agitation for this reduction was

Photo. by W. Davey.

MR. HARRY RANDALL.

started, Sir Loftus Wilkinson pointed out the impossibility of complying with the request. Then it was the war that had increased the working expenses of the company. This year, as Mr. A. H. Hoyle, of the South-Western Railway, pointed out, it is the depression of trade that has decreased the dividends of the various companies, and the much-desired reduction cannot be granted.

The Association has a business character, but such is the economy of its administration, and so great is its popularity, that it has been able to distribute the large sum of £940 in charity. In these benefits professional and railway benevolent institutions have shared, and the amounts grow larger every year. The scope of the Society's objects has long included legal aid; and now gratuitous medical aid, where necessary, can be obtained by members, for no less than six specialists in London have offered their services in necessitous cases. Altogether, the Music Hall Railway Association is doing an excellent work, and its administration by a devoted secretary, a hard-working and practical committee, and a number of agents has gained, and thoroughly deserves, the confidence of every member of the profession.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Randall received their guests in the Alexandra Room, adjacent to the Empire Room, where supper was served and the dance afterwards enjoyed. "General Hilarity," an excellent commander for such a gathering, ruled the proceedings. Representatives of comedy of every kind—from acrobatic to Hibernian—"took the flure." Expert dancers were everywhere, and the mere layman felt some trepidation when he timidly solicited the honour of a polka with a lady who had perhaps won the admiration of both hemispheres by the most intricate forms of step dancing. But the *prime donne* of Terpsichore were graciousness itself, and the spirit and entrain of the whole affair were kept up until nearly four o'clock. Mr. Bob Hutt would insist upon conducting the band, and did so with a seriousness and a steady beat that suggested an academy training; and there were many humorous incidents that kept the gaiety of the occasion in a constant whirl.

After an excellent dinner, served in the perfect style which is invariable at the Trocadero, Mr. HARRY RANDALL briefly proposed the loyal toast, and voiced the sympathy of the assembled guests with the King and Queen in their great anxiety concerning the health of their daughter, Princess Victoria. The toast was received with musical honours, the National Anthem being sung "with heart and voice."

In proposing "The Association and Its Provincial Agents," he said that it was with immense pleasure that he proposed prosperity to the Association, which had now reached its eighth birthday. It was the first time that he had taken part in a public function connected with the Association since he had been honoured by his election as president, and he took that opportunity of thanking them. There was an element of regret mingled with his pleasure. Two years ago a very dear friend of his, the late Mr. Herbert Campbell, took the chair at that gathering, and his interest in everything that concerned the profession was well known. He had to deplore, and they had to deplore, the loss of another dear old friend in Mr. Dan Leno, the comedian of the century, one who can never be replaced. They were very sorry not to see there that evening a very popular lady and a patroness of their Association, and they were still more sorry at the cause that kept her away. He referred to Miss Marie Lloyd. She had sent him the following telegram :—"Serious illness prevents me being present to-night. Wish the Association every success. Hope you will have jolly time. Kindest regards to all.—Marie Lloyd." He wished to correct the reports that had appeared in some of the Sunday papers. Miss Lloyd had had no relapse, and the doctor hoped that she would be out and about within a week. He was glad to say that their Association was going on swimmingly; and combined with their business, now so prosperous, they were able to give a helping hand to charities. He learnt from Mr. Stuart that since its formation the Association had distributed between £900 and £1,000 between the Railway and Music Hall Charities. This was a record of which they as artistes might well feel proud. What had astonished him most was the enormous increase of members and the smallness of the staff that controlled the working of the M.H.R.A.; and, in speaking of the administration, he would refer to the two "Douglases"—Douglas Stuart and Douglas White—who were among the founders. They had the honour of being members of the first deputation to the railway managers. Mr. Stuart, he knew, looked upon his duties as a labour of love. He put heart and soul into his work. Then there were many zealous workers in the provinces, who assisted in the travelling arrangements of 150 people every week—no light task—and they had a committee giving valuable time continuously to the multifarious details of the management of the Association without fee or reward. They were a happy family, with plenty of money in the bank, and they were entitled to self-congratulation. He had much pleasure in coupling the toast with the name of Mr. Douglas Stuart.

MR. DOUGLAS STUART said: "I assure you I feel it a high honour to be permitted to reply to this toast for our Association, of which I have held the proud post of secretary since its formation, and have watched its birth, infancy, its growing years, and its now lusty boyhood. I can therefore realise, perhaps better than many, how marvellously successful it has been even from its start. We have now an average number of new members joining each week of over forty. Don't be alarmed; I am not going to read the names of last week's enrolment out to you. The names are so long, and so difficult to pronounce, that I could not if I would. If I did, you would find that they are not all British, and some required nearly 20 letters—chiefly consonants. As you know, we speak several languages at the office, and are about to attend night classes to learn other foreign languages that may be useful—such as Russian, Japanese, and American. The mention of our alien friends reminds me that when I was expounding the other evening to a London manager how for a dollar our members were allowed 25 per cent. off their railway fares; that they obtained free legal and medical advice; that they were doubly insured, and other privileges, he remarked, 'What about us poor managers? Can't you do something for us?' I at once replied that we were contemplating a home for proprietors and managers disabled from pursuing their business avocations through lock-jaw from the too frequent pronouncing of cracked foreign cognomina. Naturally, so many new members benefit the smaller artiste, as parties of five can be more readily made up; but they also increase the office work, and it would be mock modesty on my part not to tell you that I do have to work all day and nearly all night to keep pace with what there is to do. The office labours, however, are brightened now and again by a little sunshine in the way of amusing incidents. For instance, there was the gentleman who thought the station for Liverpool must be Liverpool Street; another who wished to travel to Manchester from Victoria; and still another who put on the list for Carlisle or York, thinking these towns were within twelve miles radius. One lady who was engaged for Bloatertown found herself stranded one Sunday afternoon on the beach at Yarmouth in the Isle of Wight, and there have been others. Again, there are members who place their names on the list—or else write to me—and never put their address. When I do not communicate with them they become indignant. I remember one member who was careful to put his address in full, but never signed the letter. I do not wish to detain you, but there is one subject which I would like to impress upon the minds of all members, and that is how great a benefit is the one recently obtained for you in the way of free medical advice. Not only in nearly every provincial town are there doctors who are kind enough to attend you without any payment, but we have six West-end London specialists—some of the most noted in the world—who would give you the best advice entirely free. Let me give you but one case which occurred the other day. The wife of a member was lying very ill, and, although satisfied with the doctor attending her, her husband thought he would like to have the best advice procurable. I gave him a letter, and he went to our specialist, who said he thought it would be better if he saw the lady. So he went down all the way to the S.E. district, and paid two visits. His ordinary fee would have been some £10 to £15, but what did he ask? Nothing. Why? Because the lady was a member of the M.H.A.R.A. These doctors have also promised, with much kindness, to obtain beds when necessary in the principal hospitals for our members at once, instead of waiting sometimes weeks. I think you will agree with me that our very best thanks are due to these members of a class noted for its philanthropy for their great generosity. On behalf of the committee and myself, I thank you most sincerely for the heartiness with which you have drunk this toast, and I thank you, Sir, for the kind words of appreciation you have said about myself. I can only promise to do all that is possible on my part to increase the smooth working of the wheels of the Association, and to attend assiduously to my duties; but as it is human to err, but divine to forgive, forgive me if in the arduous stress of my labours I now and again make a mistake. If I do, I hope and think I shall be able to remedy it. I thank you one and all."

MR. EUGENE STRATTON, who was called upon to speak to the toast of "The Railway Companies," pointed out the courtesy of those companies' representatives in providing free trucks, and in every way looking after them. They had given a concession of five people. He hoped they would make it three. Some good pressing might make them kinder; and, if they didn't ask for it, they would not get it. He thanked the companies for their consideration, and he would not even leave out the South-Eastern.

MR. A. H. HOYLE, the representative of the South-Western, whose name was coupled with the toast, said if there was one thing more pleasing than another it was to be patted on the back. The concession for parties of three had been in their minds before that day; but the companies had had to face reduced dividends, due to the depression of trade. When that depression disappeared he hoped that the concession would be favourably considered. He thanked the Association for their charity towards railway benevolent institutions, and he desired to acknowledge the readiness with which artistes gave their services at their charitable entertainments.

MR. FRANK GERALD, in eulogising the Press, referred to the nice things journalists had been writing about their chairman, and deservedly so. He made a kindly reference to Mr. Dan Leno, whose memory would ever be held dear in the hearts of the Press, the public, and the performer. The Press and the music-hall artiste belonged to the most Bohemian of the professions, and might the bonds that united them never be sundered.

The toast was briefly acknowledged by MR. CHARLES BERTE, part author of *The City of Millions*.

MR. JOE O'GORMAN, in proposing the health of Mr. Randall, spoke with much heartiness of the popularity of their chairman and president. Mr. O'Gorman was brief, and Mr. Randall, in acknowledging the many kind things that had been said concerning him, was even briefer.

Some little amusement was caused by the rising of MR. PHIL RAY to propose "The Ladies," and MR. RANDALL eventually announced that Mr. Ray would make a speech concerning the fair sex, "by one who knows." Mr. Ray was impressively eloquent on the subject, and for the compliments he showered upon our sisters, our cousins, and our aunts he was very prettily thanked by Mrs. Egerton, of the American Bar, Lime-street, Liverpool.

There were nearly 200 guests present. Among them were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Randall, Mr. and Mrs. Dickson, and Mr. H. Ward. From Drury Lane Theatre came Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hearn, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Woottwell, and Mr. W. Cummings; Mr. and Mrs. Joe O'Gorman (chairman of committee), Miss O'Gorman, Miss Dolly O'Gorman. Other committeemen present were Messrs. Harry Freeman, Paul Martinetti, Bob Leonard, Jack Collinson, Frank Gerald, Eugene Stratton, Bob Hutt, Frank Coyne, and Phil Ray. The railway companies were represented by Messrs. A. H. Hoyle (L. & S.W.R.), Frank Lunnon (G.N.R.), W. Simpson (G.W.R.), and W. Barton (G.C.R.). The provincial agents of the Association present were Mrs. Egerton (Liverpool), Messrs. Bert Wilson (Birmingham), M. P. Tench (Manchester), Mrs. Whybro (Portsmouth), Messrs. Chas. Evans (Margate), W. Colbrook (Grimsby), David Crombie (Bristol), A. Epps (Maidstone), Fred Wood (South Shields), E. Moyce (Chatham), Fred Parker (Bradford), and T. W. Rosser (Cardiff) and wife. Mr. Harry Bawn and Mr. Frank Weekes represented the managers, and others we noticed included Mr. Charles W. Snell (Ocean Accident Company), Mr. Douglas White (hon. treasurer) and Mrs. White, Mr. and Mrs. Mayville, "My Fancy," Miss Selina Seaforth, Mrs. F. Coyne, Mrs. Wal Pink, Miss Vulcana and Mr. Atlas, Mr. and Mrs. Fawkes (the Foxes), Ralph and Nellie Howard, Larola and wife, W. Crook and wife, Phillips and Terry, Miss Lily Wolff, Miss Maud and Mrs. Courtney, Miss Peggy Pryde and Mr. George Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Hyams, Mr. and Mrs. Warwick, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Alf Abrahams, Miss Alice Maydne, and Messrs. Barney Armstrong, Mayville, Wm. Lee, George Gray, Tony Pearson, Tom Reece (of billiard fame), J. W. Stocks (of motor fame), Josephs, J. Sharman, W. Curtis, J. Inger (Variety Theatre), C. D. Brissenden, E. Brown, C. Terry, Maurice Levy, Charles Bulling, Harry Softley, E. Powell, L. Stuart and friends, Mansel Fane, Egerton and friend, Will Oliver, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary).

THE MUSIC HALL BENEVOLENT FUND.

MR. JOSEPH LYONS' CHRISTMAS APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION.

Donations already announced, £149 1s.

Collected by Miss Gwennie Hasto, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

	£	s.	d.
Music Hall Artists' Railway Rates Association	20	0	0
Gwennie Hasto	0	10	0
Dan Polgat	0	10	0
Lillie Soutter	0	10	0
Maude Mortimer	0	5	0
Winnie Browne	0	5	0
H. Bildad	0	5	0
J. E. W.	0	2	6
H.	0	2	6
Stephen Adeson	0	2	6
Florence Smithson	0	2	6
Gertrude Kuzelle	0	2	0
Miss Syrell	0	1	0
Miss Laurie	0	1	0
Sylvia Morris	0	1	0

Coclleted by Messrs Dale and O'Malley, Theatre Royal, Croydon.

Dale and O'Malley	0	2	0
Ruby Norton	0	2	0
Ethel Dove	0	2	0
Clogger	0	2	0
Ida Kathrene	0	1	0
Ethel Maries	0	1	0
E. Harlow	0	1	0
M. Donohoe	0	1	0
Bart	0	1	0
Chas. Sands	0	0	6

Collected by Miss Emmeline Oxford, Her Majesty's Theatre, Walsall.

Emmeline Orford	0	5	0
Walton and Lester	0	5	0

Collected by Herbert Darnley, Camden Theatre.

Herbert Darnley	1	1	0
Ernest Shand	1	1	0
Sisters Sprightley	1	1	0

Collected by J. J. Dallas, Coronet Theatre.

J. J. Dallas	0	10	0
Harry Phydora	0	5	0

Secretary, HORACE MARRIOTT.

Offices, 18, Adam-street, Strand.

The president wishes it to be known that the funds have almost given out, and that immediate help is required.

MR. FRED CONQUEST, in consequence of his great success this year, has been re-engaged by Mr. J. M. Chute for a special part in next year's pantomime at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—In your last week's account of the Pavilion Theatre, Leicester, you were kind enough to say "Walter Driscoll is a capital comedian." It should have been, yours faithfully, WILL DRISCOLL.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—Last week, in your account of the performance of *The Chinese Honeymoon* at Rugby, you stated that the part of Mrs. Pineapple was played by Miss Alice Newton. It should have been, yours faithfully, ALICIA NORTON.

MR. BLAKE ADAMS, who is playing Mr. Cyril Maude's part of Captain James Barley, in *Beauty and the Barge* on tour, received from the students of Aberdeen, on January 31 (that being Students' Night), a sailor's canvas bag marked "Barley" in large letters on either side. This was handed up from the orchestra; and, on opening the bag, Mr. Adams found a box of cigars tied with the 'Varsity colours. At the end of the performance there were loud cries for a speech; but Mr. Adams indicated that, having performed his part in the play, he was not inclined to orate.

BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES.—

THE RUSSIAN GIANT.

Machnow, the Russian giant, arrived at Victoria on Tuesday morning from Berlin, and was conveyed in a pantechnicon van to the Hippodrome, where he made his first appearance on Wednesday afternoon. The giant, who is twenty-three years of age, was accompanied by his wife and child, and Mr. H. W. Garrick, of the Hippodrome, travelled with him from Queenborough, where he had arrived in the early morning. He was born at Tcharkoff, in Asiatic Russia, and has been previously exhibited at Berlin and elsewhere. His arrival at Victoria was witnessed by a large crowd, many of the members of which followed the pantechnicon van on its passage through the streets to the Hippodrome. The giant, whose name is Machnow, and who speaks only Russian and German, was seated on a couch 9ft. 6in. long. A stoppage was made at two points on the journey, first to allow of a photograph being taken, and secondly at a tailor's shop in the Strand, which Machnow entered to be measured for a dress suit. At both places the crowd was so great that the police threatened to summon those in charge for causing an obstruction. The tailor's assistant was compelled to mount a pair of steps in order to take the gigantic man's measurements. It was stated that fifteen yards of double-width cloth would be required for the suit, the quantity used for an average man's suit being from 3¼ yards to 3½ yards. The measurements were as follows:—Neck to waist, 32in.; total length of coat, 65in.; across the shoulders, 31in.; shoulder to elbow, 36in.; total length of sleeve, 55½in.; across the chest, 30in.; round the chest, 60in.; round the waist, 55in.; side-seam of trousers, 72in.; side-seam inside the leg, 50in.; and thigh, 40in. round. Machnow, whose boots are 2ft. long and who wears 26in. collars, is said to be the tallest man in the world. As a matter of fact, the Hippodrome management claim that the mighty Machnow is not only the greatest living man, but the greatest human being who ever walked the earth. This statement may possibly be questioned. The tape measure and weighing machine of the Hippodrome, however, are not to be challenged by the vague pronouncements of Homer and Æschylus. They tell the ungarnished fact that Machnow stands 9ft. 8in. in his socks, weighs 32st., has a foot two "feet" long, a hand 1ft. 7in. from fingertip to wrist, and a head three-quarters of a yard round. Thus it may be noted that he can light his cigarette from a street lamp with ease. He did so at Sheerness quite casually. He has also a curious habit of thrumming absent-mindedly with his fingers on the crowns of the top-hats of bystanders, most of whom reach about up to his elbow. Machnow is an artistic as well as an arithmetical giant. He looks the part. He is broad and massive, and strides the earth like a really well-ordered Colossus.

A Press representative, who saw the giant standing in the dim light of dawn on the deck of the little steam-packet which brought him over from Flushing, thus vividly describes the scene:—Then in truth he loomed upon the imagination with really haunting effect. As he rose in greeting he seemed two or three times huger than he is. Frankly, one hardly knew where he was going to stop. He might have been some vast spirit-shape from Dante. Even then he was wearing the silver-braided uniform and great white head-dress of Persian lambswool that was the wonder of the London crowd later in the day. Seen in the half-shadow of the dawn, this gave only an added eeriness to the huge, solitary figure that towered up from the little deck. Once introduced, Machnow disclosed himself as gentle a giant and as amiable a fellow as one may meet on a February day, though his intelligence can hardly be judged from the sole English words he knows, "That's good." Terrible as he may appear at a distance, he is by nature essentially domestic. With him, indeed, he has brought to England not only his young wife—a pretty peasant woman from Tcharkoff, a place far away on the Persian frontier, whence Machnow himself hails—but a three months' old daughter. This the wife carries always fondly in her arms. Both wife and baby are of normal size, the wife reaching about to the giant's waist. Machnow was himself a quite normal peasant boy until he was seven years old, when he suddenly took it into his head to grow. At ten he was taller than any St. Petersburg policeman.

From his little family Machnow will hardly allow himself to be parted for a moment. His devotion is quite touching. Even on the voyage, which Machnow stood admirably, though his wife did not prove quite so excellent a sailor, the giant would not let them out of his sight.

"Madame" was naturally invited below by the courteous stewardess. But Machnow preferred to tend her himself. Accordingly the largest saloon was prepared for the giant; and there he and his family remained throughout the night, Machnow laying himself out with moderate comfort along the whole of one bench, with a few chairs at the end of it.

Towards the captain and the other passengers, when he came across them, Machnow was the soul of courtesy, and allowed photographs of himself to be freely inspected. Again, when he had made his way up the groaning gangway, Machnow's first thoughts were of his wife and child. Through the amazed little crowd on the Queenborough platform he stalked with a deliberation and promptitude that surprised even his escort straight to the refreshment bar.

Porters, passengers, everybody, naturally crowded round the door to see what fiery liquor the giant would demand. To the surprise of everybody he pointed to a tin of biscuits. He wanted some for his wife.

As for the giant's own tastes, they may be best suggested perhaps by his average "official" bill of fare for the day. This is it:—

Breakfast: Two quarts of milk, twelve eggs, and two fairly large loaves.

Lunch: Two or three pounds of potatoes and a quart of beer.

Dinner: Three to five pounds of fresh meat, with vegetables, 3lb. of bread, and two quarts of beer

Supper: Ten to fifteen eggs, bread and butter, and a quart of tea.

On Wednesday afternoon Machnow made his début at the Hippodrome. He was introduced by Mme. Chiquita, a little lady only eighteen inches high, who led her huge companion into the arena, having first told the audience the brief history of Machnow's marvellous development. The giant saluted in military style, and there was much merriment when "the biggest man on earth" commenced a tour of the stalls, with "Madame" leading the way. As he went, Machnow thrust out a massive hand to greet the ladies, and even the children, doubtless thinking of the Gulliver of their picture-books, seemed anxious that he should take notice of them. And he never forgot to do so, for Machnow is said to be a genuine lover of children. Afterwards, with his midget guide, the giant returned to the arena, and then, once more saluting the audience, he proudly stalked out—to satisfy the cravings of his appetite.

He was presently asked, through the interpreter, how he liked London. "Why," he replied, "you won't let me see anything of it. You bring me here from the station in a pantechnicon, and now, of course, I cannot go out. But I'm well content."

It was discovered that Machnow had added another word to his scanty knowledge of the English language. That word is "hungry." And although it wanted half an hour from his appointed luncheon hour, he kept on repeating it. Meanwhile, Machnow was regaling himself with oranges, cakes, and sandwiches. These are always kept on a little table beside him, so that he can ward off famine between his meals. Indeed, in this way he manages to get through three dozen oranges every day. At last, much to his satisfaction, a messenger was sent for his luncheon. With the prospect of another substantial meal, the giant's spirits seemed to revive wonderfully. At length on a huge tray, part of the "frugal" meal was brought in, steaming hot. When the giant espied it his eyes glistened, and he smiled again. Then, in his shirt sleeves—he usually takes off his coat at meals—he began to assail the various dishes. First came a large plateful of soup. This speedily vanished. Then he attacked two and a-half pounds of beef, ready sliced, three pounds of potatoes, a pound of spinach, and a loaf of bread. From time to time he "sipped" a quart jug of beer. Even this meal did not satisfy him. Like little Oliver Twist, he asked for more. And so he was given half a pound of cheese. Then once more he fell to eating oranges.

THE production for copyright purposes of a piece called *Valiant of the 9th* took place at the Pavilion Theatre, Winter Gardens, Southport, on the 28th ult.

MR. GEORGE DAVEY, the lessee and manager of the Grand Theatre, Islington, entertained over 350 children of the members of the 21st Middlesex Rifles last Saturday afternoon. 3,500 school children of the district also enjoying the pantomime of *Babes in the Wood*. Buns and oranges were also provided for the little ones by the management.

OWING to the illness of one of the principal members of their company, the directors of the German Theatre were obliged to postpone the first performance of Ludwig Fulda's *Maskerade*, which was to have taken place last Thursday night, to Wednesday next. This (Saturday) evening *Der Raub der Sabinerinnen* will be revived.

CLOSE upon a thousand persons assembled at the Grand Hall, Acton, on Friday evening last week, to enjoy a concert held under the auspices of the Acton Club. The programme was a most interesting one, and was notable on account of the "discovery" of a clever little girl of seven years, namely, Miss Marjorie Gummerson. For a child who has had no connection whatever with the stage, either through relatives or otherwise, Miss Gummerson exhibited remarkable histrionic gifts. Possessed of an abundance of self-confidence, a pretty voice, an engaging presence, and, most valuable of all, the dramatic instinct, the tiny woman sang, danced, and recited with an easy naturalness that came as an agreeable revelation to the audience. In her singing of "The à la Girl" she portrayed the characteristics of ladies of the "Smart Set" of different nationalities, and she was scarcely less entertaining in her recitation entitled "The Bald-headed Man." Miss Gummerson, who was born in Berlin, of British parentage, can speak the German language as fluently as the English, and her knowledge of the former tongue was evidenced in her rendering of Meyer-Helmund's "Liebeslied." A dainty and picturesque little figure she made, too, as a coon, her performance of the song, "I'se a-waitin' for yer, Josie," and her execution of the accompanying dance, affording further demonstration of the diminutive maiden's versatility. We should not be surprised to see Miss Gummerson occupying an important position on the boards at some future date. Before finally leaving the platform, she was presented with a handsome pearl brooch, mounted in gold, and bearing the initial "M."

MR. J. H. BARNES next week returns to England from New York, where he has been fulfilling a special engagement under Mr. Frohman's management. It is about thirty-four years since this popular actor came out at the old Lyceum. He played Sir Henry Irving's "double," on the first night of *The Bells*. "Jack" Barns has written a good many verses, including a serious poem called "The Mission of Judas," and a lament on the death of Queen Victoria.

Heart of Gold, a one-act Russo-Japanese play by Beatrix De Burgh and Lawrence Grant, will be produced at the Coronet Theatre this (Saturday) evening, following the performance of *Joseph Entangled*. It is Mr. Grant's first appearance as a dramatic author, and he himself will create the part of a Russian officer, Dimitri Korsakoff, while Mrs. Mouillot is cast for the character of a Japanese girl, O Hana San (Blossom). It will not be her first attempt at representing a lady of the Land of the Rising Sun, as she acted Madame Butterfly some years ago with great success. Members of the Japanese Embassy will be present at the Coronet this evening. Incidental songs will be sung by a Russian Male Choir, several of whom have recently returned from the war in Manchuria.

MR. ERIC LEWIS, who heads the cast of *Mollentrave on Women*, to be produced at the St. James's Theatre on Monday evening, gained much of his early training as a comedian in the German Reed's Entertainment at St. George's Hall. Mr. Leslie Faber, who is to play Everard Swenboys, is of Danish descent, and married a daughter of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones. Mr. Vivian Raynolds, who will appear as Mr. Dexter, has been the St. James's popular stage-manager since Mr. H. H. Vincent gave up that position to go to Australia.

MR. CHARLES ROCK, who is playing in *The Taming of the Shrew*, at the Adelphi, is a son of Surgeon-General W. F. de Fabeck, and entered the theatrical profession about twenty years ago. He has played over two hundred parts—in drama and pantomime, in sketches, comedies and tragedies—and has adapted some of Mr. W. W. Jacob's stories for the stage, perhaps the biggest success being *The Ghost of Jerry Bundler*, which ran for a long time at the Haymarket. Mr. Rock is the husband of Miss Cybel Wynne.

MR. TOM J. MORTON, and his charming wife, Miss Maggie Bowman (one of the clever Sisters Bowman), have been appearing during the week at the Palace of Varieties, Southport, where they have been presenting, as a special attraction, in the interlude, *The Butcher and the Slavey*. It has been a complete success, and the introduction of the couple's original speciality dance, "The Giant Gollywog," first done by them in the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, pantomime, 1902-3, made an instantaneous hit.

MESSRS. C. W. MURPHY and DAN LIPTON have supplied Miss Jessie Preston with some new and up-to-date Irish numbers for special production at the Oxford, where the popular burlesque actress commences an engagement on Monday, the 20th.

MR. HARRY BURNS is now on the road to speedy recovery, and hopes to be able to get to his work again during next week. To the many kind inquirers who showed their solicitude during his illness he sends his hearty acknowledgments.

IN celebration of the ninety-third anniversary of the birth of the world-famous novelist, the Dickens Fellowship held, on Wednesday evening, a large and enthusiastic meeting in the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, simultaneously with similar gatherings in various parts of the country. The Fellowship has a membership roll of 7,000, and thirty-one branches. Mr. Henry F. Dickens, K.C. (the novelist's son) and other vice-presidents addressed the gathering, which reciprocated fraternal greetings from provincial branches, and greatly enjoyed selections from Dickens, by the chairman, Mr. Arthur W. Hayes, and Mr. Frank Speaight. Character impersonations by Mr. Bransby Williams proved to be a highly popular feature of the evening's programme.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

MR. GEORGE SANGER asks us to express his gratitude to the senders of telegrams and letters, and to those who have called upon him during his long and painful illness. He is confined to his bed at his farm, at East Finchley; but he is on the road towards recovery, and hopes to be up and at work again shortly.

PLYMOUTH Winter Gardens are offering many attractions to the pleasure-loving public, and the proprietors, Messrs. Hancock Bros., are to be congratulated on their enterprise. In addition to a fine collection of cinematograph films, there are variety turns by Cissy Loman, Sam Benders, Roy Anderson, a dramatic spectacle, and a trumpet-blowing contest.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I am much interested in the discussion now going on in the columns of *The Era* regarding the attempted abolishment of fair privileges in some parts of the kingdom. This attempt is all the more surprising to me, because I hail from Yankeeland, where we regard the people of our Mother Country as not only the greatest lovers of wholesome amusement in the world, but as the fairest and most tolerant in a judicial way. Although you have first claim on Frank Bostock, we are proud to own him as an American. It was he who first showed us the way to street-fair success, and James W. Bostock and Francis Ferrari, Anglo-Americans, are at the present time leading promoters of that class. They receive handsome bonuses from the merchants of the leading cities to encourage them to occupy principal streets with their fairs during certain seasons of the year. What is more exhilarating for old or young, after a hard day's work, than a visit to the side-shows, round-abouts, shooting galleries, and "Koker" shies of "ye olde English Fair"?

We embark on a three years' Continental tour with the Wild West on April 2, and I assure you we all leave Great Britain with keen regrets and sincere good wishes for the welfare of her hospitable people.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES ELDRIDGE GRIFFIN.
30, Blythe-road, West Kensington.

MESSRS. BOSTOCK AND WOMBWELL'S MENAGERIE is at Reading to-day, and will be there also on Monday.

WIDESPREAD sympathy has been manifested with Messrs. W. C. and S. Hancock, travelling showmen, now at the Winter Gardens, Plymouth, in the loss of Joseph Sutton Hancock, the nephew and adopted son of William and Miss Sophia Hancock, aged four-and-a-half years, who died on the 1st inst., from croup. Deceased had been attended by Dr. Burke and Nurse Roberts for an abscess on the lung. The funeral took place at the Plymouth Cemetery, when there was a large attendance of relatives and friends, and included was Mrs. Majendie, of Ilsham Vicarage, Torquay. Handsome natural and artificial wreaths were sent from the following:—"Daddie and Mammie"; "His loving Uncle and Aunt, W. C. and S. Hancock"; "Aunt Harriett"; "Teddie, Charley, and Dodo"; "Uncle W. Frampton"; "Dooner Family, Bridgend"; P. H. Kneebone, Miss Ray Anderson, Mrs. Lyons and Savina, Mr. and Mrs. Spinney, Mr. and Mrs. Alf. Wright, Nurse Roberts, B. Hayes, "Vinnie," Mr. and Mrs. Oldridge, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Lock, Louisa, Selina, and Joey Whitelegge, Vera and Zoe Beavill, Mr. and Mrs. Dalrymple and family, "The Employes of Messrs. W. C. and S. Hancock," and Mr. and Mrs. J. Jones.

THE Colne Bill is now in the hands of local showmen for signature. It is hoped that the Colne Corporation will take serious note of the failure of other public bodies to injuriously affect the show business. In any case, the duty of showmen is clear; all attacks must be met and repelled. The executive officers of the Guild are following up the fine frontal attack on the Wigan Corporation, which was made a few weeks ago. Mr. Watson Wright, the Guild's solicitor, has visited Wigan, and has been quietly impressing the "powers that be" with the legal weakness of the case for the Corporation.

WE record with great pleasure the improved state of Lord George Sanger's health. The serious nature of the veteran's illness has only been known to the family and his immediate friends. For over six weeks he was utterly helpless in bed. It was an agony of suffering to be moved even. However, his really magnificent stamina and hardy physique have again triumphed, and "the King of the Road" hopes to be tenting again at the end of the next six weeks. Of this we are quite sure, that the whole of Showland—a wide Empire—will rejoice in his recovery, and wishes speedy restoration to his accustomed strength and energy.

CHARITY, we are told, begins at home—and the saying is true—yet of all men showmen are proverbially slow in remembering their own interests. Their hearts go out to all sorts and conditions of all in need meet with the showmen's ready pity—people—and hundreds of pounds every year are given to local charities by the generosity and kindly forethought of showmen. We refer to the hospitals and other good institutions helped by showmen with benefit performances. "Why not," asks James Leo, in a short note on the subject—"Why not remember our own charities as well as the good work of others?"

WE quite agree. Mr. Leo suggests—and he is not alone in this thought—Why not, when asked to give a benefit performance for some local charity, stipulate that 20 per cent. of the gross proceeds be sent to our own charity, the Showmen's Guild? The Guild is our Society in the matters that touch the whole life of the travelling showmen. Why not arrange for your own charity to have a share in the benefit performance? Surely no Hospital Committee would dare to object. They must remember another proverb, "Never look a gift horse in the face." What we give freely they will gladly take. Besides, it will be good to bring before the charitable public—and public bodies at the same time—the fact that showmen, as a body, have their own charities to maintain.

AN example of the help showmen render in all times of distress comes from Hyde, where Colonel Clark, who with his cinematograph theatre has been doing excellent winter season business, gave the money taken at two performances to the fund for the unemployed instituted by a local news-

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AT Tylorstown, in Wales, the following important concerns are on the ground:—Crecraft's Menagerie and the No. 2 Concern, the Novelty Booth, Phuston Bros., Double Overboats, the Big Wheel, and their Coker Sheets; Goodwin's two concerns, the Shooting Range and the Striker; Page's two Shooting Stalls; and Harry Smith's Varieties.

SHOWMEN will do well to remember the sale at Lynn of Messrs. Savage Bros.' surplus stock of roundabouts, engines, &c. Also the annual meeting of the Guild, and the important business meeting of the Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union, particulars of which will be found in our advertising columns.

AT Debrancas' Novelty Exhibition, Kirkgate, Leith, are Captain Eagle Davis's Far West Wonders, the troupe of lady knife-throwers and revolver experts; also Sylvia Vigor, the Mexican armless lady, who performs with her feet and toes, and pleases the audience by playing "The Blue Bells of Scotland" on a small cottage piano with her toes. Business is very good.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

(SPECIAL TO "THE ERA.")

ON TUESDAY the staff of the Grand Theatre, Woolwich, had their fifth annual supper at the Lord Raglan Hotel, Plumstead. Mr. Gladwin, the manager, presided, fifty sitting down to the table. After dinner, the chairman said he knew they would all loyally join him in drinking the health and future prosperity of Mr. and Mrs. Sounes, the esteemed proprietor of the Grand Theatre. Mr. Sounes regretted exceedingly being unable to attend, owing to a previous engagement. The toast was drunk with musical honours. Mr. Court, the stage carpenter, then proposed the health of the chairman, and said those present were proud to have him among them. The toast was received with ringing cheers, and Mr. Gladwin briefly responded, thanking the guests on behalf of Mr. Sounes and himself for their good wishes. It was impossible, he said, to "run" a theatre without an able and willing staff. This he was proud to acknowledge they possessed. The rest of the evening was devoted to music. Mr. Claude Mackenzie kindly officiated at the piano, and also gave a musical sketch. Songs were sung by Messrs. Court, Grey, Newell, Angel, the Call Boy, Isherman, Palmer, Nolan, Jewett, Berry, and Gus Valmore; and Mr. George Dane, the electrician, danced a Scotch reel. A happy and convivial evening ended with all joining in singing "Auld Lang Syne."

THE stage staff of the Grand Theatre, Islington, will hold their annual dinner on Sunday next, at the Nag's Head, Floral-street, Covent Garden. Mr. George Davey will occupy the chair, supported by Mr. Oswald Brand, the manager of the theatre, and others.

THE meeting of stage employees, held at Glasgow last Sunday, was a great success, many new members of the local society being elected. The next meeting will be held on the 19th, when the election of officers and a committee will take place.

MR. J. T. SHERIDAN, who went to Australia a couple of years ago to take charge of the electrical departments at Messrs. Williamson and Musgrove's theatres, has returned to London. He was on a visit to his father, who resided in Peckham; but, unfortunately, his father died a day or two before Mr. Sheridan arrived. The many friends of the family in London and Dublin showed their sympathy by sending wreaths. Mr. Philip Sheridan, electrician at the Crown Theatre, is another son of the deceased.

THE Heads of Departments Association announce that Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree has kindly consented to preside at their third annual dinner, the date of which is not yet fixed. Full particulars will be obtainable in due course from the Hon. Secretaries of the association, at 29, Wellington-street, Strand.

AT the last meeting of the No. 1 Branch, N.U.T.S.E., several applications for a grant from the Benevolent Fund were considered. In the case of two members incapacitated from work it was decided to allow 10s. per week. In the case of the wife of a member who was in hospital, a similar grant was made for one month. The financial statement for the past year was also presented. The summary of the accounts appear below:—

NATIONAL UNION THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES.
No. 1 BRANCH, LONDON.
Financial Statement for the year ending Dec. 31, 1904.

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.
To Fines	0	2	6
,, Sale of Badges	6	2	8
,, ,, of Cards	1	11	7
,, Stage Staff Journals	5	2	6
,, Entrance Fees, Class A.	16	12	0
,, ,, ,, Class B.	5	19	6
,, ,, ,, Class C.	8	7	6
,, Contributions, Class A.	70	2	2
,, ,, Class B.	197	9	4
,, ,, Class C.	154	9	10
,, ,, Benevolent Fund	27	1	7
,, Interest on Deposit Ac. and Shares	11	17	8
,, Interest on Deposit Accounts and Shares	11	13	8
	508	6	6
Balance from 1903	826	11	9½
	£1334	18	3½

GENERAL EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
To Rent of Office and Halls	42	12	6
Secretary's Salary	159	0	0
Printing	10	6	0
Officers, Committee, & Stewards' Services	37	10	0
London Trades Council (dues)	8	13	4
"Donation"	5	5	0
Telephone	6	10	0
Nat. Union Central Fund	25	0	0
Gas and Office Cleaning Accounts	9	2	0
Postage, Telegrams, &c.	3	19	5
Organising Expenses	6	5	4
Books, Papers, and Stationery	5	7	5
Badges	3	6	5
Money Refunded	1	0	0
Sundry Other Items	4	2	1
G. Schofield Account	6	4	5
	334	4	9
Death Claims Paid	65	0	0
Sick Pay	13	17	6
Benevolent Grants and Expenses	10	0	4
Total Payments	423	2	7
Gross Balance, Dec. 31, 1904	911	15	8½
	1334	18	3½
Balance to Credit of General Fund	350	7	5½
,, ,, Funeral Fund	247	14	6
,, ,, Sick Fund	57	14	2
,, ,, Benevolent Fund	55	19	7
,, ,, Reserve Fund	200	0	0
	911	15	8½

MISS MARIE DE ROOS has been re-engaged to play Lady Langford (the name part) in Mr. Victor Widnell's successful play, *A Woman of Impulse*, which starts tour the end of this month.

A NEW Russo-Japanese play, entitled *Heart of Gold*, by Beatrix de Burgh and Lawrence Grant, will be produced at the Coronet Theatre this evening, with Mrs. Mouillot and Mr. Lawrence Grant in the cast.

AT North London Police-court, on the 3rd inst., Thomas Gould, butcher, of Clarissa-street, Haggerston; Horace Sutton, cabinetmaker, of Spencer-road, Stoke Newington; and George Darter, tobacconist's assistant, of Shakespeare-road, Stoke Newington, were charged with acting as pedlars without the necessary licence. They were taken in Palatine-road, Stoke Newington, on Thursday evening, going from house to house hawking music. Mr. Fordham: Any publishers' names on the music? Police-constable Boyce: No. Accused said they were out of work, and wanted to earn an honest shilling. The officer said he had ascertained that each of the accused was respectable. The magistrate asked the men where they got the pirated music, but they gave no further details than "Clerkenwell." Mr. Fordham: Three respectable men hawking pirated music. It does not seem to me very respectable. Each pay 5s., or go to prison for five days.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

BROGDEN.—On Saturday, Feb. 4, Dorothy Bolini, wife of Mr. Arthur Brogden (Swiss Choir), of a daughter.

NIELD.—Feb. 7, Amy Nield, wife of Septimus B. Nield (of Whirling the Whirl), of a fine boy. Both doing well. 315, Argyle-Street, Glasgow.

WILKIE.—Feb. 8, at 28, Oxford-gardens, W., the wife of Allan Wilkie (Miss Ine de la Garde Cameron), of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

ANDERTON—HISCOCK.—Jan. 26, at St. James's Church, Poole, John Anderton to Catherine Mary Hiscock, eldest daughter of William Noah Hiscock, of the Brewer's Arms, Poole, Dorset.

DRAKE—FLINT.—At St. Andrews, Kilmarnock, by the Rev. Dr. Lindsay, Thomas Drake (Poole's Myriorama) to Ada Flint, of Stratford-on Avon.

DEATHS.

AUSTIN.—Feb. 6, at Northampton, George Austin, aged eighty. Father of Rumbo, Harry, George, Albert, Charlie, and Florrie Austin.

HANCOCK.—Feb 1st, Joseph Sutton Hancock, the nephew and adopted son of William and Sophia Hancock, aged four and a half years.

NELSON.—Feb. 15, Harold B. Nelson, the beloved brother of Harry Adair Nelson and William H. Ashcroft.

NEWMAN.—Jan. 30, Will Newman (W. Pike), Comedian, aged 36. Deeply mourned. R.I.P.

PIKE.—Jan. 30, W. Pike (Will Newman), Comedian, age thirty-six years. Deeply mourned. R.I.P.

SPILLER.—Jan. 13, Isaac Spiller, father of Emily Spiller (Mrs. Arthur Williams), 27 years with the Moore and Burgess Minstrels, as first violin, aged 77.

IN MEMORIAM.

CARLOS.—In loving memory of our darling mother (Mrs. Fred Carlos), who departed this life Feb. 11, 1900. Never forgotten by her four sorrowing daughters. Though years roll on, her memory still is dear.

COLVERD.—In memory of our dear father, Mr. J. J. Colverd (John Bull).—Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Colverd, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Boyne, and Mr. Frank Colverd. R.I.P.

ELLISON.—In loving memory of my dear husband, William Ellison, who passed away Feb. 6, 1903.

Gone from our home, but not from our hearts,
Never shall thy memory fade,
Sweetest thoughts shall ever linger,
Round the spot where thou art laid.

From his loving wife and daughter.

TISSOT.—In loving memory of my dear father, Jules Tissot, who died Feb. 6, 1900. Never forgotten by his daughter, Marie (Mrs. Will Rosaire).

THEIR Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales witnessed the performance of *John Bull's Other Island*, by Bernard Shaw, at the Court Theatre, on Tuesday afternoon.

THE Direction of the German Theatre will undergo a change at the expiration of the present season in March. Mr Hans Andresen will be the sole director, with the full consent of the present hon. committee, Messrs J. T. Grein and H. A. Hertz, Mr Max Behrend having been appointed director of the Municipal Theatre at Mayence.

THE Grand Theatre, Stalybridge, has been enhanced in its attractiveness by a complete electric installation, both behind and in front of the house. The improvement is thoroughly appreciated both by the touring companies and the habitués of the house. Special attention has been paid to the illumination of the stage, more than 600 lamps, including mediums and arc lamps, having been fixed. The whole of the plant is fitted with the latest improvements, and the lighting of the auditorium has caused much complimentary comment. The foyer, entrances, and grand circle, have been redecorated, and, with the addition of the elaborate electroliers, present a very attractive appearance. Mr. Carlton has to be congratulated on these much-desired improvements.

AT the usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association, held last Tuesday, Miss Férike Boros and Miss Rosie Stevens were nominated for election. The Hon. Solicitors reported they had advised several members, and were arranging to take proceedings to enforce a member's claim. It was resolved that a special meeting of the Council be held on Friday, the 17th inst., to settle the agenda for the 14th annual general meeting, to be held at the Garrick Theatre on the 23rd inst., and also to confer with Mr. Arthur Bourchier, the chairman appointed to preside on that occasion. A case of alleged insanitation at a provincial theatre was under consideration. It was resolved that members of the profession should be admitted to the annual general meeting upon presentation of professional cards.

AT Highgate Police-court, on Wednesday, Mr. Brydon-Phillips, of the Brixton Theatre, was summoned by Joseph M. Grant, the stage carpenter, and nine other stage hands at the Opera House, Crouch-end, for wages. The amounts varied, and made a total of £15. The men were engaged upon work in fixing the scenery for the pantomime which defendant was going to produce, but there was no performance owing to the disastrous fire which occurred at the theatre on Christmas Eve. Mr. Moritz, who appeared for the defendant, said that it was a question of principle. The usual custom was that the work of moving the scenery in was paid for by the resident manager, and not by the touring manager. Mr. Brydon-Phillips said that he had been responsible for the production of eighty pantomimes at eighty different theatres. It was the universal custom that the resident manager paid for getting scenery in, and the travelling manager paid for getting it out. He objected on principle to paying for moving in the scenery. The Bench made an order for the payment of the amounts claimed and £2 2s. costs.

MISS MUIR and MR. HUBERT BARTLETT, after a successful visit to London, with their répertoire of comedy duologues, are leaving, on Sunday, for an eight weeks' tour, opening, on Monday, at the City Varieties, Leeds. This week completes their second anniversary in the halls, during which period they have had only two weeks' vacation.

THE management of the Islington Empire are determined to add still further to the attractiveness of this popular variety theatre. For this purpose a permanent cinematograph apparatus is to be fitted up over the balcony in the spacious auditorium. The plans have been passed by the County Council, and in about a week's time Mr. Spearman, the energetic manager, hopes to give his numerous patrons a fine display of up-to-date pictures.

A MAN named Evans, who was known as the "Pirate King of Birmingham" some time since, had his premises raided by the officers of the Musical Copyright Association, who seized 30,000 copies of illicit music, and the seizure led to the discovery of some stolen jewellery. The man was, during the week, sentenced to seven years' penal servitude.

A TIMELY reminder may be given that Mr. J. E. Nolan's benefit will take place on Monday evening at the Athenæum, Shepherd's-bush, when the programme will be contributed to by a number of popular artistes.

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.

PANTOMIME SEASON, 1904-5.

CINDERELLA

ran its allotted time—Six Weeks—
and had to be withdrawn, owing to
prior Arrangements,
in the height of its success.
Being to all intents and purposes a new Theatre,
and to many Managers an unknown quantity,
the Management feels it incumbent to
publish the Receipts
for the guidance of those likely to do Business,
and for the credit of Edinburgh
as a City for Popular Entertainment
at Cheap Prices.

CINDERELLA

Played to £2,918.
Record House, £161.
Sixth and Last Week, £517.

Photo. by Langfier.

CINDERELLA, MISS MAY MARTON.

TRANSFERRED IN ITS ENTIRETY,
after a Magnificent Send-off from Edinburgh, to

THE OLYMPIA, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

with the following opposition :—
"Cinderella," at the Tyne ! !
"Babes in the Wood," at the Royal !
"Dick Whittington," at the Grand !
"Aladdin," at Gateshead !
Moss's Empire !
Barrasford's Pavilion !

Notwithstanding the "Giant" Opposition,
the "GRAND"

CINDERELLA

took the Tynesiders by storm,
and at Prices ranging from
3d. to 2s.
the Huge Auditorium has been Packed Nightly,
to the amazement of all Local Managers.

	First Week. £ s. d.	Second Week. £ s. d.
Monday	52 7 8	73 5 10
Tuesday	53 14 3	72 7 8
Wednesday	63 18 7	85 17 7
Thursday	59 7 7	83 2 0
Friday	47 17 4	70 15 7
Saturday Matinée	37 7 10	35 10 3
Saturday Evening	121 3 0	110 0 3
Gross	£435 16 3	£530 19 2

Absolutely the Record for Olympia.
Refer to Mr Sidney Bacon.

IMMEDIATELY SECURED FOR TWO FURTHER WEEKS BY MR. SIDNEY BACON AT INCREASED TERMS.

THIRD WEEK
Opened Monday, Feb. 6.
See Opinions of the Press
on another Page.

CINDERELLA

also to be transferred to
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE,
and to Reopen the QUEEN'S, GATESHEAD,
after Enlargement and complete Redecoration and
Reseating by Deans, Birmingham.

CINDERELLA

went to the Tyneside for TWO WEEKS,
but is to remain SEVEN.

This Pantomime
is now being Booked for next Seasor.

EDINBURGH.—GRAND THEATRE.

SECOND PANTOMIME.
Three Weeks and Three Matinées.
"RED RIDING HOOD,"
including
Miss FLORRIE FORDE.
First Saturday, Jan. 28 .... £129 10s. 6d.
Second Saturday, Feb. 4 .. £134 10s. 1d.
THIRD PANTOMIME.
Mr John Tiller's
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
Three Weeks and Three Matinées,
Feb. 27 to March 18.

1905-6.

EDINBURGH.—GRAND THEATRE,
PANTOMIME,
"ALADDIN."
Engagements now being made.

Touring Pantomime, 1905-6,

CINDERELLA.

Engagements now being made.

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.

Vacant March 27,
and various Autumn.

All communications re Dates and Engagements to
Mr. EADE MONTEFIORE,
GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH,
MANAGER for the GRAND THEATRE COMPANY
Head Offices : 44, High-street, Dundee.

COLONIAL THEATRES.

AUSTRALIA.—
MELBOURNE, SYDNEY.

Mr. J. C. Williamson,
Manager of the Leading Australian Theatres.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, MELBOURNE;
HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, SYDNEY;
THEATRE ROYAL, SYDNEY.
London Representative, J. A. E. Malone, Daly's Theatre.

AUSTRALIA.—
Mr. HARRY RICKARDS'S
AUSTRALIAN ENTERPRISES :—
NEW TIVOLI THEATRE, SYDNEY;
NEW TIVOLI HOTEL, SYDNEY;
NEW GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MELBOURNE;
NEW PRINCE OF WALES'S HOTEL, MELBOURNE;
THEATRE ROYAL, BRISBANE;
TIVOLI THEATRE, ADELAIDE;
THEATRE ROYAL, PERTH.

Mr. Rickards is always open to Engage First-Class Artistes for the above-named Theatres.
Address to the Head Office, Tivoli Theatre, Sydney.
Cable address, "Tivolian, Sydney."

AUSTRALIA.

BROUGH-FLEMING COMEDY COMPANY.
BROUGH-FLEMING COMEDY COMPANY.

All Arrangements now Complete until Easter, 1906.

All communications, c/o Messrs. Blake & Riggall, 120, William-st., Melbourne.

London Representative, R. Golding Bright, 20, Queen-st., Leicester-sq., W.C.

SOUTH AFRICA.—
B. and F. WHEELER.
Associate Manager, G. H. SMITH.
Messrs. B. and F. WHEELER now control the only Circuit of Theatres in South Africa.
The leading Theatres in
JOHANNESBURG,
PRETORIA,
CAPETOWN,
DURBAN.

Companies now Touring :—
The Wheeler-Edwardes Gaiety Company,
Wheeler's Répertoire Company,
John F. Sheridan,
and
The Moody-Manners Opera Company.

London Representative,
J. A. E. Malone, Daly's Theatre.

AFRICA.—
LEONARD RAYNE
is now in England on Business
relating to his Enterprises in South Africa.

Business-Manager in South Africa,
Grant Fallowes.
London Representative,
George Rayne.
Portugal House, Portugal-street, W.C.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

ALDERSHOT, THEATRE ROYAL,
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes.
Vacant May 29, June 12 (?), 26, July 17, 24, on.
Address, C. Sounes, Woodlawn, Blackheath, London.
Telephone 85 Woolwich.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—
Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis.

Now open with "The Babes in the Wood."
For Dates for March and onward, apply to
Mr. Tom B. Davis, Lyric Theatre, London.

BLACKPOOL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.

The Press says :—The Grand is the prettiest theatre in the world.
Everybody is charmed with this magnificent temple of the drama.
Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree says :—There is no theatre in either London or the provinces better appointed or better managed.
Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree says :—It is the most perfect theatre in England.
Mr. Wilson Barrett said it was the most perfect theatre he ever performed in.
Congratulations and Compliments
on every hand from
both Public and Professions.
Every Comfort and Convenience provided for the Patrons of this lovely Theatre.
Each portion of the Theatre is provided with separate Refreshment Rooms.
The Theatre is Thoroughly Warmed and Ventilated on the most Modern Principle.
Electric Light, own Installation.
Matcham's Masterpiece is a Model Theatre.
Financial and Artistic Success.
Acknowledged by Everyone to be "the" Theatre.
Second to None in the Kingdom.
Every Comfort and Convenience for the Artists.
The most Comfortable and Perfect Dressing-rooms of any Theatre in England.
Only First-class Companies. Holds at Ordinary Prices over £300. Open all the Year Round.
Holds at the same Prices £100 more than any Theatre in the Town.

BLACKPOOL.—
HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE,
WINTER GARDENS.
The PRINCIPAL THEATRE.
Holds MORE MONEY at ORDINARY PRICES,
and has better average Business throughout
the Year than any Theatre in the Town.
The most Comfortable, Elegant, and Best Equipped Theatre. Large and Well Electric-Lighted Stage and First-class Orchestra.
All Visitors to the Theatre have Free Admission to the Winter Gardens, Floral Hall, Empress Ball-room, and Pavilion Entertainments, thus Companies visiting Her Majesty's Opera House have this additional attraction, which no other Theatre can offer. Only best No. 1 Companies booked.
For Dates address, Jno. R. Huddlestone, Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

BLACKPOOL COLOSSEUM.—
BLACKPOOL COLOSSEUM.
BLACKPOOL COLOSSEUM.

SEASON 1905.

Situate at the junction of the Blackpool and Lytham Tramways, on the Marine Parade, opposite the Manchester Hotel, in the heart of Blackpool.
The Building (which is 127ft. in diameter, 41ft. high to the eaves, and 83ft. to the Lantern) is Lighted by Electricity, and as a place for Animal Entertainments is unique, it being the only building in Blackpool that, in consequence of its being free from pillars and other obstructions, affords the necessary height and space for Diavolo's performance of "Looping the Loop."
The Walls are covered with the World-renowned picture "Niagara" painted by the great artist Phillipoteau.
For the last eight or ten years Blackpool has been extending around and for miles south of the Colosseum in a marvellously rapid manner. Thousands of houses have been built and are occupied, and there has not been any place of Public Entertainment provided for the Masses of the People south of the Tower.
The Colosseum provides a long-felt want in this New and Populous Neighbourhood.
The Authorities estimate that about Four Million Persons visited Blackpool last Season.
The great Popularity of the Colosseum is shown by the fact that, although only partially occupied during a part of a Blackpool Season, upwards of 100,000 paid for Admission during the remaining part of the season.
Offers for the 1905 Season on Sharing Terms should be made to the Undersigned, who will furnish any further information.

Blane and Riding,
30, Birley-street; or,
Garlick and Sykes,
22, Birley-street, Blackpool.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

BOLTON THEATRE ROYAL.
Always Dates for Really First-Class Attractions.
Nothing too Big.
Share or Certainty.
Rapidly Filling Autumn.
with the Elite of the Profession.
All communications,
J. F. Elliston.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE (Ltd.).
Man. Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.
A theatre among the most beautiful in England.—Sunday Times.
Vacant Dates (in Term Time, no Dramas), March 20 and May 29 to June 7.
Silence polite negative. Address as above.

CATERHAM, SURREY.—
Seventeen Miles from Town. Population, 9,000.
The PUBLIC HALL. Three Minutes from Station.
Seating accommodation provided for 400 (400 extra Seats by arrangement). Permanent Stage, Dressing-rooms. Terms, per night, inclusive of Heating and Lighting, 2½ Guineas. Special terms for the week. All communications to the Man. J. D. Rolls, Kinnoull, Warlingham, Surrey.

CHELTENHAM. — THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Gen. Man., H. Oswald Redford. The Popular County Theatre. Visited by the Best Artistes and their Companies all the year round.
A few good Autumn dates left.
Re Dates as above,
Silence in all cases a polite negative.

CHELTENHAM.—VICTORIA ROOMS
(late Corn Exchange), HIGH-ST. Lessee and Man., Edward B. Shenton (late Lessee of the Old T. R. and Assembly Rooms). Available for Entertainments, Concerts, Lectures, &c. Share or Rental. Seat 1,000 persons. Full dramatic Licence.

COATBRIDGE, N.B.—
THEATRE ROYAL,
Proprietrix, Mrs. Mary Watson.
Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.
One of the most Up-to-Date and Successful Theatres in Scotland.
Lighted throughout by Electricity.
Stage Dimensions :—
Stage to Grid, 45ft.;
Footlights to Back Wall, 30ft.;
Wall to Wall, 65ft.;
Opening, 21ft. by 25ft.;
Between Fly Rails, 32ft.;
Seating Accommadation, 2,000.
Prices :—Private Boxes, 21s. and 15s.; Single Seats, 3s. and 2s. 6d.; Dress Circle, 2s.; Balcony, 1s. 6d.; Pit Stalls, 1s.; Pit, 9d.; Gallery, 6d.

Communications re Dates to
Manager.

COLCHESTER, THEATRE ROYAL.—
Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona.
Vacant Dates, March 13, May 1, 8, and onwards.
Apply to
Charles Macdona, 17, Shaftesbury-av., London, W.

DUBLIN.—QUEEN'S ROYAL THEATRE.
Sole Proprietor and Patentee, Mr. Ellis Jones.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread.

Address, Mr. J. W. Whitbread.

Silence in all cases a respectful negative.

DUNFERMLINE and DUMFRIES THEATRES.
Visited only by Companies of the Highest Repute.
Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.
Bookings and Rebookings include :—
George Edwardes',
F. R. Benson's Principal and North Companies,
George Dance's,
Charles Macdona's,
CharlesFrohman's,
Milton Rays',
J. Bannister Howard's,
Ben Greet's,
Wm. Greet's,
J. W. Turner's Opera Company,
Robt. Macdonald's,
John Leopold's,
Hardie and Von Leer's,
The Craggs',
Chalmers Mackey's,
and all the principal Touring Companies.
Vacant Dates,
Dunfermline, March 6 and on.
Dumfries, March 27 and on.
All coms., W. E. Potts, Theatre R., Dunfermline.

GLASGOW.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan.—The most Popular Theatre in the city. Patronised by the élite of the West of Scotland. The "Cinderella" Panto. now in Tenth week of run.

GREENOCK, THEATRE ROYAL. —
Lessees, The Executors of the late Alexander Wright; Mans., A. B. Wright and J. J. Wright.—Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1905. First-class Companies only. Silence a polite negative.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE.
The new Theatre to be opened in August, 1905. Now Booking only No. 1 Attractions. All communications re dates to R. C. Buchanan, G. T., GLASGOW.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.
Proprietors, Prince of Wales's Theatre Co., Gt. Grimsby, Limited.
Managing-Director, Joseph H. Curry.
Now Booking 1905.
Telegraphic address, "Curry, Grimsby."

HANLEY, THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—
Please note.—The Staffordshire Potteries for all Dramatic Purposes must be considered as one Large Town. The following Attractions are Booked for the Autumn Season of 1904 :—Miss Ellen Terry and full Company, Mr. E. S. Willard and full London Company, Moody-Manners No. 1 Company, Sir Henry Irving and his Répertoire Company; also the following No. 1 Companies :—"Belle of New York," "Sapho," "Earl and the Girl," "School Girl," "Girl from Kay's," "Duchess of Dantzic," Beerbohm Tree's "Darling of the Gods," "Florodora," and others. Hanley has undoubtedly the Largest Theatre and Stage in Staffordshire. Lighted by Electricity; accommodation for 3,700 People. Electric Trams and Trains after Performance to ends of the District, Longton, Stoke, Burslem, and Tunstall.
Vacant for First-class Companies only,
Feb. 20, 27, and onwards.
First-class Pantomime Required for Christmas, 1905.
Chas. E. Elphinstone, Managing-Director.

HULL.—THE CIRCUS.—
General Manager, Edward Emerson.
One of the Finest and Largest Halls in the Provinces, Fitted with Large Stage, and Suitable for Circus, Minstrels, Panoramas, Concert, and Choir Parties, &c. Rental, Share, or Salary. Only a Few Vacant Dates.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—
Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.
Vacant, March 20 and April 10, May 4, 5, and 6 (Three Nights), onwards.
Silence courteous negative.

JARROW. — THEATRE ROYAL.
BARROW.—ROYALTY T. and OPERA HOUSE. CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.
Vacant Dates :—Jarrow, May 1. Barrow, for First-class Musical Attractions, March 20, Easter, and various on. The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring. Consett, April 3 and 17, on, with exceptions. All applications for Dates to Hugh Robertson, T.R. Jarrow.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.
GUERNSEY.—ST. JULIAN'S.
Out Season Population 100,000. No oppositon. G. W. Train leaves Saturday Night Bath, 11.27 p.m.; Swindon, 11.28; Bristol, 11.0 p.m. Companies return following Saturday. July and August Boat leaves Southampton 12.30 midnight. Vacant Dates Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6. Apply, C. Robert Perkins, Jersey.

KIDDERMINSTER.—OPERA HOUSE.
A Beautiful Theatre and pronounced success.
High-class Companies only entertained.
Holding capacity £100.
All communications, J. P. Moore, West Bromwich.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.
Sole Proprietor :—
Lieut.-Col. J. A. Winstanley.
No Vacant Dates Spring, 1905.
Re Autumn Dates, 1905, address,
Geo. M. Slater,
Royal Opera House, Leicester.

LEYLAND PUBLIC HALL,
LANCASHIRE.—Stage, 30ft. by 20ft. Proscenium.
Seats 800. Balcony. District Population, 8,000.
Small Stock Scenery. No Sharing.
Vacant Dates for Companies or Entertainers.
Apply, Managing Director, Park House, Leyland.

LLANDUDNO.—NEW GRAND THEATRE. Seats 1,200.
Dates open, Three Nights, Whit Week,
July 6 to 31, Sept. 4, onwards.
A. G. Pugh,
Llewellyn-chambers, Llandudno.

MORECAMBE, ROYALTY THEATRE.
Sole Lessee, Julian Malvern.
General Manager, Chas. M. Julian.
Vacant, June 19, 26, and on.
For First-class Attractions Only.
Address, Chas. M. Julian.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — OLYMPIA. THEATRE.
Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton.
Seating Capacity 2,000.
Holding Capacity 3,250.
To Let, from February 26, 1905
(Share or Rental).
Now playing to record Houses with "Cinderella" (from Grand Theatre, Edinburgh),
Over 19,087 persons paid for admission last week.
Smoking permitted.
Just concluding a successful season with
Mr. Sidney Bacon.
For terms and full particulars,
Wire or write, Richard Thornton,
Empire Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

NORWICH, THEATRE ROYAL.—
Enlarged, Redecorated, Lighted throughout by Electricity. Upholstered by Dean and Co.
Weekly Matinées for County Visitors.
Now Booking 1905.
Address, Fred Morgan, as above.

NOTTINGHAM.—GRAND THEATRE.
Manager, Charles P. Cooke.
Vacant March 20, May 15, 22.
First-class attractions only. Silence a courteous negative.

OLDHAM, EMPIRE THEATRE,
The Premier Theatre.
Holding Capacity £200.
Vacant for Principal Attractions Only.
Easter Week, and Several in May, June.
Can Entertain First-class Pantomimes, Christmas onwards. Brilliant Productions Only.
All Communications to Ernest Dottridge.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—
Managers of First-class Companies
are invited to apply for Dates to
Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.,
Managing-Director.
Silence a polite negative.

PORTSMOUTH, NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton.
Open throughout the Year.
First-class Companies.
Weekly Matinées.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—
Required, First-class Attractions,
for March 6, 20, April 3, 10, and onward.
Good Business done here with First-class Companies
Fast Booking for the Fall, 1905.
Wire or write to Jas. Kiernan, Manager.

SOUTHEND - ON - SEA. — EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, W. Marlow.
The Prettiest and most Popular Place of Amusement on the South-east Coast.
All the principal Attractions Booked.
First-class Companies required
for Feb. 20, 27.
Managers please address all communications to
W. Marlow, jun., Manager,
as above.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—PIER PAVILION.—Under Entirely New Management.
Redecorated Throughout. Extra Dressing-rooms added. Electric Light, &c. Now Booking 1905.
First-class Companies, Artistes, Bands, &c., communicate to Manager.

SUNDERLAND. — AVENUE OPERA HOUSE and THEATRE ROYAL.
Managing Director, Chas. E. Machin.
General Manager, Percival Craig.
Only Vacant Dates.
AVENUE.
March 27, May 1, 29, June 5, 12, and on.
ROYAL.
April 17, May 8, 29, June 5, 19, 26.
Managers please note Seaham Harbour is barred.
Apply, C. E. Machin, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. — OPERA HOUSE.
Lessee, Charles Carey.
Vacant,
March 2 (3 nights), March 27.
May 1 (3 nights), etc.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, W. H. Westwood.—Holds £180. Circle, 3s.; Stalls, 2s.; Family Circle, 2s.; Pit Stalls, 1s. 6d.; Pit, 1s. Amphitheatre, 9d.; Gallery, 6d. First Vacant Dates, April 10, 17, May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29; June 5 and 12.

WEST BROMWICH, THEATRE ROYAL.—Open All the Year Round.
Cosy, Popular, and Prosperous Theatre.

All communications to J. P. Moore, on the Spot.

WHITBY. — SPA THEATRE. —
Season 1905. The uncertainties attending the Change of Owners being Settled, I am prepared to Book Dates. Will Managers who have written me rewrite?
Hy. Walker.

WIDNES.—Correspondent Required to Supply Theatre Reports Weekly.
Add.. "Dramaticus," 49, Wellington-st., Strand.

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PROFESSIONAL ADVERTISEMENTS.

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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT FOR ACTOR AND COMPOSER,
BY ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B.

Publishd at "The Era" Offices,
49, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.

Those who are interested in "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" will derive much valuable intelligence by reading Mr. Albert Strong's book bearing the above title, published at "The Era" Office.—Pelican, Aug. 3, 1901.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.
Conducted by Mr Edward Ledger, "The Era Annual" holds a unique place amongst dramatic and musical works of reference. Not merely does it contain the customary bright collection of stories from some of the best-known figures of the theatrical world, but its calendar is packed with interesting information, and the annual record of plays produced in London, the suburbs, the provinces, Berlin, and Paris is as complete and as valuable as ever.—Daily Telegraph, Jan. 17.

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"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

COMPANIES WANTED.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, Companies for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
April 24, May 15, June 12, 19, July 10, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
April 3, 10, 24, May 1, June 5, 12, 19, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
Ap. 10, 17, 24, May 8 (Race Wk.), 15, 22, June 5, 12, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
April 17, May 8, 15, Aug. 7, 14, 21.
CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
Vacant, April 24, May 8, 29, June 5, 12, 19, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
April 3, 17, May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
Vacant,
April 17, 24, May 22, 29, June 12, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Vacant,
Feb. 20 (Three Nights), March 9, (Three Nights), March 27.
April 10, 17, 24, May 4, 22, 29, June 5, 12.
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Company, Feb. 20 (Three Nights), Leamington; also Easter at Dalston, Reading, Chester, Pontypridd, Northampton, Leamington.
Apply, Milton Bode, County Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for STANDARD THEATRE,
Vacant, May 1, 8, 15.
TERRISS THEATRE,
March 6,
METROPOLE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM,
Important Attractions for March 20, April 24, May 1, 8, 15.
Address, Walter Melville,
Standard Theatre, E.

WANTED, First-Class Company, Theatre Royal, Stockton, Feb. 27, Vacant, wire.
Address,
Sidney Bacon, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams,
"Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, Grand Theatre, Newcastle, March 13, 20, on.
Queen's Theatre, Gateshead,
March 6 (?), March 20, 27
Theatre Royal, Stockton,
Feb. 27, on.
Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool,
May 8, on.
Address,
Sidney Bacon, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon," Gateshead.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Luton now doing excellent Business.
Musical Companies preferred.
Vacant Feb. 23 (Three Nights, Bedford only.) Wire.
Weeks Feb. 27, Mar. 13, 20, 27, Ap. 3, 10, and Easter.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Vacant March 2, 9, 23, 30, April 6, and Easter.
Address, E. Graham-Falcon,
County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, Feb. 23 (three nights), Bedford; Feb. 27 (six nights), Luton. E. Graham-Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas.
WANTED, Good Drama, Vacant April 10 and 17. The Theatre has just been thoroughly Renovated, a Scene Dock added, and a Full Electric Plant (3 Colours) installed. Address, Herbert Vere.

WANTED, First-class Attraction for February 20.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-street, S.W.

WANTED, First-class Attraction for March 6.
Apply,
Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-street, S.W.

HOWARD AND WYNDHAM, LTD.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction for February 27.
Theatre Royal, Glasgow.
Address, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Proprietor and Manager, Francis Laidler.
WANTED, a First-class Company, March 6.
Silence a Polite Negative.

NEW GRAND THEATRE, NELSON.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, March 27, April 3 and 10, May 1, and onwards.
Musical Shows Preferred.
George E. Mudd,
Business Manager.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Granville.
WANTED, Companies, March 13 possibly Vacant. Important Attraction.
Address,
Fred Granville.

WANTED, Big Attractions, April, 3, 17, on, with exceptions, Grand Theatres, Chorley and Radcliffe. Address Sante, Opera House, Radcliffe.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-Class Companies for March 6, 13, 20, and onwards. Address E. B. Goulden.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Strong Musical Attractions, for April 3, 24.
Terms, &c., to Rich Waldon.

RAMSGATE. SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE.
Sole Proprietor, Lord George Sanger.
Manager, Henry Bowman.
Entirely redecorated. Open all the Year Round.
Visited by all the Leading Attractions.
WANTED, First-class Companies
For a few Vacant Season Dates (Musical Comedies only).
Address, Henry Bowman.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
WANTED, Companies for May 29, June 5, and possibly Whit Week. Terms and Copy of Bill, to J. H. Curry, as above.

WAKEFIELD OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, Known, Vacant March 20, and onwards, with exceptions.
Silence in all cases a polite negative
for date quoted.

Apply, Sherwood and Co.,
Opera House, Wakefield.

WANTED, good Panto or Drama, for Feb. 20, to oblige a Manager. Wire, Williams, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford, Strong Dramatic Companies. Vacant Feb. 16 (Three Nights), Feb. 20 (Three Nights). Wire, James Elphinstone.

COMPANIES WANTED.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

Managing Director, Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN.
The Leading Northern Theatre Tour.
Capital, £155,000.

WANTED, Wanted, Companies,

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
NEW CENTURY THEATRE, MOTHERWELL.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, AYR.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, LEITH.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.
GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, FALKIRK.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, GREENOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KIRKCALDY.

The Bookings include all the Principal Drama, Musical, and Comedy Attractions.
Important.
Managers doing business with us at New Gaiety Theatre, Leith, please note that Stockbridge is barred. The Tivoli, re-christened "The Grand," is in Stockbridge.

Address all communications to
R. C. BUCHANAN,
General Office, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.
Telegraphic address, "Bookings, Glasgow."

WANTED, Companies, New Theatre Royal, Halifax; Proprietors, The Northern Theatre Co., Ltd. The above Theatre is now being erected at the cost of £30,000, and when finished will be one of the finest Theatres in the Kingdom; Ever Modern Scheme, both before and behind the curtain, is being introduced. It is in the Central position of Halifax, standing on the Site of the old Theatre Royal and Shakespeare Hotel, and will seat considerably over 2,000 people; now booking Autumn, 1905, and Spring, 1906. No. 1 and Principal Companies only. Address OTTO C. CULLING Theatre Royal, Bury.

ROYALTY THEATRE, LLANELLY.
Booked in conjunction with the
NEW GRAND THEATRE, ABERAVON.
WANTED, High-Class Companies, Musical Attractions preferred.
Address,
JOHN TULLY, Theatre Royal, Blackburn.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies for Feb. 27,
March 6.
Required, Big Attraction, for Easter.
Wire,
THOS. SWINTON.

NEW THEATRE, LOUGHBOROUGH.
One of the Prettiest Theatres in the Provinces.
Opened with "Monsieur Beaucaire." Vacant May 15 and 29. Now Booking Autumn.
OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.

WANTED, Good Pantomime (First in), Feb. 27. Only Vacant Date this Season.
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Opera House, Londonderry.

OLYMPIA THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE
Proprietor, Mr. RICHARD THORNTON.
WANTED, Good Pantomime for Two Weeks at Easter (Share or Rental).
Now Playing to Record Houses with "Cinderella," from Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.
Over 19,087 Persons Paid for Admission last week.
Seating Capacity, 2,000,
Holding Capacity, 3,250.
Smoking Permitted.
Wire or write, Mr. RICHARD THORNTON,
Empire Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

FOLKESTONE PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Feb. 27,
March 13 (Three Nights), 20, 27 (Three Nights),
April 3,
May 1 (probably Three Nights in this week),
June 5, 19, 26,
all July,
Oct. 23, onwards. Silence Polite Negative.
H. W. ROWLAND, Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, SHEFFIELD.
WANTED, First-class Companies Only, April 3, 17, May 1, 8.
Address,
F. W. PURCELL,
Alexandra Theatre, London, N.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for Two Nights. Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple, N. Devon.

WANTED, First-Class Attraction for Theatre Royal, Dover, April 17 (through obliging). Address FRED C. DEW, Theatre Royal, Dover.

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, Good Company, March 27, also September 4, 18, Nov. 13, 27, Dec. 4. Re-Dates to EADE MONTEFIORE, Manager. Telegraphic address, "Montefiore, Edinburgh."

WANTED, Good Companies, Feb. 23, March 16 23, 30; Last Three Nights Week Only MANAGER, Victoria Theatre, Mansfield.

THE NEW PAVILION, ALTRINCHAM.
WANTED, First-Class Fit-up, Musical Comedy Pantomime, or Powerful Drama, for Feb. 20, 27, March 13 and 20 only; good Band eight performers. Lowest Terms. FRED BUDD, Red Lion Hotel, Altrincham.

WANTED, First-Class Companies for three nights and one matinée, Vacant dates in March and April. Musical Shows preferred, Easter and Whit Week. ADOLF SEEBOLD, Theatre Royal Worthing.

WANTED, for Drill Hall, Merthyr Tydfil Easter week, commencing April 24, Company complete in itself, with Scenery, &c. Particulars, PARK, Post Office, Forfar, Scotland.

WANTED, First-Class Combination Companies for Feb. 27, March 6 and 13, must be good and must have plenty of good printing. HUGH DEMPSEY, Corn Exchange, Boston.

THEATRE ROYAL, MERTHYR.
WANTED, Big Attraction for Easter week, May 15, 22, and later dates. Nothing but first-class Companies booked. Also First-class Attractions for Royal Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd, Aug. 7 and later dates. This Theatre will be thoroughly cleaned and decorated. Many alterations and improvements, including electric lighting, &c. All letters, WILL SMITHSON, Theatre Royal, Merthyr.

WANTED, First-class Companies for May 8, 15, and June 5, also Several Good Summer Dates, at the Grand, Bolton.
Address, J. F. ELLISTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 6, 27, April 10,
and May (with exceptions).
Address, HARRY YORKE.

WANTED, Musical Plays and Light Comedies, for immediate and Autumn dates.
Wire,
BRAMMALL, Crystal Palace.

BORO' THEATRE, HEYWOOD.
WANTED, Good Pantomime or Musical Show, Feb. 26, for above. Wire, ALBERT JONES, Grand Theatre, Radcliffe, till Saturday night; after, Irving Theatre, Seacombe.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, No. 1 Companies, for Feb. 27 (through disappointment).
Also March 6, 13, 27, and April 17.
Address, Mrs. T. W. S. JENNINGS.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCASHIRE.
WANTED, Good Companies, March 6 and 13. Address, GERALD HARDING.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Companies, March 13 and 20, on, with Exceptions.
E. H. PAGE.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. STANLEY ROGERS
WANTED, Companies, April 6 (Three Nights), April 10, onwards, with Exceptions. Address, STANLEY ROGERS, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

DUMFRIES and DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, Companies. Dumfries, Feb. 16, 17, 18, March 27, April 10. Dunfermline, March 6, 20, and on. W. F. POTTS, Dunfermline.

WANTED, Big Attractions, Feb. 16 (Three Nights, Drama), March 13, April 10, Musical Preferred. FRED L. CONNYNGHAME, T. R., Windsor.

WANTED, Good Companies, Vacant March 6 (Six Nights), March 16 (Three Nights), and Dates on. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Theatre, Stafford.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies.

EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
Vacant,
March 13, April 24, May 8, 15, June 12.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant,
March 27 (Three Nights), April 3 (Three Nights), April 24.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant,
April 17, May 15, 22, 29, June 12.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant,
Feb. 27, March 13, April 10, 17, 24.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant,
June 19, July 31, Aug. 14, Sept. 4.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant,
April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 29.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant,
Feb. 20 (Three Nights), 27 (Three Nights), March 6, 13, 20.

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant,
March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant,
March 6, 27th, April 3 (Three Nights), 10, May 1, 8.

KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
Vacant,
Feb. 16 (Three Nights), March 20 (Three Nights), 30 (Three Nights).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant,
April 6 (Three Nights), 24, May 1, 8, 15.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant.
Feb. 13 (Three Nights), March 23, April 3, 17.

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
To be Let for Non-Dramatic Performances.

All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Manor House, Hayes, Middlesex.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISE.
WANTED, Companies,
QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
March 13, April 17, 24, May 8, 15, 22.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA.
March 20, 27, April 10, 24, May 1, 16.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
March 27, April 17, 24, May 8, 15, 22.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Known, Dudley Opera House. Proprietor and Manager, J. MAURICE CLEMENT. Vacant, March 13, May 1, 15, June 5, 19, August 14, on, with Exceptions. Now Booking, 1906, for Great Attractions Only.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 1, 8, 29, and June 12 (Whit Week). Can Negotiate for First-class Pantomime for next Christmas. Applicants please state where Production can be seen. Address, T. A. EDWARDES.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.
March 13.
WANTED, Special Attraction for the Above Date.
FRED. FREDERICKS.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE, WIGAN.
WANTED, a Sterling Attraction for May 1, musical preferred. Address, WORSWICK, Managing Director.

WANTED, Good Companies (Musical Comedy preferred), owing to Wolverhampton fire. T. R., Gloucester, Feb. 27; Treherbert, March 6, 7 and 8; Maesteg, 9, 10 and 11; Porth, March 13. Good business being done notwithstanding bad trade and the revival. Porth last Saturday nearly £59, although Hippodrome open, giving £20 in prizes. The Hippodrome closes to-day, having been purchased by Mr. Poole. Treherbert, Saturday, £53. Good companies can take good money at Poole's Theatres; also unexpectedly vacant at Gloucester March 13 and 27; good musical comedy or opera will score. Pontypool vacant three nights, Feb. 27. Address, Poole, Wotton Lawn, Gloucester.

TOWN HALL, WHITLAND, SOUTH WALES.
WANTED, Known, Vacant Dates now being Booked for Dramatic and Variety Companies, &c. Good opportunity and every convenience. Situate Junction, Pembroke, Tenby, Milford, and Cardigan Railways. Apply PROPRIETOR, Whitland.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Onwards, with exceptions. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

WANTED, Strong Society Play for Special Week.
Miss MAUD MAY, Simonside Hall, South Shields.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Manager and Secretary, Mr. JOHN GAFFNEY.
WANTED, Known, all Communications re Dates for above Theatre should in Future be Addressed to F. W. WYNDHAM, Esq., Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

ST. ANNE'S PIER.
The Applicants to supply or manage a troupe of Pierrots or Minstrels are thanked for their offers, and informed that the engagement is made.

WANTED, for the Pier Pavilion, Concert, Variety, and Theatrical Companies.
Seating Accommodation for 1,000 people.
Apply,
the MANAGER,
The Pier, St. Anne's-on-the-Sea.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

WANTED, Theatres, April 24, for the above Powerful Attraction.
Wire, "HUSTLER, BIRKENHEAD," or write to W. W. Kelly, 8, Hamilton-sq., Birkenhead.

WANTED, for "The Lightning's Flash," March 6, precede Dundee, March 27.
LESLIE VYNER, O. H., Workington.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
WANTED, April 17, May 1, 8.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 7, Sept. 4.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A DISGRACE TO HER SEX."
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 24, May 1, 8.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, April 10, May 29.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, March 27, May 22, June 12.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 3, 24, and On, with exceptions.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, March 13, May 1, June 12 Aug. 7, 14, on,
with exceptions.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

LYTTLETON'S "AT WAR WITH THE WORLD."
WANTED, Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, onwards, with exceptions. Theatres Visited and Bookings, include Coventry, Southampton, Birkenhead, Walsall, Leeds, Oldham, Bootle, Margate, Southend. Everything reliable. Printing always ready.
GEO. LYTTLETON, K., Walthamstow; next, T.R., Worthing.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, July, Autumn,
Now Booking 1906. The Most Perfect Production of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" seen in this Country CHARLES HARRINGTON, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, Two Weeks.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S TOUR,
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN,"
No Vacant Dates until Nov. 20, 1905.
WANTED, Big Theatres Only, then and on. Theatre Royal, West Stanley, Six Nights, Feb. 13.

"WHAT BECAME OF MRS. RACKET?"
"MY SWEETHEART."
WANTED, Feb. 27. Wire for Feb 27. To follow St. Helens. March 13, 20, onwards, with exceptions.
STONE, H. M. T., Dundee.

CARSON, GRANVILLE, and THORNE'S TOUR.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this Gigantic Attraction, August on, with exceptions.
Address,
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"THE TRAITOR."
Messrs. Mitchelson and Fineberg's Magnificent Production.
WANTED, April 24, E. HILL-MITCHELSON, P.O.W. Theatre, Grimsby.

"MRS. GORRINGE'S NECKLACE."
From Wyndham's and the New Theatre,
With a Special Company. No Vacancies in Cast.
WANTED First-Class Theatres, for March and onward,
Apply,
LANGHORNE BURTON, 7, Arundel-st., Piccadilly, W.

"THE BEST MUST WIN" and "A STOLEN BIRTHRIGHT."
WANTED, Feb. 27, June 5, 12, July 10, 24, and various onwards. Wire for Feb. 27, CHARLES DRAYCOTT, This and Next, T. R., King's Lynn.

"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
WANTED, Feb. 27, March 20, April 3, 10, and Autumn, 28th week of Tour. Three plants special printing. Clear stage only required.
WALTER HOWE.
This, Nelson. Next, Queen's, Swindon.

Mr. BERT COOTE'S COMPANIES.
"THE FATAL WEDDING."
"THE FATAL WEDDING."
"THE FATAL WEDDING."

WANTED, March 20 (Midlands),

Easter Week, April 24,

July 31—Aug. 7.

Address, CECIL BARTH, General Manager, 150, Oxford-street, London, W.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, Big Theatres, March 13, April 24, onwards.
Miss Edith Blande in Title-rôle.
Three Tons of Beautiful Scenery Carried.
HARRY FOXWELL, Theatre Royal, Batley.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COMPANIES.
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, Feb. 27 and March 6, for this Stupendous Attraction. All Scenery Carried. Racehorses Toured and Paraded in Colours Daily. F. G. KIMBERLEY, Prince's, Bradford; Next, Lyceum, Newport.

"THE SINS OF A CITY."
WANTED, Feb. 20, March 13, 20.
Refer S. Frederick, Esq., Stratford.
Printing, Twenty Varieties.
WINIFRED MAUDE,
Theatre Royal, Margate.

Montague Beaudyn and Sidney Crowe's Success,
"THE WAY OF THE WORLD."
WANTED, Important Theatres Only. First Vacant Date, Easter; also Whitsun, Aug. 13, and on.
MONTAGUE BEAUDYN, T. R., Macclesfield.

"THE SLEDGE-HAMMER," by Wilson Barrett
Spring Tour Fully Booked.
WANTED, Theatres. First Vacancy Sept. 4. Re Dates,
W. V. GARROD, GRAND THEATRE, PLYMOUTH.

WANTED, Good Theatres, South Preferred Feb. 27 and March 6, through extension of Tour, for Harry Firth's "Cinderella" Pantomime. Thirty people carried. Six big specialities. Write, HARRY FIRTH, next week Empire Theatre, Southend.

WANTED, Theatres, Miss Frances Delaval's Splendid Company. "The Biggest Scamp on Earth," F. A. Scudamore's most popular play, May 8, 29, June 12, Aug. 7, and a few autumn dates. Wire to-day, Nuneaton. Next Theatre Royal Edmonton (return).

ALFRED B. CROSS TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
by Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Theatres, March 27th (North); also June 19 and 26 (between Jersey and Clapham). Few Autumn Dates Open for Best Theatres only. Success Continued. New Plant of Printing by Allen.
Mr. CROSS, as PETE, 1,100th Time.

THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE, Feb. 13.
MESSRS. ADDISON BRIGHT and WALTER MAXWELL'S COMPANY.
"LITTLE MARY."
WANTED, Known, Vacant March 13 (between Manchester and Bradford.

Address,
WALTER MAXWELL,

Feb. 11,
LYCEUM THEATRE, SHEFFIELD.

Feb. 13,
Opera House, Coventry.

"ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE."
WANTED, March 20, 27 (?), April 3, 17, 24, May 1, 8(?) 29, June 5, 12, 19, July 10, 17, 24. Booked at West London Theatre, Lyric, Hammersmith, Leicester, Portsmouth rebooked, Dublin, Birkenhead, Croydon, Ramsgate, Greenwich, Porth, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Liverpool, Wolverhampton. C. CLIFFORD, T.R., Canterbury.

WANTED, Known, Enormous Success of the great Woman's Play, "Her Fatal Past," at Treherbert. Refer. Vacant May 8 and few Autumn dates for good theatres only. Address, T. E. WARD, Theatre, Aberdare.

THEATRES WANTED.

Mr. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"HONOUR THY FATHER,"
March 27, April 10, 24.

MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

Mr. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"A WOMAN'S DEVOTION,"
March 27, April 24.

MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

Mr. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES
WANTED, Dates for
"GREED OF GOLD,"
March 20, April 10, 17, 24.

MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER'S COMPANY,
in
"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, for March 27, April 24 (Easter), May 1 and 15.
Address, Mr. SILVANUS DAUNCEY,
22, Charing Cross, S.W.

JOSEPH ENTANGLED.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, for March 13, 20, 27, April 10 and 24 (Easter).
Address, Mr. SILVANUS DAUNCEY,
22, Charing Cross, S.W.

WANTED, March 27, on, including Easter, for
Miss Emma Litchfield's Drama,
"A LONDON ACTRESS."
"A LONDON ACTRESS."

The scenic effects are very appropriate, and all upon an elaborate basis. Indeed, the drama is one which could hardly fail to gain favour with the most exacting.—Liverpool Echo, Feb. 24, 1905.
Miss Emma Litchfield, playwright, actress, and expert in stagecraft, is again with us in her many-sided capacity. Miss Litchfield's influence, brought to bear in houses where lurid melodrama is not a stranger, cannot but be for good. In writing, she eschews the thundering steam-roller or the whizzing circular saw; in her acting, she is content to appeal, in a natural manner, to the emotions of her audience. . . "A London Actress" presented at the Alexandra Theatre this week, is one of her typical plays, typically presented. Herself a bewitching adventuress, who flirts with, and ruins, one man, marries another, and succeeds in falling in love with a third, she has a large piece in the scheme. A liberal sprinkling of excellent comedy, a happy ending, and a picturesque mounting, add attraction to the piece.—Birmingham Gazette.
The piece is altogether superior to the usual run of melodramas.—Glasgow Herald.
Vacant, March 27, on. Wire or write.
Easter, Whitsun, and August Bank Holiday Open
Many thanks for offers, but must have fair terms
Wire, STUART CLEVELAND, Fleetwood.
Write, Hereford.
P.S.—Fit-up Rights for Disposal.

BEAUDYN and LIVESEY'S PLAYS.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
A New Oriental Play by G. A. De Gray.
WANTED, March 20, 27, April 3,
"£1,000 REWARD,"
a Grand Revival on an Elaborate Scale.
"THE RACE FOR WEALTH,"
a Powerful Modern Play, by H. Lonsdale.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND,"
an Acknowledged Success.
"THE DAYS OF CROMWELL,"
by Chas. Rogers and E. Carter Livesey.
Various, Autumn.
Address,
Royalty Theatre, Llanelly.

WANTED, Theatres with Big Stages and Auditoriums, for "The Life of a Showman," the Greatest Novelty and Strongest Attraction Touring. First-class Company of Eighteen Artistes. Five Tons Scenery Carried. Read what Manager Battersby says: Theatre Royal, Wednesday Feb. 7.—Dear Mr. Sante, I really must congratulate you on your latest production, "The Life of a Showman," and at the same time to state that although I anticipated a good show, yet it more than realised my expectations. The scenery and mechanical effects, the all-round excellent company, combined with a most original drama should prove a veritable mascot. Managers and the public have only to witness the performance to endorse every word I have said. You have my best wishes for the success the show deserves.—Yours truly, Harry Battersby. Vacant May 1 and Autumn. SANTE, This, Bilston, Next, Wednesbury

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"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
WANTED, Easter Week, between Sunderland and Liverpool; also May 22 and 29, South of Birmingham. EUGENE BERTRAM, Camden T., N.W.

MR GEORGE KIRK and MISS MARY NEIL'S COMPANY.
"JUDY."
WANTED, March 20, April 3, and August Bank Holiday.
GEORGE KIRK, Pier Pavilion, Hastings.

WANTED, Theatres, Halls, &c., Feb. 27, Date onward, for the Royal London Star Pierrot Troupe Concert and Comedy Company. Ten Big Star Speciality Acts. Give Sacred Concert Sunday Night. Splendid Company. Address, DILLON New Drill Hall Bedale, Yorkshire.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Big Theatres, March 20, May 1, and 22.
Address,
CHAS. M. JULIAN, Metropole, Devonport.

WANTED, for "At Twelve Midnight," Summer and Autumn Dates. Booked at Dublin Ramsgate, Wolverhampton, Edmonton, Pontypridd.

"A MARRIAGE OF VENGEANCE."
WANTED, Feb. 27, March 6, 20, 27. FRED BENTON, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

The Great American Success, "The Red Café,"
A Dramatic Story of Russian Life.
WANTED, March 6, and onwards (with exceptions), to follow Birmingham; Special Scenery, New Costumes, Magnificent Uniforms Elaborate Show of American and English Painting Powerful Company.
Wire,
MARTIN HENRY, Playgoers' Club, London.

The Melodramatic Masterpiece.
The Melodramatic Masterpiece.

"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."

WANTED, April 3 17, and 24; also Autumn. Wire To-day, Palace Theatre, Newcastle.
Write,
ROBERT PERRIS, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford.

"THE CRIMSON CLUB."
WANTED, April 24, various, on, Gus C. Livesey, To-day, R., Leicester (return); Victoria, Stanley.

"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
WANTED, Feb. 27, Mar. 6, and Easter. Wire, FRANK WILSON, Crystal Palace Theatre. See C. page.

"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
WANTED, Feb. 27, Mar. 6, and Easter. Wire, FRANK WILSON, Crystal Palace Theatre. See Co.'s page.

"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
WANTED, Easter Week, South or South-West, for this Never-failing Musical Attraction, Chorus and Specialities.
EDWARD MARRIS, T. R., Grantham.

"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
WANTED, Easter Week, South or South-West, for this Never-failing Musical Attraction. Chorus and Specialities.
EDWARD MARRIS, T. R., Grantham.

"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
WANTED, Easter Week, South or South-West, for this Never-failing Musical Attraction. Chorus and Specialities.
EDWARD MARRIS, T. R., Grantham.

WANTED, Theatres, Halls, Easter Vacant, The Fays, Original American Mystifiers, Combination, Mesmerism, &c. Good printing. Great success. Court Theatre, Galway.

WANTED, for "Life that Kills," March 6, May 1, and on.
"Grip of Law," April 24, and on through Summer; "Bigamy," May 1, and few Spring.
FRED MOULE, King's Theatre, Gainsboro'.

THEATRES WANTED.

Pantomimes. The Success of the South. Mr. John A. Thomson's Pantomimes, "Red Riding Hood," "Aladdin." Extension of tour owing to enormous success.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, "Aladdin." Vacant March 6th, onwards. "Riding Hood," Vacant March 20, 27, and on. Everything Carried. Full Company of Thirty. Proof of Excellence—five offers to produce next year, and Return Dates booked. Thanks to the following Managers for Contracts and Offers: J. Bannister Howard, Esq., Chas. Macdona, Esq., J. Elphinstone, Esq., Douglas Phelps, Esq., H. Dornton, Esq., T. Morton Powell, Esq., J. H. Morton, Esq., Arthur Carlton, Esq., Henry Bowman, Esq. All communications JOHN A. THOMSON, This, T.R., Colchester. Next, Lyric Theatre, Bromley.

MR. PADEY PENNINGTON'S REAPPEARANCE
(after seven years' retirement).
MR. PADEY PENNINGTON,
The Refined Mimic, Humorist, and Ventriloquist, Marvellous Genuine Thought-reader, and Most Bewildering, Scientific, Screamingly Funny, Genuine Hypnotist,
has a few Vacant Dates for his
Variety Company,
including Star London Artists,
The Best of Biographs,
The Handcuff Mystery,
and
Padey Pennington's Séances.
WANTED, Theatres or Halls (Share or Rental). Permanent address, 3, Hanover-crescent, Brighton.

"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."
WANTED, March 13, April 24. March 13, April 24.

Admitted by Press and Public to be the most Popular Version on the Stage.
Just finished Record Tour in Scotland.
Played to Pantomime Business everywhere.
Address, JAMES BELL, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"BETRAYED; or, What Men call Love."
WANTED, May 1, June 5. Refer Lester Collingwood, Esq.
CECIL DU GUE, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, by the Hess Agency, Pupils for the Profession.
Engagements Procured at Principal Halls.
Contracts Waiting for Talent.
Elocution and Stage Deportment Taught.
Smart Songs; Pretty Music.
Call for Interview, G. HESS, 71, Warner-road, Camberwell Green, S.E.

WANTED, Artistes for Musical Comedy, Town and Tour. Must be Young, of Good Appearance, and Good Voice. Send full particulars to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-st, W.

WANTED, Lady, able to Sing, of Good Appearance, to play part in new Burlesque. Long Engagement. Salary given; small premium for tuition, &c. Apply MANAGER, 15, Brandon-mansions, Queen's Club-gardens, West Kensington.

WANTED, First-class Responsible Lady and Gent., Joint or Single, Open Feb. 13. Portable. MANAGER, 2, Percy-road, Watford, Herts.

WANTED.—Well-known Suburban Manager can Receive Amateur Lady and Gentleman wishful of Opportunities in his Permanent Company. Moderate Premium and Salary. Unquestionable References Given. PROSCENIUM, Box 1,180, care of "The Era."

"THE CITY OF MILLIONS."
WANTED, Reliable Actor (robust), for Responsible and Assistant Stage Management. Full Particulars, Photos (stamped envelope), A. HAMILTON WARDEN, 2, Willowfield-road, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Known, Opportunity Occurs for Young Lady Amateur, to Play Small Part at London Theatre, Previous Experience not necessary, provided Applicants possess Youth, some Ability, and are of Good Social Position. Comedy, Box 1,189, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Known, an opening occurs in well-known Concert Party for a Good Bass and Soprano. Preference given to those who are Accompanists. Splendid opportunity for Experience. Small salary and fares. Full particulars, age, fee expected, photo, &c., T., 101, Springbank-road, Hither-green.

WANTED, Good-Looking Young Lady, to Sing and Dance well, play Banjo, Mandoline, or Violin, height 5ft. 1in. to 5ft. 3in. Address EDWARDS, 153, Bow-road.

WANTED, a Young and Clever Dancer, for Permanent Engagement, beginning March, for one of the Best Troupes. Box 1,093, "The Era."

WANTED, two young Gents. for Comedy Trio, play Banjo or Mandoline. Good Amateurs Write, LESSEY, 168 Merton-road, Wimbledon.

WANTED, a Young, Smart, and Quick Girl Acrobatic Dancer.
Apply, Box 1,152, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Dramatic Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Experienced Business Manager and Acknowledged Leading Actress are open for Engagement and Investment in First-class Tour at home or abroad. Box 1,101, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Engagement, Joint Preferred, Assist, Acting-Manager, Comoine Parts, and Singing Juveniles or Chambs. KATE JOHNSTONE, 23, High-street, Wandsworth.

WANTED, by the Sisters Webedale, Engagement in Musical Company or Drama. Small parts or Chorus. Height 5ft. 10½in. and 5ft. 9½in. Good Agents wanted. Wire or write, 92, Albion-road, Dalston, London.

WANTED, Known, Fred Dalton at Liberty for Old Man, Character, or Responsible Business. Address, 42 Tarn-street, London, S.E.

WANTED, for the H. and S. Quartette, Contracts, Home or Abroad. Free Feb. 20. Music Acrobats. 16, Parnie-street, Glasgow.

To Musical Combinations, &c.
WANTED, by The Cameron Glee Singers, Male Quartette of Vocalists and Dancers, Easter and Summer Engagements. Terrific Success. Messrs. Haddon and Loader's Panto. This, T. R., Barnsley, Next, R. C., Warrington.

WANTED, by Vocalist-Pianiste (lady), Superior Artiste, Experienced, London and Suburban Engagements. Terms, 5s. nightly. Répertoire, References, &c., Box 1,164, "The Era" Office.

PANTOMIME ARTISTES WANTED.

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, Pantomime and Musical Comedy Artists, Known to Edinburgh, for Spring Production end of March, Edinburgh one month, Tour to follow, of Musical Comedy, "A Trip to the Highlands," also Artists for Extravaganza Season, June, July, and August. Pretty Chorus Ladies to send Photos. Note: Sixteen Dancers Settled.
EADE MONTEFIORE, Manager, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Principals and a Quartette of Dancers for Easter Pantomime. Photos, terms,, and particulars to Brooks, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Principal Boys and Girls, for High-class Theatres, 1905-'06.
Photos (not returnable) and engagements held.

Harry Burns's Agency,
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Also at Hartlepool and London.

PANTOMIME ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Miss Dolly Elsworthy Disengaged, Panto., 1905 and 1906. Principal Boy. Next week, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Miss Dolly Elsworthy Disengaged for Principal Boy, 1905 and 1906, Next Week, Grand Nottingham.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, for six or eight weeks, to paint for "A Trip to the Highlands" play, Waverley Station, Oban, Braemar.
Apply to Eade Montefiore, Manager,
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WANTED.—Well-known Scenic Artist has a Vacancy for a Premium Pupil desirous of Learning Scenic and Poster Work, age about 20. Apply in first instance to Box 1,167, "The Era."

WANTED, Scenic Artist, Good, Quick, and Reliable, about Three Weeks. Terms moderate. Forrest, 9, Foxcombe-rd., Lower Weston, Bath.

WANTED, a Smart Scenic Artist, with own Brushes, at Once. Apply, between 1 and 3, Monday, Brunswick Arms, Stamford street. Vincent, Kelway.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, for Scenery for Variety or Drama. Roberts and Co., Scenic Artists, Blucher-st, Liverpool-st, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, by Alfred Ford, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract. Address, 110, Wenlock-street, New North-road, Islington.

WANTED, Known, J. I. Keith, Scenic Artist, at Liberty,
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MISCELLANEOUS.

HURRY'S RESTAURANT, KING'S-CROSS, N.
WANTED Known, always pleased to see Old Friends, New Friends, their Friends, or Anybody's Friend.
Yours always,
Harry Paradise.
Noted for Wm. Younger's Celebrated Ales.

WANTED, Known, opening occurs for First-class Manager for Music Hall, twice nightly, near Birmingham. Applicants must have good business abilities, understand booking of artistes, and all connected with modern Variety Theatre. Engagement to commence at once,
for Twelve Months Certain.
Present proprietor going abroad.
Address c/o Box 1173, "Era" Office.

WANTED, an Acting-Manager for Music Hall, Must Supply Highest References, and Furnish Guarantee. Apply, enclosing Copies of Testimonials, Photo., if possible, and Stating Age, Height, and Salary Required. No Application will be Considered unless Containing these Particulars.
T. Edwardes, Grand Theatre, Derby.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, a Stage Manager; also a Really Good Responsible Gentleman
All particulars to
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WANTED, Smart Agent, Must be Good Window-Biller, Use Sticks and Brush if Required. Terms to T. W. Coates, Southampton.

WANTED, a Resident Stage Carpenter, able to make, and control staff.
Apply to Eade Montefiore, Manager.
Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Good Bill-Poster.
Apply,
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Lord George (the Original) Sanger's

Great Circus, Hippodrome, and Menagerie.

Tenting Season,
1905.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
An
Experienced,
Steady
Bill-poster;
also
Two
Competent
High Window
Lithographers,
to
Commence
Duties
Monday,
Feb. 20.

Salary, 35s. Weekly.

Apply,
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WANTED, Wardrobe Mistress, to make and adapt modern dresses for "A Trip to the Highlands," &c., six months' engagement for competent woman.
Apply to Eade Montefiore, Manager, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

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Apply by Letter,
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WANTED, Office Boy, in Well-known London Agent's Office, Smart, Intelligent. Apply own Handwriting, stating Salary, References, Box 1,187, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Known
Mr. Frank Egerton,
universally admitted
one of the most successful Public Caterers
and Variety Theatre Managers
of the Age,
will shortly sever his connection with
Mr. Patrick Collins,
late of the Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent,
and will be at Liberty
to accept
a Similar Position.
Credentials, Testimonials, &c., include Congratulations from Council and Magistracy to date.
F. E. will be glad to hear from Directorates or Proprietors desiring the right man in the right place.
25 years' practical experience, Town and Country.
Address,
Frank Egerton, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, Management of Theatre, Music Hall, or Pier
(from May to September, during Vocation),
by well-known Manager,
who holds responsible position.
(Manager) leading Hall.
Thoroughly conversant with all Branches.
Highest References.
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WANTED, Known, Advertiser is prepared to speculate in any sound concern, or would arrange to tour play with London reputation. Address, C., Box 1,156, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Will White, F.O.S., at Liberty Feb. 20, General Business or Advance Management, Excellent References. Terminating 5 years' Engagement as General Manager with Messrs. Little and Darcy's Companies, Royal, Jarrow.

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WANTED, Situation as Stage-Manager, one or two shows nightly. Handy, and good worker. Highest references. Address Box 1,168, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Position as Resident Electrician, age 22, Abstainer, thoroughly trained to stage lighting, at present in charge of an Installation of over 3,000 incandescent and arc lighting. Manager's Reference. Box 1,153, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Feb. 27, onwards, by Alfred Levison, any Class of Entertainment, Manager, Advance, Ring Master, Stage Manager, Bill Inspector; Sober, Respectable Worker, not too proud. Terminating Season, Cooke's Royal Circus. Address, care of Nicol, 19, Murieston-crescent, Dolry-road, Edinburgh.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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First-Class Wardrobe Mistress,
Good Cutter-out; Highest References,
Shortly at Liberty.
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WANTED, Post, as Useful Companion to Professional Lady, Town or Tour. Address, Box 1,166, care of "The Era."

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WANTED, Violin, Cornet, and Piano (good), for Variety Show. Open Monday. Wire lowest; hall small. Jeapes and Hardiman, Empire, Halesowen, Birmingham.

LORD JOHN SANGER AND SONS, LTD.
CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, SEASON 1905.
WANTED, First-Class Solo Cornet, second Cornet, Euphonium, for above String Band. Apply, Auguste Denton, Mus. Dir., care of Smathers, 2, Lauriston-terrace, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Cornet, Violin, and Double Bass, play Bombardon; also good Operator. Open Monday. Roberts, Victoria Hall, Southsea.

WANTED, Cornet (Good), for Ramsgate Town Band. Pitching, Terms, Shares. Apply, Band Secretary, Ship Inn, Ramsgate.

WANTED, at Once, Competent First Cornet, Permanent Engagement to Capable Man. Send Terms, and Copies of References, to
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C. W. POOLE'S No. 1 MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, Double Bass, to open Monday, at Exeter, to wear uniform (provided), and assist with fittings when travelling. G. F. Howard, M.D., Pavilion, Weston-super-Mare. Sunday, Victoria Hall, Exeter.

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WANTED, 'Cello and Bass Player, immediately for Tour.
Apply,
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HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, DUNDEE.
WANTED, a 'Cello Player (Good), Immediately. Permanent Engagement to Competent Man. Apply, with terms, &c., H. E. Losery, Musical Director

WANTED, Oboe Player for the Palace Theatre, Leicester. Apply, stating Salary required, and giving names and addresses for References, to Oswald Stoll, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, Good Oboe and Double Bass Players. Write references and terms.
Mus. Dir., Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, for the Wakefield Hippodrome, Good Flautist. Address, with terms, references, &c., G. S. Douglass, General Manager.

WANTED, Pianist, to travel with Auction Mart. Must be a Good Player, and Read at Sight, and make himself generally useful during the day. A permanent engagement to a suitable man. One used to the business preferred. Can open at once. Wire or write, Rowley, Auction Mart, Eastleigh, Hants.

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State experience and lowest wages.
Apply,
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WANTED, at Once, Pianist, must Read at Sight, to Travel with Auction Vans, One able to do Turn preferred; those afraid of work, save stamps. Williams' Auction Mart, Oakengates, Salop.

WANTED, First-class Pianist, and Flute and Piccolo, Variety, Evening Dress. Age, Terms, T. Edwardes, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Drummers, with own Tympani, &c., for Glasgow, Belfast, and Dublin. Salary 35s.; permanent; to open 27th inst. Apply J. Thompson, c/o 73, Highgate-road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham.

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WANTED, for the Annual Training, 3rd Lincoln Regiment (22nd May to 17th June),
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2 E flat Basses (circulars),
2 Trombones,
2 French Horns,
2 Cornets,
2 Clarionets, B flat,
1 Flute and Piccolo,
1 Oboe,
1 Baritone.
Applicants should apply, stating age, particulars of previous service (if any), and corps, to
Bandmaster,
3rd Lincoln Regiment, Lincoln.

WANTED, a Company of Instrumentalists, or Instrumentalists and Vocalists, to occupy Band Pavilion at Girvan during the Summer Months.
Apply, stating Terms, and giving References, to Town Clerk, Girvan.

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice. Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. Williams, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Telegraphic address, "Amuse, Manchester"; Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. Jesson, 96, Long-acre, London, W.C.; Telegraphic address, "Amusologia, London"; Telephone, 9,827, Central. F. J. Lees, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. Bartley, 9, Seamore-street, Glasgow; Telephone, 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Pianist-Conductor, First-class Summer Engagement. Highest references. Address, J. De Gabriels, T. R., Dunfermline, N.B.

WANTED, Engagement through closing, for Conductor, First Violin, Flute, Bass, Theatre or Variety. Permanency preferred. Dickman, Lyceum Theatre, Pentre, Rhondda.

WANTED, by First-Class Conductor or First Violin, Engagement. J. Hecker, 305, Lower Broughton-road, Manchester.

WANTED, by Leader or First Violin, Re-engagement, through Closing, any Line. Fourteen Years' Experience. Sam Cryer, 1, Addi-street, Bradford, Yorks.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader with Circus or Cornet, any business; would accept good Touring Company. Ellis Cook, Stag Inn, Woodhouse, Sheffield.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement in Orchestra, and to Play Solos. Experienced. High-class Répertoire. R., 67, St. Agnes-place, Kennington-park, London, S.E.

WANTED, by Good Violin, Engagement, Steady and Reliable, any business.
T. Beard, West Vale, Halifax.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement. Open for Summer Engagement, Seaside, Steamer, or Good Pierrot Troupe. Experienced. R., 1 Brookfield-grove, Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement, at Liberty to commence March 6, end of Pantomime. References. Address, Brown, Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, by First Violin or Viola (Experienced), any Business. Steady, Reliable. K., 45, Grafton-square, Clapham.

WANTED, by First or Second Violin (Experienced), Engagement, Variety or Dramatic Business. References. Violinist, 35, Frederick-st., Cardiff.

WANTED, by Violinist, age 19, Engagement, 12 months' experience, Theatre or Music Hall. T. Fenson, 13, Richmond-terrace, Clapham-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Experienced Solo and Orchestral Violinist is Open to Engagements, Town and Country. Address, E. E., Box 1,186, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by First-class Cornet and Violin, Engagement. Thoroughly Experienced and Reliable. Theatre or Music Hall Preferred. Together or Separate. W. E. G., 121, Portsdown-road, Maida Vale, W.

WANTED, by Three Chums, Job in Travelling Circus or Menagerie, Cornet, Euphonium, and Side Drum; could Sing. Box 1,110, "The Era."

WANTED, by Cornettist (good), Engagement, Variety or Dramatic Business; three years Cornettist Theatre Royal, Leigh. Address W. Kaye, 133, Gordon-street, Leigh, Lanc.

WANTED, by Solo Cornet, Engagement in Music Hall or Theatre; Excellent References. T. F., 20, North-street, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

WANTED, Engagement, Solo Cornet, Just Concluded Tour. Well up Theatre or Variety, Good Reader. Cornet, 10, Regent-st, Weston-s.-Mare.

WANTED, by Solo Cornet, Re-engagement, Thoroughly Experienced in all Branches. Good References. Address, Sid Clayson, 126, High-street, Margate.

WANTED, by Solo Cornet, Engagement in good Theatre, Variety, Excellent References from First-Class Theatres for Competency, Sobriety. Box 1,161, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bassoon. Experienced. References. L. Chapman, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

WANTED, by Bassoon, Engagement, Season or Permanent; Theatre Experience and References, Queen's Theatre, Leeds. 50 Merrion-st.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement (good), Sober, and always attentive to Business. J. Allan, 4, Bodafon-row, Llandudno.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement, Theatre or Variety. Can join at once. Address, C. H. Hopkins, 115, Cleethorpe-rd, Grimsby.

WANTED, by Double Bass (Good), Engagement, Experienced in Theatre and Variety. Good References. H., 29, Palatine-road, Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, by Experienced Euphonium, Engagement, any business. Can open at once. Wire or write, Chas. Grice, 107, Manor-road, Hastings.

WANTED, by Trombonist (Good), Engagement. At Liberty any Business; Steady and Reliable. Carver, 5, Holden-street, Lavender-hill, London, S.W.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement, thoroughly Experienced, any Business, good References. Address, Lewis, Poole's Myriorama, Alloa, Scotland.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement, any Business. Disengaged through closing. Address, Axter, Trombone, North Holmes, Canterbury.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, Suitable for Little Girl on 'Cello.
Mr. Casselle, 35, Granville-square, King's-cross-rd.

WANTED, by 'Cellist (Experienced), Solo and Orchestral, at Liberty for Easter, Whitsuntide, and Summer Season. Box 1,129, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Flute, Boehm, and Piccolo (or Second Violin), Engagement, Theatre or Variety. Good Refs. Box 1,151, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, Theatre or Variety. Good References. Harry Chamberlain, 31, Tennyson-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, by Solo Harpist (Age 17), Engagement, Bath Herald, Jan. 2, 1905, says:—A talented harpist. Maud Grundy, 49, Haverstock-hill, London.

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagement; can Combine Violin if necessary; Highest References; Large experience; Quick Sight-reader, very Steady; age 23. John Horsfall, West-Thorpe Cottages, Brampton-road, West Melton, near Rotherham, Yorks.

WANTED, Known, Miss Lily Brosnan is open to engagements as Orchestral Accompanist, Brilliant pianist and rapid sight reader. Recommendations from present conductor.
Box 1,158, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Tympanist (thoroughly Experienced), Double Drums, Effects. References the Best. Open at Once. Address B., Musicians' Union, 96, Long-acre, London, W.C.

WANTED, by Good Drummer, Shop, Theatre or Music Hall, late of Alexandra Palace, London, N. Mr. M. Connor, Drums, T.R., King's Lynn.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, with effects, Engagement, Theatre or Music Hall. F. McCrohan, 31, De Laune-street, Kennington Park-rd., London, S.E.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, Engagement, First-Class Experience, steady, reliable, London or Provinces. A. Lille, 19, Shepherd-street, St. Leonards, Hastings.

WANTED, by Double Drummer and Tympanist (Experienced) Engagement. Good References. Theatre or Music Hall, Musicus, 50, Cale-street, Chelsea.

WANTED, Known, the Original Blue Austrian Band open to Good Offers.
Conductor, 53, Philpot-street, Stepney, London.

WANTED, by the Loyal Westminster Band (Thirty-one Professional Musicians), Engagements. Conductor, Mr. O. H. Carter, 32, Tenison-st., London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Aquarium Orchestra at Liberty Feb. 20, through closing; First-Class Repertoire, Classical and Miscellaneous, up-to-date. J. Slatter, Conductor, Aquarium, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagements, Chas. Blaker's Famous Pretorian Orchestra. Ladies and Gents. Highest Testimonials. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Address, Garden Cottages, Broad-street, East-road, Cambridge.

WANTED, by Caledonian Orchestra, Engagement for Summer Season. A Superior Combination of Ladies and Gentlemen. Decided Novelty. For particulars apply, Box 1,133, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, the Court Theatre Orchestra, Liverpool, at Liberty for Summer Engagements, separate or together Address, Secretary, The Orchestra.

WANTED, Known, Rosabel Ladies' Orchestra, (Conductress, Miss Rose Telfer) at Liberty after Feb. 18. Manager, 10, German-place, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Family Band, Experienced in Operatic and Dramatic Business, Liberty for Good Permanency. Musicus, 35, Aske-road, Middlesbro'.

WANTED, Engagements, by Red Viennese Band, Balls, Receptions, Hotels, Exhibitions. Open to offer for Summer Season. Good Agents write. Conductor, Box 1,138, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, the Victoria Ladies' Quartette, Open for Easter and Summer. Miss Adela Sutcliffe, 50, Osnaburg-st., Regent's-park.

WANTED, Engagements, by a Well-known Viennese Band; also for a Popular Military Band; One or Two Weeks, at Various Places, between Now and Whitsuntide. Open for Season Engagements, beginning in July. Good Offers only.
Apply Box 1,188, care of "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, to Directors, Managers, Committees, &c., that the Famous Old
British Guards' Band
is open for High-class Summer Business, Seaside Engagement, or Exhibition Work. Enormous success last summer,
Bradford Exhibition, &c., and at the
Palace Pier, Brighton,
where it was the most successful Band, succeeding late Lieut. Dan Godfrey. The Old British Guards Band, popularly known as "The Old Guards," numbers from Fifteen to Fifty, is the only genuine ex-Guards' Band in England, and the most representative one of Great Britain. Every member guaranteed late of crack Guards' Bands. The Finest Band out of Army. Can be heard at N.S.L. Concerts. Latest Music. Most Popular Programmes. Smart, Handsome Uniforms. Everything to draw public and ensure great success. Conductor holds many Public and Official Testimonials.
A. Holmes-Dallimore,
Dorville-crescent, Ravenscourt-park, W.

ANGLO-ITALIAN BAND.
Conductor, Signor Rabottini.
WANTED, Known this Famous Band, Military or String, in Handsome Uniforms, can now be Engaged for Exhibitions, High-class seaside Engagements, Flower Shows, &c. Highest testimonials. Apply by letter, care of Secretary, Orchestral Association, 28, Gerrard-street, W.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an Advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"49, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.,
Re Advertisement
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"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A Grateful Musician.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, Philip Germann, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTED.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS, BOLTON.
WANTED, WANTED, WANTED, the Best Talent in England, Anything and Everything New to the Public, useful Circus Artistes in all lines. Write at once. Must have a Big Company every week at all times, turn out. Wire or write. Address, King Ohmy, Ohmy's Grand Circus, Bolton.

TUDOR'S CIRCUS, BLYTH,
near NEWCASTLE.
WANTED, for re-opening, March 20 and 27, a good family of Equestrians, also weekly Stars and Novelties of every Description. New to Blyth preferred. Address, W. Tudor, 35 York-road, Great Yarmouth.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME,
CARLISLE.
WANTED, Specialities, Feb. 27, and on.
Artistes must State when Last in Carlisle.
Address, C. Algie.

HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS OF VARIETIES,
DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.
Directors, C. H. Powell and F. J. Connor.
WANTED, Known, Communications Invited from Artistes in the Equestrian and Variety Profession (Ring and Stage), for the Forthcoming Summer Season, commencing in July. Box 1,127, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, shortly, for Bostock and Wombwell's Menagerie, Two or Three Good Comic Numbers that can be Worked on Small Platform or from Roof. Long Engagement to Suitable People. Address, E. W. Bostock, Cambridge-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Feb. 20, 1905, Only. After This, No Vacancy till 1906. Return from America for John Frederick's Troupe. Champion Strength Statue Picture Acrobats, on a Revolving Apparatus, a New Act, and Head and Hand Balancers. Three Ladies, Two Gentlemen. Wire for Feb. 20. Address, Fredericks Troupe, Circus Ohmy, Bolton.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Good Understander
For High-class
Hand to Hand Act.
Send Photo, state Height and Weight
and Age.
None but sober and reliable
need apply.
Address,
Hobson,
19, Cordova-road,
Bow East,
London, E.

WANTED, by Lady Juggler, Young Lady, having Slight Knowledge of Juggling Preferred. Address, full particulars, Box 1174, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Small Acrobat or Midget Boxer, age 14, to Work in Sketch, Good Home, Everything Found. Mr. Ross, 30, Morat-st., Brixton.

WANTED, a Smart Lad, between 14 and 15, for Acrobatic Work and Tumbling. Apply, J. Zaro, Palace, Dundee.

WANTED, Circus Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Zarmah and His Group of Lions and Boarhounds. New and Novel Turn. First appearance in Great Britain. Magnificent Fit-up and Wardrobe. Zarmah Skating Rink, Oldham.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Best Existing Educated Lion Show, Vacant March 6, 13, 20, and April 3 (London Preferred).
Address, Feb. 13, Palace, Croydon (Surrey).
Feb. 20, Chelsea Palace, S.W.

WANTED, by R. Yelding, Lightning Jockey, and number of First-class Scene Acts with own Horse, also Miss Scott, on the Rolling Globe, and Premier Tight Wire Artist. Thanks Proprietors and Managers for offers, but still at Liberty for Monday, Feb. 13. Wire or write, Yelding, Circus, Goldsmith-road, Peckham, London.

WANTED, Known, Mr. and Mrs. S. Anderson, Bareback Equestrians and Clown, Liberty Feb. 13, and tenting. 6 Thornley-street, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Mdlle. Sylvia Martin, la Belle Equestrienne, Re-engagement, Barnard's, Woolwich, as Lady Godiva, Next Week. Vacant Feb. 20. Ring or Stage.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Vokes, Musical, Talking, Knockabout Clown, Liberty through Fire. Address, 16 Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Little Paddy, the Popular Clown, Sixth Week, King Ohmy's Circus, Bolton, at Liberty Feb. 13. Good Entrées, including my Bantam Cocks, &c. Address, Circus, Bolton.

WANTED, Known, Little Paddy, the Versatile Clown.
Algie's Hippodrome, Carlisle.

WANTED, Known, Ping-Pong, the Circus Little Tich, Talking Clown and Agouste. Circus, Stockport.

WANTED, Known, Eleonora, Lady Gymnast, and the Beautiful Vanda, in her Great Juggling Speciality on the Revolving Globe. Also First-class Wire Act. Vacant Feb. 20 and 27. Also Vacant for Galas. Last year at Peel Park, Bradford, and York Gala, &c. Three Distinct Specialities. Return, Feb. 13, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy, S. Wales.

WANTED, Known, the Three Leonards, Triple Bar Show, and Acrobatic Hand Balancing Chair Act; also Clowns with Entrees. Success, Hippodrome, Cambridge. Liberty, Feb. 20, and Summer Season.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Flora Steckel, Graceful Gymnast and Slack Wire Expert, two distinct turns, Vacant April 10th. Address, G.P.O., Hull.

WANTED, Known, The Maros, Three-Bar Comedians, Free Feb. 13, 20. Hippodrome, Barrow. Wire for Monday; after, 126, Porter-street, Hull.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte, Lady and Gentleman Gymnastic Act, Feb. 13, 20.
Wire, Palace, Aberdare.
After Sat., Pottery House, W. Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Mdlle. Olga, the Lightning Gymnast, at Liberty Feb. 13 and 20.
Wire quick, Grand, Sheffield.
Permanent, 20, Osborne-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Feb. 13, 20, 27, Mayene Trio (Two Ladies, One Gent.), Gymnasts, Acrobats, Tight Wire, Knockabout Clown, Up-to-date Entrées. If you want anything done on Earth, or in it, Wire for above Dates. The only Vacancy this Year. Wire or Write, The Sands, Carlisle.

WANTED, Known, Leonzi, Marvellous Contortionist, just Concluded Six Weeks Agricultural Hall, London. Liberty, Feb. 13, onwards. Perm. Add., 80, Northfield-rd, Crookes, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Sultan Bros., Great Comedy Hurculean Acrobats, Vacant Mar. 27, on. Next week, Theatre, Consett, co. Durham.

WANTED, Known, Alice Fontainbleau, shortly at Liberty, Troupe of Trick and Leaping Dogs, Great Rolling Globe Act, and Liberty Horse. Booking for Circus, Music Halls, or Galas. Permanent, Marquis of Granby Hotel, Lincoln.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro, the Great and most Daring High-Rope Performer. Open for Fêtes and Galas. Terms apply, 121, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea; or, Mr. T. Wood, Easton, Bristol.

WANTED, Feb. 13, by Mdlle. De Vena, Unique Lady Juggler.
Wire, 58, Baker-street, Attercliffe.

WANTED, Monday and 20, by Delamere Trio, the Original Comedy Equilibrists. Wire, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Known, two all-round Gymnasts, work Bars, Rings, Tumble, wish to join Bar or Ring Artist or Circus. Johnson, 14, Crozier-terrace, Homerton.

WANTED, Known, Swift Trio (Two Ladies, One Gent.), Novel Bicyclists.
Just concluded following tour: Dundee, Aberdeen, Carlisle, Scarboro', Rochdale, Sheerness, Worthing, Yarmouth, Ilkeston, Burton, Blackpool, Harrogate, Wakefield. Monday next, Theatre Royal, York. Vacant, Feb. 20. Salford, Manchester, Ashton, London, Eastbourne, to follow. Vacant also April 3. Address, en route.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Elephant Trainer. R. Roberto, 284, High-street, Stratford, London, E.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

ABERDEEN and DUNDEE.
PALACE VARIETY THEATRES.
Booked in Conjunction with
Plymouth, Bristol, and Sunderland.
WANTED, Artistes Engaged to forward Bill Matter Two clear Weeks in advance.
Always Vacancies for Star Turns.
Ernest Sheldon, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Variety Artistes of Every Description. Immediate Dates for Suitable Numbers. Only High-class Acts Represented.
J. Tyson-Smith, 15a, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address "Engagement, Manchester."

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Monday next, onwards, doing Double and Single turns; also Pantos. Wire for Monday, Manager, Hippodrome, Castleford.

WANTED, Variety Artistes, Doubles, Doing Singles, March 13, Fleetwood; April 3, Hoyland. Lowest Combination. Terms First Letter, or Useless Writing, Phillips, 86, High-st, Islington, London, N. Letters only.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes, all Lines, Feb. 20, onwards.
Lowest Terms, Bookings, &c.
Big Stars not Booked Manchester,
Send Dates and Lowest Terms.

Required, Gigantic Attractions,
for Seaside Halls, Piers, Gardens.

Monster Attractions, Novelties,
for Fêtes, Galas, Flower Shows.
Lithos, Posters, Terms, Bookings,
Edgar Stebbing's Agency,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."
The Tarras Send Address.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager,
H. L. Skivington.

WANTED, Comedy Star Artistes for Immediate Dates. Nothing too Big.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Immediate and Future Dates. Lessee and Manager,
Wm. Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, Suitable for Carnival. State lowest price; silence polite negative, Richardson Bros., Limited, Olympia, Sunderland.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines,
From now, on.
Apply Mr. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artistes, Fête, Newcastle-on-Tyne, August 7. Lowest terms, lithos, and number of Acts. Tom Hay and Co., Gloucester.

WANTED, Feb. 13, 20, 27,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Artistes, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, Feb. 20 and 27. Reymond, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Artistes (Gymnasts excepted), Hall, small. Lowest first instance. George Harcourt, Acting Manager, Samuel's Exhibition Palace, 6, Henry-street, Dublin.

WANTED, Artistes of all Descriptions, for London. J. W. Johnson,
Variety and Speciality Agent,
86, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Artistes, Single and Double Turns, Feb. 27, March 13, 27. Lowest terms, two weeks, Chas. A. James, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin. Good Novelty Wanted for March.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Feb. 20, big Specialities, on Shares or Salary. Hugh Dempsey, Corn Exchange, Boston.

WANTED, Artistes all Lines; also Cinématograph Turn. Write for March 6, onwards. Thompson, 72 High-street East, Wallsend.

WANTED, Artistes, All Lines (Ladies and Gentlemen), Alfresco Entertainments, Rhyl and Bangor, N. Wales. Able to Play in Sketches. Two Good Pianists. Sight Readers. Lowest weekly terms, photos, for season commencing Whitsun. Will Summerson, 56, North-st., Ilkeston, Derbyshire.

WANTED, Star Artistes, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, Morecambe. Late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c. Telegrams, "Value, Morecambe." Now Travelling. Letters after Tuesday, G.P.O., Manchester. Mark Sheridan, Arthur Roberts, J. W. Rowley, and F. V. St. Clair Communicate.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
ABERDARE.
WANTED, Feb. 20, onward, Artistes, all Lines, Good Tops, Bottoms, and Middle of Bill. Comedians and Serios of Note, Specialities, &c., Any Number, with Drawing Powers. Will Gregory, General Manager.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, for Scotland. I can always Fix anything Good. Bigger the Better. Full Particulars, Dates, and Lowest Terms, Geo. Saphrini, Variety Agent, 5, King-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, Singles doing Doubles, Serios and Specialities. Write absolute lowest, as hall small. Jeapes and Hardiman, Empire, Halesowen, Birmingham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
for
February, March,
and all Dates through Summer of 1905,
Star Turns, Tops of Bills,
all the Finest and Biggest Acts Required,
Price no object, for
Manchester,
Salford,
Ashton,
Bury,
Preston,
Liverpool,
Oldham,
Rochdale,
Blackpool,
Morecambe,
Barrow,
Glasgow,
Dundee,
Aberdeen,
Belfast,
Dublin,
Newcastle,
Hull,
Leeds,
Brighton,
Bristol,
Birmingham,
Bolton,
Middlesbrough, &c.
New and Novel Acts can have Six Months' Solid Engagements. Send immediately. Terms, Photos, Lithos., &c., to
Will Sley, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09,144 Manchester.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession.
Acts New in Dublin for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland.
Direct
or through Agents.
All communications to
Will Sley,
41, Oxford-street,
Manchester.
Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09,144.

WANTED, immediately, Artists of Every Description; those working Manchester, Liverpool, and districts,
and require turn to be seen,
with view to booking.
Communicate with absolute lowest, first instance, and full list of Present Bookings to
Harry Burns's Agency,
344, Bury New-road, Manchester.
Callers, 11 to 1 daily.
Also at Hartlepool and London.

WANTED, Musical Hall Artists. Booking Every Hall of Note in the United Kingdom, Barred by no-one. Immediate Vacancies for First-class Numbers of every description for England and Continent. Harry Burns's Agency, 344 Bury New-rd., Manchester. (L. Hochschild, Manager), 87, Shaftesbury-av., London (for Continental Correspondence only). Empress Varieties, Hartlepool.—Manager: C. FERRIER; Secretary, Tor. COMFORTH. Telephone, 0231. Telegrams, "Burns," "Empress." Represented Paris, Hamburg, and New York.

WANTED, for the Devil's Aërial Orbit Company, Artistes, all Lines. Commence Macclesfield, Feb. 20. Tour to Follow if Suitable. All must State when Last in Macclesfield. SMALLEY, 11, Kennington-mansions, Lambeth, S.E.

HIPPODROME, STOKE-ON-TRENT; PALACE, DERBY; HIPPODROME, GRIMSBY; PALACE, ATTERCLIFFE.
WANTED, Artistes, and Startling Attractions, in All Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. T. ALLAN EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Variety Talent all Lines, Monday Feb. 13 and 20, twice nightly, Hall Small. R. SILVESTER, Victoria Hall, Huddersfield.

Tivoli Music Hall, South Shields.—Proprietors: Councillor HALL and SWEENEY; General Manager: HARRY BURNS. All communcations must be addressed only to Harry Burns's Agency, London, Hartlepool, and Manchester. Telephone 0231. Telegrams, "Burns," "Empress."

WANTED, Known, Call Monday, Feb. 13, De Voy, Hurst, and Ricks, Collin and Irene, La Belle Rosa, Speaks and Thorne, Edie Endon, Bioscope, and Mayon and Marle. Send Bill matter Hartlepool. Signed, H. BURNS, General Manager.

Empress Theatre of Varities, Hartlepool.—Proprietors: Councillors EVERTON and CRAGG; General Manager: HARRY BURNS. All communications must be addressed only to Harry Burns's Agency: London, Hartlepool, and Manchester. Telephone, 0231. Telegrams, "Burns," "Empress."

WANTED, Known, Call Monday, Feb. 13, Herr Grais' Baboons Looping the Loop, Three Escaladors, Tom Bewick, Burns's Bioscope, Bros. Harrison, Massona, Sheila McNeill, and Will Trevor. 1 o'clock prompt. Signed, H. BURNS, General Manager.

COVENTRY HIPPODROME.
Proprietors, COVENTRY HIPPODROME COMPANY, Ltd.

WANTED, Agents and Artistes to please Note that, from this Date, no Contract will be Recognised unless Signed by the Manager and the Secretary.
T. M. SYLVESTER, Manager.
G. E. WRIGHT, Secretary.
Dec. 24, 1904.

WANTED, the following Artistes, to attend Rehearsal at Hippodrome, Wakefield, on Monday, Feb. 13, at 2: Datas, Ruby Aston, Two Graces, Hilton and Hilton, Silent Tait, Payne's Bio-photoscope, Eno, and Austin and Cowan. All Communications to G. S. DOUGLASS, General Manager. Secretary, Hippodrome Co., WALTER EMMETT.

AMERICA.
AMERICA.
AMERICA.
WANTED, Big Feature Acts. Lithos. Photos., Terms.
Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, and Specialities. February 13 and 20, onwards.
State lowest terms, bookings, &c. I can place you.
Jess Verno's Agency, 61, West Derby-st, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2076 Royal.
Representative, Jesse Burton, Esq.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to Brooks, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Big Stars and Novel Acts, Nothing Too Big. All Artistes on my Book keep me Posted. Send Bookings and Terms, with permanent address, to FRED NEIMAN, Empire, Leeds,
Sole Agent for Deer Family
of North American Indians.

Armstrong's Agency.
WANTED, First-class Turns for Immediate Dates.
All Artistes holding Contracts for Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow, please communicate at once to Barney Armstrong or S. King Alexander, Armstrong's Agency, Under the Direction of Bernard Armstrong (Barney's Nephew),
363, Bath-street, Glasgow.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
WANTED, First-class Turns, for Feb. 27, onwards. Rehearsal Monday, Feb. 13. for Ralph Pringle's Company Animated Pictures, Baroni and Kemp, and Others. Letters, S. LEE.

WANTED, Big Star Turns, for Pavilion, Altrincham, eight miles from Manchester. Lowest terms, FRED BUDD, Red Lion Hotel, Altrincham.

WANTED, Star Turns in all Lines, for Feb. 20, 27, and on. Fred Durham's Agency.
Telephone, 15 Brixton.
1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, Specialities, Novelties, Aerial and Ground Acts, for Galas. Lowest terms, lithos., &c., LE MARE AND SON, 28, Coupland-street, Manchester.

GRAND CIRCUS, STOCKPORT.
WANTED, Specialities, new to Stockport, Feb. 20 and onwards.
Communications, Davenport, Circus, Stockport.

WANTED, Good Lady Speciality, Artistes, Sisters, &c., Good Trio of Acrobatic Dancers, Four Nights, Feb. 20. Particulars, Terms, &c., JESSIE DALTON, Public Hall, Woking.

WANTED, Specialities, Aug. 7, 8, 9, twice daily, for Northampton. Lithos., terms, to MCASKELL, 14, St. Clement's-place, Clementhorpe, York.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Artistes
in All Lines,
Immediately.
JAMES FIONI'S AGENCY,
21, Norton-street,
Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone, 1,686, Royal.

Sisters Chester and Lava Communicate.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Proprietors, Managers, and Artistes
to please note that
Sydney B. Smith,
late of 7, St. Ambrose-grove, Liverpool,
has removed to
34, Cleveland-mansions,
Brixton-road, London, S.W.,
where all communications should be addressed.
Performers of Every Description Required for Immediate and Future Dates.
All Turns not Booked London
write in immediately,
with Full List of Bookings and
Absolute Lowest Terms.
Sidney B. Smith,
Variety Agent,
34, Cleveland-mansions, Brixton-road,
London, S.W.

PETER THOMPSON'S
"BABES IN THE WOOD" PANTOMIME.
WANTED, Known, in Consequence of the Enormous Success of this Panto., at Eccles, Jan. 9, I am Compelled to Pay a Return Visit on March 6, for which Date must have Big, Terrific Speciality. Money no object. Triple Bar Acts and Big Fixing Turns useless.
Address, WALLACE CHILDS,
This, Queen's, Longton.
Next, Grand, Rawtenstall.

WANTED, June, July, August, Cyclists, Star Specialities, Animal Acts, and Variety Artistes, all Lines. GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Tops and Bottoms, for Seaside Halls. Nothing too Big. Also Small Specialities for Immediate Dates.
Send Complete List of Bookings and
Lowest Price to
A. E. JOHNSON,
4, Brixton-road, S.W.

THE GLASGOW SYNDICATE HALLS.
TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S VARIETY THEATRES, GLASGOW.
One Performance Nightly at Both Houses.
WANTED, Strong Comedy Acts of all Kinds, Good Singing Turns, Sensational Novelties, and Brilliant Stars for Tops, Feb. 20, 27, and later.
All Artistes holding Contracts with
Colquhoun and Armstrong
should communicate at once.
Future Bookings can be made for One Week Only at a time, and none but those Turns capable of Working both Theatres the same night can be entertained.
Bill Matter Two Weeks in advance is imperative.
S. KING ALEXANDER, General Manager,
Head Office, Tivoli Palace Theatre, Glasgow.

To Amusement Caterers, Pyrotechnists, Balloonists, &c. The Committee of the Bradford and West Riding Galas, Peel Park, Bradford.
WANTED, by the above, Tenders for the whole or part of the Amusements (outdoors), on Whit Monday and Tuesday, June 12 and 13, 1905. Programme of Fireworks, £55 for the two Displays.
Tenders must be sent to
The SECRETARIES, at the Infirmary, Bradford, on or before Thursday, Feb. 23.

THE COLISEUM,
SHEERNESS.
Sole Proprietor, T. C. DORLING.
General Manager, CHAS. MELVIN.
WANTED, WANTED, WANTED,
Feb. 20 onwards, with Exceptions,
Great Novelties, Money Magnets.
No Salary Too Large for Acts
with Drawing Power,
Bigger the Better.
Large Sketch Companies,
Gymnasts, Acrobats, Comedians, Serios, &c.
Will Chas. Morrit write, and oblige?
All communications to General Manager.
Call for Monday, Feb. 13.
Will Onda and Co., in "Servants Wanted" and "A Quiet Night," The 3 Stars, Thora and Theckla, Dave Wallace, Marie Tilley, Leslie Reed, Denton and Dale, &c. Rehearsal 12 o'clock.

PALACE THEATRE,
CORK.
Manager, HENRY KEMBLE.

WANTED, Feb. 20, 27, and onwards, Comedians, Acrobats, Sisters, Musical Acts, Gymnasts, Sensational Novelties,
Must be Refined, or useless.
Call Monday, Feb. 13,
Hardeen,
Sisters Asquith,
Mozzetti,
Esdale Brothers,
Vere and Royal,
Rae and Lea,
Julian Mack,
Stoll Bros.

WANTED, for Open-Air Concerts (three shows daily), Summer, Good Sisters, Character Comedians; also Good Speciality Acts. State absolute lowest terms, lithos., if any, to ESTELLE'S AGENCY, 425, Romford-road, Forest-gate, London, E.

WANTED, Pair of Sisters, doing Single and Double Turns, to open Monday. Wire or write lowest terms, TURNER, Red Cow Hotel, Cambridge.

WANTED, Young Lady Vocalist,
for
Cinematograph Entertainment.
State lowest terms.
Apply, by letter only,
to
PICTURES,
2, Hope-chambers, Leather-lane,
Dale-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Small Boy, Comedian, Vocalist. State age, full particulars. Good Home, all Found. Address, Box 1,162, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, an Operator, for Tour, possessing own Bioscope, Stick of Films, Fire-proof box, &c. Lowest terms to Box 1,154, "The Era."

WANTED, Experienced Gentleman, to introduce Animated Pictures, also Cinematograph Operator, Used to Arc and Lime. State lowest wages. Apply, by letter only, to PICTURES, 2, Hope-chambers, Leather-lane, Dale-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Operators, Well Up in Lime and Electric. PAYNE'S BIO-PHOTOSCOPES, 106, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

Urban District Council of Paignton.
WANTED, Known, the Above Council Invite Applications from Persons desirous of Giving Select Entertainments on the Sea Front and Beach.
The Party Selected will be Granted the Sole Right to Perform.
Particulars can be Obtained from the Undersigned. Tenders, marked "Concert," to be sent to the Town Hall, Paignton, on or before March 31, 1905.
The Council does not Bind itself to Accept the Highest or any Tender,
G. BARNSTON, Clerk.
Dated, Town Hall, Paignton, February, 1905.

COWES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Victoria Pier.
WANTED, Applications by the Pier Committee, from
First-Class Concert Parties,
for
Renting
the Pier Pavilion, at Cowes,
During the Ensuing Season.
Applications,
Stating terms and all particulars,
are to be sent in to me
not later than
4 p.m.
on Wednesday,
the 15th day of February, 1905.
H. C. DAMANT,
Clerk.
High-street, Cowes.

WANTED, really First-Class Comedian, Vent. and Baritone, Accompanist, for Albert Durand's Costume Concert Party, "The Merry Madcaps." Al fresco. Write, 16, Montpelier-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Mrs. Dudley Smith and her mare "Dainty Lass," winner of 243 Prizes, can Work on Stage or Ring. Novelty Act. Good Agent, please write at once. Address, 21, Woodstreet, Bolton.

WANTED, Known, Flo Atkins, World's Champion Lady Concertinist and Expert Mandolinist, this week Tivoli, Dublin; Feb. 13, Alhambra, Belfast; Feb. 20, Palace, Cork. Address, 40, Chadwick-street, West Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Palmer, Vocalist, Liberty Feb. 13, 20.
Wire Early, Palace, Northampton.

WANTED, Known, Il Floretta, Sand Artiste Extraordinaire, just concluding fourth consecutive week Circus, Hull. At Liberty for Monday next. First vacant date for 18 months. Wire

WANTED.—Florrie Claribell, Tyrolean Songstress and Dancer, unexpectedly Vacant Monday. Wire, Theatre Royal, Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, Picitt, the Muscular Master of Manacles, Handcuff Marvel, without Faked Fetters or Trick Boxes. Searched from Head to Feet at any moment during my Act. Conjurors' methods impossible. Touring Scotland, under the Management of Mr. G. Walker, for Twelve Weeks, and Drawing Record Houses Everywhere. Vacant April 10; also open Dates May and June, for Ring, Stage, or Piers. Also a few odd days for Leading Galas only. Big Sensational Top of Bill Act.
All communications care of
ROYAL IMPERIAL PICTURES CO.,
567, George-street, Aberdeen, to be forwarded.
Splendid Lithos.

WANTED, Feb. 20, onwards, with exception, by Kardoc, Kardoc, Kardoc,
Jail Breaker and Handcuff King.
Managers in search of Money Magnet.
Read! Read! Read!
I can Fill your Houses for You.
Refer Chas. Melvin, Esq., Coliseum, Sheerness, the Manager who knows how to advertise and work up Gags. Remember, I can get a living for Myself, Assistant, and Proprietors, in spite of jealous and alleged handcuff performers. Some people will undertake any mean action to keep the wolf from the door. Straightforward transactions give successful results.
Address, KARDOC, Hippodrome, New Brompton.

WANTED, Known, Geo. Trusty, Versatile Vocal Comedian, at Liberty Feb. 20 and 27. Wire for a Refined Original Act. For addresses see "Cards."

WANTED, Known, Linton Continental Speciality Act, Vacant Feb. 20, April 17, Great Success; Hippodrome, Preston, Feb. 13, Palace, W. Hartlepool.

WANTED, Monday, on, by Cambo, Musical Monkey, Great Novelty, also Vent. Show, Tdo distinct Acts.
Wire, Theatre, Inverness;
after Monday, 59, Urquhart-road, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Known, Rodin, Eccentric Comedian and Cyclist, the finest Comedy Single Hand Cyclist on the Stage. Two distinct Specialities. Liberty Feb. 20. Address, Hippodrome, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Monday next, by Leo Benn, the Philosophical Humourist. Wire, Parthenon, Liverpool. Enormous Success, with Refined Songs and Patter.

WANTED, by Oliver Conroy (Comedian), Monday, Feb. 13 and 20. Prince's Theatre, Bradford. Big Success in Pantomime.

WANTED, Feb. 13 and 20, by Franz Crisp, the genuine Vocal-Actor (Baritone). "Stage" says: "In voice, style, appearance, and action, he is excellent in every way." Thanks Messrs. Dickie (Standard) and Coe (Hammersmith) for Contracts, '05, '06, '07, '08. Re-booked Everywhere. To-day, G. Chatham; next, 1 Solon-road, Brixton (Perm.).

WANTED, by Harry Watson, Alto Soloist and Comedian, in Minstrel Troupe, &c. Just Concluded Panto. 36, Elsdale-st., Hackney, London.

WANTED, Feb. 20 and 27, by Sam Mitchello, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer. Monday next, Alhambra, Sandgate.

WANTED, Feb. 20, 27, by Bob Pearson, the Vocal Comedy Humorist: and Lily Pender, Great Speciality Comedienne. Wire, Paddington, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Goliath, the Youth who lifts six men and piano. Engagements. A few Summer dates Vacant. Adrdess, Palace Theatre, Maidstone.

WANTED, The Weimars, Feb. 13 or 27, Sure Success and a Draw Everywhere. Big Success Empire, Greenock. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Sid. Stanto, the Musical Eccentric Comedian and Big Boot Dancer, Liberty Mon. next, 13th. Wire or write, 4, Southstreet, Wincanton, Somerset.

WANTED, by Bert Brookes, Eccentric Comedian, concluding Panto., "Sindbad," Monday next. Wire, Empire Theatre, Cradley Heath.

WANTED, Feb. 27 on, by Fred Casburn, Refined Quaint Comedian. This, Empire, Ashton; next, Metropole, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Vacant, Feb. 13, Ryder Davis, Smart Comedian; also Eva Ward, Burlesque Artiste. Wire, till Saturday Night, Grand, Sheffield.

WANTED, Feb. 20 and 27, by T. E. Worth and Nellie Stuart, Greatest Comedy Act Extant. Address, WORTH, Bernard Cottage, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Monday Next, Arthur Richards, Eccentric Comedian; Renee Walon, Comedienne and Dancer. Wire, One or Both. 29, Myatt-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, next week, by The Two Sports (Dolly and Sam), Vocal Duettists, Instruturns; also Pantos. Wire for Monday, MANAGER, Also liberty Feb. 20 and 27. Single turns if required. Hit of the programme this week at People's, Portsmouth.

WANTED, March 6, April 3, 10, May 15, 22, by Kyoto, the Great Comedy Japanese Mysterious Box. A laughing and applauding hit. Also Miss MAY GERALDINE, a smart Comedienne and Dancer. Success Alhambra. Belfast, Monday, Tivoli, Dublin. Feb. 20, Grand, Hanley.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday, by Harry Bent, Mimic, &c.; also Carlotta Lunn, Vocalist, through Mistake in Commencing Tour. Wire, Gaiety, Oldham; or 105, Beever-street.

WANTED, by Gilbert and Irene, Comedy Duettists, Feb. 13, 20, and March 6, to follow Carlisle. Wire, for Monday, Post-office, Chester.

WANTED, Known, the Two Harveys (Jack and Polly), Acrobatic Comedy Act, vacant Feb. 27 and Mar. 6. This week, Foresters'; next, Sadler's Wells. Add., 39 Mepham-st., Waterloo-rd., S.E.

WANTED, Proprietors, Agents, &c., to Note:
The New Creation,
"THE MAN IN RED,"
"THE MAN IN RED,"
"THE MAN IN RED,"
"THE MAN IN RED,"
"THE MAN IN RED,"
"THE MAN IN RED,"
"THE MAN IN RED,"
"THE MAN IN RED,"
Deputised for Zutka,
at the Pavilion, Glasgow.
The Glasgow News says:—
Zutka was billed, but has been unable to put in an appearance; but an able substitute has been found in "The Man in Red."—Jan. 30.
The Glasgow Evening Times says:—
Chief among a highly meritorious combination engaged at the Pavilion this week is "The Man in Red." He presents a sensational and bewildering show his conjuring mysteries being especially clever.—Jan. 30.
"The Man in Red,"
Assited by the
Beautiful Freda,
in their New Magnificent Dumb Act.
Elaborate Dresses and Properties,
At Liberty, Feb. 20,
and onwards.
Wire or Write,
For this Novel Act,
KNIGHT,
70, Renfrew-street, Glasgow;
or, Wieland's Agency,
35, Whitcomb-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, by Demi and Semi, Comedy Musical Act, Feb. 20 and 27. This, Middlesex and Standard; Next, Gatti's. 51, Canterbury-place, Lambeth.

WANTED, Known, The Cedrics, Vacant Feb. 27, with First-class Comedy Speciality Act. Away from all others. Complimented by Fritse, Esq., Paisley, R. Carr, Esq., Quintin Gibson, Esq., S. L. Strafford, and Everybody who understands a Good Act. Conclude Hippo., Coventry. Communications, Hippodrome, TON-Y-PANDY.

WANTED, Feb. 13, 20, 27, by Chant and Chant, Comedy Duettists and Patterers. Wire for a Sure Success. Grand Theatre, Cowdenbeath.

WANTED, six nights, Monday next, by Keir and Alien, Eccentric Knockabout Comedians. Empire, Wrexham, Saturday; after, 1 Sandygate, Burnley.

WANTED, Engagements by the Two Daniels, Negro Double Spade Song and Dance, Bones, Banjo, and Clog, Extraordinary. Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

WANTED, by the Two Daniels, Lively, Lifelike, Negro Plantation, Big Boot Song and Dance Experts, March 20. Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

WANTED, Early Dates, by the Two Daniels, High Stilt Dancing Coons and Mechanical Donkey, Screaming Success. Address, Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

WANTED, Feb. 27, March 6, also High-Class Al fresco Season, by Carl and Carr, the Refined Comedians, Feb. 13, Palace, Bristol.

WANTED, by The St. Johns Comedy Musicians and Dancers, Feb. 13 and 27. Wires, 20, Hartington-st., Barrow; Monday, Oxford, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Tom Hall's Tippling Toffs and Tumbling Terriers.
Big Success, This, Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow.
Monday, Return Royal, Liverpool.
Feb. 20, Vacant, through Hall Closing.
Royal, Liverpool. Wires, Tivoli, Glasgow.

WANTED, Feb. 13, by Darrell Trio, Variety Entertainers and Banjo Experts. Wire quick, Gaiety, Birmingham, or 86 Great Brook-street.

WANTED, Known, Eltenos, the Comedy Triple Bar Act; Togo, Japanese Juggler, Palace, Attercliffe, Liberty Monday, Feb. 13, two distinct Acts.

WANTED, Known, The Rushforths, and King Leo, Song Illustrators and Ventriloquist, Liberty, Monday next and 20th. P. H., Worcester.

WANTED, Mon. next, through Closing, by the Two Melvernes, Living Marionettes, Newling Major, Marvellous Ventriloquist, Enormous Success this week, Regent Theatre, Salford, Manchester, where Wire till Midday, Monday.

WANTED, Feb. 20 and 27, Sardous' Illusionists, Marvellous Mystifiers, Enormous Success everywhere; also Marie Riviers, Balladist, Monday next, Corn Exchange, Boston. Wire.

WANTED, Engagements, Conjuring, Second Sight, and Cinématograph. Three Distinct Turns. Now Booking Piers, &c. Artistes write in for my Walton Pier Pavilion Season. Six Weeks from July 24.
Prof. LENTON, 15, Grange-terrace, Wood-green, N.

WANTED, Known, Advertiser (Young Man) Requires some Reliable Person to Introduce him with his New Act. Will Mystify the World. Great Novelty. Ready for Stage. No money required. Add. Letters for Particulars, NOVELTY, 13, Pugh-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, by R. J. Golding, Ventriloquial Jokist, and Romano, Conjuror, March 6, onward. Permanent, 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow, London.

WANTED, Known, Varna's New Ventriloquial Musical (Instrumental) Clown's Show, with Figure, Atomatura. Agent write. £4 per week. Per., 44, Alfred-street, Islington, London.

WANTED, Known, Sketch, "The London Street Singer," three people, Vacant Feb. 20, 1905, through obliging Manager. Coms., GEORGE BEVERLEY, T.R., Yarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, by Percival Wright's Vaudeville Company, Halls, Piers, &c, June, onwards. Eight Star Turns, including Musical Act and Latest Pictures. Salary, Shares, or Rental. Address, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Ross-Clyde Comedy Company, in their Big Hit, "I Must Have It!" Feb. 20 and March 13. Midlands or North. SMYTHSON, Palace Vars., Plymouth.

"THE CONVENT BELL."
WANTED, Halls, March 13, April 10, May 1, 8, June 5, 26. Address, WEBB, Prince's, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, F. H. Neville's Great Dramatic Sketch, "Hunted Down." Five Characters. Gave a Trial Show, Feb. 1, 1905, and Immediately Received Contracts for Tour. Refer Broadhead, Esq. The Success of Successes. Audience Delighted. Vacant Dates, Feb. 13, 20, 27, April 24, May 1, 8, 29, June 19, July 3, and on. Wire, F. H. NEVILLE, 97, London-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, by Ronald Bayne and Evelyn Hope, in "Emperor's Divorce," Dramatic Scena, Feb. 13. Wire, 87, Grosvenor-street, All Saints, Manchester.

WANTED, Local Sharers, Societies, Clubs, &c., for First-class Refined Entertainment, No Risk, as Enquiry will at once Show. The Greatest and Best of its Kind. London Suburbs and Neighbourhood especially invited. Box 1,184, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Joe Pauletti, Sensational Aerial Staircase Cyclist, big Success, Cat and Speciality, Dick Whittington; next, Avenue, Kettering. Free July and August.

WANTED, by Billy Ross and Co., Monday Next. Greatest Comedy Act on the Stage. Wire, 30, Morat-street, Brixton.

WANTED, Known, Spangeletti's Comedy Stage Circus, including Brown and Spink, Comedians; Dogs and Pony, Revolving table and Riding Machine, and Novel Contests for Electro-Silver Cup, at Liberty Feb. 20 and 27. Finish to-night Public Hall, Barnsley; Monday, Olympia, Sunderland.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Mdlle. Roza's Great Canine Hippodrome, the largest and smartest lady's Troupe in Europe. Great Electric Spectacle, Wanted, Feb. 20 and March 13 and 20. Address, Empire, Battersea.

WANTED, Pier or Pavilion, or any Good Place, Summer Season, for the Greatest Up-to-date Speciality and High-class Variety Entertainment Obtainable. Share or Rental. Lieut. CHARD, 18, Springfield, Liverpool.

WANTED, Feb. 13, 27, Chard's Dog Circus. Hippodrome, Barrow, till Sunday.

WANTED, Dates for Piers, Pavilions, Galas, for Professor Retene's Royal Combination, "Mirth, Magic, and Mystery," "Our Happy Family," Ventriloquial show, and Punch and Judy. Open for Whit or Easter. Address, RETENE, 4, Devon-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagements, Magic Kettle, same as Palace and Hippodrome, all Latest Experiments. BRANDON MIDLAND, Mystic Kettle, 44, Lorrimore-road, Kennington.

WANTED, to Rent or Share, Halls in Provinces for up-to-date Bioscope Show, including strong Sketch Party. All Towns known, so no Dud Halls need apply. Smart American Hustler manages Show, always a big draw.
Box 1,155, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Bookings for Walter Payne's Bio-photoscope, always Up-to-Date. For Terms, apply, 106, Brixton-road, S.W. Films for Sale.

WANTED, Dates for Bioscope Pictures; also Troupe of Dogs, the Diving Dog. LE CLAIR, Co-operative Hall, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland.

WANTED, Engagements, Animated Pictures, all latest, including "Whirling the Worlds." Entire change weekly if required. Also Paul and Travers, Song Illustrators. Address T. M. PAUL, Empire Theatre, Shildon, Durham.

WANTED.—Cinématograph Operator at Liberty. Experienced, proficient, reliable, good references. Box 1,171, care of "The Era" Office.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.
President, Lord George Sanger.
WANTED, Known, Annual Meeting at King's Lynn,
The Town Hall,
Thursday, Feb. 16, 1905,
at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.
His Worship, the Mayor, will Preside.
The Rev. T. Horne and T. Watson Wright, Esq., Alderman J. Savage, Alderman Dunn, Councillor Wm. Savage,
and other Local Gentlemen,
are expected to take part in the proceedings.
T. HURST,
Hon. Secretary.

WANTED, Known, Important
that the next Meeting
of
The British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union
will be held at
King's Lynn (John Langley's),
on
Thursday, Feb. 16,
at 2.30 p.m.,
for the transaction of Very Important Business.
All Members are Requested to Attend.
Signed, T. HURST, Sec.

WANTED, Known, Electrical Specialities. SIMPKIN, WILKINSON, and GIBSON,
66, Kirkstall-road, Leeds,
Manufacture Dynamos, Arc Lamps, Switchboards, &c., Specially for Showmen. Also Stock Cable, Globes, Carbons, Incandescents, and Every Requisite.

Tom Taylor and Sons, Launch and Boat Builders, Staines, Middlesex.

WANTED, Known, Contracts Taken for Running and Supplying Launches (Steam, Electric, and Oil Motor); also Boats of Every Description on Lakes or Artificial Water. Lakes and Artificial Water Rented for Working Electric Launches and Boats of all descriptions at Cheap Fares.
Builders and Workers of Electric Launches at Earl's Court, Crystal Palace, Glasgow Exhibition, and Cork Exhibition.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen, Fair Keepers, &c. Have you seen our latest novelty for throwing game, "Bombardment of Port Arthur?" Great Success. Send for particulars. Our new list full of your requirements. "Everything for the Fair," free. Stacey, Showman Stores, Settles-street, London, E.

WANTED, Known, Showmen's Painting, Switchback, Galloping Horses, Showcloths, Scenery. Good, cheap. DAVIS TURNER, Showmen's Artist, 4, Devon-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Handsellers to know Simons is the Man for
Cheap Second-hand Watches and Jewellery.
Send £5 for Special Parcel.
117, Houndsditch, London.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Others to Know
Simons' is the Cheapest Place for
Clocks, Bronzes, Field Glasses, and Cheap Jewellery.
Best-class French Paste Stocked for the Profession. 117, Houndsditch.

WANTED, Showmen to Know, Greene and Co. still Selling Silvermine Butterscotch, with Fortunes, 3s. gross. 104, Belgrave-gate, Leicester.

WANTED, Showmen to Know, that Leete's Colours and Varnishes are the Best and Cheapest in London. Vermilionettes, Permanent Reds, Carmines, Carriage and Copal Varnishes, Gold Leaf, Brushes, &c., and every Decorator's Requisite for Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Carriage Paid on all Orders £2.
Write, for price list, or call,
Leete's Colour Works, 129, London-rd, Southwark, S.E.

Fire. Fire. Fire.
WANTED, Known.—Have you Insured with Mr. Pope, the Showman's Fire Insurance Man? If not, hurry up, before you have a Fire.
Send Post-card To-day to
F. F. POPE, Abingdon-on-Thames,
who will call on you anywhere.

WANTED, Quick Showing Novelties; open Feb. 20 and onward. Shares. Marionettes write. LEN WHITE, Exhibition, 85, Bank-st, Rawtenstall, Lancs.

WANTED, Novelties, Midgets, &c., nothing too big. HARCOURT, Acting Manager, Samuel's Exhibition Palace, 6, Henry-street, Dublin.

WANTED, Novelties, for Edinburgh, Dundee, and Aberdeen.
HUMBER'S PERMANENT WAXWORK EXHIBITION, 112, George-street, Aberdeen.

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SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Well up in Electric Lighting.
Only men with good references need apply.
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Two Weeks.
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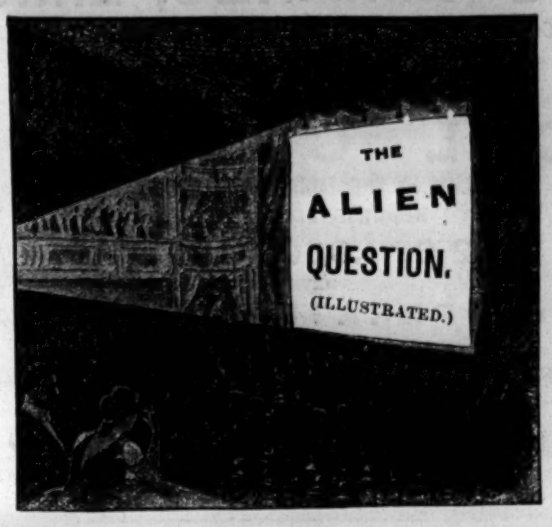

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Rehearsal at 1.0 o'clock for
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Town Clerk.

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Manager, FRED MILLER.

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MILE-END-ROAD, E.

Artistes are particularly requested to attend Band Rehearsals, Monday, 3.0 o'clock.

Victoria Monks, Bransby Williams as Fagin the Jew, De Marco and Animals, Gipsy Woolf, in Scena, "Romany Revels;" Great Scott, Stella Troupe, Stavordale Quintette, Borghetti Troupe, Jenny Mills, in her Great Kaleidoscope Dance; C. T. Best, Slippere, the Blind Pianist; Barnard's Marionettes, Geo. Fairburn, Chas. Cardow, Ida Brophy.

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Rehearsals on Monday, at 1.0 o'clock.

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Rehearsals on Monday, at 1.30 o'clock.

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HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
Tarro Myaki, Vi Dell, Gus Harris, Mons. Valoni, Harry Allister, Meir and Mora, Harry Grattan's Co. in "Packing Up;" A. Royd, Pictures, Brinn.

HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rossaire and Doreto, George Barron, Iben Obed, Mdlle. Aladina, Alexander, the Bounding Pattersons, the Densmores, V. J. de Henau, Mdlle. du Barry, Pictures, T. Nelson Downes.

ALHAMBRA, PARIS.
Bonhair Gregory, Nora Emerald, Mons. D'Albert, Vansart, Juno Salmo, Les 5 Purroscoppis, Jules Keller, Carl Reinsch, Les Yumeaux Australiens, Anderson, Ricardo et Salving, Yamamoto et Koyoshi, Marien Simomane, Vues Animées, Donaldson Frères Ardel.

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PALACE, GLASGOW.
The Black and White Zouaves, Harry Leybourne, Wal. Croft, De Marse, the Hartley Wonders, Smaun Sing Hpoo, Maggie Walsh, Mdlle. Kloët, Pictures, Laares Troupe.

TIVOLI, LEEDS.
Banker, Mollie Doon, Sid Bandon, Mdlle. Haydee, the Athlones, Permane Bros., the Toreadors, La Belle Wilma, the Arleys, Burton Joyce, Pictures, the Yiulians.

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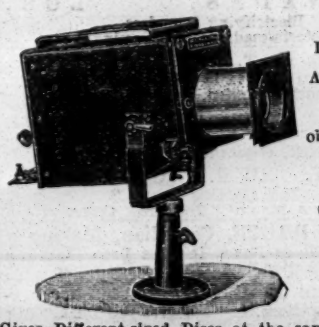

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ALETHEA, Contortionist. First Free Date Sept., 1906. London Pavilion, Dec. 26, Eight Weeks.

ALEXANDER'S, JOHN. Burlesque Company, Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead.

ALMON and AIDA. Unique and Unrivalled Hand-Balancing Act. Per. Add., 247, Waterloo-road. Feb. 20, Palace, Bow.

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ANDANTE, Eccentric Musical Jester, Requires Feb. 13 and 20, owing to Finish of Panto. 109, Birstall-st., Leicester.

ANDERSONS, AUSTRALIAN TWIN. Perfect wonder-workers with the skipping-rope. —Vide Oswald Stoll. Mth. of Feb., Alhambra, Paris

ANDOS, Japan's Greatest Troupe, Palace, Derby.

ANDYS, FOUR, Risley and Double. Somersault Artistes. Liberty, Monday Next, Feb. 13 and 20, wire Circus, Stockport.

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ASIEKY, Arab Tumbler. Just Finishing season with Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh. Lib. Feb. 27, for summer; home or abroad.

ATLAS and Beautiful Miss VULCANA, Society Athletes, World's Greatest Artistes. Walham-green. Coms. 17, Waterford-rd, Fulham.

ATTILLA BROS., Gladiatorial Sensation. Vacant, Feb. 13, 20, 27. 15, Newhampton-road W., Wolverhampton.

AUBREY, ALEC, Electric Gymnast. Big Success.

AUSTIN, RUMBO, in his New Budget of Comicalities, Empire, Cardiff.

AVON and CREST (EDWARD and ETHEL), Legmania Extraordinaire, Jordison's "Babes in the Wood." Feb. 13, R., Huddersfield.

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BABUSIAU BROTHERS. Cirque Medrano, Paris, France.

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BALSIGER, GUS, Vocal Comedian and Trick Instrumentalist. Feb. 3, Empire, York. Liberty Feb. 20th.

BANDON, SID, Tivoli, Leeds. "Sez I to myself, sez I," Alf. Ellerton.

BANDONI, Original Concertina King and One Man Band. Monday, Hippodrome, Wigan.

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BARKER, CLOWN, Vacant Feb. 13, 20, 27. Terrific Act. Wire, 25, Walker-street, Liverpool.

BARNARD'S Life-like MARIONETTES Liberty March 20 and April 10, through disappointment. Feb. 13, Paragon.

BARRETT and KNOWLES, the Great Laughing Hit. Alexandra, Brum, or Tom Shaw.

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BARTLETT, MISS ROSIE, Theatre Royal, Rotherham. Next week, address, "Robinson Crusoe." St. Helens, Lancs.

BAYMAN, CHARLIE, "Old King Cole," Negro Comedian, Gaiety, Oldham. Monday, Queen's, Poplar (Return). F. Higham.

BAWN'S AGENCY, 10, Victoria-parade, Balham-hill, London, S.W. 'Phone, 178, Balham. Tels., "Orderless, London."

BEATRICE, SISTERS, Great Success. Finish To-night, Hippo., New Brompton. Lib. Monday. After Sunday, 35, Florence-st., Islington.

BEANLAND, CHARLES, a Natural Comedian. Monday, Palace, Derby. Agent, Harry Day.

BEAUMONT, MISS MAUDE, Terrific success as Robin Hood, Principal Boy. Re-engaged 1905-6. Theatre, Rawtenstall.

BEES, THE TWO (HARRY and FLORA BLAKE) New Indian Scena by Alb. Voyce. Esq. Feb. 13 and 20. Pal. Th., Aberdeen.

BELFORD and MARS. Vocal Comedy Duo, "The Postman and the Slavey." 178, High-st, Southampton (Perm.).

BELL and MYERS, Modern Eccentrics, Success Hippo., Norwich. Free, March 6, 13. Address, Gaiety, Birmingham.

BELROSE, GEO., and M. De Velin, Speciality Duettists, at Liberty, Feb. 13. Wire, 9, Nelson-square, Bradford.

BENET, HARRY, Thanks Fred Durham, Esq., for more contracts. Address, Benmar House, 24, Foyle-road, Tottenham, N.

BENSON, ALLY, Comedian and Speciality Whistler. As Buttons, in "Cinderella." Vacant Feb. 27. Irving T., Seacombe.

BENTLEY'S AGENCY, 169, Stamford-street, S.E. Telephone, 12,706 Central.

BENTLEY'S VARIETY AGENCY, 169, Stamford-street, London, S.E. Telephone, 12,706 Central. Manager, Horace Sheldon

BERNARD, GEO., It's nice to be nice. A tale-bearer is worse than a thief. Scotch Concerts. Letters, 123, Tamworth-road, Newcastle.

BERNARDO KARL, Empire Theatre, Oxford.

BERRICK, TOM, Black Tit-Bit, Concluded Brit., Glasgow, Benefit. This, T., Shields; next, E., Hartlepool. Burns's Agency.

BEST, MR. CHARLES F., as M'Bunker, "The Mountebank," Canterbury, London.

BISHOP and VALE Conclude Big Hit as Ping and Pong, "Aladdin" panto., Métropole, Gateshead. Next, Central, North Shields.

BLANCHARD, Lion Comique. Still Growling. The Modern Leybourne.

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BOSTON BELLE, THE, Great Comedy Artist, Ugly Sister, Pardoe's Cinders Co. Miner's Theatre, Ashington.

BOSWELL, A. P., The Droll, "The Era." Big Hit. This week, Hippo., Wakefield. Monday, Tivoli, Manchester.

BOULTON and BARTENELLI, Emperor Nicey Picey and Principal Speciality. Vacant for Panto., 5-6. Ad., Opera House, Treherbert.

BOWERY BOYS, THE, Boxing Comedians. Vacant Mar. 6, on. Success "Dick Whittington" Panto. Monday, County T., Bedford.

BOWMAN, J. H., Anglo-American Humorist, Vocalist, Dancer. Feb. 13, P., Lancaster. Vacant, Feb. 27, March 6.

BOYCE, FRANK, Vocal Comedian, Theatre Royal, Oldham. Monday, Palace, Lancaster.

BOYLE, MARCUS, "My Bonny Boy." Empire, Dudley.

BRASQUE, ALBERT; CORA DUNCAN, in a New and Refined Episode, "A Dressing-room Romance." Address, Regent T., Salford.

BRENTON, SISTERS, Big Success of "Navaho," Theatre Royal, Bacup; next, Theatre Royal, Ashton.

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BRITISH QUARTETTE, THE (John Bull, Sandy, Pat, and Taffy), Speciality Vocalists. Feb. 13, Tivoli, Dublin.

BRITTON, LITTLE, Eccentric Comedian, as Snowball, Titters, "Ohio." This, Hackney; next, Holloway.

BROOKLANDS, THE (Ethel and Bella). Big success. Second Boy and Girl, "Babes in the Wood." T.R., Huddersfield.

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BROWN and ROBINSON, Original Arrangements of Popular Songs. Feb. 13, Empire, Dublin.

BURGATILES, THE FOUR, Musical Pantomimists. C. W. Poole's Myriorama, T., Pontypool, S. Wales.

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CAMBO, the Musical Monkey. Vacant Monday, also 20th. Wire, Theatre Royal, Inverness; after Monday, 59, Urquhart-rd., Aberdeen.

CAMERONS, THE (JIM and MARIE), Comedy Duologue. Lib. Feb. 20. 235, Sayer-street, New Kent-road, S.E.

CANDLISH, WILL, Scotch Musical Nigger, Funny Act. Finishes Tivoli, Queen's Glasgow. Vac. Monday. Tivoli direct, or Aytoun.

CARL and CARR, in Refined Comedy Act, "Workhouse." Usual Success. Feb. 13, Palace, Bristol, Livermore Tour. Required, Feb. 27.

CARLTON, HENRY, the Popular Comedian, supported by his Renowned Comedy Team. P., Lancaster, Two Weeks.

CARR and ROSE (Fred and Ada), the Stars of Vocal Comedy, in Original Act, "Their First Quarrel." Broadhead's Hip., Ashton.

CARY, FRED, Abanazer. Theatre Royal, Rochdale.

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CHARD'S DOG CIRCUS. Hippodrome, Barrow, till Sunday. Vacant Feb. 13, 27.

CHESTER and LEE'S MARIONETTES, Standard, Whitehaven, Second Week.

CHESTER'S AGENCY, Dramatic and Variety Agents, 13, Oxford-street, Manchester.

CHIRGWIN, Next week, Fishing and Resting. Friends kindly refrain from Copying.

CLARENCE and BELL, as the Bailiffs, Footmen, &c., in "Cinderella." Feb. 13, Irving Theatre, Seacombe.

CLARIBELL, FLORRIE, Tyrolean Songstress and Dancer, Finishes to-night with Le Wist's Co. Vacant, Monday. Wire, Theatre, Leigh.

CLEMENTS, VENIE, Big Success, Principal Girl, in "Mother Goose." Theatre Royal, Manchester.

CLEVELANDS, THE FIVE, Poole's Myriorama, Ebbw Vale, South Wales.

CLIFFE, TOM E., terrific success, Milton Bode's "Puss in Boots," Opera H., Northampton. Offers invt'd. 1905-6. Pacey & Reeve.

CLYO, HARRY, and ROSE ROCHELLE, at the Coliseum, Sheerness, this week have proved a winner. Monday, Palace, Aberdare.

COBORN, CHARLES, Original, "Coster's Friendly Lead." Hippodrome, Hulme, Manchester.

COE, MISS HILDA, the Brilliant Harpist, Monday next, Bedford Palace. Managers and Agents invited to hear this turn.

COLEMAN, ROSIE, and HARRY CONLIN, 99, Hill-street, Garnethill, Glasgow.

COMELY, MABEL, Comedienne, 53, Vienna-street, Everton, Liverpool.

COMPTON, GRACEFUL GRACE, Continued success of "Bull and Bush," &c., with J. Gar Kiddie's Pantomime, T. R., Dewsbury.

CONDER, ALF, Comedian, doing well, keeping well, banking well. Lucky dog. Per. (freehold), 27, Manchester-rd, Blackpool.

CONWAY, DAN, and ALICE DORA, Feb. 13, Grand, Clapham.

CONROY, OLIVER, Comedian, Vacant Feb. 13 and 20. Big success in Pantomime, Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

CONWAY, TOM W. (Conway and Tindall), Battersea Empire, S.W.

COOKE, STEVE, Comedian. Dame in "Dick Whittington," Royal County Theatre, Bedford.

COVERDALE, CHARLES, The Droll Comedian, Raconteur, and Burlesque Mimic. Feb. 13, Palace, Halifax.

CRAIG, ROZE, and CRAIG, A Trio of the World's Athletes. Oxford, Middlesbro'.

CRANKS, ORIGINAL, Burlesque and Sensational Cyclists, Vacant Monday. Fêtes Galas. Perm., 19, Alexandra-rd., Manchester.

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CRESSWELL'S, Theoretical Musicians, Expert Mandolinists, &c. C/o THE ERA.

CROWSON, WILL, CISSIE CONYERS Friday, Fairy Queen, Osborne T., Manchester. T. R., Leigh.

CULLEN (LITTLE DOLLY) and ELSIE Jordison's Bright and Bouncing "Babes." T.R., Huddersfield.

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DALE and VALE, Vocalists and Specialité Dancers Extraordinary. Hippodrome, Manchester.

DALE, MR. HARRY, Hippodrome Manager, Stage and Arena, General Manager and Ringmaster, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy.

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DANIELS, THE TWO, as King One Lung and General Hoop-de-do-do, "Robinson Crusoe." Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

DANTON, CHARLES, Comedian. Monday, Palace, Blackpool.

DARAIGNEE, TOILE, Novelty Gymnasts. This week, Palace, Leicester; next week, Hippodrome, Manchester.

D'ARGAN (of Dale and D'Argan), "Crossed in Love" Syndicate now on, New Members 15s. 6d. See Goliath's Card.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE, Australian Trick Cyclists, Monarchs of the Wheel. This, King's, Kilmarnock. Next, Royal, Jarrow.

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DAYTON FAMILY, Feb. 13, Hippodrome, Eastbourne.

DEDIO, Empire, Johannesburg. South Africa.

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DELAMERE TRIO, The Original Comedy Equilibrists, Palace, Derby.

DELLER and OXFORD Thank Fred Durham for Contracts. Monday next, Tivoli, Dublin.

DEMI and SEMI, Musical Act. This, Standard and Middlesex; next, Gatti's. Liberty 20 and 27.

DENHAM, MISS MILLIE, Big Success of "Lady Like You." Second Boy, Grand Edinburgh, 7, Carnarvon-rd., Romford, London.

DENMARK, DORA, Liberty April. Now Principal Boy, Firth's "Cinderella" Company, Empire, Southend.

DE ROSE, MDLLE., and J. H. HAWTREY, Principal Boy and Malicio, J. Kiddie's "Cinderella." R. T., Barrow-in-Furness.

DEVOVE, JAMES, and BILL, his Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Feb. 13, Hippodrome, Preston.

DAINEZ, Comedy Circus, Donkey "Smiler," Clever Pony, and Troupe of Dogs, with his Wonderful Hounds. P., Blackburn.

DIXON, CHARLEY, KATE LYND, Thanks W. B. Broadhead, Esq., for Kindness. Big Success, R., Salford. Mon., Spec., E. Wrexham.

DOBITO and BUXTON, Operatic Duettists. Monday, Royal Court, Wigan.

DOLF, SIDNEY DOLF, Now on Successful Tour. The World's Wonders Animated Photo Company.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, Singing Boxmakers, Macnaghton Circuit. Vacant April 3, 17, 24. Monday, Palace, Grimsby.

DOODY and WRIGHT, Feb. 13, Palace, Grimsby.

DORMER, DAINTY DAISY, Principal Girl, Princess's Glasgow. July, 1906, London Pavilion.

DORRETTA, LITTLE, Graceful Acrobatic Song and Dance Artist. Touring with C. W. Poole's Royal Myriorama.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH, Full of Vivacity and Animation. London Nightly.

DOVE, ETHEL Principal Girl, Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

DOVER, CLIFFE, Dame, Dottridge and Longdon's "Forty Thieves." Grand Theatre, Nottingham. Good Songs Wanted.

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DUNCAN and MORTON, Comedians, This, Hippo., Dewsbury; Feb. 13, Palace, Northampton.

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EILEEN and MAYNIE, Sisters, Versatile, Instrumentalists, and Dancers. Greenwich.

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ELLIS and WATTS, Comedians and Dancers, The Goods. Feb. 13, Empire, Portsmouth.

ELMO, NINA Comedienne, Hippodrome, Manchester, Agents, Day's Agency.

ELSEY, ARTHUR, The Gentleman Comedian, Usual Success this Week, Grand, Sheffield; Monday Next, Home Once More.

ELTONS, TWO, Triple Horizontal Bar Comedians. Liberty Feb. 20. Monday, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

ENDON, EDIE, Coon and Dancer, 30, Palace; This Week, 13, Tivoli, Shields, Aberdare, E., Hartlepool. Vacant, March 6. Verno.

EPLETT, JESSIE, Character Vocalist and Speciality Dancer, Re-en., two Special Weeks, G. T. Islington. Ad., 3 Ivy-lane, Hoxton, N.

ERICK, FRED, Comedian, On Tour, at Lib. Whit Week on. First-class Al Fresco. Coms., 428, Liverpool-street, Seedley, Manchester.

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ESDALE, BROTHERS, Comedians, Vacant April 4. This, Haymarket, Liverpool. Next, Palace, Cork.

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FIELDING, MISS ANNIE, and MR. BERT HULL, "An Officer's Flirtation." Feb. 13, Grand, Stockton.

FIELDS and ACRES, Comedy Park Keepers, Laughter Makers, Palace, Northampton. Booked by Verno. Verno.

FINDEN, MR. and MRS., Metropole Theatre, Camberwell. Agent, Geo. Barclay.

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FLORIZELL, Ahead of them all. New Startling Sensational Feats. Great for Fetes and Galas. Hippodrome, Liverpool.

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FRANCE and FRANCIS, Comedians and Acrobatic Grotesques. Big Hit, Palace, Cork. Vacant, Monday. Wire.

FRANKLIN, ORIGINAL, Troupe Russian Vocalists and Expert Dancers. This week, Empire Palace, Dudley.

FREDERICKS, CARL, Cordelia and Ya Pyn Ketos, Oriental Magicians. Parts and Specialities. Prince of Wales Theatre, Liverpool.

FRENCH'S, GEORGE, TROUPE, and the SNOW FAMILY, on Tour. For Vacant Dates, address, 14, Second-av., Queen's-pk., Ldn., W.

FRIDKIN'S, BORIS, COSSACK TROUPE, Operatic Singers, and Acrobatic Dancers, Grand Theatre, Bolton.

GANNON, NELLIE, Usual Success. No use mentioning it any more, always the same. Monday, T. Royal, Warrington.

GARRICK, MR. GUS, Inventor and Patentee of the Living Post Card Album. 98, Charing Cross-road.

GELDER, VAN, Humorous Magician, assisted by Li-Li. A sensational success, fast booking. Agent required. Palace, Derby.

GEORGE, WALTER, Musical Sketches (on the Piano), London Pav. & Collins's. Address, 36, Marquess-rd., Canonbury, N.

GERALDOS, THREE JUGGLING, Starring this week, Q. P. Hippodrome, Manchester. Next week, Empire, Greenock.

GERRARD, MISS MARIE, the Chic Comedienne, big success, Principal Girl, Lena Stanton's "Dick Whittington" Co., Av., Kettering.

GERTRELLA, Dancer-Gymnast. New Act, "In Cupid's Garden." Pantomime, Theatre Royal, York.

GIBSON QUINTON, "Q.G." All communications to permanent address, Tivoli House, Scarborough.

GILLIN, Unique Ventriloquial Humorist, Hippodrome, St. Helen's; Monday, Haymarket, Liverpool.

GOLD, HARRY, Animated Song-Sheet, re-engaged, second week, Feb. 13, Empire, Dover.

"GOLIATH," Crossed in Love Syndicate now on. New members, 15s. 6d.

GRAHAM, ERIC, MILLIE HARRIS. This week Gatti's. Feb. 13, Gatti's (second week) and Battersea.

GRANADAS, LOS, Electrifying Bounders, 238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

GRANT, JAMES, Enormous Success in Panto. as Scotch Com. T. R., Greenock. Wanted, Funny Songs.

GRAPHO and JACKSON, Comedians, continued success as Abanazar and Twankey. This week, Greenwich; next, Oxford.

GRAY, MR. GEORGE. "The Fighting Parson." Address, care of "The Era" Office.

GREEN, BRUCE, Comedian, Making a Big Hit as Dame, in Miss Lena Stanton's "Dick Whittington." AVENUE T., Kettering.

GREY and WELFORD, Grotesque Boxing Comedians, in "I'll give you Duck." Big Success this Hip.; Manchester, next, Hip., Grimsby.

GRIFFIN and MARKS, Great Success as the Acrobatic Cooks, "Jack and the Bean Stalk." Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.

GROSVENOR SISTERS (THREE), Operatic Vocalists, "Dick Whittington" Panto. Next, T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.

HAIG and NOVEL, on Tour. Return to Town Feb. 20, Granville, London, Middlesex, The Palace, Canterbury, Paragon, Brixton.

HALDYNE DUO, Starring, Coliseum, Brighton; Next, Royal Albert, Canning Town. All Communications above, or Will Dalton.

HALLS, TOM, Toffs and Terriers, Big Hit. Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow; next Royal, Liverpool. Open Feb. 20, Royal, Liverpool.

HAMPSON BROS., Hippodrome, Manchester. As usual, the Hit of the Programme. Refined and Reliable. Monday, Hippo., Salford.

HANDEL and LEE Comedy Instrumentalists, on Tour. Permanent address, 48, Wellclose-view, Leeds.

HANNAWAY, BROS., Comedians and Dancers. Britannia, Glasgow, return. Great Success in New Act.

HANVARR and ANNA LEE, "The Golfer and the Maid." St. George's Hall, Bradford.

HARCOURT, FRED, Liberty, Feb. 27th. Feb. 13, Argyle, Birkenhead.

HARDY, the American Blondin, "King of the High Rope." Address, Niagara Villa, Doggett-rd., Catford, S.E.

HARLAND and ROLLISON, Monday, Hippo., Preston. Bury and Wakefield to follow. "Yorkshire Lads in France."

HARMONY FOUR, THE (T. C. Bergeron, F. M. Barrett, Edw. Hughes, Alex. Ferguson). Lyceum, London, until Feb. 27.

HARRIS and WORTH, Comedians De Luxe. Bailiffs, "Robinson Crusoe," Opera House, St. Helens.

HART and CO. Dramatic and Variety Agents. 7, Lancaster-house, Ardville-rd., Brixton, S.W. Tele., 116, Brixton.

HARVEY BOYS, The Unrivalled Boxing Comedians. "The Fighting Dummy," Grand, Hanley.

HASTINGS, GEORGE, and KITTY GOWER, Character Vocalist, Lightning Change Artiste, Danseuse. Manchester.

HAYDEE'S, MDLLE., Electric Mannikin Theatre. Feb. 13, Tivoli, Leeds.

HEATON, PROF. TED, World's Greatest Diver and Swimmer, and Miss SACHA. Success, Pad., Liverpool. Com., 24, Alton-rd., Liverpool.

HENDERSON and STANLEY QUARTETTE. Com. Acro. Mus. Act.; next, concerts, free 20th. 16, Parnie-street, Glasgow.

HENDERSON, FAMOUS, Blind Musical Genius and Concertina Soloist. Starring Pavilion T., Leicester. Next, Palace, Lincoln.

HENRI, LES, Equilibristic and Gymnastic Marvels. On tour, Poole's Myriorama. Pacey and Reeves.

HENRIETTE, The Beautiful Young Vocal and Musical Entertainer. "A Child's Dream," Own Composition. Touring.

HERALD COMEDY FOUR. Best Comedy Four seen in Salford. Special week, St. George's Hall, Bradford.

HERBERT, FRED, Premier Topical Vocalist, Eastbourne. R. Warner.

HERMAN, SYD, IVY LENNARD, the Original Hebrew Comedian. Monday, Hippo., Carlisle; Vacant, Feb. 27, March 6.

HESS and LISBON, Laughing Hit, Third Week, J. H. Savile's Panto. Monday next, Theatre Royal, Greenock.

HICKMAN, ARTHUR, Tenor, at Liberty, Feb. 20, for few weeks. This, Grand, Radcliffe; next, Irving T., Seacombe.

HILL and LANE, Feb. 13, Palace, Woolwich.

HILL, ROWLAND, Ye Dame, Theatre Royal, Huddersfield.

HILTON, FLORENCE, London's Star Male Impersonator. Dick Whittington Panto. H. M. T., Walsall. Annual Benefit, Friday, Feb. 17.

HILTON and HILTON, Comedy Bar Comedians. Feb. 13, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

HOLLOWAY, MISS KATIE, Dainty Comedienne and Dancer. Monday next, Empire, South Shields, third time.

HORTON, MISS HETTY, Versatile Vocalist, on Tour. All Communications, care of "The Era" Office.

HOWARDS, THE (RALPH and Nellie). Duchess Theatre, Balham.

HULA, SISTERS, Vocalists and Expert Dancers, Still Vacant, March 6 and 13.

HULBERT, Ventriloquist; and **DE LIL,** Illusionist. Two First-class Acts. Vacant April 17, May 1, 15. Monday, Palace, Blackburn.

HULME, TOM, Comedian, Great Success as Baron, Marvellous Pardoes' "Cinderella" Co., Consett, Durham. Liberty April.

HUMBER FANNIE, Society Entertainer. Panto, Queen's Theatre, Longton.

HUNTER, G. W., Comedian and Raconteur. Feb. 13, Argyle, Birkenhead.

HUXTER, THREE BROTHERS, this, Lyric, Liverpool; next, Hippodrome, Warrington. 10, Middle-street, Worcester.

HYAM, GEORGE, and NELLIE ROSE. Enormous Success, Principal Comedian and Princess, with Pardoe's "Cinderella." Consett.

IRIS, MISS LILY, Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, "Robin Hood." All letters, en route.

JAMES, GEORGE, Comedian, Still Scoring as "Fitzwarren." Good Songs Wanted. Address, Avenue Theatre, Kettering.

JAPS, MUSICAL, Brilliant, Up-to-Date Novelty Act. Vacant, Feb. 20, 27. Address, Theatre Royal, York.

JOHNSON, KID, and MAISIE PELHAM, American Novel Speciality Act, Hip., Hulme. Feb. 13, Hip., Salford. Vacant Feb. 20, 0n.

JOHNSTONE, TOM, Actor Vocalist and Mimic, this week, Hippo., Macclesfield; next week, Feb. 13, Palace, Aberdare, South Wales.

JUAN and McQUE, Comedians. Alhambra, Belfast. Next, Hippodrome, Bury.

JUDGE, SISTERS, With Their Marvellous Performing Cockatoos, Parrots, and Macaws. Feb. 13, P., Aberdeen. Par excellence.

K. and K. (Karr and Kooney), Will Atkins and Dick Deadeye, "Robinson Crusoe," T. R., Bristol. Panto settled 1905-6.

KATHRINA, IDA, Fairy Queen, Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

KATOS, THE, Komikal Kidgets. Empire Palace, Hackney.

KAVADOS, Juggler, Flo Melville, Burlesque Artiste. Big success, Empire, Portsmouth. Monday, F.M., Standard, Pimlico.

KAYS, FOUR (Aggie Fenton, Ada Vestrais, Harry Karr, and Walter Kooney), the Original Kays. T. R., Bristol.

KEDWARDS, THREE SISTERS, Success, Cinders, and Speciality. Liberty shortly. Pardoes, "Cinderella" T., Consett, Durham.

KEENE, BILLY, and JESSIE ADAMS, Comedy Entertainers, in Clean Duets. Hippodrome, Manchester.

KEEYS, F. J., Character Vocalist. New Songs in Study by F. V. St. Clair. 12, Panton-st., W., or c.o. "Era."

KEITH, G. H. The Popular Vocal Actor. Always a Sound Success. Feb. 13, Palace, Hammersmith.

KEITH and MERSON, Comedy Acrobats. Susccess, T.R., Bury. Monday, T.R., Rochdale. L. Graydon and Fioni.

KEMBLE, HENRY. General Manager. Palace Theatre, Cork.

KENDAL, BEATTIE, Dashing Character Vocalist. The Latest Manchester Success.

KENT, MISS CISSY, The "Original Dainty Dancing Doll," Mon., R. C. T., Warrington. Liberty Feb. 27 and March.

KERNO, LOUIS, the Neat Coon Vocalist and Dancer. This, Palace, Aberdare. Next, Empire, Wrexham.

KIRK, HARRY, Comedian. Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

KLOET, MDLLE., Always Adding New Effects, Originalities, Novelties. Barrasford Tour, Palace, Glasgow.

KYDD and KYDD, Comedians, T. R., Barnsley, Monday, Court, Warrington. Vacant Feb. 27. Hall closing.

KYOTO, The Original Comedy Jap; also May Geraldine, comedienne. Alhambra, Belfast. Monday, Tivoli, Dublin.

LAKE, LEW, "Bloomsbury Burglars." Empire, Middlesbrough.

LA MARA CHUMMIE, Principal Boy, "Cinderella" Co. Theatre Royal, York.

LAND, FRED, Comedian. Monday next, Hippodrome, Carlisle.

LANE, MARK, Dame, "Dick Whittington." Next week, Ashton-under-Lyne.

LANG, GENTLE BROTHERS. 137, Drakefell-road, Brockley.

LANG, REM. Burlesque Conjuring Act. Hippodrome, Manchester. Monday, Empire, Ashton.

LANTON and LANE, Finish To-night, most Successful Pantomime Engagement. Coms., 64, Belmont-road, Liverpool.

LAROLA, LAROLA, LAROLA, What a Great Turn. London and Euston. Barclay and Co.

LASMA and DE LOUIE, in their Latest Success, "An Evening's Pleasure." A., Hull; Monday, G., Oldham.

LASSAH, LILLIE, This Week, Barnard's, Woolwich; Next Week, Feb. 13, Palace, Camberwell.

LAURELS, THE THREE, in the Ping-Pong Table. Agents, Papa Brown, Pacey and Reeves.

LAVELLE BROS., Quaint Comedy Acrobats, Open for Panto., 1905-6. Feb. 13, Hippo., Preston.

LE FRE, ALBERT, Prince's Theatre, Bristol.

LEANDER, HARRY, Vocal Comedian, Uncle Neb "In Old Kentucky." Star, Liverpool.

LEARTO and Clever Dog Babs, Musical Eccentrics. Next week, People's Palace, Tottenham, N.

LEATON, HARRY, Refined Comedian and Vocalist. Success this week Hippo, Ton-y-pandy. Next, P.O.W.T., Tredegar.

LEE, THE Original THREE SISTERS, Acrobats. Big Success Collins's, Islington. Next, London Music Hall, Shoreditch.

LE GRAHAM, THREE SISTERS, Seventh Week on Tour. Big success. Public Hall, Barnsley.

LEIGH, THREE SISTERS, Refined Entertainers. Monday, Woolwich and Greenwich. Foreign offers invited.

LE MAY, TOM. the Real Musical Clown. W. Hamilton's Excursions, City Hall, Arbroath, N.B.

LEE and ARDEN, Original Perpetrators, Monday, Metropole, Camberwell.

LENNOL, MR. JACK, the Unconventional Humourist. Good Offers Invited Summer, Piers and Spas. Letter, c/o "Era."

LEO and SIEGEL, Herculean Acrobats, and Gladiatoral Strong Men. Vacant March 20 and 27. Wire, Hippodrome, Salford.

LEON and LEONI (Musical Act), This, T. R., Macclesfield; next, T. R., Attercliffe. Vacant March 6th.

LEONARD, FLORENCE, Soprano, This, Theatre Royal, Rotherham; Next Week, Opera House, St. Helen's.

LEONS, TWO, and MITZI, the Fat Girl from Leytonstone. Monday, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh; also MELITA.

LES CARRE, ENIE, Resumes Business Monday, Sadler's Wells.

LESLIE BROTHERS, Feb. 13, Palace, Bordesley. R. Warner.

LESTER'S, LEO, Miniature Pantomime Sketch, "Sports." Waldeck Hotel, Lawrence-rd, Wavertree, Liverpool.

LEVALLE, WALTER, F.O.S., Mdlle. LUCRECEE. Great Success, Coliseum Sheerness. Feb. 13, Palace, Northampton (Return).

LE WARREN, Ventriloquist, Also SADIE DANA, Coon Vocalist. Success, Empire, Dudley. Liberty Monday, Feb. 13.20.

LEYBOURNE. GEORGE, General Manager, Alhambra, Sandgate. Artistes communicate, Fred Durham's Agency.

LINTON, Continental Equilibrist, Speciality Act. Vacant, Feb. 20, April 17. Wire, Pavilion, Leicester, Wire.

LIZZETTE, THE FOUR SISTERS, Lady Acrobats, ELSIE RUBINA, Wire Dancer, on Tour. P. H., Mountain Ash, S. Wales.

LISTON, MARIE, Just Concluded, title rôle, Whittington. This and next, Empire, Bridgwater, Re-engaged.

LISTON, MR. HARRY, MISS LORD LUMLEY, &c., Royal Entertainers, "Merry Moments" for Concerts, two hours. Egyptian Hall.

LITTLE and GOODE (ADA, LUCY), in their Side-splitting Burlesque, "Wanted, a Deputy." 20, Hilledge-place, Hunslet, Leeds.

LLOYD'S, FRED, Sketch Combination. "The Blind Spinster." Feb. 13, Tivoli, Barrow.

LOGAN, GRACIE, Finish To-night, big Success Alhambra, Belfast. Monday next, Gaiety, Oldham.

LONNENS, THE LIVELY. Dainty Duettists and Dancers. This, P. of W. Theatre, Richmond; next, Alhambra, Brighton.

LORRISONS, THE (FRED and LILA), Eccentrics. Feb. 13th, Palace, Hammersmith.

LOTTO, LILO, and OTTO, Trick Cyclists. 2, Lambeth Palace-road, S.E.

LOUDOUN CAMERON, the Celebrated Conjurer, New Show. Lib. Mar. 6. Feb. 13, Royal, Warrington; Feb. 20, Lyric, Liverpool.

LOUIE, MADAME (The Original), Grand, Doncaster. Next Week, Hippodrome, Macclesfield.

LUCAS, MR. and MRS. EDWARD H., in Scenes from Dickens. Perm., Ivybank, Brougham-st., Birmingham. Fortune and Granville.

LUMIERE'S Electrical Fairy Grotto. Tremendous success, Barrasford Tour. All communications, Empire, Bristol.

LYNDON, BEATTIE, Comedienne and Dancer, concludes to-night, Collins's. Monday, P., Swansea. Agent, Tom Claxton.

LYNCH, AGNESE and ARTHUR, in American Picture Songs, Tremendous Success, Palace, Belfast. Mon., Park, Liverpool.

MR. W. H. GARBOIS,
as Ellis Jordan, "A Wife's Triumph" Co.
Theatre Royal, Kirkcaldy.

MR. W. V. GARROD,
Lead, "The Sledge-Hammer."
Opera House, Torquay.

MR. and MRS. WILLIE GARVEY
(Kitty Jones), Disengaged, Spring, Joint or Single. Lyceum Theatre, Govan.

MR. HENRY GEORGE,
as Capulet, in "Romeo and Juliet."
Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

MR. JOHN GERANT.
Good Offer Invited.
115, Dalston-lane, N.E.

MR. DOUGLAS GERRARD,
Lancelot (Lead), in "Merely Mary Ann."
Address, En Route.

MR. and MRS. LEWIS GILBERT
(Miss Lina Nazeby), Rehearsing "A Woman of Impulse." 32, Gladstone-st., London-rd., S.E.

MR. ALFRED GODDARD,
Kara, in "Darling of the Gods."
H. M. T., Walsall.

MR. DOUGLAS GORDON,
Stozzi, "The Cardinal."
Feb. 20, Opera House, Middlesboro'.

MR. GEO. LAKE GRANGE,
The Drury Lane Giant,
At Liberty, Feb. 25, T. R., Edinburgh.

MR. FRED GROVE
and MISS EMILY GROVE, Chas. Frohmann's "Merely Mary Ann" Co. T. R., Portsmouth.

MR. LAURENCE GROVE,
Noel le Jolys, in "If I were King" Co.
L. T., Newport, Mon.

MR. CHARLES HALLING,
Simon Derrick, "The Sledge-Hammer."
Torquay.

MR. W. HARGREAVES,
as John Huggins in "The Designers."
Letters, 11, Beira-street, Balham-hill, S.W.

MR. FREDERICK HARKER
Disengaged.
"Berkeley," Chester-road, Erdington, Birmingham.

MR. CHARLES HARLEY
"A Country Mouse" Co.
Feb. 20, Theatre Royal, Bath.

MR. MORRIS HARPER,
Acting Manager. "Peggy Machree" Co.,
Feb. 20, Crown Theatre, Peckham, S.E.

MR. and MRS. CHAS. HARRINGTON,
on Tour with own Company.
Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

MR. CYRIL HARRISON
at Liberty. Leading Parts.
52, Upperton-gardens, Eastbourne.

MR. W. S. HARTFORD,
At Liberty. Leading Business.
47, Godolphin-road, Shepherd's Bush, W.

MR. FRANCIS HAWLEY,
at Liberty for Autumn.
Address, Freemasons' Club, Richmond.

MR. and MRS. T. P. HAYNES
(Miss Rosie Lewis).
Letters, 1, McKerrell-road, Peckham, S.E.

MR. GALWEY HERBERT,
Haymarket Theatre,
S.W.

MR. DALZIEL HERON,
Mr Forbes-Robertson's Co. in America.
Letters, 39, Harpenden-road, West Norwood, S.E.

MR. ARTHUR HICKMAN,
Principal Tenor. At Liberty for few weeks.
Theatre, Nuneaton.

MR. FRANK HILL,
Comedy, Special Character, Comedy Old Men. Disengaged. 11, Beaumont-rd., W. Kensington.

MR. A. T. HILTON
Disengaged. Principal Old Man, &c.
Address, 31, Crowndale-road, N.W.

MR. HALLIWELL HOBBES,
with Mr. F. R. Benson's West Indian Tour. Address, Enniscoffy, Stratford-on-Avon.

MR. BALIOL HOLLOWAY,
Address,
Imperial Theatre, S.W.

MR. A. S. HOMEWOOD is now at Liberty
after 4½ Years with Mr E. S. Willard.
Address, 86, The Drive, Fulham-park-gardens, S.W.

MR. ALFRED H. HOOK,
Bus. Man., Mr. Peter Eland's "Little Red Riding Hood." Feb. 20, Miners' T., Ashlington.

MR. and MRS. WILL HOOK (Miss
DAISY CARLTON), Miss Ida Molesworth's and Mr. Mark Blow's Co., Feb. 20, T. R., York.

MR. FRANCIS HOPE, Comedian,
Musical, Farcical Comedy, and good Drama.
5, Elder's-st, Scarboro'. Hart or Blackmore.

MR. LEONARD HUBERT
will in future Adopt his Own Name, HUBERT HARBEN. On Tour with Mr. and Mrs. Kendal.

MR. ERIC HUDSON
at Liberty March 4. Offers invited.
Feb. 20, Irving T., Seacombe, Six Nights.

MR. JAMES P. E. HUSSEY, Engaged
for "Woman of Impulse Tour," Jack Jeffries and Stage Management.

MR. and MRS. FREDERIC JACQUES
(Miss Minnie Rayner), Mrs. Lewis Waller's Répertoire Co. Feb. 20, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

MR. CHAS. E. JOHNSON,
General Manager,
"Heart of a Hero" Company.

MR. G. WALLACE JOHNSTON, Back-
bite, Hastings, Falkland, Ormond, Adolphus, &c., Compton Comedy Co. King's T., Glasgow.

MR. S. MAJOR JONES,
Arrangements Complete.
Permanent address, 101, Sugden-rd., Clapham, S.W.

MR. T. ARTHUR JONES,
Touring, the Success of 1904, "Life's Sweetest Sins." Address, En Route.

MR. and MRS. THEODORE JONES
(Ada Mansfield). Dis. termination of "Jack Sheppard" tour. 23, Barmeston-rd, Catford.

MR. F. JOYNSEN-POWELL,
Concluded Season, Grand T., N. At Liberty.
Address, 49, Waldemar-avenue, Hurlingham, S.W.

MR. WHITFORD KANE,
Jacky, in "Sunday" (North Company)
Feb. 20, Royalty Theatre, Chester.

MR. OGILVY KEITH.
Address,
Charlmont, Western-parade, Southsea.

MR. and MRS. WALTER KENION
at Liberty for Character, Eccen. Light Com.
E. R., Soubr., Juv. L. Com. A. A., 10, King-st., W.C.

MR. C. B. KESTON,
Mr. Brandon Thomas's "Charley's Aunt" Co.
Feb. 20, Grand Theatre, Fulham.

MR. CLAUDE KING,
Juvenile Leading Business. Care of Messrs.
Sass and Nelson, Standard Theatre, Johannesburg.

MR. ARTHUR KNIGHT,
Miss EDITH KNIGHT. Summer offers invited. King's Theatre, Ebbw Vale.

MR. AUGUSTINE KNIGHT,
Starring as Le Loup, "Face at the Window"
Co. Star Theatre, Liverpool, six nights.

MR. RICHARD HENRY LACE.
Address,
10, King-street, London, W.C.

MR. FRANK LACY,
Mr. Charles Frohman's "Merely Mary Ann" Co. Feb. 20, T. R., Portsmouth.

MR. JAMES R. LA FANE,
Manager and Stage-Director, Mr. Mouillot's "Geisha," "Greek Slave" Cos. Broad. T., Deptford.

MR. WINGOLD LAWRENCE,
as Jack England,
Feb. 20, West London Theatre.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD LEROY
(Edith Mumford). Dis. Heavies, Char, Juv, Chamb, Ingen, Boys. 13 Castledene-rd, Anerley, S.E.

MR. ALFRED LESTER,
Comedian and Character Actor. Disengaged.
17, Osborne-terrace, Clapham-road, London, S.W.

MR. ARDENE LINDEN,
Chamboran, in "Proof."
Feb. 20, Theatre Royal, Exeter, Six Nights.

MR. GEORGE W. LINDSAY,
Manager, "A Country Girl" Co.,
43, Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, W.

MR. FRANK LISTER,
Napoleon, "Royal Divorce." Offers invited for town. 15, Elmhurst-mans., Vernon-rd., Clapham.

MR. FRANK LISTON,
Dis. Feb. 20. Lead, Juv., Bus. Manager.
311, Kentish Town-road, N.W.

MR. and MRS. SAM LIVESEY (Miss
Maggie Edwards). "The Village Blacksmith," Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.

MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN,
Haymarket Theatre, W.C.
Address, 28, Chelverton-road, Putney, S.W.

MR. STUART LOMATH,
Lead, "The Fatal Wedding." Mrs. Lomath Dis. Feb. 20, Lyceum Theatre, Eccles.

MR. AUSTIN H. LONGFORD,
at Lib. Character, Heavies, &c. Acting or Ad. Management. 101, California, Eston, Yorks.

MR. ARTHUR LONGLEY,
as Lord Cheyne, "Three Little Maids."
Queen's Theatre, Swindon.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM LOWE,
Osmond Tearle Répertoire Company.
Address, en route; or, 41A, Myrtle-street, Liverpool.

MR. FREDERICK LOYD,
Mr. Douglas Bruce's Tour "The Girl Who Lost Her Character." West London Theatre.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES L. LUDLOW
(Agnes St. Clair). C. L. L., Cook, "Whittington." Alexandra, Birmingham. Liberty Spring.

MR. WILLIAM LUGG,
with Sir Henry Irving.
7, Swift-street, Fulham, S.W.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY,
on Tour with own Co., "Wearin' o' the Green."
En route; or, Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM MACLAREN
(Miss Lily C. Bandmann), Touring own Co.
Feb. 20, Theatre Royal, Exeter.

MR. J. T. MACMILLAN.
Address,
Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM
MALLALIEU, at Liberty.
20, Cambridge-gardens, Hanwell, W.

MR. GEORGE MALLETT.
Mrs. Langtry's Co. Disengaged, Feb. 27.
Parts or Management, 5, Upper Westbourne-ter., W.

MR. H. F. MALTBY.
Engaged for Prince Mazaroff in "Slaves of Passion." T. R., Aldershot.

MR. D. LEWIN MANNERING, Baron
Bonelli and Stage-Manager in "The Eternal City," on tour. Feb. 20, County T., Reading, 1 week.

MR. FREDERICK MANTELL,
Lord FitzSherry, and Stage Manager,
"Miss Mischief" Co., en route.

MR. MAITLAND MARLER,
at Liberty at termination of Coronet Pantomime. Address, 333, King-st., Hammersmith, W.

MR. PERCY MARMONT,
Address,
4, Esmond-road, Bedford-park, W.

MR. PERCY MARSHALL,
Carbury, "Lady of Ostend," &c.
Feb. 20, Opera House, Coventry.

MR. ALFRED MARTIN,
Advance Representative. Compton Com. Co.
Feb. 21, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

MR. HERBERT MAULE,
Returned from South Africa. Disengaged.
Address, 10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

MR. WALTER MAXWELL.
Address,
Opera House, Southport.

MR. G. MAYOR-COOKE,
Chas. Frohmann's "Sherlock Holmes" Co.
Royal, Middlesbro', Yorks.

MR. LONNEN MEADOWS,
Comedy, Character Bus., Mus. Com., and Producer, at Liberty Feb. 25. Av. T., Sunderland.

MR. HUGH METCALFE,
Star Lead, "Between Two Women" Co.,
Feb. 20, Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. JOHN MITCHESON,
King's Theatre, Ebbw Vale, Mon.,
at Liberty shortly, Acting or Advance.

MR. HUGH MONTGOMERY,
MARIE HARCOURT, Napoleon and Marcel, in "Napoleon the Great," T. R., Bedford Leigh.

MR. F. MORLAND.
Address,
11, Bernard-street, Russell-square, W.C.

MR. and MRS. TOM MOWBRAY
(Miss Edith Ife). Disengaged, March 6.
Feb. 20, T. R., Merthyr.

MR. QUINTON M'PHERSON,
as the Hon. Ernest Worley, in "The Admirable Crichton," with William Gillette. E. T., N.Y.

MR. KENYON MUSGRAVE,
Wintering abroad. Add., c/o. Messrs. Miller and Co. (Bankers), Las Palmas, G. Canary.

MR. SINCLAIR NEILL
Disengaged. Juvenile Lead.
Crown Chambers, 64, Royal-avenue, Belfast.

MR. H. ADAIR NELSON.
Address, Eccentric Club,
Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MR. J. D. NEWTON, concluded pro-
duction and Stage Management, Coronet T., W. Offers invited for Spring. P. T., Manchester.

MR. DAVID G. NOBLE,
Juvenile or Heavy Lead. Offers invited.
Feb. 27, Hippodrome, New Brompton.

MR. GEO. NORMAN-BURT,
Disengaged.
Moreton Valence, near Stonehouse, Gloster.

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MR. and MRS. FRANK E. PETLEY
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MR. WALTER PURVIS.
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MR. FRANK SHERLOCK,
Bingle, "The Girl from Japan."
Theatre Royal, Colchester.

MR. WILFRED E. SHINE,
"John Bull's Other Island." Disengaged
Feb. 25. Address, Court Theatre.

MR. JOHN B. SHINTON,
Lead, "When Woman Hates."
Feb. 20, T. R., Croydon.

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MR. A. GIFFORD STACEY
at Liberty Early in March.
Address, Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. WILFRED STANFORD,
Dis., Acting or Stage Man., Com. or Char.
Parts. T. R., Belfast; A.A.

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Title-rôle, "The New Clown."
This, Opera H., Tunbridge Wells. Next, Eastbourne.

MR. GEORGE STEEL,
Disengaged, March 4. Good Offers invited.
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Feb. 20, Theatre Royal, Sunderland.

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MR. FREDERICK TYRRELL,
Rev. Elihu Garside, "Winnie Brooke, Widow." Feb. 20, Prince's Theatre, Manchester.

MR. GEORGE UNWIN, at Liberty
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MISS "LITTLE" MAUDIE RAY,
Toto, Mrs Lewis Waller's "Zaza" Co.,
Feb. 20, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

MASTER LESLIE GORDON, as
Cheshire Cat, "Alice in Wonderland," Dis.,
Part in Drama. 2, Selina-villas, Southend.

MASTER CYRIL SMITH,
as Geoffrey, in "Becket," with Sir Henry Irving. Feb. 20, Wolverhampton and Hanley.

P. P. P.
(Theatrical Anecdotes.)
All Coms., Mr. Pope Pax., 18, Trinity-rd., B'ham.

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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT FOR ACTOR AND COMPOSER,

BY
ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B. (Lond.).

Chapter I.
COPYRIGHT AS OPPOSED TO PERFORMING RIGHT.
Chapter II.
PERFORMING RIGHT.
Chapter III.
INFRINGEMENT AND REMEDIES.
Chapter IV.
MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.
Chapter V.
INTERNATIONAL AND COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law" ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as "the Bermoothes" and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said, to state little more than that the contents include five chapters respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," "Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority, is not dry reading. The statutes, with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr. J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr. Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise, it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright" is dedicated to Mr. A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman, July 31st, 1901.

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his text-book on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases, what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee, July 28th, 1901.

Mr. A. A. Strong has published a book on "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," which should be in the hands of everyone who is obliged to know about this perplexing subject. Dramatic copyright in England is in a particularly unsatisfactory state, and it is much to be hoped that ere long some more rational method of securing protection for a play may be devised than the slovenly and sometimes costly "production for copyright purposes," which is at present required.—St. James's Gazette, Aug. 2nd, 1901.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah.—The stage is occupied this week by the Aberdeen Amateur Opera Company, who opened with *Faust*. The other pieces for the week were *Il Trovatore* and *Maritana*.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr. Ernest Sheldon.—Mr. Charles Vandyke's troupe of pantomimists appear in a clever and amusing farce, *Sensations*; and an entertaining turn is provided by the Two Bees. The Sisters Judge, with their wonderful cockatoos, parrots, and macaws, give a novel and attractive exhibition; and the musical act by the Romaine Trio is also highly popular. Mr. Will Godwin contributes an acceptable turn; and Maxwell and Francis, comedians and vocalists, are delightfully sprightly and piquant. Among the other successful artistes are Mr. Herbert Le Martine, vocalist and dancer; Miss Lilian Rigby, a clever mimic and dancer; and Mr. O. H. Kurtz, a remarkably dexterous juggler.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General and Resident Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom.—Mr. Wm. A. Armour's company appeared here on Monday, in *What a Woman Did*. Mr. A. Armour's reading of Conrad De L'Orme was powerful; Mr. Percy E. Wright did equally well in the rôle of Raffaelle Duroe; Mr. Will Simpson was capable as Fritz; Mr. Fred Rignold made a capital Peter Pippin; and Mr. J. Stewart was good as Piton. Miss Dora Price deserved the enthusiastic reception accorded her; Miss Alice Raynor scored as La Papillon; and Miss Norah Wayllett submitted a fine portrayal of Manette.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—On Monday Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's Co. opened here with *The Midnight Mail*. A very good performance of Harry Steyne was given by George Harvard; Leonard Royle was cleverly depicted by Edward Forbes; Mr. Arthur Gilroy must be complimented on his representation of Hassan Padisha. Another good performance was given by Fred Evison as Billy Brewer; Mary Steyne was excellently portrayed by Miss Ada Oakley; and Miss Mildred Carr made an ideal Nancy Brewer.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Wilmot, Potter, Vandy, and Weisker; Director, Fred Wilmot.—On Monday night the New Hippodrome opened under new management with a very good bill. It includes The Waldrons in their screaming absurdity *The Silly Burglar*; Carne Curre and his dog; Tom O'Neil in club swinging, boxing, and wrestling; Herbert Maden, descriptive vocalist; J. H. McCann, comedian and roller skate dancer; Young and Mac; Walter King, and the Carina Sisters, a really smart musical turn.

ALDERSHOT.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Williams.—*Three Little Maids* is again being presented to Aldershot theatregoers, on this occasion by Mr. Charles Macdona's company. The musical play is tastefully staged, and the performance throughout is made bright by excellent dressing, whilst the musical portion is cleverly negotiated. The company is talented, the principals of which are:—Misses Vera Vallis, Nellie Groves, Mabel Lavelle, Mdme. Ilma Norina, Laura Wright, N. Cunningham, Gertrude Luiche, Mabel Sarle, Grace Hardy; Messrs. Arthur Longley, Edgar Farelles, W. Piercy Morgan, Gus Oxley, and M. Jules Charmettes; whilst there is a large number of ladies and gentlemen who assist in minor parts and the choruses.

ALTRINCHAM.—NEW PAVILION OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Budd, Howe, and Taylor; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Gilman. This week a change from the ordinary run of variety has been made by the engagement of Miss Winifred Chalmers's company in the drama, *A Woman's Revenge*. Miss Chalmers gives a fine delineation of Mary Lonsdale; and the success of the piece is largely due to the spirited acting of Mr. Henry L. Osmond. Mr. Dunlop Stewart makes a good heavy man; and several songs are rendered in good style by Miss Mabel Hall. On Friday and Saturday, *East Lynne* was presented.

ARBROATH.—NEW PUBLIC HALL.—Hamilton's Excursions are here for the week. On Monday a large audience enjoyed "A Trip Round the World," under the able guidance of Mr. Claude Howell. A variety entertainment is also provided, including songs, sand dances, a fine exhibition of rope walking, and the Sisters Urma, trapeze artistes.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—A third pantomime, *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, is being presented by Messrs. Griffin and Drake's Company. Miss Lily Jackson is an ideal Dick Whittington, and she sings and dances with great charm. She is ably seconded by Miss Emmie Hands as Alice, Dick's sweetheart. There are numerous other ladies who contribute to the vocal, terpsichorean, and comedy features of the pantomime. The chief fun-makers are Mr. Will Dennis as Idle Jack, Mr. Ben Ford as Alderman Fitzwarren, Mr. Bert Allen as Capt. Seabreeze, Mr. E. Jazon as the Emperor of Morocco, and Mr. Jack Simpson as the cat. The specialities deserve special mention, including the performances of Mdlle. Luba de Sarema, with her new sensation "Transkaukasia" Sports, from the Far East. The Estos introduce a pleasing speciality, and Jazon and White's performance attracts attention. A good feature is a bevy of Yorkshire mill lasses; the Sisters Brenton do some sand and skipping-rope dances, and the Sisters Grosvenor, operatic vocalists, furnish some good music.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. C. Revill; Director of Entertainments, Mr. F. Wilmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. Campkin.—There is plenty of variety in the programme at the Hippodrome this week. The popular singing comedians, Verno and Voyce, elicited much applause; Essman, the juggler, is remarkably expert; Lozelle scores in his difficult gymnastic feats; the Barlows, high-class duettists, are very successful. Other "turns" of a more or less interesting kind are the Ashers (Agnes and Little Mike), in their refined act, *The Dude and the Soubrette*; J. H. Harris, Scotch comedian; and Vassey and Ramsey, comedians and dancers. The Bioscope pictures are very diverting.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The programme this week includes Fred and Maude Vypond, society entertainers, in their latest little drawing-room play, *The Honeymoon*; Harry Pleon, assisted by Tom Kent, introduces a racing absurdity, entitled *How to make a Book*, which is extremely funny; the acrobatic marvels, Donatos, are remarkably expert leg artists; the famous animal mimic, Leo Tell, introduces some new and funny ideas. Other artistes, whose versatile abilities are well appreciated, are Rem Lang, in his original burlesque act; Henrietta, Carr and Rose, in an original act, *Their First Quarrel*; the Sisters Russell, humorous duettists; Cyrus Dare, refined comedian; and the Mozondos, the barrel jumpers and clever acrobats. The Cinematograph pictures have prominence in the programme.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Seaton.—Mr. Gus Levaine's pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, is drawing crowded houses here this week. It is a bright, merry show, full of life and humour from start to finish. Robin Hood finds an able exponent in Miss Lily Ennis, who makes a dashing outlaw; Miss Beatrice Wilson, as Maid Marion, gives a good performance; Miss Frances Wells, as Fairy Snowdrop, is most attractive, singing her songs in good style; Allan-a-Dale and Marjory Daw are entrusted to Miss Annie Webster and Miss Florrie Anderson, who make the most of their opportunity; the Babes are nicely played by the Misses Ivy and Daisy Rochefort; Mr. Will Cutler is humorous as Baron Badlot; Mr. Harry Taylor is responsible for much fun as Friar Tuck; Mr. Harry Levaine is highly amusing as Dame Durden, and Mr. Dave Anderson and Mr. Gus Granville as the Ruffians, Snatcher and Sneaker, cause much laughter by their broad comedy. Specialities are introduced by the Two Zemblas, acrobats and jugglers, Leon and Leoni, musical experts; the Rhondda Glee Party; Vulvo, chapeaugraphist; the Rizonis, paper manipulators; and the Sylvan Quartet of Lady Dancers. An old-fashioned harlequinade terminates a good all-round show.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwards; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbons.—The Brothers Ashley, who top the bill this week, give an amusing boxing sketch, entitled *Next Please*, in which they are assisted by Mr. W. Barnes and Mr. Frank Yapp. Walter Wallis's songs are provocative of hearty laughter; an excellent musical turn is provided by the "Seebolds" (Shack and Bertha); Sleath and Aldin score a success with their musical scene, *Dashing Duval*; Frank Hope, as a trick cyclist, is clever; Jimson's performing dogs show great skill; and Lue Lord is a young comedian and dancer of great promise.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—On Monday, Mr. Chas. Macdona's company opened a three nights' engagement with *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Miss Cissy Scofield as Fi-Fi, the nimble little waitress, delighted her audience. Mr. George P. Ascot, as Mr. Pineapple, acted his part with a true appreciation of what was wanted in such a character. The Emperor Hang Chow was in the capable hands of Mr. Lester Carey, and his Lord Chancellor and Lord High Admiral were well played by Mr. Percy Stephens and Mr. Tom Birch. The Tom Hatherton of Mr. H. Welchman was most commendable. Miss Mable Carlton played the part of Mrs. Pineapple with vivacity and grace, and was well seconded by Miss Marel Florence and Miss Beatrice Charle as the bridesmaids. Miss Jule St. George was most effective as Mrs. Brown. Mr. Chas. Frohman's company, in *Sherlock Holmes* is billed to appear on the last three nights of this week.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company is appearing here this week with *Two Little Sailor Boys*. Miss May Day and Miss Ethel Frances Greene impersonate the Two Little Sailor Boys admirably; Mr. W. H. Sams plays the part of Commander Noel Tregarthen with much success; Miss Blanche Steele as Lola Grey, alias Lola Yorke, presents this villainous character in a sufficiently forcible manner; while the gentle womanly qualities of Mildred Grey are cleverly played by Miss Mabel Scudamore; Miss Lizzie Chambers is archness itself as Lucy Wilson. The fun of the evening is supplied by Mr. Oscar Power as Jack Jolly; and Mr. Tom E. Sinclair as Ben Baxter; Mr. Leonard Booker as Lieutenant Richard Redstone is a sufficiently convincing villain, and Mr. Ambrose Horton as Jim Royston, a burglar, is most successful; Mr. W. H. Hallatt, in the small part of Captain Tom Yorke, scores heavily. Mention should also be made of Mr. George Cecil Murray as Admiral Grey, and Mr. George Drew as Inspector Johnson.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Jas Kiddie's pantomime, *Cinderella*, is here. Hilario is commendably taken by Mr. William Verto; and the Malicio of Mr. J. H. Hawtry is also very good. The Sunbeam of Miss Rose Pareezer is nicely done; the Baron is adequately played by Mr. Will Saunders; and the two sisters are amusingly represented by Messrs. H. C. Lovell and Fred Denman respectively. Pimples, as played by Mr. Charles Harvey, is always to the fore; and Miss Florence Watson, as the heroine, wins every sympathy. Madamoiselle De Rose, as Prince Perfect, shows excellent taste; and Miss Susie Rowan looks and sings well as Dandini.

TIVOLI.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Whiting.—Austin and Hartley top the bill here this week, their barrel jumping being really marvellous. Fred Lloyd and company, in the humorous sketch, *The Blind Spinster*, evoke roars of laughter. A novel turn is given by the Cirnocs, who show how the handcuffs and box tricks are done. The Les Bollingers produce clever pictures with pieces of rag upon a screen; Alicea Mayne has a fine soprano voice; Chas. Johnson, the black diamond, is a good turn; and Morris Bros. are smart comedians.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. A. Long.—The theatre remained closed the first three nights of the week in anticipation of the eagerly looked-for visit of Sir Henry Irving and his company, which commenced on Thursday, when *Waterloo* and *The Bells* formed the opening attraction. The booking is phenomenal.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. W. Trussell.—Claiming a foremost position in the current bill here come the Royal Zerbinis, whose musical electrical scena, *In Fairyland*, is much enjoyed. The Sarnthalers, national singers and dancers, are very popular; Miss Raffin's performing monkeys are on a return visit; Miss Janet Reynolds, who has formerly been seen in musical comedy locally, wins further laurels in her new surroundings by her sweet singing of ballads; Henriot and Sauvion, burlesque conjurors, get plenty of fun out of their business; Vandinoff's lightning painting of floral and landscape panels, is an artistic and smart effort; Rosie Cass, comedienne, also appears with success; and H. J. Kisbey, in his *Call Boy* interlude, makes a hit by a really smart coon dance.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—This week the boards are occupied by Mr. Howard Hinton's company in the pantomime *Dick Whittington*. The production is under the careful supervision of Mr. H. C. Clements. Miss Kitty Phelps makes a hit as Dick, her dashing style and the spirited manner in which she sings, being greatly to the liking of the audience; and Miss Daisy Clements quickly instals herself a prime favourite, this being her second visit to Bedford. Vivacious and handsome, she throws herself with evident enjoyment into the rôle of Alice Fitzwarren. Miss Gracie Clements, as the Fairy Goodwill, is quite a success. Another clever artiste is Miss Maud Leonard, whose singing of "The Old Bull and Bush," fairly captivates the patrons of the theatre. Screamingly funny are the antics of the Bowery Boys; Mr. Harry Rennior, as Idle Jack, possesses a humorous style; the Emperor of Morocco finds a stately representative in Mr. H. H. Hastings; Miss Kathleen Mervyn as Princess Charming quite justifies her description. Mr. Harry Cardoe deserves great praise for his "a-mewsing" representation of Tibby, the cat. The humour is also well sustained by Mr. Tom R. Seymour as Captain Bunting, Mr. Steve Cook as Mary Ann, and Mr. Mount Stephens as Alderman Fitzwarren.

CORN EXCHANGE.—At this house of amusement a large audience assembled on Monday to witness Dr. Seaton's animated photographs, and numerous other items of a well varied entertainment.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. McCann; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Wilfred Stanford.—This week *The Belle of New York* is being presented by Mr. Ben Greet's No. 1 Company. In the *title-rôle* Miss Daisy Lake is charming, her singing being good. A delightfully vivacious impersonation of Fifi is presented by Miss Ada Elliston; as Ichabod Bronson Mr. Harry A. Meymott is decidedly amusing; and a clever character sketch of the polite lunatic is furnished by Mr. Walter Emro. As Blinky Bill Mr. Norrice Holmes contributes to the success by his remarkable whistling. A charming impersonation of Cora Angelique is submitted by Miss Louie Codman, her singing and dancing being exceedingly meritorious. Mr. Harold Wardroper as Harry Bronson succeeds admirably, especially in his vocal efforts with Miss Ada Elliston. Praise must be accorded Miss Florence Hersee for her happy and diverting assumptions of Mamie and Kissie Fitzgarter, her dancing being first-class. Satisfactory impersonations of Snifkins and Kenneth Mugg are furnished by Messrs. Colin M. Johnston and Bert Danson; and the *rôles* of the Portuguese Twins are humorously treated by Messrs. Lionel Yeoman and R. L. Cody.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. John P. Beardmore.—The Austins head the bill, and these clever comedians and jugglers have been very successful with their smart act. Wal Pink and company appear in one of their diverting sketches, entitled, *Uncle's Wife*; and the Boccaccio Troupe of Italian vocalists and instrumentalists have made a big hit, the performance of Signor Francia, the celebrated mandolinist, being most artistic. The cultured vocalism of Dahl has been accorded a good reception; and Barrington is an eccentric pianist of considerable talent. Belloni's wonderfully trained cockatoos furnish an interesting performance. Also included in the programme are Miss Sybil Montague, a charming balladist; and Miss Hettie Leo, comedienne.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Brock.—The Jackson Family, who head the bill, have been most successful with their musical entertainment, their selections on the violin, harp, flute, &c., being remarkably clever. Miss Florrie Gallimore has made a big hit with her vivacious rendering of several catchy songs; the sweet and cultured singing of the Sisters Jonghmans has delighted all; and Mr. Barney Vox, who is undoubtedly one of the best ventriloquists before the public, has been accorded a hearty reception. Geoffrey and Benson appear in their amusing sketch, *Spoofed*, which has created much amusement. Frazer and Mac, a capital duo, take immensely; as does Mr. Arthur Lennard, who concludes to-night his successful two weeks' engagement. Also appearing are Miss Daisy Ray, coon singer; and Miss Lizzie Fletcher, comedienne.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The leading attraction here is the startling acrobatic performance of Les Francois, their marvellous feats being hailed with enthusiasm. The ventriloquial act by Mr. David Poole is both novel and attractive; and the second sight performance by the Steens has certainly amazed the crowds. Weisker Brothers' Bioscope provides some new and interesting pictures this week. Miss Flo Atkins, described as the champion lady concertinist, has strong claims to the title, her selections so capably rendered being exceptionally clever. Mr. Ted White, "the long comedian," is decidedly funny; also appearing are Miss Edith Sylvester in her unique and decidedly smart speciality act; Miss Marion Edwards, a very clever comedienne; and Miss K. Corrie, comedienne. A word of praise is due to the energetic manager of this hall, Mr. Henry T. Downs, for his indefatigable efforts in the interests of his many patrons.

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Battersby.—Mr. John Wainwright and his company are here in *It's Never Too Late to Mend*. The part of Tom Robinson has the right exponent in Mr. Wainwright himself. Mr. Wilfred Graham's George Fielding proves a most meritorious performance. Mr. Fred Owen puts plenty of spirit into the part of Jackey. Mr. Charles F. Johnson appears as the serious Rev. Francis Eden; Mr. Henry Lee as the rascally Peter Crawley; Miss Kate Randolph as the distracted Susan Merton; and Miss Millie Wilton as the poor waif Josephs, each artiste playing carefully and consistently. Others who give a good account of themselves are Messrs. W. Harmour and L. Simpson as the bushrangers; Mr. Edwin Davis as Isaac Levi, the Jew; Mr. W. R. Wilson as Governor Hawes; Mr. Harold Webb as Meadows; Mr. Charles Carlton as William Fielding; and Mr. W. R. Weldon as Susan's father.

BIRKENHEAD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. W. W. Kelly, having retired from the lesseeship of the Metropole, has wisely concentrated his attention on the management of the Royal, at which house on Monday his own company appeared in *A Royal Divorce*. It is at all times a pleasure to witness the charming and artistic rendering of the Empress Josephine by Miss Edith Cole. On the present occasion she is admirably supported by Mr. Frank Lister, who portrays the character of Napoleon with undoubted ability and incisiveness. The wily old diplomat, Talleyrand, is finely played by Mr. H. Gray Dolby. Miss Ethel Murray does remarkably well in the rather uphill part of Marie Louise. Miss Helen Richmond is a captivating Stephanie. Mr. Cecil De Gue plays the Marquis de Beaumont with finish and General Augereau is well represented by Mr. Alfred Glenville. The humour of the piece is ably sustained by Mr. Dennis Bryan as Grimaud, and the play is staged with that completeness of detail that characterises all Mr. Kelly's productions.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Fred Harcourt, an expert magician, is presenting his bewildering mystery, entitled "Leveto," with telling effect, and in conjunction with a clever display of legerdemain supplies a most attractive turn. Mr. John Alexander and his pantomime company, in an entertaining sketch, entitled *Troubles of a Tourist*, are cordially received, and Mr. G. W. Hunter, an excellent comedian and raconteur, is on a welcome return visit. Illustrated songs are well represented by Miss Lilian Warren; Miss Helen Charles is a contralto vocalist of ability; the Karno troupe are favourites with a funny sketch; and Miss Lottie Siegenberg is a prominent favourite in a quick-change musical sketch. An excellent company also includes Mr. J. H. Hurst, a capital vocal entertainer; Oakdene, a smart ventriloquist; and Mr. Charles Ridgwell, character comedian.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Babes in the Wood*, which was fully noticed in our last week's issue, is now in its ninth week, and meets with undiminished patronage.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*The Forty Thieves*, which is enjoying the most liberal favour, is noticed in another column.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*Dick Whittington* concludes its highly-successful three weeks' run to-night (Saturday), when the members of Mr. J. F. Elliston's company will, peradventure, get a merry "send off." The Foys (including Mr. Tom Foy), Mr. Bert Byrne, Mr. Will Musgrave, Miss Ethel Newman, Miss Clara Reid, Miss Nelly Dade, and Mr. Charles Goff, have been very popular in their parts, their efforts being appreciated in the most liberal spirit.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*Dick Whittington* comes under notice elsewhere in our columns.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Walter Melville; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Female Swindler* has been transferred hither from its Aston environment, and prospers exceedingly.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben Sydney.—*Greed of Gold* is swaying the emotions of good Carltonians with its clever mechanical properties and dramatic situations. Mr. T. Morton Powell's company does excellent work, and Mr. B. Fox, as the dumb man, otherwise Tom Welstead, elicits stentorian cheers by his clever acting. Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh, as Harry Hood, excites horror by his well acted schemes, and affords an effective contrast to the manly and vigorous bearing of Mr. W. Heilbron as the hero, Arthur Erroll. Miss A. Verity as the heroine, Dora, wins much favour; and Mr. W. M. Cameron, Mr. H. Creamer, and Miss Winnie Donovan are successful in the comic rôles.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; Manager, Mr. Dan Barnard.—*Defending His Honour*, in which Messrs. Carson and Granville's company is successfully engaged, has met with cordial patronage here this week. Mr. John Davidson has gained enthusiastic cheers for his telling study of the hero, Douglas Bryce; Mr. Clifton Boyne acts the evil life of Stephen Grald with much effect; Miss F. Melrose-Millett appears as the heroine, Ethel Bryce, with the utmost charm and success; and Mr. Charles H. Herbert as George Duncan, Mr. Thompson Carruthers as David Peller, Mrs. Edmond Lyons as Mrs. Version, and Miss Gwendoline Talbot as Nurse Sugden distinguish themselves. The humorous rôles are rendered in a smart manner by Mr. Terry Davis, Mr. Kenneth Black, jun., and Miss Jessie Glenn.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. W. H. Matcham.—Miss Vesta Tilley is causing quite a furore here this week, singing four songs at each performance with her accustomed artistic finish. Tom Edwards is a most entertaining ventriloquist. The long programme also includes the names of the Lumars, Mersano, Conway and Leland, George Bohee, Chas. Adams, Amba Austa, and the Aurora Troupe.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—That quaint comedian, Sam Mayo, is making a deep impression here. Cheevers and Kennedy, in their quick-change turn, are applauded. The Sisters Aindow have a smart musical entertainment; and the Darrell Trio remain for another week. As a pianiste, Leslie Harris is expert; Harry Coate's excellent voice is heard to advantage; the Bros. Lloddge and the Three De Veres are smart acrobatic comedians.

HIPPODROME, Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Tarro Myaki gives his display of wrestling here to crowded houses; and a sketch, *Packing Up*, in which Edmund Campbell appears, is amusing. Meier and Mora, Brinn; Vivian Dell, dansense; Mons Valoni, juggler; Gus Harris, Hebrew delineator; Arthur Royd, tenor; and Harry Allister, in his clever character impersonations, all win loud applause.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. George Foster.—The Agoust Family, in their humorous juggling performance, are loudly applauded, as also is the bar act of the Bros. Artois. Alice Yorke and Royston Keith have a really smart duologue, *A Yacht for Sale*. The Leslie Bros., in their "Music Mad" scena, are entertaining; the MacGovern Quartette gain great popularity by their novel dancing; Little Uno, the Sakers, and Will Haines, are excellent comedians; and Vernando is highly amusing with his ventriloqual entertainment.

CURZON HALL.—Hamilton's Excursions continues to attract large and appreciative audiences here. Will Souls, a local laughing comedian, has been added to the variety company.

BLACKBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Business-Manager, Mr. Reginald Yorke.—The evergreen *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, under the direction of Mr. John Tully, pays a visit here this week. Mr. J. Tully enacts the part of Phineas Fletcher; Uncle Tom is well sustained by Mr. William Taylor; Miss Edith Blanche undertakes the dual rôle of Eliza and Cassy with great ability; and Miss Kitty Wood is an effective Topsy.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Miss Marie Dagmar's company pays a return visit this week in *A Life's Revenge*. Mr. Fred Somerfield gives an excellent rendering of the villainous Prince Boris Strogoroff; Mr. Walter Roberts makes an excellent Michael Orloff; the Princess Vanda Ivyala is played by Miss Amy Ellam in a manner which fully sustains her reputation; and the adventuress, Marcia Vittoria, is ably acted by Miss L. Moncton. The comedy is in the hands of Mr. Charles E. Warne and Miss Maudie Grayson, who keep the audience well amused.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Drury.—The top of the bill this week is filled by the Tom Davis Trio, in the sensational act *Whirling the Whirl*. Ginaro gives an excellent exhibition of Japanese juggling. Martinetti and Grossi in their novelty act afford great satisfaction; A. Ba Bee's pictorial postcard album is a pretty and effective turn; and Signor and Madame Prosper Benn, the Sisters Petram, Prof. Hulbert, Monsieur de Lil, and the Harris L. Bell and Lily Pearl company all contribute their share to a programme of more than average excellence.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Haddlestone.—*At Cripple Creek* is the title of a play submitted here this week by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company. Miss Emilie Polini plays with marked ability the rôle of Ann Marbury; and Miss Daisy Carlton contributes a very pleasing embodiment of Maggie Mason. Mr. Charles D. Pitt is in every way successful as Manuel Alvarez; Martin Mason has a capable exponent in Mr. Walter Thornton; Mr. Mark Blow plays well as Joe Mayfield; and Mr. Reginald Harley-West appears as Wahketah. *Under Two Flags* was down for Friday night.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—The original Leopolds are here this week in *New Frivolity*, and their wonderful acrobatic feats are much enjoyed. A very clever eccentric dance is contributed by Mr. Barry Lupino.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Harry Ford tops the hill here this week; then comes Cord's and Buffalo, rope spinners and lariat manipulators; Charles Danton, an able comedian; Gertie Ganton, in an amusing monologue; the Glenroy Troupe, dancers; the Autos, in a musical act; the Venola Bros., gymnasts; Brett and Orford, comedians; and Joad Heteb, conjurer.

BOLTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—The first visit to Bolton of the charming musical comedy, *The Earl and The Girl*, has this week drawn large audiences to the Royal. The company presenting it is Mr. William Greet's. Mr. Reginald Switz in make-up and manner as Jim Cheese looked the dog trainer to the life, and by his odd style and dry humour as the Earl of Stoke repeatedly brought down the house. Mr. Alex Fraser plays in a bright and breezy style the character of Dick Wargrave, and his song, "My Cosy Corner Girl," was deservedly encored. Mr. Haddon Cave was good as the Hon. Crewe Boodle, and his two songs, "Thou, My Listening Rose" and "The Grenadiers," have been well received. Mr. H. B. Brandreth was passionate and revengeful as A. Bunker Bliss, the American uncle; Mr. Frank W. Cane gave a crisp impersonation of the smart American lawyer, Downham; Mr. W. T. Hybert was very amusing as the Hebrew solicitor, Mr. Talk; Miss Mary Fraser charmed everyone by her delightful performance as Elphin Haye, and gained a well earned encore for her song, "In Zanzibar"; Miss Cynthia Carey played with artless humour in the part of 'Liza Shoddham; Miss Maud Adams, as Mrs. Shimmering Black, displayed much energy and emphasis; Miss Maud Ashton was a charming Daisy Fallowfield, and Miss Mary Morison looked every inch the part of Miss Virginia Bliss. The friends of Crewe Boodle and the ladies of his party had competent representatives.

GRAND THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—Mr. Elliston's pantomime of *Cinderella* finishes to-day its second and last week of a successful run.

OHMY'S CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—The programme here comprises the John Fredericks troupe of lady and gentlemen gymnasts; Mdlle. Angelini, lady juggler; Alfrano, on the flying rings; the Bros. France, acrobats; Miss Santane, equestrienne; and Claude Ohmy; the Sloan Family, and the rest of Mr. Ohmy's circus company.

BOSCOMBE.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—Mr. William Greet's company is presenting *Lucky Durham* here this week. Mr. William F. Grant's impersonation of the *title-rôle* is talented and forceful; Mr. Henry de Solla gives a really excellent rendering of Lord Mountfallon; and Mr. Daniel McCarthy's Richard Vallerton is a praiseworthy piece of work; Mr. Paul Belmore is capital as the Hon. Reginald Steighton; and Mr. A. Gambier Melford's Ben Verstein is an amusing little sketch. The part of Helen Vallerton finds a delightful exponent in Miss Molly Pearson; Miss Jessie Winter is excellent as the Hon. Margaret Steighton; Miss Louisa Gourlay does well as Mrs. Durham; Miss Emily Levittez submits an effective rendering of Lady Mountfallon; and Miss Gertrude Robbins makes a good impression as the Duchess of Hovecourt.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company commenced their second week here on Monday, when *Romeo and Juliet* was presented. The ability of Mr. F. R. Benson in the part of Romeo is admitted and too well known to need further comment. That finished actor, Mr. Cyril Keightley, played Mercutio with delightful ease. Other excellent studies were the Capulet of Mr. H. O. Nicholson, the Tybalt of Mr. B. A. Pittar, the Peter of Mr. G. R. Weir, and the Friar Laurence of Mr. Arthur Whitby. Mrs. Benson captivated the audience by her charming impersonation of Juliet, and was most ably assisted by Miss Alice Arden as the Nurse, and Miss C. Saumarez as Lady Capulet. Other productions this week are *Macbeth*, *The Tempest*, and *The Rivals*.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Pemberton. Big audiences continue to patronise Mr. Hart's charming pantomime *Cinders*, in which there is not a dull moment; the laughter is continuous, and great applause greets the magnificent spectacular effects.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth. *Life's Sweetest Sins*, a drama of thrilling interest, was presented here on Monday by Mr. T. Arthur Jones and his capable company. The acting is good all round, and a feature of the production is the sinking of a sub-marine, a scene which appeals strongly to the sensation loving portion of the audience. Mr. Jones, in convincing manner, plays the part of the hero, Captain Manston, and Miss Madge Morley gives a finished performance of the character of the heroine Doreen. The accomplished old villain of the story, Dr. Colbrooke, is represented with marked effect by Mr. Oswald Douglas; his daughter Fay being also an excellent effort on the part of Miss Amy Rudd. In the part of Ernie Mr. C. Sewel is good, and capital comic relief is afforded by Mr. F. Russell in the part of Bob, and Miss Sara Dudley as Bess.

EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. J. Kelly.—The Japanese Guards, eleven smart young ladies, whose drilling is briskly and cleverly accomplished, provide a novel turn here. Tom Stuart is a good mimic and actor of ability. There is some capital mimicry and ventriloquism provided by James's humorous quartette of strolling players, and The Three Victorias form an excellent trio of burlesque singers and dancers. Belle Davis and her Pickchick Actors, who are exceedingly droll, and very smart dancers, are applauded heartily. An amusing turn is provided by Peppo's trained monkeys. The musical entertainment given by Virto and his daughter Irene is received with well deserved favour. Signor and Madam Borelli reappear in their clever vocal entertainment with all their old success, and Hermann Melot, the clever conjurer, is again perplexing audiences here.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. W. Berry.—There is a fine exhibition of muscular training in the clever gymnastic act given here by The Four Cliftons. The American Song Illustrations by Martine and Son are received with favour. Susie and Protti provide good speciality dancing. Hal Forde's comic songs are acceptably rendered. With bewitching grace Miss Lily Black, of recent pantomime fame here, delights her admirers as a comedienne. There is much excellent burlesque in the turn by The Sivronis, viz., *Opera Gone Mad*. The Seddons entertain with clever juggling and comedy. Geo. Bendon's coon songs are rendered with vigour. George Penn poses as a raconteur with a little eccentricity in a musical way, and Raymond's Biotableaux provides an entertaining half hour.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—Manager, Mr. S. H. Carter.—Close upon three thousand people are crowding the vast hall nightly to witness the handcuff feats by Harry Houdini, and the excitement as the tests proceed is intense. All sorts of manacles are brought into use, but every effort to secure Houdini fails. There is a clever variety company in addition to support the "Handcuff King," namely, Sadie Seymour, comedienne; The Herald Comedy Four; The Sisters Leoni, duettists; Martin Conway, comedian; Rennie, ventriloquist; Yetta, wire walker; Olive Watts, comedienne; together with the bioscope.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Man

comedienne; Starr and Jerome, speciality vocalists and dancers; Ida Ross, comedienne and Tyrolean vocalist; and Fred Earle, comedian; the entertainment concluding with some new animated pictures.

PALACE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary, Mr. Welchman.—There is a strong company here, headed by Burke, Moller, and Teller, in their amusing musical farce, *The Professor and his Pupils*. Lind, Swedish artiste, presents a very clever turn of dancing, &c.; J. W. Rickaby, comedian, is appreciated; the Hudson-Powell troupe of five acrobats are expert in their line; Carl and Carr are amusing comedians; Ruby Bijou is a pleasing dancer, &c.; Louis Lavater's canine Kilties band is novel and interesting; Clorinda Thutrell sings well; "K. and K." have a good eccentric musical speciality; Fred Balham, comedian, obtains applause; and a new set of Vernon's animated photographs concludes a good entertainment.

BROMLEY. — LYRIC THEATRE. — Lessee, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. B. Woolstenhulme.—On Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week, Mr. J. F. Buckley's No. 1 company presented *The New Clown*. Mr. Frank Stanmore, in the title-rôle, gave a capital performance; Mr. W. T. Elworthy's impersonation of the character of Thomas Barker, was well conceived; and Mr. G. H. Suazelle was quite a typical showman in the part of Mr. Dixon. Mr. Charles Pierpoint, as Captain Trent, acted well; and Mr. Douglas Payne shewed much ability in the character of Billy. Miss Beth Elliott made a captivating Rosie Platt; and Miss Kathleen Maitland as Winnie Chesterton and Miss Mona Wynee as Maude Chesterton were highly creditable.

BROUGHTON. — VICTORIA, LTD. — Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. B. Astin.—*Sentenced for Life*, by Frank Bateman, was well received by a good house on Monday. The company is under the direction of Mr. Bulmer. Mr. Walter Purvis is very droll as Percy McGentle; and Miss Madge Douglas as Adele Gray and Miss Mary Dalby as Lady Stilwell are charming. Mr. Ernest Vaughan ably sustains the evil character of Captain Paul Derrick, and Sir Wallace Stilwell, Lieut. Roy Stillwell, and the Rev. Martin Orris are respectively in the capable hands of Mr. W. Berkley Hawthorn, Mr. Edward E. Lewis, and Mr. C. Wordley Hulse. Mr. T. C. Glenville as Bill Sharkey, Mr. Frank Zara as Toby, Miss Gladys Hawthorn as Kate, and Mr. Frank de Bulmer as Henry Beckwith give adequate support.

BURNLEY. — GAIETY. — Proprietress, Mrs. T. Culeen; Manager, Mr. James Culeen.—Messrs. Fred Maule and E. D. Nicholls' company appeared on Monday in *The Grip of the Law*. Mr. E. D. Nicholls, in his favourite character of Zeph Sorrel, gave an amusing performance. Mr. Henry Beaufort puts plenty of energy into the rôle of Dave Arkwright; Mr. William Matthews portrayed Sergt. Frank Paul with dramatic effect; Mr. Sam Roberts and Miss Ada Frank keep the audience in good humor as Andy Blunt and Beaulah Bliss; Mr. Courtney Robinson renders excellent support as Jack Hockaday; Mr. Herbert Evelyn gives a capital embodiment of Noel of the Night; Miss May Grayce's impersonation of Rose Hackaday is a fine, sympathetic performance; and Miss Ada Lucelle delivers her lines well as Mrs. Baddiscombe.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. C. Haines.—A capital evening's enjoyment is provided here this week. Charles Matthews, the human kangaroo, gives a demonstration of his marvellous jumping, and gets an enthusiastic reception. The Rigoletto Brothers appear in their daring equilibristic performance; Primavesi, juggler, performs a variety of clever tricks; Mr. G. W. Foster, comedian, proves a popular turn; Mr. Leslie Race earns applause; the Lannons submit some good pedestal dancing; the Bros. Ralston are watched with interest; and the Empire biograph provides effective pictures.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Walter.—Mr. Lawrence Brough and Company are here this week with *The Lady of Ostend* and *The Cruise of the Saucy Sally*, opening with the former piece. As Dick Whortles, Mr. Harry Hampson plays well; Mr. Percy Marshall gives a meritorious representation of Joseph Carbury; a fine piece of character acting is submitted by Mr. Lawrence Brough as Le Baron de Longueville; the part of Toby Krockitt is vigorously handled by Mr. L. Cory Thomas; and Mr. W. Dexter, Mr. Hewson Elliott, and Mr. Harold M. McMay all do well. Miss Kate Milford is exceptionally good as the injured wife, and a clever sketch of the irate mother-in-law is presented by Miss Eleanor Gilbart.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern.—This week *If I were King* is here on a return visit, but on the present occasion the company is controlled by Mr. Frank Fenton, who himself appears as Francois Villon, and gives a highly creditable display. The part of Louis XI. is undertaken by Mr. E. Bellenden Clarke. Miss Louise Vansittar has a good grasp of the possibilities of the part of Huguette du Hamel, whilst Miss Elsie Roberts is a charming Katherine de Vancelles. Mr. Laurence Grove is an acceptable Noel le Jolys. On Thursday the Ben Greet company appeared in *The Darling of the Gods*.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—The boards here were occupied the first part of the week by the Cardiff Amateur Operatic Society, who presented a very creditable performance of *The Gondoliers*. On Thursday and Friday Mr. and Mrs. Kendal made a welcome return visit, and performed *The Housekeeper* and *The Elder Miss Blossom*.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business Manager, Mr. Robert Sawin.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's Co. is here with the play entitled *Between Two Women*. Mr. Hugh Metcalfe, as the Rev. Philip Carton, gives a capital delineation of a difficult part; Mr. Harry Marlow deserves much credit for his excellent portrayal of Harry Millard; James Durwood has a clever exponent in Mr. Fred Morgan; Mr. James Powell's rendering of the Earl is particularly good; and Mr. George Montford as Major Strangeways and Mr. Fred Sandy as Dick Burgess are capable and reliable artistes. The important part of Carmen de Savereux is safely entrusted to the accomplished actress Miss East Robertson; Miss Vashti Wynne makes a captivating heroine, and a sympathetic rendering of the Blind Boy is given by Miss Alice Bowes. Mr. Frank Ayrton (Jack Pringle) and Miss Madge Seymour (Polly Dopp) are successful in considerably enlivening the piece with their excellent comedy.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—The capital programme provided this week includes Cliff Berzac's racing act; Lukos Herford, with his canine acrobats; Jas. Bard; Ida Heath, the dainty dancer; Sable Fern, in her latest successful songs; Rumbo Austin and his troupe of parody acrobats; Marie Collins, comedienne; Prof. Bernar's miniature theatre and marionettes, and the American Bioscope.

CARLISLE. — ALGIE'S HIPPODROME. — Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Veitch; Manager, Mr. C. Algie.—A distinct novelty is introduced here this week by the engagement of the celebrated Kira Cingalese Troupe of Dancers. The native dances of Ceylon afford the performers ample opportunity of displaying a wonderful amount of energy and agility. Mr. Alfred E. Gaertner contributes a clever juggling performance. It is some time since an equestrienne occupied the ring, and Miss Daniels, a charming and graceful performer, delights the audience by her agile and daring feats. Miss Vinnie Terry, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Fred Land, eccentric comedian; Mr. Syd Herman, vocalist; Paddy, the clown; and the Hippodrome pictures are all popular turns.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business Manager, Mr. Hy. Masterman.—Mr. John F. Preston and company, in *The Rogues of the Turf*, are occupying the boards here. The rôle of Joe Flaxman is admirably undertaken by Mr. John F. Preston, whose work throughout deserves great praise; Arthur Somerton is exceedingly well played by Mr. Ernest R. Allen; the villain, Capt. Dudley Clinton, is capably acted by Mr. Walter S. Clifford; while the unscrupulous Lady Heathcote receives satisfactory treatment at the hands of Miss Helen Stuart; Nellie Flaxman finds an excellent exponent in Miss Hilda Shirley; Mr. H. W. Rignold does good service as the grasping Jew, Moses Solomons; Miss Mabel F. Barlow is a sprightly and amusing Phyllis Warzell; plenty of fun is also caused by Mr. Harry Benson, as Sam Flaxman; Mr. Hardy Marco is a first-rate Sir Gerald Heathcote; and Mr. A. Hartley does well as Mr. Peter Dawson.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. George G. Ridley.—Capital audiences are assembling here to witness Mr. Arthur Hart's company's representation of *My Lady Molly*.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—The Lukushima Troupe of Japanese equilibrists top the bill here and give a remarkable display. Chas. Whittle, a singer with a style of his own, is greatly appreciated; the Musical Palmers give their well-known scena; the Knick-Knacks are a lively couple; while others appearing are Daisy Palmer, serio; Dan Filmer, comedian; Hans and Lux, patterers; Walter Howard and Ellen Snow in *After the Races*; and new pictures by Lacey's Erascope.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank J. Donne.—That popular comedienne, Peggy Pride, is the chief attraction here; Wee Mona's contributions are greatly enjoyed; and the programme also includes Lily Simmons, comedienne; Major Moss and Son, vocal artistes; Harry Barker, comedian; Ethel Loftus, comedienne and mimic; pictures by the Edisonograph; and Jack Lorimer, comedian.

CHELTENHAM. — OPERA HOUSE. — Managing Directors, Lieut.-Col. Croker-King, Col. Rogers, J.P., Mr. A. J. Shinner.—This week *The Cingalee* has been played by Mr. George Dance's chief company. Miss Ethel Negretti, in the title-part, is charming. Mr. Lauri de Frece, as Chambhuddy Ram, is responsible for most of the fun. As Boobhamba, Mr. Fred. W. Pattrick is very imposing; as Sir Peter Loftus, Mr. F. W. Ford is the embodiment of official dignity; Mr. Kenneth Wynne, as Harry Vereker, is a good lover; Mr. George Mudie, jun., as Bobby Warren, acts easily and possesses an attractive stage presence; Miss Madge Temple is accomplished as Lady Patricia Vane; Miss Mabel Sealby is a piquant Peggy Sabine; and the remainder of the company give excellent support. The chorus has been carefully trained, and the orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Edward H. Whitehall.

CHESTERFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. George Dance's No. 1 company is drawing crowded houses here with *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Mr. Phillip Haydon makes a most acceptable Emperor, and a better exponent of Pincapple than Mr. Foster Courtenay it would be hard to find. Miss Vera Vere, as Fi-Fi, deserves great commendation.

CHORLEY.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Sante; Secretary, Mr. J. Clay.—This week we are having a return visit from the marvellous Craggs in *Laughter Land*. The dresses and scenery are pretty and effective, as usual, and the company is fully capable. Mr. Cremorne Cragg, a comedian of the highest quality, keeps the house in continuous laughter; The Craggs give their world renowned performance as the premier gentlemen acrobats, and fully sustain their high reputation. The various musical numbers and dances are acceptably rendered, the performance being given with brilliance and dash from start to finish.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Wilson.—These boards are occupied this week by Miss Rose Moncrieff's Company in *Little Red Riding Hood*. Miss Moncrieff undertakes the title-rôle in a satisfactory manner; Mr. W. E. Matthews is very amusing as Granny; Miss Jessie de Grey is a dashing Prince Truelove; and Miss Nellie Montague as Fairy Bluebell, Miss Sadie Hart as Jack, Miss Nellie Culver as Jill, all help to keep the merriment going. The Coopers, instrumentalists, are well received, and so are Mr. Harry Willot, the wicked wolf, Mr. James Hammond as Lawyer Fox, and Mr. George Tearle as Baron Badlot.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Messrs. J. A. Thomson and J. D. Hunter's company presented *Red Riding Hood* to a full house, on Monday. The scenic effects were above the average, and the gorgeous transformation scene formed an acceptable *finale*. Mr. John A. Thomson was a very popular and effective Dame Trot; Mr. Charles Colman a nimble Baron; and the antics of Tommy Green (Mr. Fred Anderson) were highly diverting; but the hit of the show was the Simple Simon of Mr. Lovell Rowland, his drolleries bringing forth roars of laughter. Miss Ella Willmer was a charming Red Riding Hood, her dancing being extremely clever; and Miss Jessie Corrie an acceptable Boy Blue. On Wednesday the company paid a flying visit to Clacton-on-Sea, holding a morning performance in the Opera House.

COLNE (LANCS.).—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Gerald Harding.—Mr. Bert Coote's Company is here this week, with *The Fatal Wedding*. The piece is well staged, and capitally played. Mr. Ernest Owtrim gives a good portrayal of the hero, Howard Wilson; Mr. Cecil A. Collins works well and hard as Robert Curtis; Mr. J. Carl Lyle scores as Toto; Miss Beatrice Whitney admirably sustains the part of Coro Williams, Miss Theresa Osborne plays cleverly as Mabel Wilson, Miss Carrie Fenton submits a lively impersonation of the rôle of Bridget, and Miss Jones's rendering of Jessie is quite natural.

CONSETT. —NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robinson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—The marvellous Pardoes are here this week with *Cinderella*. Miss Lottie Holland is a pleasing Prince Charming; Miss Crissie Kedward, in the title-rôle, is most attractive; Mis Ivy Leafe, as Maud, and Miss Violet Rivers, as Eva, are most amusing; Mr. George Hyam, as Scoot, is very good; and as Father Time, Mr. Tom Griffitt has an excellent voice. The Pardoes are a host in themselves; and the Sultan Bros., herculean equilibrists, are wonderful. The Sisters Tyrell are worthy of mention; and Zenith, as Jacko, is to be commended. The scenery and dresses are gorgeous. Crowded houses have been the rule during the week.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. C. Finch Hatton's company, in *When London Sleeps*, opened a week's engagement here on Monday. The principal parts are taken by Miss Hilda Clyde, Miss Mabel Cluer, Miss Nellie Hook, Miss E. Clare, Mr. A. Wray, Mr. W. H. Wilson, and Mr. D'Arcy Kelway.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The programme here is excellent. The principal turn is given by Theo. Hardeen, who releases himself from regulation and other handcuffs on his wrists. His performance is a most extraordinary one. Rea and Rea, eccentric comedy gymnasts, introduce some novel feats; Vere and Royal are excellent vocal comediennes; The Sisters Asquith sing and dance well; Julian Mack amuses in readings from Lis Doomsday Book; the Stoll Bros. create much laughter in their comedy bar act; Mozzotti, the Boy Juggler, gives an interesting turn; and the Esdale Bros. are capital comedians and dancers.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Bennett.—The successful comedy *Merely Mary Ann*, by Zangwill, and produced by Messrs. Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell's company, is paying a welcome visit to the above house this week. Miss Nita Faydon admirably portrays the part of Mary Ann, giving a simple and pathetic rendering; Miss Gwynneth Galton makes an up-to-date and sharp-tongued lodging-house-keeper, Mrs. Leadbatter; Miss Kathleen Coleman is responsible for Rosie, her daughter; Mr. Douglas Gerrard shows force of character as Lancelot; Mr. A. Carlaw Grand is seen to advantage as Peter; and Mr. J. W. M'Donald makes a typical country parson, the Rev. Samuel Smedge.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—This house has been occupied this week by Mr. Herbert Fuller's strong company, with the racing drama, entitled *The Fiends of London*. The chief villain of the play, Captain Crawley, is well represented by Mr. H. Carmichael, and he is ably assisted by Mr. H. Delmar as Peter Shark, and Miss Alice Lane as Mother Murphy. Joe Ormerod is suitably sustained by Mr. Harold Weston, and Mr. Herbert Fuller makes a lively Bob Archer. Miss Nelson Ramsey and Miss E. Lewis are well suited to their respective parts, and Miss Agnes Collier also scores. The mystic play called *The Sorrows of Satan* was represented on Wednesday, with Mr. H. Carmichael and Miss Nelson Ramsey in the leading rôles.

CROOK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr. Wallace Davidson.—This week we have Mr. J. A. Campbell's company in *The Sin of her Childhood*. In the principal character of Mary Haysel Miss Mary Fulton is sweet and pathetic; Mr. W. H. Hargreaves makes a manly hero; Mr. Austen Milroy is a suave Stephen Haysel; and Mr. J. A. Campbell a typical Indian officer. Miss Jennie Hicks doc well as the depraved Maria Haysel; and as Eliz Little Dott Moss is intelligent. Amusement caused by Mr. Fred Elvin (Barney) and Miss Nell Freeland (Hannah).

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr Lawson Lambert; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginal Lawrence.—At the special matinée on Saturday las Sousa and his band attracted a full house. Thi week Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is being warmly received i *Cousin Kate* and *A Case for Eviction*. In the piece de-resistance Mr. Walter Ringham deserves high praise for his earnest and skilful acting in the character of Heath Desmond. Miss Edith Walker in the title-rôle, plays with care and gives an ar tistic performance from first to last. Mr. Donal Maclean is well placed as the Rev. James Bartlett Master Vyvian Thomas is satisfactory as Bobby Spencer; Miss Nina Cressy leaves little to be de sired as Mrs. Spencer; Miss Hilda Honiss i charming as Amy Spencer; and Miss Betty Castle makes capital out of the rôle of Jane. The comedietta gives opportunity for smart acting by Mr. Donald Maclean (Frank), Miss Betty Castle (Dora), and Miss Hilda Honiss (Mary). Mr. Lawson Lambert is an able and courteous manager, who looks well after the comfort of visitors.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samue James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Newman Maurice.—A thrilling melodrama, entitled *The Guilty Man*, is being staged here this week. Mr. Douglas Vigors is good as George Seymour; Mr. H. H. Barrington is well suited as General Seymour; Mr. J. J. Bartlett is commendable as James Redman; Mr. Henry St. Leger is adequate as Esau Ebron; Mr. C. W. Standing is reliable as St. Laurence Farrant; and Mr. James McWilliam i well placed as Bob Sparrow. Miss Daisy Scuda more acts cleverly in the rôle of Audley Priestley; Miss Lucy Beaumont is praiseworthy as Sukie Barton; and Miss Florence Dalton is successful as Nell Radford.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Resident General-Manager, Mr. Eustace H. Jay.—A palatable bill-of-fare is submitted here. Miss Ella's lions cause a sensation; Newham and Latimer are a whimsical pair of comedians; Will Van Allen, musical comedian, makes a hit; Myra Stanfield comedienne, is excellent; Edith Finlay and company score in the musical scena, *Jane Shore*; George Prince is a clever comedian; Roy and Fenton win applause in the musical comedy absurdity, *A Warm Reception*; Snow and Farren are good as coon piccaninnies; Kittie Bell is a lively serio; Elna May is a delightful comedienne; the Bransbys (Harry and Louie), comedy artistes, are well received; and Mr. Fred S. Partridge's orchestra deserves compliments.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manageress Mrs. T. W. S. Jennings.—Mr. Bert Coote's company is paying a return visit here this week with *The Fatal Wedding*. Mr. S. Herbert Humber acts well as Howard Wilson; Mr. Oliver Rogers is an acceptable Robert Curtis; Mr. Tom Macfarlane is a good Toto; Mr. Charles Kenney gives a fine performance as Peter Schwartz; Mr. Jack Waring is very popular as O'Reilly; Miss Nora Hoffe as Mabel Wilson is capable; Miss Gertrude Harrison is successful as Cora Williams; and a word of praise is due to Miss Harriet Clifton, a humorous Bridget. Miss Marjorie Lawrence is excellent as Jessie, "the little mother," and is heartily encored for her vocal efforts. A special feature is the children's scene.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. E. L. Ormsby.—The American-Indian actress Go-won-go-Mohawk and company form the attraction here this week in an Indian drama entitled *Wep-ton-no-mah*. Mr. George Courtney is responsible for a clever portrayal of the villainous Manuel Lopes, Mr. C. W. Charles makes a capital Colonel Stockton, and Mr. Isaac Shawcross is good as Captain Franklin. Mr. Guy D. Hackney as Sam White and Mr. Dan Ryan as Garry Cullen are well suited in their respective parts, and introduce some good singing and dancing. Nellie Stockton is impersonated by Miss M. Goepel, and as Matilda Sniffles Miss Jessie Hart is humorous. A great deal of interest is centred in Go-won-go Mohawk, who is a decided success in the title-rôle.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General Manager, Mr. J. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—The last week of the popular pantomime of *Goody Two Shoes* promises to be every bit as successful as the first. On Monday there was again a capital house, and the performance went off with commendable evenness and "go." In the name-part, Miss Minnie Cunningham has made herself a prime favourite; and in every way successful is Miss Georgina Leonard as principal boy; Miss Cunningham's assumption is marked with great grace and charm, and Miss Leonard's personation has voice, dash, and resourcefulness to recommend it. The other ladies mentioned last week continue to give the utmost satisfaction. Messrs. Harry H. McClelland, Geo. French, Fred Lincoln, Hy. Rensby, and Downer and Langford, are comedians of rare merit, and score each and every one all through. The gem of the pantomime from a scenic point of view, is the "Fairy Grotto," which is one of the prettiest spectacles ever staged locally. The Five Sunbeams are a distinct treat, and their "Lou, Lou, Lou," song and dance has attained general popularity.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Allan Edwardes.—An excellent programme here this week is headed by the Ando Troupe, whose performance, which includes Japanese dancing and some daring balancing feats, is heartily appreciated. Another praiseworthy turn is that of Ben Hur, juvenile athlete, whose weight-lifting feats secure him well-earned recognition. The Countees, singers who are possessed of capital voices, render their songs in a very acceptable manner. The Wiltons are clever and diverting in their triple bar act; and Jubal and Joyce, comedians and storytellers; Minnie D'Aubyn, a pleasing burlesque artiste; and Chas. Beauland, natural comedian, contribute in no small way to the general enjoyment.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*Aladdin* was successfully staged here on Monday by Mr. James Kiddie's company. Abanazar was skilfully enacted by Mr. Arthur Austin; Miss Mabel Roberts was a *persona grata* as Radia; and Mr. Fred Buxton's assumption of Nante Oof was a distinct feature of the production. The titular rôle was daintily upheld by Miss Marie Beresford; Witty Watty Walton was a generous subscriber to the mirthful element as Widow Twankey; and the Two Kelsos and the Caenville Troupe of lady dancers contributed to the success, Miss Maude Clarke being a very neat dansense.

DOUGLAS.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Sugden.—The new dramatic enterprise has proved a real success in Douglas. Mr. Robert Lena's company has the capacity for real hard work, and has the talents to make that effort as artistic as possible. The first attraction this week is *The Dumb Man of Manchester*. The Jane Wilson of Miss Lena Lewis was a firmly-drawn character; Mr. Will Priestley was clever as Edward Wilson; and Mr. Robert Lena excellent as the Dumb Man. The drama was enlivened by songs and dances, in which Miss Lena Lewis, Miss Gertrude Lovell, Mr. Ernest Percival, Mr. Frank Fox, and a popular local favourite, Little Evelyn, took part. A benefit to Mr. Jim Williams, the popular Manx and Lancashire Comedian, took place on Thursday, when a special programme was presented; and, on the other nights, *Under the Russian Flag* was played by the full strength of the company.

DOVER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Limited; Managing-Director, Mr. F. C. Dew.—*The Indian Mutiny*, presented by Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company, is having a successful run this week. Mr. H. Rveland-Leigh plays Lieut. Manley in a bright and cheery manner; Captain Manley is presented cleverly by Mr. H. G. Brandon; Mr. W. S. Tindall puts a notable touch of individuality into his portrayal of Major Ingleby; and Mr. Villiers Stanley impersonates Nebu Singh with considerable power. Mr. J. S. Shedden plays well as Abul; Ra Goonga is capably rendered by Mr. Ernest Keand; Mr. John Hignett wins success with his humorous impersonation of Terry O'Brien; and a most amusing character study of the martinet, Mrs. Major Ingleby, is contributed by Miss Kate Bruce. Miss Agnes Kingston is a bright and charming Kate; and Miss Maude Digby is to be congratulated on a brilliant and altogether commendable portrayal of Ghuz-nah.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Limited; General Manager, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. Leigh Lovell's company opened here on Monday, when *The Duke of Killicrankie* was played before a large audience. The title-rôle is admirably portrayed by Mr. Herbert J. Bentley; and Miss Octavia Kenmore makes a captivating Lady Henrietta Addison. Mr. Leigh Lovell's impersonation of Henry Pitt Welby is a remarkably humorous one; and as Mrs. Mulholland Miss Naomi Nelson is all that can be desired. The comedietta, *Jerry and a Sunbeam*, preceded.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; General Manager, Mr. Kennedy Miller.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is here this week with the sensational drama, *Honour Thy Father*. Mr. J. W. Evelyn cleverly acts the rôle of Gabriel Garth, and as Gertrude Miss Kate Newton is remarkably good. The part of Duncan Bly is in the capable hands of Mr. Juan D'Alberti; and as Violet Wilfred Miss Maud Grey is most effective. Mr. Douglas B. Watson is successful as Jack Halyard; and Miss Mabel Coleman is seen to advantage as Lilian Garth. The dual parts of Job Merry and George Bloggs are capitally played by Mr. Claude Merton; and the rôle of Mercy Merry is acted with good effect by Miss Kitty Russell. Ned Pennycomquick is admirably played by Mr. W. H. Melrose; and as Poppie Cornleigh Miss Lizzie Moorley is excellent.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. S. Figgis.—The principal feature here this week is Fred Karno's troupe in the laughable burlesque, *Mumming Birds*, which is well received. Morris and Morris supply a clever acrobatic act; and Arthur Melrose, whistling comedian, scores; Brown and Robinson's sketch, *Harmony in the Kitchen*, elicits applause; and Billy Hobbs is a smart comedian and dancer. Lily Tiso is a chic comedienne; and the pantomimic absurdity, *Hilarity*, is much enjoyed. Katie Futler, comedienne, who remains from last week, is as popular and as strong as ever; and the Empire pictures are up-to-date.

TIVOLI.—General Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The International Quartette of Vocalists and Glee Singers head the bill here this week. The Bros. Bellong, in their cycle balancing act, receive a well-merited encore; and Mabel Kessler, soprano vocalist, and Post Horn soloist, is an excellent turn. The Abadaroffs, the pre-historic Mountebanks, are highly amusing; and Ernie Leech, ventriloquist, meets with success; Deller and Oxford, comedy duettists, meet with approval, and the same may be said of Robbins and Collier in *The Lady and the Porter*. Kyoto, in an original act, *The Mysterious Japanese Box*; May Geraldine, a pleasing comedienne; and Salmon, trick cyclist, complete the programme.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The following artistes are appearing here:—Madame Hypa, clairvoyant; Abe Laxey, comedian; Swane and Fieldon, comedy artistes; Prof. Anderson, ventriloquist; Oreste, musical clown; and Eugenie, palmist.

SAMUELS' EXHIBITION PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. S. Samuels.—The company engaged here includes:—Lead and Lead, duettists; Mildred Vaughan, serio and dancer; Holnev Hatch, comedian; Prof De Novo, conjurer; Oakdene, ventriloquist; Geo. Harcourt, tenor vocalist; and Sheelah, palmist.

DUDLEY. — OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. Leslie Norman's company, in the musical comedy, *A Trip to Chinatown*, is paying a welcome visit here. Mr. Charles Seguin hits off the character of Welland Strong admirably; and Miss Kitty Marion, as Mrs. Guyer, acts and sings in the most charming manner. These two also contribute two or three clever songs and dances. Mr. Gerald Manville, as Ben Gay, is excellent, as is also Mr. Leslie Norman, as Rashleigh Gay; Mr. Oswald Grey is well placed as Saxon Blood, and his rich tenor voice is highly appreciated. Miss Daisy Revett, as Flirt, is very chic, and, together with Mr. Will Smith, as Noah Heap, gives some pleasing songs and dances.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom Prichard.—A Russian troupe of vocalists and dancers head the bill here this week, and are proving a great attraction. The programme also includes such capable artistes as Will Cornish (musical bell act). Marcus Boyle (comedian), the Two Weirs, Sisters Elton (duettists and dancers), Fred Percy (impersonators of Negro life), and W. F. Moss (character comedian), and that popular comedienne, Ada Fawn.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. F. R. Benson's North Shakespearean Company is here this week, opening on Monday with *Hamlet*. Mr. Henry Herbert appeared in the title-rôle, and gave a masterly rendering of the part. Ophelia was successfully portrayed by Miss Catherine Boyce; Mr. Arthur Phillips gave an excellent rendering of Claudius; Polonius was in the able hands of Mr. Arthur Fayne; Horatio was well placed in Mr. Courtenay Foote; Mr. T. A. Shannon made an admirable Laertes; Mr. Mayow, as Rosencrantz, and Mr. Guy Leigh, as Guildenstein, gave a good account of themselves; Mr. C. H. Croker King was exceptionally successful as the First Gravedigger; Mr. F. Owen Chambers gave a creditable rendering of The Ghost; Miss Roxy Barton scored as the Queen of Denmark. Others who rendered good service were Mr. James Annand, as Marcellas; Mr. Plinge, as Bernardo; and Mr. Holliday Attlay, as Francisco. *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, and *Twelfth Night* completes the répertoire for the week.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. Standen Triggs.—During the latter part of this week Miss Lillian Dundas and her company were appearing here in *The New Magdalen*.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Godfrey Lamplugh's company is appearing here in *Miss Michief*. The bulk of the comedy work falls to Mr. T. E. Conover, and as Private Harris he sings, dances and patters to everybody's amusement. Mr. Cecil Curtis sings in a pleasing manner as Captain Jack Bethune; Mr. Beresford Lovatt is an effective Hiram Q. Pegg; Mr. Arthur Jenner is a hard-working Admiral Bethune; and Mr. Frederick Mantell makes much of his part as Lord Percy. Mr. H. Ellesmere as Von Himmelblau, and Mr. T. L. Lane as Jules do efficient work. Miss Evelyn Hughes is a very dainty and charming Kitty Malone, and her brightness is a great factor in the performance. Miss Crissie Francess is a very animated Mary Ann Smith; and Miss Eileen Guilbert a smart and pleasing Lady Orrery. Miss Zara Zriesberg, Miss Nellie Renton, and Miss Royston are admirable parlourmaids, and their several dances are given in the best of style. Miss Nellie Rene, Miss Madge Brander, and Miss Ida Campioni give capital help in the smaller roles. Mr. Spencer Dickenson, the conductor, leads an efficient chorus.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—At the head of the variety bill stands the Dayton Family of Risley acrobats, whose wonderful performance is marked by smartness, agility, and neatness. Farley, Rennie, and Farley are a clever trio; the Goldinis are extremely skilful juggling-equilibrists; Miss Daisy James is a smart comedienne with a fine figure; and Gustave, Fasola, Johnson, and company are sensational conjurors and mystifiers. Leighton and Mona include a clever lady-dancer and a skilful gentleman pianist; Miss Cissie Heath is a bright and chic comedienne; Mr. Fred Fox a good pattering comedian; and the Hippodrome pictures are brought well up to date by an exhibition of photographs of the recent opening of Parliament.

EBBW VALE.—KING'S THEATRE.—Sole Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Arthur Knight.—A special attraction is provided here by Mr. Charles W. Poole's myriorama. A powerful array of artistes includes Miss Daisy Graham, with her collection of trained birds; Miss Kitty Woodford's canine circus and orchestra, another high-class turn; the Six Clevelands are clever and refined; Mr. Harry Stewart, the old and popular protean change artiste comes in for a fine reception; and the Sisters Zetina are heard in some charming duets, accompanied by acrobatic performances of a brilliant nature. Leonard and Mac, and Little Dretta, and the latest animated photos, complete a really first-class programme.

EDINBURGH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Limited; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Hollister.—The last week but one of *Jack and the Beanstalk* is announced here, and, judging from the crowded and fashionable audience present on Monday, there seems to be no abatement in its popularity. Several new songs were given on this occasion, Miss Lily Harold having another of these descriptive soldier-ditties that have had so great a run of late—in this instance, "Good-bye, little girl," a tuneful number, that was received with real enthusiasm. "You can't stop the sun from shining," was warbled in melodious fashion by Miss Daisy Le Hay, who has proved so attractive as principal girl; while the "Sunshine of Love" received expressive rendering from that cultured vocalist Miss Cecilla Wilman, who has filled the rôle of Fairy Queen with so much distinction. Mr. Malcolm Scott has also varied his vocal programme, introducing a quaint creation, "Massa Bee," where he had agile assistance from that wonderfully clever boy, Master Lupino Lane. Illness has made some changes in the cast, and on Monday we found the second boy (Miss Violet Englefield) and the second girl (Miss Lilian Grahame) both absent. Miss Nellie Blythe looked and acted the character of Major Hortitoff well, speaking her lines with pleasant emphasis, and proving musically equal to all demands; while Margery had a bright and sparkling representative in Miss Kitty Wells, who displayed abundant vivacity, and played the part in a way that left nothing to be desired. But the most striking features of the pantomime are the fine orchestral music by Mr. George Burnley (he introduced a fresh overture on Monday), and the effective dancing of the talented Tiller Troupe, eight young girls, who sing as well as they dance, and whose artistic qualifications and captivating appearance have been received with marked favour from the very first.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—The Two Bostons are great favourites in this city, and had a splendid reception on Monday, when they reappeared. Clark and Argyle's interesting mélange of pipe playing and Highland dancing has been much admired, and they get a lot of applause nightly. The Five M.P.'s present a first-class musical turn; while that of Miss Winona Winter, a talented artiste, who has valuable ass

George Harris; Mr. Fred Charles, Marks; and that versatile actor, Mr. John Henry Rogers, Simon Legree, a part he plays with vivid realism, and which he has long made his own in every corner of the kingdom. Little Minnie was a delightfully intelligent representative of Eva; and Miss Sylvia Stella played Topsy with characteristic effect. The slave festival of singing, dancing, and banjo and tambourine playing, was again a prominent feature of the entertainment, and, as given on Monday by a full company of real negroes, proved highly interesting.

Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Tom Ellis.—The attraction here this week is *The Shadows of a Great City*, presented by Mr. Wilson Bartlett's company. There was a capital attendance on Monday, and the principal characters received adequate treatment at the hands of Messrs. J. Armitage, A. Thomas, and Misses Kate Somerville and C. Henderson, and the company.

Cooke's Royal Circus.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—Monday's performance was for the benefit of Silly Syd, one of the most popular among the comic men of the company. There were several competitions, designed to amuse the more youthful portion of the audience, and these were in every way successful. For the general company, some high-class engagements have been made. Very bright and captivating was the performance of Mdlle. Melita (International dancer), and the Jalvans (Oriental entertainers), gave a really marvellous show. Mitzi showed neatness and ability as a Japanese juggler; and Mons. Nivri's foot-equilibrism was clever. Miss Ernestine Rosa's appearance with the horse, Kentucky Beau, pleased everybody; and the return of Talberto and Douglas, the première funny men, was hailed with huge pleasure by the house. The principal novelty of the evening was *The Scottish Harvest Home*, a thoroughly enjoyable piece, that went as well as ever. Other benefits take place this week, that of Mr. Leicester Alfred on Thursday including, among many novelties and costly gifts to the public, a grand parade dog show, for which, we understand, there have been a very large number of entries. A similar show last year was immensely successful.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Pollard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Sir Henry Irving and Co., are here this week, opening on Monday in *The Bells* and *Waterloo*. The veteran actor's performance in both plays was greatly admired and appreciated by an enthusiastic audience. Sir Henry was well supported by the other members of the company. On Tuesday afternoon, Shakespeare's comedy, *The Merchant of Venice*, was played, with Sir Henry as Shylock; the Jew was portrayed to the very life. In Mr. James Hearn, Mr. Gerald Lawrence, and Mr. H. B. Stanford, Antonio Bassanio, and Gratiano found excellent representatives; while Mr. Charles Dodsworth as Launcelot Gobbo was admirable. Miss Edith Wynne-Matthison took the part of Portia in a delightful manner. On Wednesday night *Becket* was staged.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Something new for the theatre was witnessed for the first three nights of the week, when the Falkirk Operatic Society gave their annual performance. The opera produced was *The Mikado*. The chorus was under the direction of Mr. T. W. Blakey, of Falkirk, and the orchestra, augmented for the occasion, was directed by Mr. W. H. Cole, Glasgow. On Thursday evening, *Otto the Outcast* was presented by Mr. Harry Starr and company.

FARNWORTH.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell.—Mr. William Greet's company, in the *Sign of the Cross*, is paying a welcome visit this week. The cast includes some well-known favourites, prominent among these being Mr. F. B. Woulfe as Marcus. His is a sound performance from beginning to end, and the part could not be in better hands. Miss Evelyn D'Alroy as Mercia is excellent, bringing out the beauty of the character with fine effect; Miss Ivy Millais gives a pathetic rendering of Stephanus; and in the characters of Poppœa and Bernice Miss Nellie Bonser and Miss Alma Bolton are admirable. Mr. A. B. Turner as the cruel Nero acts the part excellently; and Mr. F. Wood gives a humorous representation of the part of Glabio; whilst the crafty Tigellinus is capably played by Mr. C. Aldred.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson and company in the Military Play, *A Soldier and a Man*, are the attraction here. This week Mr. A. Clifton Alderson figures as the hero Harold Sinclair with much success. Mr. Paul Beckett gives a powerful portrayal of Hubert Walgrave; Mr. Harry F. Wright acquits himself well as Jim Farrow; Mr. A. W. Norman as David Melbury is admirably suited to the part; Mr. H. K. Aylliff is excellent as Jake Harding. Mr. T. Kirkwood and Miss Hilda Leslie create amusement in their respective rôles of Sergeant Wicks and "Sergeant" Jane Wicks. Miss Daisy England as Norah Melbury proves herself a skilful actress, and Miss Beare Doyle plays in a sympathetic manner the part of the heroine, Rose Melbury.

GAINSBOROUGH.—King's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton.—Mr. H. Swinerd's *Dare-Devil Dorothy* company, under the direction of Mr. J. W. Cordiner, paid us a third visit last week. Mr. Arthur Verne repeated his most amusing impersonation of Silas Crump, being well supported by Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith. Miss Marjorie Cecil was a charming Dorothy, and the rest of the characters were excellently played. This week we have Messrs. Moule and Nicholls's company in *The Life That Kills*. The drama is well staged. Mr. Fred Moule and Miss Kathleen Cavanagh as Kendal Croat and his daughter supply the villainous element, and are well assisted by Mr. Harry McFarland as Captain Montague. Mr. William E. Passmore gave a clever rendering of Lord Kelmarche; Mr. Ernest G. Fare is a manly Hector Rodney, and Mr. Wilton Drury, Mr. A. Hall-Menzies, and Miss Lucy Murray are amusing. Miss Marie Menzies gives a pathetic rendering of Laurie Liden, and Mr. Morris Maud gives a clever character sketch of Valentine Telford .

GATESHEAD.—Metropole Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Straughan.—Mr. Fred Karno's company, in *His Majesty's Guests*, has played to crowded audiences during the week. Mr. R. H. Kitchen makes the most of the character of Sergeant Lightning, keeping the house in roars of laughter throughout the evening; Mr. Chas. Cardon is a good Fritz, and Mr. Wellesley Smith gives a sound portrayal of Mr. Miffin. Mr. Chas. F. Howard gives a capital embodiment of Lord Easem; Miss Clara Moore gets much amusement out of the part of Miss Manley; and Miss Jessamine Newcombe is an excellent Lady Maude.

GILLINGHAM.—Transfield's Hippodrome.—Proprietor, T. G. Transfield.—The success of this week's programme is Kardoc, billed as the Manacle Monarch; variety turns include Gus Daniels, descriptive vocalist; Florrie Beckwith, serio and dancer; the Denmark Pair, Hercules comedy sketch; Fred Allsopp, comedian; pictures by the Bioscope; and the sketch, *The Enemy of Man*, by Mackay, Harrold, and Co.

GLOUCESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. W. H. Weller.—Mr. John H. Morton's company is entertaining this week with *The Rajah of Ranjapore*. Mr. Alwin Sawyer gives a diverting rendering of Horatio Chicks, his dancing being especially good. The real Rajah Ernest Travers is excellently represented by Mr. Philip Percival, whose songs are much applauded. Miss Nell Ascott makes a capital Primrose Stubbs; she has a good voice, which she uses to advantage. Mr. Bert Harrow, as Thistles, proves a smart eccentric comedian, and Mr. Harry Cornwall is humorous as Mr. Stubbs. Captain Hertage is well played by Mr. Arthur Reid. Miss Marion Walker infuses a good deal of life into her part, Eliza, and receives suitable recognition. Mr. George Trevor is praiseworthy as Ted Perkins. The Rajah Troupe of Dancers introduce some cake walk and acrobatic dances, which are well received.

GOOLE.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John E. Tomlinson.—Messrs. Collins and Stephenson's pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*, opened here on Monday to a crowded house. Miss Gertie Rowan is a captivating Sinbad. Miss Annie G. Brevitt a pleasing and attractive Haidee, Miss Lola Rosslyn scores as the Princess Florizal, and Miss Florence Goldstone is a charming Princess Zaza. Mrs. Sinbad is capitally depicted by Mr .George Casey, who, along with Mr. Billey Moore as Captain Scuttleum and Mr. Dan Harley as Bacca Stooper, keep the house in roars. Mr. Tom Castle is a lively Tinbad. The specialities introduced in the palace scene are worthy of special mention, and include Percy Victor's Musical Dogs, The Zazá Girls, Eddie Clay, Billy Moore, Mr. Dan Harley, acrobatic clog dancer, and Johnny and Edna, cake-walk artists.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—Royal Aquarium.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Messrs. James Stillwell and Paul E. Teuten's company is here this week, with the sensational drama *Queen of the Night*. Miss Lilla Wilde, as Pauline, acts admirably a difficult role; Mr. James Stillwell is successful as Frank Cavendish; Mr. Chas. V. Stanford is effective as Philip Stoneleigh; Mr. F. Thorpe-Tracy contributes a capital character study as Old Briskett; Mr. Bert Atherton amuses as Adolphus; Mr. Paul E. Teuton gives a realistic sketch as the Miser; Dick is cleverly acted by Miss Irene Tracey; Maude Sylvester finds a capable exponent in Miss Katherine Barnett. Efficient aid is rendered by Miss Becky Elliston, as Kitty White; Miss Marie Moore, as Mrs. Briskett, Miss Bertie Hope, as Gladys, and Miss Evelyn Chester as Muriel Walford.

GREENOCK.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The Executors of the late Mr. Alex. Wright; Managers, Messrs. A. B. Wright and J. J. Wright.—Mr. J. H. Savile's company is here this week with *Aladdin*. Mr. Willie Garvey causes roars of laughter as Widow Twankey; Mr. Will Sherlock is a quaintly humorous Abanazar; Mr. James Grant an amusing McKasrac; Mr. Karl Mora an excellent Emperor of China; and Mr. T. W. Kelly a satisfactory So Sli. The Boston Twins are responsible for much of the fun as Chinese Policemen, and they at the same time sing well. Miss Florence Wilton, a charming Aladdin, wins applause for her singing; Miss Gertrude Branscombe is a dainty and attractive Princess Badroulbadour, singing very sweetly; Miss Gladys Warren does well as Bohee; and Miss Florence Somers is good as Petti Sing. Miss Kitty Jones is excellent in the part of Flamma, as is Miss Isa Stirling as Circa. An exceptionally strong and capable chorus and orchestra are ably directed by Mr. Bert W. Stephens.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. S. Skidington.—The Three Juggling Geraldos, who head the bill here, provide an excellent turn; Lincoln Calthorpe, actor-vocalist, is applauded; Frank Cumminger is a clever sand dancer; James Brady, the Eccentric Joker, is amusing; Mabel La Blanche, songstress, sings sweetly; the Fordyces are talented comedians and dancers; and Rice, Rose, Davis, and the Half do a very funny turn.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales' Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Tolfree.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's latest drama, *Revenge*, has been presented here this week, and has proved every bit as popular as his former works. Mr. Hill-Mitchelson himself takes a prominent part, portraying Prince Orloff in his characteristic manner; Mr. Wellesley Draper makes a manly Captain Vanessa. The Queen is charmingly represented by Miss Violet Carlyle; and Mr. Theo. Balfour acts with dignity as the King. Miss Grace Aimers is good in the somewhat pathetic part of Lieutenant Maurize; Miss Alice Barber infuses pleasing vivacity into the part of Cora Brook. Mr. Fred Yarnold makes a breezy Jim Jennings; whilst other characters are ably taken by Miss Lelgarde Atheling as Tusha, Mr. Edwin Jenner as Captain Carr, and Mr. Sinclair Holden as Stepan.

New Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten, General-Manager, Mr. Steuart Cecil.—The smart manœuvres of Captain Bevan's Gordon Highlanders have evoked unqualified admiration from all who have witnessed their performance. Their drill and wall-climbing were especially neatly accomplished. The comedy provided by Doody and Wrights was both original and entertaining. Viviana, simply described as a dancing girl, was responsible for some pretty dancing. Remarkable statuesque tableaux were presented by Mdlle. Lorette and her dog. Other turns were given by Clemart, ventriloquist; a trio of singing cardboard box makers; the Walonells, acrobats; Wat Tyler, character vocalist; and Lennie and Hast, in a dream sketch.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—Tom Lloyd, an old Grimsby favourite, has appeared here this week, and his amusing songs and business have greatly pleased the Hippodrome audiences. A novel turn was that contributed by Zanfretti and Napio, the musical knife-grinders; Dan Noble's coster and other songs have been much appreciated; Mr. E's impromptu poetry, upon any subject suggested by the audience, has been the cause of much merriment. Other artistes appearing were Will Hall, mimic; the Evalos, comic jugglers; Marie Yorke, vocalist; Grey and Welford, comedy boxers; and Max Merlin, contortionist. Arrangements were made for Marcello, the Manx walking champion, who was passing through Grimsby on a 5,000 miles tramp, to give a short account of his experiences at each performance on Wednesday.

GLASGOW.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphreys.—The pantomime of *The Forty Thieves* is still drawing large houses, but it is now running its last week. Miss Annie Purcell seems to have quite recovered and is acting and singing with her usual charm of manner. Messrs. George Lashwood, Tom E. Murray, Fred Griffiths (as the donkey), Harry Claff, Percy Clifton, and William Benson keep the audience in constant good humour. Miss Pearl Lyndon, Miss Annie Braddan, and Miss Marcelle Chevalier continue to give unalloyed pleasure; and the Diamond Troupe of dancers are graceful and vivacious. Friday was set apart for a grand complimentary benefit to Ali Baba, Mr. Tom E. Murray. This pantomime will long be remembered as one of the most sumptuous ever seen at the Royal.

Royalty, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—At this house Mr. John Tiller's pantomime has been succeeded by Mr. M. Russell Rosse's company in *Facing The Music*. A bright and entertaining performance is given, and considerable credit is due to Mr. Ernest Cossart for the humour and energy which he infuses into the character of John Smith. The Rev. John Smith of Mr. George Percy is an excellent bit of satire; and the part of Dick Desmond is played with a deal of spirit by Mr. Cecil Newton; Colonel Smith and Sergeant Duffell being cleverly represented by Mr. Gerald Alexander and Mr. George N. Wallace respectively. Miss Ida Phillips is well suited in the sympathetic part of Mabel; Miss Florence Tyrrell makes a dashing Nora; the Miss Fotheringay of Miss Dolly Beaufey is another attractive performance; and the Mrs. Ponting of Miss Rose Carew is a characteristic study. The comedy is preceded by a curtain-raiser entitled *A Breezy Morning*.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. R. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Murdoch.—That *Goosy Gander* is as successful as any of the preceding pantomimes at this house is evident by the crowds it has attracted. Miss Daisy Dormer, Miss Lily Morris, and Mr. John E. Coyle vie with each other, and their efforts are much appreciated. They are well supported by Messrs. Regan and Ryan, John Preston, Arthur Poole, Dawson Dewick, George Preston, and the Sisters Cora. The last-mentioned ladies in "My Golden Belle" and "Maimie" have been seen and heard to great advantage. The chief factors in the great success of *Goosy Gander* are novelty, an abundance of good, clean, wholesome fun, sprightly singing and dancing, and a most excellent all-round company.

Grand Theatre, Limited.—Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan.—The pantomime at the Grand continues its prosperous career, and the audiences are nightly taxing the capacity of the house. Miss Florence Smithson's charming unaffected style makes her an ideal Cinderella, and her acting is graceful. As a singer, too, she is highly popular. As a principal boy Miss Maude Mortimer has before now proved her merit in Glasgow, and as the Prince she is excellently suited. Her appearance and manner are strong points in her favour, while her spirited singing meets with enthusiastic approval. The popular success of this pantomime has undoubtedly been greatly due to the quaint personality and humour of Mr. Dan Rolyat, whose Baron is one of the funniest of pantomime impersonations. His comical appearance and quietly effective style keep the audience in fits of laughter. In amusing contrast with Mr. Rolyat's slight physique come the massive proportions of Mr. John Humphries as the Baroness, and most of the fun is worked up between these two clever comedians. Their bye-play is excruciatingly funny. Miss Winnie Browne and Miss Lillie Soutter are well placed as the two daughters of the Baroness, and the dignity and poetic language of the first is amusingly contrasted with the coster style and ready wit of the other. Mr. John A. Warden as Dandini gives a clever bit of eccentric comedy acting, and his quiet style proves most effective. His song, "Spoiled," takes well. As Choddles, Mr. Stephen Adeson puts in a lot of hard work, and his fun is much enjoyed. Miss Gwennie Haste as the Princess looks charming, and makes a feature of "Navahoe," with accompanying dances, at which she proves herself an adept. In this she is assisted by Mr. Dan Rolyat. Miss Gertrude Kuzelle makes a handsome Equerry, and gives her dialogue with good emphasis and point. In scenic effect, gorgeous dresses, and brilliant mise-en-scene generally, *Cinderella* makes a distinct advance on any of the Grand's pantomimes since Tom W. Charles held sway, and the heartiest congratulations can be extended to the management and to Mr. Robert Courtneidge, who is responsible for the entire production.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Dunbar.—This week *When the Lights are Low* is being presented by a company under the direction of Messrs. J. C. Vaughan and Edward Heanley. The part of Guy Goldsworthy has a good interpreter in Mr. Edward Heanley, and Miss Grace Baring is sympathetic and powerful as Nan Christie. Mr. Tom Ronald depicts cleverly the evil nature of Ronald Goldsworthy; Miss Cicely Desmond acquits herself well as Violet Christie; Mr. Arthur Fitzherbert is effective as Admiral Goldsworthy, as also is Mr. Bernard Lovett as Ikey Isaacson. Miss Mabel Ronald is a clever child arctress.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—The first three evenings of the week were devoted to *Under the Red Robe*, presented by Mr. Norman V. Norman and company. Of Gil de Berault Mr. Norman gives a vigorous and effective impersonation; Cardinal Richelieu is well represented by Mr. Robert Hilton; the Captain Larolle of Mr. Percy H. Vernon is humorous; the Lieutenant Manet of Mr. Norman Leslie is subdued and dignified; and the parts of the Marquis de Pombal and Sir Thomas Brunt are in the capable hands of Messrs. Herbert Morgan and Lionel Gadston. The latter also takes the character of Clon. A fine impersonation is given by Miss Beatrice Wilson of Renee de Cocheforet; and Miss Margaret Frame sustains in a graceful manner that of Madame de Cocheforet.

Empire, Limited.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Aldin.—Harry Lauder is cramming this hall to its utmost capacity, twice nightly, and his new songs, "Daisy" and "Absolutely Fou," are going strong. McPhee and Hill contribute a neat and daring horizontal bar act. The musical turn of Seely and West is well worked up, and they have got a lot of smart patter. Gena Mason takes well in her impersonations of various types of singers. The Trapnell Family contribute a clever acrobatic turn; Tilly Bébé is still here with her performing lions; Daisy Mayer gives some clever American songs and dances; and H. F. Wilson, tenor; Fred Terry, comedian; and Burns and Evans complete a varied list of attractions.

Tivoli and Queen's, Limited.—General Manager, Mr. S. King Alexander; Acting Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—Another fine programme is being presented here this week. Jean Seul, Indian mystifier, gives a bewildering performance; Vincent, a table expert, with a unique turn, shows great daring; Gladys Mavius and Ethel May are great favourites; the Two Neros are a pair of smart contortionists; and the Rhodda Bros. appear in a capital equilibristic act. Florence, a refined lady mimic, is repeatedly encored, and Robert Gilmour, Joe Mac, and J. H. Kavanagh are comedians of outstanding ability. Geo. Dardini gives a capable juggling act, and Harry Thornbury, ventriloquist, is responsible for a varied performance. Master George is a young vocalist of great promise. Instrumental music is well to the fore; the Vance Bros., Eugene and Willie, and the Redfern Girls being all players of great ability, who submit very entertaining items.

Palace.—Proprietors Messrs. Rich Waldon and Thomas Barrasford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. M'Kelvie.—Captain Davis and his Black and White Zouaves show wonderful dexterity and precision in their intricate drills and wall scaling. The Hartley Wonders in their jumping act introduce some wonderfully clever feats. Smaun Sing Hpoo, the coloured midget, is a clever and interesting little mite; the Laares Troupe give a good display of balancing and tumbling; Mdlle. Kloet in her Artist's Model pictures takes well; Maggie Welsh, the Lancashire mill-girl, has a sweet and sympathetic voice; and De Marse, in his shooting act, and Wal Croft, Scotch comedian, complete a good programme.

Britannia.—Lessee, Mr. James Anderson; Manager, Mr. Harry Henfrey.—The special attraction this week is the Pioneer Picture Company, with the latest up-to-date films of the war in the East. David Reed, Scotch comedian, is heard to advantage in several well-known songs; the Singing News Boys fairly bring down the house with their songs; the Brothers Hannaway, comedians, are clever dancers and patterers, and John Quin, extempore vocalist, also contributes to the programme.

Harmonic Concerts.—Musical Secretary, Mr. Wm. Biggam.—A special comic company includes the reliable J. B. Preston in his latest ditties; Archie Freedman, the Glasgow coster; Bella Leaburn, descriptive vocalist; the Albano Troupe of musicians; the Lindsay Trio; in the sketch *Military Tactics;* and the Fordyces, smart dancers and vocalists.

GUERNSEY.—St. Julian's Hall.—Lessee, Mr C. Robert Perkins.—On Monday Mr. Frank Fenton, a favourite here, brought his season successfully to a close with *If I Were King*. Mr. Fenton's Francois Villon is a carefully studied performance; Miss Elsie Roberts submits a decidedly artistic rendering of Katherine de Vaucelles; Miss Una Guilbert appears as Mother Villon; and Mr. E. B. Clarke is responsible for Louis XI. Mr. Fenton was enthusiastically received throughout, and in a neat little speech thanked the audience for their kind appreciation of the efforts of his company.

HALIFAX.—Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr W. Robinson; General Manager, Mr Otto C. Culling.—*Sherlock Holmes* is again drawing good houses at this theatre. Mr. Charles Frohman's company does complete justice to the play, and the staging is a prominent feature of the show. Mr. H. A. Saintsbury repeats his wonderful performance of the noted detective, and is, if possible, more successful than ever. A capital Moriarty is seen in Mr. W. F. Stirling, who plays the part with sound judgment. Miss Vera Longden is pathetic and lovable as Alice Faulkner.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr Frank Macnaghten.—A varied performance is being presented to the patrons of this popular house this week. The Dainez Comedy Circus is an entertaining and clever show; the Teins, flying gymnasts, are smart in their trapeze work; Charles Coverdale causes hearty laughter by his funniosities; the Sisters Maginell Mullini are expert players on brass instruments; the Two Jagos shine in song and dance; Barton and Ashley keep the house in constant merriment; and a laughable sketch is given by Nannie Goldman, William Holles and another, entitled *The Little Charwoman*.

HANLEY.—Royal, Limited.—Managing Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone.—The attraction this week is *Saturday to Monday*. On Monday the piece was received with enthusiasm, and the company is most capable. Lord Culvert finds a worthy exponent in Mr. Stuart Champion; Mr. Jack Hampton's performance is most creditable; Mr. Dallas Welford is exceedingly good as Stanley Pidding; and Miss Moyra Creegan makes a capital Mrs. Wendover. Miss Kitty Doyle as Angela contributes a performance of excellence; and Miss Adeline Lester, Miss Josephine Rae and Miss Ida Laurie are seen to much advantage. Mr. Edwin Ling as the Rev. Samuel Toop is excellent, and the maid Thompson is well played by Miss Olive Leyton. *Judged by Appearances* opens the evening's entertainment.

Grand.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. James Wynes.—Another capital bill is submitted this week. At the head is a truly wonderful illusion, viz., Dida, which meets with much appreciation. Mark Melford's Sketch company presents *Black and White*, which is admirably enacted; the Harvey Boys in their boxing act contribute a smart turn; the Clarkes as banjoists are much appreciated; the Eight Lancashire Lads are smart vocalists and dancers; and Haig and Novel in their acrobatic act are capital. The Bob Hanlon troupe on the trapeze have but few rivals; Chas. Vincent is a pleasing comedian, with good songs; Lillian the trick cyclist is well received; and Maudie Ford is a smart comedienne and dancer.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cyril Fielding Smith.—Mr. Charles Macdona's Co. in *The School Girl* opened here on Monday for three nights. Miss Nellie Hodson was very graceful as Lilian Leigh; Miss Jenny Bonney, as Cicely, was also very attractive; Mr. Alfred Leslie, in the part of Tubby Bedford, was extremely humorous, and Sir Ormsby St. Leger was effectively played by Mr. Herbert Darnley. Mr. C. W. Anson, as Peter Overend, was thoroughly efficient; and Mr. W. Kendall and Mr. F. Lennard as the artists were also good. Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge's company in a musical production of *The Cricket on the Hearth* is billed for Thursday.

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—Grais' Baboon prodigies, which head the bill here, give a performance that does every credit to their training; the Three Escaladers submit a smart and neat turn; and Sheila McNeill possesses a sweet voice that is heard to advantage in two favourite songs. Massona performs some difficult feats of juggling; Tony Iveson, an old favourite, takes well, and Harrison Brothers, comedians, and Tom Berrick, the "Black Tit-bit," contribute amusing turns. Burns' Pictures continue to be an attraction.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Gaze.—Miss Rosalind Scott-Watson's company is here this week with C. S. Beaulieu's sensational drama *The Scarlet Woman*, produced under the direction of Mr. Charles Draycott, and with the advantage of stage management by Mr. J. E. Cowell. At the opening performance on Monday Miss Rosalind Scott-Watson in her presentment of Marie Brandon did not spare herself, and made a thoroughly unscrupulous stage adventuress. A clever performance was given by Miss Bertha Adams as Jeanne; Mr. Reginald Fox played capably as the hero, Richard Marchant; and Mr. Harry E. Robinson fully sustained the despicable rôle of Will Raymond. The lighter vein was successfully contributed to by Mr. Tod Squires in the réle of Samuel Hopkins, Miss Ruby Hamilton as Charlotte Simpkins, and Miss Lily Marshall, a sprightly Fanchette.

Hastings Pier Pavilion.—Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The comedy drama *Judy* is being played here this week by Mr. George and Miss Mary Neil's company. Miss Mary Neil cannot be too highly praised in the dual parts of Polly and Alice. The rôle of Blake is played with bright animation by Miss Violet Langley; with much merry humour Miss Florrie Groves successfully depicts the part of Judy. Mr. George Kirk plays the important character of Grip very forcibly; Jim the coster is well acted by Mr. Will Casey; Mr. W. H. Hurford is diverting as Giddles the showman. A good character sketch is submitted by Mr. Richard Ferriss as Duburg.

The Hippodrome.—General Manager, Mr. Harold Penny.—Miss Rosa Gilbert is an attractive comedienne and dancer; a skilful exhibition of ball punching is shown by Mr. Ernie Plummer; Miss Cecelia Maud displays excellent taste as a vocalist; Messrs. Hart and Leo are successful in their amusing sketch; Mr. Harry Leybourne is a capital comedian; the acrobatic feats of the Picquays are smart; Messrs. Steeley and Dowton, comedy duettists, are much applauded; Mr. Frank Bernard and Miss Ethel Royle are associated with Messrs. Dan Hope, G. W. Millington, and William Macray in an extremely funny sketch.

HEREFORD.—Garrick Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; General-Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank J. Pitt.—Miss Emma Litchfield's Company is here this week with *A London Actress*, a strong piece, that holds the attention of the audience from beginning to end. Miss Emma Litchfield submits an admirable representation of the unscrupulous Hilda Mannering. The ill-used Phyllis Crawford finds in Miss Violet Lawson a sweet and simple exponent. Mr. Stuart Cleveland undertakes the rôle of Sergt.-Major Clive Crawford. It is a strong character, and Mr. Cleveland possesses the qualification for it, his portrayal being most realistic. Miss Violet Vivian is admirably suited as Biddy Maloney. Mr. Louis Lingard acts with agreeable naturalness as Lieutenant Kingston; and as Pat Maloney Mr. Sam Welford gets a great deal of humour out of the part.

HOYLAND.—Metropole Theatre.—Owner, Mr. Arthur Carton; Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—Madame Willoughby's pantomime company in *The Babes in the Wood* opened here on Monday. Miss M. La Ray as Robin Hood is all that could be desired, and Miss Winnie Wentworth is a charming Maid Marian. The babes are represented most daintily by the Misses Violet Mottley and Daisy Mottley. Miss D. Alberti is a graceful Fairy Queen, and she sings admirably. The Brothers Smith and Jones, as the robbers, and Mr. Alf. Foy, as the nurse, provide plenty of fun. The speciality turns include the Two Flowers, coon dancers; Mdlle. Robson, mezzo-soprano; Halma, juggler and equilibrist; Brown and Harker, American cross-talk comedians; and B. Gardner, double-voiced vocalist.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—Mr. H. A. Jordison's pantomime of *Babes in the Wood*, is here for six nights and a matinée, and meets with warm approval. Miss Madge Daley's fine figure and swagger style are well suited to the part of Robin Hood, and Maid Marian is daintily played by Miss Ada Martine. A pretty representation of the babes is given by the juveniles, Dolly Cullen and Elsie Jordison. The comedians are a merry, tireless group, which includes Mr. Edward Avon—cleverest of leg mania dancers, as the Baron; and Mr. Rowland Hill as Dame Peggy, whose success is none the less because of a judiciously restrained humour. Little Cluley's diminutive person meanders inconsequently but funnily through the piece. Messrs. Cullen and Carthy are quaintly sham heroic as the two ruffians; Miss Edie Duncker is a pretty fairy Venus, and Mr. W. Francis Greene sufficiently aggressive as the villain Herne. A notable feature is the introduction of Mr. George Chanti, the cosmopolitan dancer, with his very elaborate accessories. Other specialities are contributed by Avon and Crest, and the Jordison Empire Quartette of dancers.

HYDE.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—General Manager, Mr. Joseph W. Maloney.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company are paying a welcome return visit here this week with *The Manxman*, and are doing very good business. Mr. Cross gives a masterly performance of Pete; Mr. William Burchall is a polished Philip Christian; Mr. Edward McLean is very good as Ross Christian, and Mr. Henry Heller submits a capital character sketch as Cæsar Cregan. Miss Winnie Watersford impresses the audience by her finished portrayal of the rôle of Kate Cregan; Miss Nancy Mitchell is a bright and vivacious Nancy, and Miss Leslie Adair makes a dignified Miss Christian. The other characters are in safe keeping.

ILKESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Miss Grace Warner's company is here in the comedy, *The Little Widow*, for three nights, and *My Artful Valet* for the remaining evenings of the week. On Monday, *The Little Widow* was selected, in which Miss Warner played as Mrs. Constance Rattlebrain with much skill and finish. Mr. George Gordon deserves praise for his clever acting as Mr. Wilkins Potter; and Miss Marion Fawcett as the jealous wife was most amusing. The rôle of Dr. Arthur Potter was rendered with much emphasis by Mr. St. Bernard Wyntour; and Miss Maud Warburton was an acquisition as Emily Randal. Mr. Dan Clifford was well received as Auguste Bousier; and Miss Kathleen Cranston made a hit as Sophonisba. As Morton Mr. Vyner Rayner found a suitable place.

IPSWICH.—Lyceum Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. G. Fisk.—The costume play, *Monsieur Beaucaire*, has been played here during the current week. Mr. Norman Macowan secured a triumph in the title-rôle, his acting throughout being repeatedly applauded. Mr. Stuart Willson was the orthodox villain in the part of the Duke of Winterset, and Mr. H. Owen was a manly representative of the gallant Major. Due justice was done to the part of Captain Badger by Mr. Ramsey Forman, who raised a storm of hisses by his realistic portrayal. In the dual part of the Marquis and Francois, the servant, Mr. Hans Schlesinger proved himself an accomplished artist. A word of praise is due to Miss Florence Lincoln as Lucy Rellerton. Other parts were well sustained by Miss Marion Holt and Miss S. Izzard.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Fred. Barrett.—The novelties introduced at the Woodbridge-road place of entertainment this week embrace the Sulima Matrapa Troupe of Arabs, whose marvellous exhibition as equilibrists caused a furore of applause. Other items included Vesta and Minnie Pine, in a bright sketch entitled *A Kitchen Rehearsal;* the Leonards, vocalists and dancers; Prince Kuroki, a Japanese juggler, and Charles Ashdown, eccentric comedian.

JARROW.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—Messrs. Little and Darcy's pantomime company is here in *The Forty Thieves*, under the management of Mr. Will White. Miss Minnie Silcott is good in the part of Abdallah, and Miss Violet Silcott gives an excellent rendering of the part of Ganem; Morgiana is very capably handled by Miss Marie Silcott; Mr. George Beverley is well placed as Ali Baba; Mr. James Ferguson makes a good Dame; Mr. Ted Wootton is quite at home in the rôle of Cassim Baba, and also stage-manages admirably. Messrs. Malone and Conley score in the part of Hasarac and Hasaric. Some excellent specialities are introduced by the Three Sisters Silcott, speciality artistes; the Three Woodbee Wonders in a burlesque acrobatic act, and the Daunton Shaw Troupe of Cyclists.

JERSEY.—On Monday the Jersey Opera House was literally packed from floor to ceiling, when a concert was given in aid of the widow and children of the late Mr. Patrick Condon, who had acted as stalls attendant since the opening of the Opera House by Mrs. Langtry, in July, 1900. His Excellency Major-General H. S. Gough, C.B., C.M.G. (Lieutenant-Governor), and Mrs. Gough, and the élite of the island, were amongst the audience. Mr. Charles Thomas's comedietta, *Breaking the Ice*, was played by Mr. R. Richmond Raymer and Miss Ethel Peyton. Two harp solos were finely executed by Lady Otway; violin solos were well rendered by Miss Mary Ould, L.R.A.M., and Mr. A. W. McKee; and the numerous singers included the Rev. Father Tremble, Miss Mary Haynes, L.R.A.M., Madame Chappuis, and Miss Ethel Malzard, whose beautiful voice was heard to great advantage in "Crossing the Bar."

KETTERING.—Avenue Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Miss Lena Stanton and company are here with the pantomime of *Dick Whittington*. Miss Stanton is a distinct success in the title-rôle; Miss Marie Gerrard is successful as Alice; and Miss Flo Wilmot charming as Fairy Bowbell. The comedians work well together. Mr. Geo. James as Fitzwarren, Mr. Alf. Brooks as Idle Jack, and Mr. Bruce Green as Margarina, are responsible for a lot of genuine fun. Some clever variety turns are admirably contributed by Jay and Ginger, The Musical Melbahs, Joe Pauletti, Le Voll, and the Cecil Troupe of Dancers. Little Keeno, the boy comedian, causes quite a furore by his clever singing and dancing.

KIDDERMINSTER.—New Opera House.—Licensee and Managing Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; ActingManager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon, jun.—The boards are occupied this week by Mr. Charles Macdona's company in the musical comedy, entitled, *A Country Girl*. Mr. Richard Telford, as Barry, is very funny, and a prime favourite. Geoffrey Chaloner is in the capable hands of Mr. Herbert Standing, jun.; Mr. Bernard Vaughan, as the Rajah of Bhong, is very

success; Mr. Albert Chapman sings and acts well as Captain Harry Romney; Mr. Ernest Mozar, as Lionel Bland, is very good: Mr. H. Gladwin Hunt makes an excellent Sir Miles Coverdale; and Mr. George McCloskie is the cause of much wholesome merriment as Mickey O'Dowd.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Lieut-Col. J. A. Winstanley; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. C. Candler.—*When Darkness Falls*, presented by Mr. William Bourne's capital company, is the attraction here this week. Prominent in various parts are Miss Amy Vennimore, Miss Enid Elmore, Miss Lydia Hart, Miss Clarrie Ash, Miss E. Litchfield, Mr. Frank Elwood, Mr. Ellis J. Preston, Mr. Frank Liston, and Mr. E. H. White.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Vidal.—Premier position here is held by Bella and Bijou, society entertainers, who submitted with the greatest success, on Monday evening, their latest sketch, *Divorced*. At the other end of the bill the Three Sisters Klos and Alexandra Dagmar hold equal positions. The former ladies give a remarkably clever, clean, and daring athletic display. Miss Dagmar also is seen to great advantage in a new and novel burlesque scena, *The Duchess of Dantzic*. The Five Delevines, who are so well and favourably known to Leicester audiences, score their usual big success with their musical mélange, *Flirtation*. Lotto, Lilo, and Otto are excellent trick cyclists. Syd May's mimicry is exceptionally well done; Clown Zertho's dogs are examples of the perfection of training; Cabby and Shirker are extremely funny in their eccentric bar act; Ada Cerito is a most sprightly and attractive comedienne; and Ike Scott and Son, in a burlesque of officer and private, also entertain.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—The following artists contribute to an entertaining programme here this week:—Laurie Wylie and his mimicking mannikins; Silly Billy Elliott, eccentric comedian; Linton, acrobatic bounding marvel; Lidden and Hayward, in musical absurdity, *A Quiet Rehearsal*: Cliff and Kean, comedy artists and speciality dancers; Rosa Rosetti, the goddess of music; Gilbert Rogers, comedian; Les Bois, burlesque jugglers; and Herbert Betts, eccentric comedian.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Dewhurst.—*The Babes in the Wood* is presented here with much success this week by Mr. A. E. Smith's company. Mr. J. C. Matthews is heard to great advantage as the Demon King; Miss Lily Coleman, as the Fairy Queen, sings her songs with much charm; Miss Edith Wallis is an admirable Robin Hood; Miss Beatie Howard, as Maid Marion, is very successful; Mr. Arthur Slater is quite happy as Baron Balderdash, introducing some very smart whistling; Mr. Chas. Gladwell is seen to advantage as the Dame; Weary Willie and Tired Tim are in the hands of Mr. Bob Padley and Mr. F. Wheatcroft, both of whom contribute largely to the general success. Several good specialities are introduced in the Palace scene, amongst them being The Colleys, contortionists, &c.

LINCOLN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr F. King. — Mr. Lingford Carson's company with *The Drama of Life*, is meeting with much appreciation here. Mr. Jerrold Ord represents the character of Harry Beech extremely well; Mr. J. J. Hooker scores as Walter; a fine impersonation of Lawton comes from Mr. Bulwer Pitt; Mr. L. Thackeray is well placed as Crane; and the rôle of the detective is safe with Mr. Walter Steele. Mr. Owen Redmonde and Miss Muriel Inglis do extremely well with the comedy parts; Miss Cissie Bellamy wins sympathy as the much-tried wife: Miss Marie Murray shines in a child's part; and Miss Nellie Daly, as Betty Black, has decided ability.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—A particularly smart bill is presented here this week. Virginia, with her quartet of piccaninnies, earns a greeting of the heartiest kind. The Loma Trio present a gymnastic turn of the highest excellence; Harold Hughman is a good mimic; and a clever show is that of the Franks Brothers, midget conjurors. Martin Henderson, the blind musician, makes one of the biggest successes of the evening; and Ella and Rose give a genuine burlesque of melodrama.

LIVERPOOL.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. French; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Beltram.—The children's pantomime, after a run of about seven weeks, was withdrawn on Saturday. A short season has been opened with an adult one, bearing the title *Cinderella*. It is produced by Mr. Herbert Barrs' company, and includes dainty dances, lively music, and many pretty scenes. Mr. Paul Pry, as Buttons, the page, is very amusing, and creates endless laughter. In the course of the pantomime, which is charmingly dressed, a number of special turns are introduced, the Yan-Pyn Keto Family of Oriental magicians providing a clever entertainment, and the Geronds giving a series of delightful dances and songs. At the Wednesday and Saturday matinées, a children's harlequinade is presented.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, Jun.—For the first time in Liverpool, Mr. Frank M. Thorne's *Napoleon the Great* has held the boards here this week. The play is presented by an able company, under the direction of Messrs. Carson and Granville, who bring with them charming dresses and excellent scenery The title-part is in the capable hands of Mr. Hugh Montgomery, an actor of undoubted ability. The scheming Colonel Lavarennes could scarcely have been entrusted to a better artiste than Mr. Henry Earlesmere; Mr. Phil. Harper was a good Colonel Meuron; Mr. Frank M. Thorne proved humorous as Pierre Pomponnet; Miss Chrissie Dunbar enacted with care and discretion the rôle of Marie Walewska; and Mr. J. G. Maine capably undertook the somewhat unpleasant part of Paul Lacinska, a Pole.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—An entertaining programme has been compiled for this week, and patrons have not been slow in showing their appreciation. The house has been packed nightly. Tom Grave tops the bill in his sensational cycling feat—a performance that is daring in the extreme. Hanco's exposure of various handcuff tricks and the box-trick is greatly enjoyed. He is also very good in card manipulating. The Bros. Kroney, the lazy coalmen, are exceedingly funny acrobats; Cissie Cutler's "Farm-yard" song is a decided hit; Russell Hatton is very good in Dickens' characters; the Bensons (Frank and Lucy) are the cause of much laughter; Walter Emmerson is as laughable as ever; Wartenberg Bros. are very original in their foot-juggling act; Rivington and Gordyn are good in a sketch; and Johnny Warman, comedian, is amusing The Bioscope is exceptionally good this week.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. H. Fineberg; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Simmons.—A very acceptable visit of *In Old Kentucky* has drawn large audiences here during the week. The company presenting it is that of Mr. J. F. Elliston. Mr. J. George Steel is a good Frank Harley; Mr. Alfred S. Bankes carefully handles the part of Colonel Beauchamp; the rôle of Jasper Grafton is in the good keeping of Mr. Eric Hudson; and Miss Amy F. Hermann is winsome and graceful as Madge. Speciality turns are presented by Jimmie James, bone soloist; Will Whittaker, bird imitator; and the Dahomey eccentrics, Messrs. Charles Gibbs and George Perkins.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Granville; Manager, Mr. Fred Granville; Business Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—The attraction here is *Sapho*, given by Miss Annie Bell's capable combination. Miss Bell plays the part of the notorious French adventuress with marked effect; Mr. Frederick Ross, an actor of ability, is an admirable Jean Gaussin; the Cesaire of Mr. George Antley is a finished impersonation; Miss Lottie Ray shows to advantage as the child; and Mr. H. Wallace Curnock is an excellent Paul Dechelette.

EMPIRE, LIMITED. — District Manager, Mr. T. A. Cook; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Stratton.—The remarkable performance of Miss Annie Abbott, "The Little Georgia Magnet," has been the principal attraction here this week. Mendel, a blind piano-player, displays wonderful gifts as an executant. The Five Olracs, a wonderful troupe of acrobats, remain another week; the Caledonian Boys' orchestral and concert combination are greeted with loud applause; the Three Sisters Hayden score with several chorus songs; Madame Alice Simmons is a good soprano; Keno, Welch, and Montrose render a funny acrobatic turn; and others in the programme are Rastus and Banks, comedy singers and dancers; the Three Nevarros, equilibrists; Mdlle. Emmy and her Pets; and Harry Martell, comedian.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—At the head of a long programme given here during the week are the Jack Haggerty troupe of English champion wrestlers. The Barra troupe of musical exponents provide an acceptable turn; Leonard and Francis create much laughter with their burleque bull-fight; R. Judge's acrobats and leapers give much satisfaction; Toch and Tard are a clever pair of burlesque artistes; Sydney James displays unusual powers as a ventriloquist; and others who appear are Fred Curran, comedian; Clarus Bros., equilibrists on the rolling globe; and Harry Lewis, comedian.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. O'Toole.—Heading the bill here this week is a company of sketch artistes, controlled by Mr. J. St. Clare, in *The Gambler of Liverpool*. Tom Hall's Nippers provide a funny show as comic acrobats; Elgar and Gaskell create much laughter with their eccentric musical performance; Mr. George Scott comes with a number of new songs; a good descriptive vocalist is Mr. Walter Arnold; and the comical Lahmot gives an acceptable turn with his performing monkey, "Coffee," and his acrobatic dog, "Fox."

NEW PARTHENON. — Proprietor, Mr. Edwin W Smith.—Principal at this popular place this week are the Albano troupe in an admirable drawing-room musical act. Tom and Florrie Poole are a couple of eccentric acrobats and high pedestal dancers; Alf. Frampton, a favourite, displays unusual mimetic powers; Annie Laurie sings and dances prettily; Fred Dunstone has a budget of good songs; and Harry Jennings is an expert dancer. The Bioscope, with a series of new pictures, continues to prove a strong feature of the programme.

PADDINGTON PALACE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr. J. Kiernan.—Mr. Percy Boucher's sketch company is here this week with *When Rogues Fall Out*, a neat trifle in five tableaux, which is followed with much interest. The bill of fare also includes Harry Tresham, an actor-vocalist of merit; Jack Stewart, a smart comedian; Florrie Hall, soubrette; Dalton J. Bosher, character comedian; Rosa Lenmann, vocalist; and Edith Elliott, burlesque actress.

WESTMINSTER.—Proprietor, Mr. M. Montgomery. The great attraction here this week has been Will Hebden's good all-round company, with the local sketch, *A Day in Paddy's Market*, which contains a deal of rollicking fun.

PARK PALACE.—Director, Mr. James Kiernan.—At the top of the bill here is Kennedy Allen, in clever songs. The Barger Trio of sketch artistes present a laughable item, *Quits*, in which Miss Beta Barger as the Slavey is exceedingly good. Mr. and Mrs. Allan Wye are also responsible for a deal of merriment with their trifle, *What Happened to Watt*. Steb displays surprising ability as a modeller in clay; and others who appear are Beattie Foster, vocalist; Bob Pearson, humorist; Lily Pender, with her vaudeville show, *In Ten Minutes*; Wallace Whitney, comedian; and Agnes and Arthur Lynch, with American picture songs.

HAYMARKET. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Here this week are Tennyson and Wallis, comedians, and patterers; the Marconis, electric wonders, in exhibitions of wireless telegraphy; Walter Emerson, comedian; Gillin, comedy ventriloquist; Tom Hays, boy comedian; and the Bioscope.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Meakin.—The company in *The Poor Must Live* gave a benefit to the Cork Sick Recommendation Society on Friday, the 10th inst. This week the *Dare-Devil Dorothy* company is paying another visit, and has had a flattering reception. Miss Marjorie Cecil is the clever Dorothy; Miss Kathleen Garnon apears as Ruth; Miss Nellie Harcourt joins Mr. Arthur Verne in the comedy business, and both are amusing; Mr. Cecil W. Parke is a capital vocalist, and his songs are nightly encored. Plenty of variety is introduced, the menagerie scenes keeping the audience in merriment right through. There are also some clever dancing and skipping.

LONGTON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. S. Howard.—The well-known tragedian, Mr. Edmund Tearle, accompanied by Miss Kate Clinton and company, is presenting an attractive bill here this week. On Monday *Virginius* was given, Mr. Tearle appearing with every success as the Roman Father. Miss Esther Tearle as Virginia was seen to advantage; Appius Claudius was strongly portrayed by Mr. Wm. J. Miller; and Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree was good as Caius Claudius. *The Three Musketeers, Ingomar, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Under the Red Robe*, and *Hamlet* are also in the repertoire.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Following a successful run of pantomime, a strong attraction is provided this week with the drama *Bigamy*, which is presented for the first time locally by a well-balanced company under Messrs. Fred Moule (the author) and Alf. Denville. The chief interest centres in the doings of Miss Grace Lester, who plays the alluring bigamist (her original part) with charming grace. A sympathetic reading of Sylvia Dresden is submitted by Miss Cynthia Matthews; and Miss Lydia Mannington is well cast as Dido, "The Strong Woman." Mr. Monson Thorpe makes a stately Sir Chas. Dresden; and Mr. Kenneth Smith's strong impersonation of Lionel Craven is warmly appreciated. The humorous rôles are sustained by Messrs. Alfred Denville and Francis Serle.

MACCLESFIELD. — ROYAL. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—*The Way of the World* is the title of the interesting and sensational drama presented here by Mr. Montague Beaudyn and Miss Sydney Crowe's company. Miss Crowe, as Adele de La Roche, gives a finished impersonation of the part. Mr. Beaudyn gives a skilful and artistic portrayal of Cecil Montague. Mr. Herbert Skardon is successful as Captain Fred Slade. Mr. Louis Scott as Horatio Bluff adds much to the enjoyment of the play. Mr. Foulis as Matthew Malyon makes the most of his opportunities. Mr. E. V. Rees is good as Silas Montague. Mr. Fred Stanley scores as Ned Montague. Miss Violette Virienne is very graceful as Polly Bell, and Miss Irene Munroe as Kate Montague is popular.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Bendon.—The programme this week is headed by Phil Herman; his songs are amusing and his eccentric business causes much laughter. U. C. Ugo, conjurer, is a good turn. Louie, thought reader, astonishes the audience. Mademoiselle Magna in her classical statuary act is well applauded. Emily Lloyd, Gipsy singer, has a good reception. Frank Roden, comedy cyclist, gives a clever performance. The Ladies' Quartette are doing well, and Charles Huda, coon delineater, deserves mention.

MAIDENHEAD. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. Edgar Dereve and F. L. Schmitz.—Mr. Leonard Royal's company opened on Monday with the pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, Miss May Nelson appearing in the title-rôle. Miss Freda Clare acts and sings pleasingly as Alice Fitzwarren, and Mr. Tom Nelson dances acceptably and plays his part well as Captain Porthole. Mr. George Leonard scores all through as Lisa, and Mr. Roy Relbut is energetic and entertaining as Idle Jack. Mr. Syd Dunn is excellent as the Cat, and in a later scene contributes a clever turn as acrobat and contortionist.

MANCHESTER.—ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. W. H. Broadhead; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austen Melford's company are seen here this week in *The Silver King*, which is always a big attraction. The well-known drama is played with considerable spirit from beginning to end, Mr. Herbert Ford giving a fine interpretation of the unfortunate Denver, while Miss Lilian Bethel acts with sympathy and effect as Nellie, his wife. Mr. Edward J. George retains his original part of Jaikes, which he presents with his usual success. Mr. Charles Levey makes an excellent Captain Skinner; and other good parts are well played by Mr. Byron Pedley, Mr. Arthur Rooke, Miss Amy Manfree, Mr. Eric Store, Mr. W. Linton, and Miss S. Wenden. The play is admirably staged.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—An excellent programme here this week includes Mr. Charles Carte's impersonation of Jerry, the Tramp, in the sketch, *A Noble Brother*—a very successful performance; Fanny Robina, comedienne, in her favourite songs; Fred Casburn, an excellent character comedian; Emma Don and Co., in a fine vocal scena; Florrie Cooper, comedienne, in her latest successes; the Three Shipbuilders, musical artistes; Little Dando, an amusing eccentric comedian; Curtis Leo and his black piccaninni, in a speciality sketch; and Billy Bint, comedian, in popular songs.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs. Little and Darcy's company in *Robinson Crusoe* are the attraction here this week, after a successful week at the Royal Osborne Theatre.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Potasch.—Mr. Edmund Edmunds's company occupy the stage here this week in an attractive version of *The Babes in the Wood*, a pantomime concocted of popular ingredients, and well suited to an audience desiring at least an ample proportion of fun. Mr. Edmund Edmunds figures successfully as one of the comic villains, his companion in crime being Mr. James Albert, who also is a capital comedian. Miss Maud Nelson sings and acts well as Robin Hood, and Miss Nita Clavering makes an engaging Maid Marian. Other parts are agreeably rendered by the various members of the cast. The action moves through nine effective scenes, and is embellished by numerous popular songs and clever dances; while the general staging is all that could be desired.

HIPPODROME (Hulme).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Dr. Carl Herman, hypnotist, electrician, and scientist, is drawing crowded houses here this week, after a most successful week at the Salford Hippodrome. He demonstrates his ability to cure paralysis and rheumatism by the aid of electricity, and the passing of 10,000 volts. of electricity through his body for two minutes partakes of the sensational. Mirth-provoking antics are caused by several young men under the hypnotic influence of Dr. Herman, and altogether the turn is highly popular. Charles Coborn, the well-known comedian, is excellent in songs and burlesque; the Seven Setinas, a troupe of clever lady and gentleman acrobats, give a fine performance; and enjoyable turns are contributed by Dale and Dale in a singing and dancing speciality; and W. H. Morgan, character vocalist. On Monday evening, an unnamed artist provided an exceedingly smart turn in rifle and baton manipulation. A series of animated pictures complete.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—This week, Max Gruber, with his wonderful, well-trained elephant and horse, heads a list of talented artistes. Ernesto, a juggler and equilibrist of first-class order, meets with cordial appreciation; the Famous Brontes, in their amusing sketch, *The Saucy Maud*, obtain hearty applause; and Swan and Stanley are good in a series of character representations. The Three Greysons give a humorous sketch excellently; as do also Deakin and Rankin, in an act entitled *A Hodge-Podge of Nonsense*. Guy Ryder is a clever whistler; Harry Tomlinson is a good chaaracter vocalist; and Harry Hayton sings a good comic song. An extra turn, which receives loud applause, is added by Conway and Garland, and the animated pictures are interesting.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—The programme here is excellent. George Leyton, the renowned actor-vocalist, makes a big hit with his scena, *Britannia's Babes*, and meets with a hearty reception. Park's Eton Boys give a capital singing turn, and the Maples contribute some amusing duets and pretty dances. Lily Lena, a dainty comedienne, sings two enjoyable songs, and is well received. A. P. Boswell, the black-faced comedian, causes much laughter with his funny antics, smart patter, and clever balancing added ;and De Vere and Kenwick introduce some effective and novel burlesque pictures and a smart sand dance. Other good turns are G. W. Hastings, character comedian; Leslie H. Murray, magician and card manipulator; and Kitty Gower, who dances nicely. On the occasion of our visit, Alf Levarni did not appear.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Collins.—The programme here this week is made up of a number of remarkably good items, at the head of which are the wonderful balancing feats of the Wille Brothers, whose performance brings down the house. Morcashani, La Belle Creole, eccentric chanteuse, is also a highly popular turn, scoring especially with a song, entitled "If you want to make the baby laugh, show her the white of your eyes." Manning's Entertainers add considerably to the fun by their sketch, *Outside the Steam Room of a Turkish Bath*; Harry Lamore, the silent comedian on a wire, gives a smart and successful show; and Marguerite Broadfoote, comedienne, is well received in her various popular songs. The Arthur Saxon Trio of Athletes perform some amazing feats of strength, and are deservedly applauded; while entertaining business is contributed by Will Mitcham, vocal and musical comedian; the McGregors, in a musical speciality; and Maud Ross, comedienne and dancer; the programme being completed by a series of very good pictures on the Bioscope.

GRAND.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomas Barrasford and Will Sley; Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—The Human Magnet, Dr. Walford Bodie, still remains the attraction here, and creates as much interest as ever. This week he introduces the Beautiful Mystic Marie, the real Trilby, and in conjunction with her gives a most weird and mysterious exhibition of mental telepathy, which fairly fascinates the audience. Owing to lack of time on Monday evening, the amusing display of mesmerised subjects had to be omitted, and from the same cause three of the artistes whose names appear on the programme, did not appear. Many other satisfactory items were given, however, amongst which may be mentioned Norman Mills, actor-vocalist; the Sisters Lyle, duettists; the Garden Troupe of graceful dancers; the De Roys, comic conjurers and acrobats; and Helen Henri, vocalist.

PALACE.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. P. Watson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stringer.—A distinct novelty here this week is the sensational shooting act of Col. Bordeverry, the champion rifle and pistol shot, who holds the audience in a state of breathless excitement whilst firing from most difficult positions, and smashing tiny glass globes fixed on his attendant's head, and also elicits great applause by his pianoforte solo performed by means of shooting at small discs connected with the keyboard. The height of effect, however, is reached by the entry of a handsome lady, dressed in elaborate evening dress, which appears to be fastened with black ornaments at various parts. She takes her stand on a pedestal, and at a range of thirty paces the Colonel proceeds to undress her. Shot after shot rings out, and as each ornament is smashed, the dress gradually falls away until the lady is disrobed. Another important item of the programme is Kopski, the eminent pianist, who plays several classical selections, and is enthusiastically received. Chinko, the boy juggler, gives a most expert exhibition of juggling and club swinging, and his lady assistant also contributes a smart turn with the clubs. Lola Dalby sings well and dances gracefully; Fred McArthur cleverly recites in various styles, "The Charge of the Light Brigade"; the Bennecelli Troupe are exceedingly clever gymnasts; Dan Kennedy tells funny stories and sings a comic song; Spring, Spring, and Rosie Carlo present a very smart and daring acrobatic barrel-jumping act; Lilieth Leyton and J. A. Bentham score with their smart little sketch *The Order of the Bath;* Inez Clough, ballad vocalist, has a good voice; and Hazel Burt sings a dashing military song. A series of pictures conclude a capital show.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—This week's fare here is excellently varied and well up to the usual standard. Prominent are the Dandies' Entertainers, whose performance is exceedingly bright, refined, and pleasing to the house; and the Florenz Family, eleven in number, who touch the highest mark in difficult acrobats by their novel and daring drawing-room act. Beside these, we have Toile D'Araignee, the Human Spiders, in an electrical gymnastic novelty; Margaret Ashton, a clever American vocal entertainer; the Cee Mee troupe of skilful and comic aerial artistes; Newhouse and Ward, in a clever and humorous cycle act; My Fancy, whose sand dancing is remarkably expert and pleasing; Duncan's Dogs, in a highly trained "fire brigade" act; an illustrated song, "Be Satisfied," sung by the Hippodrome Choristers; and a series of attractive pictures on the American Bioscope.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. E. Macknight; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles E Hardy.—Miss Winifred Maude and company are occupying the boards here this week with Miss Nita Rae's drama, *The Sins of a City*. Mr. Horace E. Herbert makes a vigorous and manly hero; and is ably supported by Miss Winifred Maude, as Seaweed, afterwards known as Norah, who acts the rôle with marked ability. Mr. Victor Du Cane, under whose direction the piece is produced, works very hard in the dual-rôle of Joe and Jasper Woodleigh, and in a large measure is responsible for the success. Mr. Leslie Beaufort, as Ralph Blackwater, K.C., the villain of the piece, enacts the part in a powerful manner; and Isaac Levi is capitally played by Mr. Victor Moors. Mr. Ivan Gore displays feeling in the part of Donald McIvor; and Mr. W. E. Simpson is successful as Police Constable Johnson. Miss Marie Lyons does well as Lesbia; and Miss Jenny Hacket, who is responsible for the greater part of the comedy, as Midge, the servant, proves herself a talented comedienne.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert J. Lewes.—The attraction this week has been provided by the Osmond Tearle Shakespearian and classical répertoire company, with performances of the legitimate. *Virginius* was played on Monday, with Mr. Alexander Marsh in the title-rôle, and Miss Carrie Baillie as Virginia—both highly effective representations. On Tuesday *The Merchant of Venice* was presented, with the talented young actor, Mr. Alexander Marsh, as Shylock, his performance of this difficult part being highly satisfactory. Mr. George Weyland was good as the Duke of Venice; Antonio was well played by Mr. John Nesbitt; and Bassanio and Gratiano found efficient representatives in Mr. Cyril Grier and Mr. John Burton. Miss Carrie Baillie's Portia was graceful and picturesque; and Miss Emma Rainbow gave a capital reading of Nerissa.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Messrs. Carson and Granville's company is this week presenting the drama, *A Modern Adventuress*. Mr. L. Aardale gives a good interpretation of Pietro Donelli; Mr. Royce Carlton is a thoughtful Harry Delby; as Wallace Danton, Mr. E. M. Hamilton plays capitally; Mr. E. Roland makes a bluff, good-hearted Yorkshireman of John Crompton; Mr. G. P. Lester is excellent as the detective Walter Beal; and Mr. J. Montgomery does well as Steve Meredith. Miss B. M. Anderson submits a fine rendering of the unscrupulous adventuress, and the Vivette Delby of Miss Alice Defoe is an attractive and highly cultured rendering.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Theatres, Limited; Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—The visit of Mr. Cyril Maude's company in *Beauty and the Barge* has been eagerly looked forward to, and there was a crowded audience on Monday night to witness the initial performance here. Mr. Blake Adams, who appears as the breezy Captain Barley, gives a capital portrayal. As the irritated Major Smedley Mr. Walter Pemberton is laughable, and the same may be said of Mr. Fred Knight's John Dibbs. Mr. Percival Knight does well in the rôle of Herbert Manners; Mr. Charles Goold does not fail to amuse as Tom Codd; Mr. Charles Caffrey and Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite, as the proprietors of the "Old Ship," add much to the fun; and Mr. Fred Lake is successful as Ted. Miss May Fairclough proves a charming Ethel; and Miss Ethel Stalman, Miss Mary Deverell, and Miss Mary Griffiths do excellently well in their respective rôles. The company is an excellent one, and the scenery is pretty. *That Brute Simmons* proves an interesting curtain riser.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Grand Opera House Company, Limited; Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Hopcutt.—Mr. Hopcutt is to be congratulated on having secured Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer and her company, whose visits to Middlesbrough are always welcomed. On Monday, when *Mary Queen of Scots* was produced, the gifted actress as the unfortunate Queen gave a powerful and pathetic portrayal. Miss K. Herbert ably sustained the rôle of Elizabeth; and Mr. F. Skein, as the Earl of Leicester, and Mr. A. St. Aubyn as the Earl of Shrewsbury, did well. *Leah, East Lynne, Nell Gwynne, Sapho*, and *Jane Shore* are also in the répertoire.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. Brill; Manager, Mr. J. W. Thornborrow.—Terry and Lambert, in a speciality turn, are great favourites here. Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, in a sketch entitled *Trafalgar Square*, are extravagantly droll; and Lavers and Lake are amusing in *My Landlord*. The Sisters Albert dance above the average; the Five Ashleys please in a comedy act entitled *Fun in a Laundry*; Lord, Murray, and Lord, in an acrobatic sketch, are clever; and Burns and Burtley prove themselves to be smart patterers and dancers. Chris Baker provides an acceptable turn, and the films flashed on the "Bio." are interesting.

OXFORD.—Lessee, Mr. William Peacock; Manager, Mr. William Ainsworth.—The New York Comedy Four, a most amusing quartette, head the bill here. The Pichel Troupe do some astounding feats, and the Bros. Narow are smart comedy cyclists. The other turns are Doris Lillian, comedienne; Craig, Roze, and Craig, gymnasts; Ford Williams, vocalist; the Wedburns, comedians; Ray and Miles, comedians; Alex. Day, vocalist; and the Bioscope completes the bill of fare.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—Mr. Chas. A. Chandler is paying a visit here with his company in *The Bells of Haslemere*. Mr. Leonard Yorke makes a great success as Frank Beresford, while the John Silkstone of Mr. Montague Turner is admirably acted. Mr. C. A. Chandler shows to advantage as Captain Vere; and of equal merit are Mr. Chas. Cecil and Miss Stafford Smith in the parts of Reuben Armstrong and Dorothy Tremble; Miss Florence Chandler, Miss Mary Hadacre, Messrs. A. Tucker, Harry Montague, Charles Clark, Powell James, and Chas. Edwards are also members of a very strong cast.

NEATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albert W. James.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Henry Bedford's Company in *Gipsy Jack*. Mr. Henry Bedford is successful in his manly acting of the title-rôle; Mr. Arthur Tomlin is excellent as the Rev. Francis Harvey; Mr. I. Worth is effective as Mr. Skinner; and Mr. Alec Alexander does well as Gerald Skinner. Miss Gertrude Gilbert is charming as Dorothy Dexter: Miss Bessie Bedford is good as May Harvey; and Hagar, in the hands of Miss Ada Antley, is capital.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Newcastle and Gateshead Theatres, Ltd. Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. W. Bacon.—Another pantomime, *Jack and Jill*, an old favourite, is this week appearing here. As principal boy, Miss Frances Earle has delighted everyone with her singing and dancing. Miss Millie Warde makes a charming principal girl, being both a good singer and dancer; Miss Jessie Templeton is a most attractive Page, and shows ability in everything she does. Miss May Sharples submits a clever performance of Fanline; Miss Mabel Higson repeats her delightful impersonation of Jill; but as Jack we have a new artiste in Miss May Merry, whose singing and dancing are excellent. Mr. Leslie Styles as Baron Jollyboy, proves himself an excellent vocalist; Mr. Harry Conlin, who repeats his clever sketch of the Dame, is full of boisterous humour, entirely free from the slightest vulgarity. Freddy French is as funny as ever as Ginger; Mr. Harry Nelson is excellent as Sergeant Spiff; and Corporal Spaff, as played by Mr. Barney Dixon, is most amusing.

TYNE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—*Cinderella* is unquestionably creating something like a record at this theatre. At each performance the spacious auditorium is scarcely large enough to accommodate the crowds which seek admission, and even at this date the overwhelming popularity of the sparkling entertainment seems to be still further on the increase. Mr. Mark Sheridan simply revels in the part of the Baron, while his efforts are supported with unflagging zeal by Messrs. Josh. Dixon, Gus Le Clerq, the Egbert Bros. (the cleverest and most amusing of knock-about comedians), Misses Bessie Featherstone, Alice Russon, and Lena Verdi.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—There is an abundance of pleasure to be derived from the performance of the pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, which is approaching the end of its lengthy run, the last night being announced for the 25th inst. Unmistakable successes have been scored by Miss Dolly McCalla and Miss Hanid Alexander, the clever and charming representatives of the babes. Miss Maud Prenton, too, has made many friends by the spirit and dash she infuses into her acting and singing as Robin Hood, while Miss Valli Valli is a pleasing representative of Maid Marion. Miss Lottie Govell and Miss Winnie Govell have rendered valuable service. Much pleasure has been afforded by the various interludes provided by The American Comedy Four, and those well-known comedians, Messrs. T. E. Dunville, R. H. Douglass, and the Poluskis maintain their reputation.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Messrs. Knight and Denham's company are engaged in giving representations of the famous drama, *The Grip of Iron*. Mr. Fred Powell continues to give his remarkable impersonation of the strangler. Simmonet, with unabated success, and he is well supported by other members of the company.

PAVILION.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Although the programme at the Pavilion this week contains the names of several artistes frequently seen in this city, it still serves to attract large audiences, and it has been found necessary to arrange for matinées each Tuesday and Saturday, the experiment of giving a Saturday afternoon performance being tried last week for the first time with success. Carl Nobel, with his walking and talking ventriloquial figures, is scoring his usual hit, and deserves the numerous encores he receives. Charles Baron introduces his amusing burlesque menagerie, including Leodini, the famous jail breaker dog. This entertainment proves very popular, and is both original and diverting. Alix Lukos is a vocalist with new ideas, and is an excellent actor. The Max Trevally Harley acrobats perform some startling feats, and Josephine Casaboni, danseuse, is most graceful. The Pollo Jerome lady athletes give a trapeze act which meets with much approval; and Nancy St. John (comedienne), Amiel (contortionist), and Reddick Anderson (comedian), also appear.

NEW EMPIRE PALACE. — Resident-Director, Mr. R. Thornton; Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Assisting-Director and Chief of Staff, Mr. Frank Allen; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident Manager, Mr. E. Leslie Conroy. —Staley's Novelty Transformation company, introducing Cass, Andrew and Miss Ada remain for another week, and the celerity with which changes of costume and scenery are accomplished is simply astounding A really excellent comedienne and dancer in Miss Ella Retford, repeats a previous success here, her reception being particularly hearty. Horace White introduces much witty patter into his ventriloquial entertainment, and in singing, accompanies himself on the piano. Richard List presents a troupe of performing bears; in the course of the performance there is a wrestling bout between one of the bears and the trainer. A coon artist and dancer of merit is Mark Leslie, and the Labakans display cleverness and humour in their performance as acrobatic grotesques. Eccentric comedy has a capable exponent in Harry Lawson; and the Three Donals, Continental athletes, and Collins and Rice, speciality artists, also contribute successfully. Hugh Stanton's company, in *Bargain Mad*, brings the entertainment to an enjoyable conclusion.

NEWPORT. — LYCEUM. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company is here with the drama, *Bound to Win*, this week. The hero, Harry Lyndon, is admirably portrayed by Mr. F. S. Kimberley; Philip Ayre, the villain, is done full justice to by Mr. F. Strickland; Mr. Sydney Rennef acts cleverly as Squire Forbes; and Mr.

vides an interesting ventriloquial turn. Helen Martin sings some attractive songs; Walter Bellonini, with the aid of his humorous page, does some clever feats of juggling; and Fred Poplar sings comic songs with success. Kahn and Kahn provide a clever display of modern necromancy. Mr. A. C. Lilly and his company, in *Drummed Out*, complete the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—Miss Ada Reeve and company are here in *Winnie Brooke, Widow*. Miss Reeve plays the widow with chic and subtlety, and with grace and feeling that make her impersonation very charming. Mr. Charles Weir, as Dudley Mayne, acts with true artistic feeling; Mr. Harry Halley is very clever as Montagu Brent; Mr. E. Alexander, as Ernest, acquits himself well, and his singing is highly appreciated; Mr. Ulick Burke gives a good impersonation of Toby Blossom, as does Mr. Donald Price-Evans of Hercules Grant. Mr. Frederick Tyrrell, as the Rev. Elihu Garside, is graphic and characteristic; and the Mrs. Elihu Garside of Miss Alice Lawrence, is excellent. Miss Drusilla Wills, as the Laundry Girl, and Mrs. Charles Maltby as Hannah, are most amusing. Mr. Edgar Stevens, Mr. Leon Ashton-Jarry, Miss Cecile Beresford, Miss Ruth Garside, Miss Kitty Clinton, Miss Freda Stanley, Miss Lucienne Meard, and Miss Florence Leigh all gain warm commendation.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—The Seven Savonas, musical marvels, are very popular here; and the celebrated Elliott Troupe of Cyclists are achieving brilliant success. The coster ditties of Walter Levalle, the refined comedy of Duncan and Morton, whose turn is applauded, the eccentric comic singing and dancing of Arthur Drew, the acrobatic medley of the Woellhafs, the singing and dancing of Miss Jessie Reed, and the powerful singing of Nellie Lucrecee, comedienne, are all appreciated.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; General-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. Charles Chard's company, with the popular pantomime, *Goody Two Shoes*, has again attracted large audiences here this week. Miss Annie Casey is deservedly appreciated, and Miss Ida Gladstone is cordially received. Mr. Charles Chard is very amusing; Mr. James Kurry has made himself quite a favourite; and Messrs. Bliss and Bliss, the Sisters St. Julian, Messrs. Pete and Juno, the Mikado Troupe of Dancers, and others have all worked hard, and have succeeded in making the production one of the most successful that has visited the town.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—The premier position here is held by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Knox, with *Down on the Congo*, which has been warmly received. Mr. Arthur Albert, comedian, has scored a distinct success; and Messrs. Bishop and Vale, acrobatic comedians and dancers, cause much merriment; Mons. Oswald, equilibrist, is clever; and Miss May Tyler, comedienne and dancer; Mr. A. Duncan, club manipulator; and the Bio-Photoscope, also meet with favour.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is here for the week in *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. Mr. Stanley Bedwell is good as Jack Merriman; and Mr. Leyton Cancellor is successful as Hubert Gold; Mr. Charles Barrett deserves praise as Antonio; and Mr. Tubby Edlin excellently represents Herrick; Mr. Fred De Vere efficiently embodied Raggles. Miss Margaret Watson is well received as Morita; Miss Nellie Jackson is very successful as Aggie Brown; Miss Rosabel Dodd deserves praise for the character she represents, whilst Miss Beatrice Homer admirably acts the part of the Veiled Lady.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—The management presents an excellent programme this week, including Herr Fritz, illusionist, who heads the bill, and whose performance is watched with wonderment. The Solari Duo, a couple of ladies, are pleasing in their vocal and instrumental act; Celest, the wire walker and baton manipulator, is an entertaining turn; Harry Morris excels as a comedian and humorous mimic; the Scandia Troupe show ability as gymnasts; Percy Maye, lady impersonator, is well received; Ernest Montefiori and company give a pleasing sketch, *The Little Colonel*; Smith and Johnson are amusing coloured artistes; and Mr. Albert Voyce's company, in their novel vocal scena, *Jack Sheppard, or the Burglary at the Barn*, displays pleasing vocal ability. Mr. Austin Rudd's success was so marked last week that he is retained this week.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—A return visit of *The Girl from Kay's* has drawn large and appreciative audiences. Mr. H. C. Barry's portraiture of Max Hoggenheimer is so amusing and clever that the laughter ripples along whenever he occupies the stage. He is capitally seconded by Mr. Fred. Rolph, as the Hall Porter. Mr. Garnet Wilson plays the lover nicely, and sings with taste, and Mr. Leslie Roy Cathie well sustains the part of Percy Fitzthistle. Miss Nancy Hervyn acts daintily and discreetly as Winnie Harborough, and Miss Rita Leonhardt supplies a charming impersonation of Norah Chalmers. A pert Ellen is seen in Miss Mabel Thornton, and Miss Mabel Champion earns distinction as Mrs. Chalmers. There is some graceful dancing, and the staging and dressing are excellent.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company is presenting the pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, this week. The staging and dressing are worthy of the highest praise, and Mr. Adderley Howard is to be congratulated on the smoothness of the performance. The Ali Baba of Mr. James Danvers is, as may be expected, exceedingly good, and this clever comedian brings out the laughter at every point. Mr. Ernie Myers, as Hassarac, is a continual source of amusement, and he deservedly merits his enthusiastic reception. Miss Dolly Elsworthy makes a sprightly exponent of Ganem, and also sings tastefully. Miss Lily Lonsdale, as Morgiana, is altogether a winsome and attractive artiste, and her vocalism wins the heartiest plaudits. As Captain and Lieutenant of the Forty, Misses Cissie Kingsley and Ada Beaumont work with the happiest results, and the part of Zorilda is pleasingly taken by Miss May Fallowfield. Mention should also be made of Messrs. Cliff Dover, Forsyth Bruce, Phil Leonard, and James Dubois, the last-named being seen in a smart rope performance. Specialities are also introduced by the Reed Oetzman Troupe, in the sketch, *En Voyage*, and the Ichmed Ibrahim trope of Bedouin Arabs, in an acrobatic act.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. W. Bull.—Mrs. T. Morton Powell and company are appearing here in a new drama, entitled *A Woman's Devotion*. Mrs. Powell gives an excellent portrayal of Gilberte le Grande, her spirited acting receiving the warmest approval. Miss Maude S. Drewry plays Maisie Loyale daintily, and with touching pathos. Miss Alwynne Ermon essays the unthankful rôle of Cora Eversleigh, making the callousness of this character stand out in no uncertain manner, and the easy nonchalance of the villainous Philip Dangerfield is capitally shown by Mr. Frank R. Robertson. Mr. George Davis acts Richard Chesney in an acceptable way, and Mr. W. B. Somerville is easy and natural as Paul Eversleigh. Mr. Edward Mervyn is quickly a favourite as Bob Savage, and Miss Dot Seilby satisfactorily impersonates Mrs. Savage. Mr. E. T. Kisby (Reginald Montmorency), Mr. Henry Cameron (François), and Miss Alice Buckland (Kitty) supply the lighter vein.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Bowmaker.—The smiling face and lively "patter" of Fanny Fields ensure her a warm welcome here, and merriment is in full swing while she occupies the stage. The vocalism of Harriett Vernon wins the heartiest plaudits from all parts of the house. The Klein Family of cyclists are seen in some new and dexterous feats, which gain them an unmistakable tribute. The mimicry of O'Gust is smart and clever, and he fully merits his enthusiastic reception. The boxing sketch of the Brothers Horne is so exceedingly funny that it never seems to pall. Carrie Laurie's Juveniles again submit their charming entertainment, with the happiest results. A juggling act by the Alphonso Trio cleverly combines skill with humour. Ethel Ra-Leslie, a daintily-attired character vocalist, sings with spirit, and Chas. Deane is well rewarded for his song, "What you can do with a penny." The Bohemians, musical and comedy artistes, close a good all-round programme.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S (Theatres and Entertainments Co., Ltd.)—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Beyon.—On Monday and Tuesday, Mr. C. W. Somerset's company presented here *The Sorrows of Satan*, which was received with much appreciation. Mr. Somerset, as Prince Lucio, was powerful and convincing; Mr. Talbot Homewood made a good Paul Carruthers; Mr. Richard Norton was well suited in the part of Crafton Lyle; Lord Burrows found an apt exponent in Mr. Keith Fraser; The Countess was capably represented by Miss Laura Clements; and as Lady Delila, Miss Leah Marlborough displayed considerable ability. Miss Geraldine Somerset was quite a favourite as Jack. Miss Agnes Russell gave a refined and pathetic reading of the part of Margaret Foster, and as Mary, Miss Daisy O'Neil was very winsome. *As Midnight Chimes* was announced for Thursday.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hulme.—A hearty welcome was accorded *The New Barmaid* on Monday by a crowded audience, with Miss Nance O'Niel in the title-rôle. Mr. Joseph B. Montague, as Bertie White, kept the house in excellent humour; Mr. Leslie Austin, as Capt. Lovebury sang very well; Mr. Alexander Loftus, as William White, played in excellent style. As Colonel Claymore, Mr. Arthur Rodney was very effective. Miss Violet Osmund, as the lady journalist, was charmingly effective; Miss Jean Gilmour was stately as Lady Moulton; and Miss Hilda Blanche capital as the old barmaid.

GAIETY, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—The attractions here this week includes Harry Tate's company in a comical sketch, *Motoring*; Zanna and Mdlle. de Louie, in their refined act, *Gymnastics on the Lawn*; Geo. Trusty, comedian; the Lovelaces (Jack and Lucy), in their illustrated song; Whimsical Musical Wilbert, with his clever musical entertainment; Miss Gracie Logan, serio and dancer; and Miss Florence Carlow, vocalist. The Bioscope is up-to-date.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Knowles.—An exceptionally good programme includes Juma's Octoroons, the miniature minstrels; Whit Cunliffe, a favourite comedian; the Levinos, in their act, *The Rival Arts*; Harry Zetter, comedian and grotesque dancer; Clown Ferreros, who gives a clever musical entertainment, assisted by his wonderful dog; the Resna Trio, equilibrists and tumblers; Dainty Maggie Rimmer, comedienne and dancer; the Raies, graceful dancers; and Charlie Craston, comedian.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—The Carl Rosa Opera company is this week paying its extremely welcome annual visit; opening on Monday with *Tannhauser*. Herr Julius Walther, as Tannhauser, sang magnificently, and acted with real power and artistic finish; Herr Charles Victor was an extremely satisfactory Wolfram; Mr. Arthur Winchworth played the dignified Landgrave to the life, and sang effectively; and Mr. Edward Davies scored a complete success as Walther. Madame Sobrino was successful as Elizabeth; Madame Augusta Renard, as Venus, used her splendid voice to advantage; and Miss Ethel Pender-Cudlip rendered the small part of the shepherd-boy prettily. The chorus sang finely throughout, and the orchestra did real justice to the music. On Tuesday night, *Faust* was performed, the orchesta being conducted by Mr. Walter Van Noorden.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. G. P. Wells.—Pantomime still rules here, and this week Mr. Herbert Barr's company is here with *Aladdin*. Mr. Eric Leslie sustains the Emperor of China with commendable ability; while Mr. Herbert Grapho is full of life as Abanazer; Mr. Carl Bernardo makes a capital Yu-Go-Hang; and Mr. George Harvie is good as Washee; Mr. Billy Jackson does his work well as Widow Twankey. Miss Kitty Clayton is successful as Aladdin; Miss Ethel Condor is well-placed as Pekoe; and Miss Nellie Dyson makes a charming Princess Badroulbador. Excellent specialities are introduced by Ada Majutti, the flexible Venus, Travella, Marti and Julietta, Grapho and Jackson, some comic juggling by Bernardo being applauded. The Empire Troupe of acrobatic dancers are well received.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—*The Orchid*, which is certainly enjoying all the success which its merits warrant, is being presented by Mr. George Dance's company under the direction of Mr. W. E. Wilson. Keen enjoyment is realised by Mr. Charles R. Walenn's highly characteristic impersonation of Meakin; to Mr. Ernest Darrell belongs much credit for his carefully studied portraiture of Mr. Aubrey Chesterton; Mr. G. Davy Burnaby displays excellent artistic qualities in his depiction of the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour; and Mr. Edmund Hollick submits a clever study of Dr. Ronald Faussett. The Lady Violet Anstruther of Miss Ethel Bryant is charmingly attractive, if only on account of its winsomeness and delightful simplicity, whilst as Josephine Zaccary Miss Irene Desmond is fascinating, piquant, and debonair. Miss Sylvia de Lacy as Zelie Rumbert is excellent; Miss Chrissie Ralland makes a vivacious Thisbe; Miss Madge Lucas displays considerable skill in her rendering of the rôle of Caroline Vokins; and Miss Ida Chichester is a becomingly dignified Countess Anstruther. Mr. Edmund Page is distinctly funny and clever as Comte Raoul de Cassignat, whilst his seconds are faithfully portrayed by Mr. Colin Campbell as M. Merignac and Mr. Cecil Frere as M. Frontenbras. Mr. Arthur P. Hemsley is capital, and dances well in his assumption of Zaccary, and other parts are satisfactorily played by the general members of the corps.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—The star turn this week is Charles Morritt, who mystifies with his startling illusions. Others contributing to an excellent programme are Madge White, serio; Andy Fagan, comedian and dancer; Charles Clifford, harp soloist and humorist vocalist; Sam Thomson, with his comical clerks; and the Wonderful Blind Man, in marvellous feats of memory and calculation. There are also the Empire animated pictures, with some latest films.

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Arthur Hart's company is here this week in the comedy opera *My Lady Molly*. On Miss Reydon Dallas devolves the title-rôle, and to her marked ability the success of the piece owes much. No less conspicuous is Miss Enid Alexander in the part of Alice Coverdale, and the vocal talent of both is appreciated; Miss Annie West makes an admirable Hester; Miss Belle Gray is well placed as Mdlle. Mirabeau, her singing being highly appreciated; Mr. Reginald Cooper and Mr. Herbert Ranson are excellent exponents of Captain Harry Romney and Lionel Bland respectively, their vocal efforts being much admired; Messrs. Gordon Begg, Joseph Tipler, and Walter Wright faithfully depict the parts of Sir Miles Coverdale, Reuben Oates, and Judge Romney; Mr. H. Walsh is amusing as Mickey O'Dowd; Mr. F. Dorman as head groom and Miss Mary Glanbran as the housekeeper at the inn contribute ably towards the success achieved.

PETERBOROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—Messrs. E. Marris and H. W. Kirby's company is fulfilling a week's engagement here in the pantomime *Dick Whittington*. There is the usual amount of fun and jollity, and some of the latest songs, with some clever dancing, make up a capital show. Miss Winifred Preece puts plenty of life into the part of Dick; Miss Mamie Iris is pleasing as Alice; Miss Cordelia Knight makes a capital Melodia; the Cat is excellently played by Mr. J. R. Tyrrell; Alderman Fitzwarren is judiciously presented by Mr. Dickie Clare; and the fun is well maintained by Messrs. Ryde and Beeman, as McFlip and O'Flop. Mr. W. H. Kirby is quaintly funny as Jack; and Mr. H. Griffiths is an amusing Betsy. Specialities are given by Miss Lillian Sirvado, in a graceful trapeze act; the Three Rays; Madame Iris, sand dancer; The Dunlops, comedy dancers; Mr. A. Griffiths, walking speciality; and the Two Balzens, Japanese top-spinners.

PLYMOUTH.. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—The Plymouth Dramatic Association is appearing here this week in *Jim the Penman*.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. Williams.—The late Wilson Barrett's drama, *The Sledge Hammer*, is being staged here this week by a company which does full justice to the piece. Mr. W. V. Garrod as Everard Derrick makes a manly and popular hero, and some fine acting is also forthcoming from Mr. Alfred Northey and Mr. Charles Halling. Mr. Lawrence Konrad intelligently plays John Marlo; and Mr. F. Litchfield makes a typical British workman. An emotional actress of great skill is Miss Bertha Kingston, the heroine, and unstinted applause is nightly secured by Miss Fanny Thorne. Other successes are scored by Miss Ellaline Thorne, Mr. F. Dallas, Mr. L. St. Clair, and Mr. Walter Vincent.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton.—Mr. J. Malvern's company is doing good business here this week with *I Defy the World*. Mr. R. Fortescue, as Leon Darville, acts impressively, and considerable histrionic ability is displayed by Mr. R. Vane (Count de Beaulieu) and Mr. H. C. Hunt (Andre). The heroine is impersonated by Miss T. St. Albans, who, together with Miss Maud Malvern (Blanche Darville), does well. Praise is also due to Miss Flo Bevan.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Manager, Mr. J. Field.—An exceptionally attractive programme here this week includes the Szarvasi-Ferenz Troupe of Hungarian singer, dancers, and acrobats, who submit a most entertaining and wonderful turn. Gilbert Girard's remarkable mimicry of animals, instruments, etc., arouses much enthusiasm. A funny couple are the Leotard Bros., whose balancing and hat throwing tricks deserve warm praise. Quaint songs are amusingly rendered by George Formby, and the Smythsons appear with success in the sketch, *The Lie-Alarm*. Miss Edith Grey and her coons, Childie Stuart, and animated pictures, complete a capital bill-of-fare. The matinée this week in aid of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society was kindly assisted by all the above-mentioned artistes, whilst the Palace Trio, Messrs. H. Grigg (conductor of the orchestra), F. Gill and C. J. Jane, contributed a pleasing musical selection. Mr. John Field, the manager, is to be congratulated on the success which attended his efforts.

PONTYPOOL. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. C. and J. R. Poole; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stephens.—Messrs. Poole's popular myriorama is attracting crowded houses here this week. Interesting scenes from the arena of the war in the East are presented, together with a series of the latest animated photos. The programme is enlivened with an up-to-date variety organisation. The Anndale Quartette deserve special mention, *A Night on the Tiles* being excruciatingly funny; Mons. Henri, the gymnastic wonder, performs the feat of balancing a full-sized dog-cart on his chin; the Almo-Trio also performs some wonderful feats on the horizontal bar.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE. — Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Business-Manager, Mr. Rex. Dooley.—The attraction this week is Miss Olga Audre. Messrs. Travis Green, and Arthur Hinton's company in the play entitled *When a Man Hates*. Mr. Arthur Hinton's assumption of Professor Vigo is full of dramatic grip. The peculiar character of Paul is admirably portrayed by Mr. Gerald Byrne; Mr. Graham Arthurs submits an excellent rendering of Lawrence Hastings; the comic element is cleverly introduced by Mr. Tom Taylor as Peter Simple; and he is ably seconded by Miss Marie E. Robertson as Dolly Dimple; Miss Leila Zillwood displays ability as Olga Gwynne; and Miss Marion Forrester enhances her reputation as the white angel.

PORTH.—POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr W. Bynorth.—A return visit is being paid here by Messrs. Mitchelson and Fineberg's company in *The Traitor*. Mr. John C. Carlyle displays ability as Prince Rudolph and Colonel Nervi; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan gives a masterly portrayal of the title part; Miss Isabel Hunt plays remarkably well as Lieutenant Nicholas; Mr. Edward Swinton as General Hertz, and Mr. Edward Lowri as Soff, contribute much amusement; Countess Zicka is cleverly played by Miss Frances White; Mr. T. W. Hurst is exceedingly good as Captain Ross; Miss Hettie Senior gives a powerful rendering of Elsie Duprey; Zula is meritoriously played by Miss Ruth Shepherd; Miss Anena Walton deserves mention as Cen-Cen; and Mr. Frank Sutherland does well as Jack Boult.

PORTSMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mrs. Lewis Waller, with her excellent all-round company, is here, presenting during the week *Zaza*, *Vilma*, and an original comedy, *Miss Jack*. On Monday, *Zaza* was the fare, and Mrs. Lewis Waller, in the title-rôle, gave a finished performance. Cascart was ably portrayed by Mr. Edmund Waller; Mr. Eric Mayne gave a spirited and careful interpretation of Bernard Dufresne; Mr. Edgar J. Coyne made the best use of his opportunities as the Duc de Brissac; Rosa Bonne was capitally played by Miss Kate Kearney; Florianne was well taken by Miss Rosemary Rees; and the Nathalie of Miss Minnie Rayner was very good. Miss Maudie Ray made a sweet little Toto.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—*The Convent Bell*, or *The Secret of Sinners' Point*, is occupying the boards here this week. Mr. Howell Webb's company doing the drama full justice. Mr. Stanley Carlton, as the minstrel hero, Philip Vautier, gave a capital personation, and sang his songs well; Mr. Oliver Birrell was the embodiment of a stage scoundrel of the deepest dye; Pickle Podds, in the hands of Mr. Howell Webb, created much amusement; and Mr. Teddy Myles, who was responsible for Jean, a page boy made the most of a laughable part. Miss Ruby Maude, as the afflicted heroine, Marguerite Courier, made a good impression by her acting; and Miss Emily Hubby played the part of Christine Valgrave in a highly creditable manner.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—An exceptionally good programme is provided here this week. Topping the bill is Professor Inman Hockinge, the American hypnotist, electrician, scientist, and healer, who apparently does some marvellous cures. Selbo, club juggler, is clever; Johnny Dwyer, a versatile comedian, sings some capital songs; Kitty Clover and Co. are still here in a laughable sketch, entitled *Mistaken Identity*; the Three Laurels, with their original speciality on the ping-pong table, are responsible for some able acrobatic work; and Beatrice Renée, soubrette, is well received. Also appearing are the Sisters Reveri, vocal duettists; Ellis and Watts, dancing experts; and Harry Luck, eccentric.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. Geo. Dance's principal company is presenting *The Country Girl* here this week. As Geoffrey Challoner, Mr. Cyril Thompson gives a manly impersonation, and sings expressively; Sir Joseph Verity has a capital representative in Mr. H. C. Morton; Mr. St. John Hamund commendably depicts the Rajah, rendering his songs in clever style; Douglas Verity is creditably embodied by Mr. Willie Hartill; Mr. Scrope Quentin is well suited as Lord Anchester; and Mr. Johnny Osborne deservedly scores a success as Barry. Miss Maud Harvey, as Marjory Joy, Miss Nina Carlton as Princess Melaneh; Miss Addie Lennard, as Madame Sophie; and Miss May Glen as Nan; display ability in acting, singing, and dancing. The chorus contributes appreciably to the excellence of the performance, and the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Otto Manns, must be accorded praise.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is appearing here this week in *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr. Sam Livesey makes a very powerful John Strong, the Village Blacksmith. The villainy of Captain Leo is well portrayed by Mr. Joseph Carter; Mr. Fred. Wells depicts Lucas Marlow in a praiseworthy manner; Mr. George Campbell evokes much laughter as Billy Twig; Mr. Thos. E. Marshall is a clever impersonator of Jeremiah Parkins; Little Christobel, as Harry Strong, deserves much credit. Miss Laura Walker displays great ability in the rôle of Kate Strong; Miss Maggie Edwards is a successful Ruth Parkins; Sal Parkins is ably presented by Mrs. T. C. Livesey; Miss Edith Giddens is a very good Martha Mopps. The drama is well staged.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident-Manager, Mr. Clement Freeman.—At the head of the bill here this week are De Gracia's baby elephants, and their performance is very clever and amusing. James De Voye's educated pony shows almost human intelligence. The Three Romas are excellent in their gladiatorial feats. Two enjoyable musical turns are contributed by Harland and Rollinson, and Stidder, respectively. The Lavelles are smart comedy acrobats. Post Mason, American baritone, renders his songs with success. Fred. Horsfall acquits himself well as a double-voiced vocalist, and Emmie White is a praiseworthy comedienne and dancer.

RAMSGATE.—AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—Dyson's Gipsy Choir and Diorama fill the bill at this place of amusement. The various vocal and instrumental artistes contribute items in a manner which calls for distinct praise, while the dioramic pictures of places of interest all over the world are quite works of art. Much amusement is afforded by the exhibition of some clever humorous animated photographs.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE. — Co-proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Ellis Miller.—A hearty welcome was on Monday accorded to Mr. Peter Thompson's fine pantomime company, in *Babes in the Wood*. As Robin Hood Miss Maude Beaumont makes a great hit, being a prime favourite; Miss Molly Hackett makes a charming Maid Marion; as the wicked Baron Mr. J. Templar Ellis is distinctly good; and the Danbys are intensely comical as the rumans. Mr. Fred Danvers keeps the house in roars with his amusing gag; the Sisters Grahame are good as the two babes, their musical turns being admirable; Miss Katie Lever is clever as Bluebell; Miss Fanny Humber is a smart Will Scarlett; and the same can be said of Miss Nellie Hilton, Miss Minnie Moran, and Miss Rosa Walmsley in their respective characters. The specialities include N. T. Kioto, a Japanese, who gives a startling performance as an equilibrist; the Yankee Quartet, Little Rene, and Miss Fanny Humber. The costumes are charming, and the scenery is considerably above the average.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor.—Mr. Mouillot's principal company is appearing this week in *A Message from Mars*. The part of Horace Parker is taken in powerful style by Mr. Rawson Buckley; the Messenger is impressively represented by Mr. William H. Brougham; Miss May Saker plays artistically as Minnie Templar, and the other parts are well impersonated. The play is excellently mounted, and the electric effects are well worked.

BOSTOCK and WOMBWELL'S menagerie was here on Saturday and Monday, and attracted a large number of visitors.

ROCHDALE.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Clucas.—Dottridge and Longden's pantomime, *Aladdin*, opened on Monday evening to a house packed in all parts. Some very pretty music is given, and the dresses and scenic effects are exceptionally bright and tasteful. Mr. Fred Cary is a host in himself as Abanazar; Miss Phyllis Grey sings sweetly as Rhadianta. The title-rôle is filled with vivacity by Miss Mimi Fisher; Miss Harriet Fawn charmingly acts the part of the Princess; Mr. Fred Graham is amusing as Widow Twankey; and Mr. John Donald is a most imposing Emperor. Miss Leno Veere as Prince Hi-to-nee; and Miss Cassie Walmer as Loo-Liah-Tee, are both favourites with the audience. The Bros. Brooks cause much amusement as the two policemen; and Keith and Merson do some clever acrobatic business; and Les Belles Americaines execute a series of smart acrobatic dancing.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee; Business-Manager, Mr. S. L. Lee.—Ralph Pringle's North American Animated Photo Co. is fulfilling a second week's engagement here. An entire new series of pictures are shown, one illustrating the life of a collier proving most interesting. Baroni and Kemp, quick-change artistes; Miss Le Clair, vocalist; and Prof. Lehman, shadowgraphist, create a diversion greatly appreciated.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Adams and Ward, comedy acrobats, in addition to being amusing, are clever in their feats of agility; Will Dalton, comedian, causes roars of laughter with his impersonations of a country yokel; Annie Cohen, comedienne; Mary Young, ballad vocalist; Stanley and Vandyke, comedians; Len Lever, coloured coon; Alec Thomas, comedy artiste; and The Empire Bioscope, with *The Lost Child*, provide a capital evening's entertainment.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Rugby Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Parker-Royston.—On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, *As Midnight Chimes* was presented by Messrs. Marris and Bickford's company. Mr. Melville Bickford as Luke Dezzard gave an able rendering; Mr. Frank E. Petley is manly and effective as Dave Stannard; as Ezra Lamble, Mr. Herbert Belmore made a success; and Mr. James Salter caused a lot of amusement by his acting as Tat Sparmin. Miss Gertrude Rice as Mary Stannard submitted a good representation; and Miss Nita Imeson was a vivacious Suzette.

FOSSETT'S HIPPODROME.—The programme this week is augmented by several items which are much appreciated. Mr. R. Fossett is excellent in his Cowboy act, on the flying steed; Miss Emmie in her wire-walking act is very successful; Miss Nellie Fossett in her jumping act is very capable; and the Senorita Frascuelo gives a clever exhibition. Messrs. Robert and Thomas Fossett in their double jockey act repeat their former success; and Miss Fossett in her trick act on a barebacked horse is responsible for a fine performance. Mons. Otto in his hand-balancing and Arab tumbling is very clever; and Charlie Beckett is as good as usual. Topsy, the performing elephant, is a good illustration of animal training; and the comic sketch, *Rejected Remounts*, causes a deal of amusement.

RUNCORN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. H. W. Caddick.—*A Wrecker of Men* is the attraction this week. The company are under the direction of Mr. Alfred Maurice, and the play has met with an enthusiastic reception. As Risca Mallison, Miss Hilda Hatton is effective; Miss Alice de Lacey plays the part of Doris Melville in a charming manner, and soon wins the sympathy of the audience; Miss Kitty Melville excites much laughter, and is deservedly applauded. As Jim Murley, Mr. W. F. Travers plays with force, and looks the burglar to the life. In the sympathetic part of Guise Strange, Mr. Alfred Maurice is excellent. The scenery deserves special mention.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Robert Perris's company, in the American drama, *A Fight for Millions*, with its many exciting incidents, drew a large house on Monday, when Mr. Robert Perris kept the audience in excellent humour as the tramp, Willie Neverwork. Miss Eva Purcell was in every way suited to the charming character of Pearl Rivers. Richard Dudley, the villain, was well sustained by Mr. Horace Booth. The hero, Tom Manley, was capably played by Mr. Vincent W. Carlyle, and Miss Florence Lovell presented Mrs. Hudson Rivers with advantage. Much droll business was contributed by Mr. Karl H. Edwards as Solomon Moses, Mr. Nicholas Conway as Harold Hobbs, and Miss Lottie Pearce as Betty, and also as Mag Brady. The deserted wife and child, Helen Dudley and little Madge, were well portrayed by Miss Elma C. Turner and Miss Dora Lyons.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Licensee, Mr. Wilberforce Turner; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Frederick Yates. — Much pleasure was evidently given by Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lucas on Monday, when they gave several scenes from Dickens, and Matt Wilkinson and company kept the house in roars with *The Registry Office*. Bob Hamilton also caused much laughter with his songs. The Brothers Edgar, comedians; Leah Arden, ballad vocalist; Stave, a comical musical comedian; John Callan, American comedian and dancer; Alskarno Trio, comedy acrobats; Edie St. Clair, serio and dancer; and Fentoni, sand and smoke cartoonist and paper manipulator, also contributed to a capital programme, which ended with some amusing animated pictures.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. J. B. Taylor.—The principal contributors to an enjoyable bill this week are Ford and Hanson, American musical millionaires; H. O. Wills, with his droll songs; Morgan, Palmer, and Co., in the comedy sketch, *All About Nothing*; Moto, Continental eccentric musician and comedian; Alfred Seigel, middleweight wrestler; Bros. Hampson, patter vocalists and smart dancers; Flying Zedoras, trapeze and versatile gymnasts; Ralston and Francis, in a nautical musical scena; Stanert and Yondi, comedy and musical act; and Johnson and Pelham (Kid and Masie), American novel speciality artists, also give good turns. The animated pictures contribute to the pleasure of the entertainment.

L. AND N. W. PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. A. Higham; Manager, Mr. Sam Higham.—An enjoyable entertainment is given here this week. Among the artistes contributing are Mr. Jack Martin, comedian; Miss Olga Featherstone, descriptive vocalist; and Mr. Bert Hicks, comedian.

BRIDGE HOTEL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Tom Bradbury.—Mr. Fred Redfern, tenor vocalist, heads this week's bill, and Mr. Syd Carlton, descriptive vocalist; Raynor and Lund, comedians and dancers; and Mr. Will Charlton, humourist and patter comedian, are also included in the programme.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. John Walter's pantomime company is here this week with *Cinderella*. Miss Vera Vizard is seen and heard to advantage as Dewdrop; Mr. Rex Kyburn is an effective Wizard; Miss Constance St. Bride presents a handsome and dashing Prince Charming; Miss Billy Linn is an attractive and captivating Dandini; Miss Dolly Linn is quite successful as Flightly Flirt; and the quiet humour of Mr. Arthur Hickman is well displayed in the part of Baron Wheresmecash. The title-rôle is admirably sustained by Miss Florence Drew, her singing and dancing being especially admired; Miss Flo Merry is well fitted as the Baroness; Mr. George Reeves and Mr. T. H. Solly keep the fun going as Clotilda and Angelina; Mr. Ally M. Benson causes much laughter as Buttons; and Clarence and Bell keep the comic element in full swing in half-a-dozen good burlesque parts.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—Mr. and Mrs. W. Giffard's company is occupying the boards here with *The World's Desire*. Mr. Giffard submits a notable presentation of the Hon. Ellis Tridley; Robert and Henry Selkirk is played with much ability by Mr. Clifford Rean; and Mr. Geo. Child is very

Miss Alice Esden gives a capital character study of the lodging-housekeeper, and others who help valuably are Mr. Fred Grove, Mr. Frank Lacy, Miss Mabel Carden, and Miss Alison Alexander.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. J. W. Gordon.—*When Woman Hates* is being presented here. Miss Elaine Verner is particularly clever in the rôle of Cora Daintry; and Miss Ada Ryder, as Marie Rokeby, achieves success. Mr. William Yates does excellently as Gen. Sir Henry Rokeby; and Mr. Albert Guyon acquits himself with credit as Godfrey Lawton. Mr. Eric Campbell, as Bill, is very amusing; and Mr. Will Percy, Mr. Murray Yorke, and Mrs. Edgar Colona are responsible for much fun. Miss Louise Brandon and Little Vera also deserve commendation for their acting. The scenery and effects are admirable.

PALACE.—Manager, Mr. Chas. Marte.—The Five Sisters Warwick, clever trick bicyclists, top the list here. Millie Engler and Co. score in a farcical sketch, *Beauty and the Burglar;* and the Four Estrellas do a very fine acrobatic turn; Orpheus gives his interesting musical act, and is as popular as ever. Others who put in good work are C. H. Baldur, the Sisters Caselli, Flo Penley and George English, and the Sisters Hall.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Marlow, sen.; Manager, Mr. W. Marlow, jun.—This week's attraction is provided by Mr. Harry Firth's grand pantomime entitled *Cinderella*, which is being presented in a very successful manner. It is excellently mounted, and the singing and dancing both are good. Mr. E. Wilson is well suited as Baron Pebbly-Beach; Miss Madge Osmond gives a good portrayal of Cinderella; Messrs. J. Binns and H. Haines as Butterina and Margerina respectively, make two humorous characters; Pimple finds an able impersonator in Mr. Fred Park; Miss Dora Denmark as Prince Perfect is pleasing; Dandini is well taken by Miss Ethel Mohr, who possesses an exceedingly fine contralto voice; Messrs. W. Marsh and W. Morris are equally good as Ping and Pong; Miss Maude Francis deserves mention as Dorothy; Cinderella's Godmother is well presented by Miss Dot Beresford; and Miss Edith Kingston gives prominence to Crystal, the Fairy of the Slipper. Miss Clarisse Mignon gives some clever banjo selections; Lieut. Charles Valvo is well received in his ventriloquial entertainments; and Mr. Fred Earle, as an illusionist and card manipulator, is very smart.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE. — General Manager, Mr. Alfred Hemming.—The local lovers of Grand Opera are this week favoured by a visit from the Moody-Manners principal opera company. This combination of high-class artistes is always sure of a hearty reception, and a brilliant performance of *Tannhäuser* was given on the opening night. Madame Fanny Moody, in the rôle of Elizabeth, played with impressive feeling, her singing being superb. Miss Toni Seiter as Venus and Miss D. Eshelby as the shepherd were both meritorious impersonations. Mr Joseph O'Mara, who was in excellent voice, sustained the title-rôle very successfully; Mr. Charles Magrath gave a capital portrayal of the Land grave; Wolfram had a strikingly effective representative in Mr. William Dever; and the orchestra under the conductorship of Herr Eckhold, performed admirably. The programme for the week includes *Faust, Carmen, Lohengrin, La Traviata* and the *Bohemian Girl*.

PALACE OF VARIETIES. — Lessees and Managers Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—For what is locally known as the "Waterloo" week, the management has provided a very attractive bill of fare at this popular place of entertainment. Miss Kitty Loftus, who represented the star turn, was specially engaged for the occasion, and delighted a large audience by her vivacious and clever rendering of her various numbers. The programme also includes Speedwell, the demon portrait painter; Harry Phydora, comedian; Dorothy Frostick, comedienne and dancer; Wyotti, quaint comedy juggler; Percy Farrimond, the singing collier; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Casson in their sketch, *Honours are Easy;* and the Haydn Comedy Four.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company is here in the new play *Sunday*. Miss Jean Stirling Mackinlay's charming presence and delicate treatment of the title-rôle greatly enhances the performance. Mr. J. Edward Pearce gives a capital embodiment of Colonel Brinthorpe; Mr. Ernest A. Douglass acts quietly and ably as the genial Tom Oxley. Mr. Whitford Kane appears with striking effect as Jacky, and the remaining boys, Towzer, Davy, and Lively respectively, have equally admirable exponents in Messrs. Frederick Powell, John H. Manley, and T. Norman Walter. Mr. Charles B. Vaughan advantageously sustains Arthur Brinthorpe. Miss Helen MacGregor is an acceptable Nun, and Miss Elizabeth Watson is a distinctly pleasing Mrs. Neasby.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—The bill is headed by the Phillipi Bros. in their farcical absurdity, *Shunting; A Musical Trip Round the World*, by Rackett and Hazard, receives hearty appreciation; Katie Holloway, a bright comedienne, sings a taking coon song; and the American Bioscope is again an addition to the programme. The Four Royal Welshmen constitute an agreeable glee party, Martin and Quigg are funny comedians, and some capable dancing is furnished by Geo. Tustin. Harry Clifford, comedian, and Geo. Adams, baritone vocalist, are both successful.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Jos. Sweeney.—Devoy, Hurst, and Ricks, a burlesque trio, are exceedingly amusing, and an interesting film entitled "The Stowaway" is shown by the Royal Italian Bioscope. A varied entertainment is introduced by Speeks and Thorne. Others appearing are La Belle Rosa, Moyan and Merle, Edie Endon, James Lowery, and Collin and Irene.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee Mr. Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—Pantomime is once again seen on the boards of the Cambridge. This time Mr. Peter Eland's company is delighting local patrons with *Little Red Riding Hood*. Miss Dollie Hook is handsome, cheery, and vivacious as Robin, and is ably seconded by Miss Rito Vincent as Bluebell, who sings "Navaho" in a pretty style. Miss Jennie Whitehead makes an attractive Fairy, her beautiful voice being heard to great advantage in "Excelsior," which she sings in conjunction with Mr. W. Raynor, the Wolf. Red Riding Hood is nicely acted by Miss Mabel Manley; as Widow Bailey Mr. George Royle is the soul of mirth; Mr. H. Flockton Foster is a great success as Sir Seely Chump; and Mr. Charlie Howarth is funny as John William. Miss Watson and Mr. Eastwood render "My Pretty Japanese" exceedingly well, and Master Lennie Ankers is also very good as P.C. J9. As a juggler Mr. Syd Mountford contributes a clever turn.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The St. Helens Theatre, Limited; General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader. — Mr. Frank Macnaghten's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, is meeting with gratifying success here this week. The title-rôle finds a delightful representative in Miss Louie Herman. She has an excellent voice, which she uses with artistic effect. Miss Rose Bartlett makes a sweet and winsome Polly Perkins. Mr. Will Dytton is exceedingly droll as Will Atkins, and keeps the house in continual laughter; Messrs. Harris and Worth as Sammy and Dick also create much mirth; Miss Flora Leonard is well cast as Fairy Coral; Mr. Harry Morgan has a congenial part in Friday; Miss Delia Cherry and Miss Dora Laugham score well as Midshipman Merry and Nancy Lee respectively; Mr. Jack Foley (Dame Crusoe) and Mr. B. R. Adford (Davey Jones) make the most of their opportunities in their respective rôles; Miss Ivy Lane's troupe of dancers are exceptionally good. The scenery, dresses and music are excellent.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. T. Barrasford, Will Sloy and F. Willmott; Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—*The Babes in the Wood* is being played here by the Six Brothers Luck. The piece is mirth-provoking from start to finish. The brothers are well supported by Miss Mabel Thorne (Robin Hood), Miss Hylda Dugdale (Maid Marion), and Mr. C. Dillon (Madriley), and the piece is well staged.

ST. LEONARDS.—KURSAAL.— Pier-Master, and Entertainment Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—The closing concerts given by the Kursaal Orchestra are in every way as attractive as the earlier ones. An innovation is made this week by the introduction of several well-known amateurs, also the addition of an excellent vocal quartette party under the guidance of Mr. Herman Brearley.

STOCKPORT. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Mr. George Dance's company is here, in *The Duchess of Dantzic*. Miss Rita Presano acts the part of Catherine delightfully; and Miss Lilian Drake is a charming Empress Josephine. Miss Edith Carlyle and Miss May Harris, as the sisters of Napoleon, are stately; and Miss Alice Coverick, as Renee, is exceedingly pleasing. Mr. Colin Mackay is amusing as Papillon; and Adhemar has a capable representative in Mr. Thomas C. Maxwell. Mr. Frederick Moyes impersonates Napoleon with much cleverness.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Davenport.—The Moxon family of acrobats and foot equilibrists are the chief attraction here, their clever feats commanding much applause. Volosky meets with success in his roller skating performance; and the Three Sisters Adrienne (vocalists and dancers) give a pleasing entertainment. The Hannaford Quartette of daring equestrians continue their success of last week.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs. Weldon Watts; General Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Mr. John Tiller's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, is here. Mr. Harry D. Lyndon, as Fitzwarren, is successful; Mr. Dan Thomas, as Eliza, shows considerable humour; Jack Idle, by Mr. Bob Selvidge, is full of eccentricity and "go;" Sammy Saltpeter and Horatio Marlingspike, by Messrs. Will Mackney and J. G. Aitken, aid greatly in the fun; The Cat is nimbly acted by Mr. Barrie Gilmour; Miss Fanny Harris, as Alice, is well-suited; Miss Edna Morgan's Emperor is dashing; and Miss Gracie Graham's Dick is played with charming spirit. The dances by the Diamond Quartette, the Excelsior Troupe of Children, and the Pony Ballet Troupe, are all done with precision and grace.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. Batty; Manager, Mr. W. Batty.—The extra good company appearing at this house includes Franco Piper, the unique banjoist; Fielding and Hull, in their comedy sketch; Onda and Leon, quaint bar performers; Charles Serra, a clever gymnast; Tom E. Hughes, comic; Anthy, tight wire performer; Jack Pleasants, the quaint songster; J. P. Carroll, expert tambourine player; and Payne's entertaining bio. pictures.

STOKE. — HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—The bill this week is full of interesting turns. At the head are Lockhart's Elephants, in a truly wonderful exhibition. The Brothers De Wynne contribute a novel and clever turn; Booker and Narbis are seen in a clever duologue, *The Interviewer;* Alec Aubrey is a gymnast of extraordinary ability; Miss Frederica introduces her cleverly-trained dogs and pony; Sandy and Carl cause much amusement in their patter turn; Charles Russell sings a capital song; and the animated pictures shown are capital. Mr. Frank Egerton takes his benefit on March 3, and the late popular manager is sure to have a huge house.

STOURBRIDGE.—ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—On Monday Mr. Bert Coote's company paid a return visit with *The Fatal Wedding*. Mr. Stuart Lomath finds great favour with the audience as Howard Wilson; Miss Eva Moss, as Mabel Wilson, scores a decided success; Jessie, the Little Mother, is prettily played by Miss Emmie Thomas; Miss Dora Gilham is effective as Cora Williams; and Mr. Albert Wainwright is capable as Robert Curtis. Mr. W. E. Chewd, as Toto, contributes plenty of fun; Mr. T. W. Ford is also droll as Peter Schwartz; and Miss Maud Locker, as Bridget, evokes laughter.

SUNDERLAND. — AVENUE THEATRE. — Proprietors, Sunderland Theatres, Limited; Managing Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; General-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—The enterprise of the management in bringing Mr. J. F. Elliston's gorgeous pantomime of the *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Yellow Dwarf* here is meeting with the warm approval of the patrons of the popular Wearside theatre. Miss Esme Gordon makes a fine dashing and handsome Prince Faithful, putting much vigour into her various songs; Miss Daisy Stratton is a dainty and winning Beauty Allfair; Miss Mabel Kempton, as Silver Star, has jumped into favour, her smart appearance and fine vocalism being highly appreciated; the Sisters Cunningham, as Bon-Bon and Bonnie Bouche, contributes some good dancing; La Superbe's terpsichorean acrobatic phantasy, is remarkably clever; and Mr. Lonnen Meadows' *Yellow Dwarf* is a masterly performance. Mr. W. J. Churchill, as the Count Incognito, is amusing; Mr. Alf. Bishop is happily placed as King Half-a-Crown; and in Mr. James Chippendale Queen Half-a-Crown has an admirable foil. Mr. Donald Keir, who is responsible for the rôle of Old Mother Baneful, scores in his duet with Silver Star. The Morton comedy trio create quite a furore with their well-sung ditties.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; General-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—A big house assembled here on Monday to witness the popular drama, *The Ladder of Life*. Mr. C. Finch Hatton, in the part of David Gordon, acquits himself excellently; Mr. C. H. Mathews gives a masterly impersonation of Fergus Gordon; and the rôle of Ivan Kirkovitch is capably filled by Mr. J. Cooke Hinton. A special word of praise must be accorded the Feros (acrobats), who are engaged for the human ladder in the rescue scene. Mr. F. Morton Wright is seen to advantage as Sergt. Donald MacDougal; Mr. J. F. Turner makes the most of Fritters; as Olga Sobinsky, Miss Nesta Sandford is capable; Miss Hilda Young is a pleasing Mary Jane Jolliboy; and Miss Flora Leslie makes a clever Meg Merilees.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George V. Wybrow.—The star turn here this week is Albert Wyndham and company in the successful Shakespearean sketch, *Prince Arthur*. The part of Hubert is capably filled by Mr. Albert Wyndham; and Miss Ross St. John is a winsome Prince Arthur. Mdlle. Zvette, with her miniature hippodrome, is heartily appreciated; and other acceptable turns are T. C. Callagham, comedian; Rose and Lewis, in their clever musical and dancing act; Bros. Hersleb, novelty artistes; the McRays, in their comedy act; Florrie, St. Clair, and Marion Hood, comediennes. Vernon's animated pictures are also presented.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Sutton Theatre Syndicate; Manager, Mr. Edward Grey.—This week Mr. Cecil Clayton, managing-director of the theatre, has brought down his pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, in which Miss Millie Beckett plays the title-part in captivating style; the acting of Miss Gertie Lovedale, as Alice, is greatly appreciated; and Miss Gertrude Grey (Mrs. Cecil Clayton), in the part of the Fairy Godmother, receives a hearty welcome on each appearance, her songs being given in excellent style. Mr. Sam Clyto is an active Cat, and contributes a special acrobatic and contortionist turn. Mr. Albert Evremond, Mr. James Glover, and Mr. Tom Kenealey, in the respective parts of Old Fitzwarren, Idle Jack, and Clementine, create much amusement. The whole concludes with a beautiful transformation scene entitled *Blue Bell in Fairyland*.

SWANSEA. — GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons, Limited; Lessees and Managers, Messrs. E. Oswald Brooks and J. W. Woodbridge; Resident Partner, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks.—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal and company opened on Monday with *The Housekeeper*. The perfarmance was most charming, and deeply interesting from first to last, the two principals, as Colonel Trent and Lady Audrey Whitby keeping the audience in the best of humour throughout. Excellent support was given them by the company. *Still Waters Run Deep* was played on Tuesday, and *The Housekeeper* was repeated on Wednesday night.

NEW STAR.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Coutts.—The attraction at this house during the week has been Mr. Horace Stanley's sensational drama, *The 10.30 Down Express*, played by himself and his company.

NEW EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Mitchell.—The capital programme provided here includes the Kellinos, clever acrobats, in a speciality act; Ambrose Thorne, in his light-comedy songs; Cora Caselli, with song and dance; George Ross and Ella Grayson, in a sketch, *The Professor and the Pupil;* Lily Burnand, a charming comedienne; act, *Ye Brown Cow Inn;* Arthur Gill, yokel Burg, Haud, and Wise, in the acrobatic comedy speciality; Baker and Balfe, xylophone experts; F. V. St. Clair, comedian; and Les Brunins, musical lady jugglers.

THE PALACE.—Lessees, The Swansea Varieties, Limited.—The engagements at this house for the current week are the Brighton Boys, comedy acrobats; Beattie Lyndon, comedienne and dancer; Major Newell, pedestal skater and dancer; the Palace pictures; Florence Gwynne, comedienne; Harry Luck, comedian; Amy Elvira, comedienne; and Oakley and James, speciality artistes.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—*A Victim of Villainy*, a sensational drama, new to this town, is the attraction this week. The piece is well staged, and performed by Mr. Walter Howe's Company. Mr. Howe must be highly complimented on his effective impersonation of Frank Manton. The gross villainy of the despicable Stephen Cavanagh is cleverly depicted by Mr. C. E. Wilton. Miss Rosa Lehmann undertakes the part of Mary Manton with telling effect; and Miss Muriel Dean is successful as Alice Cavanagh; while Miss Adela Harvey is very bright and pleasing as Norah Maloney. Others who are seen to considerable advantage are Mr. Len Howe, as Walter Lennox; and Mr. J. Faulkner Cox, with many touches of humour, as Constable Patrick Maloney.

TON-Y-PANDY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General Manager, Mr. Sam. Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Counsell.—Mr. A. Gibbon's company is here with *Beauty and the Beast*. Miss Linda Keston shines as Beauty; and the "Beast" is ably presented by Mr. F. Mansion. Miss M. Beaufort merits favour as Prince Charming; and some clever specialities are introduced.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Lessee, Miss A. Alexandra; Managing-Director, Mr. Dd. Taylor.—Heading a good bill here are the Brothers Zampah; Wilfred, the flexible wonder, is well received; Eleanora displays great cleverness as an aerial artist; and Baby Lloyd also evokes much applause. Vernon's Bio myrograph throws some good pictures on the screen.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey; Manager, Mr. F. Edgar Manaton.—*The New Magdalen* was presented by Miss Lilian Dundas and Company on Monday. Miss Dundas gave a powerful impersonation of Mercy Merrick, being well supported by Miss Amy Johnson as the relentless Grace Roseberry; and Miss Estelle Dennison gave a charming and sympathetic study of Lady Janet. Mr. H. Dundas, as the clergyman, and Mr. A. W. Tyrer as the impetuous Horace Holmcroft, both submit clever studies.

WAKEFIELD. — ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—*The Still Alarm* is being played here this week by Messrs. Mathew H. Grenville and Fred Osmond's company. Mr. Mathew H. Grenville impersonated in a manly fashion the hero, Jack Manley; the part of the villain, John Bird, is well rendered by Mr. Paul Lovett; Mr. Milton C. Curtis is capable as Franklyn Fordham; Mr. Tom Beasley is well placed as Willie Manley; Mr. Fred Osmond is amusing as Doc Wilber; the part of Joe Jones is well filled by Mr. Lewis Gordon; Elinore Fordham is ably interpreted by Miss Mary Lovett; Miss Connie Meadows (with song and dance) does well as Carrie Wilber; and Miss Mabel Veriton is good as Mrs. Manley.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Wakefield Hippodrome, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Geo. S. Douglass.—Datas, the Memory Man, astounds audiences here by the ready manner in which he gives dates, and wins hearty applause; Messrs. Hilton and Hilton are clever bar performers; Eno, mimic, is successful; Silent Tait, eccentric wizard, is very amusing; the Two Graces are charming comediennes and dancers; Austin and Cowan, vocalists, are highly appreciated; Miss Ruby Ashton, comedienne, wins favour; and Walter Payne's bio-photoscope also delights.

WALLSEND. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, The Wallsend Theatre Company; Manager; Mr. Tony Richardson.—Miss Ada Wallis and company are here this week in *The Major*. Mr. T. C. McQuire gives a commendable presentation of Major Barney; Mr. A. Godfrey, in the rôle of Jeremiah Stoney, proves himself to be a comedian of more than usual ability; Mr. Frank Hartley, in the part of George Goodman, acquits himself in excellent fashion; Miss Ada Wallis is most successful as Angelina; and Miss Ethel Poole plays most effectively as Grace Gampney. Some clever dancing is introduced by the National Troupe.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, LTD.—General Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—The success of the second week's engagement of Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime *Dick Whittington* is amply proved by the large audiences it continues to draw. The artists work well together, and receive well-merited applause. The principal boy's part is assigned to Miss Bessie Willow, who makes a charming Dick, her singing being well received. Miss Leah Laurie ably undertakes the part of Alice; Mr. Allan Carruthers is as lively as ever as Idle Jack; Messrs. Clifton and Gibson are most humorous as Silly Peter and Lazy Lary; Mr. Cyril Dundas makes a capital Fitzwarren; Mr. W. V. Vido is effective as the Cat; the specialities include Curtis and Vanity, who are greatly appreciated, Messrs. Clifton and Gibson, and the Three Sisters Kilner.

GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Company, Ltd.; General Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. Herbert Fuller's company is here this week in *Passion of Life*. Mr. Francis Everard gives a good portrayal of Horace O'Neal; Mr. Charles Webb capably enacts the rôle of Daddy Kenny, and Mr. Harold Wallace does well as Jack Kenny. As Ralph Flint Mr. H. Evan Gibbon is well placed; Mr. William Gardiner is exceedingly good as Dan Sprouts; Miss Edith Mitchell makes a charming Nitra O'Neal, and Miss Agnes Collier is successful in the part of Belle O'Neal.

WALTHAMSTOW.—PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr G. Adney Payne; Manager, Mr Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr Geo. F. Slatter.—Two items in the programme here stand out prominently. Mr. John Grun Marx certainly deserves his description as the Modern Hercules, and if the Homeric hero himself did half as well as his modern prototype, there is no doubt that he must have astonished Olympus. The ease with which Marx toys with weights that would tax the strength of a team of Clydesdales must be seen to be appreciated, and he reaches a climax when he supports a large "merry-go-round" carrying eight men. The other popular display is supplied by Mr. Prinz, with his seventeen forest-bred (*not* Epping Forest) lions. Mr. Prinz's power over these kings (and queens) of the forest is simply marvellous, and the beautiful animals seem to enjoy their own performance as much as the audience. Mdlle. Marcella enters the lions' den and executes a clever fire dance most effectively; Miss Dora Lyric is a charming comedienne; Mr. Lawrence Barclay is an immense favourite, his rich humour finding plenty of scope in two or three clever songs; and the Five Sisters Julian look pretty, dress prettily, sing with expression, and dance divinely. Miss Alexandra Edwin is the possessor of a fine and highly-cultivated soprano, which she employs artistically in high-class songs. An immense reception is accorded to Mr. Harry Champion, whose volubility is surprising.

KING'S THEATRE.—The play for the week at this house is the four-act comedy drama *Parson Thorn*, written by Messrs. Rass Challis and Ormonde G. Smethurst. Mr. Smethurst himself appears as the Rev. John Thorn, and gives great distinction to his portrayal. Mr. Horace Moseley, whose company it is, extracts considerable amusement from his part of a comic constable, Napoleon Buonaparte Mutton; and Mr. Jack Haughton is brisk as the footman, Paddy O'Quirke. Miss Jessie Chandler (Lady Maud Dashwood), Miss Mollie George (Dorothy Thoroughgood), Miss Violet Wood (Dorothy Doddles), and Miss Nellie Stuart (Mrs. Jeremia Greenwood) fill their parts in a manner that leaves nothing to be desired.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr. J. Potter.—Messrs. Haddon and Loader's pantomime company in *Jack and the Beanstalk* is the attraction here this week. Miss Bessie Shelley as Jack is a vivacious mortal, singing and dancing alike with a sprightliness that wins all hearts; Miss Pattie Bella is a charming Dora; and Charley Bright and Nancy Smart as portrayed by Miss Sybil Inez and Miss Cissie Trent, are a winsome pair. Mr. Jay Laurier is quite an up-to-date comedian, his quaint sayings always commanding attention; Mr. Harry Harrop is well placed as the Dame; and the Squire has an able representative in Mr. R. Bolton. The Kydd Brothers, as the Squire's Flunkeys, always please; and Miss Evelyn Robson as Discordio, and Miss Minnie Walsh as Harmonee, the two fairies, are both able representatives. The specialists include the Wragg's, expert swordsmen; the Continential Trio of Dancers; and the Cameron Glee Singers.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmot.—Lady Mansell and her juvenile troupe have scored an immense success here this week. The Three Bros. Huxton are expert acrobats, and the Sisters Ernest sing several operative numbers charmingly. Other excellent attractions are Lea and Lovell, song illustrators; Loudoun Cameron, conjuror; Harry Wright, comedian; Peggy Fame, comedienne; Nellie Gannon, vocalist; and the Royal bioscope pictures.

WEDNESBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—This week Mr. George Testo Sante and company are appearing here in *The Life of a Showman*. Mr. George Testo Sante, who appears in the rôle of Brien Leader, a circus acrobat, displays marvellous talent in his acrobatic and heavy weight-lifting exhibition; Mr. J. K. Walton, as Sir Noel Hartland, is most capable; and as Hendrick Marias Mr. Sam Arthur does some clever work. As the Rev. Cyrill Arliss Mr. Edward Warden makes the most of his opportunity; Mr. J. G. Sante does well as Laurie Grey; and Miss Enid Edoni as Lena Hartland and Miss Amy M'Neill as Agatha Winter are both exceptionally good in their respective portrayals. The humorous part of Angelina is amusingly interpreted by Miss Alice Granville. The introduction of the Bros. Testo in their musical and acrobatic display adds greatly to the success.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. P. Moore.—The attraction here this week and next is Miss Daisy De Roy's up-to-date pantomime, *Dick Whittington and his Cat*. The title-rôle is played with much vigour by Mdlle. Lucretia, who gives a fine exhibition of top-boot dancing. The Alice Fitzwarren of Miss Daisy De Roy is smart, and she gains great applause with her songs; Mr. Paul Courtney is good as the Alderman, and so is Mr. J. C. Bland as Idle Jack. The Barrasford Boys, James and Percy, do their best and create great fun in their respective parts of Captain Shipwreck and Bosun. Miss Poppy Lytton makes a pretty Princess Zuleka; Eliza, the cook, is in the capable hands of Mr. Sydney T. Pease; Roseberne and Chamberlane are smartly played by Miss Madge Allen and Miss Violet Eplett; Mr. Harcourt Russell does full justice to the character of the Emperor of Morocco; Little Jupiter displays his talent as Whittington's cat Tommy, and the large chorus is good and well balanced.

WEST HARTLEPOOL. — GRAND THEATRE. — Manager (for Mrs. Weldon Watts), Mr. Sidney Bacon; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred Conneaux.—Mr. Frank Macnaghten's company is presenting *The King's Pardon here*. Mr. Charles Whitlock is responsible for a masterly conception of the rôle of Clifford Yorke; Noel Blake has a capable exponent in Mr. Charles Stirling; Mr. Horace Butler shows power in the rôle of Simon Leigh; Mr. Harry Belford is seen to advantage in his original part of Major Dobbs; Miss Georgina V. France's acting as Barbara Yorke appeals strongly to the sympathy of the audience; and other characters have able exponents.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—The perfection of animal training is exemplified here in the performance given by Rosina Casselli's wonderfully clever midget dogs. The Ross-Clyde company, of four artistes, are well received in a funny sketch; Vanola's wonderful foot balancing act evokes thunders of applause; the Bandurrias, in their mandolin and guitar speciality, have a hearty reception; the ventriloquial speciality of Capt. Slingsby is novel and amusing; intensely funny business is introduced into songs by Chas. Paver; Clara Victor makes a favourable impression; and the Sisters Desmond are well received.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Linden.—*The Wearing of the Green*, as presented by Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey is the attraction here this week. Mr. Chas. Horner is a capable Shamus McDermott; Mr. H. Sainsbury an able Sir George Courtney; and as Michael Kenny Mr. John S. Chamberlain is exceptionally good. Miss Lalla Stanhope is a pleasing Biddy McGinn; and as Barney O'Hea Mr. Chalmers Mackey is full of vivacity. He is well suported by Mrs. Chalmers Mackey, as Norah McGrath.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Williams.—Mr. Gus. C. Livesey's *Crimson Club* company is doing good business here this week. As Richard Fenton, Mr. Gus C. Livesey is an able hero; and as the heroine Muriel Lockwood. Miss Muriel Wyniard is really good.

WEXFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. E. P. Ronan.—Mr. Kennedy Miller's combination of Irish players is here this week. On Monday *Sarsfield* was presented, and met with an enthusiastic reception. In the name part, Mr. Robert Faulkner gave a careful reading, achieving an undoubted success; the part of De Ginkle was entrusted to Mr. Dane Clarke, who, as usual, gave a finished performance; and Mr. Ion Ireland, as General Talmash, was excellent. Mr. Albert Sinclair, as the Duke of Wurtemberg, evoked the execrations of the audience by his powerful rendering; Mr. James O'Brien, as Gallopin' Hogan, added another to his many past successes; and the same may be said of Miss Monica Kelly, who, as Eily Blake, ably seconded his efforts. Lady Honor was played in a dignified manner by Miss Annie Hylton; Miss Helen Forest, as Lady Rose, portrayed the woman scorned to the life; and Miss Arnott, as Molly, was also good.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark.—Mr. W. H. Kirby's No. 1 company is appearing here this week in *The New Mephisto*. Mr. Albert Weston, in the title-rôle, fairly convulses the audience with his impersonations; Mr. Herbert St. John is capital as Hummingtop; Mr. Arthur Randall is good as Major Bantam; Mr. Clarence Lindon, as Dick Pilgrim, works hard; and Miss Marion Armitage is most amusing as Becky. Miss Nellie Burdette sings well as Dolly; and the Thalian Glee Singers are well received. The Moody-Manners Opera company was announced for Thursday.

WIDNES. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. James Kiddie; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Thomas Swinton.—We are this week favoured for the first time in Widnes with a visit from the Moody Manners Opera company in their excellent repertory. In *Faust* on Monday, Miss Enriquetta Crichton enacted with much spirit and zest the difficult rôle of Marguerite, her singing throughout being superb. As Faust, Mr. Chas. Carter sang finely, and his acting of the part was impressive. Mr. Tom Wood's Mephistopheles was a true representation. *Lohengrin, The Daughter of the Regiment, Cavalleria Rusticana, Carmen, Pagliacci* and *Maritana* are also in the repertoire. The large chorus of thirty-five voices do justice to their various tasks, and the augmented orchestra plays the music with rare feeling and taste.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. John Worswick.—Mr. Fred J. Little and Mr. Fred Darcy's company provides the fourth pantomime of the season in *Sinbad the Sailor*. Miss Lily Beverley takes the part of Sinbad, whose sweetheart, Zorilda, is admirably represented by Miss Kitty Brewster. Capt. Cook has an extremely humorous exponent in Happy Attwood. As specialities, the Walleys are clever jugglers, and the Brewsters are capital acrobatic dancers and banjo song and dance artistes.

THE GRAND HIPPODROME.—Managing Director, Mr. J. Worswick.—George Gilbey, the well-known patter comedian, and the Hoopers, comic jugglers and hoop manipulators, are the great attractions this week. Bandoni, concertina expert, is a popular artiste, and Clown Barker, with his comic equestrian dogs, monkeys, donkey and pony, provides a most interesting and amusing turn. Baker E. Belpher, baritone vocalist, sings very well, and Hector and Paulus are smart comedy acrobats and equilibrists. Flo Elvin is an up-to-date comedienne, and Howard and Collinson are pleasing in their original absurdity *The Porter and the Parson*. Walter Adams, comedian, and Vosper, facial mimic, completes the programme.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Manager, Mr. W. Birchall.—A good programme is provided this week. The Eltenos, comic knockabouts, are amusing; the Dunvilles are clever comedy musical artistes, and Barney Noble, character comedian, is good; Chris Vic, ventriloquist; Smart, comedian and dancer; Miss Kitty Lavigne, comedienne; Togo, Japanese juggler; and Miss Olive Poole, comedienne and dancer, complete the list of artistes.

WOKING.—PUBLIC HALL.—Manager, Mr. Joseph Lewis.—The attraction here this week is Miss Jessie D'Alton's Christmas pantomime, entitled *Dick Whittington*. Miss D'Alton herself is a charming principal girl, her Alice delighting the house. In the title-rôle Miss Alice Ramsdale captivates all hearts. Mr. George Ritter is a distinct success as the choleric Alderman, Hugh Fitzwarren; Mr. Will Terry is a satisfactory Idle Jack; while Bedelia, the cook, finds an able exponent in the person of Mr. Dennis Lyndon. Mr. Vere Russell is a stately Emperor of Morocco, and Miss Beatrice Witham is an attractive Princess Charming. A feature of this production is several really good variety turns, amongst which figure Mons. Jean Pizet, the twistological puzzle; Walter Levetto, high pedestal and jockey dancer; Lyndon and Terry, the peculiar pair; and the Cerito Troupe of lady acrobatic dancers.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival. —This week's attraction consists of *Sergeant Brue*, which is played by Mr. Frank Curzon's company. Mr. Victor Widdicombe affords plenty of amusement, and does admirably as the Sergeant; Mr. E. Percy Rogers is an efficient Michael Brue; Mr. Cecil Burt scores as Mr. Crank, and Mr. T. A. Shale is an excellent Crookie Scrubbs. As Lady Bickenhall Miss Violet Dene is graceful and effective; and Miss Constance Lait is a capital Aurora Brue, her singing being much appreciated. Various other characters are in good hands, and the scenery and dresses are worth seeing.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—The great feature of interest here is *The Magic Kettle*, which is introduced to local audiences for the first time by Mr. B. F. Taylor, who mystifies and entertains with his various performances. The bill also includes the Three Sherrys in their novelty act and acrobatic feats; Fred Clements, comedian; Mabel Hind, a charming little Geisha; Billy Williams, the Australian comedian; the Falcons, acrobatic hand balancers; Hughes and Elliott, sand and buck dancers;

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 13,

"THE DUKE OF KILLICRANKIE."

Captain Robert Marshall's sprightly wit and clever characterisation, as expounded in his Criterion success, *The Duke of Killicrankie*, is finding high favour at the pretty Coronet Theatre this week, and is played to an accompaniment of roars of laughter. The whole idea of the abduction of Lady Henrietta, and her incarceration in the fastnesses of an old Highland castle, together with her unwilling *chaperône*, Mrs. Mulholland, in this, the twentieth century, is so supremely extravagant and far-fetched an idea, and so deliciously droll in the telling, that we can but marvel at the author's audacious wit. Then, too, the wooing of the pair by their self-constituted jailors is so ludicrous, and the dawn of love in the breasts of the wayward fair ones under such romantic circumstances so natural, that we are quite carried away by the charm of the idea. What funnier picture could be desired than the frantic and unavailing efforts of Eon and his accomplice to drown the female amenities of their abducted sweethearts in Pommery '92 at the little supper party in the morning-room of Crag-o'-North Castle?

Mr. Scott Craven is delightful as Eon, the Duke of Killicrankie, and he makes a fine handsome figure of a man in the "kilties." He acts with earnestness and sincerity as the somewhat erratic and self-sufficient scion of a noble race, his unconscious egotism and overbearing impatience of restraint are admirably depicted, and his love-making is manly and natural. Mr. Arthur Grenville causes a continual ripple of laughter by his quaint character-sketch of the mercenary pusillanimous Henry Pitt-Welby, M.P., whose eccentric manners and mode of speech, allied to his craven fear of danger, and his persistent pursuit of the "glue king's" heiress, earn him the befitting epithet of "the worm." Mr. Grenville supplies a well thought-out and consistently droll caricature. Miss Doris Templeton acts with winsome simplicity and charming vivacity as the capricious Lady Henrietta Addison; Miss Aïda Jenoure is admirable as the rich widow, who can wither Pitt-Welby with a glance, and who finds it so difficult "to preserve her reputation," and yet enjoy the "fleeting hour." She deftly suggests the shrewd woman of the world, not exempt from feminine weakness in *affaires des cœur*, under an assumed frigidity and an austere manner. This quartette really constitute the *dramatis personæ* of the play, but good work is done in minor parts by Mr. Pat Newall, who makes his mark as the enterprising journalistic postman, Ambrose Hicks; Miss Margaret Damer, as the Countess of Pangbourne; Messrs. Guy B. Watson, Jno. Waring, J. F. Anson, and Misses Helen Kay Robertson, Gillian Scaife, and Lottie Belmore. *The Duke of Killicrankie* is preceded by Jerome K. Jerome's dainty and pathetic curtain-raiser, *Barbara*, the story of a sister's self-sacrifice. Therein Miss Margaret Damer contributes a very pretty and pleasing portraiture of the altruistic heroine Barbara, and Miss Gillian Scaife acts with appropriate verve and vivacity as the coquettish Lilie, her foster sister. Mr. Pat Newall as Cecil, and Mr. Frank McDonnell (who is the stage-manager) as Finnicum, do all that is required of them. Mr. Arthur Grenville is the stage-director, and Mr. Stanley Preston, as representative of Messrs. Charles Frohman and Arthur Chudleigh, assists the clever and courteous resident-manager, Mr. Edward Lytton, in the front of the house.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, Feb. 13, the Play, by John Rutherford, entitled

"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."

Mr. Martin Harvey is appearing here once more, and his popularity increases with each visit. On the opening night, *The Breed of the Treshams* was staged, and an opportunity was thus afforded of seeing Mr. Martin Harvey in his latest success. The play is full of life and incident, and in the character of Reresby, the Rat, Mr. Martin Harvey is seen to the utmost advantage. It is a part which suits him admirably, and he gives a magnificent rendering of it. His vigour is amazing, and it was quite evident from the reception accorded to his performance by the immense audience, on Monday, that Reresby, "the Rat," will rank second only to Sydney Carton in Mr. Martin Harvey's répertoire. Clement Hungerford is not a character which enlists sympathy. However, Mr. Charles Glenney scores heavily by his masterly acting, and deserves high praise. Mr. C. J. Cameron gives a dignified portrait of Viscount Dorsington; Sir Henry Curwen is ably portrayed by Mr. Albert E. Raynor; and that fine old actor, Mr. Fred Wright, sen., brings all his ripe experience to bear on the part of Colonel Bagshaw. Miss N. de Silva is to be congratulated on her performance as Batty, Reresby's faithful follower. Margaret Hungerford finds a charming exponent in Miss Coleridge, who plays it with much effect. Miss Edith Coleman does well as Mrs. Bagshaw; Miss Bessie Elder lends valuable assistance as Helena Pierrepoint; Mr. Percy Anstey presents a manly picture of Francis Tresham; and Captain Stanhope is suitably played by Mr. Reeve Denbigh. The various minor characters are all capably filled. The play is splendidly mounted, and the costumes are most picturesque. For the last three nights of the week, *The Only Way* was announced, Mr. Martin Harvey, of course, appearing as Sydney Carton.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 13, 1905, the Musical Comedy, by Seymour Hicks and Ivan Caryll, entitled

"THE EARL AND THE GIRL."

The first production in Western London of this successful musical comedy was heralded on Monday evening with enthusiasm by a crowded house, which in no uncertain manner ratified the verdict of the past year's Adelphi and Lyric audiences. The comicalities of Mr. Seymour Hicks's dialogue caused immense laughter, and the musical numbers of Mr. Ivan Caryll, together with the interpolated songs and choruses, gave great satisfaction. The acting of Mr. Wm. Greet's company left nothing to be desired, one and all working hard, and to a generally successful effect. Jim Cheese introduced an actor new to Hammersmith in Mr. William Stephens, whose impersonation was one of the funniest ever witnessed. The whole time he was on the stage laughter reigned supreme. A fresh and pleasant representation of Dick Wargrave was given by Mr. Percy Carr, his rendering of the celebrated "Cosy Corner Girl" being in every way highly commendable. The Hon. Crewe Boodle was well undertaken by Mr. Fred Hill, and Mr. Wm. Walshe was sufficiently capable as Bunker Bliss. Downham, the American solicitor, was racily played by Mr. Will Hindson, and his English confrère, Mr. Talk, was excellently sustained by Mr. J. C. Graves. Mr. Tom Redmond, in the small part of Mr. Hazell, was exceedingly good, and Mr. Frank Melville made a capable Dudley Cranbourne. Miss Aimee Grey was a refreshingly bright and fascinating Elphin Haye, who soon made herself a popular favourite. An extremely clever rendering of Liza Shoddam was presented by Miss Dot Carey, and the irate Mrs. Shimmering Black was vigorously presented by Miss Gladys Fontaine. Miss Florence Imeson's Daisy Fallowfield was delightful, her vivacious singing of "Freddy" bringing down the house. An elegant Virginia Bliss was portrayed by Miss Helen Langton. The ladies of Crewe Boodle's party were taken by Miss Millicent Vernon, Miss Hilda Davies, Miss Violet Vaughan, Miss Frances Levey, and Miss Millicent Field, who all proved the excellent taste possessed by that young gentleman. The novel effects were greatly appreciated, and the scenery and dresses evoked much admiration. The orchestra, including special instrumentalists from the Lyric Theatre, played with harmonising effect.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Feb. 13, the Musical Farce, in Three Acts, entitled

"HIS MAJESTY'S GUESTS."

The arrival of *His Majesty's Guests* at the Terriss has been coincident with an influx of mirth, hilarity taking full possession of the house as the result of the exertions of Mr. Fred Karno's company. The play is admittedly manufactured for humorous purposes, and the guarantee of 1,000 laughs at every performance has been very nearly attained. The antics of Mr. Harry Roxbury, as the ubiquitous Sergeant Lightning, have kept the audience agog with mirth, his resources for creating laughter being boundless. The drollery of the part is accentuated by the capacious smile and by the innate sense of humour possessed by the comedian, which he imports unfailingly into everything he does. Applause of an enthusiastic nature is lavished upon him, the cleverness with which his many and varied disguises are assumed being also recognised. Mr. Frank Morton employs a fine presence and vigorous declamation in the part of Lord Easem, acting with dashing emphasis and energy. His song of "The King of the Burglars" is rendered in fine style, his resonant baritone greatly aiding the theme. Suitable material for his voice is also supplied in "The Yeoman's Wedding," while the quality of tenderness is evidenced in the love duet, "Too Late," sung in association with Dolly Miffin. That young lady is prettily played by Miss Edith Ager, who acts with girlish ingenuousness and charm. Lady Maud Easem is admirably personified by Miss Leonora Castello, whose brunette beauty, elegance, and grace combine to bewitch all, in spite of the evil career upon which she is launched. Mr. Charles Usher is dryly droll as Mr. Miffin, the "universal provider"; and his nephew Harry is invested with the proper foppish propensities by Mr. Sidney Bolton. Mr. Harry Stuart acquits himself ably of the duties of the clerical Mr. Minks; and as Fritz, the doorkeeper at Minks's Emporium, Mr. W. Rokeby, whose physique is admirably suited to the part, is responsible for many a hearty laugh. Bunker has a nimble exponent in Mr. H. Taylor; and the acrobatic skill of Mr. Harry Howe as Selina, the servant, gives rise to enthusiasm. Miss Amy Rogerson is masculine to a degree as Miss Manley, the "new woman"; and as Josiah Giles, Mr. R. Wise assists the humour of the piece. A comely corps of ladies add to the attractiveness of the production, and quite a feature of the evening is made of the "Burglars' Sextet," which is warmly encored. The scenery is quite appropriate to the play, the only reproach that can be extended being towards the spelling of the word "Linoleum" in the Emporium scene.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Feb. 13, the Play, in Three Acts, by Robert Neilson Stephens and E. Lyall Swete, entitled,

"MISS ELIZABETH'S PRISONER."

Generally speaking, Stratford playgoers, by their patronage of the Borough Theatre, betray a proclivity for musical productions or highly-spiced dramatic fare, yet the large area for which this handsome suburban playhouse caters contains many to whom high-class plays, bearing the "hall-mark" of West End approbation, specially appeal, and consequently Monday night's audience had a piece after their own liking in *Miss Elizabeth's Prisoner*. Mr. Lewis Waller's Company, under the direction of Mr. Peter Davey, gives a highly creditable interpretation of the piece, which is mounted exceedingly well. Mr. Norman Partriege, as Captain Harry Peyton, is endowed with an excellent stage presence, and he acts with fluency and ease, being equally good either as the defiant soldier or in the softer passages when feigning love for his fair but obdurate captor. Miss Essex Dane's embodiment of Miss Elizabeth Philipse is a delightful piece of acting, at once sympathetic, natural, and charming, vieing very favourably with anything this clever actress has previously done. To Mr. Elliott Ball is allotted the unthankful task of portraying Major John Colden, and the craven nature of the officer is graphically illustrated, the while always retaining the outward semblance of a gentleman, and never degenerating into the ordinary melodrama villain. Mr. J. Harold Carson supplies a ripe sketch of the amorously inclined Mr. Valentine, playing with a dry humour and quiet facetiousness admirably suited to the part; and Miss Leonara Braham acts in true comedy vein as Mistress Sarah Williams. Molly Edwards is brightly personated by Miss Marguerite Cellier; Mr. Arthur Somers does exceedingly well as John Edwards; Sergeant Carrington is smartly played by Mr. F. Cellier, jun.; and Mr. Tom Taylor makes an excellent Black Sam.

A curtain raiser is provided by a new comedietta by Tom Gallon and Leon M. Lion entitled

"THE BORROWED UNCLE."

John Griffin	Mr. Arthur Somers
Dr. Arthur Wakefield .	Mr. F. Cellier, jun.
Timothy Filby	Mr. J. Harold Carson
Lucy Winwood.....	Miss Marguerite Cellier

This proved to be an interesting little trifle, in which mirth and pathos alternate. It was received with enthusiasm, and should long serve its purpose. The story deals with the plight of a pair of lovers, he poor, she with a bad and obdurate guardian. To their aid comes an escaped convict, who has a hold over the wicked guardian, as they were partners in crime, though only one was detected. The good-hearted convict knows he is certain to be recaptured, but resolved to do the young couple a good turn forces the other, under threats of exposure, to part with a large sum of money, and to consent to the marriage. To the astonished but happy couple he poses as the girl's "fairy uncle" from abroad, and then leaves to go back—to prison. Chief acting honours are carried off by Mr. J. Harold Carson as the convict Timothy Filby; Mr. Arthur Somers is excellent as John Griffen; and Arthur Wakefield and Lucy Winwood are appropriately played by Mr. F. Cellier, jun., and Miss Marguerite Cellier.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday, Feb. 13, the Musical Comedy, in Two Acts, by Jas. T. Tanner, Composed by Ivan Caryll and Lionel Monckton, entitled

"THE ORCHID."

A return of Mr. George Edwardes's company with *The Orchid*, which is still being presented at the Gaiety, is the attraction for the second week of the season. The production is sent on the road with all the completeness and care that one looks for in any undertaking of Mr. George Edwardes's, and the company, not only the principals, but also the large and well-trained chorus, work energetically throughout, and with the best results. Mr. George Gregory, as the gardener Meakin, is a great favourite, and incessant laughter accompanies every scene in which he is concerned; especially is this the case in the duel scene, the honours in which are fairly shared with Mr. Gregory by Mr. Clifford Seyler, who gives a remarkably neat and clever performance of the irascible Frenchman, Comte Raoul de Cassignat. Some very attractive dances are contributed by Mr. G. W. Colman, who appears as Zaccary. Mr. Charles Brown, as the Hon. Guy Scrymgeour, both Mr. Donald Hall, as Dr. Ronald Faussett, both play brightly and with considerable spirit; and Mr. Ellis Ogilvie, in an excellent make-up, does all that is possible as Mr. Aubrey Chesterton. Miss Gwen Clifford, as Caroline Vokins, sings the excellent songs allotted to her with the best effect, and plays the part with a due appreciation of its humorous possibilities. Miss Rita Everard is a very charming and engaging Violet Anstruther; and a striking performance of the adventuress, Zelie Rumbert, comes from Miss Ethel Griffies. The Thisbe of Miss Amy Payne and the Josephine Zaccary of Miss Gertrude Gilliam are in every way satisfactory; and Miss Katie Leechman is a characteristic Lady Anstruther. A small part deserving of special mention is the Registrar of Mr. Frank Hector, whilst in other small parts Messrs. E. G. Woodhouse and E. Rutland do well.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 13, for the first time in London, the Drama in a Prologue and Four Acts, by David Muskerry, entitled

"THE POOR MUST LIVE."

Prologue.

The Earl of Marswood.	Mr. Pan E. Draco.
Captain Dick Harding	Mr. Charles Francis
Sam Sully	Mr. Arthur Trail
Countess of Marswood.	Miss Mary Mallalieu
Sal Darling	Miss Jenny Bostock

Characters in the Play.

The Earl of Marswood.	Mr. Pan E. Draco.
Donald	Mr. C. Brereton Borer
Clifton Manville	Mr. Charles Francis
Sam Sully	Mr. Arthur Trail
Dick Sully	Mr. Herbert Clifton
Hooker Holdsnitch ...	Mr. Dick Thomas
Bertie Miggs.....	Mr. Albert Spencer
Jack O'Moods	Mr. George Armour
James	Mr. J. Lea Hair
Dorothy Murdoch.....	Miss Mary Mallalieu
Sal Darling	Miss Jenny Bostock
Moya Darling	Miss Pattie Elliott
Ada.....	Miss Amy Roach
Olga D'Eyncourt	Miss Olive Fulton

The sufferings of the lower classes are of perennial interest to the popular audience, and, though the theme has served the purpose of the playwright many a time and oft, Mr. David Muskerry contrived, with the new drama which was introduced to the metropolis on Monday, to engross a large assemblage from beginning to end. Sensation and pathos commingle in the usual way with fun of the most farcical kind; but the sentiment is sound and wholesome, and the excitement does not transgress too far the bounds of credulity, while the humour of the piece has its justification in the laughter that accompanies its progress. As the main points of the story were outlined in our correspondent's account of the first production of the play at the Queen's Theatre, Longton, on Jan. 23, a reference to the episodes which the piece contains is all that is now required. One of the strongest scenes is that wherein the hero, bound and helpless in a wretched garret, is released by a young girl whose hands are tied behind her, but who succeeds in unlocking a door with her teeth and summoning assistance. Further excitement is provided when a gang of strikers attack the house of their employer, and when the hero gets safely through the ferocious mob by assuming the disguise which the villain intended for himself. That the scoundrel nevertheless escapes is only to be expected, for he has to pursue his evil path through two more acts, the dramatic significance of which is deepened by the machinations of the leader of the strikers—a lady nicknamed "The Vengeance." Poetic justice is in the end administered, and the young man who has loved and waited and the maiden who has nobly borne so much for his sake are united under the happiest auspices. The rendering of the play at the hands of Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company surpassed the ordinary level, Mr. Pan E. Draco, as the Earl of Marswood, giving a vivid exposition of the aged aristocrat, despite the fact that a fringe of raven hair could be seen beneath the hoary whiteness of his wig. The fire and vigour of his passionate scenes were very pronounced, and nothing could be finer than his acting when the old man springs from his seat and declares his determination to face the attacking crowd of strikers. Mr. C. Brereton Borer gave a refined and polished rendering of the Earl's son, Donald, who prior to returning to his father's favour is known as Drummond Tredigar, and acts in the capacity of a servant. Mr. Borer's style and delivery are excellent, and his popularity throughout is manifest. The elements of tragedy were imparted by Miss Olive Fulton into her rendering of Olga D'Eyncourt, "The Vengeance," subtle effects being obtained by varied facial play and by the exercise of undoubted dramatic skill. Mr. Charles Francis suitably delineated the iniquitous nature of Clifton Manville, broadening the malice and vindictiveness of the part very cleverly. Refinement and tenderness marked the presentation of Dorothy, the Earl's ward, by Miss Mary Mallalieu, who has the enviable capacity for acting emotionally and speaking sympathetically without any morbidness or false sentiment. Mr. Arthur Trail extracted all possible effect from the part of Sam Sully, a "ne'er-do-weel," and the efforts of Mr. Herbert Clifton, as his son Dick, were devoted principally to the creation of laughter, of which he obtained a large quantity. He derived great assistance from Miss Pattie Elliott, a youthful and comely actress, who as Moya, a lavender girl, showed that she possessed gifts both of pathos and comedy far in advance of her age. For such an intelligent young artist a bright future is assured. Miss Jenny Bostock played admirably as the depraved Sal Darling, suggesting the effects of chronic alcoholism with unerring skill. The rest of the cast had good exponents, and the company enacting the play, which was realistically mounted, may look forward to a prosperous and lengthy tour.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Feb. 13,

"SERGEANT BRUE."

Once again Holloway and surrounding districts are indebted to Mr. Purcell for providing an entertainment at this popular house, which appeals to the great majority; in fact, he is to be congratulated upon his excelent bookings for the coming season altogether. For the first time in Holloway Mr. Purcell is giving his numerous patrons an opportunity of witnessing Owen Hall and Liza Lehman's successful musical comedy, *Sergeant Brue*, as played by Mr. Frank Curzon's large and efficient company. Mr. Edward Kipling looks and plays the part of Sergeant Brue with merit and distinction, keeping the house in continual laughter. Mr. Chas Hanbury rattles through the rôle of Michael Brue in a very humerous manner, keeping the attention of the house throughout. His contributions in the trio, "After all is said and done," and his song, "Daughters of Eve," are smartly rendered, and his capital dancing draws forth enthusiastic recognition. Miss Hilda Antony wins the hearts of her audience by her winsome and attractive portrayal of Aurora Brue, her admirably rendered sings being persistently encored, her most pronounced success being "In Lotus Land." Mr. Thomas Holding, in the rôle of Gerald Treherne, possesses a fine voice, which he uses to advantage in rendering "If I were to build a world for you." Mr. Campbell Bishop's assumption of Mr. Crank, the Magistrate, is in every respect an admirable character sketch, and Mr. Paddy Dupres successfully portrays the part of Inspector Gorringe, and, in addition, undertakes admirably the stage management of the production. Much credit must be given Miss Scott Lestelle for a pleasing impersonation of Lady Bickenhall. She also contributes some pretty and effective dances, and is vociferously encored for her rendering of "Instinct," an up-to-date typical song. Miss L. Zambray, as Daisy, Miss Gladys Desmond, as Mabel Widgett, and Mr. Archie Croft, as Matthew Habisham, all display ability in their respective parts. Our last word is for Mr. George Barrett, as Crookie Scrubbs. The ability of this actor is of a high order, his make-up is most natural, and he gives one of the cleverest impersonations of the evening. He is extremely funny, without in the least overdoing it, and his acting, especially in the police court scene, calls forth shrieks of laughter from the audience. Suffering from a severe cold on Monday, he was unable to render his number, "Put me in my little cell," but this was successfully undertaken by Mr. Walter H. Page, who impersonates Mr. Lambe. The remaining parts are well filled, and the piece is dressed and mounted in lavish style. We must not omit to mention the good work of the Marlborough orchestra, especially augmented for this play, and under the direction of Mr. Ernest Thurman, for Mr. Frank Curzon. The choruses throughout go with a delightful swing and dash, showing that much study and painstaking have been given to the rehearsals.

THE BRITANNIA.

On Monday, Feb. 13, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Ben Landeck, entitled

"A SOLDIER AND A MAN."

Next week this theatre will revert to the two houses nightly system, with popular drama and varieties. In the meantime, Mr. Ben Landeck's play, *A Soldier and a Man*, has been revived, and has had a most favourable reception at the hands of Hoxtonians, whose appreciation of the solid delights of the sensational drama does not appear to have diminished to any marked extent since the days when the late Mrs. Sara Lane held the reins of management at this old-established theatre. Possibly, however, the Hoxton patrons of the playhouse of to-day prefer a programme containing a larger proportion of "varieties" than was the case a few years ago, when the ill-luck which dogged the footsteps of the hero of the piece and the sorrows which befell the heroine seemed to be almost sufficient to engross the sympathetic interest of the audience. Be that as it may, *A Soldier and a Man* is an excellent specimen of a class of play that is never wholly out of fashion. The author can be congratulated upon the fact that Harold Sinclair is not the faultless hero that one so often encounters in modern melodrama. At one point in his career his conduct is open to severe censure, and he causes much pain and suffering to his devoted wife. From holding the rank of lieutenant in the Guards, he becomes a private in an infantry regiment; and his own father loses faith in him. The drink curse threatens to blight his life and prospects, but he is rescued by his faithful wife. The events in the third and fourth acts take place in South Africa during the Zulu War. Sinclair, falsely accused of supplying information to the enemy, is condemned to be shot, and while declaring his innocence, bravely faces the guns of the troopers told off to carry out the dread sentence. But at this critical moment a written confession is produced, and Sinclair's life is saved and his honour cleared. The first use he makes of his freedom is to lead a detachment of soldiers against the Zulus, who, under the direction of Hubert Walgrave, the villain of the play, are attacking the farmhouse where Harold's wife, Rose, is performing the duties of nurse to the wounded. The Zulus are quickly put to flight, and Walgrave is condemned to meet his fate at the hands of the hangman. Mr. James Aubrey, who last week was cast for the principal villain's part in *Saved from the Sea*, is entrusted with the important rôle of Harold Sinclair. His performance throughout reaches a high level of excellence; his spirited acting in some of the scenes arousing the audience to enthusiasm. Mr. Charles East is a fine, soldierly Colonel Sinclair, who is at last convinced that he has misjudged his son; and makes reparation for his injustice. Mr. Frank Harding plays exceedingly well as Hubert Walgrave; the man's abject terror at the prospect of an ignominious death being depicted with remarkable power and reality. Mr. John Willes gives an effective portrait of the old Devonshire farmer, David Melbury, whose wife, Norah, has an admirable exponent in Miss Emily Dowton. Miss Rose Ralph brings into due prominence the virtues of the devoted wife, who has to suffer the odious attentions of the villain Walgrave. Mr. Tom Wallace is a brisk and humorous Sergeant Wicks, whose daughter, known as "Sergeant" Jane, has a very smart representative in Miss Marie Wright. This lady in the last act takes pot-shots at the attacking Zulus with deadly effect; and Miss Wright's assistance throughout is invaluable. Mr. Alfred Holles does good work as Jake Harding, a South African farmer; and Jantje, a superstitious Hottentot, is capitally embodied by Mr. Richard Grey. Mr. Willie Scott is well placed as James Farrow, Harold's faithful servant, and other parts are safely entrusted to Messrs. James Manning, Charles Groves, jun., T. Teversham, Geo. Roberts, Paul Peters, Edward E. Granville, and Alfred Jones. The variety programme this week includes Miss Gracie Graham, the charming serio, who is singing the songs she so successfully introduced in the recent Britannia pantomime. The Imperial Girls, six in number, headed by Miss Marie Carteth, are first seen as smart drummers, with an appropriate song, and also score with a pleasing ditty and dance, "The Rustle of the Silk." The performance concludes with the farce, entitled *Matrimonial Bliss*, in which Mr. Willie Scott, Mr. Tom Wallace, Miss Marshall, and Miss Dowton appear with success.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 13, the Comedy, by Brandon Thomas, entitled

"CHARLEY'S AUNT."

"Charley's Aunt is still running" is a well-known saying; she has been running very merrily this week at the above theatre with Mr. Brandon Thomas's capital company. Mr. Stanley Cooke, as Lord Fancourt Babberley, keeps the house in continual roars of laughter with his clever impersonation of the aforesaid aunt. Messrs. Arthur Soames and Richard Mason ably portray the two college chums, Jack Chesney and Charley Wykeham; and Colonel Chesney, Bart., is admirably acted by Mr. Brandon Thomas. Miss Lena MacNaughten is very pleasing as Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez, the genuine aunt. Stephen Spettigue, the Oxford solicitor, is very creditably played by Mr. Simon Ord; Mr. Sidney Compton does good work as Brassett, a college scout. Misses Violet Cooper and Geraldine Greville act in a natural manner as Kitty Verdun and Amy Spettigue, the solicitor's ward and niece respectively; and Miss Dorrie Roberts as Ella Delahay merits approval. All who love a good wholesome laugh could witness this admirable farce again and again. A curtain raiser by Mr. Brandon Thomas, entitled *Fourchette and Co.*, proved an excellent *hors d'œuvre*, and was well received.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, Feb. 13, Balfe's Opera, in Three Acts, entitled

"THE ROSE OF CASTILLE."

After the long run of Mr. Frederick Melville's successful drama, *Her Forbidden Marriage*, a pleasing contrast is being supplied this week by Mr. J. W. Turner and company in a series of English operas. The various ladies and gentlemen who appeared on Monday received a cordial welcome, and the enthusiasm displayed upon the entrance of Mr. Turner was something which cannot easily be forgotten, and was a sure proof of the hold he has over his Shoreditch patrons. The opera produced on Monday was *The Rose of Castille*, and the performance was one of great merit. The singing throughout was of a high grade of excellence, and the chorus and orchestra rendered some pretty and effective music under the able direction of Mr. T. Lawton. As Manuel, Mr. J. W. Turner was at his best. He rendered his music in an artistic and finished manner, and thoroughly deserved the applause which rewarded his efforts. Another performance of high worth was that supplied by Mr. Tom Griffiths as Don Pedro. He possesses an exceptionally fine voice, which he uses with good effect, and which earns for him a high place in the public favour. As the two conspirators, Don Sallust and Don Florio, Mr. Chas. Le Seuer and Mr. Richard Cummings were well placed; Mr. Cummings, as usual, acting with a considerable amount of humour. Mr. George Ridding made a favourable impression as Pablo, and sang with taste and skill. An admirable portrayal of Carmen was given by Miss Jessie Dennis, who always delights her audience with a sweet rendering of the music which falls to her share. Miss Maud Esdale was all that could be desired as the Duchess of Calatravas, and Miss Chrystal Duncan contributed largely to the success of the performance, and used her voice to great advantage as Elvira, the Queen of Leon. Other operas in this week's programme are *The Bohemian Girl*, *The Lily of Killarney*, *Maritana*, *Il Trovatore*, and *Carmen*.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Feb. 13, the Pantomimical Comedy, in Four Acts, entitled,

"THE SWISS EXPRESS."

This musical absurdity may truly be described as a carnival of laughter, and there is still no reason, that we can see, why it should not enjoy a prosperous run for many more years. This is an express that is always going at full speed on any line of route. Of course, the Brothers Charles and Frederick Renad are still the life and soul of it all as Dr. Gull's servants, James and John. Their energy and vitality never flag from the rising of the curtain to its fall. If possible, Mr. Wilford Bailey seems to extract more fun than ever from his part of Dr. Goudimar Gull, and Mr. George Power as Rhino is "good—very good." Mr. George Martin is a capable Bob Rollingstone; Mr. Alec Wylie a satisfactory Dudley Green; and Mr. H. Alexander an amusing Septimus Squeeze. Miss Nellie Fern is most whimsical in her efforts as Mrs. Squeeze; Miss May Hart, as Virginia, sings and dances in delightful fashion, her dainty rendering of "Navaho" being deservedly encored. The four Brighton girls infused plenty of gaiety into the piece by their singing and dancing and expert lance and sword drill.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 13, the Musical Comedy, entitled

"KITTY GREY."

A return visit of the musical comedy, *Kitty Grey*, to the Dalston Theatre, this week, is attracting the attention of North Londoners, who appreciate a story the interest of which is heightened by the introduction of attractive music, variety of costume, and pretty scenes. Miss Hilda Guiver, who appears as Kitty Grey, brings the necessary amount of vivaciousness to bear upon the representation of a character that is a unique mixture of coquetry, sincerity, and seriousness. Miss Guiver also sings with expression, and, altogether, makes the good-hearted actress a most lovable personage. Mr. Wensley Russell is the embodiment of gallantry as Sir John Binfield, and Miss Eily Helene, as Lady Binfield, is an ideal wife in the matter of devotion. Her scenes with Kitty Grey, when, in the dressing-room at the theatre, she finds the popular actress a friend instead of a foe, are effective. Mr. Robert White, jun., invests the character of the King of Illyria with a fair amount of interest, and Mr. Leslie Harris is an effective Lord Plantagenet. The same remark will apply to Mr. Edmund Russell as Comte de Trenitz. Miss Emily Stevens is a sprightly Mrs. Bright; and Miss Hilda Scarisbrick presents quite a study of confident self-reliance as Sadie de Poulson.

EALING THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 13, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, entitled,

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."

This strong sensational drama has received excellent support from enthusiastic audiences, who thoroughly appreciate Mr. W. Melville's successful play. Mr. Charles Franmore, an actor of no mean ability, is a capital representative of the old Farmer John Meadows; Mr. Cecil A. Melton is a capable Jack Livingstone; Mr. John Brooks submits an excellent depiction of Luke Ramsden; and Mr. Barry-Lewers is responsible for a fine piece of acting in the character of Cuthbert Lunney. The eccentricities of Toby Turvey are cleverly depicted by Mr. Fred Ingram, and the winsome Miss Lilla Norden acts well as Tilly Vane. A painstaking representation of Barbara Wade is given by Miss Hilda Beverley, who receives considerable applause, which is well earned; and Miss Nellie Oliver is to be congratulated on her powerful portraiture of the Farmer's Daughter, presenting a striking contrast to the charming young schoolmistress of Miss Grace Richardson. The minor parts of Joe Coyle and Dr. Weston, played respectively by Mr. David Borone and Mr. Charles Terry, are worthy of mention, and the remaining rôles are carefully handled.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 13, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Hall Caine, entitled

"THE ETERNAL CITY."

A highly interested audience assembled here on Monday, and enjoyed an excellent representation of *The Eternal City* by the Ben Greet company. As Donna Roma, Miss Helen Haye proved herself possessed of genuine histrionic talent, her acting, earnest and capable throughout, rising at times to the heights of tragic intensity. The scene with Bonelli in the second act, culminating in the smashing of the bust of Rossi, could scarcely have been better rendered. Another admirable piece of acting came from Mr. D. Lewin Mannering, whose portrayal of Baron Bonelli was characterised by a lifelikeness very difficult of attainment in parts of this nature. The man's egoism, craftiness, and occasional gusts of passion were exhibited with fidelity and naturalness, and one felt that though a villain, he was still human. David Rossi found a capable exponent in Mr. Frederick Victor, whose forceful style and quick manner were exactly suited to the physical representation of the excitable demagogue. Mr. F. Vernon Travers submitted a clever and dignified study of Pope Pius XI.; Mr. P. L. Julian was well suited as Bruno Rocco, doing especially well in the trial scene; and Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp infused a touch of individuality into his rendering of the Chief of Police. The smaller parts were carefully handled, and the drama was mounted and staged on a scale of unusual elaborateness.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 13, the Musical Piece, entitled

"PEGGY MACHREE."

The company at the Fulham Theatre this week is the original one from Wyndham's, in the new musical piece, *Peggy Machree*, in which the leading parts are taken by Mr. Denis O'Sullivan and Miss Marie Dainton. *Peggy Machree* is not a "serious play;" it does not harrow our feelings, for the villain is quite harmless, and is easily disposed of. The scene is laid in the Ireland of the eighteenth century, and the brogue is everywhere. There is plenty of fun and dancing, of repartee in the Irish mode, of bright music and pretty dresses, and all comes duly to a happy ending. Mr. Denis O'Sullivan acts admirably as the breezy and light-hearted Irishman, Barry Trevor, and his fine voice is heard to advantage in the songs belonging to the play, as well as in some interpolations, particularly Lever's famous "Widow Malone." An excellent performance is that of Mr. J. Graeme Campbell, as the Scotch Major-Domo, whose dignified disapproval of the "feckless" doings of the other folks is delightful to behold. Mr. Dan FitzGerald is amusing in a very Irish rôle, Michael the Piper, and sings a good song, "How I Lost my Place." As "Peggy

Machree," otherwise "the Lady Margaret O'Driscoll," Miss Marie Dainton is the life and soul of the piece. Whether in the full enjoyment of youth and high spirits, or holding her own in the position of a great lady, or in her charming love-making, this brilliant little actress displays her gifts to equal advantage. She was ably supported by Miss Annie Brophy as Moira, Miss Dorothy Garden as the Hon. Emily Pryor, Miss Jenny Dawson as Madame de la Cour, and Miss Paula von Arold as Molly MacMahon. The piece was effectively staged.

SHAKESPEARE, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

On Monday, Feb. 13, the Drama,
by George R. Sims and Wilson Barrett, entitled,
"THE GOLDEN LADDER."

Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds's excellent company has been presenting this stirring play to enthusiastic audiences this week, moving them at will to laughter and to tears. It is difficult to say which affected them most, the fun, the patriotic allusions, or the pathos. Mr. Harry Cullenford gave a powerful rendering of the persecuted Missionary, receiving excellent support from Miss Conyers Radcliffe, who played the part of his wife in a sweet and convincing manner. Mr. J. Milne Taylor, as the villain, invested the part with all the necessary venom, and his partner in crime was well represented by Mr. Graham Winsford. Mr. Dan Mining gave a good rendering of the rôle of the drunken bank clerk Jim Dixon. The fun could not have been left in better hands than in those of Mr. John Owen, as Samuel Peckaby, and Miss Nellie Graham, as Mrs. Peckaby; while Miss Jessie Gillette ably assisted them as Victoria Alexandra. Little Vera, as the tiny child Lily, played prettily. Miss Jessie Wakeling rendered the song "Thy People" in Act 2 so sweetly as to win great applause. Mr. Edward Bikker gave a satisfactory embodiment of John Grant the banker, and the Noah Learoyd was vigorous and convincing as the Yorkshire manufacturer. Miss Alvina Mining, as the "Tearer," was highly amusing. All the other parts were in capable hands, and the scenery was appropriate. The Biograph made the waits between the acts pass pleasantly, and greatly added to the pleasure of the evening's entertainment.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, the Musical Play, in Two Acts, entitled
"THE GEISHA."

Notwithstanding the long period it has been before the public, and the number of times it has been presented to Kingston audiences, *The Geisha*, which was played at the Royal County Theatre by Mr. Mouillot's chief company on Monday night and during the week, found a numerous audience awaiting it, who gave it a thoroughly hearty welcome, and seemed to enjoy as much as ever the now familiar witticisms and the bright and attractive music. Miss Violet Moore played with much acceptance the part of O Mimosa San; and Miss Florrie Saunders scored a great success as Molly Seymour, as well for her graceful dancing as for her charming singing, both of which were several times encored. Miss Violet Kenyon made a piquant O Juliette Diamente; whilst good work was done by Miss Aubrey Ashton, as Lady Constance Wynne; and by the Misses Florence Lake, Lucy Egerton, and Marie Gilbert, as her ladyship's guests. Mr. Arthur Cartwright was a breezy Reginald Fairfax, his singing being especially well received, and Mr. Edward Carlton created no end of fun by his very able and agile picture of the irrepressible Chinaman, Wun Hi. Mr. Lionel Braham was a majestic and amusing Marquis Imari; Mr. J. Hornby showed the possession of a fine tenor voice in the part of Captain Katana; and Mr. Bay Russell, Mr. F. P. Wilfrid, and Mr. H. Cullen ably acquitted themselves as the three officers of H.M.S. *Turtle*. The play was admirably staged. Last night *The Greek Slave* was presented.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT BIRMINGHAM.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

Dick Whittington, which is the second pantomime success that Mr. Lester Collingwood has achieved at the Alexandra Theatre in succession, is just now appearing at its best, and is attended by large crowds at every performance. Mr. Collingwood gauges the capacity of his public to the finest degree, and the pantomime forms a concatenation of popular, stirring songs and irresistibly funny situations, the merit of which is reflected in the happy faces of the audiences assembled. Among the potential stars in the cast are Messrs. Barrett and Knowles, two diverting comedians, dancers, and vocalists, whose assiduous efforts in the cause of mirth have aroused much favourable comment in the city, and who are bound to score wherever they may be placed. Mr. Will Letters, as Fitzwarren, is a fellow of infinite jest and facile movement, and also possesses a powerful and pleasant voice, which is heard with approbation in several telling numbers. Mr. Albert Darnley's humour as Idle Jack is effective, and Mr. C. L. Ludlow, as the Cook, contributes cleverly to the comic side of the pantomime. Mr. Alfred Clegg's amusing antics as the Cat give evidence of a careful and faithful study of the feline species; and Mr. Samuel Lockridge, as the Emperor, displays both vocal and acting ability. Miss Florence Burns, who is well equipped by nature for the rôle of Whittington, charms by her acting, while her singing is marked by good phrasing, and invariably scores. Miss Nelly Valentine invests the character of the Alderman's daughter, Alice, with many engaging qualities. Her appearance is prepossessing, and her voice sweet and effective, while her dancing is graceful. Miss Hilda Corelli makes a handsome young gallant, Sir Algernon, pleasing also by her clever singing and dancing. Miss Gertie Douglas, as the Captain, delivers her lines with distinctness, while her songs are capitally rendered. Miss Hattie Lind, as the dusky Princess, commands attention and respect with her rich and rare singing of "The Ugly Duckling," her acting of the rôle being appropriate. The Misses Vida Yorke, Nora Milton, Florence Steventon, and Hilda Greville (the latter as Good Fairy) also lend assistance to the production; and a smart nautch dance by Miss Essie Perrin wins much applause. The scenery, which includes, among other fine sets, a capital view of Highgate Hill, with London looming in the distance, is by W. Maughan and Son, and elicits admiration. The Edingall Trio go through their dainty and expert coon and acrobatic dances, and Mr. Arthur W. Parry leads the orchestra with ability.

"THE FORTY THIEVES" AT BIRMINGHAM.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The Forty Thieves, which was produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Christmas Eve, is bringing good fortune to everyone concerned, and Mr. J. F. Graham may point with pride to the production. Mr. Graham has had double duty to perform, as, owing to the lamentable accident to Mr. Wilkie Bard, he has undertaken that gentleman's part of Ali Baba. Mr. Ainslie Burton, as the wealthy, grasping Cassim, is unctuously humorous as well as dramatic. Mr. John Brabourne enacts the humorous Dame Cogia with complete success, also delivering an amusing ode to an errant tabby, to the great delight o fall. Mr. Phil Smith scores indelibly as the refractory Hassarac, his burlesque of an oratorio being one of the rare bits of the pantomime. Mr. Benedick Byron Bicknelle shines as Mustapha, also winning favour as an exceptionally clever clay-modeller; and Mr. Harry Zietz fulfils his arduous rôle as Ibrayhim, the donkey, with much success. Special praise must be awarded to Messrs. Ben Brown and Geo. Le Clerq for the fun they cause in the "juvenile" parts; and whether "killing Injuns," playing billiards, or on burglarious intent, are screamingly funny, and set the audience roaring with laughter all the time they occupy the stage. Mr. Charles Ninian, as the Slave Dealer, relieves the part with humour, and Mr. J. Stark acts impressively as the Magician. Miss Alice Oppitz is eminently qualified by voice, style, and physique to command as Abdallah, and her powerful acting and singing make her an ideal Captain. Miss Marie Campbell is gay and sportive as Ganem, and ranks among Birmingham's most popular principal boys. Her songs, which include "A Wise Old Owl" and "Have you seen my gird?" are rendered with much chic and charm, while her share of the work in the well-arranged scena, "In Arizona," wherein Miss Minnie Hunt takes a graceful part, is dainty and clever. Miss Hunt acts gracefully as Morgiana, and her singing of "Dreamland" and "The Airship" evokes numerous encores. Miss Nelly Stratton is well suited as Zoe, the poor girl devoted to Abdallah, and the Rosie Rice quartette of dancers are retained in their graceful and agile expositions of the art of Terpsichore. The excellent and effective orchestration of Mr. William Southworth, the resident conductor, is to be commended.

"THE DESIGNERS."

A Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts, by Fritz Zorn,
Produced at the Brixton Theatre,
on Monday, Feb. 13.

John Huggins	Mr. W. Hargreaves
Mr. Currie	Mr. E. O'Grady
Wilfred Fry	Mr. William Luff
Percy Loraine	Mr. Arthur Dennis
Taddlebury	Mr. Frank Lester
Roodge	Mr. Herbert Lloyd
Walter	Mr. Gerald Clarke
Potter	Mr. Gus Edwardes
Dick	Mr. A. W. Barker
Mabel	Miss Dorothy Sidney
Bessie	Miss Mignon Hester
Miss Rachel Huggins	Miss Ina Rozant

Brixtonians had quite a happy evening on Monday, in company with *The Designers*, a farcical comedy in three acts, by Mr. Fritz Zorn, and the author is entitled to our hearty congratulations on the skill he has shown in construction and the succession of humorous incident he has devised. The piece was played to an uproarious accompaniment of laughter, and the difficulty of keeping up the interest during the third act—always a problem in plays of the kind—seems to have been fairly well surmounted, though the final section did not quite sustain the promise of the second. The company, which is under the direction of Miss Ina Rozant, played with considerable dash and verve; but there were one or two slow episodes that will no doubt be quickened with more representations.

"The Designers" belong to a firm of high art decorators named Delamere and Co., and the superstructure of fun is based on the subtle disguising of a pusillanimous lover named Percy Loraine as one of the temporary employees of the firm, so that he may the better press his suit for the hand of the romantic and novel-reading Mabel Huggins. Her father, John Huggins, has seen Percy without make-up, and has written him down a fool. "I know a fool when I see one, don't I?" exclaims the splenetic Huggins. "I had three sisters—all fools." Percy owes his disguise to Wilfred Fry, a clerk in the firm of Delamere, and an amateur actor with a soul that yearns for the footlights and the parts specially associated with Sir Henry Irving. Percy has told Fry his story, and the latter, with dramatic instinct, immediately sees in it excellent material for melodrama. Daughter immured and inconsolable, irate and obdurate father, despairing lover!—the only thing wanting is a heavy man as the rival lover and a moated grange. But, though given to high falutin' and Irvingesque attitudes, Fry has practical help to offer the unfortunate suitor. The firm has a contract in hand for the decoration of the Huggins's residence at Wickley, and, in the temporary absence of one of the chief and most valued employees, the temporary engagement of a certain Tattlebury—given to intemperance—is suggested. Tattlebury has not been seen, and therefore Percy, with a little grease-paint and a wig, can be easily substituted. No sooner thought of than done! The success of the plan is much facilitated by the arrival of Mr. John Huggins and his maiden sister. The old gentleman is peremptory. He has waited long enough for his new scheme of decoration, and he insists on taking the trembling Percy—disguised as Tattlebury—and a foreman named Roodge back with him in his motor. No sooner have they gone than the real Tattlebury arrives; and the manager Currie, furious at the "blunder" that has been made by Fry, whom he had previously sacked, takes measures to reach the residence of Huggins with the real Tattlebury before the false one arrives. But he is foiled by Fry, who sees his way to a little sweet revenge in return for his notice.

In the second act, which takes place *chez* Huggins, Percy finds his disguise a great hindrance to his ardent protestations, and Mabel not only fails to recognise him, but expresses an absolute loathing for the man with the red nose. Fry, who follows Percy, knowing that the real Tattlebury will soon arrive, artfully informs Huggins that several householders have been victimised by a gang of burglars posing as house-decorators, and that the police are searching for the notorious chief of the gang, named Donovan. Huggins, becoming alarmed, takes prompt measures for his own protection, and when Currie and Tattlebury arrive they are "surrounded" by the gardener with a pitchfork and the manservant with a Lee-Metford. Currie appeals to Fry, but the latter declares him to be Donovan, and insists on both intruders being gagged and bound.

In the last act things have gone quite far enough even for Fry's scheme of revenge, and he becomes really alarmed at Huggins's threats of punishment. By temporising with him, however, Fry is able to get a few minutes alone with the "falsely accused," and sets them free on condition that they forgive him the trick he has played upon them. Huggins, however, refuses to forgive anybody concerned—an example that is followed by the maiden sister, who roundly abuses the poor trembling lover Percy, for whom, through a misapprehension, she has been waiting alone for several hours in a four-wheeled cab, intended for the elopement of the young couple. Fry, after being denounced by all and sundry, makes everybody forgive everybody else (himself included) by threatening to put them all in the play (which he has been working into acts all through).

Mr. William Luff, in the part of the stage-egotist, Wilfred Fry, scored a popular success, though his imitation of our leading actor was in questionable taste. Mr. W. Hargreaves made the irritability of the splenetic Mr. Huggins exceedingly entertaining, and reminded the older playgoer very forcibly of that fine comedian, the late W. J. Hill. When Huggins spoke of the decoration of his interior, and expressed his determination to have no muddy greens or dirty drabs, but something a bit tasty, such as violet and yellow, artistic Brixton laughed, and laughed very heartily. Mr. Arthur Dennis will increase the humour of his impersonation of Percy Loraine with a few more representations; Mr. Frank Lester's Tattlebury was comically expressive, though perhaps a trifle too extravagant, and there was much merit in Mr. Herbert Lloyd's study of Roodge, a typical working-man, who does not allow his sense of duty to be drowned under "seven pints." Mr. Lloyd's drunken scene was very telling. Mr. Gerald Clarke made a typical cockney office-boy; and the small parts of Potter, the gardener, and Dick were effectively handled by Mr. Gus Edwardes and Mr. A. W. Barker. Miss Dorothy Sidney made an attractive heroine of Mabel, who, amid hysterical sobs, tells her father, "You rob me of my heart's love, and offer me wall-papers." Her style was instinct with grace and refinement, and she showed also that she possessed humour in her dialogues with Mr. Arthur Dennis. Miss Mignon Hester was seen to advantage in the small part of Bessie; and the fun was largely added to by the whimsical treatment of the rôle of Miss Rachel Huggins by Miss Ina Rozant, whose soulful yearnings for the unutterable were drolly accentuated. As we have already stated, the production was received with the heartiest laughter.

The Designers was preceded by a new play, in one act, by W. F. Downing, entitled

"THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE."

Ted Plant	Mr. E. O'Grady
Harry Dash	Mr. Herbert Lloyd
Molly	Miss Ina Rozant
Lizzie Hemmings	Miss Clara Spillard

Mr. Downing is the author of *Lady Tetley's Divorce*, which, it will be remembered, was played both in English and German. In the above little piece he has treated with no little power and pathos a young wife's temporary disloyalty (only in intention) to her husband, and her repentance. Ted Plant, unworldly, unlearned, and intensely affectionate, was particularly well represented by Mr. E. O'Grady; Mr. Herbert Lloyd quite realised the idiosyncrasies of the character of the young cab proprietor, Harry Dash; and Miss Ina Rozant made a pathetic figure of Mollie, the young wife, the cast being completed by Miss Clara Spillard, a capable Lizzie Hemmings.

"HEART OF GOLD."

A Russo-Japanese Romance, in One Act,
by Beatrix de Burgh and Lawrence Grant,
Produced for the First Time on any Stage
at the Coronet Theatre, Notting Hill.
on Saturday, Feb. 11.

Captain Dimitri Korsakoff	Mr. Lawrence Grant
Lieut. Boris Dolgourki	Mr. Hugh Ardale
Asano	Mr. C. Leveson Lane
Sentry	Mr. W. Fletcher
O Hana San	Mrs. Mouillot

The authors of *Heart of Gold* are to be congratulated on having steered clear of anything likely to give offence or cause "strained relations" between ourselves and the two countries so unfortunately engaged in war in the Far East. Captain Dimitri Korsakoff, the Russian officer who is given the title of "Heart of Gold" by the mousmée in search of her lover, on account of his refusing to barter a trinket given him by his absent sweetheart for the bliss of a present *liaison*, is a fine type of manliness and good-heartedness. Nor can any exception be taken to the faithful O Hana San or her brave lover, the Japanese standard-bearer.

The scene is laid within the Russian lines in Manchuria. Captain Dimitri Korsakoff has just previously captured a Japanese outpost, and himself seized the standard-bearer and his flag. While he reads a letter from his lady-love, who is many versts away, and Lieutenant Boris Dolgourki, who is evidently a bit of a lady killer, gaily prattles of his conquests among the fair sex, and expresses the wish that someone in the form of womankind would appear, the sentry challenges a stranger who approaches their tent. On examination this proves to be O Hana San, who has braved the rigours of winter and evaded the lynx-eye of the enemy in order to seek out her lover, Asano, the captured Japanese standard-bearer. Lieutenant Boris tries to win her love with rich gifts, but the little Japanese blossom gently turns aside his raillery, and is not slow to recognise in Captain Dimitri, the faithful lover and noble-minded officer, the sympathetic soul she seeks. She pleads first for the life of her lover, and then to be allowed to see him. This boon is granted her, and she is also given the officer's trophy, the Japanese standard, and promised safe conduct to the Japanese lines at dawn, but she must answer with her life should her lover escapes through her medium. In her brief interview with Asano, she persuades him that the highest duty of all good Samurai is to return and fight for their country, and on her pledging her word to rejoin him at dawn, he goes out into the night disguised in her cloak, and escapes over the snow-capped mountains. O Hana San remains behind, and, her mission fulfilled, dies by her own hand, and thus keeps faith with the Russian officer. The captain and his lieutenant return to find her dying, but she is sufficiently alive to keep him to his promise to return her to her lover at dawn. This pretty little trifle ends with a tableau in which we see the officers reverently covering her corpse with the standard, and preparing to convey her to the Japanese lines.

Mr. Lawrence Grant is a thoroughly manly and virile Captain Dimitri Korsakoff, and contributes a telling and distinctive performance. Mr. Hugh Ardale, as the lively Adonis Lieutenant Boris Dolgourki, imparts a welcome touch of brightness to the piece. Mr. Charles Leveson Lane, in manner and make-up, is the dignified lover and single-minded soldier Asano (a Japanese standard-bearer) to the life, and is seen to advantage in this small part. Mrs. Mouillot is a very charming O Hana San (Blossom), and excels in her lighter moments, though she rises to emotional heights in her tragic death. Mr. W. Fletcher efficiently enacts the part of a sentry, and Russian songs are sung by a Russian male quartette. Viscount Hayashi and suite were present, and appeared to enjoy the performance and that of *Joseph Entangled* thoroughly.

"MASKERADE."

A Play, in Four Acts, by Ludwig Fulda,
Produced for the First Time in England at the
Great Queen-street Theatre, on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Max Freiherr v. Wittinghof	Rudolf Leyrer
Karl Freiherr v. Wittinghof	Phil Lesing
Schellhorn	Johannes Körner
Johanna	Betty L'Arronge
Edmund	Heinz Passt
Ellen v. Tönning	Camilla Dalberg
Gerda Hübner	Else Gademann
Frau Schwalb	Ida Weiss
Klettke	Bruno Wiburger
Minna	Grete Langfried
Friedrich	Fritz Stern

Dr. Ludwig Fulda's latest play, *Maskerade*, gained a very favourable reception from Wednesday night's audience. The dialogue was bright, natural, and often witty, and the author has shown some courage in avoiding the conventional ending of the usual domestic comedy. The picture presented of a German family is not exactly edifying, but the peculiarities of its members excited considerable merriment. As we have said, the dialogue was good, but perhaps in places a little too redundant. The main interest of the story centres in Gerda Hübner, a young girl, the illegitimate daughter of Max Freiherr von Wittinghof, who, having for years occupied the post of Minister in South Africa, returns to Berlin with plenty of money and benevolent intentions towards his daughter. Gerda is earning her living as a teacher, and has, unfortunately, during her father's absence, committed the fault which her mother had committed before her, her partner being Edmund, son of Geheimrat Schellhorn. Von Wittinghof when he hears the story shows nothing but sympathy for the girl, and when he learns the name of her lover, he is well satisfied. "There will be no difficulty," he says, "once you are declared legitimate and a baronet's daughter, the young man will be in honour bound to marry you." Von Wittinghof calls upon the Schellhorns, and the head of the family is delighted with the idea of a union between his son and his friend's daughter, whom he has never seen. Consequently, he induces Edmund, who is a great cad, to explain by letter to his little friend the teacher that, owing to his prospect of a wealthy marriage, he will be compelled to discontinue his visits. The letter is delivered to Gerda just before Edmund calls on her father to complete his supposed conquest, and she denounces his conduct with scorn and contempt. Subsequently, Edmund delivers himself of any number of lies in the endeavour to retrieve his position, but is finally shown up by the most time-honoured of all devices—the pretence that she has determined to surrender her father's bounty, so that he will be marrying her for herself alone. A considerable portion of two acts is occupied by some scandal which has gathered round a certain Frau von Tönning and a "Ministerialdirektor," to whom we are not introduced. The acting deserves the warmest praise. Fräulein Else Gademann played exceedingly well the part of Gerda Hübner, the varying moods and feelings of the girl being portrayed with much skill and charm of manner. A clever and highly finished portrait was the elder Schellhorn of Herr Johannes Körner. The canting hypocrite was depicted in a manner that delighted the audience. Frau L'Arronge deserves every credit for her clever acting in the part of Schellhorn's spirit-broken, dejected wife, who, in the presence of strangers has to mask her real feelings towards her deceitful husband. Herr Heinz Pabst was natural and earnest as the caddish young man Edmund. Fräulein Camilla Dalberg acted with much spirit the part of the attractive widow Ellen von Tönning, and Herr Phil Lesing was a capital representative of the elderly and very worldly diplomatist, who tenders brotherly advice to Max. All the minor parts were carefully played.

REVIVAL OF "OUR FLAT."

At the Comedy Theatre, on Tuesday, Feb. 14,
the Farcical Comedy, by Mrs. Musgrave, entitled
"OUR FLAT."

Reginald Sylvester	Mr. Charles Steuart
Clarence Vane	Mr. Henry J. Ford
Mr. McCullum	Mr. Walter Beaumont
Pinchard	Mr. E. Nainby
Stout	Mr. Edmund Gwenn
Foreman	Mr. C. Grose
First Man	Mr. Meurice Lock
Second Man	Mr. Clarence Morgan
Mr. Nathaniel Glover	Mr. Willie Edouin
Margery Sylvester	Miss Nora Lancaster
Lucy	Miss Dolores Maclean
Clara Pryout	Miss Maggie Bowman
Madame Volant	Miss Violet Loraine
Elise Claremont	Miss Ruth Savile
Bella	Miss Pollie Emery

It is only in very rare cases that the farcical comedies of the last century bear revival, and *Our Flat* is one of these. It has many touches that are supremely human; its cheerfulness is irresistible; its frank jollity is like a glass of the finest champagne; and there is a gaiety in every situation, in every line, almost, that acts like a tonic. One must sympathise, too, with the young couple who have started housekeeping, with an almost Arcadian forgetfulness of the prosaic demands of rent and the payment of the butcher and the baker. Another strong recommendation: it is irretrievably English. We have no intrigue, in which the husband, the wife, and the other fellow figure. The British matron may smile without an *arrière pensée*, and her bosom never be agitated with a sigh.

The success on Tuesday was undisputed, and it was well won. In the cast we have that prince of comedians, Mr. Willie Edouin, to take up his old rôle of Nathaniel Glover—Nathaniel, impregnated with the traditions of the legitimate, yet alive to the necessities of an up-to-date farce; Nathaniel, the shrewd entrepreneur; Nathaniel, the magnificent. He comes down to the footlights with the strut of the man who is used to the conquest of audiences, who is familiar with footlight triumphs—who, indeed, takes success as the sole result of his commanding genius. True it is that Nathaniel has a weakness for a pretty face, but he also possesses the diplomatic tact of an ambassador. Mr. Edouin's rendering has lost none of the cachet of genius, and one fails to see any other comedian in the rôle, so perfect is it in every detail. We need not enlarge on the reception given to the actor, whose amusing gag concerning a well-known school of acting set the house in a roar. Another immense favourite on Tuesday was Miss Pollie Emery, who has long since identified her career with the delineation of cockney slaveys. Her Bella is one of the most genuine bits of low comedy that has been seen on the London stage for many a day. The scene wherein Bella dons the tea-gown of her mistress and interviews Mr. Glover was exquisite, and the faithfulness and affection of the real good-hearted girl were never lost sight of in Miss Emery's fine impersonation. Miss Nora Lancaster, the pretty daughter of Miss Wallis, made a most favourable impression as Margery Sylvester, the brave and resourceful little wife. Margery is a typical English girl, and the refined and breezy interpretation of Miss Lancaster realised the character perfectly. She was simple, natural, and girlish, and despite an excusable nervousness, she completely captivated the house. Mr. Charles Steuart's Reginald Sylvester was charged with an invincible optimism that never wavered in its buoyancy, and in the love of fun that is a chief trait of the character of the young husband. Mr. Steuart has style, and he shared most unmistakably in the triumph secured by the comedy. Mr. Henry J. Ford, as Clarence Vane, did extremely well, the assertiveness of the hard-up artist never being overdone. Mr. E. Nainby's Pinchard has all the qualities of amusing grimness demanded from the indignant dairyman; Mr. Walter Beaumont was drolly irascible and testy as Mr. McCullum; and Mr. Edmund Gwenn's Stout, the porter at the flats, seemed to have caught exactly the manner of the discreet and wide-awake functionary, who is always on the look-out for a tip. Miss Maggie Bowman was quite a success as the mischievous Clara Pryout; Miss Violet Loraine played exceedingly well as Madame Volant, otherwise Jane Brown; and Miss Ruth Savile, as Elise Claremont, and Messrs. C. Grose, Meurice Lock, and Clarence Morgan completed an excellent cast. The furniture removal scene, and the rehabilitation of Margery's sitting-room with sofas made out of starch boxes, a bath for a lounge chair, and a plate rack for a book-case, created all its old success, and *Our Flat* seems to be in for another run. It is a delightful after-dinner piece, and is as fresh and ingenuous as ever.

It was preceded by a "farcical trifle," by Mr. Lawrence Sterner, entitled

"THE WATER CURE."

Harry Parr	Mr. Clayton Greene
Kitty Weedon	Miss Ruth Savile
Dorothy Derry	Miss Maggie Bowman

This trifle was produced at the Brixton Theatre on March 14, 1904, and it has also been seen at the London Pavilion. It is mostly written round the jealousy of Miss Dorothy Derry, the sweetheart of Harry Parr, a young solicitor. She regards Harry's sister Kitty as a rival in her affections, and with the purpose of watching his "little game" disguises herself as an office boy. Her suspicions of Harry's propensities for flirting are confirmed, and she makes up her mind to take poison. Harry, who has penetrated her disguise, substitutes water for the deadly drug, and her unworthy suspicions are eventually dissipated by the "water cure." Miss Maggie Bowman made all that was possible out of the part of Dorothy; Miss Ruth Savile was ladylike as Kitty; and Mr. Clayton Greene did all that was possible with the part of Harry.

"THE BLANCHARD DIAMONDS."

A New Play, by Messrs. C. Harvard Pierson
and R. P. Oglesby, Produced
for the First Time on any Stage at the
Grand Theatre, Hull, on Monday, Feb. 13.

Sir John Blanchard	Mr. Walter Russell
Eric Blanchard	Mr. E. F. Kennedy
Richard Croall	Mr. Benson North
Larry Pullifer	Mr. Lancelot Usher
Joe Tregellis	Mr. Edward Rochelle
Nat Stearn	Mr. Albert Ward
Farmer Gammidge	Mr. Joseph Rowland
Jerry Bickerdyke	Mr. Joseph Hudson
Morris Goldstein	Mr. John Hartt
Steiglitz	Mr. R. Lines
Auctioneer	Mr. Edward Rochelle
Detective	Mr. Harry J. Morgan
Croall's Servant	Mr. F. Jameson
Bellman	Mr. Chas. Caunt
Yokel	Mr. W. Larkin
Boy	Master E. Dunno
Lady Blanchard	Miss Julie Kennard
May Sherringham	Miss May Congdon
Ruth Tregellis	Miss Maud Hildyard
Mrs. Gossett	Mrs. Richard Edgar
Phœbe Mercer	Miss Nellie Dallas
An Old Woman	Miss Hilda Holt

This new play is built on familiar lines, but not the less interesting on that account. The humorous side is strongly developed. The dialogue is wholesome and not extravagant; the situations cleverly worked out, and the interest sustained until the end. The *Blanchard Diamonds* is a type of drama ever sure to draw the popular portions of the house.

The first scene opens with a fête given by Sir John Blanchard to his tenantry to celebrate the home-coming of his son, Captain Eric Blanchard, who has won distinction at "the front." Goldstein, a Jewish money-lender, puts in an unexpected appearance, and presses for immediate settlement of advances to the extent of several thousands. Lady Blanchard enters, and explanation to her is inevitable. To shield her son Lady Blanchard pledges her diamonds—a necklace of some £30,000 value—with the Jew, as security for the debt. This fact comes to the knowledge of Richard Croall, a bogus company promoter, who resolves to use it for his own sinister purposes. Croall also learns of Eric's entanglement with Ruth Tregellis, a fisher-girl. Working on the girl's jealous nature, Croall mentions to her the probability of a betrothal between Eric and May Sherringham, a young heiress, who has won his heart. Ruth confronts Eric with a letter in which he had promised her marriage. A stormy scene ensues, attracting the attention of Sir John and others of the guests, and Eric is compelled to acknowledge to his father the truth of the fisher-girl's claim.

The final scene of the first act reveals a lonely part of the sea coast, known as "The Death's Head Rock," where the only sign of habitation is a rough cabin occupied by Ruth and her father—Joe Tregellis, a drunken fisherman. Eric, who has been shooting, calls to see and thank Ruth for her generosity, she having released him from his promise; when he is confronted by Nat Stearn, a young fisherman in love with the girl. Nat strikes Eric senseless to the ground, and then, fearing he has killed him, rushes off for aid. Meanwhile, Croall enters with Larry Pullifer (his satellite), and they lie in wait for Goldstein, who presently hurries along on his way to the station, carrying the precious diamonds in a bag. Nearly stumbling over Eric's senseless body, Goldstein stoops down to make closer examination, placing the bag on the ground. Croall is in the act of stealing it, when Goldstein detects him, and shrieks out for aid. Croall drops the bag on a bench beneath the cabin window, snatches up Eric's gun, and shoots Goldstein dead. Simultaneously, Joe Tregellis peeps out of his cabin window, and, unobserved by the others, abstracts the diamonds and replaces the empty bag on the beneh. Eric recovers, sees the murdered man beside him, and Croall is quick to point to him as the guilty man. For want of sufficient evidence, however, Eric is not arrested, but nevertheless a cloud of suspicion hangs over him.

Joe Tregellis has now to be reckoned with by Croall, who is forced to pay a heavy price for the former's silence about the murder. Joe speedily drinks himself to death; but ere he dies he writes a confession, which he places in the secret drawer of an old cabinet, where he also secretes the diamonds.

Croall, now thinking himself safe from discovery, tries to find the diamonds, the disappearance of which has puzzled him not a little. He leads Ruth to think that her father committed the murder; and induces her to promise to become his mistress, as the price of his silence. Subsequently she learns, from a letter written by her father just before he died, where he had hidden the gems, together with a "document" which would "do for Croall." The cabinet is to be sold by auction with Joe's other belongings. Croall realises the urgency of acquiring the cabinet, and a most exciting scene follows, he and Ruth bidding hard against each other at the sale—Croall in order to secure and destroy the evidence which would hang him, Ruth to regain the diamonds and so establish Eric's innocence. Ultimately the cabinet is knocked down to Ruth, who, after taking from it the case of diamonds, has it placed in a room at Blanchard Castle. Croall makes a final attempt to save himself from the gallows by burglariously entering this room. He is about to break open the cabinet, when he is interrupted by Ruth, and a fierce struggle ensues. The Blanchards and their guests enter hurriedly; Ruth reveals the letter which will convict Croall, who is promptly placed under arrest, and the play ends with the betrothal of Eric and May, while Ruth pairs off with honest Nat.

The members of Mr. John Hart's company acquitted themselves admirably. The success of the evening, however, was scored by Miss Maud Hildyard, who, as Ruth Tregellis, gave a clever portrait of a Glory Quayle type of woman. Mr. Edward Rochelle submitted a capital study as Joe Tregellis, also appearing as Hammer, an auctioneer. Mr. Albert Ward played with much vigour the part of the young fisherman, Nat Stearn. Mr. Benson North, as Richard Croall, was a most effective villain, and Mr. Edmund F. Kennedy was cast for the rôle of Eric Blanchard. Messrs. Joe Rowland and Joseph Hudson, as Farmer Gammidge and Jerry Bickerdyke, were amusing in their respective rôles, and Mrs. Richard Edgar was good as Mrs. Gossett. Miss May Congdon was well placed as May Sherringham, and Miss Julie Kennard scored as Lady Blanchard. Mr. Walter Russell appeared as Sir John Blanchard, and Mr. Lancelot Usher made the most of his opportunities as Larry Pullifer. Some appropriate scenery has been painted for the production by Mr. D. G. Hall, and the incidental music has been composed by Mr. C. W. Chambers, of the Royal, Bradford.

At the close of the performance, the authors, Messrs. C. Harvard Pierson and R. P. Oglesby, were summoned before the curtain to receive the congratulations of the house, as testified by its applause. There were also calls for the principals, and the veteran stage-manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle, who produced the play.

SCENE AT WYNDHAM'S THEATRE.

At Wyndham's Theatre on Monday evening, after the first act of Captain Marshall's farcical romance, *The Lady of Leeds*, the principal part in which is that of a wealthy daughter of a millionaire ginger-ale manufacturer, a man in one of the top boxes stood up and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, without wishing to interfere with this performance, I must mention that there is a real ginger-ale manufacturer bearing the name mentioned in the play, who protests in the strongest manner against his name being so freely used."

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Henry Irving's unveiling yesterday of the tablet to the memory of Quin, in Pierrepoint-street, Bath, reminds us that the old Bath Theatre, under Mr. James Henry Chute's famous management, was a fine nursery of good actors and actresses. Amongst those in Mr. Chute's company were George Melville, Arthur Stirling, George and William Rignold, Miss Marie Wilton (Lady Bancroft), Miss Henrietta Hodson, and Miss Madge Robertson (Mrs. Kendal).

Amongst the audience at the performances of *John Bull's Other Island* at the Court Theatre this week have been Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury, Dowager Marchioness of Queensberry, Duchess of St. Albans, Countess of Carlisle, Lady Lytton, Lady Hamilton, Lady Enfield, Lady Barrington, Lady Jekyll, Lady Raynes, Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, Right Hon. A. J. Balfour (Prime Minister), Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton (Colonial Secretary), Right Hon. George Wyndham (Irish Secretary), Right. Hon. Herbert Asquith, Sir Oliver Lodge, and the Archdeacon of Westminster.

Mr. Alfred Sutro, who began life as a business man in Mincing-lane, had then no time for writing plays, but plenty of opportunity for the observation of humanity. Those early years of his he therefore regards as an excellent training for his work as a playwright. Mr. Sutro married a very clever woman, the sister of Mr. Rufus Isaacs, the well-known K.C. For years Mr. Sutro sent in plays to managers, and had them rejected. He is now quite overwhelmed with commissions, and can hardly comply with the many demands made on him.

Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, R.A., who takes the chair at the public dinner to be held at the Imperial Restaurant to-morrow, in aid of the Benevolent Fund of the Scenic Artists' Association, will be supported by Messrs. George Alexander, Oscar Asche, Dion Boucicault, Arthur Bourchier, Lionel Brough, Cyril Maude, A. W. Pinero, and Lewis Waller.

Nathaniel Glover, in *Our Flat*, with his colossal self-assurance, is at the moment the most amusing person on the London stage. Mr. Willie Edouin in giving him a Crummles-like rendering is quite entitled to make remarks on the stage of the present day, and he does so in a most diverting way. "You should go on the stage," says the admiring Nathaniel to pretty Margery Sylvester, who shyly confeses her ignorance of the histrionic art. "But you could be taught," replies the manager of the Star Theatre. "Indeed!" rejoins Margery. "I thought actors were born, not made." "Some of them are; some should not have been born; and some wish they had never been born!. Acting can be taught: it never can be *learnt;* but if you were taught you would soon be at the top of the Tree. When I was young we played romantic drama. Shakespeare, and farce—five parts a week; now we have two shows a night and a revolving stage!" On Tuesday night, at the Comedy, this amusing tilt at modern notions was punctuated by the heartiest laughter.

"The Admiral's Lady," the new Nelson play by Arthur Shirley, was to have been produced at Portsmouth this week; but in consequence of an unfortunate accident to the scenery the première is postponed until Wednesday next at the Brixton Theatre, where Mrs. Lewis Waller will also put on—for the first time in London—the comedy *Miss Jack*, on Saturday afternoon. *The Admiral's Lady* is, of course, Lady Hamilton, and the play, which is in a prologue and three acts, will open at Portsmouth. It will be remembered that during the run of *Nelson's Enchantress*, at the Avenue, in 1897, a question was asked in the Commons concerning the play, in which Mr. Forbes Robertson and Miss Patrick Campbell played the lovers.

Mrs. Beerbohm Tree contributed Tennyson's poem, "The Victim," to the entertainment on Monday, at Grosvenor House, in aid of the East London Nursing Society, at which Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein was present. The entertainment also included songs by Miss Viola Tree, Miss Dorothy Foote, Miss Eva Dennison, Miss Thérèse Grabowsky, Mrs. Onslow Ford, Mr. Walter Kirby, Mr. Louis Bradfield, and Mr. Spencer Carpenter; recitations and musical sketches by Miss Nanny Price, Miss Janette Steer, Mr. George Giddens, Mr. Harrison Hill, and Mr. H. B. Irving; and solos on the pianoforte by Miss Tora Hwass, on the violin by Miss Alice Liebman and Herr Franz Meisel, and on the 'cello by Señor Rubio, Mr. Graham appearing as a marionette. It is expected that the East London Nursing Society will receive about £300 as a result of the entertainment.

Sir Henry Irving's farewell tour in America, under the management of Mr. Charles Frohman, will start in October, and will last twenty weeks. Sir Charles Wyndham, who sails for England on March 18, has also accepted Mr. Frohman's terms for a twenty weeks' tour in America in 1906-1907. Sir Charles and Miss Mary Moore terminated a brilliant three nights' engagement in Ottawa on Saturday. Full houses marked each appearance, the Thursday being a command night, while on the following day they had the honour of being entertained at Government House by Earl and Countess Grey. Sir Charles reappears in London on April 24.

Mr. Edward Terry has received some comments from English newspapers upon certain remarks and animadversions which he is alleged to have made about Mr. Pinero's play, *A Wife Without a Smile*, recently performed in America, during the course of an interview with him, published in one of the New York newspapers. Mr. Terry wishes to repudiate these remarks, and to state that, as a matter of fact, he never even referred to Mr. Pinero's *A Wife Without a Smile*, and immediately the interview appeared he wrote to the American newspaper in question, contradicting this statement of its interviewer—a contradiction, however, which the editor did not see fit to insert.

Mr. Roland Bottomley, the young actor-dramatist, whose farcical comedy, *The Impertinence of Nancy*, was successfully produced the other day, made his first appearance on the stage as one of the children in Sir Henry Irving's memorable production of *Olivia*. After some five years under the Irving régime at the Lyceum, Mr. Bottomley migrated to the Royalty, with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier, with whom he appeared in several of his most notable successes. Other important engagements have been under the managements of Messrs. Forbes Robertson, George Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, Frank Curzon, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, &c. Mr. Bottomley will appear in his new play, supported by a strong cast, at the Pier Theatre, St. Leonards, on the 27th inst., for a week, the business arrangements for which are vested in Mr. Hugh Fleming.

Mr. E. J. Odell has been very fortunate with the "Odell Birthday Souvenir," recently issued in his behalf, and containing an engraving of Mr. Edwin Ward's portrait of the veteran comedian. Sir Henry Irving, Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr. J. L. Toole, and Mr. Lewis Waller were amongst the earliest purchasers of the work, of which only a few remaining copies are on sale.

Mr. Eugene Bertram, recognising that a large number of people write shorthand nowadays, is advertising *The Convict's Daughter* by means of a large poster printed in phonographic characters.

The Lord Mayor will preside at a public meeting at the Mansion House on the 28th inst., to promote the movement for a national Shakespeare Memorial in London. Sir Henry Irving and Mr. Beerbohm Tree are members of the provisional committee, who aim at the establishment of a great Shakespeare House, to be devoted primarily to the furtherance of the study and interpretation of the poet's works, and also to serve as a centre for humane learning generally. A Shakespeare House, an institute, with a Shakespeare library, a lecture theatre, and a central hall to receive a fitting statue of the poet, with statues of other famous men, are also in contemplation. Committees will be formed in all parts of the Empire, and in other countries, to collect subscriptions, and, for the same purpose, it is proposed to organise a "Shakespeare Commemoration," to be observed in all parts of the world during "Shakespeare week." The London County Council has already offered to provide a site for the Memorial, and Mr. Richard Badger has promised to start the fund with a first subscription of £2,000, an additional sum of £1,000 for a specific purpose, and £500 for the working expenses of a public appeal.

At a meeting of the Great Northern Railway Company on the 10th inst. a memorial was presented, signed by 1,611 shareholders, protesting against the granting of facilities to parties, especially theatrical companies, for travelling on Sunday. If theatrical companies wished to travel on Sunday, let them, urged the memorialists, use the ordinary trains, like other people. Lord Allerton (the chairman) said the memorial would receive their careful consideration, but it was quite impossible for the directors to pledge themselves to stop running trains on Sundays. It is to be hoped that the memoralists, to a man, give all their servants a holiday every Sunday, never use their horses on the Sabbath, and never travel by train on this day of the week.

The death is announced of Mr. Horace Morehen, the well-known black and white artist, who passed away on Friday, Feb. 10. Mr. Morehen in his younger days was an actor at the Grecian Theatre, City-road, under the Conquest régime, and just before his death was playing at St. George's Hall in Mr. Nevil Maskelyne's production of *The Coming Race*, in which he appeared in the prologue as Jarge, a Cornish miner, and Seph-Lin, one of the new race.

Mr. Martin Harvey registered the sixth birthday of *The Only Way* at the Camden Theatre, on Thursday, the piece having been produced on Feb. 16, 1899, at the Lyceum Theatre. Mr. Martin Harvey, who is at present very busy preparing for his forthcoming production of *Hamlet*, in London, had overlooked the fact that *The Only Way* birthday was so close, and, much to his surprise, the intimation came from one of his many admirers, who sent round to the stage door a large bouquet of lilies of the valley, with a very courteous note, congratulating him on the age of *The Only Way*, saying that the sender was present when the play was first produced, and that the present visit made the 89th performance she had witnessed.

Mr. Lewis Waller will revive *Romeo and Juliet* at the Imperial at Easter or thereabouts, himself and Miss Evelyn Millard appearing in the title-rôles. The production of *Othello*, with which he will start his autumn season, bids fair to be an elaborate one, Mr. Percy Macquoid having undertaken all the scenery and costumes. Later is promised a new four-act play, written specially for the popular actor by the French authors, MM. Stany Orbier and Charles Martel, in which the part of Napoleon at a triumphant period of his career will afford Mr. Waller opportunities for the exercise of his finest dramatic qualities. The first and second acts are respectively concerned with Buonaparte immediately before and after his marriage with Josephine, and the authors claim that in the plot and incidents of their piece historical accuracy has been strictly preserved.

"Strongheart," an American comedy-drama, in four acts, by William C. de Mille, has scored a decided success at the Hudson Theatre, New York. The play might almost be called a dramatisation of a football match, that being the principal incident in the action. Remarkably well done is the reproduction of the noise and excitement attending an athletic contest between rival colleges. To hear the head coach deliver his harangue to the Columbia football team when the first half of the game has been played and the other side looks like winning, is in itself—as the showmen say—"well worth the price of admission." "This is not a game of ping-pong," he says to one, and to another, "this is a football game, not 'puss in the corner.'" He tells his men, referring to their opponents, that they must "kill 'em"; in fact, his appeal is profane and murderous, but very stirring.

The will of the late Mrs. Gilbert, the veteran American actress, who died last December, has been filed for probate. Her personal estate is valued at $10,000. The will directs the executors to see that the testatrix is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, next to her husband and son. To the Players' Club Mrs. Gilbert bequeaths a set of books, and the silver loving-cup presented to her on her seventy-eighth birthday. Also a silver set presented by her friends on the same anniversary. The other bequests include a parlour clock used by Mrs. Gilbert for twenty-five years, the gift of the late Augustin Daly. This is left to Mr. Charles Frohman. Mr. Daniel Frohman, Miss Annie Russell, Miss Ada Rehan, and Mr. John Drew are also to receive various gifts. The residue of the estate goes to a nephew, Mr. Thomas Hartley.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh achieved a triumph with their flying visit to Bristol on Monday, when they and the company from the Garrick gave a matinée of *The Walls of Jericho* at the Prince's Theatre. Enthusiastic cheers were accorded the eminent artists by a crowded house, the receipts of which yielded over £300; and Mr. Bourchier was obliged, at the end of the performance, to comply with repeated demands for a speech.

Mr. C. J. Coltson, the energetic secretary of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, tells us that the "Actors' Saturday" lists are coming in very slowly, and with poor results. One London West-End theatre, employing a large company, returned their collecting-sheets bearing the sensational statement that a total sum of three shillings and sixpence had been collected. Fortunately, however, the majority of the collecting lists do not bear too close a financial resemblance to this particular case. For instance, Sir Charles Wyndham's company, at the new Lyceum Theatre, New York, got together the sum of £77 1s. Most of our leading actors give a yearly donation to the fund, Sir Henry Irving heading with £100. Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton frequently send a percentage of the receipts from amateur performances held at the Opera House, Northampton, last week's share in this way being £2.

It is pleasing to know that Sir Charles Wyndham, who has now completely recovered from the effects of his recent accident, is doing wonderful business in the States and in Canada. At Toronto, he appeared at a command performance before the Governor. Sir Charles, in a letter to his general manager, Mr. Henderson, says he has never been so busy before in his life, what with crowded houses and crowded social functions.

The late Mr. Lewis Ball was the contemporary of Macready, Phelps, Creswick, Gustavus Brookes, Barry Sullivan, Henry Compton, Hackett, Buckstone, Dillon, and Chippendale. He first achieved success as a comedian when engaged on the York Circuit, under Pritchard. He became well known and very popular in Norwich as far back as 1841. An accepted favourite in the Hull Theatre, he played the Artful Dodger with much success years before Mr. Toole had made his début, and performed the part with considerable credit. Mr. Ball was with Phelps at Sadler's Wells, where he was engaged as first low comedian and Shakespearean clown, and from 1852 to 1861 he appeared there in the great revivals of *Henry V., Henry VIII., Coriolanus*, and *Pericles*.

Mr. E. S. Willard has shelved *Lucky Durham*, and has been appearing at the Knickerbocker Theatre, New York, in a play called *The Brighter Side*. This is an English version, by Louis N. Parker, of Alfred Capus's comedy *La Chatelaine*. It was performed for the first time in America at the Chestnut-street Opera House, Philadelphia, on Feb. 16, 1903, under the title of *The Optimist*.

Mr. Walter Emden, the ex-Mayor of the City of Westminster, has presented a handsome challenge cup to the Queen's Westminster Rifles, as a reward for excellence in an "accuracy and endurance" shoot. The competition will take place at Bisley on March 11. Mr. Emden is the architect of the Garrick, Terry's, Court, Duke of York's, Ipswich, and Southampton Theatres.

Theatrical companies on tour in Wales are, it is stated, being "hard hit" by the "revival." A touring company recently visited one of the Welsh towns for a day or two, and at the end of their stay found themselves £7 short of their expenses. Several of the members were "stranded," and two of them, a young married couple, are still in that condition, the husband, so a local paper says, breaking stones for the District Council at half-a-crown a day. Possibly, however, the revival is to bear the blame for ordinary misfortunes of theatrical enterprise.

Miss Margaret Parker, whose acting in the part of Smudgee, in *The Never-Never Land*, on tour, has added many laurels to those she already possessed, will give her sixth dramatic and musical entertainment on Thursday, March 2, when a good miscellaneous programme will include the comedietta, *Good for Nothing*, in which Miss Parker will play the rôle of Nan.

The Fairy Tale Society, who gave an entertainment at the St. George's Hall, on Thursday afternoon, in aid of the funds of the Society, have arranged to give another matinée at the same place of entertainment, to which poor children and orphans will be invited. The piece to be presented on this occasion will be *An Hour in Fairyland*, a masque to be played by members of the Society. Mr. J. N. Maskelyne, who is generously allowing the full use of the St. George's Hall, will render further assistance in the production by means of some of his wonderful monsters and inhabitants of Vril-land.

Two further performances of Ludwig Fulda's *Maskerade* will be given at the Groat Queen-street Theatre on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday *Mein Leopold*—a *volkstuck* by Adolph L'Arronge, with incidental musical numbers—will be produced, and will be played to the end of the week. Frau Rosa Bertens, of the Deutsches Theater, Berlin, will appear for two weeks beginning on Monday, Feb. 27.

The Drury-lane Lodge of Freemasonry, in the establishment of which, twenty years ago, the late Sir Augustus Harris was chiefly instrumental, held its installation meeting on Tuesday night at the Hotel Cecil, when Mr. Wilhelm Ganz, Mr. James Fernandez, Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. Gerald Maxwell, Mr. Luigi Lablache, and Mr. Harry Nicholls (the secretary) were amongst the notable company present. Mr. H. Nye Chart was installed, and the proceedings concluded with a banquet.

Miss Alice Lonnon, who appeared successfully as Filiberta in *The Cardinal* at the St. James's Theatre last season, has been re-engaged by Mr. Willard as his leading lady, in his new play, *The Brighter Side* (*La Chatelaine*) which was down for production at the Knickerbocker Theatre, New York, on Feb. 6.

Mr. Walter Bentley appeared at the Grand Theatre, Nottingham, last week, as Shylock, with the Osmond Tearle company. The large and enthusiastic audience included Mr. Leonard Rayne, who made Mr. Bentley a handsome offer to star in South Africa, which, however, he was unable to accept.

A matinée performance is to be given at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, in aid of the National Lifeboat Institution, on the 23rd inst. Mr. F. W. Wyndham, managing director of the theatre, has, however, stipulated that one quarter of the receipts shall be handed over to the Actors' Benevolent Fund.

Miss Fritzi Scheff is appearing at the Broadway Theatre, New York, in a revival of Lecocq's *Girofle-Girofla*. The dialogue has been brought "up-to-date," and Don Bolero introduces his awe-inspiring Dona as "the wife without a smile." Miss Scheff is delightful in the double title-rôle. In fact, her vivacious and attractive personality gives new life to an opera that would otherwise have little charm for the present generation.

The English, Colonial, and American rights in Heyermann's striking and thrilling piece, *A Case of Arson*, in which Mr. De Vries has achieved such a success at the Royalty Theatre, are vested in the International Copyright Bureau, Ltd. Mr. Ernest Mayer, the managing-director of the Bureau, was responsible for the management of the original performance in Dutch. The Bureau, which makes a speciality of supplying artistes with duologues and sketches, has disposed of the English right in *Renaissance* to Miss Tita Brand.

Mrs. Percy Humphreys, wife of the popular manager at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, last week gave her third annual Cinderella treat to poor children of Glasgow. With the friendly aid of sympathisers, a sum of £40 was raised, and 500 poor children from all quarters of the city were given a hearty meal, an enjoyable entertainment, and, in addition, a pair of stockings was presented to each child at the finish. In the entertainment Mrs. Humphreys had the able assistance of the leading artistes from the Royal and Princess's pantomimes.

"Cinderella," the pantomime by Mr. Fred Bowyer, which was transferred after a prosperous career from the Crown Theatre, Peckham, to the Pavilion, has had the engagement at the Mile-end house extended to three weeks, so great have been its powers of attraction. An excellent company, including Miss Alice Lloyd, Miss Rose Hamilton, Miss May Mars, and Mr. Dan Crawley, is engaged in the representation of the pantomime, the artistic efforts of Miss Rose Hamilton, as Dandini, in which she introduces her songs of "The Smartest Boy" and "The Hoodoo Landlord," being particularly admired.

The King was present on Saturday evening at the performance of *Lady Madcap* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, and on the same evening the Prince and Princess of Wales similarly honoured the performance of *Lady Windermere's Fan* at the St. James's Theatre.

Mr. Frank Curzon has engaged a strong company for his production at the Avenue Theatre on Tuesday of Mr. R. C. Carton's three-act farce entitled *Mr. Hopkinson*. The cast will include Mr. Frederick Kerr, Mr. Henry Kemble, Mr. Athol Stewart, Mr. W. Grahame Browne, Mr. Charles Allen, Mr. Hubert Druce, Mr. Henry Stephenson, Mr. James Welch, Miss Ellen O'Malley, Miss Annie Hughes, and Miss Compton.

Mr. Harry Liston, the "Royal humourist," has been in the habit of sending dated circulars announcing forthcoming entertainments, with prices of admission thereon, to the better-class people in the towns he visits. In two towns last week several persons, each armed with a circular, presented themselves at the theatre, and demanded free admission!

Miss Florence Nelson, whose work up to now has been principally in drama, has turned her attention to musical comedy, and is scoring a success as Lady Flippington in *The Girl from Japan*.

"Agatha," the play by Mr. Louis N. Parker and Mrs. Humphry Ward, will be given for the first time in England at a matinée at His Majesty's Theatre, in aid of the Princess Mary Village Homes, on March 7. The Princess of Wales has intimated her intention of being present.

Mr. George Musgrove's forthcoming production of *The Prince of Pilsen* at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, is being awaited with considerable interest, speculation being rife as to the identity of the lady who, under the *nom de theatre* of Christine Rayinski, will appear in the part of the Gibson Girl. The fair exponent of the part, we understand, is possessed of considerable personal attractions, and at Buda-Pesth, where she was discovered, it is averred that she is the member of an impoverished noble Hungarian family.

M. Auguste van Biene and the *Broken Melody* company arrived in Melbourne last Tuesday, the 14th, and the same day his business-manager in England, Mr. Edward van Biene, received a cable from him, notifying his arrival, and also the fact that, owing to the excellent advance bookings, arrangements are being made to start the season to-day—one week earlier than was originally arranged.

Mr. Arthur Bertram has specially engaged Miss Dora Barton for the juvenile lead in *Hearts Adrift*, the new play which is to be produced at Birmingham, on Monday. His sister, Miss Celestine Bertram, should have played the part, but last week she had to undergo a very serious and painful operation, and though the operation was most successful, the doctors advised her to rest a few more days.

Mr. Lauri de Frece, who is playing Chambhuddy Ram in *The Cingalee* on tour, has just had to undergo an operation on his throat. He re-appeared on Wednesday at the Opera House, Cheltenham, and is progressing favourably. Mr. Vincent Earne, Mr. De Frece's understudy, played during his absence.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell, who continues to make satisfactory progress in Philadelphia, hopes to resume her American tour on March 6 at Chicago. She proposes to sail for London about the middle of May.

Messrs. Dan. F. Rose and F. B. Wolfe have purchased from Messrs. John F. Preston and Harris Fineberg the entire rights of Max Goldberg's new and successful drama, *The Voice of the People*, and are sending the piece on tour immediately, opening at the Grand Theatre, Walsall, on the 27th inst. A very strong company is being engaged, and the piece will be "produced" under the direction of Mr. Preston. It is well booked at most of the important melodramatic houses.

At the usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association, held last Tuesday, Lillie Leroy, Frances Vine, Lindsay Fincham, and E. Stanton Sharp were nominated as candidates for election. The Secretary reported that up to the present, fourteen nominations for the Council had been received for the fourteen vacancies, which would take effect at the time of the fourteenth annual general meeting, to be held at the Garrick Theatre, on the 23rd inst. The Secretary also reported that a member had received the compensation she had asked for under a policy of insurance, and had expressed her satisfaction. Messrs. Arthur Bourchier, Arthur W. Pinero, and Edward Terry were appointed Vice-Presidents. The hon. solicitors reported progress in several matters. The Secretary reported that a dispute between a manager and an artiste had been referred to arbitration, and the hearing was fixed for the next day. The Secretary was instructed to place himself in communication with the Public Control Department in connection with the carrying of a Bill into Parliament by the London County Council, containing clauses affecting employment agencies. A former member was reinstated.

Mr. Samuel P. Swanton, musical director of the Theatre Royal and Palace Theatre, Belfast, has been seriously ill for the past ten days with pneumonia, and it is feared his heart is also affected. It is to be hoped that Mr. Swanton (whose popularity is unbounded in the Northern capital) will speedily recover from his dangerous malady.

Miss Flossie Hale-Daviss was suddenly called upon to play the part of Geoffrey in *Becket*, on the 8th inst., at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, owing to the illness of Master Cyril Smith, and was so successful that she will continue to play the part until further notice.

Mr. Otho Stuart is so pleased with the result of his lesseeship of the Adelphi Theatre that he has exercised his option to extend his term to three years. On August 1 last year he took over the theatre, at a weekly rent of £240, with the option of renting it for three years at £11,000 per annum.

Miss Hilda Moody, we are sorry to hear, has had to undergo a severe operation, which, although successfully performed, will confine her to her house for some weeks.

M. Pierre Wolff's comedy, *Le Secret de Polichinelle*, which is to be adapted for Messrs. Harrison and Maude by Robert Marshall and Louis N. Parker, was played at the Coronet, on June 29, 1903, by the Gymnase Company, headed by M. Félix Huguenet, the original Jouvenel. Dear old Madame Jouvenel, the character originally represented by Judic, was presented by Madame Marie Laure, who had completely mastered *l'art d'être grand-mère*.

Although only last week we acknowledged the sum of £5 2s. 6d. which Mr. Lewis Waller had collected from the recipients of his autograph and sent to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, he has this week sent to that Fund a further sum of £4 4s. 9d.

Mr. D'Arcy Forbes-Winslow, the able advance manager for Mr. George Edwardes's *Orchid* touring company, will be married to-morrow at St. Marylebone Church to Miss Violet Marley, the clever young pianiste. After a brief honeymoon in the Engadine, Mr. Forbes-Winslow, who is the youngest son of Dr. Forbes-Winslow, the eminent brain specialist, will resume his duties with the *Orchid* company at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The Carl Rosa Opera Company will visit the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, for next week, and will perform the following operas, in the order named:—*Lohengrin, Faust, Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci, Maritana, Tristan and Isolde, Don Giovanni*, and *Carmen*. The company includes Misses Louisa Sobrino, Una Bruckshaw, Ethel Pender-Cudlip, Anna Hope, Augusta Renard, and Lizzie Burgess, and Messrs. Julius Walther, Henry Beaumont, Edward Davies, Arthur Winckworth, Chas. Victor, Lewys James, Frank Arthur, and E. C. Hedmondt, with Messrs. Eugene Goossens and Walter van Noorden as conductors. Amongst the newcomers this season, Herr Chas. Victor, who commenced his musical education at the Guildhall School of Music, has won great reputation in the characters of Don Giovanni, Rigoletto, and Tonio. It is interesting to note that this will be the first occasion that *Tristan and Isolde* has been played in London, south of the Thames. The cast will include Herr Julius Walther, Herr Chas. Victor, Mr. Arthur Winckworth, Madame Augusta Renard, and Miss Winifred Ludlam.

The triple bill which will form the second production of the Vedrenne-Barker matinées at the Court on Tuesday, Feb. 28, and following intermediate dates, will begin with *A Pot of Broth*, a farce by W. B. Yeats, in which Mr. George F. Tully, Miss Amy Lamborn, and Mr. Robert Pateman will appear; *In the Hospital*, by Arthur Schnitzler, translated by Christopher Horne, the cast of which includes Mr. J. D. Beveridge, Mr. George Trollope, Mr. Rudge Harding, Mr. Howard Sturge, Mr. Edmund Gwenn, and Miss Isabel Grey; and Mr. Bernard Shaw's "warning to playgoers," entitled *How He Lied to Her Husband*, in which Mr. Granville Barker, Mr. A. G. Poulton, and Miss Gertrude Kingston will figure.

Mr. Sam Shubert, the American theatrical manager, is now in London, intently engaged in the supervision of the erection of the new Waldorf Theatre, of which he and his brother are the lessees. The opening attraction has not yet been decided upon. The fire at the Casino Theatre, New York, was by no means so destructive as report would have it, and Mr. Schubert states that the house will reopen within a month with *The Earl and the Girl*.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley, the proprietor of the Royal Opera House, and sole lessee of the Theatre Royal, Leicester, has gladdened the hearts of the members of the Poor Children's Institute in that town by presenting to them the scenic effects for the stage erected in the new building in High-street, which was opened by Lady Rolleston, who was accompanied by Sir John Rolleston, M.P. A special vote of thanks was accorded by the ladies and gentlemen present to Col. Winstanley for his kind gift.

Friday next will see the end of *Sergeant Brus* at the Strand Theatre. Mr. Frank Curzon is at present undecided as to what shall follow Mr. Owen Hall's successful comedy, but one of three novelties which Mr. Curzon has in hand may be confidently looked for, unless, indeed, he removes *Our Flat* from the Comedy to the place of its earliest production.

All Miss Emma Hutchison's and Mr. Percy Hutchison's companies have started out on tour again. *Cousin Kate* will be at Edinburgh next week; *Saturday to Monday* will be at Norwich; and a special company, with *A Country Mouse*, will open on Monday at Bath. This is the sixth tour of this successful piece. A second company will commence an eight weeks' tour at Easter.

The nineteenth meeting of the committee of the Scenic Artists' Association was held at their offices, 5, Robert-street, Adelphi, on Wednesday evening last. There were present, the Vice-Presidents, Sir Philip Burne-Jones and Mr. William Harford, Messrs. Walter Hann (in the chair), E. G. Banks, Richard Douglass, George R. Hemsley, W. T. Hemsley, R. C. McCleery, H. W. Owen, Harry Potts, W. Raphael, W. B. Spong, George Tweddell, H. Warner, and H. Woolls, and Mr. H. Lawrence Harris, secretary. On the nomination of Mr. George Tweddell, seconded by Mr. James Carl, Mr. Stanes Prem, scenic artist, was duly elected a member of the association. The committee having received the secretary's report as to the number of tickets sold for the Benevolent Fund dinner, drew up list of toasts, arranged the seating of the guests, and instructed the secretary to send out Press invitations, &c. The secretary reported the following donations as received since the last committee meeting, namely, from Mr. E. Fisher White, 10/6; Mr. W. H. Kendal, £2 2s.; Sir Henry Irving, £2 2s.; Lady Parker, £1; Water Valley Colour Company, £1 1s.; Ernest Carpenter, 10s.; W. E. Davis, £1 1s.; and Henry Neville, £1 10s. The secretary reported he had received letters from Messrs. Thos. F. Dunn, of Glasgow, Charles Renard, George Smith, Miss Graham, and others, offering loan to the exhibition at Grafton Galleries in April next, of pictures by W. T. Muir, W. F. Robson, Pitt, Clarkson, Stanfield, and other deceased scenic artists.

Mr. C. P. Levilly begins the seventh year of tour of his original London company with *La Poupee*, next Monday, at the Empire Theatre, Oldham. The company includes Mr. Eric Thorne and Miss Stella Gastelle, in their old parts of Hilarius and Alesia, and all the scenery, costumes, and effects, as used at the recent successful revival at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, will be carried.

The final competition for free open scholarships in the Royal College of Music took place on Thursday. The following are the names of the successful candidates:—Composition: Ernest B. Farrar (Leeds); James Friskin (Pollokshields). Pianoforte: Grace A. Humphery (London); Joan L. Powell (Bridgnorth); Winifred M. Gardiner (Chorley Wood); Florence E. Cotterell (Walsall). Singing: Bessie Bowness (Coniston); James H. Foster (Leicester). Organ: Harold W. Rhodes (Great Malvern); Eric W. Gritton (Reigate). Violin: Edith D. Devin (Hoylake). Violoncello: Felix A. N. Salmond (London). Hautboy: Horace Halstead (Heckmondwike); Job Jones (London). Trumpet: Eardley W. Morgan (London). The following candidates were highly commended by the examiners:—Violin: Lorna Downing (London) and Eleanor McCarthy (Portsmouth). Violoncello: Ellen Bartlett (Exeter). Singing: Alice Moffatt (London).

Mr. George Davey's benefit at the Grand Theatre, Islington, on Saturday next, will be a red-letter day in the annals of this popular theatre. The Playgoers' Club have bought the house for that night, and will entertain 3,000 local school children. The fund that has been inaugurated to present Mr. Davey with a memento of esteem is making good progress under the care of Mr. O'Connor (the Press representative of the theatre), who is acting as secretary and treasurer of the same.

The students of the Academy of Dramatic Art will present at their first public performance, at His Majesty's Theatre, on Tuesday afternoon, the 28th inst., the first act of *The Schoolmistress*, scenes from *A Winter's Tale*, and the first act of *Caste*, which have been rehearsed by Mr. Fred Kerr, Mr. William Haviland and Mr. George P. Bancroft respectively. There will also be played a new wordless sketch by Madame Cavallazzi.

Mr. J. Bannister Howard has arranged for Mrs. Langtry and her company, playing at Terry's Theatre, to give a special matinée of *Mrs. Dering's Divorce*, at his Ryde Theatre, on Saturday next.

"MOLLENTRAVE ON WOMEN."

A New and Original Comedy in Three Acts, by Alfred Sutro, Produced at the St. James's Theatre, on Monday, Feb. 13.

Mr. Mollentrave	MR. ERIC LEWIS
Sir Joseph Balsted, K.C., M.P.	MR. NORMAN MCKINNEL
Everard Swenboys	MR. LESLIE FABER
Lord Contareen	MR. ROBERT HORTON
Mr. Dexter	MR. E. VIVIAN REYNOLDS
Mr. Noyes	MR. GERALD JEROME
Peters	MR. E. H. BROOKE
Martin	MR. MURRAY CARRINGTON
Lady Claude Derenham	MISS MARION TERRY
Margaret Messilent	MISS LETTICE FAIRFAX
Miss Treable	MISS NORA GREENLAW
Mrs. Martelli	MRS. KEMMIS

Schopenhauer—we apologise to Mr. Bernard Shaw, who, we understand, pleads a "previous claim" to all quotations from the depressing little philosopher—Schopenhauer, in one of his essays, emphasises the strength of Illusion in the passion of Love. He points out that, for all practical purposes, there is not so much difference between one woman and another as to justify the serious view which enamoured individuals take of their positions, "backing their opinions," at times, even to the extent of suicide. It is this over-mastering absurdity, this temporary insanity, which makes all plays dealing with Love so popular on the stage. We are in the position of lunatics, who have been cured, and are clothed and in our right minds; and who also have the privilege of visiting an asylum and amusing ourselves with the oddities of the inmates. This is the secret of the success of *Mollentrave on Women*, which was produced at the St. James's Theatre on Monday last. It appears to have been rather hastily written, and at times the author's hand seems to waver a little; but the piece is essentially amusing, and there is not a scene which does not produce a goodly crop of laughs. And laughter is, after all, the best proof of the merit of a comedy.

Mollentrave, the chief character in Mr. Alfred Sutro's new play, is a kind of genial Schopenhauer, vainly philosophising with the aim of reducing Love to an exact science. He is an erotic specialist, and has written a book with the title, "Mollentrave on Women." It is necessary, of course, for the other personages of the drama to be more or less puppets, or otherwise they would not be at Mollentrave's disposal for the purposes of the piece. They are: A rather diffident and doubtful lawyer, Sir Joseph Balsted; his young and pretty ward, Margaret Messilent; Lady Claude Derenham, a delightful widow; and Balsted's nephew, Everard Swenboys, who is hotly in love with Margaret. Balsted wants to get rid of the girl, whose presence in the house worries him; so he takes counsel with Mollentrave, who advises Balsted to encourage Everard, while he—Mollentrave—stimulates Margaret. This *Much Ado* method is put into practice; but unfortunately Margaret misunderstands Balsted's meaning, and thinks he is proposing to her. In his embarrassment, the lawyer consults Lady Derenham, who advises him to tell Margaret the truth. But Mollentrave takes command of the situation, and instructs Balsted to feign middle age—even, if necessary, to appear "paralytic." The result is exactly the opposite to that intended. Margaret loves Balsted the more for his alleged infirmities. Acting under Mollentrave's directions, Lady Claude attaches herself to Everard, in order to excite Margaret's jealousy; while, at the same time, her ladyship praises the girl to the young man very warmly. The plan works well. Margaret eventually realises that she loves Everard; and an outburst of rudeness on the part of Balsted—when he discovers that, by inserting a paragraph in the papers to the effect that his infirmities will lead to his giving up public life, she has done him considerable injury—disillusions her completely. She gives herself to Everard, much to Balsted's delight, as he is thereby left free to propose to Lady Claude.

Mollentrave on Women must be taken for what it is—a very agreeable and diverting fantasy. The only people who can possibly feel dissatisfied are the artists who have to perform the self-denying office of representing a number of "shadowy beings," who are not intended to carry conviction, but merely to be subordinate to the leading personage in the piece. Mollentrave dominates the work, and Mr. Eric Lewis, who enacts the self-complacent philosopher, is greatly to be congratulated. Mr. Lewis rose to the occasion, and triumphed. As the kindly but conceited counsellor, with his plausible theories, his ineffable confidence, and his polished manner, Mr. Lewis was in every way admirable. To all his known qualities—his delicate touch, his dainty delivery, and his smoothness and suavity—were added an amount of authority which we have seldom seen Mr. Lewis employ. He revealed a reserve of strength and energy which he probably always possessed, but may have judiciously restrained, owing to the exigencies of the characters allotted to him. Of the remainder of the personages, it can truly be stated that they were played as well as they could be. It is difficult to imagine a Balsted more intellectual and more undecided than Mr. Norman McKinnel's. The style of the performance at the commencement—the ease, the decision, and the finish of the technique, made it all the more difficult for the artist to convey Balsted's essential weakness. Yet Mr. McKinnel did this with striking success, and with a demure comicality which was very effective. Mr. Leslie Faber, besides coming within measurable distance of the "young Greek god" mentioned in the text, acted with commendable fervour and facility; and a remarkably clever sketch of Lord Contareen was given by Mr. Robert Horton, Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds being satisfactory as Mr. Dexter and Mr. Gerald Jerome doing well as Mr. Noyes. Mr. E. H. Brooke was quaintly natural as Peters; and Mr. Murray Carrington did useful and efficient work as Martin. Miss Marion Terry's Lady Claude Derenham was instinct with that actress's bewitching personality—an influence so subtle as to defy analysis, but very real and powerful, as the ardent reception and call at the conclusion given to Miss Terry proved. Miss Terry's "magic" is felt even in a part like this, which only calls for a fraction of her full strength. It should be mentioned, as a powerful factor of the impression she created, that she was particularly fortunate in her dressmaker and her *coiffeur*. Miss Lettice Fairfax hit the right note exactly as Margaret Messilent, acting with just the necessary superficiality, a quality very valuable in a production of this sort, in which over-emphasis is above all things to be avoided. Miss Nora Greenlaw gave a careful and well-considered performance as the melancholy companion; and Mrs. Kemmis was grimly resolute as the stern housekeeper. *Mollentrave on Women* "went with a laugh" from beginning to end; and Mr. Alexander, being called at the finish, made the usual announcement as to the author's absence from the house.

We cannot conclude without comment on the remarkable reception given to the first piece, *A Maker of Men*. The house listened to it with the hushed attention which indicates intense interest, and when the curtain went down on the duologue, the applause was so strenuous that one would have imagined the piece was being played for the first time. The warm feeling and tender humanity of the work were, of course, the principal causes of this enthusiasm; but the result could not have been attained without the co-operation of Mr. W. Graham Browne, whose Cuthbert Farringdon was vigorous, earnest, and expressive, and of Miss Edyth Olive, whose acting as Edith Farringdon was so intense and true as to thrill the audience to the core.

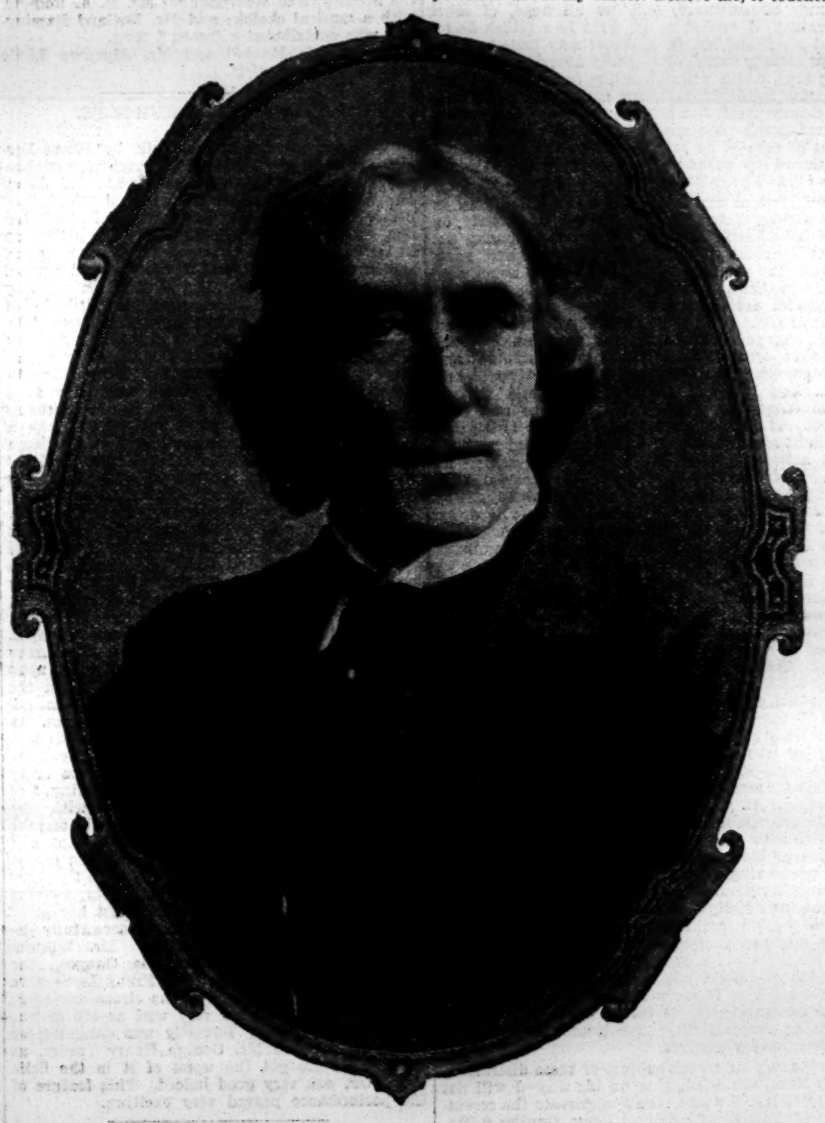
MR. EDITOR,—SIR, In your report for the Empire, Middlesbro', last week, you omitted to mention, Yours faithfully, MINNIE D'AUBYN. Burlesque Artist, Palace, Derby, Feb. 15.

HENRY IRVING AND QUIN.

At Bath, on Friday, Sir Henry Irving, who is playing there this week-end, unveiled a tablet to Quin, which the local Corporation have placed on a house in Perrepont-street, where he lived in retirement. There was a large crowd of spectators. The Mayor, in introducing Sir Henry, said the Corporation of Bath had been engaged for some time in placing tablets on historic houses in the city, and a list of them would show they had certainly been Catholic in their tastes and sympathies, and by no means too wide in their selection. Statesmen, artists, diplomats, and preachers who had lived in Bath had been thus honoured, the Corporation inviting appropriate gentlemen to unveil the tablets. They were in no way departing from tradition in asking the premier actor of their day to perform the ceremony of unveiling a tablet to Quin.

SIR HENRY IRVING said: The memorial which I have the honour of unveiling to-day is fitly dedicated by the Corporation of Bath to one of the most famous players of the eighteenth century. James Quin lived here for sixteen years, after his retirement in 1751. For five-and-thirty years he had been an actor, and for more than half that period he held his own against all competitors, until the advent of David Garrick, who reformed the affected attitudes and the stilted style of declamation then in vogue. When Quin retired, he was still in the vigour of his powers; and there can be little doubt that he would have remained to contest the supremacy of Garrick for some years more if he could have made his own terms with Manager Rich. There had been some disagreement between Quin and Rich, and when the actor had soothed a somewhat mettlesome temper with the charms of this city, he wrote to the autocrat of Covent Garden in these terms:—"I am at Bath. Quin." And Rich, who did not appreciate the healing balm of this message, wrote back:—"Stay there and be damned." This sounds harsh; but it was the colloquial diction of a rather careless generation. What is really remarkable is the totally unwarrantable implication that Bath was the place for a man's undoing.

After this Quin seldom appeared in London, except to play Falstaff for the benefit of an old friend; and he discontinued that when he lost two



SIR HENRY IRVING. *Photo. by Ellis.*

of his front teeth, and wrote:—"I will whistle Falstaff for no man." Falstaff was the part in which he had won the widest suffrages; and it had made the first great success of his career. There is a story that when he hinted to Rich his desire to play it, that oracle remarked:—"The character of Falstaff, young man, is quite another character from what you think; it is not a snivelling part that anyone can do. There is not a man among you that has any idea of the part but myself. No, never think of Falstaff; it is quite out of your walk." But the "young man" was permitted to make the attempt; and he achieved at once a popularity which he never lost. In other Shakespeare parts he was not so welcome. Some critics thought him unqualified for tragedy; yet he played Addison's Cato with much success, and there is a tale—which I hope is incredible—that Cato's soliloquy was encored, and that Quin declaimed it all over again. Theatrical audiences in those days must have been rather "fearful wildfowl," and often exacting more when they were pleased than when they were angry. There was always a danger that they would tear up the benches, or that some of them would rush upon the stage and deliver a general assault and battery. On one occasion, when Rich was attacked by a drunken nobleman, Quin saved his life by some vigorous sword-play. The actor's vocation then was full of stirring variety. Quin was a man of the readiest wit, and he is said to have employed it successfully in telling stories to an audience to keep them from rioting when the play was waiting for some royal personage who had forgotten the time. Horace Walpole tells us that Quin, when pressed to play the part of the ghost in *Hamlet*—a part he considered beneath him—would make no answer but, "I won't catch cold behind." "The ghost," says Walpole, "is always ridiculously dressed, with a morsel of armour before, and only a 'block' waistcoat and breech behind." I am happy to assure you that in this respect the stage has made some progress since Quin's day. I have known a number of ghosts; and they were all clad in "complete steel," and ran no more risk of catching cold behind than anyone else in the play. Here in Bath, then, Quin lived for sixteen years. We may picture him as a man who impressed himself on his contemporaries by force of character, and by a rather gruff independence, relieved by much natural kindness. The story how he befriended James Thomson, whom he found in prison for a debt of £70, is a worthy illustration of that. He ordered supper and claret—a good deal of claret—and when the bottle was going round he said with grim humour, "It is time we should balance accounts." The unfortunate poet, who was already alarmed at this burly visitor, took him for another creditor. "Mr. Thomson," said Quin, I can see him thoroughly enjoying the scene, and stretching it out with those pauses for which he was so noted on the stage—"Mr. Thomson—the pleasure—I have had—in reading—your works—I cannot estimate—at less than a hundred pounds;—and I insist on now—acquitting the debt." And then he put down the money, and walked out without another word. That was the heart of James Quin. I think we would rather dwell on that than on his undoubted fondness for good living. He made a considerable figure in an age full of considerable figures; and it is most fitting that he should be ranked by this admirable monument among the famous men who are associated with Bath.

Sir Henry Irving then drew aside a curtain, disclosing a tablet with the inscription: "Here lived James Quin. Born 1693, died 1766."

A vote of thanks to Sir Henry was moved by Councillor Plowman, who recalled reminiscences of Sir Henry's playing with the stock company at Oxford, in days when the 'Varsity authorities would not allow students to attend the theatre, and when magistrates only licensed acting occasionally, lest residents should be tempted from the paths of virtue. Nobody had done more to bring about the improved status of the stage of to-day than their guest.

SIR HENRY briefly acknowledged his affectionate welcome to his native county, and subsequently was entertained at luncheon by a number of leading citizens, receiving silver combination—a "smoker's companion"—as a memento of the occasion. The Mayor of Bath, Mr. Benjamin John, presided; and the company included Mr. Lewis Waller. Miss Wynne Matthison, the leading lady of Sir Henry's company, was prevented by the death of her father, Dr. Lionel Weatherly, from being present. Sir Henry's health was proposed and drunk with enthusiasm, and the presentation was made by the Mayor.

SIR HENRY IRVING, in responding, said:—Mr. Mayor, I thank you most warmly for the great honour you have done me, and for your very kind expressions about my career. Believe me, it touches the pride of an actor to receive such a welcome from the citizens of Bath, for it reminds him of the days when it used to be said, and said with truth, that the player who was applauded in Bath need have no fear of London. That is a tradition, Mr. Mayor, which puts us on our mettle. It was strongly in my mind this morning, when I was privileged to bear a part in the tribute your city has paid to the name and fame of James Quin. Quin has been dead nigh upon a hundred and forty years; and it says much for the good old theatrical views of Bath that you should remember him and honour him now. And the profession, in which he made a remarkable figure, is equally honoured to-day by this memorial. I must say it offers a great temptation, Mr. Mayor, to an actor like myself, for instance, who is nearing the end of his professional labours. When Quin settled here, he had small ideas, I fancy, that he was to be inseparably associated with your history, and to take his place among your civic worthies. But what a temptation, I repeat, to the strolling player to return to Bath, when he has taken leave of the footlights! I can imagine him coming every day to look at Quin, and saying to himself, "I wonder whether the Mayor and Corporation will put up a marble or erect a thing of me when I am gone!" The danger is that he might want to make sure of it, and might try to get himself elected as Mayor, so that he might secure honour in his own time. You can see how the temptation would develop. I am afraid that having exposed its character to you so freely, I should lay myself open to cynical surmise if I were to pass my remaining years in Bath. But at least, I can confess the very deep gratification it has given me to pay this visit, and I thank you once more with all my heart for your generous sympathy. This, Mr. Mayor, is not my first visit to Bath. A good many years ago I played here for a week with Miss Herbert's company in old comedies; they were all received with favour, especially *The Rivals*, which is so intimately associated with this city. There was no doubt that the public of that day liked the old comedies. Later on, I played another week, but this time with a new comedy, which had an immense vogue in London, *Two Roses*. We played, I remember, to literally empty benches, so that it seemed new comedy had not the same attraction as old. I suppose, therefore, I may take it that our own plays are deemed as old, for the audience we have had already, and those whom I am told are promised by the company, make a sort of high-water mark. And I think I remember playing here for a few nights with my old friend, Mr. J. L. Toole—a great favourite everywhere, and an especial favourite here in Bath. I hope that this may not be my last visit here, though when I come again it will have to be as a player who has had his hour upon the stage.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE HONEY.

From New York comes news of the death of Mr. George Honey, the son of the well-known comedian of the same name, who died some years ago, and was famous as the original representative of Eccles, at the old Prince of Wales's Theatre. The late Mr. Honey was formerly a member of Mr. George Edwardes's Co., and appeared as the Lord Chancellor in the revival of *Faust Up-to-Date* at the Gaiety, in July, 1892. He also appeared in *The Shop Girl* and other Gaiety pieces on tour. He went to America with *The Shop Girl*, opening at Palmer's (now Wallack's) Theatre in October, 1896. In the company with him were Seymour Hicks and George Grossmith, jun. Honey's rôle was that of Singleton, and he proved so good a comedian that American managers retained him. He played engagements with numerous Broadway companies, after the end of *The Shop Girl* season. He was seen often in the musical productions at Daly's Theatre, and was then engaged by Charles Frohman for the rôle of the cockney thief in *Sherlock Holmes*.

An engagement of two years under Klaw and Erlanger's management came next. He joined *The Girl from Kay's*, taking the *rôle* of the porter, after *A Clean Slate* was withdrawn at the Madison Square Theatre. He had remained with that company ever since.

On Jan. 23, when the company was playing in St. Joseph, the comedian was attacked by what the physicians described as acute melancholia. He was taken to the State Hospital, and the members of the company, after making every possible provision for his comfort, continued their tour.

Before Mr. Honey had been many hours in the hospital, the physicians discovered that he was suffering from pneumonia. His condition gradually grew worse until the end came on Feb. 4.

The deceased, who was about forty years old, leaves a widow and two children in rather straightened circumstances. His body was brought to his home, 80, Linden-avenue, Jersey City, where the funeral service was held.

DEATH OF MR. LEWIS BALL.

Mr. Lewis Ball, the veteran actor, died at the residence of his son-in-law, the London Hotel, Teignmouth, on Tuesday. He was born at Builth, South Wales, in October, 1820, and made his first appearance on the stage when he was only three years old. He acted, as a child, with Madame Celeste and Ira Aldridge, the black tragedian. In his early days, he became well-known in the North of England, being a member of a company under the direction of Mr. Pritchard, of York. At Brecon, in 1841, he was associated with Mr. Henderson; and, five years afterwards, he was playing with such stars of the dramatic world as Macready, Madame Vestris, and Charles Mathews. "It was," he said, "a period of unmitigated happiness—that is, if there is such a thing as happiness in our profession."

After further valuable experience in the provinces, the young actor was fortunate to obtain an engagement at Sadler's Wells, during the memorable reign there of Samuel Phelps. On Oct. 25, 1852, Shakespeare's *Henry V.* was produced, with a very fine cast. Phelps played the title-rôle; Mrs. Marston was Mrs. Quickly; Mr. Bennett, Pistol; Mr. Knight, Bardolph; and Mr. Lewis Ball, Fluellen. In *The Merchant of Venice*, revived in February, 1853, he was the Launcelot Gobbo. On March 17, the same year, was produced the Second Part of *Henry IV.*, and Lewis Ball appeared as Davy. He was Lord Sands in the revival of *Henry VIII.*, Phelps being the Wolsey. In the autumn of 1853 *The School for Scandal* was played, Mr. Ball appearing as Moses. He also represented Grumio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Touchstone, Trinculo, one of the Dromios, Flaminius (*Timon of Athens*), the First Gravedigger, The Second Fisherman (*Pericles*), Cloten (*Cymbeline*), and Costard (*Love's Labour's Lost*), Mrs. Warner being incapacitated from following her profession by a fatal malady, a benefit was given her at Sadler's Wells, in 1854, when Phelps, Miss Cushman, Miss Cooper, T. P. Cooke, Lewis Ball, and others took part. When Mr. Ball returned to the provinces, he still further enlarged his experience, acting many parts in many plays, amongst them being Cipher Cute, in *Dred*; McSwill, in *The Vampire; or, The Bride of the Isles*; Barabé Baracieux, in *The Musketeer and the Queen's Diamonds*; Gillman, in *The Happiest Day of My Life*; Valianto, in *Joan of Arc*; Marcel, in *'Twas I*; Jemmy Jumble, a tailor, in *The Ocean of Life; or, Every Inch a Sailor*; Dicky Dean (*Susan Hopley; or, the Trials and Vicissitudes of a Servant Girl*), Birman (*The Hut of the Mountains*), Martin (*The Maid and the Magpie*), Pablo (*The Torrent of the Valley; or, The Dumb Boy of Italy*), Hector Homespun (*Red Rover; or, the Hunting of the Carolina*), Hafiz (*El Hyder*), and Pedrigo Potts, in the comic opera, *John of Paris*.

It is worthy of note that when, by Royal command, a performance of *Henry V.* was given at Windsor, the late Queen Victoria specially commended Mr. Ball's Fluellen; and, on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 1858, when *Macbeth* was performed before the Queen and the Prince Consort, he appeared as one of the witches, in company with Emery and J. W. Ray. In the production of *Romeo and Juliet*, at the Castle, in the following year, Robinson played the lead to the Juliet of Miss Heath (the late Mrs. Wilson Barrett), with Phelps as Mercutio, Henry and Mrs. Marston as the Friar and the Nurse, and Lewis Ball as Peter.

An engagement at the Olympic Theatre in 1858 again brought him prominently before London playgoers. While here, he created the parts of Mr. Breezely, in Wooler's *Twice Told Tale*, and Mr. Dotts, in Williams's *I've Written to Browne*. Subsequently, at the Marylebone, he played Jack Sheppard to Tom Robertson's Blueskin. As regards his association with Mr. Edward Compton, this began on Monday, Feb. 7, 1881, at the Opera House, Southport, when Mr. Ball was sixty years of age, and lasted some seventeen years. It is interesting to note that, the first time in his career he was persuaded by Mr. Compton, who always had the greatest faith in his powers as an actor, to take up old men's parts, and he commenced operations as Sir Toby Belch, Sir Anthony Absolute, Hardcastle, Adam, Sir Robert Bramble, and Lord Duberley. After this, he appeared as Sir Peter Teazle and Sir Harcourt Courtly. He also played with great success the parts of Old Thornton, in *The Road to Ruin*; Sir George Thunder, in *Wild Oats*; and Graves, in *Money*. No one regretted his retirement from the stage in 1898, or felt his loss more keenly as a friend and fellow-worker, than his seventeen years' manager, Mr. Edward Compton.

His funeral takes place to-day (Saturday), at the Teignmouth Cemetery. Beautiful wreaths have been sent from Mr. and Mrs Edward Compton, and another from the present members of the Compton Comedy Company, "In sorrowing memory of one of its first and most gifted pioneers."

THE magnificently-dressed turn contributed by La Jolie Titcombe at the Eastbourne Hippodrome last week was inadvertently omitted from the notice of this popular house.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LES DRAGONS DE L'IMPERATRICE," Opera-Comique, in Three Acts, by Georges Duval and Albert Vanloo, Music by André Messager. Produced at the Variétés, Feb. 13.

Saint-Gildas	M. ALBERTHAL
Agénor	M. PRINCE
Prince de Carinthie	M. CLAUDIUS
Le Colonel	M. A. SIMON
Plantinois	M. BERGERAT
Bois-Landry	M. MARECHAL
Lucrèce	MDLLE. GERMAINE GALLOIS
Cyprienne	MDLLE MARIETTE SULLY
Rigolboche	MDLLE. FOURNIER
Princess de Carinthie	MDLLE. GINETTE
Mme. Pacome	MDLLE. LAVERNIERE
Marquise Desternich	MDLLE. NITA ROLLA

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, FEB. 16.—The new work produced at the Variétés is a sort of half-way house between opera-comique and operette. The plot is slight, but the music is charming, and the novelty is likely to enjoy a good run. The scene is laid at Saint Cloud, in 1860, the most brilliant period of the Second Empire, which has afforded M. Samuel an excellent opportunity for the display of gorgeous costumes. The Dragoons are mortally jealous of the "Cent-Gardes" regiment, because the latter are more favoured by the ladies. Captain Agénor, alone, boasts of eleven victims; and Captain Saint-Gildas, of the Dragoons, therefore means to snatch away from him his twelfth trophy. As it happens, Agénor has been seen speaking to a lady at dusk in the Saint-Cloud Park, and the Dragoons are trying to discover who she is. But even Agénor does not know the name of the mysterious fair one, who is no other than Lucrèce, the wife of the Colonel of Dragoons. Unfortunately, Lucrèce has dropped the fan lent her by the Empress, and she implores her friend Cyprienne—married to Saint-Gildas the day before—to help her to recover the lost article, and poor Cyprienne then discovers that it is her husband who has undertaken to rob Agenor of his twelfth mistress. Agénor receives an anonymous letter, wherein he is asked to come to Mabille, and bring the fan with him. In Mabille he meets Cyprienne, carefully disguised, and Cyprienne manages things so cleverly that Saint-Gildas, who thinks he has secured his rival's mistress, meets his own wife, and becomes a model husband. Mme. Germaine Gallois and Mdlle. Mariette Sully impersonated Lucrèce and Cyprienne, and no better choice could have been made. Both ladies are accomplished artistes, and contributed a large share towards the evening's success. M. Prince was as amusing as ever, and made us forget that he does not possess any voice. The mounting, as usual at the Variétés, and the costumes were most luxurious.

AT the Chatelet they are busy rehearsing *Tom Pitt, le roi des pick pockets*, a spectacular play by MM. Victor de Cottens and Darlay. The management of that theatre, who reckon on a big success, have engaged a strong cast, among whom Max Dearly, who created *The Country Girl* in Paris. M. de Cottens, a fervent admirer of everything English, and whom one meets as often in Piccadilly as on the Boulevards, has taken his inspirations from England. The opening tableau shows Charing Cross Station; whence we travel to Wales, and, finally, are taken across the Atlantic to an imaginary Republic. As in his *Revue des Folias-Bergère*, which is drawing crowded houses, M. de Cottens has introduced in his new work for the Chatelet many popular English airs.

"CHERUBIN," Massenet's new opera, for which Frances de Croisset and Henri Cain have written the libretto, met with an excellent reception at Monte Carlo. Chérubin, a fickle youth, flirts with every woman he comes across, and nearly comes to grief over his intrigue with L'Ensoleillad, a dancer, and the King's mistress. He is, however, saved in time by Jacoppo, a philosophising old magister. In the end, Chérubin returns to Nina, the niece of a great duke, the girl who has always loved him, and whom the young Don Juan marries with the firm intention of not remaining faithful. The music, light and melodious, is well suited to the words; and in the overture and the intermezzo in the second act M. Massenet has shown himself a past master in orchestration. The interpretation was of a high order, with Madames Mary Garden, Marguerite Carré, Lina Cavalieri, and M. Renand in the principal rôles.

THE Ministry of Fine Arts have done a gracious act in granting a small subsidy to the "Théatre Idéaliste," founded by M. Armand Bour. M. Bour, an artiste in the highest sense of the word, has already produced at his small Theatre des Bouffes-Parisiens many literary gems; and the official recognition of his efforts is in every way gratifying. The Fine Arts Ministry has also increased the State subsidy granted to M. Lugné Poe, manager of the Theatre de l'œuvre.

"LA RETRAITE," Dramatic Comedy, in Four Acts, by M. Franz-Adam Beyerlein. French Translation by MM. Remon and Valentin. Produced at the Vaudeville, Feb. 15.

Volkhardt	M. LERAND
Lehdenburg	M. GASTON DUBOSC
De Baunnewiz	M. COLOMBEY
Helbig	M. L. GAUTHIER
Michalek	M. BARON FILS
De Hoven	M. MONTEAUX
De Lauffen	M. VINCENT
Hagemeister	M. DAUVILLIER
Spiess	M. VANDENNE
Claire Volkhardt	MDLLE. MATHE MELLOT

Plays by foreign dramatists take a long time before they reach Paris; and *La Retraite*, brought out at the Vaudeville last night, has already been performed pretty well in every other country. In Germany, where mediæval ideas about the "Sanctity" of the Army are still rampant, the work created a tremendous stir. In Prussia it was not allowed to be given; and in the other parts of the Fatherland officers were not allowed to attend the performance in uniform—much ado about nothing! The well-known plot need not be told again. The impression here in theatrical and literary circles is that it is a strong, well-constructed play, but with a decided melo-dramatic flavour. Much objection, too, was taken to the final scene in the last act. Old Volkhardt raises his revolver to avenge his daughter's honour. But he lowers the weapon, for he is not equal to the task of shooting his superior officer. The instinct of discipline, the result of thirty years' service, has smothered every other feeling. This is very human, and intensely dramatic. But why did he kill his daughter? This denouement has been considered here needlessly brutal, and, above all, illogical. If I am not mistaken, this ending was altered in America, but M. Parel, very wisely perhaps, has given us the original version. In the way of interpretation nothing finer can be imagined. On M. Lérand and Mdlle. Mellot's shoulders laid the weight of the piece, and these two admirable artistes showed us a father and daughter Volkhardt absolutely unsurpassable. M. Monteaux, as De Hoven, played with exquisite tact; and the episodical rôles were all in most able hands.

AT the Odéon M. Emile Fabre's *Les Ventres dorés* is now in active rehearsal.

THE Athenee announces for the 23rd inst. the première of *La Petite Milliardaire*, by MM. H. Dumay and Louis Forest.

M. GINISTY has just received a four-act play called *La Robe Blanche*, by M. Gabriel Trarieux.

WE stated last week that Mr. and Mrs. Henry Doughty (Miss Vera Leslie) wished to accept an engagement in a musical play. We are now informed that these artistes have no desire to stray from the fields of drama and legitimate comedy.

IRVING AT EXETER.

At Exeter, on Wednesday afternoon, over 250 guests accepted the invitation of the Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Perry, "to meet Sir Henry Irving" in the Guildhall. At the entrance to the Guildhall the City Police and the members of the Fire Brigade formed a Guard of Honour. As the guests arrived, they were announced by the City Marshal, and they were then received by the Mayor and Mayoress, who were accompanied by the Sheriff. Behind his Worship stood the Sword and Macebearers with the Cap of Maintenance. Sir Henry, on arriving, in company with his secretary, Mr. Bram Stoker, was met at the entrance under the gallery by his Worship, and was escorted in procession to the Aldermanic Bench, where the distinguished guest was accommodated with a seat by the side of his Worship.

Mr. E. J. Domville, chairman of directors of the Theatre Company, said that on behalf of those connected with the theatre of the city, he had to ask the Mayor to give his official seal to the welcome that had already been accorded to their distinguished visitor by the city of Exeter and the country of Devon. (Applause.) They were glad, indeed, to welcome there, in his professional capacity, one who was acknowledged, not only by the public, but by his own profession, to be the head and chief of his profession, whose loyalty to his brother-artistes had been so marked at all periods by his career that, without any feeling of jealousy or hesitation, he was recognised throughout the dramatic profession which he adorned so highly, as the chief and head. (Applause.) It is not often in the history of a great profession that one was able to point to any one individual occupying this unique position, and, as the embodiment of the dramatic art of the country, they felt they were doing only what was right to that great profession in asking the Mayor to give an official welcome to a gentleman whose distinguished career had won honour from his Sovereign, honour from his fellow-citizens and countrymen throughout the Empire, and honour and loyal feeling from all the members of his own profession. (Applause.) He asked the Mayor to give, on behalf of the citizens of Exeter, the official seal to the welcome already accorded to Sir Henry Irving. (Applause.)

The Mayor, in welcoming Sir Henry, reminded him that Exeter was a city of great antiquity. That day the 706th Mayor welcomed to the historic Guildhall a great representative Englishman, who was honoured as one of the most distinguished actors of the 19th century. Wherever the English language was spoken the name of Sir Henry Irving would be imperishably connected with the highest and best traditions of the British stage. (Applause.) They had seen with what ability and perseverance he had surmounted the many obstacles that lay in the way of every actor's career; that he had reached the position he had because he had planted before him the lofty and noble ideals which he had all through his long career endeavoured to worthily maintain. (Applause.) He had done great service to his fellow-countrymen by lifting the whole tone of the stage, by elevating the public taste, which in these degenerate days was a matter of difficulty attended, sometimes, not with such financial success as the lighter and more spurious forms of amusements. But he had loyally and unflinchingly stuck to his ideals, and the world to-day was under a great debt of gratitude to him for it. (Applause.) It was not alone for the consummate ability he had displayed as an actor, but also for the marvellous stage pictures which his genius had put on the stage, and which would ever be remembered by his fellow-citizens with very great gratitude. He had displayed an organisation and ability in marshalling the various matters pertaining to his profession, that, had he adopted some other profession—say, for instance, the War Office—they might not have had quite so many disasters connected with that institution. He welcomed Sir Henry there, not as a Devonian, because he was not born within their county. He did, however, the next best thing—although, perhaps, he had very little to do with it—and that was to be born in the adjoining county of Somerset. (Laughter.) Therefore, they might claim him as a West of England man, and they wished to give him a West-country welcome. (Applause.)

It was with mixed feeling that they saw him there that day—feelings of pride at his career, but feelings, also, of great regret to understand that that visit was a preface and prelude to his retirement from the stage. (Hear, hear.) They trusted that when that retirement came he would long enjoy that rest which he so worthily deserved, and he was sure that in that retirement Sir Henry would carry with him the good wishes, love, affection, and esteem of millions of his fellow-countrymen.

Sir Henry Irving, who was heartily applauded, said:—"Mr. Mayor, Lady Mayoress, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—Such a gathering as this is more than courteous; it is gracious good-fellowship. It shows to me that life has many compensations. I am deeply sensible of the honour you have done me by presenting this address, and I accept it gratefully as a most generous recognition of the years I have spent in the public service; for the actor is a public servant, who may contribute, I believe, not a little to the well-being of his fellow-citizens. At least I take that to be the idea which has prompted the kindness you have shown me to-day. (Applause.) The theatre is a place of rational amusement; and amusement, in the best sense of that term, should employ the higher faculties, and especially the faculty of imagination. Many ill things in this country spring from the dulness of narrow life; and, when this can be brightened up by the agency of the dramatic imagination, the benefit is enormous. (Applause.) I am truly glad that the municipality of so important a centre as Exeter should give its support to the drama as a social influence. There is always a certain timidity to be overcome, and a suspicion that plays and players are incentives to idleness and dangerous company. I am not a particularly idle man. If I could have exchanged the working habit, and worry you for an eight-hour day I should have had quite a leisurely existence. (Laughter.) And the people who travel about with me might tell you that the opportunities for doing nothing are not numerous. As for dangerous company, there is Shakespeare. (Laughter.) I remember reading a letter from a gentleman in the Isle of Wight, who said that Shakespeare was our national curse. (Laughter.) It reminded me of the very earnest person in Sir Walter Scott's romance of 'Woodstock' who banged his fist on a copy of Shakespeare—probably the First Folio—I wish I had it—and denounced it as the root of the evil which had caused the Civil War. (Laughter.) Well, the gentleman in the Isle of Wight was in very good company. I don't know what he will say when he hears of your address to a play-actor. You may get a letter, Mr. Mayor, that will curdle your blood. You may never hold up your head again. But I am thankful to have in this address a proof of your cordial esteem, for which I wish to thank you very simply, but very gratefully, and I shall cherish the memory of it for the rest of my days." (Applause.)

Among those present were the following:—

Mr. Sidney Andrew, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Alford, Mr. and Mrs. W. Aplin.

Miss Beatrice Bramah, Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Belmore, Colonel and Mrs. Blake, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Battishill, Mr. and Mrs. Byrom (Culver), Mr. and Miss Beal, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Bell, Rev. and Mrs. H. Brandt, Mr. and Mrs. Bradley, Dr. Brushfield (Budleigh Salterton), Mr. and Mrs. H. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Linford Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Brash, Miss Buckingham, Rev. F. and Mrs. Buckingham (Doddiscombleigh), and Mrs. Blackman.

Major and Mrs. Carr, Mr. and Mrs. J. Campfield, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. M. Clapp, Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Clapp, Principal and Mrs. Clayden, Mr. R. W. Cocks, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Coombe, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Collings, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Cann, Mr. J. G. Commin, Mr. C. Cole, Rev. Charles and Mrs. Croucher, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Crowson, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Carr.

Mr. Drake, Mr. Morris Drake, Dr. and Mrs. Maury Deas, Dr. and Mrs. Davy, Mr. and Mrs. F. Templar Depree, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Drew, Mr. E. J. and Mrs. Domville, Miss Domville, Mr. A. H. Dymond, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford, Mr. Charles Dodsworth, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Dunsford.

Mr. Sidney Faulks, Miss Maud Fealy, Mr. and Mrs. M. Farrant, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. W. Finch, Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Ford, Rev. C. J. Valpy and Mrs. French, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Fulford.

Dr. and Mrs. Gordon, Miss Geare, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Glanville, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gould, Mr. C. Gould, Mr. W. H. Goodman, Miss Glanville, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Gunning, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Gould, Mr. John Gidley.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Hearn, Dr. and Mrs Delpratt Harris, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Harding, Mr. G. Handford, Miss Headridge, Mr. and Mrs. S. Herbert, Mr. W. B. Heberden, Canon Hobson, Mr. and Mrs. T. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Vallars Hoare, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Hepburn (Bradninch), Miss Grace Hampton, Miss May Holland.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Jerman.

Mr. and Mrs. Trehawke Kekewich (Peamore), Lady Duckworth King, Colonel and Mrs. Kirkpatrick, the Sheriff of Exeter and Mrs. King, Mr. Walker King, jun., Miss Knapman.

Mr. and Mrs. Loveday, Mr. and Mrs. T. Linscott, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Lisle, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Lucas, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Lucas, Mr. Gerald Lawrence, Mr. W. Lugg.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Mackey, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Mallett, Mr., Mrs., and Miss McCrea, the Misses Merrivale, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Mortimer, Miss Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. T. Moulding, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Merrick.

Sir Robert Newman, Bart.

Mr. A. T. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Owen.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Pople, Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Pengelly, Mr. F. and Miss Pollard, Miss Purdie, Mr. and Mrs. W. Pring, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Pring, Mr. and Mrs. J. Pulsford, Dr. and Mrs. Pereira, Mr. Charles Piper (*Era* correspondent) and Mrs. Piper, Mr. and Mrs. G. Packham, Mr. Mark Paton.

Mr. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. G. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Rowe, Mr. A. E. Richards, Mr. C. E. and Miss Rowe, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Roper, Mr. C. J. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Rowe, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. K. Roberts, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh.

Mr. Bram Stoker, Mr. Vincent Sternroyd, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Stanbury, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Saunders, Dr. and Mrs. R. Solly, Mr. John Stocker, Mr. T. Snow, Mr. G. R. and the Misses Shorto, Mr. and Mrs. E. Stone, Mr. H. B. Stanford.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Imbert-Terry, Mr. and Mrs. Langdon Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tucker, Major Travers, Dr. and Mrs. Ferris Tozer, Mr. and Mrs. Tarbet, Mr. and Mrs. F. Tyars.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Upright.

Mr. P. C. M. and Miss Veitch, Mr. and Mrs. W. Vicary (Newton Abbot), Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Varwell, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Vlieland, Mr. Vernon.

Miss Edith Wynne-Matthison, Colonel and Mrs. Walcott (Chudleigh), Dr. and Mrs. D. J. Wood, Mrs. and Miss Westron, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Ware, Mr. and Mrs. S. Ward, Mr. and Mrs. J. White, Mr. A. Wallis, Mrs. W. Widgery, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Widgery, Mr. C. J. and the Misses Webber, Colonel and Mrs. Wyatt-Edgell.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Yeo.

MR. H. B. IRVING AND THE "O.P."

The fifth annual dinner of the O.P. Club, at the Criterion, on Sunday, at which Mr. H. B. Irving was the guest of the evening, was thoroughly successful. All the speeches were either bright or brief; and in the variety entertainment, which was interspersed with the toasts, there was not a weak place. The dinner was excellent, and the new arrangement by which the President's table was placed "the long way" of the room enabled more celebrities than ever to be gazed upon by the humble but no less happy two hundred in the body of the hall.

Mr. Algernon L. Collins, the President of the Club, occupied the chair, and amongst those present were Miss Dorothea Baird, Sir Francis and Lady Burnand, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., the Hon. George Goschen, M.P., Mr. Rutland Barrington, Mr. Lionel Brough, Mr. Oscar Asche, Miss Lily Brayton, Mr. George Grossmith, jun., Mrs. Craigie, Mr. J. M. Freshwater, vice-president; Mr. Carl Hentschel, hon. treasurer; Mrs. Hentschel and Miss Olga Hentschel, Mr. Algernon Lindo, Mr. Charles Sugden, Mr. Brinsley Harper, Mr. Alfred F. Robbins, Mr. W. Pett Ridge, Mr. Mostyn T. Pigott, Mr. J. T. Grein, Lieutenant-Colonel Newnham Davis, Mr. Harry Randall, and Mr. J. Davis Smith, joint hon. secretary.

Mr. Algernon L. Collins, in proposing the toast of "The Drama," said that though we were told that the drama in London was dead and buried, we found on looking back on the past twelve months that the record was not so black. The crop of new plays had not been very prolific, but a fair average had been maintained. We had had *The Prayer of the Sword*, a beautiful poetic drama, as well played as written. No transcendental genius had flashed across our horizon, but there was material in this country which, with a little fostering care, might produce great results. The foremost remedy proposed was the répertoire theatre; but in his (the speaker's) opinion, education was of chief importance. "The people," continued Mr. Collins, "must be educated to appreciate something better than they do at present, and I think that we should have no reason to be disappointed on that score, because it is only practically lately, say within the last thirty years, that education has been brought within the reach of the masses, and the taste of the playgoers of the present day is far higher than it was thirty years ago. The plays produced thirty years ago would not be tolerated in a third-class theatre of to-day. We must find the audience to appreciate the mental food provided for them. I think it will be admitted that what has been done for music is largely due to the establishment of schools of music, and it is the same with sculpture and painting. I give the toast of "The Drama," coupled with the name of Mr. H. B. Irving, a consummate artist and a great actor. So long as the name of Irving is connected with the drama, we need have no fear for it."

Mr. H. B. Irving, in responding to the toast, said:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—To reply to the toast of the drama is not always an easy or gratifying responsibility. It may fall to the lot of a speaker to have to talk about this erring and erratic spirit, the drama, in one of its periods of stagnation and depression, and then he can do little more than add his individual wail to the general howling, and leave you with a feeling of uneasiness as to whether it was quite decent to have mentioned the subject at what should be primarily a festive gathering.

But to-night he is a happy man—if under such circumstances happiness be possible—who is called on to reply to this toast. At the present moment the drama, the serious drama, is in a state of animation, of activity—of almost morbid activity—that should rejoice the heart of the gloomiest of its many physicians. Revivals are in the air. Seemingly the drama has caught the infection, and is executing its own pentecostal dance, singing its own glory song. So long ailing and bed-ridden, it has apparently leapt from its bed, and bursting with suddenly acquired health and vigour, is prepared with all the recklessness of new-found energy to indulge in dangerous excesses that will not, let us hope, lead to a relapse. Look around you, and you will see on all sides signs of this singular animation. First and foremost, we have Shakespeare being played at three West-end theatres—a proud and happy circumstance. This dramatic season has produced, rarest and most precious of beings, a new dramatist, to whom I am sure we all wish every success to-morrow night; two repertory theatres are in course of institution, whilst a gentleman has generously offered £5,000 towards the establishment of a third. And, ladies and gentlemen, you are promised at no very distant date—I hope this may not be construed into a symptom of relapse—at least three male performances of "Hamlet," to say nothing of the delicious, I hope not delusive hope, held out to us by Mrs. Kendal that she is going to make us a *parti carré*. There was one other cause of elation to those who have so long fought to uphold the banner of the legitimate drama against the rivalry of fascinating competitors for the affections of the public, that I was going to mention to you with some satisfaction, and that was the fact that our friend Mr. George Edwardes, our most successful, shall I say our triumphant, rival, had decided in future to spend six months of the year in America. Well, that was in itself cheering intelligence; it gave the mice a little time to play in the absence of—the lion. But yesterday I read a far more exciting pronouncement from the lips of Mr. Edwardes himself, to the effect that musical comedy was doomed. Such a statement as this, so suddenly made, almost overturns the reason. Few of us could have ever hoped in our own lifetime to attend the obsequies of musical comedy. But there it is, on the highest authority; it is doomed. And in the face of so sudden and unexpected a termination to a glorious career, we can only express respectfully a pious hope that the successor to its inheritance, whatever form it take, may not chastise us with scorpions.

I am sure you agree with me that on the whole this is a very radiant, very ebullient state of things. Our only regret at the present moment must be that some of our leading dramatists are for the moment silent; but that is a merely temporary circumstance, one, we all hope, of short duration. I confess as an actor to a selfish desire that my friend Mr. H. A. Jones may find—has perhaps already found, some really absorbing, engrossing task, which will oblige him to inter that King Charles' head which, if one may apply the phrase to a mere head, has been the skeleton at so many recent feasts. We really cannot allow these skeletons of ours to be taken so frequently out of our cupboard by enthusiastic persons, and rattled in the ears of promiscuous public diners.

But, just as my imagination was luxuriating in the glories of our present state, I read that you had been hearing from a lecturer last Sunday the most dreadful things about us actors and yourselves. The actor, so I read, has become unmanageable; he has developed into a monster, and you playgoers are the luckless Frankenstein who has created him. Now, what are you going to do about this? Do you realise what you have done? Frankenstein created his monster, we are told, from "fragments of bodies picked from churchyards and dissecting rooms"; yours is apparently created from fragments picked up at lectures and banquets. It had, we are told, muscular strength—no indifferent quality in an actor—animal passions and active life; but—ah! how like an actor!—no breath of divinity. It longed for love and sympathy, but was shunned by all; and finally, it so harassed and tormented its creator that it drove him to an untimely and melancholy death. Well, this is a pretty business, if you playgoers have created by your indiscreet enthusiasm a being of this kind. Personally, ever since I read this lurid picture I have been earnestly examining myself to see how far your kind invitation to-night, and your hospitality and cordiality in the past, have induced in me symptoms of this monstrous development. Certainly, so far, it has not had the effect of perceptibly increasing my muscular strength or the activity of my life, and as I am not aware that I have had a breath of divinity in me, I cannot say that I have missed it. I do, indeed, long for love and sympathy, but though one can never have too much of a good thing, I cannot reasonably complain of the amount I am at present receiving. If you recollect the story, ladies and gentlemen, the monster would not be satisfied until Frankenstein had created for him a female companion in his own likeness. Well, so far I have felt no craving of that kind: the present conditions so far seem to satisfy me; but if this transformation is really overtaking us, I cannot describe myself as free from apprehension as to the future. Now, can you yourselves be free from misgiving? By the hospitality you extend to actors, by the prominent position you invite them to occupy on such a night as this, you are lending no uncertain hand to the creation of this monster—a grave, an alarming responsibility; but a matter you must settle among yourselves.

In the meantime, the subject of these distressing predictions, the actor, goes on his way—I will not say rejoicing, for that might aggravate the resentment of his critics; but shall I say, singing softly, whistling, if you like? For he knows these outbursts of old; he's heard it all before, many times; he knows what a fruitful and attractive topic he has been, is, and ever will be; but he is not unduly elated, he is serenely conscious that the bright ideals held out to him last Sunday can never be realised. Every actor his own manager, his own author! Oh! happy day! Oh! glorious hour! A consummation to be indeed devoutly wished, but, alas, one he can see no prospect of attaining, one that can never be more than a radiant dream. He knows this; he is under no misapprehension on the subject. People may say what they like, but he will have to put up with these wicked managers and these presumptuous authors, and, oddly enough, they'll have to put up with him.

It is really very childish to talk about the actor as a person who has been converted by your favours into a monster. His proportions are, and ever will be, those of other men. He will be neither vainer, pettier, more presumptuous than other men. And I am beginning to think, though it sounds almost unpatriotic, that he will compare even as an artist with his Continental brethren. For have we not that great actor, M. Coquelin, telling us, "You have many splendid actors and actresses in England, really artists. Indeed, I go so far as to say you have more stage artists than any other nation." Really, it seems sometimes as though the position of the actor was doomed to eternity to be one of violent oscillation between eulogy and detraction, between M. Coquelin on the one side and Mr. Jones and your recent lecturer on the other—a most uncomfortable predicament for any person, and one not to be too closely thought on after an excellent dinner. To-night, at your hospitable table, he is in a temporary haven of repose, wishing to enjoy himself, and wishing you to enjoy yourselves. With that desire uppermost in my mind, I will bring to an immediate conclusion my few remarks by thanking you, the members of the O.P. Club, for the cordial welcome you have extended to me to-night—a welcome which venture to take as an indication of your true feelings towards the calling to which I have the honour to belong.

Mr. J. M. Freshwater, the vice-president of the club, having proposed "The health of the Visitors,"

Mr. Rutland Barrington, in responding, said:—You will doubtless have gathered from the remarks of the last speaker that I am somewhat of an interloper here to-night. As a matter of fact, it was with great gratification that I received the invitation to come here. You will have also gathered from certain remarks that I am somewhat of a Methuselah. However, let that pass. There were two sentiments which I experienced on receiving this very kind invitation, and two points of view from which I attacked the situation. One was that I am one of the old style comedians, and it is somewhat of a trial for us to be called upon suddenly to make a speech. We are so much accustomed to speak what is put down for us that the word "gag" is hardly known. (Much laughter.) I must confess that when I was told that I had been relied upon to respond to this toast this year instead of next year, according to the original arrangement, I felt somewhat uneasy, because I am a very slow study, and twelve months more would have been very useful. Another point of view is that to get such a charming entertainment and such a delightful dinner a year before I could expect it, is very nice indeed. The last speaker has also mentioned my name in connection with Oriental polygamy. Anyone standing in the proud position in which I am to-night, is bound to admit that there is every argument in favour of it—I never saw so many arguments. (Laughter, in which the ladies joined). I will bring my oration to a close by saying how intensely I appreciate coming here to-night.

Mr. Alfred F. Robbins, in proposing the toast of "The Press," said:—In proposing this toast, I realise very forcibly the truth of the saying, "Set a thief to catch a thief." I have been asked to propose "The Press." The trouble to me to-night is that I have the toast to propose, when so many more distinguished Pressmen than myself are present—Sir Francis Burnand, in whose presence the ordinary Pressman can but bow his head and worship, and Mr. T. P. O'Connor, and also those appalling personages, the dramatic critics. I may say, in proposing the toast of "The Press," that what we owe to the Press can never be fully understood, because it passes comprehension.

Mr. Mostyn T. Pigott returned thanks for the Press in a most humorous and clever speech, which he wound up by reading some very pungent and amusing verses of his own composition.

The entertainment given at intervals during the proceedings was contributed to by Miss Mattie Kay, contralto; Mr. E. Gordon Cleather, baritone; Mr. George Grossmith, jun.; Mr. Robert Michaëlis, who gave "Bedelia" in French; Mr. Arthur Prince, the accomplished ventriloquist; Mr. R. A. Roberts, with a musical sketch; and Mr. Rutland Barrington, who contributed a "coon" song.

Mr. Sinclair Mantell and Mr. Algernon Lindo were the accompanists.

A PUGILISTIC HEROINE.

"Friquet," a play in four acts, by Pierre Berton and "Gyp," the French novelist, was presented by Mr. Charles Frohman at the Savoy Theatre, New York, on the 31st ult. Mr. Paul Potter is said to be the author of the English version. Friquet is a waif, who has been picked up on the highway by a circus clown, who has named her after the tree sparrows that hopped around her and pecked at the crust clutched in her tiny hand. Reared amid the squalor and hardship of the circus, she has grown into an irresponsible, capricious, and wilful girl. Jacobson, the manager of the "Great American Circus" performing at Saint Severin-sur-Mer, treats her badly, and she appeals to the Mayor, who takes her from the circus, and hands her over to the Baroness Schlemmer, with whom he is in love, and who is in love with him, notwithstanding that she has a jealous husband. The Baroness introduces Friquet into society, and, in her new sphere, the former circus rider catches and subdues a runaway horse, thereby incurring the displeasure of a groom, with whom the girl subsequently has a "set to" with her fists in the drawing-room, putting him *hors de combat* in the fourth round. She presently finds herself an unwilling witness to an amorous tête-à-tête between the Mayor and the Baroness, and when the Baron, prompted by the groom, interrupts the tryst, Friquet, who loves the Mayor, and is heartbroken to hear him avow his passion for another, shields the Baroness, and takes upon herself the disgrace of the discovery. Then the Baron, a man of vicious propensities, makes advances to her, and she returns to the circus, becoming a "star" in Paris. The Baron finds her, and bribes the manager to admit him to her dressing-room. When he tries to kiss her she stabs him. A moment later she is called to the ring, and seeing the man she loves in company with the Baroness in the audience, she falls from a trapeze and is killed. Miss Marie Doro, a piquant and pretty young actress, who has lately come to the front in America, was decidedly clever in the title-rôle. Miss Alison Skipworth, as Mariquita, a circus rider who has grown too fat and "lost her job," was capital. Mr. Frederick Perry successfully delineated the evil-minded Baron. Mr. William Courtleigh represented Hubert de Ganges, the Mayor, with proper dignity. Mr. Frank Losee gave a creditable impersonation of the circus manager; Mr. W. J. Ferguson did very well as the clown, Mafflu; Miss Dorothy Donnelly was charming as the Baroness; and Mr. George Henry Trader, as the groom who got the worst of it in the fistic encounter, was very good indeed. This feature of the performance proved very exciting.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Feb. 13, the Drama, by Geo. R. Sims and Robert Buchanan, entitled "THE ENGLISH ROSE."

By special desire, a grand reproduction of the celebrated Adelphi drama, *The English Rose*, has been given at the Elephant and Castle Theatre this week, and a fine reception has been accorded it by the *habitués* of this popular playhouse. The artists, organised by Mr. Ernest E. Norris, the enterprising manager, work with a will, and succeed in giving a representation of the piece that is exceedingly interesting. Mr. Ernest E. Norris played Harry O'Mailley, the hero, with a manly and virile force that speedily brought him into prominence, and his portrayal of the character was replete with those artistic touches that stamp him at once as an actor of versatility and resource. Mr. Jo Monkhouse has a difficult part as Randall O'Mara, but he succeeds in giving a convincing and realistic study. Mr. Harry Paulton, jun., works hard as Sergeant O'Reilly, and his vagaries are decidedly amusing. Mr. Paige Lawrence seems eminently adapted for the part of Father Michal O'Mailley, and scores a great success. Nicodemus Dickenson is entrusted to the capable hands of Mr. Howard Templeton, and a polished and aristocratic rendering of the part of the villainous Captain McDonnell is given by Mr. Frank Stone. Mr. Dudley Hayes makes a dignified Sir Philip Kingston; and a natural piece of acting is vouchsafed by Mr. Edwin Bennett as the Squire of Ballyveeney. Miss Kathleen Russell is a charming Ethel Kingston, and her clever and intelligent impersonation evokes the heartiest applause. Miss Judith Kyrle sustains the character of Bridget O'Mara in an impressive manner; and Miss Edith Martin makes a piquant Louisa Ann Ferguson. The minor characters in the play are carefully enacted; whilst the scenery is very effective, particularly Scene 3, in Act 2, "The Devil's Bridge." Mr. Norris may be congratulated upon a most interesting and pleasing revival.

We regret to learn that Master Cyril Smith, who is playing the part of Geoffrey, in *Becket*, with Sir Henry Irving's company on tour, was taken somewhat seriously ill last week at Plymouth, and has had to remain behind in charge of Dr. P. Wilmot of that town. We understand, however, that he is making rapid progress towards recovery, and is expected to be able to resume his part with the company very shortly.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

Crawley.—Sunday, Feb. 12, Mrs. Dan Crawley (Lilian Bishop), of a daughter. Both doing well.

DEATHS.

Ball.—Feb. 14, at the London Hotel, Teignmouth, Devon, the residence of George Bilton, his son-in-law, Lewis Ball, comedian, in his eighty-fifth year. Dad and friend to all the boys in his profession. Only resting. Funeral Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Cemetery, Teignmouth.

Boult.—Feb. 10, 1905, at "Rosslyn," Waldegrave-road, Teddington, Francis Oswald Swinton Boult, beloved brother of Charles Boult, aged thirty.

Chapender.—Feb. 9, at Hull, after an operation, Martin Chapender, conjuror and illusionist, late of the Egyptian Hall.

Dannreuther.—Feb. 12, Edward Dannreuther, musician, aged sixty.

Freese.—On Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 43, Lorn-road, Brixton, after much suffering, Marie Freese, the beloved mother of Olivette Salambo. American papers please copy.

Honey.—Feb. 4, from pneumonia, at St. Joseph, Mo., George Honey, comedian, aged forty.

Jones.—Feb. 13, at his residence, Edward H. Jones (late Manager, Grand Theatre, Manchester), after a long and painful illness, aged 53. Deeply mourned by his sorrowing wife and family. Interred Southern Cemetery, Manchester.

Kirby.—Feb. 13, at Hartlepool, Norman Kirby, vocalist, in his seventy-second year.

Payce.—Feb. 7, at her residence, 39, Pollard-street, Ancoats, Manchester, Mrs. Mary Payce, aged sixty-nine. Interred at St. Philip's Cemetery. Gone, but not forgotten by her loving sons and daughters. R.I.P.

Webb.—Feb. 13, Mrs. A. Webb, née Wilkinson.

In Memoriam.

Cash.—In memory of my dear husband, George Cash, who died suddenly, Feb. 21, 1900, aged thirty years.

One of the best Heaven could lend.
Husband, father, brother, friend.
Maggie Keith.

Chapman.—In loving memory of my darling "Hettie," who passed away Sunday, Feb. 21, 1904. Gone, but not forgotten by her loving husband, C. E. Chapman (Warner's).

Chapman.—In loving memory of Hettie, the beloved wife of Charles E. Chapman, Warner's Agency, sister of the late Bessie Wentworth, who passed away Feb. 21, 1904, aged 27. Sadly missed.

Dobson.—In memory of John Dobson, who died in Birmingham Feb. 17, 1904. R. I. P.

Leeson.—In loving memory of Dan Leeson, who Died Feb 16, 1903. Rest in Peace.

Nelson.—Feb. 15, 1901, Harold B. Nelson, the beloved brother of Harry Adair Nelson and William E. Ashcroft.

Potier-Lennon.—In ever loving memory of William Potier (Will Lennon), who died at The Paragon, Feb. 17, 1898. Ever mourned by his Loving Wife.

Reefern.—In memory of H. Pierce (solicitor), Birkenhead, beloved husband of Clarice Reefern. Also of my dear sister Violet, who died during rehearsals (in London) of the *American Heiress* company. Not forgotten by Clarrie, "Junction," Manchester.

For Condolence.

Smith.—Mrs. Smith, 11, Buttemath-street, Rochdale, thanks all artistes for letters of condolence in her bereavement for the loss of her dear child **Lena.**

Mr. J. F. Graham presided over a meeting recently held of the artists engaged in the pantomime at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, with a view to consider what should be done this year by the members of the company in the direction of assisting the local charities. Mr. E. Lawrence Levy (hon. secretary) stated that as the result of sports, charity concerts, matinée, &c., the sum of £1,950 had been handed over to the local charities, and it was unanimously resolved that a matinée similar to that of last year should be held, and in addition a Sunday concert. The matinée was fixed for Wednesday, March 1, and the concert for Sunday, March 5.

The King and the Prince and Princess of Wales were present at the performance of *Peter Pan* at the Duke of York's Theatre last Monday evening.

Mr. William Greet's company, in *The Earl and the Girl*, will be at the Alexander Theatre, Stoke Newington, next week.

"The Talk of the Town," at the Lyric Theatre, will be played for the fiftieth time on Thursday.

"The Education of Mr. Pipp," a play by Augustus Thomas, was produced for copyright purposes at the Lyric Theatre on Thursday.

Miss Nellie Malcolm has joined Mr. Edward Terry to play lead during the balance of the engagement in New York city, and will continue with him for the remainder of his American tour.

Miss Anna Robinson, who, it will be remembered, appeared in *The Undercurrent*, under Sir Charles Wyndham's management at the Criterion Theatre, has returned to London after a long stay in America. Miss Robinson proposes shortly to appear here in a play which she has secured in America.

Mr. Heinrich Conried, the manager of the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, announces that the season of grand opera has cost in the last fifteen weeks 1,050,000 dollars. He does not give the receipts for the same period, but says that the most expensive single production resulted in a profit of 50,000 dollars.

Lien was registered on the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, Limited, on Feb. 2, for £300 five per cent. debentures, part of £35,000. The amount previously issued was £31,100. The trustee is the Midland Trust, Limited. A charge is made on the undertaking and all the property and assets, present and future, including the uncalled capital.

Death has just removed, in the person of Mr. Norman Kirby, a notable figure in the musical circles of the Hartlepools. Mr. Kirby, who was in his seventy-second year, commenced his musical career many years ago in the chorus of the Covent Garden Operas. He gradually rose in his profession, taking the leading parts in various London and provincial operas, until about thirty years ago, when, with his wife (Miss Edith Percy), he toured the country, the two being most successful as musical duettists. Finally, about twenty-six years ago they settled down in the Hartlepools, and have for a time taken a most prominent part in the musical life of the two towns, the late Mr. Kirby being especially identified in the two Catholic churches, for which he acted as conductor to the choirs, being Choirmaster at St. Mary's, Hartlepool, for over twenty years. His death took place on Monday last.

With the withdrawal of the pantomime, *Cinderella*, from Olympia, Newcastle-on-Tyne, the theatre will be closed. The present manager, Mr. Nelson Barry, has been appointed acting-manager at the Grand Theatre in the coal metropolis, taking up the duties of Mr. E. W. Bacon, who is retiring from the profession.

ON THE ROAD, FEB. 20.

ALADDIN (DOTTRIDGE).—Queen's Theatre, Liverpool
ALADDIN (KIDDIE).—Public Hall, Warrington.
ALADDIN (SAVILLE).—Lyceum Theatre, Govan.
AMORELLE.—Theatre Royal, Darlington.
ARMADALE REPERTOIRE.—Theatre Royal, Worcester.
AT WAR WITH THE WORLD.—Margate.
AUSTIN, Miss MARY.—Court Theatre, Warrington.
BABES IN THE WOOD (LEVAINE).—Saltley.
BANDMANN-PALMER.—Newcastle.
BEAUTY AND THE BARGE.—T. R., Nottingham.
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (RAY).—Grimsby.
BELLE OF BANGALORE.—Theatre Royal, Bilston.
BENSON, MR. F. R. (A).—Coronet Theatre, W.
BENSON, MR. F. R. (B).—Grand Theatre, Falkirk.
BEST MUST WIN.—Lowestoft.
BIGAMY.—Wedgwood Theatre, Burslem.
BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH.—Stratford, E.
BO-PEEP (KIDDIE).—Queen's Theatre, Longton.
BOUND TO WIN.—Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd.
BULMER, MR.—Gaiety Theatre, Leith.
CARL ROSA.—Shakespeare Theatre, S.W.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (M.).—Accrington.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (MACDONA) (N.).—Dumfries.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (MACDONA) (S.).—Newark.
CINGALEE.—Oxford.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—King's Theatre, Glasgow.
COUNTRY GIRL (M.)—Keighley.
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COUSIN KATE.—Edinburgh.
CRIMSON CLUB.—Cambridge Theatre, Spennymoor.
DAN THE RAKE.—Theatre Royal, Castleford.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—Theatre Royal, Windsor.
DEFENDING HIS HONOUR.—T. R., Smethwick.
DICK WHITTINGTON (KIDDIE).—T. R., Aston.
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DUCHESS OF DANTZIC.—Bolton.
DUCHESS OF DANTZIC (EDWARDES).—Sheffield.
DUKE OF KILLICKANKIE (LOVELL).—G. T., Dublin.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—Alexandra Theatre, N.
EARL AND THE GIRL.—Theatre Royal, Bolton.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—S. T., Liverpool.
FATAL WEDDING (M.).—Lyceum Theatre, Eccles.
FATAL WEDDING (N.)—Theatre Royal, Sunderland.
FATAL WEDDING (S.).—Terriss Theatre, S.E.
FEMALE SWINDLER.—Osborne Theatre, Manchester.
FIENDS OF LONDON.—Grand Theatre, Walsall.
FIGHT FOR MILLIONS.—Paisley.
FLORODORA (CALLAN).—Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.
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GOLDEN LADDER.—Theatre Royal, Attercliffe.
GOODY TWO SHOES.—O. H., Leicester.
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GRIP OF THE LAW.—Lancaster.
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HEARTS ADRIFT.—G. T., Birmingham.
HER FATAL PAST.—Opera House, Porth.
HONOUR THY FATHER.—Alhambra Theatre, Tipton.
I DEFY THE WORLD.—Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.
INDIAN MUTINY.—Theatre Royal Aldershot.
IRVING, HENRY.—Wolverhampton.
KENDAL, MR. AND MRS.—Cambridge.
LADDER OF LIFE.—Alexandra Theatre, Hull.
LADY OF OSTEND.—Opera House, Coventry.
LA POUPEE.—Empire Theatre, Oldham.
LAUGHTER-LAND.—Grand Theatre, Rawtenstall.
LIFE OF A SHOWMAN.—Opera House, Dudley.
LIFE THAT KILLS.—G. T., Nelson.
LIGHTNING'S FLASH.—Theatre Royal, Dumfries.
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MESSAGE FROM MARS.—Tunbridge Wells.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—Theatre Royal, Stockport.
MOCKERY OF MARRIAGE.—P. T., Blackburn.
MODERN ADVENTURESS.—Theatre Royal, Leicester.
MONSIEUR BEAUCAIRE.—Leamington.
MOODY-MANNERS (A).—Theatre Royal, Hull.
MOODY-MANNERS (B).—Opera House, Blackpool.
MOODY-MANNERS (C).—Cleator Moor.
MY LADY MOLLY.—S. T., Derby.
NAPOLEON THE GREAT.—Theatre Royal, Leigh.
NEW MEPHISTO.—Theatre Royal, Ashton.
ORCHID (EDWARDES).—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
ORCHID.—Aberdeen.
OTTO THE OUTCAST.—Century T., Motherwell.
PEGGY MACHREE.—Crown Theatre, Peckham.
POOR MUST LIVE.—A. T., Brighouse.
PROOF.—Theatre Royal, Exeter.
RED COAT.—Grand Theatre, Plymouth.
RED RIDING HOOD (ELAND'S).—Ashington.
REVENGE.—Royalty Theatre, Barrow.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.
ROYAL REVENGE (CLYNDES).—Bishop Auckland.
SAPHO.—Theatre Royal, Belfast.
SAPHO (ANNIE BELL).—Theatre Royal, Darwen.
SATURDAY TO MONDAY.—Norwich.
SCHOOL GIRL (MACDONA).—Blackburn.
SERGEANT BRUE.—Grand Theatre, Woolwich.
SHERLOCK HOLMES.—Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—Court Theatre, Wigan.
SILVER KING.—Junction Theatre, Manchester.
SINBAD THE SAILOR (LEVAINE).—Tyldesley.
SIN OF HER CHILDHOOD.—Seaham Harbour.
SLEDGE-HAMMER.—Opera House, Torquay.
STILL ALARM.—Theatre Royal, Batley.
SUNDAY.—Royalty Theatre, Chester.
SWISS EXPRESS.—P. O. W. T., Nuneaton.
THREE LITTLE MAIDS (MACDONA) (S.).—Swindon.
TRAITOR.—Elephant and Castle Theatre, S.E.
TRAITOR PRINCE.—Star Theatre, Swansea.
TRIP TO CHINATOWN.—Marlborough Theatre, N.
TWO HUSSARS.—Theatre Royal, Ton-y-Pandy.
TWO LITTLE SAILOR BOYS.—Preston.
UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH.—Chatham.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN (HARRINGTON).—Edinburgh.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN (TULLY).—Wakefield.
UNDER TWO FLAGS.—Theatre Royal York.
VICTIM OF VILLAINY.—Queen's Theatre, Dublin.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.
WARNER, GRACE.—Worksop.
WAY OF THE WORLD.—Grand Theatre, Chorley.
WEARIN' O' THE GREEN.—St. J. T., Manchester.
WHEN A MAN HATES.—Met. T., Manchester.
WHEN WOMAN HATES.—Theatre Royal, Croydon.
WOMAN'S DEVOTION.—Court Theatre, Bacup.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—King's Theatre, Cardiff.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CLOWN.—*The Globe Theatre was finally closed on March 22, 1902, and was demolished a short time afterwards.*
YORK HOTEL.—*The Princess Ida was produced at the Savoy in 1885; it was never performed at the Olympic Theatre.*
CHAS. O'HARA.—*Miss Marie Studholme is at present appearing in* The Orchid *at the Gaiety, London.*
A. G. HIGGINS.—*We have no record. Write to the manager.*
J. H. BOURNE.—*Fred Leslie died Dec. 7, 1892.*
W. A. T.—*Up to the date mentioned,* The Ticket-of-Leave Man *had achieved the longest run on record.*
BRISBANE.—*Sarah Bernhardt appeared as Cleopatra at the English Opera House in 1892.*
T. D.—*The theatre known as the Colisseum, Regent's Park, was opened in 1841.*

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ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The programme of the concert on Tuesday was changed owing to the lamented death of that eminent musician, Mr. Edward Dannreuther, and opened with Beethoven's Cantata for chorus and orchestra, *In Praise of Music*, which, fine as it is, has one serious drawback. It is written so high for the voices that it becomes quite painful at times to hear the singers struggling with the music. It is the same with the soloists as with the chorus, and we sympathise with the vocalists who took part in the cantata. They were Miss Jessie Smither, Miss Beatrice Dunn, and Messrs. Ben Ivor Davies and Greeves Johnson, who did all that was possible to make the cantata effective, being well supported by the chorus and orchestra, and by Miss Vera Warwick Evans as solo violinist. The Variations for violoncello and ochestra, by Tschaikowsky, came next, and in the solo portion Miss Adelina Leon greatly distinguished herself. One vocal performance merits special commendation. This was Mr. Ben Ivor Davies's rendering of "Through the Forest," from Weber's *Der Freischutz*, in which fine music the singer achieved a complete triumph. Voice, style, and dramatic expression were exceptionally good, and should Mr. Ivor Davies contemplate studying for the lyrical stage his future success can hardly be doubtful. His fellow-students greeted him with the utmost enthusiasm. In memory of the late Mr. Dannreuther the "Tristria" of Berlioz, No. 3, and a choral Vorspiel of Brahms were given.

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Commence 7.15. Saturdays, One Hour earlier.

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All Artistes are notified that they must send their full bill matter in two clear weeks before opening. Rehearsal, 1.0 o'clock, Mondays. All Artistes engaged must attend. Artistes not complying with the above rules are subject to having their contracts cancelled at the option of the Management.

HAMMERSMITH PALACE.—
Proprietor, J. C. COE.—Monday, Feb. 20, Will Evans will present His Latest Character Success, "Lucinda Wriggle; or, The Lament of the Serio-Comic," Bob and Jenny Leonard, Barney Armstrong, Maude Courtney, Rano and Mason, A. G. Spry, T. B. Lloyd and Company in a New and Original Sensational Dramatic Sketch, "His Just Reward," Jordan and Harvey (America's Greatest Hebrew Dialect Comedians), Lily Black, the Montenegrins, Will English (comedy coon artiste), the Clayton Twins and the Misses Wood and Willis, Otto and Olga, the Edisonograph, 8 Lancashire Lads, Marie Kendall. Doors Open 7.15; Commence 7.35. Telephone, 106, Hammersmith. Acting Manager, Lewis Vincent.

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Doors open 6.30 and 8.50.
Commence 6.50 and 9.10. Telephone, 205, Battersea.

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HIGH-STREET, POPLAR.—Proprietors, Messrs. TOM MALTBY and HENRY WICKES.—Monday, Feb. 20. Harry Tate's Co. in "Motoring," Jackley Wonders, Two Ascotts, Will Farrell, Learto, Amy Langtree, Frank Darwin, Sisters Wingrove, Wallis and Carlton, Harry Carstone, Brownson and Ellis in "Justice," Lacey's Erascope, Wilmott and Morris, Tom Herman's Spectacle, "Defending the Colours; or, England is Ready," in which 50 Poplar Boys and Girls will take part, Sisters Morgan.
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SCENIC ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION.
To-morrow, Sunday, Feb. 19.
BENEVOLENT FUND DINNER,
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Sir LAWRENCE ALMA-TADEMA, R.A., in the Chair.
Tickets (including Wine), £1 1s. each, of the Secretary, H. LAWRENCE HARRIS, 5, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.
N.B.—Office will remain open till 5 p.m. to-day for sale of tickets.

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5, ROBERT-STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

WILSON BARRETT, ESQUIRE, DECEASED.

Pursuant to the
Statute 22 and 23 Vic., Cap. 35.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all Persons having any Claims against the Estate of Wilson Barrett, late of Cheddington Rectory, in the County of Buckingham, Actor and Author, deceased, who died on the 22nd day of July, 1904, and whose Will with one Codicil thereto was proved in the Principal Registry of the Probate Division of His Majesty's High Court of Justice on the 24th day of August, 1904, by the Reverend Frank Heath, of Cheddington Rectory aforesaid, Clerk in Holy Orders, one of the Executors named in the said Will, are hereby required to send in particulars of their Claims to me the undersigned on or before the 25th day of March next, after which day the said Executor will Distribute the Assets of the Deceased among the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have had notice.

Dated this 8th day of February, 1905.

A. W. VAISEY,
Tring,
and
Devereux Chambers,
Temple,
London, E.C.,
Solicitor for the said Executor.

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Carte, Mrs.		Laurence, Mr....	1 1 0
D'Oyley	21 0 0	Mayhew, Mrs. Henry	1 1 0
Lord Burnham	20 0 0	Gay, Chas. M..	1 1 0
Lewis, Eric	10 0 0	Cruikshanks, Miss E. (in memory of J.D.)	1 1 0
Mosenthal, Mrs.	5 5 0	Cruikshanks, Chas.	1 1 0
Goetz, L., per Cyril Maude..	5 5 0	Alexander, G....	1 1 0
Tree, H. Beerbohm	5 5 0	Lancaster, Miss Nora ...	1 1 0
Gay, Mrs.	3 3 0	Low, Capt. H..	1 1 0
Urwick, Mrs. ..	3 2 0	Low, Miss C. ..	1 1 0
Maude, Cyril ..	2 12 6	Low, Miss L. ..	1 1 0
Harrison, Frederick	2 12 6	Redford, G. A...	1 1 0
Mensiaux, Mdlle., de ..	2 11 0	Terry, Edward..	1 1 0
Zietz, Harry....	2 10 0	Bessie, Mrs.	1 1 0
Rose, E.	2 2 0	Leighton, Miss Queenie	1 1 0
Sinclair, E. Cox	2 2 0	Wallis, Miss....	1 1 0
Renad, C. and F.	2 2 0	Russell, Sir Edward	1 1 0
Long, Miss E., per Mrs., Compton	2 2 0	Addison, Miss Carlotta	1 1 0
Graham, Mrs....	2 2 0	Cook, H.	1 1 0
Smith, Mrs. Talbot	2 2 0	Ward, Miss G...	1 1 0
Mayer, Miss Terese	2 2 0	Mangles, Mrs....	1 1 0
Stephenson, Mrs.	2 2 0	Bull, Mr. E. H.	1 1 0
Melford, Mr. and Mrs.		Williams, Arthur	1 1 0
Austin	2 2 0	Abraham, Mrs. W.	1 1 0
Raleigh, Mrs. Cecil	2 2 0	Broughton, Miss Phyllis	1 1 0
Directors of Madame Tussauds	2 2 0	Wright, Mrs. F.	1 1 0
Blanche, Miss Ada	2 1 0	Martin, Sir Theodore	1 0 0
Carpenter, E. (in memory of Wilson Barrett)	2 0 0	France, Miss C.	1 0 0
Blanchard Mrs. E. L. ..	1 7 6	Earl of Lathom, per E. Terry	1 0 0
Warley, Miss May	1 1 0	Mayne, Mrs. ...	1 0 0
Richards, Miss Cicely	1 1 0	Christie, Miss Nellie	1 0 0
Birch, Tom ...	1 1 0	Adams, G.	0 14 0
Williamson, Arthur	1 1 0	Waterhouse, Mrs.	0 10 6
Riner, S., Miss..	1 1 0	Greet, Miss Harriett	0 10 6
Nicholls, H. ...	1 1 0	Lloyd, Miss Lilian	0 10 6
Gladwin, Miss Fairbrother, Miss Sydney...	1 1 0	Garcia, P.	0 10 6
Harriss, Miss Tapping, Mrs...	1 1 0	Sydney	0 10 6
		Sophie	0 10 6

"K. V.," 10s.; Nutting, Godrey, 10s.; Amory, Mrs. M., 10s.; Webster, Miss Davies, 10s.; Fowke, Miss Joan, 5s.; Conneaux, F., 5s.; Jennings, Mrs., 5s.; Hill, Miss Agnes, 5s.; Rivers, Miss Kate, 5s.; Saintsbury, Mrs., 5s.; Aickin, Miss Elinor, 5s.; Lady Hardman, 5s.; Adams, Mr., 5s.; Rowling, Mrs., 5s.; Clark, Mrs. M. (per Mdlle. de Mensiaux), 4s.; Ferrers, Miss Helen, 3s.; Lady (per H. Armitage), 3s.; "Ilorlo," 2s. 6d.; Goldsmith, Mr. C., 1s.; "Nemo," 1s.; Goldsmidt, H., 1s.

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	£ s. d.
Miss Vane Featherston (part of proceeds of tea party)	249 0 0
Ben Davies and Leonard Rayne (concert on board ship)	20 0 0
Liverpool Gala, per Thos. Bush	25 0 0
Actors' Cricket Match, per C. Aubrey Smith	17 18 10
Birmingham Theatrical Charity Sports, per A. W. Matcham	10 0 0
Belfast Theatrical Gala, per F. W. Warden	10 0 0

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	£ s. d.
Kennington, per H. Entwistle	21 0 0
Collected by Five People at Annual General Meeting	7 7 9
Bedford A. D. and O. Society	5 0 0
Half Surplus Miss Le Huse Fund, per George Alexander	3 12 3
Luton, Grand	3 10 0
Bristol, Prince's, per G. M. Chute	3 8 7
Dalston, per Milton Bode	2 13 9
Bedford T.R., per E. G. Falcon	2 4 0
Actors' Association, per C. Cruikshank	1 14 6
Margate, T.R., per E. Macknight	1 3 0
Terry, Miss Beatrice	1 2 6
Scarborough, T.R., per E. P. Morgan	1 1 3
Northampton, T.R., per J. Andrews	1 1 2
Olympian Entertainers	1 1 0
Roy Lorraine	1 0 0
Webster, Miss Davies	0 19 6
Plymouth, T.R., per A. Carlton	0 17 2
House of Burnside Co., per C. Addison	0 16 6
Mather, Mdme.	0 16 0
Rutter, Miss Florrie	0 15 9
Huddersfield, T.R., per Leg. Taylor	0 15 6
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	Sung by
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"All the harm I wish you" (R. P. Weston)	Harry Anderson
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"A Warning to Single Men" (Bateman and Pether)	Arthur Reece
"Baby Mine" (Browne and Friedman)	Miss Clarisse Heney
"Blue-Bell" (Madden and Morse) [Also sung by almost every Artist of note both in Pantomime and on the Variety Stage throughout the Kingdom.]	Hamilton Hill
"Boys of the Chelsea School" (Carter and Weston)	George Leyton
"'Come in!' said Widdy Malone" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Michael Nolan
"Conversations" (F. and W. Redmond)	Ambrose Thorne
"Delusions" (Phil Ray)	Phil Ray
"Doan' Cry, Little Coloured Coon" (S. F. Harrison and Neat)	Miss H. Vernon
"Don't Stand There —!" (Lawrance and Gifford)	Walter Stanley
"Farewell, my little Yo San" (Mills and B. Scott)	Tom Costello
"Frozen Meat" (T. W. Connor)	Alf Gibson
"Have you seen my girl?" (Mills and Scott)	Walter Munroe
"He Kissed I Once" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Marie Loftus
"Here comes the foreigner!" (Barnes and Weston)	H. Bedford
"I did enjoy myself last night" (Lawrence and M. Scott)	Will Johnson
"I don't mind if it amuses you!" (Leigh and Pether)	Ben Albert
"If all the stars were mine" (Smith and Stromberg)	Miss Lilian Doreen
"I'm Afraid—and Why?" (Wincott, Leighton, and Mayo)	Sam Mayo
"I'm a girl of Tennessee" (Eden and Byng)	Miss Lil Hawthorne
"I'm coming home to you" (Herbert Darnley)	Miss D. L. Clark
"I'm going to sea [sea]" (Leamore and Collins)	Tom Leamore
"I'm round there to-night!" (Wincott and Leighton)	Dan Crawley
"Isn't that like a Man?" (Paul Mill)	Paul Mill
"It's all right in the summer time" (Murray & Everard)	Miss Vesta Victoria
"It's the Poor that help the Poor" (Mills and Castling)	Miss F. Gallimore
"I've been a Naughty Boy all Day" (Carter and Weston)	Miss G. Leonard
"Jolly Jarge" (Mills and Arthurs)	George Bastow
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THE ERA
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1905.

QUIN AND BATH.

Somehow, one always associates QUIN with Bath—not the Bath of modern days, with its peaceful calm, its Roman remains, and its mildly magnificent Milsom Street; but the Bath of the eighteenth century, of BEAU NASH and BOB ACRES, of SHERIDAN'S elopement, and of FOOTE'S "afternoons." Bath, as far as the principal streets are concerned, has changed very little since the "late seventies." The Crescent and Pulteney-street are still unspoilt by "jerry" building, and the Abbey, with its Jacob's ladder, on which decapitated angels are ever ascending from clean earth to dingy heaven, is only moderately "restored." Standing on the broad flags in its shadow, the imaginative man, in his mind's eye, may see ELIZA ANN LINLEY, standing at the door of the Pump-room offering tickets for her father's benefit concerts, winning all visitors by her beseeching grace, and refusing equally the offers of misers and earls. SAMUEL FOOTE is hurrying on his cork leg to the same centre, to present to his fashionable patrons his "Dish of Tea, artfully embued after only one infusion by the original"; and DODD, CHARLES LAMB'S ideal Aguecheek, is passing quietly to rehearsal at the Theatre Royal. PALMER, the manager, is mounting his horse at the kerbstone, to proceed on one of his annual riding tours to "pick up" new actors for his company, and Mrs. SIDDONS is strolling along, lost to actual considerations, as she runs over in her mind her part of Mrs. Candour in *The School for Scandal*, which has been suggested to SHERIDAN by the prattle of the gossips who come to "take the waters," or frequent the Baths, where

You might see the fair sex,
A-bathing, with gentlemen, up to their necks.

But prominent and predominant over all the visions of Bath is that of QUIN. Who does not remember his letter to RICH, the manager?—it would have been a "wire" in these days. QUIN, we are told, having taken umbrage at some offence offered to him by RICH, retired in a fit of resentment to Bath, although he was then under engagement to the manager. After QUIN'S spleen began to pass away, he wrote to RICH:

"I am at Bath.—QUIN."

To which the other answered:—

"Stop there, and be damned.—RICH."

It was this that made the actor resolve "never to engage again with so insolent a blockhead." So he remained at Bath, only coming each year to London to play Falstaff for his friend RYAN'S benefit. It was at Bath that an officer in the army, whose nose had been pulled, waited upon the actor for his advice, and had it embodied in the words: "Soap your nose in future, and then they'll slip their hold." For sixteen years QUIN lived at ease in the city of Bladud, holding his own with the wits and bullies of the day. He was "a child of his time," both in his good and bad qualities. He had killed two men in duels. When QUIN remarked unfavourably on BOWEN'S acting, the latter pursued his critic to a tavern, put his back against the door, and forced QUIN to draw in self-defence. Swords were crossed, and BOWEN, running in, was thrust through the body. When an actor named WILLIAMS was playing Decius to QUIN'S Cato at Lincoln's Inn Fields Theatre, WILLIAMS pronounced the name "Cato" affectedly; and QUIN, in answer to the speech of Decius:

Could he send it
To Cato's slaughtered friends, it would be welcome,

said on the stage:

Would he had sent a better messenger!

WILLIAMS lay in wait for QUIN, after the performance, under the Piazza in Covent Garden, and fell, pierced by his sword. Under that same Piazza, QUIN himself was slightly wounded by THEOPHILUS CIBBER. On one occasion there was a riot at the stage door, and QUIN, going out, "pinked" a young fellow who had "drawn" upon him. The gallant subsequently came into one of the stage-boxes, and when the actor, as Macbeth, said, referring to the imaginary dagger:

"And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood!"

the young gentleman bawled out: "Ay, reeking indeed—it's my blood!"

QUIN gave him a severe look, and replied in an audible aside: "Damn your blood!" In other characteristics QUIN was a man of his time. When at a tavern in Covent Garden, he "made it up" with MACKLIN, after a long quarrel, the reconciliation was moistened with many a bottle; until MACKLIN, having still the use of his legs, ordered a couple of waiters to put QUIN on his—MACKLIN'S—back, and triumphantly carried his unconscious friend to his lodgings. QUIN drank a bottle of claret the day before he died, and played young Chamont in *The Orphan* when he was sixty years old, and weighed twenty stone, in a suit of clothes heavy enough for Othello. He was a gay gallant and a *bon vivant*, and had always a neat epigram at the disposal of a pretty woman. He was generous, choleric, kind, "touchy," forgiving, polite—and proud. When, one day at Bath, a stupid nobleman said to him: "What a pity it is, QUIN, my boy, that a clever fellow like you should be a player!" the answer came quick as a flash: "What would your lordship have me to be—a lord?"

There is a strong contrast between the character of QUIN and that of the great actor who unveiled the tablet to QUIN'S memory in the City of Bath yesterday. For, if QUIN was a "child of his time," no less is Sir HENRY a thorough representative of the present age. He is the antipodes of QUIN in many respects. He fights no duels because he has no enemies; if he ever had them he has long ago turned them into friends. He is "clean built"—QUIN was corpulent; abstemious—QUIN was a gourmand, if not a glutton; sober—QUIN was a wine-bibber. In several points, however, Sir HENRY and the actor whose statue he unveiled yesterday are alike. Like QUIN, Sir HENRY is generous, almost to a fault; like QUIN, he will brook no slight on the profession to which he belongs. The present generation, with its keen sensitiveness, its intellectual activity, its moderation, its humanity, and its self-control, paid honour on Friday to the eighteenth century ideal of an actor: the three-bottle, or rather six-bottle man, the rake, the duellist, and the beau. How much humanity has improved and advanced since those days of limited ablution and unlimited paint, powder, and perfume; of foolish fighting, and intemperate indulgence; of heartless repartee and scandalous epigram, it is hardly necessary to note.

A CHAT WITH MISS BATEMAN.

IRVING, WHISTLER, AND WILLS.

Vivacious and—sixty-three! Truly, Miss Bateman has mastered the mystery of retaining youth and postponing age. But, then, the veteran actress acknowledges that in imparting knowledge to others she herself is constantly receiving refreshing lessons. "My pupils keep me young," she says.

Both of Miss Bateman's parents were connected with the stage, and to her father's careful training she owes much of the success of her historic career. "My father," she tells us, "was an extraordinarily energetic man, and a born entrepreneur. A man of considerable force of character and keen discrimination, he was the first to recognise ability in anyone, and he spared no effort to bring it out and nourish it. Carl Rosa was a struggling violinst in London, when my father took him in hand, and organised a concert party, which included Madame Parepa. The company went to America. Carl Rosa and Parepa were married in the States, and that was the beginning of the Carl Rosa Opera Company, which has since attained such a world-famous reputation."

Among others who owe to some extent their advancement to the late Mr. Bateman is Sir Henry Irving. When Bateman, in 1870, heard Irving recite "The Dream of Eugene Aram," he at once exclaimed, "This is the greatest English actor living," and, guided by his insight and firm convictions, he took the Lyceum Theatre in the following year. The first play Mr. Bateman produced there was a dramatic adaptation of a story by Georges Sand, and entitled *La Petite Fadette*. This piece, however, did not prove a success, and its withdrawal was quickly followed by *The Bells*, *Charles I.*, and *Hamlet*. The latter ran for more than a year, and Irving's fame was established. Then came a répertoire of Shakespearean plays, which received the hearty support of audiences of all classes, and made a fortune for the enterprising and artistic-minded manager.

Miss Bateman made her début at the age of five with a sister who was a couple of years younger. The early stage experiences of the Bateman children—two brothers and three sisters—were concerned with the touring of stock "combines" throughout the United States. Miss Bateman recalls an incident which occurred during a visit to San Francisco. Her father offered a prize for the best play that was submitted to him. As, however, the dramatic genius of the town seemed at a very low ebb, and none of the manuscripts sent in were suitable for production, Miss Bateman's mother who possessed literary talent, "hashed up" a piece founded on an old story. On the night of production, the aspiring playwrights whose efforts had been unavailing turned up at the theatre, and indulged in an unmistakeable demonstration of their disappointment; so much so, in fact, that the members of the company, having heard threats of violence, were afraid to appear before the footlights. The situation was, however, saved by Miss Ellen Bateman, then quite a tiny child, pluckily walking upon the stage. Even outraged human vanity could not withstand the mute appeal for sympathy, and the truth of the old Biblical saying, "A child shall lead them," was strikingly exemplified. A roar of applause went up, and the "organised opposition" collapsed.

In 1851, the Batemans came to London, first appearing at the St. James's Theatre in the summer of that year. Miss Bateman was then eight years of age, and her sister Ellen was six. Together they performed in the fifth act of *Richard III.*, and assisted in the production of a new comedy, entitled *Le Marriage Enfantin*, translated from the French of Scribe. A little later, they were seen at Drury-lane in scenes from Shakespearean plays. One of their favourites was *Richard III.*, in which Kate (Miss Bateman) played the part of Richmond, and Ellen acted the title-rôle. It was Mr. P. T. Barnum who brought the Batemen children to this country. "He was a remarkably clever man," says Miss Bateman, "or he would never have made all the money he did. I recollect when he introduced Jenny Lind to American audiences in New York and New Orleans, and what a sensation she made. Mr. Barnum had a museum in New York, where my sister and myself gave dramatic performances twice a day. I well remember how we had to creep up to the fortune-teller's room, and try to restrain our laughter as we overheard the remarks of the various people who came to have their fortunes told. When I was fifteen I was sent to a school in St. Louis, but after little more than a year my father came to the conclusion that it was quite time I acted women's parts, and I appeared with my mother in a dramatisation of Longfellow's *Evangeline*, at the Winter Gardens Theatre, New York.

"What led up to my engagement in *Leah*? This. Augustin Daly at the time was a poor young newspaper writer in America; and he and another young fellow translated a German play called *Deborah*, by Mosenthal. I read the translation, and formed a good opinion of it. At the moment, I was acting in Boston, and my father suggested that I should produce it on my benefit night. We only rehearsed it twice; it was 'rushed' on the stage; and, oddly enough, it created a strong impression. I played in the piece for the rest of the year (1862), and up to the end of the following summer in New York. Being then advised by my doctor to go abroad, my father took me to England. We met Mr. Benjamin Webster, and he persuaded my father to let me open at the Adelphi Theatre, in October, 1863, in *Leah*. I was miserably homesick, and wanted so much to go back to America. But wiser counsels prevailed, and I performed in *Leah* for nine months at the Adelphi, after which we took it on a short tour. I became so strongly identified with the part, that people never wanted me to do anything else."

In 1866, Miss Bateman married the late Mr. Crowe, a son of the Mr. Eyre Evans Crowe who was for some time the editor of the *Daily News*, and a great personal friend of Thackeray. It was a very happy marriage, and there was a pathetically reminiscent ring in Miss Bateman's voice as she referred to the devoted Mr. Crowe.

In spite of the fact that playgoers were always clamouring for Miss Bateman to play Leah, she made a decided success in other parts. For instance, the actress appeared as Julia, in *The Hunchback*, at the Adelphi in 1865, and Bianca, in *Fazio*, written by Dean Millman; both of which are even now associated with her name by old students of the drama. Mr. Tom Taylor specially wrote for her a domestic drama, entitled *Mary Warner*, which was produced at the Haymarket in 1868, Miss Bateman appearing in the title-rôle, and adding one more to her long list of brilliant achievements. At this time Mr. Buckstone had the Haymarket; and during the run of *Mary Warner* and certain other plays Miss Bateman was the star, supported by a stock company. At the Lyceum Theatre, in 1876, she acted with Sir Henry Irving in *Queen Mary*, the first play written by the late Lord Tennyson. "I never cared for that part," says Miss Bateman, "nor very much for the piece, although I must say that Sir Henry Irving was magnificent as King Philip."

"Reminiscences? Well, is this very good? I remember going to Whistler's studio to see the portrait of Philip of Spain. Whistler would walk quickly up to where Irving was standing, and, going closely to him, stare hard at him. Then he would rush to the other end of the room, and put a few touches on the canvas in that wonderful impressionistic manner of his. The ultimate result was a very beautiful picture, and I can't tell you how much I enjoyed watching him paint it."

When, subsequently, Miss Bateman's mother took over the Lyceum Theatre to produce *Hamlet*, Sir Henry Irving enacted the title-part, and Miss Bateman that of Lady Macbeth. Every night I met Mr. (now Sir) Henry Irving, he used to say funny things to make me laugh, and he was always cracking jokes whenever the opportunity occurred for a minute's conversation.

A reference to the production of *Medea*, in which Miss Bateman took the leading character under her father's management, brought to the lady's thoughts a mental picture of the clever author of the play mentioned. "The late Mr. W. G. Wills was a most eccentric man," remarked Miss Bateman. "He lived a most peculiar kind of Bohemian life, with an utter disregard for the conventionalities or comforts of existence. He had a rooted objection to burnt-out ashes being removed from his fire-grate; and, rather than bear the place being kept tidy and comfortable, he would have the ashes piled up for many days. Another peculiarity of his was his affection for Spanish onions. But he was most tender-hearted and good-natured, and added much brilliant natural wit to no small talents as an artist. Princess Beatrice took a great personal liking to Wills, for she fully appreciated his fascinating manners and conversation, and his wonderful gifts.

For several years, during the long illness of her husband, Miss Bateman lived at Portsmouth, where she performed a good deal of useful work for the late Father Dolling, one of her greatest personal friends. "I knew him," says Miss Bateman, "before he was ordained, and all his sisters have been very intimate friends of mine. When he went to Portsmouth to take charge of the Winchester Mission, I went down, too, and we had a house there. I can assure you it was a great pleasure to me to render Father Dolling any little assistance in his work, such, for instance, as the cooking of dinners for hungry little children. I was very fond, too, of reading at mothers' meetings, and used to enjoy many an interesting afternoon when it was not necessary for me to attend upon my husband. On his death, in 1889, the loss of companionship was somewhat atoned for by the kindness and sympathy of Father Dolling and his family. As you will see, I was left practically to myself then, for my youngest sister, Isobel, was touring, and the one older, Virginia Bateman, became Mrs. Edward Compton."

Miss Bateman has had a school of dramatic acting for the last twelve years. Her house at 88, Philbeach-gardens, Earl's-court, S.W., is large, roomy, and stands by itself, so that it is particularly well fitted for the purpose to which it is now put. Some of the pupils who come from the country live at the house, and Miss Bateman laughingly remarks that she has a most interesting family. "We live in an old-fashioned, homely way. And here let me say this to you: Don't let a girl go on the stage if she has no home or natural protectors. She should have a father and mother or home guardian to look after her, and at the same time she should be so circumstanced that she can afford to wait until she can get an engagement. When young people come to me for advice, I tell them candidly that the stage is not a bed of roses, and if I see that a young lady has no natural ability with which to start the foundation of a future histrionic career, I tell her truthfully that she would be wasting her time to take up lessons. After all, you cannot teach acting, but there is a technique in every art; and it is as well to master that technique. I always study the voice of my pupils, and get them to speak nicely by helping them with their diction, and frequently I put a play into rehearsal so as to give each one a chance of playing a part."

One of Miss Bateman's most successful pupils is Miss May Reynolds. Mr. Powell, of the Shakespeare Society, saw Miss Reynolds in a scene from *Richard II.*, and formed a high opinion of her acting, with the result that the young lady was the first to perform Everyman, in the old mortality play of that name. Another of Miss Bateman's students, Miss Rita Jolinet, went straight from Mr. Powell to become a member of Mr. Cyril Maude's company; while a third, Miss Gladys Vinderzee, who only received a year's training at Earl's-court, was engaged by Mr. F. R. Benson for small parts, and is now doing the entire lead, such, for example, as Athena in *The Trilogy*.

Miss Bateman is a believer in hard work. She herself stands four days a week—from 10.30 to 6.30 per diem—at Mr. Tree's School of Acting. On Wednesdays and Saturdays she gives the time to her own pupils at Philbeach-gardens, frequently working until late in the evening. Evidently Miss Bateman believes in the strenuous life; at any rate, she gives an inspiring example of consistent "hard labour" which other people of half her age might be well advised to copy.

THE DIPLOMATISTS.

A Farce in Two Acts,
By Sydney Grundy.
Founded on *La Poudre aux Yeux*,
By Labiche and Martin.
Produced at the Royalty Theatre, on Saturday, Feb. 11.

Dr. Prothero	MR. E. W. GARDEN
Mr. Peter Jocelyn	MR. GEORGE RAIEMOND
John Jackson	MR. CHAS. GROVES
Mr. Valentine Grayling	MR. E. H. KELLY
Arnold Jocelyn	MR. N. HOLTHOIR
Alphonse	MR. ALBERT SIMS
Mrs. Prothero	MISS MARIE ILLINGTON
Mr. Matilda Jocelyn	MISS FLORENCE ST. JOHN
Muriel Prothero	MISS LILY GRUNDY
Jane	MISS LAURA REYNOLDS
Susan	MISS DORA GLENNIE

The *première* at the Royalty Theatre, on Saturday evening, was "quite like old times." There was the pretty little playhouse, where in days gone by Selina Dolaro and Walter Fisher enacted *La Périchole*, and where Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan mingled with the crowd on the stage on the first night of *Trial by Jury*; there was Miss Kate Santley in a private box; and there was an adaptation by Mr. Sydney Grundy of a piece by Labiche and Martin. Dear old Labiche!—for we may leave M. Martin out of the question—how well he "wears"! What sterling merit there must be in his old-fashioned work to stand the double ordeal of being ancient and of being adapted into English! *La Poudre aux Yeux* is esentially Labiche-ian. There is the workmanlike construction, the smiling sub-acidity, and the half melancholy, half humorous view of life—a view kept in the background, but always distinctly present. The style, it is true, is a trifle *passé*; but how enjoyable is the society of a woman who has bid farewell to her first youth and does not disdain to be amusing! Amusing *The Diplomatists* certainly is, as the constant laughter in the audience in the course of the performance at the Royalty on Saturday proved to the hilt. Everybody laughed—stalls, circles, pit, and gallery; for the wit is of the sort which is for all markets. It is not as wide as a church door, or as deep as a draw-well; but it serves to pass a couple of hours very pleasantly indeed.

The idea of *The Diplomatists* is characteristically simple. There are two suburban families who are "keeping up appearances." Dr. Prothero, who is naturally adverse from pretence, is induced by his wife to hire a brougham, and to drive about Clapham so as to lead people to believe that he has an immense practice. Mr. Peter Jocelyn, a retired tradesman, and his helpmate, have been so anxious to appear better off than they are that they have got into difficulties and have given a bill of sale on their furniture. The son of the Jocelyns and the daughter of the Protheros have fallen in love; and each couple of parents expects a handsome settlement from the other. In strong contrast with these pretenders is Mrs. Jocelyn's brother, John Jackson, a rich jobmaster, who intends to leave his money to Arnold Jocelyn, the fiancé of Muriel Prothero. The Prothero uncle, a broken-down, insinuating, "swell"—there is no other word so expressive—who occasionally acts as a bailiff, happens to "drop in" on a borrowing expedition just as Prothero is about to receive Jocelyn, who has called for medical advice; and some amusing satire on medical practice follows.

In the second act, the Protheros visit the Jocelyns; and Prothero, to his disgust, discovers that his wife's impecunious brother is actually "in possession," in connection with the bill of sale already mentioned. Prothero's aim now is to find an excuse for breaking off the engagement; and the scene in which this is done is bitterly cynical. In the end, the honest jobmaster "settles" the bill, Prothero decides to abandon diplomacy, and return to straightforwardness, and the two young people are made happy.

There was not a weak place in the cast, and the piece was played thoroughly well all round. Mr. E. W. Garden was most judiciously chosen for the character of Dr. Prothero; and Mr. George Raiemond had been selected with equal wisdom to embody Mr. Peter Jocelyn. Mr. Garden was honest good-nature and sound common sense personified; and Mr. George Raiemond's vacant, helpless gaze and plaintively funny expression were admirably natural and effective. The talent which has enabled Mr. Charles Groves to achieve so many triumphs in more important rôles was applied with the happiest results to the embodiment of John Jackson. With his neat side-whiskers and "horsey" get-up, Mr. Groves was the ideal of a shrewd, kindly, and humorous plebeian. Mr. E. H. Kelly, irreproachably garbed, hit off exactly the characteristics of Mr. Valentine Grayling, his style being just what was required, and his general appearance exactly appropriate. Miss Marie Illington was delightfully dignified and self-important as Mrs. Prothero. The part suited her thoroughly; and when Miss Illington gets an opportunity of this kind she is almost flawless in her method of handling it. Miss Florence St. John was no less fortunately supplied with a rôle, that of Miss Matilda Jocelyn fitting her like a glove. The character could hardly have been more naturally and comically sustained. Mr. N. Holthoir was alert and easy as Arnold Jocelyn; and Miss Lily Grundy, with delicate refinement overlying a quaint and dainty acuteness which she allowed to "break through" occasionally, was a most winning and agreeable Muriel Prothero. Miss Laura Reynolds made the most of her brief chances as the Protheros' stupid servant, and the smart "up-to-date" domestic of the Jocelyn *ménage* had a comely representative in Miss Dora Glennie.

A great contrast to *The Diplomatists* was the authorised version by Howard Peacey of a one-act piece by Herman Heyermans, played for the first time, and entitled

"A CASE OF ARSON."

John Arend	MR. HENRI DE VRIES
Ansing Arend	MR. HENRI DE VRIES
Thomas Blankert	MR. HENRI DE VRIES
Biesen	MR. HENRI DE VRIES
Putten	MR. HENRI DE VRIES
Post	MR. HENRI DE VRIES
Bik	MR. HENRI DE VRIES
A Magistrate	MR. H. VIBART
An Usher	MR. H. A. TONGE

The impression created by this slice out of Dutch life was so intense as to be at one point almost painful. It was a triumph of simple yet highly artistic realism. There are really only two personages in the play—an examining magistrate and a small cigar manufacturer who has set fire to his factory to get the insurance-money, and has accidentally burnt alive his own little girl. Step by step, by using the evidence of different witnesses, the magistrate fixes the guilt upon the wretched man. In vain he struggles against the fate which he sees impending. He defends himself desperately; but, in the end, he yields and confesses his crime, already over-punished by the loss of his dearly-loved child. This incendiary, his almost imbecile brother, his senile father-in-law, an asthmatic police-sergeant, a self-satisfied, "sniggering" inn-keeper, a timid and apologetic little grocer, and a sturdy, slow, and sullen house-painter, are represented in quick succession by Mr. Henri de Vries. Each impersonation is distinct, individual, and illusive. Voice, manner, and gesture are all carefully studied; and every little attitude and every minor movement is significant. It is Dutch art *in excelsis*, and the subject is one to which the Dutch method is well suited. The house followed the examination with silent, almost breathless, attention. Mr. H. Vibart was a handsome, authoritative, and boldly distinct Magistrate; and Mr. H. A. Tonge, with his strongly-marked features and a characteristic stoop, was every inch an Usher. The piece was received with enthusiastic applause; and, at the conclusion, Mr. de Vries was called and applauded very earnestly. *A Case of Arson* is certainly well worth seeing.

A STRONG AMERICAN DRAMA.

"THE WOMAN IN THE CASE," a drama in four acts, by Clyde Fitch, produced at the Herald-square Theatre, New York, on the 30th ult., proved to be a play of absorbing interest, with two very effective situations, and scored an emphatic success. It is the strongest play that Mr. Fitch has written since he produced *The Climbers*, and, although the story runs on melodramatic lines, it is developed without resort to the familiar methods usually employed in that class of theatrical writing. Julian Rolfe, soon after his marriage, is arrested on the charge of having murdered Philip Long, his dearest friend. Some years before, Rolfe was infatuated, for a brief period, with a chorus girl named Claire Forster, who proved a "bad lot," and whose plan to ensnare Long was frustrated by Rolfe, who thereby incurred the woman's hatred. Long committed suicide when he learnt the truth about Claire Forster; and, immediately after his death, the woman begins to carry out her scheme of revenge. She has in her possession several love-letters written by Rolfe some years previously; and the dates of these she alters so as to make it appear that he was desperately in love with her at the time of Long's death, and that he murdered his friend through jealousy. But Rolfe's wife is a woman of resource, and she believes in her husband. He is waiting trial in the Tombs Prison, and things look very bad for him, when Margaret Rolfe undertakes to prove his innocence by making the other woman betray herself. This she accomplishes by taking a flat in the same house with Claire Forster, acting like a woman of the "half-world," gaining Claire's confidence, and, at last, having dosed her with champagne, and planted two witnesses in an adjoining room, coaxing from her the story of Long's suicide. Then Margaret springs upon her foe like a tigress, and reveals her identity. In the last act husband and wife are reunited. The success of the play was due in no small measure to the excellence of the acting. Miss Blanche Walsh played the part of Margaret Rolfe with intelligence and discretion, and acted in the scene of the husband's arrest and that of Margaret's triumph over her enemy with fine effect, arousing great enthusiasm. Miss Dorothy Dorr's Claire Forster was a life-like representation of a dissolute and unprincipled woman. Mr. Robert Drouet gave a manly and sincere impersonation of the wrongly-suspected Julian Rolfe, and Mr. George Fawcett was excellent as Rolfe's lawyer, Mr. Tompson.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Walter Gay—Saturday, Feb. 18.
Lydia Thompson—Sunday, Feb. 19.
Adelina Patti—Sunday, Feb. 19.
Ernest Dare—Sunday, Feb. 19.
Joseph Jefferson—Monday, Feb. 20
Ethel Gordon—Monday, Feb. 20.
Erroll Stanhope—Monday, Feb. 20.
Dot Scilby—Monday, Feb. 20.
Riccardo C. Gallico—Monday, Feb. 20.
Pascoe Bioletti—Monday, Feb. 20.
Josie Bickford—Monday, Feb. 20.
May Fortescue—Tuesday, Feb. 21.
Horace Butler—Tuesday, Feb. 21.
Max Copland—Tuesday, Feb. 21.
Phyllis Desmond—Wednesday, Feb. 22.
Fred A. Douglas—Wednesday, Feb. 22.
Mrs. Fred Benton—Wednesday, Feb. 22.
Henry Wardroper—Tuesday, Feb. 21.
E. J. Hilliary—Wednesday, Feb. 22.
G. W. Moore—Wednesday, Feb. 22.
Miss A. Harrison-Tate—Wednesday, Feb. 22.
Jenny Fenton—Wednesday, Feb. 22.
Frank Haytor—Wednesday, Feb. 22.
W. H. Chattell—Thursday, Feb. 23.
Will Oliver—Thursday, Feb. 23.
H. H. Vincent—Friday, Feb. 24.
G. M. Hurst—Friday, Feb. 24.
Tom Ronald Hurst—Friday, Feb. 24.
Florence B. Sennett—Friday, Feb. 24.
Frank Graham—Friday, Feb. 24.

LES FRASNETTIS have met with great success in Australia. They have played at the Tivoli, Sydney, for three months, and are now appearing at the Opera House, Melbourne. They return to London on April 17.

MR. JACK COLLINSON, whose name is a household word in the music-hall sketch world, has arranged with Mr. Tom Craven, the well-known author of *The Stowaway*, *The Ballad Singer*, and other popular plays, to write a sketch, entitled *The Three Crows*, which will be put on at an early date at an important London variety theatre.

MUSIC HALL GOSSIP.

Music of the higher kind is just now the fashion at the halls, and much attention is being devoted to operatic excerpts, both by Mr. Thomas Barrasford and Mr. Oswald Stoll. It is a noteworthy and cheering sign when the public applaud works that hitherto have been restricted to opera houses; but it may be well to remember, in the midst of common congratulations, that this is no new thing. Some forty years since the old Oxford made a feature of operatic music, under the management of Mr. Charles Morton, who was responsible for the first "recital" of *Faust* in this country, the prima donna being Miss Russell. Mr. Morton's example was not extensively copied, and opera gave way to acrobats.

Such a thing as an original operetta was, however, unknown in those days, and the composers of the period would have treated with lofty contempt any proposal of the proprietors to compose any lyrical work for the despised halls, even if they had not been prevented from doing so by the restrictive legislation of 1843. Sir Julius Benedict or Sir Sterndale Bennett would have been even more astonished still had they been asked to conduct any of their own works by Mr. Charles Morton.

His successor, Mr. Alfred Butt, lives in more artistic days, and his request to Sir Alexander Mackenzie to direct the first performance of the interlude, *The Knights of the Road*, which is to be produced on Monday, Feb. 27, has been graciously complied with. The period chosen is that of George the Second, when the exploits of Jack Straw, Dick Turpin, and other gentlemen of the road gave the travelling public and the Bow-street runners much uneasiness. The scene is to be a faithful reproduction of an eighteenth century inn, from the brush of Mr. W. T. Hemsley, and five principal characters, assisted by a picked chorus, will speak the dialogue, and interpret the music. Sir Alexander is the composer of an overture to *Twelfth Night*, and of the music to *Ravenswood*, *The Little Minister*, and *Coriolanus*.

Mr. H. A. Lytton, the old Savoyard, is responsible for the libretto. Mr. Walter Hyde, the well-known tenor, and Mr. Henry Claff, the baritone, from the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, sustain the chief singing parts. Mr. O. E. Lennon, who has just terminated a pantomime engagement at Sheffield, will be seen in the chief comedy part. Only two or three months ago Mr. Lennon was appearing in *Brummagem Jem* in Mr. Arthur Roberts's company at the same theatre. Mr. Lennon has played Mr. Edmund Payne's and Mr. Huntley Wright's parts on tour for the last few years.

Lady Haldon is announced as the latest recruit to the music hall stage, on which she will produce what is described as a comic interlude, written by Mr. Arthur Branscombe, the author of *Morocco Bound*. It is entitled *The Sporting Duchess*. As Mdlle Miska, Lady Haldon was engaged at Drury-lane by the late Sir Augustus Harris, and played the part of Rose Bouchon in *A Life of Pleasure*. She married in 1893 the Hon. Lawrence William Palk, who succeeded to the barony of Haldon (which was created in 1880) in 1903. Lady Haldon is the daughter of Colonel J. W. Maichlé, formerly of the Russian Army. Lord Haldon served in South Africa with the 8th Battalion of the Imperial Yeomanry in 1901-2. Lady Haldon appears on Monday, Feb. 27, at the Tivoli.

There is a report—only a report—that the late premises of Williams and Co., of Upper-street, near the "Green," Islington, are to be acquired by a powerful music-hall combine for the purpose of building another large variety house, to be conducted on the twice-nightly principle. One would think that Islington is already well supplied with "shows" of every kind, and that the houses of amusement already established are quite sufficient for the needs of the neighbourhood.

The "magic crucible" succeeds the magic kettle, and Mr. Frank Glenister promises some interesting and novel experiments at the London Pavilion on Monday evening next. We believe horseshoes can be manufactured in the most approved manner in the space of a few seconds in the former vessel.

My Fancy, who has been winning golden opinions at the Coliseum by the intricate steps and rythmic beauty of her sand dance, was presented on Saturday evening with a lovely bouquet by the octett of ladies supporting her. The charming little dancer was vastly pleased at the pretty compliment paid to her.

Mr. Bransby Williams will conclude to-day all his contracts with the Syndicate halls, and will open on March 6 at the Empire in a new production, written especially for him by the well-known actress, Miss Beatrix de Burgh. It is entitled *The Last of His Race*. The story is of a gambler, and the denouement is both original and startling, and turns on the idea of a fortune being found in a picture, of which the papers have been full this week. The production was accepted by the Empire directors a year ago. Mr. Bransby Williams is to star in an entirely new production of pantomime at Christmas—new book, new scenery, and new scenery—under the direction of Mr. F. Wyndham.

The death, at Hull, of Mr. Martin Chapender, will come as a great shock to the many London friends of that clever young conjuror, who passed away on Thursday, the 9th inst., after an operation for abscess on the brain. The deceased gentleman was the second son of Mr. Thomas Martin-Jones, manager of the Liverpool branch of Schweppes, Limited. He was educated at the Liverpool Institute, and on leaving school began his business career in the office of Messrs. H. B. Williams and Company., marine insurance brokers.

At an early age, Mr. Martin-Jones showed a remarkable talent for conjuring, and frequently performed at amateur concerts and for charities. So recently as December, 1902, he left business to enter upon a career as a professional conjurer, under the assumed name of Martin Chapender, and steadily rose to the front rank. At Christmas, 1904, he engaged the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, before its final demolition, for a four weeks' season, which was a complete success. Unfortunately his health broke down under the strain of performing, combined with the responsibilities of management. He was taken suddenly ill when on tour at Hull, and died there on the 9th inst. The remains were cremated at Hull on Saturday.

Miss Madge Girdlestone, who has won fame in Drury-lane drama, in Hippodrome spectacle, and in touring melodrama, is now ambitious of gaining distinction as an authoress for the stage. She has written a dramatic episode, entitled *Two Men and a Woman*, which will be produced at the Palace Theatre on Monday, by Mr. Alfred Butt. For the two men, Miss Girdlestone has engaged Mr. Cecil Morton York and Mr. Martine Sabine, both of impressive stature. As "the woman," Miss Girdlestone's majestic figure and statuesque beauty will be well set off by a dinner dress, which, we are given to understand, will be a positive dream of elegance and taste.

Mr. Harry Kilburn, who is successfully appearing as Alderman Fitzwarren in the pantomime of *Dick Whittington* (the Broadway Theatre, London, production) at the Queen's Theatre, Leeds, has been re-engaged by Mr. Frederick Mouillot for 1905, this making his third year with the same firm.

Mr. Albert Bushell, the popular manager of the Gaiety, Birmingham, will take his annual benefit at that house on Tuesday next. Owing to the large number of artistes who have signified their intention of appearing, there will be one performance only on the night—from seven o'clock until twelve.

The fall in the dividend of Moss Empires (Limited) to 10 per cent. caused an unusual amount of interest to be taken by shareholders in the annual meeting held at Edinburgh on Thursday. Mr. H. E. Moss (chairman of directors) was not present, but he sent a letter, which was read by the secretary, in which he regretted his inability to be at the meeting, as he had made arrangements to go to Egypt in January. In common with the shareholders he (Mr. Moss) regretted that they could not pay the usual dividend, but he considered there need be no ground for uneasiness. He had every confidence that in the opening of the new theatres at Liverpool and Glasgow, with an improvement in trade which they all looked for, and a saving which the board hoped for by the new system of management, the prospects of the company were extremely good.

Mr. Oswald Stoll (Cardiff), managing director in succession to Mr. Moss, presided, and moved the approval of the report and dividend. He also adverted to the causes of the fall in profits, and expressed the opinion that the worst was passed, and that substantial improvement might be expected next year. Mr. Frank Allen seconded. Mr. H. Abraham (Edinburgh) wished to know who fixed the directors' fees. The Secretary stated that the directors' remuneration was dealt with in the articles of association. Mr. Abraham did not seem quite satisfied, and another shareholder asked if any of the theatres just now were in a non-paying condition—a question that the chairman did not think it expedient to answer. The report was then adopted unanimously, and Mr. Richard Thornton (Newcastle) was re-elected a director.

Mr. E. H. Jones, the late manager of the Grand Theatre of Varieties in Manchester for upwards of fourteen years, died on Monday after a lingering illness of twelve months. He will be much missed in the variety profession, as he was a man of many parts, including song-writing and scene-painting. He was stage-manager for many years at the Grand Theatre, Liverpool, and also played in the principal London halls in the eighties.

Mr. Frank Cass has just given excellent proof of his capabilities. On Monday, at the Hippodrome, Ashton, Mr. Verno (of Verno and Voyce) was unable, owing to a severe cold, to appear with his partner, Mr. Albert Voyce. Mr. Cass, at a moment's notice, undertook the difficult task of playing Mr. Verno's part, and with most gratifying results. Mr. Albert Voyce was highly delighted, and the audience even more so ,judging from the vociferous applause.

One of the funniest things in Mr. Robert Arthur's pantomime, at the Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool, is the rendering, by Mr. Walter Groves, of the highly humorous song, entitled "Bed." The song has proved an immense hit, and the writers, Messrs. C. W. Murphy and Dan Lipton, have already received many applications for its use in pantomime next year. Mr. Morny Cash is also singing the song with remarkable success in the halls. Mr. Cash, by the way, will produce at the London Lyceum, in March, several new and special numbers from the pens of the same authors.

Mr. Tom Prichard, of the Empire, Dudley, has just presented Mr. Jesse Burton with a beautiful tobacco-pouch, made of morocco sealskin, attached to which is a silver shield, bearing the following inscription, "From Tom to Jesse."

At the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, on Saturday last, the performance of *The Forty Thieves* was marked by an unfortunate incident. Towards the close of the Cave scene Mr. Wilkie Bard accidentally fell through the glass, which represents the water; his arm was cut, and he was also shaken. As the accident occurred while the scene was darkened, the audience only heard the crash and the fall. Mr. Bard immediately drove to the Queen's Hospital, where it was found that the arteries had not been injured. The limb was bandaged, and Mr. Bard subsequently returned to the theatre. In the meantime, Mr. J. F. Graham, the manager, took Mr. Bard's part for the remainder of the evening.

Mr. Wilkie Bard made his first appearance at the Prince of Wales's, Birmingham, since his accident, on Wednesday, when the Brum Rocket Club attended the Broad-street playhouse in a body. He was welcomed with a couplet, sung to a rousing tune. He carried his injured right arm in a sling. Despite this inconvenience, however, he was seen in his best form, entering into the spirit of the meeting with great zest. He was the recipient of a case of "make-ups," and suitable gifts were made to the other comedians and performers. Mr. J. H. Graham, the manager, was presented with a framed photograph of the members.

The Wolverhampton Hippodrome, formerly known as the Prince of Wales' Theatre, and perhaps more familiar under its old title of the Star Theatre, would have been burnt to the ground on Sunday morning, Feb. 5, had it not been for the prompt attention and smart work of the Wolverhampton Fire Brigade. As it was, damage to the extent of £1,100 was done. A short time ago the theatre was transformed by the present proprietors, Messrs. Benton and Little, into a hippodrome, the appearance of the auditorium having been completely altered for the purpose.

The King's Music Hall, Roscommon-street, Liverpool, closes to-night. Formerly it was known as the Roscommon, but on Boxing Day last was opened under new auspices. The management has decided to abandon the venture.

Mr. Henri Gros attended the Westminster Police Court, on Thursday, with his solicitor, Mr. Rutland, who asked his worship to re-open the case he heard a few weeks ago, when Mr. Gros was ordered to enter into his recognisances to come up if called upon for presenting *The Fighting Parson*, described as a stage play, at the Metropolitan Theatre of Varieties. Mr. Gros said he was very anxious to be heard. He felt that a stigma rested upon him, and although he was prepared to admit the commission of a technical offence, he would rather have the matter dealt with in another way, even if he had to pay a fine. It was somewhat of an indignity to be reminded that he was bound over to come up "if called upon," and, if possible, he would prefer to call himself up. *The Fighting Parson* had been produced at many London halls since the proceedings against him, and yet there had been no further prosecution. Mr. Curtis-Bennett could not agree with Mr. Rutland that under any circumstances Mr. Gros could have the case reinstated, but perhaps it would be as well if the other side could be asked to come to the Court and give their views on the matter.

Miss "Del" Levey, one of the majestic Sisters Levey, is proud of the fact that she was born in Glasgow. She was announced to sing at Mr. Tom E. Murray's benefit on Friday, at the Theatre Royal, and she will on Monday open at the Tivoli and Queen's there, afterwards going on to Greenock and Paisley. She is heavily booked, and in perfect health and spirits.

Miss Marie Lloyd, who is slowly recovering from serious illness, travelled to Brighton by train from Victoria on Wednesday, accompanied by a nurse. She is still very weak, but it is hoped that the fine air of the Queen of South Coast watering-places will completely restore her to health, and that soon.

Mrs. Kitchen, one of the St. James's Park milkmaids, is the mother of Mr. Fred. Kitchen, who has played with such success the part of Sergeant Lightning in *His Majesty's Guests*. Another son was associated with the late Mr. Charles Lauri in his celebrated speechless sketches, *On the Roofs*, *The Sioux*, and others.

"The Little Stowaway," Mr. Fred. Bowyer's sketch, which he is largely rewriting, will be produced, on March 25, at the Canterbury and Paragon. Miss Nellie Bowman will play the part of the hero; Mr. Clayton will be the captain, whose life is saved by the brave little lad; and Mr. Willie Scott, a favourite low comedian at the Pavilion Theatre, Mile End, and Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, will be seen to advantage in a comic part.

Mr. Oswald Stoll is presenting Madame Alice Esty at the Coliseum in the famous "Miserere" scene from *Il Trovatore*, and that admirable vocalist's success has been very remarkable. She sings Verdi's music like the true artist that she is, and brings down the house by her execution of the lovely introductory air to the well-known scene. A short synopsis tells us of the death sentence passed upon Manrico, the hero, but we do not see him. We, however, hear him sing "Ah! che la morte," which is given with much charm and fervour. We are open to correction, but we believe Manrico is represented by Mr. Roland Cunningham.

"The Military Maids," a new scena, produced at the Coliseum, on Monday, was shorn of much of its attractiveness on account of the illness of Miss Millie Hylton, who was to have played the officer in command. The ladies of the company did their best on Wednesday afternoon to make up for the absence of their leader, and manœuvred and danced with rare vim and heartiness. *Miss Extravaganza*, another fresh interlude, has been introduced also at the St. Martin's-lane pleasure house during the week. Mr. J. C. Piddock sings the incidental song, in a beautifully-furnished drawing room, to elegantly dressed guests, who include Miss Mary Ambrose, an excellent violinist, and Mrs. Rocke, a pianist, who accompanies. "Miss Extravaganza" herself poses under a curtained niche towards the end of the song. She is prettily dressed in an outdoor summer costume of white, and holds a sunshade.

Mr. Will Oliver will celebrate his fifty-third birthday on Thursday next, and it is pleasant to know that he can congratulate himself on excellent health. Last year he suffered from an illness that caused great anxiety to his troops of friends, who rejoice to see "Spot" quite in his old form. He will entertain a select party at Brixton on the festal day, and will perforce have to sing once again the old refrain of "My father's face." "Will," we are told, is just as nimble and light on his feet as when he parodied the ballerina of the back row at the South London in the eighties. With his brother Rats, we join in wishing him "Many happy returns of the day."

We have also congratulations to offer to a much older veteran—Mr. George Washington Moore, otherwise known as Pony Moore, the "minstrel boy" of eighty winters. Since his retirement from the direction of the Moore and Burgess combination, Mr. Moore and his devoted wife, affectionately known among her intimate friends as "Ma," have been living a quiet life at their charming house in the Finchley-road, where to-morrow they will receive the hearty good wishes of a number of friends. Mr. Moore's constitution is simply wonderful: it was but a year or so ago that he went through a critical operation, and he is still very vigorous.

Mr. A. W. Deer, late of the Balham Empire, owing to failure in business and losses incurred through the closing of that house, is in great need of assistance. Arrangements have therefore now been made with Mr. Walter Gibbons to give a benefit performance at the Duchess Palace, on Wednesday, March 1. A committee has the affair in hand, and it is hoped that the special entertainment given will draw a large house.

Vasco, the "mad musician," while cycling near Windsor recently, ran over a fox terrier, which caused him to have a nasty spill, and put two fingers out of joint. With a quiet time at Brighton, he hopes to be again showing on Monday or Monday week.

The Twelve Aerial Wrestling Girls will give a unique performance in mid-air for the first time in London, on Monday, at the Oxford. The wrestling is conducted in the following manner: a girl has to keep the control of a swinging pole to which she is clinging, and is only defeated when driven off by her opponent. Regular competitions are arranged, and the bouts are of the most exciting description. This entertainment is most refined, and has a touch of daring which will commend itself to all admirers of athletic skill.

Miss Mina Marie, who is now resting and having a most enjoyable time at Berlin, is pleased to tell us that she is shortly going to appear in Germany and Austria with her new act, in which she is introducing two very clever little children. Miss Marie has had numerous offers to go to Australia and America this year, but she is unable to accept. She thinks of staying on the Continent for six months, then returning to England. Marie has met with some extraordinary experiences, having been nearly killed three times with "Hooping the Hoop."

At the Canterbury, on the 27th inst., Mr. Fred Miller will produce a new and original flying ballet invented by Paul Valentine. It will be seen for at least a fortnight at Mr. Payne's Westminster Bridge-road establishment, after which it will tour the syndicate and other halls.

Mr. Harry J. Baynton, musical-director of the Empire, Dublin, was presented recently with a bâton, in the form of a sjambok, mounted in solid gold, recently brought from South Africa by the donor, Mr. W. E. Holdom.

Miss Alma Curzon, in consequence of the loss of her luggage by the railway company between Liverpool and Wolverhampton, could not fulfil her engagement last week, and has been obliged also to cancel this week. Her popular song, "England for the English," has been secured by the proprietors of *The People* for publication. Miss Curzon will, however, retain the music-hall rights.

At the Bow Palace, on Monday, will be produced by Mr. Fred. Baugh a new and original dramatic sketch, entitled *The Nihilist*. The sketch, which is by Mr. Geo. M. Marriott, who is so well known in sketch work, is in five scenes, the last of which will be a most realistic presentment of an explosion in a Russian palace. There are six principal parts, and a strong company has been engaged.

We record with regret the death of Mrs. A. Webb (formerly Wilkinson), who passed away on Monday. Mr. A. Webb is one of the Brothers Webb, so well known in the music hall circles of London and the Continent as musical clowns.

Dr. Walford Bodie has been creating quite a furore this week at the Grand, Manchester, hundreds being turned away nightly at each performance. His demonstration of bloodless surgery has caused quite a sensation, the theatre being besieged daily by hundreds of cripples.

Miss Rose Hamilton has an original song scena in preparation, entitled *Hunted Down*, an episode in the life of Jack Sheppard. She will carry special scenery and effects for the same. The dialogue is by J. F. Lambe, and the music by T. Thurban.

Miss Dorothy Kenton, who is well known in the United States as "the Girl with the Banjo," is coming to the Tivoli on Monday next, when Mr. Arthur Roberts, Miss Ruby Celeste, and company will make their appearance in the trifle, *Where's the Count?* Other newcomers will include Mr. Harry Ford, Miss Amy Clevere, the Two Kings, Miss May Moore Duprez, and the Harry Alaskas.

Messrs. Walton and Lester, after their highly successful engagement at the Brixton Theatre, will return to the halls on Monday next, opening at the Palace, Chelsea. Their Chinese conjuring and magic kettle burlesque will be accompanied by a new Eastern polka, "Chow-Chow," composed by Ernest Lester, one of the firm, and effectively orchestrated by Mr. Frank Bradsell, the musical conductor of the Brixton pantomime.

Those who love the ring of true rollicking Irish comedy should listen to Mr. Pat Doherty singing "The Irish Dude," in the Palace Scene of Mr. George Davey's production of *Babes in the Wood*, at the Grand Theatre, Islington. Mr. Doherty is an "Oirish gintleman entoirely," and gives us just "an illigant taste of a jig."

Mr. David Day has secured for his firm Mr. Bert Dansie's Song, "I want to be a sailor," by Chas. Osborne.—Mr. Alfred Saker and Co. have secured contracts for Chris Richards to appear at Gatti's till 1908. Mr. Frank Leo has written and composed a comedy song-sketch entitled *Mr. Watson*, which will be produced at the Coliseum with Mr. Keino Johnson in the title-part.

Mr. Lennox Barry, the enterprising manager of the Battersea Empire, has this week been proving to his many patrons the energy which he exercises in order to supply them with attractions. "Living Battersea" is the subject of the animated pictures, which he is taking during the dinner-hour, and showing upon the sheet at the first house the same evening. This is exceedingly smart work, and Mr. Barry meets with an ample reward in an ever-increasing number of patrons.

Ameen Abou Hamad and his troupe of Arabian bounders are creating something akin to a sensation with their stupendous feats of tumbling and pyramid building at the Surrey Vaudeville Theatre this week. The "head" of the troupe, who is the "foot" of the human column, claims, with great reason, to be the champion "pyramid understander of the world," and, apart from the prettiness of the kaleidoscopic views which his companions present when held up in picturesque positions, the sight of ten men holding on tenaciously to the bearer, is sufficient to take one's breath away. The tumbling feats are expertly performed. One young fellow, encircling the whole area of the stage with a series of somersaults that would appear beyond human achievement, while a bewildering number of side springs, backward and forward tumbling, and Catherine wheels are indulged in to an accompaniment of frantic shouts, evidently intended for encouragement. The cries of the performers are supplemented by the cheers of the audience, whose exhilaration and delight at the feats of the clever Arabian troupe is boundless.

The Calcotts, who recently appeared in their new musical act at the Empire Palace, Portsmouth, made a notable success, and were immediately rebooked for an early date by the management. Mrs. Eric Calcott, by the way, was Miss Amy Leggett, who, until a few weeks back, had been playing in her father's combination in the well-known sketch, *The Maid of Athens*, and enacting the title-rôle.

Mr. Barney Armstrong has quite settled down to his business again. He is this week appearing at the London, Shoreditch, after an interval of nearly four years, and Mr. Chas. Hector has rebooked him six dates at the London and Collins's. Murphy and Lipton are responsible for the three new songs he is singing, and the comedy he puts into each one has been received with enthusiasm. Next week he opens at the Empress, Brixton, and Hammersmith Palace.

Miss Nellie Wilson, having completed a successful engagement at the Metropolitan and Canterbury, opens at the Paragon next Monday.

Miss Hetty Goff and Mr. Will Garland, two coloured members of the *In Dahomey* company, were married on the stage of the Grand Theatre, Swansea, after the performance on Friday, the 3rd inst. There were six bridesmaids and seven groomsmen.

It is evident that Georges Hackenschmidt has quite recovered from his recent injury, for, at Melbourne, on Saturday last, the 11th inst., before an assemblage numbering ten thousand persons, he threw two Indians—Buttam Singh and Gunga Brahm—in 41 sec. and 9 min. 45 sec. respectively. The style was catch-as-catch-can.

Mr. Hamilton Hill will essay, at the Hackney Empire, during the forthcoming week, a stirring song, entitled "I want to be a Soldier." It is by Messrs. Lawrance and Gifford, whose present songs for Mr. G. H. Elliott, "Ma Havannah Queen" and "Lazy Maisie," are becoming quite the vogue with lovers of tuneful coon ditties.

Mr. Fred Sinclair and Miss Gracie Whiteford met with such a tremendous reception in their comedy duologue, *Getting Even*, at the Middlesex and Cambridge, on Monday, that Mr. Graydon personally came to the dressing-room and complimented them upon their success.

Miss Millie Harris has successfully produced at Gatti's, this week, two new songs, entitled "Never let an old pal fall" and "My Standard Girl." The latter song has a rather unique chorus, bringing in, as it does, the leading newspapers. Both songs are from the pen of Mr. Eric Graham.

Mr. Alf Gibson opens at the Lyceum Theatre, on Monday next, for four weeks.—Lea and Lovell, American song illustrators, having just finished Palace, Hammersmith, are now on their provincial tour, including dates with Messrs. Barrasford and Willmot. Mr. Charles Relf has secured their services on their return to town.—Mr. Arthur Elvy, vocal comedian, who finishes this week a successful tour, opens at the Empire, Battersea, on Monday, with a new song, entitled "I've been out."

The 393rd meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Joe O'Gorman, chairman of the committee, presiding. The following were elected as additional members of the committee:—Messrs. Wilkie Bard, George Gray, and J. D. Humphreys. The secretary reported that twenty-two new members had joined during the week, making a total number enrolled since the commencement of 11,304. The hon. treasurer's financial statement was submitted, and was passed as read.

Miss Margaret Ashton, who recently met with an enthusiastic reception at Blackpool, is continuing her provincial tour. She has been booked for a two months' appearance at the Coliseum; and she has been busy arranging the details of what promises to be a most attractive item at this popular playhouse. Miss Ashton, who was the pupil of the well-known Italian master, Signor Carpi, has played in many of the leading light opera rôles in America, and it is probable that she will—in the not distant future—delight London audiences with a revelation of her operatic talent.

Miss Victoria Monks, who will sail for America with her husband in a week or so, will have a souvenir night at the Canterbury, on Friday, the 24th. Visitors to all parts of the house will be presented with a lifelike portrait of the accomplished singer of "Bill Bailey," which will be revived on the occasion.

At the Brighton Hippodrome, on Tuesday, by the kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Barrasford, a special matinée performance was given in support of the police-aided scheme for clothing destitute children. The police band performed popular selections, and, in addition to members of the Hippodrome company, artistes from the Grand Theatre and the Alhambra, by kind permission of the respective managements of those houses, submitted excellent turns. Several local performers also rendered welcome assistance. Among those who attended the matinée were the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton (Ald. F. and Mrs. Blaker) and Mr. W. B. Gentle (Chief Constable of Brighton), the originator of the scheme.

Mr. P. Lest, tobacconist, Boompjes, 60, Rotterdam, writes as follows: "I want to know the address of Mr. John Johnson, whose music-hall name is Mr. Jacques Etherdo, of the Etherdo family. Ten years ago he travelled in the provinces with the sketch, *The Chameleon's Glen*. I was married to his daughter; but she died last autumn, and I therefore want to know his address. Another daughter of his travelled with her husband under the title of the Merry Muriels.

After causing an absolute sensation at the Theatre Royal, Leeds, during the run of Mr. Frank Macnaghten's enormously successful pantomime, *Cinderella*, Mr. Harry Weldon, the Swell Entertainer, opens Monday next, Feb. 20, at Stoll's New Hippodrome, Manchester, for one week, after which he reurns to town to the Tivoli, Oxford, &c., with some capital new songs from the pens of Murphy and Lipton, C. G. Coates, and Harry Castling. Mr. Weldon is fully booked till 1908, and Mr. Tom Shaw, who has his sole business in hand, is to be complimented on the smart manner in which he has brought this clever young comedian so rapidly into the front rank.—(Communicated.)

Sketches founded on cases of mistaken identity seem to be as popular as ever, if we may judge by the reception given on Monday at the Islington Empire to Mr. Cayley Calvert's playlet, *The Fellow That Looks Like Me*. It was played by Mr. Ralph Lynn and company. That gentleman appeared as Paul; Mr. Sydney Lynn (of Mr. W. S. Penley's *Charley's Aunt* Co.) represented Pete; and Polly found an attractive exponent in Miss Geraldine Holker (late lead with Mr. Milton Bode).

Miss Margaret Radcliffe asks us to correct a slight error in the description of the lace worn on her costume at the Manchester theatrical ball. It should have been *point de Flandres*.

Miss Rosee Heath, who used to dance so delightfully as a Dutch girl at the Empire during the eighties, occasionally shows signs of recovery from the mental affliction that keeps her a patient at Colney Hatch Asylum. At Christmas she was so much better that she came home for a month, and resided with her parents, but the improvement was not maintained, and she had again to be detained at the Asylum. Dr. Forbes Winslow, however, does not despair of her ultimate recovery. Miss Heath's mother is 76, and her father 87. They are Danes, and recently spent an enjoyable holiday in their native Copenhagen.

Mendel, the blind pianist, added fresh laurels to his fame during last week, at the Empire, Dublin, when Mr. Figgis, the manager, announced by printed slips that Mendel would perform by special desire, on Thursday, the overture to *Tannhäuser*, and on Friday the overture to *William Tell*, both orchestral scores. The house was packed on both occasions, and the audience was most enthusiastic in its applause. Many of the local musicians, and composers of Dublin, during the week, played him original melodies, which Mendel accurately, and to their great surprise, repeated after once hearing them. His wonderful memory enables him to retain nearly 2000 compositions, classical and otherwise. We trust to hear soon of the return to health of both his parents, who are now very ill at their home in London.

Mr. Edwin Brett and Miss Emmeline Orford, having concluded a most successful pantomime season as Abanazar and Aladdin at the Brixton Theatre and tour, resumed their music hall work at the Palace, Blackpool, on Monday, meeting with a flattering reception.

Mr. J. R. Horrocks met with a somewhat severe accident at the Grand, Manchester, on Monday. He had just left Dr. Bodie's dressing-room when he slipped and fell from the top to the bottom or the stairs, striking his back a violent blow. Dr. Bodie at once examined him, and found that no bones were broken. A cab was procured, and Mr. Horrocks was taken home. He was formerly the proprietor of the Theatre Royal, Darwen.

Miss Gipsy Woolf has deserted the cornfield amid which she has disported so long and successfully, and on Monday produced at the Paragon Music Hall a song-scena, of which a gipsy camp forms a picturesque environment. The little sketch, which is entitled "A Gipsy Encampment," serves for the introduction of a number of Romany children, who welcome with gladness the approach of their gipsy heroine, who has been on an expedition to the town, and by means of her fortune-telling and singing and dancing has obtained gifts in money and kind, many of which she distributes among her companions. Left alone, the maiden recalls fleeting memories of other days, and grows a little despondent over the thought of an "angel face" and a loving embrace, but she quickly revives at the thought of a sweetheart who is waiting for her, and breaks into a song of "Sunrise Sue," in which the joys of courtship are extolled. The children return to join in the chorus and in a mazy dance, a charming effect being obtained by the waving of branches and the beating of tambourines. Miss Woolf presents a pretty appearance in a scarlet dress glittering with threads of gold, and her sweet and flexible voice serves her well in the tuneful melody to which her song is set, while the rhythmic quality of her dance and its variety of movement are quite enthralling. She is supported by a number of young girls, who dance with great precision and neatness, and the audience at the Paragon gave, by their enthusiastic applause, evidence of their satisfaction.

Presentation.—Mr. W. Turner (who for the past four years has held the post of electrician at the Coronet Theatre) was, on the 4th inst., on leaving to take charge of the electrical department of the Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, presented with a purse of gold, subscribed for by the whole of the staff of the theatre.

THE LONDON MUSIC HALLS.

THE EMPIRE.

There is a very agreeable variety entertainment at the Empire Theatre this week. We are often almost surfeited with athletics at variety houses, and it is a pleasure to find only one item of this kind in the Empire bill, and that of novelty and genuine merit. It is contributed by Carletta; and the *mise-en-scène* and arrangement of the "turn" are both remarkably effective. The trunk of an old tree forms a resting-place for a green dragon, with a movable jaw, and eyes which glare with electric brilliancy. In the interior of this "property" is Carletta, a contortionist of great flexibility. The "reptile" bends and twists itself in various ways, finally descending from the tree to the ground. There is something both original and uncanny in the attitudes the dragon assumes; and when Carletta removes the disguise, and appears in the ordinary garb of a contortionist, his achievements are still more striking and skilful. A very pretty performance is given by Mdlle. Marquis with her ponies. They are handsome and well-trained animals, and, after enjoying a see-saw, one of them plays at football by kicking a large sphere backwards with his hind legs. The well-trained little horses also do a "cake-walk" with spirit, box with the "droll," M. Dassie, and do some amusing things with a large and obedient bulldog. Mdlle. Marquis exhibits her equine pupils with grace, skill, and tact; and M. Dassie, a refined "clown," creates much laughter by his absurdities. Collins and Hart supply a screamingly funny turn, burlesquing acrobatic business. A vast amount of laughter is created, not only by their amusing tricks, but by their very diverting and eccentric byplay. Their business, in their barrel-jumping business, is exceedingly funny. Briano's performing monkeys are marvellously clever simians, their imitations of the exploits of human artistes being truly comic. Their somersaulting over horizontal bars is very adroit, and their acrobatic achievements are surprisingly skilful. One of them "goes through his arms" on the trapeze in a style that is quite human, and another does some neat tight-rope dancing. Bud Snyder, an accomplished cyclist, jumps his machine on and off tables, and up and down steps, concluding with the sensational feat of springing it from one to another of several platforms, high above the stage. Snyder is certainly a master of the art which he professes. Miss Anna Hickisch is an agreeable soprano vocalist, and her contribution to the programme is a very pleasing one. That delightful fairy divertissement, *The Dancing Doll*, is as successful as ever; and Mdlle. Adeline Genée, as Bébé, charms all by her elegance and grace, and by the accomplished skill which she displays in her dancing. Mdlle. F. Zanfretta's spirited Spanish solos are warmly applauded; and Mr. W. Vokes and Miss E. Clerc are very quaint as the Dutch Dolls, Mr. Tom Vincent being quite effective as Sambo. The "danse coquette," by Mdlle. Genée and Mons. Sundberg, is well received; and the *corps de ballet* work with unabated spirit. The views shown by aid of the Biograph are both interesting and attractive; and, altogether, the entertainment at the Empire is bright, varied, and very enjoyable.

THE CANTERBURY.

Mr. Jack Camp must have arrived at a very complacent frame of mind if we are to believe his song in which everybody seems alike to him. But what an upsetting of our social system would be occasioned if everybody and everything appeared the same to everybody. But, of course, Mr. Camp does not intend his remarks to be taken seriously, and certainly no one does, for the audience were in roars of laughter all the while he was upon the stage. He is equally entertaining in his verses about a policeman, a jolly jack tar, and other worthies; while his patter was extremely quaint in quality and performance. In *Rejected Remounts*, Messrs. Fred Ginnett and Co. reveal the humours of negotiations for the sale of a horse to a customer whose knowledge of animals is extremely limited, to say the least. Even the fine horses which are brought before the footlights for the purchaser to examine and select seem to enter into the fun of the situation. *Touched* is the title of the sketch presented by Mr. Joe Elvin, and "touched" accurately describes the behaviour of the audience who witnessed the comicalities of Mr. Elvin and his little band of comedians; roars of laughter followed almost every word of this screaming little farce, the antics of the different inmates of the lunatic asylum being enjoyed with great gusto by the spectators. Miss Nellie Wilson, to whom we have before referred in eulogistic terms, is paying another visit to the Canterbury this week, and her song, "If you can't buy a motor-car, buy a motor-cap," is briskly rendered by this charming and talented comedienne, and the chorus is very briskly taken up by the audience. The second time she comes upon the stage she is attired in a striking costume, in which black squares and broad, bold white lines, give an artistic effect. Her little ditty about "serenading Georgie" and her graceful dancing afford further testimony to Miss Wilson's versatility. A vocalist of no small ability, Mr. W. H. Downs, the popular coloured comedian, sings "Jenny Well" in a manner that entrances his audiences, by reason not only of its sympathetic vein, but also by reason of the charm of the rendering. "We see some funny things at our laundry," sings Miss Kate Carney, and everyone who witnesses her latest diverting musical episode is in full agreement with her. What with the writing on cuffs, "scorched" fronts, torn shirts, &c., Miss Carney has found a prolific field for the manufacture of merriment. The Collins-Stella troupe of dancers present an animated picture, the eight young ladies, very prettily attired in handsome dresses, and executing a variety of interesting movements in the direction of the poetry of motion, testifying to excellent training and natural capabilities. Boswell's educated ponies, cantankerous donkey, and performing dogs provide an attractive exhibition of the intelligent propensities of the lower animals under human influence. Mr. Tom Brandford is deputising for Mr. Phil Ray who has been unable to turn up this week. Mr. Brandford gave realistic imitations of the counds created by a train steaming out of the station, of the syren-like whistle of a steamer, and vocal representations of a mandoline and a brass band, the last-mentioned item causing no small disturbance of one's risible faculties. Miss Ray Wallace appears quite at home as Vesta Victoria, or Kate Carney with her now famous song "'Liza Johnson," Vesta Tilley in "Following in Father's footsteps," and Miss Victoria Monks in her coon song "Mr. Jackson," all of which were characteristic representations. Most eccentric of eccentrics, Mr. Will Evans, appears in his delightful pantomime skit of *Robinson Crusoe*, which is one of the most entertaining "turns" in the variety theatres at the present moment. Mr. George Gray and Company, in *The Fighting Parson*, Mr. C. T. Best (comedian), Miss Eileen Douglas (comedienne), and Mr. V. L. Granville in his character impersonations from various well-known plays complete the bill.

THE STANDARD.

That variety audiences can and will appreciate high-class singing of high-class themes has been proved this week at the Royal Standard Music Hall, Pimlico, where Mr. Hamilton Hill, the well-known baritone vocalist, is nightly getting encores for his splendid interpretation of "The Holy City." Going from this to a less serious subject, his "Good-bye, little girl, good-bye," has a delightful ring, and is rendered in a way which leaves no doubt as to Mr. Hill's talents. Mr. Leo Dryden gives us a touch of the present and the past with his two items, "For Freedom and Japan" and "An Actor and a Man." In the first he appears in Japanese costume and sings a few stirring verses anent the subject which has for the past twelve months taken up the attention of the world. His other number, "An Actor and a Man," affords him fine opportunities for his abilities as a character actor and a vocalist, and he cuts a very gallant figure as David Garrick. Miss Jessie Albini has not lost the dainty girlish mannerisms of speech and gesture and motion which we remember formed so charming a part of her performances a few years ago. She contrives to amuse her audinece by quoting from the leaves of the booklet she carries, and at the end succeeds in convincing everyone of the truth of her song, "My diary is a very interesting little book." Her other number, about the doings of one Sadie, a simple country girl, who, however, proves one too many for a London "Johnny," is introduced with such rare ingenuousness that one does not fully realise that there is, after all, an artful element in the thoughts of the aforementioned simple country "gel." *The Matador* is the title of an exceedingly well-written and well-played sketch, for which thanks are due to the Phillips and Jackson combination. There are three tableaux, the first being an admirable and picturesque scene depicting the exterior of what is called the Posado Pedro, Madrid. A bull-fighter, whose morals, to put it mildly, have long since become submerged, is using all the powers at his command to induce a young English girl, disguised as a Spanish strolling fiddler, to marry him. Incidentally it may be mentioned that he has previously betrayed a number of his own countrywomen, one of whom manages to defeat his evil designs in different directions. An English artist comes upon the scene, falls desperately in love with the English girl, goes through wonderful adventures, but, in the end, as becomes a hero, rescues the girl from the clutches of the matador, who is shot by the last of his female victims. By far the best-acted character in the piece is that of an old woman, played by Mrs. Stanislaus Calhaem. The tyrannous tactics of this hag, who for the time being has charge of the English girl, and is making her life as miserable as she can, and the old creature's subsequent attempts to secure the affections of Pedro, the innkeeper, are portrayed with just that degree of dramatic creative power which causes the onlooker to forget himself for the moment, and to imagine that he is seeing, not merely a study of life, but a living reality. We want more people like Mrs. Calhaem on the music-hall stage. *The Matador* should hold the boards for some time to come. Miss Flo Melville contributes a couple of songs, "My own sweetheart" and "You can tell a beautiful tale," both of which go far to prove that the lady is a comedienne gifted with a distinct style and pretty voice. Mr. E. J. Wilkes tells us, in a most entertaining way, how an Irishman, a Scotsman, and a London coster each make love, and in the second part of his "turn," he sounds the praises of his only friend, a performing dog, who does a number of smart things at its master's bidding. Mr. Will Poluski, jun., needs little recommendation at this hour. His latest songs, "Ohio" and "Hi, hi, tiddley hi" add to the general merriment, and are extremely well received. Royal Best understands the secrets of making oneself a "double," his impersonations of past and present celebrities being, for the most part, precise and accurate so far as impersonations can be. Marvels in melody might be an appropriate title for the different "improvised" instruments used by the Three Albions, who, without flattering themselves, are billed as "musical fantasts." The Three Alberts are to be commended for their agility and strength in the hand and wire equilibristic department; Mr. Charles Tempest is diverting with his eccentric comedy act; Miss Bertha Lennard sings nicely and dances neatly; and Mahatma, "the miracle worker," possesses wonderful powers of second sight, or thought-transmission, or by whatever other name it may be called.

QUEEN'S, POPLAR.

To cater for a community largely composed of working folk, with the fare good and at prices well within the limits of their resources, is a task of no little difficulty. That this is accomplished at Messrs. Tom Maltby and Wickes's long-established and favourite hall in High-street, Poplar, is evidenced by the patronage extended, and by the satisfaction everywhere expressed. The proprietors are fortunate in having the services of the experienced and astute Mr. Joe Haynes as first lieutenant, and the programme he has presented during the week has been varied, and from end to end most entertaining. Early in the evening Miss Lil Gorman, a serio with a pleasing style and good voice, has found plenty of admirers for her tuneful song and dance, "My Princess Zulu"; and Mr. Charles Bayman, a darkey comedian, has secured attention, and aroused some mirth for his humorous ditty, "I'm a Jonah Man," the lament of a most unfortunate individual, and another well-rendered item. Vastly amusing has been the duologue given by Violet and Frank Payte, called, we believe, *Also Ran*. The gentleman impersonates a newly-wedded husband, who has a strong partiality for "the turf" and late hours, and his partner plays his fond young wife, who is naturally indignant and hurt at his neglect, and determines to pay him out. So when he appears on the scene after a brief absence, she informs him she has also been to a race meeting, and with a gentleman! It is then the husband's turn to rave, and his anger is certainly most grotesque; but he soon discovers, by questioning his wife as to the winners and prices, that she has been only trying to make him jealous. Explanations and a promise of better behaviour on the part of the husband follow, and the trifle is merrily concluded with a much-appreciated sporting toast. The couple work hard, and with every success, in its presentation, the depiction of anger by the male being especially laughable. Original and wonderfully expert and eccentric dancing is contributed by Darden and Iris, the lady executing a clever toe dance, and her partner proving a smart tumbler and bender. The comicalities of Mr. Charles Austin call forth some of the loudest applause heard during the evening. His "Iddly-iddly-umpty-ay" and other nonsense song would certainly not raise a smile on their own merits; but embellished as they are with innumerable little bits of by-play and patter, and warbled in a grotesquely dismal fashion by Mr. Austin, they compel incessant merriment. Very funny also is the comedian's fragment of mock melodrama, and his originality and real ability to amuse are keenly appreciated in all parts of the house. Very enjoyable and loudly acclaimed also is the musical turn for which Sylvo is responsible. A concertina solo of much excellence is followed by the playing of "Good-bye, little yellow bird" and "The Holy City" on the bamboo bells and the silver chimes, two tuneful instruments, of which Sylvo is the inventor. Especially expert also is he in the manipulations of the musical glasses, his rendering of one of Leslie Stuart's pretty melodies and the popular "Hiawatha" being warmly applauded. A clever little transformation dancer is Princess Lulu, her Spanish, French, Japanese, American, Welsh, and Scotch dances all being smartly executed, particularly pleasing being her Irish jig and sailor's hornpipe. Her changes are all quickly accomplished, and are most complete, and her exhausting exhibition is applauded at its true worth. The sketch of the bill is of a military nature, and is entitled *Woman and War*, a romance of the great struggle between England and Russia, 1854-56. Mr. Eric Grant and company are responsible for its very able presentation; and also to be commended is the mounting, the illuminated picture at the conclusion, depicting the charge of the Light Brigade, being particularly admired. Also in the programme are Professor King, sensational manipulator of arithmetic on the decimal and metric system, an interesting exhibition to a large portion of the audience; Zaro and Arno; Condon and Preston; and the Two Sprays. The films shown on Lacey's Erascope always provide enjoyment to any audience; and the capable and hard-working orchestra, under the guidance of Mr. George Hatley, also contributes to the pleasure of the evening.

BATTERSEA EMPIRE.

The popularity of Mr. Lennox Barry, the new manager, is daily increasing in return for his energetic efforts to make the standard of excellence of his programme as high as possible. The Wednesday matinées, which Mr. Barry has commenced, are proving exceedingly popular, evidence of which is forthcoming in the fact that the house is packed at every one. The leading feature of the bill this week is Mr. Maurice H. Hoffmann and Co., in their mysterious sketch *The Sorrows of Satan*. The sketch has been cleverly adapted by Mr. Hoffman. The acting of Miss Ethel King, as Lady Sybil Elton calls for special praise, and that of Mr. M. H. Hoffmann, as Prince Lucia Rimanez, the Devil on Earth, is thrilling. One of the finest sketches on the variety boards is performed by Miss Dinah Morris and her company. Beautiful scenery and costumes, sweet singing of original and catchy coon ditties, and vivacious dancing combine in a successful effort to transport the minds of the audience from the worry and toil of their daily lives to the enjoyments of the light-hearted and contented workers on the cotton plantations of America. That the energy and heartiness of the company is conveyed beyond the footlights is proved by a look round at the beaming faces of a well-pleased audience. Mdlle. Roza is presenting here her wonderful dog circus. Trick walking on a rapidly revolving table, skipping and walking backwards upstairs are among the many clever tricks performed by these well-trained animals. Clever imitations of a few of our leading music hall artistes are given by Mr. Ted Saunders. His mimicry of John Lawson, R. G. Knowles, and Harry Lauder is enthusiastically received. Conway and Tindall, in their laughable duologue, *Gooseberry Junction; or, Fun at a Railway Station*, are appearing here this week. A duet describing the different people met with on the line is very good. The Sisters Oswald are performing their novel dancing act with great success. So well concealed are their false legs, and so naturally do they use them, that it is not until the sisters decide to give up the deception that the audience discovers the ingenuity of the trick. Miss Millie Harris contributes to the enjoyment of the evening by singing in a quiet and pleasing manner her ditty, "Don't strike a fellow when he's down." The songs and tales delivered by Harry Bradford, the diminutive comedian, take well; and Arthur Forrest, a comedian with a few droll yarns, is also appearing with success. "Living Battersea" forms the subject of a series of attractive animated pictures shown by Walter Payne's Bioscope. Pictures that are taken each afternoon are shown upon the sheet the same evening. "Soldiers Past, Present, and Future" are represented on the screen by the fine old Boys of Chelsea, the Royal Guards, and the Boys of the Duke of York's School respectively. The excellent little orchestra is ably conducted by Mr. R. Holman.

STRATFORD EMPIRE.

At this high-class variety theatre, which is so worthily fulfilling its mission to provide local pleasure-seekers with a light and bright entertainment of not too long duration, a capital bill is provided this week, and good business is the result. The chief interest attaches to the engagement of Nat Clifford and Claire Romaine, who, though they have not loomed largely in the Empire bill before, have been local pantomime favourites for three consecutive seasons. That Stratford has not tired of them was evinced when Mr. Clifford appeared in his first item, when, as a decayed and exaggerated masher, he sang "At the Grand Hotel," appearing afterwards as a mentally afflicted "ancient," and singing "When I'm Pierpont Morgan Number Two." His songs, however, only serve as a vehicle for his quaintly absurd patter, his oddly eccentric dancing, and his resourceful methods of getting into touch with his hearers. Most of Mr. Clifford's business was entirely new, and it was quite obvious that Stratford had not already seen the best of this droll comedian. On Miss Romaine's first appearance, charmingly attired in evening dress, she gave the well-known pantomime song, "Pennies," the chorus of which was taken up with avidity from every part of the house. Her other pantomime air, "They don't mind me," was next given, and, transformed into a spruce college boy, Miss Romaine gained great applause for the ditty. The twain next appeared in the duet "Prophets," a mock quarrelling burlesque scena, which proved as funny as ever. Mr. Clifford's pantomime gags were never heard but to the accompaniment of mirth, and at the conclusion of their fifty minutes' occupancy of the stage, finishing with another duet, the audience, like Dickens's workhouse boy, still "asked for more." Another popular entertainer was Will H. Fox, whose clever nonsensical performance at the piano remains as popular as ever, undoubtedly due to the combination of talented playing with original patter and comedy business which he employs. No method of extracting music from a pianoforte comes amiss to Mr. Fox, and his eccentricities are genuinely funny. It is easy to be deceived as to the sex of George Tacius on his first entrance, for to all appearances he is a handsomely gowned soprano vocalist, with golden hair to match. It is only when he concludes his first song in powerful baritone notes that the audience are undeceived, and their astonishment and laughter are blended. His second song, "Because I love you," is more familiar, and he receives plenty of applause at the conclusion of his turn. The daring gymnastic feats accomplished by Alf. Arnesen are watched with breathless interest, and his concluding item, that of placing a walking stick on a tight-rope, and balancing himself in the air by grasping the handle, must show the possession of wonderful nerve and skill. Swan and Bambard, a couple of knockabouts from "the other side," contribute a novel act, *The Eccentric Recruit*, and their deft movements and amusing sayings gained them a most cordial reception. Ryan and Hall received a warm welcome in their well-known acrobatic act, which is as expert and interesting as ever, and the Three Fortune Brothers, in their novelty comedy act, provide a turn which is greatly enjoyed. The Bioscope Pictures are always a considerable attraction at Stratford, and this week new and interesting subjects are being shown, including an exciting drama in several scenes entitled *Wrongly Accused*, which is watched with keen attention. The current programme opens with the overture "Poet and Peasant," admirably rendered by the Empire Orchestra, under Mr. Augustus Greco's skilful bâton. The front of the house is assiduously looked after by Mr. T. S. Mayne, who has quickly become popular in his managerial capacity.

RICHMOND THEATRE.

Mr. George Dance this week provides a variety entertainment of exceptional merit. Messrs Woodhouse and Wells, in a patter act, *No Boots*, contribute a popular item, and both artistes show ability as dancers. Miss Ethel Dunford is a pretty and engaging comedienne. Mr. Gus Garrick gives the most popular performance of the evening, and is a comedian who should "go a long way" in the future. A touching sketch of the degradation wrought by drink and gambling is portrayed in the dramatic sensation, *Lord Harkaway*, in which the characters are well played by Miss Lois du Cane and Messrs. Frederick Maxwell, Gerald Blake, Frank Carlisle, Sam Harcourt, and Burton Bars. The sketch ends with a capital exhibition of boxing by Messrs. Maxwell and Carlisle. Les Voces are operatic singers of much merit, and their contribution is much applauded. Miss Rose Elliott is a comedienne gifted with a voice that enables her to be heard in the most remote corner of the house, and sings a very amusing ditty as her second contribution. Messrs. Bradley and Warwick give a most amusing comedy sketch, *The Advent of Venus*, towards the success of which the Misses Warwick and Reid greatly contribute, and the programme ends with a capital series of pictures by Vernon's Bioscope.

BENEFIT TO MR. J. E. NOLAN.

At the Athenæum, Goldhawk-road, Shepherd's Bush, on Monday, a benefit concert was given to Mr. J. E. Nolan, the veteran theatrical and musical agent, for many years one of the partners in the well-known firm of Jackson and Nolan. Mr. Nolan's long and honourable connection with the dramatic and music hall professions has extended over a period of forty years, during which time he has introduced to the public many artistes now occupying prominent positions in the world of amusement. There was a very fair audience present on Monday, and it is to be hoped that the proceeds were substantially augmented by the sale of tickets to many of the bénéficiare's friends and former clients who were unable to be present. The Mayor of Hammersmith, Mr. J. M. Levy, and many other well-known gentlemen in the neighbourhood gave their patronage, and the splendid programme presented should have packed a hall twice the size of the Athenæum. Foremost amongst the volunteers was Miss Louie Freear, who kindly consented to appear for the benefit of her old friend, one of the first to discover the talent of the gifted little comedienne. Needless to remark, her reception was of the most cordial description, the audience being vastly entertained with the drollery of her two selections, "Twiddley Bits" and "She Just Walks On." Mr. Kelson Trueman's fine tenor voice was heard to the best advantage in "Within Your Heart" and "The Light of Ages"; and greatly appreciated also was the duet, "The moon has raised her lamp above," in which he was joined by Mr. Josef Claus. The last-named gentleman gave a fine rendering of the Toreador song from *Carmen* and Tosti's "Good-bye"; and Mrs. English was accorded a flattering reception for "Thady O'Flynn." The popular Savoyard, Mr. Richard Temple, contributed a couple of much appreciated recitations; and lavish applause was bestowed on Mr. Victor Buzian, of His Majesty's private band, for his finely executed violin solos. Other acceptable items were given by such well-known entertainers as Mr. Robert Ganthony (a humorous interlude), Mr. E. Storey Gofton (recitation, "Christmas Guests"), and Mr. Ben Nathan; and the programme was also contributed to by Miss Edmee De Dreux and Mr. Edwin Henry, in a musical sketch; Mr. H. T. Lea, Miss Violet Wolfe, Miss Bessie Coleman, and Miss Sydney Davis. Messrs. Bulbeck and George Turnbull Sinclair gave their valuable services at the piano; Mr. Charles Williams was the hon. general manager; and Mr. Guy Waller, by permission of Mr. Frank Curzon, saw to the arrangements on the stage. Mention must also be made of the valuable assistance given by Mr. B. Soane Roby, to whose exertions much of the success of the benefit was due.

THE MUSIC HALL BENEVOLENT FUND.

MR. JOSEPH LYONS' CHRISTMAS APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION.

Donations already announced, £177 3s. 6d.

	£	s.	d.
Tom Mac Govern	1	1	0
Driscoll and Beattie	1	0	0

The President has collected among his private friends about £300 in addition to the above.

Secretary, HORACE MARRIOTT.
Offices, 18, Adam-street, Strand.

The President wishes it to be known that the funds have almost given out, and that immediate help is required.

THE WOMACK FUND.

Mr. George Womack, the stage-manager of the Oxford, whose precarious health prevents him following his occupation, is about to undergo for about eight months a course of treatment for consumption at Bournemouth. A Fund is being raised on his behalf, and any subscriptions will be gratefully acknowledged by Mr. Albert Gilmer, the hon. secretary, or Mr. C. Blyth-Pratt, the hon. treasurer at the Oxford. The following sums have been received:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Mr. R. Crawford	5	0	0	Mr. Geo. LeBrun	0	10	6
Wilkes & Co.	2	2	0	Miss Sable Fern	0	10	6
Mr. & Mrs. Bransby Williams	2	2	0	Anonymous	0	10	6
Mr. E. A. Gosnay	2	2	0	Sisters Sprightly	0	10	6
Miss Marie Lloyd	1	1	0	Mr. Fred Erwood	0	10	6
Mr. Fred Terry	1	1	0	Mr. G. Grossmith	0	10	6
Gus Elen	1	1	0	Miss Lillie Langtry	0	10	0
Anonymous	1	1	0	Mr. Ryder Slone	0	10	0
Antonio Pierri	1	1	0	Miss Rosie Lloyd	0	5	3
Edgar Romaine	1	1	0	Miss Ida Heath	0	5	0
Barton & Ashley	1	1	0	Harry Alaska	0	5	0
Mr. Eugene Stratton	1	1	0	Mr. E. Burckhardt	0	5	0
Mr. Tom Foy	1	1	0	Miss Minnie Jeffs	0	5	0
Mr. P. D. Blake	1	1	0	Mr. Geo. Brooks	0	5	0
Mr. Jack Lotto	1	1	0	Miss Ella Lane	0	5	0
Mr. J. Pitcher	1	1	0	Mr. Joe Archer	0	5	0
Mr. Jasper Redfern	1	1	0	The Bohemians	0	5	0
Mr. Asher Simmonds	1	1	0	Miss F. Esdaile	0	5	0
Hadj Abdullah	1	0	0	Mr. Martin Adeson	0	5	0
Harry Tate	1	0	0	Rich & Rich	0	5	0
Yukio Tani	1	0	0	Ben Albert	0	2	6
Terry & Lambert	1	0	0	Mr. Alfred Mayall	0	2	6
Mr. Fred Ginnett	1	0	0	Mr. Appy	0	2	6
Frank Leo	0	10	6	Miss Ruby Verdi	0	2	6
Dutch Daly	0	10	6	Mr. W. Fullbrook	0	2	6
Happy Fanny Fields	0	10	6	Mr. F. E. Kain	0	2	6
Dr. Ballard	0	10	6	Mr. E. Birkle	0	2	0
Miss Alice Lloyd	0	10	6	Miss Dorothy Sephton	0	2	0
				Miss Stella	0	1	0
				Mrs. Clery	0	1	0
				Mr. Fred Lyne	0	1	0

THIS week a capital company has nightly amused good houses at the Empire, Wrexham. The Paolias provide a capital turn, and Mr. Charley Dixon (comedian), Miss Nellie Elder (comedian and Tyrolean vocalist), Mr. Dan Maxford (patter comedian), Miss Kate Lynd (comedienne), and Mr. Louis Kerno (comedian and dancer) also do well.

COUNTY COUNCIL AND AMUSEMENTS.

(SPECIALLY REPORTED FOR "THE ERA.")

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday, at the County Hall, Spring Gardens.

DUKE OF YORK'S THEATRE.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported that they had considered a plan, submitted by Mr. W. Emden, showing how it is proposed to give effect to Nos. 24, 31, 36, 39, and 47 of the Council's suggestions for the improvement of the Duke of York's Theatre, St. Martin's-lane. The suggestions in question deal with alterations in respect of the gallery entrance staircase, box office enclosure, ventilation of the lavatories in the pit, and the provision of conveniences for stage hands. The committee considered the proposals might be accepted, and recommended that Mr. W. Emden be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the plan, provided the following conditions be complied with:—(1) That the hinged barrier across the gallery entrance staircase be made to depend on an automatic fastening. (2) That the box office be constructed of non-flammable materials or of hardwood. (3) That it be understood that the proposed means of ventilating the lavatories in the pit are accepted only on the condition that they prove to be efficient in practice.—Agreed to.

LONDON COLISEUM.

The committee had considered a plan, submitted by Messrs. F. Matcham and Co., of a property room and scene dock proposed to be formed on the o.p. side of the stage at the London Coliseum, St. Martin's-lane. The committee recommended that Messrs. F. Matcham and Co. be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the plan submitted by them, provided the following conditions be complied with:—(1) That the doors to the property-room be made self-closing. (2) That the skylight over the property-room be made to open automatically to the full extent of the base on the releasing of a cord, and be glazed with sheet glass not more than one-twelfth inch in thickness, protected on the outside by stout wire guards. (3) That any alteration which may be made in the lime-light tanks and apparatus at present on the site of the proposed property-room and scene dock be to the satisfaction of the Council. (4) That a wicket escape door be provided in the doors to Lemon Tree-yard.—Approved.

EMPRESS THEATRE, EARL'S COURT.

The committee had considered two plans, submitted by Mr. A. O. Collard, showing the proposed arrangement of the Empress Theatre at the London Exhibitions, Earl's-court, during the exhibition season of 1905. The proposed arrangements were satisfactory, and the committee recommended that Mr. A. O. Collard be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the two plans submitted by him, provided the following conditions be complied with:—(1) That the emergency exit at the north end of the theatre be so arranged as to discharge towards the central hall. (2) That the scenery, awnings, woodwork, and all other materials be rendered fire-resisting to the satisfaction of the Council.—Agreed to.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

The committee had considered a plan, submitted by Mr. B. Crewe, showing the positions of two pass openings, which it is proposed to make at the Lyceum Theatre, Wellington-street, Strand. The openings are shown on the plan to form connections between the circle lounge and the o.p. gallery staircase, and between circle o.p. exit and the rooms above the stalls o.p. refreshment bar. The arrangements appeared to be satisfactory, and the committee recommended that Mr. B. Crewe be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the plan submitted by him with regard to the proposed pass openings at the Lyceum Theatre, provided the doors to such openings be made self-closing.—Approved.

THE STRAND SCHEME.

The Improvements Committee presented their report with regard to letting the crescent site of the Holborn to the Strand improvement, for a French exhibition and theatre. The proposals of the syndicate were, briefly, to erect on the middle portion of the site a fine stone building of commanding architectural features, which would contain galleries for art and industrial exhibitions, and a French theatre, restaurant, and café; also an open air theatre for summer use. The syndicate were willing to build the structures in accordance with plans approved by the Council, and were ready to pay the ground rent of £55,000 a year, which, as the chairman of the Improvements Committee stated last week, represented a capitalised sum of £1,550,000.

Mr. Davies, who moved the adoption of the report, said that there was an objection to letting this land to any but Englishmen, but the committee would fight strongly against such a narrow idea. The fact that the Council wanted the money, coupled with the certainty that the offer was a good and substantial one, that it did not involve the setting-up of public-houses, and that the whole undertaking would be under the complete control of the Council should, in his judgment, provide sufficient grounds for the Council accepting the scheme.

Mr. Radford, in moving that the report be referred back, said he did so because of the unsatisfactory nature of the information given to the Council.

Mr. Russell Spokes seconded.

Mr. John Burns strongly condemned the proposal. He protested against this fine street being relegated to theatres and casinos, and urged the Council not to superimpose upon the churches in the Strand Paris in London—nothing like the real Paris, but what might be another Moulin Rouge and a Jardin Mabille, with visions of the Palais Royal. They were told that the building would be used for art exhibitions. Let them remember the history of the Royal Aquarium, which was instituted by a Royal and learned society. There were, he declared, already more places of amusement in London than were necessary.

Sir William Richmond deplored the "inflated and undignified" speech of Mr. Burns. He hoped the Council would not reject the scheme because of insular prejudice against the French people, who could teach them many things.

Other members having spoken, the debate was closured; and, upon a division, the amendment was carried by 77 to 28, which is a virtual rejection of the whole scheme.

CONSERVATOIRE OF MUSIC IN COLOGNE.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MUNICIPAL BAND-MASTER,

HERR GENERAL-MUSIC DIRECTOR, FRITZ STEINBACH.

BEGINNING OF THE SUMMMER SEMESTER ON APRIL 3, 1905.

Complete Training in all Branches of Music. Theatre and Dramatic School.
540 PUPILS; 46 TEACHERS.

Prospectus, &c., are sent by the Sekretariat of the Conservatoire (Wolfsstrasse 3-5), in Cologne.
The Examinations for Admission take place on Thursday, March 30, at 9.0 a.m., for Pianoforte at 11.0 a.m., for Solo Singing; at 12.30 for Orchestra Instruments.
Saturday, April 1, at 9.0 a.m., Competition for the Candidates for Bursaries (Freistellen).

Applications to be made in writing, until March 27, to the

SEKRETARIAT, THE MANAGING COMMITTEE.

"THE ERA"

SHILLING FUND

FOR THE

MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

Total to date, **2038½.**

	Shillings.
Thomas Barrasford	700
M.H.A.R.A.	400
Lily Burnand	42
L. C. J. Livermore	42
C. Mannering	31½
Paul Cinquevalli	21
Gus Elen	21
Caicedo	21
G. Grais	21
Rozel	1

Collected by Mr Walter Stockwell, £1 14s.

	Shillings.		Shillings.
The Sivrouis	2	P. Palmer	1
Bandoni	2	F. Durant	1
Walter Stockwell	1	B. Jordan	1
Walter Wallis	1	Percy Murray	1
R. G. Fox	1	Grove Duo	1
Fitzroy	1	W. Munroe	1
Miss F. Chester	1	G. Barclay	1
W. Oliver	1	H. Simms	1
Richard Cass	1	Jack Richards	1
J. Spain	1	J. Laws	1
T. Callaghan	1	Jack Lorimer	1
T. Fitzroy	1	Mrs H. Simms	1
Jack Charman	1	Denmark Pair	1
Annie Laurie	1	H. H. Braham	1
Nellie Lewis	1	Eyre Wynnfred	1
Walter Bartley	1	Frank J. Woods	1

Collected by Mr J. Sparrow, £2 9s.

J. Sparrow	10	Nellie Wilson	1
Wal Pink	2	Emma Don	1
Barton and Franklin	2	P. Murray	1
F. Reeves	1	J. B. Peterman	1
L. Dreams	1	Fitzroys	1
J. Fortune	1	Alf Auckland	1
Harry Goodson	1	T. C. Callaghan	1
W. Bentley	1	Rex Fox	1
R. Cass	1	Jordan	1
Mozondos	1	Pedlar	1
Tee and Tee	1	Bob Haulon	1
Rossi and Vaughan	1	Laure	1
A. Veno	1	Travis	1
B. Monks	1	E. J. Sheldon	1
E. G. Bale	1	Tacius	1
Dandy George	1	G. H. Elliott	1
W. Stockwell	1	Stewart and Morgan	1
Valveno	1	C. Heath	½
C. Chapman	1	Annie Laurie	½
H. Cazman			

Collected by Harris and Worth, Macnaghten's Touring Pantomime, "Robinson Crusoe," £1 1s.

Harris and Worth	2	Miss Daisy Reed	1
Will Lytton	1	Miss Vivien	1
Jack Foley	1	Miss Harding	1
Miss Hurman	1	Miss Stewart	1
Chas. Cork	1	Mr Baines	1
Miss Leonard	1	Mr Charles Hylton	1
Miss Ivy Gallard	1	A. May	1
Mr James	1	W. Whylie	1
Harry Morgan	1	R. H. Barker	1
Miss Dora Langham	1	Miss Bartlett	1

Collected by Mr Fred Spencer, J. F. Elliston's "Cinderella" Company, York, 16½s.

Sisters Meredith	1½	Mabel Englehardt	1
Ernie Mayne	1	Hettie Zillwood	1
Tom Owen	1	Mamie Stuart	1
Tatten Hall	1	Belle Worstencroft	1
Don Harrindine	1	Carola	1
Fred Spencer	1	Lewis Leslie	1
Jack Lane	1	Marie Rayburn	½
Madcaps	1	Marie Liudner	½
Ted Houghton	1		

Collected by Mr Joe Lawrence, 19s. 6d.

Tray and Rich	2½	Ben Whiteley	1
Henry Clarke	2½	Harry Grey	1
Fenton and Harrison	2½	Syd Godfrey	1
Tom Tinsley	1	Reginald Rutter	1
Ras B.	1	Ted Leopold	1
Joe Hughes	1	Ariel and Astarte	1
Ben Elen	1	Forest and King	1
T. W. Wright	1		

Collected by Mr Harry Barnard, £1 2s. 6d.

Harry Barnard	10	Alec Jacobs	1
Henry Cazman	1½	Wooly Jacobs	1
David Phillips	1	Charlie Edwards	1
Ben Phillips	1	Charlie Booty	1
Lewis Phillips	1	H. C.	1
Joe Phillips	1	Mr Golding	1
Horace Barnard	1		

Collected by Grell and Grey, at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, Pantomime, "Cinders," £3.

John Hart	20	Eida Burman	1
J. W. Rowley	5	Miss Payne	1
Grell and Grey	5	C. Chambers	1
Roze and Calvert	2½	Will Ratcliffe	1
Carlton	2½	Cyril Rawden	1
F. Fowler	2½	E. W. Dauntou	1
Katie May	2½	Mrs Keene	1
Leo Grieve	2½	J. Simpson	1
J. E. Nightingale	1	E. Dickson	1
D. Drew	1	Chorus Gents.	1s. 7d.
Maud Holland	1	A Friend	1s. 1½d.
Marie Daltra	1	Children	9½d.
Irene Verona	1		

Collected by Miss Nellie Christie, £2 8s.

Nellie Christie	20	Wally Scott	2
N. Coleman and Dome	5	Fred Solo	2
Tossing Austins	4	M. D. V.	1½
Mabel Osborn	3	Sisters James	1½
Virto	2½	P. L. F.	1
A. Kelsall	2½	Miss Castleton	1
Box Baxter	2		

Collected by Mr Tom Vine, £1 7s. 6d.

George Gilbey	5	Baby Violet M'Farlane	1
W. J. Churchill (Willie)	2½	George Bernard	1
Clara Nisbet	2½	Charles Frazer	1
Tom Vine	2½	Beattie Worth	1
Five Royal Zerbinis	2	John Sylvester Sage	1
Les Kyasyas	2	Peter Leckie	1
Fielding and Hull	2	Marie Mason	1
E. W. Selman	1	Mr Cumminger	1

Collected by Walton and Lester, Brixton Theatre, S.W., £1 7s.

Chard and Clarey	5	May Kent	1
Brett and Orford	5	A. W. Hanwell	1
Walton and Lester	5	Somers Bellamy	1
Nat Lewis	2½	Madge Haines	1
Ted Young	2½	Art Bewlay	1
Frank Bratsell	2		

Collected by E. A. Bridgen, the Granville, Walhamgreen, £1 10s.

Chas. Dixon	1	Lily Simmons	1
Kate Lynd	1	Francis and Melli	1
Harry Lane	1	Edisonograph	1
Bella Bright	1	V. L. Granville	1
Tom E. Hughes	1	Victor Newman	1
E. W. Manning	1	Lieut. Albini	1
Great Scott	1	Tambo and Tambo	1
L. Lennox	1	Will Toole	1
Les Voces	1	Ruby Bijou	1
Sisters Caselli	1	Arthur A. Davenport	1
Lydia Dreams	1	Edwardes & Espinosa	1
Gus Hindell	1	Dora Clifford	1
Ida Royston	1	The Phantos	1
G. Dallaw	1	Cissy Dryden	1
Chas. Wren	1	John Lawson	1

Collected by Mr Joe Boganny, £3 3s.

Joe Boganny	10	W. Larner	1
E. B. Teena	5	Henry Scanlon	1
Tom Prichard	5	A. E. Jersey	1
Kimberley Boys	2½	Tom J. Morton	1
Will Poluski, jun.	2½	Tom Cruwys	1
Mignon Tremaine	2½	Connie Leon	1
Kate Hardren	2½	Will Mona	1
Frank Hilbert	2½	S. Major Jones	1
Dora Greve	2½	Tom	1
Nemo	2½	C. Lang	1
Violet Frew	2½	Tee and Tee	1
W. C. Walford	2	Fred Leighton	1
Kathleen Gray	2	Clarie Hilbert	1
R. Jenson	2	Massona	1
Claude Clifton	2	Will Freedo	1

Collected by Mr Tom Fancourt, 13s.

Tom Fancourt	1	Harry Gribben	1
Jennie Ruble	1	Billy Elliott	1
George Belrose	1	Oliver Conroy	1
Ruby Winstone	1	Max Stirling	1
Lily Black	1	J. Brannhan	1
Beatrice Renee	1	George Bendon	1
Ernest Stevens	1		

Mr Frank Weston, £2 0s. 6d.

Brothers Forrest	3	Permane	1
M. Walton	2½	Hilgert Arkas	1
Nellie Wallace	2½	Tom M'Imray	1
T. Nelson Downes	2	W. G. Pratt	1
Al. Lawrence	2	E. B. Mayor	1
Ed. F. Reynard	2	E. Y. Steveus	1
T. F. Griffiths	2	Francess Letty	1
Densmore	1	Dan Llewllyn	1
Alexander Brantz	1	Warly Marus (Marus Bros.)	1
Raffaelo Trio	1	Emma and Victor	1
Yinlians	1	Slippero	1
F. Finklestein	1	The Four Cliftons	1
S. Okimoto	1	Phil Luck	1
R. Royce	1	Adolph Luck	1
D. Crombie	1	Falcons	0½
E. Leonard	1		
Vock et Var	1		

Collected by Mr T. S. Lonsdale, £3 14s. 6s.

Capt. E. H. Warren-Wright	20	Kit Keen	1
Prof. Wingard	2	The Davenports	1
W. Pratt	2	The Four Jumels	1
Sherrys	2	Walter Payne	1
L. Wybro	2	Lillie North	1
A. Borghetti	2	G. Collins	1
Four Maisenos	2	T. Loader	1
Sisters Selwyn	2	Les Sprays	1
F. J. Barnard (Barnard's Marionettes)	1½	W. Martini	1
T. C. Gannon	1	F. Thorne	1
T. S. Lonsdale	1	Leslie Race	1
Ralston Bros.	1	France Piper	1
Tom Parker	1	The Jagos	1
Howard and Collinson	1	J. W. Ellison	1
Lee and Bentley	1	Sam Dalton	1
Leopolds	1	R. Gilbert	1
Millie Howell	1	E. H. Lucas	1
Sisters Hall	1	Wal Douglas	1
Dora Lyric	1	Carl Mysto	1
Arthur Reece	1	Hamilton Hill	1
Sisters Charnley	1	Alec Hulino	1
Hanson	1	Hughes and Elliott	1
E. H. Williams	1	T. W. Rickaby	1
		Calcotts	1
		Will Farrell	1

Collected by Griff, £1 10s.

Griff	1	Mamma Griff	1
Alpha	1	The Young Griffs	1
Hadden Griff	1	The Old Griffs	1
Harry Griff	1	Baby Griffs	1
George Griff	1	Joseph Griff	1
John Griff	1	Crompton Griff	1
Victor Griff	1	Griff-Griff	1
Mrs. Griff	1	The Griff Troupe	1
Annie Griff	1	No. 1 Griff	1
H. H. Griff	1	No. 2 Griff	1
Henry Griff	1	No. 3 Griff	1
Griff senior	1	No. 4 Griff	1
Griff junior	1	No. 5 Griff	1
The Griff Family	1	No. 6 Griff	1
Papa Griff	1	No. 7 Griff	1

Collected by Mr. J. H. Stringer, £1 13s.

J. H. S.	1	M. Patarch	1
Lucks	6	H. O. Dixon	1
L. B. Brettell	1	W. H. Boyes	1
Mabel Thorne	1	F. E. Boyes	1
Ray Hartley	1	P. Greenhalter	1
Hilda Dugdale	1	F. Hewitt	1
Mabel Danby	1	H. R. Tidswell	1
Vesta Davies	1	C. A. Boothroyd	1
J. Crichton	1	A. E. Needham	1
Walter Scott	1	H. Wasse	1
Herbert Rule	1	G. Michaline	1
Ernie Bee	1	H. A. Moore	1
Charlie Dillon	1	Will Cornish	1
P. Patarch	1	Frank Boissett	1

Collected by Mr. Will Johnson, £2.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Warmsley	2	Montague Body	1
New York Comedy 4	2	W. Jarnold, jun.	1
Mr. and Mrs. Burgess	2	Dorie Wynne	1
Hart and Leo	2	Eva Perrett	1
Will Johnson	1	Julie Lascelles	1
Daisy Martell	1	Amy Goodworth	1
Ben Albert	1	Mrs. Bennett	1
Leonard White	1	Mr. H. G. Bennett	1
W. G. Hurst	1	Dan Crawley	1
Lily Shaw	1	Lilian Bishop	1
Condor and Preston	1	G. F. Mosser	1
Ruby Verdi	1	Fred Gould	1
Alf Hales	1	Bert Johnson	1
R. Kloss	1	Ted Johnson	1
Gwennie Harcourt	1	Jas. Burnett	1
Stanley Wigg	1	S. Mills	1
H. T. B.	1	Hiawatha	1
Walter T. Bayliss	1	Arthur Fuller	1

Collected by Jesse Burton, £2

Lily Marney	2½	Clarence Hotel, Hyderoad	1
Tilly Bebe	2½	Rose Tilly	1
Virto and Irene	2	Albert Bushell	1
Bill Bob	1	Jack Charman	1
Walt. Elliot	1	Mdlle. Roza	1
Jack Jones	1	Hamilton Hill	1
Patsy Morton	1	Edwin Adeler	1
Billy Stephens	1	Lennox Barry	1
F. M. Carpenter	1	Bill Banbery	1
Mr. Beer	1	Bill Humberston	1
Trixy Hardeen	1	Alf Chambers	1
A. Kelsall	1	Bill Davis	1
Auto and Mobil	1	A. Burgess	1
Sergeant Maine	1	J. C. Davies	1
H. Baldwin	1	James Farmer	1
T. Fox	1	W. H. Maudry	1
A Friend	1		

Collected by Mr. Will Evans, £2 9s.

Will Evans	20	Harry Poole	1
Cards, H. P.	10	T. A. Edge	1
Bungho'e	2½	Charles Beecham	1
Ian Colquhoun	2	James Fawn	1
Whit Cunliffe	1	Dolly Harmer	1
G. H. Elliott	1	Harold Finden	1
Dandy George	1	Geo. Stevenson	1
Geo. H. Dyball	1	Mr. Binks	1
M. Hall	1	Mr. Coarde, of Bass and Co.	1
Chen Yorke	1		

Will the Collectors for Mr Thomas Barrasford's appeal for the Music Hall Home Fund kindly send in their lists to *The Era* Office to the hon. treasurer, Mr F. H. Pedgrift. They will be duly announced in our next issue. Those artistes who desire a collecting card please apply to Mr J. T. Fruin, secretary, 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E.

HERBERT CAMPBELL MEMORIAL.

Sums received. Total, £84 5s.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
A. Magnus	10	10	0	Arthur W. Bray	1	1	0
Arthur Collins and Drury-lane Directors	10	10	0	Lydia M. Roberts	1	1	0
				Thomas Mason	1	1	0
Henry Joyner	5	5	0	C. Chuck	1	1	0
Mr William Harris	5	5	0	S. A. Graddage	1	1	0
Joe Elvin	3	3	0	G. H. Chirgwin	1	1	0
Herbert Lawford	2	2	0	G. W. Fortescue	1	1	0
Robert Astley	1	10	0	J. R. Fortescue	1	1	0
Marie Lloyd	1	1	0	F. H. Fortescue	1	1	0
J. Hickory Wood	1	1	0	W. Clarkson	0	10	6
H. Comfort	1	1	0	A. Lazarus	0	10	6
Weedon Grossmith	1	1	0	Mrs C. L. Lawson	0	10	6
Jesse Sparrow	1	1	0	Mrs White	0	10	6
Pat Doherty	1	1	0	Richard Box	0	10	6
G. A. E. Hussey	1	1	0	Katti Launer	0	10	6
Gus Elen	1	1	0	A. May	0	5	0
Thos. Cracknell	1	1	0	M. M. M'Neill	0	2	6

Per Harry Randall:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Harry Randall	5	5	0	J. Bernard Dickson	1	1	0
Robert Jay, Esq.	5	5	0				
Eugene Stratton	2	2	0	W. Willett	1	1	0
Little Tich	2	2	0	Hugh J. Ward	1	1	0
Eccentric Club	2	2	0	C. Temperley	1	1	0
A. Duffy	1	1	0	Charles Hector	0	10	6

"THE FIGHTING PARSON."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Our client, Mr. Chris. Davis, has called our attention to Mr. George Gray's advertisement in your issue of the 11th inst.

In this advertisement the sketch called *The Fighting Parson* is described as "by George Gray." This is not the fact, as Mr. Gray is not sole author, having written the sketch in collaboration without our client, who suggested all the main incidents of the plot, and is responsible for the greater part of the sketch as now played.

When recently at the Oxford, the sketch was advertiser as "by Chris. Davis and George Gray," and it was for many months so described on the programme of the Royal Music Hall, and in the synopsis of the sketch distributed there while it was being performed.

Yours faithfully,

WILKINSON, HOWLETT, AND WILKINSON.

14, Bedford-street, Covent Garden, Feb. 16.

MR. PERCY ELLIS.

In a letter which we have received from Mr. A. F. Henderson, general-manager for Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Henderson requests us to open our columns to an appeal on behalf of Mr. Percy Ellis, the late assistant-manager of the New Theatre, St. Martin's-lane, and, after having enquired into Mr. Ellis's circumstances, and having assured ourselves that his is a genuine case of distress, we have much pleasure in acceding to Mr. Henderson's charitable wishes.

Mr. Ellis is in an advanced stage of consumption, and, having been unable to follow any employment for nearly twelve months, his finances are completely exhausted, and he is, as Mr. Henderson points out, in actual want. Mr. Ellis's career is interesting. Educated at St. Mark's College, Chelsea, he was, on leaving school, articled to a Brighton firm of auctioneers and estate agents. At the age of nineteen he had the sole charge of the important estate department of the Banner Sanitation Company in Craven-street, Strand. In his spare time he engaged in odd journalistic work, and later secured an appointment on a weekly newspaper, the affairs of which he managed for a period of five years. His journalistic activities brought him into close contact with the dramatic profession, and in 1900 he was offered the position of acting-manager at Wyndham's Theatre for Mr. Frederic A. Stanley's season of *Little Lord Fountleroy*. Mr. Ellis's business capabilities and his honesty of character and purpose were quickly recognised, and he became the acting-manager during Mr. Martin Harvey's season at the Avenue, as well as for the run of *The Little French Milliner* at the same playhouse. Later he was seen in a similar capacity at the Shaftesbury and Terry's Theatres. His association with the Strand house was co-incidental with the production of Mrs. Francis Hodgson Burnett's play, *A Little Un-Fairy Princess*. When this piece was withdrawn from Terry's Mr. Ellis was secured by Mr. A. F. Henderson as acting-manager at Sir Charles Wyndham's New Theatre in St. Martin's-lane, then about to be opened, and he remained there during Mr. Forbes Robertson's season of *The Light That Failed*, and Mrs. Patrick Campbell's seasons with *The Joy of Living* and *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*, as well as during a run of Mr. John Donald's Christmas fairy play, *Alice in Wonderland*.

Least of all men does Mr. Ellis deserve to be so sorely stricken by the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune." For seven years he was the sole support of a widowed mother and a young

MR. PERCY ELLIS.

sister. In the direction of charity and self-sacrifice Mr. Ellis has a fine record for so young a man. One of the saddest features of a sad case is that his marriage, which had been arranged to take place towards the end of 1903, was postponed owing to his having, in the October of that year, contracted double pneumonia, which was followed by pleurisy, from the effects of which he has never fully recovered. He was well enough to return to the New Theatre for Mr. Donald's season with *Alice in Wonderland*, shortly after the conclusion of which he was compelled to keep to his house. For a time he was an out-patient at the Brompton Consumption Hospital; but the medical officers of that institution expressed themselves unable to find him accommodation as an in-patient on account of the fact that he was in too advanced a stage of the terrible malady to permit of any improvement being effected in the hospital itself. Latterly Mr. Ellis has been under medical treatment at his own home, for he is too weak to walk more than a few yards. His doctor does not believe his case absolutely hopeless; but, although he gives no definite promise of complete restoration to health, he is of the opinion that a sea voyage and residence in a climate such as that of South Africa would at any rate be the means of prolonging his life for a few years. Wonderful things have happened before now in the case of consumptive persons who have defied death, even after the despair of friends has given way to calm resignation, in face of what seems to be the inevitable, and it is with the idea of adding one more to the list of unlooked-for cures that we appeal to the generous hearts of members of the profession for funds to enable Mr. Henderson and Mr. Frederic A. Stanley, who is also interesting himself in the matter, to carry out their kindly intentions of sending Mr. Ellis to South Africa, or to some other country where the atmospheric conditions are less exacting than those of this country. In consequence of Mr. Ellis's sad condition, whatever is done must be done with the least possible delay.

All subscriptions for the above deserving appeal, which will be duly acknowledged in these columns, may be forwarded to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, Hon. Treasurer to the Fund, care of "The Era" Office, or direct to Mr. A. F. Henderson, New Theatre, St. Martin's-lane.

PRESENTATION.—At the Empire Theatre, Southend, on the conclusion of a most successful production of *The Yeomen of the Guard*, by the Amateur Operatic Society, Mr. J. M. Gordon, who staged and conducted the performances, was presented by the ladies of the society with a handsome silver cake basket, in token of their appreciation of his services during the present and past productions he has assisted them in. Mr. C. Bonnett, their enthusiastic business-manager, was presented with a charming silver cigarette case by the gentlemen of the society.

MR. EDITOR,—SIR,—In your issue of the 11th inst., in a notice of Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime, *Aladdin*, at the Queen's Theatre, Keighley, you state that "Prince Pekoe is artistically interpreted by Miss Mina Marie." This is incorrect, as I left the above pantomime three weeks ago by doctor's orders, and am now resting in Germany.

Yours faithfully, MINA MARIE, Hotel Stadt London, Berlin, Germany, Feb. 12.

THE DRAMA IN BRELIN.

"NEBENEINANDER."

Play, in Three Acts, by Georg Hirschfeld. Produced at the Lessing Theatre, Feb. 11, 1905.

Hellwig	HERR BASSERMANN
Frau Hellwig	FRAULEIN LEHMANN
Theodor	HERR GRUNWALD
Hellwig's Mutter	FRAULEIN ALBRECHT
Frau Dickmann	FRAULEIN PEPPLER
Hugo	HERR MARX
Selma	FRAULEIN EBERTY
Erich	HERR FRIEDRICH
Hoppenwort	HERR RICKELT
Anna	FRAULEIN TRIESCH
Victor	HERR ZIENER
Baerwald	HERR MARR
Rose	FRAULEIN JAHNE
Luise	FRAULEIN STOLLE

BERLIN, THURSDAY, FEB. 16.—Herr Hirschfeld's new play was received—if we except a few dissentient voices—with much cordiality. The author, who is one of our youngest and most thoughtful dramatists, was called and re-called, and warmly applauded by his friends and admirers. It may, however, be stated at once that the faultless cast had unquestionably a great deal to do with the success of the evening. Herr Hirschfeld, belonging to the most modern German "school," naturally treads in Ibsen's tracks; his plays are of the domestic type, still, effective, and problematical, and if we cannot always sympathise with his ideas we are always sure to be interested in them. In the present play he brings before the public notice two couples; one lives "nebeneinander" (near each other), the second "füreinander" (for each other). Herr and Frau Hellwig are the exponents of the title. They are on the eve of their silver wedding, and the man loves his wife as devotedly as he did in their young days, while she returns his affection. Hellwig is on the brink of ruin; he has speculated, and to cover his losses has defrauded the firm of manufacturers of whose Berlin branch he is the manager. All these cares and troubles he has hidden from his wife, feeling instinctively that her love is of the fair-weather type, and caring too deeply for her to ruffle the calm. When it is too late to prevent exposure, the wretched man takes poison, and leaves his beloved wife to face the blow alone. This—we are to believe—is all the result of living merely "nebeneinander." The lovers who are held up for our admiration are Theodor Hellwig and Anna—young Hellwig's wife in all but name. Theodor is a sculptor by profession, and has lived long in so-called Bohemian circles. Anna is a young Norwegian violinist, who had the misfortune to lose her right arm. She lives on in the memory of her music and in her love for Theodor, and does not feel her loss. The girl eloped with the young sculptor, who dominated her life, and is the happy mother of his child. Now, there is no reason whatever why these young people should not marry, except that each is a devout disciple of unfettered love, and they are not ashamed to own their creed before the world. Some of the scenes are—in spite of the doubtful moral—very effective, and the acting of Fräuleins Lehmann and Triesch, Herren Bassermann, Grunwald, and others was masterly in its adherence to life.

It is not often that a play is practically a picture of the life of its author, but that is said to be the case with *Die Brüder von St. Bernhard*, which was produced last week at the Deutsches Theater, Berlin. The author is Herr Ohorn, a schoolmaster in Saxony, who was formerly a monk. In Austria and Bavaria the public rose with one accord, and hissed the piece, which offended their religious feeling. As a literary work, Herr Ohorn's drama possesses little merit; it is the novelty of the scenes and a certain dramatic development that interest. The hero is a certain Brother Paulus. His father and mother, simple-minded bigots, insist on their son and daughter adopting the religious life. To save his sister from her fate, Paul agrees to become a monk; but after his novitiate he has enough of a life of seclusion, and goes back to the world. Thus runs the plot. The author, it appears, was educated by the Fathers of his monastery, sent to a University, passed his doctor's examination, and was raised to a position of standing by the aid of the funds of the establishment, so his satire on the monastic life seems somewhat unkind.

"DER GRAF VON CHAROLAIS," Herr von Hofmannsthal's very successful adaptation of Messager's play, is still proving a draw at the Neues. It is in the bill four or five times every week, the remaining evenings being filled by Shakespeare's *Sommernacht's Traum*.

AN old play, full of innocent mirth and healthy sentiment—Frau Birch-Pfeiffer's *Dorf und Stadt*—has been revived at the Luisen. It met, as it deserves to do, with an exceedingly cordial reception, and was very well acted. It is a matter of regret that the present-day authors do not take a small leaf out of Frau Birch-Pfeiffer's book; the majority of theatre-goers would certainly appreciate it.

A WORTHY Berlin citizen, a master-tailor by profession, Bruno Stephan by name, has recently written a play entitled *Die Brüder von Steinhof*, which was acted in some public assembly rooms with much success. The plot is reported to be interesting and out of the common, in a problematic style; the dialogue is said to be good, and the characters well-drawn and natural. The author tried his luck first of all with a comedy called *Haus in der Falle*, that had a long run some time ago at a minor theatre.

THE sudden death of Herr Otto Erich Hartleben has created a sad impression everywhere. One of the most promising of German dramatists, Herr Hartleben had scarcely passed his fortieth year, and had at the time of his death a number of works in hand. *Rosenmontag* was his most successful play, but several others were equally meritorious. The deceased had been suffering from nervous affections for some time past, but was up and about again when the heart's action suddenly and unexpectedly failed.

DEATH has been busy lately, and not the least regretted victim is Frau Moran-Olden, who expired last week at the age of forty-nine. Frau Moran-Olden was the daughter of a Court physician, and only gained her wish of becoming an operatic singer after much opposition. Her career was a brilliant one; possessed of a fine voice of most unusual compass, she sang the rôles of Brunnhilde, Isolde, Ortrud, Norma, Carmen, and Azucena with equal ease. Frau Moran-Olden was married to Herr Bertram, one of the members of our Royal Opera Company. For many months the unfortunate lady had been an inmate of the Maison de Santé—a home for mental sufferers here.

THE charming opera, *Die Neugierigen Frauen*, will reach to-morrow its 25th performance at the Theatre des Westens. The composer, Herr Wolf-Ferrari, is coming from Venice to be present on the occasion.

THE "sleep-dancer," Mdlle. Madelain, held a séance or gave a performance—there are people who use both terms—at the Theatre des Westens on Sunday, after a preliminary display in a private house some evenings before. This remarkable dancing aroused varied feelings among the audience; some were delighted, other declared it to be revolting and painful in the extreme. In any case, it is interesting and—perhaps fortunately—a highly exceptional display.

AT the Conservatoire of Music in Cologne, under the direction of Herr General-Music Director Fritz Steinbach, the summer term will begin on April 3rd. The Conservatoire supplies complete training in all branches of music. In the theatre and dramatic school are 540 pupils and 46 teachers. The examinations for admission will take place on Thursday, March 30. Applications should be made in writing, until March 27, to the Sekretariat, Managing Committee, Conservatoire of Music, Cologne.

A STAGE STAFF SUPPER.

The third annual supper in connection with the stage staff at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, was held recently at the Rose and Crown Hotel, when about forty sat down to a capital spread.

Mr. Frank Carlyon, the popular acting-manager, occupied the chair, and was ably supported by Mr. F. L. Schmitz (president), Mr. Sydney Stevens (hon. treasurer), Messrs. J. Sheer, A. G. Goddard, and E. Leslie (committee), Mr. Frank Hersey (hon. secretary), Messrs. Russell Wallett (Dame Durden), Arthur Laceby (the Wicked Baron), and others.

After ample justice had been done to the good things provided, the CHAIRMAN submitted the toast of "The Heads of Departments, and the Stage Staff of the King's Theatre," and in doing so thanked those assembled for their loyal support and assistance during the short time he had been amongst them. He had had five years' managerial experience of suburban theatres, and during that time he had never had a better staff to deal with than that of the "King's."

The toast having been enthusiastically received, MR. SYDNEY STEVENS responded, and said that every man had done his work extremely well since he (the speaker) had been the master carpenter, and he hoped they would continue to do so.

MR. SCHMITZ intimated that Mr. J. B. Mulholland was unavoidably absent, and regretted his inability to be present, but wished they would all spend an enjoyable evening. Other toasts followed.

The programme of vocal and instrumental music was contributed to by Messrs. Ben Stirling, Roberts, Russell Wallett, Charles Barton, J. Sheer, Arthur Laceby, Gwyer, W. Hersey, and Armstrong. Mr. A. J. Blackmore being the accompanist.

On the stage, during the interval, Mr. Sydney Stevens presented Miss Isa Bowman (Boy Blue) with a beautiful basket of flowers of various hues, on behalf of the stage staff, and the pleasant gathering concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman, the committee, and secretary.

CINEMATOGRAPH RIGHTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE ERA."

SIR,—Our attention has been drawn to an advertisement appearing in "The Era," in which a cinematograph exhibition company claims to have acquired certain sole exhibition rights, "including film productions of other manufacturers, which are controlled by the said company."

As this claim appears to us to be liable to misinterpretation, we write to say that, whatever film manufacturers' productions may be controlled by the said company, on which point we know nothing, the "Elge" films, and the other productions of this firm, are not so controlled.

On behalf also of our friends, the Clarendon Film Company, whose agents we are, and the British and Foreign Biograph Companies, whom we also represent, we have to say that their productions are similarly free from any outside control.

We trust this will remove any false impression which may have been created; and we close with the final assurance to exhibitors, managers, friends, and customers generally, that no rights of any nature whatsoever have been acquired on Elge, Clarendon, or Biograph films by the company in question, and that there is no probability of the same being granted.—Yours truly,

Per pro. L. GAUMONT AND CO.,
A. C. BROMHEAD, Manager.

MR. PERCY ELLIS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I have to thank you most sincerely for the paragraphs you were good enough to insert in your last week's issue anent Mr. Percy Ellis. May I still further encroach on your kindness, and ask you to make an appeal on his behalf?

Mr. Ellis's connection with the profession fully entitles him to assistance from its members, who are ever ready to help in a case of absolute necessity such as this is. I would remind you that Mr. Ellis is suffering from rapid consumption, very little hopes are held out that he will ever recover, and his condition is aggravated by great pecuniary embarrassment. Bad as his condition is, it is the wish of some of his personal friends that further medical opinions should be obtained, in order to ascertain whether a voyage to South Africa would, at any rate, prolong his life. In any event, subscribers to this fund may be sure that every shilling is urgently needed, and that Mr. Ellis will be most grateful for the assistance.

A few personal applications I have made have resulted in the following donations being sent:—E. W. Hemingway, £2 2s.; George Ashton, £2; H. M. Ross, £2; H. J. S. Booth, £1 1s.; Miss Carlotta Zerbini, £1 1s.; "In Memoriam," £1 1s.; Charles Carey, £1 1s.; Henry Squire and Co., £1 1s.; Peter Davey, 10s. 6d.; F. Stevens, 10s. 6d.; J. J. Calder, 10s. 6d.; *Topical Times*, £2 2s.; T. Harris, £1 1s.; J. Moy, 10s. 6d.; District Messengers, 10s. 6d.

Yours faithfully,

A. F. HENDERSON,
General Manager for Sir Charles Wyndham.
New

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

A very gratifying sign of the times is given us in the report of the local meeting of the Cumberland County Council. It is evidence full and complete that a better state of public opinion is making itself felt with regard to Corporation control of fairs and pleasure fêtes.

Under bye-laws made in the year 1897—just one year before the Showmen's Guild took up the important work of opposing unjust enactments—the County Council passed the following bye-law:—

No. 8.—(1) No person shall in any street or on any land adjoining or near thereto, use or play, or cause to be used or played, any steam organ or other musical instrument worked by mechanical means, to the annoyance or disturbance of residents or passengers.

(11) No person shall in any street or on any land adjoining or near thereto, keep or manage, or cause to be kept or managed, a shooting gallery, swing boat, roundabout, or any other construction of a like character, so as to cause obstruction or danger to the traffic in such street.

Now, such a law made it possible for anyone so minded to hinder, if not prevent, the holding of customary fairs and feasts—for there was no saving clause limiting the exercise of such drastic powers.

After eight years' operation of this bad bye-law the County Council (to its credit, be it said) has changed its mind, and now proposes to amend the bye-law by adding the following words: "The bye-law shall not apply to any pleasure fair or on occasion of public rejoicings, or on any such days of the year as should be defined by such local authority on a list in a schedule to be deposited with the Clerk of the County Council."

We sincerely congratulate the show people travelling the Cumberland round on this removal of vexatious power of obstruction and annoyance, and earnestly trust that the good example set by the County Council of Cumberland will be followed by other councils and local governing bodies having inimical bye-laws. The time is coming when the United Showmen will have to contest some of these old and bad bye-laws passed into law at a time when the travelling showman was without any organisation or means of defending his lawful business or making his voice heard in the councils of the Empire.

Another most gratifying fact is that the Guild began its new sessional Parliamentary work with only one Bill to fight—namely, the Colne Corporation Bill. Two petitions have been lodged at the Private Bills Office against the Bill. We give the full text of the Petition, which tells its own tale.

COLNE CORPORATION.

PETITION AGAINST THE BILL PRAYING TO BE HEARD BY COUNSEL.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The Humble Petition of the United Kingdom Showmen and Vandwellers' Protection Association sheweth—

1. That a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") has been introduced, and is now pending in your Honourable House, intituled "A Bill for making further and better provision in regard to the Markets and the supply of Gas, Water, and Electricity by the Corporation of Colne, and the Improvement, Health, and Good Government of the Borough, and for other purposes."

2. The promoters of the Bill are the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Colne (hereinafter called "the Corporation").

3. Your petitioners are an Association founded in 1890 with *inter alia* the following object: To watch any attempt at legislation which is calculated to affect or interfere with the rights or business of Showmen and Vandwellers in general, and to take such proceedings in Parliamentary and other matters as may be deemed advisable.

4. The members of your Petitioners' Association are showmen, stall-holders, and others carrying on business at fairs throughout the United Kingdom. The property, rights, and interests of the said members are injuriously affected by the Bill, and your Petitioners object thereto for the reasons hereinafter stated.

5. By Clause 31 of the Bill it is proposed to be enacted as follows: "It shall not be lawful for any person to permit or suffer in any street or streets within the borough any obstruction to the ordinary traffic from the standing of carts, caravans, or other vehicles or from any booths, shows, stalls, or otherwise, and the Corporation shall have full power to prevent any such obstruction under any public Act."

6. The fairs held within the Borough of Colne are, and always have been, held in the streets, and showmen, stall-holders, and others have a right at common law to obstruct the ordinary traffic in such streets when attending the fairs customarily and lawfully held therein.

7. Your Petitioners humbly submit that the effect of the said Clause 31, if passed into law, would be to prevent the fairs now held within the Borough of Colne from being held in future, and that the Corporation should not be permitted to abolish fairs in an indirect manner, but should be left to take such action as they may think needful under the Fairs Acts, 1871 and 1873.

8. The Preamble of the Bill in so far as it relates to the matters aforesaid is unfounded and incapable of proof.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honourable House that the Bill may not pass into law as it now stands, and that they may be heard by their Counsel, Agents, and Witnesses against the Preamble and Clauses thereof, and, in the event of the Preamble being proved, then in support of such Clauses and Provisions as may be necessary for their protection and benefit, and that your Honourable House may grant to your Petitioners such further and other relief in the premises as to your Honourable House may seem meet.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

GEORGE SANGER, *President.*
WILLIAM CLARKE, *Vice-President.*
THOMAS HURST, *Honorary Secretary.*

A petition in identical terms was also presented signed by Susan Holden, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Holden, John Bunkall, John Sharpe, and William Shorrock.

An exciting incident occurred one day last week at the Torrey and Alexander Mission at the Albert Hall, when a man was seen pushing his way through the dense crowd, carrying on his shoulder a formidable-looking object, with three long legs attached. Having reached his goal, the man deposited his load on the floor, and, without paying the slightest attention to the terrified people around him, straightway commenced to turn a handle at the side of the thing at a quick rate. A whisper of "Anarchist" spread through the building. Dr. Torrey stopped speaking; and before many more revolutions of the handle had taken place, the man and his infernal box of tricks were outside, surrounded by policemen, with a faint echo of the "Glory Song" humming in his ear.

It transpired later that the man—a representative of Messrs. L. Gaumont and Co., the well-known cinematographers—was an expert in motion photography, but his zeal had caused such a flutter in the dove-cot that his ambition on this occasion was *not reached.*

KEMP'S Theatre of Moving Pictures and Empire of Varieties was the veritable centre of attraction. Right and left were the excellent shows of John Proctor and Crighton, of Norwich; Buffalo Bill's Menagerie; Enoch Farrar, with two shows, the Hall of Laughter and the Fine Art Gallery; and Relph, two ground booths, the Giant Rodents and the Distorting Mirrors—all excellent attractions and quite maintaining the reputation of Lynn Mart Pleasure Fair. With these must be included Harry Hughes's Boxing Saloon, and Mrs. Hughes's Picture Show. Amongst the colossal riding machines, Aspland's Venice in Lynn was a good first, closely followed by the fine sets of P. Collins, Limited, and Tuby and Sons. J. W. Waddington's twin ships in the air, and Holmes's miniature horses, and Thompson and Cheeseman's sets of high-fliers and pack-swings—undoubtedly forming a galaxy of moving colour and light. The minor novelties included the shooting galleries, bottle batteries, and rifle ranges of Messrs. G. Holmes, H. Westrop, Sherratt, Cheeseman, R. Holmes, Fendick, and T. Bond; coker shies, throwing games, dolly frames, and dart and ring boards by Messrs. Holmes Bros., Westrop, Fendick and Bonds; bazaars and pannum and other stalls by Messrs. Thompson, Suett, Whyatt, Cheeseman, and Bond. An interesting feature was the Temperance refreshment booth, opened and managed by a committee of local ladies.

THE sale of roundabouts, steam swings, &c., at the works of Messrs. Savage Brothers, Limited, drew a large crowd of roundabout owners and showmen from all parts of the kingdom and from the Continent. Despite the eloquence of the auctioneer, bids came slowly and very cautiously. We understand that a French firm bought the big set of steam roundabouts. The highest bid was £570, the steam twin ships in the air set were withdrawn, not reaching the reserve price. The smaller lots went very cheaply. Amongst the prominent showmen and roundabout proprietors at the sale were the Brothers Murphy, the Brothers Studt, the young Wilmots, Hurst, Whiting, Holmes, Wallis, Mitchell, Clarke, Pruett, George Green, Geoghegan, Holden, Thurston, Booker, Dennis (from France), J. B. Whitehead, Terry, of P. Collins, Limited, and many others. A very pleasing interlude of the sale was the taking of a photograph of the showmen present.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Guild Fund for 1905:—

H. Thurston and Sons	£4	0 0	G. F. S. Evans	1	0 0
John Relph	1	1 0	Henry Studt	0	10 6
John Studt	1	1 0	Wm. Kemp	0	10 6
John Curis and Son	1	1 0	H. Bloxham	0	10 6
W. Davies	1	0 0	J. Wingate	0	10 6
Jacob Studt and Son	1	0 0	John Cooper	0	10 6
			B. Howden	0	10 0
			T. Harniess	0	10 0
			W. Seonce	0	10 0
			G. F. S. Evans	1	0 0

PENNY shows or concerns that appeal either to the prurient or the gambling passions of man.

Our committee has repeatedly and most strongly urged the vital importance of proper control over all exhibits on the fair grounds of the country. This is not only right, but experience has proved over and over again the wisdom of the policy from a business point of view.

TOM NORMAN, "Silver King," and the Poole Brothers, of Myriorama fame, are doing record business at the large Exhibition Rooms, Oxford-street, Reading, with their £1,000 original picture, "The Slave Market at Cairo," and will remain there one week longer.

THE historic Lynn Mart, with its old-time pleasure fair, was duly proclaimed, with municipal pomp and dignity, on Tuesday. The scene of the proclamation was the ancient one on the Tuesday Market near where the Market Cross once stood—now midway between Aspland's magnificent set of gondolas and the splendid Venetian switchback of P. Collins and Co., Limited. The Mayor (Alderman Dunn) was attended by the members of the Markets and Fairs Committee, the Mace-bearer, and the Town Crier, the Town Clerk, and other officials of the ancient Borough of King's Lynn. The whole historic setting was set forth in these columns a year ago, in a special article on the Historic Fairs of Great Britain, and it is enough to remind our readers that the present proclamation is a revival of the ancient glories of Lynn Mart. We believe it was the present Mayor of Lynn—a warm friend of showmen—who revived the picturesque ceremonies. He is, therefore, peculiarly happy in his kindness and zeal for all good work amongst show people. Now the Fair itself will continue for about a fortnight, the big days being the Saturdays. Lynn Fair is the "start" for a round of East Anglian fixtures, lasting up to Easter, and then joining another important round, under Messrs. Barker and Thurston's management, lasting right away up to Whitsuntide. Following Lynn Mart, we have Downham Winnell Fair, then Wisbech, Peterborough, Spalding, Stamford, Grantham, up to Norwich and Great Yarmouth for Easter week. From Easter week the round proceeds to Beccles, Woodbridge, Colchester, and then the great Whitsuntide fixtures at various places in and near London—such as Wanstead Flats, the Crystal Palace, and Hampstead Heath.

LYNN MART. *Photo. by T. Smith and Sons.*

WE extract the following letter from the Wigan papers of Saturday last:—

THE PROPOSED ABOLITION OF WIGAN PLEASURE FAIR.
AN OPEN LETTER BY THE REV. T. HORNE, HON. CHAPLAIN THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.
TO THE CITY FATHERS AND TO THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF TOIL.

It is proposed, after full thirty years disuetude, to take advantage of a clause in a Corporation Act passed for general purposes, to discontinue (that is the legal term) Wigan Old Charter Pleasure Fairs.

A great deal can be said, and will be clearly set forth at the right moment, as to the evident straining of the terms of an Act of Parliament never intended to supersede the ordinary and well-known constitutional procedure, whereby fairs that have become obsolete or objectionable may be abolished. My business to-day is not with the interpretation of ambiguous legal phrases, but with the broader principles of justice and fair play between man and man.

Is it just to the sons and daughters of toil, O ye city fathers, arbitrarily to assume the power to limit and curtail the rights and privileges of your people in their holidays and pleasure?

Who made ye the judges? Who set ye in the seats of the mighty? Why, the votes of the very democracy that ye now presume to order and to dictate their pleasures and amusements. Whence came your mandate, O ye city fathers? What is the voice of the people constitutionally expressed in open meeting? Why, it is that ye proceed at once and undo this thing that ye have done.

"O my brethren of the Serious Face," O ye owls of gravity—and would-be oracles of wisdom and shrines of piety. Why see evil in the people's pleasures?

Must the people be taught a doctrine of dour gloom and sadness? Shall the ripple of joy and gladness be no more heard on your streets?

I ask now, why should the people not have full opportunity of amusement and fellowship in harmless fun and jollity?

Fairs, like all other human things, are liable to injury and decay. The right thing is to mend them, where wrong has been shown; not to punish the good for the wisdom of the evil.

The Markets Committee have absolute control of the nature and character of the shows. The police have absolute powers to conserve the morals of Wigan, and to punish the vultures and vampires of vice. I ask, in the name of eternal justice, why do they not do their duty?

If a tithe of what has been said is true, what a sad confession of moral obliquity, of neglect of plain duty!

Let me say here and now that our Guild is more than a trade society; that wherever a member of our Guild is the lessee of a fair ground he is bound by our society to refuse standing ground to catch-penny shows, and to use his influence to prevent the existence of such.

EASTER FAIRS, 1905:—Evesham, Malvern, Halesowen, and Abberley Valley, near Stourport.

OTHER FAIRS, 1905:—

Mar. 25. Stourbridge	June 14. Broadway
Mar. 25. Henley-in-Arden	(Wake)
May 1. Tenbury	June 16. Chipping Campden
June 12. Evesham	
June 22. Kidderminster	June 17. Mickleton
June 20. Shipston - on - Stour	June 17. Snowshill (Wake)
June 24. Bromsgrove	June 19. Bidford-on-Avon
June 26. Pershore	

What the individual showman lessee can do, why not the great and mighty Corporation of Wigan?

"Improve the fair, if you think it needs it, but oh, please, good sirs, don't improve us off the face of the earth." Let us, the poor showmen, come and sell you our wares. We have things to sell. For all are architects of fate, working in these walls of time—some with implements and great, some with instruments and rhyme. Let us bring our tinkling cymbals, our joys of laughter, our ready wares of merrie joke and song.

I once met a clown on the hard road of life,
I rested me down by his side;
His merry fun banished my devil of strife,
I laughed, yea, I laughed till I cried:
"Sir clown, an' your mercy grant me the nonce,
Your jokes, your light-hearted fun,
Hath driven fell megrims out of my sconce;
God keep thee, good man—well done."

To the sons and daughters of toil, I say—why should you allow your old-time customs to be the subject of other men's despite? What know these men of your hard-won times of relaxation, your all too few hours of rest and joy?

Some, who may have climbed on your backs into place and power, think you can well do without times of rest. Tell them your fairs (for, after all, they are yours, and not the property of the Aldermen and Councillors) must continue until you wish it otherwise. Let them know at the next municipal election that the will of the people is that the fairs remain. Let them know that it is nothing less than an invasion of your territory. Your rights and privileges in your holidays and recreation is at stake. Make them to feel that in this matter they have out-stepped the lawful functions of good government. Let them retreat with what good grace is left to them from a position that is intrinsically wrong. Let them repent in time, and obey the people, for after all, it is a people's question.

Yours ever, for God and for good,
T. HORNE.

SHOWMEN IN COUNCIL.

(SPECIAL TO "THE ERA.")

The fifteenth annual gathering of showmen at King's Lynn was held on Thursday last in the Town Hall (kindly lent by the Mayor), at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

The Mayor (Ald. E. Dunn), who presided, was supported by the Rev. T. Horne, Hon. Chaplain to the Showmen's Guild, and T. Watson Wright, general and parliamentary solicitor. As the deputation from the Guild, the following local gentlemen were present: the Rev. Alfred Huddle, St. Nicholas Church; the Rev. G. Smallpiece, the Rev. G. S. Hand, All Saint's; the Deputy-Mayor, Mr. F. J. Carpenter, Alderman John Savage, Councillors Wm. Savage and W. S. Dexter; the Town Clerk, Mr. J. W. Woolstencroft, and many others. The prominent showmen present were John Stuart, Cardiff; Mr. Relph, Northampton; Mr. Jefferys, John Wilmot, Mrs. and Miss Wilmot, and Walter Wilmot, Glasgow; H. Hughes, London; T. Smith, Manchester; Wm. Mitchell, sen., Heywood; Wm. Holmes, Manchester; H. Hibbert, Stockport; Mr. Evans, Portobello, Edinburgh; T. Harniess, Rotherham; J. Geogeghan, Oldham; Mr. Affleck, Lynn; W. Davis and Mrs. Davis, Stoke-on-Trent; J. Taylor, London; G. H. Kemp, Leicester; T. Brannan, Doncaster; W. Murphy and John Murphy, Newcastle; H. J. Wallis, Seaforth; B. Mitchell, Heywood; J. Leo, Preston; Geo. Green, Glasgow; John Green Preston; J. Cariess, Newcastle; John Whiting and Mrs. Whiting, Manchester; B. Howden, Boston, Lincs.; A. Wentworth, Paris; T. Hurst, Clifton, Manchester; Mr. Terry, Birmingham; W. H. Marshall and G. Marshall, Bradford; J. W. Waddington, Leeds; J. Wingate, Skegness; E. Holland, Messrs. Danter, Wales; Jacob Studt, J. Dooner, Bristol.

The Mayor, in opening the meeting, met with a great ovation, his well-known sympathies with the men and women of the road being warmly acknowledged. He said, that, looking over a lifetime spent as a dweller on the old historic Fair ground, the Tuesday Market, he well remembered the condition of the show people forty or more years ago. He acknowledged that no class of people had evidenced more the important trend of modern days in the all-round betterment of the country than the travelling showmen—their shows and entertainments, their movable dwellings, the spirit of their profession or business in life, were alike remarkable. He paid this testimony willingly, and assured the showmen that so long as they kept in touch with the progressive elements in society, they would hold the goodwill of the Corporation and people of Lynn. He was glad to know from his esteemed and reverend friend, their chaplain (Mr. Horne), that effective means were taken to provide educational facilities for the children of the Fair ground.

He complimented them on the fact that their business interests were in the capable hands of so able an expert as Mr. Watson Wright, their Guild solicitor, and that their moral and spiritual well-being had enlisted the help and guidance of Mr. Horne.

He would not further stand between the meeting and these two gentlemen, but at once call upon Mr. Watson Wright, the solicitor, to address the meeting.

MR. WATSON WRIGHT, in his opening remarks, dwelt upon the early history of the Guild, and its triumphs over the mistaken faddists and narrow minded bigots who essayed to interfere not only with showmen, but also with the open amusements of the people. George Smith and his movement taught the showmen the value of combination. By their Association they had stemmed the tide of fast-rising prejudice against their business as a body, and also raised the public esteem, rapidly being taken away from them by bitter enemies of shows and fairs. Their Parliamentary work had been marked by success in every instance. Every year fifty to one hundred private Bills, promoted by public bodies, came to Parliament for powers and privileges of all kinds. They had to watch this mass of proposed legislation, and wherever and whenever mischief was designed against them, they had to meet that evil, and get it thrown out of the Bill. A proof of their great success would be found in the fact that while in the first year of their Parliamentary work, just four years ago, they had to deal with thirty Bills, they had but one Bill in the present Session. The moral warning to Corporations of last year's victory over the Acton authority had been seriously considered by the promoters of Private Bills in the present Session, and the result was that only the Corporation of Colne, in Lancashire, had refused to learn the obvious lesson that the defeat of Acton gave to all whom it might concern. He referred at length to the present state of the defence of the people's rights and liberties at Wigan.

He felt sure that the Corporation would see that (in ignorance) it had taken up a false position, and that it would with good grace retreat from that position. It was *ultra vires* and against the grand principles of the Magna Charta to prevent lawful traders carrying on their craft and business in life. It was an invasion of the rights of every subject of our Sovereign to move from place to place without let or hindrance to impose restraints and disabilities other than those imposed upon all citizens alike at Common Law. Repeatedly, this wrong had been done in Private Bill legislation, and by by-laws in the bad old days before they—the showmen—had banded themselves together for the defence of their business and their rights and principles as subjects of the King. He warned them that unless they supported their Guild with ample means, they would be doing themselves the greatest possible injury and injustice.

The REV. T. HORNE, the HON. CHAPLAIN, explained the educational and religious side of the Guild's many-sided enterprise. He was especially insistent upon the much ignored truth that ninety per cent. of the travellers frequenting our Fairs for business purposes, were householders as well as van-dwellers. He affirmed that the children were well within the net of National education, because they were left at the permanent home of the family until after the school age. He read out the list—a lengthy and constantly-growing one—of honorary local chaplains. His Grace of York, years ago, expressed the deepest interest in their work, and next week he trusted to see his own Diocesan, the Bishop of London, and explain the work of the Guild to him.

The showman as a worker, not ashamed of his craft, should always endeavour to give their toil-worn patrons—the workers of the Empire—full worth for their money. They did their work in union with all these good men of every phrase of human thought and energy that helped to make this sad-eyed old England merry once more. Why should not the genius and the talent they gave to the people be recognised, and its true place awarded them in the great commonwealth of enterprise and labour?

He saw no essential difference between their work for the mutual well-being and the work of the settled inhabitants of city or town. They might be itinerants, but that did not mean outlaw or vagabond. Nomads to a certain extent they must be, but not pariah and outcast. The rev. gentleman concluded by an appeal to those present to support their own society, and make it increasingly useful as a means of defence and advance. For his part he wished no higher reward than the consciousness that he was serving his brethren of the road.

The REV. A. HUDDLE, Curate of St. Nicholas, the parish in which the Fair ground is situated, moved a vote of thanks to the Mayor, for presiding over the gathering, and granting the Guild the use of that historic room for their meeting.

This was seconded by Alderman JOHN SAVAGE, of Messrs. Savage Bros., Ltd., and carried with acclamation, and the meeting terminated. Twenty members were enrolled after the meeting.

THE following message of congratulation and good cheer was sent on Thursday from showmen at their meeting at Lynn to their honoured leader and President, Lord George Sanger:—"The showmen at Lynn Mart, in meeting assembled, send their heartfelt good wishes for your speedy restoration to health and strength, and trust that you, their friend and fellow-showman, may be soon on the road again."

MR. T. H. CROWTHER, champion skater and swordsman, who is a Bradford man, thus describes his week's experiences at Wolverhampton, of which the recent fire was the culminating point. "When I arrived on Saturday, Jan. 28, I found twenty-five persons all clamouring for money. The manager by promises managed to get rid of them by 11.45 p.m.

"On Monday I made a successful *début*, although I was very much out of practice. When I got to my lodgings at 11.15 p.m., I heard the manager had gone to Blackpool, and would not return. All of us artistes arranged to keep the show going on equal shares. On Thursday I had a spill, but recovered sufficiently to keep my engagement. On Saturday evening we shared receipts very unequally. On Sunday morning I heard the theatre was burnt down. I went there, and found one end was gutted. A number of loafers round were trying to steal anything portable. I packed and locked up securely my goods not destroyed, and got back to my lodgings to find the sitting-room window open. The daughter of the housekeeper had eloped, and I found everybody busy, the kitchen chimney being on fire. The police and others soon put it out. I then settled my bill, and left for Bradford."

LEICESTER, which has been called "the metropolis of dissent," where at one time a music-hall was looked upon by the vast majority of the religious people of the town as an evil, has completely turned round in its opinions since the erection of the Palace Theatre there, by Mr. Oswald Stoll. The wholesome entertainment that has been submitted has completely won over all classes of society, and visits to the hall are made by some of the most prominent clerics and laymen of the town. This is a most healthy sign, which cannot but reflect the highest credit on Mr. Stoll and Mr. Leonard Vidal, the acting-manager. A short time ago, Mr. William Stanyon, a leading Nonconformist, wrote a letter to the local Press, in which he gave his impressions of a visit to the hall, which he described as a revelation, and an ornament to the town.

MR. OSWALD STOLL has generously given the use of the splendid Hackney Empire for a grand matinée on March 16 next, in aid of the funds of the Children's Hospital, Hackney-road. Mr. Walter Johnson, the Empire's accomplished musical director, has composed a march specially for the occasion, and has dedicated it to Mr. L. J. Stewart, a prominent Hackney gentleman, who is organising and arranging the benefit.

A NEW song scena which is to be produced at the Coliseum bears the title of *Gollywogs*, and has been written around Mr. Will Bishop by Mr. Roland Carse and Mr. Walter Slaughter. In it Mr. Bishop will introduce his famous "Golliwog Dance." Miss Sybil Arundale and Miss Bessie Butt have characters in the piece allotted to them, and the efforts of these talented ladies will be supported by a number of trained children. In another scena, entitled *The Hielan' Fishwife*, we are promised an agreeable medley of popular Scotch airs. The name-part will be played by Miss Decima Moore, who will be assisted by the stock company. Miss Moore, we learn, is to introduce a whistling solo.

THE verisimilitude to actual fact of Mr. Harry Bedford's satirical song, "Here comes the Foreigner," was well exemplified on Friday last, when the members of the Women's Liberal Unionist Association were informed by a prominent speaker on social and economic subjects that, in one street in the East End, the native population had been gradually ousted, until only one Englishman remained, and he was most likely Irish, for, with true Celtic irony, he exhibited a card in his window, bearing the inscription, "English spoken!" Messrs. Weston and Barnes are the joint writers of the biting, scathing, yet withal humorous song, founded on a similar subject, and published by Messrs. Francis and Day some time ago.

PRESENTATION.—Master Roy Lorraine, on his departure from New York recently, received from Mr. Gaston Mayer a silver initialled pocket grip, and also presents from Miss Cynthia Brooke and Miss N. Mostyne.

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.

PANTOMIME SEASONS,

1904-5-6.

CINDERELLA

ran its allotted time—Six Weeks—
and had to be withdrawn
in the height of its success.
Played to £2,918. Record House, £161.
Sixth and Last Week, £517.

MISS MAY MARTON, CINDERELLA.

TRANSFERRED IN ITS ENTIRETY to

THE OLYMPIA,

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Notwithstanding "Giant" Opposition,
the following Returns have resulted at
Cheap Prices :—
Gallery, 3d. ; Pit, 6d. ; Balcony, 9d. ;
Stalls, 1s. 0d. ; Orchestral Stalls, 2s. 0d.

1905.

Jan. 23 to Feb. 4.	First Week. £ s. d.	Second Week. £ s. d.
Monday	52 7 8	73 5 10
Tuesday	53 14 3	72 7 8
Wednesday	63 18 7	85 17 7
Thursday	59 7 7	83 2 0
Friday	47 17 4	70 15 7
Saturday Matinée	37 7 10	35 10 3
Saturday Evening	121 3 0	110 0 3
Gross	£435 16 3	£530 19 2

RETAINED FOR TWO FURTHER WEEKS.

Feb. 6. to Feb 18.	Third Week. £ s. d.	Fourth Week. £ s. d.
Monday	57 2 6	45 12 0
Tuesday	50 11 8	42 17 3
Wednesday	63 19 10	61 4 1
Thursday	55 0 6	48 12 4
Friday	39 18 0	
Saturday Matinée	33 7 3	
Saturday Night	105 13 5	
	£405 13 2	

MISS MAY MARTON, CINDERELLA.

CINDERELLA

also, in consequence of Great Reputation,
to be transferred to the

GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE,

and to Re-open, after Elaborate Alterations, the

QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD.

CINDERELLA

went to the Tyneside for Two Weeks,
but remains Seven.
Business-Manager, Mr Chas. G. Cautley.

GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH.

SECOND PANTOMIME.

"RED RIDING HOOD,"

including
Miss FLORRIE FORDE.

	£ s. d.
First Saturday	129 10 6
Second Saturday	134 10 1
Third Saturday	109 11 5

THIRD PANTOMIME.
Mr John Tiller's

"DICK WHITTINGTON."

Three Weeks, Feb. 27 to March 18.

THE "GRAND" PANTOMIME, 1905-6,

"ALADDIN."

MISS MAY MARTON.

Touring Pantomime, 1905-6,

CINDERELLA.

All communications re Dates, &c., to the
MANAGER for the GRAND THEATRE COMPANY,
Mr. EADE MONTEFIORE,
Telegrams, "Montefiore, Edinburgh."

COLONIAL THEATRES.

AUSTRALIA.—
MELBOURNE, SYDNEY.

Mr. J. C. Williamson,
Manager of the Leading Australian Theatres.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, MELBOURNE;
HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, SYDNEY;
THEATRE ROYAL, SYDNEY.
London Representative, J. A. E. Malone, Daly's Theatre.

AUSTRALIA.—
Mr. HARRY RICKARDS'S
AUSTRALIAN ENTERPRISES :—
NEW TIVOLI THEATRE, SYDNEY;
NEW TIVOLI HOTEL, SYDNEY;
NEW GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MELBOURNE;
NEW PRINCE OF WALES'S HOTEL, MELBOURNE;
THEATRE ROYAL, BRISBANE;
TIVOLI THEATRE, ADELAIDE;
THEATRE ROYAL, PERTH.

Mr. Rickards is always open to Engage First-Class Artistes for the above-named Theatres.
Address to the Head Office, Tivoli Theatre, Sydney.
Cable address, "Tivolian, Sydney."

AUSTRALIA.

BROUGH-FLEMING COMEDY COMPANY.
BROUGH-FLEMING COMEDY COMPANY.

All Arrangements now Complete until Easter, 1906.

All communications, c/o Messrs. Blake & Riggall, 120, William-st., Melbourne.

London Representative, R. Golding Bright, 20, Queen-st., Leicester-sq., W.C.

SOUTH AFRICA.—
B. and F. WHEELER.
Associate Manager, G. H. SMITH.
Messrs. B. and F. WHEELER now control the only Circuit of Theatres in South Africa.
The leading Theatres in
JOHANNESBURG,
PRETORIA,
CAPETOWN,
DURBAN.

Companies now Touring :—
The Wheeler-Edwardes Gaiety Company,
Wheeler's Répertoire Company,
John F. Sheridan,
and
The Moody-Manners Opera Company.

London Representative,
J. A. E. Malone, Daly's Theatre.

AFRICA.—
LEONARD RAYNE
is now in England on Business
relating to his Enterprises in South Africa.

Business-Manager in South Africa,
Grant Fallowes.
London Representative,
George Rayne.
Portugal House, Portugal-street, W.C.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

ALDERSHOT, THEATRE ROYAL
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes.
Vacant May 29, June 12 (?), 26, July 17, 24, on.
Address, C. Sounes, Woodlawn, Blackheath, London.
Telephone 85 Woolwich.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—
Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis.
The handsomest and most complete Theatre in the Provinces; Holding Capacity over 3,300.
Only vacant Spring Date, May 29.
For Dates for August and onward,
Apply to
Mr. Tom B. Davis, Lyric Theatre, London.

BLACKPOOL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.

The Press says :—The Grand is the prettiest theatre in the world.
Everybody is charmed with this magnificent temple of the drama.
Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree says :—There is no theatre in either London or the provinces better appointed or better managed.
Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree says :—It is the most perfect theatre in England.
Mr. Wilson Barrett said it was the most perfect theatre he ever performed in.
Congratulations and Compliments
on every hand from
both Public and Professions.
Every Comfort and Convenience provided for the Patrons of this lovely Theatre.
Each portion of the Theatre is provided with separate Refreshment Rooms.
The Theatre is Thoroughly Warmed and Ventilated on the most Modern Principle.
Electric Light, own Installation.
Matcham's Masterpiece is a Model Theatre.
Financial and Artistic Success.
Acknowledged by Everyone to be "the" Theatre Second to None in the Kingdom.
Every Comfort and Convenience for the Artists.
The most Comfortable and Perfect Dressing-rooms of any Theatre in England.
Only First-class Companies. Holds at Ordinary Prices over £300. Open all the Year Round.
Holds at the same Prices £100 more than any Theatre in the Town.

BLACKPOOL.—
HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE,
WINTER GARDENS.
The PRINCIPAL THEATRE.
Holds MORE MONEY at ORDINARY PRICES, and has better average Business throughout the Year than any Theatre in the Town.
The most Comfortable, Elegant, and Best Equipped Theatre. Large and Well Electric-Lighted Stage and First-class Orchestra.
All Visitors to the Theatre have Free Admission to the Winter Gardens, Floral Hall, Empress Ballroom, and Pavilion Entertainments, thus Companies visiting Her Majesty's Opera House have this additional attraction, which no other Theatre can offer. Only best No. 1 Companies booked.
For Dates address, Jno. R. Huddlestone, Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

BLACKPOOL COLOSSEUM.—
BLACKPOOL COLOSSEUM.
BLACKPOOL COLOSSEUM.

SEASON 1905.

Situate at the junction of the Blackpool and Lytham Tramways, on the Marine Parade, opposite the Manchester Hotel, in the heart of Blackpool.
The Building (which is 127ft. in diameter, 41ft. high to the eaves, and 83ft. to the Lantern) is Lighted by Electricity, and as a place for Animal Entertainments is unique, it being the only building in Blackpool that, in consequence of its being free from pillars and other obstructions, affords the necessary height and space for Diavolo's performance of "Looping the Loop."
The Walls are covered with the World-renowned picture "Niagara" painted by the great artist Phillipoteau.
For the last eight or ten years Blackpool has been extending around and for miles south of the Colosseum in a marvellously rapid manner. Thousands of houses have been built and are occupied, and there has not been any place of Public Entertainment provided for the Masses of the People south of the Tower.
The Colosseum provides a long-felt want in this New and Populous Neighbourhood.
The Authorities estimate that about Four Million Persons visited Blackpool last Season.
The great Popularity of the Colosseum is shown by the fact that, although only partially occupied during a part of a Blackpool Season, upwards of 100,000 paid for Admission during the remaining part of the season.
Offers for the 1905 Season on Sharing Terms should be made to the Undersigned, who will furnish any further information.
Blane and Riding,
30, Birley-street; or,
Garlick and Sykes,
22, Birley-street, Blackpool.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

BROMYARD, HEREFORDSHIRE.—
THE PUBLIC HALL.
Lessee, E. T. Cuff, Falcon Hotel.
Above Hall is now Available for Concerts, Theatrical, Variety Entertainments of All Kinds. Apply as above.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE (Ltd.).
Man. Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.
A theatre among the most beautiful in England.—Sunday Times.
Vacant Dates (in Term Time, no Dramas), March 20 and May 29 to June 7.
Silence polite negative. Address as above.

CHELTENHAM. — THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Gen. Man., H. Oswald Redford. The Popular County Theatre. Visited by the Best Artistes and their Companies all the year round.
A few good Autumn dates left.
Re Dates as above,
Silence in all cases a polite negative.

CHELTENHAM.—VICTORIA ROOMS (late Corn Exchange), HIGH-ST. Lessee and Man., Edward B. Shenton (late Lessee of the Old T. R. and Assembly Rooms). Available for Entertainments, Concerts, Lectures, &c. Share or Rental. Seat 1,000 persons. Full dramatic Licence.

COATBRIDGE, N.B.—
THEATRE ROYAL,
Proprietrix, Mrs. Mary Watson.
Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.
One of the most Up-to-Date and Successful Theatres in Scotland.
Lighted throughout by Electricity.
Stage Dimensions :—
Stage to Grid, 45ft. ;
Footlights to Back Wall, 30ft. ;
Wall to Wall, 65ft. ;
Opening, 21ft. by 25ft. :
Between Fly Rails, 32ft. ;
Seating Accommadation, 2,000.
Prices :—Private Boxes, 21s. and 15s. ; Single Seats, 3s. and 2s. 6d. ; Dress Circle, 2s. ; Balcony, 1s. 6d. ; Pit Stalls, 1s. ; Pit, 9d. ; Gallery, 6d.
Communications re Dates to
Manager.

COLCHESTER, THEATRE ROYAL.—
Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona.
Vacant Dates, March 13, April 17, Four Nights, May 1(?), 8, and onwards. Apply to
Charles Macdona, 17, Shaftesbury-av., London, W.

DUBLIN.—QUEEN'S ROYAL THEATRE.
Sole Proprietor and Patentee, Mr. Ellis Jones.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread.
Address, Mr. J. W. Whitbread.
Silence in all cases a respectful negative.

DUNFERMLINE and DUMFRIES THEATRES.
Visited only by Companies of the Highest Repute.
Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.
Bookings and Rebookings include :—
George Edwardes',
F. R. Benson's Principal and North Companies,
George Dance's,
Charles Macdona's,
CharlesFrohman's,
Milton Rays',
J. Bannister Howard's,
Ben Greet's,
Wm. Greet's,
J. W. Turner's Opera Company,
Robt. Macdonald's,
John Leopold's,
Hardie and Von Leer's,
The Craggs',
Chalmers Mackey's,
and all the principal Touring Companies.
Vacant Dates,
Dunfermline, March 6 and on.
Dumfries, March 27 and on.
All coms., W. E. Potts, Theatre R., Dunfermline.

GLASGOW.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan.—The most Popular Theatre in the city. Patronised by the élite of the West of Scotland. "Cinderella" in Twelfth week of run.

GREENOCK, THEATRE ROYAL. —
Lessees, The Executors of the late Alexander Wright; Mans., A. B. Wright and J. J. Wright.—Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1905. First-class Companies only. Silence a polite negative.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE.
The new Theatre to be opened in August, 1905. Now Booking only No. 1 Attractions. All communications re dates to R. C. Buchanan, G. T., GLASGOW.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.
Proprietors, Prince of Wales's Theatre Co., Gt. Grimsby, Limited.
Managing-Director, Joseph H. Curry.
Now Booking 1905.
Telegraphic address, "Curry, Grimsby."

HANLEY, THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—
Please note :
The Staffordshire Potteries for all Dramatic Purposes
must be considered as one Large Town.
Hanley has undoubtedly the Largest Theatre and Stage in Staffordshire.
Lighted by Electricity.
Accommodation for 3,700 People.
Electric Trams and Trains after Performance to ends of the District, Longton, Stoke, Burslem, and Tunstall.
Vacant for First-Class Companies only, March 20, and onwards.
First-class Pantomime Required for Christmas, 1905.
Chas. E. Elphinstone, Managing-Director.

HULL, THEATRE ROYAL.—
Sole Lessee, Wm. Morton.
Bookings this year include :—Moody-Manners Opera (Two Weeks), Mr. Tree's Production, "The Tempest," from His Majesty's Theatre, London; "Sign of the Cross," Martin Harvey, Mrs. Russ Whytal, in "The Cardinal," "Florodora," "The Prince of Pilsen," "The Walls of Jericho," Mrs. Lewis Waller, "Sunday," "The Duke of Killicrankie," Durward Lely and William Mollison's Company, in "The Bonnie Brier Bush;" "Our Boys," Mr. Louis Calvert's Company, in "The Garden of Lies," "The Lady of Ostend," Mr. Tree's Shakespearean Répertoire Company. Vacant at the Theatre Royal for High-class Attractions, May 1 and 15.
Note.—The New Alexandra Theatre (Morton's, Limited) Caters for the Drama-loving Public, and is a uniform Success. Holding Capacity, 3,000. Popular Prices. Sliding Roof. Smoking permitted.
Address, W. Morton.

HULL.—THE CIRCUS.—
General Manager, Edward Emerson.
One of the Finest and Largest Halls in the Provinces, Fitted with Large Stage, and Suitable for Circus, Minstrels, Panoramas, Concert, and Choir Parties, &c. Rental, Share, or Salary. Only a Few Vacant Dates.

ILFRACOMBE. — RUNNACLEAVE THEATRE.
Only Theatre, Stage Enlarged, &c.,
Electric Effects.
Vacant Dates, apply Lessee.

ILKESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—
Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.
Vacant, April 10, and May 1, onwards.
Silence courteous negative.

JARROW. — THEATRE ROYAL.
BARROW.—ROYALTY T. and OPERA HOUSE.
CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.
Vacant Dates :—Jarrow, June 26 and July 3 and 10. Barrow, for First-class Musical Attractions, Easter Week, May 29, June 19, onwards. The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring. Consett, April 3 and 17, on, with exceptions. All applications for Dates to Hugh Robertson, T.R., Jarrow.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.
GUERNSEY.—ST. JULIAN'S.
Vacant, March 6, 13, 20, and 27.
Address, C. Robt. Perkins,
4, Park-place, St. James's-street, London.

KIDDERMINSTER.—OPERA HOUSE.
A Beautiful Theatre and pronounced success.
High-class Companies only entertained.
Vacant, March 13.
All communications, J. P. Moore, West Bromwich.

KING'S LYNN. — NEW ROYAL THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, J. Bannister Howard.
The above handsome Theatre has been entirely rebuilt at a cost of £3,000, and is now one of the prettiest and most comfortable theatres in the Provinces, and capable of mounting any production. Lighted throughout with Electricity, and No Free List. The Theatre can be booked in conjunction with the New Theatre, Cambridge.
Vacant dates, Feb. 27, 28, Mar. 1(?), Mar. 20, 21, 22(?), Mar. 27, 28, 29(?), April 3, 4, 5, and Easter Week. Also a few good Autumn dates left.
Address, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

LEEDS. — QUEEN'S THEATRE. —
Now playing to gigantic business with Pantomime. Vacant, March 20, April 3, 10, May 8, 29, June 5, 19, 26, all July.
Address, E. Dottridge, Empire, Oldham.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.
Sole Proprietor :—
Lieut.-Col. J. A. Winstanley.
No Vacant Dates Spring, 1905.
Re Autumn Dates, 1905, address,
Geo. M. Slater,
Royal Opera House, Leicester.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.
The Directors are prepared to Lease the above Magnificent Theatre for a Summer Season of from Two to Three Months, at a Fixed Weekly Rental, with the Use of all Scenery, Properties, and Appointments. Population of Leith, 80,000; whilst its close proximity to Edinburgh enables any special attraction to draw from the capital. Applications to
Mr. R. C. Buchanan, Managing Director,
Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

LIVERPOOL. — SHAKESPEARE THEATRE. Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney. All communications re Dates for above Theatre should in Future be Addressed to F. W. Wyndham, Esq., Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

MORECAMBE, ROYALTY THEATRE.
Sole Lessee, Julian Malvern.
General Manager, Chas. M. Julian.
Vacant, June 19, 26, and on,
Chas. M. Julian, Feb. 20, Prince's, Portsmouth.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — OLYMPIA THEATRE.
Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton.
Seating Capacity 2,000.
Holding Capacity 3,250.
To Let, from End of March, 1905
(Share or Rental).
Now playing to record Houses with "Cinderella" (from Grand Theatre, Edinburgh),
Smoking permitted.
Just concluding a successful season with
Mr. Sidney Bacon.
For terms and full particulars,
Wire or write, Richard Thornton,
Empire Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

NORWICH, THEATRE ROYAL.—
Enlarged, Redecorated, Lighted throughout by Electricity. Upholstered by Dean and Co.
Weekly Matinées for County Visitors.
Now Booking 1905.
Address, Fred Morgan, as above.

NOTTINGHAM.—GRAND THEATRE.
Manager, Charles P. Cooke.
Vacant May 15, 22, June 5, and August 7.
First-class attractions only. Silence a courteous negative.

OLDHAM, EMPIRE THEATRE,
The Premier Theatre. Holding Capacity £200.
Vacant for Principal Attractions Only.
Easter Week, May 1, 8, 22, 29.
Can Entertain First-class Pantomimes, Christmas onwards. Brilliant Productions Only.
All Communications to Ernest Dottridge.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—
Managers of First-class Companies
are invited to apply for Dates to
Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.,
Managing-Director.
Silence a polite negative.

PONTYPRIDD.—
ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.
From August 7, 1905,
Mr. Tom Jones will resume Management.
Address, 15, Wellfield-place, Cardiff.

PORTSMOUTH, NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton.
Open throughout the Year.
First-class Companies.
Weekly Matinées.

RYDE. — THEATRE ROYAL. —
Lessee and Manager, J. Bannister Howard.
This Theatre during the Winter months is only open once a month, thus assuring good business. No Free List. Next Engagement, Jan. 25, when Mrs. Langtry, Leonard Boyne, and full company will appear in "Mrs. Dering's Divorce."
February settled. March open for one company only (three nights). A few season dates left. The Theatre can be booked in conjunction with the T. R., Worthing, and Pavilion, Ventnor.
Address, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—
Enormous success with new management. Refer Gar. Kiddie, Esq. Required first-class attractions for March 6, April 3, 10, and onward. Good business done here with first-class Companies.
Fast Booking for the Fall, 1905.
Wire or write to Jas. Kiernan, Manager.

SOUTHEND - ON - SEA. — EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, W. Marlow.
The Prettiest and most Popular Place of Amusement on the South-east Coast.
All the principal Attractions Booked.
First-class Companies required
for Feb. 27.
Managers please address all communications to
W. Marlow, jun., Manager,
as above.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—PIER PAVILION.—Under Entirely New Management. Redecorated Throughout. Extra Dressing-rooms added. Electric Light, &c. Now Booking 1905. First-class Companies, Artistes, Bands, &c., communicate to Manager.

ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA.—
ROYAL CONCERT HALL.
Few Vacant Dates in Feb. and March,
Hall seats 1200, Large Stage, 24ft. opening.
Apply J. S. Wallis, Manager.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE OPERA HOUSE and THEATRE ROYAL.
Managing Director, Chas. E. Machin.
General Manager, Percival Craig.
Only Vacant Dates.
AVENUE.
March 27, May 1, 29, June 5, 12, and on.
ROYAL.
April 17, May 8, 29, June 5, 19, 26.
Managers please note Seaham Harbour is barred.
Apply, C. E. Machin, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. — OPERA HOUSE.
Lessee, Charles Carey.
Vacant,
March 2 (3 nights), March 27.
May 1 (3 nights), etc.

VENTNOR. — PAVILION. —
Under the Management of
J. Bannister Howard.
This magnificent Pavilion, lighted throughout with Electricity, can be booked in conjunction with the T. R., Ryde, and T. R., Worthing. No Free List. A few vacant dates for first-class companies.
Address, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, W. H. Westwood.—Holds £180. Circle, 3s.; Stalls, 2s.; Family Circle, 2s.; Pit Stalls, 1s. 6d.; Pit, 1s. Amphitheatre, 9d.; Gallery, 6d. First Vacant Dates, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; June 5 and 12.

WEST BROMWICH, THEATRE ROYAL.—Open All the Year Round.
Cosy, Popular, and Prosperous Theatre.
Success assured by energetic personal management.
All communications to J. P. Moore, on the Spot.

WHITBY. — SPA THEATRE. —
Season 1905. The uncertainties attending the Change of Owners being Settled, I am prepared to Book Dates. Will Managers who have written me rewrite?
Hy. Walker.

C. G. SPENCER and SONS,
BALLOON MANUFACTURERS.
Passenger Balloons (for Coal, Gas, Hydrogen, or Hot-air).
Airships, Parachutes,
Captive Advertising Balloons,
Small Skin, Paper, and Rubber Balloons.
Write for Price List.
CAPTAIN SPENCER and Lady Aeronauts for Balloon, Parachute, and Airship Displays.
Terms upon application.

56A, HIGHBURY-GROVE, LONDON, N.
Tele., "Aeronaut, London." 'Phone, 1,893 Dalston.

BOROUGH OF MARGATE.

MARINE TERRACE SANDS

OPEN-AIR PERFORMANCES

SEASON 1905.

THE COUNCIL INVITE TENDERS

for the right to give performances on three spaces on the above sands during the ensuing season.

Particulars as to the position of the spaces and any further information can be obtained on application to the undersigned,

EDWARD BROOKE,
Town Clerk.

Town Clerk's Office :
18, Cecil Square, Margate.
15th February, 1905.

Tenders, stating the amount of rent offered (which, if accepted, must be paid on or before the 1st August next), endorsed "Sand Entertainments," should be sent in to me before 1 o'clock p.m. on Monday, February 27th, 1905.

THE DOUGLAS TOWN COUNCIL

INVITES

TENDERS FOR THE SEASON OF 1905 :—

1. For the right to perform on one or more suitable positions on the Foreshore ; nature of Entertainment to be stated ; exact position to be fixed by the Borough Surveyor.
2. For occupancy of Band Stand on the Harris Promenade during the Forenoon and Afternoon, for Musical Entertainments. Applications to state the nature of the Entertainment.

Separate Tenders may be submitted for 1 or 2, or alternative Tenders may be submitted for both rights advertised above.

Persons Tendering to state the nature of the respective Entertainments, number and description of Performers in each class of Entertainment, and all other necessary particulars.

Persons Tendering must do so on the condition that the Tender is subject to the conditions of letting laid down by the Council, copies of which conditions may be seen at the Town Hall, Douglas, or obtained on application to the undersigned.

The Council does not bind itself to accept the highest or any Tender. Tenders endorsed "Entertainments" to be forwarded to the undersigned not later than Monday, the 27th day of February, 1905.

ALEXANDER ROBERTSON,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Douglas.
February, 1905.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

ROYAL VICTORIA PAVILION.

THE TOWN COUNCIL

INVITE OFFERS

for the Hiring of one or more, or all, the undermentioned parts of the above Premises for One, Two, or Three Years :—

Part A comprises magnificent Great Hall (130ft. by 65ft.), with Stage, Dressing-Rooms, &c., well adapted for Theatrical, Musical, or Variety Entertainments ; licensed for Music and Dancing, &c. Together with Upper Promenade (Revenue from charges for admission), Inside Lavatories, and a Cloak Room.

Part B.—The spacious, beautifully decorated Restaurant and Buffet (two Bars, one for the use of persons attending Performances in the Great Hall), with extensive cellarage, &c. Fully Licensed.

Part C.—The Colonnade Tea and Refreshment Rooms.

Part D.—A separate Lock-up Shop, suitable for Tobacconist, Fruiterer and Florist, Hairdresser and Perfumer, or other Business.

Offers to be delivered on or before Wednesday March 1, 1905. Further particulars and Form of Application, on which all Offers must be submitted, may be obtained from the undersigned.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any Offer.

F. C. BYRNE,
Town Clerk.

Albion House, Ramsgate, 2nd February, 1905.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTES, ARTISTES WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

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THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era," Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

COMPANIES WANTED.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, Companies for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
May 15, June 12, 19, July 10, 17, 24, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
April 3, 10, May 1, June 5, 12, 19, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
April 10, 17, 24, May 15, 22, June 5, 12, 19, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
April 17, May 8, 15, Aug. 7, 14, 21, Sept. 4, on.
CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
Vacant, April 24, May 8, 29, June 5, 12, 19.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
April 17, May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
Vacant,
April 24, May 22, 29, June 12, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Vacant,
Feb. 20 (Three Nights), Feb. 27 (Six Nights),
March 9 (Three Nights), March 27.
April 10, 17, 24, May 4, 22, 29, June 5, 12.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, Companies,
Feb. 27, six nights,
Theatre Royal, Leamington.
Apply, MILTON BODE, County Theatre, Leamington.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for STANDARD THEATRE,
Vacant, May 1, 8, 15.
TERRISS THEATRE,
March 5, April 10, 17.
METROPOLE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM,
Important Attractions for March 20, May 1, 8, 15.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE,
March 13, 20, April 10, 24, May 1.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
March 27, April 3, 17, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON,
March 6, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST-HARTLEPOOL,
May 8, 22, on.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams:—"Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Luton now doing excellent Business.
Musical Companies preferred.
Vacant, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, and Easter.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Vacant, March 9, 23, 30, April 6, and Easter.
Address, E. GRAHAM-FALCON,
County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Good Drama, Vacant April 10, May 15. The Theatre has just been thoroughly Renovated, a Scene Dock added, and a Full Electric Plant (3 Colours) installed. HERBERT VERE.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.
WANTED, through change of date, First-Class Company,
March 13.
Address, F. W. PURCELL, Alexandra Theatre, N.

THEATRE ROYAL, SHEFFIELD.
WANTED, First-Class Companies Only, April 17, May 1, 8.
Address,
F. W. PURCELL,
Alexandra Theatre, London, N.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Licensee and Manager, T. HOPCUTT.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction for March 13,
Vacant through obliging.
Address, T. HOPCUTT.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, through disappointment, First-Class Attraction, March 6, wire; March 6, wire; March 6; also March 27.
Address, HARRY YORKE.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
March 27, April 17, 24,
May 8, 15, 22.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
March 27, April 17, 24,
May 8, 15, 22.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA,
March 20, April 10, 24,
May 1, 15, 22.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

EDEN THEATRE, BISHOP AUCKLAND.
Now Booking in Conjunction with
THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH.
WANTED, for March 6, 13, April 10, on, Good Attractions.
Apply R. ADDISON, Limited.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 6, 7, 8, Three Nights, Harrogate;
Also 13, 14, 15; 16, 17, 18; 23, 24, 25.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.
March 13.
WANTED, Special Attraction for the Above Date.
FRED. FREDERICKS.

THEATRE ROYAL, SOUTH SHIELDS.
WANTED, Strong Attraction, April 17.
J. and F. COULSON.

WANTED, First-Class Fit-Up, Musical Comedy, Pantomime, or Powerful Drama, for the New Pavilion, Altrincham, Feb. 20, 27, March 13 and 20 only; good Band eight performers. BUDD, Red Lion Hotel, Altrincham.

THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKPORT.
THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for May 1, 8, June 12, onwards, with exceptions. Address, CHARLES REVILL, Stockport.

KING'S THEATRE, WALTON-ON-NAZE, ESSEX.
WANTED, Good Strong Musical Comedies and Variety Combinations (but must be good) for above Theatre, for the months of July and August (three nights each). Walton-on-Naze is one of the most fashionable and popular seaside resorts on the East Coast, so must have good show. Can stage anything. For dates.
Apply FRED BOULTON, Theatre Royal, Gloucester.

WANTED, Company, March 27, week, May 15, 16, 17, 3 nights.
WADDINGTON, Theatre Royal, York.

THEATRE ROYAL, EXETER.
WANTED, First-class Company, Feb. 27 Write, stating Terms, to MANAGER, Theatre Royal, Exeter.

COMPANIES WANTED.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

Managing Director, Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN.
The Leading Northern Theatre Tour.
Capital, £155,000.
WANTED, Wanted, Companies,
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
NEW CENTURY THEATRE, MOTHERWELL.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, AYR.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, LEITH.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.
GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, FALKIRK.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, GREENOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KIRKCALDY.

The Bookings include all the Principal Drama, Musical, and Comedy Attractions.
Important.
Managers doing business with us at New Gaiety Theatre, Leith, please note that Stockbridge is barred. The Tivoli, re-christened "The Grand," is in Stockbridge.

Address all communications to
R. C. BUCHANAN,
General Office, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.
Telegraphic address, "Bookings, Glasgow."

VICTORIA THEATRE,
STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Good Attractions for March 6, 20, 27, April 10, onwards. Bookings include "Fatal Wedding," "Silver King," "Life's Revenge," "Power of Gold," &c. Over three figures can be taken with sound attractions. Address, DAVID WILLIAMS, Manager.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for Two Nights. Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple, N. Devon.

WANTED, March 20, April 3, 17, all July. Best Dramas; new to Cardiff.
BATEMAN, King's Theatre, Cardiff.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies for March 27,
and onwards, with exceptions.
Required, Big Musical Attraction for Easter.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON.

WANTED, Companies for March 27, April 10(?), April 17 (Holy Week). Would give certainty to a really good company for the last-named date.
Apply, G. HAYES, Manager, The Pier, Eastbourne.

COURT THEATRE, GALWAY.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, Feb. 27, March 13, 20, Easter, and onwards, with exceptions. Now booking autumn. For terms, &c., please address
P. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Proprietor.

WANTED, Attractions, Leeds, March 20, April 3, 10, May 8, 29, on.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

THEATRE ROYAL, NEATH.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Attractions, 3 or 6 nights, Feb. 27 (to follow Wentworth Croke, Esq.'s, "Christian" Co.); also vac. March 6, 13 and 20. Easter still vacant. A. W. JAMES, T. R. Neath.

GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
WANTED, First-class Companies Only, for April 3 and 10. May 8, 22, 29.
Apply, G. H. GAZE, Manager.
Silence a polite negative.

ROYALTY THEATRE, LLANELLY,
Booked in Conjunction with
NEW GRAND THEATRE, ABERAVON.
WANTED, Really Good Companies, Musical Attractions Preferred.

Address, JOHN TULLY, Opera House, Wakefield.

NEW HIPPODROME THEATRE, BELFAST.
WANTED, Dramas, Pantos., &c., for Opening March next. Must be A.1. companies.
BOSKE, Hippodrome, Belfast.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. STANLEY ROGERS.
WANTED, First-class Company, Feb. 27.
Wire, ROGERS, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Companies, Mar 13, 20, 27 on, with exceptions. E. H. PAGE.

GRAND THEATRE, CROYDON.
WANTED, First-class Company (Musical Com. pref.), Ap. 10. Add (LAWSON LAMBERT.

THEATRE ROYAL,
COLNE, LANCASHIRE.
WANTED, Good Companies, March 13 and 20.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

WANTED, Companies, March 6 (6 nights), March 16 (3 nights), and on, Drama, Comedy, or Musical. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, for P.O.W.T., Salford, First-Class Companies, for March 6, 13, 20, and intermediate onwards. E. B. GOULDEN,

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Proprietors, Messrs. CARSON and GRANVILLE.
WANTED, Companies, March 13 possibly Vacant. Important Attraction.
Address,
FRED GRANVILLE.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Company, for Feb. 27.
Feb. 27.

Wire, Mr. C. F. WILLIAMS, T. R., Plymouth.

QUEEN'S THEATRE,
KEIGHLEY.
Vacant.
WANTED, First-class Musical Attractions, April 24,
May 8 and 22,
and June 5, 12, onwards

WANTED, Good Company, Victoria Theatre, Mansfield. Vacant Feb. 23 (through Transferring). Last Three Nights of Week only. Last Week, £106 on Three Nights. Wire, MANAGER.

NEW THEATRE, LOUGHBOROUGH.
WANTED, Companies, May 15 and June 5.
Now Booking Autumn.
GEO. ROBERTSON,
Loughborough.

DUMFRIES and DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, Companies, Dumfries, March 27 April 10. Dunfermline, March 6, 20, and on.
W. F. POTTS, Dunfermline.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Company, Feb. 27, Six Nights Apply,
MILTON BODE, County Theatre, Reading.

TOWN HALL, WHITLAND, SOUTH WALES.
WANTED, Known, Vacant Dates now being Booked for Dramatic and Variety Companies, &c. Good opportunity and every convenience. Situate Junction, Pembroke, Tenby, Milford, and Cardigan Railways. Apply PROPRIETOR, Whitland.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity.
Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Onwards, with exceptions. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

WANTED, Strong Society Play for Special Week.
Miss MAUD MAY, Simonside Hall, South Shields.

ST. ANNE'S PIER.
The Applicants to supply or manage a troupe of Pierrots or Minstrels are thanked for their offers, and informed that the engagement is made.

WANTED, for the Pier Pavilion, Concert, Variety, and Theatrical Companies.
Seating Accommodation for 1,000 people.
Apply,
the MANAGER,
The Pier, St. Anne's-on-the-Sea.

WANTED, Easter Week, Entertainment, complete. Share or Rental.
SHENTON, Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham. Seat 1000.

WANTED, for Corn Exchange, Bedford, Easter Monday Only, Minstrel Troupe or other First-class Entertainment. Enormous Business Certain. E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies.

EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
Vacant,
Mar. 13, April 24, May 8.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY, KENT.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY, KENT.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY, KENT.
Vacant,
Mar. 27 (3 nights), April 24.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant,
April 17, May 1 (3 nights), 15, 29.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant,
Mar. 13, April 10, 17, 24.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant,
June 19, July 31, Aug. 14.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant,
April 3, 17, 24, May 8, 15.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant,
Feb. 20 (3 nights), 27 (3 nights), Mar. 6, 13.

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant,
Feb. 20, three or six nights.
Mar. 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant,
Mar. 6, 27, April 3 (3 nights), 24.

KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
Vacant,
Mar. 20 (3 nights), 30 (3 nights), April 17, 24.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant,
April 6 (3 nights), 24, May 1, 8, 15.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant.
Mar. 23, April 3, 17, May 1, 8, 15.

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
To be Let for Non-Dramatic Performances.

All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Manor House, Hayes, Middlesex.

FOLKESTONE PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.
WANTED, High-class Companies,
March 13 (Three Nights), 20, 27 (Three Nights),
April 3,
May 1 (probably Three Nights in this week),
June 5, 19, 26,
all July,
Oct. 23, onwards. Silence Polite Negative.
H. W. ROWLAND, Manager.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL,
SEAHAM HARBOUR.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions
March 13, 20,
April 3 and 17.

A. C. HARRISON.

OLYMPIA THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Proprietor, Mr. RICHARD THORNTON.
WANTED, Good Pantomime for Two Weeks at Easter (Share or Rental).
Now Playing to Record Houses with "Cinderella," from Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.
Over 19,087 Persons Paid for Admission last week.
Seating Capacity, 2,000,
Holding Capacity, 3,250.
Smoking Permitted.
Wire or write, Mr. RICHARD THORNTON,
Empire Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, May 1, 8, 29, and June 12 (Whit Week). Can Negotiate for First-Class Pantomime for next Christmas. Applicants please state where Production can be seen.
Address, T. A. EDWARDES.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, April 3, 24, latter Spring, Holiday, Musical preferred.
Terms to RICH. WALDON.

THEATRE ROYAL, MIDDLESBROUGH.
WANTED, Companies, through Disappointment First-class Attractions Only need apply March 13 and 27.
Silence a Polite Negative.
J. CHAS. IMESON.

WANTED, Attractions, April 3, on, with exceptions. Grand T., Chorley and Radcliffe.
SANTE, Radcliffe.

THEATRE ROYAL, WINDSOR.
WANTED, Attractions, March 13, April 10, 17 (3 nights). Musical. This week, "La Poupée."
FRED L. CONNYNGHAME.

LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
WANTED, First-class Attraction (Musical Comedy Preferred), for Mar. 27; also April 17 Vacant. Last Saturday 3,809 paid for Admission at one Performance, and Hundreds were Turned Away. Address, RICH. WALDON, as above.

WANTED, Company, for Three Nights, April 6, 7, 8.
A Few May and June Dates Vacant.
ALFRED HEMMING,
Opera House, Southport.

WANTED, First-class Attractions Only.
Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, March 20;
Theatre Royal, Manchester, March 27.
Apply, JOHN HART,
Theatre Royal, Bradford.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for March 13, March 27, April 17, and May 1.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR,
24A, Regent-street, S.W.

WANTED, First-Class Attraction, April 17,
FRED C. DEW,
Theatre Royal, Dover.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, nothing too big, March 13, 27, May 8, on. Address, W. C. HORNER, Victoria Opera House, Burnley.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, for March 6, a complete High-Class Entertainment. Stars, with own Combination, or Cinématograph Entertainment, complete in itself, that will Draw. RALPH PRINGLE, Wire.

WANTED, Attractions for Empire, Oldham, April 24 (Easter), onwards.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
WANTED, April 17, May 1, 8.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 7, Oct. 16, 23, Nov. 6.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A DISGRACE TO HER SEX."
WANTED, Important Theatres, May 1, 8, 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, April 10, May 29.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, March 27, May 22, June 12.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 3, 24, and On, with exceptions.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Theatres, April 24, for the above Powerful Attraction.
Wire, "Hustler, Birkenhead,"
or write to
W. W. KELLY,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, July, Autumn, Now Booking 1906. The Most Perfect Production of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" seen in this Country. CHARLES HARRINGTON, Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S TOUR.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
No Vacant Dates until Nov. 20.
WANTED, Big Theatres Only, then and on.
Feb. 20, St. James's Theatre, Manchester.

"WHAT BECAME OF MRS. RACKET?"
"MY SWEETHEART."
WANTED, Feb. 27. Wire for Feb. 27. North, March 13, 20, April 3, 10, onwards,
with Exceptions.
STONE, Theatre Royal, St. Helens.

"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
WANTED, Easter Week, South or South-West, for this Never-failing Musical Attraction.
Chorus and Specialities.
EDWARD MARRIS, T. R., Grantham.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY,
"WHAT A WOMAN DID!"
Sixty-seventh Week of Continuous Successful Tour.
WANTED, March 6 (Three Nights, follow Alex., Hull), March 13, April 10 (follow Alex., Birmingham), April 17, May 1, and onwards, with exceptions, including Whit. WILLIAM A. ARMOUR. To-day, Metropole, Abertillery; next, Alhambra, Stourbridge.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, Feb. 27, Feb. 27, and March 6, for this great attraction. Powerful company, all scenery carried, racehorses toured and paraded each day in colours. F. G. KIMBERLEY, Lyceum, Newport; next, Clarence, Pontypridd.

MR. BERT COOTE'S COMPANIES.
"THE FATAL WEDDING."
WANTED, Easter Week, April 24, July 31—Aug. 7.
Address, CECIL BARTH, General Manager, 150, Oxford-street, London, W.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
A New Oriental Play by G. A. de Gray.
WANTED, March 20, 27, April 3, May 15(?)
"£1,000 REWARD,"
a Grand Revival on an Elaborate Scale,
"THE RACE FOR WEALTH,"
a Powerful Modern Play, by H. Lonsdale.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND,"
an Acknowledged Success.
"THE DAYS OF CROMWELL,"
by Chas. Rogers and E. Carter Livesey.
Various, Autumn.
BEAUDYN and LIVESEY,
Star Theatre, Swansea.

WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 20,
"THE CONSCRIPT."
MITCHELL and BELTON, T. R., Rotherham.

WANTED, Good Theatres, May 8, August 21, and few Autumn Dates, for "Her Fatal Past" Company. Coms., WARD, O. H., Porth.

WANTED, Theatres, Miss Frances Delaval's Company, "The Biggest Scamp on Earth," F. A. Scudamore's Masterpiece, May 22, 29, June 12, Aug. 7. Apply, T. R., Stratford, E.

"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
WANTED, Theatres, April 3, 10, May 29, only Vacant Spring Dates; Autumn, Sept. 4, precede W. London, Oct. 9, follow Longton (return), Nov. 27, Dec. 11. Bigger Success than Ever.
WALTER HOWE, Swindon; Next, O., Dublin.

"WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE LOW."
WANTED, March 13, Easter, on, with Exceptions. This week, Return Visit to Metropole, Glasgow. Splendid Business.
Apply, VAUGHAN and HEANLEY,
Gaiety, Clydebank.

LYTTLETON'S "AT WAR WITH THE WORLD."
WANTED, March 6, 13, 20, onwards. Easter and Whit-Weeks vacant. Theatres visited and bookings include Coventry, Southampton, Birkenhead, Walsall, Leeds, Oldham, Bootle, Margate, Southend, &c. Everything reliable. Printing always ready. GEO. LYTTLETON, T. R., Worthing; next, T. R., Margate.

"THE TRAITOR."
Mitchelson and Fineberg's Magnificent production.
WANTED, Sept. 4, 11, 18, Oct. 9, 16.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Royalty Theatre, Barrow.

WANTED, Good Theatres, Miss Winifred Maude and Company,
"THE SINS OF A CITY,"
By Nita Rae.
March 13, onwards, with exceptions.
"THE SINS OF A CITY."
Production equal to any on the road.
Printing Twenty Varieties.
"THE SINS OF A CITY."
The present tour started July 25, T.R., Merthyr, and has been running successfully ever since with the exception of one week's vacation, i.e. October 10, through obliging R. C. Buchanan, Esq.
"THE SINS OF A CITY."
General Manager, Mr. VICTOR DU CANE.
Feb. 20, Opera House, Burton-on-Trent.

"HOME, SWEET HOME,"
By Frank Lindo.
The most successful of all domestic dramas.
Booked and Rebooked at the Best Theatres.
Third Year of Tour.
WANTED, Good Theatres, March 27 and Easter (North Preferred).
Address, FRANK LINDO,
Theatre Royal, Whitehaven.

The Melodramatic Masterpiece.
The Melodramatic Masterpiece.

"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
WANTED, April 3, 17 (First-Class Concert Party Friday). Easter Vacant.
Good Holiday Attraction.
ROBERT PERR'S,
Paisley Theatre,
Paisley.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, Big Theatres,
March 13, Easter onwards,
to follow Palace Theatre, Newcastle,
Miss Edith Blande in title-rôle.
HARRY FOXWELL, Theatre Royal, Hanley.

"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."
WANTED, March 13, April 24. Admitted by Press and Public to be the most popular version on the Stage.
Record business everywhere.
Wire. For March 13. Wire.
JAMES BELL, Theatre Royal, Darwen.

WANTED, for "The Lightning's Flash," Easter.
LESLIE VYNER, T.R., Dumfries.

THEATRES WANTED.

"HEART OF A HERO."
WANTED, Theatres, June 19, 26, also July 10, onwards
Wire, CARSON.
Theatre, Keighley.

"A MODERN ADVENTURESS."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 27, April 10, May 29, and June 5.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 20 and 27, and June 5 and 12.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"DEFENDING HIS HONOUR."
WANTED, Theatres, March 13 and 20, April 3, 17, and May 1, onwards.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

WANTED, March 27, on, for Miss Emma Litchfield's Success,
"A LONDON ACTRESS."
"A LONDON ACTRESS."
"A LONDON ACTRESS."
The play is altogether superior to the usual run of melodramas."—Glasgow Herald. Thanks to W. D. Forsdike for communication re Easter and Aug. Bank Holiday; both dates still open. Wire, for March 27, on, STUART CLEVELAND, to-day Hereford; next week, Opera House, Pontypool.

CARSON, GRANVILLE, and THORNE'S TOUR.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this Gigantic Attraction, August on, with exceptions.
Address,
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, for "Life that Kills," March 6, May 1, and on.
"Grip of Law," April 24, and on through Summer;
"Bigamy," May 1, and few Spring.
FRED MOULE, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

"BETRAYED; or, What Men call Love."
WANTED, May 1, June 5 and 12. Refer Lester Collingwood, Esq.
CECIL DU GUE, 11, Cunningham-pl., Maida Vale, W.

"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
WANTED, Easter Week, South or South-West, for this Never-failing Musical Attraction.
Chorus and Specialities.
EDWARD MARRIS, T. R., Grantham.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
Shakespearean and Classical Répertoire, including "UNDER THE RED ROBE" and "THE THREE MUSKETEERS."
WANTED, March 6, 27, April 3, 10, 17, May 1, 8, 22, 29. Address, Opera House, Cork.

"THE BRANDED WOMAN."
By the Author of "The Conscript," will be Produced August (Bank Holiday).
WANTED, First-class Autumn and Spring Dates; also Good Theatre for Production. Unrivalled by any other Drama Touring.
F. WYBERT CLIVE, Avon Cottage, Dewsbury.

"THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH,"
Musical Production. Full Chorus and Ballets.
Everything Carried.
WANTED, Good Theatre, Mar. 6, between Cambridge and Bournemouth (Suburban Preferred). CALVERT ROUTLEDGE. To-day, O. H., Harrogate; Next, Crystal Palace.

"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
WANTED, Easter Week, South or South-West, for this Never-failing Musical Attraction.
Chorus and Specialities.
EDWARD MARRIS, T. R., Grantham.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"HONOUR THY FATHER,"
March 27, April 10, 17, 24.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"A WOMAN'S DEVOTION,"
March 27, April 24, July 17, Aug. 7.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"GREED OF GOLD,"
March 27, April 10, 17, 24.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

ALFRED B. CROSS TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, Theatres, June 19 and 26 (between Jersey and Clapham), Aug. 7 Vacant. Few Autumn Dates for Best Theatres only. New Plant of Printing by Allen.
Mr. CROSS, as PETE, 1,100th Time.
Bookings, Bradford, Liverpool, Hull, Clapham, Jersey, Southampton, Nottingham, Huddersfield, G., Birmingham, Blackpool, Brighton, Northampton, Dublin, Newport, Yarmouth, Glasgow, Manchester, &c. King's Lynn, Feb. 20; Grantham, Feb. 23.

MOODY MANNERS OPERA COMPANY, LTD.
(B Company),
Through an outbreak of Typhoid Fever at Lincoln, the above company cannot take up their date of March 13.
WANTED, Towns (one week or three nights) between Barnsley and West Hartlepool.
Opera House, Southport.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
WANTED, Easter, April 24, for the above remarkable attraction. Spring, Summer, Autumn, now being booked.
J. H. CLYNDES, Eden, Bishop Auckland.

"THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE,"
By MAX GOLDBERG.
MESSRS. DAN F. ROE and F. B. WOULFE'S TOUR.
By arrangement with Messrs. John F. Preston and Harris Fineberg.
WANTED, Important Theatres for this Big Attraction, March 6(?), 13, and on, with exceptions. Easter and Whit weeks vacant.
Messrs. ROE and WOULFE, Grand Theatre, Walsall.

"THE SLEDGE-HAMMER." by Wilson Barrett.
Spring Tour Fully Booked.
WANTED, Theatres. First Vacancy Sept. 4. Re Dates.
W. V. GARROD, OPERA HOUSE, TORQUAY.

"THE LIFE OF A SHOWMAN."
WANTED, Theatres with large stages, for the greatest Novelty and Attraction Touring, company of 18 travelled; 5 tons scenery; full hippodrome performance. Act II. Vacant Autumn. Address, SANTE, Wednesbury; next, Opera House, Dudley.

THE CENTURY PLAYERS,
A Permanent Stock Company,
under the Direction of
Mr. LEIGH LOVEL.
WANTED, Suitable Theatre, for Season, from May next,
Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.

"A WOMAN'S REDEMPTION."
From the Pavilion Theatre, London.
WANTED, June and July Dates. Refer Harris Fineberg, Esq., Henry Taylor, Esq., Sidney Cooper, Esq., J. W. Boughton, Esq., Clarence Sounes, Esq. JAMES HARE, 70, Part-st., Southport.

MR. PADEY PENNINGTON'S REAPPEARANCE
(after seven years' retirement)
The Refined Mimic, Humorist, and Ventriloquist,
Genuine Hypnotist,
has a few Vacant Dates for his Variety Company.
The Best of Biographs; the Handcuff Mystery.
WANTED, Theatres or Halls (Share or Rental).
Permanent address, 3, Hanover-crescent, Brighton.

WANTED, Theatres and Halls, for the New "Fun on the Bristol," March 27, onwards. Thanks, D. Barnard, for Communication re T. R., Liverpool, and Alf. Liverick, A. Roberton, C. Wybert, &c. Address, MAURICE LOVE, P. O., Ambleside.

THEATRES WANTED.

WANTED, for next Christmas, Important Theatre, for four or six weeks, for my Phenomenally Successful Pantomime, "CINDERELLA," Produced at the T.R. Hanley, last Christmas, and played to Boxing week business the whole time. Scenery and dresses all new this year. Chorus of thirty London ladies guaranteed. Libretto by J. Hickory Wood. Engagements already made include Messrs. Donaldson Bros. and Ardell, who are perhaps the biggest Pantomime speciality now before the public, and the New Macs. For any information regarding the merits of this production, Refer to Mr. Charles Elphinstone, T.R., Hanley. Also require dates for "BABES IN THE WOOD" Touring Pantomime. For information regarding the merits of this production refer Mr. Robson Lambert, Grand Theatre, Croydon. A few vacant Autumn dates for "Kitty Grey." Money turned away at Dalston each night this week. Apply C. St. John Denton, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

"THE GUILTY MAN."
"THE GUILTY MAN."
"THE GUILTY MAN."
WANTED, April 10, 17 (follow Barnsley); May 15, 22 (precede Stratford). James Hare, 70, Part-street, Southport.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, March 13 (Scotland). Fred Bulmer, Gaiety Theatre, Leith, N.B.

MR. BARRS' "ALADDIN."
WANTED, Feb. 27 for this Superb Production. "EAST LYNNE." Wanted, April 17, May 1, on. "CINDERELLA," Wanted, dates Next Season. Herbert Barrs, Prince of Wales' Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Feb. 27, Feb. 27, Feb. 27, between Ramsgate and Oxford, and March 13 to follow, for Harry Firth's "Cinderella" Pantomime now in the thirteenth week of present tour; doing big business this week at Southend, although third pantomime in. Six Specialities, including Fred Earle, illusionist; Charles Valvo, ventriloquist; Miss Clarice Mignon, banjo queen; Messrs. Marsh and Morris, as the Vicar and the Curate; and the Four Sisters Godfrey, acrobatic dancers. Wire at once for Feb. 27, Empire Southend; or write, Amphitheatre, Ramsgate.

"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
WANTED, Easter Week, for this Great Holiday Attraction. May 22, 29, and June 12 also Vacant. Address, Eugene Bertram. Feb. 20, King's Theatre, Hammersmith, W.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S COMPANY. "JUDY."
WANTED, Mar. 20, Apr. 3, and August Bank Holiday. New Plant of Scenery by the Well-known Scenic Artist Mr. Joseph Harker. George Kirk, Pier Pavilion, Hastings.

WANTED, Theatres, Halls, Piers, &c., March 13, and dates onwards, for the Royal London Star Pierrot Troupe, Concert and Comedy Company, without doubt the most Novel and Refined Pleasing Entertainment on Tour. Ten big Speciality Acts. A Magnificent Fit-up for Halls. We give Sacred Concerts. Beautiful Pictures. Thanks for offers; must have Terms as this is a first-class show. Easter vacant. Address, Dillon, T. H., Knottingley, Yorks.

WANTED, Known, Harry Reynolds' Minstrels have Easter week vacant, open to good offer; also May 1 and 22 weeks open; only vacant dates until November. Theatres, Piers, Pavilions, &c. 20 Minstrel Star Artistes in a Brilliant and Novel Programme. Thanks for various offers. Perm. Add., 104 Great Dover-street, London, S.E.

ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, for Stock Season, commencing April 24, leading and heavy ladies and gentlemen, first-class Comedian and Chambermaid (both must sing and dance), juvenile Lady and Gentleman, Stage Manager, and Artistes in all Lines. All must be young and thoroughly experienced. No notice whatever will be taken unless ladies send photos, and all state age, height, two recent references, and very lowest summer terms. Letters must be marked "Stock Season." E. Graham-Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, Artistes for Musical Comedy, Town and Tour. Must be Young, of Good Appearance, and Good Voice. Send full particulars to Kelson Trueman, Regent House, 233a, Regent-st, W.

WANTED, to support Fred Cooke in "The Diver's Luck," a company of Talented Artistes, to rehearse, March 16, in the Midlands. Sobriety indispensable. Vocalists preferred. Positive lowest terms, with references, to Gladys Gilchrist, Theatre Royal, Blaydon-on-Tyne.

WANTED, special week, near London, lady for Millicent, "The Money Spinner." Harold Neilson, 14, Girdler's-road, West Kensington.

WANTED, Dramatic Artistes for London. March 6, rehearse prior. State terms and Address, W. E. Melville, Standard Theatre, E.

"LIFE'S SWEETEST SINS."
WANTED, Emotional Leading Actress, of Acknowledged Repute and Ability, Long Tour. Lowest Terms. References (with Addresses), Photos (essential), T. Arthur Jones, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

"A LONDON ACTRESS" COMPANY.
WANTED, a Juvenile Lady Must Dress Well. Lowest Terms, Photo, Stamped Envelope, Refs. Rehearse Feb. 22. Add., Stuart Cleveland, Opera House, Pontypool.

WANTED, Good Refined Versatile Comedians, for the Original Scarboro' and London Pierrots, Eleventh Season. State age, experience, references, répertoire, and lowest terms for season. Tom Garrick, R., Limerick, Ireland.

WANTED, Good Light Comedian, for a Charles Mathews part in Sketch, to join Stage Manager (late Palace, Manchester). C. Davies, The Orchards, Burnage, Didsbury, Lancs.

WANTED, at once, Ladies and Gentlemen, small parts, and twelve Boys and Girls. Address, Author, 46, Cornwall-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies (Two), height 5ft. 5in. Also Eight Ladies, same height. Walk on Sketch, London Halls. Apply 5 sharp. Percy Hall, Percy-street, Tottenham Court-road.

WANTED, Twenty Children and Young Ladies, Ages 11 to 18, to be Trained for the Stage, and Speciality Dancing. Apply Personally, with Guardian, Miss Lizzie Maynard, 2, Oxford-house, 87, Great Titchfield-street, Oxford-street, W.

WANTED, Refined Concert Party, for Easter, Good Friday to Tuesday, to take Sacred Concert Easter Sunday. State lowest terms. Mr. E. A. Jackson, Managing Director, Skegness Pier.

WANTED, at Once, Young Acrobatic Dancer, for Excellent Engagement, Height 5ft. (without shoes). Terms, Particulars, Box 1,194, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by the HESS AGENCY, Pupils for the Profession. Engagements Procured at Principal Halls. Contracts Waiting for Talent. Elocution and Stage Deportment Taught. Smart Songs! Pretty Music! Call or Write for Interview, G. Hess, 71, Warner-road, Camberwell Green, S.E.

WANTED, Dramatic Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, for the H. and S. Quartette, Contracts, Home or Abroad. Free Feb. 20. Music Acrobats. 16, Parnie-street, Glasgow.

STEINWAY GLEE SINGERS.
WANTED, Good Engagement for Summer, Sharing or Rental. 80, Union-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Clarice Lilian, Operetta House, Edinboro'. Three months' big success. Vocalist, Violinist, Pianist. Disengaged, Feb. 27. Good agent required.

ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, a start in the Profession, male, good height, no private means. Box 1,198, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Tom Carrick, Burlesque Comedian, and Miss Lily Carrick, Soubrette, Disengaged for Spring Tour in Musical Comedy. T.R., Limerick.

WANTED, to Place, Talented Young Actress, Comedy or Drama, London or Good Tour. Small Premium would be paid, and Small Salary required if for Provinces. Managers, address, Box 926, Clark's Advertising Offices, 49, Gt. Portland-st., W.

WANTED, small Part and Props., by young man. Good reference. Attend books if necessary; good scholar. B. S., 2, Lambeth-rd, S.E.

PANTOMIME ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Principals and Quartette of Dancers, Disengaged for Easter Pantomime, to Send Photos, Terms, and Particulars to Brooks, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

PANTOMIME ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Miss Dolly Elsworthy, Disengaged for Principal Boy, 1905 and 1905. Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery. High-class Work at Reasonable Prices. Large and well-appointed Studio and Workshop. Address, Charles J. Sayer, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Known, Ernest R. Jones, First-class Scenic Artist. Offers invited, Contract or otherwise. Best of References. Specially engaged on O.U.D.S. production, fifteenth year. Address, New Theatre, Oxford.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Scenic Artist. Terms Moderate. Address, W. Ferroll, 8, Norfolk-road, Dalston-lane, N.E.

WANTED, Known, J. I. Keith, Scenic Artist, at Liberty. London, Provincial, and Continental Experience. 170, Hampton-street, Birmingham.

MISCELLANEOUS.

HURRY'S RESTAURANT, KING'S CROSS, N.
WANTED, Known, always pleased to see Old Friends, New Friends, their Friends, or Anybody's Friend. Yours always, Harry Paradise. Noted for Wm. Younger's Celebrated Ales.

WANTED, by Well-known Actor-Manager, Gentleman to Learn the Duties of Acting-Manager. Also ladies and gentlemen (Amateurs) for Good Parts in First-class Drama. Premium required, Returned in Salary. Courtland, 18, Flanders-mansions, Flanders-rd., Bedford Park, W.

WANTED, an Author, Good Constructor, to put some New Matter into an old Show. Humorous Style, Plenty of Music Introduced. S. Foy, 88, Boston-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Variety Agent, one able to procure Trial Turns at First-Class Halls. Address, Box 1,220, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Strong and Willing Baggage-Man, for Three or Four Weeks, probably Long Tour. Will (?) Canterbury write again (address lost)? Firth, Amphitheatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Bill-poster, able to take charge of branch; active workman and reliable man only wanted. Apply, with references, H. A. Broomfield, Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED, Engagement, Feb. 27, by Alfred Levison, Manager, Advance, Director, Stage Manager, Bill Inspector, Theatres, Halls, Hippodromes, Circuses, Residental or Touring. Knowledge Two Houses Nightly. 18 years' practical experience. Terminating Cooke's Circus. Address care of Nicol, 19, Murieston-crescent, Dalry-road Edinburgh

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Man (28), as Acting-Manager, Assistant, or Advance Watkinson, 32, Chippingham-place, Sheffield.

WANTED, Situation as Stage-Manager, one or two shows nightly. Handy, and good worker. Highest references. Box 1,168, "The Era."

WANTED, Management of Theatre, Music or Public Hall, Pier, or Institution, by Most Successful Secretary-Organiser. Andersen, Post Office, Hampton Court, S.W.

WANTED, Disengaged, Experienced Stage Manager, in First-class Music Hall Only Eleven Years' Resident Experience, Practical Machinist. Abstainer. Box 1,195, "The Era."

WANTED, Situation as Branch Manager, Bill Inspector, or Foreman. First-class References; 18 years' experience. Also as Improver or Bill-poster at Theatre. Apply in first place to Box 1,193, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, Mr. F. W. Bavies, at Liberty for Entire Advance Management March 6 and on. Three Years with "A Message from Mars." References, Mr. Gordon Starkey, Mr. W. Payne Seddon, and Mr. Charles Macdona. T. R., Loughboro'; Feb. 22, T. R., Worcester.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Henry Cooke, at Liberty for tenting season, Agent in Advance, Manager or any position of Trust, acquainted with Ireland. H. Cooke, Theatre, Shirebrook, Derbys.

WANTED, Position as Resident Electrician, age 22, Abstainer, thoroughly trained to stage lighting, at present in charge of an Installation of over 3,000 incandescent and arc lighting. Manager's Reference. Box 1,153, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Position as Resident Electrician, age 22, thoroughly trained to stage lighting, at present in charge of an Installation of over 3,000 incandescent and arc lighting. Box 1.153, "Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Carpenter. Good Bench Hand, Props, &c., Age 30. C. W., 35, Gillespie-road, London, N.

WANTED, at Once, Re-engagement, by Expert Stage Carpenter; also First-class Baggage Master, and Small Parts. Highest References. Join at once. T. Taylor, 11, Buckingham-street, Portland-road, London, W.

WANTED, Situation as Billposter, London Preferred; Experienced. Good References. Billposter, 42, Cloudesley-road, Islington, N.

WANTED, Known, Chas. H. Barclay, disengaged, Master Carpenter, age 24, height 5ft. 7in. 105, Off Trafford-street, Farnworth.

WANTED, Situation for Well-educated Youth, aged 19, any capacity. Last sit., Agent's Office. F., 229 Kennington-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, by Respectable Married Couple, Sit. as Hallkeepers in any Good Theatre or Music Hall, Age 36-37, No Encumbrance, Lifelong Experience. Highest Refs. Add., G. Pitcher, 29, Padiham-rd., Burnley, Lancs.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

WANTED, Leader for Empire, Shepherd's Bush. Apply, stating wages required, and giving names and addresses for references, to Oswald Stoll, Cranbourn Mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

THEATRE ROYAL, HULL.
WANTED, Musical Director, Violin, First-Class man in every respect. Write age, experience, references, salary, W. Morton.

WANTED, Musical Director and D. Bass, for the Hippo., Stoke-on-Trent, and Double Drums, with all effects, for the Hippo., Grimsby (drums to open Mon., Feb. 20). Apply, stating age, terms, &c., to H. F. Miller, Hippo., Stoke.

WANTED, for Royal Prussian Band (Torquay), Violin, Clarionet, Cornet, Trombone, D. Drums. Secretary, Manor Hotel, Market-st, Torquay.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

WANTED, Leader, Violin, Second Violin, Pianist, Cornet, Trombone, Flute, Double Bass, and Drums, must be Thoroughly Used to Variety Performances, to open March 6, for Empire, Hanley, Two Performances Nightly. Terms, References, to Chas. Elphinstone, Grand Theatre.

WANTED, by Conductor, Experienced, Violin and Piano; Steady, Abstainer; Post, Resident or Tour. Also Vacant, Summer. Box 1,214, care of "The Era."

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, ABERDARE.
WANTED, Competent Cornet, and Flute and Piccolo, for Monday, Feb. 20, 27s. 6d. per Week. Must be Good. Apply, Mr. W. Dexter, Musical Director.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, Experienced in Variety Business, for Midland Town. State Experience, Reference, and Salary Required. Box 1,203, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Cornet Player, for First-class Portable. Age and Terms, Newell, Pavilion, Great Harwood, Lancs.

WANTED, First-Class Solo Cornet (string band), excellent Soloist, perfect transposer, and good appearance. Long engagement; high salary. Box 1,221, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Clarionets, First, Second, and Third; E Flat Clarionets, First, Second, and Third; First and Second Cornets; First and Second Trombones, E Flat Flute, String and Brass Bass, Drum, Bassoon, First and Second Horns, to Complete Military Band, at South Coast Seaside Town, for Sixteen Weeks, from June. Duties 4½ Hours per day. Apply, with References and Salary Required, to Conductor, Box 1,197, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Smart Young Male 'Cello Player, for Permanent Café Engagement. State Age, Experience, List of Solos, and References, Box 1,204, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Immediately, for Grand Theatre, Brighton, First-class 'Cello Player. Drunkards and those which run away without notice, save stamps. Apply, Musical Director, Grand Theatre, Brighton.

WANTED, Good 'Cello, must be Experienced in Overtures and Varieties. Apply, H. Petersen, 3, Sylvan rd., Hoe-st., Walthamstow.

MOODY MANNERS OPERA COMPANY.
WANTED, Second Flute and Piccolo; experience in Grand Opera essential. Reply, lowest terms, Langley Wyatt, Theatre Royal, Hull.

WANTED, at Once, Pianist (Vocalist Preferred), able to Read at Sight, to Travel with Auction Vans. Wire or Write, Williams, Auction Mart, Oakengates, Salop.

WANTED, Known, the Whitley and Monkseaton Urban District Council are prepared to receive Tenders for the exclusive privilege of using their Band Stand (20ft. in diameter) on the Whitley Links, for Musical Entertainments, on week days, during the coming summer season, viz., from 1st May to 30th September, 1905. The entertainments must be guaranteed to be of a first-class order, and will be subject to conditions, a print of which can be obtained on application to me, the undersigned, by post, or to Mr. John Moore, the Surveyor to the Council, during his office hours, at the Council Buildings, Whitley Bay. Tenders must quote a sum per week or for the season, and must be sent to me, endorsed "Tender for Stand on Links," on or before the 4th day of March proximo. The Council do not guarantee the acceptance of the highest or any tender.—Dated this 13th day of February, 1905. Augustus Whitehorn, Clerk to the Council, 60, Saville-street, North Shields.

WANTED, a Company of Instrumentalists, or Instrumentalists and Vocalists, to occupy Band Pavilion at Girvan during the Summer Months. Apply, stating Terms, and giving References, to Town Clerk, Girvan.

WANTED, Musician, for Yorkshire Artillery Band, Permanent Staff, Good String Bass, possession of Own Instrument, Combine Brass Bass. Only Army Reserve need apply. T. Elliott, Bandmaster, Depôt, Scarbro'.

WANTED, Instrumentalists, to Enlist in a First-class Staff Cavalry Band, Bassoons, Clarionet, Cornet, Flute. Good Advantages to Smart Men and Players. Apply H. L., care of Hawkes and Son, Denman-street, Piccadilly, London, W.

WANTED, Bandsmen, Good Musicians, from March 6 to June 3. For Particulars, Apply Early to Bandmaster, The Barracks, Grantham.

WANTED, Instrumentalists, for Ladies' Orchestra, April 4 to 14, inclusive. Lowest Terms to Madame Stockham, 54 Princess-rd., Edgbaston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Lady Musicians, all Instruments. Wind and String. Send Lowest Terms and Experience to Box 1,209, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice. Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. Williams, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Telegraphic address, "Amuse, Manchester"; Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. Jesson, 96, Long-acre, London, W.C.; Telegraphic address, "Amusolgia, London"; Telephone, 9,827, Central. F. J. Lees, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. Bartley, 9, Seamore-street, Glasgow; Telephone, 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Conductor, Engagement. Tour or Permanent. Pianist. References. 16, Irving-mansions, West Kensington.

WANTED, by Conductor, Violin, or Leader, Re-engagement; Variety or Drama. Keightley, 48, Teilo-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Leader or First Violin, an Engagement; Experienced and Reliable. Jas. Heap, 23, Perth-street, Burnley.

WANTED, Known, Mr. A. B. Challier, Conductor (Piano), and Miss Edie Raero, Soubrette, engaged by J. F. Elliston, Esq., for Panto., 1905-6. Liberty Monday. Offers, Theatre, Leigh.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Musical Director in Variety Theatre, disengaged March 11. High credentials. Box 1,199, care of "Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, Conductor (Violin and Orchestral Pianoforte), Boscombe Theatre, Disengaged through Closing, desires Re-engagement. Taggart, Stedman-rd., Pokesdown, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Re-engagement, as Leader, or First Violin; through closing; any line; 14 years' experience. Sam Cryer, 1, Addi-street, Bradford, Yorks.

WANTED, by Pianist-Conductor, First-class Summer Engagement. Highest References. Address, J. De Gabriels, T. R., Dunfermline, N.B.

WANTED, by First Violinist or Pianist (First-Class), Permanent Engagement. Experienced. References; age 23; steady, reliable. Boehm, care of McMasters, 89, Main-street, Glasgow, S.S.

WANTED, Known, Experienced Solo and Orchestral Violinist is Open to Engagements, Town and Country. Address, E. E., Box 1,186, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by young Violinist, permanency in Theatre or Hall, London preferred. 20, Colvestone-crescent, Dalston, N.

WANTED, by First or Second Violin, Re-engagement. Experienced. References. Violinist, 35, Frederick-street, Cardiff.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Violinist (First or Second), Engagement. Any Business. Experienced. H. Hurst, 19, Henderson-grove, Moss Side, Manchester.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement, at Liberty to commence March 6, end of Pantomime. References. Brown, Court Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, by First Violin or Viola (Italian), thoroughly Experienced, Open to any Engagements. Excellent References. Diploma Florence. Fortoni, 39, Francis-street, Leeds.

WANTED, by First or Second Violinist, Engagement; also Clarionet; through reducing orchestra. F. Canavan, Opera House, Middlesbro'.

WANTED, by First-class Violinist, Engagement, Silver Medallist, L.A.M., Town or Seaside. Deveson, jun., Barking, Essex.

WANTED, by Violinist, Re-engagement. At Liberty March 6. C. W. Marshall, Violinist, Grand Theatre, Croydon.

WANTED, by Lady Violinist, Engagement in London Ladies' Orchestra. Miss Bailey, 54, Lupus-street, Westminster.

WANTED, by Cornet, at Liberty 20th, Engagement. H. B. Metcalfe, Palace Var., Southampton; Monday, 39, Whitehouse-street, Walsall.

WANTED, by Cornet (Experienced), Engagement, through Closing. Any business. S. Fletcher, 124, Clopton-st., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement, any Business, or could Supply Good Circus Band. Cook, Stag Inn, Woodhouse, Sheffield.

WANTED, by Solo Clarionet, Carl Rosa Opera Company, Engagement. Summer Season, from May 22. Delcellier, Carl Rosa, Clapham Junction, S.W.

WANTED, by Clarionet, Engagement; also Violin. Any Business. A. Miller, Opera House, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, by Clarionet, good, Engagement, any business, band preferred. Steady. Edwards, Rose and Crown Hotel, Knightsbridge.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement, Theatre or Variety. Can join at once. Address, C. H. Hopkins, 115, Cleethorpe-rd, Grimsby.

WANTED, by Bassoon, Engagement, season or permanent; experienced. Liberty March 3. Queen's Theatre, and 50, Merrion-street, Leeds.

WANTED, by Bassoon, Engagement. At Liberty Feb. 26. G. Rostron, Moody Manners Co. This, Widnes; Next, Blackpool.

WANTED, by D. Bass or Solo Clarionet, Engagement; Experienced. Theatre Closing. Refs. Metcalfe, 39, Meadow-st., Ardwick, Manch'st'r.

WANTED, by Bass, Engagement, London or Suburb, Experienced, late of Drury Lane T. Bass, 61, Imperial-av, Victoria-rd, Stoke Newington.

WANTED, by Bassoon player, Engagement, Band or Theatre. Provincial. C. E. Walker, 657, Fulham-road, London.

WANTED, Engagements, by Red Viennese Band, Balls, Receptions, Hotels, Exhibitions. Open to offer for Summer Season. Good Agents write. Conductor, Box 1,138, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Double Bassist, Engagement, Experienced, any Business. Tom C. Trolley, 96, Howe-street, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Engagement, by Miss Frances Toft, slide trombone; R. D. Livingstone, flute and piccolo. Perm. Address, 120, Gt. Thornton-street, Hull.

WANTED, by Trombonist (Professional), Engagement. Composer and Arranger. Apply to S. J. Cheetham, 46, Reginald-road, Bexhill.

WANTED, by Oboe, Engagement, Orchestral or Military. Box 1,201, "The Era."

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, Suitable for Little Girl on 'Cello. Mr. Casselle, 35, Granville-square, King's-cross-rd.

WANTED, by First-class 'Cellist, any Engagement, Italian, Good Répertoire, Operas, Solos, Concertos, &c. Signor Zanaboni, 39, Francis-street, Leeds.

WANTED, by Solo Harpist (Age 17), Engagement. Bath Herald, Jan. 2:—A talented harpist. Maud Grundy, 49, Haverstock-hill, London.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, Theatre or Variety. References. H. Chamberlain, 31, Tennyson-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Music Hall or Theatre, Engagement. Reliable. Flautist, care of Walker, 17, Macklin-street, Derby.

WANTED, by Flautist, Engagement, Seaside Preferred, Distance no Object. Write, Milton Knight, 3, Lincoln-st., Grange, Allerton, Bradford, Yorkshire. Reference if required.

WANTED, by Flute, Boehm, and Piccolo (or Second Violin), Engagement, Theatre or Variety. Good Refs. Box 1,151, care of "The Era"

WANTED, by Pianist, Re-engagement; any Business; sight-reader. Young. Campbell, 176, Mowbray-street, Heaton, Newcastle.

WANTED, by Pianist and Violinist, Engagement, experienced, any business. Tour or Permanency. Riding, 62, Shakespeare-st, Southport.

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagement, good Reader, Soloist, &c., late of London. E. R. Shrossbery, 21, Edward-street, Brighton.

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagement; sight reader; reliable; young. Rob. Devere, 36, Byerley-street, Seacombe, Cheshire.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, with Effects, Engagement, Variety. Good Refs. F. Cooke, 60, Ashburner-street, Bolton, Lancs.

WANTED, by Tympani, Drums, Xylophone and effects, Engagement. Burrill, 13, Glover-street, Camp-road, Leeds.

WANTED, by Drummer, Good Engagement, any Business; all Effects. Good References. M. Connor, 17, Coburg-st, King's Lynn.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, with Effects, Engagement, Theatre or Music Hall. F. McCrohan, 31, De Laune-st., Kennington Park-rd., London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, to Directors, Managers, Committees, &c., that the Famous Old British Guards Band is open for High-Class Summer Business, Seaside Engagement, or Exhibition Work. Enormous Success last Summer, Bradford Exhibition, &c., and at the Palace Pier, Brighton, where it was the most successful Band, succeeding late Lieut. Dan. Godfrey. The Old British Guards Band, popularly known as "The Old Guards," numbers from fifteen to fifty, is the only genuine ex-Guards Band in England, and the most representative one of Great Britain. Every Member guaranteed late of crack Guards Bands. The Finest Band out of Army. Return Visits at N.S.L. Concerts. Latest Music. Most Popular Programmes. Smart, Handsome Uniforms. Everything to draw public and ensure great success. Conductor holds many Public and Official Testimonials. A. Holmes-Dallimore, Dorville-crescent, Ravenscourt-park, W.

WANTED, Known, the Original Blue Austrian Band open to Good Offers. Conductor, 53, Philpot-street, Stepney, London.

WANTED, by the Loyal Westminster Band (Thirty-one Professional Musicians), Engagements. Conductor, Mr. O. H. Carter, 32, Tenison-st., London, S.E.

WANTED, by Caledonian Orchestra, Engagement for Summer Season. A Superior Combination of Ladies and Gentlemen. Decided Novelty. For particulars apply, Box 1,133, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, the Victoria Ladies' Quartette, Open for Easter and Summer. Miss Adela Sutcliffe, 50, Osnaburg-st., Regent's-park.

WANTED, Known, the following members of the Theatre Royal Orchestra, Nottingham, are open to receive individual or combined engagement for the summer season: Violins, Leader, First, Second; Viola, 'Cello, Bass, Cornet, Trombone and Euphonium, Tympani.

WANTED, by Well-known London Restaurant Band, Engagement after June, for High-class Seaside Hotel or Pavilion. Handsome Uniform, and Solo Instrumentalists. Apply Musical Director, 22, Crewdson-road, London, S.W.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Julian Clifford's Orchestra (First-Class London players only); Vacant for summer season, or could accept a month in July. Can be engaged for Sunday Concerts in London and Provinces. Can accompany vocalists, instrumentalists, and reciters, giving matinée Concerts. Julian Clifford's Orchestra, personally conducted by Mr. Julian Clifford, may be heard to-morrow (Sunday), Camden Theatre, at 7; Sunday, Feb. 26, Empress, Brixton; &c. All applications address, Julian Clifford, care of Messrs. Chappell and Co., 50, New Bond-street, W.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an Advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., 49, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C., Re Advertisement
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"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A Grateful Musician.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, Philip Germann, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTED.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS, BOLTON.
WANTED, the Talent of the Earth and Air. Any great Novelty can be engaged for present or future dates; also useful Circus Artistes in all lines. Riders, Clowns, &c., write at once. Note.—All artistes engaged at this Circus will have an offer for the summer season at a Popular Seaside town. Address, above.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE.
WANTED, Specialities, for Feb. 27, and on. Artistes must state when last appeared in Carlisle. Address, C. Algie.

WANTED, for Easter, Whit Week, and Gala Season, Acrobats, Wire Walkers, Gymnasts, Cyclists, and Novelties. Brinn write. Wood, Caterer, Easton, Bristol.

WANTED, for all the principal Fêtes, Galas, Carnivals, Whit Week and onwards, Aerial and Ground Acts of every description. Must send lithos, memos, list of bookings and vacant dates, permanent address, lowest terms. Burton's Agency, 5, Milner's-chambers, Fargate, Sheffield.

WEMBLEY PARK. EASTER MONDAY.
WANTED, Rope or Wire Walker of Repute. State Maximum Distance and Terms, Secretary, Wembley Park, N.W.

WANTED, a Smart Young Tumbler, Good Salary paid to Suitable Person; also Youth that can Tumble a little. Communications to W. Y., 4, Pershore-road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro, the Great and most Daring High-Rope Performer Open for Fêtes and Galas. Apply, 121, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea; or, Mr. T. Wood, Easton, Bristol.

WANTED, smart, willing girl, over 16, with some knowledge of trapeze work, under 8st. Good home to good girl. Full particulars, with photo, if possible, to Box 1,212, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Smart Lad, between 14 and 15, who can tumble and do shoulder business. Apply, J. Faro, 47, Larkhall-rise, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Boy or Girl, over 16, small stature, for ring act. Good home, salary, and wardrobe found. Wilbur, P.O., Haswell, Durham.

HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS OF VARIETIES, DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.
Directors, C. H. Powell and F. J. Connor.
WANTED, Known, Messrs. Powell and Connor Desire to Thank the Numerous Artistes who Replied to their Advt. They are now Dealing with the Correspondence. Any further Communications, Please Address as above.

CIRQUE PINDER, FRANCE.
WANTED, through Disappointment, a Good Lampman. Salary 40 francs per Week. To Leave London Feb. 22. Address, Pinder, 17, Fordel-road, Catford.

WANTED, Circus Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Sylvia Martini, La Belle Equestrienne, with her beautiful Arab stallion, in Sensational "Lady Godiva," and other equestrienne acts, is packing Barnard's, Woolwich, this week; free Feb. 20, 27. Address, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Bros. Austin, Double, Single, Talking, Tumbling, Knockabout Clowns, with good Entrées, and Comic Pyramid of Chairs, and Foot Equilbrist. Now appearing Hippodrome, Cambridge. At Liberty, Feb. 27, for Two Weeks. Address, Hippodrome, Cambridge.

WANTED, Known, to Managers of Circuses, Hippodromes and Music Halls. Gingero and his Wonderful Performing Bulls, Sheep, Goats, &c., Lib. shortly. Next, Circus, Stockport. Add., Gingero, Circus, Stockport.

WANTED, Offers, Two Dominos, Pierrots, and Donkey. Comic Act. Different to all other Donkeys, never makes an Ass of himself. On the nod. Circus, Edinburgh

WANTED, by Clown Barker's Wonderful Animals, Feb. 20, 27. Wire, Hippodrome, Wigan.

WANTED, Feb. 27, March 6, by Alec Aubrey, in his Great Electric Gymnastic Act. Hippo., Stoke; Monday, Palace, Cork.

WANTED, Known, The Maros, Comedy Bar Performers, Liberty 20. Wire, 126, Porter-street, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Flora Steckel, Gymnast and Slack Wire Expert, two turns, Vacant April 12. G.P.O., Leeds.

WANTED, Feb. 20, 27, Mayeno Trio (Two Ladies, One Gent.), Gymnasts, Acrobats, Tight Wire, Three Distinct Turns, also Knockabout Clown, Champion Stilt Tumbler of the World, with Up-to-date Entrées. Whatever you want doing, Wire, The Sands, Carlisle.

WANTED, 20th and 27th, by Unita and Paul, Novelty and Comedy Gymnasts. 21 Canterbury-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, the Three Leonards, Triple Bar Show and Acrobatic Hand-Balancing Chair Act, also, Clowns with good Double and Single Entries, Finish to-night Hippo., Cambridge. Wire for Monday. Perm. address, 7, Melville-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, Feb. 27, March 6 and 13, onward, by the Two Zemblas, speciality acrobats. "Babes in the Wood" Panto. Feb. 20, Carlton Theatre, Saltley.

WANTED, Known, Three Martinettes, Liberty Feb. 27, onwards; third Successful Season with Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh. Good Gala Acts. Wire above.

WANTED, Engagement, by Eccentric Acrobats, as Tumbler, Catcher, and Second Men. Stocker, 21, Greek-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Les Kyasas' Herculean Teeth and Hair Novelty, including the original JACK ZANETTO, England's Greatest Expert Teeth Performer. Contracts and Diamonds. 80, Margaret-street, Ashton-u.-Lyne. London shortly.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Delamere Trio, the Original Comedy Equilibrists, Vacant Monday and 27. Wire, 95, North-road, Preston.

WANTED, Engagement by Young Man, in Troupe (cripple), clever ring performer. G. BROOKER, 11, St. Andrew's-road, S. Croydon.

WANTED, Engagement with good Circus, for Tenting Season, latest Bioscope; can also introduce another speciality act. Address, BANVARD, Post Office, Cavan, Ireland.

WANTED, Situations, by Two Brothers, with Thoroughbreds or Travelling Horses, thoroughly Experienced. Excellent References. Write, LEWIS BROTHERS, 73, Bromley-cres., Cardiff.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

ABERDEEN and DUNDEE.
PALACE VARIETY THEATRES.
Booked in Conjunction with
Plymouth, Bristol, and Sunderland.
WANTED, Artistes Engaged to forward Bill Matter Two Clear Weeks in advance.
Always Vacancies for Star Turns.
ERNEST SHELDON, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Variety Artistes of Every Description. Immediate Dates for Suitable Numbers. Only High-class Acts Represented.
J. TYSOE-SMITH, 15A, Oxford-street, Manchester. Telegraphic Address "Engagement, Manchester."

WANTED, Variety Artistes all Lines, for week's Tour South Staffordshire district.
Box A., 40, Gay-lane, Lichfield.

WANTED, Variety Artistes, Big Specialities, for Feb. 27. New to Newcastle. GEO. TUSTIN, Raby Hotel, Byker, Newcastle.

WANTED, Variety Artistes, March 13, Fleetwood; April 3, Hoyland. PHILLIPS, 19, Nicholas-street, St. Peter's-road, London, E.

METROPOLE HIPPODROME, HOYLAND,
Near Barnsley. Twice Nightly.
WANTED, March 6 and 20, Variety Artistes, all lines.
Including really good Top and Bottom.
Good Aerial Act,
and Good Serios and Sisters doing Singles.
No fancy salaries. GEO. S. KING, as above.

WANTED, for immediate and future dates, Variety Artistes of every Description. Write, with full particulars and absolute lowest terms, SYDNEY (Busy) B. SMITH, 34, Cleveland-mansions, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artiste and Novelty Numbers, Feb. 27 and Mar. 6. State Lowest Terms and when Last in the County. Beppo, Valdo, and H. Albini Write. Add., TRANSFIELD'S HIPPODROME, New Brompton, Kent.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager,
H. L. SKIVINGTON.
WANTED, Comedy Star Artistes, for Immediate Dates. Nothing too Big.

CIRCUS and HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
WANTED, Artistes, in all Lines, for Feb. 27, onwards. Rehearsal Monday next, 2.0 o'clock, for Wartenburgh Bros., Bert Williams, Charles Dixon, Mozetta, Vera Mayne, Frederick's Dogs and Pony, Kate Lind, the Lannons. Letters, S. LEE.

Dudley Castle Fêtes, Whit. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, June 12, 13, and 14, 1905.
WANTED, Known, the Committee Invite Tenders from Artistes, Aeronauts,, and Pyrotechnists,
Good Niggers Especially, for the above Fêtes. To be Sent in not Later than Saturday, March 4. Artistes, &c., not Receiving Replies before Saturday, March 18, Please take it as a Negative. All Letters to be Addressed to
Town Hall, Dudley.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Immediate and Future Dates. Lessee and Manager,
WM. MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artistes, in all Lines; also Good Pianist. Lowest, First Letter.
PICKARD'S, 101, Trongate, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, from now on.
Apply,
Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artistes, Sisters, Serios, Comedians. Small Sketch Companies, Feb. 27, and March 6. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes, all Lines, Feb. 27, onwards.
Big Stars not booked Manchester.
Send dates, lowest terms, &c.

EDGAR STEBBINGS' AGENCY,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

CLOUGH HALL AND GARDENS, HARECASTLE
General Manager, Mr. J. W. MYATT.
WANTED, First-Class Artistes, all Lines. Big Attractions, Novelties, Easter Week, Whit Week, and Summer Season. All communications to sole booking agent, EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-st, Manchester.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes, all Lines, for Scotch Concerts, Hall, and Tours.
List of Bookings and all Particulars in First Letter.
JAMES ANDERSON and SON,
6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artistes new to Aberdare; also April 3, 10, 17, and 24, for Lancashire towns; May 1, on, North. WILL ONDA, New Theatre, Aberdare.

HIPPODROME, STOKE-ON-TRENT; PALACE, DERBY; HIPPODROME, GRIMSBY; PALACE, ATTERCLIFFE.
WANTED, Artistes, and Startling Attractions, in all Lines, for
Immediate and Future Dates.
T. ALLAN EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Al Fresco Artistes, Pianist, Comedians, Smart Ladies or Joint Couples. Photos. Write, lowest, JOE HOLMES, 4 Ravensworth-ter., Monkwearmouth, Sun. Charlie May write.

WANTED, Star Artistes, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, Late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c. Travelling. Letters 1, Fairbourne-road, Levenshulme, Manchester. Arthur Roberts and J. W. Rowley communicate.

WANTED, First-Class Artistes, Top and Bottoms; Money no object, for Manchester, Salford, Blackpool, Morecambe, Rochdale, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, and every town of note. Lithos, photos, &c. Yates' Agency, 3, Oxford-grove, Manchester, S.W.

WANTED, Artistes of every description. Can book good turns, three or four weeks in Scotland. GEO. SAPHRINI, Variety Agent, 5, King-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, big specialities, on Share or Salary, for Feb. 27 and March 6. South. H. DEMPSEY, Corn Exchange, Boston, Lincs.

WANTED, Artistes, at Liberty, Monday, Feb. 20. Wire lowest to
BENDON, Hippodrome, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Artistes, Single and Double Turns. Two Weeks, Mar. 13, 27; Lady Ballad, Feb. 27. Lowest Terms, CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin; Novelty, March 20.

REGENT THEATRE, SALFORD.
WANTED, Known, Call Monday, Feb. 20, 1905. Toreador, St. Louis Girls, Atkins and Roberts, Cora Gray, Julian Mack, The Bensons, Ivy Graham, Ryde and Beeman, George A. Fox, Pictures, Alf. Berg. Rehearsal, 1 p.m. sharp.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, and Specialities, Feb. 20, 27, and March 6, onwards.
State Lowest Terms, Bookings, &c.
I can Place You.
JESS VERNO'S AGENCY, 61, West Derby-st., Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2,076, Royal. Representative, Jesse Burton, Esq.

The Gardner-Brown Bioscope and Variety Company, Gibraltar.
WANTED, at Once, Good Single Comedy Musical Turn, Four Weeks, Second-class Fare to and from Gibraltar; also Good Pianist, Permanent. Apply to D. GARDNER-BROWN, Ass. R., Gibraltar.

WANTED, Big Star Turns, for Pavilion, Altrincham, eight miles from Manchester. Lowest terms, FRED BUDD, Red Lion Hotel, Altrincham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for
February, March,
and all Dates through Summer of 1905,
Star Turns, Tops of Bills,
all the Finest and Biggest Acts Required,
Price no object, for
Manchester,
Salford,
Ashton,
Bury,
Preston,
Liverpool,
Oldham,
Rochdale,
Blackpool,
Morecambe,
Barrow,
Glasgow,
Dundee,
Aberdeen,
Belfast,
Dublin,
Newcastle,
Hull,
Leeds,
Brighton,
Bristol
Birmingham,
Bolton,
Middlesbrough, &c.
New and Novel Acts can have Six Months' Solid Engagements. Send immediately. Terms, Photos, Lithos., &c., to
Will Sley, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09,144 Manchester.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession.
Acts New in Dublin for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland.
Direct
or through Agents.
All communications to
Will Sley,
41, Oxford-street,
Manchester.
Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09,144.

GEO., ZALVA'S AGENCY,

THE HIPPODROME, SCARBORO.

Telegraphic Address,
"Zalva, Scarboro."
Telephone, 288.
WANTED, the Best Acts, of every description
to communicate,
Specially wanted
for the
Yarmouth
and
Lowestofe Hippodromes.
Proprietor,
Mr. GEO. GILBERT
Big Acts
for
April 24,
Whit-Week,
and
from July onwards.

THE SCARBORO HIPPODROME,
Proprietor,
Mr. GEO. ZALVA,
Will re-open shortly,
as soon as alterations
are complete.

Send
Full List
of
Bookings,
absolute lowest terms,
Photos., Lithos.,
GEO. ZALVA,
19, Chapel Field-road,
Norwich,
till Feb. 25th.

WANTED, Big Stars and Variety Artistes, Nothing too big. Send list of bookings and vacancies; also those on my book to keep me posted. I can book any good acts. Barred nowhere.
FRED NEIMAN, Palace Theatre, Hull.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and Particulars to BROOKS, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Feb. 27. March 6, 13,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Immediate and Future Dates
Stars and Novel Acts,
Must be Big,
for the Best Syndicates,
London and Provinces.
GEO. AYTOUN'S Agency,
22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, London, S.E.
Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone, 1,949 Hop.

WANTED, for two weeks, Feb. 27 and March 6, First-Class Variety Turns, all Lines, including Double Turns, Lady and Gent. Terms, &c., to JACK MCKENZIE, Theatre Royal, Langley Moor, Durham.

WANTED, Star Turns, in all Lines, for Feb. 27, and on. Fred Durham's Agency.
Telephone, 15 Brixton.
1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

GRAND CIRCUS, STOCKPORT.
WANTED, Feb. 27, March 6, on, Star Turns, New to Stockport. DAVENPORT, Circus, Stockport.

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
WANTED, for the above, Mon., Feb. 27 and onwards, Great Attractions and Stars of Every Description, Salary or Share; also Useful Acts in all Lines.
Address, D. TAYLOR, Tyvica House, Pontypridd.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL, GAVON.
WANTED, First-class Talent, March 13, onward (All Lines), Good Top, Bottom, and Middle of Bills, Specialities, &c. Write, THOMPSON, 72 High-street East, Wallsend.

WANTED, Specialities, Novelties, Aerial and Ground Acts, for Galas. Lowest terms, lithos., &c., LE MARE AND SON, 28, Coupland-street, Manchester.

WANTED, First-Class Specialities, for Galas, commencing Whit Week, onwards. Nothing too big. Lithos, and full particulars to
VINCELLE,
Bloomfield-street, Derby.

WANTED, Henri Cazman's Agency, Stars, High-Class Acts, for best houses; Acts wanted for the Continent and America.

Tops of bills for Feb. 27 and March, write.

Call for Monday, Opera House, Doncaster; Henri Cazman's Co., The Magic Kettle, Three Sylvanas, Florence Yaymen, Bros. Aban, Ringella Trio, Arthur Ambrion, Hy. Talbot, Les Ombeamanes, Marita Chapelle, Collins and Croft, The Bioscope and Henri Cazman.
Rehearsal at noon, Monday; all must attend. Letters, HENRI CAZMAN, Photos and Letters, Opera House, Doncaster.

THE GLASGOW SYNDICATE HALLS, TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S VARIETY THEATRES, GLASGOW.
One Performance Nightly at Both Houses.
WANTED, First-class Funny Acts of all Kinds, Good Singing Turns, Sensational Novelties, and Brilliant Stars for Tops. Future Bookings can be made for One Week Only at a time, and none but those Turns capable of Working both Theatres the same night can be entertained.
Bill Matter Two Weeks in advance is imperative.
S. KING ALEXANDER, General Manager,
Head Office, Tivoli Palace Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Three More Good Acts, for Northampton, Aug. 7, 8, 9.
Address, MCASKELL, 91, Martin-road, Middlesboro'.

AMERICA.
AMERICA.
AMERICA.
WANTED, Big Feature Acts. Lithos, Photos, Terms.
Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

SHANKLIN.
To Musical Artistes.
WANTED, Applications from High-class Professional Concert Parties
for the Sole Right to give
Al-fresco Entertainments
on the
Beach at Shanklin
during the forthcoming Season, 1905,
say from
June to 1st October.

Letters,
which should be addressed
to the
Clerk to the Urban District Council,
should state
Amount of Royalty offered
for the
Facilities given,
and should also be
accompanied by a
Photograph
of the Artistes,
and a Specimen Programme (if any),
must reach the
Council Chambers,
Shanklin,
I.W.,
on or before March 31 next.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS.
WANTED, by the Corporation of South Shields, Applications for the Provision of Entertainments during the Ensuing Summer on a Stage and Enclosure, on land between the Marine Parks in South Shields; 200 Chairs will be provided.

Applicants must state the character of their Entertainments, the period during which they propose to provide the Entertainments, and the amount of Rental or other payment they would be prepared to pay to the Corporation for the use of the Stage and Enclosure.
Conditions of letting, with form of tender attached, will be forwarded on application to, or may be seen at the office of, the Town Clerk, Court Buildings, South Shields, to whom Tenders must be delivered not later than Friday, the 10th March, 1905, sealed, and endorsed, "Tender for the Provision of Entertainments."

To Amusement Caterers, Pyrotechnists, Balloonists, &c. The Committee of the Bradford and West Riding Galas, Peel Park, Bradford.
WANTED, by the above, Tenders for the whole or part of the Amusements (outdoors), on Whit Monday and Tuesday, June 12 and 13, 1905. Programme of Fireworks, £55 for the two Displays.

Tenders must be sent to
The SECRETARIES, at the Infirmary, Bradford, on or before Thursday, Feb. 23.

WANTED, March 6 and 20, First-class Variety Combinations. Twice Nightly. Address, GEO. S. KING, Theatre Metropole, Hoyland, near Barnsley.

WANTED, Whit Week, and onwards, for all the principal Fêtes, Galas, Carnivals, Aerial and Ground Acts of every description. Must send lithos, memos, list of bookings and vacancies, permanent address, and lowest terms. Burton's Agency, 5, Milner's-chambers, Fargate, Sheffield.

WANTED, Big and Small Acts, Attractions for Fêtes. G. PRINCE, 2, Mansfield-ter., Cubitt Town, Poplar, London, E.

Kinross Gymnastic Games.
WANTED Outdoor Amusements for the above Games, on
July 17, 1905.
Apply, D. FERGUSON,
Secretary, Kinross, N.B.

WANTED, Startling Sensational Attractions, for Fêtes, Commencing Easter Monday. Must have Picture Posters. Send Lowest Terms Daily. Railway Fares Paid. Perm. Add., Specimen Picture Poster, to ALFRED MONTGOMERY, the Oldest Established Reliable Fête Provider in the World, 51, Cornwallis-rd., Upper Holloway, London, N.

WANTED, Sopranos, Contraltos, Sisters (both doing Singles), Pianiste (lady) to combine Violin. High-class Speciality doing Two Turns; also good working Agent willing to use brush, and baggage to bill. Age, height, photo., and terms to CROFT and KING, Birrell-road, Nottingham.

WANTED, Ballad Vocalist, or Refined Comedienne capable of Illustrated Songs; also Good Solo Legmania Dancer, to do Serpentine, for Tour, join June. Four Weeks Guaranteed. State Lowest Terms, Refs., &c., Box 1,192, care of "The Era."

WANTED, a Young Lady, with good Contralto Voice and Good Appearance, for Music Halls. Apply by letter to B. H., Barnard's Varieties, Chatham.

WANTED, Lady for double comedy turn, Share salary. Photo.
E. BENSON, 107, Junction-road, Holloway.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, ABERDARE.
WANTED, Feb. 20, onward, Comedians and Serios of Note, Specialities, Knockabouts, Sisters, &c. Always Vacancies for First-class Turns.
General Manager, WILL GREGORY.

WANTED, three smart Comedians, one to dance well, and Descriptive Vocalist; good repertoire, used to sketches preferred; select al fresco. Open Whitsun. State age and lowest terms. Box 1,210, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Comedians, smart, gentlemanly, Refined Artistes,
with good Voices and Speciality,
Al fresco Concerts.
Photo, age, height, lowest terms, first letter,
GILBERT ROGERS, Palace, Bath.

WANTED, good eccentric Comedian, for Monday next; also Artistes in all Lines. Wire absolute lowest; Hall small. GALINO, Empire, Bridgwater.

WANTED, beginners for small Music Hall; also amateurs for Dramatic Répertoire company. No premiums. Write, Stamp, HAMILTON, 138, Lea Bridge-road.

WANTED, Immediate, Operator, for Bioscope, one used to Lime and Electricity. Apply, with terms, to C. GASCOIGNE, Best Brand Hotel, Broad-street, Bristol.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Sylvia Martini, La Belle Equestrienne, with her beautiful Arab stallion, in Sensational "Lady Godiva" and other acts, is packing Barnard's, Woolwich, this week; free Feb. 20, 27. Address, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Mrs. Dudley Smith, with Renowned Exhibition of Show-Ring Leaping, introducing her mare, "Dainty Lass," winner of 243 prizes. For Stage or Ring. At Liberty.
Address, 21, Wood-street, Bolton.

WANTED, Known,
BESSIE TRAVIS,
The Female Valetine Vox.
Empress, Brixton.
Monday, Canterbury.

WANTED, Engagement, Contralto, Good-Class Light Comedy Coon, and Concerted repertoire. Sketches. Would join Concert Party.
Box 1,222, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Miss Anita Wayman, Soprano, "The Scottish Nightingale." Vacant Monday, March 6, owing to Hippodrome, Ipswich, not being completed. Offers. Monday, Pier Pavilion, Southport.

WANTED, Known, Three Sisters Adrienne, Great Success, Circus, Stockport. Next, E., Dudley. Vacant, Pantomime. Good Offers invited.

WANTED, by Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, the Factory Nightingales, March 27, April 3 and 24. Monday, Palace, Greenwich and Woolwich.

WANTED, by Oliver Conroy, Comedian, Feb. 20, One Week.
Palace Theatre, Bradford.

WANTED, Known, Little Britton, Eccentric Comedian, as Snowball, J. Tiller's "Ohio." This, Empire, Holloway; Next, Empire, New Cross. See me Bounce. Look Out for my Original Act, to be Produced Shortly.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Picitt, the Muscular Master of Manacles, Handcuff Marvel without Faked Fetters or Trick Boxes, Depending Entirely upon the Scientific Use of my Strength. An Athlete in Athletic Dress, convincing the most Sceptical that I Cannot Conceal Anything for the purpose of Escaping from the Chains, Fetters, or Boxes used to secure me. Searched from head to feet any moment during my act. Conjurers' Methods Impossible. The Only Act in this line that Has Not Been Copied or Exposed. Managers requiring a Big Top of the Bill Sensation, send for Lithos. and Printing. Vacant, April 10. Few Dates, May, June, and December. Booked Solid, 1905 (nearly all Returns).

Now Making Tour of Scotland.
I commenced in November, at Palace, Dundee.
and will conclude April 1.
April 3, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

Coms., Drill Hall, Wick, N.B.

WANTED, Kardoc, Jail Breaker, Handcuff King, Feb. 27, on, with Exceptions. This Week Packing the Hippodrome, New Brompton, as I Packed the Coliseum, Sheerness. Refer to the Management of both Places. On Saturday, Feb. 11, all Sheerness Turned Out to See me Screwed Down in a Local-made Coffin, in the Public Square, the Police Helpless. All Coms. to Perm. Address, 320, High-road, Chiswick, London. See Card, Wire.

WANTED, March 6, 13, to precede Portsmouth, by Arthur Royce, the popular "Eccentric Comedian-Pianist," 72in. of clean comedy at the Piano. Concluded Panto, Elephant and Castle T, London. First-Class Lithos. Next, 15, Alexandra-road, St. Leonards; Feb. 27, Pier, Southport.

WANTED, Feb. 20 and 27, by W. Horsley, Variety Artist, Champion Clog Dancer. 14, Bedford-street, Hartlepool.

WANTED, Known, Joe Mayo's Collier's Song and Character Sketch, the most interesting turn.—Vide Press.

WANTED, by Charles Coore, March 6, on; White Coon Vocalist.
13, Rugby-street, Broughton-lane, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, I, Harry Jennings, Comedian and Dancer, am open to back "Yorkshire Tom," Mimic of Animals, Birds, &c., against any man in the world for £25 or £50. Agents invited. Vacant March 6; joint or singly; also on. Next, Tivoli, Glasgow; Greenock to follow.

WANTED, Monday Next, by Percy Maye, owing to Ipswich Hippodrome not being Ready for Opening. Wire, Hippo., Norwich.

WANTED, Monday, on by Cambo, the Musical Monkey,
Big Novelty (Original).
Can do Two Numbers if Required.
Wire, 59, Urquhart-road, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Feb. 27, on, by Fred Casburn, Quaint Comedian, in a Dress Suit. Communications, Opera House, York.

WANTED, Known, Bert Williams. Unprecedented success at Leamington Spa. Next week, Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, Monday; also 27th, and March 6, for "The Rowdy Coster." B. GEORGE, T. R., Jarrow; Next Week, 35, Amelia-street, Elswick.

WANTED, Engagements, Conjuring, Second Sight, and Cinématograph. Three Distinct Turns. Now Booking Piers, &c. Artistes write in for my Walton Pier Pavilion Season. Six Weeks from July 24.
Prof. LENTON, 15, Grange-terrace, Wood-green, N.

WANTED, Feb. 20, by Warton, Comedy Conjuror. Enormous Success with the Mysterious Target Illusion. Hippo., Coventry.

WANTED, Known, Goliath, the strongest youth in the world. A few summer dates vacant. Address, County Theatre, St. Albans.

WANTED, Feb. 27, March 6, 13, for The Pattinsons (Belle and Andrew),
Celebrated Musical and Vocal Entertainers,
English, Scotch, and Gaelic Songs,
Evening Dress, and Full Highland Costume.
Double Xylophone Playing, and the
Greatest Novelty Piano Playing
Greatest Novelty Piano Playing
in the World
(Patent Protected, Reg No. 21,579).
Appeared before Royalty with Huge Success.
Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow, 20th. Managers and Agents invited to see this Great Act.
Academy of Music, 24 Paterson-st., S. S., Glasgow.

WANTED, by H. Neuman and Beatrice Royle, First-class Versatile Artistes, Good Alfresco. 43, Rye-hill-park, Peckham, S.E.

WANTED, by The Weimars, Feb. 27, March 6, Monday return Empire, Burnley. The only act or its kind touring.

WANTED, by The Warlocks, Monday next; also Feb. 27. Wire, Court Theatre, Wigan. Sure Success.

WANTED, Feb. 27, March 13, to follow Ton-y-pandy and Swansea, by the Two Sports (Dolly and Sam), Vocal Comedy Duettists and Instrumentalists; single turns if wanted. Offers to Hippodrome, Ton-y-pandy.

WANTED, Monday next, also 27, by Sam Shipley and Beatie Worth. Wire, Palace, Lancaster, for one or both; always successful.

WANTED, Proprietors and Managers, and all whom it may Concern, to Note, there are Rumours going around that the
ORIGINAL GRELL AND GREY
have Separated, and each Taken a New Partner.
We Proclaim
this Report to be Utterly
False,
and we Hereby Certify that the
ORIGINAL GRELL AND GREY
are Still Together,
and a Huge Hit in Pantomime,
"CINDERS," THEATRE ROYAL, BRADFORD,
Closing a Record Season Feb. 25,
and on the 27th we Commence the
MOSS EMPIRES, at Bordesley.
June, LONDON COLISEUM, June,
where our Elegant New and Original Act,
"Bertie's First Lesson in Tennis,"
will be Displayed to the Best Advantage.
Advice to Brother (?) Artistes:
Don't Talk Scandal; Keep to the Right.
No Vacancies this Year.

Communications en route.

WANTED, Monday, by the Kendalls "Masquerade Ball," First-class Act, Splendidly Dressed. St. Margaret's Hall, Canterbury.

WANTED, Known, Bass and Guinness, Eccentric Comedians and Dancers. Finish Saturday, 5th, year's Panto Season with Fred J. Little, Esq. Vacant Feb. 27 and March 6. Wires, Junction, Manchester. Letters, 149, Spring-street, Bury, Lancs.

WANTED, by The Two Daniels, Coon, Male and Female Character, Flip Boot, Song, and Dance. Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

WANTED, by Two Daniels, Life-like Negro, Plantation, Big Boot, Song, and Dance Experts. Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

WANTED, Early Dates, by The Two Daniels, High Stilt-Dancing Coons and Mec. Donkey. Screaming Success. Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

WANTED, Engagements, by Two Daniels, Negro Double Spade Song and Dance, Bones, Banjo, and Clog. Victoria, Burnley.

WANTED, 20th to 27th, by Doyle and Massey, Eccentric Knockabout Patterers, Dancers, and Burlesque Boxers. Gaiety, Birmingham.

WANTED, Feb. 20, by Lead and Lead, Characteristic Comedy Duettists; singles if required. 105, Seville-place, Dublin.

WANTED, by Rea and Lea, Feb. 20 and March 6, Eccentric Comedy Team. Palace, Cork, or Sley.

WANTED, Engagement, by Demi and Semi, Muiscal Act, Patter, and Dancing, Feb. 27. This, Gatti's; Next, E., Southampton.

WANTED, Monday, by Denton and Dale, Comedians; also March 6, to follow Empire, Dover. Coliseum, Sheerness.

WANTED, by The St. Johns, Feb. 27, March 6, 13, on. Comedy, Musical, Dancing.
Oxford, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, by Rex and Ford, Eccentric Patter Comedians, also single Musical Clown, two distinct acts, Monday next, Empire, Dover.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday Next, also Feb. 27, by The Powells Troupe, Acrobatic, Speciality, Pantomimist. Own Tricks, Scenery. Address, Palace, Bristol.

WANTED, by the Two Harveys, Acrobatic Comedy Act, Feb. 27 and March 6. Address, 39, Mepham-street, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED.—Garland and Anderson, Ventriloquist and Conjuror, wants Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27. Only Vacant Dates this Year. Write, GARLAND, Wrexham.

WANTED, Known, Kydd and Kydd, Comedians and Dancers, Vacant Feb. 27 and March 20; also for Good Alfresco Season. Theatre, Warrington.

WANTED, Known, Carlton and Atkins, the Premier Musical Pair,
at Liberty March 6 and onward. Per. address, 40, Chadwick-street, W. Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, also 27, by Chant and Chant, Comedy Vocalists and Patterers. Wire, 49, Main-street, Anderston, Glasgow; after Sunday, P.O., Stockport.

WANTED, Monday next, by the Hampson Bros., undoubtedly the smartest Patter Act extant; terrific success everywhere. Wire, Hippodrome, Salford.

WANTED, Feb. 27, March 6, 13, Young and Mack, Burlesque Comedians, Big Hit. Hippodrome, Accrington; Monday, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Known, the Albyns (three ladies, three gents.), the latest and most original Vocal Act, introducing Chorus, Comedy, Quartettes, Instrumentalist, Dances, and Comedian; a sure success. Wanted, March 21, to follow Glasgow. Yates' Agency, Manchester, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Lea and Lovell, American Song Illustrators. Finish to-night, Theatre Royal, Warrington; next Hippo, Ashton; Blackburn and London to follow. 15 Albert-square, Clapham-road, London.

WANTED, Known, The Rushforths, Song Illustrators, and King Leo, Ventriloquist, Lib. Mon. Wire, 131, Cross-lane, Salford.

WANTED, Known, Seltina Troupe, Lady and Gentlemen Acrobats; also Brothers Levett, Conclude To-night, Hippo, Hulme, Manchester. Lib. Mon.

WANTED, Known, Tom Hall's Tippling Toffs and Tumbling Terriers. This, T. R., Liverpool; next, Hippo., Wakefield. Liberty, Feb. 27.

WANTED, March 27, onwards, for the Funniest of all Sketches, "Fun on the Bristol," 30 to 40 Minutes' Laughter. Special Scene. Address, MAURICE LOVE, P. O., Ambleside.

WANTED, Immediate and Future Dates, Music Hall or Theatre, where Money can be Taken, for Brien McCullough and First-class Combination, including "The Winner," Racing Sketch, with Racehorses and Crowd (Everything Carried), and "Two Runaway Girls;" also Handcuff King, and other Great Attractions. Share or Certainty. Address, 12, Elm-grove, Hammersmith, London, W.

WANTED, Monday Next, by Ross-Clyde Co., in "I Must Have It!" Wire,
SMYTHSON, Palace, Plymouth; M., Palace, Bristol.

"DEFENDING THE COLOURS."
WANTED, Known, Tom Herman's Juvenile Patriotic Naval and Military Spectacle. Next Week, Queen's Varieties, Poplar. Vacant Dates. 9, Scouler-st., Poplar, E.

WANTED, Known, Spangeletti's Stage Circus, Pony, Dogs, Revolving Table, Riding, Machine, &c. At liberty, Feb. 27, March 13, 20; finish to-night Sunderland; Monday, Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Gingero, with his Marvellous performing Bulls, Sheep, and Goats, and Dogs, vacant Feb. 27. Address, Grand Circus, Stockport.

WANTED, March 6, Chard's Dog Circus.
Hippodrome,
Accrington.

WANTED, Known, Nita, the Hypnotised and Suspended Maiden, at Mr. Jacob Studt's Skating Rink, Southampton. At Liberty, Feb. 27 and March 6. 22, Windsor-terrace, Southampton.

WANTED, Situation, by Operator, Age 33; Abstainer. Ten Years' Experience (Lime or Electric). TRAVERS, 31, Fawe-park-rd., Putney, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, for the Edison-Paul Animated Pictures, Change Weekly, always Up-to-date; also Paul and Travers, Song Illustrators, Two Distinct Turns for Tour, Two Hours' Show if Required; also Operator and Machine, at Liberty, for Seaside, Tenting, or Tour. First-class Show, Reasonable Terms. Address, T. M. PAUL, Empire Theatre, Shildon, Durham. Telegrams, Paul, Shildon.

WANTED, Known, Cinematograph (Good Pictures), together with First-class Refined Musical Turn and Illustrated Songs, at Lib. Mon., and on. DALMAINES, 4, St. John's-square, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Engagements for Up-to-Date Pictures. Reduced Prices. THE WALTURDAW COMPANY, LIMITED, 3, Dean-street, Holborn, London.

WANTED, dates for Bioscope Pictures, also Troupe of Dogs, High Leaping Dog, a splendid show and a sure draw. LE CLAIR, Theatre Royal, Workington.

WANTED, Known, The Royal Circus Bioscope have one machine vacant, Monday, Feb. 20, with Japanese War films, Riots in Russia, and latest comics. Wire, 67, Hope-street, Sheerness.

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WANTED, Known, Electrical Specialities. SIMPKIN, WILKINSON, and GIBSON,
66, Kirkstall-road, Leeds,
Manufacture Dynamos, Arc Lamps, Switchboards, &c., Specially for Showmen. Also Stock Cable, Globes, Carbons, Incandescents, and Every Requisite.

Tom Taylor and Sons, Launch and Boat Builders, Staines, Middlesex.
WANTED, Known, Contracts Taken for Running and Supplying Launches (Steam, Electric, and Oil Motor); also Boats of Every Description on Lakes or Artificial Water. Lakes and Artificial Water Rented for Working Electric Launches and Boats of all descriptions at Cheap Fares.
Builders and Workers of Electric Launches at Earl's Court, Crystal Palace, Glasgow Exhibition, and Cork Exhibition.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Handsellers to know Simons is the Man for
Cheap Second-hand Watches and Jewellery.
Send £5 for Special Parcel.

117, Houndsditch, London.

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Simons' is the Cheapest Place for
Clocks, Bronzes, Field Glasses, and Cheap Jewellery.
Best-class French Paste Stocked for the Profession. 117, Houndsditch.

WANTED, Showmen to Know, that Leete's Colours and Varnishes are the Best and Cheapest in London. Vermilionettes, Permanent Reds, Carmines, Carriage and Copal Varnishes, Gold Leaf, Brushes, &c., and every Decorator's Requisite for Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Carriage Paid on all Orders £2.
Write, for price list, or call,
Leete's Colour Works, 129, London-rd, Southwark, S.E.

Fire. Fire. Fire.
WANTED, Known.—Have you Insured with Mr. Pope, the Showman's Fire Insurance Man? If not, hurry up, before you have a Fire.
Send Post-card To-day to
F. F. POPE, Abingdon-on-Thames,
who will call on you anywhere.

WANTED, Showmen, Travellers, Fair Keepers, to Send for our New 1905 List of Goods and Novelties. We Supply Everything for Shooting Saloons, Emma Stalls, Throwing Games, Confetti, Tormentors, Swing Ropes, &c. Our Latest, the Bombardment of Port Arthur, Big Success. STACEY AND Co., Settles-street, London, E.

WANTED, Known, J. Whiles and Son, Showmen's Painters, Gilders, and Decorators. Estimates given. Roundabouts and horses a speciality. Inspection invited. Prompt attention. Terms cash. Workshops, Kimmersitch-street, Burton-on-Trent.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Novelties of every Description, suitable for Fêtes, must have pictorials, for June, July, August, and September. State lowest terms per day. Return fares paid from London terminus. Specimen litho and permanent address, Sylvester, Royal Agent, 271, Clapham-road, London. No callers. Interviews by appointment.

WANTED, Quick Showing Novelties, Freaks, Tattooist, &c. Shares (best position). MAXFIELD, 9, Mary-street, Dublin.

WANTED, Novelties, Feb. 27, and on. PICKARD'S Waxwork and Varieties, Trongate, Glasgow.

WANTED, Quick Showing Freaks and Novelties, Monday and onwards. Salary or Shares. Glorious Success. Carlo and Madame Rigolo, and the Boy Hercules. Flo and Seigal write. Summer Tour. F. MORDAUNT, The Novelty Show, 181, Overgate, Dundee.

WANTED, Novelties, for the Best Shop in Chatham, Next Door to Gaiety. R. J. LOVEGROVE, 51, High-street.

WANTED, Shows, for Large Shop, Grand Position, or will Let. Wire, LEE, 4, Church-way, S. Shields.

WANTED, Side Shows and Trades, at Work, for Trades' Council Bazaar. March 16, 17, 18. Terms, P. HARRISON, 61, Charles-street, Darlington

WANTED, to Open Monday, First-class Mirror Show, at the Grand Exhibition Rooms, Oxford-street, Reading; also First-class Novelties, Jewellery, and other Stalls; likewise all Kinds of Games and Amusements. Wire, TOM NORMAN.

WANTED, Lady Tank Performer. Send List of Tricks and photo (returnable); salary required, to Box 1,211, care of "The Era."

Provincial Exhibitions.—Borough of Cheltenham, 2nd Annual General Trades Exhibition, Winter Gardens, Cheltenham, Mar. 11 to 18, 1905, inclusive. City of Gloucester, 2nd Annual General Trades Exhibition, The Baths, Gloucester, April 1 to 8, 1905, inclusive. Nuneaton General Trades Exhibition, Drill Hall, Nuneaton, April 22 to 29, 1905, inclusive.

WANTED, High-class Palmist, Distorting Mirrors, Fancy Goods, Stamps, Engraver, Automatic Models. For prospectus and terms apply, MGR., Exhibition Office, Winter Gar., Cheltenham.

WANTED, Freaks, Bar Novelties. First-Class terms to original artistes. Apply, Dog Inn, Cow Hill, Oldham.

WANTED, a Good Marionette Show, for Ten Days, Middle of March, Town Hall, Middlesbro'. Address, D. GREEN, Drill Hall, Durham.

WANTED, for P. Collins, Limited, New Cinématograph Exhibition. Smart Gentlemanly Doorsman, also Good Operator, Well up in Electric Lighting. Only men with good references need apply. P. COLLINS, Ltd., Gondola Works, Walsall.

WANTED, Experienced Floorsman. Good Salary and Commission Offered to Thoroughly Competent Man. H. KING and Co., 1, Shore-rd., Hackney, London.

WANTED, at once, good Comedian and Planksman; also good Piano Player; both used to the business. Harry Rennard write if at Liberty. Good shop to good men. WEST BROS., Auction Mart, Church, near Accrington, Lancs.

WANTED, Male Parader, Used to Show Business, Comedian or Performer. Harry Orman Write. LAWRENCE, Market, Crewe.

WANTED, Experienced Hand, to Rearrange Waxwork Exhibition. Apply, MANAGER, Palace, Rhyl.

WANTED, Known, Carl Harmon's Royal Punch & Judy & Marionettes, also Bioscope, open for Engagements. 101A, Penwith-rd., Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, with Grand Marionette Entertainment, for Summer Season. Long or Short Show. Share or Certainty. Particulars, Box No. 1,137, care of "The Era."

Veni, Vidi, Vici.

WANTED, Known, Tom Urwin, the Yankee Side Showman, at Liberty. Advance Agent or Describer. 10, Bradley-st., S. Huddersfield.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen, Roundabout Proprietors, Stallholders, and all Followers of Pleasure Fairs. P. Collins, Limited, Gondola Works, Walsall, are now Booking Tenants for their Early Spring, Easter, Whitsuntide, and Summer Fairs. Parties Requiring Ground address as above. Respectable and Responsible Tenants quoted Reasonable Rents. Some of the Best Grounds in England, as below:— Shrovetide Fairs, Longton and Lichfield. March and April Fairs to follow. Dudley, Quarry Bank, Cradley Heath, Stourbridge, and Brierley Hill. Easter Fairs. Coventry, Newcastle, Staffs, Wolverhampton, Birkenhead, and London. Good Positions and round to follow to Whitsuntide. We have Wolverhampton Market Place, Birmingham Fair, Whit Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and rounds to follow up to Christmas. Telephone address, 80, Walsall. Telegraphic address, "Gondola, Walsall."

WANTED, Roundabout Proprietors, Cinématograph, and Other Shows, also Stallholders and other Fair Travellers, to know that we have Ground to Let at our Fair Ground, Borough-road, Birkenhead, Easter Fair, Commencing Saturday, April 15, for Two Weeks. This is the best situated Fair Ground in the Liverpool District, and our Christmas Carnival thereon was most Successful. All Applications to be made in writing to P. COLLINS, Limited, Gondola Works, Walsall.

WANTED, Known to Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stallholders, and all Travellers, that I have secured my usual grounds for the coming season, and I shall commence on Friday, March 3, and every week until the end of the season. Ordsall Lane, Easter; also Knutsford Royal May Festival. Application to be made to me direct. JOHN WHITING, Anchorage, Stretford; or, 13, Orford-chambers, Manchester. Office hours, 12 to 6.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen, Roundabout Proprietors, Stall Holders, and others, I have Ground to Let for Trafford-road Great Easter Fair, commencing on April 20. All persons requiring Ground must apply at once to Mr. WM. HOLMES, Halliwell-terrace, 28, Trafford-rd., Salford.

NEW BRIGHTON TOWER.

WANTED, to let, on shares or rent, several good positions on Fair Grounds, for Season. Novel and Attractive Shows. Electric light in each place.

Apply SEC., Tower, New Brighton.

WANTED, to Let, Shop, Crichton-street, Dundee. Weekly, 20s. Suitable Show or Auction. REID, 3, Cowgate, Dundee.

Exceptional Bargains.

WANTED, all Showmen to Know that we have for Sale Several Second-hand Gavioliphones (Eighty-seven Keys), Playing by Paper Music; in Good Condition; also a Quantity of Brass Trumpet Organs, with or without Drums; and, having to make room for New Stock, we have decided to Sell these Organs at an Enormous Reduction, and no Reasonable Offer Refused. CHIAPPA and SONS, Limited, 6, Little Bath-street, Clerkenwell, London; also at 17, Milton-street, Lower Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, Fine-Art Exhibition. Organ, Engine, and everything in working order. Road or Rail. Also Three Sets of Swings. Any Reasonable Offer will be taken. Reason for Selling, Retiring from Business. For Price, apply to J. COOPER, Garrison-field, Sunderland.

WANTED, to Sell, Peep Show, 3 sections of 6 stereoscopes, mounted, in travelling cases. Cost £5; price 50s. STACEY, Settles-st, London, E.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, to Sell, Cinematograph Show, 36ft. front, 40ft. back, with Warwick Bioscope, about 8,000ft. of films; also a Fowler's 5-horse traction engine, in good condition. Apply G. PRUETT, Redfield, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, for Sale, two Showmen's Portable Electric Plants, in Good Working order; also 8 horse power Traction, with or without dynamo.

SIMPKIN, WILKINSON, AND GIBSON, Leeds.

WANTED, to Sell, Living-Van, as New.

To be seen at JOHN PITT, Little Dean-hill, Near Newnham, Gloucestershire.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic (Penny Slot) Machines, Largest and Most Assorted Stock. ½d. and 1d. Lung Testers, 25s., cost £5; Electric Shock, 25s. and 30s.; Eye, Hair, Astrologer, Love-Letter, Photo, Fortune, Working Models, New and Secondhand. Call or Write for List. Buy Now, and Save 50%. MASON, Settles-street, London, E.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, Love-letter, Husbands, Babies, Black List, Marriage and Liars' Licences, &c. MEURICE, 20, Bidborough-st., W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, All Kinds, ½d. to 1d. slot. Guaranteed cheaper than elsewhere. 5, Denning-road, Hampstead-heath.

WANTED, to Sell, Slot Machines, &c., of all kinds; best and cheapest in the trade. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, to Sell, Penny Drop Working Model of Donnybrook Fair (large), fine model. Cost £75; price £8, bargain. STACEY, Settles-st, London, E.

WANTED, to Sell, Twelve Distorting Mirrors, 6ft. by 3ft. Black Frames. Cost £240. Low Price. Apply Box 1,043, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, to Buy, Fishing Pond, or Novelty, for Markets, Fairs, &c. HUNTER, 24, Matamba-terrace, Millfield, Sunderland.

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WANTED, to Sell, a Quantity of Musical Instruments, Brass, Wood-Wind, and String, New and Second-hand. W. JACQUES, 110, Draytongardens, South Kensington, London.

WANTED, to Sell, the Entire Pantomime Production of the Enormously Successful "Babes in the Wood," now running at the Grand Theatre, Islington. For Sale at the end of its run (Dresses excepted). Address MANAGER.

WANTED, to Sell, a Performing Donkey. Apply, PING PONG, Circus, Stockport.

WANTED, to Sell, a Clever Performing Dog, five good tricks. H. JOHNSON, 6, Middleton-road, Kingsland-road, N.E.

WANTED, to Sell, two Sets of Xylophones, rosewood, splendid tone, £2 each. SEEBOLD, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, to Sell, High-class Professional Cinématograph, by Wrench, Perfect Condition, Complete; also Films. 28, Berners-st, Ipswich.

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WANTED, to Sell, large Orchestrion, Four Tunes, Splendid in Tone, and very Loud, suitable for Place of Entertainment or Large Hotel, to be Sold Cheap, as short of room. GULDMAN and Co., 7, Sugar-lane, Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, Scenery, interior of Pawnshop, Musical Instruments, Watches, Clocks, Safes, &c, painted 12 months ago at cost of £25, receipt shown, fit any stage; just the thing for Comedy, Musical Acts, or Sketch. Price £17. MILLER, Arcade, Bristol.

WANTED, to Sell Cheap, Large Travelling Trunk, Containing One Pair New Tights, Half-dozen Ladies' Handsome Stage Dresses, Nearly New. May be seen from 11 till 3, at 67, Chelsea-gardens, S.W.

WANTED, Known, for Sale, Cheap, Complete Stage Magical Act, all Nickel Tables and Apparatus, Continental Make, Never been Worked in England. Latest Illusions, Band Parts, Hampers, &c. Cost over £160. D., 22, Great Church-lane, Hammersmith.

WANTED, to Sell, Leg Paddings, Tights, Woven Animal Skins, Mechanical Donkeys, Properties. MAYERS, 22, Shepperton-rd, Islington, N.

WANTED, to Sell, Portable Harmonium, Walnut Case, Three Octaves, Scarcely Used, Practically New. Cost £4 10s. Cash (Receipt Shown); Sacrifice for £3. Can be Seen any Time. W. STEHLE, 25, St. James's-road, Forest Gate.

WANTED, to Sell, Entire Rights, with Props, Printing, &c., of Military and Domestic Drama, "A Sister's Sacrifice." LOCKWOOD, T., Chatham.

WANTED, to Sell, Living Marionette Fit Up, and Six Figures, £4 10s.; Figures, 5s. each; Hamley's Basket of Changing Flowers, 12s.; She at Stake Illusion, £3 15s.; Chinese Canister Illusion, Dr. OLIVER, 76, Gallowgate, Glasgow.

WANTED, to Dispose of a Large Quantity of Magic Lanterns and Slides, Great Bargains; and if you Desire to Purchase, Hire, or Exchange Magic Lanterns and Slides, Lime Light Boxes, Jets, or any Fittings, Send for Walter Tyler's Catalogue, Post Free. Many Great Bargains. WALTER TYLER, 48, Waterloo-road, London.

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WANTED, to Sell, Tip-up Seats, about 300 with arms, and 160 without arms, upholstered velvet, in good condition. To be sold, a bargain. Full particulars, apply, Box 1,170, care of "The Era."

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WANTED, to Sell, a Large Quantity of Valuable Pit Seating, with Iron Standards. Cheap. Apply, MANAGER, Tivoli Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, to Sell, a First-Class Pantomime, production complete, or costumes (over 300), in one lot, and scenery and properties in other lot, suitable for any English subject. Cost nearly £2,500, and has only been used one season. For further particulars, address, Box 1,215, care of "The Era."

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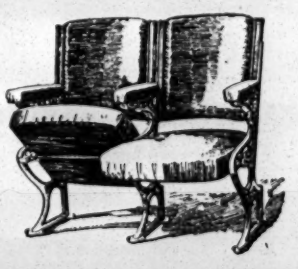

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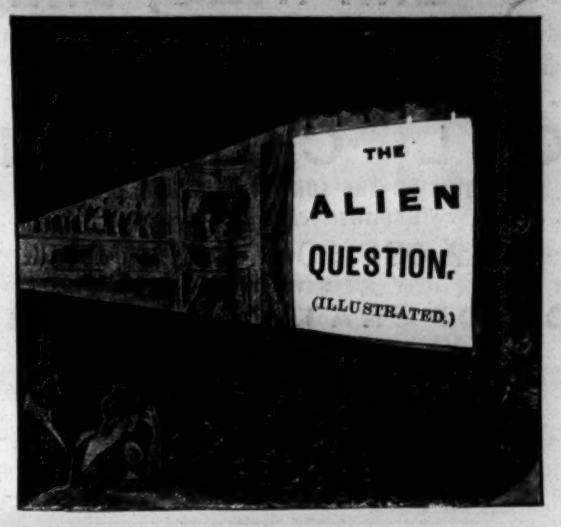

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EMPIRE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
Tilley Bebe, Fitzroys, Ian Colquhoun, Three Victorias, Florrie St. Clair, Wotpert Trio, Harry Clifford, Burnellys, T. C. Callaghan, "V.C." Sketch.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
Rousbey's Electrolytes, Little Uno, George Bohee, Mersano, Sakers, Sarnthalers, Tom Stuart, Conway and Leland, Chas. Adams, Astley Troupe.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
Tom Costello, Cline and Clark, Geo. Newburn, Mueller and Coyne, Arthur Lloyd Trio, Three Donals, Diamond and Beatrice, Two Butterflies, Harriett Vernon, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
Max Gruber, Billy Hobbs, Driscoll and Beattie, Lily Tiso, Aurora Troupe, Morris and Morris, Four MacGoverns, Brown and Robinson, My Fancy, Frazer and Mac, Albert Whelan, Robertus and Wilfredo.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for
Staley's Transformation, Geo. Adams, Ella Retford, Martin and Quigg, Four Royal Welshmen, Trapnell Family, Great Lumars, Carl & Mary Ohm, Rackett & Hazard, Chas. Coborn.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal, at 2.30, for
Agoust Family, Two Bostons, Winona Winter and Banks, Little Ulpts, Japanese Guards, Mdlle. Emmy, Meredith Sisters, Proveanie Troupe, Sisters Neilson, Five M.I.'s.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
Rossow's Midgets, Will Haines, Edie Veno, James Fawn, Amber Austa, Richard List, Korries, Morton and Elliott, Five Julians, Mendel.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
Hagedorn's Fairy Grotto, Geo. Ridgwell, Burns and Evans, Fred Neiman, Belle Davis, Frank Harwood, Five Olracs, Bioscope, Leslie Bros.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
"Wild West," Virto and Irene, Lulu Gould, Tom Edwards, Carlo and Maie, Strolling Players, Sinclair and Parr, Peppo's Monkeys, Hermann Melot.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.

Rehearsal, at 1, for
Leon Morris' Ponies, Harry Martell, Llewellyn Sisters, Rosnas Trio, Lillie Langtry, Helen Martin, Florence Smithers and Co., Jimmy Shields, Collins and Hart.

EMPIRE PALACE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal, at 1, for
Harry Freman, Hamilton Hill, Sisters Oswald, Matweef Hugoston Troupe, Belloni's Cockatoos, Chas. Cardow, Albano Troupe, Chas. Norton, Percival, Eugen Marrder.

NEW EMPIRE PALACE, SHEPHERD'S-BUSH.

Rehearsal, at 1, for
Will H. Fox, Nina Martino, Ryan and Hall, Geo. Tacius, 3 Fortune Bros., Swan and Bambard, Bioscope, "In the King's Name," 3 Nevarros.

EMPIRE THEATRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal, at 3, for
G. H. Chirgwin, Ryder Slone, Basalari, Kieffer Co., Norman Leonard Trio, Conn and Conrad, Alf Arnesen, Frank Leslie, Cruikshank.

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Rehearsal, at 3, for
Kellino Family, Cora Caselli, Baker and Balfe, Ross and Grayson, Lily Burnand, Burg, Haud, and Wise, Arthur Gill, Ambrose Thorne, James Bard, Les Brunins.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal, at 3, for
Bernar's Fantoches, Ida Heath, Rumbo Austin, Marie Collins, Clown Herford, Harry Lamore, Bioscope, Sable Fern, F. V. St. Clair.

PALACE THEATRE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal, at 2.30, for
Fanny Fields, Bros. Horne, Ethel Ra Leslie, Charles Deane, O'Gust, Laurie's Kindergarten, The Bohemians, Alfonso Trio, Klein Family.

EMPIRE THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal, at 3, for
A. C. Lilly and Co., Harry Bedford, Professor Dunning, Kahn and Kahn, Walter Bellonini, Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Starr and Leslie, Arden and Abel Co.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY, LONDON, N.

Rehearsal, at 1, for
Professor Finney and Sister, The Katos, Paul Spadoni, Sisters Macarte, Chas. Pastor, Clarke and Hamilton, George Brooks, Lizzie Daniels, Caledonian Boys.

EMPIRE, NEW-CROSS, LONDON, S.E.

Rehearsal, at 1, for
J. Tiller's Co. in "Ohio," Frank Seeley, Pawell Co., Flo D'Orville, The Allisons, Grant and Allen, Ergotti and King Luis, Percy Honri, Harry Wenburn, Onllaw Trio.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD, LONDON, E.

Rehearsal, at 1, for
Prof. Selkirk's Spectacle, Johnny Gilmore, Bros. Webb, C. H. Unthan, Pat Carey, Paul Sandor, Walker and May, Signorina Verera, Prince Kokin, Ludwig Amann.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
Bella and Bijou, Simms and Simms, Ike Scott and Son, Clown Zerthos, Helen Martin, Cabby and Shirker, Alice Simmons, The Ongars, Ernest Sefton, Five Delevines, Bioscope.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME,

OXFORD STREET.

Rehearsal, at 2.0.

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Second and Fourth Performances.
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Jackson Family, Daisy Ray, Geoffreys and Benson, Walter Stanley, Arthur Lennard, Lizzie Fletcher, Sisters Jonghmanns, Barney Vox, Florrie Gallimore.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal, at 1, for
Daisy Mayer, H. F. Wilson, Fred E. Terry, McPhee and Hill, Arthur Melrose, Katie Butler, De Vere and Kenwick, Seeley and West.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
"Saturday to Monday," Clark and Argyle, Harry Lawson, Collins and Rice, Mark Leslie, Signor and Mdme. Borelli. Bioscope.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.

Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal, at 2, for
"Mumming Birds," Sisters Edwardes, Sinclair and Whiteford, Pictures, Bros. Redmond, Marion Scott, Griff, W. P. Dempsey.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestra. Fifteen for the Coliseum. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials must be sent to the Co-operative Offices, at above address, Three Weeks before opening, or at least Two Weeks, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements Cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the Stage Department, Above Address, Two Weeks Previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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Manager, Albert Gilmer.

THE TIVOLI,

STRAND, W.C.

Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.0 o'clock.

Arthur Roberts and Co., Fred Karno's Troupe in "Mumming Birds," Victoria Monks, Harry Ford, Ovide and Ludine, Tambo and Tambo, George Drawee, Bonnie Goodwin, Ray Wallace, Wilson Hallett, Ben Albert, George D'Albert, Dorothy Kenton, The Two Kings, Amy Clevere, The Harry Alaskas, May Moore Duprez.

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George Gray and Co., in *Fighting Parson;* Victoria Monks; Kate Carney and Co. in new and original production, *Our Laundry;* Phil Ray; Boswell's Circus; Ida Brophy, Geo. Fairburn; Slippere; Alexandra Edwin; Laurence Barclay; Les Voces; Floradora Girls; Dorothy Keaton; Great Scott; the Avrignys; Ray Wallace.

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Artistes are particularly requested to attend Band Rehearsals, Monday, 3.0 o'clock.

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EUSTON-ROAD, N.W.

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Six Brothers Luck, Nancy St. John, Arthur Royd, Two Errolls, Carina Sisters, Bounding Pattersons, Leonard and Francis, Henri de Marse, Alix Lukes, Pictures, The Yiulians.

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Bonhair Gregory, Nora Emerald Mone, D'Albert, Vansart, Juno Salmo, Carl Reinsch, Les Yumeaux Australiens Anderson, Ricardo et Salving, Yamamoto et Koyoshi, Marien Sifflomane, Vues Animees, Donaldson Freres Ardel.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.
Rosaire and Doreto, Wal Croft, Iben Obed, Maggie Walsh, Three Rainats, Hartley Wonders, Olive Marston, G. Schilling, Pictures, Black and White Zouaves.

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Bonnecelli Troupe, Reddick Anderson, Mons. Valoni, J. P. Dane, Mdlle. Haydee, Pictures, The Judges, Marie Pownall.

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LONDON, S.E.—Bed and Sitting Room, also Combined. Liberty, Feb. 19. 2min. Surrey, Elephant, South London. Mrs. Rice, 81 Falmouth-rd.

LONDON, S.E.—Mrs. Bartlett, 41, St. Mary's-square, Kennington-road. Combined Rooms, Vacant, Sun., Feb. 19; Gas, Good Cooking.

LONDON, S.E.—Comfortable Apartments; Front Parlour redecorated; gas, piano, first-class cooking. Liberty, Sun. Mrs. Knight, 126, Lambeth-road.

LONDON, S.W.—Comfortable; Single Rooms. Sitting and Bedrooms. Pianos. Mrs. Bensa, 9 and 11, Claverton-street.

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LONDON, S.W.—Well-furnished Apartments. Good Cooking and Attendance. Recommended by Starr and Leslie, 23, Brixton-road.

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American Artistes new in England are requested to send their Cards.

MUSIC HALL CARDS.

Alphabetically Arranged—Limited to Three Lines.

ARAN and BAIRD, Comedians, Address, "The Era" Office, pro. tem.

ABADAROFFS, Prehistoric Mountebanks. Mon., O. H., York. Vacant 27, and Mar. 6, Per. address, 95, Stretford-rd, Manchester.

ABDULLAH, ALMA, & LA SUPERBE. Permanent address, 135, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

ADAMS, WALTER, Pantomime Comedian, Hippo, Wigan. Next, Haymarket, Liverpool.

ADEE and AGWIN, Comedy "Antics of a Road Repairer." Albert M. H., Canning Town, London. Cass.

ADRIENNE, THREE SISTERS, Always successful. This week, Circus, Stockport. Next week, Empire, Dudley. Vacant 27th.

AERIAN and OSTARA, World's Greatest Gymnasts. Address, 1, Brook-road, Wood-green, London.

AISTON, ARTHUR, and RUBY DANZELL, Abanazer, J. Kiddie, Esq.'s, "Aladdin." Parr Hall, Warrington.

ALBANO TROUPE, Refined Musical Speciality, Hackney Empire.

ALBERT, MISS LOTTIE, the Bright Comedienne. Permanent address, 91, Ridgmount-gardens, W.C.

ALBERT, SISTERS, (JENNIE and ROSIE). This, Empire, Middlesbro'. Next, P., Glasgow.

ALBERTO, FRED, Irish Character Comedian and Dancer, O. H. Burnley. Vacant, March 20, First-class Halls Only.

ALBINI'S WONDERS. The Return of "She," Magic Kettle, the Mysterious Lady in Black Acts. Grand, Clapham, 27th.

ALETHEA, Contortionist and Gymnast, Feb. 20, The London, Shoreditch.

ALEXANDER'S, JOHN, Burlesque Company, Tivoli, Dublin.

ALMO TROUPE, Comedy Quadruple Bar Act, Town Hall, Abergavenny, Mon.

AMERICAINES, LES BELLES, This week, Royal, Rochdale; next, Queen's, Liverpool. Agent, H. Day.

ANDOS, Japan's Greatest Troupe, Tivoli, Barrow-in-Furness.

ANDYS, FOUR, Risley Artistes, Lib., Feb. 20th, 27th. Circus, Stockport; after Saturday. 79, Lower King-street, Norwich.

ARIZONA TROUPE, Acrobatic Tumblers, Contortionist, Jugglers and Staircase Workers. Palace, Northampton.

ARLEYS, Comedy Cyclists, in New Act, entitled "On the Benches in the Park" (Reg. No. 2,183). Hippo., Birmingham.

ARYAMA, the Japanese Wonder. Empire, Leicester-square.

ASEIKY, Arab Tumbler. Liberty Monday, 27th, also for Summer Season. Letters, Cook's Circus, Edinburgh.

ASHDOWN, PERCY, Author-Composer, Arranger. Studied harmony under the late Sir John Stainer. 7, Gt. Newton-street, Liverpool.

ASHERS, THE (AGNES and MIKE), This week, Ashton; Monday next, Lyric, Liverpool. Look out for New Act.

ASHLEY, BROS., "Next, please." Attercliffe. 27th, S. London and Poplar. G. Barclay, and Fortune and Granville.

ATLAS and Beautiful Miss VULCANA, Society Athletes, World's Greatest Artistes. Cambridge, London. 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

ATTILLA BROS., Illuminated Revolving Gladiators, New. Feb. 20, 27, open. 15, Newhampton-rd. W., W'hampton.

ATTWOOD, HAPPY, Panto, 1905-6, Milton Bode, Esq. Monday, Empire, Wrexham.

AUSTIN RUMBO, in his New Budget of Comicalities, Empire, Swansea.

AVON and CREST, Legmania Extraordinaire, Jordison's "Babes in the Wood." Feb. 20, O. H., Northampton.

AVONDALE QUARTETTE, THE, still topping the bill with C. W. Poole's Myriorama. This, Pontypool; next, Abergavenny.

BABUSIAU BROTHERS. Cirque Medrano, Paris, France.

BAKER and BALFE, including George M. Baker's Marvellous Dancing, Stoll Tour.

BANDON, SID, Hippodrome, Liverpool. "Sez I to myself, sez I," Alf. Ellerton.

BANDONI, Original Concertina King One Man Band. Finish Hippodrome, Wigan. Monday, Olympia, Sunderland. Liberty, 27.

BARCLAY, GEORGE, and CO., Variety Agents. Telephone 84 Streatham. 221, Brixton-hill, London, S.W.

BARD, GRACIE, Character and Coon, Speciality Artiste. No Vacancies till June. This, T., Mountain Ash; next, Gynne H., Neath.

BARLOWS, THE, High-class Duettists. This week, New Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne.

BARNARD'S Life-like MARIONETTES, Manipulated with the Utmost Dexterity.—Vide Press. Feb. 20, Empire, Islington.

BARRETT and KNOWLES, Alexandra T., B'ham, Eighth Week and still the Talk of the Show. Tour, Shaw and Co.

BARTHOLOMEW, SISTERS, Chelsea Palace. Feb. 20, Westminster, Liverpool. Perm. Address, 15, East-road, Kingston.

BARTLETT, MISS ROSIE, Principal Girl in "Robinson Crusoe," O. H., St. Helens. Next, King's T., Nottingham.

BAWN'S AGENCY, 10, Victoria-parade, Balham-hill, London, S.W. 'Phone, 178, Balham. Tels., "Orderless, London."

BAYMAN, CHARLIE, "Old King Cole," Negro Comedian, Queen's, Poplar. Return Monday. Empire, Portsmouth. F. Higham.

BEATRICE, SISTERS, Duettists and Dancers. At liberty. Wire or write, 35, Florence-st., Islington, N. Mar. 6, P.P., Portsmouth.

BEES, THE TWO (HARRY and FLORA BLAKE) New Indian Scena by Alb. Voyce, Esq. Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

BELL, HARRIS L., and LILLY PEARL Company, in Comedy Vaudeville, "A Bit of String." Palace, Bath.

BELL and MYERS, Eccentric Comedy Act, "He Never Moved." Gaiety, Birmingham. Free Feb. 27. Hippodrome, Coventry.

BELROSE, MR. GEO., Basso; Miss Maud De Yelin, Soprano, Speciality Duettists. Palace, Grimsby. First vacancy, April 16.

BENET, HARRY, at Liberty. Letters to 24, Foyle-road, Tottenham, N.

BENHAM, GEORGE, Bandbox Clown, Prince of Wales, Prince's Square, Kennington Cross. Pleased to see old and new friends.

BENSON, ALLY, Comedian and Whistler, Big Success as Buttons in "Cinderella." At Lib. Feb. 20, 27. I. T., Seacombe.

BENT, HARRY, the Novel Mimic; also Carlotta Lunn. New Song Success, "Angel with the Rag-time Harp." 14 Paternoster-row, E.C.

BENTLEY'S VARIETY AGENCY, 169, Stamford-street, London, S.E. Tele., 12,706 Central. Manager, Horace Sheldon.

BERNARD, GEO., 30 next Thursday, Girls' Birthday Gifts, 123, Tamworth-road, Newcastle.

BERNARDO, Comedy Juggler, at Liberty March 6th till Easter. Nothing vacant after till October. Barr's Panto., T., Cradley.

BERRICK, TOM, The Black Tit-Bit, wants Monday, 20 & 27. Big Hit Empress, Hartlepool. 64 Vine-street, Gateshead.

BEST, MR. CHARLES F., as M'Bunker, "The Mountebank," Feb. 20, Westminster, Liverpool.

BISHOP and VALE, close to-night, Central Shields. Monday next, Grand, Sheffield.

BLARNEY and KENNARD, J. Green and J. Stout, Success Kiddie's "Bo-Peep" Panto., R., Dewsbury; next, Queen's, Longton.

BLISS and BLISS, Comedians. "Goody Two Shoes" Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Rotherham.

BOHEMIANS, THE (Will and Madge), Musical and Comedy Artists. This, E. Nottingham; next, E. Leicester. G. Foster.

BOND, JIM A., Comedian, Charles Majilton's "Round the Clock" Co.

BORELLI, SIGNOR and MADAME, Empire, Shields. Agents, T. Shaw and Co.

BOSANQUET, Violin Virtuoso, in his Illuminated Speciality Scena, introducing his Bosanquephone, 15, Albert-sq., Clapham, S.W.

BOSWELL, A. P., "The Furniture Shifter." Enormous hit at Tivoli, Manchester; next, Palace, Belfast. Novelty, Fun, Strength.

BOYLE, MARCUS, "My Bonny Boy." Empire, Dudley.

BOULTON and BARTENELLI, Emperor Nicey Picey and Principal Speciality. Vacant for Panto., 1905-6. T. R., Gloucester.

BOWMAN, J. H., Anglo-American Humorist, Vocalist, Dancer. Feb. 20, Hippo., Dewsbury. Vacant, Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20.

BOYCE, FRANK, Vocal Comedian, Palace, Lancaster, a Big Hit. Monday, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

BRADFORD and KENT, Eccentric Musical Duo., on Tour with Percival Wright, Gigantic Success. Care of "Era."

BRENTON, SISTERS, Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne. Monday, Queen's, Farnworth. Encored nightly. "Navaho."

BRETT, HARRY, Comedian, concluded Coliseum, Sheerness. Open for Feb. 27, March 6. 342, Acton-lane, W.

BREWSTERS, THE, T. R., Wigan, Fred Little's "Sinbad." Miss KITTY BREWSTER, Prin. Girl. Next, Alhambra, Belfast.

BRIGHTON GIRLS, THE, Lance and Sword Experts, and Speciality Artists. Next, P.O.W., Nuneaton.

BROOKLANDS, THE, Big Success, Second Boy and Girl, "Babes in the Wood," Feb. 20, Opera House, Northampton.

BROOKS BROS., SISTERS BRAND, Fourth season with Dottridge and Longden's "Aladdin." Queen's T., Liverpool.

BROOKS, GEORGE H., Musical, Dramatic and Variety Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

BROWN and ROBINSON, Cultivated Vocalists in Fustian. Feb. 20, Empire, Liverpool.

BRUCE and ROSS, Great Australian Comedy Artists. Vacant February 27. Monday, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent.

BURG, HAUD, and WISE. "Ye Brown Cow Inn." Monday, Empire, Newport.

BURGATILES, THE FOUR, Musical Pantomimists. C. W. Poole's Myriorama, Abergavenny, Mon.

BURTON'S AGENCY, SHEFFIELD, Want Good Gala Acts, All Lines.

CABAN, with his great Animal Act, Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs. Second week, Coliseum, London.

CALLAGHAN, T. C., FLORRIE ST. CLAIR, Palace, Sunderland. Agents, Napoli and Cohen.

CAMBO, the Musical Monkey. Vacant Monday. Wire 59, Urquhart-road, Aberdeen. Wire.

CAMERON, LOUDOUN, the Celebrated Conjurer, New Show. Lib. Mar. 6. Feb. 13, Royal, Warrington; Feb. 20, Lyric, Liverpool.

CAMERONS, THE (JIM and MARIE), Comedy Duologue, "The Lady Guide; or, Sammy in London." Next, Hippo., Hastings.

CARL and CARR, Comadians, Original Comedy Act, "Workhouse." This, P., Bristol; next, P., Plymouth.

CARR and ROSE, the Stars of Vocal Comedy, in "Their First Quarrel," Broadhead's Hip., Hulme.

CARLTON, HENRY, the Popular Comedian, supported by his Renowned Comedy Team. P., Lancaster.

CARY, FRED, Abanazar, Queen's, Liverpool.

CEDRICS, THE (Marcel and Edouard), Equilibristic Comedy Speciality Artistes, conclude Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy. Coms., Hip., Carlisle.

CEE-MEE, Troupe on Tour. Permanent address, care of "The Era."

CHALLIS, FLO, Camberwell Palace and Standard, in latest Scena. Moss Tour to follow.

CHARD'S DOG CIRCUS. Hippodrome, Accrington. Free, March 6.

CHARNLEY, SISTERS, Bâton Manipulators, Duettists, and Dancers, Monday, Tivoli, Barrow-in-Furness.

CHESTER and LEE'S MARIONETTES, Monday, Creator Moor, Cumberland. Own Entertainment.

CHESTER'S AGENCY, Dramatic and Variety Agents, 13, Oxford-street, Manchester.

CHIRGWIN, Stoll Tour for Three Weeks. Friends kindly refrain from Copying.

CLARENCE and BELL, Conclude to-night, 10 weeks' successful Pantomime, Irving Theatre, Seacombe.

CLEMENTS, VENIE, Big Success, Principal Girl, in "Mother Goose" at the Theatre Royal, Manchester.

CLEVELANDS, THE FIVE, on Tour, C. W. Poole's Myriorama. Newbridge, South Wales.

CLIFFE, TOM E., Just Finished Most Successful Tour, Milton Bode's "Puss in Boots." Many thanks F. Durham, and Pacey.

CLYDES, THE (AMY and EVIE), Monday, P., Tottenham; 27th, Empire, Portsmouth; April 3, P., Camberwell (return).

CLYO, HARRY, and ROSE ROCHELLE, Revivalists in the Laughter Line. Palace, Aberdare. Monday, Opera House, York.

COBORN, CHARLES, Empire, Edinburgh; Empire, Glasgow, to follow.

COLLEYS, Comedy Acrobats and Eccentric Jugglers and Burlesque Boxers. Concludes "Babes" Panto. Vac. Mon. T.R., Leigh, Lancs.

COMELY, MABEL, Comedienne, Feb. 20, Queen's Theatre, Pembroke Dock.

COMPTON, GRACEFUL GRACE, with J. Gar Kiddie's "Bo-Peep" Co. Thanks managers for postponing. Mon., Queen's, Longton.

CONLIN, HARRY, and ROSIE COLEMAN, 18, Walcot-gardens, Kennington road, London.

CONROY, OLIVER, Comedian, Vacant, Feb. 20. Palace Theatre, Bradford.

CONWAY, TOM W. (Conway and Tindall), Battersea Empire, S.W.

COOKE, STEVE, Comedian. Grand Theatre, Luton, Dame in "Dick Whittington." Vacant, March 13th.

CORETTA, LITTLE, Chic Juvenile, Acrobatic Song and Dance Artist, on Tour with C. W. Poole's Royal Myriorama.

COWPER, VERNON, Blueskin in "Jack Sheppard." Address, 258, Kennington Park-road, S.W.

CRAIG, ROZE, and CRAIG, A Trio of the World's Leading Athletes. Tivoli, South Shields.

CRAY, LITTLE MIKE, Comedy Juggler, and His Acrobatic Dog, Dooley. This, Empire O. H., York; next, Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough.

CRESSER, MISS ADA, Staley's Transformation Company. EMPIRE, EDINBURGH.

CREW, J. H., and MAUD MARLOW, Return, Grand Palace, Clapham. Oliver and Holmes's Agency.

CROWSON, WILL, CISSIE CONYERS Friday, Fairy Queen, Junction, Manchester; Royal, Wigan.

CULLEN, LITTLE DOLLY, and ELSIE JORDISON, the Pretty and Clever Babes. Jordison's Babes in the Wood Co., O.H., Northampton.

CULLEN and CARTHY, Terrific Hit, Robbers, "Babes in the Wood." T. R., Huddersfield. Next, O. H., Northampton.

CUMMINGER, the World's Record Sand Dancer, on Tour. New Wardrobe. Paris Alhambra, Sptember.

CURRY, PERCY, Big Success, Ugly Sister. This, Olympia, Newcastle; next, Grand, Newcastle.

DALE, MR. HARRY, Hippodrome Manager, Stage and Arena, General Manager and Ringmaster, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy.

DALE and D'ARGAN, Terrific Success, and Ninth Week of Tour. with J. A. Thompson's Panto. 5, Dolly-lane, Leeds.

DALE and VALE, Vocalists and Specialité Dancers. Hippo., Manchester. Next, Hippo., Ashton.

DANBYS, THE, Big Success as the Rumans. Opera House, Kidderminster.

DANIELS, THE TWO, third year as Cannibal King and Commandering Chief, "Robinson Crusoe." Victoria T., Burnley.

DANVERS, CHARLES, Comedian. All Arrangements completed till May 30. Vacancies in June and July. 48, Haymarket.

DARE'S MINSTRELS, Premier "Al Fresco" Organisation, 12th Douglas Season com. Whit Monday. Artistes com., C/o "Era."

DARRELL, the Original LULAINE TROUPE, on Tour with Own Company. Address, Bentley's Agency.

DARWIN, The Man Monkey, 49, St. Paul's-road, Moseley, Birmingham. Regards to 4 Andys.

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE, Australian Trick Cyclists. Thank F. J. Little, Esq., for Comfortable Shop. 22, Bickersteth-rd., Tooting.

DAVIS, ALF, Comedian and Actor Vocalist. Monday, New T., Aberdare. Vacant, Feb. 27 and March 6 and 13.

DAY'S, HARRY, VARIETY AGENCY, Effingham House, Arundel-st., Strand, W.C. Tel., 6,915, Ger. Tele., "Terpsichore, London."

DAY'S VARIETY AGENCY, 116, Loughborough-rd., Brixton, London, S.W. Always Vacancies for Stars and specialities.

DAYTON FAMILY, Feb. 20, Hippodrome, Stoke.

DEDIO, Empire, Johannesburg. South Africa.

DE HENAU and MDLLE. ALADINA, Extraordinarily Rapid Painter with his Toes, Wonderful Cockatoos. Hippodrome, Birmingham.

DELAMERE TRIO, Comedy Equilibrists. Vacant Monday. 95, North-road, Preston. Wire.

DELEVINES, FIVE, New Act, "Flirtation." Empire, Ardwick, Manchester.

DELLER and OXFORD Terrific Success, Tivoli, Dublin. Monday next, Alhambra, Belfast.

DEMI and SEMI, Musical Act. This, Gatti's, Westminster; Next, Palace, Southampton. Liberty, Feb. 27.

DENMARK, DORA, Comedienne, at Lib, March 13, Now Principal Boy in Firth's "Cinderella." Monday, Amphitheatre, Ramsgate.

DENMARK PAIR (Fred and Florrie). Talkers. Monday, Coliseum, Sheerness.

DE ORA, Renowned Gymnast, ROSIE RICKARDS, Comedienne, Success Nightly, P., Dundee. Mon. next, P., Aberdeen. Vac. Mar. 6

DE VOYE, JAMES, and BILL, his Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Feb. 20, Palace, Attercliffe.

DE ROSE, MDLLE. J. H. HAWTREY Principal Boy, Malicio, J. Kiddie's "Cinderella," T. R., Preston.

DIXON, CHARLEY, KATE LYND, Monday next, Circus, Rochdale.

DODDY and BELLE, Long and Short of it, on Tour. Address, "Era" Office.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, Singing Cardboard Boxmakers. Terrific success. Palace, Grimsby. Monday, Barnard's, Greenwich.

DOODY and WRIGHT, Feb. 20, Empire, Burnley.

DOMINOS, TWO (Clowns), and Donkey, Comic. For Vacant Dates, Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

DONNA, AMY, This week, Westminster, Liverpool. Next, return to the Royal, after one week's absence.

DORMER, DAINTY DAISY, Principal Girl. Princess's T., Glasgow. Claxton.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH, The Dainty Singing Maiden Monday, Feb. 20, Palace, Walthamstow.

DOVE, MISS ETHEL, Palace, Collins's, Tottenham.

DOVER, CLIFFE, Dame, Dottridge and Longdon's "Forty Thieves." Grand Theatre, Nottingham. Good Songs Wanted.

DRYDEN, CISSIE, Vocal Character Actress. Communications to Fred Higham, York-rd., London.

DUBOIS, JAMES, "Forty Thieves" Pantomime. Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

DUCKETT, BERTHA, Charming Young Vocalist and Graceful Dancer. Good Sole Agent required. All coms., 11, Arnold-st., Liverpool.

DUNCAN, Club Manipulator and Juggler; OSWALD, Staircase Performer, Hand Jumper, &c. Monday, Hippodrome, Preston.

DUNCAN and MORTON, Refined Comedians. Palace, Northampton. Mon., Palace, Portsmouth. Liberty, March 13, 20.

DUNMORE, TOM, The Essence of Quaintness. This, Grand, Sheffield. Next, Pavilion, Leicester. E. De Vere.

DUNNING and KAHN and KAHN, Stoll Tour, Moss Tour. Coliseum, 1905-6-7-8. Empire, Nottingham.

DURHAM'S FRED, Variety Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 1a, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

EILEEN and MAYNIE, Musical Dancing Dots, Usual Hit, Greenwich. Monday, Bath.

ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast, also LA BELLE TOSCA, Two or Three Acts. Vacant, Feb. 27, Mar. 6. Address, 36, Bridge-st., Macclesfield.

ELLAS, MISS, best existing Lion Show. Feb. 29, Palace, Chelsea.

ELLERTON, ALF, Song Writer Found Guilty by Dunville, Ford, Albert Mayne, Leamore, &c. 19. Pulross-road, Brixton.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Address, Gaiety Theatre, Birmingham.

ELLIS and WATTS, Comedians (the Goods). Feb. 20, Alhambra, Sandgate. Many thanks to Joe Lawrence for contracts.

ELMO, NINA Comedienne, Hippodrome, Manchester, Agents, Day's Agency.

ELVY, ARTHUR, the Gentleman Comedian, Finished 12 weeks' Tour at the Grand, Sheffield. Monday, Empire, Battersea.

ELY, SISTERS, the Talented Duettists, fourth visit, Empire, Dudley. Vacant Monday, through mistake. Wire, Empire, Dudley.

EPLETT, JESSIE, Character Vocalist Solo Drummer, and Speciality Dancer. G. T., Islington. 3, Ivy-lane, Hoxton.

ERICK, FRED, Comedian, On Tour, at Lib. Whit Week on. First-class Al Fresco. Coms., 428, Liverpool-street, Seedley, Manchester.

ERNEST, THREE SISTERS, Operatic Vocalists, Coon Impersonators. To-night, T. R., Warrington; next, Hippo., Ashton.

ESCALADERS, THREE, Expert Hand Balancers and Double Ladder. Coms., 15, Harford-st., St. James's, Bristol.

ESDALE, BROTHERS, Comedians, Vacant April 3. This week, Palace, Cork. Monday, Royal, Oldham.

EVANS, WILL. WILL EVANS. Tel., 165, Richmond.

FAME, PEGGY, a Laughing Hit. 20th, Palace, Lancaster. Fame's Era, 19, King-street, Warrington.

FARRIMOND, PERCY, the Great Lancashire Singing Collier, Palace, Southport. Feb. 20, Hippodrome, Salford.

FENTON and HARRISON, Duologue Artistes. Vacant March 13. Address, 194, Kennington-road, S.E.

FIELDING, ANNIE, and BERT HULL, Vocal Entertainers. Feb. 20, Grand, Hanley.

FIELDS and ACRES, Comedy Park Keepers. Successful, Hippo., Bury. Monday, Gaiety, Oldham.

FINDEN, MR. and MRS., Grand, Clapham. Agent, Geo. Barclay.

FIONI'S, JAMES, AGENCY, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." 'Phone, 1,686 Royal.

FITZROYS, Society Gymnastic Speciality. Empire, Newcastle.

FLORADORA GIRLS, Enormous Success. Metropolitan, second week. Monday, Canterbury and Paragon. De Vere and Cass.

FLORIZELL, Ahead of them all. New Startling Sensational Feats. Great for Fêtes and Galas. Hippodrome, Liverpool.

FONTAINBLEAU, ALICE, with her Troupe of Dogs, also Unique Globe Performance. Marquis of Granby Hotel, Lincoln.

FORD and HANSON, the American Musical Millionaires. Broadhead's Hippodrome, Manchester.

FORREST'S, EDGAR, Comedy Company, Monday, The Royal, Liverpool. Vacant March 20 and 27. Write or Wire as above.

FORTUNE and GRANVILLE, Savoy House, 115, Strand, London, W.C. Telegrams, "Waggishly." 'Phone, 1,309, Gerrard.

FRANCE and FRANCIS, Comedians and Acrobatic Grotesques. Thanks to W. B. Broadhead. Vacant March 6 & 13. Hip, Macclesfield.

FRANKLIN, THE ORIGINAL, Troupe of Russian Singers and Expert Dancers. Permanent, 96, Rutland-street, Stepney, E.

FREDERICKS, CARL, and YA PYN KETO FAMILY, Baron and Specialities, "Cinderella," Prince of Wales' Theatre, Liverpool.

FRELAND, Theatre, Cowdenbeath, N.B.

FRENCH, MARIE, the Irish Gem, Agent, Willie Benn, 23, Sudbourne-road, Brixton-hill, S.W. Palace, Blackburn.

FRENCH'S, GEORGE, TROUPE, and the SNOW FAMILY, on Tour. For Vacant Dates, address, 14, Second-av., Queen's-pk., Ldn., W.

FRIDKIN'S, BORIS, COSSACK TROUPE, Operatic Singers, and Acrobatic Dancers, Grand Theatre, Bolton.

GANNON, NELLIE, and HARRY WRIGHT. Double event success, T. R., Warrington. Monday, Palace, Lancaster.

GELDER, VAN, and LI-LI, Humorous Magicians, a Great Act for Circuses and Halls. Monday, Palace, Derby; Liberty, Mar. 6.

GEORGE, WALTER, Musical Sketches (on the Piano), London Pav. & Collins's. Address, 36, Marquess-rd., Canonbury, N.

GERALDOS, THREE JUGGLING, Topping the Bill, Empire, Greenock. Next week, Metropole, Gateshead.

GERTRELLA, Dancer-Gymnast. New Act, "In Cupid's Garden." Pantomime, Theatre Royal, York.

GIBSON QUINTON, "Q.G." All communications to permanent address, Tivoli House, Scarborough.

GILLIN, Unique Ventriloquial Humorist. Haymarket, Liverpool. Next, Royal, Warrington.

GILMORE, ROBB, the Talented Grotesque Comedian; the Man with the Laugh. Empire, Paisley (Return).

GLENVILLE, SHAUN, Irish Com. and Dancer, at Lib. Feb. 27. Victoria T., Burnley.

GOLD, HARRY, Versatile Comedian, "Gold," Animated Song Sheet, "Gold." Also Successful Song-Scena, "Cloudland."

"GOLIATH," the youth who lifts six men and piano. Perm. address, 6, West Caroline-st, Blackpool.

GRAHAM, ERIC, MILLIE HARRIS. This, Gatti's (Second Week) and Battersea. Feb. 20, T. R., Liverpool.

GRANADAS, LOS, Electrifying Bounders, 238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

GRANT, JAMES, Gigantic Success as the new Scotch Comedian. Lyceum, Govan. Wanted, funny Scotch Songs.

GRAPHO and JACKSON Thank Messrs. Weldon and Smith for contracts. Also Mr. Barr s. Theatre Royal, Cradley Heath.

GRAY, MR. GEORGE. "The Fighting Parson." Address, care of "The Era" Office.

GREEN, BRUCE, Comedian, still Scoring as Dame, Lena Stanton's "Dick Whittington" Co., T. R., Bilston.

GREY and WELFORD, Grotesque Boxing Comedians. I'll give you duck next time. Next week, Grand, Hanley.

GRIEVE, Practical Ventriloquist, Lib. March 27 and April 17, 24. Offers invited. 4, Brooklyn-road, Shepherd's Bush.

GROSVENOR SISTERS (THREE), Operatic Vocalists, "Dick Whittington" Panto., booked by E. Warner, Q. T., Farnworth.

GROVINIS, Hengler's Circus, Glasgow.

HAIG and NOVEL, Granville, London. Middlesex, The Palace, Canterbury, and Paragon. Brixton to follow.

HALL, CLIFTON, Versatile Comedian, Lib., March 20, on. Now (Four Weeks), Zoological Gardens, Burton-on-Trent.

HALL, TOM, Big Hit on Return, Royal, Liverpool. Next, Hippo., Wakefield. Free 27th, through closing.

HAMPSON BROS., Conclude tonight, the Broadhead Tour; Return, October, Eight Weeks. How's That? Hippo., Salford.

HANDEL and LEE, Comedy Instrumentalists, Feb. 20, Hippo., Ashton; Free, March 13.

HANNAWAY, BROS., Comedians New Act. Thanks Anderson, Esq., of Brit., for present. Empire, Greenock.

HANVARR and ANNA LEE, "The Golfer and the Maid." Permanent Address, 17 Newlands-street, Liverpool.

HARCOURT, FRED, Liberty, Feb. 27. Feb. 20, Hippodrome, Preston.

HARDY, the American Blondin, "King of the High Rope." Address, Niagara Villa, Doggett-rd., Catford, S.E.

HARLAND and ROLLISON, Success, Hippodrome, Preston. Monday, Broadhead's Hippodrome, Bury. Continent, June.

HARMONIC ENTERTAINERS, Costume Com. Party, 5 talented London artistes. 2 hours, refined, humorous, unique. 65, Fortess-rd.

HARMONY FOUR, THE (T. C. Bergeron, F. M. Barrett, Edw. Hughes, Alex. Ferguson). Lyceum, London, until Feb. 27.

HARRIS and WORTH, "The Assassins of Sorrow," Macnaghten's "Robinson Crusoe" Co. King's Theatre, Nottingham.

HARROW, BERT, "That's Me," the Rum Comedian. Royal, Gloucester; Pavilion, Weston-super-Mare.

HART, ARTHUR E., Versatile Comedian. Concluding as Sinbad in F. Little's "Sinbad," Court Theatre, Wigan.

HART and CO. Dramatic and Variety Agents. 7, Lancaster-house, Ardville-rd., Brixton, S.W. Tele., 116, Brixton.

HARVEY BOYS, The Unrivalled Boxing Comedians. Sensation Everywhere. Gaiety, Birmingham.

HASTINGS, GEORGE, KITTY GOWER, Character Vocalist and Lightning Change Artists. Tivoli, Manchester. Vacant Monday.

HAVERLEY and HOMER, The Dandy Drolls, hit of the Bill, King's, Liverpool. Monday, Circus, Bury.

HAZELTON, MISS BELLE, Dainty Comedienne and Sketch Artiste. Address all coms., care of "The Era."

HENDERSON, FAMOUS, Blind Musical Genius and Concertina Soloist. Big Hit, P., Lincoln. Monday next, G., Sheffield.

HENDERSON, LADE, Versatile Vocalist. Big success, Grimsby. Next week, Empire, Burnley.

HENRE, MASTER, Youngest Boy Juggler. This week, Palace, Bow; next, Surrey Theatre.

HENRIETTE, Vocal and Musical Entertainer, Thanks Broadhead, Esq. Touring, "A Child's Dream." Hippo, Ashton-under-Lyne.

HERALD COMEDY FOUR. Finish with Houdini, St. George's Hall, Bradford. Monday, Circus, Bury.

HERBERT, FRED, Premier Topical Vocalist, R. Warner.

HERMAN, SYD, Hebrew Entertainer, Ivy Lennard, Refined Vocalist. This, Hippo., Carlisle; Mon., Oxford, Middlesbro'; vacant Feb. 27.

HESS and LISBON. Their Appearance is hailed with delight.—Stage, Feb. 9. Monday, Lyceum Theatre, Govan, Monday.

HILL, BARRY, and LANG, Knockabout Comedians. Monday, Hippo, Stoke; Aberdare to follow. Vacant, March 6.

HILL, ROWLAND, Ye Dame, Opera House, Northampton.

HILL and LANE, Feb. 20, London and Collins's.

HILTON and HILTON, Comedy Bar Comedians. Feb. 20, Pier Pavilion, Southport.

HINTON and WOOTON, Starring, South Africa. Per., 6, Market-place, Willenhall, Staffs.

HOLLEY, SISTERS, the Two Sprigs of Holly, Character Duettists and Dancers, on Tour. Vacant, Mar 27. 10, Iron-st., Roath, Cardiff.

HOLLOWAY, MISS KATIE, Dainty Comedienne and Dancer. Success, Empire, South Shields, Vacant Monday, Wire.

HOOK, WALTER W., 1450 Consecutive Show New Century Pictures, Feb. 20, Mechanics' Hall, Burnley.

HOPE, F., Sensational Trick Cyclist. Big Success, Attercliffe; next, P., Aberdare. Vacant, Feb. 27.

HOWARD, MR. WILSON, and MISS CARLOTTA ANSON, in the Comedy Duo., "My Military Mash." 64, Park-end, Lincoln.

HOWARDS, THE, (RALPH and NELLIE), Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead.

HULA, SISTERS, Vocalists, Dancers, Liberty March 13, 20, 27. March 6, P., Swansea. Address, T. R., Abertillery.

HULBERT, Ventriloquist; and DE LIL, Illusionist. Two First-class Acts. Vacant April 17, May 1, 15, Monday, Grand, Sheffield.

HUNTER, G. W., Comedian and Raconteur. C/o. "The Era" Office.

HURD and HELD, Rival Musicians, in an Up-to-Date Comedy Musical Mélang. This, Criterion T., Worksop; next, Empire, Oxford.

HUXTER, THREE BROTHERS, Acrobats and Leapers. This, Warrington; next, Liverpool P. 10, Middle-street, Worcester.

HYAM, GEORGE, and NELLIE ROSE. Scoot and Princess, Pardoe's "Cinderella." Monday, T. R., North Shields.

IDLE DAN and LILLIE BARRINGTON, Comedian and Ballad Vocalist. Vacant, Feb. 20 and 27, one or both. Tivoli, Kidderminster.

IRIS, MISS LILY, Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, "Robin Hood." All letters, en route.

JAMES, GEORGE, Comedian, still Scoring as Fitzwarren. Good songs required. Theatre Royal, Bilston.

JOHNSON, T. W., the Dusky Dandy, Big Success as Cannibal King, "Crusoe" Panto., Junction Theatre, Manchester.

JUAN and McQUE, Comedians. Success, Success, Success. Hippodrome, Bury.

JUDGE, SISTERS, With Their Marvellous Performing Cockatoos, Parrots, and Macaws. Ox., Midd. The Bird Show par excellence.

KARDOC, the Jail Breaker, Greater Success than ever. Thanks Mr. Darling and Mr. Melvin for handsome presents.

KARR and KOONEY, Enormous Success as Will Atkins and Dick Deadeye. Benefit, Feb. 28. T. R., Bristol.

KATOS, THE, Komical Kidgets, Holloway Empire.

KAVANAGH, J. H., Comedian, Concludes to-night Successful Engagement Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow. Tivoli, Manchester.

KAYS, FOUR, Pantomime Sketches, Panto. (all Four). Grand Theatre, Brighton, 1905. All communications Theatre Royal, Bristol.

KEENE, BILLY, and JESSIE ADAMS, Refined Duettistes. Gratifying Suc., H., Manchester. Monday, Duchess, Balham. Didcott.

KEEYS, F. J., Character Vocalist. New Songs in Study by F. V. St. Clair. 12, Panton-st., W., or c.o. "Era."

KEITH, G. H., Versatile Vocal Actor, Palace, Hammersmith. Is possessed of a capital voice, which he uses with great effect.

KEITH and MERSON, Comedy Acrobats, Success T. R., Rochdale. Queen's T., Liverpool. L. Graydon and Fioni.

KEITHS, MUSICAL, Novelty Instrumentalists and Operatic Xylophonists, on Tour. Perm., 38, Shortsbank-street, Catford.

KENDAL, BEATTIE, Dashing Character Vocalist. The Latest Manchester Success.

KERNO, LOUIS, the Neat Coon Vocalist and Dancer, Great Success of new Scena, "Ma Dusky Belle." Next, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

KIMBERLEY BOYS, Comedians, Barnard's, Chatham.

KINGSLEY, Musical Spécialité, The Theme of Universal Admiration. Vacant, June and first 2 weeks July. Rosen & Bliss, agents.

KLOET, MDLLE., Originator of title "An Artist's Model," in her Successful, Original Speciality, Pavilion, Glasgow.

KLOOF and RAMSAY. Only vacancies Monday next, also Feb. 27 and March 6. Cleveland Cottage, Walcot, Bath.

KNICK-KNACKS, THE (Miss MATTIE CRONIN & HARRY OXBERRY). This, Barnard's, Chatham. Feb. 20, Tivoli, Barrow.

KYASYAS, LES, Picturesque Sensational Novelty. Vac. Feb. 20, 27. Wire, 80, Margaret-street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

KYDD and KYDD, Comedians and Expert Dancers. This, Court, Warrington. Next, Alex., Crewe. Vacant, Feb. 27, one week.

KYOTO, the Original Comedy Japanese Box; also Miss MAY GERALDINE, Comedienne. Feb. 20, Grand, Hanley. See other advert.

LA BLANCHE, MABEL, Empire, Greenock. Next week, Metropole, Gateshead. No Vacancies.

LAKE and CO., LEW, "Bloomsbury Burglars," City Varieties, Leeds.

LA MARA CHUMMIE, WILL SERGEANT, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent.

LAND, FRED, Comedian. This, Hippo., Carlisle; next, Grand, Halifax.

LANG, REM. Comedian and Burlesque Conjuror. Big Success. Broadhead Tour, Empire, Hippo., Ashton.

LANG, GENTLE BROTHERS. 137, Drakefell-road, Brockley.

LANTON and LANE wish to thank Milton Bode, Esq., for Re-engagement for 1905-6-7. Com., 64, Belmont-road, Liverpool.

LAROLA, LAROLA, LAROLA, The Funny Man. Agent, Barclay and Co.

LASSAH, LILLIE, This week, Palace, Camberwell; Next week, Feb. 20, Hippodrome, Eastbourne.

LEVALLE, WALTER, F.O.S., Mdlle. LUCRECEE, concluded return date, Palace, Northampton. Feb. 20, Palace, Swansea.

LAURELS, THE THREE, in the Ping-Pong Table. Agents, Papa Brown, Pacey and Reeves.

LAVELLE BROS., Quaint Comedy Acrobats. Big Success Hippo., Preston. 20th, Hippo., Bury.

LEAFE, IVY, Queen of Comedy Artists. Ugly Sister, Pardoe's "Cinderella" Co., New T., Consett. Vacant, April 3, on.

LEANDER, HARRY, Comedian and Instrumentalist. Nincle Neb "In Old Kentucky," Irving T., Seacombe.

LEARTO and Clever Dog Babs, Musical Eccentrics. Next, Queen's Palace, Poplar, E.

LEATON, HARRY, Refined Comedian and Vocalist. This, P.O.W., Tredegar; Feb. 20, Castle Theatre, Tirphil, Wales. Vacant, Feb. 27.

LEE, THE Original THREE SISTERS, Acrobats. Big success, London, Shoreditch. Lib. Feb. 20-27. 17, Newlands-st., Everton, L'pool

LEE and ARDEN, Metropole, Camberwell. Monday, People's Palace, Plymouth.

LE FRE, ALBERT, Prince's Theatre, Bristol.

LEIGH, THREE SISTERS. This, This, Woolwich and Greenwich. All coms., 115, Loughboro'-rd, Brixton, S.W.

LE MAY, TOM. The Real Musical Clown. W. Hamilton's Excursions, Aberdeen, N.B.

LENNOL, MR. JACK, the Unconventional Humourist. Good Offers Invited Summer, Piers and Spas. Letter, c/o "Era."

LEONARD, FLORENCE, Soprano, This, Opera House, St. Helen's; Next, King's Theatre, Nottingham.

LEON and LEONI (Musical Act), this, T.R., Attercliffe; next, Carlton, Saltley. March 20 vacant.

LEONS, TWO, and MITZI, Great Success, Cook's Circus, Edinburgh. Also MELITA.

LESLIE BROTHERS, Australia's Musical Team. Empire, Hull.

LE WARREN, Ventriloquist, with His Merry Mascots, also Sadie Dana, Coon Impersonator. Lib., Feb. 20, 27. Hippo., Castelford.

LEYBOURNE. GEORGE, General Manager, Alhambra, Sandgate. Artistes communicate, Fred Durham's Agency.

LINTON, Continental Equilibrist, Speciality Act. Vac., Feb. 20. Wire for Monday next, Pavilion, Leicester.

LISTON, MARIE, Male Impersonator; FREDDY ELLIS, Comedian. Second Week, Empire, Bridgwater.

LISTON, MR. HARRY, MISS LORD LUMLEY, &c., Royal Entertainers, "Merry Moments" for Concerts, two hours. Egyptian Hall.

LIZZETTE, THE FOUR SISTERS, Lady Acrobats, ELSIE RUBINA, Wire Dancer, on Tour. Gwyn Hall, Neath, S. Wales.

LLOYD, BABY, Star Artiste, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy; also NELLIE VANN, Comedienne, Lib., March 13. Palace, Aberdare.

LLOYD'S, FRED, Comedy Sketch Combination, "The Blind Spinster." Monday, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

LOGAN, DAINTY GRACIE, Soubrette, Gaiety Theatre, Oldham.

LONG, HYAM, "The Original." Pier Pavilion, Southport.

LONNENS, LIVELY, Dainty Duettists and Dancers. Feb. 20, Palace, Bristol.

LORIMER, JACK, Latest Scotch, Reengaged four years, Palace Theatre, London. T. Shaw.

LORRISONS, THE (FRED and LILA), Eccentrics. Feb. 20, Empire, Portsmouth.

LOTTO, LILO, and OTTO, Trick Cyclists. 2, Lambeth Palace-road, S.E.

LUCAS, MR. and MRS. EDWARD H., in Scenes from Dickens. Vacant, Feb. 27, '05. Regent, Salford. Fortune and Granville.

LUCK, HARRY, Author and Comedian. Empire, Portsmouth; Feb. 20, Hippo., Hastings.

LUMIERE'S, MDLLE., Electrical Fairy Grotto; indisposed through motor accident Thanks to friends for inquiries. Empire, Bristol.

LYNCH, AGNESE and ARTHUR, With American Picture Songs. This, Park; Next, Paddington, Liverpool.

MACK, JULIAN, Monday, Regent, Salford. Hal Forde, Herbert Cyril, Harry Roxbury, write.

MACS, THE NEW, Comedians, New Hippodrome, Accrington.

MALCOLM, FRED, as Auther, in Miss Kate Carney's new Production, "Our Laundry." Canterbury and Grand, Clapham.

MARCONIS, THE GREAT, Most Wonderful Electric Act. Next week, Lyric, Liverpool.

MARJUTTI, ADA, The Flexible Venus, MARTI & JULIETTA, Barrs' Panto. on Tour. Liberty Shortly. Theatre, Cradley Heath.

MARLO, the Wonderful Boy Juggler, at Liberty. Permanent, 23, Monmouth-street, Bury.

MARNEY, LILY, Feb. 20, Middlesex.

MARTINETTES, Only THREE, Knockabout Comedians. Lib., Feb. 27. Third Successful Season Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

MAXFORD, DAN. Will Victoria Troupe and Joe Hennesey write 102, Rusholme-road, Manchester?

MAXWELL and FRANCES. TOM and (his Daughter) VIRGINIA. Feb. 20, People's Palace, Dundee.

MAYE, PERCY, Hippodrome, Norwich, Return. See "Wants."

MAYNE, ALICIA, Australian Dramatic Songstress, with Beautifully Coloured Photo-Illus. Hippo., Blackpool.

MAYNE, ERNIE, Olympia, Bury. Then Home Sweet Home.

MAYNE, VERA, concludes to-night 8 weeks' Tour, as Robinson Crusoe. Feb. 20, Circus, Rochdale.

MAYON and MARLE, "Elizabeth and Baby," Tivoly, South Shields. Monday, P., N. Shields. Fortune and Granville.

McASKELL, Comic Conjurer. Concludes Opera House, York. Monday Next, O., Middlesbro'. 91, Martin-road, Middlesbro'.

McKAYS, THE, Empire, Middlesbrough. First Visit this Year.

McNEIL, SHEILA, Scotch Comedienne, Empress, Hartlepool. Monday, Tivoli, S. Shields.

MEIER and MORA, This week, Hippodrome, Birmingham (Return). Next week, Hippodrome, Liverpool (Return).

MELDON, IRENE, Comedienne and Dancer. 10, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W.

MEPHISTO, The Ideal Contortionist, Feb. 20, Grand, Stockton.

MERLIN, MAX, Crocodile. Own Scenery. Liberty, 27th and March 6th. Grimsby. Monday, Palace, Attercliffe.

MERRY, MISS FLO, concluded Panto. Thanks to Miss Moxon for Offer. 2, Gladstone-road, Edge Hill, Liverpool.

MESSER, G. F., The Enterprise, Coldharbour-lane, Camberwell, S.E. H. O. C. Meetings Every Sunday, 8.30.

M'FALL, JOHN F., Gardeners' Arms, 10, Market-street, and 5, Manse-lane, Greenock. Opposite Empire Theatre. "The Era," &c., kept.

MILES-STAVORDALE QUINTETTE (the Original Act). Touring in U.S.A. Address "Clipper" Office, New York. Agents, Anger & Bauer.

MILSTED, MISS EMMIE, as Saucee, the Dainty Coloured Maid, in J. Kiddie's "Aladdin." Feb. 20, Parr Hall, Warrington.

MILTON'S MARIONETTES, Address, Arthur Milton, the Marionette King, Post-office, Luton.

MONTAGUE, LEO, D. Gardner Brown's Co., Gibraltar. Letters, London Hotel, Gibraltar.

MONTGOMERY, ALFRED, Fête, Gala, and Entertainment Provider. 51, Cornwallis-road, Upper Holloway, London, N.

MOORE, DOLLY, Miniature Male Impersonator, The Child Wonder. For dates, ad. Hare and Hounds, Witton, Birmingham.

MORELL, MISS DAISY, Finishes Panto. to-night (Principal Boy). Vacant, Feb. 20, 27. Grand Theatre, Nelson.

MORRIS, HARRY, Humorous Mimic and Comedian. Big success, Hippodrome, Norwich. Monday next, vacant.

MORTIMER, MAUDE, Originality, Prince, in the enormously successful Pantomime "Cinderella," Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

MOZZETTO, Prince of Boy Jugglers, Success, Palace, Cork, Feb. 20. Circus, Rochdale. Success everywhere.

MUELLER and COYNE, Empire, Sheffield; next, E., Birmingham. Musical Coopers send Address.

MUIR and BARTLETT, Third return visit to the Hippodrome, Hulme, Manchester.

MUNROE, MR. WALTER, "D'ye Think O'Callaghan's a Fool?" Murphy and Lipton. Palace of Varieties, Croydon.

MURRAY, LESLIE H., Magician and Card Manipulator. Tivoli, Manchester; next, Hippo., Eastbourne.

MURRAY, LOUIS, Flattering Success, this week, Grand, Sheffield (Wants Doing!). Next week, Palace, Bradford.

MYERS, CLEM, Swell Comedian and Talker. A Smart Refined Act.

NASH and NOEL, Comedians, Surrey T., London.

NEIGATE, MISS DULCIE, Versatile Mimic and Dancer, Charles Prinsy's Sensational Variety Co., Avenue, Kettering.

NEIMAN'S, FRED, Ventriloquial Minstrels. Palace Theatre, Hull.

NELLIE and NORA, Musical Entertainers require Monday next. This, G., Clapham. 6, Eccles-road, Clapham Junction, S.W.

NELSON and THOMAS, "On the Ra Ta." Thanks to T. A. Edwardes, Esq., for Contract, Palace, Dundee.

NEWHAM and LATIMAR, In Their Own New Répertoire, Palace, Camberwell. Address "The Era."

NEW YORK QUARTETTE, The Original. Feb. 27, Canterbury and Camberwell. Agents, Fortune and Granville.

NITA, the Hypnotised and Suspended Maiden, Lib. Feb. 27 and March 6. Nita, 22 Windsor-terrace, Southampton.

NOBLE, DAN, and MARIE YORKE thank Montgomery and Durham, Esqs., for offers. Grimsby. Next, P., Attercliffe (return).

NORTH, J. W., Comedian (the Man with the Green Socks). 100, Hartington-street, Moss Side, Manchester.

NOTE, R. C., Popular Comedian, DAISY DEVONPORT, Comedienne, Hippo, Coventry. Agent, Verno, Liverpool.

OAKLEY and JAMES, (Bert and Polly), Humorous Entertainers. This, P., Swansea; next, P., Aerdare. Agent, T. Claxton.

OBO BROS., Laughing Comedians. Enormous success. John Walters' "Robinson Crusoe" Co. This week and next, O.H., Burnley.

O'CONNOR and BRADY Feb. 20, Gaiety Theatre, Chatham.

OLIVE TRIO. Please Address all Communications, Miss Kittie Olive, Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

ONDA and LEON, Conversational Gymnasts. Permanent address, 24, Brook-street, Preston.

OSBORNE, CHARLIE, the Author, Composer, and Light Comedian, 54, Fortess-road, London, N.W.

MR. ARTHUR COLLINS-ROLFE,
At liberty, March 4. Character parts. 116, The Grove, Denmark Hill.

MR. T. E. CONOVER,
Starring as Private Harris, V.C., "Miss Mischief" Co. Arrangements com. Folkestone, 6 nights.

MR. FRED CONQUEST,
Pantomine,
Prince's Theatre, Bristol.

MR. BERNARD COPPING,
Lead. Miss ISA BELLINGTON, Lead, Com. Dis., March 6. 2, Winifred-grove, Clapham Com.

MR. J. W. CORDINER,
Feb. 27,
New Opera House, Kidderminster.

MR. L. CORY-THOMAS.
Address, Feb. 27, Theatre, Dover;
and March 6, Theatre, Folkestone.

MR. THOS. COURTICE,
Business-Manager, "Peggy Machree" Tour, Kennington Theatre, S.E.

MR. ERNEST H. G. COX.
"The New Clown" Co.,
Next, Grand Theatre, Leeds.

MR. HARRY J. CRANE,
Address,
198, Barry-road, E. Dulwich.

MR. HENRY CROCKER,
Sir Peter Teazle, &c., Compton Comedy Co.
Feb. 27, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

MR. JULIAN CROSS
Disengaged.
Address, 13, Eglantine-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

MR. HENRY CULLENFORD, Rev.
Frank Thornhill, "Golden Ladder" Co. Mrs. C., Dis. The Ingle Nook, Holywell, St. Ives, Hunts.

MR. CHARLES DANVERS, Comedian,
All Arrangements completed till May 30.
Vacancies in June and July. 48, Haymarket.

MR. COLEMAN DAVIES
Disengaged.
Wire or write, 50, Slane-street, Newcastle, Staffs.

MR. GEORGE DELAFORCE,
Rhearsing with Harry Foxwell, Esq.,
Palace Theatre, Newcastle.

MR. F. H. DE QUINCEY,
at Liberty for Lead, First-Class Companies only. Address, 10, King-street, W.C.

MR. CLARENCE DERWENT
F. R. Benson's Principal Co., Horatio, Backbite, Albany, Feste, &c. Coronet T., London.

MR. and Mrs. HENRY DOUGHTY
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23, Hugh-street, Eccleston-square, S.W.

MR. OSWALD DOUGLAS, Dr. Colbrooke
(Original Part), "Life's Sweetest Sins" Co.
Coms., en route; or, 2, St. George's-square, N.W.

MR. STANLEY DREWITT,
Engaged by Mr F. R. Benson.
Address, Elderden, Staplehurst, Kent.

MR. CECIL DU GUE,
Disengaged. Lead or Heavies.
2, Norbury-park, Streatham, S.W.

MR. ALBERT C. DUNCAN,
Address,
Crown Theatre, Peckham.

MR. and MRS. T. W. DUNSCOMBE
(Miss Marie Tennant). T.W.D., "Face at the Window" Co.; M. T., Panto., T. R., Manchester.

MR. CHARLES A. EAST, Lead, Heavies,
Character, or Stage Management. Offers invited. 17, Adie-road, The Grove, Hammersmith.

MR. and MRS. ERNEST C. EDWARDS
(Miss Bella Power), Major Stretton and Lady Charlotte, "The Cotton Spinner," Oldham.

MR. JOHN ELLERY,
Disengaged at Easter.
10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

MR. ROBERT FAIRBANKS,
Baron Chanterelle, C. P. Levilly's "La Poupée" Co., Prince's, Manchester.

MR. ROBERT FAULKNER,
Entire Lead Kennedy Miller's Rept. At Liberty Mar. 6. Theatre, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

MR. ANTHONY FAWCETT, George
Fisher, Messrs. Edwardes and Frohman's Co. Dis. March 4; next, Queen's, Swindon.

MR. EDWARD FENTON,
Lieut. Pelham, "A Soldier and a Man."
Feb. 27, Bromley, Kent.

MR. ARTHUR FITZGERALD,
En route.
"The King's Hat" Co.

MR. STEPHEN FITZGERALD,
Principal Comedy, Disengaged.
6, Hurlingham-mansions, New King's-road, S.W.

MR. HUGH FLEMING,
Clarendon Hotel, St. Leonards, till 28th inst., then King's Theatre, Hammersmith.

MR. FRANK H. FRANCE.
Disengaged.
Address, 39, Morval-rd., Effra-rd., Brixton, S.W.

MR. and MRS. RICHARD FULTON
(Miss Gertrude Evans), Lazare and Adrienne, in "Proof." King's Theatre, Cardiff.

MR. W. H. GARBOIS,
as Ellis Jordan, "A Wife's Triumph" Co.
Theatre Royal, Coatbridge, N.B.

MR. and MRS. WM. GARRETT (Miss
Pattie Hastings) Thank Mr. Henry Furnival for Engagement. Next, T. R., Sheffield.

MR. W. V. GARROD,
Lead, "The Sledge-Hammer."
Grand Theatre, Brighton.

MR. and MRS. WILLIE GARVEY
(Kitty Jones), Disengaged March 6. Offers invited, joint or single. Theatre, Falkirk, N.B.

MR. W. H. GATTY, Baritone Descriptive Vocalist, at Liberty March 20, Heavy Singing Part, "Bo Peep"; next, Longton.

MR. FRED A. GAYTIE,
Comedy, Character, Stage Manager, at Liberty. Address, 21, Afghan-road, S.W.

MR. HENRY GEORGE,
as Capulet, in "Romeo and Juliet."
Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

MR. JOHN GERANT.
Good Offer Invited.
115, Dalston-lane, N.E.

MR. DOUGLAS GERRARD,
Lancelot (Lead), "Merely Mary Ann."
Feb. 27, Ealing Theatre, W.

MR. SHAUN GLENVILLE,
Irish Com. and Dancer, at Liberty.
15, Lynette-avenue, Clapham Common, S.W.

MR. ALFRED GODDARD,
Prince Kara in "The Darling of the Gods."
Grand Theatre, Derby.

MR. DOUGLAS GORDON,
Stozzi, "The Cardinal."
Feb. 27, King's Theatre, Glasgow.

MR. J. LYNWARD GRAHAME.
Address,
Duke of York's Theatre, W.C.

MR. FRED GROVE
and MISS EMILY GROVE, Frohman's "Merely Mary Ann" Co. T. R., Bournemouth.

MR. J. W. GROVES, Comedian, at
Liberty Mar. 20. Gar Kiddie's "Bo Peep" Co. this, T. R., Dewsbury; next, Longton.

MR. CHARLES HALLING,
Jack Stanley, "The Mockery of Marriage."
Dalston Theatre, N.

MR. & MRS. AUGUSTUS HAMMOND
(Marie Fontaine), at Liberty. Stage, Man., M. F., Heavy parts. 44 Union Grove, Clapham.

MR. FRANK HARDING.
Please address all communications,
38, Beaufort-street, Chelsea, S.W. Tel. No. 2077 Ken.

MR. FREDERICK HARKER
Disengaged.
"Berkeley," Chester-road, Erdington, Birmingham.

MR. CHARLES HARLEY,
"A Country Mouse" Co.
Feb. 27, Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

MR. MORRIS HARPER,
Stage Manager, "Peggy Machree."
Feb. 27, Alexandra Theatre, N.

MR. and MRS. CHAS. HARRINGTON,
on Tour with own Company.
Theatre Royal, Whitehaven.

MR. CYRIL HARRISON,
at liberty. Part or Management.
52, Upperton-gardens, Eastbourne.

MR. W. S. HARTFORD,
At Liberty. Leading Business.
47, Godolphin-road, Shepherd's Bush, W.

MR. FRANCIS HAWLEY,
at Liberty for Autumn.
Address, Freemasons' Club, Richmond.

MR. S. CREAGH HENRY,
Prince Lucio, "Sorrows of Satan."
Crystal Palace, Six Nights.

MR. GALWEY HERBERT,
Haymarket Theatre,
S.W.

MR. & MRS. GRAHAME HERINGTON
(Madge Langton), Dis. Spring. Principal Comedian and S.-M. 36, Russell-square, Brighton.

MR. DALZIEL HERON,
Mr Forbes-Robertson's Co. in America.
Letters, 39, Harpenden-road, West Norwood, S.E.

MR. ARTHUR HICKMAN,
Principal Tenor, at Liberty.
Permanent Add., Wiffen House, Loughton, Essex.

MR. FRANK HILL,
Comedy, Special Character, Comedy Old Men. Disengaged. 11, Beaumont-rd., W. Kensington.

MR. A. T. HILTON
Disengaged. Principal Old Men, &c.
Address, 31, Crowndale-road, N.W.

MR. BALIOL HOLLOWAY,
Westmoreland, "Henry V."
Imperial Theatre.

MR. A. S. HOMEWOOD is now at Liberty
after 4½ Years with Mr E. S. Willard.
Address, 86, The Drive, Fulham-park-gardens, S.W.

MR. ALFRED H. HOOK,
Bus. Man., Mr. Peter Eland's "Little Red Riding Hood." Feb. 27, Prince's T., Bradford.

MR. and MRS. WILL HOOK (Miss
DAISY CARLTON), Miss Ida Molesworth's and Mr. Mark Blow's Co. Feb. 27, T. R., S. Shields.

MR. FRANCIS HOPE, Comedian,
Musical, Farcical Comedy, and good Drama.
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MR. LEONARD HUBERT
will in future Adopt his Own Name, HUBERT HARBEN. On Tour with Mr. and Mrs. Kendal.

MR. ERIC HUDSON
at Liberty March 4.
Feb. 27, Theatre Royal, Sheffield, Six Nights.

MR. and MRS. FREDERIC JACQUES
(Miss Minnie Rayner), Mrs. Lewis Waller's Répertoire Co. Feb. 27, Broadway T., Deptford.

MR. G. WALLACE JOHNSTON, Backbite, Hastings, Falkland, Ormond, Adolphus, &c., Compton Comedy Co. Lyceum T., Edinburgh.

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Arrangements Complete.
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MR. T. ARTHUR JONES,
Touring the Success of 1904, "Life's Sweetest Sins." Address, En Route.

MR. and MRS. THEODORE JONES
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MR. F. JOYNSEN-POWELL,
Concluded Season, Grand T., N. At Liberty.
Address, 49, Waldemar-avenue, Hurlingham, S.W.

MR. WHITFORD KANE,
Jacky, in "Sunday" (North Company)
Address, Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne.

MR. OGILVY KEITH.
Address,
Charlmont, Western-parade, Southsea.

MR. HENRY P. KENNEDY and MISS
NORA TEMPLE, Principal Character and Comedy, Juveniles, Boys, &c. 27th, T. R. Burslem.

MR. C. B. KESTON,
Mr. Brandon Thomas's "Charley's Aunt" Co.
Feb. 27, Grand Theatre, Woolwich.

MR. CLAUDE KING,
Juvenile Leading Business. Care of Messrs. Sass and Nelson, Standard Theatre, Johannesburg.

MR. AUGUSTINE KNIGHT,
Starring as Le Loup, "Face at the Window"
Court Theatre, Warrington.

MR. GEO. THACKERAY KNIGHT,
Sailing shortly for Canada. Farewell Presents will be very acceptable.

MR. HENRY KITTS, "Taming of the
Shrew." 103rd Performance.
Adelphi Theatre, W.

MR. RICHARD HENRY LACE.
Address,
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MR. FRANK LACY,
Mr. Charles Frohman's "Merely Mary Ann"
Co. Feb. 27, Theatre Royal, Bournemouth.

MR. JAMES R. LA FANE,
Manager and Stage-Director, Mr. Mouillot's "Geisha," "Greek Slave" Cos. Grand T., Croydon.

MR. WINGOLD LAWRENCE,
as Jack England,
Feb. 27, Grand, Islington.

MR. EDWARD LEROY, Disengaged,
Heavies, Char., Juv., or Com.
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MR. ALFRED LESTER,
Com. and Special Char. Parts. Disengaged.
Add 18, Osborne-ter., Clapham-rd., London, S.W.

MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN,
Haymarket Theatre, W.C.
Address, 28, Chelverton-road, Putney, S.W.

MR. ARDENE LINDEN,
Chamboran, in "Proof."
Feb. 27, King's Theatre, Cardiff, Six Nights.

MR. FRANK LISTER,
Napoleon, "Royal Divorce." Offers invited for town. 15, Elmhurst-mans., Vernon-rd., Clapham.

MR. FRANK LISTON,
Lead, Juveniles, Bus. Man., Arrangements complete. 311, Kentish Town-road, N.W.

MR. and MRS. SAM LIVESEY (Miss
Maggie Edwards). "The Village Blacksmith" Company. Prince of Wales's T., Mexboro'.

MR. and MRS. STUART LOMATH,
Dis. April 3. Address, "Fatal Wedding"
Co. Feb. 27, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM LOWE,
Osmond Tearle Répertoire Company.
Address, en route; or, 41A, Myrtle-street, Liverpool.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES L. LUDLOW
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MR. WILLIAM LUGG,
with Sir Henry Irving.
7, Swift-street, Fulham, S.W.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY,
on Tour with own Co., "Wearin' o' the Green."
En route; or, Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

MR. and MRS. DREW MACKINTOSH
(Miss Annie Stalman) Disengaged.
Offers invited. 7, North Place, Brighton.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM MACLAREN
(Miss Lily C. Bandmann), Touring own Co.
Feb. 27, King's Theatre, Cardiff.

MR. J. T. MACMILLAN.
Address,
1, Rochdale-place, Mount Florida, Glasgow.

MR. and MRS. PERCY MAITLAND
(Ella Seton), Dis. Easter.
Feb. 27, Rotunda, Liverpool.

MR. GEORGE MALLETT.
Mrs. Langtry's Co. Disengaged March 6.
Parts or Management. 5, Upper Westbourne-ter., W.

MR. H. F. MALTBY.
Prince Mazaroff in "Slaves of Passion."
Feb. 27, Theatre Royal, Aldershot.

MR. W. MANFREE, Disengaged,
Character Comedy, Jew Parts. Refer C. Macdona. 172, Camberwell New-road, S.E.

MR. D. LEWIN MANNERING, Baron
Bonelli and Stage-Manager in "The Eternal City," on Tour. Feb. 27, Crown T., Peckham.

MR. FREDERICK MANTELL,
Lord FitzSherry and Stage Manager,
"Miss Mischief" Co., en route.

MR. MAITLAND MARLER,
at Liberty.
Address, 333, King-street, Hammersmith, W.

MR. PERCY MARMONT,
4, Esmond-road,
Bedford Park, W. A.A.

MR. PERCY MARSHALL,
Carbury, "Lady of Ostend," &c.
Feb. 27, T. R., Dover.

MR. ALFRED MARTIN.
Advance Representative. Compton Com. Co.
Feb. 28, Opera House, Perth.

MR. C. H. MATTHEWS, Disengaged,
Lead and Heavies. Concluding 17 weeks, Heavy Lead, "The Ladder of Life." Terriss T.

MR. HERBERT MAULE,
Returned from South Africa. Disengaged.
Offers invited. Add., Burnholme, Norton-on-Tees.

MR. WALTER MAXWELL.
Address,
Feb. 27, Ealing Theatre, W.

MR. ALEC MAYHEW,
Juveniles, Heavies, Character; Disengaged.
130, Holloway Head, Birmingham.

MR. LONNEN MEADOWS,
concludes To-night as Yellow Dwarf. Disengaged. Theatre Royal, Bolton.

MR. and MRS. HUGH METCALFE
(Miss Vyvyan Montgomery. Resting.
Mr. Metcalfe, Coliseum, Oldham.

MR. HUGH MONTGOMERY,
MARIE HARCOURT, Napoleon and Marcel, in "Napoleon the Great," T. R., Attercliffe.

MR. F. MORLAND.
Address,
11, Bernard-street, Russell-square, W.C.

MR. and MRS. TOM MOWBRAY
(Miss Edith Ife), Disengaged March 6.
Feb. 27, Queen's Theatre, Swindon.

MR. QUINTON M'PHERSON,
as the Hon. Ernest Worley, in "The Admirable Crichton," with William Gillette. E. T., N.Y.

MR. SINCLAIR NEILL
Disengaged. Juvenile Lead.
Crown Chambers, 64, Royal-avenue, Belfast.

MR. H. ADAIR NELSON.
Address, Eccentric Club,
Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MR. and MRS. J. D. NEWTON (Miss
Kitty Clinton), K. C., understudying. J. D. N., Dis. Spring. G., Wolverhampton.

MR. DAVID G. NOBLE
Juvenile or Heavy Lead. Offers invited.
Monday, 6th, Hippodrome, New Brompton, Kent.

MR. ALFRED NORTHWAY,
"The Sledge-Hammer" Tour.
Next week, Grand Theatre, Brighton.

MR. PERCY OAKLEY,
Principal Tenor. Disengaged. Offers invited.
29, De Laune-road, Kennington, S.E.

MR. & MRS. DRELINCOURT ODLUM
(Dorothy Carington), Disengaged.
113, Stamford-street, Blackfriars, S.E.

MR. GUS OXLEY,
"Three Little Maids" Co.
8, Hercules-road, Kennington, S.E.

MR. and MRS. ROBSON PAIGE
(Mabel Syringa).
Address, 10, Ospringe-road, N.W.

MR. and MRS. MARK PATON (Miss
Mabel Rees). Disengaged.
Address, 1, Stockwell-avenue, Brixton, S.W.

MR. WILFRED E. PAYNE,
Leading Business. Disengaged Shortly.
T. R., South Shields.

MR. and MRS. KINGSFORD PEARCE
(Miss Wynne Hanley). Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's Co., King's Theatre, Cardiff.

MR. ASHTON PEARSE,
Adelphi Theatre.
Perm. address, 65, Redcliffe-rd., South Kensington.

MR. HERBERT PEARSON,
Juvenile and Heavy Lead,
Disengaged. 13, Haselrigge-road, Clapham, S.W.

MR. and MRS. FRANK E. PETLEY
(Miss Gertrude Price), Lead, "As Midnight Chimes" Co. Feb. 27, Rotunda T., Liverpool.

MR. DONALD PRICE-EVANS,
Miss Ada Reeve's Co., Wolverhampton.
MISS MARCELLA HUDSON. Mrs. D. P. E. Dis.

MR. WALTER PURVIS.
Miss LILY BRAMMER, Singing Soubrette.
Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

MR. WALTER RAYNHAM,
Aristocratic Old Men and Character Parts.
At Liberty. 224, Hainton-st, Great Grimsby.

MR. ALBERT E. RAYNOR, Sir Henry
Curwen, "Breed of the Treshams," with Mr. Martin Harvey, T. R., Brighton.

MR. WILTON REED,
at Liberty.
17, The Avenue, Southsea.

MR. PERCY RHODES.
Address,
10, Elmstone-road, Fulham, S.W.

MR. and MRS. GWYN RICHARDSON,
Disengaged.
Address, Mordington, Richmond, S.W.

MR. W. E. RICHARDSON,
Disengaged.
Address, 129, Lavender-sweep, Lavender-hill, S.W.

MR. ARTHUR RICKETTS,
At Liberty shortly, for Musical Comedy.
Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.

MR. FRANK RIDLEY,
Disengaged March 6th.
Address, A. A., 10, King-street, W.C.

MR. EDWARD RIG—, Engaged
for New Production by Mr. Fred Mouillot, Dublin, March 6. 11, Chepstow-villas, Bayswater.

MR. HARRY H. RIGNOLD,
"The Rogues of the Turf" Company.
Address to O. H., Wakefield.

MR. WALTER L. RIGNOLD,
Disengaged. Low Comedy, Character or Boys. Address, A. A., 10, King-street, W.C.

MR. LEONARD ROBSON,
Starring Engagement, Stephen Merrick, "The Lightning's Flash." Pavilion, Edinburgh.

MR. G. STAPELTON ROCHE,
Light Com., &c., Dis. for a Few Weeks.
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Own Tour, "Voice of the People."
Grand Theatre, Walsall.

MR. STANLEY ROGERS.
Address all communications,
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Disengaged for Leading Juvenile or Heavy Bus. 93, Barrow-road, Streatham Common, S.W.

MR. ARCHIE SELWYN,
"The New Clown" Co.
Feb. 27, Grand Theatre, Leeds.

MR. and MRS. MICHAEL SHERBROOKE (Miss Alice Arden), at Liberty.
34, Margaretta-terrace, Chelsea, S.W.

MR. FRANK SHERLOCK,
Bingle, "The Girl from Japan."
King's Theatre, Hammersmith, W.

MR. GEORGE SHIRLEY,
Disengaged, Business Management.
65A, Long-acre, London, W.C.

MR. EDWARD SIDNEY,
Disengaged. Comedy and Character.
Address, 112, Olney-st., Walworth-rd., London, S.E.

MR. IVAN F. SIMPSON,
with Mr. Willard in America.
Address, c/o Low's Exchange, 1,123, Broadway, N.Y.

MR. FRED SINCLAIR,
Comedy Duologue.
Monday, Alhambra, Brighton.

MR. JAMES SKEA,
Character Actor, Dialects, Sing. Dis. Feb. 25.
Care of Hansen, 6, Union-place, Edinburgh.

MR. WALLE SPINNER, Business
Manager for "The King's Pardon."
This week, T. R., Barnsley; next, O. H., St. Helens.

MR. A. GIFFORD STACEY
at Liberty Early in March.
Address, Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. CHARLES STAFFORD,
"The Eternal City" Co.
Crown Theatre, Peckham.

MR. GEORGE STEEL,
Disengaged March 6. Offers invited.
Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

MR. and MRS. W. S. STEVENSON
(Miss Evelyn Robson). Dis. Offers Invited. Today, Lyceum T., Crewe; next, 10, King-st., W.C.

MR. JAMES STEVENSON,
at Liberty.
Address, 360 Kennington-road, S.E.

MR. GEORGE STONE,
Resident-Manager (Eleventh Year),
Royalty T. and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness.

MR. E. STORY-GOFTON,
Disengaged.
Address, 10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

MR. WALLACE STRANACK,
Dis. April 3rd. Business or S. Management.
Feb. 27, Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

MR. AUGUSTIN SYMONDS
Dis., Comedy Char., Man; KATE PARRY, Juv., Light Com. 25, Kathleen-rd., Clapham, S.W.

MR. ALGERNON SYMS
Dis. March 18. Next, Royal, Sunderland.
Permanent address, 3, Springdale-road, London, N.

MR. TAPPING
Disengaged. Parts and Stage-management.
28, Leyland-road, Lee, S.E.

MR. HODGSON TAYLOR
As Convict 263. The "V.C."
Empire Palace, South Shields.

MR. and MRS. J. MILNE TAYLOR,
"The Golden Ladder" Co., Dis. May 1.
T. R., Attercliffe.

MR. FOWLER THATCHER,
Dis., Com., Char., Eccentric Parts, or Management. 35, Bridge-avenue, Hammersmith.

MR. WALTER THORNTON,
Miss Ida Molesworth & Mr. Mark Blow's Co.
Feb. 27, Theatre Royal, South Shields.

MR. E. W. THOMAS,
Returned from South Africa. At Liberty.
138, Elmhurst-mansions, Clapham; or, A.A.

MR. WYLIE A. THOMPSON,
Light Comedy, Dudes, &c. Disengaged.
Bridgen, Bexley, Kent.

MR. RAYMOND THOMAS,
Disengaged. Heavy Lead or Character.
Address, 74, Doddington-gr., Kennington Park, S.E.

MR. HENRY TOOLE,
Juveniles. Disengaged. Old Men.
10, Stanmore-road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

MR. TRUEMAN TOWERS,
Disengaged, March 13. Business or Stage Management. Disengaged March 13. T. R., Bristol.

MR. GEORGE TRAILL
Disengaged. Character Bus., Comedy, or Old Men. Add., 17, Manchester-st., Gray's Inn-rd., W.C.

MR. J. HENRY TWYFORD,
Lorenzo in "The Merchant of Venice."
Special Matinées. London address, A. A.

MR. A. W. TYRER, as Horace Holmcroft, "New Magdalen" Co., Brixton Theatre; or 10, Elmstone-road, Fulham.

MR. FREDERICK TYRRELL,
Rev. Elihu Garside, "Winnie Brooke, Widow,"
Feb. 27, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD VAN BIENE
(Miss Kate Hallam), Bus. Man., and Princess Sonia, "Slaves of Passion" Co. T. R., Aldershot.

MR. and MRS. CHAS. B. VAUGHAN,
Miss M. Lewes, Lead, "The Garden of Lies."
Mr. Vaughan, "Sunday" Co., Ashton-under-Lyne.

MR. PERCY H. VERNON, Captain
Larolle, "Under the Red Robe," &c.
Opera House, Perth, Six Nights.

MR. and MRS. C. VERNON-PROCTOR
(Miss Amy Rudd), T. Arthur Jones' "Life's Sweetest Sins." Feb. 26, Eden, Bishop Auckland.

MR. FREDERICK VICTOR,
David Rossi, "The Eternal City."
Crown Theatre, Peckham.

MR. LIONEL VICTOR,
Re-engaged spring and autumn, Mr. Geo. Edwardes' Co. Panto, Prince's Bristol.

MR. and MRS. DOUGLAS VIGORS
(Miss Lucy Beaumont), Lead and Comedy.
Stock Season, Lyric, Hammersmith.

MR. HAROLD E. WADELY,
To-day, T. R., Grantham.
Feb. 27, West Pier, Brighton.

MR. ARTHUR WALCOTT,
Representing Urbanora Exhibition.
Address, 10, Brunswick-square, W.C.

MR. G. CARLTON WALLACE,
Leading Heavies, General Management, at Liberty. 10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

MR. EDWIN WALTON,
Zadok Foxbane, "The Beautiful Avenger."
Feb. 27, T. R., Sunderland.

MR. PERCY CARNE WARAM,
Playing "The Biggest Scamp on Earth,"
T. R., York.

MR. ALBERT WARD,
Lead, "The Blanchard Diamonds."
Theatre Royal, Middlesboro'.

MR. R. E. WARTON, Manager, Mr.
Charles Macdona's "A Country Girl," North Co. Monday, Feb. 27, New T., Consett, Six Nights.

MR. FRANK WEATHERSBY,
Theatrical Agency,
10, Garrick-street, Covent-garden, London.

MR. ALFRED WELLESLEY, "Her
Forbidden Marriage" Co., 27th, West London. Miss BEATRICE WEBB, Disengaged.

MR. A. E. WYN WEAVER
Disengaged.
150, Telford-avenue, S.W.

MR. C. A. WHITE,
Disengaged. Comedy and Character, Old Men, &c. Park House, Harewood-road, Merton, S.W.

MR. WILL WHITE, F.O.S.,
Advance Manager, North American Animated Photo. Co., Town Hall, Oxford.

MR. VICTOR WIDDICOMBE,
as Sergeant Brue
Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, S.W.

MR. ALLAN WILKIE.
Address,
New Theatre.

MR. BREMBER WILLS,
"Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace" Co.
Next, Tunbridge Wells and Canterbury.

MR. HERBERT WILLIAMS,
Comedian. Offers Invited.
30, Romberg-road, Upper Tooting, London, S.W.

MR. LEONARD WILLIAMS
Juvenile Lead. T.R. Edmonton, N.
Permanent, The Blorenge, Taunton.

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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT
FOR
ACTOR AND COMPOSER,
BY
ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B. (Lond.).

Chapter I.
COPYRIGHT AS OPPOSED TO PERFORMING RIGHT.
Chapter II.
PERFORMING RIGHT.
Chapter III.
INFRINGEMENT AND REMEDIES.
Chapter IV.
MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.
Chapter V.
INTERNATIONAL AND COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law," ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as "the Bermoothes" and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said, to state little more than that the contents include five chapters respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," "Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority, is not dry reading. The statutes, with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr. J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr. Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise, it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright" is dedicated to Mr. A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman, July 31st, 1901.

Mr. A. A. Strong has published a book on "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," which should be in the hands of everyone who is obliged to know about this perplexing subject. Dramatic copyright in England is in a particularly unsatisfactory state, and it is much to be hoped that ere long some more rational method of securing protection for a play may be devised than the slovenly and sometimes costly "production for copyright purposes," which is at present required.—St. James's Gazette, Aug. 2nd, 1901.

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THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS
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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.
That vade mecum of "the profession," "The Era" Annual, has just made its 1905 appearance. In addition to the dramatic and musical calendar, the alphabetical list of new pieces, and other permanent features, there are some twenty-five stories by leading authors, actors, and actresses, including Sir Henry Irving, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Sydney Grundy, Mr. H. A. Jones, and Mr. Walter Passmore, all illustrated by photographs and autographs.—Sunday Times, Jan. 15, 1905.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.
Conducted by Mr Edward Ledger, "The Era Annual" holds a unique place amongst dramatic and musical works of reference. Not merely does it contain the customary bright collection of stories from some of the best-known figures of the theatrical world, but its calendar is packed with interesting information, and the annual record of plays produced in London, the suburbs, the provinces, Berlin, and Paris is as complete and as valuable as ever.—Daily Telegraph, Jan. 17.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.
"The Era" Annual, 1905, is with us once again, and is very welcome. The usual stock features which make this Annual so valuable for reference have been compiled with the usual care, and the "incidentals" will favourably bear comparison with those of any former issue. They range from "Dundee Reminiscences," by Sir Henry Irving, to an endeavour to lay the "Foundations of a National Drama," by Mr. Henry Arthur Jones.—Referee, Jan. 15, 1905.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, Dec. 20, 1904.—Gaiety Theatre.—Several new artistes appeared with Mr. Frank Clark's folly company for the first time on Saturday evening, and were accorded a hearty welcome by a large and attentive audience. The vocal marvels of Mr. Ern Ern, ventriloquist; the comical dancing and specialities of Mr. Joe Watts, and the songs of Miss May Lucas, Mr. Will Jones, and Miss Maie Marlow were greatly admired. A complete change of bill is announced for Christmas week.

SYDNEY, Dec. 27, 1904.—Mr. Harry Rickards gave a Christmas dinner to one thousand poor people, the basement of the Town Hall being granted by the Lord Mayor. Mr. Rickards devoted his usual Wednesday matinée at the Tivoli to the fund, and his company was added to by Mr. W. F. Hawtrey and Miss Winifred Austin, who appeared in a playlet. A sudden change in the weather lessened the attendance, and Mr. Rickards made up the required sum out of his own pocket. The scene on Christmas Day was a pleasant one, as the poor folks were assiduously looked after by Mr. J. C. Leete, general manager of Mr. Rickards' ventures.

SYDNEY, Jan. 10.—*Pinafore*, the second of Mr. J. C. Williamson's Gilbert and Sullivan revivals, was witnessed on the 7th inst. by a crowded audience at Her Majesty's Theatre. It was the occasion of the first Australian appearance of Miss Alexia Bassian, when the new soprano—albeit a distinctly grand opera artist—made a favourable impression. The simplicity which is necessary to the elucidation of Gilbert's satires was lacking, but voice and musical culture were there. A loud roar of welcome went up as Mr. Howard Vernon "came on board" as Sir Joseph Porter. He largely resembles the historic portraits of Nelson, and he is a prodigious favourite. All the week he has been suffering from illness, and Mr. H. H. Wallace capably represented him as Bunthorne. His defection from *Pinafore* was therefore expected; and his appearance was a pleasurable surprise. Miss Celia Ghiloni made a decided hit as Little Buttercup, though her personal beauty injured the illusion of the typical bumboat-woman. Mr. Charles Kenningham, one of the very few singers who can act, scored as Ralph Rackstraw; and Mr. Frank Wilson's excellent voice was well employed as Captain Corcoran. Mr. Ernest Fitts secured favour as Dick Deadeye, and Mr. John Ralston appealed to the patriotic instincts of the audience with his song, "He remains an Englishman." Miss Eileen Boyd interpolated "The Rio Grande," and sang and danced so well that three insistent encores ensued. Mr. Charles Danby could not complain of his reception after eleven years' absence, and he made droll business as the boatswain's mate. Miss Aggie Thorn was a dainty, melodious Hebe, and little Irma Caron, daughter of the conductor, M. Leon Caron, did careful work as the midshipmite. The chorus was one of the best we have ever had, and the male portion introduced "Comrades in Arms" and "When Evening's Twilight" to the intense delight of the audience. Mr. George Dixon painted a good deck-scene, with Portsmouth Harbour in the perspective.

Miss Nellie Stewart is playing Pretty Peggy to delighted audiences, is rehearsing *Blind Man's Buff; or, Her Own Way*, and studying Camille for her first effort in that celebrated emotional part. Miss Tittell Brune is also announced to essay the part of Camille for the first time during the present Melbourne season.

"A Desperate Game," as produced by Mr. Bland Holt, packs the Theatre Royal with lovers of a strong story, well told and acted.

The Tivoli saw the initial "thoughtographical" turn of Mdlle. Olivette on the 7th. The lady is one of the Salambos, and she gave a capital exhibition of blindfold arithmetic and object-naming. Madame Marcella, the Peschkoffs, Miss Nita Leese, Professor Davy and his marionettes, the Driscoll Boys, the Fernandez May trio, Fanny Powers in her clever imitations, and Jack Harrison (champion club-swinger) and others are in Mr. Harry Rickards' bill.

The Bio Tableau, introduced by Mr. J. C. Williamson at the Queen's Hall, is drawing well. The whole show is a good one.

Wirth's Circus and Menagerie is in its last week.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 16.—Princess's Theatre.—Rostand's romantic tragedy, *L'Aiglon*, continues to do remarkably good business, and on Saturday evening last there was another record attendance. Miss Tittell Brune's interpretation of the part of The Eaglet, Napoleon's ambitious, but ill-starred son, has certainly shown her capabilities to Melbourne playgoers. The other members of the company are well placed, and the scenic effects are skilfully managed.

Her Majesty's Theatre.—The revival of *Florodora* is proving a source of delight to lovers of this class of entertainment. The cast, with the exception of Mr. George Lauri, is new to Melbourne, and although individually a strong one, the production on a whole does not come up to expectations. The singing of Miss Florence Young is delightful, but Mr. Haigh Jackson has been seen to better advantage than as Frank Abercoeyd. On Friday evening next Mr. George Lauri is to be tendered a complimentary benefit.

Theatre Royal.—Although the temperature in the shade has averaged 108 degrees for the past week, it has not prevented parents from taking their children to see the pantomime, neither has it kept away other members of the community from enjoying an evening's amusement at our Melbourne "Drury Lane," as this popular theatre has been re-christened by the management. Miss Ravensberg, as Sinbad, has rapidly won the hearts of her audiences. Mr. Bert Bailey, in the character of the much ill-used widow, Sinbad's mother, keeps the audience in a simmer of merriment with his comical "patter," while the rest of the company all deserve a word of praise. The scenery and costuming are of a high order of merit.

Opera House.—The company now appearing at this theatre is attracting a large share of patronage. Hackenschmidt, the wrestler, is undoubtedly the star of the troupe.

The Gaiety Theatre is being filled nightly by Mr. Frank Clarke's "Folly" company, which includes the Elmores, Headon and Spilker, the Jones Brothers, Charles Naylor, and a number of other comedians and singers.

MR. A. B. IMESON AS DAVY GARRICK.

Aberdeen Free Press, Feb. 11, 1905.—Her Majesty's Theatre—"Davy Garrick."—No little disappointment was felt when it was announced that, owing to his sprained ankle becoming more troublesome, Mr. Compton would be unable to take his usual place in the title-rôle. The esteemed actor sent the following message . . . . . .

"Will you, under these circumstances, add to your many obligations and favour me so far as to accept Mr. A. B. Imeson in the part of Davy Garrick."

The chief interest in the play centres round the figure of Davy Garrick, and it is highly complimentary to Mr. Compton that such a capable substitute was found in Mr. A. B. Imeson. His was truly a remarkable performance; such talent and such power are seldom seen in so young an actor, and it is safe to predict a brilliant career for the possessor of such ability. Mr. Imeson's work throughout was masterly and convincing; never did he lose an opportunity, and in the great scene of the second act he quite excelled himself, at the end of which he was rewarded with rounds of applause. As the make-believe drunken actor he did splendidly, and in the more tragic passages the force and passion which he displayed were really grand.

THE FAIRY-TALE SOCIETY.

In aid of the funds of the Fairy-Tale Society, a musical and dramatic entertainment was given at St. George's Hall, on the afternoon of the 16th inst. The hall was kindly lent, free of charge, by Mr. Mr. J. N. Maskelyne, who has on several occasions acted in a similar generous spirit. Mr. Bransby Williams gave a particularly good account of himself in the pathetic recitation about "Devil-may-Care." Mr. Williams afterwards told the story of "The Old Man's Pipe," with appropriate gesture and speech, which won its way into the sympathies of the audience, and, by way of an encore, he gave imitations of Sir Henry Irving, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, and Mr. George Alexander, thereby causing much merriment. Miss Lilian Braithwaite appeared with three admirable recitations, with musical accompaniment, her "Song of Gladness" showing her to be possessed of a thorough grasp of the elocutionary art. Mr. Broughton Black, who came on the stage attired as a mediæval jester, was highly entertaining with his songs and jests, which delighted everybody in the house, especially the youngsters. Miss Winifred Hart Dyke looked most entrancing and bewitching in her "danse fantastique," her different movements being very neatly and gracefully executed. Mr. Corbett Smith knows how to tell a story in an attractive way, and his two Australian "yarns" were listened to with keen interest on the part of his audience. Miss Marian le Bas recited in nice style Mr. Richard le Gallienne's "Faery Gold" "L'Amour Fileux"; Miss Kate Cutler charmed the house with a song; Mr. Alec von Homrigh contributed a couple of humorous ditties; Miss Beatrice Spencer and Mr. Foxton Ferguson submitted a duet; Miss Dorothy Wallace appeared in a cleverly performed cake-walk dance; and the St. George's Hall Quintette made themselves generally useful. The concluding item on the bill was a new play, in one act, by Ford Lynton, entitled

"THE OPEN WINDOW."

Hugh Gronton, M.P.....	Mr. Dennis Eadie
A Vagabond	Mr. Wm. Mayne
Mark Phelp	Mr. Broughton Black
Saunders	Mr. Herbert Mayne

It is really a very disappointing piece of work. A few crude ideas have been jumbled together in a crude way by a crude writer. One Hugh Gronton, M.P., is greatly perturbed because of some little trouble which the ordinary man of the world would put in his pipe and smoke away. Failing to receive a satisfactory reply to a letter addressed to his sweetheart, he is about to commit suicide by taking poison, when, hearing a noise, he leaves the room for a few seconds. By the time he returns, a vagabond, who has secured an entrance through an open window, is making himself at home in Gronton's chambers. He is about to drink the poison, presuming it to be whisky and soda, when Gronton snatches the glass from him, and scatters the contents on the floor. He satisfies the tramp's hunger and thirst, provides him with a handful of cigars, and while he is smoking one of the latter, certain commonplace remarks pass between the two. As the tramp is about to quit the house, after having refused to accept money from his benefactor, he picks up a letter, and the contents, apparently, are of an agreeable character. Mr. Dennis Eadie did his best with the part of Hugh Gronton, although the sentiments which were put into his mouth were only of a kind which romantic schoolgirls, provided they were silly enough, would be inclined to accept. Mr. W. M. Mayne presented a fine study of a vagabond, both as to speech, make-up, and gesture. The two minor characters of Mark Phelp and Saunders received suitable attention at the hands of Mr. Broughton Black and Mr. Herbert Mayne respectively.

NEW YORK THEATRE FIRE.

The fire at the Casino Theatre, New York, on the 11th inst., happening as it did at an hour when there was no audience in the house, is not regarded as an unfortunate occurrence by any means; in view of the fact that it has destroyed the possibility of another appalling disaster like that of the Iroquois Theatre fire in Chicago. The Casino had always been considered one of the most dangerous theatres in New York in the event of fire. It was first on the list of a number of "upstairs" theatres submitted to the Mayor of the city shortly after the Chicago affair, with recommendations for extensive alterations and drastic measures of safety. The stairways leading up to the auditorium were tortuous and narrow, and the approaches to them were obstructed by a number of pillars, the interior of the theatre being constructed and decorated in the Moorish style. Egress from this playhouse was always very slow, and if there had ever been a panic, the loss of life would have been enormous. Some compulsory alterations were made last year, but these would have counted for little. The partial destruction of the auditorium may therefore be regarded as providential, as the entire interior of the theatre will now be reconstructed, and certain precautionary measures will be enforced by the Fire Department. It is not unlikely that the auditorium will be lowered to the street level. After the fire it was found that the supports of the balcony and upper gallery were of wood, covered with plaster. Partitions supposed to be solid and fireproof proved to be two-inch planking. If the galleries had been weighted with humanity at the time of the fire, they would have surely collapsed. The upper gallery was described by the Chief of the Fire Department as a "forest of pine," the floors, partitions, supports, and parts of the stairways being built of wood. The flames destroyed all the interior at the side of the theatre that fronted on Broadway, and spread half-way through the auditorium towards the stage. If an audience had been in the theatre at the time, most of the means of escape would have been cut off, and, as there was no way for the smoke to escape, hundreds of people would have been suffocated. When the fire was discovered the *Lady Teazle* company were rehearsing under the direction of Mr. Gerald Coventry, the stage-manager, who got everybody out safely, most of the members of the company not stopping to don their street clothes. The asbestos curtain was quickly lowered, and the scenery and appointments used in the production of *Lady Teazle*, the current attraction, were not damaged. The loss is estimated at $25,000, this being chiefly caused by water. It is supposed that the fire was caused by defective insulation of an electric light wire. Miss Lillian Russell's costumes were saved by a young lady of the chorus, who hastily gathered them up when the alarm was given, and carried them out of the building. The story runs that this was an act of gratitude, Miss Russell having been kind to the young lady thirteen years ago, when she was a page in Miss Russell's *La Cigale* company at the Garden Theatre. The Casino is one of the most popular theatres on Broadway, and one of the oldest. It was opened on Oct. 21, 1882, with a production of *The Queen's Lace Handkerchief*, and has always been devoted to musical attractions exclusively. The popularity of Miss Lillian Russell and of Mr. Francis Wilson was established there, and Miss Marie Tempest sang herself into the affections of the New York public at this theatre in the early nineties. Mr. Rudolph Aronson was its manager for a number of years. Mr. George Lederer succeeded him, and he produced *The Whirl of the Town* and *The Belle of New York* there. His annual "reviews," too, were a unique and popular feature of New York theatricals during his tenure of the Casino.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—New Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews.—A variety programme is presented here this week. Will Onda's company in *Servants Wanted* is cordially received. Madame Alecion is an excellent lady magician; Bendella is a first-class contortionist; and others included in the bill are Alf Davis, vocalist; the Valmores; Stretton Hill; Bob Stephen, Irish comedian; and Sabino, in a musical act. A farce, entitled *A Quiet Night*, by Will Onda and company, concludes.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Will Gregory.—The Four Estrellas top the bill here this week, their gymnastic display being really marvellous. Marie Joyce is a chic comedienne; Wilfrid is a very clever contortionist; Oakley and James combine dancing with vocalism; Dan Pedley is a comedian of ability; Frank Hope, trick cyclist, receives rounds of applause; Baby Lloyd is a firm favourite; the Bros. Zampah, one-legged acrobats, are applauded heartily; Nellie Vann is received with well-deserved favour; and the O'Malleys are capital comedians.

ABERDEEN.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah, C.A.—The play this week is *The Orchid*, which has been enthusiastically received by full houses. Miss Ethel Bryant, Miss Madge Lucas, Miss Sylvia de Lacy, Miss Chrissie Ralland, Miss Ida Chichester, and Miss Irene Desmond, make up a brilliant array of lady principals, and the chief male parts are vigorously sustained by Mr. G. Davy, Burnaby, Mr. Edmund Hollick, Mr. Ernest Darrell, Mr. Edmund Page, and Mr. Charles K. Wallenn.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. Ernest Sheldon.—The Vandyke troupe of pantomimists are appearing here with an irresistibly funny farce, *Nicodemus*, and the popularity of the Two Bees seems to increase with every successive appearance. Mr. J. H. Millburn is received with much favour; a remarkably interesting exhibition is given by Professor Duncan's Scotch Collies; and among the other successful artistes in an admirable company, are Falles and Cussick, comedians; M. D'Ora, a clever and daring gymnast; L. Palamo, an attractive vocalist and dancer; and Miss Rosina Rickards, a sprightly comedienne. A series of interesting and amusing pictures are shown by the Palace bioscope.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—*A Chinese Honeymoon*, played by Mr. George Dance's Co., is the attraction here this week.

The New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Wilmot, Potter, Vandy, and Weisker.—The bill provided here includes the New Macs, eccentric comedians; the Sisters Dorrell, character duettists; J. P. Carrol, tambourine player; Mollie Doon, dainty comedienne; Moretta and Alice, Continental acrobats; Fritz and Carl, speciality comedians; and Lieut. Chard's Dogs.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Williams.—With that extreme kindness which has always characterised Mr. Sounes so far as any charitable effort put forward in the town is concerned, the first three nights of the week, and Wednesday afternoon, were set aside for the production of *The Mikado* by the members of the Aldershot Amateur Operatic Society, and it is most gratifying to record that the confidence which Mr. Sounes, and his manager, Mr. Williams, had in the ability of the performers has not been misplaced; indeed, their most sanguine expectations have been exceeded, for the play has been produced with unqualified success. The performances were in aid of the funds of the local hospitals and the Union Jack Club.

ALTRINCHAM.—New Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. Budd, Howe and Taylor; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Gilman.—Mr. Charles Carte's company in the drama, *A Noble Brother*, has occupied the boards here this week. The visit has been a successful one. Mr. Carte, in the title-rôle, played in a manner that deeply touched the audience. He was supported by an able company.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—*The New Mephisto* is being staged here this week. The company, which is Mr. W. H. Kirby's, is under the direction of Mr. Albert Weston (who appears in the character of Mephisto) and Messrs. Paul Kaye and Clarence Lindon. Mr. Albert Weston is a host in himself as Mr. Mephistopheles; and other male parts fall to suitable interpreters. The Thalian Glee Singers are a special attraction.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. C. Revill; Director of Entertainments, Mr. F. Wilmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. Campkin.—A varied programme of uniform good "turns" is given here this week. Lady Mansel appears with her juveniles in *A Concert Rehearsal*, with very pleasing results, delighting the audience. The three Sisters Ernest present operatic vocal selections of great merit; other artistes are Lea and Lovell, American song illustrators; Tray and Rich, popular and refined black and white comedy team; H. O. Borie, comedy juggler; Handel, artistic musical act; and Adams and Ward, Anglo-American comedy acrobats, very funny, and very expert tumblers. The pictures are also good this week.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech. — The chief item of a very interesting week's programme here is the dramatic sketch, *Twice Round the Clock*. Mr. Chas. Majilton is an old-stager, as Gabriel Godforth; and Miss Madeline Majilton, as Mdlle. Salprunelle, the attractive "belle" of the cigar shop, is full of vivacious fun. Mr. Bartle Burke, as enacted by Mr. Jim Bond, is a very broth of an Irishman. The other artistes who have their turn preceding the sketch are Florrie Cooper, in her latest songs; Edie Gray and Coons, in a unique and pleasing performance; Billy Bint, the popular comedian; Dale and Vale, in their singing and dancing speciality; Calpitt, the great comedy magician; and the Wallonells, in their great comedy bar act. The cinematograph also shows some comic pictures.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Seaton.—*The Golden Ladder* is being presented here by an excellent company, under the direction of Miss Mary Austin and Mr. Vivian Edmonds. Mr. Harry Cullenford plays the part of the Rev. Frank Thornhill in a natural manner, and with such quiet, yet dignified force and bearing, that every word and movement shows careful study, and stamps him as an actor of ability. A highly dramatic performance is given by Mr. J. Milne Taylor of the villainous Michael Severn, his efforts to work out his evil plans being ably seconded by Mr. Graham Winsford, as the subtle Peranza, and Mr. Dan Mining as the volatile Jim Dixon. Mr. Edward Bikkar is an acceptable John Grant; Mr. Raymond Chester makes a breezy Noah Learoyd, and doubles the part of Captain Jackson with excellent taste and judgment. Mr. John McGillray is most amusing as Samuel Packaby, his efforts being considerably helped by Miss Nellie Graham, as Mrs. Peckaby. Miss Conyers Radcliffe is sympathetic as Lilian Grant, the light and shade of the part being fully brought out; Miss Janet Wakerling is good as Rossomazy; so also is Miss Alvina Mining, as The Tearer; Miss Fanny Morse, as Mrs. Dixon; Miss Jessie Gillette, as Victoria Alexandra Peckaby Miss Violet Milron, as the Matron; Mr. Eric Thomson, as Rao; Mr. Hartland Rowe, as Lieutenant Valnois; and Mr. W. Chambers, as Dr. Lemair. A word of praise is due to Little Vera, who is very winsome as Lily. The scenery and staging are highly satisfactory. Mr. Raymond Chester is the courteous business-manager of the company.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwards; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbons.—A first-class company is here this week. Zanfretti and Napio, musical knife grinders and grotesques, are well received; Miss Marie Yorke is a pleasing burlesque artiste; Dan Noble proves himself a capable comedian, with god songs; Max Merlin gives a clever show as a contortionist; Lottie Siegenberg is highly appreciated in her quick-change act, entitled *The Lazy Slavey*; a very good turn is provided by The Falcons, humorous acrobats and hand balancers; an excellent series of pictures are shown by the Palace Bioscope; and the performance of James De Voye's Educated Pony is well received.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—During the first three nights of this week, the Gaiety is occupied by Mr. Herbert J. Montague's Osmond Tearle Company, with Mr. Walter Bentley, a great favourite in Ayr, as leading man, backed by an admirable company of well-known Shakespearean actors. On Monday *Hamlet* was produced, and no finer interpretation of the piece has been given here. Nothing could have been finer than Mr. Bentley's conception of the melancholy Dane; Mr. John Paley played the King; and Horatio and Laertes were admirably taken by Mr. Vivian Gilbert and Mr. Fred Sargent. Mr. Wm. Lowe was an effective Polonius; and the Ghost was well presented by Mr. Chas. Kingsley. The Queen was in the able hands of Miss Fanny Chamberlain; the Player Queen was entrusted to Miss Ruth Nightingale; and Miss Phyllis French cleverly took the part of Osric. Miss Millie Ford was an artistic Ophelia. On Tuesday *Othello* was presented, and on Wednesday *The Bells*, concluding with *Cramond Brig*. Mr. Charles March and his company appeared on Thursday in *The Priest of the Temple*.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—Mrs. T. Morton Powell's company, in the drama *A Woman's Devotion*, is here this week. Mr. George Gainford plays the part of the hero, Richard Chesney, in a convincing and earnest manner; Philip Dangerfield is skilfully represented as a thorough-paced villain by Mr. Frank R. Robertson; and he is ably assisted by his partner in crime, Cora Eversleigh, enacted by Miss Ethel Tinsley. Mr. W. E. Sommerville is excellent as Paul Eversleigh; Mr. F. Hodson makes an amusing and entertaining Bob Savage, and is well supported by Miss Agnese D'Aragon as Mrs. Savage, and Mr. Bob Anderson as Reginald Montmorency. Miss Maud Hastings presents a pretty picture of Maisie Loyale; Mrs. Morton Powell gives a life-like representation of Gilberte Le Grand; and Miss Alice Buckland gets some fun out of the part of Kitty Brown.

BATLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. M. Hurst.—Messrs. Mathew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company is presenting *The Still Alarm* here this week, and a capital house attended on Monday evening. Mr. M. H. Glenville portrayed Jack Manley capitally; and the villainous rôle of John Bird was well played by Mr. Paul Lovett; Mr. Tom Beasley made an effective Willie Manley; and Mr. Fred Osmond was to the fore as Doc Wilber. Mr. Milton C. Curtis was good as Franklyn Fordham; and Mr. Lewis Gordon did well as Joe Jones. Miss Mary Lovett gave a most sympathetic rendering of Elinore Fordham; and Miss Mable Veriton worked hard as Mrs. Manley. Miss Connie Meadows was also well received, and was always in evidence as Carrie Wilber; and the Central Brigade Quartet rendered some capital glees.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—The greatest theatrical event of the year was commenced locally on Thursday, last week, by the appearance of Sir Henry Irving and his company, whose short, but brilliant engagement, will long remain a red-letter day in the annals of Bath play-goers. The opening performance was made up of *Waterloo* and *The Bells*. The enthusiasm with which the audience received the efforts and appreciated the talents of the gifted actor-knight, and also those of his clever fellow-artistes, can only be described as spontaneous and heartfelt. The applause was so persistent at the close that he was obliged to respond in one of his graceful speeches. On Friday, *Louis XI.* was the attraction, and the house again presented a wonderful scene, every seat being occupied and standing room at a premium. Sir Henry was in his best form, the enthusiasm throughout the play being most pronounced. Long and sustained were the cheers which filled the auditorium as the curtain descended upon the great scene at the end of the third act, and both Sir Henry and Mr. Gerald Lawrence were obliged to appear again and again to bow their acknowledgements. On Saturday a matinée of *Becket* was given to a densely crowded house, and at the evening performance of *The Merchant of Venice*, when similar conditions prevailed. Sir Henry's acting as the Jew was watched and applauded to the echo. Miss Edith Wynne Matthison essayed Portia, a performance that had eagerly been looked forward to on account of her former triumphs in Bath some years ago, and so continuous was the applause when the curtain fell on the last act that Sir Henry Irving appeared, leading Miss Matthison by the hand. When the applause had subsided he stepped to the front, and addressing the audience, said:—Ladies and gentlemen: It is my privilege to thank you—it is impossible to thank you adequately—for your more than kind and gracious and inspiring greeting. No players could be received with more favour than you have received us, and I thank you for one and all of us, whose hearts respond most gratefully to your welcome. All good things must end, and I am sorry that our engagement ends to-night, but I cannot leave you without expressing my deep sense of gratitude to many friends for the most gracious courtesies which I have received from them. I would like to thank the gentlemen of your Press for their very generous record of our work, and I would like to thank Mr. Lewis and all his staff. I would like to thank them for what they have done to help us all through our work within the last three days. I have some very cherished memories of kindnesses which I have received in your historic, your beautiful city, and I carry away a further sheaf of these memories which I have gathered of late. It is impossible for me to express my thanks to you, but I hope that I may leave behind me, or that we may leave behind us, something that you will remember gladly and with some pleasure. In thanking you again and again and counting myself in nothing else so happy as in my soul remembering my good friends, I thank you, ladies and gentlemen, as your very grateful and respectful and affectionate servant. On Sunday afternoon numbers of Sir Henry Irving's admirers assembled upon the Great Western Railway company's platform to bid him adieu. On Monday a return engagement was fulfilled of that bright and amusing comedy, *A Country Mouse*, performed by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's well-equipped company. Mr. Percy Hutchison himself is now seen in the character of Archie Vyse, which he enacts in an easy and polished manner. That finished actor, Mr. Charles Harley, gives evidence of his ability as John Bowlby. Mr. F. G. Thurstans has a congenial part as the giddy Duke of St. Kitts; Lord Robert Wykeham is hit off to a nicety by Mr. Edward Bonfield; Mr. John E. Watson is once again seen as the family butler, Jephcot, in addition to which he undertakes the stage and business management of the tour. Miss Violet M. Harley, as Angela, is decidedly clever in all she does. The society ladies have good and elegant representatives in Miss Violet Ley (Lady Sylvia Bowlby) and Miss Dorothy Cacey (Violet Aynsley). Miss Charlotte Mead is also capital as Mrs. Cropper. The curtain-raiser is Mr. George Mudie's amusing farce, *His Landlady*, the quartette of characters being well sustained by Mr. Charles Harley, Mr. Edward Bonfield, Miss Dorothy Cacey, and Miss Charlotte Mead.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Trussell.—The programme submitted this week includes the popular Glenroy Troupe of Dancers, whose efforts are always well received. One of the smartest comedians and dancers we have had here for some time is Will Driscoll. Johnson and Bert present an acrobatic knockabout turn that wins them great applause; Miss Ella Shields, the southern star, gains plenty of admirers; Leslie Bell and Co., in their comedy sketch, *A Bit of String*, meet with success; Lydden and Hayward, duologue artistes, work hard to please; and Gilbert Rogers, comedian, also appears. Pallister's Animated Pictures are once again displayed.

Assembly Rooms.—The North American Animated Photo Co., under the direction of Mr. Ralph Pringe, are paying a welcome return visit. The newest films of "Urbanora" series are unfolded, and the large audiences that assemble are delighted. Particularly interesting are the local views, the unveiling of the Quin tablet by Sir Henry Irving being watched with enthusiasm. The concert party, who appear at intervals, includes Ellen and Maynie, in a musical interlude; Lester King, the popular baritone vocalist; and Miss Pansie Dulforde, violinist.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—This week the boards are occupied by Mr. Frank Wilson's company in the comedy, *The Marriage of Kitty*. Miss Vera Fordyce, as Kitty, leaves nothing to be desired. Sir Reginald Belsize is well performed by Mr. Leslie Tyler; Miss Kate Harwood, as Madame de Semiano, attacks her difficult rôle with great success; John Travers, the solicitor, is capitally portrayed by Mr. Frank Wilson; Miss Elsie Saville makes a pert and saucy maid; and Mr. J. F. Leighton and Mr. Walter Craig satisfactorily un-

dertake the rôles of Norbury and Hampton respectively. The piece is produced under the direction of Mr. Gilbert Hare. On Tuesday afternoon Mrs. Langtry paid a flying visit to Bedford with her company direct from Terry's Theatre, in the light comedy, *Mrs. Dering's Divorce*. The theatre was crowded, every available seat being occupied.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James McCann.—Miss Olga Nethersole's company opened here on Monday with *Sapho*. In the title-rôle Miss Cecil Cromwell was decidedly successful. The honours were also shared by Mr. Arthur Royston, who submitted a powerful and highly satisfactory impersonation of Jean Gaussin; Mr. A. T. Hendon invested the part of Uncle Cesaire with much humour; and the rôle of Divonne was charmingly portrayed by Miss Isabel Derrie. As Mme. Hettema, Miss Winifred Pearson was thoroughly efficient; and the part of Dechelette was in the excellent hands of Mr. Nix Webber. Mr. Frank Melrose made the most of his opportunities as Hettema; and other parts were ably sustained by Miss Beatrice Fairfax, Miss Minnie Summers, Miss Clara Halkin, Miss Rosa Sullivan, and Messrs. Slaine Mills, Knox Monk, John Barnum, John Crome, G. Laurence, E. C. Ashley, Edward Smith, Albert Mack, &c.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. John J. Beardmore.—Marlo and Dunham Trio head the bill and have been most successful with their gymnastic act, which is decidedly clever. The cycle balancing performance by the Bellong Bros., is quite extraordinary, their feats being loudly cheered; Rice, Rose, Davis and the Half appear to great advantage in an amusing act; the Maples are excellent duettists, and their dancing has been much admired. A fine performance has been submitted by Sibb and Sibb (Will and Gertrude), their feats on the trapeze being hailed with enthusiasm. Mr. Walter Emerson is a capital comedian, with funny songs; and Mr. A. P. Boswell is a smart chair balancer. Miss Belle Sydney, a fascinating comedienne, completes the bill.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Brock.—Miss Daisy Mayer is the star here, and this accomplished comedienne has been accorded a good reception. Seeley and West, the popular musical comedians, have been very successful; and Mr. Arthur Melrose is a wonderful siffleur, his solos being capitally rendered. Devere and Kenwick are an exceedingly smart duo; and the daring horizontal bar act by Messrs. McPhee and Hill has been deservedly applauded. The sweet tenor vocalism of Mr. H. F. Wilson, has been universally admired; and others appearings are Miss Katie Butler, comedienne, and Mr. Fred E. Terry, a funny comedian.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—This old-established hall—so ably managed by Mr. H. T. Downs—always commands a large share of patronage. This week the chief position on the bill is occupied by the Pichel Troupe of acrobats, whose remarkable and daring feats have caused quite a sensation. The Brewsters are clever vocalists and smart dancers; and Miss Mabel Kessler's selections on the cornet have been received with much pleasure. The trick cycling by Mr. W. Salmon is of an interesting nature; and a smart wire act is supplied by Melaine. Weisker Bros.' bioscope introduces some new and attractive sets of pictures this week. Also appearing are Mr. Will Ellerslie, comedian; Mr. Jack Lane, the "Yorkshire Rustic"; Deller and Oxford, the comical duo; and Miss Florrie Bray, comedienne.

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Battersby.—Yet another pantomime is supplied in Miss Lena Stanton's *Dick Whittington*. Miss Stanton figures well in the title-rôle, and a chic Alice Fitzwarren is found in Miss Marie Gerrard, both ladies playing well together. Little Keeno revels in the part of Captain Spanker; and eulogy is deserved by Mr. George James as Alderman Fitzwarren, Mr. Alfred Brooks as Idle Jack, and Mr. Bruce Green as Margina. The specialities comprise the Cecil Troupe of lady acrobatic dancers; Rynfeld's chair performance; Jay and Ginger, singing ventriloquist; Joe Pauletti, cycling clown, and Le Voll, gymnast.

BIRKENHEAD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Messrs. H. J. Callan and Wentworth Croke's company are here with *Florodora*, a comedy with an excellent reputation in this town. A capital representation is much enhanced by the really spirited and charming performance of Dolores by Miss Violet Leslie. Mr. Arthur Lenville appears to great advantage as Tweedlepunch, and makes every point tell; Gilfain is well impersonated by Mr. C. Young Fixitt; Mr. William Everard is a highly effective Frank Abercoed; Lady Holyrood is suitably embodied by Miss Cissie Seohton; and the cast is most efficient throughout. The piece is admirably staged, and large and enthusiastic audiences have ruled throughout the engagement.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—A comprehensive company here includes the Coloured Meisters, whose artistic vocalism is much admired. Booker and Narbis, in their well-sustained and amusing sketch, are heartily enjoyed, and the Musical Howards (Ralph and Nellie) are a decided acquisition. Mr. Fred Dunstone is a character comedian of resource; Miss Madge Grey, comedienne, scores a success; Miss Gladys Mavius, the Canadian coon, is a general favourite; and Mr. L. B. Athol, comedian and descriptive vocalist, and Miss Lily Lever, balladist, also contribute materially to the success of the programme. An admirable display by the Bioscope is an interesting feature.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Babes in the Wood* attracts full houses nightly, and the efforts of Messrs. Bert Gilbert, J. F. McArdle, Henry Wright, Daley Cooper, Fred Walton, Fred Farren, and Mesdames Lily Iris, Gladys Ward, Maidie Andrews, Phyllis Dare, Mabel Lait, Monic Sayer, the Eight of Hearts, &c., are well rewarded.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*The Forty Thieves* is still running to full houses. On Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Langtry took possession of the stage for a flying matinée performance of *Mrs. Dering's Divorce*. Mrs. Langtry was well received in her thoroughly charming study of Mrs. Dering, and Mr. Leonard Boyne was heartily applauded as the Captain.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*Hearts Adrift*, in which Mr. Arthur Bertram's company is scoring here this week, possesses many recommendations to favour. The airship sensation never fails its object, and the scenery is new and effective. Mr. Arthur Estcourt, who is producing the play, acts convincingly as Captain Teddy, "the man with a past"; Mr. Percy Rhodes suggests the sinister character of the inventor, Edmund Gerne, in a masterly manner; Mr. Cecil C. Klein shows admirable qualities as Robert Darney, the clerk; Mr. J. P. Dryden scores as Pidgeon; and Mr. John Gerant leavens the play with his excellent comedy powers as Simon Green. Miss Dora Barton acts charmingly as the Flower Girl, Miss Maud Tremayne is successful as Julia Lane, and Miss Ella Dixon is diverting as Peggy.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*Dick Whittington* has now completed the eighth week of its enormously successful run, and is likely to fill the theatre for weeks to come.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Walter Melville; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—Mr. Edward Morris's company in *As Midnight Chimes*, is winning unqualified praise. Mr. Melville Bickford, is a fine study of the heavy character part, Luke Dezzard; Mr. Frank E. Petley as the gallant young fisherman hero, Dave Stannard; Mr. Herbert Belmore as Ezra Gamble; Miss Gertrude Price as a most sympathetic heroine; and Miss Minnie Ethel as Little Davy, the child's part, have been warmly eulogised. Mr. James Salter leads with excellent effect in the comic element as Nat Spavin, and is well assisted by Miss Nita Imeson as Suzette, the French maid.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben Sydney.—*The Babes in the Wood* is being played here by Mr. Gus Levaine's company, under the direction of Mr. Harry Levaine, and is attended by crowded houses nightly. Mr. Harry Levaine appears as Dame Durden in the most diverting style; Messrs. Dave Anderson and Gus Granville as the two ruffians, create continuous hilarity. Mr. Harry Taylor is popular as Friar Tuck, Mr. Will Cutler adds to the fun as the Baron, Miss Lily Ennis shines as Robin Hood, Miss Beatrice Smith acts gracefully as Maid Marion, and the Misses Ivy Rochefort and Daisy Rochefort win much favour as the Babes. The Two Zemblas, Leon and Leoni, the Sylvan Quartette, Vulo, the Rizonis, and the Rhondda Glee Party are among the specialities.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; Manager, Mr. Dan Barnard.—*Dick Whittington* has returned again, this time under the auspices of Mr. James Kiddie, who presents the pantomime in excellent style. The scenery, dresses, and specialities are well arrayed, and the company is good all round. Miss Bessie Willows and Miss Leah Lawrie as Dick and Alice, give pleasure to all in their respective rôles, and the Misses Isabel Taylor, Florence Hilton, Vera Ashton, Maude Hinton, Flossie Crompton, and Meta Anderson are equally delightful. The comedians are in strong force. Mr. Allan Carruthers as Idle Jack, Mr. Harry Alberry as the Cook, Messrs. Clifton and Gibson as Silly Peter and Lazy Larry, Mr. Cyril Dundas as Fitzwarren, and Mr. V. M. Vido as the Cat, exciting the utmost glee.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Tom Costello heads the bill here this week, his song scena, *The Old Clown*, being loudly applauded, while the excellent singing of Harriett Vernon meets with an enthusiastic reception. Cline and Clarke, in their black and white comedy business are most entertaining, as also are Mueller and Coyne, and George Newburn; the Two Butterflies are exceedingly clever juvenile gymnasts; Diamond and Beatrice have a refined musical entertainment; the Three Donalds are expert athletes; and the Arthur Lloyd Trio are amusing in their sketch, *Little Charley*.

GAIETY THEATRE. — General Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—The Seven Savonas, the brightest and most talented musical entertainment we have seen, is the big attraction here; while the Elliott troupe of cyclists appear with their accustomed success. The Harvey Boys, Terry and Lambert, the Leotard Brothers, and Jack Lorimer are very amusing; Lieutenant Travis is a fine ventriloquist. Senorita Eloina, gymnast; Jenny Reeve, comedienne; Chas. Ulrick, barrel act; and the Three Sherrys, eccentric acrobats, complete the bill. On Tuesday evening Mr. Bushell had his annual benefit, when the house was packed.

HIPPODROME.—Managing Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The diversified and well-arranged programme this week includes Colonel G. Bordeverry, in his display of rifle-shooting, which is marked by accuracy and sensationalism; the Barra Troupe of musicians present an entertainment of a high order, while the Vaudeville Trio are clever and versatile entertainers. An amusing turn is that of the Arleys, eccentric cyclists, and Mdlle. Aladina's troupe of performing cockatoos are marvellously trained. V. J. De Henau, with his paintings; Miss Du Barry, soprano; Al. Lawrence, mimetic comedian; Bob Hamilton, Larry Lewis, Harry Drew, and Burton Joyce add to the success of the long programme.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident Manager, Mr. George Foster.—The principal item this week is the clever wrestling entertainment presented by Leon Morris's Ponies. Florence Smithers, Owen Dacroy and Company, have an excellent sketch, *Hard Lines*, which is well played. The Sisters Llewllyn, and Helen Martin are loudly applauded for their operatic selections, while Lily Langtry is brighter than ever; Collins and Hart, and the Resuas Trio are entertaining and clever acrobats, and other excellent turns are Jimmy Shields and Harry Martell, comedians.

CURZON HALL.—Hamilton's Excursions are thoroughly up to date; Will Souls is loudly applauded for his comic songs; the Watson Trio have a bright sketch, *The Tramp in Trouble*; and Foo Choo, Chinese conjuror; Andrews and Thompson; the Kessanly troupe of Terriers, and Hoppitt, Tony, and Terry complete the programme.

BLACKBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Business-Manager, Mr. Reginald Yorke.—*The School Girl*, under the direction of Mr. Charles Macdona, opened here on Monday. Miss Kate Forster as Mother Superior and Mrs. Marchmont greatly distinguished herself. Miss Nellie Hodson, as Lilian Leigh, and Miss Jennie Bonney, as Cicely Marchmont, rendered ample justice to their respective parts. Mr. Alec Chentrens, as Edgar Verney, gave a pleasing performance. Mr. Charles Adeson, as General Marchmont, and Mr. Herbert Darnley, as Ormsby St. Leger, provided much amusement; and Mr. Alfred Leslie, as Tubby Bedford, was very humorous. The Peter Overend of Mr. Charles W. Anson was also very good.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—*The Mockery of Marriage*, presented by Miss Olga Audre, is here this week. Miss Olga Audre gives a powerful rendering of Alva Kenyon, and is well supported by Miss Florence Zilwood, as Rosa Vernham. Mrs. Sidney Halling is also good as Mary Ann Barnicoate. Mr. Chas. Boult gives a manly performance of Jack Stanley, and the acrobatic entertainment by the Four Aces is an attractive feature.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Drury.—A local amateur company is giving Gilbert and Sullivan's opera, *The Yeomen of the Guard*. The profits are to be devoted to local charities.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—The Moody-Manners Opera Co. has obtained a cordial reception here this week. *Faust* was played on Monday with fine effect. Mr. Edward Arthur appeared in the title-rôle, and sang and acted with consummate ability. Mr. T. H. Wood won great commendation as Mephistopheles, and Mr. David Fuller made a good impression as Valentine. Miss Grace Nicoll's Marguerite was a charming performance, and she secured several recalls for her tuneful singing. Miss Tiefy Davies, as Siebel, and Miss N. Moore, as Martha, were also good. *Lohengrin* was played on Tuesday, when Miss Enriquetta Crichton, as Elsa, scored a veritable triumph, whilst Mr. Walter Carter was very successful as Lohengrin. *The Bohemian Girl*, *Tannhauser*, *Carmen*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, and *Maritana* are also in the bill. The chorus is strong and well balanced.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Madame Willougby's *Babes in the Wood* Co. is here this week.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Another excellent programme is provided here this week. Syd May, the mimic, has established himself a huge favourite; the Royal Tokio Troupe of Japanese Jugglers contribute a capital turn; Hercat and Fairfax appear in a sketch; and Ernest Montefiore and Co. supply a musical triologue. Ted Cowan is a good comedian; Kathleen Gray, vocalist, and Vernando, ventriloquist, are both well received; Vosper is a clever facial mimic; and G. W. Foster is a comedian with a quaint style. Vernon's Imperial Bioscope is as popular as ever.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. George E. Good.—Miss Ada Wallis and her excellent company are here with the musical absurdity entitled *The Major*, from the pen of Mr. T. C. McQuire, who gives an exceedingly clever performance of the title-rôle, whilst to Mr. Frank Hartley every praise is due for an enjoyable rendering of the part of George Goodman. Mr. A. Godfrey is prominent as Jeremiah Stoney; Mr. George Chatterton is good as the waiter, Thomas Twickham. Miss J. Hughes as Emma Gampney, Miss Ethel Poole as Grace Gampney, Miss Minnie McQuire as Hilda Marston, all have a hearty reception, whilst the honours of the evening are bestowed on Miss Ada Wallis, who, as Angelina Touchemup, keeps the audience in roars of laughter.

TUDOR'S CIRCUS reopened its doors on Monday for a short season with Cooper and Edison Electric Living Pictures, which are of a high class, and well deserve the patronage bestowed. A good variety company also appears and renders popular turns.

BOLTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—Mr. George Dance's company opened here on Monday with the musical play, *The Duchess of Dantzic*. The part of Catherine Upscher ("Sans Gene") was charmingly played by Miss Rita Presano; Mr. Frederick Moyes, as Naponeon, and Mr. Mackesay Cullin, as Sergeant Lefebvre, interpreted their respective parts with great ability. Mr. T. C. Maxwell acted gracefully as the Viscomte De Bathune; and Mr. Colin Mackay was very amusing as Papillon. The chorus was good and the play splendidly staged.

GRAND THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—Variety again reigns here, and the following make up a good programme: Miss Maud Ross, comedienne and expert dancer; Miss Leola, lady juggler; Fred Horsfall, mimic; Davis and Davis, comedians and sketch artistes; Will Mitcham, vocal and musical comedy artistes; Bob Hanlon Troupe of Acrobats; Chris. Masters, character vocalist and comedian; the Original Selbinis, in their acrobatic bicycle and musical pot-pourri act; Tom Lloyd, comedian; George Steely and Jenny Dowton, in their funny comedy act; and the Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE.—ROYAL MUNCASTER.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. Albert H. Wilson.—Mr. Chas. Frohman's company in *Sherlock Holmes* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Kenneth Rivington, in the title-rôle, is the prominent feature of the play, and gives a fine study of the famous detective, and Mr. Arthur B. Murray is a powerful Professor Moriarty. Miss Florence Radcliffe is a sweet and sympathetic Alice Faulkner; an attractive impersonation of the adventuress, Madge Larrabee, comes from Miss Carrie Lacey; Mr. Fred Inwood does all that is possible with the rather thankless part of Dr. Watson; and Mr. Ernest Gray (James Larrabee) and Mr. H. C. Wright (Sydney Prince) are extremely good. The remaining parts are well sustained, and the mounting leaves nothing to be desired.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—The theatre is this week in the hands of the Bournemouth Lyric Club, who are proving an attraction in the comic opera, *La Fille de Madame Angot*. Mr. Herbert Jennings is responsible for the production, which does him great credit.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Pemberton.—The successful run of the charming pantomime *Cinders* is to terminate this week.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—The old favourite drama *The Lights o' London* was revived here last Monday evening by Mr. Herbert Hollister's company, and its reception at the hands of a large audience was very cordial. The acting was good all round, and the piece was staged in a very complete manner. The part of the persecuted Harold Armytage has an able exponent in Mr. Harry Lonsdale, and Miss Jeannie Burgoyne plays Bess with much pathos and tenderness. The scheming scoundrel Clifford Armytage is forcibly taken by Mr. Riddell Robinson, and the bluff Seth Preene has a very able representative in Mr. Herbert Hollister. As his ambitious daughter an excellent effort by Miss K. Wallace is particularly noticeable, and the capital comedy in the play is well brought out by that capable comedian Mr. Percy Compton, and by Miss Emilie Dawson, and Mr. E. K. Nelson.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, Moss' Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. J. Kelly.—The interesting and smart Kossow Midgets are here again, fresh and diverting as ever in their acrobatic and gymnastic display. Will Haines, comedian, contributes acceptably; and Edie Veno submits a good comedy turn. James Fawn pays a welcome return visit, and is as popular as ever. Coon dancing by winsome Amber Austa is gracefully accomplished. There is a sensational feast in the performance by Richard List's wonderfully trained Bears. Mortor and Elliott, with instrumentalism, vocalism, and clever paper manipulating, give a capital entertainment. The five charming Julian Girls sing and dance effectively. The Korries, with instrumentalism and vocalism, provide an excellent turn, and much interest is centred in Mendel, the blind pianist, and his marvellous feats.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. W. Berry.—A very fine orchestral entertainment and clever solo work by The Imperial Boys' Orchestra meet with applause, and The Zampas display smartness and agility in their Transatlantic duets. Charles Gardiner is a humorous comedian. Cliff and Kean are good as patter comedians and dancers, and well chosen duets by The Sisters Desmond meet with approval. Flo Deighton renders ballads in winsome style; an acceptable turn is submitted by Louis Murray, character vocalist; and Wm. Holles and Co. in their sketch, *The Little Charwoman*, are smart and diverting.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Entering upon the second and closing week of their engagement here, the D'Oyly Carte company, on Monday, gave an excellent performance of *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Mr. Reginald White achieved complete success by his admirable portrayal of Jack Point; Miss Norah Maguire made a charming Elsie Maynard, and Miss Jessie Rose a bright and winsome Phœbe Meryll; while Miss Theresa Rassam was well suited as Dame Carruthers. Mr. Fred Billington was grimly humorous as Wilfred Shadbolt; Mr. Pacie Ripple acquitted himself very effectively as Colonel Fairfax; and able assistance was rendered by Mr. Albert Kavanagh as Sergeant Meryll, Mr. H. Blake Johnston as Leonard Meryll, Miss Alice Lisle as Kate, and Mr. Leicester Tunks as Sir Richard Cholmondeley. The choruses were well sung, and the duties of conductor were in the experienced hands of Mr. T. Silver. The programme for the week also included *The Gondoliers*, *Princess Ida*, *The Mikado*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Trial by Jury*, and *Patience*.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—The pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, entered upon the last week of its successful career on Monday. On Tuesday evening Mr. Dave O'Toole (Dame Trott) had a benefit, and yesterday (Friday) a benefit was accorded to Miss Blanche Vincent (Prince Peerless).

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—A capital programme is offered here this week. Orpheus is warmly applauded for his selections on various musical instruments; the Ritchie Duo are eccentric and clever cyclists; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco are very amusing in the absurdity, *Trafalgar Square at 4 a.m.*, the performance of Frisco, the Californian bucking broncho mule, being entertaining; the Picquays present a unique acrobatic display; Vasey and Ramsey are humorous comedy artistes and smart dancers; the Wille Brothers are marvellous equilibrists; Frank Bertram and company appear in a screaming comedy sketch, *The Chaperon*; Alice Carney is a pleasing comedienne; and Tom Parker a capital comic. The Alhambra pictures add to the pleasure of the audience.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Barrasford Operatic Quartet win enthusiastic applause for their rendering of selections from *Rigoletto*; the accomplished vocalists (from the French Opera House) are Mdlle. Bertrin, Mdlle. Lozini, M. Cauveren, and M. Auguste Delcoin. The Earles are clever banjoists; Jules Keller, the human enigma, is well received; Russell Wallett, society entertainer, gives a delightful turn; the Harmony Four (T. C. Bergeron, Edward Hughes, F. M. Barrett, and A. W. Ferguson) are artistic and amusing in their original musical comedy act; Walton and Miss Ella submit a marvellous dog show; Harry Allister is an excellent character impersonator; Fred Curran, peculiar comedian, gives his songs with dry humour; Brinn presents an interesting turn, *Pastimes on a Battleship*, and balances heavy weighs very skilfully; and the animated pictures conclude an excellent programme.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Mr. Edward Neville's company is here this week with *The Sorrows of Satan*. Mr. Edward Neville gives a fine portrayal of Prince Lucio Rimanez; Miss Lole Esmond is very effective as Diana Chesney; and Miss Violet Hammersley makes a pleasing Mavis Clare. Mr. C. T. E. O'Connor's Geoffrey Tempest, Mr. J. Le Fleming's Earl of Elton, and Mr. Gus Bowerman's Lord Lynton are well played; and able support is given by Mr. J. Nelson-Turner, Miss Cecile Byrne, Miss Annie Brunette, and Miss Rosie Neville.

NEW PALACE PIER.—Manager, Mr. C. Thompson Ford.—Mr. Charles Hartley and company opened here on Monday with *Ruth's Romance* and *In Honour Bound*. In the former, Mr. Charles Hartley gave an admirable representation of Captain Wilton; while Miss Florence Creagh as Ruth Carey and Wm. Wallace Court as Jack Dudley submitted pleasing impersonations. In the latter piece Mr. Charles Hartley was distinctly effective as Sir George Carlyon; Miss Florence Creagh was well suited as Lady Carlyon, and Miss Violet Sims as Rose Dalrymple and Mr. Edgar Stevenson as Philip Grahame showed able acting. The programme for the week also included *The Sorrows of Satan* in two episodes.

COLISEUM.—Manager, Mr. C. Smith-Wilkes.—Bransby Williams evokes enthusiastic applause by his masterly impersonations of characters from Charles Dickens' works; and conspicuous success is also achieved by the Mayvilles (Harry and Elsie), Lilliputian novelty artistes. Marcelle Eirl is a pleasing burlesque actress; Arthur Thomas, a versatile entertainer, is effective in vocal and banjo selections; Warris, Lindon, and company are amusing in their comedy sketch, *A Pleasant Evening*; Charles Bu Val, the tramp actor, submits a turn including concertina solos; Florence Preis, ballad vocalist, sings with much taste; Fred Solo, burlesque comedian and speciality dancer, is very entertaining; and the Coliseum pictures prove interesting.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—*The Sleeping Beauty* is now in its ninth week and seems to increase in popularity, good houses being the rule. Miss Lil Hawthorne is a handsome and energetic Prince Florizel; she works most conscientiously, and her various songs are well received. Miss Zena Dare is charming and graceful as Princess Beauty; she plays in a pretty style, and sings and dances well. Miss Maud Darling invests the character of Trixie, maid to the Princess, with many engaging qualities. She is prepossessing in appearance, sings well, dances cleverly, and delivers her lines with distinctness. The comedians, one and all, work hard. Mr. Lionel Victor and Mr. W. H. Rawlins are humorous as the King and Queen, working capitally together; Mr. George Miller's Nurse is a quaint character study, and is deservedly popular; Mr. Albert Le Fre is an expert dancer, and he makes an excellent part of Adolphus, the Page; and Messrs. Drew and Alders, as Ping and Pong, introduce many amusing specialities of song, dance and patter, keeping things lively while they are on the stage. The ballets are exceptionally good this year, the Tiller "Superba" Quartette also introducing several pleasing dances. The staging, both in the way of scenery and costumes, is admirable, being, in all respects, equal to former years.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter. *Robinson Crusoe* is decidedly the best pantomime produced here for many years, and is attended by large audiences at each performance. Miss Ethel Campbell acts remarkably well as Robinson; she has plenty of "go," and her songs are popular with all parts of the house. Miss Margery Moore acts well as Polly Perkins, also pleasing with her singing and dancing. Miss Minnie Love is eminently qualified in style and appearance for the Princess Carina, her specialities of song and dance obtaining much appreciation. The Sisters Warner are sufficiently gay and sportive as Billee Taylor and Nancy Lee, their specialities of song and acrobatic dancing being very acceptable items in the pantomime. Mr. Walter Kooney and Mr. Harry Carr are energetic and amusing as Will Atkins and Dick Deadeye; Mr. Bob King is a capital Mrs. Crusoe; Mr. Edgar Budden is a lively Friday, and an expert dancer; and the Risto Brothers obtain much prominence in their clever acrobatic and contortionist specialities, and for their good acting as Tom Bowling, Ben Bolt, the monkey, and the dog; Mr. Ernest Laws acts in effective style as the Sultan, his baritone songs being a feature of the pantomime; and Miss Florence Melville makes a really good part of Captain Mayne-Brace. The scenery, dresses, and mounting generally are on a scale of considerable liberality.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Jack Haggerty, the Channel swimmer, is here with his troupe of English wrestlers, the various bouts being watched with interest; the Jees provide an excellent turn with their "Musical Smithy"; W. F. Frame, Scottish comedian, obtains much applause for his amusing turn; Frank Coyne, comedian, has some new and amusing songs; the Baldwin Bros. present a good acrobatic and tumbling turn; Browning and Walley have also a smart acrobatic act; Maud Caswell is a pleasing dancer and barrel jumper; Gus Harris amuses with his Hebrew impersonations; and Carrie Joy, comedienne, is appreciated. The performance concludes with some well-produced animated pictures.

PALACE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary, Mr. F. I. V. Welchman.—A capital leading turn is provided here by the Szarvasi-Ferencz troupe of Hungarian singers, dancers and acrobats. Lotto, Lilo and Otto are exceptionally smart as trick and comedy cyclists; Mabelle May pleases with her songs and dances; Prince Fee Lung is an expert conjurer and water spinner; the Smythsons have a capital sketch, *The Lie-Alarm*; Charles Goodman, a well-known local comedian, has some good songs; George Formby, comedian, has a quaint style, which amuses; Charles E. Ernest scores as a double-voiced vocalist, &c.; Mystery Gauze, female impersonator, obtains appreciation; and the Sisters Lonnons are clever and attractive duettists and dancers. The performance concludes with Vernon's animated pictures.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LTD.—Managing Director and Licensee, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. B. Astin.—A large and appreciative audience on Monday evening welcomed *The New Barmaid*, under the direction of Mr. Alexander Loftus. Mr. Joseph P. Montague, as Bertie White, keeps the house in roars; Miss Nance O'Neil is a pleasing Ethel Joy; and the old barmaid, Brenda, is well sustained by Miss Hilda Blanche. Dora Heather, the lady journalist, has an excellent representative in Miss Violet Osmund, whose graceful dancing gives much pleasure; Mr. Leslie Austin, as Captain Lovebury, sings well; Mr. Alexander Loftus is successful as William White; Mr. Frank Melroyd makes a comical Mons. Bonsor; and Mr. Norman Bowyer, as Braddy, is a good swell. Lady Moulton is fittingly presented by Miss Jean Gilmour. The staging is excellent.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting Manager, Mr. John Waller.—*The Sins of a City* is presented here this week by Miss Winifred Maude and Co. Mr. Horace E. Herbert as Sandy McDonald gives a natural and pleasing study. Donald McIvor is pathetically played by Mr. Ivan Gore. Mr. Victor du Cane, in the dual rôle of Joe Woodleigh and Jasper Woodleigh, scores heavily, the latter character, that of an old miser, being a masterly conception. Mr. Leslie Beaufort shows ability as Ralph Blackwater, K.C. The Isaac Levi of Mr. Victor Moors is amusing and clever, and Mr. W. E. Simpson, Mr. Yale, and Mr. Manton all do well. Miss Winifred Maude, an actress of undoubted ability, plays with much pathos as Seaweed. Lesbia is also a piece of finished acting in the hands of Miss Marie Lyons. Miss Ellen Gray is a typical Scotch Fisherwoman, and Jenny Hacket (Midge), Miss Lily Seymour (Mrs. Miggs), are both responsible for some good fun. The piece is excellently mounted, and the dressing good.

BURY (LANCS.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—A treat is provided here this week, Mr. William Greet's company appearing in *The Earl and the Girl*. Large audiences are showing their appreciation nightly. Mr. Reginald Switz is exceedingly funny as Jim Cheese; he is well assisted by Miss Cynthia Carey as Liza Shoddham. Mr. Frank W. Cane is smart as the American solicitor, Downham; and Mr. H. B. Brandreth is sufficiently loud as Bunker Bliss. Mr. Alec Fraser plays Dick Wargrave in good style; and Miss Mary Fraser is a charming Elphine Haye. The scenery and dresses are effective.

OLYMPIA CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The programme here includes the Herald Comedy Four; the Tribune Trio; Haverley and Somer, eccentric comedians; Ernie Mayne, comedian; Ethel Loftus, mimic; Charles Woodward, vocalist; Major Moss and Son, vocal scenic artists; and the Herslet Brothers, comedy artistes.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. Broadhead.—The well-balanced company here includes Edwin Boyde, comedian; David Poole, ventriloquist; the Donatos, single-legged acrobats; the Lavelles, acrobats; Walker and Lake, patterers; Ray Ford, comedienne; Harland and Rollison, musicians; and Clerk's Nippers.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—On Monday Mr. and Mrs. Kendal made a welcome reappearance here, after an absence of several years, and met with a hearty reception from a large audience. The programme on Monday night consisted of *Still Waters Run Deep*, in which Mrs. Kendal gave a stirring performance of Mrs. Sternhold. Mr. Kendal's quiet style as John Mildmay also evidenced the work of a clever actor. As Captain Hawksley, Mr. Bassett Roe showed a thorough grasp of a somewhat difficult part; Mr. Ernest Hendrie's Mr. Potter was an exceedingly clever little character study, and one full of expression; Miss Elise Clarens played Mrs. Mildmay in a pleasing style. *The Elder Miss Blossom* was staged on Tuesday, and *The Housekeeper* on Wednesday. The performances at the end of the week were by the Elizabethan Stage Society, who presented the old morality, *Everyman*.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—Mr. Wm. Greet's Co. presented here on Monday Wilson Barrett's last play, *Lucky Durham*. The part of John Durham was portrayed by Mr. Wm. F. Grant in a manner that stamped him as an actor of merit. Mr. Paul Belmore, as the Hon. Reginald Steighton, deserves congratulations for his successful character sketch. A charming actress is Miss Molly Pearson, her rendering of Helen Vallerton being particularly pleasing. Equally as captivating is Miss Jessie Winter in her impersonation of the Hon. Margaret Steighton. Miss Luisa Gourlay gives a sympathetic portrayal of Mrs. Durham, and Miss Emily Levititez displays ability as Lady Mountfallon. Mr. Henry de Sella as Lord Mountfallon, Mr. Daniel McCarthy as Richard Vallerton, and Mr. Stanley Harrison as Arthur Walcombe, are all responsible for capital representations; while marked ability is shown by Miss Gertrude Robins as the Duchess of Hovecourt.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business Manager, Mr. Robert Sawin.—Mr. Horace Stanley and Company are paying a welcome return visit in the melodrama *The 10.30 Down Express*. Mr. Horace Stanley, in his laughable representation of Sam Wagstaffe, fully sustains his reputation. As Jack O'Malley Mr. Harry T. Wood gives an excellent rendering of the part. Mr. Scott Leighton depicts the villainous character of James Inderwick with marked ability, and Mr. Fred. C. Roper capitally acts the broken-down gamekeeper, Seth Coombes. Miss Effie Bartlett is seen to great advantage as Bessie Leigh, and Miss Kate Kilpack is extremely lively as Peggy Pots.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—Variety is the characteristic feature of the programme this week, the artistes appearing including the popular Mr. Chirgwin; Cruikshank, musical comedian; Alf. Arnesen, gym

Fitzherbert is good as Admiral Goldsworthy; Miss Grace Baring, as Nan Christie, is highly successful; Violet Christie is well performed by Miss Cicely Desmond; and Miss Mabel Ronald is good as the blind child. The comic element is well looked after by the following:—Miss Violet Annesley, as Kathleen Kerry; Mr. Edwin Millins, as Donald Macpherson, a Scotch part exceptionally well acted; Mr. Fred B. Carlton, as Tim Wilkins; and Mr. Dick Sneddon, as Willie Wilkins.

COATBRIDGE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietress, Mrs. Mary Watson; Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—The Ben Greet No. 1 company is here this week with *The Belle of New York*. Mr. Harry A. Meymott capably enacts Ichabod Bronson; Mr. Harold Wardroper shows ability as Harry Bronson; Mr. Morrise Holmes successfully portrays Blinky Bill; Mr. C. A. James does well as Mr. Twiddles; and Mr. Lionel Yeoman and Mr. R. L. Cody humorously delineate the Twin Portuguese. Miss Norah Hersee gives an excellent rendering of Violet Gray; Miss Ada Elliston submits a clever impersonation of Fifi Fricot; Miss Louie Codman is well cast as Cora Angelique; and Masny Clancy has an able representative in Miss Florence Hersee.

COLCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. Frederick E. Philpott's company presented *The Girl from Japan* at the above-named house on Monday. The scenic effects were charming, and the company included a powerful chorus. Miss Jean Van Dalle was repeatedly encored for her brilliant dancing; a similar compliment being paid to the Sisters English. Mr. Geo. Hudson filled the rôle of Lord Allenbury in an acceptable manner, as did Mr. Frank Sherlock, in the part of Bingie, with his multiplicity of characters. The part of the fire-eating General Baugh was capably taken by Mr. Percy Baverstock; and Mr. Charles Lupton impersonated the henpecked Sir Mulberry Flippington in a worthy manner.

COLNE (LANCS.).—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Gerald Harding.—Mr. C. W. Somerset's company is here in *The Sorrows of Satan*. Prominent members of the company are Miss Leah Marlborough as Delia, Miss Agnes Russel as Margaret, Miss Laura Clement as Countess Dragnett, Miss Jane Burnside as Mother Wurrell, Miss Geraldine Somerset as Jack, and Miss Daisy O'Neil as the child Mary; and Messrs. Talbot Homewood (Paul Carruthers), Richard Norton (Crafton Lyle), Keith Fraser (Lord John), and Mr. C. W. Somerset as Prince Lucio.

CORK.—Opera House.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. Edmund Tearle's company opened a week's engagement here on Monday, when *Othello* was played. Mr. Edmund Tearle, as the Moor, suited the character admirably. He was particularly good in the closing scene, and acted with passion. Miss Esther Tearle, as Desdemona, acted with considerable charm. Miss Mary Campbell was effective as Emilia. As Iago, Mr. Wm. J. Miller was most successful in his portrayal of the part, and Mr. J. V. Fairley made an excellent Cassio. Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree scored as Roderigo, and Mr. Thomas W. Benson, as Brabantio, gave a careful representation of the character. Mr. Dennis W. Cleugh and Mr. A. W. Wynne respectively filled the parts of Lodovico and Gratiano capably; Mr. Montague Lane made a capital Montano; and Mr. Frederick Kelsie impersonated the Duke of Venice, and was satisfactory.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The programme here is very good. The International Quartet provide an excellent turn, in their vocal and glee singing; the Brothers Dixon score as musical eccentrics; T. B. Fame, comedian, sings well; Mdlle. de Vena is a smart lady juggler; the Andreassen Brothers give a wonderful acrobatic exhibition; Flo Atkins is a clever concertinist; Alec. Aubrey, gymnast, gives a difficult and graceful performance on the rings; and Edith Courtney possesses a pleasing soprano, and sings well.

COVENTRY.—Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Bennett.—A capital attraction is provided this week by a visit from Mr. Lawrence Brough and a specially selected company, in *The Lady of Ostend*. Mr. Lawrence Brough, as Le Baron de Longueville, deserves praise for the finished manner in which he renders his part; Mr. Harry Hampson is fully alive to the humours of his part of Dick Whortles, and is very successful; Mr. Percy Marshall is seen to advantage as the staid and respected, at the same time giddy, father-in-law, Joseph Cadbury; Mr. L. Cory Thomas is amusing as Toby Krockett; Miss Kate Milford plays Dorothy Whortles in a simple and dignified manner; and Miss Doris Payne is a great success as Millie Grace. Miss Eleanor Gilbart scores as Matilda Canterbury. On Friday evening *The Cruise of the Saucy Sally* was given.

CREWE.—Lyceum Theatre.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—The last pantomime of the season has held sway here this week, and Messrs. Haddon and Loader have presented *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Miss Bessie Shelley plays Jack in a sprightly manner; as Dora, Miss Pattie Bella plays her part very satisfactorily, and sings her songs with much chic; Mr. Jay Laurier is extremely whimsical as Silly Billy; and Mr. H. Harrop makes much out of the character of Dame Trotter; Mr. Reg. Bolton, with his comic songs and funny patter, is amusing in the part of Squire Musty; the Cameron Glee Singers prove themselves most praiseworthy; Messrs. Wragg and Wragg, military athletes, are undoubtedly one of the chief items in the programme. The Continental Trio give some clever dancing; and Miss Cissie Trent, transformation dancer, is worthy of great commendation; Messrs. Kydd and Kydd as Dip and Dap provide some excellent fooling. The Aerial Flights of Miss Minnie Walsh and her Fairy attendants, are greatly admired; and Miss Evelyn Robson makes a hit as Discordio.

CROOK.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Wallace Davidson.—On Monday Messrs. J. Stillwell and Paul E. Tenton's company opened here with *Queen of the Night*. The title-rôle is in the hands of Miss Vera Mosley, who submits a powerful rendering. As Dr. Cavendish, Mr. James Stillwell portrays the wronged husband in an able manner; and Mr. Paul E. Tenton has made a careful study of the character of the miser Pentreath. Mr. F. Thorpe-Tracey's Briskett is remarkably good; and he is ably assisted by Miss Marie Moore as Mrs. Briskett. Miss K. Barnett is a pathetic Maud, and Mr. C. V. Sandford a villainous Jasper Wilton.

CROYDON.—Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Lawrence.—Mr. George Dance's company, under the direction of Mr. Michael W. Ring, is on a first visit to Croydon with the tuneful comic opera *Veronique*, which has been a genuine success. The chorus ladies are handsome, and have pleasing voices, the dresses are rich and tasteful, and the scenery calls for special mention. Miss Ruth Lincoln, in the title-rôle, sings very sweetly, and quickly gains the admiration of the audience. Mr. Leslie Holland is funny as Mons. Coquenard, his droll sayings and agility being greatly relished. Miss Lena Maitland has a clear enunciation and a well-trained voice, and her Countess de Champ Azur is very finely acted. Miss Maud Boyd deserves a warm tribute of praise for her acting and vocal efforts as Madame Coquenard; Miss Bretton Barton is excellent as Aunt Benoit; Miss Gracie Sinclaire is an entrancing Denise; and Misses Nell Hope, Kathleen Royayne, and Maud Desmond are pretty as Sophie, Elisa, and Zoe. Mr. Scott Russell enacts the rôle of Florestan de Vallancourt in an artistic manner; Mr. Ivan Berlyn plays the part of Mons. Loustot with unctuous humour; Mr. Tom Shelford, as Seraphin, keeps the ball of merriment rolling; and Messrs. Ernest Cresfan and Tom Robertson make the most of their opportunities as Octave and Felicien. The augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Victor Champion.

Palace Theatre of Varieties, Limited.—Resident General-Manager, Mr. Eustace H. Jay.—Burton and Franklin, in musical performance; Walter Munroe, comedian; the Three Laurels, in acrobatic act on the ping-pong table; Lee and Bentley, in *A Member for Middlesex*; Smith and Johnson, comedians; One Billy Farrell, comedian and dancer; Maggie Rennie, serio; Mab Fowler, comedienne; Woodhouse and Wells, comedians and dancers; Royal Best, mimic; Ben Hur, athlete; Dudman, Bromwich, and Company in sketch, *Detective*; and Mr. Fred. S. Partridge's band are all winning approval.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Newman Maurice.—Miss Nettie Ware's company, in the drama *When Woman Hates*, is here this week. Miss Elaine Verner submits a realistic and meritorious rendering of Cora Daintry; Miss Ada Ryder gives a sound performance as Marie Rokeby; and little Vera shows intelligence as Nelly Rokeby. Mr. William Yates is an admirable General Sir Henry Rokeby; Mr. Albert Guyon is at his best as Godfrey Lawton; Mr. Eric Campbell is responsible for unlimited mirth in the part of Bill; Mr. Will Percy is invaluable as P.C. Pat O'Brien; Mr. Murray Yorke is first-rate as Alphonse Picolot; the rôle of Sally Potts is safe in the care of Mrs. Edgar Colona; and the remaining characters are creditably looked after. Mr. Newman Maurice looks well after the comfort of Royal visitors.

DARLINGTON.—Theatre Royal.—Manageress, Mrs. T. W. S. Jennings.—Mr. C. P. Levilly's company is here this week in *Amorelle*. Miss Empsie Bowman is seen to great advantage in the title-rôle; Miss Adah Grey, as Lesbia, is heartily applauded for her fine singing; Miss Carlotta Blondin, as Marina, is good; Doctor Crow is most amusingly played by Mr. Leon Simkin, a first-class comedian; Jules is capitally rendered by Mr. Arthur Cozens; as Father Dotard, Mr. Fred Carrington scores a success; and Mr. Edward Granby is successful as Francois.

Central Hall.—The New Era Animated Photo. Co. opened here for a week on Monday with a first-class exhibition, including many new and novel subjects. Mr. Bob White, who has been specially engaged, is a clever lecturer and humorist.

DARWEN.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. E. L. Ormsby.—The New Sapho Syndicate, Ltd., is presenting that popular play, *Sapho*, here this week. Miss Annie Bell is a decided success as Fanny le Grand, giving a very powerful rendition. Mr. Frederick Ross supports her by an able and natural impersonation of Jean Gaussin. Miss Laura Ray is clever as Machaume, and Mr. George Antley is distinctly humorous as Cesaire. Mr. Archie Helsby is an eloquent Eugene Flamant; Mr. H. W. Carnock does well as Dechelette; and Mr. H. Langford, as Caoudal, is effective. Mr. J. A. Storey is funny as Le Grand; and Little Miss Ray, as Joseph, deserves mention.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General Manager, Mr. J. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's Company is paying a welcome return visit here this week with *My Lady Molly*. Miss Beatrice Edwards, though suffering from a cold, is again highly successful, both vocally and histrionically, in the name part; and the difficult rôle of Alice Coverdale is admirably rendered by Miss Zoe Gilfillan, who also possesses a tuneful voice. Mr. Geo. McCloskie's Mickey O'Dowd is a clever and humorous assumption, and his songs are received most heartily. As Captain Harry Romney Mr. Albert Chapman, who is in excellent voice, deserves high commendation, as does also the Sir Miles Coverdale of Mr. H. Godwin Hunt, Mr. Ernest Mozar doing very well as Lionel Bland. As Madeline Mirabeau, Mdlle. Eva Darcier plays charmingly; and a similar compliment may be paid Miss Mabel Carr for her portrayal of Hester. Minor parts are thoroughly well sustained by Mr. Fred Silverston, Mr. J. Walton, Mr. Stevens, Miss Vivian, Miss Hilda Marks, Miss Kate Holmes, and Mr. V. Gally. An excellent chorus and an augmented orchestra contribute to the success of the play.

Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Allan Edwardes.—Carl Mysto, aptly described as "the man who defies imprisonment," is the star turn here this week, and is creating a sensation; Van Gelder, a clever juggler, supplies another excellent turn, and succeeds in thoroughly mystifying his audience; Jimson introduces small performing dogs and high-leaping hounds with success; Mr. Slade Murray contributes some excellent songs and patter; the Seebolds, Swiss instrumentalists, in addition to other selections, give a spirited rendering of one of Sousa's marches; Lillie Hustler, comedienne and dancer, merits praise; Geo. Edney, character comedian, should also be mentioned; and the Revell Troupe appear to advantage in a pantomime act, entitled *Mischief*.

DONCASTER.—New Grand Theatre and Opera House, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—The variety combination here this week includes Henri Cazman, who is well received; Harry Talbot, comedian; Marita Chapelle, character comedienne; and Les Ombromanes, shadowists. The other items, no less attractive, are the Magic Kettle, quite new here; the Bioscope, with the latest entertaining pictures; and the Three Sylvanas, in their trapeze act. Mention must also be made of the Bros. Aban, comedians; Collins & Craft, with their illustrated songs; Arthur Ambron, coon songster and dancer; and Florence Yeyman, coon impersonator, the latter being an especially acceptable turn.

DOUGLAS.—New Empire Theatre.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Alfred Sugden; General Manager, Mr. Roberts Lena.—The popularity of this successful place of amusement increases weekly. The playgoing public of Douglas have learnt that their tastes are studied and their dramatic requirements considered. This week the management rely on a dramatic version of Gaboriau's story, *The Stranglers of Paris*. The audiences have been large and enthusiastic. Miss Lena Lewis, a young and intelligent actress, plays with emphasis and conviction as Sophie Blanchard. Miss Marie Lisle is interesting and effective as Cora Simonet, and Miss Gertrude Lovell makes the most of the part of Marie Guerin. The dual rôle of Jagon and Simonet of Mr. Roberts Lena is dramatically powerful. Mr. W. Priestley is useful as Lorenzo de Ribas; and Mr. Ernest Percival is manly and picturesque as Paul Blanchard. The two detectives are conscientiously enacted by Messrs. Ogden and Walsh.

DUBLIN.—Gaiety Theatre.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Limited; General Manager, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. Geo. Edwardes's company paid a return visit here on Monday night, when *The Cingalee* was produced before a large and enthusiastic audience. Mr. E. Statham Staples gives a most amusing impersonation of Chambhuddy Ram, and Miss Kathleen Severn is charming as Nanoya. Mr. F. Pope Stamper excellently portrays the part of Harry Vereker, and Miss Eva Sandford is seen to advantage as Peggy Sabine. Mr. W. J. Manning appears with success as Sir Peter Loftus, and Miss Mabel Allen is effective as Signorina Tasso. The rôle of Boobhamba is played in an able manner by Mr. Colin Coop, and Miss Lilly Elsie is pleasing as Lady Patricia Vereker.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot.—The pantomime *Puss in Boots*, entered on the last week of a successful run on Monday, when the house was set apart for the benefit of Mr. Fred Lyne. The programme, which was an attractive one, was heartily enjoyed throughout by the large audience present, the principal artists being deservedly encored. Other artists who benefited during the week were Miss Minnie Jeffs and Miss Florence Esdaile.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; General Manager, Mr. Kennedy Miller.—Messrs. John A. Atkin and Walter Howe's company, with the domestic drama, *A Victim of Villainy*, is drawing good houses. The rôle of Frank Manton, as played by Mr. Walter Howe, is a capital performance, and Miss Rosa Lehman is creditable as his wife, Mary. The part of Stephen Cavanagh is ably sustained by Mr. C. E. Wilton, and Miss Muriel Dean is excellent as Alice Cavanagh. As Tommy Leckie Mr. Chris. Mason is satisfactory, and the part of Norah Maloney is well played by Miss Adela Harvey. Mr. J. Prescott makes an acceptable Dick Carson, and Miss Grace Mignon is good as Eric Manton.

Empire Theatre.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. S. Figgis.—The company engaged here this week is a strong one, the foremost position being allotted to the Jackson Family, whose musical entertainment is well received, and Arthur Lennard, vocal comedian, is as popular as ever. Florrie Gallimore, comedienne, receives a flattering reception, and Barney Vox, ventriloquist, meets with success. Geoffreys and Benson in their sketch, *Spoofed*, are most amusing, and the songs rendered in harmony by the Sisters Jonghmanns meet with approval. Daisy Ray, coon comedienne and dancer, is an acceptable turn, as are also Walter Stanley, comedian, Lizzie Fletcher, comedienne, and the Empire pictures.

Tivoli.—General Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Prominent turns here this week are those of Sam Mayo, "the Immobile Comedian," whose drollery is irresistible; The Three Daemers, equilibrists and acrobats; Alexander and Co. in their sketch, *The Troubles of a Tourist*, which causes much laughter, and Effie White, kaleidoscopic dancer. Other entertaining turns are Sam Thompson, Scotch comedian; Katie Corrie, a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Edith Sylvester in her speciality act; George Foyle, a smart character vocalist; Annie Laurie, a good comedienne; and Henriette, instrumentalist.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The company engaged here includes Hyna, clairvoyant; Abe Laxey, comedian; Sivane and Fieldon, comedy duettists; Prof. Anderson, ventriloquist; Oreste, musical clown; Eugenie, palmist; and Lucy Moore.

Samuels' Exhibition Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. S. Samuels.—The following artists are appearing here:—Miss Mary Ashton, comedienne; Prof. De Novo, conjurer; Zaro, Despardo's, and "The Magic Kettle."

DUDLEY.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. George Testo Sante and company are making their first appearance here this week in *The Life of a Showman*. The play is both exciting and amusing. Mr. George Testo Sante, in his representation of a circus acrobat, gives a capital exhibition of strength; Mr. Sam Arthur, as Hendrick Marais, is a polished villain; Mr. Edward Warden, as the Rev. Cyril Arliss, is perfectly at ease in a difficult character; and Mr. Allen Charles and Mr. Johnny Clegg, as Tommy Allithere and Ben Tictac, are amusing. Miss Amy McNeill acts well as Agatha Winter, as does also Miss Enid Edoni as Lena Hartland. Sir Noel Hartland, by Mr. J. K. Walton, is a well-rendered character.

Empire.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom Prichard.—Mr. Tom Foy and Co., in *The Yorkshire Lad in London*, heads the bill here this week, and from start to finish keeps the house convulsed with laughter. De Gracia's Baby Elephants are paying a welcome return visit. The Three Sisters Adrienne, burlesque artistes, sand dancers, and whistlers, are great favourites; and Stave, electric comedy artiste, gives a clever musical turn. Nellie Sheffield, laughing comedienne, is well received. Other good turns are given by Kool and Kennedy, knockabouts; Syd Godfrey, vocalist and mimic; Harry Dale, comedian; and Leah Arden, ballad vocalist.

DUMFRIES.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—For the first three nights of this week, Mr. Leslie Vyner's company was here in the musical melodrama, *The Lightning's Flash*. Mr. Leonard Robson, as Stephen Merrick and Colonel Mark Merrick, played his double part with great success; Mr. Will Haradane, as Gordon Garville, was very good; Miss F. Russel-Spiers, as Kate Merrick, displayed ability; and Miss Blanche Vernon, as Selina Slack, and Miss Eva Reed, as Zuzu, sustained their parts very cleverly.

DUNDEE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; General-Manager, Mr. Sandon Perkins.—The Dundee Amateur Operatic Society hold the boards here for a week, Jakobowski's comic opera, entitled *Erminie*, being given on Monday.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Will Parker; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Alf. Ross.—Miss Fanny Wentworth pays a return visit and adds to her list of admirers. Her mimicry is good and her piano manipulation clever. The Romaine Trio give a smart musical sketch; the Fordyces submit a song and dance entertainment which meets with hearty approval; Maxwell and Frances, in a comedy act, and Capt. Slingsby, ventriloquist, are in their respective lines excellent; Lilian Rigby is a fine musician and dancer; and Harry Zetter, comedian, creates hearty laughter; Nelson and Thomas produce a funny sketch; and Jessie Evans gains applause.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Mr. R. A. P. Williams's pantomime, entitled *Robinson Crusoe*, is here this week. Miss Lillie Mowbray, in the title-rôle, acts and sings with much spirit; Miss Maggie Mowbray and Miss Rosie Morris imbue their parts with great animation; Mr. A. L. Todd, as the captain, creates much mirth; and Mr. Lee Nobel, Mr. Frank Le Sewell, and Mr. Bert Rowe ably second his efforts; Mr. Claude Morton is a host in himself as Mrs. Crusoe; and Mr. Anthony Gordon and Miss Maude Hepworth sing pleasantly. Vick Verney whistles cleverly.

DUNFERMLINE.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—*The Bells of Haslemere* company, under the direction of Mr. Charles A. Chandler, is appearing here this week. Mr. Leonard Yorke gives a good interpretation of Frank Beresford; Mr. Montague Turner is a capable John Silkstone; Mr. Charles A. Chandler is successful as Captain Vere; Mr. Douglas Hamilton ably acts the part of Matthew Brookfield; Mr. Charles Cecil makes an excellent Reuben Armstrong; Joseph Thorndyke is well played by Mr. Alfred Martin; Miss Harrietta Polini gives a meritorious rendering of Evelyn Brookfield; Dorothy Tremble is ably embodied by Miss Stafford Smith; Mary Northcote has a capable exponent in Miss Mary Hadacre.

EASTBOURNE.—Pier Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. J. F. Bucklev's company, under the direction of Mr. W. T. Elworthy, is appearing here this week in *The New Clown*. Mr. Frank Stanmore ably fills the part of Lord Cyril Garston, and he acts with great effect throughout. Mr. G. H. Snazelle is a capital Mr. Dixon: he revels in the part and makes it conspicuous by means of his rich and characteristic humour; Mr. Charles Pierpoint is an animated and capable Captain Trent; Mr. W. T. Elworthy plays the small part of Thomas Baker in a most finished style; and Mr. Cecil Underwood is perfectly successful as Pennyquick; Mr. Douglas Payne is an appropriate Billy; Mr. Archie Selwyn is an excellent Mr. Lamb; and skilful help is given by Mr. Ernest Cox and Master L. Levenham; Miss Beth Elliott is a quiet but very effective Rosie Platt; and Miss Kathleen Maitland and Miss Mona Wynne are the pretty and charming representatives of Winnie and Maud Chesterton. *Love at Home* is the curtain raiser, and is well played by Miss N. Wynne and Messrs. A. Selwyn and C. Underwood.

The Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—The Eugene Family of aerial acrobats display great ability and skill in their performance, and the Dugros Trio give a taking and funny turn as aerial gymnasts. The Siberian Educated Bears prove quite a popular item. Mr. Fred and Miss Maud Vypond are able entertainers, and the lady is a charming singer; Miss Lillie Lassah is a smart and pretty comedienne and dancer; Mr. Charles Rose is a capable comedian and clever dancer; Mr. Leslie Murray is a good conjurer and card manipulator; Cribb and Cribb are comedians and dancers of recognised type; Miss Blanche Holt is a successful singer and dancer; and Miss Kitty Neville and the Hippodrome pictures complete the programme.

EBBW VALE.—King's Theatre.—Sole Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Arthur Knight.—The Osmond Tearle company opened the first three nights of the week with *Hamlet*, *Merchant of Venice*, and *Othello*. Mr. Alexander Marsh was down to play Hamlet; but unfortunately he was too unwell to appear, and Mr. Greary's services were requisitioned. Miss Carrie Bailie as Ophelia, Portia, and Desdemona in the respective pieces were performances of the highest order. Mr. Arthur Gibbons's pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, is billed for the remainder of the week.

EDINBURGH.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Limited; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Hollister.—*Jack and the Beanstalk* entered on its last six nights on Monday, when a goodly audience assembled. Once more the name of Wyndham has spelt success—once more a real Royal triumph has to be recorded. To this run of luck many hands have contributed, from Mr. Wyndham himself, assisted by the energetic and resourceful Mr. John J. Lloyd, down to the humblest member of the cast. The comedians have proved a happy family, and have worked with a will in the manufacture of a continuous supply of mirth. On Monday the performance went with a merry tripping rhythm from start to finish, and the applause and delight of the audience were fresh and spontaneous. Mr. Malcolm Scott acted in his best Scott-ish style, and kept the audience in the best of humours, his Dame being certainly one of the best old women seen in pantomime here. Mr. J. T. MacMillan and Mr. Ambrose Manning were both well up to the mark, and gave admirable assistance in many a humorous scene. Friday night was a "Scott-night." Mr. Malcolm Scott taking a well-deserved benefit on that evening.

Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietor, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Limited; General-Manager, Mr. G. F. Minshall.—Mr. Hubert Henry Davis' delightful comedy of character, *Cousin Kate*, was presented here for the first time on Monday by Miss Emma Hutchison's company, and met with a cordial reception. Mr. Davies' pleasant play charmed the audience at once by reason of its simple human story, sunshine scenes of comedy, and delicious love episodes, while the author's brilliant dialogue never failed to meet with due response. Heath Desmond, the impulsive Irish lover, is played to the life by Mr. Walter Ringham, who acted in the most natural and easy fashion, and obtained a complete hold over the sympathies of the house by his buoyant spirits and lover-like ardour. The Rev. James Barlet had a sleek and smooth-spoken representative in Mr. Donald MacLean, who droned his lines with the requisite severity. As Bobby Spencer Master Vyvian Thomas gave quite a clever character study of the self-sufficient schoolboy. Cousin Kate was safe in the hands of Miss Edith Walker, who acted with much tact and skill, and was especially good in the second act—one long love scene—where her emotionalism had full scope. Miss Hilda Honiss played Amy Spencer with quiet earnestness, while Miss Betty Castle's Jane was a capital performance, all smiles and laughter. One of the features of the cast was enchanting old Mrs. Spencer, acted with rare artistic effect by Miss Vina Cressy, who won her way into the hearts of the audience by her humorous realisation of a lovable old lady. *A Case for Eviction* preceded.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—Staley's novelty transformation company opened here on Monday, and gave their wonderfully clever entertainment of music, dancing, and quick changes with the greatest possible success. The veteran comedian Mr. Charles Coborn was warmly welcomed on reappearing, and judging from the applause with which his various songs were received he seems as great a favourite as ever. The novelty act of The Lumars, which combines acrobatics and electricity, was a brilliantly successful affair, and the Four Royal Welshmen received the heartiest applause for their admirable part singing. Mr. George Adams, baritone, sang with acceptance; and the excellent musical turn of Rackett and Hazard was very favourably received. Martin and Quigg, eccentric comedians, were good, and the charmingly rendered coon songs and dances of Miss Ella Retford won the warm appreciation of the audience. Carl and Mary Ohm, with their trained animals; and the Trappeli Family of acrobats, three young ladies and two youths, complete the company.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—*Uncle Tom's Cabin* entered upon its second week here on Monday, when there was a large house. All the characters are sustained with effect, none being more genial and hearty than the Mr. St. Clair of Mr. Charles Harrington, who distinguishes himself from first to last. Miss Hettie Johnston's Eliza Harris is another capital performance, and the Mrs. St. Clair of Miss Hero Hathaway merits commendation. Very picturesque and impressive is the Casey of Miss Zerlina Zerbini, who imbues the character with thrilling power and passion, and whose acting throughout was admirable.

Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Tom Ellis.—*Sinful Men* was presented at this house on Monday by last week's company, and attracted a good audience. The principal characters were well performed, Mr. Addison Thomas making a strong feature of Ralph Wybert, and Mr. Jack Armitage proving himself an excellent actor as Capt. Jack Trevelyan. Miss Kate Somerville was an eminently satisfactory Marie Wybert, while the lively style and entertaining specialities of Miss Olive Holloway as Polly Popkins were thoroughly enjoyed.

Cooke's Royal Circus.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—For the last week of the season first rate programmes have been issued, the patronage of the public being enormous. On Monday a bicycle race was one of the novelties, a silver cup being awarded to the winner. On Tuesday Talbert and Douglas made their appeal, and had a bumper house. *Dick Turpin's Ride to York* was revived for the occasion, and many competitions, poetical and otherwise, took place. On Thursday Mr. Cooke's annual benefit came off, under distinguished patronage, the feature, amid a host of attractions, being a cob and pony show, when many handsome prizes were awarded to the fortunate winners. To-night, when the last performance takes place, Mr. Cooke will give away an excellent pony to one of the audience as a souvenir. In noting the performers in the arena we must not forget the valuable services of Mr. Lewis, Mr. Cooke's trusted acting-manager, who, prized by his proprietor, also holds a high place in the esteem of the amusement-seeking public here.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Pollard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's company is here this week. On Monday *Proof* was presented to a fairly large audience in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. As Pierre Lorance Mr. William Maclaren was very successful, as was also Mr. Richard Fulton as Lazare. Great praise is due to Miss Lily C. Bandmann for her portrayal of Madeline and Valentine, and the rôle of Adrienne was excellently taken by Miss Gertrude Evans. *The Lady of Lyons* and *David Garrick* are also in the week's programme.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—This week Mr. F. R. Benson's North Shakespearean company has occupied the theatre. The repertoire has been an attractive one, including *Romeo and Juliet*, *As You Like it*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Twelfth Night*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*. To-day, a matinée performance of *The Merchant of Venice* is to be given, and *Hamlet* is down for the evening. The cast includes Miss Katherine Boyce, Miss Christie Laws, Miss Gladys Vanderzee, Miss Geoghegan, and Miss Maud Garth, and Messrs. C. H. Croker King, Henry Herbert, F. Owen Chambers, C. Duncan, A. Phillips, Arthur Fayne, Allan Wade, and Alex. Begbie. The pieces all received capital treatment from the company, the members of which are accomplished to the fullest degree. The audiences were fairly good and highly appreciative, and the management of the theatre are to be congratulated on securing such a talented company.

FARNWORTH.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell.—Pantomime again holds sway this week, the story of Dick Whittington and his cat being presented in a capable manner by Messrs. Griffin and Drake's company. Miss Lily Jackson, in the title-rôle, is a pronounced success, her songs and dances helping greatly towards the success of the performance. A charming exponent of the part of Alice, Dick's sweetheart, is Miss Emmie Hands, who acts throughout in capital style. Amongst the fun makers, Mr Will Dennis, as Idle Jack, is the life and soul of the piece, and whenever he is on the stage there is not a dull moment. He is ably assisted by Mr Ben Ford, as Alderman Fitzwarren, and Mr. Bert Allen, as Captain Seabreeze, who are also very successful, as is Mr. E. Jazon as the Emperor of Morocco. Mr. Jack Simpson, as the Cat, gives a very good performance. The specialities introduced include Mdlle. Luba de Sarema, with her sensational act entitled Transkaukasia, Sports from the Far East and the Estos. The Sisters Brenton are good as skipping-rope and sand dancers. The scenery and mounting are all that could be desired.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company, in *Her Forbidden Marriage*, is drawing good houses here this week. Mr. Horace Hunter is thoroughly successful as George Madison; Mr. Clarence Hague gives a good rendering of the villain, Charles Devereux; Mr. Bernard Lieli is good as Geoffrey Broughton; Mr. Gilbert Heron is an efficient Rev. Mr. Dean; Mr. Edgar L. Hocking makes the most of his opportunities as Joe Lampkin; Mr. Alfred Wellesley is amusing as Timothy Tuttutt; Miss Marie Kildare makes a capital Pattie; Miss Isla Garnet Vayne is in every way suited to the character of Lucy; Miss Georgette Thierry gives a splendid portrayal of the trying rôle of Lady Lucretia Lancaster; Mr. Fred L. Allen merits praise as Sir George Lancaster; and Miss Barbara Gott, as the Mother Superior, plays well.

Town Hall.—Lessee, Mr. E. J. Chadwick.—Dyson's Gipsy Choir and Diorama opened here on Monday. The bright and varied programme includes items which are heartily received and appreciated. The musical part is interspersed with dioramic views and animated photographs which prove most interesting.

GATESHEAD.—Metropole Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Straughan.—Variety turns again occupy the boards here this week. The list is headed by Herr Grais Baboon Prodigies, who provide a novel act. The Three Juggling Geraldos also give an entertaining show; and Ben Harris and company, the boxing midgets, create much amusement. Marion Hood, comedienne, and Freddy French, comedian, provide exceptionally good turns; and the rest of the bill is filled up by Marion Edwards, operatic vocalist; the Four Bostons, American speciality artistes; and Mabel La Blanche, comedienne.

GLASGOW.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—Miss Lilian Dundas and a well-selected company opened here on Monday in an excellent representation of Wilkie Collins' play *The New Magdalen*. Miss Dundas made a considerable impression as Mercy Merrick, and the Grace Roseberry of Miss Ethel Carrylon was equally impressive in the prologue. Special mention should be made of the fine impersonation by Mrs. Walter Bentley of Lady Janet Roy. Mr. A. W. Tyrer was notable for a refined and dignified display as Horace, and the Thompson of Mr. Arthur Lewis was worthy of the flattering reception it met with. Mr. Henry Dundas as Julian Gray again scored a distinct success as the peace-making parson, and his fine acting in scenes with Mercy and Grace was invaluable.

Royalty, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. M. Russell Rosse's company is here this week with *A Pair of Spectacles*. Mr. David James as Benjamin Goldfinch is particularly good, and the part of Gregory is as ably handled by Mr. Norman Clark. Miss Florence Tyrrell acts the young wife wedded to an old man with much quiet humour, and Miss Ida Phillips as Lucy gives a pleasant representation of an artless girl involved in her first love affair. Miss Rose Carew, as Joyce the housekeeper, moves agreeably through the comedy. The two impecunious young gentlemen are in good hands, those of Mr. Ernest Cossart as Percy and Mr. Cecil Newton as Dick. Mr. George Percy as Lorimer and Mr. George N. Wallace as the bootmaker are well-filled parts. Jerome K. Jerome's sketch, *Barbara*, precedes the comedy.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. R. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—*Goosy Gander* continues to draw big houses, but the last two weeks are announced. On Monday Messrs. Regan and Ryan had their benefit, and a huge audience turned out to do them honour. They have again been great favourites this year, and have helped greatly in the success of the Princess's twenty-fifth pantomime. Friday was set apart for the benefit of that popular comedian, Mr. John E. Coyle. On the benefit evenings all the principals, Miss Lily Morris and Miss Daisy Dormer, Sisters Cora, Mr. Arthur Poole, Mr. Dawson Dewick, and the Brothers Preston have contributed extra items, and Miss Patty Yole has also appeared in song and dance.

King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—That popular combination the Compton Comedy Company is again with us, and Mr. Edward Compton received a hearty welcome on Monday when he appeared as Charles Surface in *The School for Scandal*. His embodiment of the gay young roysterer is still one of his best performances

artistic portrayal of the Two Orphans; Miss E. Lonsdale gives a charming representation of Marion Thornton, and the rôle of Barbara Scarth is capably rendered by Miss D. Royal. Miss E. Shaw as Biddy Mullins and Miss L. Coleman as Sister Randall are both very good.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—On the 17th and 18th inst. the "Kilties" Band gave four performances, and delighted audiences showed their appreciation by loud applause. The Clan Johnstone troupe danced lightly and gracefully, and Mr. J. Coates Lockhart contributed well-sung solos. This week a return visit is being paid by Prof. E. K. Crocker and his educated horses, and much admiration is expressed at the wonderful perfection of the training of the docile animals.

GREENOCK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Executors of the late Mr. Alex. Wright; Managers, Messrs. A. B. Wright and J. J. Wright.—Mr. Norman V. Norman's company is playing at the above theatre this week. On Monday night *Under the Red Robe* was presented to a good audience. Mr. Norman V. Norman took the part of Gil de Berault, and gave a mastery interpretation of that difficult rôle; Mr. Robert Hilton appeared as Cardinal Richelieu, and made the part most life-like and interesting; Mr. Herbert Morgan acted acceptably in the double rôle of Henri de Cocheforêt and Marquis de Pombal; Mr. Lionel Gadsdon made an excellent Clon; Mr. Percy H. Vernon did very well as the bombastic Captain Laroile; and Mr. Norman Leslie ably filled the part of Lieutenant Manet. Mr. Wiseman Leslie was good as De Fargis; and a capable representative of De Pimpenal was found in Mr. C. J. Curtis. Miss Beatrice Wilson, an accomplished actress, played with rare power and feeling in the trying rôle of Renée de Cocheforet; Miss Margaret Frame was all that could be desired as Madame de Cocheforêt; and Miss Lillian Kevill Davies did well as Madame Zaton; Miss F. Glossop Harris made an attractive Suzette. *Nell Gwynn* and *A Scrap of Paper* are also in the bill for the week.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—This week's company includes Ray and Calden, comedy artistes, whose turn is both clever and amusing; the Allisons are smart comedians and dancers; the Great Vincent, acrobatic table expert, performs some wonderful feats; Louis Hardt, the Boy Sansom, gives a good turn; Hanaway Brothers, comedians and dancers, are applauded; Andy Fagan is an excellent comedian; Flo Majilton is a charming comedienne and dancer; and Harrison Brothers, comedians and dancers, provide an acceptable turn.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Tolfree.—The second pantomime of the season has proved a decided success. *Beauty and the Beast*, as presented by the Milton Rays combination, is a most entertaining production. Not only is there a wealth of comedy business, but there are plenty of good songs, dances, and beautiful spectacular effects. Mr. Rolando Martin is the life of the pantomime. As the page, Sammy, his eccentricities cause much merriment. As the dame, Mr. Edwin Garth is also very amusing; whilst Mr. George Rydon as Sir Macintosh Mizzle, and Messrs. Fyne and Hurley as the bailiffs, are also responsible for good comedy business. Miss Maidie Scott, as Silverbutton, is a pleasing principal, and Miss Nellie Merton gives satisfaction as Beauty. Others who may be mentioned are Miss Doris Drelincourt as Prince Greatheart, Mr. Sidney Milton as the Witch, and Mr. James Sherwin as the Beast. Among a number of interesting specialities introduced are Wallan, a smart juggler with billiard balls and cues; the Hayes, a couple of clever young sand dancers; the El Dorados, a quartette of charming dancers; and the Four Trees, a troupe of lady vocalists and dancers who are great favourites locally.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—Hypnotic séances by Professor Inman Hockinge have been the principal feature of the Hippodrome programme this week, together with demonstrations of, and manipulations with, the powers of electricity. Clever gymnastics have been performed by the Four Uniques; whilst other good turns are submitted by Fred Lloyd and company, in an amusing absurdity, *The Blind Spinster*; Jubal and Joice, comedians and patterers; Frank Boyce, a descriptive vocalist; the Two Rubies, who accomplish pretty dancing; and Minnie D'Aubyn, burlesque artist. Animated pictures were also presented by means of the Hippodrome Bioscope.

NEW PALACE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten, General-Manager, Mr. Steuart Cecil. — Something entirely out of the ordinary in the way of canine performances has been seen here this week. Rosina Caselli's troupe of Chihauhau dogs have shown remarkable intelligence. The diminutive animals are accomplished acrobats, and are apparently as much at home on a trapeze as on the ground. The vocal duets of Belrose and Develin have been much admired. Others contributing to the programme were Hall and Earle, contortionists and jumpers; Vanola, equilibrist; Silly Billy Elliott, comedian; Barton and Ashley, in a sketch; D. W. Watson, one-armed cornet and post-horn soloist; Walter Lester, comedian; and Janet H. Reynolds, vocalist.

HALIFAX.—GRAND THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Acting-Manager, Mr. Norman Robinson.—Miss Vesta Tilley is on a return visit, and the utmost enthusiasm is displayed by the crowded audiences. The company supplementing Miss Tilley includes the Brothers Attila, strong men and *poseurs*; Sisters Chester, banjoists and dancers; the Mezettis, comedy bar performers; Fred Land, comedian; Guy Ryder, whistler; Sydney Lee, conjuror and card manipulator; Jack and Evelyn, versatile comedy artistes and dancers; and a sketch by Mr. H. Gratton and company, entitled, *Packing Up*.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Frank Macnaghten.—The educated monkey, Coco, is making his first appearance in the provinces, and behaving like a gentleman. A good array of varied talent includes Martinetti and Grossi, musical eccentrics, who do a very clever and amusing turn; Ameer Abau Hamed and his troupe of Arab acrobats; Johnny Holland and Co. in a laughable sketch; Susie and Prossi, expert dancers; Grace Merton, a vocalist with a good voice and style; the Sisters Petram, with an up-to-date marionette show; and the Bandurrias, mandolinists.

HANLEY.—ROYAL, LIMITED. — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone.—Mr. Harry Foxwell and Co. occupied the stage this week for the first three nights in that popular drama *Shadows of a Great City*. Mr. Foxwell's company is one of excellent quality, and the acting throughout is first class. The mounting is worthy of special mention. On Thursday and Friday Sir Henry Irving appeared in *Becket* and *Louis XI*.

GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. James Wynes.—A capital bill is submitted this week. At the head is George Lashwood, who scores another huge success, his songs being admirably rendered; Austin Rudd is a great favourite here; the Wavelly-Harley Quartette are a really clever acrobatic turn; Kyoto is seen in his clever comedy act, *The Mysterious Japanese Box*; May Geraldine is a smart comedienne and dancer; Annie Fielding and Bert Hull sing nicely in their refined entertainment; Grey and Welford contribute a comedy boxing act which is amusing. The Grand Pictures are as usual excellent.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cyril Fielden Smith.—The stirring racing drama, *Rogues of the Turf*, was produced here on Monday and the two following evenings, the exciting incidents of the play being received with enthusiasm by fairly large audiences. The numerous characters were very capably filled, Mr. T. F. Preston being prominent as Joe Flaxman, the trainer. *The Naval Detective*, a musical comedy, was billed for Thursday and the rest of the week.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—Chas. Morritt is mystifying all in his smart illusions and conjuring, and the memory of the blind man also excites admiration and wonder; Staig's motor sensation creates a profound impression, looping the aerial circle being watched with breathless interest. The comedy sketch, by Stanley and Vandyke, entitled *The Interview*, is being well received; and Master George, the boy soprano, is a great favourite. Ada Cobden comedienne; Harry Maynard, actor vocalist; and the animated pictures, please immensely.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Gaze.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clifford's company opened a week's engagement here on Monday with the military drama, *On Circumstantial Evidence*. Jack Ogilvy was played spiritedly by Mr. Leonard Williams, and Miss Maud Camfield won sympathy for her delineation of his faithful wife, Violet Ogilvy. Mr. Charles Clifford was forceful as her persecutor, Captain Hamilton; Mr. J. Sturton made a picturesque General Garibaldi; Miss Gladys Clifford was effective as the homeless waif Tim; Mr. Harry Cooke caused laughter by his antics as Jeremiah Tobin; and Miss M. Tremeer displayed suitable asperity as his sweetheart Polly. The rôle of the twin-sisters was strongly presented by Miss F. French, and the remaining characters were adequately played.

PIER PAVILION. — Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The interesting drama entitled *Proof* is being presented here under the direction of Mr. Arthur St. John, who takes in a capable manner the character of Pierre Lorance; Miss Constance St. John charmingly enacts the juvenile Little Adienne; Mr. Walter Foster's Count is a fine manly performance; Mr. E. Ferguson gives a clearly drawn sketch of Lazare. Chamboran is safe in the hands of Mr. James Dunlop; the Exile is well represented by Mr. Marmaduke Langdale; Miss Patey Trounsell realises the two parts of Madeline and Adrienne very naturally; Miss Lilian Burns is an acceptable exponent of Valentine; Miss Ida St. John is well suited as Madame Deprets; Miss Annie Lynn makes a charming Duchess D'Aubeterre.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — General Manager, Mr. Harold Penny.—A smart comedian, Mr. Harry Luck, opens the programme here. A successful turn is given by the clever pianiste, Miss Florence Gwynne; an attractive dancer is found in Miss Bijou Russell; Messrs. Welda and Wynne, comic jugglers, are highly amusing; Mdlle. Violi, the lady instrumentalist, achieves a great success; the Camerons, a comedy duo, are accorded a hearty reception; an astonishing performance is given by Astarte under hypnotic influence. The efforts of Atroy, the society juggler, are watched with keen interest. The new Bioscope films afford much delight.

HORWICH.—NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Sandiford.—Miss Winifred Chalmer's company appeared here on Monday in *The God of Night*, and the many exciting episodes of the play thoroughly suited the taste of the audience. Mr. Henry L. Osmond as Harry Royce, detective, and Miss Chalmers as Mona Brayton, play their parts admirably. Mr. Dunlop Stewart's impersonation of Ritza, High Priest of Kharma, is very fine. Mr. W. Carriden as Armand, is ably assisted by Miss Nellie De Lacy as Natalie Latour; Mr. Rubean Mansell as Pionette is decidedly good, and Mr. Streete as Fillon, the gendarme, scores, his song and whistling refrain being very smart. Little Mabel Hall plays Gervais, a child's part with remarkable force, and her singing is very effective. The comedy element is safe in the hands of Mr. Herbert Woodin, and Miss Madge Palmer, as Sammy Dobbs from Clapham, and Estelle, respectively, their songs and dancing being highly appreciated. *A Woman's Revenge* was billed for Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

HUDDERSFIELD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—The annual performance by the Huddersfield Amateur Operatic Society, for the benefit of local charities, is taking place in the theatre this week. By kind permission of Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, *Princess Ida* is being played, and is receiving a most meritorious representation. The work has been very carefully rehearsed, under the clever direction of Mr. Lindsay Harman, late of the D'Oyly Carte companies.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Ever welcome is the Moody Manners company, and its visits are always looked forward to with pleasure by the Hull musical public. The programme this week is well selected, and embraces such favourites as *The Lily of Killarney*, *Lucia*, *Maritana*, and *The Puritan Daughter*. On Monday *The Lily of Killarney* was produced with an excellent cast, Madame Moody was in fine voice, and was enthusiastically received; Mr. Joseph O'Mara's splendid tenor voice was heard to advantage. The chorus, a strong point in the Manners organisation was most effective, and the forces were kept well in hand. *Il Trovatore* was performed on Tuesday night. Mme. de Vere Sapio was a noteworthy Leonora, sustaining her part with much artistic taste. Mr. Tony Seiter was an admirable Azucena; whilst the Maurice of Mr. Joseph O'Mara was a fine piece of work. Mr. G. Renshaw's Ferrando was a distinguished performance.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Admirable and amusing is the story that Mr. J. M. Barrie has to tell in *Little Mary*. Messrs. Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell have gathered together a clever company. Miss Ethel Dane, as Moira Loney, was delightful, her quaint humour appealing strongly to the audience. As the Earl of Carlton, Mr. Geo. Mudie has a rôle that he fills with conspicuous distinction. The Sir Jennings Pyke of Mr. Geo. A. Brandram was effective. A clever, if tragic, little curtain raiser is *The Monkey's Paw*, by Louis Parker and W. W. Jacobs.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, MORTON'S, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*The Ladder of Life* is a play with a strong sensational interest. The scene with the Nasmyth hammer is one that works up the excitement to a very high pitch. The rescue by the Feros, a clever gymnastic troupe, is one of the features of the play. The patronage accorded has been in keeping with the merits of the play.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers; Musical-Director, Mr. C. Keith Smith.—Under the management of Mr. W. W. Kelly, a highly capable company are here with *A Royal Divorce*. Miss Edith Cole gives an expressive rendering of Empress Josephine, and every praise is due to the conspicuous ability of Mr. Frank Lister, as Napoleon. Miss Ethyle Murray is successful as Marie Louise; and Miss Maggie Cardiff makes a winning little King of Rome. As Talleyrand, Mr. H. Gray Dolby wins admiration; Miss Helen Richmond plays with vivacity as Stephanie; and Mr. Alfred Grenville makes an excellent General Augereau. Mr. Trevor Lowe is seen to advantage as Marquis de Beaumont. The costumes and uniforms are elaborate.

INVERNESS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing Director, Mr. Cameron Burgess.—*My Lady Molly* was admirably presented here by Mr. Arthur Hart's company, on Monday night. As Lady Molly, Miss R. Dallas scored an emphatic and deserved success. Alice Coverdale was cleverly represented by Miss Enid Alexander; Miss Annie West was smart and bright as Lady Molly's maid, Hester; Miss Belle Gray was in every way satisfactory as the French governess, Mdlle. Moribeau; Captain Harry Romney was played by Mr. R. Cooper in a manly and convincing way; Lionel Bland was pleasantly played by Mr. Herbert Ranson; and Sir Miles Coverdale (Mr. Gordon Begg) had the vigour and heartiness of the fine old English gentleman. The rôle of Micky O'Dowd was most amusingly acted by Mr. H. Walsh.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. G. Fisk.—Mr. Walter Melville's melodrama company is here in *A Disgrace to her Sex*. Mr. Clinton Baddeley admirably sustains the part of Jules Delamet, the villain of the piece; Mr. Arthur Byron is Barnaby Mugg; Mr. Edward E. Ashby Jack Dawes; Mr. David G. Noble, Arnold Travers; and Mr. Eugene Santley, David Carrington. The principal lady part is taken by Miss Polly Marsh, as Bella Mugg; Miss Laura Hansen, Miss Elaine Vanburgh, and Miss Nellie Lucas filling the subordinate parts.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Fred. Barrett.—The new turns here this week included Herr Fritz, illusionist and conjuror; Forest and King, variety artistes; Eva Hope and company, impersonators; Miss Lily Martell, comedienne and acrobat; Miss Florrie Moore, comedienne; Miss Elsie Leyton, serio and dancer; and Tom Brantford, humorist.

PUBLIC HALL.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Watson.—The Kilties gave two performances at this hall on Tuesday before appreciative audiences.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—Mr. T. Arthur Jones and company is paying a visit here this week with the drama, entitled *Life's Sweetest Sins*. Mr. T. A. Jones gives a capital rendering of the part of Captain Harold Marston; Mr. Oswald Douglas furnishes a powerful portrayal of Dr. Colbrooke; Mr. George R. J. Austin is well placed as Kimberley Coutts; and Mr. C. Vernon Proctor is quite at home as the Rev. Edward Grey. Miss Madge Morley gives a charming embodiment of Doreen Reeves; Miss Sara Dudley scores as Bess Grayson; Miss Amy Rudd does well as Fay Colbrooke; and Mr. Fred Russell is successful as Bob Tanner.

KEIGHLEY. — QUEEN'S THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs Carson and Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Barnes.—Mr. George Dance's company in *A Country Girl* is here on a return visit, crowded audiences enjoying the charm of the music and the acting and vocalisation of the clever company. Mr. Johnny Osborne, as Barney, enters thoroughly into the rollicking fun of the character; Mr. Cyril Thompson is the new Geoffrey Challoner, and acquits himself well in the part; Mr. H. C. Morton scores a distinct success as Sir Joseph Verity; the Rajah of Bhong has a remarkably accomplished exponent in Mr. St. John Hammond. The rôle of Douglas Verity is ably undertaken by Mr. Willie Hartill. Miss May Glen's Nan is a sterling performance; Miss Maud Harvey's Marjory is highly commendable; Miss Addie Lennard does full justice to the part of Sophie.

KENDAL.—ST. GEORGE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. R. F. Chorley; Manager, Mr. J. W. Butler.—Mr. W. H. Kirby's company in *The New Mephisto*, opened on the 16th inst. for three nights. Mr. W. H. Vernon gives an amusing impersonation of Dick Pilgrim; Mr. Albert Weston is the chief laughter-maker as Mr. Mephistophelos, assuming various disguises with great success; Miss Nellie Burdette meets with approval as Dolly; and the Becky Pilgrim of Miss Marion Armitage is a capable and clever performance. Other parts deserving special mention are the Lord Hummingtop of Mr. H. St. John; the Captain Meredith of Mr. H. P. Carr; and the Mrs. Gertie Gentle of Miss Dorothy Cecil. The choruses are effectively rendered, and the Thalian Glee Singers are well received. Mr. W. H. Powell's company in *There and Back* is billed for two nights this week end.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—A variety company is the attraction here. Heading the bill is Chas. Prinz, with his troupe of forest-bred lions. This is a very clever performance, and a great attraction. Mr. Charles Bradford is a smart comedian, and Miss Nellie Dunbar meets with a good reception. The Wys Troupe contribute an amusing sketch. Other pleasing turns are the Parez Trio, and a number of living pictures, entitled "Les Picturesque Poses."

KIDDERMINSTER. — NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon, jun.—We have here this week Mr. Peter Thompson's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*. Miss Maude Beaumont is an ideal Robin Hood, and Miss Molly Hackett is equally good as Maid Marian, both dancing and singing admirably. The Baron is boldly played by Mr. J. Templar Ellis. Tim Tired and Willie Wearied are in the hands of the Danbys, who cause no end of fun; and Mr. Fred Danvers, as a nurse of uncertain years, creates plenty of amusement. The pantomime is well mounted, and the special turns all good.

KILMARNOCK.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—On Monday Mr. Charles March opened with a play from his own pen, entitled *The Priest of the Temple*. Mr. March gave a powerful and natural rendering of the part of Valerius, and Messrs. Percy Ballard and Henry Moxon did good work as Decus Fronto and Appius Herdonius. Miss Marie North was a capital Præstantia, and Miss Violet Craufurd was good as Palita. Mr. Osmond Tearle's company appeared on Thursday and Friday. In the title-rôles of *Hamlet* and the *Merchant of Venice*, Mr. Walter Bentley made a powerful impression, and he had the able support of the members of the company.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Bannister Howard; Business Manager, Mr. Herbert Leonard.—Mr. A. B. Cross's company in *The Manxman* appeared here on Monday. Mr. Cross gives a masterful portrayal of Pete; Mr. Wm. Burchill is well-placed as Philip Christian; Mr. Henry Heller submits a fine character study of Cæsar Cregan; Tom, the postman, and Ross Christian are capably sustained by Mr. J. Allen and Mr. Edward McLean; Miss Nancy Mitchell is excellent as Nancy the Maid; Miss Leslie Adair is good as Miss Christian; Miss Minnie Watersford as Kate Cregan deserves great praise. On Thursday and following nights *The Marriage of Kitty* was played.

KIRKCALDY. — KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan, Resident Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—Mr. E. R. Abbot and company opened here on Monday in *A Wife's Triumph*. Mr. E. R. Abbot was excellent as Robert Dewhurst, and also scored a success by the admirable way he personated the American Bookmaker, the contrast between the two characters being very marked. Mr. S. C. Doughty gave a good rendering of the part of Frank Wilton, and Messrs. W. H. Garbois and Edward Onslow scored as Ellis Jordan and Julius Hartman. Mr. Edwin Keene as Ben Bradford, the jockey, played with considerable humour. Miss Jessie Mason was admirable as Alice Wilton, and Miss Ada Abbott played Bessie Dewhurst in a powerful and realistic manner. Little Frank was represented by little Miss Elsie Jones in a very natural manner. Miss Phyllis Atherleigh as Margery Crib was characteristic and vivacious. *Trilby* was played on Wednesday and two following evenings.

LANCASTER. — ATHENÆUM. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Hy. Wilkinson.—Mr. Fred Moule and Mr. E. D. Nicholls' company is this week paying a return visit with *The Grip of the Law* and *Called Back*. The former piece was presented before a good house on Monday. Mr. Edwin Maydew was successful as Dave Arkwright, Mr. Wm. Matthews appeared to advantage as Sergeant Paul, and Mr. E. D. Nicholls, who has played Zeph Sorrell a thousand times, was excellent: whilst Mr. Sam Roberts, as Andy Blunt, introduced much comic business. He was ably assisted by Miss Ada Frank, as Beaulah Bliss; and Miss May Grayse gave an excellent portrayal as Rose Hockaday.

PALACE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. W. J. Fergusson and John Porter.—The programme arranged here is well up to the average. At the head is Henry Carlton, comedian, who has made many friends during his fortnight's engagement. Clown Shalton, musical contortionist, is well received, as also are Denby and Dent, in a comedy act. Others include Harry Wright, comedian; Miss Nellie Gannon, vocalist; Miss Peggy Fame, comedy artiste; San Remo Girls, acrobatic dancers; and Walter Payne's animated pictures.

LEEDS. — GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Mr. John Hart's pantomime, *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*, this week finishes a most successful season. Several benefit nights have been celebrated, good houses being obtained for the benefit of Miss Georgina Delmar, the bright and vivacious Robinson, on Monday, and for that of Mr. Lionel Rignold and Mr. J. Robert Hale, two of the most successful pantomime comedians ever seen here.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—After a long run of pantomime this theatre is this week occupied by *The Shaughraun*. Mr. E. C. Matthews is a characteristic Conn, his able portrayal winning unstinted applause. Capable assistance is rendered by Mr. Geo. Thorne, jun., as Robert Ffolliott, and Mr. A. Bradley as Captain Molyneux. A dainty Moya is supplied by Miss Isabel Cairns, and Miss Alice Russell is to be complimented on her work as Claire Ffolliott. Other rôles are excellently presented by Mr. Valentine Cooke and Miss Lizzie Cooke; and the company all round is one of remarkable strength.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. P. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—This week closes the run of the pantomime *Dick Whittington* after a successful four weeks' visit, crowded houses being the rule. Miss Carlotta Levey, Miss Maud Noel, Miss Nora Moore, Messrs. Foreman and Fannon, Mr. Ernest Rees, Mr. Harry Kilburn, Mr. Harry Rogerson and Mr. Johnny Fuller are the principal artistes, and the clever speciality by Kelly and Gillette, and some smart dancing by the Tiller "Champion" Troupe, contribute to the success achieved.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. G. Mooney.—The popular pantomimists, the Boissets, are filling a second week's engagement here, the farcical sketch, *Wild West*, giving them scope for the creation of boisterous mirth. Tom Edwards is again delighting all with his humorous ventriloquism. Very entertaining, too, is the clever conjuring act submitted by Hermann Melot; vocal contributions by Sinclair and Parr are well received; Virto and Irene again present their smart musical show; and James's Strolling Players distinguish themselves by a varied turn; Carlo and Maie are applauded for a comedy wire act; and Peppo's performing monkeys show considerable training in an interesting performance

TIVOLI.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; General-Managers, Messrs. Edgar O. Waller and Chas. Weldon.—A scene of unbounded enthusiasm is nightly aroused by the wonder-worker, Dr. Walford Bodie, whose hypnotic feats and marvellous cures are causing great wonderment. Josephine Casaboni does well as a premier danseuse, and Norman Mills is very popular with fine vocal work. Helen Henri sings in accomplished style, and the De Roys are seen in an expert conjuring turn. The Garden Troupe of dancers do their work in clever style, and other capital turns are subscribed by the Sisters Lyle, vocalists, and La Petite Bella.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—There is an attractive programme of good things here, notably the Bros. Kroney, in character speciality act. Lavers and Lake, with a screaming comedy act; the Violas, the White Mahatmas, in their clever speciality; Geo Bendon, the coon comedian; the Toile D'Araignee, gymnasts, who go through an expert performance; Tee and Tee, very entertaining in an eccentric musical act; Frank Hartley, juvenile juggler; and Fred McArthur, mimic.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. D. Leigh.—A large audience gave an enthusiastic welcome on Monday to Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's pantomime, *Goody Two Shoes*. Messrs. Dottridge and Longden deservedly hold a high reputation for the completeness of their various productions, which they have well maintained in the present instance. A special feature is Hagedorn's Wonderful Fairy Grotto, in which a large number of remarkably pretty tableaux are shown. In the title-rôle, Miss Minnie Cunningham makes a conspicuous success by her winsomeness, popular songs, and smart dancing; Miss Georgina Leonard is seen to considerable advantage as the principal boy, Roland, her songs being rendered with a "go" that is distinctly pleasing and clever; Miss Molly Wolstenholme is in every way excellent as Benevolentia; both Miss Rose Tilley, as Peter Piper, and Miss Rita Rhylle, as Dolly Dimple, are very good; Miss Amy French, as the demon, Mephisto, is deserving of high commendation; and Miss Hilda Stewart, as Pansy Blossom, and Miss Sheila Redgrave, as Frisky, are pleasing. Messrs. Downes and Langford, who were very popular here in pantomime some years ago, are a pronounced success as Truthful Tommy and Phil the Philosopher; Mr. Fred Lincoln, another Leicester favourite, makes a big hit as the dame, Fanny; Mr. Harry F. McClelland does well as Baron Grabbe; Mr. George French, as Simon, gives a mirth-provoking performance; Mr. Harry Rousby is also very entertaining as Sandy. The augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Ainsley Fox, and the general and stage-manager for the company is Mr. Herbert W. Harwood. Mr. C. D. Leigh, since he has assumed his duties in front of the house, has made many friends by his courteousness and never-tiring attentions to the comfort of the patrons of the Opera House.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Lieut.-Col. J. A. Winstanley; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. C. Candler.—The attraction here this week is Messrs. Carson and Granville's No. 1 company, in the drama, *A Modern Adventuress*, which is excellently staged and played. Mr. Leonard Aardale, in his original part of Pietro Donelli, displays histrionic ability of a high order; Miss Beatrice M. Anderson, as the notorious Violet Meredith, plays a difficult rôle with conspicuous success; Mr. Royce Carleton submits a clever impersonation as Harry Delby. Mr. Edward M. Hamilton does well as Wallace Danton; Mr. Evan Roland gives a good character-sketch as the Yorkshireman, John Crompton; Mr. Geo. P. Lester is capital as the detective, Walter Beal; Mr. Leonard Montgomery is well-suited to the rôle of Steve Meredith; Miss Alice Defoe is seen to advantage as Vivette Delby.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Vidal.—At the head of a diversified and clever list of artistes this week is Happy Fanny Fields, "the Jolly Dutch Girl," who is scoring her usual big success on a return visit. A remarkably fine cycle display is submitted by the Klein Family, which arouses the heartiest applause; the Brothers Horne cause the greatest merriment with their cleverly-constructed boxing sketch, *The Dude and the Bully*; O'Gust, the artistic Parisian mimic, gives his clever "show" to the accompaniment of laughter and applause; Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten is the means of displaying the smartness of a number of juveniles, whose turn is most entertaining; the Alfonso Trio are responsible for a pretty, electrical, humorous, and skilful juggling act; Ethel Ra-Leslie sings delightfully; the Bohemians are excellent musicians; and Charles Deane is well received.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—The principal attraction here this week is Ben Jordan, the featherweight boxer, who gives a scientific boxing and ball-punching display, in conjunction with Jack Goldswain, the 10st. champion. The programme also comprises a capital variety entertainment, by the following artistes: Kisbey, the singing call-boy; Geo. Penn, musician and raconteur; Evelyn Taylor, male impersonator; Charles Ridgewell, comedian; Ella and Rose, duologue artistes; Tom Dunmore, comedian; and Millie Howell, serio, who are all well received.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Dewhurst.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company, under the direction of Messrs. Carson and Granville, with *Napoleon the Great*. Mr. Hugh Montgomery is thoroughly at home in the title-rôle; Paul Laczinska is well sustained by Mr. J. G. Maine; Mr. Henry Earlesmere is an excellent Colonel Lavarennes; Mr. Phil Harper, as Colonel Jules Meuron, submits a fine study; Mr. Frank M. Thorne is highly amusing as Pierre Pomponnet; Marie Waleswka is admirably portrayed by Miss Chrissie Dunbar; Miss Maud Russell is a sympathetic Mademoiselle Leonie Marboeuf; Miss Florence Thorne, as Mère Dumont, makes the most of her part; and Miss Marie Harcourt is smart and amusing as Marcelle Choupin.

LIMERICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Robert Fogerty.—The Buffalo Bill Wild West company, under the management of Messrs. F. McCrea and R. A. Neville, is here this week. In addition to the biograph, there is an attractive variety entertainment, supported by the clever comedian, Mr. Tom Carrick, who sings well. Gilroy is amusing as a ventriloquist, and Miss Lily Carrick sings several songs and dances well.

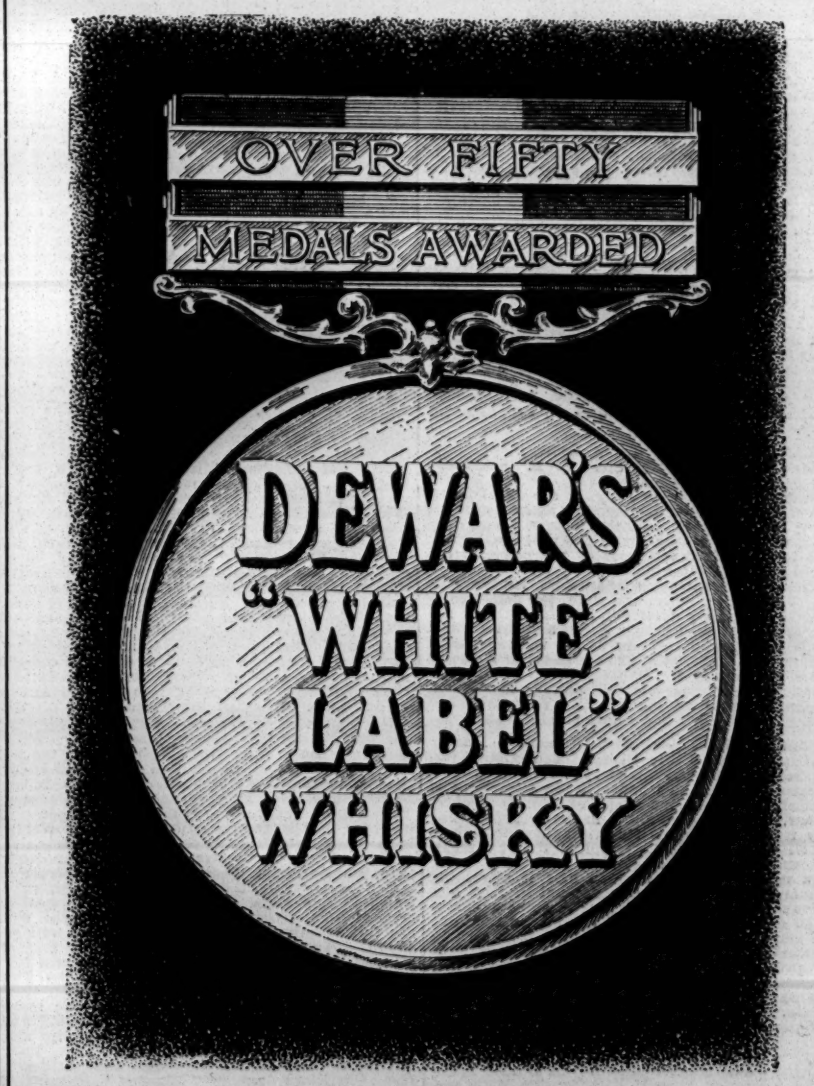
LIVERPOOL.—ROTUNDA THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.—The frequenters of this popular North-end house have been well catered for this week. *Between Two Women* is a play possessing much merit, and it has been witnessed by large audiences. Produced by Mr. Fred Melville's company, the many strong situations it contains have been presented with great effect, and the applause resulting must have proved gratifying to the artistes engaged. Principal in the cast is Miss East-Robertson, who, as Carmen de Savereux, plays with much dramatic power. She is well supported by the other "woman," Violet Thornton, presented with discretion and reserve, by Miss Vashti Wynne; Mr. Frank Ayrton and Miss Madge Seymour as Jack Pringle and Polly Pop respectively, create all the fun; Mr. Hugh Metcalfe gives a capital rendering of the young parson; Mr. J. W. Walters makes a villainous Jacques Spado, and other artistes worthy of mention are Messrs. Harry Marlow, Fred Morgan, and George Winter.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—Morcaschani tops the bill here, and is accorded a gratifying reception; the Waldrons, old favourites of Liverpool, keep the house in roars of laughter; Tom McInerney's wrestling exhibition is a great draw; Tennyson and Wallis have excellent songs and patter; the Ashers (Agnes and Mike) are capital dancers; Robbins and Collier are very amusing in an original act; the Gladenbecks are clever acrobats; the Villion Troupe give a fine exhibition of trick cycling; the Marconis' electric manipulation mystifies many. Herbert Maden, comedian, is good, and Willie Walker's ball punching is applauded.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. H. Fineberg; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Simmons.—Although *The Face at the Window* has paid frequent visits to Liverpool, several of them to the Star, its attractive power seems as great as ever. Messrs. Armadale and Warren's first-class company presented the drama, and included in the cast were Mr. Augustine Knight, whose delineation of Le Loup was powerfully dramatic, and Mr. T. W. Dunscombe, who filled the part of Paul Gouffet, the detective. Miss Marie Barrett was a pleasing Marie de Brisson; as Babette, Miss Gwynne Warren acted with grace; and Miss Jeanie Dempster was an excellent La Pinau. As usual, the scenery was strikingly appropriate.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. O'Toole.—Heading the bill here this week are the Forrest combination with their comedy, *25s.* Wirson is an equilibrist of much ability; Professor Bennett gives an excellent ventriloquial entertainment; some neat tableaux vivants are presented by the Rameses; Master John Anten is a clever boy comedian; Carl Verdi gives a good all-round turn on musical instruments; and others in the bill are Eric Graham, comedian; Millie Harris, vocalists; Amy Donna, vocalist and dancer; and Ada Izon, vocalist.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Granville; Manager, Mr. Fred Granville; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—A well-presented pantomime is being staged here for a fortnight, and during the week has been cordially received by good audiences. *Aladdin* is the title,



GRAND PRIX
ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION, 1904.

and the large and capable company is under the control of Messrs. Dottridge and Longden. The whole of the work teems with humour, and there is not a dull moment. Mr. Fred Cary, as Abanazar, is the mainstay of the evening, and shows high powers as a comedian; Miss Mimi Fisher is a smart and dainty Aladdin; Miss Harriett Fawn a pretty Princess; a laughable Widow Twankey is presented by Mr. Fred W. Graham; and Mr. John Donald is an imposing Emperor. As the Slave of the Lamp, Miss Lillian Maude acts with discretion. Specialities are introduced by Mr. Fred Cary, the Bros. Brooks, Miss Cassie Walmer, Keith and Merson, and Les Belles Americaines.

Empire, Limited. — District Manager, Mr. T. A. Cook; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Stratton.—At the head of the bill here this week is Max Gruber, with his performing horse and elephant. The turn is one which affords an audience much satisfaction. Brown and Robinson are a couple of excellent vocalists. The Aurora Troupe of cyclists are one of the best turns of the evening; the sand dancing by "My Fancy" is certainly unique; Robertus and Wilfredo give a capital exhibition of ball punching; Albert Whelan proves himself to be an able entertainer; Morris and Morris are smart acrobatic comedians; and others in the bill are Lily Tiso, comedienne and dancer; Billy Hobbs, coon singer and dancer; Driscoll and Beattie, who give a funny sketch entitled *Two Old Rogues;* the MacGoverns, acrobatic dancers; and Frazer and Mac, comedians.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—A good all-round programme is provided here this week, at the head of it being Smaun Sing Hpoo, who is described as being the smallest coloured midget living. He is very interesting, and creates much amusement. Mirzah gives a capital exhibition of banjo playing; the O'Learys are a couple of quaint comedians; Bertha Pertina's dancing is much admired; Pollo Jerome is a lady artist who executes some smart work on the trapeze; as a trick cyclist, Mdlle. Lillian gives a neat turn; Meier and Mora are a pair of able ball punchers; Sid Bandon has several humorous songs; and others in the list are Edith St. Clare, burlesque actress; Marquis Iton, who shows scenes outside Port Arthur; and the Laares troupe of acrobats and pirouette artistes.

New Parthenon. — Proprietor, Mr. Edwin W Smith.—An excellent bill of fare is being presented here this week. At the top is Eno, a clever mimic; the Countees are a couple of accomplished duettists; Bock Pylades provides some interesting portrayals of past and present celebrities; Harry Tomlinson is the possessor of a good voice, and knows how to use it in his character songs; Edie Endon, as a coon vocalist and acrobatic dancer, gives satisfaction, the Dainton girls are neat character duettists; and the Freans are a couple of capital Irish comedians.

Paddington Palace, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. J. Kiernan.—The important engagement here this week is the Geraldine Montrose Dramatic Sketch Co., in *The Trials of a Hospital Nurse;* Kennedy Allen sings catchy songs; Agnes and Arthur Lynch give several pretty picture songs; the two Dawsons create much fun with their sketch, *As Deaf as a Post;* Steb, the modeller in clay, is an interesting turn; and Mr. and Mrs. Allan Wye have an amusing farce, *What Happened to Watt.*

Westminster.—Proprietor, Mr. M. Montgomery.—A well-diversified bill of fare is given here this week, the principal item being Mr. Hesslegrave and company with the sketch, *Grelley's Money.* Ted Heaton and Sacha go through their clever swimming and tank act; Mr. E. is an extempore artiste of merit; Raymond and Raymond are able coon comedians; and others are Harry Jennings, comedian and dancer; and the Sisters Bartholomew, duettists and dancers.

Park Palace.—Director, Mr. James Kiernan.—*The Shadows of our City* is the principal item on the bill here. The sketch is given by Percy Boucher's company, and is received with applause. The variety artistes who fill the remainder of the programme, include Jack Stewart, comedian; Edith Elliott, burlesque actress; Dalton J. Bosher, comedian; Florrie Hall, soubrette; Harry Tresham, actor vocalist; and Rosa Lenmann, vocalist.

Haymarket. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Kempson and Mason, very humorous comedians, head the bill here; the three Bros. Huxter are smart tumblers and vaulters; Farrell and Hilton are accomplished comedians and dancers; and others who appear are Loudoun Cameron, a clever conjurer; Walter Adams, comedian; and the Avoca quartette of vocalists.

LONDONDERRY.—Opera House.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. W. Payne Seddon. The *Duke of Killiecrankie* is being played here by Mr. Leigh Lovel's company. As the Duke, Mr. Herbert J. Bentley is very good; and Mr. Lovel scores as Pitt-Welby. Miss Naomi Wilson plays Miss Mulholland with great spirit; and as Lady Henrietta, Miss Octavia Kenmore is admirable. The minor parts are all well filled.

LONG EATON.—Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Meakin.—Miss Cissie Moxon and her company are appearing this week in the musical comedy *A Trip to Rum Fum,* and a variety entertainment is provided, keeping the audience in merriment from start to finish. Miss Moxon is a great favourite, and she is ably supported by Mr. W. S. Hutchinson. There is some fairly good singing, and the Saxon Troupe of international dancers give clever performances.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Secretary, Mr. Charles E. Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Louis Beaufort.—This new and commodious theatre continues its successful career, and crowded houses are nightly witnessing that ever-welcome play, *A Message from Mars,* which is presented by Mr. Gordon Starkey's excellent company. Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee makes an impressive Horace Parker. The rôle of the Messenger is in the hands of Mr. William Lockhart, and is well played. Mr. Percy Tyler's portrayal of the Tramp is a finished performance. Miss Edith Cuthbert makes a praiseworthy Minnie Templars, and as Miss Parker Miss Violet Auberies proves herself to be an actress of ability. Mention must also be made of Mr. A. Collins-Rolfe, as Arthur Dicey; Mr. G. R. Peach as Dr. Chapman, and the Bella of Miss Maud Shortland.

LOWESTOFT.—Marina Theatre.—Proprietor and manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—The Kilties made their first appearance locally on Monday, and gave two successful performances to large audiences. For the rest of the week we have the drama, *The Best Must Win,* and *East Lynne,* performed by Messrs. Charles Draycott and H. B. Peppin's company.

MAIDENHEAD. — Grand Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Edgar Dereve and F. L. Schmitz.—Mr. George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's company opened on Monday with *Judy, or the Fatal Hand.* The central character is played in an exceptionally clever manner by Miss Florrie Groves, whose energetic, vivacious delineation of the part has a great deal to do with the success of the piece. Much praise is due to Miss Mary Neil for her rendering of the widely-contrasted characters in the dual rôle of Alice and Polly, and Grip, the detective, is played in a grimly quiet but forceful style by Mr. George Kirk. Mr. Richard Ferris and Miss Violet Langley work well together as the villainous pair, Duburg and Blake, and Mr. Sterling has a gentlemanly exponent in Mr. William Vane. As Jim, the coster, Mr. Will Casey is well placed; Mr. W. H. Horford is good as the drunken showman; and Miss Annie Mitchell is a smart maid-servant.

MANCHESTER. — Prince's Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oscar Barrett; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—The glories of pantomime at this threatre gave way on Monday to the attractions of musical comedy in the shape of *Winnie Brooke, Widow,* with Miss Ada Reeve in the title-rôle. The play is not remarkable for originality, though it is well equipped with lively episodes and a pleasing musical score, and the story is made pleasing by a vein of sentiment which lifts it above the ordinary run of musical comedy; but in Miss Ada Reeve's hands the central part radiates a charm which makes the whole seem one of the brightest and most enjoyable pieces that have been seen in Manchester for many a day. A big house on Monday gave unstinted evidence of appreciation, which extended also to various other members of the cast who have more or less important characters to sustain. Chief among these are Mr. Charles Weir as Dudley Mayne; Mr. L. Ashton-Jarry as Julian Croft; Mr. Harry Halley as Montague Brent; Mr. Edgar Stevens as Reginald Frampton; and, in more eccentric parts, Messrs. Ulick Burke, Donald Price-Evans, Frederick Tyrrell, Miss Drusilla Wills and Miss Alice Lawrence.

Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Oscar Barrett; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—This week sees the withdrawal of *The Sleeping Beauty* from the Gaiety stage, though it has attracted large houses during its brief stay, and doubtless would continue to do so for weeks to come, did circumstances allow. The pantomime contains features of exceptional interest and merit, and is especially noteworthy in respect of the vocalism of Miss Louie Collier, the good fairy, and Miss Dorothy L. Clarke, principal boy. Miss Lucie Caine gives distinction to the part of Beauty, and the Two Anartos provide real fun as a pair of eccentric—and musical—woodcutters. Mr. Fred Russell has dropped out from a group of comedians which include Mr. Arthur Rigby, Mr. Horace Wheatley, Mr. Harry Maxam, and Mr. Picton Roseborough.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. W. H. Broadhead; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. Walter Melville's *The Female Swindler* pays a return visit here this week, and is a remarkably good draw. Like all Mr. Melville's dramas, it is exceedingly well arranged and effective, and teems with parts that afford ample scope for dramatic and character acting. Mr. Jerrold Heather and Miss Violet Ellicott have the most distinguished opportunities, and do extremely well in them; while other essential parts are capitally played by Mr. Bernard Mervyn, Mr. A. Kenyon Gray, and Miss Florrie Kelsey. The humorous element is kept going by Mr. Luke Forster, Mr. George Elsworthy and Miss Evelyn Marrable.

Metropole Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A change from variety to drama is to be recorded here this week. Miss Olga Andre and Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company being seen in the sensational drama, *When a Man Hates.* The cast includes Mr. Arthur Hinton in the impressive rôle of Pietro Danelli, and Miss Leila Zillwood as Olga Gwynne, the woman with a past, both of whom discharge their responsibilities with admirable effect. They are assisted by quite a number of capable players, among whom Mr. E. Sampson and Miss Marie E. Robertson are notable in humorous parts. Eleven scenes illustrate the movement of the plot.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company is here this week from the Osborne Theatre, in *The Silver King.*

St. James's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Potasch.—An Irish musical costume play, *The Wearin' o' the Green,* is the attraction here this week, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company. Love and tragedy give interest and body to the story, which progresses through a number of strenuous and realistic scenes. Mr. Charles Homer shares with Mrs. Chalmers Mackey the honours of the heroic parts, while Mr. John S. Chamberlain is sufficiently malevolent as the villainous Michael Kenny. Ample humour is interpolated by Mr. Chalmers Mackey, Mr. John Neville, and Miss Lalla Stanhope. During the course of the play various typical Irish songs are sung by Mr. Chalmers Mackey, Mr. Charles Homer, and Miss Lalla Stanhope, of whom the latter figures also as a dancer *solus,* and in conjunction with Mr. Mackey. The scenery and dresses are picturesque.

Hippodrome (Hulme). — Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—J. W. Rickaby heads an excellent bill here this week, his quaint songs and whimsical style causing much merriment. The performing dogs, ponies, &c., introduced by Yvette, do some remarkably clever things; and the singing of Carr and Rose is above the average, and greatly appreciated. Ford and Hanson are successful in a musical item; Harry Grey, a capital comedian, comes in for plenty of applause; and Cyrus Dare, a clever mimic, tells some amusing stories. The Muirs appear in a highly diverting sketch, *The Lady and the Lunatic;* Will Johnson, comedian, has some good songs; Kit Keen is entertaining as an Ethiopian artiste; and Daisy Martell dances very smartly. The usual pictures complete.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Dr. Carl Herman is here this week, after successful weeks at the Salford and Hulme Hippodromes. His demonstrations with electricity are watched with interest, and the antics of his hypnotised subjects evoke screams of laughter. The Sisters Marion, two pretty and clever young vocalists, are well received, as is, also, Sutherland, who swings and spins the bâton with remarkable ability. Two young boys, called Larchie Thompson's Top-Weights, give a good exhibition of club-swinging, boxing, and wrestling; Post Mason sings "A Son of the Desert am I" with good effect; Moto, eccentric musician, plays the concertina well, and is very amusing; and Ada Seale sings, acceptably, a couple of ballads.

Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Lottie Collins, a big Manchester favourite, is the bright, particular star here this week, and scores a distinct success with her latest songs. Another excellent turn is Fred Earle, an eccentric comedian, who causes roars of laughter, and makes a big hit with his "Seaweed" song. J. H. Kavanagh, too, succeeds in creating plenty of amusement; and Harry Mountford and Maud Walsh are delightful entertainers, with smart patter. The singing of Helen Charles is much appreciated; Ernest manipulates cards in an amazing manner; Tell and Tell are clever tumblers, and comedians of the eccentric order; and the Toro Trio present a novel turn in balancing and rifle-shooting. Other enjoyable items are those of Nellie Lewis, a pleasing artiste; and Alice Ormonde, comedienne, who each contribute a song.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Collins.—The big turn here this week is that of Bella and Bijou, vocal comedy sketch artistes, who have a really excellent repertoire, and who render their various sketches with admirable verve and effect, much to the pleasure of the house. Another remarkable turn is supplied by Clown Zertho's Dogs of many breeds, who display almost human intelligence in their intricate and amusing manœuvres under their master's wonderful influence. The Five Delevines, in their *Flirtation* sketch, are also well received; and a fine vocal turn is that of Madame Alice Simmons, operatic soprano; while sufficiently varied entertainment is provided by Ike Scott and Son, comedians; the Ongars, in a series of well-executed dances; Ernest Sefton, character comedian; Simms and Simms, musical comedians; Cabby and Shirker, in an amusing bar act; and a Bioscopic view of last Saturday's football match between Manchester City and Bolton Wanderers.

Palace.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. P. Watson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stringer.—The principal item in this week's programme here is furnished by Fred Karno's comedians, who are seen in *Mumming Birds,* an exceedingly funny travesty of the peculiarities of the modern music-hall show. The Boccaccio Minstrels contribute a very good vocal and instrumental act; and Horace White, ventriloquist and pianist, presents some new and novel ideas in excellent style. Will Poluski, jun., comedian, gives a popular turn; the Permane Brothers are very well received in an eccentric acrobatic performance; Ronald Bayne and Evelyn Hope figure dramatically as Napoleon I. and Josephine in the *Emperor Divorce* episode; the Three Clarus give a capital performance on the rolling globes; the Three Sisters Hayden, vocal character comediennes, are vivacious and pleasing; and Lily Lenora submits some effective comedy and speciality dancing. The programme is further elaborated by a series of Palace pictures and a well-rendered orchestral interlude.

Manchester Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—The popular Marie Loftus heads the bill here this week, and, in addition to her well-known pantomime burlesque, renders two songs in excellent style, especially the country-maid's song, "He kissed I once," which creates ripples of laughter, and is greatly enjoyed. Harry Weldon is a most entertaining comedian, his eccentric methods being productive of hearty applause. Otto Schumann introduces, in a clever equestrian act, a highly-trained dancing horse, which cakewalks in fine style. A decidedly novel musical musical item is that of Carl and Carmanelli, who are full of surprises, and are deservedly well received. The charming Sisters Klos, a trio of athletes, present a most artistic and graceful performance on the hanging ropes; and the Two Brothers Reiff bring down the house with their remarkable dancing. Pit and Cute, who make their entry in an air-ship, drop to "earth," and go through a clever and laughable acrobatic act; and, by the aid of her chatty boy, Dan, Lady Fauntleroy succeeds in amusing the audience. The Choristers render "Missouri" (illustrated song) pleasingly; and, from last week, remains the sensational aerial act by the famous Cee Mee Troupe.

MARGATE.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. E. Macknight; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Hardy.—*At War with the World* has been played here this week by Mr. George Lyttleton's company. Mr. George Lyttleton, jun., plays the old Squire Redfern very well, and the trying part of his son, Tom Redfern, is admirably sustained by Mr. George Lyttleton, senr. Mr. F. C. Koper is good as Hugh Redfern; Mr. A. E. Johnstone makes an excellent Thornton Westmeare, the adventurer's plausible rascality being capably brought out; Mr. F. J. Lewis, as Gregory Blotts, enacts the toper satisfactorily; and Mr. Frank Holyoake does the little he has to do as Draycott the detective, commendably. Miss Lillian Beaumont is pleasing in the rôle of Edna Maddox, Miss Nora Kingsley is all that could be desired as Mrs. Leslie, and Miss Daisy Humphreys plays the part of Mabel Leslie well.

Grand Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. F. Mouillot; Resident Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Poole's Myriorama has been here again with capital pictures, illustrating the war in the Far East, and some amusing cinematograph films. There is a capital variety combination, the programme including Miss May Fince, whose Irish and other songs go well; the Veronas, duettists, are also dainty dancers, and their turn is a popular one; Felix Summers cleverly delineates the facial expressions of well-known people; and Mdlle. Orbasany's trained cockatoos give an interesting performance.

MELTON MOWBRAY.—Mr. Gordon Starkey's company, in *A Message from Mars,* paid a further visit to this town on Monday, when the large audience fully appreciated this highly diverting comedy. As Horace Parker Mr. Cecil Austin-Lee was admirable, and Mr. Percy Tyler made an ingenuous tramp. Arthur Dicey, the American, was capitally portrayed by Mr. Collins Rolfe, Sir E. Vivian by Mr. Douglas Stewart, and the Messenger from Mars by Mr. Wm. Lockhart. The ladies' caste was an exceedingly good one, notably Miss Violet Aubries as Miss Parker, Miss Florence Heather as Mrs. Clarence, and Miss Edith Cuthbert as Minnie Tompkins.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert J. Lewis.—Messrs. George Edwardes and Chas. Frohman's company opened here on Monday in the farcical comedy, *Are You a Mason?* As Amos Bloodgood, Mr. Harry Ashford was responsible for a great deal of laughter; Mr. Anthony Fawcett was highly amusing as George Fisher, and his impersonation of the French dressmaker was smart and clever; Mr. Arthur Claremont was energetic as Frank Perry; and Mr. Tom Mowbray's John Halton is the embodiment of droll humour; Miss Harriet Trench made a capital Mrs. Bloodgood; and Miss Violet Graham gave a delightful impersonation of Mrs. Perry. Charming portrayals of Annie, Lulu, and Mrs. Halton were given by the Misses Lillie Beagle, Isla Glynn, and Mabel Young; and Lottie had an efficient representative in Miss Edith Ife. Mr. Frank Ridley, as Hamilton Travers, Mr. Valentine O'Connor, as Ernest Morrison, and Mr. John O'Ryan, as the Police Constable, rendered valuable assistance. *Hashed Up* serves as the curtain-raiser.

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales' Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. A. E. Smith's pantomime, *Aladdin,* is the attraction here this week. Miss Elsie Douglas sings and acts capitally in the title-rôle; as Princess Badroulbadour Miss Kathleen O'Neil is graceful and pleasing; Mr. J. H. Maxwell is full of energy as Abanazar; Mr. Fred Ramsdale makes a capital Widow Twankey; the Brothers Taylor also add considerably to the fun. The specialities are exceptionally good, and include Miss Maud Bellison, vocalist; Arnold, a clever illusionist; the Brothers Taylor, knockabouts; the Four Snowdrops, dancers; J. H. Maxwell, one-armed hat-spinner; Madame Helen Godfrey, instrumentalist, whose violin playing is very skilful; and Miss Elsie Douglas, rag-time dancer, and her four coons.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Theatres, Limited; Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Mr. Charles Frohman's Co. in the popular play, *Sherlock Holmes,* is fulfilling a week's engagement here, and attracts good audiences to the popular parts of the house. Mr. H. A. Saintsbury gives a masterly portrayal of the part of Sherlock Holmes, and Miss Vera Longden's Alice Faulkner is a refined piece of acting. As Dr. Watson, Mr. Lawrence Leyton does well, and the same may be said of Mr. W. F. Stirling's Professor Moriarty. Mr. Leslie Carter gives a capital interpretation of James Larrabee, and every praise is due to Mr. Walter Hicks for his able impersonation of Billy. The other rôles are ably sustained, the company all round being an excellent one. The scenery and other effects are all that can be desired.

Opera House.—Proprietors, The Middlesbrough Grand Opera House Company, Limited; Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Hopcutt.—There was a large audience present at the Grand to witness Mr. Louis M. Parker's characteristic play, *The Cardinal,* by Mrs. Russ Whytal's talented company. Mr. Philip Cunningham and Mrs. Russ Whytal appeared in the principal rôles, giving refined and sympathetic renderings, which won enthusiastic applause. Mr. Oscar Adye rendered the part of Bartolommeo Chigi with considerable ability; and Mr. Douglas Gordon gave a skilful impersonation of Andrea Strozzi; Mr. Gerald Kay-Souper is deserving of the highest praise for his Giuliano de Medici; and Guido is ably sustained by Mr. George Ingleton. Miss Catherine Maude's impersonation of Claucia was sympathetic and graceful; and Miss Freda Bramleigh was a charming Honoria. The scenery is in keeping with the general excellency of the play.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. Brill; Manager, Mr. J. W. Thornborrow.—An excellent array of talent is programmed here. Hadji Abdullah's troupe of Arabs head the bill, and present some astounding feats, which meet with an enthusiastic reception. Another excellent turn is provided by Newhouse and Ward, cyclists, who do smart work, combined with amusing antics. Mr. Albert Wyndham's talented company, in *Prince Arthur,* score a great hit; and Herbert La Martine, vocalist and dancer, meets with a capital reception; Will Godwin, in a scena, *She's not my Wife,* is a favourite; and Lil O'Gorman is a pretty comedienne and dancer. The Three Martaffs do some clever acrobatic feats; and a pleasing turn is provided by the McKays. Some amusing films are flashed on the bioscope.

Oxford.—Lessee, Mr. William Peacock; Manager, Mr. Wm. Ainsworth.—Kino, Welch and Montrose top the bill here in an acrobatic sketch, and provide an amusing turn; Mike Gray, juggler, and his acrobatic dog, Dooley, are great favourites; the Sisters Judge's cockatoos and macaws submit an interesting turn; and Harry Barker, comedian; the Two St. Johns, in a comedy act; McAskell, conjurer; Bros. Vance, instrumentalists; Syd Herman, vocalist; Florrie Vongar, vocalist; and the bioscope complete a good programme.

MIDDLETON.—Pardoe's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. William Pardoe.—This week's attraction is the melodrama, *Because I Love You.* Mr. Frank Stephens, as the Vulture, gives a weird, and on the whole sound performance, and he is supported by Miss Madge North, a charming actress, who infuses life and animation into the rôle of Norina Chandos. Mr. Matthew Boulton, Mr. Horace Buckley, and Miss Trissie Humphreys are also in the cast.

MOTHERWELL.—New Century Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—Mr. Harry Starr is appearing here this week in his own comedy-drama, *Otto the Outcast.* Mr. Starr takes the part of Otto, and his delineation gains due applause. Mr. Richard Harris plays well the rôle of Roderique D'Estalier, and gains appreciation by his personation of Prince Ranjani and Dr. Coquedil; Mr. J W. Turner is clever as Augustine Carrotte, and the Daddy Bruneau of Mr. William Miller is very well done; Mr. Max Coutts is smart as the Marquis Marcella de Laporte; Lara, the flower girl, is excellently portrayed by Miss Q. Frazer-Brunner; and Miss Rita Rosslyn is quite suited to the part of Corinne Jarbeau.

NEATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albert W. James.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is appearing here this week in *The Christian.* Mr. Hilliard plays the Hon. John Storm with remarkable success; Mr. Chas. Hill does well as Parson Quayle; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe scores as Father Lamplugh; as also does Mr. Chas. E. Dering, in the rôle of Archdeacon Wealthy. As Lord Robert Ure, Mr. Chas. E. Bedells is capital; Mr. Jackson Wilcox plays the part of Horatio Drake in good style; Mr. Oswald Marshall is good as Mr. Lorimer; Miss Clara Nicholls is distinctly good as Mrs. Callander; Miss Gertrude Homewood gives a pathetic rendering of the much-wronged Polly Love; and Miss Bella Moody, Miss Dorothy Clifton, and Miss Molly Hayden, as Betty, Letty, and Netty, are very charming. Miss Grace Chalmers renders Glory Quayle excellently, and scores a great success.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—*Cinderella,* which proved so immensely successful during a four weeks' run at Olympia, in this city, has now been transferred to the Grand, where Heatonians are flocking in force to witness this bright and enjoyable production.

Tyne Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—The phenomenal measure of popularity achieved by the pantomime *Cinderella* is fully maintained.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—The curtain finally falls to-night on Mr. Arthur's pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood.*

Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Messrs. Arthur Carlton and H. Armitage's company is here in *In the Ranks,* and the opportunity thus afforded of renewing acquaintance with the famous military drama has been freely taken advantage of by local playgoers. Miss Edith Blair Staples acts with power and effect as Ruth Herrick, and the Ned Drayton of Mr. Edward Lloyd calls for praise. They are well supported by an excellent all-round company.

Pavilion.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—George M. Schilling, an American, who is engaged in the task of walking round the world for a wager, is relating some of his adventures and experiences to interested audiences. A smart exhibition of gun-drill and wall-scaling is given by Capt. Davies' Zouaves. Jumping extraordinary is the speciality of the Hartley Wonders; while the eccentricities of Rosaire and Doreto are warmly appreciated. Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire mill girl, is vigorously encored for her enjoyable vocal efforts; a pleasing burlesque artiste is Olive Marston; and the flying trapeze act by the Three Rainats is skilfully worked. Wal Croft makes a successful appearance as a Scottish comedian; and Iben Obed, Arabian equilibrist, completes the programme.

New Empire Palace. — Resident-Director, Mr. R. Thornton; Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Assisting-Director and Chief of Staff, Mr. Frank Allen; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident Manager, Mr. E. Leslie Conroy.—Tilly Bebe, with her troupe of twelve lions, provide an animal turn of much excellence, and one is compelled to admire the courage exhibited by the fair trainer in her handling of the brutes. A dramatic episode, *V.C.,* is an interesting item as given by a company under the direction of Harry Howard. The acrobatic performance of the Burnellys, who are mounted on stilts, is distinctly clever, and a novelty into the bargain; while the Fitzroys, society gymnasts, submit a smart display. The Wolpert Trio fairly establish their claim to favourable mention as Continental acrobats, and some clever dancing is contributed by the Three Victorias. Ian Colquhoun is the possessor of a fine baritone voice; the vocal comedy efforts of Harry Clifford afford much enjoyment; and T. C. Callaghan, comic singer, is also to the fore.

Olympia. — Lessee, Mr. Richard Thornton. — A repertoire company, under the direction of Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton, has been engaged here for a season with the object of presenting a series of well-known and popular plays. *East Lynne* was staged on Monday, and received adequate treatment from the capable company engaged, among whom Miss Adria Hill as Lady Isabel, Mr. Robert Ayrton as Archibald Carlyle, and Mr. Annesley Hely as Sir Francis Levison were specially prominent by reason of their well-judged impersonations.

NEWPORT. — Lyceum. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*If I were King* is being produced this week by Mr. Frank Fenton's company. Mr. Frank Fenton is an ideal François Villon, acting the romantic rôle with earnestness and grace; Miss Elsie Roberts makes a charming Katherine de Vauchellés; Miss Louise Vaussitar's Huggethen de Hamel is picturesque and clever; and Mr. E. Bellenden Clarke presents a masterly study of Louis XI. The fine play, which is acted splendidly, and elaborately dressed, is preceded by a new sketch, *The Patriot,* by Mr. H. R. Trowbridge.

Empire.—Moss's Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—The Kellinos top the bill here, and the house are not slow to show its appreciation of their wonderful feats. Arthur Gill, the Yokel specialist, presents a unique turn; the modern billiard experts, Les Bunin, give a performance that takes well; and Baker and Balfe play some lively selections on the xylophone. Lily Burnand (a charming comedienne) sings some catchy songs; James Bond is given warm applause for his slack wire trick, and piano playing extraordinary is accomplished by George Ross and Ella Grayson; Cora Casselli gives a pretty Spanish sketch; Ambrose Thorne, a light comedian, is acceptable; and Burg, Hand, and Wise produce a humorous acrobatic sketch, *Ye Browne Cow Inn.*

NORTHAMPTON.—Opera House.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—The third pantomime this season, the "Babes 'n the Wood," as represented by Mr. H. A. Jordison's company, has gained a verdict of unanimous approval. Miss Madge Daley is a gallant representative of Robin Hood; Miss Ada Martini is a charming Maid Marian; Miss Bella Brookland a dainty Phyllis; Miss Kittie Caffrey a bewitching Marjorie; Miss Nancy Thornton a pretty Typewriter, yclept Dorcas; the Misses Edie Duncker, N. Thornton, D. Day, L. Malvers, R. Eaton, make an attractive bevy of fairies. The Babes find excellent representatives in Miss Dolly Cullen and Miss Elsie Jordison, and their dancing, which is very good for such young artistes, is loudly applauded. Little Cluley is one of the big hits of the pantomime, as Bantam, the Baron's factotum, and also as Capt. Bird, Chief Constable; Mr. Edward Avon displays clever fun as the Bad Baron; Messrs. Cullen and Carthy as the two Robbers are good; Mr. Rowland Hill is a clever dame; Mr. W. Francis Greene scores as Herne the Hunter, and his duties as stage-manager are well carried out. George Chanti gives a speciality full of pleasing surprises; and the dancing of the Misses Minnie Royac, Blanche Nicholson, Lottie Bowman, and Primrose Vernon nightly gains enthusiastic applause.

Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—The company here includes Pat Rafferty, comedian; Curtis Lee is a clever artist; the Four Arizonas, high-class acrobats; Violet Beatrice, a charming vocalist; Blanche Gerard, a versatile comedienne; Wallace Whitney, a popular comedian; Will Percival, clog-dancer; and Harry Craven, eccentric comedian. The Seddons furnish a comic juggling turn; and Matt Wilkinson and Company appear in an amusing sketch.

NORTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Pantomime is again the attraction here this week, the Marvellous Pardoes' company, in *Cinderella,* being received with favour by appreciative audiences. As Prince Charming, Miss Lottie Holland plays the part with dash and spirit; and Miss Cissy Kedward is a pleasing Cinderella. Mr. George Hyam is amusing as Scoot; and Mr. Tom Hulme successful as the Baron. Messrs. Harry Hanley and Mike Hastings do well as Blobbs and Blabbs respectively; and Mr. Tom Griffith scores as Father Time. Specialities are successfully introduced by The Marvellous Pardoes, Capita and his living marionette, the Sultan Brothers (equilibrists), the Dome Trio of Dancers, the Sisters Tyrell, sand and buck (dancers), and Zenith (animal impersonator).

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—Mr. Arthur Albert, comedian, is again the principal attraction here, and has lost none of his popularity; Mr. Harry Nelson, Tyneside comedian, also comes in for a flattering reception; Wisper, comedy juggler, is clever; and the Henriques, comedy acrobats, meet with success. Miss Beattie Bloom (comedienne) the Franko Midgets (illusionists and conjurors), Elvo and Evelyn (comedy artistes), and the Bio-photoscope are also favourably received.

NOTTINGHAM. — Theatre Royal. — Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*Beauty and the Barge* made its first appearance here on Monday, when a large audience passed an unqualified approval of this intensely humorous comedy. It is splendidly staged, and the acting of Mr. Cyril Maude's company is excellent all-round. Mr. Blake Adams gets so thoroughly inside the character of the "affable" and amorous Barley, that one cannot imagine it played better. Voice, "business," and make-up are alike capital, and he keeps the fun going at a merry pace. The peppery Major Smedley is well portrayed by Mr. Walter Pemberton. Mr. Horace Lane gives evidence of his versatility in the part of Lieut. Boyne; and Mr. Percival Knight acts with care as Herbert Manners. Miss May Fairclough is delightfully fresh and vivacious as Ethel; and Miss Mary Deverell submits a bright and pleasing interpretation of Lucy. Mr. Fred Knight conveys the right touch as the phlegmatic Dibbs; and Mr. Charles Goold adds to the general hilarity by his comicality as Tom. Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite's rendering of the coquettish Mrs. Porter is keenly relished; and Miss Mary Griffiths creates a diversion as the sentimental Mrs. Baldwin.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—*The Forty Thieves* continues for another week, and the crowded and appreciative audiences have bestowed unstinted praise on the efforts of the clever company.

King's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. W. Bull.—Pantomime holds sway here this week, and Mr. Macnaghten's presentation of *Robinson Crusoe* is fully equipped both in dressing and scenery. Miss Louie Hurman acts and sings with spirit in the name-part; and Miss Rose Bartlett plays Polly Perkins in a bright and attractive manner. Miss Dora Langham and Miss Delia Cherry are energetic representatives of Nancy Lee and Midshipman Merry, respectively; and Miss Flora Leonard plays the Fairy capitally. The fun is fast and furious. Mr. Jack Foley makes an amusing Dame Crusoe; and Mr. Will Lytton contributes largely to the hilarity as Will Atkins. The burlesque absurdities of Harris and Worth are rewarded with responsive merriment, and Mr. Harry Morgan is a resourceful interpreter of Friday. The dancing of Miss Ivy Lane's Vaudeville Troupe forms a pleasing feature.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Bowmaker.—*Drummed Out* forms the principal item of this week's programme, and Mr. A. C. Lilly and company again prove their efficiency in a fine representation of this popular military sketch. Interest is also centred in the appearance of Miss Ethel Arden and Mr. George Abel in their mirth-providing entertainment, entitled, *Three of a Kind.* Starr and Leslie are equally clever in singing, juggling, and "patter"; Kahn and Kahn mystify and delight in a smart exhibition of necromancy; and the juggling of Walter Bellonini compels admiration by its dexterity and neatness. Professor Dunning submits his amusing ventriloquial performance; and Harry Bedford's exuberant humour causes plenty of laughter. Kitty Wager, comedienne; and Fred. Poplar, a quaint comedian, provide acceptable contributions.

NORWICH. — Theatre Royal. — Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, in *Saturday to Monday,* occupies the boards this week, and are winning much appreciation from capital audiences. Mr. Stuart Champion, as L

Karl H. Edwards distinguishes himself by an excellent embodiment of Solomon Moses; and Mr. Robert Perris acts with significance as Willie Neverwork. Miss Eva Purcell gives a sympathetic rendering of Pearl Rivers; Miss Emma C. Turner successfully embodies Helen Dudley; Mrs. Hudson Rivers receives full justice at the hands of Miss Florence Lovell; Miss Lottie Pearce doubles the parts of Betty and Nag Brady, and plays with vigour; and Miss Dora Lyons is to be complimented for an entertaining enactment of Little Madge.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—A lengthy and varied bill of fare here includes George Dardini and his black assistant, in their refined comedy juggling act; Frank Sauterous, marvellous jumper; Chant and Chant, comedy duettists; Gravetta and Parr, in their original pot-pourri act; Robb Gilmore, eccentric comedian and grotesque dancer; Hanlon and Curtis, comedians, dancers, and conversationalists, in their comedy act, *Odd Bits;* and the Empire animated pictures.

PENTRE. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Eugene Hardie.—Mr. C. Finch Hatton's company is here in *When London Sleeps.* Mr. Walter H. Wilson gives a capital impersonation of Captain Rodney, assisted in a vigorous manner by Miss Hilda Clyde as Hilda Carrode. Mr. Albert Wray and Miss Mabel Cluer are recipients of high praise for their clever acting of David Engleheart and Queenie Carruthers respectively. Bright, humorous parts are Sammy Blyth, played by Mr. D'Arcy Kelway; Carrie Jones, by Miss Nelly Hook; Bob Jones, by Mr. Paul Graydon; and Signorina Robertus Jones, by Miss Nellie Birchenough. Mr. Charles Digby is exceedingly clever as the Hon. Bertie Broomhead.

PLYMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Laughter loud and long is the order here nightly this week, the cause being the production of the musical pantomime sketch, *His Majesty's Guests.* Mounted with care, and brought thoroughly up to date, the piece is admirably acted by Mr. Fred Karno's company, which includes Mr. Harry Roxbury, a clever and hard-working comedian, who, in the part of Sergeant Lightning, scores a triumph. Mr. Frank Morton, as Lord Easem, acts and sings well, especially the latter. An intelligent study of Miffin is forthcoming from Mr. Charles Usher; whilst Mr. Harry Stuart acts the parson, Minks, in capital style. The cast also comprises Miss Leonora Castelle, who, as Lady Maud, does not miss any of the opportunities provided either for emotional or humorous displays. As the "new woman," Miss Amy Rogerson has had plenty of dash and go; and Miss Edith Ager is pretty and winsome, and sings well. The whole of the other characters are in the hands of capable artistes, and the burglars' chorus and dance and the fun provided by the policemen deserve warm commendation.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams.—A play which is naturally attracting much attention at present is *The Red Café*, dealing as it does with life in Russia and Siberia. This week it is being played here to full houses. A good all-round company is appearing in it, and one of the principal rôles is sustained by Miss Edith Grenfell, who acts the part of Zitka Marsoff with consummate skill Mr. Philip T. Knox, as Count Petrosky, achieves considerable success, and Mr. William Ravenscroft fills in masterly manner the difficult study of the Czar. An actor of conspicuous ability is Mr. J. Hamilton, who as Dr. Marsoff, is most realistic. Others who help to ensure a popular verdict are Messrs. Edgar Stevenson, Robert S. Entwistle, Ernest Noble, Arthur Sims, and Martin Henry, and Miss Lester Stephens.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton.—*A Woman Adrift* is being played here this week by Mr. Sanderson Moffat's company. It is very ably presented, chief honours falling to Miss Phyllis Hamilton, Miss P. Graham, Mr. Sanderson Moffat, who fulfils a double rôle in powerful fashion. The humorous element is provided by Miss Bruce, Messrs. W. Mackersey, C. Wilson, and W. Hume.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Manager, Mr. J. Field.—Excellent vocalism and dancing mark the turn of Burke, Moller, and Teller, who are appearing here this week in the musical sketch. *The Professor and his Pupils.* "Strolling down the lane with Charlie" and "The faces we miss from the stage" are sung with telling effect by Miss Maggie Duggan, who is nightly receiving undeniable encores. K and K get delightful effects out of peculiar looking instruments; and Carl and Carr provide smart patter. The Rozaire Bolleros Troupe give a clever acrobatic performance; and Clorinda Thurtell sings sweetly. Lee and Arden contribute a humorous sketch, entitled *The Lady and the Watchman;* and Mr. Fred Balham's descriptive ballads are much appreciated. Animated pictures are also included in the programme.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Business-Manager, Mr. Rex Dorley.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company is here in the sporting drama, *Bound to Win.* Leading parts are admirably represented by Messrs. F. G. Kimberley and Sidney Rennef, and they are ably supported by Messrs. F. Strickland, as Philip Ayca; James Hont, as Ned Oakley; Edgar Morgan, as Horatio Buffet; Horace Custine, as Willie Wilkins; Fred Tenaur, as Joe Blake, and L. Hont, as George Moore. Miss Lottie Addison and Miss Kathleen Lokhart are successful in their respective parts. Miss Edie Macklin scores as Winnie Oakley; Miss Nancy Davis ably portrays Winnie Winsome; Mrs. James Hont is to be congratulated on her acting as Harriet Forbes.

PORTH.—POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr W. Bynorth.—This week we are favoured with a visit by Mr. T. Edward Ward's company in *Her Fatal Past.* Mr. Percy Brown as Mark Desmond does remarkably well. Mr. Bernard Dunstan capably portrays Leonard Fernside; Jonathan Buckstone Nobbs is ably represented by Mr. T. Edward Ward; Little Holly Haslewood deserves mention for her careful rendering of Little Leonard; Miss Helen Inglelow gives a powerful rendering of Ruth Fernside and Belle de Lara; and Miss Ward deserves credit for her excellent rendition of Honor Symes.

PORTSMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr Armstrong Bell.—Mr. Charles Frohman's able company is here this week in the excellent comedy, *Merely Mary Ann.* Miss Grace Armytage Noble's rendering of the part of Mary Ann is delightful. Lancelot is ably acted by Mr. Alexander Calvert; Mr. Reginald, as Peter, is capitally placed; Mr. Fred Grove is a humorous Rev. Samuel Smedge; Mrs. Leadbatter is in the excellent hands of Miss Alice Esden; and Miss Mabel Garden plays nicely as Rosie.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. Julian Malvern's company is appearing here in the powerful drama, entitled *I Defy the World.* Mr. Roy Fortescue plays the part of Leon Darville in a creditable manner; Mr. Richard Vane enacts Count de Beaulieu very powerfully; Larcho is efficiently performed by Mr. Chas. Conway; Blanche Darville is well represented by Miss Maud Malvern; and Miss Flo Bevan, as Fanchette, does well.

EMPIRE.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Lottie Lennox, the favourite comedienne, is the chief attraction, her songs being given with all her usual vivacity and point; the Five Whiteley's, with their acrobatic wire walking musical pot pourri, gain cordial applause; Esmond, Verona, and Esmond, novelty, legmania, and burlesque artistes, are amusing; Charles Bayman, eccentric Ethiopian entertainer, is much liked; Edie King, soubrette and danseuse, gives satisfaction; Calile and Walker, speciality artistes, and the Lorrisons, comedy artistes, contribute capital turns; Sisters Mayo, duettists and dancers, and George Prince, the crazy comic, complete the company.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. James Kiddie's company, in *Aladdin*, is a popular attraction here this week. With talented artistes, wholesome fun, the latest songs, beautiful scenery and dresses, and capital stage-management, the pantomime is one of the best that has been seen in Preston. Mr. Will Saunders, who impersonates the Baron Shiphtalotte, is a versatile comedian, acting, singing, and dancing cleverly and humorously; Ethel and Maud are funnily depicted by Mr. H. C. Lovell and Mr. Fred Denman respectively; Mr. Charles Harvey is highly diverting as Pimples; Miss Florence Watson makes a graceful and winsome Cinderella, rendering her songs sweetly. In the rôle of Dandini, Miss Susie Beavan, by her pleasing manner and artistic singing, gains much favour; Mdlle. de Rose gives a spirited embodiment of Prince Charming, and her vocalism is well appreciated. Messrs. Houpla and Heckla appear with success in a special acrobatic turn. From start to finish the performance progresses smoothly and merrily, and Mr. Kiddie may undoubtedly be complimented upon the all-round excellence of the production.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—On Monday, the Drama, *Two Little Sailor Boys*, was presented here by Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company. Mr. William H. Sams, in the rôle of Commander Noel Tregarthen, sustains his part in a praiseworthy manner; Lieut. Richard Redstone is well embodied by Mr. Leonard Booker; Mr. W. H. Hallatt gives a good impersonation of Captain Tom Yorke; Mr. Geo. Cecil Murray as Admiral Grey is very good; Mr. Ambrose Horton makes a clever Jim Royston; Mr. Oscar Power (Jack Jolly) and Mr. Tom E. Sinclair (Ben Baxter) cause hearty laughter. Miss Blanche Steele plays Lola Grey in convincing style; Miss May Day and Miss E. Frances Greene give an admirable performance of the title-rôles. Miss Mabel Scudamore as Mildred Grey; and Miss Lizzie Chambers as Mary Primrose, ably assist.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident-Manager, Mr. Clement Freeman.—An enjoyable programme here this week includes the Mysterious Lilith; Fred Harcourt, magician; the Gregson Comedy Trio; Hall, mimic; the Rolands, in their strong act; Oswald, hand-balancing specialist; Rivington and Gordyn, in comedy duologues; Duncan, artistic club manipulator; Lilian Warren, picture vocalist; and Billy Williams, Australian comedian.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Mr. J. Morton Powell's company in *The Greed of Gold* is here this week. The fine mechanical effect, including the working beam engine, appeals to the popular parts of the house. Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh acquits himself well as Harry Hood; and Mr. Wm. Heilbrunn gives a fine portrayal of Arthur Errol. Mr. Walter M. Cameron submits a capital embodiment of Cull Snig; and Mr. T. G. Warry is effective as Mr. Brighton. Mr. Joe Magrath, as Con Creamer, assisted by Miss Winnie Donovan as Patty Mayfield, give humorous representations; Mr. B. Fox is good as the dumb Tom Welstead; Miss Agnes Verity scores as Dora; and Miss Grace St. John is a dignified Mrs. May Maxwell.

RAMSGATE.—AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—Mr. Harry Firth's company is here with the pantomime, *Cinderella.* Mr. Fred Parks is genuinely funny as Pimple, the Baron's Page, and as Ping and Pong respectively Mr. W. Marsh and Mr. W. Morris add greatly to the humour of the production. Miss Madge Osmond does well as Cinderella, and Miss Dora Denmark effectively sustains the rôle of Prince Perfect. Mr. J. Binns and Mr. H. Haines are responsible for much amusement as the Ugly Sisters, yclept Butterina and Margarina, and Mr. E. Wilson is a capital Baron. A smart quartette of dancers are the Sisters Godfrey. Specialities are contributed by Miss Ethel Moir, vocalist; Mr. Fred Earle, illusionist and card manipulator; Lieut. Chas. Valvo, ventriloquist; Miss Clarisso Mignon, banjoist; Miss Madge Osmond, male impersonator; and Messrs. March and Morris.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE. — Co-proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Ellis Miller.—This week sees the first visit here of the marvellous Craggs, who opened on Monday with *Laughterland*, which was received with uproarious applause. In the second act this fine troupe introduce their world-famous acrobatic performance, which is both exceedingly clever and highly amusing, the comicalities of Mr. Cremorne Cragg bringing down the house. Charming songs, duets, &c, are introduced, Mr. Arthur Behan especially meeting with warm approval.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor.—The Ben Greet company, under Mr. J. Bannister Howard's direction, is here this week in *The Eternal City.* The company is exceptionally strong, and includes Mr. D. L. Mannering, who gives a fine impersonation of Baron Bonelli. Mr. Frederick Victor, who acts powerfully as David Rossi; and Miss Helen Haye, who appears to great advantage as Donna Roma. The serenade in the fourth act is artistically sung by Miss Ainsworth. The choir is under Madame Rubardt's able direction. A matinée performance was given on Wednesday, and was well attended.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Clucas.—Mr. Tom B. Dove's company in *Florodora* is the attraction here this week. Mr. T. Ellis Buxton submits a capital portrayal of Cyrus W. Gilfain; Mr. Cyril Dane possesses a pleasing voice and admirably sustains the part of Frank Abercoed; Mr. Derick Knowles displays much spirit in the rôle of Captain Arthur Donegal; the fierce Leandro is in the safe hands of Mr. Lionel Williams; Mr. Albert Bruno is irresistibly funny as Anthony Tweedlepunch. Miss May Desmond charmingly acts the rôle of Dolores, her vocalism being greatly enjoyed; Miss Daisy Byford is pleasing as Angela Gilfain, and scores heavily in the "whistling" song; and Miss Rene Steadman fills the part of Lady Holyrood with distinct success, her dancing and singing being especially graceful.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee; Business-Manager, Mr. S. L. Lee.—Charley Dixon, comedian, is well received; the Wartenburg Bros., double-foot jugglers, astonish the audience with their clever feats; the Lannons submit a capital exhibition of high pedestal dancing; Bert Williams is a ventriloquist with many novelties. Other turns are submitted with success by Kate Lynd, comedienne; Miss Frederica, with her terriers and pony, which are very interesting and amusing; Mozzetto, juggler; and Vera Mayne, characteristic comedienne.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—This popular place of amusement was packed to excess on Monday, one of the chief attractions being Miss Nellie Wallace, comedy artiste, who delighted the audience with her quaint humour and patter; the Sisters Warwick, smartly costumed, performed some astonishing tricks on bicycles; Jack Pleasants, comedian, sustained his popularity here with his quaint singing; Clara Victor, descriptive vocalist; Tom Vaughan, comedian; James Shingleton, singing collier; Wynford Bros., jumpers; and the Empire bioscope complete the programme.

ROTHERHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident Manager, Mr. W. Manning.—Mr. Charles Chard and company are here with the comic pantomime of *Goody Two Shoes.* Miss Annie Casey is pleasing in the title-rôle, and Miss Ida Gladstone is smart as Roland. Mr. Charles Chard is amusing as Simple Simon, and Mr. Sidney Dean scores as Dame Freckles. Mr. James Kurry is funny as Sammy Sopps, and Messrs. Bliss and Bliss, as Phil and Tom, the dame's sons, create a good deal of fun. Miss Lily St. Julian is chic as Dolly Dimple, and Miss Gladys St. Julian is a sprightly Peter Piper. Miss F. Spencer and Miss Bessie Dears, as Frank Frisky and Pansy Blossom, are deserving of mention. Messrs. Pete and Juno as Smirk and Smile, are a capital pair of dusky knockabouts. Miss Issa Stell is a graceful Fairy Benevolenta, and Miss A. Marsden is well placed as Mephisto. Special turns are introduced by the Mikado troupe of dancers. Messrs. Bliss and Bliss, Pete and Juno, and the Sisters St. Julian.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Parker Royston.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company was here on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, with *A Country Girl.* Mr. Herbert Standing, jun., is effective as Geoffrey Challoner; and as the Rajah of Bhong Mr. Bernard Vaughan is excellent in every way. Mr. W. O. Billington gives a most amusing rendering of Sir Joseph Verity; and as Barry, Mr. Richard Telford proves himself an actor and comedian of high order. Miss Daisy Davis as Marjorie Joy is tuneful and vivacious; and Miss Lucie Lever as the Princess of Bhong is very successful. Miss Sadie Neville, as Madame Sophie, is very good; and Miss Kate Graham Beck, as Mrs. St. Quentin, is charming, Miss Anna Robertson as Nan being successful. The choruses are effectively sung.

RUNCORN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. H. W. Caddick.—Messrs. Marston and Buckstone's pantomime, *Little Goody Two Shoes*, on Monday commenced an engagement here to a packed house. Miss Maud Western as Roland made an ideal principal boy, being encored in her songs. Miss Connie Irwin made a dainty Fairy Queen, whilst Miss Marie Santley, in the title-rôle sang sweetly and looked charming. A host of comedians, headed by Syd. Bayley, Fisher, and Oncale, kept the audience thoroughly amused. The scenery and dresses were all that could be desired. Specialities were introduced by York, Mac, and York, Roseno and Ugo, and others. Good business has been the rule.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden. — Messrs. Garside and Knowles' company, in the drama, *The London Fireman*, was well received on Monday by a large audience. The first act is a kind of prologue, as the events of the other acts are dated twenty years later, which accounts for several of the members representing dual parts. Henry Curtis, a drunken reprobate in the first act, turns up subsequently as a returned convict and confirmed drunkard, and Mr. Edward L. Garside's performance is a most meritorious one. Mr. Wm. Burgess, as the heartless Viscount Fleming, is excellent. The hero, Hal Curtis, is in every way a manly fellow, in the hands of Mr. J. Forbes Knowles. Miss Adeline Raby is well placed in the part of Grace Curtis, and Miss Mona Grey is a good Ida Curtis. Miss Violet Temple makes a charming Countess Fleming. Mr. Charles Preece as Bill Stinger, and afterwards as his son Nixey Stinger, with Miss Nellie Garside as Polly Bramble, contribute much amusement. Mr. Frank Hertie as Dr. Gerrard, and also as Professor Gurglewach; Mr. Chauncy Morris as Joe Bluener; and Mr. J. Bradley as Abel Fortnum, also work well.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Licensee, Mr. Wilberforce Turner; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Frederick Yates.—Prince Ishmael, a clever magician, heads the bill this week. Alf. Berg gives a novel strong man act; Geo. A. Fox, baritone, contributes some pleasing songs; the comic songs and patter of Julian Mack are much enjoyed. Other excellent turns include Ivy Graham, dainty comedienne and coon artiste; Cora Gray, operatic vocalist; the Bensons, American dialogue and sketch artistes; St. Louis Girls, vocalists and dancers; Ryde and Beeman, eccentric comedy acrobats; and the animated pictures.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. J. B. Taylor.—The mimicry and musical funniosities of Leo Tell are clever. Ernesto, the juggler and equilibrist, does some marvellous work. Walter Curtis, society entertainer; Harry Hayton, humorous comedian; the Russells (two ladies), in their pleasing duets; Charles Serra, novel equilibrist act; Saxo, the midnight musician; Emma Don and Co., and her black and white quartette of vocalists; Farrimond, a singing collier; the Ralston Boys, in their sketch, *The Blind leading the Blind;* and the animated pictures, also fill an unusually good programme.

L. AND N. W. PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. A. Higham; Manager, Mr. Sam Higham.—The patrons of this hall appear well satisfied with the efforts of the company engaged this week, including Mr. Will Sullivan, comic vocalist; Mr Frank Dennett, descriptive vocalist; and Mr. Arthur Sheridan, comic vocalist.

BRIDGE HOTEL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Tom Bradbury.—Mr. Joe Hunt, comedian, an old favourite, has had a good reception this week, and among those appearing are Mr. Teddy Gresty, tenor vocalist; and Mr. John Chesney, concertinist.

SCARBOROUGH.—LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Waddington and Sons; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. T. Carpenter.—A series of pictures of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show are reproduced here on the Biograph. A good variety entertainment is also given, in which appear Miss Connie Flower, R.A.M., violinist; Madame Maria del Vecchio, vocalist; and Signors Ciociano and Gerbi, violinists and mandolinists.

PEOPLE'S PALACE AND AQUARIUM.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman. — Mr. J. Morgan Forbes's company occupies the stage here, and is appearing with success in *The Gipsy's Oath* and *For the Woman He Loves.* Included in the company are Messrs. Clifton Hill, Charles Daly, Leonard Clarke, Mesdames Eva Warren, Hilda Merilees, and Dora Hillstrom.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's company is appearing here this week with *In Old Kentucky.* Frank Harley is powerfully personated by Mr. J. George Steel; the villain Jasper Grafton is another strong character in the hands of Mr. Eric Hudson; Joe Lorey receives adequate treatment from Mr. Gerald Kennedy, his wrestling prowess evoking warm applause. The difficult rôle of Barbara Grafton is carefully handled by Miss Beatrice Shirley; as is also that of Neb by Mr. Harry Leander. The comic scenes are well handled by Mr. Alfred S. Banks as Colonel Pebley Beauchamp; and Miss Edith Halford as Alethea Harley. Miss Amy F. Herman wins golden opinions for her artistic and natural representation of Madge Brierley. Jimmie James gives an excellent display as a banjoist and bone soloist; Will Whittaker, bird imitator, proves himself a siffleur of ability; and Charles Gibbs and George Perkins are successful in their comic patter and dances.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—*The Sin of Her Childhood* is again being staged at Seaham by Mr. J. A. Campbell's company. Mr. Campbell imparts a military bearing to the part of Captain John Thornton; Stephen Haysel is indeed a villain as depicted by Mr. Austen Milroy; the Rev. Alan Grey is skilfully sketched by Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves; Barney O'Reilly is humorously given by Mr. Fred Elvin; Miss Marv Fulton portrays Mary Haysel in an artistic manner; Little Dot Moss, as Hannah, sings and dances charmingly whilst playing the banjo.

SHEERNESS.—THE COLISEUM.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Darling; Manager, Mr. Chas. Melvin.—Mahatma, the mystifying lady, occupies the premier position on this week's programme, and met with a cordial reception on making her re-appearance on Monday. The Three Sisters Transfield are established favourites here, their excellent musical turn being much appreciated. The Denmarks, comedy sketch artistes, are also highly amusing. Amongst the remaining prominent items are Mr. Fred Allsopp, comedian; Carl Moneta, comedian and dancer; Miss Florrie Beckwith, comedienne; Miss Mackay, skipping rope dancer; and Mr. John Bertho, comedian. A variety of interesting films are shown on the Bioscope.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. P. Reymond.—A capital bill is presented here, and includes Hawley and Crescent, in the dramatic sketch. *'Neath Britain's Flag*, for which they are heartily applauded. Other interesting turns comprise Mr. Phil Reymond, character vocalist; Miss Edie Charnley, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Will Dawson, negro comedian and acrobatic dancer; and Mr. Harry Dandy, eccentric comedian. The programme concludes with the comedy sketch, *Second Thoughts.*

SHEFFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. F. W. Purcell; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. S. Carter.—Mr. Fred Karno's successful pantomime, *Cinderella*, comes to a finish in Sheffield this week, to the great regret of all lovers of merry music, pretty ballets, healthy fun, and artistic scenery. Miss Winifred Hare, Miss Godwynne Earle, Miss Lilian Lowe, Little Miss Francis, Mr. William Gourlay, Messrs. Fletch and Palmer, and the "canny Scot, ye ken," Mr. Neil Kenyon, have all become great favourites.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Mr. George Edwardes's company commenced a return visit on Monday in the spectacular light opera *The Duchess of Dantzic.* Miss Amy Augarde now appears as Mme. Sans Gené, and on Monday she scored a deserved success. Another artist always welcome here is Mr. Matthew Brodie, who acted the part of Napoleon with the care and artistic finish which have ever marked his work. Mr. Herbert Clayton and Mr. Reginald Kenneth both played and sang with distinction. Mr. T. W. Volt caused plenty of amusement as Papillon; Miss Lillian Digges was a pretty and bewitching Renée; and Miss Luna Love delighted everyone as Lizette. The chorus was large and up to the usual high standard set and maintained by Mr. George Edwardes.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—That lucidly sensational but effective drama, *The Grip of Iron*, was played to a crowded house on Monday by Messrs. E. H. Knight and George Denham's company. Some good scenery was provided, and the acting was good all-round. Mr. Fred Powell repeated hi powerful and thrilling impersonation of the "strangler" Simmonet, and he was repeatedly applauded. Mr. Blundell Lenton was good as Paul Blanchard, and the villainy of Lorentz de Ribas was depicted in bold colours by Mr. A. G. Poulson-Turner. Mr. John Coghlan did well as De Belfort, and the two detectives were excellently represented by Mr. John Brittain and Mr. Harry A. Lyons. Mr. George Denham kept the audience in roars every time he occupied the stage as the Smiler. The rôle of Marie was gracefully interpreted by Miss Hilda Baynton. Miss Georgie De Lara was a handsome Cora, and Miss Helena Walbran made a pretty and pathetic Sophie.

EMPIRE PALACE.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—The big item in this week's programme is Mr. Rousbey's electric review of the principal "Sights of Paris." Good turns are done by Conway and Leland, "The Merry Monopodes;" the Sakers, duettists; The Sarnthalers, Tyrolean vocalists and dancers; the Astleys, in a musical comedy act; George Bohee, banjoist; Little Uno, comic vocalist; Messano, card expert; Tom Stuart, mimic; and Charles Adams, comedian.

GRAND PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Beagle.—Prof. Hulbert, an amusing ventriloquist; Bishop and Vale, two old Royal pantomime favourites; Mons. De Lill, a smart conjurer; and other talented performers are appearing here nightly.

SMETHWICK. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—*Defending His Honour* is being well received on its return visit. Mr. John Davidson gains hearty applause for his telling study of the hero, Douglas Bryce; Mr. Clifton Boyne shows up the evil life of Stephen Graid with marked effect; Miss F. Melrose Millet appears as the heroine, Ethel Bryce, with the utmost charm and distinction; and Mr. Henry Gilpin as George Duncan, Mr. T. Carruthers as David Peller, Mrs. Edmond Lyons as Mrs. Verison, and Miss Gwendoline Talbot as Nurse Sugden, distinguish themselves. The humorous rôles are rendered in a smart manner by Mr. Terry Davies, Mr. Kenneth Black, Jun., and Miss Jessie Glenn.

SOUTHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred. Mouillot; Resident Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton.—Messrs Lawrence Grant and Malcolm Barrington's capital company are appearing here this week, in *Joseph Entangled.* Mrs. Mouillot gives an artistic performance in the part of Lady Verona Mayne, and is well seconded by Mr. Lawrence Grant as Sir Joseph Lacy, his setting being natural throughout. Mr. Chas. Leveson Lane is admirable as Jermyn Pyecroft. The play is followed by the new Russo-Japanese trifle, *Heart of Gold*, in which Mrs. Mouillot and Mr. Lawrence Grant appear with conspicuous success.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. J. W. Gordon.—Mr. Walter Melville's company, in *A Girl's Cross Roads*, is attracting record houses here, the drama being remarkably well played. The important part of Barbara Wade is well sustained by Miss Hilda Beverley, who plays cleverly throughout; Mr. Chas. Franmore portrays John Meadows in characteristic style; and Mr. Cecil A. Melton is a forcible Jack Livingstone. Miss Nell Oliver acts decidedly well as Nellie Meadows; and Mr. P. Barry-Lewers gives a powerful rendering of Cuthbert Lumley. Mr. Fred Ingram is a droll Toby Turvey, and is well seconded by Miss Lilla Norden as Tilly Vane.

PALACE.—Manager, Mr. Chas. Marte.—The Tom Davies trio of cyclists create a great sensation in their wonderful act, "Whirling the Whirl in Mid-Air." Carl Hertz excites wonderment in his mysterious Noah's Ark illusion and other tricks; Harry Leybourne sings well, and gives some capital impersonations; and Jack Camp scores with his comicalities. Francis and Melli, Mdlle. Viviani, Semi and Demi, and Margaret Ashton contribute successfully to the capital bill.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Marlow, sen.; Manager, Mr. W. Marlow, jun.—Mr. Godfrey Lamplugh commenced a week's engagement on Monday, when he presented the musical comedy in two acts entitled *Miss Mischief.* Private Harris, V.C., is entrusted to Mr. T. E. Conover, who is mirth-provoking, and sings well. Mr. Arthur Jenner is well suited as Admiral Sir H. Bethune, Mr. Cecil Curtis as Captain Jack Bethune, D.S.O., is capable; Mr. Beresford Lovatt in the rôle of Hiram O. Pegg is very good. Messrs. F. Mantell and H. Ellesmore, as Lord Fitz-Sherry and Count von Himmelblau respectively, take their parts well. Misses Zara Kriesberg, Nellie Renton, and Royston, and Mdlle. Thelma, the Admiral's pet parlourmaids, are four exceptionally clever dancers; Miss Eileen Guilbert is well suited as Lady Orrery; Mary Ann Smith finds a clever and able exponent in Miss Crissie Francess; and Miss Evelyn Hughes creditably portrays the character of Kitty Malone.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE—WINTER GARDENS.—General Manager, Mr. Alfred Hemming.—Messrs. Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell's company is this week presenting the amusing comedy, *Merely Mary Ann.* Miss Nita Faydon displays ability in the title-rôle, which is depicted in a charming and artistic manner; and Mr. Douglas Gerrard submits a capital impersonation of Lancelot, whilst the minor parts are all in capable hands.

PALACE OF VARIETIES—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark.—Another attractive programme is submitted here this week, the principal item being the Dandies, refined comedy quintette; other good turns are supplied by the Boris Fridkin troupe of operatic singers and athletic dancers; Jean Seul, in his Indian mystery act; Maitland Dicker, comedian; Glazabon, the new violinist; Hector and Paulus, athletic novelty act; Elsie Claire, soprano vocalist; and Charles Pond, in his glimpses of London life.

CAMBRIDGE HALL.—Messrs. Maskelyne and Cooke's mysteries provide a fascinating and attractive entertainment here, the various marvellous feats performed by Mr. Devant and his assistants, which are as clever as they are inexplicable, being greatly appreciated. During the evening musical selections are given by the Chamonix Ladies' Orchestra.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—Many familiar faces figure in the cast of *The Blanchard Diamonds*, which is visiting here after its production last week at the Grand Theatre, Hull. Miss Maud Hildyard is intensely strong and picturesque as Ruth Trelgellis; whose dissipated father, Joe, is neatly and characteristically embodied by Mr. Edward Rochelle, who appears later, equally successfully, as Knox Hammer; Mr. Albert Ward, who is extremely popular here, is safely entrusted with the part of the good-natured Nat Stearn; Mr. Walter Russell, a gentlemanly Sir John Blanchard; and Miss Julie Kennard, a becomingly dignified and lady-like Lady Blanchard, are conspicuously effective. Messrs. Joe Rowland (Farmer Gammidge), Joseph Hudson (Jerry Bickerdyke), and Mrs. Richard Edgar (Mrs. Gossett) all merit notice for earnest work. Miss May Congdon submits a pleasing sketch of May Sherringham; Mr. Benson North is all that can be desired in the unthankful part of Richard Craoll, Mr. Edmund F. Kennedy advantageously delineates Eric Blanchard.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Fred Karno's company, including Mr. Fred Kitchen, in *Saturday to Monday*, is drawing crowded houses this week. Mr. Kitchen repeats his droll performance of John Willie Jaggs; Miss Aggie Morris (Colinda Blake) and Miss Ada Maskell lend adequate support. The Borellis are amusing musical entertainers; Collins and Rice, with some bright dialogue and a song, are much in evidence; graceful dancing is contributed by Clarke and Argyle. Fresh films on the American Bioscope are appreciated, and a coon song and dance is cleverly executed by Mark Leslie. Harry Lawson, eccentric comedian, also has admirers.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Jas. Sweeney.—The Moxons, foot equilibrists, are versatile, and thoroughly deserved the welcome which was awarded them on Monday Craig, Roze, and Craig, speciality artistes and dental athletes, are good in their particular line of business. The Royal Victorian Trio are charming and smart dancers; Shiela MacNeil, Scotch comedienne, is applauded; and the Tivoli Bioscope, Joe Hennessy, Sadie Simpson, and Massons come in for a fair share of the applause.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—Mr. Gus C. Livesey's company is providing the amusement here this week, by presenting Messrs. Holl and James's drama, *The Crimson Club*, in which Mr. Livesey enacts the villain, Sir Philip Garside, in an able and accomplished manner. As Julia Marsden Miss Frances Waring proves capable; and a pathetic rendering of Muriel Lockwood is submitted by Miss May Wyniard. To Richard Fenton full justice is done by Mr. H. Gordon Ingram; and Mr. E. Calham Burke is eminently successful as the Hon. Herbert Selby. Mr. Percy Shaw, as Reginald Adolphus Garside, provides the bulk of the comedy, and contributes a couple of whistling solos which are roundly applauded. Miss Connie Arden appears as Sophonisba, and sings "Killarney" with marked effect.

STAFFORD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jas. Elphinstone.—Mr. John F. Preston's company, in *The Rich and Poor of London*, is here this week. Miss Dora Dench submits a refined rendering of May Braithwaite; Miss Dora Pass gives a vivacious delineation of the flower girl, Polly Philpot; Miss Mary Rainer is good as Ruby Redgrave; and Miss A. McFarlane has a charming child-part, as Seadrift. Mr. Sidney Dench displays considerable versat

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Feb. 20, the Drama, in Five Acts, by Theo Kremer, entitled

"THE FATAL WEDDING."

A round of varied attractions is being presented with happy results at the Terriss, the patrons of which have during the last few weeks been given the opportunity of enjoying farce, comic opera, and melodrama in pleasing succession. An excellent specimen of the last-named commodity figures in the current programme, and the audience has become thoroughly engrossed in the heart-searching pathos of its story, the thrilling nature of its incidents, and the revels of the "slum" children, which occupy nearly the whole of the third act. Mr. Bert Coote, whose company is travelling with the piece, has been careful to secure some clever children, whose various achievements elicit admiring plaudits, and are invariably encored, "The Cake Walk in the Sky," in which Miss A. Shirwell and all the youngsters join, securing enthusiastic cheers. No less favour is bestowed upon the coon song and dance of the sisters Dora and Winnie Crisp, whose movements are varied and graceful, and ballads by Misses Hetty Ball, Nellie King, and Mabel Barber, and a clog dance by Miss Edie Bracewell, are all encored. The juvenile element bears a responsible part in the piece, and Miss Gladys Rose Jones, who acts the rôle of Jessie, the "little mother," quite sustains its importance. She animates every scene with her charming prattle and mischievous pranks, though she can be equally sedate and practical. She, too, contributes to the scene of the children's concert, reciting with excellent emphasis and humorous perception "In the Usual Way" and "When father carves the duck." Mr. Ernest Owttrim gives a well-studied and effective rendering of Howard Wilson, his fine voice and elocutionary methods greatly aiding a part that teems with possibilities. Miss Theresa Osborne is amply gifted to portray the emotional characteristics of the rôle of the sorely-tried heroine, Mabel Wilson. Her pathetic moments are deeply marked, and she surrounds her rendering of the rôle with the sweetness which sorrow is said to induce, gaining sympathy thereby. That quality is effectually forfeited by Cora Williams, whose tigrish disposition is completely suggested by Miss Beatrice Whitney, who gives a well-marked and finely-sustained impersonation of the vicious adventuress. An effective coadjutor in crime is found in Mr. Cecil A. Collins, whose Robert Curtis is a finished piece of dramatic work, and even when called upon to simulate intoxication he never loses his hold upon the significant points of the part, of which he makes powerful use. Liberal opportunities for fun are provided in the business of Toto, the French butler, of which Mr. J. Carl Lyle avails himself to the utmost, securing constant merriment by his quaint errors of speech and his amusing antics, and the part of P.C. O'Reilly, who is credited with the possession of the finest attributes of the Force, is played with unfailing spirit by Mr. Jack Waring. The janitor, Peter Schwartz, is admirably enacted by Mr. Cyril Melton, and Bridget, the "lady cook," is played with all the necessary drollery by Miss Carrie Fenton. Mr. Arthur Law Raynor invests the Rev. Dr. Lanceford with the customary clerical dignity, and the character of Frank, Jessie's little brother, is suitably played by Master Gilbert Royce. Of the scenery nothing but praise can be written, the different sets being elaborately staged.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 20,

"MACBETH."

With sleet and rain falling without, Mr. F. R. Benson and company gave, on Monday, their initial performance of the month's season of répertoire plays of Shakespeare, Sheridan, Goldsmith, and Æschylus. Appropriately to the murky skies and wet without, *Macbeth*, Shakespeare's grim and gloomy tragedy, was chosen to usher in the month's artistic revival, with the darkened opening scene of the weird sisters' haunt on Forres Heath. On Tuesday *The School for Scandal* was given; on Wednesday *Macbeth* was repeated, with a matinée of *Richard II.*; *King Lear* on Thursday; and *As You Like It*, Friday. Every credit is due to Mr. Benson for thoroughness and attention to the minutest detail in his production of *Macbeth*, and the artistic and powerful performance presented by Mr. F. R. Benson and his well-selected company. As the miserable murderer, Macbeth, Mr. Benson acts with great power and feeling, and he aptly conjures up to the affrighted vision the ambitious miscreant alternately a prey to horrible imaginings and racked with fear, and anon a relentless and bloody tyrant, steeped in gore, and yet with his thirst for blood unslaked. His sudden outbursts of blind rage and fury, and then his lapse into craven fear and inert speculation, are quite typical of the character, and all admirably portrayed, whilst his elocution is a treat to listen to. Mrs. Benson essays an even harder task in the presentment of the terribly tragic figure of Lady Macbeth. She comes out of the ordeal with flying colours, her dramatic force and fervour in the scene of the murder in Act II., and the ghastliness of her sleep-walking scene, evoking loud and sustained applause. Of the long list of characters of more or less importance, we would specially select for hearty commendation Mr. Arthur Whitby as Banquo, a thoroughly sound, sterling performance, and Mr. Cyril Keightley as Macduff, an embodiment replete with sympathetic vigour and emotion. Mr. G. F. Hannam-Clarke is good as Lennox, and Mr. George Buchanan as Ross. Mr. Clarence Derwent is a gracious Duncan, King of Scotland, and Mr. B. A. Pittar as his son Malcolm, Messrs. Philip Sanders and Reginald Davis as the two murderers, and Messrs. George R. Weir, H. O. Nicholson, and Miss Gertrude Scott as the three witches, all do good work. The frequent changes of scenery work smoothly, and the stage crowds are well managed. Mr. Alfred Smyth-Pigott is general manager for Mr. Benson, Mr. Halford Forster acting-manager, and Mr. W. H. Quinton stage-manager, with Mr. Edward Broadley as assistant. Mr. George W. Collins and Mr. H. A. Harrison direct the augmented orchestra.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, Feb. 20, the Musical Comedy, entitled

"KITTY GREY."

The attraction here this week is *Kitty Grey*, who is paying a farewell visit, though it is evident that she has by no means exhausted her powers of fascination. This bright and merry piece is well played by a capable company under the direction of Mr. C. St. John Denton. Miss Hilda Guiver appears in the title rôle, and charms everyone by her admirable rendering of the character. Miss Guiver suits the part admirably, and her songs are delightfully rendered. As Lady Binfield, Miss Eily Helene is most successful, and she acts the part with much skill. The change from the prim Puritan manner to the lighter mood is well emphasised, and in addition Miss Eily Helene sings prettily and dances gracefully. As Mrs. Bright, Miss Emily Stevens appears to great advantage, and she fits the part capitally. Miss Hilda Scarisbrick makes full use of her opportunities as the American heiress, Sadie. To Mr. Leslie Harris fall the chief honours of the evening, however, for he is such an excellent comedian that the audience are always entertained by his funny sayings and doings, and as Lord Plantagenet he scores accordingly, playing the part quite on his own lines, and extremely droll they are too. Mr. Wensley Russell makes a good Sir John Binfield; special mention must be made of his exceedingly clever imitation of a 'cello solo, which was encored. The King of Illyria is capitally portrayed by Mr. Robert Whyte, jun., who handles the part with great tact, and is most amusing. Mr. Edmund Russell and Mr. Lauri Lisle are capital as Trenitz and Pontbichet, respectively. Reference should also be made to the clever impersonation in the third act of a waiter, a clever piece of work which does the actor, whoever he may be, much credit. Miss Madeline Rossiter appears in a speciality dance in one scene, and she proves to be a neat and dainty dancer, and executes her steps in a very nimble manner, which earn a well-deserved encore for the lady. The chorus is very bright and attractive, and does its work well. The play is carefully staged and smartly dressed. Mr. J. Richardson is the general manager for the company.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday Feb. 20, the Musical Comedy, in Two Acts, by Seymour Hicks, composed by Ivan Caryll, entitled

"THE EARL AND THE GIRL."

For the third week in succession, musical comedy forms the attraction at the Alexandra, where, on Monday last, the favourable verdict passed upon *The Earl and the Girl* in the West End was fully endorsed by playgoers of the North. The company presenting the piece is sent out under the direction of Mr. William Greet, who provides, as nearly as possible, an exact replica of the original production. The piece is magnificently dressed and mounted, and is played by a company of all-round excellence. The selection of Mr. William Stephens for the part of Jim Cheese is a very happy one, for he is a comedian with a natural, unforced style, and plays the part for all it is worth. A very breezy and bright Dick Wargrave is found in Mr. Percy Carr, who scores heavily with his songs, notably "The Cosy Corner Girl." Mr. Fred Hill is a satisfactory Crewe Brook; and Mr. Will Hindson is smart and alert as the American solicitor, Downham. The Eliza Shoddham of Miss Dot Carey is a genuine character-study, and a very clever and diverting one. MissAnna Grey, as Elphin Haye, and Miss Florence Imeson, as Daisy Fallowfield, contribute largely to the general success; and other noteworthy performances are those of Messrs. William Walshe, J. C. Graves, Ian Redmond, and Misses Gladys Fontaine and Helen Langton. The chorus lacks neither quantity nor quality, and the augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Evelyn Baker.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Feb. 20,

"A TRIP TO CHINATOWN."

This company opened here on Monday, before a highly appreciative audience. *A Trip to Chinatown* is a musical comedy which is continuously amusing, and Mr. Norman's company presents to great advantage this pleasing work, with its numerous tuneful songs and pretty dances. The drollery of Mr. Charles Sequin's method lends itself readily to the part of Welland Strong. His by-play and facial expressions are alike very amusing, and without any apparent effort he has no difficulty in keeping his audience in constant laughter. His song, "Little Persuasion," and a clever step-dance are well received. Mr. Jerrold Manville, as Ben Say, keeps the fun going in the heartiest manner, and in the Café Riche scene, where he has his great opportunity—the hot brick episode—shows how much can be made of the part by refined and careful treatment. Mr. Leslie Norman successfully portrays Rashleigh Gay, and Mr. Oswald Grey is a careful and effective exponent of Saxon Blood. Mr. Will Smith, as Noah Heap, a waiter, is a constant source of amusement, with his excellent and telling impersonation. Mr. S. Champion, as Slavin Payne, and Mr. Ewart Drake, as Jones, of Chinatown, "hired for the occasion," give capital portrayals; the latter proves himself an expert dancer in the Chinese dance with Miss Daisy Revett, in the Bal Masque scene. The last-named artist, Miss Revett, as Flirt, gives a piquant, agile, and vivacious representation, singing and dancing with spirit. There is plenty of verve and dash in the portrayal of Mrs. Guyer, by Miss Kitty Marion, and with genuine fun added to her singing, she is decidedly successful. The Misses Florrie McInnes and Edith Maynard are all that can be desired as Tiny Gay and Isabel Dame; and Miss Errol undertakes the part of Willie Grow. Miss Vera Lake Grange (Tailie Warner), Miss Daisy Cotton (George Walker), Miss Maisy Stanley (Sue Long), and Miss Jeanne Luminieres (barmaid) complete a cast where every part is so well played, it seems almost invidious to single out one name more than another. In the last act Miss Kitty Marion and Mr. Chas. Sequin appear successfully in a scena, entitled *Tramps in Trampland*, and the Three Canadian Belles, a trio of lady dancers, disport themselves gracefully, and add to the evening's enjoyment. The staging and dressing are of high order, and the Marlborough orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Eric Landor, render an excellent performance of the musical score.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, the Play, entitled

"ZAZA."

Brixton playgoers have a rare dramatic treat this week, with a visit of Mrs. Lewis Waller and her company in a répertoire of her successful productions, including that much-discussed play, *Zaza*, Mrs. Lewis Waller plays the name-part with all her old vivacity and power, and holds the audience spellbound with her rendering of the gay but loving concert singer. Mr. Eric Mayne gives her excellent support, as Bernard Dufresne and his powerful impersonation receives its just reward at the hands of a crowded audience. Mr. Edgar Coyne gives a clever study of the Duc de Brisac; Mr. Edmund Waller does well as Cascart, Zaza's partner; and Mr. Fred Jacques is good as Joley, a stage-manager. Of the ladies, Miss Kate Kearney stands out for special mention as Rosa Bonne, Zaza's aunt; Miss Ethel Warwick commands attention in the character of Madame Dufresne, Bernard's wife; and Miss Maudie Ray is a winsome and intelligent Toto. All the minor parts are in good hands, and add to the success of the piece.

On Tuesday evening was produced the play of Russian life, entitled *Vilma*. Mrs. Lewis Waller was a complete success, and she was called three times after every act. In the character of Count Alexis Souvaroff, Mr. Eric Mayne again acquits himself with distinction, by the capable rendering of a difficult part. Mr. E. J. Coyne and Mr. E. Waller are well to the fore as Lieutenant Olitsky and Nicholas Boroff, brother officers of Alexis. Mr. Frederick Jacques is excellent as Souvaroff's faithful servant; and Peter Varansky has a good representative in Mr. H. Gomer May. A word of praise must be given to Miss Rosemary Rees for her capable rendering of the stately and dignified Countess Souvaroff; and Miss Ethel Warwick gives a good impersonation of the light-hearted Baroness Olga Boroff. Mr. H. Strickland is well placed as the Grand Duke Ivan; and Mr. J. Henessey is an excellent Colonel Mazoff. The remainder of the company all act well, and the scenery, dresses, and uniforms leave nothing to be desired.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 20, the Musical Comedy,

"SERGEANT BRUE."

Mr. Frank Curzon's company has been paying a visit here this week with the above-named musical comedy and the people of Woolwich have eagerly availed themselves of the opportunity of making the acquaintance of the gallant sergeant. Mr. Victor Widdicombe plays the title-rôle and there is not a dull moment while he is on the stage, the vagaries and adventures of the fortunate, but not too intelligent, police officer being followed with the keenest interest and amusement. Mr. T. A. Shale was excellently suited as Crookie Scrubbs, revealing the possession of a fund of dry humour, and a power of facial expression which made his imperosantion a most entertaining one. Mr. E. Percy Rogers gave a clever and clearly-defined rendering of Michael Brue, his song in the last act being one of the features of the performance; and an excellent and consistent character study of Mr. Crank, the magistrate, was submitted by Mr. Cecil Burt. Miss Constance Lait acted with point and vivacity as Aurora Brue, and made a hit with her song, "Under a Panama," in which valuable aid was rendered by several of the male members of the chorus. Miss Violet Dene played Lady Bickenhall with charming ease and naturalness, and made this aristocratic, but level-headed personage, as great a favourite with her audience as she was with the impressionable sergeant.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 20, the play, by John Rutherford, entitled

"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."

Western London appreciated to the full the first production at the King's on Monday evening of Mr. Rutherford's play, as performed by Mr. Martin Harvey and his talented company. The theatre has been packed with audiences thoroughly interested, and following with avidity the intensely dramatic situations so ingeniously contrived by the author, and so skilfully delineated by the various performers. The character of Lieutenant Raresby (the "Rat") is admirably played by Mr. Martin Harvey, the curtain having to be raised several times after each act. A powerful impersonation of Colonel the Hon. Clement Hungerford is given by Mr. Charles Glenney, the baseness of the character being well brought out. Mr. Charles J. Cameron sustains the part of Viscount Dorsington with much dignity and fervour, and as Colonel Sir Henry Curwen Mr. Albert E. Raynor makes an exceedingly favourable impression. Mr. Fred Wright, sen., enacts Colonel Bagshaw with much spirit, and Captain Stanhope fins a capable representative in Mr. Reeve Denbigh. Captain Rashleigh and Lieutenant Willoughby are well handled by Mr. A. Mansfield and Mr. Eugene Wellesley. Mr. Percy Anstey impersonates Cornet the Hon. Francis Tresham with considerable ability, earning just praise, and Cornet Kit Peyton is pleasantly acted by Mr. Arthur Maude. Much deserved applause is obtained by Mr. George Cooke for a vigorous rendering of Corporal Lumsford, while Mr. P. Hewland, as Corporal Saxton, and Mr. P. Alexander, as Will Lumsford, are successful. The part of the boy Batty, though small, is sympathetically undertaken by Miss N. de Silva, her acting raising the character into prominence. Miss Coleridge is a pleasing and graceful Hon. Margaret Hungerford. Mrs. Bagshaw is ably enacted by Miss Edith Coleman, and as Helena Pierrepoint Miss Bessie Eldee is vivacious. The scenery and costumes are exceedingly good. During the last half of the week *The Only Way* was performed, with Mr. Harvey repeating his wonderfully successful rôle of Sidney Carton.

WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Feb. 20, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, entitled

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."

Any play of Mr. Walter Melville's is always sure of a hearty welcome at Mr. William Bailey's popular playhouse, and Mr. Douglas Bruce had good reason to be proud of the hearty reception that his company received on the night of our visit. A masterly portrayal of Captain Geoffrey Caversham was given by Mr. Frank Adair, his every gesture and movement being a faithful replica of the military man about town. As the Rev. Robert Everton, Mr. Edwin J. Collins played with much sympathy and subdued force; whilst Mr. Wingold Lawrence, in the dual rôle of Jack England and Private Johnson, acted earnestly. Mr. Fraser Brunner acquitted himself well as Jas. Sutton, alias Fletcher, the forger, and Mr. G. Hammond Asquin, as Dick Punch, was versatile and amusing. In the title-rôle Miss Ada Marius rose to the character nobly, the frequent bursts of applause testifying to her success. Miss Ethel Bracewell was a most lovable Rose Seymour; Miss Daisy Maynard was completely successful as the bright and cheery dressmaker, Isabella Jones; and Miss Marie McAulay sustained the important part of Marian Franklyn with plenty of dash and go.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 20, the Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts, by Brandon Thomas, entitled

"CHARLEY'S AUNT."

The company this week at the Fulham is Mr. Brandon Thomas's principal one, in *Charley's Aunt*, with Mr. Brandon Thomas in the rôle of Sir Francis Chesney. The play is evidently as popular as ever, and produced on Monday roars of laughter from beginning to end. The undergraduate is a peculiar being, and his manners and customs require studying from nature. It is therefore much to the credit of Mr. Arthur Soames and Mr. R. B. Mason, who played the parts of Jack Chesney and Charley Wykeham, that they contrived to display the lounging manner and the studied "casualness" of the undergraduate. Mr. Soames is particularly entertaining when he assumes the air of the man of the world and bestows on his father some excellent advice on the art of dressing to advantage. Mr. Sydney Compton acted well as Brassett, the scout—another type peculiar to the 'Varsity—who never allows himself to be put out by the remarkable doings of his masters, and is equal to all emergencies. The part of Lord Fancourt Babberley, who is forced to assume at such painfully short notice the rôle of Charley's Aunt, is a difficult one, and on the rendering of it the success of the whole piece must largely turn. Mr. Stanley Cooke played it admirably, and his feminine airs and graces kept the house in fits of laughter: he was, indeed, "no ordinary woman." Mr. Simon Ord made the most of the part of the amorous Spettigue, whilst Mr. Brandon Thomas was, of course, delightful as Sir Francis. Of the ladies, Miss Lena MacNaughten was a stately and gracious Donna Lucia. The two young ladies, Spettigue's niece and ward, for whose benefit Charley's Aunt is produced as chaperon, were charmingly and naturally played by Miss Violet Cooper and Miss Geraldine Greville, and Miss Dorrie Roberts took the part of Ela Delahay, the *protégée* of Donna Lucia. *Charley's Aunt* was preceded by *Fourchette and Company*, by Brandon Thomas. In this, Mr. Henry Adnes evoked both laughter and sympathy as Prince Del Crillo, the luckless restaurateur. Miss Ruth Suffield and Mr. C. B. Keston complete the cast.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Feb. 20, the Drama, in Four Acts, by F. A. Scudamore, entitled

"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH."

Miss Frances Delaval's company in *The Biggest Scamp on Earth*, is this week paying a return visit to the Stratford Theatre Royal. Its sensational incidents and thrilling situations appealed very forcibly to those present on the opening night of the week, and applause was lavished with no unstinted hand. Mr. Percy Carne Waram as Derrick Knight, the villain, whose misdeeds give the title to the piece, plays with a cool candour and callousness, and with a subdued restraint, which suits the part admirably. Miss Francis Delaval continues to make Naomi Belvedere an exceedingly clever characterisation. Mr. Evan Roberts is an outspoken and manly Vivian Wakefield, and Mr. Hamilton Urquhart fulfils all requirements as Sir Aubrey Knight. Mr. William H. Burton plays appropriately as Napoleon Hawke, and Mr. L. W. Halfpenny and Mr. P. Stewart provide a fund of amusement in the comedy rôles of Rufus Liggins and Joe Piper respectively. Miss Louise Brandon plays with sympathy and charm as Irene May, and Miss Sybil Hammersley is a bright and engaging Molly Sterling. Miss Patty Groves does well as Mother Hawke, and Miss Doris Denman speaks her lines commendably as Little Bobby. Minor parts are in capable hands, and the piece is well mounted and dressed.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Feb. 20, the Musical Comedy, entitled

"SERGEANT BRUE."

This irrepressible "representative of the law" has "held up" Stratford this week, and the experience has been entirely agreeable. General submission has been the order nightly, and the piece will leave the Borough Theatre with pleasant recollections of its easy capture. And yet its success is well merited, for the subject is much more interesting than the flimsy story which usually does duty for a plot in musical comedy, and expense has apparently been a secondary consideration in the mounting and dressing. Mr. Frank Curzon's company is a well-balanced one, and the concerted numbers, as rendered by the well-trained chorus, are a prominent feature in the attractions of the production. Mr. George Barrett is exceedingly droll and amusing as Crookie Scrubbs. His make-up, voice, and gesture suit the part exactly, and he works unflaggingly, and though unable to do himself complete justice on Monday night, in his vocal contributions through the effects of a cold, he gained vociferous applause. Mr. Edward Kipling plays in just the right vein as Sergeant Brue, and his efforts met with great success. Mr. Charles Hanbury makes a buoyant and manly Michael Brue, and he sings in pleasing style. Mr. Campbell Bishop cleverly hits off the idiosyncrasies of the magistrate, Mr. Crank; Mr. Archie Croft is admirable as Matthew Habisham; and Mr. Paddy Duprez, besides undertaking the onerous duties of stage management, is a most effective Inspector Gorringe. Miss Hilda Antony looks sweetly pretty as Aurora Brue, and her rendering of "Under a Panama" and "In Lotus Land," affords keen enjoyment. Miss L. Zambray displays much vivacity as Daisy, and Mr. Thomas Holding, as Gerald Treherne, sings a love ditty quite capably. The important rôle of Lady Bickenhall is entrusted to Miss Scott Lestelle.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 20, the Musical Play,

"THE GIRL FROM KAY'S."

Dalstonians who patronise Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton's theatre near Dalston Junction are in ecstasies this week over the admirable entertainment provided in the musical play, *The Girl from Kay's*, as presented by the members of Mr. George Dance's chief company. The admirable singing and acting certainly comprise an entertainment which, as an antidote for the "blues," may be accepted as a safe specific. Miss Nancy Hervyn, in the title-rôle, delights everyone with her wonderful vivacity. As the forewoman of the girls from Kay's she is a sprightly leader, and the manner in which she engineers Hoggenheimer, the millionaire, is a lesson in tact. Miss Hervyn is encored again and again for the descriptive song, "The Customers at Kay's." Max Hoggenheimer, as represented by Mr. H. C. Barry, is a personage of intense drollery. Expert as he is at finance and company promoting, he is unable to accomplish anything that actually amuses the critical young lady from Kay's, who, however, is at last somewhat gratified by his proposal of marriage and the prospect of a big house in Park-lane. Miss Rita Leonhardt's representation of Norah Chalmers is a study in languishing gentility; and Mr. Cameron Carr, as Mr. Chalmers, and Miss Mabel Champion, as Mrs. Chalmers, are quite typical of a certain set of society people. Miss Grace Arundale, as Ellen, Miss Chalmers's maid, is an alert attendant, and her song, "Come along with me," takes as well as ever. Harry Gordon, whose earliest days of married life are rendered so unsettled by an accidental discovery that the girl from Kay's is one of his old flames, is admirably played by Mr. Garnet Wilson, whose contemplative song, "I don't care," is still a success. Mr. Leslie Roy Cathie causes a good deal of amusement by his eccentricities as the Hon. Percy Fitzthistle, and Mr. Samuel Lysons is quaint as Theodore Quench, K.C. Mr. Fred Rolph's interpretation of the part of Joseph, hall-porter at the Flacton Hotel, is still a study in its way, and it is a study of a kind of which people do not tire, for it is vastly amusing. Mr. Louis Du Cane, as page at the hotel, Mr. R. Corry, as waiter at the Savoy Restaurant, and Mr. Francis Rayne, as Archie Pembridge, are evidently well at home. In fact, the entire cast is admirably adapted for the characters represented.

THE BRITANNIA.

On Monday, Feb. 20, the Drama, in Four Acts, by E. Hill Mitchelson, entitled

"THE TRAITOR."

Probably the revival of this sensational Russian play has been suggested by recent startling events in the dominions of the Czar. The plot is largely concerned with the doings of a secret society, who at their gatherings sentence to death certain members of the aristocracy, and then proceed to draw lots to determine which of the conspirators is to execute the mandates of the Council. In the first act we learn that an old man, a general in the army, has been condemned to be shot on a charge of anarchism. This has been brought about by the Chief of Police, in revenge for the slight inflicted upon him by Zula, the General's daughter, who, to escape his unwelcome attentions, has become a nun. She has a brother named Nicholas, a youthful lieutenant in the army, who resolves to take summary vengeance for his father's death, which he attributes to the Crown Prince Rudolph. The latter has only just arrived at Zanda, and Nicholas hears that he will attend the execution riding a white horse. Prince Rudolph, under the assumed name of Colonel Nervi, makes the acquaintance of Zula and her brother, and gains a knowledge of the plot aimed against his life. He of course decides to absent himself when the execution of the general takes place, and Nicholas, who throws from the window of an hotel a bomb at the officer seated on a white horse, kills an innocent man. In the meantime, Rudolph falls in love with Zula, who has sworn to take the life of the Crown Prince at the first opportunity, and little thinks that the so-called Colonel Nervi is the man she is seeking. She persuades him to become a member of the Secret Society to which she and her brother belong, and he accompanies her to a meeting of the Council. He is made a member, and is branded with the society's sign—a dagger on the right arm. Then follows the drawing of lots, which we have already referred to, and the Prince finds himself sworn to compass his own death. There are other equally thrilling scenes, the interest of the story being well maintained until the end. The play is done justice to by the stock company. Mr. Maurice Hoffman is a manly and convincing representative of Prince Rudolph, otherwise known as Colonel Nervi. Mr. Charles A. East bears himself boldly as the treacherous Chief of the Police who gives the title to the piece, and plays with his usual success. Mr. Harold West makes good use of his opportunities in the part of Nicholas, and Mr. A. Holles is duly impressive as the Speaker of the Council. In the person of Miss Judith Kyrle, a former very popular member of the old stock company, returns to the Britannia; and on Monday night, when she made her first entrance in the character of the mysterious Countess Zicka, she received an extremely cordial welcome, the applause being as prolonged as it was hearty. Evidently Britanniaites do not quickly forget old favourites. Miss Kyrle, who must have been pleased with her reception, played the rôle of the passionate, unscrupulous woman extremely well. Miss Rose Ralph also scored as Zula, the heroine of the play. Mr. Willie Scott was well placed as Jack Boult, a sailor, whose sweetheart, Cen Cen, a little Japanese maiden, had a brisk exponent in Miss Marie Wright. Prominent also in the comedy scenes were Mr. Tom Wallace, as a fierce-looking general; Mr. Brian Daly, as Zox, Jack Boult's rival; Mr. Chas. Groves, as Captain Ross; and Miss Noel Neville, a pleasing Elise Duprez.

EALING THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 20, the Play, in Three Acts, by Robert N. Stevens and E. L. Swete, entitled

"MISS ELIZABETH'S PRISONER."

This successful play was presented at this theatre by Mr. Lewis Waller's excellent company, and was accorded an enthusiastic reception by crowded houses. The scenery and dresses could not have been improved upon, and the music, under the able directorship of Mr. A. E. Blythe, was fully up to the general excellence of the production. Mr. Norman Partriege has remarkable histrionic ability, portraying the devil-may-care Captain Harry Peyton in dashing style; Mr. Elliott Ball depicted the bullying Major John Colden in a capable manner; and Mr. J. Harold Carson, as Mr. Valentine, who had buried two wives, and was looking out for "No. 3," was very funny. Miss Leonora Braham was well suited in the character of Mistress Sarah Williams, and her natural charm and brightness were thoroughly admired by the audience. The Miss Elizabeth Philipse of Miss Essex Dane was a clever portrayal, being dignified, sweet, and fascinating, while the winsome Miss Marguerite Cellier, as Mollie Edwards, was all that could be desired. A word of praise is due to Mr. F. Cellier, jun., as Sergeant Carrington, which was business-like. Mr. F. Perry and Mr. Tom Taylor, as Cuff and Black Sam, deserve mention for capitally-played minor parts. The comedietta, *The Borrowed Uncle*, preceded, in which Mr. Arthur Somers, Mr. F. Cellier, Mr. J. H. Carson, and Miss M. Cellier took part.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 20, the Musical Play, entitled

"PEGGY MACHREE."

Mr. Charles B. Hamilton's talented company met with a cordial reception here on Monday, and the piece went with great smoothness throughout. In the title-rôle, Miss Marie Dainton won golden opinions by her really clever embodiment of the character, her acting, singing, and dancing being of a very high standard. This clever young lady contributed a great deal to the success of the production, her intelligent "grasp" of the requirements of the part being in evidence whenever she occupied the stage. Mr. Denis O'Sullivan, as Barry Trevor, soon established himself a great favourite with the audience, his acting and vocalisation being most praiseworthy. Miss Dorothy Garden did well as the Honourable Emily Prior. In the presentment of Madame de la Cour, Miss Jenny Dawson's stately presence and dignified manner stood out conspicuously. The foster-mother to Lady Margaret, Moira, as depicted by Miss Annie Brophy, was all that could be desired, and this experienced actress scored another triumph. as Molly MacMahon, Miss Dorothy merited eulogy. Miss Ida Lawrence appeared as Nell the Dancer, and secured high appreciation. As Sir Lawrence Borthwick, Mr. Erskine Lang displayed ability. Mr. Marc MacDermott was quite equal to the demands of the part of Captain de la Cour. Alexander McDougall (Major Domo at Castle O'Driscoll) afforded Mr. J. Græme Campbell many opportunities, and he did not miss any of them. The remainder of a lengthy cast appeared to advantage in their respective parts. The play was capitally mounted, and handsomely costumed. The music was admirably performed by an augmented orchestra, under the capable direction of Mr. Edward Jones, who is responsible for the general management of the company, assisted by Mr. Thomas Courtice (business manager) and Mr. Morris Harper (acting-manager).

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 20, the Drama, entitled

"A WRECKER OF MEN."

Mr. C. Watson Mill and company are appearing here in this successful melodrama, of which Mr. C. Watson Mill is the author. The play is well written and admirably acted, the author himself playing in vigorous and telling fashion the prominent part of the burglar, Jim Murley. Mr. J. W. Ryder, who appears as Zarnaphus and Ezekiel Isaacs, acts with power and artistic skill; his clever impersonation is of the greatest possible value to the general performance. Mr. Charles York is very good as Pharosaphus; Mr. George Harvey is impressive as Railton, the silent servant; Mr. Percy Horton does exceedingly well as Guise Strange; Mr. Frank Oliver is exactly suited to the character of the Hon. Reggie Verincourt, and makes the most of his opportunities; Mr. Gilson Brook, as Eric Melville, plays in a manly and earnest style that is very effective; Mr. Henry Elton is a capital Detective Bransmere; Messrs. J. H. Lear (Ishma), Jack Walker (Bob Birchell), Arthur Martin (Morton), and Harold B. Meeres (Loman), are good in their respective parts. Miss Rosalind Yates scores heavily as Risca Mallison; Miss Victoria May is an interesting Doris Melville; and Miss Grace Garside must be congratulated on a clever and consistent rendering of Vavasole Slopper. The drama is well staged, and has met with general approbation.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, Feb. 20,

"THE MAY QUEEN" & "THE WATERMAN."

The second week of the opera season at the Standard was opened on Monday with a performance of the above two operas. Evidently something great in the way of fine singing was expected, for, in spite of the heavy rain, the house was crowded with a large and enthusiastic audience, which showed its appreciation of the good work done in a manner which was not to be mistaken. The *May Queen* received careful treatment in the hands of Mr. Turner's company, and met with a good reception. As the lover, Mr. F. J. Hargrave was artistic and real, and sang his music with every sign of ability. Mr. Tom Griffiths supplied a fine rendering as the captain of the foresters, singing his various numbers with taste and skill. Miss Beatrice Hill was all that could be desired as the Queen of England, and Miss Ethel Locker looked pretty and sang with good effect as the Queen of the May. *The Waterman* was the concluding item on the programme, and the interpretation it received is worthy of warm praise. Mr. J. W. Turner undertook the rôle of Tom Tug, and accomplished his task with great credit. The excellence of his singing is so well known that it need hardly be said that he thoroughly deserved the applause he received for the fine renderings he gave of "The Jolly Young Waterman," "Tom Bowling," and "The Death of Nelson." Admirable work was done by Mr. John Ridding, as Bundle, and his singing of "Drinking" and "Simon the Cellarer" earned for him the hearty appreciation of the audience. Mr. Chas. Le Sueur was a droll and accomplished Robin. As Mrs. Bundle Miss Maud Esdale supplied a fine picture of the fiery old lady, and raised many a hearty laugh by her tyrannical conduct towards her husband. Miss Jessie Dennis charmingly portrayed Wilhelmina, and used her fine voice with taste in "Cherry Ripe" and "Wapping Old Stairs." The chorus played a conspicuous part in both of these operas, and with the augmented orchestra rendered admirable service, under the bâton of Mr. J. Lawton.

THE ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The fourteenth annual general meeting of the Actors' Association was held on Thursday afternoon at the Garrick Theatre. Mr. Arthur Bourchier presided, and there was a good attendance of prominent theatrical folk, including the following:—Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Lionel Brough, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. C. Hayden Coffin, Mr. Brandon Thomas, Mr. Acton Bond, Mr. Sydney Brough, Mr. Alfred Brydone, Mr. E. Story-Gofton, Mr. A. E. Drinkwater, Mr. Frederic Topham, Mr. Douglas Vigors, Mr. Holmes Gore, Mr. Wm. Devereux, Mr. M. R. Morand, Mr. Horton Cooper, Mr. Henry Doughty, Mr. W. A. Staveley, Mr. Harry A. Gribben, Mr. Caleb Porter, Mr. Burton Cooke, Mr. Henry Warburton, Mr. John H. Mote, Mr. H. A. Cole, Mr. Ernest A. B. Woodrow, and Mr. Charles Cruikshanks, the secretary to the Association, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Miss Carlotta Addison, Miss Beatrice Lamb, Miss Elisabeth Kirby, Miss Marianne Caldwell, Miss Blanche de Lorme, Miss Florence Lynn, and Miss Minnie Turner. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Miss Ellen Terry, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, Mr. Charles Warner, Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. F. R. Benson, Mr. Frederick Harrison, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. H. V. Esmond, Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. Frederick Mouillot and Mr. W. Lestocq.

The Report and Balance-sheet for the year ending December 31, 1904, were submitted as follows:—

In presenting the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Actors' Association, the Council draw particular attention to the satisfactory financial position as shown in the annexed Accounts. It will be seen that the amount received in entrance fees and subscriptions was: In 1902, £835 5s.; in 1903, £879 10s.; in 1904, £1,162 12s. 6d. During the past year a "Finance and General Purposes Committee" has been formed, which is the outcome of the "Committee of Inquiry."

The Council report with satisfaction that, in accordance with the plainly expressed wish of the Members at the last General Meeting, the salaries of the Staff have been revised and very considerable economies in the office expenses effected. In this connection they desire to congratulate the Members on retaining the services of Mr. Charles Cruikshanks as Secretary, whose loyalty to the interests of the Association has prompted him to devote all his energies to the Association's affairs, at the same time agreeing to a substantial reduction in the remuneration he receives.

It is satisfactory to note that the fees of the Agency Department have considerably increased during the year. They were: In 1902, £70 11s. 8d.; in 1903, £78 12s. 6d.; in 1904, £116 16s. 6d. These figures show an annual increase in the receipts, at the same time demonstrating that the Association is constantly obtaining an increasing number of engagements for its Members.

During the year the list of Honorary Medical Officers has again been considerably increased, and the thanks of all the Members are due to these gentlemen who so kindly and generously placed their services at the disposal of the Association, the value of those services being incalculable.

The attention of Members is drawn to the continued success of the "Year Book," and they are advised to provide themselves with a copy for 1905, as it contains the new appointments of the Medical Staff, and also a list of Theatrical Lodgings up to date, many of which, for the first time, are recommended by Members themselves; also many recent legal decisions of vital interest to the Actor.

During the year 1904 the Honorary Solicitors have rendered valuable services to the Members of the Association by advising them on points submitted and in prosecuting claims on their behalf, and the best thanks are due to them and the Honorary Standing Counsel for their unremitting attention.

The Council are glad to inform the Members that the Joint Arbitration Board between the Touring Managers' Association and the Actors' Association decided several cases this year, thus saving a needless expense at law.

An improvement of £85 17s. 8d. between this year's and last year's Balance-sheets has been achieved without a Matinée, or Legacies, or Life Members' subscriptions, and is the absolute result of the working of the Association. The Excess of Liabilities over Assets in 1902 amounted to £834 10s. 8d.; The Excess of Assets over Liabilities in 1903 amounted to £265 10s. 3d. The Excess of Assets over Liabilities in 1904 amounted to £352 7s. 11d. The Association has thus improved the state of its Accounts to the extent of £1,195 18s. 7d. during the last two years. Several cases of insanitation in Provincial Theatres were successfully dealt with during the year. It is with sincere regret the Council record the loss by death of Mr. Wilson Barrett, one of the Vice-Presidents, a good friend to the Association.

ACTON BOND,
(Acting) Chairman.

Jan. 24, 1905.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS.
JAN. 1 TO DEC. 31, 1904.

Dr.	Receipts.			
To Balance, Jan. 1, 1904, viz.:—				
At Bankers on Current Account	£56	9	0	
At Bankers on Deposit Account	500	0	0	
In Secretary's hands	32	18	4	
In Agency Clerk's hands	1	15	0	
Petty Cash	0	5	2	
				£591 7 6
,, Members' Subscriptions				1,093 10 0
,, Do. Do., half-year				25 17 6
,, Arrears of Subscriptions				12 10 0
,, Entrance Fees				43 5 0
,, Donations				1 4 7
,, Fees on Reinstatements				3 17 6
,, Agency Fees				116 16 6
,, Solicitors' Fees returned				1 6 6
,, Sustentation Fund				29 9 0
,, Sale of Programmes of Matinée				0 3 1
,, Bulletin Advertisements				2 14 6
,, Stationery, paid by Members				1 15 0
,, Tradesmen's Advertisements in "Lodgings," 1904	£10	2	6	
,, Sale of "Lodgings" Book, 1904	5	7	3	
,, Landladies' Advertisements in "Lodgings," 1904	6	4	0	
,, Do. do. 1905	27	0	0	
				48 13 9
,, Arbitration, Daly *v.* Coote				59 8 0
,, Money returned, advanced to support Appeal				52 10 0
,, Interest on Investments				8 8 0
,, Interest on Deposit				8 3 11
,, Suspense Account				4 3 0
				£2,106 3 4

Cr.	Payments.			
By Rent of Office	£302	13	0	
,, Salaries	701	0	4	
,, Lighting and Firing	24	5	11	
,, Telephone Rent	18	10	0	
,, Registration of Telegraphic Address	1	1	6	
,, Printing	169	17	8	
,, Notepaper and Envelopes	51	7	6	
,, Newspapers	24	15	11	
,, Bank Charges	0	8	11	
,, Messenger Call Subscription	1	1	0	
,, Kelly's Directories	1	12	6	
,, Taxes	96	16	2	
,, Water Rate	8	14	0	
,, Insurances	7	14	6	
,, Advertisements	35	1	3	
,, Solicitors' Fees	53	16	3	
,, Miscellaneous	9	6	6	
,, Petty Cash (Postages and Telegrams, &c.)	73	2	2	
,, Housekeeper's Sundries	12	15	6	
,, Architect's Fees	2	2	0	
,, Furniture	21	17	6	
,, Arbitration, Daly *v.* Coote	59	8	0	
				£1,687 7 7
,, Redemption of Debentures	25	0	0	
,, Interest on Debentures	26	12	6	
,, Investment, 2½ per cent. Consols	73	10	0	
,, Alterations and Repairs at No. 10, King-street	54	13	0	
				179 15 6
,, BALANCE, viz:—				
At Bankers on Current Account	10	17	3	
At Bankers on Deposit Account	200	0	0	
In Secretary's hands	27	0	0	
Petty Cash	0	3	0	
				238 0 3
				£2,106 3 4

BALANCE-SHEET.
DEC. 31, 1904.

LIABILITIES.

Dr.				
To Secretary's Salary			£50	0 0
,, Electric Lighting			15	17 11
,, Gas			0	18 8
,, Water			2	3 6
,, Rates			0	10 7
,, Repairs			1	18 9
,, Landladies' Advertisements in Year Book, 1905, and Copies of Book			27	0 0
,, Interest accrued on Debentures			5	18 9
,, Debentures issued—172 at £5 each, bearing Interest at 5 per cent.	£860	0 0		
Less 72 Debentures redeemed and cancelled	360	0 0		
			500	0 0
,, Excess of Assets over Liabilities			352	7 11
			£956	16 1

ASSETS.

Cr.				
By Cash, viz.:—				
At Bankers on Current Account	£10	17	3	
Do. on Deposit Account	200	0	0	
In Secretary's hands	27	0	0	
Petty Cash	0	3	0	
			£238	0 3
,, Sundry Debtors—				
Trade Advertisements in Year Book, 1905	7	17	6	
Agency Fees £27 8s. 6d., estimated to realise	6	17	2	
Subscriptions due from Members abroad £91, estimated to realise	25	0	0	
Rates and Taxes paid in advance	26	6	9	
Telephone Rent do.	3	17	0	
Insurance do.	3	8	0	
			73	16 5
,, Furniture—				
As per Account 1903	315	7	3	
Add Additions during year	21	17	6	
	337	4	9	
Less Depreciation, at 5 per cent.	15	15	4	
			321	9 5
,, Investments—				
£258 0s. 2d. India 3 per cent. Stock, at cost	250	0	0	
2¾ per cent. Consols, at cost	73	10	0	
			323	10 0
			£956	16 1

We have examined the foregoing Statements and compared them with the books and vouchers of the Association. We certify that all our requirements as Auditors have been complied with, and we report to the Members that the Cash Account correctly shows the Receipts and Payments for the year, and the Balance-sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Association's affairs on the 31st December, 1904, as shown by the Books of the Association.

WESTCOTT, MASKALL & CO.,
Chartered Accountants, *Auditors.*
99, Gresham-street, E.C. London, Jan. 19, 1905.

After the SECRETARY had read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN, rising to move the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—When the Council gave me the pleasure of welcoming you here, and honoured me with the post of Chairman at this meeting, it struck me as a splendid opportunity to steal a march on my brother managers, and give the general public a chance of booking their places in the pit and gallery. My schemes, however, were swiftly nipped in the bud by the fact that, in deference to the wish generally expressed at recent meetings, it had been decided in future only to admit members of our profession and their auxiliary forces. My pit and gallery are therefore *closed for this occasion only*, and we thus meet together in true Masonic fashion, as brothers and sisters of an Association whose aims are ever to further the interests of the British drama, and, incidentally, their own. In moving that the annual report and accounts be taken as read, adopted, and entered on the minutes, my lines have fallen in very pleasant places. A better proof of the satisfactory state of the British stage in *general* could not be furnished than by the prosperous condition of its Actors' Association in *particular*. I believe I am not betraying State secrets when I say that only three years ago the Council were loth to dun members whose subscriptions were often two years in arrear for fear of a revolution; and that there would be no Association left. If things go on prospering like this, our Association will become one of the most difficult clubs to get into, and the vexation of being black-balled for it will be as great as at "The Travellers" or "The Turf." Let us then go on as we are going, and we shall be right. This year, without the aid of a pubic matinée or legacies or life members' subscriptions, the absolute result of the working of the Association shows a marked improvement between this and last year's balance-sheet, and many a member has had occasion to bless the powerful auxiliary aid of our lawyers and doctors, without whose gratuitous assistance some of them would have been seriously retarded in, if not compelled to abandon, their profession. Indeed, the array of honorary medical officers that confront us on this report is a far larger one than even Kings and Emperors are wont to have retained at their various Courts. But as there is always a little cloud to be found in the brightest sky, so one paragraph of this year's highly satisfactory report causes a feeling of sadness and regret, as it announces that one of our staunchest friends and supporters has passed away. We can ill-afford to lose such a man as Wilson Barrett. He lived *in* his work, *by* his work, and *for* his work, and his life's work leaves a memory and an example which is an honour to his country. He was ever ready to help the members of our profession in their hour of need, from the highest to the lowliest. Only recently, when this Association was in temporary difficulties, he offered them a generous donation, provided that no matinée was organised on its behalf; but, despite the fact of the splendid result of a matinée of *The Merchant of Venice*, at Drury Lane, with a picked cast, headed by our beloved President, Sir Henry Irving, Wilson Barrett still gave his donation to swell the receipts. We hear much nowadays from people who know a *little*—and we hear more from people who know nothing of the stage—as to the degraded state of the drama, and I may perhaps venture to express a hope that ere long the Actors' Association will be able to open a common-sense bureau for the correction of all busy-bodies, ignoramuses, pessimists, and disappointed authors, who employ their spare time (and they seem to have a lot of it) in throwing mud at our calling. I am sure Mr. Cruikshanks will be more than equal to the task! It is a remarkable thing how the stage seems nowadays to have the privilege of sharing with the War Office the position of being a colossal Aunt Sally, at whom any kind of missile may be thrown regardless of truth, or even commonsense. Of course we have it in our power to retaliate by holding the mirror up to Nature, and when we do hit back, we do so very severely. A clergyman of the Church of England wrote to me recently, pointing out that if *I* preached a sermon it was more likely to be effective and far-reaching than if *he* did so, as my houses would be larger, but he added, "Take care lest you *empty* your houses by being too severe, as I once emptied mine, and I have had great difficulty in getting my audience to come back!" There is, however, comfort in the reflection that the stage *has* the advantage of instructing as well as entertaining. The very proper restriction of the Censor of Plays occasionally makes one feel keenly the helplessness of our position in not being able to retaliate. As, for example, when two mountebanks, anxious to draw large houses to a building generally accustomed to sweeter sounds, are allowed to fulminate against and hurl mud at our profession by way of advertising *their own*. In this connection, however, their sense of humour, or the lack of it, has gone a little too far, and I have been handed a letter from one of their advance agents, which runs:—"Dear Sir,—May I ask whether you would be so kind as to put up this notice of the mission which is about to be held in London. In this case, all your ladies and gentlemen of the stage will be able to see when it is to take place. I venture to enclose also a few *notices*, which I think some may be glad to have.—Yours, &c." This looks as though their device had not proved as successful as they wished, and that they hoped to convert us—into paper! If the British stage can reckon on a host of friends and allies, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that it is beset by one very formidable enemy—I allude to the middleman. As in many another profession and art, he is little less than a Juggernaut in the dangers he creates. He treats the theatre as a bucket-shop; he cares nothing for the welfare of the drama—in many cases he despises it. He raises the rents of the theatres which he leases, only to let them at more than their real value, and so cripples, or at any rate handicaps, their success as a steady-going all-the-year-round concern. How can managers pay their leading actors and actresses over £100 a week, or give authors more than half the gross receipts, if the middleman puts up the rents of theatres to £12,000 a year, plus half the profits of the plays produced? But, seriously, ladies and gentlemen, the middleman is a peril. I have the honour of moving that the annual report and accounts be taken as read, adopted, and entered on the minutes.

After a couple of questions had been asked,

Miss MINNIE TURNER seconded the proposition, and the annual report and accounts were unanimously adopted by the meeting.

The SECRETARY then read the names of those nominated for the fourteen vacant seats on the Council, and there being a greater number of candidates than there were vacancies to be filled, voting papers were issued. These were filled in and signed by those present who were eligible to vote, and after four scrutineers had examined the papers, the CHAIRMAN announced the results as follows:—

C. Aubrey Smith (98 votes), W. Graham Browne (81 votes), Holbrook Blinn (76 votes), Frederick Volpé (73 votes), Norman McKinnel (72 votes), Kate Bishop (70 votes), A. Holmes-Gore (67 votes), Clarence Blakiston (66 votes), A. E. Drinkwater (65 votes), Maud Milton (64 votes), Alfred Kendrick (59 votes), Thalberg Corbett (52 votes), J. Cooke Beresford (49 votes), Elisabeth Kirby (43 votes). The following were the unsuccessful candidates:—Frederick Annerley (39 votes), Will Dennis (32 votes), Chris. Walker (27 votes), Arthur E. Maskell (23 votes), B. Soane-Roby (23 votes).

THE CHAIRMAN—

Ladies and gentlemen,—I have been requested to move that the Council recommend to the annual general meeting that a committee be appointed to report to the Council on the scheme suggested for the establishment of a repertory theatre; whether such a theatre is desirable, and, if so, what are the best steps to take to achieve this object. Before calling upon Mr. Hayden Coffin to speak on this subject, I will ask your forbearance, while I make a few comments of my own. So important a question, coming from so representative a body as the Council of the Actors' Association, clearly points to the fact that by the words *repertory* theatre a *national* theatre on the lines of the Theatre Français is aimed at. A national theatre where the petty cares of the box office find no echo in the anxious breast of the management; a theatre where the best plays, both ancient and modern, can find an abiding home—in short, a theatre on a par with, if not superior to, those of other nations. The State supports music and painting. Why should acting be left out in the cold? As in the fiscal problem, the parrot will probably shriek to the ratepayer, "Take care; your plays will cost you more!" It is clear, therefore, that the obstacles towards enlisting the pecuniary support of the State are many and difficult. In my humble opinion, it would be necessary that such a theatre should be started from *within*, so as to convince those from *without* that it was worthy of being supported by the State. To arrive at this goal, I feel convinced that there are three vital landmarks to be borne in mind:—(1) The most solid financial basis; (2) that the initial construction, management, and opening series of performances should be thoroughly representative; (3) that the scheme should embrace the leading provincial centres. During the last few weeks, in a newspaper correspondence on this subject, it has been justly argued that the London stage is in itself a repertory theatre! Unless, therefore, a theatre is started on the lines which I have suggested, it seems difficult to improve on the many theatres whose varied performances go to make up the London repertory theatre. That the old stock company days can never be improved upon as a training-ground for members of our profession, I for one, am thoroughly convinced, and that is why I urge that the provinces should not be left out of any scheme for a national theatre. *A propos* of the present long runs and touring company system, the following little story was told me last week. Scene: A manager's room, while the manager is interviewing an actor. Manager: "How long have you been on the stage?" Actor: "Fifteen years." Manager: "Had any experience?" As this subject admits of interminable discussion, I know you will forgive me for intimating that, as I am in duty bound to Mr. Sutro not to interrupt the run of *The Walls of Jericho*, when it is time to set the scene for the first act, I shall be compelled to move the closure. I now call upon Mr. Hayden Coffin.

MR. C. HAYDEN COFFIN—Ladies and gentlemen.—The wind has been taken completely out of my sails by Mr. Bourchier speaking before I was called upon to do so. There is only one point which I think Mr. Bourchier has left. He says that the repertory theatre ought to come from within. A great deal has recently been talked about the repertory theatre in the papers, but it did not seem to come from any special theatrical head. For the moment we would ask you to do no more than appoint a committee, as the Council recommend. That recommendation reads thus:—"That the Council recommend to the annual general meeting that a committee be appointed to report to the Council on the scheme suggested for the establishment of a repertory theatre; whether such a theatre is desirable; and, if so, what are the best steps to take to achieve this object."

I would like, before going further, to change the words "repertory theatre" to "English theatre." For the present, however, I will ask you not to discuss the theatre, but simply the election of the committee.

MR. BRANDON THOMAS—It has been suggested that we should be the first to start a repertory theatre. Do not let the slur be cast upon this Association that it opposed the scheme in the first instance. However futile our efforts may be, anything that tends to raise the status of the profession is worthy of our support. We ought to be the first to propose it.

MR. HOLMES GORE said he strongly opposed the Association taking such a step as to arrogate to itself the initiative of acting in such a matter. He questioned whether there was an audience for a repertory theatre, and he also questioned whether it would pay. He moved that the motion, as it stood, be adjourned *sine die*.

MR. DEVEREUX seconded the amendment.

After further discussion,

THE CHAIRMAN put the amendment to the meeting, but it was lost on a show of hands.

MR. HOLMES GORE proposed a further amendment that the matter be referred to the Council, which was seconded by MR. FREDERIC TOPHAM. The amendment, on being put to the meeting, was declared lost.

MR. BRANDON THOMAS then submitted the original proposition, with one or two slight alterations, as follows:—"That a committee of five, with power to add to their number, be appointed by the Council of the Actors' Association to report to that Council on the scheme suggested for the establishment of a National Theatre, whether such a theatre is desirable, and, if so, what are the best steps to take to achieve this object."

MR. HAYDEN COFFIN seconded, and the proposition was carried.

THE CHAIRMAN announced that Miss Vera Leslie, who had arranged to lay before the meeting a general scheme in connection with the Actors' Association and various theatrical funds, was unfortunately ill, and Mr. Henry Doughty would place her ideas before them.

MR. HENRY DOUGHTY then read Miss Leslie's scheme to the meeting.

MR. HORTON COOPER proposed, and Mr. DOUGLAS VIGORS seconded, a vote of thanks to the members of the Council for their services during the past year.

MR. H. B. IRVING, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said: I thank you on behalf of the Council very sincerely for your vote of thanks, and recognising their labours in the past. I am sure we are all very grateful for what you are always giving us to do—in the shape of work—and we look forward to a busy and a prosperous year.

THE CHAIRMAN moved, and the meeting confirmed, the re-election of the president and vice-presidents, their names being called out as follow:—President, Sir Henry Irving; vice-presidents, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. F. R. Benson, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Lionel Brough, Mr. John Hare, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. Edward Terry, Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, and Sir Charles Wyndham.

Continuing, the Chairman said: Although my duty was so pleasant, there is, as we all know, just a slight tinge of regret when Sir Henry Irving's name is mentioned in this connection. We all regret the fact that he has decided, within a brief space—far too brief for the sake of the public—to retire from acting. I am sure we all trust that he will never retire while he has breath in his body from being our president. We are also deeply grieved to hear of his present indisposition. A telegram has just been received, stating that Sir Henry Irving has been obliged to cancel his date at Hanley this week, but hopes to be able to appear at Sheffield on Monday. With your sanction, I beg to move that the Actors' Association ask Mr. Cruikshanks to send off a telegram to our beloved president, as follows:—"The members of the Actors' Association assembled at the Garrick Theatre, at the fourteenth annual general meeting, send hearty greetings to their president, and fervent wishes for his speedy restoration to health."

Mr. Henry Warburton was re-elected as the standing counsel of the Association, and Messrs. John H. Mote and Son as the honorary solicitors, and votes of thanks were tendered to them, on the proposition of Mr. AUBREY SMITH, for services rendered during the past year.

MR. WARBURTON, in acknowledging the compliment, congratulated the Association on the small amount of litigation during 1904, and referred to the growing desire on the part of actors and managers to settle their disputes by arbitration.

MR. HENRY W. MOTE also suitably responded.

MR. FREDERIC TOPHAM proposed, and Miss CARLOTTA ADDISON seconded, the re-election of the honorary staff of physicians, surgeons, and doctors; the re-election of Dr. A. E. Harris as the hon. medical officer of health; of Messrs. Westcott, Maskall and Co. as the hon. auditors, and of Mr. Ernest A. E. Woodrow as the hon. consulting architect, to all of whom votes of thanks were tendered. MR. H. A. COLE responded for the honorary auditors.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Arthur Bourchier for the use of the theatre, and for his kindness in presiding at the meeting.

MR. LIONEL BROUGH, in seconding, complimented Mr. Bourchier on the clever and genial way in which he had fulfilled the office of chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN, in reply, paid a high compliment to Mr. Charles Cruikshanks for the able manner in which he performed the duties of secretary, and without whose valuable assistance his position as chairman would have been rendered extremely difficult.

PERCY ELLIS FUND.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I trust the appeal you are so kindly making on behalf of Mr. Percy Ellis will meet with a generous response, for his case is a very sad one. In existing circumstances, his recovery seems helpless, but it is the opinion of Dr. Wildman E. Baker, who has attended Mr. Ellis during his illness, that a voyage to, and a stay of a few months, in South Africa, may be the means of restoring him to health. Mr. A. F. Henderson and I have endeavoured to assist him as far as possible; but, in order to carry out Dr. Baker's advice, it has been necessary to appeal to the generous sympathies of the profession at large. Were Mr. Ellis better known, I am sure that the question of "ways and means" would soon be solved. Unfortunately, his theatrical career has been a comparatively short one; but during the two or three years he occupied the position of my business manager, he won the regard and esteem of all with whom he came in contact, and Mr. Henderson can speak with as much assurance as I can of his sterling worth and strict integrity. It is pitiful to think that unless the necessary money can be found, his one chance of recovery should be lost, and knowing how large-hearted and helpful your readers are, I feel sure that the emergency of his case need only be realised to ensure the sum necessary to cover the expenses of his proposed trip. Yours faithfully,

FREDERIC ARTHUR STANLEY.

47, Albemarle-street, W., Feb. 22.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Dorothy Marsdin—Saturday, Feb. 25.
W. V. Garrod—Saturday, Feb. 25.
Florence Rivière—Saturday, Feb. 25.
James Stillwell—Saturday, Feb. 25.
Grace Warner—Sunday, Feb. 26.
J. H. Barnes—Sunday, Feb. 26.
Ellen Terry—Monday, Feb. 27.
Master Roy Lorraine—Monday, Feb. 27.
Henry P. Kennedy—Tuesday, Feb. 28.
Laura Hansen—Tuesday, Feb. 28.
Sybil Hammersley—Tuesday, Feb. 28.
Winifred Fraser—Tuesday, Feb. 28.
John F. Preston—Tuesday, Feb. 28.
Harry Nicholls—Wednesday, March 1.
Rachel Lowe—Wednesday, March 1.
Sid Bandon—Wednesday, March 1.
John Sargent—Wednesday, March 1.
Nannie Meade—Friday, March 3.
Victor Selbini—Sunday, Feb. 26.
Tom Shaw—Sunday, Feb. 26.
Teddy Mosedale—Sunday, Feb. 26.
Alf. Abrahams—Monday, Feb. 27.
E. V. Page—Tuesday, Feb. 28.
Marie Blythe—Tuesday, Feb. 28.
Stylo—Tuesday, Feb. 28.
Ernest Spanzar—Tuesday, Feb. 28.
Albert Christian—Thursday, Feb. 29.
Ernest Korrie—Tuesday, Feb. 28.

A SAD CASE.

MR. PERCY ELLIS.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I have to thank you most sincerely for the paragraphs you were good enough to insert in your last week's issue anent Mr. Percy Ellis. May I still further encroach on your kindness, and ask you to make an appeal on his behalf?

Mr. Ellis's connection with the profession fully entitles him to assistance from its members, who are ever ready to help in a case of absolute necessity such as this is. I would remind you that Mr. Ellis is suffering from rapid consumption, very little hopes are held out that he will ever recover, and his condition is aggravated by great pecuniary embarrassment. Bad as his condition is, it is the wish of some of his personal friends that further medical opinions should be obtained, in order to ascertain whether a voyage to South Africa would, at any rate, prolong his life. In any event, subscribers to this fund may be sure that every shilling is urgently needed, and that Mr. Ellis will be most grateful for the assistance.

A few personal applications I have made have resulted in the following donations being sent:—

	£	s.	d.
E. W. Hemingway	2	2	0
Topical Times	2	2	0
George Ashton	2	0	0
H. M. Ross	2	0	0
H. J. S. Booth	1	1	0
Miss Carlotta Zerbini	1	1	0
"In Memoriam"	1	1	0
Charles Carey	1	1	0
Henry Squire and Co.	1	1	0
T. Harris	1	1	0
Peter Davey	0	10	6
F. Stevens	0	10	6
J. J. Calder	0	10	6
J. Moy	0	10	6
District Messengers	0	10	6

Yours faithfully,
A. F. HENDERSON,
General Manager for Sir Charles Wyndham.
New Theatre, Feb. 14.

In a letter which we have received from Mr. A. F. Henderson, general-manager for Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Henderson requests us to open our columns to an appeal on behalf of Mr. Percy Ellis, the late assistant-manager of the New Theatre, St. Martin's-lane, and, after having enquired into Mr. Ellis's circumstances, and having assured ourselves that his is a genuine case of distress, we have much pleasure in acceding to Mr. Henderson's charitable wishes.

Mr. Ellis is in an advanced stage of consumption, and, having been unable to follow any employment for nearly twelve months, his finances are completely exhausted, and he is, as Mr. Henderson points out, in actual want. Mr. Ellis's career is rather interesting. His first connection with the dramatic profession was in 1900, when he was offered the position of acting-manager at Wyndham's Theatre for Mr. Frederic A. Stanley's season of *Little Lord Fauntleroy*. Mr. Ellis's business capabilities and his honesty of character and purpose were quickly recognised, and he became the

MR. PERCY ELLIS.

acting-manager during Mr. Martin Harvey's season at the Avenue, as well as for the run of *The Little French Milliner* at the same playhouse. Later he was seen in a similar capacity at the Shaftesbury and Terry's Theatres. His association with the Strand house was co-incidental with the production of Mrs. Francis Hodgson Burnett's play, *A Little Un-Fairy Princess*. When this piece was withdrawn from Terry's Mr. Ellis was secured by Mr. A. F. Henderson as acting-manager at Sir Charles Wyndham's New Theatre in St. Martin's-lane, then about to be opened, and he remained there during Mr. Forbes Robertson's season of *The Light That Failed*, and Mrs. Patrick Campbell's seasons with *The Joy of Living* and *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*, as well as during a run of Mr. John Donald's Christmas fairy play, *Alice in Wonderland*.

Least of all men does Mr. Ellis deserve to be so sorely stricken by the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune." For seven years he was the sole support of a widowed mother and a young sister. In the direction of charity and self-sacrifice Mr. Ellis has a fine record for so young a man. One of the saddest features of a sad case is that his marriage, which had been arranged to take place towards the end of 1903, was postponed owing to his having, in the October of that year, contracted double pneumonia, which was followed by pleurisy, from the effects of which he has never fully recovered. He was well enough to return to the New Theatre for Mr. Donald's season with *Alice in Wonderland*, shortly after the conclusion of which he was compelled to keep to his house. For a time he was an out-patient at the Brompton Consumption Hospital; but the medical officers of that institution expressed themselves unable to find him accommodation as an in-patient on account of the fact that he was in too advanced a stage of the terrible malady to permit of any improvement being effected in the hospital itself. Latterly Mr. Ellis has been under medical treatment at his own home, for he is too weak to walk more than a few yards. His doctor does not believe his case absolutely hopeless. We appeal to the generous hearts of members of the profession for funds to enable Mr. Henderson and Mr. Frederic A. Stanley, who is also interesting himself in the matter, to carry out their kindly intentions of sending Mr. Ellis to South Africa, or to some other country where the atmospheric conditions are less exacting than those of this country. In consequence of Mr. Ellis's sad condition, whatever is done must be done with the least possible delay.

All subscriptions for the above deserving appeal will be duly acknowledged in these columns. They may be forwarded to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, Hon. Treasurer to the Fund, care of *The Era* office, or direct to Mr. A. F. Henderson, New Theatre, St. Martin's-lane.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Henry Irving's farewell visit to the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, created great enthusiasm, and arrangements were made for the presentation to him of a scroll engrossed on vellum, illuminated with the borough arms, and enclosed in a silver casket. This was to have been handed to him on Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall. There was a large assembly; but, after some delay, the Mayor announced that Sir Henry Irving was unable to attend owing to illness, and that a date in April would be fixed to suit his convenience, when he could revisit the town for the purpose of receiving the gift which had been subscribed for by the members of the town Council and citizens.

Sir Henry's indisposition was the result of a chill contracted on Sunday in the course of the railway journey from Bath to Wolverhampton; and when the celebrated actor reached his hotel on Monday night after his performance at the theatre he was seized with a sudden indisposition, which affected him so much that he nearly fell in the vestibule, and had to be assisted to his suite of apartments. On the following morning he was still unwell; but he took part in Tuesday's performance of *Becket* at the Grand Theatre. The play was received with marked enthusiasm; and Sir Henry came in for an ovation. Although evidently suffering from the effects of his cold, he gave a fine performance of the leading part, and made a telling speech at the close, doing the same at the conclusion of the production of *The Merchant of Venice* on Wednesday night.

At the conclusion the applause was loud and long; and Sir Henry returned to the stage, and said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is my privilege to thank you. It is impossible for me to thank you adequately for your very kind, more than kind, gracious, inspiring, and generous greeting. It is a delight to me—to us—to be with you once again, and to receive from you so hearty a welcome. (Applause.) It is very kind of you—and I speak for one and all of us—to have given us such a reception as you have done to-day. It is a very great pleasure to me also to find that you have received this play of Tennyson's with such enthusiasm. You agree with me, I am sure, in what I have always thought—that it is a very noble play—(loud applause)—a play which has added lustre to a great poet's renown. (Applause.) I thank you for my company most gratefully for your kindness, and I thank you for myself. I remain, ever your respectful, grateful, and obedient servant.

The following notice was posted up at the stage door entrance of the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, on Thursday morning:—"Sir Henry Irving much regrets to say that the remainder of the present tour has to be abandoned. The ladies and gentlemen of the company will fully understand this from the following certificate:—

Wolverhampton, Feb. 23, 1905.

It is imperatively necessary that Sir Henry Irving shall not act for at least two months from this date.

(Signed) Arthur Foxwell, M.D.,
W. Allan Lloyd-Davies, L.R.C.P., F.R.C.S."

The medical bulletin on Friday stated that Sir Henry was rather better; was taking plenty of nourishment with a fairly good appetite; and was also much more cheerful. He may remain at Wolverhampton for another week, and then will probably go to the South of England for rest and change. He is not expected to resume work for two months; but in all probability will fulfil his engagement at Drury-lane Theatre towards the end of April.

When we remember how Sir Henry Irving has been working of late, his collapse is not extraordinary. On Sunday, the 12th inst., he travelled from Plymouth to Exeter. On the following Monday, at the latter place, he rehearsed *Waterloo* and *Becket* in the afternoon, appearing in those pieces in the evening. On the Tuesday he appeared in *The Merchant of Venice* at a matinée. On the Wednesday afternoon he attended an official reception by the Mayor and Mayoress at the Exeter Guildhall, appearing in *Becket* in the evening. He arrived in Bath at noon on the Thursday, and opened there in *Waterloo* and *The Bells*. On the Friday he unveiled the Quin tablet, making a long speech under fire from a hundred and fifty photographic cameras, inspected the Guildhall and the Abbey, and was entertained at luncheon, making a second long speech, and acting, of course, the same day. The only wonder is that, with such unsparing exertions, Sir Henry has not broken down earlier.

Our ever-cheery contemporary, *The Pelican*, in a paragraph about Mr. A. B. Walkley, states that he began his career as a dramatic critic by noticing amateur performances in *The Era*. This is calculated to convey a slightly erroneous impression. Mr. Walkley was, fortunately, secured by us as a specialist; and his department was the criticism of all the French companies which visited London. We need hardly say that he did complete justice to their performances. There is a legend in this office that he left us because he could not feel completely satisfied with the supply of Greek type.

Another eminent critic, Mr. William Archer, was at one time anxious to contribute to our columns. We hasten to add that his proposal involved no sacrifice either of his dignity as a writer or his self-respect as a man. Mr. Archer's idea was that he should have a special page reserved for him on which to express his opinions weekly on things theatrical, our own staff "contradicting and confuting" him—as he put it—"just as they pleased." There were great humorous possibilities in the notion; but, as party feeling in connection with Ibsen was running high at the time, and as our staff to a man were ardent anti-Ibsenites, we were afraid that the fun of this proposed internecine warfare might grow rather too fast and furious.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree has decided upon the production in the autumn of a new drama, by Mr. Stephen Phillips, in which the Emperor Nero will figure, up to the period of his death. A full scenario of the work, which is in a prologue and three acts, has already been made by Mr. Phillips, who has condoned the faults of the cruel Nero by ascribing his crimes to æsthetic, rather than to brutal sources. The female interest in the play is concerned with Agrippina, the mother of Nero; with Poppia, his mistress; and with Acte, his slave, who exercises a salutary influence over him. Of the opportunities which *Nero* gives for spectacular display Mr. Tree is sure to take all possible advantage, and a production of unexampled magnificence may be expected.

Miss Edith Wynne Matthison has our deep sympathy on the death of her father, Mr. Henry Matthison, who died on the 16th inst. in his sixty-sixth year, after a long and painful illness. Mr. Matthison, who possessed a fine tenor voice, belonged to a Birmingham family, and at the time of his death was a trustee of the Musical Society of that town, of which he was one of the original members. Mr. Matthison married Miss Kate Wynne, a cultured vocalist, who survives him, and there are also three sons.

Mr. Edward Hastings has received the following further subscriptions since Feb. 9:—Mr. Lewis Calvert, £1 1s.; Mr. Harry Grattan, 10s.; Mr. Compton Coutts, £1.

Our Paris correspondent thus expresses his opinion on the French *Société des Auteurs*:—"I think it was as far back as 1896 that *The Era*, in an excellent leader—which was reproduced in several Paris papers—made a vigorous onslaught on the 'Société des Auteurs,' drawing attention to its grotesque policy of bullying instead of protecting its members. And it is a pity that M. Millerand, who, as counsel for several dramatic authors, is now attacking the Authors' Society in one of our law courts, does not use the beforementioned leader as a *leit-motiv*. The society, seeing that its existence was threatened, raised the silly alarm about the 'Theatrical Trust.' But everybody knows this is only a farce. With its existing mediæval regulations, this society has no *raison d'être* whatsoever, and must either disappear or be reconstructed on altogether different lines. Draco's laws were mild compared to those invented by the governing body of this wonderful society. Thus, one of its by-laws forbids an author to accept from a theatre a smaller royalty than the one fixed by the society; the author infringing this rule to be expelled, and the theatre to be placed in interdict. Referring to this beautiful arrangement, M. Leon Gaudillot, the well-known dramatist, said: 'Our ancestors would not have taken the trouble of storming the Bastille and sweeping away the abuses of the old régime had they known that a century later a dramatic author would be less fortunate than a greengrocer, who can dispose of his carrots and potatoes at whatever price he likes.' At last, however, the day of reckoning has come, and the powerful society has to answer for its misdeeds."

There are some incidents which can be dealt with neither by apology nor explanation, and can only be treated humorously. In the case of Leslie *v.* George Beach, in the Court of King's Bench, on Tuesday, it "transpired"—to use the consecrated term—that the first part of an advertisement for "two wagons of beasts and a bouncing lion" had inadvertently been inserted by us as "two wagons of bats." To throw the blame on the copy would be, possibly, to offend an advertiser; to admit error would be to inculpate ourselves. We can only plead the rarity of accidents of a kind which will occur in the best regulated periodicals.

The consequences, however, appear to have been rather serious. We are informed—but do not in the least believe—that the demand for bats was stimulated by this advertisement in a remarkable degree. *The Era* is read by animal dealers in every part of the world; and, as "two wagon-loads of bats" was obviously a large and profitable order, it is stated—though we will not vouch for the accuracy of the statement—that so active were the agents in procuring the often-inverted "fly-by-nights," that whole districts were denuded of bats. "Enquiries," as they say in the Stock Exchange reports, were very vigorous; and the supply, for the moment, was quite unequal to the demand. In some places, indeed, there was not a bat to be had "for love or money." However, menageries and zoological gardens can always use a few dozen of these curious creatures; and the interesting bat cage in the "small cat house" in the Zoological Gardens is now well tenanted.

The incident reminds us of a mistake in a country paper, by which an offer to dispose of a "long-horned cow" was transformed into an announcement that a "long-horned sow" was for sale. Showmen from all parts of the country "wrote in" to secure this unusual animal, and were much disappointed to discover that it was the "pica," and not the pig, that was eccentric.

Sir Henry Irving sent a wreath, with the inscription "From an Old Comrade," on the occasion of the funeral of the late Mr. Lewis Ball, which took place on Saturday at Teignmouth. Similar tokens of respect were received from Mr. Edward Compton and the Compton Comedy Company, and from the Lyceum Company.

The chairman's list at the Benevolent Fund Dinner of the Scenic Artists' Association, at the Imperial Restaurant on Sunday last, totalled upwards of £100, including £20 from the chairman, Sir Lawrence Alma Tadema, R.A.; £10 10s. from Mr. George Alexander; £6 6s. from Mr. Hawes Craven, the President of the Scenic Artists' Association; £6 6s. from Mr. Sidney Goldmann; £5 5s. from Mr. J. M. Barrie; £5 5s. from the London Exhibitions; £5 5s. from the Alhambra; and the following:—Sir Clinton E. Dawkins, £5; Mrs. Bethune, £3; Mr. W. L. Courtney, £3 3s.; Mr. Charles Frohman, £2 2s.; Mr. Max Hecht, £2 2s.; Sir Henry Irving, £2 2s.; Mr. W. H. Kendal, £2 2s.; Captain Robert Marshall, £2 2s.; Mr. J. S. Sargent, R.A., £2 2s.; Mr. Henry J. Welch, £2 2s.; Mr. R. Caney, £2 2s.; Mr. W. Telbin, £2 2s.; Mr. J. Copper, £2 2s.; Sir William B. Richmond, R.A., K.C.B., £2 2s.; Mr. Martin Harvey, £2 2s.; Mr. Ambrose Poynter, £2; and Sir Squire Bancroft, £2 2s.

The committee of the Scenic Artists' Association hold their next meeting on Monday next, 27th inst., and we are asked to remind candidates for membership that this is the last occasion upon which they can be elected members without payment of an entrance fee. The secretary of the Scenic Artists' Association will be glad to hear from artists willing to give their services at the daily matinées at the exhibition in April next. He will also be glad to hear from owners of pictures, sketches, or models by Absolom, Bolena, Beverley, Bough, Chambers, Cox, Sidney Cooper, Calcott, Gates, Grieve, Hunt, Leitch, Loutherbourge, Marinare, Mulready, Marshall, Nasmith, Roberts, Clarkson, Stanfield, W. Telbin, Charles Tomkins, John O'Connor, Michael Angelo Rooker, and any other famous deceased scene painters.

The "Dictionnaire National des Contemporains," published in Paris, contains some interesting particulars respecting Mr. W. H. C. Nation, the well-known manager, adapter, and writer of songs. One of his pieces, described in the dictionary, "Green beaf the graceful or the blue faced shore," is stated to be founded on an old fairy tale dedicated to the Princess de Conti. The title, at any rate, is original.

Mr. E. S. Willard devoted a week of his recent engagement at the Knickerbocker Theatre, New York, to the English version of Alfred Capus's comedy *La Chatelaine*, which was first named *The Optimist*, and recently rechristened *The Brighter Side*. Mr. Willard then revived *The Middleman* on the 13th inst., and appeared once more as the genial old potter, Cyrus Blenkarn, in which rôle he won the favour of the New York public many years ago at the old Star Theatre, and which still remains one of the most popular and enjoyable in his répertoire. On the opening night of the present revival, Mr. Willard's performance was applauded to the echo, and at the end of each act he was obliged to respond to repeated curtain calls. Mr. Willard's company appeared to great advantage.

"The Lonely Millionaires," Mrs. Henry de la Pasture's comedy, will be produced at the Court Theatre this afternoon, a matinée and evening performance being also fixed for Monday. Mr. William Farren, jun., will take an important part in the new piece.

Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer, who is a shareholder in the Great Northern Railway Company, was asked to sign the memorial against Sunday travelling, which met with such scant ceremony at the recent meeting of the directors. Her reply was a vigorous letter of protest to the chairman.

Miss Stella Brereton (Mrs. Richard Douglas) is widely known as an actress and teacher, but the list of her accomplishments does not end with the voice production, dancing, facial expression, and general deportment that she conveys so cleverly to her many pupils. She has designed costumes for both sides of the footlights, the idea having first occurred to her when her late son was a small child, and the well-known artist, Mr. Joseph Mordecai, was anxious to paint his portrait. Mrs. Douglas dressed her boy in a suit such as Romeo's page might have worn, of stamped velvet of golden tint, with tights of a peculiar peacock blue, and a tiny skull cap. He was given a lute to hold, and the picture, called "My lady sweet," was hung on the line at the Academy, and became the property of an American, who bought it for his private gallery in the United States. Lace-making is another occupation of Miss Brereton's spare time. She lives near Regent's Park, in a pretty little house built in the time of George IV., only a few doors from a house once possessed by Kean. Her garden is large enough for the erection of a small stage, several of her pupils having made their first appearances in this little pastoral theatre.

Miss Brereton, who studied with the late Miss Mary Birch, tells a score of anecdotes of the old days at the St. James's, under the Hare and Kendal management, at the Novelty, and at the Princess's Theatres. At the last-named house she understudied Miss Eastlake, and played her part in *The Romany Rye*, to the hero of Mr. Willard—during Mr. Barrett's absence—on an occasion when the King and Queen (then Prince and Princess of Wales) paid a visit in state to the popular theatre. The stage-manager asked Miss Brereton whether he had better wire for Miss Eastlake, to which she calmly replied, "Don't be nervous! I think I know my words!" A big basket of exquisite flowers, sent round from the Royal box, proved that "the guests of the evening" had no fault to find with her performance of Gertie Heckett. On another occasion, when the Prince of Wales was present at the Novelty, soon after the production of *Nita's First*, there was a hasty consultation behind the scenes on the advisability of omitting a certain good line in the farce, because it contained the following allusion to a Royal residence. The characters were discussing a suitable place to which to dispatch the baby on whose inopportune appearances the fun of the piece turned, and one of them had to say, "Do you expect me to send it to Buckingham Palace?" By Miss Brereton's advice the speech was *not* cut, and the Prince was so amused that there was a long stage wait while His Royal Highness had his laugh out.

Miss Brereton's skill in making up is shown by the fact that such an experienced actor as Mr. McIntyre actually mistook her for one of the useful, but least attractive, people connected with a theatre. She was cast for the part of a servant girl in a farce, and, standing beside him for a minute, on the first night, was a little surprised that he did not speak, so she wished him good evening. He started at the sound of her voice, stared at her, and exclaimed, "Good heavens, my dear! I thought you were a cleaner!" Miss Brereton possesses a fine collection of Mr. Mordecai's paintings, including several beautiful portraits of her son, two of herself, and a life size "sketch" of the King that is a remarkably strong piece of work.

Mr. Edward Terry changed his bill at the Princess Theatre, New York, on the 10th inst., and appeared for the first time there as Christopher Coleman in Messrs. Stephenson and Yardley's three-act farce, *The Passport*. This exceedingly lively and laughable play was received with marked approval, the mishaps and complications that involved a party of English tourists in Russia being set forth in such a spirited and clever manner that the audience was kept in a high good humour throughout the performance. Mr. Terry and the principal members of his company were warmly applauded

Miss Maude Adams, the American actress, who recently appeared for the one-thousandth time as Lady Babbie in *The Little Minister*, has added the one-act play *'Op 'o Me Thumb*, by Frederick Fenn and Richard Pryce to her bill at the Empire Theatre, New York. In this pathetic little piece Miss Adams does some effective character acting, and her embodiment of the little laundry drudge, Amanda Affick, has received universal praise.

"The Taming of the Shrew," which on Wednesday next establishes with its 100th performance a record so far as this play is concerned, will probably give place to *Hamlet* at the Adelphi Theatre some time in April next, after which it will be sent, with Mr. Asche and Miss Brayton in their original parts, for an autumn tour. During the absence of Mr. Asche and Miss Brayton, Mr. Stuart will produce *Dr. Wake's Patient*, by W. Gayer Mackay and Robert Ord, a play which was tried some little time ago with great success at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool. About Christmas Mr. Asche and Miss Brayton will return to the Adelphi Theatre, to appear in Mr. Stuart's production of *As You Like It*.

The leading character in *Strongheart*, Mr. William C. De Mille's four-act comedy-drama, which was recently produced at the Hudson Theatre, New York, is a young Indian, the son of a Chief, whose tribe have raised a fund to pay for Strongheart's education among the white men. He is studying at Columbia College. His courage and honesty have won for him the friendship of his fellow-students. He has covered himself with glory in the football field. But there comes a time when he is suspected of treachery, being accused of sending the signals used by Columbia to the opposing team. In order to screen the man to whom he has been as a brother, he refuses to clear himself, and is ostracised by the students. In the midst of this trouble, a greater one falls upon him. He lets it become known that he is in love with Dorothy Nelson, the sister of his best friend. When Frank Nelson, her brother, hears this, he turns on Strongheart, and berates him for his presumption. He must never forget that he is an Indian. Whereupon Strongheart delivers a long tirade against race prejudice, but fails to move his listeners.

Embittered by their treatment, he is tempted to withhold certain facts concerning the sending of the signals. These are in Frank Nelson's hand-writing, and at the inquiry to be held on the following day, Dorothy's brother will be adjudged a traitor, and expelled from the college if the Indian shows the paper in his possession, and lets matters take their course. He is too magnanimous, however, to do that, and when the right moment comes he "shows up" the real villain, and wins the gratitude of the students. He is restored to favour, but, all the same, he can never be allowed to marry a white girl. Dorothy has confessed her love for him, and expressed her willingness to go with him to his own people. At this juncture an Indian messenger from Strongheart's tribe comes to announce the death of his Chief, and summon Strongheart to take the leadership of his people. The message tells him that he must not bring the white woman; that she could not endure the life of the plains; and that the tribe would refuse to let her dwell among them. In Strongheart's breast there is a conflict between personal desire and racial pride, and the latter triumphs. He obeys the call, and renounces the girl he loves. "Great Spirit, help me, for I am all alone," he cries, with uplifted hands, as the curtain falls.

Mr. Charles Frohman has just come to town from New York, and is enthusiastic over the success which English authors have achieved in the States in recent times. Among them he includes *The Duke of Killicrankie*, the répertoire plays of Sir Charles Wyndham, *'Op o' Me Thumb*, *The Little Minister* (in the revival of which Miss Maude Adams played Babbie), *Sunday*, Mr. Pinero's *Letty*, *Joseph Entangled*, *The Admirable Crichton*, *Cousin Kate*, Mr. Forbes-Robertson in H. V. Esmond's *Love and the Man*, and *The School Girl*, in which Miss Edna May's triumph was complete. The American belle is to return to us in May with *The School Girl*, in which she is to play a seven weeks' engagement in London.

English dramatists may take a proper pride in the above list, for in only two French pieces could Mr. Frohman perceive prosperity, his choice lying with Sardou's *Sorceress* and Mirabeau's *Business is Business*; Germany could boast only one success, *The Mountain Climbers*; while, of American plays, those which made decided hits were *Mrs. Leffingwell's Boots*, *The Dictator*, *Strongheart*, *Cousin Billy*, and *Grannie*. For the guidance of our readers, we may remind them that all these plays have been fully described from time to time in our columns.

Mr. Frohman further declares his intention to take Mr. Seymour Hicks and Miss Ellaline Terriss to America for a season, when they will be supported by the best musical comedy talent that can be secured. The enterprising manager has also obtained the English rights in *Leah Kleschna*, the strenuous play by Charles McLellan, which he will introduce to London about Easter. Withal, he has another comedy from the pen of Mr. J. M. Barrie, to which Miss Ellen Terry will add her fascinating personality; while, with certain musical plays which will occupy Mr. Frohman's attention next season, the hands of the indomitable entrepreneur are pretty full.

Mr. William Mollison will secede from the cast of *Henry V.*, at the Imperial, in April, as he starts his tour of *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush* at the Shakespeare, Liverpool, on the 3rd of that month. Mr. Mollison has a very strong pathetic part in the new piece, which has been running for five years in America. The play contains a fine comedy part of rather an uncommon nature, and Mr. Durward Lely, Mr. Mollison's partner, has sailed for America in order to secure its American representative. Mr. Frank Cooper and Miss Lucy Wilson, the clever emotional actress, have also been engaged for leading parts.

At the Gaiety Theatre, Hastings, on Monday, will be produced a new one-act play, by Fewlass Llewellyn, entitled *At Evensong*. The parts will be sustained by Messrs. Percy D. Standing, C. W. Standing, Ronald Daniel, William Allison, and Miss Joan Ellis. Mr. Llewellyn, it may be remembered, is part author of *The Coal King* and *A Gentleman of England*.

Dr. A. H. Mann, organist of King's College and to the University of Cambridge, delivered, on Tuesday, in the Guildhall School of Music, a lecture on "Some East Anglian Musicians." The address, which was given under the auspices of the London Society of East Anglians, was illustrated by Miss Sybil Keymer (violinist), Mr. Joseph Reed (tenor), and Mr. A. H. Gee (baritone). Dr. W. H. Cummings, principal of the school, presided. Dr. Mann, in his address, went so far back as about 1220, when the famous "Summer is icumin in" was copied by an East Anglian. Though organs were earlier in use, the first organist mentioned throughout England was "Adam," organist of Norwich Cathedral in 1333. He concluded his lecture with a reference to a song he had discovered in the Market Place of Norwich, and not before mentioned in any list of old Norfolk songs. It sang the glories of the "Norfolk Rangers," a Volunteer corps raised in 1782, and dispersed in 1812.

Miss Lena Ashwell delighted with her recitations the aristocratic company present at the "At Home" given by the Ladies' Empire Club, on Tuesday afternoon.

Madame Adelina Patti, accompanied by her husband, Baron Cederstrom, is on a motoring tour in the South of Europe. They have arrived at Cannes, and are continuing their journey through Italy.

Mr. Hall Caine's *Eternal City* is now being acted in an Italian version at the Manzoni Theatre, Rome, the Pope being referred to as Sixtus X. Signor Turelli and D'Arborio are the adapters of the play.

Mr. J. T. Grein will open a public debate in the Library of the Passmore Edwards Settlement, on Monday next, at 8.30, his subject being "Subsidised Theatres: Their Artistic and Financial Organisation." Admission to the debate will be free.

Miss Amy Lamborn, who has played ingénues and juvenile leading parts with Mrs. Patrick Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, and Mr. Penley, has been engaged by the Vedrenne-Barker management to appear in an Irish character part in *The Pot of Broth*, at the matinée at the Court Theatre, on Tuesday.

"The Great Awakening," a new and original drama by Maud Hildyard and Russell Vaun, will be taken on tour by Miss Hildyard in the autumn, visiting all the principal suburban and provincial theatres, supported by a company of specially-selected artistes, and furnished with new scenery, uniforms, and costumes. The booking is in the hands of Mr. Ernest Dottridge, of the Empire Theatre, Oldham.

"Mrs. Temple's Telegram," a farce in three acts, by Frank Wyatt, was the attraction at the Madison-square Theatre, New York, on the 1st inst. This little playhouse has always enjoyed a distinctive popularity, and many a theatre-goer was glad when it was reopened, under the management of Mr. W. N. Lawrence, after being closed for a year. *A Trip to Chinatown* and many a merry farce was produced here in the years that are gone, and Mr. Wyatt's play is, fortunately, quite in keeping with the traditions of this particular theatre. *Mrs. Temple's Telegram* was an unqualified success, and the Madison-square Theatre has taken a new lease of life and popularity. The story runs as follows: Jack Temple, a young married man, has been away from home all night, having been imprisoned in the Ferris Wheel. In the car with him was a lady, who turns out to be the wife of his best friend, Frank Fuller, but it is some time before he learns her identity. His own wife refuses to accept his explanation, and he thereupon decides that a lie will serve his purpose better. So he tells her that he has been visiting his friend, John Brown, who lives in the suburbs. Asked for the name of the place, he invents, as he supposes, that of Pickleton-on-the-Thames. His wife immediately wires an urgent message addressed to Mr. John Brown at the place mentioned. In the meantime, Frank Fuller calls, and at Temple's solicitation agrees to impersonate the fictitious Mr. Brown. Of course, there is a real Pickleton, and a real John Brown, and the latter has a very real and jealous wife. Hence there are more lies and a series of complications that last through three acts, and keep the audience laughing most of the time.

Mr. Clinton Baddeley has been engaged by Mr. Walter Melville to play Jules Delarney, in *A Disgrace to Her Sex*, on tour, appearing this week at Ipswich.

Mr. Laurence Irving, at the recent matinée for the benefit of the Russian artistes who left London on Saturday for America, remarked that M. Orleneff, the manager of the troupe, would probably, in his gratitude for over £230 collected, insist on kissing him. We have not been able to ascertain if the osculation "came off"; but in any case it is interesting to notice that, while the Russians "pepper" our unhappy fishermen in the North Sea, we bombard their actors and actresses with banknotes.

Mr. Norman Forbes will play Shylock at two special matinées of *The Merchant of Venice*, which will be given at Terry's Theatre on Thursday and Saturday, March 9 and 11 respectively. Mrs. Constance Stuart will essay Portia, and Mr. Loring Fernie and Mr. Henry Ainley will enact Gratiano and Bassanio. The production will be under the direction of Mr. J. H. Barnes, who will enact Antonio.

Mr. Walter Reynolds's new play, entitled *Mr. Smith*, in which a striking contrast between the classes and the masses is drawn, will be produced at the Camden Theatre on Monday, March 6.

Messrs. Pagden and Gilbert's tour with *A Woman of Impulse* starts on Monday, and is fully booked till June. In a strong cast are Messrs. Pagden, Gilbert, and Ruddle Brown, and Misses Marie de Roos and Lina Nazeby.

Mr. Frank Lascelles, who has been engaged by Mr. Tree to play Ferdinand in the only company of *The Tempest* which he is sending out this spring, has had a wide experience in Shakespearean parts, his Romeo being spoken of in high terms of praise.

We announce with regret the death of Mr. Walter Summers, the well-known author, playwright, and pantomime producer, which occurred on Wednesday morning last at the Beaconsfield Nursing Institution, Balham, after a long and painful illness. He was thirty-eight years of age at the time of his death, and his last work was the production of Mr. Fred Karno's successful pantomime of *Cinderella*—of which he was the author—at the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, during the Christmas season just concluded. The funeral will take place at Wimbledon Cemetery on Monday next, the cortege leaving the above institution at 2.30 p.m.

The Oxford University Dramatic Society will, on Wednesday, produce at the New Theatre, Oxford, *The Clouds of Aristophanes* in the original Greek. The incidental music and choruses have been specially written by Sir Hubert Parry.

Mr. Norman V. Norman is arranging to produce a series of "Pastoral Plays" during the coming summer. The répertoire will include the popular comedy *Nell Gwyn*, which has been specially adapted for pastorals, and which has met with such striking success under Mr. Norman's management.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Thomas Percy Carmichael (professionally known as Arthur Cecil Percy), which occurred at Epsom on the 16th inst. Mr. Percy was a native of Glasgow, and was known as a very painstaking actor in heavy and character parts. His most distinct successes were made in *The Hansom Cab*, *England*, *Home, and Beauty*, *The Trumpet Call*, *The English Rose*, *The Penalty of Crime*, *Alone in London*, *The French Spy*, and *I Defy the World*. His demise at the early age of 43 is deeply regretted by his many friends and acquaintances, especially so by his sorrowing wife. The deceased was interred on Monday at Epsom.

Arrangements have now been completed to give a limited number of evening performances, commencing Monday, May 1, at the Court Theatre of Mr. Bernard Shaw's comedy, *John Bull's Other Island*.

Miss Marie Daltra (Mrs. Lionel Rignold), the original Mrs. Brown of *A Chinese Honeymoon*, at the Strand Theatre, has been specially engaged by Mr. Charles Macdona to play Mrs. Honeycomb in a suburban tour of *The Gay Parisienne*, commencing March 6, at the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington.

Miss Louisa Peach terminates to-night a seven months' starring engagement with Mr. Henry Furnival's *Harvest of Sin* and *Lost in Paris* company.

Master Cyril Smith, who has for so long played Geoffrey to Sir Henry Irving's Becket, on tour, is, we regret to state, so seriously ill that it was found necessary to leave him behind at Plymouth. He is in the Brough Hospital, where he is progressing satisfactorily, and hopes to rejoin his company shortly.

The hundredth performance of the successful children's pantomime, *The White Cat*, will take place at Drury Lane Theatre on Tuesday, when the management will present each visitor with a souvenir of the occasion.

Mr. Lionel Rignold has accepted an engagement with Mr. Charles Macdona to play Ebenezer Honeycomb in *The Gay Parisienne* for a suburban tour, commencing March 6. Many of Mr. Rignold's admirers will remember with pleasure his admirable performance of this part during the long and successful run of the comedy at the Duke of York's Theatre.

"Zapfenstreich," Franz Adam Beyerlein's stirring military drama, which has just been produced under M. Porel's management, at the Vaudeville Theatre, Paris, was given in London last year, and formed the greatest success of the German season at the Royalty Theatre, being played thirty times in all during the season. It was revived with great success during the present German season at the Great Queen-street Theatre.

Mr. James H. Stoddart, "the grand old man of the American stage," at his farewell performance at the Grand Opera House, San Francisco, on the 4th inst., in *The Bonnie Brier Bush*, received many tokens of regard from the leading citizens of the city. The members of his company assembled on the stage, and with the immense audience present, united in singing "Auld Lang Syne." This performance completed the 70th year of Stoddart's appearance, and at the end of this season he will retire permanently from the stage.

A committee meeting of the Touring Managers' Association will be held at 3, Bedford-street, Strand, on Friday, March 3, at 12.30.

Mr. John F. Asche, having just concluded a tour with the great spectacular drama, *The World*, is now booking a spring and autumn tour. This revival has proved one of the most successful of the past year, and there is no doubt that great things may be expected of it during the coming season.

Frau Rosa Bertens will make her first appearance this season at the Great Queen-street Theatre on Monday next, in Max Halbe's powerful play, *Der Strom*, which will also be played on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday *Die Wildente* (the wild duck), by Ibsen, will be produced, and will be played during the remainder of the week and on Saturday afternoon, March 4, Frau Rosa Bertens appearing as Gina Ekdal. The German season has entered upon its last weeks, and Saturday, March 18, will see its final performance this season.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"DIONYSOS,"
Lyric Tragedy, in Three Acts, in Verse,
by M. Joachim Gasquet.
Music by M. Leon Moreau.
Produced at the Theatre de l'Œuvre, Feb. 29.

Kadmos	M. PHILIPPE GARNIER
Pentheus	M. JEAN FROMENT
Tirésias	M. GEORGES SAILLARD
Dionysos	MDLLE. CARMEN DERAISY
Agavé	MDLLE. LAURE MOUREY
1re. Bakkante	MDLLE. IDA BRASSY
2re. Bakkante	MDLLE. DELARGE
3re. Bakkante	MDLLE. DEMOY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, FEB. 23.—Several novelties are announced for the coming week, and, as usual, Messieurs les directeurs are cunningly arranging things so as to squeeze at least two in one night. The Œuvre has produced M. Joachim Gasquet's lyric tragedy, *Dionysos*, and I ask myself what induced M. Lugné-Poe to bring out a work enshrouded in a thick mist through which we tried in vain to grope our way. Even M. Leon Moreau's at times rather noisy music, admirably rendered by M. Chevillard's orchestra, failed to impart colour and life to this dull, terribly monotonous play. Nor was the interpretation worthy of the traditions of the Theatre de l'Œuvre. We expected better things from M. Lugné-Poe.

Le Bon Numéro is the title of a smart little one-act curtain-raiser by M. André Barde, produced at the Vaudeville, and which accompanies *La Retraite* on the bill. The scene of this trifle is laid at a charity bazaar, at the Baronne de Vaucresson's mansion, where the stalls are kept by Society women and well-known actresses. Among the fashionable crowd is Lucien Moustier, the millionaire's son, a practical youth. He has come to have a look at an heiress whom his father wants for a daughter-in-law. The heiress, he is told, is to be found at Stall No. 9. He mistakes, however, a 6 for a 9, and goes to the Stall 6, where he sees a delightful creature, with whom he at once falls violently in love. And when he discovers his mistake, and learns that No. 6 is penniless, he does not care a bit. He will marry No. 6. Admirably interpreted by the capital Vaudeville company, the little comedy met with an excellent reception.

AT the Comedie-Française Alfred de Vigny's *Shylock* has been put into rehearsal. M. Leloir will impersonate Shylock, and Mdlle. Lara Portia. The work will be played at the classical matinées.

THE piece to follow *La Retraite*, at the Vaudeville, will be *L'Armature*, a five-act comedy by M. Brieux, founded on M. Paul Hervieu's well-known novel of the same name. Mme. Berthe Cerny, Mdlle. Lucie Gérard, Mdlle. Drunzer, M. Grand, and M. Chelles have been specially engaged for the new work.

THE Ambigu announces for next week *La Belle Marseillaise*, a piece in four acts and five tableaux which plays at the time of the Consulate. The management promise us a wonderful fourth act, on the terrace of the Château de Saint-Cloud, the day on which Bonaparte proclaimed himself Emperor.

MME. ASTIE DE VALSAYRE, who has become an expert fencer to defend women's rights, sword in hand, has written a play in collaboration with M. Camille Hayot. The piece, called *La Chasse aux Millions*, will be produced at the Theatre Populaire, of Belleville.

Le Bercail has disappeared from the bill at the Gymnase, and *Le Retour de Jerusalem* is being played once more.

M. EMILE FABRE'S comedy, *Les Ventres dorés*, to be brought out soon at the Odéon, plays in the world of finance. We will be shown bankers of every category, stockbrokers, touts, speculators, journalists, deputies, noblemen. Every class of society will be represented. There will even be a king! The principal rôle will be interpreted by M. Gémier.

THE Secretary of the Fine Arts Ministry has authorised M. Ginisty, manager of the Odéon, to send his company on tour in the provinces during the month of June. Only classical works will be given, and only those cities will be visited whose inhabitants are supposed to have an eye to literary beauty.

"LES AVARIES."
Play in Three Acts,
by M. Brieux,
Produced at the Théâtre Antoine, Feb. 22.

Le Directeur	M. ANTOINE
Le Docteur	M. MOSNIER
L'Avarié	M. BERNARD
Le Ceau-père	M. SAVERNE
Un Père	M. DEGEORGE
L'Epouse	MDLLE. VAN DOREN
La Mère	MDLLE. GRUMBACH
La Nourrice	MDLLE. MILLER
Une Fille	MDLLE. JEANNE LIAN

Two years ago the Censor refused to sanction the production of M. Brieux's *Les Avariés*, whereupon the author read the play at the Théâtre Antoine to a packed house, and received quite an ovation. When I tell you that *Les Avariés* deals with the affliction bestowed upon mankind by the flighty goddess Venus, you will understand that there is no necessity to enter into the plot, especially as, from a dramatic point of view, *Les Aviaries* does not constitute a play. All I can say is that if I want to offer my friends a pleasant evening's entertainment, I certainly will not take them to see M. Brieux's latest production. It required some moral courage on the part of M. Antoine's company to impersonate what the author calls "des avariés"; but the artists on Wednesday worked with a will, and acted admirably.

PRESENT TO SIR HENRY IRVING.

We here give an engraving of the smoker's combination in silver, which was presented to Sir Henry Irving last week at Bath, by the Mayor, on behalf of the citizens. The inscription upon it is:—"Presented to Sir Henry Irving by the citizens of Bath as a memento of his visit to his native county, and in grateful recognition of his distinguished services to the drama, both as actor and as manager. Bath, February 17, 1905."

Among those present at the luncheon were Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. Bram Stoker, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Mr. Egbert Lewis, lessee of the Bath Theatre Royal, and Mrs. Lewis, Miss Maud Fealy, Mr. Gerald Lawrence, Mr. Peter Davey, of the Kingston Theatre, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Loveday, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Chute, of the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, Mr. Lewis A. Long and Mr. W. F. C. Schöttler, respectively acting-manager and musical-director of the Theatre Royal, Bath, Mr. Alderman Mitchell, chairman of the Bath Theatres Co., and Mr. Councillor Ricketts, the secretary of the Bath Theatres Co.

PRESENTATIONS.

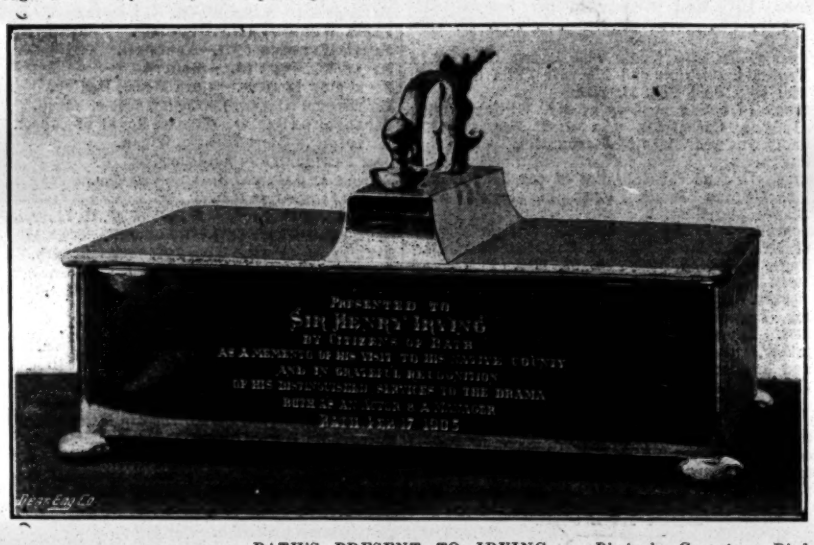
Two interesting presentations were made to Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Kelly, at the Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, on the 17th inst. Mr. Kelly, as is well known, terminates his tenancy of the Theatre Metropole at the end of this month, but he still continues as lessee of the Theatre Royal. The first of the two presentations was made by Alderman T. Shaw in the crush-room of the Royal, and consisted of a handsome gold cigar case for Mr. Kelly and a beautiful silver rose-bowl for Mrs. Kelly. On the case was inscribed: "Presented, together with a silver rose-bowl, to W. W. Kelly, Esq., by a number of Birkenhead friends, as a token of their esteem and regard. 17th February, 1905." Mr. Kelly appropriately acknowledged the gift, and Mrs. Kelly also replied in a graceful speech. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly were afterwards presented by the staff of the Metropole with an illuminated address.

"DEAR LADY MARY."

A Comedy-Drama, in Four Acts,
by Lady Violet Greville.
Played for the First Time at the
Bijou Hall, Bayswater, on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Lord Dover	MR. G. H. BLAGROVE
Hon. Antony Etheredge	MR. F. ST. BARBE
Rev. Cecil Chassible	MR. V. E. G. CHURCHER
Jim Blake	MR. J. FRITZ RUSSELL YOUNG
Mr. Cockayne Frith	MR. CECIL COTCHIN
Tom Bennet	MR. H. C. HEWITT
Inspector	MR. J. H. WEST
Richard Giles	MR. CECIL COTCHIN
Lady Mary Sheldon	MRS. HATHERELL
Lottie Vervaine	MRS. MURCH
Mrs. Cockayne Frith	MRS. G. H. BLAGROVE
Pamela Frith	MISS DORA EVILL-WEST
Lily Frith	MISS LUCY MERZBACH
Mrs. Potts	MISS E. E. BIRCH
Maid	MISS F. ROSE PALMER

The tribulations of Cupid are freshly treated in a new piece by Lady Violet Greville, the popular writer whose weekly chat in the columns of a contemporary is so entertaining, and who has given proof of her ability equally to amuse as a playwright. A nimble wit is evident throughout the play, sparkling epigrams are frequent, and the romantic interest, which at times becomes thrilling, is preserved without a break; but the pen of the authoress has faltered in the last act, and the end is weak and ineffective, careful revision being needed to preserve it from the "anti-climax" which at present exists. Devoted affection is cherished by the Hon. Antony Etheredge, a headstrong youth, for his sister, Lady Mary, a charming widow, the memory of whose short and unhappy marriage is softened by the exercise of a charity which has won the esteem of the country folk in the village wherein she dwells with Antony and her elder brother, Lord Dover. Their peaceful life is broken in upon by their cousin, Jim Blake, whose roving disposition has kept him away from home for many years. He is cordially hated by Antony, partly because Jim saved him from death through a runaway horse, but especially because



BATH'S PRESENT TO IRVING. *Photo by Graystone, Bird.*

it is evident that the ne'er-do-well has made an impression on Lady Mary, who, in fear of fortune-hunters, has pledged herself to widowhood. Jim does, indeed, propose to Lady Mary, in spite of his engagement to Lily Frith, the daughter of a retired Islington grocer, with whom he had flirted on board an American liner. Jim has kept his engagement secret, until a neighbouring house is taken by the Friths, and Lily herself appears just after Lady Mary has retired to consider her answer to Jim. With scant ceremony Jim begs Lily to postpone her visit till the next day, when he hopes to effect a compromise; but Antony has learned of Jim's secret, and blurts out the truth to Lady Mary, who is on a visit to the Friths, calling in the girl and her mother to bear testimony in the presence of Jim, also laying bare his pretensions to Lady Mary. Lily, who has perceived Jim's increasing coolness towards her, declares that, under the circumstances their marriage is impossible, and Jim, with Lady Mary's reproaches ringing in his ears, goes off to resume his travels. In the year and a-half that elapse between the second and third acts, Lily Frith has assumed the free and independent spirit of the erudite, and returns home from college to take up a position as secretary to Lord Dover, aiding him so much in his archæological researches that there is more than a suspicion that she will win his heart and hand. Lady Mary is still devoted to her philanthropic work, but yearns for Jim's return, and when presently he enters through the window she allows herself to be clasped in his embrace. At this moment Antony enters, and ordering Jim out of the house, seizes a knife. There is a struggle, and Jim falls insensible, while the repentant youth pleads on his knees for Lady Mary's forgiveness. The wound, however, is not fatal, and Jim declares to a police officer who comes to investigate that the affair was an accident, but there is a fear that Antony's contrition is not lasting, and Jim begs Lady Mary to accompany him to South Africa. Lady Mary, with a devotion that appears indefensible, will not desert her brother, and the union of the lovers appears to be hopeless until it is found that Antony himself is on the verge of matrimony, and Lord Dover is espoused to his secretary, when all obstacles thus disappear. Little fault beyond an occasional lapse of memory could be found with the performance by the members of the Lewis Waller Dramatic Society, who gave a commendable rendering of the play. Mr. J. Fritz Russell Young is admirably fitted in voice and appearance for the part of the rugged, restless rover, whose tender qualities are revealed under the softening influence of love. He spoke the lines which are allotted to Jim Blake with almost perfect elocution, and earnestness and dramatic skill combined in a performance of thorough excellence. The part of Lady Mary was charmingly played by Mrs. Hatherell, whose enunciation was also to be commended, while the delicacy and grace of her rendering was infinite. Mr. G. H. Blagrove's well-proved ability was again apparent in a humorous impersonation of Lord Dover, but so much could not be said for the Cockayne Frith of Mr. Cecil Cotchin, who was evidently willing to be funny, but who suggested the wealthy plebeian neither in appearance nor action. Mr. F. St. Barbe, as the Hon. Antony Etheredge, played cleverly in a part that carries few compensations, and Mr. V. E. G. Churcher was conventionally clerical as the Rev. Cecil Chassible. Cordial approbation may be given to Miss Lucy Merzbach, who acted excellently as Lily Frith, and the vulgar affectations of the sister Pamela and of Mrs. Cockayne-Frith were effectively assumed by Miss Dora Evill-West, and Mrs. G. H. Blagrove, Mrs. Murch being vivacious and pleasing as Antony's affianced bride. During an interval, Mr. Russell Young, in his capacity as stage-manager, read a letter from Mr. Lewis Waller, the president, wishing success to the club, who had performed such excellent dramatic as well as charitable work, and also one from Lady Greville, who is in the South of France, thanking the club for the trouble taken in the production.

MR. DURWARD LELY sailed by the Campania from Liverpool on Saturday to make final arrangements for transferring the new play *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush* to this country.

"THE 'VARSITY BELLE."

Farce by Fred. Jarman,
Music by Edward Jones; and
Lyrics by George Porrington.
Produced at the Theatre Royal, Dover,
On Monday, February 20.

Theocritus W. Sparkleton	MR. HARRY COLLIER
George Barker	MR. LIONEL GLENISTER
Bertie Perrin	MR. LAURENCE TESSIER
Runyard	MR. JOHN R. VAL
Prof. Septimus Stoney	MR. HENRY CHICHESTER
Mrs. Barker	MISS ESTELLE DESPA
Maud Stoney	MISS MURIEL LOCHNER
Eva Stoney	MISS MAY CARDEW
Gaye Sparkleton	MISS FLORENCE BRANDON

The 'Varsity Belle, which has been turned into a musical comedy, has been apparently endowed with a new lease of life, for while the tuneful musical numbers and pretty dances introduced add to the verve and swing of the performance, the humorous scenes and situations remain unchanged. The details of the plot are too well known to need repetition. The principal interest is, of course, centred in the Belle. Miss Florence Brandon fully realises the love of fun that is the chief trait in the character of the charming young actress, Gaye Sparkleton, and whether, as the demure Mr. Payton, of Emmanuel, or as the mischief-loving girl who flirts with every man she meets—the grim professor included—Miss Brandon completely captivated the house, and scored a personal triumph. Mr. Harry Collier showed exceptional ability as Theocritus Ward Sparkleton, showing many original touches that prove the born comedian. Mr. John R. Val, too, is responsible for much merriment in the mirth-provoking character of Runyard, the college scout. The fun was also largely added to by the whimsical treatment of the rôle of Professor Septimus Stoney by Mr. Henry Chichester, and this gentleman shared most unmistakably in the success. Mr. Lionel Glenister, as George Barker, and Mr. Laurence Tessier, as Bertie Perrin, create merriment by their clever studies of the irrepressible undergraduates, Mr. Glenister's melodious baritone being heard to advantage in the topical song, "I wish I could invent." Miss May Cardew, as the Professor's wife, acted with grace and refinement, and made a most favourable impression. Miss Muriel Lochner's portrayal of Maud Stoney was most noticeable for its utter absence of artificiality and excellent elocution; and Miss Estelle Despa showed a considerable amount of unforced humour in the part of Mrs. Barker.

"MUCH ADO" AT HIS MAJESTY'S.

Those who saw *Much Ado About Nothing* on the first night of its production at His Majesty's Theatre can hardly imagine how greatly the production has been altered and improved. Not only has the piece been reduced to reasonable limits in the matter of time of performance, the Vault Scene having been judiciously removed; the whole performance has been enlivened, the repartees are delivered with more smartness and briskness; and the dramatic element in the entertainment has been strengthened and vivified. These remarks apply especially to Mr. Beerbohm Tree's Benedick. On the first night he was obviously anxious. Now that the production has settled down firmly into its groove he is happier, more humorous, and more effective. He is more at ease both in his armour and his costumes, and his Benedick is an admirable creation. It is less measured, more spontaneous, and he carries the audience with him completely. Miss Winifred Emery's Beatrice is as gay and airy in its humour, and as dainty in its delivery, as on the first night. Miss Viola Tree, who is now playing Hero, the part which she was prevented from undertaking by illness at the *première*, gives an exquisitely graceful and feminine reading of the rôle. There is a pleasing trace of girlishness about Miss Tree's reading, and she makes Hero, usually a somewhat colourless individual, interesting, sprightly, and agreeable. In the scene in which Margaret and Ursula dress Hero's hair, Miss Tree introduces a song which she sings with so much sweetness and skill as to delight the audience immensely. There is a freshness about Miss Tree's performance which is very winning; and her Hero is an agreeable variation on the usual reading of the rôle. Mr. Sydney Brough's Don Pedro has, of course, lost none of its dignity and ease, and Mr. Lawrence Irving's Don John was always so good that improvement was almost impossible. Another interpretation which was scarcely capable of being bettered is Mr. Basil Gill's Claudio, which retains all its original virtues of expressive delivery and artistic refinement. Mr. Henry Neville's Leonato is still impressive in its picturesque "presence," noble in its bearing, and so powerful in its dramatic force and energy. Mr. J. Fisher White's altogether excellent Antonio, and Mr. William Haviland's irreproachable Friar Francis, continue to win the warm admiration of the audience; and Mr. Louis Calvert as Dogberry, and Mr. Lionel Brough as Verges, present two capital creations of the best vein of Alston, as Margaret, and Miss Alice Crawford, as quaint Shakespearean comedy. Miss Muriel Ursula, have greatly improved their respective impersonations. *Much Ado About Nothing* is one of the most sumptuous and artistic productions, and one of the most sterling all-round representations of Shakespeare that could be imagined or desired; and there can be little doubt that the run of the magnificent revival will be a long and prosperous one.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—In your notice for Abertillery in last week's issue, you mention Mr. Will Simpson as having played the part of Fritz in *What a Woman Did*. I took up the part at short notice the previous Saturday at the King's Theatre, Cardiff, and also played it the following week.—Yours faithfully, JIM WOODS. Alhambra Theatre, Stourbridge, Feb. 21, 1905

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS MARGARET TURTON BROWNE.

MISS BROWNE says she was only on the stage for a short time, for, like most beginners without any interest at their back, she found it difficult to make anything like a good position for herself, competition being so keen nowadays. She wrote to a great many people before she got a chance—"to nearly every manager in London," she says, "and last of all to Miss Ellen Terry, who replied asking me to call, which I thought a great honour; but, alas! her letter went to the wrong place, through the carelessness of the General Post Office—all the way to Southampton, instead of Southampton-street. I explained this to Miss Terry, who said 'My dear child, you would have just looked the part, and now it is too late; the part is filled. I wanted someone in a hurry.' Poor little me! how my heart sank; but the famous actress added, 'Write to me again, and I will see what I can do for you.' Well, I have twice since, but I don't suppose she ever got my little notes." Miss Browne had thoughts of making a start as a reciter, but was advised to try the stage, as she was considered to have some talent for acting. At length a young manager gave her a chance in his company. She played the part of Kate Tyndall in *Four Little Girls*, and obtained some very good Press notices. The play, however, ran only a month, but the young actress was delighted at getting at least a start, and she says that she still feels grateful to the young manager. Then she joined Mr. Frank Curzon in *Trelawny of the Wells*, playing the part of Clara de Phenix, and also understudying. Miss Browne's next engagement was with Mr. Penley's *Charley's Aunt* company, sustaining in succession the parts of Amy Spettigue, Kitty Verdun, and Ela Delahay in that play, and the only lady, Marion, in *The Lost Legion*. She remained with this company for six

Photo by Norval.
MISS MARGARET TURTON-BROWN.

months, and then joined Mrs. Patrick Campbell in the play, *A Moonlight Blossom*, and was also engaged for that lady's next production, *The Canary*, in which she played Lilly Jonus, and undestudied Jeffik Guillou in *The Sacrament of Judas*, but never had an opportunity of playing it. Joining Mr. Mouillot's company, she played the title-rôle in *Sweet Lavender*, which she thinks was her best part. Then a season of bad luck came, and Miss Browne accepted an engagement as nurse at one of the London hospitals, but her health broke down, and she gave it up. Recently she has taken up reciting in earnest. The largest building in which she has recited is the Alhambra, and her services have been largely secured for private "At Homes," &c.

THE RUSSIAN COMPANY.

BENEFIT MATINEE.

On Friday afternoon, the 17th inst., a performance was given at the Haymarket Theatre in aid of the company of Russian actors and actresses who have been in our midst during the last few weeks, and who leave London to-day for America. The theatre was kindly lent for the purpose by Mr. Frederick Harrison and Mr. Cyril Maude, and the charitable function largely owed its inception to the efforts of Mr. Laurence Irving and Mr. Samuel Gordon, the honorary secretary. The honorary committee consisted of her Grace the Duchess of Sutherland, the Lady Mary Harris, the Countess of Warwick, Sir Henry Irving, Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Beerbohm Tree, Sir George and Lady Lewis, Sir Samuel Montague, Bart., Sir Squire Bancroft, Lady Palmer, Lady Hardman, Mr. George R. Sims, Mr. Jerome K. Jerome, Mr. Frederic Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Maude, Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. Stuart Samuel, M.P., Mr. Carl Hentschel, and Mr. J. T. Grein. The business managers on this occasion were Mr. Horace Watson, the manager of the Haymarket Theatre, and Mr. A. F. Henderson, general manager to Sir Charles Wyndham.

The theatre was packed from floor to ceiling, and no wonder, when one considers the programme! Five different pieces were presented, comprising the screen scene from *The School for Scandal*, with Mr. Cyril Maude and Miss Winifred Emery; *The Ballad Monger*; a one-act Russian comedy by Balvotski, entitled *A Zealous Fool is Worse than an Enemy*; Charles Reade's *Nance Oldfield*; and *In the Night*, a Russian sketch in one act, by Stachovitch. Miss Ellen Terry, though suffering from a bad cold, charmed everyone with her Nance Oldfield, and Mr. Laurence Irving gave a clever study of the infatuated, dreamy law student, Alexander Oldworthy. At the conclusion of the performance of *Nance Oldfield* Mr. Irving came before the curtain and made a short speech. "Thanks are due," he said, "to Mr. Frederick Harrison and Mr. Cyril Maude for the use of the theatre; to the honorary committee, especially the ladies, who have rendered such valuable assistance; to the artistes who have given their services, and lent their names to the committee; and to the programme-sellers. I am particularly delighted to participate in this act of good fellowship and goodwill towards the actors and actresses of a land from which I have always received the greatest kindness, courtesy, goodwill, and consideration. I am very glad to be able to show to our Russian friends a similar spirit, and to be of real assistance to Mons. Orleneff and his company. Before we conclude he will very likely put my insular reticence to the test by kissing me. The financial results of this matinée are very good, there being a sum of over £230 after paying expenses. I am sure we all wish our Russian guests God-speed to the United States, and all the success which their great gifts and noble aims so justly deserve."

After the curtain was rung down on the last item of the programme Madame Nasimoff appeared on the stage, in response to the continued and enthusiastic applause of the audience. She said very little, but what she said came with all sincerity. "I tank you. You forget us—we not forget you. I tank you."

The ladies who kindly consented to sell programmes were Miss Nita Aria, Miss Sybil Arundale, Miss Muriel Beaumont, Miss Lillian Braithwaite, Miss Camille Clifford, Miss Kate Cutler, Miss Dorothy Grimston, Miss Nora Lancaster, Miss Ruby Ray, Miss Marie Studholme, and Miss Alice de Winton. The programmes, which were supplied gratis by Mr. Carl Hentschel, were artistically got up, and contained photogravures of Mr. Tree as Gringoire in *The Ballad-Monger*, Miss Ellen Terry as Nance Oldfield, Miss Winifred Emery and Mr. Cyril Maude as Lady Teazle and Sir Peter Teazle, in *The School for Scandal*; and of Mons. Orleneff, Mons. Orloff, Mons. Karataieff, Mons. Kromskoi, and Mdme. Nasimoff. The stage, it should be mentioned, was under the direction of Mr. John Harwood and Mr. Cecil King.

"MR. HOPKINSON."
An Original Farce, by R. C. Carton,
Produced at the Avenue Theatre,
on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Duke of Braceborough	Mr. FREDERICK KERR
Earl of Addleton	Mr. HENRY KEMBLE
Lord Gawthorpe	Mr. ATHOL STUART
Hon. Otho Dursingham	Mr. W. GRAHAM BROWNE
Mr. Smethurst	Mr. CHARLES ALLAN
Parbury	Mr. HERBERT DRUCE
Blisset	Mr. HENRY STEPHENSON
Samuel Hopkinson	Mr. JAMES WELCH
Lady Thyra Egglesby	Miss ELEEN O'MALLEY
Eliza Dibb	Miss ANNIE HUGHES
Duchess of Braceborough	Miss COMPTON

In most of the plays in which a Plaintive Parvenu is the central figure, there is an element of pathos. The *débâcle* of Mr. Joseph Lebanon in *The Cabinet Minister* was, indeed, from one point of view, a tragedy too deep for tears. It is such a sad reflection on the infirmity of our common English humanity that an individual, "erect on two legs, and calling himself a man," as Sergeant Buzfuz described Mr. Pickwick, should elect to become a "fish out of water." One can understand the tricks of the naturally amphibious tribe; but that a fish should deliberately desire to jump on the bank and flounder there seems pitiful indeed. Mr. R. C. Carton, in *Mr. Hopkinson*, which was produced at the Avenue Theatre on Tuesday, has taken care to deprive his ambitious "bounder" of any claim on our sympathy. He is such a mean, selfish, heartless little "cad" that we all rejoice when his *fiancée* runs away with someone else, and he has to pay heavily for jilting a dressmaker's assistant. The piece has been decried as "sordid." There is a confusion of ideas here. A work of art which depicts mean people is not necessarily sordid itself; it may be simply satirical. It all depends whether, as in the French *comédie rosse*, your author resignedly throws in his lot with the worst of his characters, and practically gives up life as "a bad job"; or whether, as in *Mr. Hopkinson*, he is a satirist, and not a pessimist. Mr. Carton's characters have a peculiar artistic virtue; they are absolutely unconscious; and reveal themselves without any hypocritical reserve. The Duke and his Duchess, he with his favourite married woman, and she with her pet "boy"; the phlegmatic young man who marries the "nice girl"—she is only "nice," by-the-bye, in comparison with the other personages—out of mere good-nature; and the little "bounder" himself, are quite "open and above board." The result is that they appear to be even meaner than they are. But *Mr. Hopkinson* is not one of those plays which leave a nasty taste in one's mouth. On the contrary, it keeps us laughing "the whole time," and sends us home with delightful recollections of a very pleasant evening.

The leading character is a vulgar little Cockney who has "come into money," and wants to get into Society. So he throws over Eliza Dibb, the "girl of the people," to whom he is engaged, and applies for advice and assistance to the Duchess of Braceborough. The Duke is in monetary difficulties, from which he hopes to extricate himself by a mortgage with the assent and assistance of his brother-in-law, the Earl of Addleton, whose daughter, Lady Thyra Egglesby, for a reason, does not get married. The reason is, she is hopelessly attached to a certain amiable Lord Gawthorpe, who considers himself too poor for matrimony. So the Duchess decides to marry Lady Thyra to Hopkinson; and the union is "arranged" and announced. Now, Eliza Dibb, a very astute young woman, has taken service as Lady Thyra's maid—the almost brutal indifference with which she is engaged is realistic—and, when Hopkinson discovers this, he does all he can to alter the arrangement on the score of economy. This is the last straw; Lady Thyra finds that she "cannot do it"; and the good-natured Lord Gawthorpe offers to run away with her. The Earl arrives, suffering from the effects of a bad Channel passage, and there is a most amusing scene in the last act, in which, on the strength of the "good" marriage which his daughter is about to make, he is induced to sign the mortgage deed above alluded to. Eliza enters, and demurely demands the payment to her of £5,000 as the alternative of a breach of promise action. Hopkinson pays half of this, the rest being extracted from the Earl; and then the news comes of Thyra's elopement. Enraged at perceiving his position, the Earl endeavours to tear the bag containing the deed out of the lawyer's arms; and a lively struggle takes place. Eventually, Hopkinson, having paid for his experience, is left pondering. He is visited by Eliza, who suggests that he had better marry her, after all. When she is gone, he walks to the table where the wedding presents are placed, takes up some very valuable jewels, and walks out with them under his arm.

The ease, the *aplomb*, and the finish of the acting at the Avenue on Tuesday could hardly be excelled. Mr. Frederick Kerr, capitally made-up, with an air of hungry activity veiled by a good manner, was entirely admirable as the Duke of Braceborough. The nice discrimination with which the extremely sharp man-of-the-world was allowed to "break through" the polished aristocrat was extremely artistic, and did great credit to Mr. Kerr's discrimination. Mr. Henry Kemble's Earl of Addleton—corpulent, overbearing, and excessively comic—was an agreeable and most amusing foil to the cooler and meaner personages of the piece; and peals of laughter were evoked by his diverting suggestions of approaching nausea. It is strange how little sympathy there is with seasickness in a theatrical audience. Mr. Athol Stuart's Lord Gawthorpe was highly praiseworthy in its entire absence of exaggeration. A fraction of caricature would have ruined the effect of the embodiment, which was absolutely convincing. Mr. W. Graham Browne gave to his performance as the Hon. Otho Dursingham just the needed touch, and no more, of characteristic pettiness, the cynical smoothness of the personage being very cleverly indicated. In appearance, too, Mr. Browne was the very artist for the task. Mr. Charles Allan is so happily endowed by nature for the depiction of a character like that of Mr. Smethurst that it was no wonder that he was "every inch" a solicitor of the type suggested by the surroundings, and Mr. Hubert Druce was as irreproachable as Parbury as Mr. Henry Stephenson was as Blisset. Mr. James Welch's Samuel Hopkinson was conceived on very effective lines, the contemptibility of the little "bounder" being emphasised distinctly, while his eccentricities, verbal and otherwise, were not overdone. Miss Ellen O'Malley was winningly frank and free as Lady Thyra Egglesby, and acted with a commendable combination of discretion and spirit; and Miss Annie Hughes was the essence of demure decision as Eliza Dibb. As for Miss Compton, it is only necessary to state that she was the Duchess of Braceborough in order to evoke in the imagination of every experienced playgoer the placid drollery, the humorous ease, and the never-sluggish serenity of her consummately clever impersonation. *Mr. Hopkinson* is particularly well dressed and mounted, and is one of the most diverting comedies to be seen on the London stage at the present time.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DER KAISERJAEGER,"
Comedy, in Three Acts,
by H. Brennert and H. Ostwald,
Produced at the Berliner, Feb. 18

Von Pichelsdorf	Herr Pittschau
Marie Werder	Fraulein Richers
Plath	Herr Rohland
Anna	Fraulein Bortticher
Lichtenhahn	Herr Hasskerl
Wiesejung	Herr Starnburg
Lilipopp	Herr Prahl
Der Kaiserjaeger	Herr Wehrlin
Pomadenalex	Herr Kuhnert
Otto	Herr Koch
Patentede	Herr Schindler
Ziegelist	Herr Weigert
Hinte	Herr L'Allemand
Malte	Herr Mischke
Hoppe	Herr Chony
Maier	Herr Schwranek
Pigulla	Herr Luedike
Knecht	Herr Wegner

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, Thursday, Feb. 23.—This play is decidedly original, and has a good deal that is amusing and pleasing. A few words will be sufficient for the plot. We are introduced to a number of tramps, chief among them being Josef Einzinger, an Austrian, formerly a waiter who had served in the army as Kaiserjaeger. Einzinger might have become an honoured member of his calling, but having had the misfortune to spill a portion of "Gulasch" over the Imperial nether garments of an Archduke, he was "hounded out of society," and rather than seek further employment, he took to the profession of a tramp—whatever that may be. Einzinger is a merry, happy-go-lucky fellow, and the landlady of the inn at Alt-Lanke casts loving eyes upon him. Marie Werder is a widow, and over-amiably disposed to the opposite sex; her former lover and manservant, Malte, is in gaol for the murder of a rival, and she loses no time in engaging the Kaiserjaeger. Before long they are married, and Einzinger's naturally good business capacities raise the inn and its adjoining shop to a flourishing condition. He is not happy, in spite of prosperity; the fascinations of a wandering life appeal to him so strongly that he goes off periodically to shake a loose leg among his old dissolute companions. When Malte suddenly appears on the scene, having escaped from prison, demanding the old relations between himself and Marie, and Einzinger learns the truth for the first time, the Kaiserjaeger's just indignation knows no bounds. He goes off finally, in spite of his wife's tearful entreaties, but we have a strong suspicion that the joys of vagabondism attract our hero more than Marie's lack of virtue repels him. A very friendly reception was awarded to the piece, the authors being "called" repeatedly in response to general applause. Herr Wehrlin, in the title-rôle, had a part which suited him splendidly, and his rendering of it was the greatest success of the evening.

The Royal Opera has finally produced the long-promised novelty, *Rübezahl*, a three-act opera by Hans Sommer, words by Eberhard Koenig. It is a composition about which opinions differ; the reception was cordial, and nothing more. *Rübezahl* is a thoughtful composition, with some approach to originality, but the orchestration is far too noisy, frequently completely overwhelming the voices, and genuine melody is almost absent. The book is uncanny enough in the original; the librettist has softened it somewhat. Rübezahl is the Spirit of the Mountains—according to ancient German legends—who has been sung by many poets, and set to music many times. Even Weber took his first ideas of *Der Freyschütz* from Apel's Ghost Book—the foundation of Koenig's text. The scene is laid in the old Silesian town of Reisse, in the reign of the tyrannical Vogt Buko. The citizens determine to revolt, but give one more chance to the autocrat by the sending of a deputy, whom Buko promptly claps into prison. Under the young painter Wido—who has gained Buko's favour by his art, and who loves Gertrud, the Vogt's daughter—the people rise. Wido is implored by his sweetheart not to leave his brush for the sword, but the young man feels it is his duty. First, however, he consults Rübezahl and begs his assistance, which the capricious Spirit does not promise. He advises Wido in the same strain as Gertrud did, and takes upon himself the disguise of a bagpiper to mingle with the people. Wido persists in joining in the revolt. The band of men go to the autocrat's castle to demand their messenger, but failing to storm the citadel, set fire to it. Gertrud comes out of the burning building, and the mob turns its fury upon her. Wido protects her, and is accused of treason by his followers. It would go hard with them both did not Rübezahl, in his disguise of Ruprecht, appear with his bagpipes, which bewitch the people, who all depart dancing. The Vogt, returning home, wishes to thank the man who has saved his daughter, but Ruprecht—in his character of merry rascal—becomes so cheeky that he, too, gets put into prison. Gertrud now confesses to her father her love for Wido, but the Vogt declares when the dead come out of their graves she may marry him, not before. The scene now changes to the cemetery, where Ruprecht has been buried, after the Vogt's soldiers have made an end of him. All our old friends assemble here. Buko is drawn by restless feeling to Ruprecht's grave; Wido is pursued thither by the Vogt's satellites, and even Gertrud turns up to beg her lover's life. Wido, having bravely defended himself, is about to be overwhelmed by the Vogt and his soldiers, when he once more appeals to Rübezahl to come and help him. A mysterious sound of bagpipes is heard from Ruprecht's grave, while, to the horror of all, the surrounding graves open and their occupants come forth. The tyrant falls dead, no one dares to lay a hand upon Wido, and Rübezahl appears in his own form and addresses the crowd. Gertrud and Wido will be eventually united, and while the latter sings the praises of love and art the curtain descends. The interpretation might, on the whole, have been a better one. Dr. Strauss conducted in his usual able manner, and composer and author were called several times before the curtain.

Ibsen's fine play—considered by some people to be his best—*Die Frau vom Meere*, is still running at intervals at the Lessing. A change has been made in the cast, the important rôle of the Stranger being given by Herr Marr instead of Herr Bassermann. It does not lose in any way by the alteration, admirably as it was acted by Herr Bassermann. The title-rôle is still given by Fräulein Triesch, than whom no better exponent exists.

Dr. Oscar Blumenthal's farce, *Die Teufelsfelsen*, has been drawn upon by Herr Hans Liebstoecke for the text of an operetta. The Kapellmeister of the Stadt Theatre, Herr Josef Stransky, at Hamburg, has composed the music, and the work will be produced here and in Hamburg before long. The title remains the same.

A member of our Corps Diplomatique, Madame Morel-Bey, is busy translating a German comedy into English for a London theatre. The piece—*Standesgemäss*, by Wilhelm Georg—was recently performed for the first time in its native tongue at the Court Theatre, at Brunswick. Madame Morel-Bey, who is the wife of the First Secretary at the Turkish Embassy here, is an English lady by birth.

"Die Herren von Maxim" has reached its 100th consecutive performance at the Metropol, and is still proving an attraction. Fräulein Fritzi Massari has lost none of her popularity in the principal rôle.

Mr. Samuel P. Swanton, the talented chef d'orchestre of the Theatre Royal and Palace Theatre, Belfast, is, we are glad to state, recovering from his serious illness.

COUNTY COUNCIL AND AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday, at the County Hall Spring Gardens.

MUSICIANS' PETITION.

Mr. John Burns, M.P., presented the following petition from the Amalgamated Musicians' Union: "Gentlemen,—We, the undersigned, professional musicians, dependent entirely upon our profession for our means of livelihood, respectfully urge upon the London County Council the necessity of employing more professional auxiliary bands or orchestras in the parks during the next summer season, either by direct employment or through recognised non-profit-making agencies, which undertake such work purely in the interests of professional musicians (such as the above Society, or the London Orchestral Association), and in such a way as to assure them at least three days' employment in each week, for the following reasons: 1. That musical employment being largely seasonal, professional musicians must earn sufficient during those seasons to provide for the periods they are unemployed. 2. That want of employment amongst other classes of the community has had a corresponding effect upon our profession, so that scores of professional musicians are suffering considerably through want of employment. 3. That as competition for engagements amongst professional musicians becomes keener every day, owing to the large numbers of musicians constantly joining our ranks from the different schools of music and other sources, there is greater need for the employment of more professional bands and orchestras, so that employment may be provided for those in urgent need of it. 4. That as we have only our musical ability to depend upon, we respectfully submit, as London residents and ratepayers, that our claims for consideration are far greater than those who have other sources of income besides that derived from music; and (5) that the system of allotting six or seven engagements, to be spread over a period of three or four months of the summer season, is not sufficient employment to keep professional bands together for that length of time, whereas three or more engagements every week would form at least the nucleus of a living. For these reasons we hope the London County Council will accede to our petition, and employ more professional bands and orchestras at "fair terms," and thus provide employment for those engaged in the musical profession in London."

The petition, which was numerously signed, was referred to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee.

THE LONDON COLISEUM.

The Council, on July 14, 1903, approved plans of the London Coliseum, St. Martin's-lane. These plans showed, *inter alia*, certain lifts proposed to be provided at the building. A plan has since been submitted by Messrs. F. Matcham and Co., showing certain alterations which it is proposed to make to the enclosure to the lift in the main entrance vestibule, and the Theatres and Music Halls Committee recommended that Messrs. F. Matcham and Co. be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the tracing submitted by them with regard to the lift in question.—Agreed to.

ELYSIA.

The committee had considered a plan, submitted by Mr. A. O. Collard, showing how it is proposed to alter the wood and plaster facades in front of the two existing buildings in the part known as Elysia, of the London Exhibitions Buildings. The proposal had been approved by the Building Act Committee, and it was agreed that Mr. Collard be informed that the Council had no objection to the proposed alterations.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.

The committee had considered a plan, submitted by Mr. J. G. Buckle, showing a proposal to alter the gates at present fitted to the main entrance vestibule and balcony entrance at St. George's Hall, Langham-place, so as to make these gates fixed instead of collapsible, as at present. The proposal appeared to be satisfactory, and the committee recommended that Mr. J. G. Buckle be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the plan submitted by him with regard to the proposed alteration, provided that if the gates be fitted on fastenings, such fastenings be made to work automatically. That Mr. Buckle be further informed that if it is desired to retain the gate to the stage entrance, this gate should be treated in a similar manner to those shown on the plan submitted by him.—Approved.

LA SCALA THEATRE.

The Building Act Committee recommended that the Council, on the application of Mr. F. T. Verity, on behalf of Mr. E. D. Maddick, do consent to a deviation from the plans approved on December 13, 1904, for the erection of iron and glass shelters to a theatre building abutting upon the east side of Charlotte-street, the south side of Tottenham-street, and the north side of Pitt-street, S. Pancras, so far as relates to the shelter erected over the Charlotte-street entrance to the theatre, overhanging the public way three inches more than shown on such plans, such consent being subject to all the conditions contained in the resolution of December 13, 1904, consenting to the erection of the shelters, being otherwise strictly observed.—Agreed to.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

In submitting a series of proposed bye-laws for carrying out the Employment of Children Act, 1903, the Public Control Committee explained that the employment of children in theatres, music halls, and other places of public entertainment, which was regulated by the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, 1894, and by the Employment of Children Act, 1903, was now controlled by the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, 1904. The Factory Act fixed the age below which children should not be employed in theatres One of the bye-laws prohibits a child under the age of 16 engaged in street trading from entering for that purpose any premises licensed for public entertainments or for the sale of intoxicating liquors for consumption on the premises. The new bye-laws were, after some amendments had been introduced, agreed to.

At the usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association, held last Tuesday, Constance Owen, Elinor Foster, and Frank Lascelles were nominated for election. The Secretary reported that a member of the Association, who had recently, through the instrumentality of the hon. solicitors, recovered the full amount of salary due to her under a contract—legal proceedings having been taken to enforce her claim—had written to him a letter of thanks, and sent a donation to the funds of the Actors' Association. The Secretary reported that an arbitration had been held by the Joint Board, and an award published in favour of a member, and that the member had tendered his thanks for the consideration given to his case. The hon. solicitors reported progress in several matters.

Mr. Luscombe Searelle, who collaborated with Mrs. Ella Wheeler Wilcox in the play *Mizpah*, recently produced at the Majestic Theatre, in San Francisco, is lying dangerously ill at a sanatorium there. While visiting friends in a town near by he was stricken with a hemorrhage of the stomach. It was the recurrence of an old complaint, but in a worse form than he had experienced before. The next day Mr. Searelle's condition became so alarming that his friends had him taken back for special treatment.

Mr. Tatten Hall, owing to his great success in pantomime this year, has been engaged with Mr. Milton Bode for next season.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

Critton.—Feb. 22, Georgi Vernon, wife of E. Critton, of a fine son.

Rawson.—Feb. 2, at 133, Havelock-road, Brighton, the wife of T. W. Rawson, of a son, who survived his birth two days. Deeply regretted.

MARRIAGES.

Lloyd—Brown.—On Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Church of the Holy Ghost, Balham, Dulcie Mahetabel (youngest daughter of the late Arthur Lloyd), to William Joseph Brown (of Williams and Brown).

DEATHS.

Erno.—Jan. 27, quite suddenly, George Erno, the dearly beloved father of the original Sisters Western, aged fifty-three. Interred at Manor Park, Feb. 2. Loved and respected by all who knew him.

"In the midst of life we are in death.

Percy.—Feb. 15, at Epsom, of pneumonia, Arthur Cecil Percy, aged forty-two. Deeply mourned by his sorrowing wife and friends.

Thompson.—Feb. 17, at 3, Ashmead-road, St. John's, Charles Cuthbert Thompson, beloved and only brother of Maude Thompson, in his thirty-second year.

Summers.—On Feb. 22, at the Beaconsfield Nursing Institute, High-road, Balham, S.W., after a long and painful illness, Walter Summers, author and playwright, aged 38. Funeral cortège will leave above address at 2.30 p.m. on Monday next for Wimbledon Cemetery.

Summers.—Feb. 22, at the Beaconsfield Nursing Institution, 276, Balham High-road, Walter Summers, author, playwright, and pantomime producer, aged 38.

In Memoriam.

Aubrey.—In loving memory of Miss Lizzie Aubrey (Mrs. Chas. Dodsworth), who died Feb. 22, 1900. Never forgotten by her friend, Maude Stoneham.

Cooke.—In loving memory of my beloved wife Emma, who departed this life Feb. 22, 1904. R.I.P.

Homfray.—In affectionate and loving memory of Reginald Stockton and his wife (Ella Stirling), who both died Feb. 27, 1898.

Judge.—In loving memory of Mr. William Judge (Judge's Cockatoos), who died Feb. 24, 1903. Sadly missed by his sorrowing wife and daughters.

Judge.—In fond remembrance of our dear father, Mr. William Judge. From his loving sons, Alaska and Charlie.

Stockton.—In loving and affectionate remembrance of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Stockton (Ella Stirling), who both died Feb. 27, 1898. Peace and Rest.

McQueen.—In sad and loving memory of our dear son, Duncan, who departed this life, Feb. 26, 1903. Never to be forgotten by his sorrowing father, mother, and sisters Katie, Elsie, Nellie, and brother Hector—Mr. and Mrs. D. O'Malley (McQueen).

For Sympathy.

Ball.—Miss Ball, Mr. and Mrs. Bilton, and the relatives of the late Mr. Lewis Ball, desire to convey their thanks to their numerous friends for great sympathy shown to them in their heavy bereavement.—Teignmouth, Feb. 22, 1905.

"MEIN LEOPOLD."

Volksstück, in Three Acts, by Adolf L'Arronge.
With Incidental Musical Numbers,
Produced at the Great Queen-street Theatre, on Wednesday, Feb. 22.

Zernikow	Bruno Wiburger
Natalie	Adele Meysel
Marie	Ida Weiss
Anna	Valerie Salberg
Emma	Camilla Dalberg
Gottlieb Weigelt	Hans Andresen
Clara	Callista Marvin
Leopold	Heinz Pabst
Minna	Rosie Grawz
Rudolf Starke	Hans Stock
Mehlmeyer	Adolf Walther
Hempel	Thilo Ulrich
Wilhelm	Grete Langpried
Krümel	Karl Berger
Schwalbach	G. F. Schwirger
Mielisch	Phil Lesing
Schmidt	F. Stein
Fritz	Fritz Willig
Gottlieb	M. Weisheit

The story unfolded in *Mein Leopold* is of a simple domestic kind, but some of the people introduced are amusing studies of character, to which the members of the clever company, under the direction of Herr Hans Andresen and Herr Max Behrend, do ample justice. Those playgoers who are not acquainted with the German tongue can easily follow the story with the aid of the synopis contained in the programme.

Gottlieb Weigelt is a well-to-do shoemaker in Berlin. Uneducated and overbearing, he lives in a state of perpetual warfare both with his neighbours and with his tenants. He is a widower left with two children, Clara and Leopold. The father's entire affection is lavished on the boy, whom he has brought up and educated far above his station; Leopold, when the play commences, holding some small legal post. The result of his bringing up is only too evident, Leopold is a conceited, selfish prig. Clara having decided to marry one of her father's employees, Rudolph Starke, is disowned, and driven from her home. The foolish father, having now only Leopold left, allows his affection for him to become his master passion. In order to minister to his spendthrift son's ever-increasing demands, he disposes of his business, and then, by degrees, of all his other property; only in the end to be blamed by his son for having done so. Leopold's extravagance demanding even more than his father gives him, he commits forgery, and, recognising the fact that he is at the end of his tether, decides upon a wealthy marriage as the means whereby to obtain a fresh lease of the life he is leading. His prospective father-in-law, Schwalbach, a rich merchant, has, however, heard rumours of the kind of life Leopold is leading, and insists upon his winning his future wife by industry and reformed life. A speedy marriage being an important factor in Leopold's schemes, he robs Schwalbach, and flies the country. Gottlieb, ruined by his son's excesses and misdeeds, goes back to his old trade of shoemaking, working day and night in a wretched garret to pay off the amount of his son's forgery, which he has made himself responsible for. Thus he is found by the daughter of one whom in former days he had harshly treated, and through whom he is now reconciled to his daughter and her husband. From the latter he learns that, helped by him, Leopold, across the seas, having turned over a new leaf, is on the high road to success.

Herr Hans Andresen plays very naturally the part of Gottlieb, the father who foolishly ruins himself for the sake of his worthless son; the mixture of humour and pathos alternately displayed proving most effective. Herr Heinz Pabst gives an excellent portrayal of Leopold, a character somewhat upon the same lines as the one he played in *Maskerade* last week. Herr Hans Stock is admirable in his embodiment of Rudolf Starke, the honest workman who marries Clara, and sets her father at defiance. The part of Clara has a pleasing exponent in Fräulein Callista Marvin, who, however, on Wednesday night, was obviously suffering from a severe cold. Fräulein Camilla Dalberg does well as Emma, one of the three daughters of Zernikow, a part ably sustained by Herr Bruno Wiburger. Schwalbach was carefully depicted by Herr G. F. Schwieger; Fräulein Rosie Grawz was admirable as a pert and pretty servant maid; and other rôles received adequate treatment. Several songs were introduced, but they struck one as being somewhat out of place in a play of this kind.

ON THE ROAD, FEB. 27.

Aladdin (Dottridge).—Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
Aladdin (Kiddie).—Opera House, Southport.
Amorelle.—Grand Theatre, Newcastle.
Are You a Mason?—Queen's Theatre, Swindon.
Armadale Repertoire.—Theatre Royal, Worcester.
At War with the World.—Maidenhead.
Austin, Miss Mary.—Empire Theatre, Oldham.
Bandmann-Palmer.—Her Majesty's T., Aberdeen.
Beautiful Avenger.—Theatre Royal, Sunderland.
Beauty and the Barge.—T. R., Huddersfield.
Beauty and the Beast (Ray).—Blackburn.
Benson, Mr. F. R. (A).—Coronet Theatre, W.
Benson, Mr. F. R. (B).—Century T., Motherwell.
Between Two Women.—Colosseum, Oldham.
Bigamy.—Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.
Biggest Scamp on Earth.—York.
Bulmer, Mr.—Met. Theatre, Glasgow.
Cardinal.—King's Theatre, Glasgow.
Chinese Honeymoon (M.).—Paisley.
Chinese Honeymoon (Macdona) (N.).—Annan.
Chinese Honeymoon (Macdona) (S.).—Goole.
Cingalee.—Cardiff.
Compton Comedy Co.—Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh
Convict's Daughter.—Theatre Royal, Bilston.
Country Girl (Dance) (M.)—Barnsley.
Country Girl (N.).—Consett.
Country Girl (S.).—Hyde.
Country Mouse (N.).—Theatre Royal, Bath.
Cousin Kate.—Glasgow.
Crimson Club.—Theatre Royal, Dumfries.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Kidderminster.
Defending His Honour.—T. R., Chatham.
Dick Whittington (Kiddie).—T. R., Smethwick.
D'Oyly Carte.—Prince of Wales's T., Grimsby.
Duchess of Dantzic (Dance).—Preston.
Duchess of Dantzic (Edwardes).—Newcastle.
Duke of Killicrankie (Lovell).—Blackpool.
Earl and the Girl.—Theatre Royal, Rochdale.
Face at the Window.—C. T., Warrington.
Fatal Wedding (M.).—Burnley.
Fatal Wedding (N.).—Newcastle.
Fatal Wedding (S.).—Stafford.
Fiends of London.—Opera House, Dudley.
Florodora (Callan).—Court Theatre, Bacup.
Florodora (Davis).—Theatre Royal, Stockport.
Frivolity.—Court Theatre, Wigan.
Gay Parisienne.—Maidstone.
Geisha and Greek Slave.—Croydon.
Gipsy Jack.—Swansea.
Girl From Bond Street.—P. of W. T., Liverpool.
Girl from Kay's (N.).—Edinburgh.
Girl from Japan.—King's T., Hammersmith.
Golden Ladder.—Junction Theatre, Manchester.
Goody Two Shoes.—Opera House, Leicester.
Go-Won-Go Mohawk.—Brighouse.
Grip of Iron.—Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.
Harvey, Martin.—Theatre Royal, Brighton.
Heart of a Hero.—Prince's Theatre, Preston.
Her Fatal Past.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
I Defy the World.—Theatre Royal, Stratford.
Indian Mutiny.—Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.
Irving, Henry.—Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—Kennington, S.E.
King's Pardon.—Opera House, St. Helens.
Ladder of Life.—Terriss Theatre, S.E.
Lady of Ostend.—Theatre Royal, Dover.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Hertford.
La Poupee.—Prince's Theatre, Manchester.
Laughter-Land.—Theatre Royal, Bolton.
Life of a Showman.—T. R., Birkenhead.
Life That Kills.—New Theatre, Aberdare.
Lights o' London.—Grand Theatre, Hull.
Lightning's Flash.—Pavilion Theatre, Edinburgh.
Little Cinderella (Kiddie).—T. R., Darwen.
Little Mary.—Theatre Royal, Belfast.
London Actress.—Maesteg.
London Fireman.—Queen's Theatre, Dublin.
Lucky Durham.—Queen's Theatre, Leeds.
Manxman.—West Pier, Brighton.
Marriage of Kitty.—Theatre Royal, Gloucester.
Marriage of Vengeance.—Grand Theatre, Luton.
Merely Mary Ann.—Theatre Royal, Bournemouth
Message from Mars.—G. T., Southampton.
Midnight Mail.—Keighley.
Mockery of Marriage.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
Monsieur Beaucaire.—Nuneaton.
Moody-Manners (A).—O. H., Middlesbrough.
Moody-Manners (B).—Royalty Theatre, Barrow.
My Lady Molly.—Grand Theatre, Walsall.
Napoleon the Great.—Theatre Royal, Attercliffe.
New Mephisto.—Opera House, Doncaster.
Norman V. Norman.—Theatre Royal, Greenock.
Orchid (Edwardes).—Camden Theatre, N.W.
Orchid (Dance).—Dundee.
Otto the Outcast.—Gaiety Theatre, Ayr.
Peggy Machree.—Alexandra Theatre, N.
Prince of Rogues.—Rawtenstall.
Proof.—King's Theatre, Cardiff.
Red Cape.—Grand Theatre, Plymouth.
Red Riding Hood (Eland's).—Bradford.
Revenge.—Star Theatre, Liverpool.
Royal Divorce.—Opera House, Burton.
Royal Revenge (Glyndes).—Workington.
Sapho (Annie Bell).—Grand T., Nottingham.
Saturday to Monday.—Lyceum Theatre, Ipswich.
School Girl (Macdona).—Sunderland.
Sergeant Brue.—Shakespeare Theatre, S.W.
Sherlock Holmes.—Grand T., West Hartlepool.
Sign of the Cross.—Opera House, Northampton.
Silver King.—Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury.
Sinbad the Sailor (Levaine).—Northwich.
Sin of Her Childhood.—West Stanley.
Sins of a City.—Theatre Royal, Peterborough.
Sledge-Hammer.—Grand Theatre, Brighton.
Sorrows of Satan.—Royalty Theatre, Chester.
Still Alarm.—K.T., Sutton-in-Ashfield.
Sunday.—Theatre Royal, Ashton.
Swiss Express.—New Theatre, Loughborough.
Three Little Maids (Macdona) (S.).—Newport.
Traitor.—Osborne Theatre, Manchester.
Traitor Prince.—Opera House, Perth.
Trip to Chinatown.—Opera House, Coventry.
Two Little Sailor Boys.—P. T., Blackburn.
Ugliest Woman on Earth.—Colchester.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—Whitehaven.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Tully).—Stourbridge.
Under Two Flags.—T. R., South Shields.
Veronique.—Stratford.
Victim of Villainy.—Middleton.
Village Blacksmith.—P.O.W. T., Mexborough.
Warner, Grace.—Altrincham.
Way of the World.—Grand Theatre, Radcliffe.
Wearin' o' the Green.—Theatre Royal, Jarrow.
What a Woman Did.—Alexandra Theatre, Hull.
When a Man Hates.—Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood.
When a Woman Hates.—W. G. T., Blackpool.
Woman's Devotion.—Theatre Royal, Leigh.
Woman of Impulse.—Theatre Royal, Windsor.
Wrecker of Men.—Theatre Royal, Leicester.
10.30 Down Express.—Ton-y-Pandy.

The directors of the Gaiety Theatre Company have declared the usual interim dividend for the half year ended Dec. 31 of 1s. per share.

Mr. Geo. Thackeray Knight, well known as an acting-manager and advance-agent, is leaving the profession, and sails next month for Canada, where it is his intention to go in for farming.

The Theatre Royal, Hebburn-on-Tyne, which has been closed for a brief period, will shortly re-open, under the management of Mr. W. A. Jackson.

"The Era" can be obtained at any of Smith and Sons' bookstalls throughout the provinces.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(*Continued from page 11.*)

STOURBRIDGE.—Alhambra Theatre.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—*What a Woman Did*, a powerful drama, is paying a first visit here, and must be considered a great success. The company appearing is under the direction of Mr. William A. Armour. The latter, in the leading rôle of Conrad de L'Orme, performs this heavy character in an admirable manner, and the same must be said of Elsie de L'Orme, a part undertaken by Miss Dora Price. Mr. Percy E. Wright proves an able exponent of the character of Raffaelle Duroc; Mr. Jim Woods proves very popular as Fritz, his singing being much enjoyed; Mr. Fred Rignold is most amusing as Peter Pippin; and Miss Norah Waylett makes the most of her part of Nannette; Miss Alice Raymer, as La Papillon, is capital; and Miss Louie Lonora, as Fanchon, deserves mention.

SUNDERLAND.—Avenue Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; General-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's popular pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty and the Yellow Dwarf*, is still drawing large houses in this its last week here. Miss Esmé Gordon gives a particularly fine presentation of Prince Faithful; and Miss Daisy Stratton is a captivating Beauty Allfair. Mr. W. J. Churchill as Count Incognite keeps the audience in constant good humour by his mirth-provoking patter; and Mr. Alf Bishop and Mr. James Chippendale are uproariously funny as King and Queen Half-a-Crown. The Yellow Dwarf of Mr. Lonnen Meadows is a clever performance; La Superbe scores in her terpsichorean acrobatic phantasy; and much pleasure has also been provided by the Morton Trio and the Sisters Cunningham.

Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; General-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mr. Bert Coote's company, in *The Fatal Wedding*, is the attraction here this week. Mr. S. Herbert Humber is an effective Howard Wilson; and as Robert Curtis Mr. Oliver Rogers is remarkably good; Mr. Chas. Kenney is well placed as Peter Schwartz; whilst Mr. Jack Waring is adequate as O'Reilly. Miss Gertrude Harrison plays cleverly as Cora Williams; and Miss Nona Hoffe is a pleasing Mabel Wilson. Miss Harriet Clifton is highly amusing as Bridget; Miss Marjorie Lawrence is exceptionally smart as Jessie, "the little mother," and her vocal efforts deserve special praise.

Palace Theatre, Ltd. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George V. Wybrow.—The renowned Scotch comedian, Harry Lauder, tops the bill here this week, and meets with a hearty reception; Lina, a Swedish artiste, scores with his dances; Primavesi is a unique juggler; Dezmonti and Mora contribute a clever triple-bar act; and other acceptable turns are the Two Neros, comedians; Louis Lavater, with his amusing Canine Kilties' Band; Belle Braham, vocalist; and Harry Sheldon, comedian. Vernon's animated pictures are also shown.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—King's Theatre.—Proprietors, Sutton Theatre Syndicate; Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Mr. F. S. Gilbert's Grand Opera Company opened on Monday to a crowded house, with *Maritana*. Mr. Gilbert was in capital voice, and his Don Cæsar was rendered in excellent style. As Maritana, Miss Marie D'Alcourt sang charmingly, infusing plenty of fire and feeling into the beautiful lines. Mr. F. Halpin, as Don Jose, played and sang excellently. The repertoire throughout the week is well chosen. On Tuesday night, Mr. Frederic Hudson charmed his audience as the Count De Luna in *Il Trovatore*; and Miss C. Florence played the gipsy cleverly, her voice being good and well sustained throughout.

SWANSEA.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Lessees and Managers, Messrs. E. Oswald Brooks (Resident) and J. W. Woodbridge.—The Swansea Amateur Operatic Society gave, on Tuesday night, the first of five performances of Planquette's *Les Cloches de Corneville*. The performance throughout was good, and reflected credit on Mr. D. Stanley Brown (the professional coach), who also assumed, very successfully, the rôle of the Marquis.

New Star.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Coutts.—The current attraction here is *A Traitor Prince*, played by Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company, under the direction of Mr. E. Carter Livesey.

New Empire.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Mitchell.—A good programme here includes Harry Lamore, the silent comedian on the wire; Lukos Herford and his canine acrobats; Ida Heath, quick-change artiste and dainty dancer; Sable Fern, popular comedienne; F. V. St. Clair, the famous topical vocalist; the American bioscope; Rumbo Austin, and troupe of parody acrobats; Marie Collins, a favourite comedienne; and Prof. Bernar, with miniature theatre and marionettes.

Palace.—Lessees, The Swansea Varieties, Ltd.—The Donnells, Kate and James, vocalists and dancers; Walter Levalle, F.O.S., coster comedian; the Two Balzens, Japanese jugglers, Nellie Lucreece, comedienne and vocalist; King and Delane, comedy dudes; the Palace pictures; Flo. Winter, serio-comic vocalist; the Surrey Sketch company, in their Act, *Sally*; comprise the company here.

SWINDON.—Queen's Theatre.—Sole Lessee and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—*Three Little Maids* is here on a return visit. This pretty musical piece is tastefully staged and presented by Mr. Charles Macdona's company, under the business direction of Mr. Herbert Austin. The full chorus and augmented orchestra are under the bâton of Mr. Julian Rutt. Miss Vera Vallis (Ada), Miss Nellie Groves (Hilda) and Miss Mabel Lavelle (Edna) form a trio of charming little maids, each being heard to considerable advantage in their delightful vocal efforts. Miss Laura Wright is excellent as Gretchen; and Madame Ilma Norina is earnest and dignified as Lady St. Mallory. Mr. Arthur Longley, as Lord Cheyne, is admirable; Mr. E. K. Favelles achieves a distinct success as Brian Molyneux; and Mr. Jules Charmettes does capital work as M. de l'Orme. Mr. Gus Oxley, a great favourite here, fully deserves the unstinted applause he gains as Cupid; and Mr. W. P. Morgan, stage-manager, makes the part of the Vicar stand out prominently.

TORQUAY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. R. Smerdon; Secretary, Mr. A. Pearse.—The late Wilson Barrett's domestic drama, *The Sledge Hammer*, was enthusiastically received on Monday, when it was presented by Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company, with special scenery and accessories. Mr. Charles Herberte made an excellent Matthew Derrick, and his sons were well represented by Messrs. W. V. Garrod, A. Northway, and C. Halling. Mr. Frank Litchfield was a very acceptable Tom Walker; and Miss Bertha Kingston a pretty and demure Rose Maywell. Other characters were well placed with Misses Fanny and Ella-line Thorne, and Messrs. M. Davidson, F. Dallas, L. Konrad, L. St. Clair, W. Vincent, and E. Ashton.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—The Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey; Manager, Mr. F. Edgar Manaton.—*The Messenger from Mars*, on a return visit, has been well received this week. Mr. F. R. Buckley gives a clever study of Horace Parker; and Mr. W. H. Brougham is admirable as the Messenger. Mr. B. Lindley as the Tramp, also scores. Among the ladies, Miss Flora Hastings, Miss Peggy Yeoman, Miss Joan Meredith and Miss Teresa Vanbrugh, all contributed to the success of the performance.

WAKEFIELD.—Royal Opera House.—Proprietors, Messrs. Sherwood and Co.—Mr. John Tully's company is here in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Mr. William Taylor does well as Uncle Tom; Mr. John Tully is seen to advantage as Phineas Fletcher; Mr. B. Kellen Taylor is clever as George Harris, and Mr. James Palmer ably impersonates the part of Mr. Shelby. Miss Edith Blanche admirably portrays the dual rôle of Eliza Harris and Cassy; Miss Marie Lyndon is successful as Aunt Ophelia, and Miss Kitty Wood submits a smart rendering of Topsy. Other principal parts are ably taken by Mr. Charles Colwyn, Mr. Fred G. Kay, Mr. St. Vincent Beechey, Miss Ethel Winter, and Little Marie.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, the Wakefield Hippodrome, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Geo. S. Douglass.—Hanco, jail breaker, is here this week, and astonishes the audiences with his wonderful feats. Tom Hall and his comic acrobatic nippers contribute a laughable turn; Louis Kerno, coon vocalist and dancer, is a decided hit; the Skandia Troupe of gymnasts are clever; the Wedburns, comedians, provide an amusing turn; Miss Kitty Timms, vocalist, wins favour, and Walter Payne's Bio-Photoscope displays interesting films.

WALLSEND. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Owners, The Wallsend Theatre Company; Manager, Mr. T. Richardson.—Mr. Arthur Richmond's company, in *The Beautiful Avenger*, is here this week. Mr. Algernon Syms gives a capable rendering of Cyrus Telford; and Mr. Edwin Walton's portrayal of Zadoc Foxbane is commendable. Mr. Chas. T. Dee makes the most of his opportunities as Herman Foxbane; as Victor Stanhope, Miss Nannie Meade leaves little to be desired; and Miss Cissy Podmore is a pleasing Edna Volta.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, LTD.—General Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—The Ben Greet company is presenting here this week their Japanese play, *The Darling of the Gods*. The rôle of the crafty Zakkuri is ably filled by Mr. Edward A. Warburton. Mr. Alfred Goddard gives a powerful rendering of Kara; Mr. Leonard Grey makes the most of his opportunities as Saigon, and receives admirable support from Mr. Alexander Haviland, who capably impersonates Tanda Tanji. Miss Inez Bensusan depicts Yo-San in a charming manner; Miss Edith Anton Laing appears with marked success as Rosy Sky; Miss Kate Hamilton is all that can be desired in the part of Madam Asani; and Miss Stella Wynne is well placed as Ni, a singing girl.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD. — General Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—*The Fiends of London*, presented by Mr. Herbert Fuller's company, opened here on Monday. Mr. Harold Weston capably represents Sir Horace Bream, and Mr. Herbert Fuller earns enthusiastic calls for his portrayal of the popular jockey, Bob Archer. The rascality of Captain Crawley is depicted with marked fidelity by Mr. Hugh Carmichael; and Mr. H. Delmar makes a capital Peter Shark. Miss Agnes Collier gives an excellent rendering of the heroine, Laurie Christie; Miss Emily Lewis creates much amusement as Flossie Spring; Mr. Talleseyn G. Davis is to be congratulated on his assumption of Mad Joe; and Miss Edith Lister does well as the Countess.

WALTHAMSTOW.—PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr G. Adney Payne; Manager, Mr Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr Geo. F. Slatter.—The appearance here of Miss Louie Freear is very welcome. In the two songs contributed by this clever little lady she once more proves herself an artist to the tips of her fingers, and her performance of the slavey who describes the doings of an actress who has simply to walk on and walk off is exquisitely droll. Miss Annie Abbott, the Little Georgia Magnet, displays her powers to the astonishment of her audiences. Miss Ruth Dorris sings tunefully, and dances with lightness. A capital turn is that of Ara, Zebra, and Vora, in their speciality, *Indian Pastimes*, in which picturesque costumes and surroundings assist the really graceful acts of the performers. Mr. Frank Clements cleverly imitates various ways of doing everyday things; the Sutcliffe Troupe, in Highland dress, give a fine exhibition of dancing and pipe-playing; and Verno and Voyce, who have made themselves popular at this house before, go through their scena, *Capital and Labour*, with fine effect. Not the least attractive feature of the week is the reappearance of Mr. Leo Dryden, who sings his great successes, "For Freedom and Japan" and "An Actor and a Man," receiving for each loud and well-deserved applause. Another great favourite—if we may apply the term to such a tiny comedian—is Little Cliff, whose two contributions, first as a mischievous schoolboy and afterwards as a masher in evening costume, fairly bring down the house. Mezzetti and Mora are excellent and graceful triple-bar performers.

KING'S THEATRE.—Mr. Cecil Clayton's *Dick Whittington* is full of good scenes, to which a clever company does ample justice. Miss Gertrude Gray is a handsome and stately Good Fairy; Miss Millie Beckett is a dashing and sprightly Dick; Miss Gertie Lovedale a pretty and lively little Alice; Mr. Alfred Evremond makes much comic capital out of Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. James Glover is very good as Idle Jack; the Angelina of Mr. Tom Kenealy is a cook whose doings are the means of causing merriment all the time she is on the stage; and Miss Lillie Burrell as Sam and Miss May Isabelle as Tim are a pair of lively apprentices.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr. J. Potter.—Miss Mary Austin and company are here this week in the delightful play, *The Cotton Spinner*, produced under the direction of Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds. As Mary Prescott, Miss Mary Austin displays exceptional talent, and her acting throughout is marked with a naturalness which wins for her many friends; Miss Bella Power scores as Lady Charlotte Needy; and Miss May Grimshaw is well placed as Constance Harrington. In the title-rôle, Mr. John S. Haydon acts with rare dramatic force, a remark which also applies to Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds as Arthur Norbury; Mr. Ernest C. Edwards does well as Major Stratton; and Mr. Edwin F. Fysher is a dignified Lord Norbury; Mr. Frank Eaglesfield makes the most of Foster Cunningham; and Nobbs, James, and Smirk are in the safe hands of Messrs. H. Brown, Frank Storey, and Miss Ethel Inwoll. A new feature in the shape of the Royal Bioscope pictures between the acts has met with cordial approval.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Will mot.—Another excellent company is here this week. Lozelle supplies a novel and artistic turn; Harry Conlin is a popular comedian, who scores well; Primrose is a smart sand-dancer; and Gillin supplies a welcome ventriloquial turn; Rose Coleman is a charming comedienne and dancer; and Morny Cash is a favourite comedian; Casselli and James delight all with their banjo selections; and the Royal Bioscope depicts a series of charming pictures.

PAVILION HALL.—Proprietors, Warrington Corporation; Lessee, Mr. J. Lyon Whittle.—Mr. J. Kiddie's pantomime company attracted a large house here on Monday. *Little Aladdin* has a freshness about it which is distinctly pleasing. Witty Wattie Walton is exceedingly funny as Widow Twankey; and a clever portrayal of Abanazar is submitted by Mr. Arthur Alston; Mr. Fred Buxton scores well as Nanti Oof; and Mr. Ralph Roberts makes a humorous Wishee Washee; Miss Emma Milstead is excellent as Saucee, and her singing and dancing are nightly encored; Miss Marie Beresford is a dashing Aladdin, singing and dancing charmingly; and a delightful Princess is Miss Nellie Boyd. The two Kelsoes are clever comedians, and are the life and soul of the pantomime. Miss Maud Clarke is an accomplished dancer; and the Caenville Troupe of lady dancers go through some graceful evolutions. The chorus and orchestra are ably conducted by Mr. John Gill.

WEDNESBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—Mr. Henry Furnival's company in the sensational drama, *Lost in Paris*, is proving a great attraction here this week. Mr. W. J. Butler as Count de Linieres, and Mr. H. Charles as the Marquis de Presles, are very capable. As Adrien Chevalier-du-Vaudrey, Mr. A. V. Dixon is successful; Mr. Evered as De Mairley, and Mr. Holt as D'Estrees, are both clever. Miss K. Willoughby as Louise, and Miss Louisa Peach as Henrietta, the "Two Orphans," are well worthy of the highest praise; Miss Garratt does valuable work in the rôle of Florette; and the part of the Countess de Linieres is characteristically portrayed by Miss Alice Oliver.

WEST HARTLEPOOL. — GRAND THEATRE. — General-Manager (for Mrs. Weldon Watts). Mr. Sidney Bacon; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred Conneaux.—Mr. Jno. Tiller's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, is attracting large houses. It is bright and sparkling throughout, and is staged in a manner which calls for hearty congratulations. Miss Gracie Grahame is a tremendous success in the title-rôle, and the comedy is admirably supplied by Bob Selvidge, Dan Thomas, Harry Lyndon, Will Mackney and J. G. Aitken, who are all enjoying great popularity. Miss Fanny Harris makes a charming Alice. The chorus is a powerful one, and the dresses exceedingly effective.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—The marvellous equilibristic feats of the Lukushima Troupe of Japanese artistes are evoking unbounded enthusiasm. An expert gymnastic and aerial act is given by the Loma Trio; and Clement is a clever ventriloquist, introducing many novelties into his figures; Chas. Coverdale's smart and original patter is a source of great delight, and other artistes, who complete a strong bill-of-fare, are Rezene and Rubini, comedy trapeze artistes; Ethel May, comedienne, and Walt Tyler, descriptive vocalist.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. John H. Morton's *The Rajah of Ranjapore* company opened here on Monday. Miss Marion Walker, though suffering from a severe cold, deserves unstinted praise for an extremely clever and vivacious impersonation of Eliza; Miss Nell Ascott, as Primrose, acted and sang artistically; and Miss Minnie Blackmore is entitled to commendation for her efforts as Edith. Mr. Alvin Sawyer worked very hard as Horatio Chicks; Mr. Bolt Harrow is an excellent comedian, and proved irresistibly funny as Thistles; Mr. Phillip Percival is the possessor of a fine baritone voice, and his singing of the songs allotted to Ernest Travers was warmly received; Mr. Arthur Reid made a sufficiently villainous Captain Hertage, and Mr. Geo. Trevor did good work as Ted Perkins. Mr. Harry Cornwall scored as Mr. Stutt. The Rajah Troupe of lady dancers are worthy of eulogy for the graceful manner in which their several dances were executed.

WIDNES. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. James Kiddie; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Thos. Swinton.—Mr. Chas. H. Phelps' company in *One Woman's Wickedness* occupies the boards here this week. Mr. Lawrence O'Brien as Philip Beaufort plays his part with force and feeling; Miss Florence Lloyd, as Janet Raymond, proves a capable adventuress. The comic element is supplied by Mr. George Payne as Lord Algernon Fitzroodle and Miss Ethel Asbury as Jenny Giggles. On Wednesday evening the Farnworth Amateur Dramatic Society played *Dandy Dick* for the benefit of the funds of the N.S.P.C.C.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE. — Managing Director, Mr. John Worswick. — Mr. William Greet's No. 1 company is here with *The Sign of the Cross*. The popular drama has been witnessed by large and enthusiastic audiences, and the various characters have been sustained with the well-known ability of the members of this strong company. Mr. F. B. Woulfe is an able exponent of the part of Marcus Superbus, and Mr. A. B. Turner, as Nero; Mr. Charles Aldred as Tigellinus, and Mr. J. Wetherall as Lucinius Ædile, are excellent. Poppœa is well represented by Miss Nellie Bonser, and Miss Evelyn D'Alroy as Mercia plays the part with sympathetic expression.

THE GRAND HIPPODROME.—Managing Director, Mr. J. Worswick.—Lockhart's highly-trained elephants, introduced by Captain J. Taylor, and Manning's Entertainers, in the sketch, *A Turkish Bath Rubber*, in which a fine tumbling turn is provided, afford much merriment. The Dainton Girls, character duettists; the Brothers De Wynne, skilful equilibrists; Joe Mac, comedian, &c.; and King and Delane in the comedy act, *At the Club*, give capital performances. Ida Dalton, comedienne; Victoria Dagmar and clown, on the horizontal bar and gymnastic ropes; the Sisters Claribell, in the scena, *A Swiss Chalet*; and Will Bell, comedian and dancer, make up a first-class programme.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Manager, Mr. W. Birchall.—The Seltina Troupe, acrobats, give a very acceptable performance. Fenton Cross, speciality entertainer; Mr. Bert Hicks, comedian and descriptive vocalist; The Levitts, in their vaulting act; Miss Nellie Linton, comedienne; Harry Bent, comedian and mimic; Miss Carlotta Lunn, descriptive vocalist; and Hilton, in his fine wire act, provide capital entertainment.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival. —Sir Henry Irving has appeared here for the first three days of the week, a crowded house assembling on Monday to witness *Waterloo* and *The Bells*. In both plays the eminent actor exercised his wonted effect; his supporters in the former being Miss Maud Fealy as Nora, and Mr. Lionel Belmore as the Sergeant. Mr. H. B. Stanford took the part of Christian in *The Bells*, and Miss May Holland was Annette; Miss Grace Hampton appearing as Catherine. On Tuesday *Becket* formed the attraction, Sir Henry's superb rendering of the title-rôle winning the enthusiastic cheers of a crowded house. The parts of Henry and Rosamund were powerfully played by Mr. Gerald Lawrence and Miss Maud Fealy, and Miss Cecil Raleigh filled the character of Eleanor with her accustomed skill. On Wednesday night *The Merchant of Venice* was produced to another very large audience, Sir Henry appearing as Shylock and Miss Edith Wynne-Matthison as Portia.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—After a week's performance of *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Les Cloches de Corneville*, by the Worcester Amateur Operatic Society, the theatre has this week again become the home of the "legitimate" drama, a series of plays having been efficiently represented by Mr. Hoggan-Armadale and his dramatic company. The programme opened on Monday with *The Sleigh Bells*, in which the principal made a most favourable impression by his powerful impersonation of Matthias. Miss Marie Florence, in the part of Madame Matthias, and Miss Violet Wilson as Annette, were good, and Mr. Fred Emery, as the officer of gendarmes, was well suited to that character; while the humorous element was quietly and quaintly introduced by Mr. W. F. Clitherow and Mr. Henry Osman, the two old "topers." The scenic effects were very fine. Other pieces produced during the week were *David Garrick*, *The Vicar of Wakefield*, and *The Lady of Lyons*.

WORKINGTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers.—Miss Rose Moncrieff's company is here with the pantomime of *Red Riding Hood*. She is popular in the title-rôle. Mr. W. E. Mathews is worth mentioning as Granny; Miss Jessie de Grey is vivacious as the Prince; Mr. George Tearle is good as the baron. The support is fair.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Helaby Wright.—There is a variety company here, which includes the Five Rhynes, Miss Minnie Hart, Henry Reno, Geo. Le Wist, Bell and his terriers, Miss Whitfield, &c.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Miss Ina Rozant's company opened here on Monday, in the new and extremely funny farcical comedy *The Designers*. Mr. W. Hargreaves leaves nothing to be desired in the character of John Huggins; Mr. E. O'Grady gives a typical presentment of the manager, Mr. Currie; too much praise cannot be allotted to Mr. William Luff for his really excellent delineation of the stage-struck clerk, Wilfred Fry; Mr. Arthur Dennis provokes much mirth as Percy Loraine, as does Mr. Frank Lester as Taddlebury. Mr. Herbert Lloyd realistically portrays the eccentricities of the foreman Roodge; Mr. Gerald Clarke is good as Walter, the office-boy; and Miss Ina Rozant, as Miss Rachel Huggins, is the life and soul of the piece.

YORK. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. H. Barrow.—The success of the American drama, *At Cripple Creek*, presented by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company, was assured on the opening night. Mr. Mark Blow, as the manly Joe Mayfield, is untiring in his efforts, and performs an exacting part with consummate skill. Mr. Walter Thornton and Mr. C. D. Pitt, as Martin Mason and Manuel Alvarez, were sufficiently villainous to raise the ire of the popular parts of the house. Mr. Will Hook, a comedian of undoubted merit, caused much fun as Reggie Harwood; and with Miss Daisy Carlton, as Maggie Mason, kept the audience in roars of laughter by their thoroughly genuine humour. A pleasing Ann Marbury was seen in Miss Emilie Polini; Miss Hope Mayne gave a thoroughly natural and forcible impersonation of Belle Gordon; and May Douglas made a particularly pleasing Little Tatto.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—This week the management have again succeeded in presenting a programme of unique merit and refinement. The Florenz Troupe of acrobats, twelve in number, are the greatest attraction, and their marvellous feats are received with great enthusiasm. Dandy George introduces his canine masterpiece, Rosie, the cleverest and most graceful dog that has been seen here; Ted Karno and company present a clever sketch, *The Traveller's Rest*, which is screamingly funny; Cissie Curlette is a refined vocalist with a well-trained voice; the Abadaroffs, prehistoric mountebanks, are well received; Bromley and Tonkin are clever operatic humorists; and another good turn is La Wilma, a lady painter; Clyo and Rochelle, smart acrobatic comedians, and Fred Casburn, vocalist, are also in the bill.

SORE THROAT, HOARSENESS.

Many Eminent Physicians and Throat Specialists strongly recommend "Condy's Remedial Fluid" as a Gargle for curing Sore Throat, Relaxed Throat, and Hoarseness. Sold by all Chemists and Stores at 1s. 1½d. All substitutes are inferior in composition. Insist on having "Condy's." A Book containing Instructions, and Reports by many Eminent Physicians and Throat Specialists is on every bottle, and will be sent free of cost from Condy's Fluid Works, 65, Goswell-road, London. [ADVT.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THOMAS LINDSAY.—*We can find no record.*

C. KING.—*We only reply to questions appertaining to theatres and the theatrical profession.*

T. LAYTON.—*The Lord Chamberlain's licence, we believe; but for any further particulars, write to Mr. George Conquest, Elephant and Castle Theatre.*

OLD STAGER.—Sweet Lavender *was revived at Terry's Theatre on Feb. 23, 1899, when Mr. Edward Terry reappeared in the part of Dick Phenyl. The piece was never played at the Strand Theatre during 1898-99.*

STUDENT.—*Write to French and Co., theatrical publishers, Southampton-street, Strand.*

J. M.—*My Girl was transferred from the Gaiety to the Garrick on Dec. 1, 1896. Miss Connie Ediss's character of the Mayoress was then played by the late Miss Lillie Belmore.*

B. N.—The Little Stowaway, *by F. Bowyer, was produced at the Paragon on July 1, 1889. The sketch was revived in September, 1889, and again in October, 1899, at the Canterbury.*

W. B. T.—*There was an adaptation, by F. C. Burnand, entitled* Humbug, *produced at the Royalty Theatre on Dec. 19, 1869. Another version was called* Double-Faced People.

ASPIRANT.—*The only way is to get an introduction to some manager who would give you a chance.*

W. H.—*(1)* The Light that Failed, *produced at the Lyric, on Feb. 7, 1903, was adapted by George Fleming from Rudyard Kipling's novel. (2)* Florodora *was produced at the Lyric Theatre, on November 11, 1899. Mr. Willie Edouin played the part of Tweedlepunch. He was succeeded by the late Mr. Harry Monkhouse.*

J. HUDSON.—*Miss Kathleen Courtney played the part of the March Hare in* Alice in Wonderland, *at the Vaudeville, in December, 1900, and the First Flower Girl in* Blue Bell, *at the same theatre, the following December.*

T. W. C.—*The first English production of* Trilby *was at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, Sept. 7, 1895, and in London it was first produced at the Haymarket, Oct. 30, 1895.*

ACTORIS.—*Write to S. French and Co., theatrical publishers, Southampton-street, Strand.*

IGNORAMUS.—*We regret we are unable to inform you.*

MISTY.—*Refer to* Dramatic and Musical Law, *by A. A. Strong, published at* The Era *Office.*

AUTHOR.—*We regret we are unable to inform you.*

ABANAZAR.—*Will reply next week.*

CONSTANT READER.—*It is against our rule to give the age of members of the profession.*

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars admitted to this List.

Achurch, Miss J.
Alberto, Miss Ivy
Allen, Mr. Kennedy
Alves, Mr A.
Anderson, Mrs Mary
Anderson, Mr. Harry
Andre and Golden
Arthur, Miss E.
Asche, Mr. J. A.
Ashley-Page, Mr. W.
Ashwell, Miss Lena
Atkinson, Mr. Harry
Bacon, Mr. C.
Baldry, Mr H.
Balmain, Mr Rollo
Bannister, Mr. J.
Barham, Mr. George
Barry, Mr. J. L.
Bayliss, Mr. W. J.
Bell, Mr Arnold
Belling, Mr. Tim
Belmore, Mrs. Paul
Berte, Mr. C.
Birks, Mr. T.
Bon-Bon, Mr Harry
Booth, Miss E.
Bradford, Mr. Chas.
Bramley, Miss B.
Brampton, Mr Kenneth
Brandon, Miss Lottie
Branscombe, Mr. A.
Brodie, Mr. M.
Brooke, Mr Gerald
Brown, Mr. Frank
Butler, Mr. J. P.
Carney, Mr Tom
Carr, Dr.
Carrick, Mr Tom
Carter, Mr. H.
Castell, Mr. Harry
Cawse, Mr C. R. D.
Chard, Lieut.
Chippendale, Mr. James
Clarke, Mr E. A.
Clayton, Mr. Tom
Cliftons, Four
Coleridge, Mr. W. L.
Compton, Miss
Cressy, Miss N.
Crocker, Mr E. K.
Cunningham, Mr. C.
Currie, Mr Carne
Cutler, Miss Kate
Dallas, Mr. H. J.
Damm, Brothers
Dare, Miss Zena
Dare, Miss Phyllis
Dare, Mr. Chas.
Daventry, Miss Dora
Denham, Mr. Teddy
De Veres, The Three
Dice, Mr. Fred
Dudley, Mr. Chas.
Duprey, Paddy
Edwards, Mr
Elliott, Miss V.
Ellison, Mr. J. W.
Elton, Mr. Fred
Ely, Sisters
Esmond, Mr. H. V.
Everade, Mr Walter
Fancourt, Mr. Tom
Farrell, Mr. Billy
Fawn, Mr. James
Fiske and M'Donough
Fletcher, Mr
Florador, Mrs. Fred
Florence, Mdlle.
Florenz Troupe
Fossett, Mr H.
François, The Four
Gallagher and Held
Gilbey, Mr. T. E.
Gower, Mr J. W.
Graham, Miss L.
Granville, Miss C.
Greenwood, Mr. John
Grey, Mr Stanley
Hanbury, Miss Dolly
Handy, Mrs. A. W.
Hanss, Mr. J.
Hardacre, Mr. Pitt
Hare, Mr. Henry
Harlowe, Miss B.
Harold, Miss Lilly
Harrington, Mr Fred
Hartley, Miss Ray
Harwood, Mr Frank
Hasluck, Mr. Lawrence
Heather, Mr. Jerold
Hobson, Miss Maud
Houdini, Mr. Harry
Howard and Harris
Howard, Mr. E. T.
Hughes, Miss Cissie
Hutton, Mr. R.
James, Mr. Cairn
Jetneys, The
Johnston, Musical
Jones, Mr Arthur C.
Knowles, Mr R. G.
Krembly, Miss A.
Krueger, Mr. B. T. L.
La Belle, Mr. Alec.
Le Franc, Mr. Fred
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Money, Dr. Angel
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Owen, Miss Vi
Parisi, Mr A.
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NOTICES.
Two Scene-painters Disengaged
for Resident Permanencies.
Three Assistants for London or Provinces.
Feb. 27 (Monday), Committee Meeting at Offices, at 8 p.m.
April 10 to April 15, Exhibition at
Grafton Galleries, daily, 12 to 6.
One Shilling Admission Tickets (available any one day) can now be obtained of the Secretary, 1s. each, or in books of twenty-one for £1. And also 5s. Season Tickets, available every day of the Exhibition, including the Private Press View and Opening Ceremony and Daily Entertainments. Remittances, with stamped addressed envelope, must accompany all orders. The Secretary will be glad to hear from Owners willing to Lend to the Exhibition Paintings or Sketches by deceased Scenic Artists, and also from Ladies and Gentlemen willing to entertain at the daily matinées.
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WILSON BARRETT, ESQUIRE, DECEASED.

Pursuant to the
Statute 22 and 23 Vic., Cap. 35.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all Persons having any Claims against the Estate of Wilson Barrett, late of Cheddington Rectory, in the County of Buckingham, Actor and Author, deceased, who died on the 22nd day of July, 1904, and whose Will with one Codicil thereto was proved in the Principal Registry of the Probate Division of His Majesty's High Court of Justice on the 24th day of August, 1904, by the Reverend Frank Heath, of Cheddington Rectory aforesaid, Clerk in Holy Orders, one of the Executors named in the said Will, are hereby required to send in particulars of their Claims to me the undersigned on or before the 25th day of March next, after which day the said Executor will Distribute the Assets of the Deceased among the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have had notice.

Dated this 8th day of February, 1905.

A. W. VAISEY,
Tring,
and
Devereux Chambers,
Temple,
London, E.C.,
Solicitor for the said Executor.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—Matrimonial Causes Jurisdiction.—Between EDWARD YASS CHOWNE, Petitioner, and ALICE JANE CHOWNE formerly, ALICE JANE HUDSON, Respondent.
TO ALICE JANE CHOWNE late of Drury Lane Theatre, London. TAKE NOTICE that the said Edward Yass Chowne has commenced a suit against you in this Honorable Court, and is applying for a dissolution of marriage on the grounds of desertion without just cause or excuse for three years and upwards. And take notice that you are required to enter an appearance to the said suit at the proper office of this Honorable Court on or before the FIRST DAY OF JULY, 1905, and in the event of your not doing so within the time limited, or obtaining further time, the Petitioner will proceed and the suit be heard and determined, your absence notwithstanding. A copy of the Petition filed herein may be had on application, free of charge, to Messrs. Cannon & Son, Solicitors, 19, Wool Exchange, Basinghall Street, London, or to the undersigned. CLAUDE MANNING, Solicitor for the Petitioner, Mutual Life of New York Buildings, Martin Place, Sydney, N.S.W. For the Registrar, JOHN GEO. LEARY, (L.S.), Chief Clerk.

ALPHABETICAL LIST
OF
ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES.

NAME.	DATE.
Adams, the Late Mr Bert	April 23, 1904.
Adams, Miss Nina Blake	September 17, 1904.
Aldred, Mr Charles	May 7, 1904.
Alleyne, Miss Frances....	May 14, 1904.
Atom, Mr Willie	December 24, 1904.
Aubrey, Mrs W.	December 24, 1904.
Bailey, Mr Gordon	December 24, 1904.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs..	May 7, 1904.
Bard, Mr Wilkie	September 10, 1904.
Barrett, Late Mr Wilson	July 23, 1904.
Barrington, Mr H. H. ..	November 12, 1904.
Barth, Mr Cecil	June 11, 1904.
Bartlett, Mr J. J.	July 2, 1904.
Benson, Mr F. R.....	December 31, 1904.
Bertram, Miss Celestine..	July 2, 1904.
Billington, Late Mr John	September 10, 1904.
Bint, Mr Billie	September 3, 1904.
Blande, Miss Edith.....	June 25, 1904.
Booth, Mr J. H.	August 5, 1904.
Bostock, the Late Emma..	December 24, 1904.
Bracewell, Mr Joe	May 14, 1904.
Brayne, Mr Harry	July 16, 1904.
Brough, Mr Lionel	November 5, 1904.
Browning, Mr Charles ..	May 21, 1904.
Butt, Mr Alfred.....	July 30, 1904.
Cabourn, Mr John	August 13, 1904.
Campbell, Late Mr Herbt.	July 23, 1904.
Campbell, Miss Audrey ..	October 8, 1904.
Carne, Mr Joseph	May 7, 1904.
Cathie, Mr Leslie Roy..	May 21, 1904.
Celli, the Late Mr Frank	December 31, 1904.
Charles, the Late Mr Fred	August 6, 1904.
Cheevers, Mr J. E.	October 1, 1904.
Chippendale, Mr James..	September 17, 1904.
Churchward, Mr Hedley..	January 14, 1905.
Cinquevalli, Paul	January 14, 1905.
Clarence, Miss Nellie	November 12, 1904.
Clark, Mr Cuthbert	October 15, 1904.
Clavering, Miss Marie ..	October 8, 1904.
Clyde, Miss Hilda	May 21, 1904.
Coleman, Late Mr John..	April 23, 1904.
Collins, Mr. Cecil A.....	February 11, 1905.
Colona, Late Don Edgardo	August 20, 1904.
Corri, Mr Clarence C....	November 5, 1904.
Craven, Mr Hawes	October 8, 1904.
Danbury, Miss Ethel	September 17, 1904.
Davis, Miss Flora.....	September 10, 1904.
Day, Mr David	October 8, 1904.
Deverell, Mr John W. .	May 21, 1904.
Draco, Mr Kay	June 4, 1904.
Dryden, Mr Leo.....	July 16, 1904.
Dunrobin, Mr L. Race ..	July 9, 1904.
Edmunds, Mr Edmund....	September 3, 1904.
Entwistle, Mr Harold....	May 14, 1904.
Evelyne, Miss Alma.....	October 29, 1904.
Farrell, Miss Cissy	July 2, 1904.
Farren, Late Miss Nellie	April 30, 1904.
Feiber, Mr H. H.	August 13, 1904.
Fineberg, Mr Harris	December 24, 1904.
Firmin, Miss Dorothy ...	November 19, 1904.
Franks, Mr Wilfred.....	May 7, 1904.
Frebar, Mr Sydney	July 30, 1904.
Fysher, Mr Edwin F....	September 3, 1904.
Gascoigne, Mrs Henry ..	May 21, 1904.
Gelderd, Mr James	July 2, 1904.
Garrod, Mr W. V.....	July 16, 1904.
Giles, Mr Edwin F.....	January 7, 1905.
Gilfrain, Miss Trixie	May 14, 1904.
Godfrey, Mr Dan	May 14, 1904.
Griffith, Miss Mary	October 22, 1904.
Gunn, Miss Haidée.....	August 6, 1904.
Harcourt-Williams, Mr E.	July 9, 1904.
Hartshorn, Mr Thomas ..	December 10, 1904.
Henderson, Miss Millie ..	August 13, 1904.
Hildyard, Miss Maud....	October 8, 1904.
Hiller, Mr Harry	December 24, 1904.
Hodgson, Miss Hulo	December 3, 1904.
Hollingshead, Late Mr J.	October 15, 1904.
Howells, Mr C. E.	August 27, 1904.
Hovitt, Mr Charles	August 13, 1904.
Huggett, Miss Dora	July 16, 1904.
Humber, Mr S. H.	August 13, 1904.
Hunter, Mr J. D.....	July 9, 1904.
Hylton, Miss Annie	November 12, 1904.
Imeson, Miss Nita	April 23, 1904.
Inwood, Mr Fred	December 3, 1904.
Jacques, Mr Frederick ..	October 29, 1904.
Jose, Mr Edouard.....	October 8, 1904
Kane, Mr Whitford	December 3, 1904.
Kennedy, Mr E. J.	October 1, 1904.
Knight, Mr Arthur	October 8, 1904.
Kremer, Mr Theo	July 9, 1904.
Lacy, Mr Frank	January 14, 1905.
Lang, Mr Matheson	August 27, 1904.
Leigh, Mr C. D.	January 7, 1905.
Leno, the Late Mr Dan..	November 5, 1904.
Lester, Mr Harry	May 7, 1904.
Lewes, Miss Miriam	November 12, 1904.
Lilly, Mr A. C.	June 25, 1904.
Limpus, Mr Bernard	October 22, 1904.
Linda, Miss Cora	November 26, 1904.
Linden, Mr Ardene	September 24, 1904.
Ling, Mr Edwin	September 3, 1904.
Llewellyn, Mr Fewlass ..	October 15, 1904.
Lloyd, Late Mr Arthur..	July 23, 1904.
Lowe, Miss Rachel	June 11, 1904.
Lowe, Mr. William.....	February 11, 1905.
Loyd, Mr Frederick.....	August 13, 1904.
Lurich, George	June 4, 1904.
Lysons, Mr Arthur C. P...	August 20, 1904.
Mackintosh, Mr Drew....	September 10, 1904.
Maclaren, Mr W.	September 10, 1904.
M'Kim, Late Mr R Stuart	April 23, 1904.
Manners, Mr Charles ..	August 27, 1904.
Marmont, Mr Percy.....	November 19, 1904.
Marsdene, Miss Beatrice..	August 13, 1904.
Marsdin, Miss Dorothy ..	May 21, 1904.

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FRANCIS, DAY, and HUNTER'S LIST.

	Sung by
"A B C D" (James Hargreaves)	Wilkie Bard
"All the harm I wish you" (R. P. Weston)	Harry Anderson
"All the little Ja-pansy faces" (Harry Castling)	Mark Sheridan
"All the Girls are Lov-er-ly-ov-er-ly" (Harrington and Thurban)	R. G. Knowles
"Anywhere there will do" (Murray and Everard)	Frank Seeley
"A Warning to Single Men" (Bateman and Pether)	Arthur Reece
"Baby Mine" (Browne and Friedman)	MissClarisseHeney
"Blue-Bell" (Madden and Morse)	Hamilton Hill
[Also sung by almost every Artist of note both in Pantomime and on the Variety Stage throughout the Kingdom.]	
"Boys of the Chelsea School" (Carter and Weston).....	George Leyton
"'Come in!' said Widdy Malone" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Michael Nolan
"Conversations" (F. and W Redmond)	Ambrose Thorne
"Delusions" (Phil Ray).....	Phil Ray
"Doan' Cry, Little Coloured Coon" (S. F. Harrison and Neat)	Miss H. Vernon
"Don't Stand There —!" (Lawrance and Gifford)....	Walter Stanley
"Farewell, my little Yo San" (Mills and B. Scott)	Tom Costello
"Frozen Meat" (T. W. Connor)	Alf Gibson
"Have you seen my girl?" (Mills and Scott)	Walter Munroe
"He Kissed I Once" (Harrington and Le Brunn) ..	Miss Marie Loftus
"Here comes the foreigner!" (Barnes and Weston).....	H. Bedford
"I did enjoy myself last night" (Lawrence and M. Scott)	Will Johnson
"I don't mind if it amuses you!" (Leigh and Pether)..	Ben Albert
"If all the stars were mine" (Smith and Stromberg)....	Miss Lilian Doreen
"I'm Afraid—and Why?" (Wincott, Leighton, and Mayo) ..	Sam Mayo
"I'm a girl of Tennessee" (Eden and Byng).....	Miss Lil Hawthorne
"I'm coming home to you" (Herbert Darnley)	Miss D. L. Clark
"I'm going to sea [sea]" (Leamore and Collins)	Tom Leamore
"I'm round there to-night!" (Wincott and Leighton)....	Dan Crawley
"Isn't that like a Man?" (Paul Mill)	Paul Mill
"It's all right in the summer time" (Murray & Everard)	Miss Vesta Victoria
"It's the Poor that help the Poor" (Mills and Castling)	Miss F. Gallimore
"I've been a Naughty Boy all Day" (Carter and Weston)	Miss G. Leonard
"Jolly Jarge" (Mills and Arthurs)	George Bastow
"Julia" (Robson and Hyde)	Miss Gladys Maxius
"Just a Girl" (Elton and Harrison)	Miss Minnie Cunningham
"Little Jap Horner" (F. V. St. Clair)	F. V. St. Clair
"Ma Havannah Queen" (Gifford and Lawrence)	G. H. Elliott
"Ma Dusky Rose" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Florrie Robins
"Maude! Maude!" (Barnes and Collins)	Miss Lottie Lenno
"My Little Black Pearl" (Leslie Stuart)	Eugene Stratton
"My Fiddle is My Sweetheart" (Harry Hunter)....	G. H. Chirgwin
"My Japanesy Girl" (Delmar and Parry)	Hal Forde
"My Lily of the Valley" (Frank Leo)	Miss Sable Fern
"Oh, Nancy Lee" (T. W. Connor)	Miss Millie Hylton
"One Little Cottage all Our Own" (J. F. Lambe)	Miss Dolly Harmer
"Revenges" (Dunlop and Pether)	Wallis Arthur
[Above also sung by Whit Cunliffe].	
"She must have known!" (David and Scott)	J. E. Coyle
She said, 'Baa! Baa! Baa!'" (Harrington and H. Allen)	Miss Florrie Forde
"She taught him a thing or two, too" (Leigh and Le Brunn)	Miss E. Douglas
"Sit on 'em and keep 'em warm" (Wincott & Leighton)	Harry Champion
"Take this message to my sweetheart" (Mills and Castling)	Miss Marie Kendall
"That's him! That's him! That's him!" (Mills and Scott)

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1905

CAVILLING CRITICISM.

In the ordinary dictionary, the word "critic" has several meanings opposite to it. The first is "one skilled to judge of literary or artistic productions; a connoisseur, an adept." The sub-meaning is "one who is given to carping or cavilling; a caviller." The tone of certain recent theatrical effusions, both in the press and in public, suggests that the original significance of the word and its Greek root are in danger of being forgotten. The critic, in many instances, seems to have lost his head nowadays. "JACK is as good as his master." On one occasion, when conversing with a dramatic writer on the attack made by W. E. HENLEY on the late ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON, we observed that more respect should have been shown by the critic, considering the relative positions of the pair. "A novelist," we said, "is a creative artist." "My dear sir," replied our friend warmly, "the *critic* is a creative artist!" In this case, there was evidently no need for the putting up of the old Scotchwoman's prayer: "Lord, gie us a good conceit of ourselves!" But when the critic claims to be a creative artist, we may take him at his word, and examine the result of his creation. The object of all created life is existence. The work of most critics is ephemeral. In a day or two, at the most, the offspring of the critic's brain has perished in ministering to various humble domestic uses. Where are the newspapers of yesterday? Where are the last year's snows? Several critics have attempted to prolong the lives of their progeny by publishing their notices in collective form; but the practice seems to have been, in most instances, abandoned. The best criticism is a thing of a day; and the most lasting criticism is the most joyous and kindly. RUSKIN is still read for the interesting illustrative matter which he introduces; but who cares, now, for his ignorance-exposing attacks on CONSTABLE'S drawing or on GAINSBOROUGH'S arrangement of light and shade and "vulgarity" in choice of subjects? Who, now, cares for RUSKIN'S poor opinion of WHISTLER? And who is not interested in a WHISTLER exhibition? The detraction perishes; the pictures remain. HENLEY'S attack on STEVENSON is a thing now forgotten; but thousands for generations to come will joy in "Kidnapped," "Treasure Island," and "Catriona."

The best criticism is the most sympathetic. The worst is the vainest and the most spiteful. The idea of many modern critics is simply to write an effective critique, something "smart" and "stinging," which shall advertise the writer and increase his importance. We may take as an illustration the tone of some of the notices of Mr. BEERBOHM TREE'S production of *Much Ado About Nothing* at His Majesty's. By reducing the piece by an hour in time of performance, Mr. TREE has virtually admitted that he made a miscalculation. But it was evident on the first night that the chief defect of the production would soon be rectified, and that the acting would improve in many ways with more smoothly moving machinery. It may be argued, and with exactness, that the critic has only to deal with what is before him, and is not called upon to make allowances. This holds good as to the matter, but not as to the spirit of the "notice." There is a great difference between a man who produces an indecent French farce and the man who tries, by artistic embellishments, to lead the public to love and admire SHAKESPEARE. In a great many instances, however, it is the first that is "let down easily," while the second is attacked with as much virulence as if he had committed a crime and had done nothing in his career to merit mercy. In courts of law, previous character is always taken into consideration in the verdict of any impartial jury. In the critical world, it seems rather to go against a man than to be in his favour. We deplore the bitterness of spirit in which the work of a man like Mr. BEERBOHM TREE is too often discussed. We, at any rate, have not forgotten his *Resurrection*, his *Richard II*, his *Merry Wives of Windsor*, his *Twelfth Night*, his *Julius Cæsar*, and his *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Mr. TREE endeavours, by every means at his disposal, to induce the modern public to listen to SHAKESPEARE. There are a few whose imagination is so strong that they can dispense with scenic illustration when witnessing a play. The great majority, however, are not so gifted; and it is these who require to be led and attracted to the enjoyment of the works of our great dramatic poet. The man who thus leads and attracts them is a public benefactor.

If any criticism is to endure, it is not the criticism whose chief aim is to display the critic's cleverness. HAZLITT, the only dramatic critic whose name is familiar to ordinary ears, was chiefly an "appreciator." He went to the play-house prepared to be pleased; and the principal difference between him and the public for which he wrote was that he saw beauties more clearly, and described them more vividly than his fellow playgoers. We cannot imagine HAZLITT writing a notice in the spirit of some of the notices which followed Mr. TREE'S splendid production at His Majesty's. As for CHARLES LAMB—the only other theatrical critic whose work has "lived"—his essays are almost entirely appreciative. What pleasure is Posterity likely to take in reading the egoistical essays of self-advertising individuals chiefly intent on airing their own "smartness," erudition, or impudence? Mosquitos certainly succeed in drawing blood; but with the public so strongly on his side, and with *Much Ado* drawing such good houses, Mr. TREE can easily bear the bites.

"MRS. LEFFINGWELL'S BOOTS."

This comedy in three acts, by Augustus Thomas, made a hit recently at the Savoy Theatre, New York. The first scene is laid at Larchmont, near New York, in the house of an artist named Bonner, who no longer paints the female form divine, because his wife objects to the living models, but goes in for cattle pictures. Mr. Bonner himself is not above a feeling of jealousy, for he absents himself from the dinner party arranged by his wife because she has invited a certain gentleman whom he dislikes. A snowstorm makes it impossible for Mrs. Bonner's guests to reach her house at the time set for the dinner. After a while a neighbour, Mrs. Effingwell, arrives. This lady also has a jealous husband. During the previous summer, whilst she was staying at a Bar Harbor hotel, her boots were found outside the window of the room occupied by a young architect named Walter Corbin, and Leffingwell has taken the worst view of the matter. On the night of the party Corbin is forced by the storm to seek shelter in Bonner's house, and Mrs. Bonner persuades him to stay to dinner. Mrs. Leffingwell and Corbin are thus thrown together in the absence of the lady's husband. To make the situation more embarrassing for Corbin, his former sweetheart, Mabel Ainslee, who has broken their engagement on account of the Bar Harbor scandal, is visiting Mrs. Bonner. Leffingwell telephones during the night, and learns that his wife and Corbin are under the same roof. He arrives at daylight and raises a tremendous row, having jumped to the conclusion that they have been sitting up together. Richard Ainslee, Mabel's brother, who has become deranged through a blow on the neck, breaks into the house in the dead of night to obtain money to pay his debts, and is gagged and bound by Corbin and another guest, a doctor, who subsequently cures Ainslee by osteopathic treatment. The latter then admits that he placed Mrs. Leffingwell's boots where they were found in order to extort money for suppressing the scandal, and satisfies the two husbands that they have no cause for jealousy, his explanation bringing Walter Corbin and Mabel Ainslee together again. Mr. Thomas has written a clever and original comedy, full of droll situations and bright lines, and it has scored a genuine success. It is acted by a capable company, including Miss Fay Davis, Miss Dorothy Hammond, Miss Margaret Illington, Miss Jessie Busley, Mr. William Courtenay, Mr. J. H. Barnes, Mr. Ernest Lawford, Mr. Vincent Serrano, Mr. John Saville, and Mr. Louis Payne.

PRESENTATION.—On Saturday evening last, in an interval of the performance of *Sapho*, which was played to record business at the Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, Mr. Fred L. Arthur, the business manager, presented Miss Annie Bell, on behalf of the proprietors of the theatre, with a splendid gold turquoise bracelet.

MR. C. ST. JOHN DENTON will produce at the Richmond Theatre next week a new sketch, entitled *Beauty and the Barber*. The principal parts will be played by Miss Maud Danks and Mr. John Denton.

ADVERTISERS and SUBSCRIBERS who are moving about, and who have their Copy of "THE ERA" sent direct from this Office, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, are requested to forward the Addresses for their Papers not later than the Tuesday in each Week.

THE smallest elephant in Europe arrived at the Royal Italian Circus on Wednesday. He has been purchased by Signor B. Volpi for a record price from Messrs. Cross, the wild beast importers, of Liverpool. He can easily be carried by a strong man.

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SCENIC ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION.

BENEVOLENT FUND DINNER.

SIR LAWRENCE ALMA-TADEMA, R.A., presided at a public dinner held on Sunday evening at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent-street, in aid of the Benevolent Fund of the Scenic Artists' Association. The list of stewards and of those present included the following gentlemen:—Mr. George Alexander, Sir Squire Bancroft, Sir Philip Burne-Jones, Bart. (hon. secretary), Mr. E. G. Banks, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. Oscar Barrett, jun., the Hon. E. Fiennes, Mr. O. P. Bernard, Mr. W. Lockhart Bone, Mr. Addison Bright, Mr. Warwick Brooks, Mr. J. Carl, Mr. J. Comyns Carr, Mr. Phil Carr, Mr. A. Chudleigh, Mr. W. L. Courtney, Mr. A. E. Craven, Dr. G. H. R. Dabbs, Mr. F. A. Davis, Mr. C. Dixon, Mr. E. L. Douglas, Mr. R. Douglas, Mr. Gerald Duckworth, Mr. F. Dyall, Mr. Frank Desprez, Mr. R. H. Halley, Mr. E. Hann, Mr. W. Hann, Mr. Gilbert Hare, Mr. W. Harford, Mr. J. Harker, Mr. Phil Harker, Mr. F. Harrison, Mr. H. Hart, Mr. J. S. Harvey, Mr. Selwyn Harvey, Mr. Van Heenes, Mr. C. T. H. Helmsley, Mr. George R. Hemsley, Mr. C. Alias, Mr. H. M. Hemsley, Mr. W. T. Hemsley, Mr. M. Henry, Mr. J. Hicks, Count Max Hollander, Mr. Douglas J. Hopkins, Mr. Tom Hopkins, Mr. R. E. Howell, Mr. G. P. Huntley, Mr. Karl, Mr. R. G. Legge, Mr. W. Elms Lester, Mr. C. Lewis, Mr. J. L. Lyons, Mr. A. McBain, Mr. R. C. McCleery, Mr. Marshall Hall, Mr. W. R. Martin, Mr. J. Davies Massey, Mr. J. W. Mathews, Mr. Carl Meyer, Mr. J. Mordecai, Mr. A. Moul, Mr. L. Nathan, Mr. H. W. Owen, Mr. L. N. Parker, Mr. T. W. Percyval, Mr. H. Potts, Mr. Ambrose Poynter, Mr. Charles Pratt, Mr. W. Raphael, Mr. Vivian Reynolds, Mr. W. Rowley, Mr. Paul Rubens, Mr. W. B. Spong, Mr. Leslie Stephen, Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. L. Terrey, Mr. R. C. Trass, Mr. G. Tweddell, Mr. Vedrenne, Colonel E. Villiers, Mr. H. Wallis, Mr. H. Warner, Mr. J. H. Welch, Mr. Wilhelm, Mr. Woolls, and Sir W. B. Richmond.

After the loyal toast had been duly honoured,

THE CHAIRMAN, rising to propose the toast of the Scenic Artists' Association, said: Before I submit this toast, I wish to tell you that I have received telegrams and letters from Mr. Telbin, who is very sorry he cannot be present; from Mr. Lionel Brough, who is ill; and from Mr. Dion Boucicault, who is prevented. Mr. Tree wires, "Greatly regret unable to be present to-night. Will do all I can to further the object of the Society." Gentlemen, I feel as though I were fast becoming a fixture here. After that memorable night when we fêted the scenic artists of the country, we were successful to such an extent that our brethren of that order joined together and made an association, calling themselves the Scenic Artists' Association. They have gone a step further. They have amalgamated with such an association a benevolent institution. We artists have many benevolent societies, but they run on different lines. I so often think of the remarks made by musicians, who say, "Yes, you are lucky fellows. Even should we fascinate the ear of the public, when we are silent we are not exactly forgotten, but the memory gets slacker. You artists' pictures can remain, and the public can refer to them." I am sorry to say that I know that the art of the scenic artist is sooner forgotten than the art of the singer, because after a few years it does not exist. One can only remember having heard of scenes painted. When the scenic artist becomes too old to work he has lost claim upon the benevolence of the public, because they do not know him any more. Some of his friends and brethren of the brush may remember what he has done, but he cannot somehow say, like we do, "Such a picture—such a drawing—such a statue—proves that I have a certain claim." Therefore I think it is doubly necessary that the scenic artists should have a benevolent fund, and I hope sincerely that it will answer the most sanguine expectations. So I ask you to support this scheme, and to do what you can to help men who wish to help themselves. Let me invite you to drink to the Scenic Artists' Association, with which toast I couple the name of Mr. W. Hann.

MR. W. HANN, in responding, gave an interesting sketch of the inception and development of the Scenic Artists' Association. In continuation, Mr. Hann said:—We are making arrangements for an exhibition of works, which we hope will be annual, at the Grafton Gallery, in April next, for a week or longer. Here will be shown models of scenes and drawings. As it is a large and somewhat costly venture for a small body, we are hoping that we may draw upon the kindness of our friends to give us a little entertainment in the way of readings, recitations, or music, for one hour each day, which will greatly add to the attraction for the public, and so help to pull us through, and perhaps yield a little to add to our Benevolent Fund. Of course, we do not pretend to vie with those artists who devote themselves wholly to pictures; but, as there is a notion abroad that scene-painting is done by throwing a big brush at the canvas haphazard, we want to convince our friends that our achievements are the result of careful studies from nature, and long and studious contemplation of the works of eminent artists. One of the main objects of this Association, and nearest our hearts, is the establishing of a Benevolent Fund, for the number of the unemployed in our small body is rather appalling, and distress is great. In the name of the Association I most heartily thank you, Sir Lawrence, for your kind and encouraging words in proposing this Toast; and you, gentlemen, for the hearty way in which you have drunk to the success of the Scenic Artists' Association.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER then proposed "The Drama," in the following words:—

When Sir Philip Burne-Jones asked me to say a few words to-night I felt that it would be ungracious not to avail myself of the opportunity of adding my humble tribute of respect to the professors of scene-painting. I take this opportunity of expressing my admiration for them, and my gratitude for the artistic aid they have given me in my work as a manager of a London theatre. I wondered why Sir Philip asked me to propose the toast of the Drama; perhaps he thinks that I have done so much towards killing it, that it was time I had an opportunity of offering up a prayer for its regeneration. If so, he does not stand alone. Am I not an actor-manager?—and all the shortcomings of the drama of the present day are laid at the door of the actor-manager. It is urged that commercial success has not been general in our theatres during the last few years, and the quality of the entertainments offered is said to have been the cause. But has not this depression been general in all other professions and trades? I think the Drama has come out of a bad financial time very creditably. There is a cry that the theatres are too much given up to musical comedy. Well, gentlemen, I don't think this is altogether the fault of the public. If the authors and the managers who control theatres have not been able to supply sufficiently attractive plays of the higher order for the public it is their misfortune, and it is only natural that playgoers will turn to entertainments of a brighter and more amusing kind. Then it has been said that our system is all wrong, that we require répertoire houses, that the actors should never be allowed to control their own theatres. Was there ever a more ridiculous suggestion? Why should not the actor be his own master? The mountain-top is a windy place, and if he is not deserving of this exalted position he will not be suffered to remain there long. I read with great care all the suggestions for the establishment of ideal theatres. For one of these national schemes already in existence (though at present only to be spoken of in whispers) I have the greatest respect; while for the other I can only say that the schemes made seem to include prominent positions for the schemers themselves. They propose to do well what we are doing badly. Well, the field is open; let them try; but let them refrain from throwing mud at men who are now endeavouring to do their best. It is all very well to abuse the methods of these men who have fought for and won the confidence of the public, but that same public is, I am glad to say, discerning, and is not blind to the gentle art of "axe-grinding," however cleverly that "axe-grinding" may be done. I may be pardoned, I hope, if I take a cheerful view of the present situation; if I encourage the young writers for the stage by telling them that the door to success stands open to them; that there is no ring, and that if certain authors monopolise the productions at London theatres, it is because their work deserves this distinction; that the actor-managers and lay-managers in England and America are religiously reading their work, and that I do not believe a man or woman with great gifts as a dramatist will be overlooked; that the managers are constantly seeking for talent, and that young actors and actresses of ability will find endless openings for themselves in theatres whether controlled by the actors themselves or by managers who are merely business men. We have every reason to be proud of the writers for the stage who have won their laurels—Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, Mr. R. C. Carton, Mr. C. Haddon Chambers, Mr. Sydney Grundy, John Oliver Hobbes, Mr. Oscar Wilde, Mr. Comyns Carr, Mr. H. V. Esmond, Mr. Justin Huntly McCarthy, Mr. Stephen Phillips, Mr. Frederick Fenn, and Mr. Richard Pryce. It is a noble list. They compare very favourably with other nations. We may have barren seasons, and we may have rich harvests, as they do in all countries. The French directors say that they are starving for plays; the German directors are the same. The demand is greater than the supply, and this is an unusual state of things in any trade or art; but the art of playwriting is, to my mind, one of the most difficult. I do not think the Drama in England is moribund, but full of activity. The freer production of plays for limited performances is in the air. I myself hope to contribute to this series. I am conscious, as you are, of the valuable and highly artistic work which is being done in every quarter—at the Court Theatre, for instance, by Mr. Vedrenne and Mr. Barker. The complaint that Shakespeare in London is neglected can no longer be made; Mr. Tree is producing him magnificently at His Majesty's, Mr. Lewis Waller is delighting huge audiences with *Henry V.*, and intends to produce *Romeo and Juliet* and *Othello*; while Mr. Otho Stuart, Mr. Oscar Asche, and Miss Lily Brayton are winning golden laurels with him at the Adelphi; and soon we are to see Mr. H. B. Irving as Hamlet, while Mr. Martin Harvey has already given that play in the provinces; and Mr. Flanagan is crowding the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, where a late member of my company—Miss Margaret Halstan—has made a great success as Juliet. As one of the promoters of the répertoire theatre asserts, "she is in a sterling provincial company unhampered by the wiles and moods of actor-managerdom." To-morrow Mr. F. R. Benson will be giving us a series of Shakespearean revivals at the Coronet Theatre. Then we have running in London original plays by Capt. Marshall, Mr. W. W. Jacobs and Louis N. Parker, Mr. Bernard Shaw, Mr. J. M. Barrie, and last, but not least, the latest recruit—and I venture to say a very important one—Mr. Alfred Sutro. No, gentlemen, I do not think the outlook is as gloomy as our enemies would have us believe. Actor-managers and lay-managers are willing and anxious to produce good plays by tried and untried dramatists, and I for one mean to continue to put my heart and soul into my work, and feel that the public who have been generous to me will extend that same generosity and as fully to all those who strive for a high ideal and pursue their careers without fear—on honest, upright, and artistic lines. There is no stauncher friend to that Drama than Mr. Comyns Carr. If it were put to the vote as to the man who was the most popular and kind-hearted connected with the dramatic profession, he certainly would come out at the top of the poll. There is hardly a young actor, actress, or dramatic author who has not at some time or other had from him words of encouragement—words so helpful at the beginning of a career: I myself am of the numbers. And, as is not sometimes the case, he rejoices, too, with everyone when success crowns their efforts; in fact, he is a generous friend, and a valuable critic at all times and in all seasons. Of his great and varied gifts it would be impertinent of me to speak—they are well known to everyone in this room, and to the world at large. His charity knows no limit; there is hardly a dinner connected with the dramatic profession he does not attend, and by his eloquence and wit he rescues the proceedings from the boredom of speeches such as mine. I ask you to join me in drinking prosperity to the Drama coupled with the name of Mr. Comyns Carr.

MR. J. COMYNS CARR, in responding, said:—I agree with Mr. Alexander in thinking that the drama does not need a defence. Mr. Alexander has said that the supply does not equal the demand, and it never can. There is no art in which the supply can possibly equal the demand from an intelligent public, because the demand must always far exceed the supply of men of talent in any art, and in drama most of all. I cordially agree with Mr. Alexander that of all arts in which literature is engaged, it is the most exacting and the most difficult.

MR. E. BANKS, in proposing the health of Sir Philip Burne-Jones, said that every scenic artist appreciated his kindness and his support. Whatever might become of the future of the Scenic Artists' Association, there would always be a warm corner kept in their hearts for Sir Philip.

SIR PHILIP BURNE-JONES (the hon. secretary to the Dinner Benevolent Fund) expressed his gratitude for the compliment, and then announced that the amount collected at the tables that evening was £63 5s. 6d. The total subscriptions they had in hand exceeded £128.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY, in proposing "The Chairman," said:—It seems to me there is a peculiar fitness in Sir Lawrence's honouring us in this manner. Not only does his ready sympathy with the immediate object of our gathering point to him as the one best fitted to preside over us; there is much in common with his work and that of this Association—to which I have the privilege of belonging as an honorary member. I mean the reconstruction and illustration of ancient historical periods. None of us who had the pleasure of seeing them will easily forget those superb scenes of the Capitol and the Orchard of Brutus, designed by Sir Lawrence for Mr. Tree's revival of *Julius Cæsar;* scenes remarkable for their archæological accuracy, and yet subordinated, with a sense of the finest taste, to the dramatic movement for which they were designed to serve as background. The forthcoming exhibition of scenic art, to be held at the Grafton Galleries, will include, too, I understand, a beautiful model of a scene in *Coriolanus*, prepared for Sir Henry Irving by Sir Lawrence. But, gentlemen, when all is said and done, it is the man whose health I ask you now to drink, before the artist. The man whose ready sympathy has done so much to hearten and encourage the efforts of our Association; the man whose kindliness of nature has allowed him to place so much of his valuable time and interest at our service, and whose long continued health I ask you now to drink in a bumper.

The Chairman's reply brought the meeting to an end.

The donors to the Scenic Artists' Benevolent Fund up to Feb. 18, 1905, were Sir Henry Irving, Lady Lytton, Sir Anderson Critchett, Sir Clinton E. Dawkins, K.C.B., Sir George Lewis, Sir Edward J. Busk, Mr. George Alexander, Sir James D. Linton, Sir Felix Semon, Sir Philip Burne-Jones, Lady Parker, Mr. W. Lockhart Bone, Messrs. Allen and Sons, Mrs. Bethune, Mr. A. P. Bowyer, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Leonard Boyne, Mr. Ernest Carpenter, Mr. S. A. Cookson, Mr. W. L. Courtney, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. Tom B. Davis, Mr. C. Dixon, Mr. Gerald Duckworth, Mr. Charles Frohman, Mr. A. Gilmer, Mr. S. Goldmann, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. Hare, Mr. Max Hecht, Mr. J. Harvey, Mr. Selwyn Harvey, Mr. P. Harker, Mr. W. Harford, Mr. H. Hemsley, Mr. G. Hemsley, Mr. M. Henry, Mr. C. T. H. Helmsley, Mr. George Herring, Mr. Herman Hart, Mr. J. James, Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, Mr. C. Karl, Mr. W. H. Kendal, the Hon. Charles Lawrence, Mr. R. G. Legge, Dr. Lehwes, Captain Robert Marshall, Mr. W. McCleery, Mr. W. C. Middleton, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. J. L. Nolton, Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. A. Palmer, Mr. Louis N. Parker, Mr. Ambrose Poynter, Mr. Alfred Sutro, Mr. L. Stephen, Mr. J. S. Sargent, Mr. Fred Terry, Mr. M. Van Leems, Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. H. J. Welch, Mr. E. Fisher White, and the Water Valley Colour Company.

"THE ADMIRAL'S LADY."

A Romantic Comedy, in a Prologue and Three Acts, by Arthur Shirley,
Played for the First Time at the Brixton Theatre, on Wednesday, Feb. 22.

CHARACTERS IN PROLOGUE.

Joseph Rumbelow	MR. H. GOMER MAY
Peter Simpson	MR. J. HENNESSEY
Joskin	MR. FREDERIC JACQUES
Betty Jinks	MISS MINNIE RAYNER
Janet Briggs	MRS. LEWIS WALLER

CHARACTERS IN PLAY.

Marquis de Villaflor	MR. EDGAR J. COYNE
Admiral Rumbelow	MR. H. GOMER MAY
Captain Braddon	MR. ERIC MAYNE
Ildefonso	MR. STRICKLAND
Harry Rumbelow	MR. EDMUND WALLER
Marquise de Villaflor	MISS ETHEL WARWICK
Isabel	MISS ALICE LANGLEY
Betty	MISS MINNIE RAYNER
Lady Rumbelow	MRS. LEWIS WALLER

The number of Mr. Arthur Shirley's plays is legion, but perhaps his most ambitious effort was made on Wednesday last, when he fitted Mrs. Lewis Waller with a character in which her special gifts of broad comedy are amply employed. Mr. Shirley has been credited with the admission that originality is impossible in playwriting of the present day, but his most mature effort is nevertheless fresh in its humour and thrilling in the romance which forms no unimportant part in its composition. Of the shafts of wit which are let loose in the piece many are excellent, and some indifferent; and in at least one case a laugh is gained at the sacrifice of a situation of rare dramatic excellence. The prologue of the play is devoted to the homecoming of Joseph Rumbelow, a petty officer of the King's Navy and the sweetheart of Janet Briggs, the belle of Botley, a village in picturesque Hants. Joe had been fighting his country's battles in China, and not having heard from him for a year, Betty had concluded he was dead, and is even now preparing for her wedding with another. Joe, however, has a convincing method, and the bridegroom-elect gives way, and agrees that Betty shall choose between the two. Joe has won promotion in the war, and is expecting a lieutenancy, the warrant arriving just as he is awaiting Betty's decision. Fearing that she will be unable to fulfil the duties of her higher station, she at first leans towards Peter; but love gains the day, and she chooses the sailor-hero. During the interval that elapses, Joe has grown grey in the service, taken the Bay of Biscay and many prisoners of war, and become an Admiral of the Red, but Betty has advanced in nothing but charity and virtue. Their son Harry is deeply in love with Isabel, the daughter of the Marquis De Villaflor, a Portuguese grandee, who has taken refuge in England from the rigours of the war between his country and Spain. His wife, the Marquise, and his friend, Captain Braddon, though outwardly at daggers drawn, carry on an illicit intrigue, while the latter is supposed to be courting Isabel. The Captain leaves a note signed Harry for the Marquise under a vase on the mantelpiece, and when Isabel finds it and reads the passionate phrases addressed to her stepmother, she concludes that her lover is faithless, and refuses to see him again. Lady Rumbelow, the Admiral's wife, calls upon the Marquis to talk about their children's betrothal, and on learning of the breach undertakes to mend it. No reason will be vouchsafed by Isabel, but Lady Rumbelow gleans from the Marquis's valet the fact that the rupture is due to the girl's dislike of her ladyship's vulgar birth. She thereupon announces her intention of parting from her husband, in order to secure her son's happiness; but Sir Joseph calls the boy in to decide, and he naturally refuses to agree. It is the girl herself who reveals the truth to Lady Rumbelow, who takes possession of the note, Betty, unable to read, cannot see the difference in the handwriting, and it is only when she submits the epistle to the Admiral that the fraud is discovered. Captain Braddon, not wholly bad, avows his perfidy, and by agreeing to leave England immediately avoids the scandal which would attach to the Marquis, the recovery of whose estates enables him to return to his native land in blissful ignorance of his wife's villainy.

So brief an account gives little idea of the uses to which Mrs. Lewis Waller's peculiar talents were put. As village belle, or the Admiral's wife, her volatile characteristics had full play, and her vivacity was unfailing. Laughter flowed unchecked throughout her lengthy occupation of the stage, and a record of mirth must surely have been registered. Nor was tenderness wanting in the impersonation, and Mrs. Waller's capacity to touch her audience was constantly proved by sympathetic applause. Mr. H. Gomer May, who was quite to the manner born as the petty officer of the prologue, made a hearty Admiral in the latter acts. Perfection marked his delivery, and his clear and resonant voice made the words of his dialogue ring. Miss Ethel Warwick is to be credited with an exceptionally fine performance of the Marquise de Villaflor, her haughty demeanour and calm impassiveness setting off the passionate outbreak at the close, in which the power and flexibility of her voice and her distinct utterance were invaluable. Mr. Edgar J. Coyne ably assumed the oddities of the well-preserved Marquis, whose *haut ton* was reflected in his servant Ildefonso, a part played with characteristic humour by Mr. Strickland. Mr. Edmund Waller appeared as Harry Rumbelow, and won a cheer by his vigorous declamation of some thrilling lines; and Miss Alice Langley, as Isabel, acted the modest maiden gracefully. A striking impersonation of Captain Braddon was given by Mr. Eric Mayne, who played the villain with elegance, and Miss Minnie Rayner supplied excellent comedy as Betty Jinks, the maid. The humour of the prologue is abundant, and it was ably contributed to by Mr. Frederic Jacques, as a village beadle, and by Mr. J. Henessey, as a dull-witted yokel. Regal splendour marked the dresses worn by Mrs. Waller and by Miss Ethel Warwick, and the mounting was elegant and tasteful. Curtain calls were numerous from beginning to end, when, in response to cries for "Author," Mrs. Waller, leading on Mr. Shirley, asked, "Is it a success?" and the reply was unanimously in the affirmative.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Ernest Bacon, of the Grand Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was presented on the 17th inst. with a gold keyless watch and chain, on his retirement from the management of the theatre. The Sheriff of Newcastle, Arthur Scott, Esq., made the presentation.

MUSIC HALL GOSSIP.

In aid of the Dan Leno Cot Endowment Fund the use of the London Pavilion has been kindly given by the directors for a matinée. The cot will be placed in the Belgrave Hospital for Children, Clapham-road. It will be remembered that the lamented comedian took a great interest in the welfare of this institution, which is in great need of funds. The first list of patrons includes: Her Grace Katharine Duchess of Westminster, the Right Hon. Lord Windsor, the Lady Blythswood, Colonel the Hon. Sir William Carington, K.C.V.O., C.B., and the Hon. Lady Carington, the Right Hon. Justice Romer, G.C.B., and Lady Romer, Colonel the Hon. Charles Hay Drummond, Sir Robert Mowbray, Bart., M.P., Sir Henry Irving, Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr. Percy Armytage, M.V.O., Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. George Edwardes, Mr. Seymour Hicks, Mr. Lewis Waller, and Miss Rogers. Mr. Hugh Astley will fill the position of hon. treasurer. No better plan of perpetuating the memory of Dan Leno could have been thought of.

An important change in the noon and six o'clock performances at the Coliseum has been made this week. A delightful scena is *My Gollywog*, arranged by Mr. Will Bishop. He appears as the Gollywog, and repeats the clever mechanical dance he gave a year or two ago at the Empire. The impressive spectacle of "The Siege of Port Arthur" is now in excellent working order. The first scene represents the open sea, and soon the Japanese gunboats are swinging round on the revolving stage and firing viciously in all directions. Later we are on shore with a landing party. There is more firing, there are many casualties, and a spy is shot down. Anon a towering rock fills the centre of the stage. More firing, followed by an interesting display of the mode of transporting and fixing up of mountain guns. The last scene shows the assault. The Russians and the Japanese have a hand-to-hand fight in the smoke which the guns, now blazing on all sides, make thicker minute by minute. Then rises the flag of surrender, the din dies down, the smoke drifts away, and the two commanders are seen shaking hands. "Port Arthur" is a wonderful spectacle that will form a powerful attraction at the Coliseum for some time to come.

Miss Loie Fuller is another of the special attractions, and in her "dance of the thousand veils" introduces a number of artistic and beautiful effects. Radium is employed, it is stated, upon some huge translucent butterflies which float through the auditorium, and has been, according to further information, extracted from pitchblende in the lady's own laboratory, at a cost of £4,000. The charming stage picture gradually reveals the dim depths of the sea, with shadowy forms sadly circling round an altar, on which stands a mystic woman, who stirs the water for fifteen feet around her into a graceful whirl of the most delicate of hues. Many are the beautiful sea-changes wrought. The whole spectacle is strange and fascinating, as, indeed, are all La Loie Fuller's performances.

The new ballet, *My Lady Nicotine*, invented by Mr. Charles Wilson, with music by Mr. George W. Byng, will be produced at the Alhambra on Monday evening. Madame Cormani has had the arrangement of the dances. Hopes were entertained that Mr. J. M. Barrie, to whose courtesy the use of the title is due, would be present at the first performance, but, unfortunately, a previous engagement compelled him to decline the management's invitation. The piece contains five scenes, the first showing a plantation in Virginia about 1770, the second the interior of a Turkish harem, the third affording an interesting glimpse of Holland, with, of course, a "dance of sabots," the fourth offering a fantastic picture illustrative of the birth of Nicotina, and the fifth revealing the abode of "My Lady Nicotine," wherein takes place a grand march executed by the many votaries of that highly-esteemed damsel. The choice of the subject of the new ballet is a very happy one, and everything seems to promise well for the new production, which will, no doubt, form a notable addition to the long list of brilliant spectacular and terpsichorean displays at this house.

"The Knights of the Road," the new operetta by Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Mr. Henry A. Lytton, will be produced at the Palace on Monday evening. The composer will conduct on the opening night. Dick Turpin, who has figured in so many stage productions, is the hero of the story. Music hall patrons will recall to mind that Mr. Frank Gerald has impersonated the famous highwayman in his sketch, *The King's Highway*, for many years past, both in this country and in Australia, with his mare Wiapera as Black Bess.

In the new Palace operetta all four adventurers are deeply in love with the one feminine character in the play; and when, to delightful music, the suit of one most daring is eventually smiled upon, the highwaymen decide to give up the road and to swear allegiance to the King. The decision is too late, however; and the arrival of the troops with an order for their arrest brings the little piece to a dramatic end. There are several concerted numbers and three single songs in the little play. The principal character will be taken by Mr. Walter Hyde, who was in *My Lady Molly*. Mr. Henry Claff should be a popular baritone; while Miss Blanche Murray, who has appeared with success in several Gilbert and Sullivan productions, will play the feminine part. There will be a "specially selected chorus" of five performers.

Mr. Bransby Williams has arranged and produced a most attractive scena, entitled *Jolly Squires*. A quartet of gentlemen sing the old songs and choruses, which are interspersed with toasts. The hunting costumes give the show a brilliant effect, and in the singing of "Boys Together" the audiences at New Cross Empire last week joined very lustily. The final tableau, "The King, gentlemen," is very effective.

Miss Madge Girdlestone's new dramatic episode, which is being played at the Palace Theatre, is written in quite a superior style, and is admirably acted by the authoress and her two fellow-artists. The scene is laid in the Hon. Jack Trevor's chambers in Jermyn-street. Trevor is in love with Lady Mildred, the wife of his friend, Captain Reginald Hargreaves, who is about to leave England for Australia, taking her with him. The relations between Mildred and Jack are quite innocent and honourable, and this is their last farewell. As they are at supper, the husband calls. His suspicions are excited, and his wife endeavours in vain to pacify him with explanations. He leaves, promising to come back in a few minutes. In the interval, Jack writes a letter, blots it on a blotting-pad, and burns it. The pad is handed to Hargreaves on his return; and, after reading it backwards in the mirror over the fireplace, he is convinced that Jack decoyed Mildred to his chambers by means of an artfully-worded epistle. Hargreaves takes his wife away in disgust at his friend's treachery; and Trevor prepares to commit suicide with a revolver. Miss Madge Girdlestone, as the wife, made an imposing and attractive appearance in a very handsome costume; and acted with style, spirit, and ease. Mr. Martin Sabine was sufficiently melancholy and bitter as the Hon. Jack Trevor; and Mr. Cecil Morton York played Captain Reginald Hargreaves with dignity, expression, and weight. *Two Men and a Woman* is an excellent example of the brief but telling dramatic episodes which find so much favour with modern music-hall audiences.

The company travelling from the Newport Empire to Nottingham on Sunday last are to be congratulated on escaping what might have been a serious disaster. As the train left New-street Station, Birmingham, two of their number, who were fortunately looking out of the window, noticed smoke issuing from the van immediately in front of their carriage, in which was stored the baggage and scenery, also two valuable dogs belonging to Mr. Walter Bellonini. The train was stopped, but only just in time, as the fire was discovered to be making headway amongst the inflammable material. The artists, assisted by some members of the *Why Men Hate* and *Between Two Women* companies, who were in the same train, soon rescued the contents, but not before considerable damage had been done, especially to the scenery and effects of Mr. A. C. Lilly's *Drummed Out* company. By a little manipulation, all of them were able to appear on Monday at Nottingham. They desire to gratefully acknowledge the valuable help rendered by their brother artists.

On Saturday last Messrs. T. Barrasford and Will Sley closed the doors of the Grand Theatre, Manchester, to the public, after a tenure lasting only twelve months. Almost simultaneous with the failure to keep up with local competition may be mentioned the death of Mr. E. H. Jones last week, who retired from the management of the Grand a year ago, owing to ill-health. The melancholy coincidence would seem to suggest that the house with which he was associated for so many years was not destined to survive him as a place of entertainment, though Messrs. Barrasford and Sley have done their best to provide attractive programmes during the period of their tenancy.

Mr. Thomas Barrasford's motor car caught on fire last Sunday evening, causing great excitement in Middle Street, Brighton. The car had just completed a fine run during the afternoon, and the chauffeur at the time was refilling the petrol tank, previous to again going out, when an explosion occurred, setting fire to the fore-part of the car. The blaze was eventually smothered with the aid of rugs, &c., not, however, before considerable damage had been done to the car. Mr. Barrasford and several gentlemen passing the Hippodrome at the time, rendered every assistance possible to the chauffeur, who was badly burned about the hands and arms.

Miss Florence Smithers concluded her pantomime engagement at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, on Saturday, and is now fulfilling a special week as Dolly, in *Hard Lines*, at Moss and Stoll's Palace, Bordesley. On Monday next she rejoins Mr. Edward Marris, for her original part Jane, in *The Dandy Doctor*, a part she has played over a thousand times.

A capital programme was submitted at the Empire, Middlesbrough, on Wednesday night, the occasion being the benefit of Mr. J. W. Thornborrow, the genial and popular manager of the hall, who, his many friends will regret to hear, is in a critical state of health. A little over a week ago, Mr. Thornborrow was married at Middlesbrough. He is at present in the South of England, and the premier Tees-side Hall is once more under the temporary guidance of the genial Mr. Charles Rembges of the Middlesex.

At Mountpottinger Hall, Belfast, on the 16th inst., the dramatic sketch, *After the Honeymoon*, was played, the leading rôles of Twitters and Lydia, his wife, being cleverly sustained by Mr. Sinclair Neill and Miss Geraldine Duff, the latter an amateur, who made her début with undeniable success, and was warmly congratulated. Much interest was also evinced in the dramatic dialogue, entitled *The Other Woman*, in which Miss Geraldine Duff and Miss Hilda K. Duff appeared.

We regret to learn that a serious accident occurred on Tuesday to Mr. Arthur Lennard, whilst returning from the races at Baldoyle, on a jaunting car, in company with Messrs. Sam Mayo and Walter Stanley. In accordance with the general rule, racing does not finish on the racecourse, but is continued by the Irish "jarveys" till their fares are landed either at their respective destinations or in the road. Unfortunately, Mr. Lennard arrived at the last-named goal, and is now lying seriously injured at his apartments in Dublin, under the care of Dr. Cowie. Mr. Lennard did not appear at the Empire on Tuesday evening, much to the disappointment of a large audience, and it is very doubtful if he will appear again during the week. Messrs. Mayo and Stanley, who had quite a miraculous escape, were fortunately quite unhurt.

Mr. W. F. Frame is one of the few Scotch successful comedians who has crossed the border, and what is England's gain is Scotland's loss. "The Man You Know" opens on the Stoll tour at Bradford on Monday.—The Lyons Trio leave town for a special week at the Grand, Hanley, after which they return to the Syndicate Halls, and open at the Coliseum on April 10.—Regan and Ryan, who have been very successful in the pantomime at the Princess's Theatre, Glasgow, were accorded a complimentary benefit on Monday night. Mr. Dan Roylat, from the Grand Theatre, and several other popular turns appeared. The couple are booked with Mr. Robert Arthur for the next two years in pantomime, and are also with Mr. Oswald Stoll for the Oxford, the Palace, Shaftesbury-avenue, &c.

Mr. Harry Burns (manager of the Empress Theatre, Hartlepool) has just recovered from a serious illness, and is at the present time in Southport for the benefit of his health. He will, however, return to Hartlepool this week-end.

The Smart Set Entertainers, who have not long returned from a long tour through the United States, will make their first appearance at the music halls next week, Mr. Charles Hector having engaged them for Collins's and the London.

Miss Madge Haines and Mr. Somers Bellamy, who played Poppy and Yen How in Mr. George Edwardes's *San Toy* company for over two years, are the latest recruits to the music halls, and have just produced most successfully their musical duologue, *Something in the City*.

The 394th meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Joe O'Gorman chairman of the committee, presiding. Mr. George Parsons, of the Salisbury Hotel, Boscombe, was appointed as agent in that town. The resignation of Mr. Harry Mountford as a member of the committee was accepted with regret. The secretary reported that 38 new members had joined during the past week, making a total number enrolled since the commencement of 11,342.

A presentation was made on Saturday evening to Mr. Ernest Bacon, of the Grand Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne, of a gold keyless watch and chain, on his retirement from the management of this theatre. The Sheriff of Newcastle, Mr. Arthur Scott, made the presentation, Councillor Weidner being in the chair.

It will be remembered that Miss Jennie Maynard was taken seriously ill while touring with the Kennedy Miller stock company. The unfortunate lady has had a slight stroke of paralysis, affecting the right arm. A sea voyage has been recommended, so Miss Maynard is taking a journey to Melbourne, in the hopes of recovering her lost health. We wish her *bon voyage* and a speedy recovery.

Mr. George Mozart, the popular comedian, who has made such a great hit in the part of one of the comic villains in *The Babes in the Wood* pantomime at the Islington Grand, concludes his very successful engagement to-night, with the close of the season. It is worthy of note that a Grand pantomime was not run for nine weeks since the celebrated "Tar-ra-ra-ra-boom-de-ay" year; and much of the success achieved is of course due to the untiring efforts of the comedians engaged. Mr. Mozart's genuine humour and quaint manner have especially delighted North London audiences, and merriment has reigned supreme while he has occupied the stage. Of his remarkable popularity in "Merrie Islington" there can be no question. He returns to the halls with a new répertoire. Mr. Hartley Milburn is Mr. Mozart's sole agent.

Audiences at the West-End halls will, within a week or so, have the opportunity of witnessing a great novelty—a most ambitious and successful effort to illustrate a complete novel or story by means of a cinématograph film. The picture has just been completed, after immense difficulties, by Messrs. Gaumont and Co., of Cecil Court, W.C. Its success should be instantaneous, for it combines dramatic acting with a true vein of pathos, and there is comedy in it as well—just enough to provide the necessary "relief." Messrs. Gaumont have decided to call the picture "The Blacksmith's Daughter." The story is told in a series of episodes.

Briefly, the picture shows us, in real life and movement, how a simple country girl, "the blacksmith's daughter," is deceived by a gay and unscrupulous cavalier, who rides up to her father's smithy. His horse has cast a shoe. She deserts father, home, and her faithful village swain, and flies with the stranger at dead of night. After desertion, misery, and shame, she creeps sadly back to the little village, falls fainting by the roadside, and is discovered by her rustic lover. He forgives all; so does her poor old father—broken with grief at her desertion—and the curtain falls upon a very pretty scene of reconciliation.

Mr. Frank Parker, stage-director of the Hippodrome, has just been endowed with a magnificent present of silver, valued at £200, and comprising some fifty articles, to celebrate his forty-third birthday and the 100th performance of *Butterflies in Fairyland*. The gifts, which were subscribed for by the Hippodrome staff, were handed to Mr. Parker at the conclusion of the matinée on Friday, the 17th, by Mr. Clarence Corri, the musical director.

Miss Winifred Hare terminates her exceedingly successful pantomime engagement this week at Sheffield, where the Stoke Newington pantomime has been played since its departure from London, and returns on March 13 to begin an important engagement at the Coliseum, where she will sing two of her dainty chansonnettes, "Little Brown Dove," by Hannen Swaffer and Hermann Darewsk, jun., and her latest success, "Banish Sorrow," by the late Frederick Clay. Special scenery is being painted to illustrate these two songs.

Mr. Rutland, solicitor to the London Entertainment Association, again attended, on Thursday, with Mr. Henri Gros, the president of the society and managing director of the Metropolitan Theatre of Varieties, at Westminster, to discuss the conviction by Mr. Curtis Bennett, at Marylebone, with respect to the performance of the sketch called *The Fighting Parson* as a stage play. Mr. Gros, who was under recognisances to come up for judgment if called upon, considered that an indignity, and was willing to plead guilty to the technical offence, so that it might be dealt with once and for all. It was surely not right that the summons should be dealt with in a manner which kept it in perpetuity over a defendant who was willing to take the full responsibility of what he had done as an individual and in the interests of his shareholders. Mr. Gros claimed to have the same liberty and right as others engaged in the same sort of business.

Mr. Heddekwake, for the Theatre Managers' Association, pointed out that the course taken at Marylebone had, at the time, the approval of Mr. Gros, and he submitted that no special circumstances had since arisen which made it desirable to reopen the case. Mr. Curtis Bennett observed that he felt this difficulty. Mr. Rutland protested that it was a dog-in-the-manger policy to put any obstacle in the way of an adjudication. Defendant had a right to ask that the case should be finally dealt with on its merits. The sketch complained of as a stage play was still being openly played at other halls, and it was only by a want of appreciation of the position that Mr. Gros ever consented to be bound over. If there had been adjournment to a certain date instead of sine die, such a position as this could not have arisen. Defendant really had a right to ask for adjudication. Mr. Bennett said at any rate he could not deal with the matter unless it was properly before him at this court. He would reserve his decision.

The numerous friends of Mr. Alfred Butt, manager of the Palace Theatre, will regret to learn that he is confined to his bed with a severe chill.

Mr. John Grun Marx, the modern Hercules, finishes his London engagements at the Empress, Brixton, to-night. He is engaged at the Alhambra, Paris, from March 1 to April 1. His feats of strength cannot fail to win the admiration and evoke the astonishment of Parisians who have the good fortune to witness his wonderful performance. More particularly will they be surprised when the man of might concludes by supporting on his chest a roundabout carrying eight full-grown men, the whole weighing over 25cwt.

The Haldyne Duo (Mark and Alicia) deputised for Miss Kate Carney on Tuesday at the Canterbury, and were retained for the remainder of the week.

Councillor John Coveney handed to Mr. Mead, at the Thames Police-court on Monday morning, a cheque for £10, part of the proceeds of a matinée held at the Cambridge Theatre of Varieties, in aid of the poor. Mr. Mead, in accepting the cheque, said he was very much obliged to Mr. Coveney and those gentlemen who had assisted him.

At the Westminster Police-court on Monday Mr. Swanborough, manager of the Chelsea Palace of Varieties, aplied to Mr. Horace Smith for a licence to enable a little girl of eleven to appear on the stage to give a singing and dancing turn. The magistrate inquired what time the child would finish. Mr. Swanborough said there were two performances a night, and the child's first turn would be about 6.45 and the second at 9.15. The Magistrate: I don't think it is very desirable for young children to be kept out of bed. The London County Council naturally object to this sort of thing, for how can a child like this be expected to receive proper education? I can't tell whether she goes to school. The mother of the girl said efficient instruction was given by a governess. She admitted that after the performance the child had to go home to Norwood. The Magistrate: I should have thought the child ought to have been in bed by nine. The first performance should be quite enough. Mr. Swanborough: She has been playing for some years, and we have the same programme for both houses. Eventually his Worship granted the licence for a week on the conditions that the child was lodged at Chelsea and finished at 9.30 o'clock.

The directors of the Empire, in their report, to be presented at the ordinary general meeting of shareholders on Monday, state that after allowing for depreciation on the usual liberal lines, amounting in the aggregate to £6,300 16s. 4d., with an additional sum of £4,669 4s. 8d. charged to revenue for renewals and repairs, and also setting aside the annual amount required (£430) to repay the capital on expiry of lease in 1929, with £115 4s. 7d. interest on the uninvested portion of the sinking fund, the net profit (including balance of last account) is shown at £5,220 11s. 10d. It is now proposed to pay a dividend in respect of the year 1904 of 1s. 6d. on each "15s. paid" share and of 1s. on each "10s. paid" share respectively, and to carry forward to next account a balance of £2,095 11s. 10d.

The directors much regret that the working of the year under consideration has resulted so unsuccessfully, and can only attribute it to the depression of trade in general and the delay in producing a new ballet, consequent upon the actions at law pending against the company in respect of such productions. The directors are, however, pleased to state that the year 1905 has commenced auspiciously, and continues to promise well for the future. The directors deeply regret the loss they sustained through the death of the late chairman, Mr. H. N. Tennent. At the request of Madame Nicols they have elected to a seat on the board Mr. Frederick Hurdle, chairman of Messrs. J. Marston, Thompson and Son, Limited, to represent Madame Nicols' interests as freeholder and as the largest shareholder.

Mr. Arthur Roberts has strengthened the Tivoli bill this week with his new sketch, *Where's the Count?* which was recently produced at the Palace. Mr. Roberts is in the best of form, and his comicalities keep the house merry throughout his stay. Miss Ruby Celeste aids valuably in the success of the production.

A novel act which will be included in the Pavilion programme next week was privately presented at the London Pavilion on Wednesday afternoon. The Brothers Zachs introduced a curious iron cage, from which they defy any man to escape. One of the brothers, after being heavily manacled, effected the escape in the presence of a committee.

From the report of the directors of the Metropolitan, Edgware-road, to be submitted to the shareholders at the sixth annual meeting on Wednesday next, it appears that the net profit earned for the twelve months ended Dec. 31, 1904, after providing for interest on the mortgage and debentures, amounts to the sum of £4,846 15s. 9d. In July last an interim dividend of £5 per cent. for the six months ended June 30, 1904 (less Income Tax), was paid; the directors now recommend a further dividend of £5 per cent. (less Income Tax) for the half-year ended Dec. 31, 1904, making £10 per cent. for the year. After payment of this dividend there will remain a balance of £3,081 17s. 7d. to be carried to the current year's accounts. The general reserve fund amounts to £12,000, partly invested in Consols and freehold property adjoining the Metropolitan.

The Gardner-Brown Bioscope and variety company opened at the Assembly Rooms, Gibraltar, on the 7th, under the distinguished patronage of Field Marshal Sir George White and Rear-Admiral Chichester, Bart. This company, which was organised last year by Mr. D. Gardner-Brown, specially to cater for the amusement of the British residents in the Mediterranean, has been successful all along the line, their tours in Egypt and Malta having been one triumphal march of success. Mr. Gardner-Brown has been long resident in the Mediterranean, and is therefore peculiarly fitted by his experience for this special class of catering. The company includes Miss Lottie Walton, serio; Miss Annie Russell, soubrette; Sisters Romaine, duettists and dancers; Leo Montague, comedian and dancer; George Gulliver, ventriloquist and polyphonic entertainer; Clem Allen, coon eccentric; Madame Gardner-Brown, with illustrated songs; and the Bioscope.

Mr. J. P. Adderley, ballad vocalist, and late of the 4th Manchester Regiment, wishes all his friends and acquaintances to know that he has not departed to the "unknown bourne," notwithstanding reports to that effect. It appears that this false report originated from the fact that a comrade who bore the same name was killed in South Africa four years ago, whilst serving in the Manchester Regiment.

Mr. Henry Carlton, the popular young comedian, had an exciting experience and a narrow escape from being drowned on Monday last. Whilst out shooting on the sea coast at Lancaster, Mr. Carlton crossed to an island, and not noticing the incoming tide, got hemmed in, the water soon completely covering the part where Mr. Carlton was standing. However, being a strong swimmer, he managed to escape with nothing worse than a severe ducking.

On Monday afternoon a meeting of the shareholders of the Croydon Palace of Varieties was held at Hummum's Hotel, Covent-garden. It will be remembered that this concern numbered the late Dan Leno and the late Herbert Campbell among its shareholders. Only shareholders were admitted, and one gentleman, who held proxies to the amount of £1,000, was refused admission. The shareholders had to consider the advisability of accepting an offer made by Mr. Walter Gibbons to take over the site of the Croydon Palace, build a new and up-to-date music hall, and to pay the company £300 a year. No decision could be come to as to what was best to be done, so the meeting was adjourned.

All artistes engaged for the Macnaghten London Circuit should note that rehearsals now take place at twelve o'clock on Monday.

"Wallau," described as a professional juggler, was on Wednesday the defendant, at Wrexham County Court, in an action for damages brought by Mr. J. J. Scott, proprietor of the Empire Music Hall, Wrexham, in respect of an alleged breach of contract. The defendant did not appear. According to the case for the plaintiff, which was proved by his manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls, the defendant was engaged to perform twice nightly at the Empire Music Hall during the August Bank Holiday week of 1904, and the usual contract was duly signed by both parties. On the Saturday preceding the week of his engagement, the defendant wired Mr. Scott as follows:—"Sorry unable to appear. Had to hurry home. Unforeseen circumstances.—Wallau." As a matter of fact, it was discovered afterwards that during the week in which he should have appeared at the Empire the defendant performed elsewhere. Plaintiff claimed £5 as damages. Judgment was entered for plaintiff for the amount claimed, with costs.

The famous and ever-popular "money-spinner," *Humanity*, commences a tour of the Moss and Thornton Empires in May. A novel scene is being prepared, and the sensational staircase incident will be doubly impressive.

The latest addition to swell the ranks of the Terriers' Association is Mr. John Marx, the strong man.

Messrs. B. Feldman and Co. have acquired for publication purposes Miss Florrie Forde's latest success, "The Little Bit of Red," which has been specially written and composed for this popular artiste by Messrs. John P. Harrington and George Le Brunn.

In consequence of the emphatic and instantaneous "hit" achieved by Miss Vesta Tilley at the Empire, Birmingham, with her newest character impersonation, entitled, "Doesn't Anybody Want the Curate?" it has been accepted for immediate publication by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter. The author and composer are Messrs. John P. Harrington and George Le Brunn.

Miss Maud Marlow, having recovered from her recent indisposition, resumed business on Monday at the Grand, Clapham. This rising artiste is booked for the Barrasford tour and several of the principal London halls through her agent, Mr. Will Oliver. She opens on Monday at the Palace, Belfast.

Mr. Arthur Reece has secured a stirring Nelson Centenary song, entitled "The Name that shall Never Die," by George Everard.

Messrs. Dale and Dargan, who are making a big success in J. A. Thompson's pantomime, *Aladdin*, as Emperor, Vizier, and speciality, have been re-engaged to play the same parts next Christmas.

Miss Florence Challis has produced this week a new scena, entitled *Smiles are Tears*, by Geo. A. Stevens. At both the Camberwell and the Standard it has met with great success.

The Dunedin Troupe have just returned to Paris from South America. They were a great success in Buenos Ayres, Rio Janeiro, and San Paulo, and open on March 1, for six weeks, at Cirque Medrano, Paris.

An original episode by Warden Reed and Walter Hart, entitled *The Right Road*, will be produced at the Battersea Empire next week. Mr. Reed and Miss Granville will appear in it, and the new production has been booked for the Metropole, Camberwell, for March 13.

Miss "Del" Levey has scored a great success at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, this week. Her new song, "My Queen Bee," was specially well received; and Miss Levey's fine figure set off to advantage in her wonderful yellow costume was also much admired.

As we announced last week, a new comedy interlude entitled *The Sporting Duchess*, which has been specially written for the Lady Haldon by Mr. Arthur Branscombe, the well-known author of *Morocco Bound*, will be produced at the Tivoli on Monday. Lady Haldon was formerly and for a considerable period a great favourite on the London stage, where, as Mdlle. Miska, she was leading lady, and the creator of original parts with Sir Augustus Harris at Drury Lane. She also appeared at the Empire, when a theatre, in *Round the World in Eighty Days*; and afterwards toured the United States for three or four years.

Mr. Medley Barrett, whose fine song for Mr. Harry Randall, "I'm not a bad sort—am I?" will be remembered, has been secured by the British Bioscope Company as chief humorist in a series of exhibitions, which will commence in Edinburgh on Monday. One of the artist's strong cards will be "Little Tommy's Christmas Pudding," a composition of his own.

Mr. Henry A. Moore, the mimic, is breaking new ground as a writer of dramatic duologues, and one from his pen, entitled *Matches*, played by Mr. Edward Christopher and Miss Dorothy Riddell, met with great success at the Palace, Manchester, on a recent afternoon. Mr. Moore opens at the Hippodrome, Boscombe, on Monday.

Miss Sybil Arundale writes pointing out there there is no truth in the statement contained in last week's *Era* that she has arranged to appear at the London Coliseum.

Lynn, "the original singing newsboy," has been appointed sole manager of the Hippodrome and Coliseum Gardens, Llandudno, and will establish there a World's Fair, which will last from June 5 until October. He has just finished at the Coventry Hippodrome a twenty-nine weeks' tour, and has been engaged by Mr. Henri Gros for London.

Mr. J. Hickory Wood, the well-known author of so many pantomimes, has been commissioned by Messrs. Methuen to write a biography of the late Dan Leno. The book will contain numerous portraits, and also reproductions of pictures painted by the lamented comedian, who was decidedely gifted both as a draughtsman and a colourist.

Miss Alice Lloyd, who is now gracing the boards at the Pavilion (Mile-End) pantomime, has been presented with Ally Sloper's sixth weekly ring for the most popular pantomime actresses. Last year Miss Lloyd won a 50-guinea ring presented by the same paper.

Mr. J. B. Elliott writes as follows, under date Feb. 17:—"I am sorry to inform you that my niece died yesterday in Paris, after an operation for cancer. She was not a member of our troupe." The family have received many messages of condolence.

Mr. Tom Burrows was greatly cheered in the monotony of his task of club-swinging at the Canterbury by the voluntary efforts of Miss Kate Carney, and he was also greatly indebted to her for his success.

Giant Machnow, the Russian, who is being bombarded by rival managers desirous of securing his services, has been offered £400 per week by a certain variety agent for a period of twelve months, on condition that he breaks his contract with his present agent, Paul Schultze, of Berlin. The directors of Moss' Empires, Ltd., are determined to hold Machnow to his contract. The interest which this abnormal individual has excited during his stay in London has proved so valuable, that at present, although his performance consists of simply shaking the hands of some of the audience, he has been offered a salary much bigger than even Dan Leno received in his prime.

Mrs. John Lawson's weird performance of Louie Faber in *A Bride for a Living* still continues to excite most favourable comment. A special part is now being prepared for Mrs. Lawson in *A Key to the Bible*.

Mr. Tom Wootwell has been chosen to make one of the English team of swimmers, headed by J. A. Jarvis, going to Vienna next August to give exhibitions of the English method of life-saving. In addition to these exhibitions, there will be several good prizes given for races between the Englishmen and the Viennese, who have some very good swimmers. Of course, Mr. Wootwell looks upon it as a big feather in his cap to be chosen to form one of such a representative team. Four years ago he went to Italy, and swam for England in five towns.

Mr. Dusty Rhodes has recovered from the accident which happened to him seven weeks ago, while he was engaged at the Hippodrome, Liverpool. He came out of the hospital on Monday, and desires to express his thanks to friends for letters and presents.

Over 314,000 copies of illicit music were seized by the police and agents of the Musical Copyright Association, who visited a warehouse in Larkhall Lane, Clapham, on the 17th inst.

THE LONDON MUSIC HALLS.

THE LYCEUM.

A constancy to change is the policy of Mr. T. Barrasford at the magnificent Lyceum; and out of the twelve items presented on Monday no less than eleven were fresh to the boards of the house. The remaining turn is the excerpt from *Faust*, given by the operatic company, now firmly established in the favour of the patrons of the house. Gounod's music is superb, and in the scene chosen—that of the prison—highly dramatic. Mdlle. Van Parys rises to great heights of fervour as the hapless Marguerite; M. Ansoldi shows the repentant mood of Faust by his acting, and sings very finely; and the generous applause that is accorded the whole scene—to the success of which M. Rey, as Mephistopheles largely contributes—is well won. As an immobile comedian, with a peculiar quaintness all his own, Mr. Alf. Gibson has already won the ear of London audiences in other places, and the Lyceumites seem to like his imperturbable methods by the way in which they applaud his songs, "All through eating frozen meat" and "It wasn't long before he shifted." Miss Claire Romaine's "boys" have always been interesting, and she scores as the forward youngster who remarks, "They don't mind me; I'm only a bit of a kid." Her more sentimental ditty, "Sweethearts," has a pretty melody, which easily recommends itself to any well-constituted gallery possessing a love of harmony. Mr. Whit Cunliffe, light comedian, opens his entertainment with some instrumental and other imitations, which prepared the way for his well-known song, "I would," which bids fair to repeat here the success it has met with in other places. Sensational performances are always expected of the Japanese, both in war and peace, and the Akimotos are not behind their countrymen in their wonderful exhibition of prehensile activity on a pole balanced by a member of the troupe lying prone on his back. Keen and Waller are labelled "Parson and Sport," and they are responsible for some very smart tricks in the way of somersaults and pirouettes combined. They are also exceedingly agile, as well as particularly quaint in their table business, and have a real sense of fun. Mr. Carl Nobel, ventriloquist, has some excellent mechanical figures, and his divertissement with a lady dummy is exceedingly clever. His promenade and conversations with two other figures are amusing, the show being throughout bright and entertaining. Mr. Norman French's sand dancing is quite unique, and one is reminded of the old-fashioned harlequinade by the funny trap business of the Pickards. The Athlones give an exhibition of physical culture; and the "Interesting Story" told by animated pictures is as puzzling as it is humorous. That the public still appreciate the Ju-Jitsu, or Japanese form of wrestling is shown by the reception accorded to Tarro Myake, who defeated the redoubtable Yukio Tani at the Tivoli on Dec. 24, 1904. Myake offers £20 to any man living whom he fails to defeat within ten minutes, and £1,000 to the man who defeats him. He is more sturdily built than Tani, and looks older than the 23 years attributed to him by Mr. R. W. Guke, who introduced the Jap on Monday. He is said to stand 5ft. 8in. high, and to weigh 11st. From the outset it was evident Myake could have disposed of either of the men opposed to him in a minute, but he permitted the first opponent, Mr. Sutherland, to remain for 3min. 15sec., and Jack Bibby for 4min. 11sec. Mr. Louis de Reeder's fine orchestra is heard to advantage in the new march, entitled "The Lyceum," and in the operatic selection.

THE MIDDLESEX.

For funny sayings, and a quaint way of delivering them, Mr. Cliff Ryland is one of the most commendable of comedians. The best of his humorous points are brought out with a gravity of facial expression which suggests that he is quite unconscious of the purpose he fulfils before the footlights. This week at the Middlesex he is as much favoured by applause as he is everywhere else. His little anecdotes concerning the idiosyncrasies of one Casey are particularly well relished, and his songs, "Feet, nothing else but feet" and "The Girl with the Game Eye," also form no small factor in the making of a success. Kitts and Windrum have a very entertaining act, entitled *The Entr-acte*, in which the lady partner appears as an actress dressing for her part, and the gentleman as a "Johnny" who has fallen a victim to her enchanting influence. During the course of the act we get quite a variety of diverting quips and cranks, and the lady cleverly and gracefully executes a dance. Miss Lily Marney, a comedienne who possesses a decidedly bold style, creates a strong impression on the Middlesex boys by her singing of "He breathed words of love" and "I'm a Spanish young lady." Rex Fox must be a man of wonderful nerve, and the daring act in which he stands on one foot on a high wire, balancing a lighted lamp on the other foot and playing a banjo the while, is a source of wonderment and admiration to the onlookers. Miss Gipsy Woolf's musical scena, *The Gipsy Encampment*, is a charming item, and is most picturesquely staged. Her song, "Ma Sunlight Sue," the chorus of which is delightfully rendered by her six little "Romanies," immediately secures the affections of the audience, and the dancing of the juvenile troupe is admirable. Miss Rose Elliott comes on as an extra turn, and a very acceptable one at that, her "Rose of White" ditty being sympathetically and effectively sung. Dale and O'Malley are right when they tell us that they have "got a lot to say," and the "lot" of these talented comedians and patterers is an extremely attractive and laughable commodity. Their "Johnnies" song is specially deserving of praise. Mr. Frederick Maxwell and Co. have a very interesting production in their romantic episode, *The Corsican Brothers*. Mr. Maxwell plays the dual rôle of the twin-brothers, Fabien and Louis dei Franchi, and his acting throughout displays strong dramatic power, especially when he appears as the avenger. Miss Lois du Cane, as Emelie de l'Esparre, acts with womanly grace and dignity, and the portrayal, both as to speech and gesture, gives evidence of considerable histrionic ability. The sketch is well mounted, the different scenes showing that attention has been paid to stage effect and historical correctness. Juggling extraordinary is indulged in by Prince Kuroki, whose tricks are performed with surprising neatness and mystifying adroitness. The comical side of life is aptly illustrated by Mr. Bedford Davis and Co. in their farcical sketch, *Uncle Jack*, which from start to finish is productive of the most profound hilarity. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Knox win golden opinions with their new song "My Flower Girl of Drury Lane." The Five Bon-Bons submit a merry trifle in *Hot time for one*, and their turn goes with a capital swing right to the last line. The Sisters Vincent are smart duettists and dancers; Miss Ena Beryl puts forth some good work as a vocalist and mandolinist; Mr. Fred Elton, comedian, has the humorous instinct highly developed; and the Sisters Morgan delight everybody with their singing and dancing.

THE BEDFORD.

The Camden Town folks are staunch in their love of sensation; and they have this week their old favourite, Mr. Leonard Mortimer and company, to present it in what may be termed a dramatic tabloid of thrilling interest, entitled *The Britisher*. The hero of this somewhat explosive piece of work is known as Pete, who in consequence of a drunken frolic, has left England and volunteered with the American forces charged with the suppression of the Filipino insurrection. Pete finds a fierce rival in Stratton, a Yankee officer, and they quarrel, with the result that a duel is arranged for the morning. In order to get Pete into her power Inez Marcelino fixes upon him the ignominy of being a spy by placing important plans in his military overcoat. Pete is denounced by the colonel of the American regiment, and is arrested. Inez, however, relents, and, releasing Pete, enables him to rehabilitate himself with his comrades by a brilliant feat of arms. Mr. Leonard Mortimer displays force and earnestness in the part of Pete, and he is well supported. The chief star of the bill is Miss Peggy Pride, who long since made herself a favourite with the Bedfordians. She sings of "Sally's Wedding Day," a hilarious function in costerdom. Miss Pryde's description of the wedding breakfast and the proceedings following thereon makes for laughter. For her second number she chooses the popular refrain, "Good-bye, little girl, good-bye," in the singing of which she is heartily joined by an unpaid choir in the gods. An interlude of considerable interest in the programme is that submitted by Gardner, Griffin, and Gardner, musical comedians. The cornet player is responsible for a capital rendering of the "Whirlwind" polka, in which he is accompanied by a lady pianist. The comic man plays the part of another "Pied Piper of Hamelin," his tootlings on the flute resulting in the appearance of some huge property rats. A really artistic feature of the show is the duet between flute and horn, an unusual combination, and the rendering of "Ah! che la morte," from *Trovatore*, is excellent. This clever trio should win popularity in London wherever they may appear. Miss Rose Elliott, who looks very attractive in a white lace dress covered with shimmering sequins, commences in the lighter vein with a song entitled "I'm a bit of a judge." In this we learn that a member of the police force stationed in Leicester-square is quite an expert critic of stockings. Quite serious in tone is Miss Elliott's song of the red and white rose, in which the sorrow of an aged man's life is caused by a stage sweetheart wearing—through the machinations of an enemy—the wrong colour. Thinking that he is unforgiven, the lover wastes in despair, and apparently is entirely oblivious of the comfort to be derived from the poet's lines, "If she be not fair to me, what care I how fair she be?" Miss Elliott puts much earnestness into her delivery of the number. Miss Alma Gray, a capital dancer, has a rag-time song, to which she was scarcely able to do justice on the night of our visit, in consequence of the prevalence of smoke caused by the explosions incidental to a previous sketch. Mr. Arthur Slatter, a discovery of Mr. Harry Day, is an accomplished siffleur, his imitations of the lark and the canary being excellent. He is also responsible for mimicry of Mr. Frank Lawton, who was the original Blinky Bill, the whistling "mixed ale pugilist" in *The Belle of New York*. Mr. Slatter, who dresses completely in white, makes an excellent bid for success, and should be heard of in the West-end halls shortly. Plenty of genuine knockabout fun is supplied by Rezene and Robini, both on the trapeze and off. Levano adds to the difficulty of his energetic Arab tumbling feats by placing daggers at his heart and throat before their accomplishment; the Paytes, comedy sketch artistes, are responsible for a lively trifle, in which a sporting husband's unreasoning jealousy is completely cured; and other turns include Miss Minnie Wren and Mr. T. P. Carrol. The Imperial Bioscope is also an attraction. Mr. A. F. Lovesy's supervision of the entertainment here gives complete satisfaction to the visitors, and also to the managing-director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.

The handsome and cosy place of entertainment presides, has now taken quite a big place in the affections of West Londoners. During the nineteen months it has been in existence, it has more than realised the highest anticipations of its promoters, and the cleanness of the programme presented combined with the excellent supervision Mr. Dobson has exercised in the interests of his audiences have been instrumental in securing the patronage of people who, under ordinary circumstances, might not have known what it was to visit a music hall. This week there is an attractive list of turns. We have frequently seen successful impersonations of men by lady artistes on the variety stage, but it has been rare that we have come across such a successful "woman" impersonator as Mr. George Tacius. In fact, it is only as he makes his exit from the stage and removes his lady's wig that the audience is disillusioned, and promptly acknowledges having been "taken in" by the clever disguise. Ryan and Hall are seen in an acrobatic act which possesses much in the way of novelty and power to create mirthfulness, one of the gentleman being an exceedingly agile and snake-like contortionist. A picturesque—so far as the costumes go—dramatic episode of early eighteenth century life in France is capably played by Messrs. A. E. Anson and H. C. M. Hardinge's company. The two gentlemen named are the authors, and the title of the playlet is *In the King's Name*. Miss Nina Martino, the charming vocalist, has a pretty and well-trained voice, which gives an agreeable rendering of the song, "Sing me to sleep." Hand-balancing and equilibristic feats are crowded into the turn of the Three Nevarros, who certainly exhibit remarkable talents in this direction. Mr. Will H. Fox shows us, as he expresses it himself, "the different ways in which a piano can be imposed upon," and if his selections are impositions—well, they are highly amusing, and at the same time indicative of great skill in fingering the keys of the instrument. The remarks with which the playing is intersected are in themselves a liberal entertainment. The strange characteristics of rag-time, cake-walks, wedding marches, and funeral compositions, as performed by people who can scarcely be regarded as brilliant musicians, are amusingly brought out by Mr. Fox. Swan and Bambard are eccentrics of the rough and tumbling order, and their act, *The Eccentric Recruit*, is productive of much laughter. Their antics and burlesque patter are comical in the extreme. Originality of ideas and "situations" in which there is a great deal of the sportive element are woven into a delightful comedy act, which is made the most of by the Three Brothers Fortune. Some excellent and clear and distinct bioscopic views, including the "wrongly accused" series, are thrown upon the screen at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, and are a notable feature of the entertainment.

"PROGRAMMES."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Referring to Mr. Frank Leo's letter in your issue of Feb. 18, 1905, which is no doubt directed at me, I may state that my version of "Programmes" is an improvement upon one of my old songs entitled "Didn't I, wasn't I," a song full of interruptions, in the same style as "Programmes."

If you will refer to Mr. Leo's advertisement in your columns of an earlier date you will find it states that Mr. Wilkie Bard produced "Programmes" as a novelty, not a song, at the Palace, Manchester, early in December. I am quite aware that the "programme gag" has been worked years ago, and by more than one artiste, but I still claim to be the first to work it in the form of a song. My song is fully protected at Stationers' Hall, is published by Chas. Sheard and Co., and I shall make strenuous efforts to protect my property should anyone infringe upon my rights.

Yours faithfully, SAM MAYO.

Tivoli, Dublin, Feb. 22, 1905.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. G. D. Fox, conductor of Mr. Fred J. Little's pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, was presented, on Saturday last, with a silver pocket-book by the Three Sisters Silcott, at the Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

THE OXFORD ANNIVERSARY.

The Oxford wore the livery of rejoicing on the evening of Friday, the 17th, the date of the hall's twelfth annual. The auditorium was most profusely and beautifully decorated, flags of national and international significance draping the tiers, and the chaste effect of the whole scheme being much increased by charming electrical effects and bouquets in the boxes. The architectural features of the lounge also were prettily outlined with hanging smilax and scarlet and white blooms—a floral picture for which a well-known firm in Covent Garden was responsible. Mr. G. A. Payne, Mr. Albert Gilmer, and Mr. C. Blyth-Pratt received the hearty congratulations of a large number of friends on the continued prosperity of the house of which the popularity has never wavered for forty years. The programme was of formidable proportions, some fifty or so turns being scheduled; but the management did not depend on mere weight of numbers. Every one of the items was of high quality, and the packed audience had an exceedingly jolly time. An uproarious welcome awaited Mr. Joe Elvin, in that amusing racing farce, entitled, *Over the Sticks*, in which he appeared in his favourite rôle of a jockey. Mr. Toole in his early years as an actor made a reputation in the pigskin, but he never became quite so popular a figure as Joe, the cockney comedian, who was admirably supported by Mrs. Bennett as the gushing Rebecca. The fun on the course was of the liveliest description, and the ride to victory was most realistically managed. An interesting appearance was that of Miss Kate Tyndall (Mrs. Albert Gilmer), who recited Adelaide Proctor's "Story of a Faithful Soul" (by permission of Mr. Lewis Waller). Miss Tyndall, it will be remembered, was the original Dick, the sturdy "little vagabond" in Messrs. Sims and Shirley's play, founded on *Les Deux Gosses*, which had a long run at the Princess's in the nineties. The favourite actress imparted much interest to the recitation, and was loudly applauded.

A comparative novelty in the programme was the "Parisian Ragpickers," a scena that is presented by Miss Rachel Lowe's company. The foundation of the interlude—for so we may call it—is the song, "Any Rags," of which Miss Lowe made such a success, both at the halls and in pantomime. The number, which is an attraction of the current week's bill, was sung on the anniversary night by another lady, who displayed dramatic insight, and was likewise an energetic dancer. She wore a special costume, ingeniously made, and was backed up by a chorus of young ladies, carrying in front of them property heads and trunks, representative of all sorts and conditions of Paris *chiffonniers*. They were splendidly made, these properties, and the whole production was curious and interesting. Miss Dorothy Kenton, "the girl with the banjo," made her first appearance in England, and her playing, which is exceptionally good, at once established her a favourite. Bransby Williams repeated a dramatic triumph as "Fagin, the Jew"; Mr. Alec Hurley was heard in an amusing comic song concerning the working man who never works; Duncan and Godfrey presented once again with the most complete success their little coster idyll, entitled *Me and 'Er*; the audience had a merry time with Mr. James Stewart, the "tramp at the piano"; with Miss Vesta Victoria, in "It's all right in the summer time"; with Miss Maud Courtney, who sang, "I always leave 'em laughing when I say good-bye"; and with the droll Louie Freear, who gave a mirthful rendering of "All through the twiddley-bits." Mr. Joe O'Gorman repeated his success in "Pepita Maguire"; Miss Kitty Rayburn was amusing in "The Christening of the Baby"; and there was hearty recognition of the whimsical situations of that equestrian farce presented by "Ginnett's Remounts." Other favourites who appeared were Edie King, G. H. Elliott, Walter Stanley, Goggin and Davis, Amy Clevere, Pat Rafferty, Radie Furman, the Selbinis, and Eddie Comet. Mr. W. Burgess, with his usual ability, directed the orchestra, which was heard to much advantage in a special arrangement of popular tunes, known as "Oxford Echoes."

THE WOMACK FUND.

Mr. George Womack, the stage-manager of the Oxford, whose precarious health prevents him following his occupation, is about to undergo for about eight months a course of treatment for consumption at Bournemouth. A Fund is being raised on his behalf, and any subscriptions will be gratefully acknowledged by Mr. Albert Gilmer, the hon. secretary, or Mr. C. Blyth-Pratt, the hon. treasurer at the Oxford. The following sums have been received:—

SECOND LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Miss Vesta Victoria Collected by Miss Fidoe & Miss Bullock	5	0	0	Mr. Ernest Shand	1	1	0
				Miss B. Featherstone	1	1	0
	5	6	6	Mr. P. Brown	1	0	0
Miss Ida Rene	3	3	0	Three Laurels	1	0	0
Mr. Geo. Aduey Payne	2	2	0	Mr. W. H. Fox	1	0	0
				The Great Northern Troupe	0	15	0
James Buchanan & Co.	2	2	0	Mr. Chas Fox, jun	0	10	6
Mr. Alec Hurley	2	2	0	Mr. R. Warner	0	10	6
Apollo	2	2	0	Miss M. Duncan	0	10	6
Miss Vesta Tilley	2	2	0	Starr & Leslie	0	10	6
Miss Ray Wallace	2	2	0	Miss Cissie Noel	0	10	6
Brett & Orford	2	2	0	Mr. N. French	0	10	6
Miss Q. Leighton	2	2	0	Mr. A. Lennard	0	10	6
Miss Louie Freear	2	2	0	Miss Edie King	0	10	6
Mr. Harry Lauder	2	2	0	Mr. A. Godfrey	0	10	6
Mr. Albert Gilmer	1	1	0	Mr. Tom Shaw	0	10	6
Mr. C. Blyth Pratt	1	1	0	Miss M. Courteney	0	10	6
Mr. W. Gibbons	1	1	0	Miss D. Harmer	0	10	6
Mr. Jack Edgar	1	1	0	Mr. C. Reeves	0	10	6
Mr. C. Beecham	1	1	0	Miss M. Mortimer	0	10	6
Mr. Fred McAvoy	1	1	0	Mr. J. Henn	0	10	0
Mr. W. de Frece	1	1	0	Mr. S. Hyman	0	10	0
Mr. Albert Upton	1	1	0	Mr. H. H. Wells. Miss Dollie Bell	0	10	0
Mr. Lester Collingwood	1	1	0	Strode & Co.	0	10	0
Mr. J. Freidman	1	1	0	Cope & Co.	0	10	0
Mr. Joe O'Gorman	1	1	0	Mr. G. Richter	0	10	0
Mrs. Jno. Lawson	1	1	0	Miss N. Wallace.	0	7	6
Mr. J. A. Collins	1	1	0	Five Whiteleys	0	7	6
Miss E. Douglas	1	1	0	Mr. A. Brittain	0	5	0
Mr. J. Redfern	1	1	0	Mr. W. H. Downes	0	5	0
Mr. Will Evans	1	1	0	Miss Ada Blanche	0	5	0
Mr. W. Smithson	1	1	0	Miss Ada Perring	0	5	0
Col. Probyn	1	1	0	Mr. Peter Fannan	0	5	0
Two Bostons	1	1	0	Mr. H. Gilletts	0	5	0
P. M.	1	1	0	Mr. H. Conyers	0	5	0
Mr. Wilkie Bard	1	1	0	Mr. V. Opperman	0	5	0
Miss Ada Blanche	1	1	0	Mr. Jas. Foreman	0	5	0
Messrs. Oliver & Holmes	1	1	0	Mr. Woody Kelly	0	5	0
				Mr. Ernest Rees	0	5	0
Miss Amy Clevere	1	1	0	C. E. W.	0	2	6
Mr. Dan Crawley	1	1	0	Mr. W. Stanley	0	2	6
Miss Lil Hawthorne	1	1	0	Mr. R. Valentine.	0	2	0
				Mr. A. Jackson	0	2	0

MESSRS. E. HILL-MITCHELSON and HARRIS FINEBERG'S capable company has been playing Mr. Hill-Mitchelson's powerful drama, *The Traitor*, to crowded houses this week at the Elephant and Castle. Mr. John C. Carlyle, as the Crown Prince Rudolph, proves himself an actor of sterling ability. Mr. John E. Scanlan gives a fine reading of the part of the villainous Chief of Police. Captain Ross, R.N., and Jack Boult are well played by Mr. T. W. Hurst and Mr. Frank Sutherland, the latter being responsible for a great amount of comical business, in which he is well assisted by Miss Anena Walton, who cleverly enacts the part of a little Japanese girl. Mr. Edward Swinton works energetically as General Hertz, and Mr. Edward Lowrie is good as Soff. Mr. Edward Duff is excellent as General Franz; and Mr. Frank Day is effective as Sergeant Neidroff. Miss Ruth Shepherd acts sympathetically, and scores a success in the onerous part of Zula, the avenger; and Miss Lily Roselle gives a fascinating performance as Countess Zicka. Miss Hettie Senior plays vivaciously as Elsie Duprey; and Miss Isabel Hunt, in the character of Lieutenant Nicholas, acts with animation.

A MAMMOTH HIPPODROME.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Messrs. Thompson and Dundy, who have come to the front during the past two years as purveyors of amusement to the several million people of New York and its environs, to say nothing of the rest of Uncle Sam's dominions, will shortly open what is said to be the largest place of amusement in the world, in Sixth-avenue, just above Forty-second-street, which is one of the leading thoroughfares of the metropolis. The New York Hippodrome, as the place will be called, will be a theatre, a music-hall, and a circus, all in one. Two performances will be given daily, and the prices will range from 25 cents. to 1 dollar, every seat being reserved. The first part of the entertainment will include an extravaganza, called *A Circus on Mars*, which will employ several hundred persons, as well as a large number of horses and a big menagerie. The opening scene will show the circus embarking on airships en route to Mars. The next scene will represent the troupe's arrival there, and the great performance which they give in the arena of the King's palace. Then there will be vaudeville turns, besides the usual acrobatic, aerial, and equestrian acts of the circus. The second part of the programme will be devoted to a war spectacle, entitled *Andersonville*, the action of which will be represented as passing both on land and water. The Hippodrome building is 240ft. deep, 200ft. wide, and 110ft. high. The main entrance is 25ft. wide, and there are thirty-five exits. The auditorium, which has a seating capacity of 5200, would hold two theatres of the average size. The stage and auditorium will be illuminated by more than 20,000 electric lights. The work of excavating the site of this immense building was begun last June. During the winter, in order to keep three shifts of men working on the building without interference from the weather, circus tents were used to cover the roofless structure. The stage dimensions are as follows: Width between walls, 200ft.; depth, 50ft., with an "apron" of 60ft., making a total depth of 110ft.; height 90ft. The "apron" of the stage will serve for the aquatic part of the entertainment, and for circus performances. Two rings, each 42ft. in diameter, are on it. The scenery works in side pockets, and not from a "gridiron," as in other theatres. There are 100 dressing-rooms. The scenery and nearly everything else will be operated by electricity. The travelling electric hoists or cranes run on rubber-tyred wheels. They move out over the stage, drop their hooks into the rings in the scenery, and carry it to the pockets on either side. They will pick up with ease a piece of scenery weighing two tons, and move it at the rate of 300ft. per minute. There are nine bridges in the stage, the largest being 47ft. by 14ft., with a lifting power of 250lb. to the square foot. These are worked by electric motors and drums, which are on the lower side of the bridges themselves. The "dogs" that lock the stage in position are worked by electricity, and so are the pumps that will throw 15,000 gallons of water a minute on to the stage to represent a mountain torrent. The water tanks on the roof are regulated by a floating switch that stops all the pumps when the tanks are full, and starts them again automatically when the water has fallen 12in. Another electrical device will start the fire pump as soon as a valve is opened anywhere on the fire line, and the pump will keep going until the valves are closed again. For the stage lighting a double set of switches has been provided, each controlled by a master switch. While one scene is on, the operator can set the lights for the next scene, and when the time comes throw off all the lights by one pull at the master switch, and throw on the new set in the same way. Under each switch is a dimmer, for half lights, that can be operated at the same time. In theatres where big spectacular productions are made, twenty-two "spot" lights are considered a large number, but in the Hippodrome there will be no less than 114 of them in use. A large number of entertainers have been engaged as members of the Hippodrome company, and the new enterprise has proved a godsend to many unemployed artists in the middle of a trying theatrical season.

"THE FIGHTING PARSON."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—We much regret that you should have aggravated the complaint we made on behalf of our client, Mr. Chris. Davis, in our letter of the 16th inst. by publishing an inaccurate extract from that letter. We stated that Mr. George Gray wrote *The Fighting Parson* "in collaboration with our client," but you make us state, in the extract you publish, that Mr. Gray wrote the sketch "in collaboration without our client."

Yours faithfully,

WILKINSON, HOWLETT, AND WILKINSON.

14, Bedford-street, W.C., Feb. 21, 1905.

[We much regret that a printer's error should have caused Mr. Davis inconvenience.—ED. of the ERA.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Our attention has been drawn to a letter published in your last issue, purporting to have been written by Messrs. Wilkinson and Co., taking exception to an advertisement of Mr. Gray, the author of the above sketch.

With regard to the allegation that it was described in the programme of the Royal Music Hall for many months as a joint authorship, such is not the case. Immediately the true circumstances came to the knowledge of such management, the name of Mr. Davis was eliminated, and, on behalf of our client, we beg to definitely state that he was responsible for the whole of the incidents, plot, and dialogue of *The Fighting Parson*.

We have before us the synopsis submitted by Mr. Davis, and refused by our client, and which bears no similarity whatever with the plot of the piece in question, as Mr. Gray subsequently furnished Mr. Davis with a plot and synopsis, with a view to his carrying out some part of his contract, but which he failed at the last moment to do.

Action was taken for alleged collaboration, and we cannot do better than quote from the judge's summing up: "While sympathising with the defendant in having to sit down in the middle of his own work and write the play himself, having regard to the many visits paid by the defendant to the plaintiff (which visits our client made to urge plaintiff to carry out his contract), I come to the conclusion that there was some sort of collaboration, and give judgment for plaintiff; but had it been an ordinary contract, I should have found for the defendant."

Proceedings were later instituted against Mr. Davis by our client for breach of a previous contract; but as Mr. Gray would probably be abroad when the action was to be heard, Mr. Davis and our client met, and a settlement was arrived at, our client giving a sum in settlement of *all claims* for his alleged collaboration, and withdrawing his action against Mr. Davis.

Our client has a perfect legal right to advertise in any way his authorship, and we would suggest to Messrs. Wilkinson's client that the advertising columns of *The Era* and other trade mediums, are open to him, and would welcome any prepaid contributions.

Yours faithfully,

MORRIS and RICKARDS.

Mitre-court Chambers, Temple, E.C., Feb. 24.

MR. EDITOR,—SIR, In your report last week for the St. George's Hall, Bradford, you mentioned my name as Olive Watts, comedienne. It should have been Yours faithfully, CLIVE WATTS.

Theatre Royal, Stockton-on-Tees, Feb. 22.

PRESENTATION TO MR. FRANK PARKER.

To be popular is the aim of most public men: to attain popularity is the luck of few: to maintain it is the privilege of those who know how to value it not from a sordid view, but from a grateful, whole-hearted, manly aspect. Mr. Frank Parker, the stage and equestrian director of the London Hippodrome, is, and always has been, the idol of his staff, his co-workers in business, his personal friends, and his confrères, who have had the honour of association with him at the London Hippodrome in their official capacities. No one ever forgets the genial and evergreen "Frank." Friday, the 17th inst., was the anniversary of his birthday. The occasion is never forgotten by his friends and admirers of his employees and dependents. The stage at the Hippodrome on this particular day represented a miniature silversmith's emporium. Between the morning and evening performances a display had been arranged on the stage while the jovial "Frank" was taking his customary cigar and "nap." His astonishment may well be imagined when, roused from his slumber, his able lieutenant, Mr. Percival, demanded his presence on the stage to meet the assembled company, and receive not only "many, many happy returns of the day," but the substantial—one might say princely—presents of silver to the value of nearly £200.

The spokesman was Mr. Clarence C. Corri, the Hippodrome's musical director, who said: "My dear Mr. Parker,—It is with great pleasure I ask you, on behalf of the artistes, stage and ring staff, orchestra, and your personal friends, to accept these presents, with their sincerest wishes for a long, happy, and successful life. They are given as a mark of esteem and admiration for the captain who so successfully commands a gigantic vessel, and the name of the ship is Unity. May the barometer on the table be always 'set fair,' and, as to the clock beside it—well, 'I ought to 'get time' for not making a better speech."

The following is a list of the principal articles:—Silver inkstands, 160ozs.; pair silver vases, 80ozs.; silver clock and barometer; silver penwipe and brush; two ivory and silver penholders; silver-mounted Russia leather blotting-book, from Mr. and Mrs. F. Percival; fumed oak tea caddy, emblematical of Mr. F. Parker's productions at the Hippodrome, from "A Chip of the Old Block" (Mr. Alfred Hughes, Mr. Parker's infallible stage-carpenter); raw-hide frame and bear's claw (mounted), from The Chamberlains; massive silver and oak cigar and cigarette carrier, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Morris; pair Doulton vases, Madame Alluta and wardrobe staff; gold-mounted cigar and cigarette holder, from Mdlle. Chiquita; Chinese cigar cabinet, willow pattern plate, tobacco jar, silver card case (Chinese), from Chung Ling Soo; silver blotting case, from chorus ladies.

Mr. Frank Parker, in responding, paid eloquent tributes to the splendid way in which his staff had for five years faithfully fulfilled every demand upon their services. He continued: While I am responsible for the well-doing of my shows, I cannot but feel that all and sundry take as much, or even, perhaps, more, interest in the success of all that is attempted to interest the public. Without loyal support, such as you have given me for years, it would be difficult to say what would happen. The old ship Unity, as my friend and tried worker, Mr. Corri, put it, perhaps might possibly have foundered. However, I thank you all, boys and girls and friends, both present and absent, from my heart for your kindly thought. God bless you all.

Hearty cheers were then given for Mr. Parker, Mr. Corri, &c.

THE "DAN LENO" COT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE ERA."

SIR,—I am taking the liberty of writing to ask if you could spare space in your valuable paper for a notice of the above scheme, viz.: The "Dan Leno" Cot Endowment Fund. I feel sure if you can see your way to doing so, it will be an immense help to all connected with the undertaking, and tend greatly to ensure its success. The scheme is twofold: To perpetuate the memory of Mr. Dan Leno, who ever interested himself in this particular institution, and also to be a lasting benefit to the hospital itself, which, from the fact of its being the *only* children's hospital in the neighbourhood—a poor and thickly populated one—is greatly in need of help.

To give you a brief outline of the scheme, I may say it was suggested some short time since that an endowment cot should be placed in the Belgrave Hospital for Children, in memory of Mr Dan Leno. On making this suggestion known to the directors of the London Pavilion, they most kindly and courteously offered the loan of their hall for a matinée performance, in aid of the necessary funds, the cost of the cot being about £1,000. This matinée is soon to take place under the kind patronage of many distinguished persons. I am enclosing a list of those whose patronage we have already been successful in obtaining.

I may add, should you wish for any further particulars, either Mr. Walter Callingham, of Oakleigh, New Park-road, Streatham, or I, will be pleased to furnish them. We shall also be glad to hear from any artist who will kindly assist the cause. Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

F. FOWLER SMITH.

Belgrave Hospital for Children, Feb. 21.

THE MUSIC HALL BENEVOLENT FUND.

MR. JOSEPH LYONS' CHRISTMAS APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION.

Donations already announced, £179 3s. 6d.

	£	s.	d.
J. C. Coe	2	2	0
W. Clarkson	2	2	0
Harry Lauder	2	2	0
Peter Watson	1	1	0
Horace Wheatley	1	1	0
Ludwig Amann	1	0	0
Maude Mortimer	1	0	0
Fred Harcourt	1	1	0
Arthur Lennard	1	1	0
F. Craig	0	2	6

Collected by Miss Jessie Willow, Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield, £2 4s.

James Byrne	5	K. V. Vido	1
T. Swinton	5	Allan Carruthers	1
James Kiddie	5	Mela Anderson	1
E. Shelton	2½	Harry Albery	1
Tom Lawson	2½	Leah Laurie	1
Bessie Willow	2	Bella Taylor	1
Curtis and Vanity	2	Conductor	1
Clifton and Gibson	2	A. Jones	1
Florence Hilton	2	S. Bigwood	1
Sisters Kilner	2	A. Blake	1
Harry Friedman	1	Herbert Newton	1
Muddles	1	Cyril Dundas	1

Collected by E. Edmunds, West London Theatre.

Edmund Edmunds	1	1	0
John Dipple	0	10	6
Vennie Edwards	0	2	6
Blanche Albert	0	2	6
Violet Pool	0	2	6

The President has collected among his private friends about £300 in addition to the above.

The President wishes it to be known that the funds have almost given out, and that immediate help is required.

The Secretary will be obliged if the ladies and gentlemen having collecting sheets will now forward them to the office.

Secretary, HORACE MARRIOTT.

Offices, 18, Adam-street, Strand.

"THE ERA"

SHILLING FUND

FOR THE

MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

Total to date, **2022½.**

	Shillings.
Thomas Barrasford	385
Thomas Barrasford, recent law case	315
M.H.A.R.A.	400
Lily Burnand	42
L. C. J. Livermore	42
C. Mannering	31½
Paul Cinquevalli	21
Gus Elen	21
Caicedo	21
G. Grais	21
Bros. Webb	10
Rozel	1

Collected by Mr Walter Stockwell, £1 14s.

Shillings.		Shillings.
The Sivronis	2	P. Palmer 1
Bandoni	2	F. Duraut 1
Walter Stockwell	1	B. Jordan 1
Walter Wallis	1	Percy Murray 1
R. G. Fox	1	Grove Duo 1
Fitzroy	1	W. Munroe 1
Miss F. Chester	1	G. Barclay 1
W. Oliver	1	H. Simms 1
Richard Cass	1	Jack Richards 1
J. Spain	1	J. Laws 1
T. Callaghan	1	Jack Lorimer 1
T. Fitzroy	1	Mrs H. Simms 1
Jack Charman	1	Denmark Pair 1
Annie Laurie	1	H. H. Braham 1
Nellie Lewis	1	Eyre Wymfred 1
Walter Bartley	1	Frank J. Woods 1

Collected by Mr J. Sparrow, £2 9s.

J. Sparrow	10	Nellie Wilson	1
Wal Pink	2	Emma Don	1
Barton and Franklin	2	P. Murray	1
F. Reeves	1	J. B. Peterman	1
L. Dreams	1	Fitzroys	1
J. Fortune	1	Alf Auckland	1
Harry Goodson	1	T. C. Callaghan	1
W. Bentley	1	Rex Fox	1
R. Cass	1	Jordan	1
Mozondos	1	Pedlar	1
Tee and Tee	1	Bob Haulon	1
Rossi and Vaughan	1	Laure	1
A. Veno	1	Travis	1
H. Monks	1	E. J. Sheldon	1
E. G. Bale	1	Tacius	1
Dandy George	1	G. H. Elliott	1
W. Stockwell	1	Stewart and Morgan	1
Valveno	1	C. Heath	½
C. Chapman	1	Annie Laurie	½
H. Cazman	1		

Collected by Harris and Worth, Macnaghten's Touring Pantomime, "Robinson Crusoe," £1 1s.

Harris and Worth	2	Miss Daisy Reed	1
Will Lytton	1	Miss Vivien	1
Jack Foley	1	Miss Harding	1
Miss Hurman	1	Miss Stewart	1
Chas. Cork	1	Mr Baines	1
Miss Leonard	1	Mr Charles Hylton	1
Miss Ivy Gallard	1	A. May	1
Mr James	1	W. Whylie	1
Harry Morgan	1	R. H. Barker	1
Miss Dora Laugham	1	Miss Bartlett	1

Collected by Mr Fred Spencer, J. F. Elliston's "Cinderella" Company, York, 16½s.

Sisters Meredith	1½	Mabel Englehardt	1
Ernie Mayne	1	Hettie Zillwood	1
Tom Owen	1	Mamie Stuart	1
Tatten Hall	1	Belle Worstencroft	1
Don Harriadine	1	Carola	1
Fred Spencer	1	Lewis Leslie	1
Jack Lane	1	Marie Rayburn	½
Madcaps	1	Marie Lindner	½
Ted Houghton	1		

Collected by Mr Joe Lawrence, 19s. 6d.

Tray and Rich	2½	Ben Whiteley	1
Henry Clarke	2½	Harry Grey	1
Fenton and Harrison	2½	Syd Godfrey	1
Tom Tinsley	1	Reginald Rutter	1
Ras B.	1	Ted Leopold	1
Joe Hughes	1	Ariel and Astarte	1
Ben Elen	1	Forest and King	1
T. W. Wright	1		

Collected by Mr Harry Barnard, £1 2s. 6d.

Harry Barnard	10	Alec Jacobs	1
Henry Cazman	1½	Wooly Jacobs	1
David Phillips	1	Charlie Edwards	1
Ben Phillips	1	Charlie Booty	1
Lewis Phillips	1	H. C.	1
Joe Phillips	1	Mr Golding	1
Horace Barnard	1		

Collected by Grell and Grey, at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, Pantomime, "Cinders," £3.

John Hart	20	Eida Burman	1
J. W. Rowley	5	Miss Payne	1
Grell and Grey	5	C. Chambers	1
Roze and Calvert	2½	Will Ratcliffe	1
Carlton	2½	Cyril Rawden	1
F. Fowler	2½	E. W. Daunton	1
Katie May	2½	Mrs Keene	1
Leo Grieve	2½	J. Simpson	1
J. E. Nightingale	1	E. Dickson	1
D. Drew	1	Chorus Gents.	1s. 7d.
Maud Holland	1	A Friend	1s. 1½d.
Marie Daltra	1	Children	9½d.
Irene Verona	1		

Collected by Miss Nellie Christie, £2 8s.

Nellie Christie	20	Wally Scott	2
N. Coleman and Dome	5	Fred Solo	2
Tossing Austins	4	M. D. V.	1½
Mabel Osborn	3	Sisters James	1½
Virto	2½	P. L. F.	1
A. Kelsall	2½	Miss Castleton	1
Box Baxter	2		

Collected by Mr Tom Vine, £1 7s. 6d.

George Gilbey	5	Baby Violet M'Farlane	1
W. J. Churchill (Willie)	2½	George Bernard	1
Clara Nisbet	2½	Charles Frazer	1
Tom Vine	2½	Beattie Worth	1
Five Royal Zerbinis	2	John Sylvester Sage	1
Les Kyasyas	2	Peter Leckie	1
Fielding and Hull	2	Marie Mason	1
E. W. Selman	1	Mr Cumminger	1

Collected by Walton and Lester, Brixton Theatre, S.W., £1 7s.

Chard and Clarey	5	May Kent	1
Brett and Orford	5	A. W. Hanwell	1
Walton and Lester	5	Somers Bellamy	1
Nat Lewis	2½	Madge Haines	1
Ted Young	2½	Art Bewlay	1
Frank Bratsell	2		

Collected by E. A. Bridgen, the Granville, Walham-green, £1 10s.

Chas. Dixon	1	Lily Simmons	1
Kate Lynd	1	Francis and Melli	1
Harry Lane	1	Edisonograph	1
Bella Bright	1	V. L. Granville	1
Tom E. Hughes	1	Victor Newman	1
E. W. Manning	1	Lieut. Albini	1
Great Scott	1	Tambo and Tambo	1
L. Lennox	1	Will Toole	1
Les Voces	1	Ruby Bijou	1
Sisters Caselli	1	Arthur A. Davenport	1
Lydia Dreams	1	Edwardes & Espinosa	1
Gus Hindell	1	Dora Clifford	1
Ida Royston	1	The Phantos	1
G. Onllaw	1	Cissy Dryden	1
Chas. Wren	1	John Lawson	1

Collected by Mr Joe Boganny, £3 3s.

Joe Boganny	10	W. Larner	1
E. B. Teena	5	Henry Scanlon	1
Tom Prichard	5	A. E. Jersey	1
Kimberley Boys	2½	Tom J. Morton	1
Will Poluski, jun.	2½	Tom Cruwys	1
Mignon Tremaine	2½	Connie Leon	1
Kate Hardren	2½	Will Mona	1
Frank Hilbert	2½	S. Major Jones	1
Dora Greve	2½	Tom	1
Nemo	2½	C. Lang	1
Violet Frew	2½	Tee and Tee	1
W. C. Walford	2	Fred Leighton	1
Kathleen Gray	2	Clarie Hilbert	1
R. Jenson	2	Massona	1
Claude Clifton	2	Will Freedo	1

Collected by Mr Tom Fancourt, 13s

Tom Fancourt	1	Harry Gribben	1
Jennie Rubie	1	Billy Elliott	1
George Belrose	1	Oliver Conroy	1
Ruby Winstone	1	Max Stirling	1
Lily Black	1	J. Brannhan	1
Beatrice Renee	1	George Bendon	1
Ernest Stevens	1		

Mr Frank Weston, £2 0s. 6d.

Brothers Forrest	3	Permane	1
M. Walton	2½	Hilgert Arkas	1
Nellie Wallace	2½	Tom M'Imray	1
T. Nelson Downes	2	W. G. Pratt	1
Al. Lawrence	2	E. B. Mayor	1
Ed. F. Reynard	2	E. Y. Stevens	1
T. F. Griffiths	2	Francess Letty	1
Densmore	1	Dan Llewllyn	1
Alexander Braatz	1	Warly Marus (Marus Bros.)	1
Raffaelo Trio	1	Emma and Victor	1
Yinlians	1	Slippere	1
F. Finklestein	1	The Four Cliftons	1
S. Okimoto	1	Phil Luck	1
R. Royce	1	Adolph Luck	1
D. Crombie	1	Falcons	½
E. Leonard	1		
Vock et Var	1		

Collected by Mr T. S. Lonsdale, £3 14s. 6s.

Capt. E. H. Warren-Wright	20	Kit Keen	1
Prof. Wingard	2	The Davenports	1
W. Pratt	2	The Four Jumels	1
Sherrys	2	Walter Payne	1
L. Whybro	2	Lillie North	1
A. Borghetti	2	G. Collins	1
Four Maisenos	2	T. Loader	1
Sisters Selwyn	2	Les Sprays	1
F. J. Barnard (Barnard's Marionettes)	1½	W. Martini	1
T. C. Gannon	1	F. Thorne	1
T. S. Lonsdale	1	Leslie Race	1
Ralston Bros.	1	France Piper	1
Tom Parker	1	The Jagoe	1
Howard and Collinson	1	J. W. Ellison	1
Lee and Bentley	1	Sam Dalton	1
Leopolds	1	R. Gilbert	1
Millie Howell	1	E. H. Lucas	1
Sisters Hall	1	Wal Douglas	1
Dora Lyric	1	Carl Mysto	1
Arthur Reece	1	Hamilton Hill	1
Sisters Charnley	1	Alec Huline	1
Hanson	1	Hughes and Elliott	1
E. H. Williams	1	T. W. Rickaby	1
		Calcotts	1
		Will Farrell	1

Collected by Griff, £1 10s.

Griff	1	Mamma Griff	1
Alpha	1	The Young Griffs	1
Hadden Griff	1	The Old Griffs	1
Harry Griff	1	Baby Griffs	1
George Griff	1	Joseph Griff	1
John Griff	1	Crompton Griff	1
Victor Griff	1	Griff-Griff	1
Mrs. Griff	1	The Griff Troupe	1
Annie Griff	1	No. 1 Griff	1
H. H. Griff	1	No. 2 Griff	1
Henry Griff	1	No. 3 Griff	1
Griff senior	1	No. 4 Griff	1
Griff junior	1	No. 5 Griff	1
The Griff Family	1	No. 6 Griff	1
Papa Griff	1	No. 7 Griff	1

Collected by Mr. J. H. Stringer, £1 13s.

J. H. S.	1	M. Patarch	1
Lucks	6	H. O. Dixon	1
L. B. Brettell	1	W. H. Boyes	1
Mabel Thorne	1	F. E. Boyes	1
Ray Hartley	1	P. Greenhalter	1
Hilda Dugdale	1	F. Hewitt	1
Mabel Dauby	1	H. R. Tidswell	1
Vesta Davies	1	C. A. Boothroyd	1
J. Crichton	1	A. E. Needham	1
Walter Scott	1	H. Wasse	1
Herbert Rule	1	G. Michaline	1
Ernie Bee	1	H. A. Moore	1
Charlie Dillon	1	Will Cornish	1
P. Patarch	1	Frank Boissett	1

Collected by Mr. Will Johnson, £2.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Warmsley	2	Montague Body	1
New York Comedy 4	2	W. Jarnold, jun.	1
Mr. and Mrs. Burgess	2	Dorie Wynne	1
Hart and Leo	2	Eva Perrett	1
Will Johnson	1	Julie Lascelles	1
Daisy Martell	1	Amy Goodworth	1
Ben Albert	1	Mrs. Bennett	1
Leonard White	1	Mr. H. G. Bennett	1
W. G. Hurst	1	Dan Crawley	1
Lily Shaw	1	Lilian Bishop	1
Condor and Preston	1	G. F. Messer	1
Ruby Verdi	1	Fred Gould	1
Alf Hales	1	Bert Johnson	1
R. Kloss	1	Ted Johnson	1
Gwennie Harcourt	1	Jas. Burnett	1
Stanley Wigg	1	S. Mills	1
H. T. B.	1	Hiawatha	1
Walter T. Bayliss	1	Arthur Fuller	1

Collected by Jesse Burton, £2.

Lily Marney	2½	Clarence Hotel, Hyde-road	1
Tilly Bebe	2½	Rose Tilly	1
Virto and Irene	2	Albert Bushell	1
Bill Bob	1	Jack Charman	1
Walt. Elliot	1	Mdlle. Roza	1
Jack Jones	1	Hamilton Hill	1
Patsy Morton	1	Edwin Adeler	1
Hilly Stephens	1	Lennox Barry	1
F. M. Carpenter	1	Bill Banbery	1
Mr. Beer	1	Bill Humberston	1
Trixy Hardeen	1	Alf Chambers	1
A. Kelsall	1	Bill Davis	1
Auto and Mobil	1	A. Burgess	1
Sergeant Maine	1	J. C. Davies	1
H. Baldwin	1	James Farmer	1
T. Fox	1	W. H. Mandry	1
A Friend	1	Jesse Burton	1
Mr. Young	1		
Mr. Cowan	1		

Collected by Mr. Will Evans, £2 9s.

Will Evans	20	Harry Poole	1
Cards, H. P.	10	T. A. Edge	1
Bunghole	2½	Charles Beecham	1
Ian Colquhoun	2	James Fawn	1
Whit Cunliffe	1	Dolly Harmer	1
G. H. Elliott	1	Harold Finden	1
Dandy George	1	Geo. Stevenson	1
Geo. H. Dyball	1	Mr. Binks	1
M. Hall	1	Mr. Coarde, of Bass and Co.	1
Chen Yorke	1		

Collected by Mr. Fred Coles, £2.

Six Bros. Luck	6	Charlie Dillon	1
Bonnie Goodwin	2	Bros. Huxter	1
Caban	2	G. P.	1
George Neno	1	Lily Turner	1
Lachie Thompson	1	S. W. Strachan	1
Post Mason	1	Creighton Adams	1
Tiny Reiff	1	G. T. H. Greene	1
Harry Calvo	1	Harry Hill	1
Juno Salmo	1	Mabel Thorne	1
Musical Palmers	1	Walter Emerson	1
Fred Wersker	1	Kroney Bros.	1
Dot Stanley	1	Wartenberg Bros.	1
Gillen	1	Cissie Cutler	1
J. Crichton	1	Tom Grave	1
A. Jackson	1	Hanco	1
Herbert Rule	1	Frank Benson	1
Ernie Bee	1		

Collected by Miss Florrie Robina, 10s.

Florrie Robina	1	Florrie Robina	1
Florrie Robina	1	Florrie Robina	1
Florrie Robina	1	Florrie Robina	1
Florrie Robina	1	Florrie Robina	1
Florrie Robina	1	Florrie Robina	1

Collected by Mr. Tom Wootwell, 8s.

Queen and Le Brun	2	Harry Kirk	1
Walter Gasco	1	Tom Hales	1
Tom Hearn	1	Johny Danvers	1
Wootwell	1		

Collected by Mr. George Malcolm, 6s.

George Malcolm	1	Harry Danby	1
Alfred Collins	1	Freddie Malcolm	1
C. Bowen	1	Harry Ongar	1

Will the Collectors for Mr Thomas Barrasford's appeal for the Music Hall Home Fund kindly send in their lists to *The Era* Office to the hon. treasurer, Mr F. H. Pedgrift. They will be duly announced in our next issue. Those artistes who desire a collecting card please apply to Mr J. T. Fruin, secretary, 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E.

Mrs. J. W. Gordon, the lessee and manageress of the Prince of Wales's Royal Theatre, Southampton, announces that the lease of this theatre expires on March 25 next, and the last performance there under her management will take place on that night.

Brown's Bronchial Troches.—All suffering from irritation of the throat and hoarseness will be agreeably surprised at the almost immediate relief afforded by the use of Brown's Bronchial Troches. People troubled with a hacking cough, slight cold, or bronchial affections cannot try them too soon, as similar troubles, if allowed to progress, result in serious pulmonary and asthmatic affections. See that the words "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are on the Government stamp around each box. Sold by Chemists everywhere, 1s. 1½d. per Box.—[Advt.]

THE "FISHER GIRL" IN COURT.

At Bloomsbury County Court, on the 16th inst., before His Honour Judge Bacon, the case of Parker v. Massey, an action remitted from the High Court, came on for hearing, and raised questions of considerable interest to the theatrical world. It was an action in which the plaintiff, Mr. Henry Solomon Parker, now proprietor of Parker's Hotel, King's-road, Brighton, and formerly a theatrical manager, sued the defendant, Mr. Eyre J. Massey, theatrical manager, of 34, Bernard-street, Russell-square, W.C., to recover the sum of £64, being the balance of money agreed to be paid for the purchase of the acting rights, costumes, scenery, and properties of a musical play, entitled the *Fisher Girl*.

In his evidence, the plaintiff stated that he had been the owner of all the rights of the *Fisher Girl*, and had toured with the piece throughout England and in Holland. Last year he wished to dispose of the play, and through a Mr. Cayley Calvert, a dramatic agent, he was introduced to the defendant, and after negotiations, it was agreed that the latter should purchase all plaintiff's interests in the play in question for the sum of £200. £100 of this was to be paid in cash, and the remainder in bills, and accordingly, in August, £35 was paid in cash, and in September, when a second payment of £65 had to be made, £40 was paid in cash and £25 by a post-dated cheque, which was afterwards dishonoured, and now formed a portion of the money now sued for. No complaint of any kind had been made by the defendant until after proceedings had been commenced in the High Court. A further item of £9 in the claim referred to two large theatrical baskets, which cost originally £6 10s. each, and which were not included in the sale of the properties, &c., but which the defendant took away from the Grand Theatre, Islington, when he removed the properties. As a matter of fact, he sold everything, lock, stock, and barrel. A deed of assignment was to have been drawn up by defendant's solicitors, but this had not been done, and he (plaintiff) had never been asked to sign it.

His Honour: Would you have done so?

Plaintiff: I was quite prepared to do so had I been asked.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hogg: The play was first produced at Stoke Newington, when there was a chorus of eight males and eight females, in addition to the principals. Mr. Jones had been his stage-manager, and was also stage-manager for Mr. Massey.

Mr. Hogg: And did you not lend some of the dresses to your sister to go to a fancy dress ball?

Plaintiff: Nonsense; my sister is much too old to go to fancy dress balls.

Mr. Hogg: Did Mr. Massey ever have the book of the words of the *Fisher Girl*?

Plaintiff: He telegraphed to me to say that he had not got it, and I thought possibly that I had taken it home. When I found that I had not done so, I let him know that it must be with the rest of the properties. The play could not have been produced if he had not had the book of the play and the vocal score.

For the defence, Mr. Hogg said that although his client had bought the play, lock, stock, and barrel, he had been given to understand that everything was in a proper state for reproduction.

His Honour: He bought the play as it was. If you buy the acting rights, dresses, and scenery of a play, unless you stipulate that it must be made better than it is, you buy it as it is.

Mr. Massey, the defendant, said that he bought the rights of the *Fisher Girl* in August, 1904. At first Mr. Calvert asked him to put £50 into a syndicate, and offered him the post of manager, at £5 per week. Eventually the agreement alluded to was entered into. When the play was produced he found that many of the sailor boy and girl costumes were missing, as was the book of the words, and the play could never have been produced, had it not been for Mr. Jones's prompt book.

His Honour: Is not the prompt book the book of the words. How can a man prompt if he has not got the words? Defendant: But the book is Mr. Jones's property. He made it when Mr. Parker had the play, and Mr. Parker never got it back from him.

His Honour: Then how did you give the actors their parts? Defendant: Well, I had them typed.

His Honour: Exactly; you had enough in the prompt book. Defendant: But the prompt book of Mr. Jones did not contain the comedy parts of the play. He had to spend £10 to have the dresses restored, and nearly £8 in repairing the scenery. The mortices of the scenery were all broken.

Cross-examined by Mr. Campbell, the defendant admitted that he knew the play had been on tour, but he thought it was only one tour. He certainly did not know that it had been to Holland. When he bought the piece and the properties, Mr. Parker told him that all the things were in excellent condition, and everything in readiness to produce.

Mr. Jones, who was called for the defence, attributed the failure of the play to the advertising printing not going out early enough. Of course, his book of the play did not contain the "gags," which were usually put in by the artistes themselves, with the sanction of the management.

His Honour: So "gags" are not submitted to the Lord Chamberlain? (Laughter.)

In the end, Judge Bacon said that on the evidence he was bound to find a verdict for the plaintiff for the full amount claimed.

Judgment for £64 and costs was accordingly entered.

At the Empire, Wrexham, this week, Wright and Aitken, in their duologue, *The Lady Sport*, have attracted good houses. Happy Attwood, a popular eccentric comedian, repeats his previous success here; and Young and Mack, speciality artistes; T. E. Moet, comedian and dancer; Miss Belle Adams, descriptive vocalist; and Poole and Poole, versatile artistes and speciality dancers, also take part in a capital programme.

Dare-Devil Dorothy has been presented this week at the Theatre Royal, Windsor, by Mr. Henry E. Swinerd's company. Mr. Arthur Verne as Silas Crump, with Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith, are irresistibly diverting. Miss Marjorie Cecil is a pleasing actress and singer in the title-part; Miss Kathleen Garnon does well as Ruth Montrose; Mr. Cecil W. Parke is excellent in the character of Capt. George Fielding, and his songs are deservedly applauded; Mr. Henry C. Ward is strong as the gentlemanly villain; Mr. Wilfred Carr as Featherstone Haugh; Mr. W. G. Hearson as Smith the footman; and Mr. Alf. Stretton as Hawkins, make the most of their opportunities; and the Sisters Blake win hearty admiration by their nimble and graceful dancing.

Presentation.—At the conclusion of a most successful sixteen months' engagement with *The Female Swindler*, on Saturday, at Birmingham, Miss Violet Ellicott was the recipient of many presents, including a handsomely-framed life-sized portrait of herself, together with a smaller portrait, from Mr. Tom H. Taylor, the proprietor of the company; a large shower bouquet from the members of the company; a silver purse from Mr. and Mrs. Will Shaw; a pair of silver-mounted hat pins from Mrs. Joe Day; also several floral and confectionery offerings from various members of the audience. Miss Violet Ellicott will, by her doctor's orders, rest for some weeks before taking up another part.

A large quantity of theatrical printing, suitable for almost any play, is on sale at the premises of Messrs. C. J. Culliford and Sons, who are disposing of £30,000 worth at a reduction of five per cent., in order to save the expense of removal to their new works. An illustrated catalogue may be obtained post free on application to the firm's office at Fulwood's Rents, Holborn.

ROYAL ACADEMY ORGAN RECITAL.

On the 13th inst., at the Royal Academy of Music, an organ recital was given with no little success, Miss Elsie F. Cooks commencing with an overture by W. G. Wood, which she played with much facility and grace. A movement from the Sixth Symphony of Widor was rendered with considerable skill by Mr. Fagg Gower; Mr. Redgewell Dansie was very successful in a beautiful Andante by Silas; and Mr. Benjamin J. Dale did himself credit in the Fugue and Fantasia by Liszt dedicated to Bach. The organ pieces concluded with the Prelude and Fugue of Bach in G, a fine example of the old master, to which ample justice was done by Mr. Montague Phillips (Henry Smart scholar). Vocal music varied the programme agreeably, Miss Caroline Hatchard being heard in the recitative and air, "Lord of our chosen race," from Sir A. Sullivan's *Ivanhoe*, the grand opera produced at what is now the Palace Theatre. Mrs. Hedwig Hantke sang "St. Agnes' Eve," by the same composer, displaying remarkable power as a vocalist; and Mr. John Bardsley sang with much grace Schubert's famous "Serenade"; Mr. Rowsby Woof gave a brilliant rendering of the Romance and Finale from the concerto in D minor for violin, by Wieniawski, and Miss Poppé produced a fine tone in solos by Goddard and Popper for the 'cello. Miss Mignon Johnston, a youthful reciter of great promise, gave Kipling's quaint story of the Baby Elephant whose nose was lengthened into a trunk in an encounter with a crocodile. The oddity of the subject and the cleverness of the delivery delighted the large audience.

ROYAL ACADEMY CONCERT.

A very large audience assembled at Queen's Hall on Wednesday, when the students of the Royal Academy of Music gave an excellent chamber concert, commencing with the trio in C of Brahms for pianoforte, violin, and 'cello, played by the Misses Newton, Bowater, and Griffiths. The young ladies were somewhat weak in attack at first, but speedily gained in decision, and gave the Scherzo in brilliant style. Miss Jessie Bowater played the Romance of Svendsen extremely well, and it would have been still more effective if a somewhat more rapid *tempo* had been adopted. The first movement of a sonata by Glazounow, the celebrated Russian composer, for the pianoforte proved Miss Christian O. Carpenter a pianist of great merit, and the Canzone of Max Bruch for violoncello was interpreted with much skill by Miss Griffiths. A movement from a sonata in D minor for pianoforte by Mr. Benjamin Dale (Sir Michael Costa Scholar) had ample justice done to it by that extremely gifted student Mr. York Bowen. Some variations by Glazounow were cleverly rendered by Miss Dorothy Grinstead, an excellent pianist, and the concert concluded with two movements from a quartet, *à la polka*, by Smetana. The vocal music was good. Miss Edith L. Johns sang "Have mercy, Lord, on me," from Bach's *St. Matthew's Passion*, with violin obbligato by Miss Spain Dunk. Mr. John Bardsley sang "Onaway Awake," from Coleridge Taylor's *Hiawatha*, in a very pleasing manner. Miss Gladys Booth made good use of her high soprano voice in the famous air from *Lakmé*, conquering the difficult passages with genuine skill, and with finish and style rare in a student. "Absence," by Berlioz, was given by Miss Amy Dewhurst. The entire concert showed that the institution keeps its admirable system up to date, and both students and professors are to be congratulated on their artistic achievements, everyone, from the esteemed Principal downwards, evidently taking pride in their work, and striving their utmost to do credit to the Royal Academy of Music.

MRS. SYDNEY WEBSTER'S RECITAL.

Mrs. Sydney Webster, who gave a recital at Bechstein Hall on the evening of the 15th inst., has considerable talent as a vocalist, but is most successful when not too ambitious. For example, a succession of German songs by Schumann, Schubert, Brahms, and others needed special gifts to do them justice. We are not denying Mrs. Webster's talent, but in taking songs which have exercised the ability of the most famous vocalists, Mrs. Webster exposed herself to severe competition. However, in a group of English songs by various composers, the lady established her claims as a vocalist of most agreeable quality. She was assisted by M. Tivadar Nachez, the popular violinist, who played an Adagio of Mozart, a Humoreske of Dvorák, and a Scherzo of Tschaikowsky in his best style, and joined Mr. Benno Schonberger in a duet by Brahms. Mr. Schonberger gave as solos Preludes and a Scherzo of Chopin, and the "Rhapsodie Hongroise," No. 12, of Liszt. His playing was particularly good. A large and fashionable audience greeted Mrs. Webster with frequent tokens of approval.

A very attractive setting has been provided for *Mr. Hopkinson* at the Avenue Theatre, the scenes being elaborately done. One is a charming Winter Garden, with a dome roof hung with smilax, and cosily furnished in the Oriental style, with quaint Moorish furniture and Indian and Persian rugs, in beautiful antique colours; while the other is an elegant apartment in the town house of a duke, the prevailing colour note being red; while Hogarth chairs in red velvet, and handsome oaken tables, one laden with wedding presents, complete the harmony of the scheme. Messrs. Oetzmann and Co., of Hampstead Road, W., are responsible for the equipment of these appropriate and attractive scenes.

Mr. T. W. Stead, of Mr. F. J. Little's pantomime company, who had the misfortune to have his foot run over in Wolverhampton, has sufficiently recovered to be removed to his home at Burton-on-Trent. He hopes to be about again in a few days.

"Curing the Doctor," a farce, by J. H. Darnley, was produced for copyright purposes at the Ladbroke Hall on Thursday. The piece is to be played to-morrow evening at the Walsingham Club.

Mr. Editor,—Sir, In your Sunderland notice of last week, you mention the McRays. It should have been, Yours faithfully, The McKays.

The members of the Urban Club invited their lady friends to a dinner held at the Salisbury Hotel, Salisbury-square, on the night of the 17th inst. Archdeacon Sinclair presided, and the company numbered over ninety. The Chairman, in proposing the toast of "Our Guests," referred to the fact that in Shakespeare's time his heroines were impersonated by awkward boys, whereas we had the advantage of seeing these parts played by clever and charming women. A few evenings ago he had the pleasure of seeing Miss Winfred Emery as Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, at His Majesty's Theatre, and he advised everybody to go and witness this delightful performance. Miss C. Prescott, B.A., of London, gracefully responded to the toast. The dinner was followed by an attractive programme of music and recital, amongst the contributors being Mr. Charles Cruikshanks (Secretary to the Actors' Association), who gave some of his amusing stories; Mr. Sidney Gaady, the ventriloquist, with his comical figure, "Ebenezer"; Mr. Walter Grace, Mrs. Thurgood Catling, who sang the "Fan Song," and others. The health of the Chairman was proposed by Mr. W. E. Church, the hon. secretary.

Mr. R. C. Buchanan, the managing director of New Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank, was last week granted a licence for the sale of excisable liquor by the Clydebank magistrates.

LIVERPOOL THEATRICAL GALA.

The seventeenth annual Liverpool theatrical gala was held on the 14th inst. at the Liverpool Football Ground, the weather being fine and the crowds large. The event, which is always looked forward to with interest, has this year proved exceptionally successful, the gate money alone being £137, as compared with £58 last year. The floral sales realised £76, and altogether it is expected that a good sum will be realised for division among the local charities and the Music Hall Artistes' Benevolent fund. The work of arranging for the event always proves exceedingly great, and every thanks are due to the theatrical artistes who put in an appearance, and to the indefatigable committee managed by Mr. Lewis Peake, Mr. John Cropper, Mr. John McKenna, Mr. Thomas Bush (of the Bee Hotel), and Mr. T. S. Ashmole (hon. secretary). The procession to the grounds attracted much attention, and on arrival a big programme of fun and sport was gone through. The storming of Port Arthur by the men of H.M.S. *Eagle* was a striking spectacle, and a deal of powder was used. A football match for the gala cup between teams representing the Royal Court Theatre and the Shakespeare Theatre was watched with great interest, and resulted in the former winning by one goal to nil. Foot races for ladies ended in Miss Florence Mills and Miss Coulthard, of the Royal Court Theatre, being first and second. The men's obstacle race in comic costume was won by Mr. Bob Olrac (Empire), first; Mr. Will Olrac, second; and Mr. J. W. Riley (Royal Court), third. The cake-walk prizes were carried off by Mr. Lloyd and Miss Silvester, first; Mr. Thompson and Miss Postlethwaite, second; Master Bell and Miss Bell, third; and Mr. Bates and Miss Mottram, costume prize. Many ladies busied themselves collecting on the ground, and secured a deal of money, and music was provided by the Liverpool Police Band, that of the training-ship *Indefatigable*, the pipers of the Liverpool Scottish, and the band of the Caledonian Boys from the Empire Theatre. The proceedings closed with a "national tableau," arranged by Messrs. Carson and Granville, of the Queen's Theatre.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The concert on the evening of the 15th inst. at the Guildhall School of Music had some excellent features, the performers on the pianoforte and violin being very successful. Miss Edith Gray Wallis played Wieniawski's First Polonaise in D major gracefully, and Miss Doris Cloud gave a clever rendering of a piece by Ries. Miss Gertrude Peachey, in Weber's "Invitation to the Waltz," proved herself an excellent pianist, and Miss Blanche Hutchings, in Schumann's Arabesque, played neatly and well. Mr. Robert Carr, in an air from *Tannhäuser*, hardly reached the Wagner standard, from no fault of his own, but because of the absence of the orchestra. The assistance of the band is most desirable in this music. Under the circumstances, we could hardly expect Mr. Carr to have done better than he did. Miss Grace Cole gave Mozart's "Dove Sini," from *Figaro*, with considerable grace. Mrs. Marsland made her mark in Tosti's "Good-bye"; Miss Eva Hardy was fairly successful in "Mia Piccinella," by Gomez; and Mr. Sydney Holt displayed a good voice and agreeable style in "Because" and a "Border Ballad" by Cowen. Some clever recitations varied the programme. Miss Huntsman, one of Mr. Allen Beaumont's most gifted pupils, recited "Aunt Abigail's Adventure" with genuine humour; Miss Lilian Crosbie also succeeded well in two humorous American pieces. Miss Jenny Hyman accompanied in a most efficient style.

ROYA

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

IN the Court of King's Bench, on Tuesday, before Mr. Justice Jelf and a common jury, an action was brought by Mr. Gerald Leslie, public entertainment caterer, against Mr. George Beach, to recover £40 odd, the amount alleged to be due for a space let to the defendant in the Drill Hall at Portsmouth. The defendant denied liability. Mr. Hume Williams, in opening the case for the plaintiff, said at the end of 1903 his client hired the Drill Hall at Portsmouth for the purpose of running a winter carnival. He sub-let spaces in the hall to various people, including the defendant, who was the proprietor of swings and roundabouts, "those fascinating things that seemed to go upside down and to make one ill to look at." The defence set up by the defendant was this. He said that when he entered into a written agreement to take the space the plaintiff verbally agreed that he would add as an attraction to the show three cages of wild beasts. The plaintiff, on the other hand, said at the time the arrangement was made he showed the plan of the hall and the programme to the defendant, from which it was clear that the whole space in the hall was occupied. Unless the wild beasts were placed in the lavatory or allowed to wander amongst the people, there was no place in which they could have been stored. The defendant also said that the plaintiff not only undertook to provide wild beasts, but other attractions. That he (the learned counsel) characterised as a very ungallant defence, because the plaintiff, amongst other attractions, provided a beauty show, a baby show, and a cake walk competition. The beauty show was a great success. The young men of Portsmouth went to see the beauties, the beauties went to see the babies, and everyone went to see the cake walk. Unfortunately few people patronised the swings.

The plaintiff was called, and gave evidence in support of counsel's statement. He said the defendant suggested that he should have a "bouncing lion." The public were to be told that the keeper would enter the den "at the risk of his life." It was all bounce. The beauty prize was allotted by the public, several thousands of the young men of Portsmouth taking part in the voting. The beauties were marshalled up by the witness in lots of five, and then there was a final beauty. The babies were carried up in lots of five, the first prize being a mail-cart. The cake walk lasted a week. The hearing of the case was adjourned.

NOWHERE in the kingdom is the annual fair better apreciated than at King's Lynn. The good folk of the town have full knowledge of the showman and his real domestic life, and cherish tender feelings for showmen and shows. Without Lynn Fair—or, as it is termed, Lynn Mart—the ancient town would be only a place within the meaning of the *Gazetteer*. With the most it is "a recreative entity."

IN our historic sketch a year ago we were unable to get the actual words of the "Proclamation." It runs thus:—"Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! Whereas by Royal Charter and prescription the Corporation of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of King's Lynn, and their successors, are empowered to have and hold in perpetuity within the said Borough one mart or fair yearly on the 14th day of February and for six days thenceforth next, and immediately following with all the accustomed liberties and privileges thereto belonging and appertaining. Now the said body Corporate acting by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Councilmen of the said Borough do hereby by proclamation of their Common Crier publish and make known that the said mart or fair, to be holden this year, doth begin on this present 14th day of February at twelve o'clock at noone, and shall continue for the space of six days from henceforth next following, with all the ancient and accustomed liberties and privileges so far as the same will now apply. And that all persons do forbear to put to sale, or show forth wares on the Lord's Day. And further that all such persons as may be justly suspected of evil behaviour do avoid this Borough and the liberties thereof. God save the King. Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!"

STANDING in the throng of the people, and noting the outside parade work of three typical shows, it was difficult to avoid contrasting it with the outside parade and gags of thirty years ago—or even less. We venture to say that, marvellous as the advancement in popular amusements all round has been in recent years, no section of the "Greater World of Shows" (whether fixed or touring the country) has shown such rapid progress as the shows and entertainments of our fairs Compared with fifty years ago, the shows of to-day are 200 years ahead of the best on the road then—the greasepot and the naphtha lamp supplanted by electric light, the pipes and drum, or the cornopean, drum, and cymbals supplanted by the 30 and 40 feet fronted mechanical organs of the Marenghi et Cie design; the old one-waggon "walk-up," with its few natural curios and its "roll-up front cloths," supplanted by the magnificent carved and painted fronts of makers like the Ortons, and painters like Alfred Smith and Whiting.

OR take, again, the people on the front. Rich and racy as the older generation of doorsmen undoubtedly are, some of the younger doorsmen of to-day have a method and a style altogether up to date—men of the 20th century in full touch with the growing and ever-changing demands of the business. The parade, too, with its agile dancers, conjurers, posturers, and knockabout comedians, make the memory of the Mister Master and the Silly Billy only matters of history.

As an example of completeness of modern equipment we will, for our present purpose, only give one example—the constant change day by day of Kemp's outside parade workers. With the change of films comes a change each day of costumes, business placards, and notice cloths.

THE questions raised by the Colne Corporation Bill now before Parliament will engage, we feel sure, the serious attention of all showmen. A great number of the smaller fairs are held in the principal streets of the town—nay, the weekly markets are thus held—and this has been the ordinary custom from time immemorial. Colne is an example of such a town. Practically, it consists of one long, rambling thoroughfare. Without some use of this street it would be a matter of impossibility to hold the annual fairs. We could, therefore, in all honesty, call the Colne Corporation Bill a Bill to abolish the Fair.

WE notice here, again, a point of vital moment, and one not always recognised: it is the travelling showman who is the champion of the market and fair rights of the people in the towns. It is the Parliamentary vigilance of the Guild experts that saves these popular rights. The people in the towns, but for that constant vigilance, would find their privileges filched away from them, and this, forsooth, in the name of progress and municipal good government.

As we look back on the remarkable upgrowth and success of the Guild, we are struck by the fact that the oft-time despised and much misunderstood nomads of the road now stand forth as the champions and defenders of the people's rights in the fairs and holidays of the empire. What hindrances have been met and overcome in this crusade for popular rights history shows.

IN the forthcoming issue of the Showmen's Year Book (to be published next week) the story of this national work will be set forth by the editor, the Rev. T. Horne. The delay in the issue of the 1905 Year Book is owing to two important reasons: (1) The whole book has been carefully revised, and its value and usefulness enormously increased. The editor has enlarged the scope of the book; the matter for general use and reference now forms two-thirds of the work. (2) The book, from being a mere manual of the executive officers' names, rules, and fair list, has become the standard work of reference in all matters of value and interest to travelling showmen. This has, of course, involved a considerable increase in size. The 1905 Showman's Year Book will contain 100 pages of matter of the highest importance to the travelling community.

IN our list of the East Anglian Fairs to follow Lynn Mart we merely gave the order of the route from Lynn. A few notes of the towns on the list may be of interest and value. "Wormold Fair," at Downham Market, begins on March 1, and is very largely boomed by the local tradesmen. Downham Market is in itself a small, sleepy old town of under 3,000 people, but the people from the districts around crowd into the town and make it a good centre for business. If the weather is anything like the Royal weather the shows have had at Lynn Mart, all will be well.

WISBECH is the next fair after Downham. It is unlike the other old towns of Cambridgeshire in this respect: it is a growing centre of life and industry. The population at the last census was nearly ten thousand. The fair rights and privileges of the people of Wisbech date back to the end of the twelfth century. The Corporation appears to have grown out of a Guild created in the fourteenth century for religious and secular purposes. This body corporate was abolished in the stormy days of the Reformation, but restored again in quieter times, and existed until its various functions were absorbed by general Municipal Acts of the last century. The old charters fix the fairs for the second Saturday in March.

AFTER Wisbech there is a division of the concerns on this round, some going to Peterborough, and some to Spalding. Both places are examples of the making of fairs by the showmen of the kingdom. These towns are on the route, and are taken as a matter of course. Peterborough, like Wisbech, has a most interesting history. Its two Charter Fairs are dated, the first for the second Tuesday in July, and the second for the second Wednesday in October, and known as the Bridge Fair. The July fair is almost obsolete now; the October fair coincides with Nottingham Goose Fair, and is always well attended. The pre-Easter fair, following Wisbech, is evidently a better time than the old date in July. Spalding is an important centre of agricultural life in Lincolnshire, with nearly ten thousand people. Its importance lies in the fact that it serves a wide district, and although it increases but slowly, it does improve, and that in Lincolnshire is a remarkable thing. The principal fair is the Michaelmas Hirings.

FOLLOWING Peterborough and Spalding we have Stamford Fair, held under an old charter dating from the tenth century. It is not a growing town, but its decline is very slow. There are many interesting things to be chronicled of Stamford. Its Hirings Fair is in November. This year the fair, owing to the coincidence of the Church's season of Lent, is much earlier than usual.

GRANTHAM is a growing town of Lincolnshire, and has its Pleasure Fair the Monday after the fifth Sunday in Lent—always a fortnight before Easter. The Charter Fairs date from the reign of Edward IV

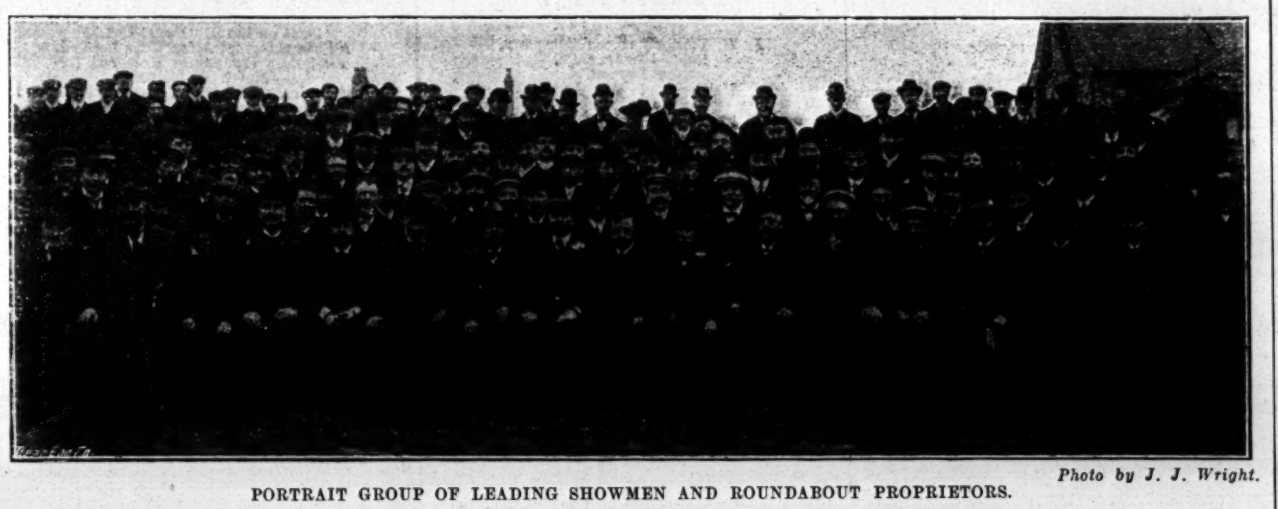

Photo by J. J. Wright.

PORTRAIT GROUP OF LEADING SHOWMEN AND ROUNDABOUT PROPRIETORS.

The well-known faces in this group are Messrs. Henry John and Jacob Studt, John Wilmot, Walter Wilmot, G. Aspland, William Hollmes, G. H. Kemp, William Mitchell, W. H. Marshall and Goldthorpe Marshall, Ben Howden, John Whiting, Buff Bill (William Keyer), G. T. Treby, John Geoghegan, John and George Green, H. Hughes, T. Harniess, J. Danter, J. W. Waddington, R. Dooner, Wm. Taylor, Wm., John, and Walter Murphy, E. P. Holland, John Dennis (France), H. Westrop, J. Relph, Ben Mitchell, H. R. Hibbert, A. Proctor. Amongst the traders, advance agents, and others: Messrs. Simpkin, C. Burrell, jun., Wm. Sconce, J. Wentworth, and many others.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Guild funds include:—Councillor G. T. Tuby, Doncaster, £2 2s.; Mr. John Evans, Portobello, £1 1s. Subscriptions to Parliamentary Defence for 1905: General Wilmot, Glasgow, £2 2s.

THE report that Paul Pons, the French champion wrestler who recently defeated Madrali, was dead, is, it is stated, incorrect.

LIST OF FAIRS, FEASTS, AND WAKES FOR MARCH, 1905.
(Copyright.)

ENGLAND.

Mar. 1.	Belford	Mar. 18.	Alston (Cumb.)
Mar. 1.	Downham	Mar. 21.	Upper Ottery
Mar. 1.	Morpeth	Mar. 22.	Wootton-under-Edge
Mar. 2.	Congleton		
Mar. 2.	Maiden Newton	Mar. 23.	Okehampton
Mar. 2.	Oswestry	Mar. 23.	Retford
Mar. 3.	St. Buryan's	Mar. 24.	Clitheroe
Mar. 4.	Bury	Mar. 24.	York
Mar. 4.	Chertsey	Mar. 25.	Henley-in-Arden
Mar. 4.	Stamford		
Mar. 4.	Wisbech	Mar. 25.	Holmforth
Mar. 6.	Dudley	Mar. 25.	Leigh (Dorset)
Mar. 7.	Blandford	Mar. 25.	Stourbridge
Mar. 7.	Longton	Mar. 27.	Bridgnorth
Mar. 8.	Nottingham	Mar. 27.	Bridlington
Mar. 8.	Biddesden	Mar. 27.	Grantham
Mar. 8.	Colne	Mar. 28.	Alcester
Mar. 8.	Lichfield	Mar. 28.	Ottery St. Mary
Mar. 8.	Tetbury		
Mar. 8.	Tunbridge Wells	Mar. 30.	Stamfordham
		Mar. 31.	Worthen

SCOTLAND.

Mar. 3.	Roxborough	Mar. 15.	Dumfries
Mar. 11.	Haddington	Mar. 15.	Galashiels

WALES.

Mar. 2.	Brecon	Mar. 17.	Corwen
Mar. 8.	Menai Bridge	Mar. 18.	Cowbridge
Mar. 15.	Penmorfa	Mar. 18.	Rhyadar

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

The following is a copy of an agreement, which indicates the arrangements made between Managers and the Stage Employees' Society in America:—

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES.

AGREEMENT WITH ENGLISH'S OPERA HOUSE, INDIANOPOLIS, IND.

This Agreement, made and entered into this —— day of ——, 1905, by and between the Valentine Theatre Co., party of the first part, and Indianopolis Local No. 30, I.A.T.S.E., party of the second part, to take effect January ——, 1905.

"Witnesseth:—That for and in consideration of the party of the first part employing none but members in good standing of Local No. 30, I.A.T.S.E., the party of the second part agrees that the Stage Employees shall be competent, trustworthy, polite, and sober, and will conform to all rules and regulations which govern said place of amusement, as long as they do not conflict with the Laws of the said I.A.T.S.E.

SCHEDULE OF WAGES.

The schedule of wages for the various departments shall be as follows:—Stage carpenter, not less than $22.00 per week; property man not less than $16.50 per week; electrician not less than $16.50 per week; head flyman, $1.50 a performance; all stage hands, flymen, and extra men, other than clearers, to be paid at rate of $1.25 for each night performance, $1.50 for each matinée performance; and shall report for work as follows:—All stage employees must report for work at 1.30 p.m. on matinée days, and at 7.30 p.m. on each night performance, their work to continue until last scene is struck after the fall of the final curtain.

TAKING IN AND TAKING OUT SHOWS.

Taking in shows on week-days, and putting out scenery, properties, baggage, &c., of show shall be paid at the rate of 25c. an hour from time the last scene is struck until all is out of the theatre. Taking out scenery, properties, &c., during the performance in order to assist the company to catch their train, or for any cause, shall be paid for at the rate of 25c. an hour to all so engaged.

REGULAR STAFF.*

The working staff that shall be employed to work the matinée or night performances shall consist of not less than seven men.

WEEKLY EMPLOYEES.

Such men as are engaged upon the stated weekly schedule shall be continuously employed during the entire regular season.

SCHEDULE FOR DAY WORK, &C.

The regular day work shall consist of six days per week, from 8 a.m. to 12 midnight, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the rate of $2.00 per day, or 25c. an hour.

BROKEN TIME.

Broken time to be considered as any time less than one half-day, and shall be paid at the rate of overtime.

OVERTIME.

All broken time on week-days, any time after 5 p.m. on week-days, and to 8 a.m., also Sundays, and all holidays, and shall be paid for at the rate of 50c. an hour.

REHEARSALS.

Rehearsals, if held on week-days, to be at rate of $1.25 for first three hours, and 50c. for each additional hour; night and Sunday rehearsals, $1.50 for first three hours, and 50c. for each additional hour.

Each man must confine himself to the work of the department he is engaged for, except in case of accident, or safety to the public or property of the theatre or company, when all should assist each other for the general good.

SUNDAY PERFORMANCES.

Sunday performances shall be paid for at the rate of double time.

EMPLOYEES' WORK.

All work of the stage employees shall be confined to the theatre proper.

DISCIPLINE.

Any employee reporting for work in an intoxicated condition, or who violates the rules and regulations of discipline set forth by the management, will not be tolerated by the party of the second part, Local No. 30, I.A.T.S.E., but another man will be furnished in his place.

The carpenter shall employ all men who shall be satisfactory to the Valentine Theatre Company, but none other than Union men, who are members in good standing in Local No. 30, I.A.T.S.E.

To all this the parties of the first part, the Valentine Theatre Co., agree to abide by the above schedule of wages, and the working conditions set forth during this season, and from date of January ——, 1905, and, further, the party of the second part, Indianopolis Local No. 30, I.A.T.S.E., agree to supply the necessary sober and competent men, who shall faithfully comply with the imposed conditions for the above-mentioned season, from January ——, 1905, to ——— ——, 1905.

Signed on behalf
Valentine Theatre Co., at English's Opera House, in Indianopolis, Ind.
Indianopolis Local 30, I.A.T.S.E., per committee.

SEVERAL applications for legal assistance to recover compensation for injuries sustained while at work, and to recover the payment of wages, had been received; and where the circumstances justified the committee in placing the matter in the hands of the law agent, this had been done with satisfactory results. There had been no disputes of any importance with theatrical managers during the past year. Managers had, in several cases, dealt in a satisfactory manner with communications from the committee relating to payment for work.

THE scheme agreed to for the distribution of the Dramatic and Musical Fund, and the report of the deputation which waited on Mr. H. B. Tree relating to the inclusion of branches of this society among those to participate in the funds distributed, were dealt with at length.

THE annual general meeting of the No. 1 N.U.T.S.E., held on Sunday evening in the St. George's Hall, S.E., was fairly well attended Mr. Charles Thorogood, the President of the branch, occupied the chair, supported by the officers and committee. The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said that while the society was not advancing by leaps and bounds, as it deserved to do, it was making steady progress, and the members would see from the financial statement that their various funds were in a very satisfactory condition. The Secretary, Mr. W. Johnson, then read the annual report. He stated that during the past year 230 applications for membership had been granted. It was, however, pointed out that a considerable number of members did not retain their membership continuously, and were, therefore, deprived of many of the benefits provided by the branch.

THE applications for benevolent grants and the usefulness of the Benevolent Fund were reported on, and the committee recommended that every member of the branch should subscribe to this fund.

MATTERS pertaining to the branch by-laws and the general rules were reported on. The votes respecting the alteration of the title and amalgamation with the Carpenters' Society had been endorsed by a two-thirds majority of the members of the branch. The action of the society with regard to the licences of those theatres and music halls where the conditions of employment did not come up to the standard recognised as fair by the society were also reported on. The social work of the branch, relating to "outing" concerts and sports, having the double purpose of creating good feeling among all sections, and helping to raise funds for benevolent purposes, was reported on. The report concluded with a review of the position of the society in London, and an appeal for all members to do more to strengthen the society.

THE members of the Musical and Dramatic Fund were summoned to the office last Saturday to receive their share of the funds. A member's share was fixed by the scheme of dissolution at £5 per year of membership.

THE annual general meeting of the Heads of Departments' Association will be held on March 7.

A GENERAL meeting of the Society of Theatrical Carpenters will be held on Sunday next in the Salisbury Hotel, St. Martin's-lane, at 8.30, to receive the auditors' report, elect officers and committee for the ensuing year, and to transact other business.

THE balance-sheet of the General Theatrical Operatives' Sick and Benevolent Society has been issued.

SICK AND FUNERAL FUND.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
Members' Subscriptions	81	9	7
Bank Interest (P.O.)	10	18	6
Loan Refunded	1	13	1½
	94	1	2½
Balance from 1903	444	14	5
	£538	15	7½
PAYMENTS.			
Sick Pay (24 members)	46	18	4
Four Death Claims	24	0	0
	70	18	4
Balance, Dec. 31, 1905	467	17	3½
	£538	15	7½

MANAGEMENT FUND.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
Members' Subscriptions	11	9	6
,, Cards	0	10	0
,, Fines	0	9	0
	£12	8	6
PAYMENTS.			
Printing, Postage, Fees, and Sundry Items	4	3	5
Loan Repaid	1	13	1½
	5	16	6½
Balance, Dec. 31, 1904	6	11	11½
	£12	8	6

BENEVOLENT FUND.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
Members' Subscriptions	5	11	9
Contents of Box	0	10	0
	6	1	9
Balance from 1903	5	4	7
	£11	6	4
PAYMENTS.			
Grants to 14 members	7	0	0
Postage	0	1	0
	7	1	0
Balance, Dec. 31, 1904	4	5	4
	£11	6	4

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
Sick and Funeral Fund	467	17	3½
Management Fund	6	11	11½
Benevolent Fund	4	5	4
	£478	14	7
ASSETS.			
In Post-Office Savings Bank	472	6	3
In hands of Trustees	6	8	4
	£478	14	7

Details are given of the sick pay to members and the grants to members from the Benevolent Fund.

WE are desired to correct an error in the No. 1 Branch N.U.T.S.E. annual statement, of which a summary was published in this column last week. The last two items on the income side should be:—

	£	s.	d.
Interest on Deposit Account, &c.	11	13	8
Sundry other Items	3	11	8

THE meeting of the Glasgow Branch of the Stage Employees' Society, held on Sunday, was well attended. The following officers and committee were elected:—President, William Abernethy; vice-president, Andrew Rogers; treasurer, Daniel Rose; secretary, Robert Hay; auditors, P. Campbell and A. Wilson; representative to Trades Council, Hugh Abernethy; committee, Messrs. Harvey, Barbour, Cameron, Russell, McDonald, Campbell, and Haggerty.

A COPY of the financial statement had been supplied to all members prior to the meeting, and, after a few questions had been put, the report and financial statement were unanimously adopted. It was decided that the applications to admit male dressers to membership of the branch be not acceded to. The following were elected to hold office for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. Charles Thorogood; vice-president, Mr. John Cunningham; treasurer, Mr. Ed. Stow; secretary, Mr. William Johnson; trustees, Messrs. C. T. Cory, F. Wilson, and J. H. Tillett; auditors, Messrs. J. Finnigan and H. J. Kemp; committee, Messrs. J. Atterton, H. Bowmer, T. Dennison, E. Green, J. Hunt, A. J. Lineham, A. J. Mason, J. Phelps, P. Thomas, and H. T. Wood. The following nominations for the National Committee were adopted:—General President, Mr. James Cullen; vice-president, Mr. G. H. Dyball; treasurer, Mr. J. H. Radford; general secretary, Mr. Wm. Johnson; trustees, Messrs. C. Thorogood, Wm. Barbour, and C. Porter; the Executive Committee, Messrs. J. Cunningham, C. T. Cory, Ed. Stow, and G. Montgomery. The proceedings terminated with cordial votes of thanks to Mr. John Russell, retiring vice-president of the branch, and to Mr. J. Warner, retiring member of the Branch Committee.

THE indictment against Manager W. J. Davis and some of the employees of the Iroquois Theatre, Chicago, arising out of the disastrous fire that occurred there last year, has been quashed by Judge Kersten, of Chicago, and Judge Green, of Peoria. The ground of objection is that the indictment was not properly drawn by the State Attorney.

THE 18th annual dinner of the staff of the Grand Theatre, which took place on the 12th inst., in the Nag's Head Hotel, Covent Garden, was a great success. Mr. George Davey, the proprietor, presided, and Mr. Oswald Brand, manager, occupied the vice-chair. In dealing with the toast, "Congratulations on the Success of the Panto," Mr. Brand made an amusing speech. Mr. Davey, who followed, referred in complimentary terms to the services rendered by Mr. A. George, master carpenter; Mr. Chapman, scenic artist; Mr. Gliddon, musical director; Mr. H. Parker, property master; Mr. A. Mitchell, electrician; Mr. Taylor, box office; and Mr. O'Connor, Press representative. Mr. Tom Craven, who replied to the toast of the "Panto Artists," said it had been a great pleasure to him to work under Mr. Davey and Mr. Brand's management. The evening's harmony was contributed to by Messrs. J. F. White, T. White, H. Millar, W. Rance, Jack Belmore, Alf. George, F. Richards, C. Glaeser, H. Penney, W. Gregory, G. Merton, W. Gleddes, and the Elgin Part Singers. The secretarial duties of the function were ably discharged by Mr. Atterton. His fellow officials were Mr. W. Martin (treasurer) and Messrs. J. George and W. Rance (stewards).

MR. LEONARD BARRY has in study an original dialogue song, entitled, "Christopher Columbus," from the clever pen of Mr. William Hargreaves.—The Calcotts have just signed a big batch of London and provincial engagements through the agency of Mr. E. de Vere. Their act comprises clever solos on the pianoforte, banjo, 'cello, and mandoline, with interpolated singing and sand and step-dancing, and is practically a drawing-room entertainment.—Miss Lil Hawthorne will take her benefit at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, on Friday next.

MESSRS. C. W. MURPHY and DAN LIPTON are highly pleased with the growing popularity of their songs, "If I had a girl as nice as you," 'The Ugly Duckling," and "Go away, Mister Crocodile." It is not generally known that these numbers are free, and that Messrs. Francis and Day have band-parts in stock. Mr. Joe O'Gorman's "Wow-Wow" and Miss Victoria Monks's 'Ain't I no use, Mister Jackson?" also by the above-mentioned firm of song-writers, are still meeting with great favour.

MISS DULCIE LLOYD (of the Arthur Lloyd Trio) and MR. BILLY BROWN (of Williams and Brown) were married on Saturday last at the Church of the Holy Ghost, Balham. After the ceremony, they entertained their friends at the residence of the bride's sister (Mrs. Olsson), Fieldhouse-road, Balham. They were the recipients of many handsome presents, telegrams, and letters of congratulation from the following:—Mrs. Dan Leno, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Danvers, Mrs. W. Dobson, Mr. Joe O'Gorman, Mr. Hugh O'Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Ryland, Mr. D. J. Clarke, Barton and Ashley, Booker and Narbis, Rivington and Gordyn, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Halter, Messrs. Fred and John Drew, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Murray (Edinburgh), Mr. and Mrs. Warboys, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Piggott, and others, including members of the families of both parties. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Arthur Lloyd, and Mr. Frank Halter acted as best man.

A BENEFIT will be given to Mr. A. W. Deer, at the Duchess Palace, Balham, on Wednesday next, when a large number of well-known artistes have promised to appear. The stage will be under the management of Messrs. Felice Napoli and W. Whitmore.—Mr. Will Lambert made his first professional music hall appearance at the Palace, Walthamstow, last week, in Frank Leo's latest comedy scena, *The Scales of Justice*.—A new mystic dramatic scena by Mr. J. Cowper Worden will be produced at the Palace, Blackpool, on Thursday, March 16, with special scenery and stage appliances.

M. AMANN tells some interesting anecdotes of his very adventurous career. "Nearly a dozen years ago," he relates, "I was performing in Odessa, where the Russian Army autocrat had a palace. Though I am a Teuton, I never expected to attract the attention of so powerful a personage. One evening I received an anonymous note, which read 'Study General Gourko.' Although I could not imagine what good reason there was for the suggestion, I improved the hour before going to the theatre in studying and impersonating the military autocrat. As we were about to begin the evening's performance, a detachment of police presented themselves at the stage entrance to the playhouse, and arrested myself and twelve others. The order for this action was signed by General Gourko. Without a word of explanation we were led through the streets to the General's palace, and conducted to an apartment where the terrible man was seated. 'They tell me that you impersonate celebrated men,' he roared; 'impersonate me.'"

IN addition to M. Amann the directors of the Shepherd's Bush Empire are making a bold bid for popular favour by engaging one hundred boys and girls resident in the district to take part in Selkirk's naval juvenile spectacle, *The Handy Man*, which we have recently noticed.

MR. F. C. MILNES has engaged for Messrs. Fitzgerald Bros.' huge combined shows of Australia the Herbert Troupe of Aerial Gymnasts, five in number. They sail from Southampton on Monday next, and join the new show, which opens at Sydney at Easter.

THE following official note has reached us from the secretary of the British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union:—"At our meeting at Lynn three new members were enrolled, and important business done. It was impressed on our members that, when letting ground this year, prior right be given to members of the Guild."

WE are desired to state that the company of P. Collins, Limited, has not changed hands.

Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

PANTOMIMES AND PRODUCTIONS, 1904-5-6.

Vacant Dates for Musical Comedy or Drama,

MARCH 27th, MAY 1st.

Proof the "Grand's" Popularity, over 18,000 paid in one week to see

MR. CHARLES HARRINGTON'S

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.

Week ending Feb. 18th, Gross Receipts **£325 5s. 1d.**

BOOKED FOR TWO WEEKS.

MISS MAY MARTON, CINDERELLA.

CINDERELLA

GRAND, EDINBURGH, SIX WEEKS,

Gross, £2,918.

OLYMPIA, NEWCASTLE, FOUR WEEKS,

Gross, £1,708.

THIS WEEK,

GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE,

ALADDIN,

1905-6 GRAND THEATRE, EDINBURGH,

CAN TRANSFER IN FEBRUARY.

THE BABES AND ROBIN HOOD.

1905-6 Vacant Jan. 29th, Feb. 5th, North.

SPRING PRODUCTION.

SCOTTISH MUSICAL PLAY,

A TRIP TO THE HIGHLANDS.

MISS ISA BOWMAN.

MISS FANNY WRIGHT. MISS NELLY COZENS
MISS —— MISS FLORENCE MOORE.
MISS —— MR. ——
MR. HARRY FISCHER. MR. WALTER CROFT.
MR. PICTON ROXBOROUGH. MR. ——
MR. ARTHUR POOLE. MR. WM. ROKEBY

Collins' Casino Troup of 12 Dancers.

In preparation - - ROB ROY

All communications re Dates, &c., to

EADE MONTEFIORE,
Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.

Telegrams: "Montefiore, Edinburgh."

COLONIAL THEATRES.

AUSTRALIA.—MELBOURNE, SYDNEY.

Mr. J. C. WILLIAMSON,
Manager of the Leading Australian Theatres.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, MELBOURNE;
HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, SYDNEY;
THEATRE ROYAL, SYDNEY.
London Representative, J. A. E. MALONE, Daly's Theatre.

AUSTRALIA.—Mr. HARRY RICKARDS'S AUSTRALIAN ENTERPRISES:—
NEW TIVOLI THEATRE, SYDNEY;
NEW TIVOLI HOTEL, SYDNEY;
NEW GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MELBOURNE;
NEW PRINCE OF WALES'S HOTEL, MELBOURNE;
THEATRE ROYAL, BRISBANE;
TIVOLI THEATRE, ADELAIDE;
THEATRE ROYAL, PERTH.

Mr. Rickards is always open to Engage First-Class Artistes for the above-named Theatres.
Address to the Head Office, Tivoli Theatre, Sydney.
Cable address, "Tivolian, Sydney."

AUSTRALIA.

BROUGH-FLEMING COMEDY COMPANY.
BROUGH-FLEMING COMEDY COMPANY.

All Arrangements now Complete until Easter, 1906.

All communications, c/o Messrs. BLAKE & RIGGALL, 120, William-st., Melbourne.

London Representative, R. GOLDING BRIGHT, 20, Queen-st., Leicester-sq., W.C.

SOUTH AFRICA.—B. and F. WHEELER.
Associate Manager, G. H. SMITH.
Messrs. B. and F. WHEELER now control the only Circuit of Theatres in South Africa.
The leading Theatres in
JOHANNESBURG,
PRETORIA,
CAPETOWN,
DURBAN.

Companies now Touring:—
The Wheeler-Edwardes Gaiety Company,
Wheeler's Répertoire Company,
John F. Sheridan,
and
The Moody-Manners Opera Company.

London Representative,
J. A. E. MALONE, Daly's Theatre.

AFRICA.—LEONARD RAYNE
is now in England on Business
relating to his Enterprises in South Africa.

Business-Manager in South Africa,
GRANT FALLOWES.
London Representative,
GEORGE RAYNE.
Portugal House, Portugal-street, W.C.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

ALDERSHOT, THEATRE ROYAL
Lessee and Manager, Mr. CLARENCE SOUNES.
Vacant May 29, June 12 (?), 26, July 17, 24, on.
Address, C. SOUNES, Woodlawn, Blackheath, London.
Telephone 85 Woolwich.

BATLEY. — THEATRE ROYAL.
Under the Personal Management of the Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. EDWARD WHITTY.

Stage Capable of Mounting any Production.
Holding Capacity over 2,200.
Trade Flourishing in the Heavy Woollen District.
Batley is the Commercial and Geographical Centre of the Heavy Woollen District,
Population 150,000, 90,000
within a Radius of Two Miles from Theatre.
Average Receipts for Five Consecutive Weeks in Jan. and Feb., 1905, £170.
Returns for Four Consecutive Saturdays in Jan. and Feb., 1905, £78, £58, £56, £57.
Vacant March 13 (?), 20 (?), 27, various, onwards.
Address, J. EDWARD WHITTY, T. R., Batley.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. TOM B. DAVIS.
The handsomest and most complete Theatre in the Provinces; Holding Capacity over £300.
Only vacant Spring Date, May 29.
For Dates for August and onward,
Apply to
Mr. TOM B. DAVIS, Lyric Theatre, London.

BLACKPOOL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
Owner and Manager, Mr. T. SERGENSON.
The Press says:—The Grand is the prettiest theatre in the world.
Everybody is charmed with this magnificent temple of the drama.
Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree says:—There is no theatre in either London or the provinces better appointed or better managed.
Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree says:—It is the most perfect theatre in England.
Mr. Wilson Barrett said it was the most perfect theatre he ever performed in.
Congratulations and Compliments on every hand from both Public and Professions.
Every Comfort and Convenience provided for the Patrons of this lovely Theatre.
Each portion of the Theatre is provided with separate Refreshment Rooms.
The Theatre is Thoroughly Warmed and Ventilated on the most Modern Principle.
Electric Light, own Installation.
Matcham's Masterpiece is a Model Theatre.
Financial and Artistic Success.
Acknowledged by Everyone to be "the" Theatre. Second to None in the Kingdom.
Every Comfort and Convenience for the Artists.
The most Comfortable and Perfect Dressing-rooms of any Theatre in England.
Only First-class Companies. Holds at Ordinary Prices over £300. Open all the Year Round.
Holds at the same Prices £100 more than any Theatre in the Town.

BLACKPOOL COLOSSEUM.—SEASON 1905.
Situate at the junction of the Blackpool and Lytham Tramways, on the Marine Parade, opposite the Manchester Hotel, in the heart of Blackpool.
The Building (which is 127ft. in diameter, 41ft. high to the eaves, and 83ft. to the Lantern) is Lighted by Electricity, and as a place for Animal Entertainments is unique, it being the only building in Blackpool that, in consequence of its being free from pillars and other obstructions, affords the necessary height and space for Diavolo's performance of "Looping the Loop."
The Walls are covered with the World-renowned picture "Niagara" painted by the great artist Phillipoteau.
For the last eight or ten years Blackpool has been extending around and for miles south of the Colosseum in a marvellously rapid manner. Thousands of houses have been built and are occupied, and there has not been any place of Public Entertainment provided for the Masses of the People south of the Tower.
The Colosseum provides a long-felt want in this New and Populous Neighbourhood.
The Authorities estimate that about Four Million Persons visited Blackpool last Season.
The great Popularity of the Colosseum is shown by the fact that, although only partially occupied during a part of a Blackpool Season, upwards of 100,000 paid for Admission during the remaining part of the season.
Offers for the 1905 Season on Sharing Terms should be made to the Undersigned, who will furnish any further information.
BLANE and RIDING,
30, Birley-street; or,
GARLICK and SYKES,
22, Birley-street, Blackpool.

BROMYARD, HEREFORDSHIRE.—THE PUBLIC HALL.
Lessee, E. T. CUFF, Falcon Hotel.
The above Hall is now Available for Concerts, Theatrical, Variety Entertainments of all Kinds.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.
The PRINCIPAL THEATRE.
Holds MORE MONEY at ORDINARY PRICES, and has better average Business throughout the Year than any Theatre in the Town.
The most Comfortable, Elegant, and Best Equipped Theatre. Large and Well Electric-Lighted Stage and First-class Orchestra.
All Visitors to the Theatre have Free Admission to the Winter Gardens, Floral Hall, Empress Ballroom, and Pavilion Entertainments, thus Companies visiting Her Majesty's Opera House have this additional attraction, which no other Theatre can offer. Only best No. 1 Companies booked.
For Dates address, JNO. R. HUDDLESTONE, Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE (Ltd.).
Man. Director, Mr. W. B. REDFERN, J.P., D.L.
A theatre among the most beautiful in England.—Sunday Times.
Vacant Dates (in Term Time, no Dramas), May 29 to June 7.
Silence polite negative. Address as above.

CHELTENHAM. — THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Gen. Man., H. OSWALD REDFORD. The Popular County Theatre. Visited by the Best Artistes and their Companies all the year round.
A few good Autumn dates left.
Re Dates as above,
Silence in all cases a polite negative.

CHELTENHAM.—VICTORIA ROOMS (late Corn Exchange), HIGH-ST. Lessee and Man., EDWARD B. SHENTON (late Lessee of the Old T R. and Assembly Rooms). Available for Entertainments, Concerts, Lectures, &c. Share or Rental. Seat 1,000 persons. Full dramatic Licence.

COLCHESTER, THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. CHARLES MACDONA.
Vacant Dates, April 17 (Four Nights), May 1 (?), 8 (?), and onwards. Apply to
CHARLES MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-av., London, W.

DUBLIN.—QUEEN'S ROYAL THEATRE
Sole Proprietor and Patentee, Mr. ELLIS JONES.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. WHITBREAD.

Address, Mr. J. W. WHITBREAD.

Will Mr. Howard Hinton please send address.
Silence in all cases a respectful negative.

DUNFERMLINE and DUMFRIES THEATRES.
Visited only by Companies of the Highest Repute.
Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. POTTS.
Bookings and Rebookings include:—
George Edwardes',
F. R. Benson's Principal and North Companies,
George Dance's,
Charles Macdona's,
CharlesFrohman's,
Milton Rays',
J. Bannister Howard's,
Ben Greet's,
Wm. Greet's,
J. W. Turner's Opera Company,
Robt. Macdonald's,
John Leopold's,
Hardie and Von Leer's,
The Craggs', Chalmers Mackey's,
and all the principal Touring Companies.
Vacant Dates,
Dunfermline, March 27 and on.
Dumfries, April 10 and on.
All coms., W. E. POTTS, Theatre R., Dunfermline.

EAST DEREHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. For Vacant dates apply to
B. H. VORES,
27, Church-street, East Dereham.
Lease to be disposed of.

GLASGOW.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN.—The most Popular Theatre in the city. Patronised by the élite of the West of Scotland. "Cinderella" in thirteenth week of run.

GREENOCK, THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, THE EXECUTORS of the late ALEXANDER WRIGHT; Mans., A. B. WRIGHT and J. J. WRIGHT.—Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1905. First-class Companies only. Silence a polite negative.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE.
The new Theatre to be opened in August, 1905. Now Booking only No. 1 Attractions. All communications re dates to R. C. BUCHANAN, G. T., GLASGOW.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.
Proprietors, PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE CO., GT. GRIMSBY, LIMITED.
Managing-Director, JOSEPH H. CURRY.
Now Booking 1905.
Telegraphic address, "Curry, Grimsby."

HANLEY, THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Please note:
The Staffordshire Potteries for all Dramatic Purposes
must be considered as one Large Town.
Hanley has undoubtedly the Largest Theatre and Stage in Staffordshire.
Lighted by Electricity.
Accommodation for 3,700 People.
Electric Trams and Trains after Performance to ends of the District, Longton, Stoke, Burslem, and Tunstall.
Vacant for First-Class Companies only, March 20, and onwards.

First-class Pantomime Required for Christmas, 1905.
CHAS. E. ELPHINSTONE, Managing-Director.

HULL.—THE CIRCUS.—General Manager, EDWARD EMERSON.
One of the Finest and Largest Halls in the Provinces, Fitted with Large Stage, and Suitable for Circus, Minstrels, Panoramas, Concert, and Choir Parties, &c. Rental, Share, or Salary. Only a Few Vacant Dates.

ILFRACOMBE. — RUNNACLEAVE THEATRE.
Only Theatre, Stage Enlarged, &c., Electric Effects.
Vacant Dates, apply LESSEE.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.

Vacant, April 10, and May 1, onwards.
Silence courteous negative.

JARROW. — THEATRE ROYAL.

BARROW.—ROYALTY T. and OPERA HOUSE.
CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
Vacant Dates:—Jarrow, June 26 and July 3 and 10. Barrow, for First-class Musical Attractions, Easter Week, May 29, June 19, onwards. The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring. Consett, April 3 and 17, on, with exceptions. All applications for Dates to HUGH ROBERTSON, T.R., Jarrow.

KIDDERMINSTER.—OPERA HOUSE.
A Beautiful Theatre and pronounced success.
High-class Companies only entertained.
Vacant, March 13.
All communications, J. P. MOORE, West Bromwich.

LEEDS. — QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Vacant, March 20, May 8, 29, June 5, 19, 26, all July. Christmas for Pantomime.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.
Sole Proprietor:—
Lieut.-Col. J. A. WINSTANLEY.
No Vacant Dates Spring, 1905.
Re Autumn Dates, 1905, address,
GEO. M. SLATER,
Royal Opera House, Leicester.

LIVERPOOL. — SHAKESPEARE THEATRE. Manager and Secretary, Mr. JOHN GAFFNEY.—All communications re Dates should in Future be Addressed to F. W. WYNDHAM, Esq., Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

LLANDUDNO. — NEW GRAND THEATRE. Seat 1,200.
Dates open:—3 nights Whit week, July 6 to 29; September 11th onwards.
A. G. PUGH, Llewelyn Chambers, Llandudno.

MORECAMBE, ROYALTY THEATRE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
General Manager, CHAS. M. JULIAN.
Vacant, June 19, 26; Aug. 28; Three Nights.
First-Class Attractions Only.
Ad., C. M. JULIAN, Feb. 27, T. R., STRATFORD.

NORWICH, THEATRE ROYAL.—Enlarged, Redecorated, Lighted throughout by Electricity. Upholstered by Dean and Co.
Weekly Matinées for County Visitors.
Now Booking 1905.
Address, FRED MORGAN, as above.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — OLYMPIA THEATRE.
Proprietor, Mr. RICHARD THORNTON.
Seating Capacity 2,000.
Holding Capacity 3,250.
To Let, from End of March, 1905 (Share or Rental).
Now playing to record Houses with "Cinderella" (from Grand Theatre, Edinburgh).
Smoking permitted.
Just concluding a successful season with Mr. Sidney Bacon.
For terms and full particulars,
Wire or write, Richard Thornton,
Empire Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

NOTTINGHAM.—GRAND THEATRE.
Manager, CHARLES P. COOKE.
Vacant May 15, June 5 26, and August Bank Holiday Week. First-class Attractions Only.
Silence a Courteous Negative.

OLDHAM, EMPIRE THEATRE,
The Premier Theatre. Holding Capacity £200.
Vacant for Principal Attractions Only.
May 1, 8, 22, 29, several in June.
Can Entertain First-class Pantomimes, Christmas onwards. Brilliant Productions Only.
All Communications to ERNEST DOTTRIDGE.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managers of First-class Companies are invited to apply for Dates to
Mr. THOMAS LUCAS, J.P.,
Managing-Director.
Silence a polite negative.

PORTSMOUTH, NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. BOUGHTON.
Open throughout the Year.
First-class Companies. Weekly Matinées.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Enormous success with new management. Refer Gar. Kiddie, Esq. Required first-class attractions for March 6, April 3, 10, and onward.
Fast Booking for the Fall, 1905.
Wire or write to JAS. KIERNAN, Manager.

SOUTHEND - ON - SEA. — EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, W. MARLOW.
The Prettiest and most Popular Place of Amusement on the South-east Coast.
All the principal Attractions Booked.
First-class Companies Required for March 6, 13, 20.
Managers please address all communications to W. MARLOW, jun., Manager, as above.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—PIER PAVILION.—Under New Management. Redecorated. Extra Dressing-rooms added. Electric Light, &c. Now Booking 1905. First-class Companies, Artistes, Bands, &c., communicate MANAGER.

ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA.—ROYAL CONCERT HALL.
Few Vacant Dates in Feb. and March.
Hall seats 1200, Large Stage, 24ft. opening.
Apply J. S. WALLIS, Manager.

SUNDERLAND. — AVENUE OPERA HOUSE and THEATRE ROYAL.
Managing Director, CHAS. E. MACHIN.
General Manager, PERCIVAL CRAIG.
Only Vacant Dates.
AVENUE.
March 27, May 1, 29, June 5, 12, and on.
ROYAL.
April 17, May 8, 29, June 5, 19, 26.
Managers please note Seaham Harbour is barred.
Apply, C. E. MACHIN, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS OPERA HOUSE
Vacant, March 27 (Week), May 1 (3 Nights), May 15 and 22 (Weeks), June 5th (Week), and July 10 and 17 (Cricket Weeks), Musical Comedy or Opera Only.

WAKEFIELD OPERA HOUSE.
Vacant March 20, share or certainty, and onwards, with exceptions. Silence in all cases a polite negative for date quoted. Sherwood and Co., O. H., Wakefield.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, THE WALSALL THEATRES CO., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, W. H. WESTWOOD.—Holds £180. Circle, 3s.; Stalls, 2s.; Family Circle, 2s.; Pit Stalls, 1s. 6d.; Pit, 1s. Amphitheatre, 9d.; Gallery, 6d. First Vacant Dates, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; June 5 and 12.

WEST BROMWICH, THEATRE ROYAL.—Open All the Year Round.
Cosy, Popular, and Prosperous Theatre.
Success assured by energetic personal management.
All communications to J. P. MOORE, on the Spot.

WHITBY. — SPA THEATRE. — Season 1905. The uncertainties attending the Change of Owners being Settled, I am prepared to Book Dates. Will Managers who have written me rewrite? HY. WALKER.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR
PROVINCIAL THEATRES
AND
PROVINCIAL MUSIC HALLS.
Five Lines, TWO and SIXPENCE.
Thirteen Insertions (Including a Copy of "The Era" Weekly), THIRTY SHILLINGS.
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A Reduction for a Series.
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THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION.
Price, ONE SHILLING; by Post, TWELVE STAMPS.
1905—THE ERA ANNUAL—1905
The Most Complete
DRAMATIC DICTIONARY OF DATES
and
THEATRICAL TREASURY OF KNOWLEDGE
ever brought before the Public.
It will also be found to be the most Interesting Annual of the Year.
Office, WELLINGTON-STREET, STRAND, W.C.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.
Once again "The Era" Almanack makes a welcome reappearance early in the New Year, and recounts all that has happened in the theatrical world during the past twelve months. The register of plays produced in 1904 at the principal theatres of London, Paris, and Berlin is as valuable a feature in this most conscientiously kept record as ever, and though works of great importance are seldom given for the first time in the provinces, the information supplied concerning these productions is useful to playwrights when considering the vexed question of title. To the 1905 annual Sir Henry Irving contributes an amusing reminiscence of the days in which Shakespearean productions were certainly not overloaded with superfluous detail, and Sydney Grundy gives a graphic account of the time when he was a critic. It is further embellished by a number of photographs of popular players, together with their autographs, and a specimen of their literary attainments, which are often considerable. A melancholy interest attaches to the portraits of the dramatic artists who have passed from the scene during 1904; a goodly company, headed by that large-hearted actor-manager, Wilson Barrett. On beholding a work somewhat similar to "The Era" Almanack, the late Mr. Gladstone remarked that he was surprised to find that so many people were professionally engaged in the theatre; and if one of our leading actors were to discover how many people are professionally engaged in politics he would, no doubt, be equally astonished.—Court Journal, Jan. 21, 1905.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR
MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTES, ARTISTES WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.
THREE LINES, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Line, Sixpence.

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THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era," Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

COMPANIES WANTED.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, Companies for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
May 15, June 12, 19, July 10, 17, 24, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
April 3, 10, May 1, June 5, 12, 26, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
April 10, 17, 24, May 15, 22, June 5, 12, 19, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
April 17, May 8, 15, Aug. 7, 14, 21, Sept. 4, on.
CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
Vacant, May 8, 29, June 5, 12, 19.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
April 17, May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
Vacant,
April 24, May 22, June 12, 19, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Vacant,
Feb. 27 (Six Nights),
March 9 (Three Nights), March 27.
April 10, 17, 24, May 4, 22, 29, June 5, 12.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for STANDARD THEATRE,
Vacant, May 1, 8, 15.
TERRISS THEATRE,
April 17, May 1, 22.
METROPOLE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM,
Important Attractions for May 1, 8, 15.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE,
March 13, April 10, 24, May 1, on.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
April 17, 24, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON,
March 6, 27, April 3, 17,
GRAND THEATRE, WEST-HARTLEPOOL,
May 8, 29, on.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams:—"Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Luton now doing excellent Business.
Musical Companies preferred.
Vacant, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, and Easter.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Vacant March 9, 23, 30, April 6, and Easter.
Address, E. GRAHAM-FALCON,
County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, March 13 (six nights), for Luton and Bedford.
E. G., Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Good Drama, Vacant May 15. The Theatre has just been thoroughly Renovated, a Scene Dock added, and a Full Electric Plant (3 Colours) installed. HERBERT VERE.

FOLKESTONE PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.
WANTED, High-class Companies,
March 13 (Three Nights), 20, 27 (Three Nights), April 3,
May 1 (probably Three Nights in this week), June 5, 19, 26,
all July,
Oct. 23, onwards. Silence Polite Negative.
H. W. ROWLAND, Manager.

OLYMPIA THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Proprietor, Mr. RICHARD THORNTON.
WANTED, Good Pantomime for Two Weeks at Easter (Share or Rental).
Now Playing to Record Houses with "Cinderella," from Grand Theatre, Edinburgh.
Over 19,087 Persons Paid for Admission last week.
Seating Capacity, 2,000.
Holding Capacity, 3,250.
Smoking Permitted.
Wire or write, Mr. RICHARD THORNTON,
Empire Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

NEW THEATRE, LOUGHBOROUGH.
WANTED, Companies, May 15 and June 5.
Now Booking Autumn.
GEO. ROBERTSON,
Loughborough.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies for April 3, 10, 17,
Required, Good Attraction for Easter.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON.

WANTED, Companies for March 20 and April 3.
WILLIAM B. BROADHEAD,
Junction Theatre, Manchester.

QUEEN'S THEATRE,
KEIGHLEY,
Vacant.

WANTED, First-class Musical Attractions, April 24,
May 8 and 22.

THEATRE ROYAL, RUNCORN.
WANTED, Companies, Feb. 27 and March 6.
Address, CADDICK.

WANTED, March 20, April 3, 17, Best Dramas, must be new to Cardiff.
FRANK BATEMAN.

WANTED, Companies,
Feb. 27, Six Nights,
Theatre Royal, Leamington;
Also Easter, at Northampton, Chester, and Leamington.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, for T. R., Chatham, First-class Attractions, for April 17-24, June, and July; T. R., Aston, April 17, May 15, June, and July, with Exceptions; T. R., Smethwick, May 8, 29, June, and July 24, 31.
BARNARD,
10, Harborne-road, Birmingham.

GRAND THEATRE, SWANSEA.
Lessees and Managers, BROOKS and WOODBRIDGE.
WANTED, First-class Companies only, for May 29, June 12, 19, July 24, Aug. 21, Sept. 25; also Big Pantomime Production for Three or Four Weeks, Christmas.

None but Best Companies entertained.
Open all the Year Round.
Splendid Summer Season for Musical Plays.

THEATRE ROYAL, MARGATE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. MACKNIGHT.
Business Manager, CHARLES E. HARDY.
WANTED, Companies, March 6, and onwards, with Exceptions. Easter Vacant.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for April 17, June 5, 19, 26.
Silence a Polite Negative.

Apply, MR. C. F. WILLIAMS, T. R., Plymouth.

COMPANIES WANTED.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

Managing Director, Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN.
The Leading Northern Theatre Tour.
Capital, £155,000.

WANTED, Wanted, Companies,

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
NEW CENTURY THEATRE, MOTHERWELL
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, AYR.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, LEITH.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.
GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, FALKIRK.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, GREENOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KIRKCALDY.

The Bookings include all the Principal Drama, Musical, and Comedy Attractions.
Important.
Managers doing business with us at New Gaiety Theatre, Leith, please note that Stockbridge is barred. The Tivoli, re-christened "The Grand," is in Stockbridge.

Address all communications to
R. C. BUCHANAN,
General Office, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.
Telegraphic address, "Bookings, Glasgow."

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for
QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
March 27, April 24, May 8, 15, 22, 29.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
March 27, April 24, May 22, 29, June 5.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA,
April 24, May 1, 15, 22, 29.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
WANTED, Good Company for one week in May, to make a break in Stock Season; also Pantomime, one or two weeks 1906.
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Opera House, Londonderry.

THEATRE ROYAL, NORWICH.
WANTED, Company, March 13, Vacant through obliging Arthur Hart, Esq.
March 13.
FRED MORGAN, Manager.

HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 27, May 15, 22, and June 5.
Applications to JNO. R. HUDDLESTONE, General Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 6, 7, 8, Three Nights, Harrogate; also 13, 14, 15; 16, 17, 18; 23, 24, 25.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

WANTED, Big Attractions, Musical Preferred, April 3, onward, Grand Theatres, Chorley and Radcliffe. SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

THEATRE ROYAL, WINDSOR.
WANTED, Big Attractions, March 13, April 10, April 17 (Three Nights). F. L. CONNYNGHAME.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for March 13, 27, May 8.
Wire, HORNER, Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

STANLEY, DURHAM, ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Good Attraction, March 13, to Oblige Brother and Manager.
Address, MARK H. CINDON.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-Class Dramatic Companies, March 20, 27, on, with exceptions.
E. H. PAGE.

WANTED, March 6, through misunderstanding, Good Sound Musical, Drama, or Variety Company, for Theatre, Middleton, Lancs. PARDOE, T.R., North Shields; Next, Theatre, Chorley, Lancs

---

WANTED, Good Company, May 29, also possibly Whit-Week. Copy of Day-bill and Terms to J. H. CURRY, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Grimsby.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, March 27 and April 3. Last Week, "Fatal Wedding" Co.; This, Mr. C. W. Somerset and Co. (Third Visit); Next, Karno's "His Majesty's Guests" Co.. Address, GERALD HARDING.

ROYALTY THEATRE, LLANELLY.
Booked in Conjunction With
NEW GRAND THEATRE, ABERAVON.
WANTED, Really Good Companies, March 2 (3 Nights), March 6, and Onwards.
Address, JOHN TULLY,
Alhambra Theatre, Stourbridge.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions for March 27, April 3 and 17.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

THEATRE ROYAL, BATLEY.
WANTED, Companies, March 13(?), 20(?), 27, and May 1. See Companies' page.
Address, J. EDWARD WHITTY.

LYCEUM THEATRE, STAFFORD.
WANTED, Companies, Vacant March 6 (Four Nights), 16 (Three Nights), 27 (Six Nights), and on; also Easter. JAMES ELPHINSTONE.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.
WANTED, Companies.—The Directors are prepared to Lease the above Magnificent Theatre for a Summer Season of from Two to Three Months, at a Fixed Weekly Rental, with the Use of all Scenery, Properties, and Appointments. Population of Leith, 80,000; whilst its close proximity to Edinburgh enables any special attraction to draw from the capital. Applications to Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN, Managing Director, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, March 13, for Ealing Theatre, W.
Wire, CARLTON, Hayes, Middlesex.

WANTED, for Drill Hall, Merthyr Tydfil, Attraction for Easter Week, Company complete in itself, with Scenery. Particulars, PARK, Post Office, Stirling, Scotland.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, First-class Company, April 3. Terms to Mr. WALDON.

WANTED, First-Class Companies for April 10, 1905, and a few dates on. Apply, T. SERGENSON, Esq., Grand Theatre, Blackpool.
Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS, S.E.
April 3 (?),
GRAND THEATRE, MARGATE,
Easter (?), May 1, 8, 22, 29.
F. MOUILLOT, 4, Broad Court-chambers, Bow-st, W.C.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON.
March 6.
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE.
March 13.
Wire BACON, Gateshead.

BRIXTON THEATRE, S.W.
Lessee and Manager—Mr. ERNEST STEVENS.
General Manager—J. MURRAY HERRIOT.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions only.
March 13 and 20.
March 13 and 20.

Brixton Theatre, S.W.

THE PIER, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-Class Companies (not Melodrama) for March 27, April 10 (?), April 17, May 8 (?), May 29, June 5 (?), and July 31, three nights. Address, G. HAYES, Manager.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinematograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

TOWN HALL, WHITLAND, SOUTH WALES.
WANTED, Known, Vacant Dates now being Booked for Dramatic and Variety Companies, &c. Good opportunity and every convenience. Situate Junction, Pembroke, Tenby, Milford, and Cardigan Railways. Apply PROPRIETOR, Whitland.

WANTED, Easter Week, Entertainment, complete.
Share or Rental.
SHENTON, Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham. Seat 1000.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies.

EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
Vacant,
March 13, April 24, May 8, 15.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY, KENT.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY, KENT.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY, KENT.
Vacant,
March 27 (3 nights), April 10, 24, May 1, 8.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant,
May 1 (3 nights), 22, 29, June 12, 19.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant,
March 13, 20, April 10, 17, 24.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant,
March 27, June 19, July 31, August 14.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant,
April 17, 24, May 8, 15, 29.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant,
Feb. 27 (3 nights), March 6 (6 nights), 13 (6 nights).

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant,
Mar. 13 (3 or 6 nights), 20 (3 or 6 nights), April 3 3 or 6 nights).

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant,
March 27, April 3 (3 nights), 10, May 8, 15.

KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
Vacant,
March 20 (3 nights), 30 (3 nights), April 17 (3 or 6).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant,
April 6 (3 nights), 24, May 8, 15, 22, 29.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant.
March 23 (3 nights), 27 (3 nights), April 3 (3 or 6).

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
To be Let for Non-Dramatic Performances.

All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Manor House, Hayes, Middlesex.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, May 1, 8, 29, and all June, including Whit-week. Pantomime for 2 weeks, Feb. 12, 1906 (second in). Bookings and pencillings include "My Lady Molly," "Darling of the Gods," "School Girl," J. W. Turner, Fred Terry and Julia Neilson, "Beauty and The Barge," "Country Girl," "Earl and the Girl," "The Orchid," "Three Little Maids, "Cingalee," Dottridge and Longden's Panto, Mr. and Mrs. Benson, and Carl Rosa Co. Last week's receipts, terminating Saturday, Feb. 18, were £508 18s. 9d. for Panto, "Goody Two Shoes" (second in). Receipts for last eight weeks £3,614 5s. 3d., an average of £451 15s. 8d. per week, in spite of fogs, blizzards, and trade depression. All applications, T. ALLAN EDWARDES, Grand Theatre, Derby.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies for March 20, 27, and intermediates onwards. E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Three Nights and One Matinée, Theatre Royal, Worthing, March 16, 23, 27, 30, April 3, and Several Dates onwards. Address, C. ADOLF SEEBOLD, Theatre Royal, Worthing.
Silence a Polite Negative.

THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Week of March 20. Wire, to-day, KELLY, Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.
Next week, Opera House, Burton-on-Trent.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE, WIGAN.
WANTED, Magnetic Attractions for April 3, May 1 and 8. Full particulars, &c., to J. WORSWICK, Managing-Director.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, April 10 and May 1.
Address, HARRY YORKE.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Proprietors, Messrs. CARSON and GRANVILLE.
WANTED, Companies, March 20, Special Attraction.
Business Enormous.
Address, FRED GRANVILLE.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions only, T.R., Manchester, March 27, May 1, 15,
Gaiety T., Manchester, April 3,
Grand T., Hull, April 10, 17,
Grand T., Leeds, June 5,
Lyceum T., Sheffield, March 27.
Apply, JOHN HART, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

Scotland's Provincial Theatres.
WANTED, Company, March 6. March 6 unexpectedly Vacant, Grand, Falkirk, and King's, Kirkcaldy (Three Nights Each). Big Business. R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand T., Glasgow.

WANTED, Good Pantos, Monday, March 6, onwards; also Good Variety Shows, Complete. Wire Sharp, MANAGER, Hippodrome, Castleford.

NEW AVENUE THEATRE, KETTERING.
WANTED, Good Panto. or Musical Company, March 20 or 27, May 1, 15, 29, July 3 (Kettering Feast). Panto. for 1905, write FRANK PAYNE.

WANTED, Strong Attraction, March 6 (through obliging).
Address, H. MASTERMAN, T. R., Castleford.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.
WANTED, Positively First-Class Companies, May 8, 29, June 19.
Address, F. W. PURCELL, Alexandra Theatre, N.

MARLBOROUGH THEATRE, N.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, April 10, May 15, June 12.
Address, F. W. PURCELL, Alexandra Theatre, N.

THEATRE ROYAL, SHEFFIELD.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, April 17, May 1, 8.
Address,
F. W. PURCELL,
Alexandra Theatre, London, N.

DUMFRIES and DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, Companies, Dumfries, April 10, and on; Dunfermline, March 27, and on.
W. B. POTTS, Dunfermline.

WANTED, First-Class Attraction for Dover, April 17. VAN BIENE, "Slaves of Passion" Co., T.R., Aldershot.

COMPANIES WANTED.

THE LATE CLARANCE HOLT'S PLAYS
(the property of Mrs. Clarance Holt).
WANTED, Travelling or Resident Managers requiring highly successful plays that have been produced (such as "The Barricade" and "Forced from Home"), or who are open to consider and produce a powerful new modern Drama of London Life, by the late Clarance Holt and George Fawcett Rowe, to communicate with GEORGE LANDER, 33, Frederick-street, Gray's Inn-road, W.C.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for Two Nights. Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
WANTED, April 17, May 1, 8, June 5.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 7, Oct. 16, 23, Nov. 6.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A DISGRACE TO HER SEX."
WANTED, Important Theatres, May 1, 8, 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, April 10, May 29, Aug. 14.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, March 27, May 22, June 12.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 3, 24, and On, with exceptions.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 10, 17, May 1, June 5, Aug. 14. DOUGLAS BRUCE, Standard Theatre, London, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, May 1, June 12, Aug. 7, 14, on, with exceptions.

TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of
May 29 and June 5,
May 29 and June 5,
for this Powerful Attraction.
Wire, To-day.
KELLY, Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.
Next Week, Opera House, Burton-on-Trent.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, July, Autumn, Now Booking 1906. The Most Perfect Production of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" seen in this Country. CHARLES HARRINGTON, Theatre Royal, Whitehaven.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S TOUR.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
No Vacant Dates until Nov. 20.
WANTED, Big Theatres only, then and on. Theatre Royal, Jarrow.
Six nights, Feb. 27.

"WHAT BECAME OF MRS. RACKET?"
"MY SWEETHEART."
WANTED, March 13 (North), March 13, Wire. April 10. 17, onwards, with exceptions.
STONE, to-day, Opera House, St. Helens; next week, Grand Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER'S COMPANY
in
"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."
WANTED, Leading Theatres for March 27, April 24 (Easter), May 1, and May 22,
Address,
Mr. SILVANUS DAUNCEY, 22, Charing Cross, S.W.

"THE TRAITOR."
Messrs. Mitchelson and Fineberg's Magnificent Production.
WANTED, Sept. 4, 11, 18, Oct. 9, 16.
F. HILL-MITCHELSON, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

"THE SLEDGE-HAMMER," by Wilson Barrett.
Spring Tour Fully Booked.
WANTED, Theatres. First Vacancy Sept. 4. Re Dates,
W. V. GARROD, Grand Theatre, Brighton.

WANTED, March 13, 27, April 24, May 1, 8, The New Clown.
W. T. ELWORTHY, G. T., Leeds.

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."

WANTED, April 10(?) and 17, London or South.
H. HOLLISTER,
Grand Theatre, Hull.

"NAPOLEON THE GREAT,"
Carson, Granville, and Thorne's Co.
WANTED, for this Magnificent Attraction, May 29, Aug. 7, on, with exceptions.
Address, FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's T., Liverpool.

"A LONDON ACTRESS."

WANTED, March 27, on, with Exceptions, For Miss Emma Litchfield's Success,
"A LONDON ACTRESS."
"A LONDON ACTRESS."
Wanted, March 27, on, with Exceptions.
STUART CLEVELAND,
Maesteg (Three), Treherbert (Three Nights).

WANTED, for "Her Fatal Past," including Miss Ward, May 8 (North), and few Autumn Dates. Address, T. E. WARD, M. T., Birmingham.

"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
WANTED, good Theatres, Vacant (Spring), Apr. 3, June 12.
WALTER HOWE, Q., Dublin; Next, T. R., Middleton.

"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."

Mr. FRANK WILSON'S COMPANY.

By arrangement with Mr. Frank Curzon.
Second Year of Tour.

WANTED, Easter (April 24), and on, with exceptions.

FRANK WILSON, T. R., Gloucester.

MR. BERT COOTE'S COMPANIES.
"THE FATAL WEDDING."
WANTED, Easter Week, April 24, July 31—Aug. 7.

Address, CECIL BARTH, General Manager, 150, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, March 13, unexpectedly Vacant, "Shaughraun," Greatest of all Attractions for St. Patrick's Eve and Day. E. C. MATTHEWS, T. R., Glasgow.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
A New Oriental Play, by G. A. de Gray.
WANTED, March 27, April 3, May 15(?).
"£1,000 REWARD,"
a Grand Revival on an Elaborate Scale,
"THE RACE FOR WEALTH,"
a Powerful Modern Play, by H. Lonsdale.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND,"
an Acknowledged Success.
"THE DAYS OF CROMWELL,"
by Chas. Rogers and E. Carter Livesey.
Various, Autumn.

BEAUDYN and LIVESEY,
Opera House, Perth.

Lyttleton's "AT WAR WITH THE WORLD."
WANTED, March 27, April 3, 10, 17, Easter, onwards, with exceptions.
Everything Reliable. Printing Always Ready.
GEO. LYTTLETON, R., Margate; next Maidenhead.

The Melodramatic Masterpiece.
The Melodramatic Masterpiece.

"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."

WANTED, April 3 (Scotland), 10, May 1 (South), Autumn.
ROBERT PERRIS,
Gaiety Theatre,
Clydebank.

THEATRES WANTED.

"HEART OF A HERO."
WANTED, Theatres, June 19, 26, also July 10, onwards
Wire, CARSON,
Theatre, Keighley.

"A MODERN ADVENTURESS."
WANTED, Theatres, April 10, May 29, and June 5.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, Theatres, Wanted, Theatres, June 5 and 12.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"DEFENDING HIS HONOUR."
WANTED, Theatres, March 13 and 20, April 3, 17, and May 1, onwards.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"A WOMAN'S DEVOTION,"
March 27, June 12, July 17, 31.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"HONOUR THY FATHER,"
April 10, 17, 24, June 12.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"GREED OF GOLD,"
March 20, April 17, 24.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
WANTED, April 24, for this remarkable attraction, onwards, with exceptions. Spring, Summer, Autumn now being Booked. J. H. CLYNDES, Theatre Royal, Workington.

Ninth Month of Tour.
The Great Adelphi Drama,
"A WOMAN'S REVENGE."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, March 20, 27, April 10 (follow Pontypridd), May 1, all June and July, Booked by Ernest Dottridge, Esq., Empire, Oldham; F. Laidler, Esq., Prince's, Bradford; Messrs. W. B. Broadhead, Arthur Carlton, Milton Bode, and Robert Arthur.
HENRY L. OSMOND, T. R., Houghton-le-Spring.

"MISS MISCHIEF."
WANTED, March 13, London or Midlands, and several Spring dates, for the highly successful Musical Comedy, "Miss Mischief," by Mr. Reginald Bacchus and Dr. F. Osmond Carr; cast includes Miss Isa Bowman, Miss Crissie Francess, Mr. Cecil Curtiss, Mr. T. E. Conover, &c.. Full chorus and dancers.

All communications,
GODFREY LAMPLUGH,
To-day, Empire Theatre, Southend;
Next week, Pleasure Gardens Theatre, Folkestone.

"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."
WANTED, April 24, May 22, June 12.
Admitted by Press and Public to be the Most Popular Version on the Stage.
Record Business last Four Weeks at the following Theatres:—
Palace, Newcastle, refer Mr. Rowe.
Theatre Royal, Coatbridge, refer Mr. Fontaine.
Theatre Royal, Blyth, refer Mr. Good.
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, refer Mr. Granville.
Total Receipts for Four Weeks, over £1,500.

Wire, for April 24. Wire,
JAMES BELL, Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO.
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, March 13 and 20, for this great attraction. All scenery carried, powerful company; racehorses toured and paraded each day. F. G. KIMBERLEY, Clarence, Pontypridd; next, T.R., Leeds.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."

WANTED, Big Theatres, May 15, 22, and on. Address,
CHAS. M. JULIAN,
Feb. 20, Prince's, Portsmouth.
Feb. 27, T. R., Stratford (Return).

"ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE."
WANTED, March 20 (follow Oxford, return), 27, 3 nights (precede Mansfield, return), May 1 (follow Wednesbury), 8 (precede Dublin, return), 29, June 5, 12, 19 (precede Croydon, return), July 10, 17, 24 (follow West London). Note.—The only new drama touring that has had a continuous run since its production in 1902. Proof of success. Re-bookings. C. CLIFFORD, T.R., Edmonton (third visit).

"THE BLANCHARD DIAMONDS."
WANTED, April 17, May 1, First-Class Theatres only.
Apply, JOHN HART, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

WANTED, for "At Twelve Midnight," Autumn Dates.
Sensation. Clock of Doom, and Pink Wedding.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, April 3, Scotland or North England.
FRED BULMER, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 7, on, with exceptions.
FRED BULMER, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, Miss Winifred Maude and Company.
"THE SINS OF A CITY."
By Nita Rae.
Vacant, March 13, Onwards, with Exceptions.
"THE SINS OF A CITY."
Production Equal to Any on the Road.
Printing Twenty Varieties.
"THE SINS OF A CITY."
Thirty-second Week of Present Tour.
"THE SINS OF A CITY."
General Manager, MR. VICTOR DU CANE.

Feb. 27. THEATRE ROYAL, PETERBORO'.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
"HEARTS ADRIFT."
"HEARTS ADRIFT."
"HEARTS ADRIFT."

Success. Success.

Birmingham Daily Post says:—
It contains much that is sensational, while ample opportunity is afforded for a real good laugh. That the play is up to date will be gathered from the fact that an ascent in an airship is realistically depicted. There is, indeed, plenty of action in the play, and that it was appreciated by those present last evening was apparent. It was capitally staged, and the acting was in every respect excellent.

Birmingham Gazette and Express says:—
In a word, *Hearts Adrift* is a sound, honest, wholesome, nerve-thrilling drama of the conventional type, and nobody who ever wished to see virtue rout villainy could desire a better. Mr. Arthur Bertram and his carefully selected company may be congratulated on a really successful production, which won unstinted plaudits from a large and appreciative audience.

For Dates, Easter, and on, also Autumn, address,
A. BERTRAM,
Grand Theatre, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED! Wanted! Wanted! March 6, March 6, March 6, for the Latest Successful Russian Military Drama, "The Red Café." Great Success this Week, Grand Theatre, Plymouth. Date Vacant through Misunderstanding.
Wire, MARTIN HENRY,
Grand Theatre, Plymouth, To-day;
and Charlton Theatre, Birmingham, on Monday.
Midlands Preferred.

THEATRES WANTED.

ALFRED B. CROSS TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, Theatres, June 19 and 26 (between Jersey and Clapham); Aug. 7 Vacant. Few Autumn Dates for Best Theatres only. New Plant of Printing by Allen.
Mr. CROSS as PETE, 1,180th Time.
Bookings, Bradford, Liverpool, Hull, Clapham, Jersey, Southampton, Nottingham, Huddersfield, G., Birmingham, Blackpool, Brighton, Northampton, Dublin, Newport, Yarmouth, Glasgow, Manchester, &c. West Pier, Brighton, Feb. 27.

William A. Armour's Company,
"WHAT A WOMAN DID!"
Sixty-Eighth Week of Continuous Successful Tour.
WANTED, March 13, April 10, 17 (must be large town), May 1, 8, and onwards, with exceptions, including Whit-Week and August Bank Holiday.
Wire for March 13, WILLIAM A. ARMOUR, this, Alhambra, Stourbridge; next, Alexandra, Hull.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. G. KIRK'S CO.
"JUDY."
WANTED, March 20, April 3 (only Spring dates vacant), and August Bank Holiday. Magnificent plant or scenery by the well-known scenic artist, Joseph Harker. GEORGE KIRK, T.R., Merthyr Tydfil.

"THE GUILTY MAN."
"THE GUILTY MAN."
"THE GUILTY MAN."
WANTED, April 10, 17, May 15, 22, June and July.
JAMES HARE, 68, Sayer-street, New Kent-road, S.E.

WANTED, Theatres, Miss Frances Delaval's Company, "The Biggest Scamp on Earth," by F. A. Scudamore; twentieth month of Tour; May 22, 29, June 12, August Bank Holiday. Wire, T.R., Stratford, E.; next, T.R., York.

WANTED, for "Life that Kills," May 1, 15, 29, June 5, and 12,
"Grip of Law," April 24, and on through Summer;
"Bigamy," May 1, and few Spring.
FRED MOULE, New Theatre, Aberdare.

WANTED, Theatres, for "The Convent Bell; or, The Secret of Sinners' Point." Vacant March 13, April 10, May 8, 29, June 5, 26.
WEBB, T. R., Edmonton; Next, Avenue, Kettering.

"LIFE'S SWEETEST SINS."
WANTED, March 13, April 3, 10, 17.
T. ARTHUR JONES, Bishop Auckland.

"BETRAYED; or, What Men call Love."
WANTED, May 1, June 5 and 12. Refer Lester Collingwood, Esq.
CECIL DU GUE, 2, Norbury-park, Streatham, S.W.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
Shakespearean and Classical Répertoire, including "UNDER THE RED ROBE" and "THE THREE MUSKETEERS."
WANTED, March 27, April 3, 10, 17, May 1, 8, 22, 29. Address, Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.

MAURICE LOVE & C. H. LLEWELLYN'S TOUR.
the New "FUN ON THE BRISTOL."
WANTED, May 3, onwards. Thanks D. Barnard. C. Wybert, Stanley Rogers, Alf Liverick, A. Roberston, &c., for Offer and Contracts.
Address, MAURICE LOVE, Town Hall, Dalkeith, N.B.

WANTED, First-class Theatres and Halls, for Harry Firth's No. 1 Vaudeville Combination, March 13 and on. Big Musical Burlesque Sketch in Active Preparation. In Answer to Numerous Enquiries, We Conclude Most Successful Pantomime Season of Sixteen Weeks, next week, at King's Theatre, Walthamstow.
Address Communications,
HARRY FIRTH, King's Theatre, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Known, Harry Reynolds' Minstrels have Easter week open to good offer; also May 1 week; only vacant dates until November. Theatres, Piers, &c. 20 Minstrel Star Artistes in a Brilliant Programme. Thanks for various offers. 104, Great Dover-street, London, S.E.

WANTED, Theatres, Pavilions, &c., March 13, and dates onwards for the Royal London Star Pierrot Troupe Concert and Comedy Company. DILLON, Corn Exchange, Market Rasen, Lincs.

ARTISTES WANTED.

MILTON RAY'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, for Musical Comedy, "A Hot Night," Leading Lady, must be good actress and vocalist; eccentric Character Actor (small), for Fontenoy Flutterwig (elderly man), Juvenile Gentleman (dashing and young), to combine stage-management.
All must be able to sing, or useless.
Rehearse March 6; open March 13.
Address, ARTHUR MILTON, 45, Broadgate, Preston.

WANTED, to Rehearse, London, March 6, Ladies, Heavy Lead, Juvenile, Chambermaid; Gentlemen, Heavy, Comedian, Character. State Lowest Terms, Recent References, Parts Played, Photos, if Singers. Interviews London. No Wires. MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmunds-ter., London.

MR. HARRY BATTERSBY'S STOCK SEASON.
TH. ROYAL, BILSTON, and WEDNESBURY.
WANTED, for Stock, commencing Whit (rehearse June 5), 2 Stage Managers, with good Répertoire, Artistes all Lines, including Smart Comedian and Chambermaid. HARRY BATTERSBY, T.R., Bilston.

WANTED, Duff, Kinchella, Dolan, Captain, Robert, Arte, Mrs. O'Kelly, Quick Scenic Artist for "Shaughraun." Open Empire, Kilburn, London, Saturday, March 4. Rehearse on Wednesday, Probable Long Stock Season. Can Receive Lady and Gentleman amateurs for Small Parts. Lowest Terms. Letters only to BRIEN MCCULLOUGH, 12, Elm-grove, Hammersmith, London.

WANTED, Artistes for Musical Comedy, Town and Tour. Must be Young, of Good Appearance, and Good Voice. Send full particulars to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-st, W.

WANTED, for Two or Three Weeks, March 9, Rehearse 6th, Glasgow, Louis, Toto, and Mickey; also Smart Agent. CLYDE, 11, Carnarvon-st., Glasgow.

"SWISS EXPRESS" CO.
WANTED, a Juvenile Lady, must sing and dance for Bride's part. Commence March 13 (rehearse week previous). Send full particulars, terms, and recent photo, to C. and F. RENAD, New Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

WANTED, Young Lady and Gentleman, for good parts in répertoire fit-up tour; refinement more essential than experience. Good opening for amateur or novice. Those who wrote before write again. Address, Mr. DORELL, Corn Exchange, Hertford.

WANTED, tall Leading Lady, young and capable of intense pathos, for special fortnight, from March 6. Photo, particulars, and inclusive terms to J. C. WORDEN, Lynnhurst, South Shore, Blackpool.

WANTED, Smart, Young, Robust Actor, for Croydon, One Week, for Small Parts.
Address all Particulars to T. E. WARD, Met., B'ham.

WANTED, for "The Girl from Chicago," light, eccentric Comedian, for Dude, not under 5ft. 9in., slight figure, must sing and dance well. Rehearse Tuesday. Apply, with full particulars, Box 1,241, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Robust Actor, for Elderly Part, Sir Noel, must be Experienced, Dress Well.
Rehearse Crewe, March 6.
Full Particulars, with Photos (Imperative).
Address,
Next Week, SANTE, T. R., Birkenhead.

WANTED, a Comedian for Marks, and a Gentleman for St. Clair, "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Terms, photo, &c., CHARLES HARRINGTON, Theatre Royal, Whitehaven.

WANTED, a Principal Tenor, for Fit-Up Show, Knowing the Parts of "Bohemian Girl," "Maritana," "Faust," or two of these. Audition necessary before Engagement. CHARLES MANNERS, Opera House, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, two or three lady and gentlemen Amateurs and Novices desirous of Excellent Theatrical Tuition, practice and early appearances for Touring Company, with extensive Répertoire of Comedies and Dramas. Premium required. Salary from commencement. Interviews by appointment. Write for particulars to VAUGHAN, 47, The Common, Upper Clapton, London, N.E.

ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Robust Baritone, for Music Hall Vocal Sketch, must be 5ft. 10in. Reliable. JONES, 23, Barmeston-road, Catford.

WANTED, Amateur, Premium, Returnable in Salary, for Tour of London, Success. P. B., 2, Creskell-street, Holbeck, Leeds.

WANTED, Ladies who can Sing and Dance; also beginners. Letter, with photo, Madame CORA, 51, Southwell-road, West Croydon

WANTED, some fair Chorus Ladies, with good appearance and voices. Apply, GORE OUSELEY, 6, Panton-street, Haymarket, W.

WANTED, Models for Artistic Photography; also experienced pose for Ajax. Usual terms. About three sittings weekly. Apply letter only, enclosing photo (returnable). Photo Department, CITY OF LONDON ART SOCIETY, 5, Victoria-avenue, E.C.

WANTED, Good Looking Actress, for Photographic Studies.

Send terms per day to Box 1,299, care of "The Era."

WANTED, to Complete Quartette, Good Acrobatic Dancer, Tour till Easter. Lowest Terms, T. R. NUGENT, Public Hall, Wrexham.

WANTED, Dramatic Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, for the H. and S. Quartette, Contracts, Home or Abroad. Free Feb. 27. Music Acrobats. 16, Parnie-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, by Two Sisters, Used to Choir, Dance, Sing, Play Piano, Mandoline. 51, All Saints'-road, King's Heath, Birmingham.

WANTED, Feb. 27, finish of Pantomime, open to join Sketch, Comedy, Burlesque, or Comedy part in Drama; traps, &c. Great success as Billy Sneaker, "Babes in the Wood." GUS GRANVILLE, Carlton's, Birmingham.

PANTOMIME ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Dolly Elsworthy, Disengaged for Principal Boy only, 1905 and 1906. Address, 14, Kingsdene, Vassall-road, Brixton, S.W.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Known, Splendid Opportunity for a Premium Pupil, to Learn Scene Painting and Poster Writing. Apply, in First Instance, Box 1,246, care of "The Era" Office.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, J. I. Keith, Scenic Artist, at Liberty. London, Provincial, and Continental Experience. 170, Hampton-street, Birmingham.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Assistant Acting-Manager. Apply by letter only, stating age, references, and salary expected. OSWALD STOLL, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, Smart Young Man, to assist Manager; duties taught; for tour. Premium £30. EMERY, 1, North Hall-row, Leeds.

WANTED, smart Youth, to learn the duties of business-manager at a London Suburban theatre; commence at once. Deposit as guarantee, returnable in salary. Address, MANAGER, 12, Elmgrove, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, a Practical Electrician, to take Charge of Electrical Plant, one used to Animated Pictures Preferred. State Lowest Wages to WORSWICK, Hippodrome, Wigan.

WANTED, Smart, fully qualified Electrician, with original ideas. Apply, DONALD ARTHUR, 434, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Practical Carpenter, with Own Tools, Capable of Playing Small Parts, must be steady and Good Worker. Terms, References, MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, an experienced Bill Inspector. References (recent), which will be applied for, to J. F. ELLISTON, Bolton.

WANTED, Billposter, Respectable, Good All-round Man. References and Wages Required. Permanency. SHAKSPERE SHENTON, Cheltenham.

WANTED, Known, experienced Stage-Manager, Disengaged, for First-Class Music Hall only. 11 years' resident experience. Abstainer. Practical Stage Machinist References, &c. Ad., Box 1,250, "The Era."

WANTED, Situation as Stage Manager, for First-Class Music Hall; 15 years' experience. Practical man. Highest references. Address Box 1,223, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Position as Manager, Acting-Manager, or Assistant-Manager, of Theatre, in London or Suburbs, Over 12 Months' Experience as Responsible Manager. Box 1,128, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Re-engagement, by Ted Walpole, Advance Agent, just concluding Panto. Tour. Experienced. References. Wire, 72, Estcourt-road, Watford.

WANTED, Engagement by Advance Agent or Bill Inspector, good boomer, young, excellent refs. Agent, 109, Carlisle-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Scenic Artist. Terms moderate. Address, W. FERROLL, 8, Norfolk-road, Dalston-lane, N.E.

WANTED, Known, Electrician would like a good place; good and steady in business; speaks German. SMITH, Opera House, Leicester.

WANTED, Known, Electrician, 27, total abstainer, Dis., 13 years' experience; dynamos, &c. Highest testimonials. C., 133, Prince of Wales'-road, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement as Carpenter or Stage-Manager and Carpenter, in Theatre or Small Music Hall. BERT SPENCER, Palace, Aberdare.

WANTED, Known, Billposter disengaged; eight years last situation. Good references. Could take charge. BEADLE, Billposter, Bromley.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

WANTED, Conductor-Pianist, or with 6 orchestra, Kirn Gardens, June 26, on. Terms and particulars, COURTNEY, Broughton-place, Edinburgh.

WANTED, for Ramsgate Town Band, Cornet, Bass, Trombone. Shares, Pitching; other Instruments. Apply, SECRETARY, Band, Ship Inn, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Solo Cornet (good), for Hastings and St. Leonards Military Band. Join March 13. Particulars, SEC., 51, Queen's-road.

WANTED, Good Cornet and Drums, March 6, 30s. Weekly, near Plymouth Preferred. Refs., &c.. Miss KILDARE, Waveney, Paignton.

PALACE THEATRE VARIETIES, ABERDARE. WANTED, Second Violin, to Open Monday, Feb. 27, to Play First if Required: Solo Cornet Required for March 6. Salary, 27s. 6d. Must be good and steady. Wire, Apply, Wire, W. C. DEXTER, Mus. Dir.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY. WANTED, Solo Cornet, First-class, to Open at once. Terms and latest References to ALFRED BYE, Musical Director.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

WANTED, a Good Solo Clarionet and Cornet, Five Hours per Day, Summer Season, Seventeen Weeks. Advertiser is Willing to Purchase Second-hand Military Band Music. Send Catalogue, and Price of Music, with Terms and References, to Box 1,235, Care of "The Era" Office, London.

LORD G. SANGER'S CIRCUS, HIPPODROME, MENAGERIE. SEASON 1905. WANTED, through disappointment, First-Class Solo B flat Clarionet, Solo Cornet, terms 35s. weekly; also First Cornet and Double Drummer, terms 32s. 6d. weekly; all must be competent musicians and sober men. Postage for letter, 2½d. Address, CHARLES KETTERING, 27, Rue de la Poterie, Mons, Belgium.

WANTED, for Bath Military Band, from May 13 till Sept. 9, First B flat Clarionet, First and Second Cornets, First and Second Horns, Second Trombone. Apply, with references, stating age, W. SCHOTTLER, Musical Director, Bath. Silence polite negative.

COUNTY ASYLUM, MELTON, SUFFOLK. Double Bass Player. WANTED, a Musician Attendant, who must be a good Double Bass player; wages to commence at £32, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform; £2 increase after one year's service; afterwards rising £1 annually up to £42; further increase according to ability as an attendant. If holding the Medico-Psychological Certificate, £2 extra. Applications to the Medical Superintendent, at the Asylum.

CAMBRIDGE ASYLUM, FULBOURN, NEAR CAMBRIDGE. WANTED, Male Attendant, Bombardon player preferred. Apply, stating age and height, and enclosing copies of testimonials, to the SUPERINTENDENT, at the Asylum.

WANTED, for Salford Hippodrome, 'Cello, Open Feb. 27; for Hippodrome, Manchester, Viola, Open Mar. 6; for Bury Hippodrome, Repititeur, Open Mar. 6. Refs. to PERCY B. BROADHEAD, The Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, First-class 'Cello. Apply, Monday, 27th, 11 o'clock, Perm. Engt., if Suitable, Commence at Once, to MUSICAL DIRECTOR, Crown Theatre, S.E.

WANTED, 'Cello, for Palace Theatre, Leicester. Apply, stating Music-hall References and Wages Required, to OSWALD STOLL, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-Class 'Cello, must be experienced in Dramatic Business. Address, by letter only, to SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.

WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL. WANTED, Flute, Oboe, Clarionet, Bassoon, and First and Second 'Cello, Easter, April 20 to 29, and Season June 10 to Sept. 30. First-class Instrumentalists only. Applications, stating Experience and Terms, for One or Two Performances Daily, to JNO. R. HUDDLESTONE, Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

WANTED, a Pianist and Composer, clever, young, for Dramatic and Comedy Company, the manager of which, a well-known Lyric Author, is willing to collaborate, procure clients, and share fees obtained. Premium required in the first instance Address, Box 1,230, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Lady Pianist, First-class, Well Experienced in Concert, Variety, and Dramatic Business, Highest Refs., Young, Good Appearance. ETHEL ASHTON, 24, Trafalgar-square, Chelsea, S.W.

WANTED, for Summer, Pianiste, 'Celliste, and Trombone (ladies), experienced in orchestra. Good appearance. Fullest particulars, Box 1,242, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Pianist, First-Class, abstainer preferred. Lowest Salary and References, PICKARD'S Waxwork and Varieties, Trongate, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, the Whitley and Monkseaton Urban District Council are prepared to receive Tenders for the exclusive privilege of using their Band Stand (20ft. in diameter) on the Whitley Links, for Musical Entertainments, on week days, during the coming summer season, viz., from 1st May to 30th September, 1905. The entertainments must be guaranteed to be of a first-class order, and will be subject to conditions, a print of which can be obtained on application to me, the undersigned, by post, or to Mr. John Moore, the Surveyor to the Council, during his office hours, at the Council Buildings, Whitley Bay. Tenders must quote a sum per week or for the season, and must be sent to me, endorsed "Tender for Stand on Links," on or before the 4th day of March proximo. The Council do not guarantee the acceptance of the highest or any tender.—Dated this 13th day of February, 1905. AUGUSTUS WHITEHORN, Clerk to the Council, 60, Saville-street, North Shields.

WANTED, by the Worthing Borough Band Committee, Terms for Providing a Military Band of Eighteen Performers, and Conductor, Season of Twelve Weeks Certain. Full Particulars and Testimonials to ALDERMAN E. T. COOKSEY, Worthing.

WANTED, Bandsmen, Good Musicians, from March 6 to June 3. For Particulars, Apply Early to BANDMASTER, The Barracks, Grantham.

WANTED, Trombone Euphonium, Bombardon, and Double Drummer, with effects, for Ireland, with Madame Flexmore's Circus. T. REYNOLDS, Marquis Granby Hotel, Lincoln.

WANTED, 30 Lady Musicians, wind and string; Experience and lowest terms, Photos (returned), A. SULLIVAN, 44, Richmond-rd, Ilford, Essex.

WANTED, Lady Musicians, Brass, Banjo, Saxophonists, and Harpists, for big Stage Act. Send photos and terms to SCHMIDT, 20, Gerrard-street, W.C.

To Musicians. WANTED, as an Attendant in a County Asylum. a good Bombardon, Flute, E flat Clarionet, or Oboe player; salary commencing £34, increasing to £48, all found; extra if promoted. Apply, with testimonials as to character and abilities. W. GRAINGER, County Asylum, Stafford.

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, an Engagement by Leader or First Violin, experienced and reliable. JAS. HEAP, 23, Perth-street, Burnley.

WANTED, by Musical Conductor (piano), late 7 years Elephant and Castle Theatre, Engagement, London only. EDWARD PARKER, 13, Richmond-terrace. Clapham-road.

WANTED, by Leader or First Violin, Re-engagement, Fourteen Years' Experience. SAM CRYER, 1. Addi-street. Bradford, Yorks.

WANTED, by Pianist-Conductor, First-Class Summer Engagement. Highest References. Address, J. DE GABRIELS, T. R., Dunfermline, N.B.

WANTED, by Violinist, Leader, First Violin, Engagement, or Deputy. Experienced all Lines. Town Preferred. 36, Coin-st., Waterloo, S.E.

WANTED, by Violinist or Pianist (First-Class), permanent engagement, Theatre or Music Hall; experienced, reliable. BOEHM, care of McMasters, 89, Main-street, Glasgow, S.S.

WANTED, Known, Experienced Solo and Orchestral Violinist is Open to Engagements, Town and Country. Address, E. E., Box 1,186, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Violinist (First or Second), Engagement; any business; experienced. H. HURST, 19, Henderson-grove, Moss Side, Manchester.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by First Violin or Clarionet, Engagement; any business. Good ref. H. SMITH, 14, Prince's-square, Kennington Park, S.E.

WANTED, by Violinist, Permanency or otherwise; any business. HARRY GEORGE, 2, O'Connor-villas, Horns-road, Stroud, Glos.

WANTED, re-engagement, Violin or Viola, any business. REILLY, care of Toomey, 26, Pyramid-street, Everton, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement, March 6. C. W. MARSHALL, Violinist, 25, Tanfield-road, South Croydon.

WANTED, by Cornettist, Engagement; good transposer; any business; 3 years Cornettist, T.R., Leigh. W. KAYE, 133, Gordon-street, Leigh.

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement, through closing. Music Hall or Theatre. Refs. FLETCHER, 124, Clopton-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, by Cornet (First or Second), Engagement. Good Refs. if Required. Now Dis. F. J. BAKER, 2, Sunnyside-rd., Sandgate, Kent.

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement, Theatrical and Variety. Good Reader. Good Refs. Open Monday. CORNET, 1, Woodborough, Stapleton-road, Bristol.

WANTED, by Clarionetist, B Flat or E Flat, Any Business, Engagement. At Liberty from Mar. 4. R. D. MCHAFFIE, 35, Braeside-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, by Solo Clarionet and Violin (Good Experience), Engagement, London Orchestra for Preference. Apply, F. MASON, Bandmaster, care of Boosey and Co., Regent-street, W.

WANTED, by Solo Clarionet, Carl Rosa Opera Company, Summer Season Engagement, from May 22. DELCELLIER, Carl Rosa, Holloway, N.

WANTED, by Clarionet, Engagement, through reducing orchestra; any business. At Liberty, Feb. 27. A. MILLER, Opera House, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Known, Bass Player will shortly terminate engagement in Symphony Orchestra. Pleased to hear of an engagement. Box 1,244, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, by Double Bass or Cornet, Engagement. Good References. W. TAYLOR, 4, Ravensburg-villas, Morden-road, Mitcham.

WANTED, by Bassoon, Engagement, Season or Permanent. Experience and references. 50, Merrion-street, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by Miss Nellie Kent, Trombone, Piano, and Violin. 12, Cardiff-grove, Luton.

WANTED, by Bombardon or Horn, Engagement, Tenting no Objection. WARDLE, Commercial-street, Rothwell, near Leeds.

WANTED, by French Horn, Orchestral, Military, Permanent Engagement. H. G. DAY, 50, Brook-street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, by Oboist, Engagement; Military or String, thoroughly experienced; any business; good references. OBOE, 2, Church-street, Cambridge

WANTED, Known, Solo and Orchestral 'Cellist is Open to Engagements. Apply Box 1,127, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Viola Player, Engagement; any business; good experience and references. Address, RODRIGUES, Swammerdamstraat No. 9, Amsterdam.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, Suitable for Little Girl on 'Cello. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-square, King's-cross-rd.

WANTED, by Viola, Engagement. GEO. F. JACKMAN, Viola. Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, Known, Florence Maye, L.R.A.M., Solo and Orchestral Harpist, concludes Nine Weeks' Tour, Feb. 25. 8. Blomfield-street, W.

WANTED, by Solo Harpist (Age 17), Engagement. Bath Herald, Jan. 2:—A talented harpist. MAUD GRUNDY, 49, Haverstock-hill, London.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, experienced, any business, good references. FLAUTIST, 16, Wasdale-road, Aintree, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Flautist, Engagement Orchestra, Seaside Preferred; Good Reference. MILTON KNIGHT, 3, Lincoln-street, Allerton, Bradford.

WANTED, Engagement, Solo Pianiste and Accompanist, Choir or Variety Hall, small orchestra preferred. Permanent 25s.; tour 30s. MADAME ELLIOTT, 1, Barlby-road, Selby, Yorks.

WANTED, by Pianist (First-Class), Engagement; any business; permanency preferred. Box 1,237, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by Mr. F. Cramer, Piano, Mustel Organ, Engagement as Accompanist, any Business. 15 Years with Maskelyne and Cook. Particulars, BUREAU, St. George's Hall, W.

WANTED, by Pianist, re-engagement, any business; good reader and vamper, plays own compositions. METRA, 16, Bonneville-road, Clapham Common, S.W.

WANTED, by Pianist (First-class), Immediate Re-engagement, any Business, Sight Reader, Join now. CAMPBELL, 176, Mowbray-st., Heaton, Newcastle.

WANTED, by Mr. Harold Scott, Solo Pianist, accompanist (Belle Colo Tours), Engagements, Touring Concerts, Orchestral. 45, St. Paul's-road, Highbury.

WANTED, by Pianist or Second Violin, combine Viola, Engagement. A.M.U. MANTON, 45, Breamish-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Season Engagement by well-known Double Drummer, all Effects. Liberty June. Thoroughly experienced, good References. Box 1,226, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, with effects, Engagement, Theatre or Music Hall. F. MCCROHAN, 31, De Laune-street, Kennington Park, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, to Directors, Managers, Committees, &c., that the Famous Old British Guards' Band is open for High-Class Summer Business, Seaside Engagement, or Exhibition Work. Enormous success last summer, Bradford Exhibition, &c., and at the Palace Pier, Brighton, where it was the most successful Band, succeeding late Lieut. Dan. Godfrey. The Old British Guards Band, popularly known as "The Old Guards," numbers from fifteen to fifty, is the only genuine ex-Guards Band in England, and the most representative one of Great Britain. Every Member guaranteed late of crack Guards Bands. The Finest Band out of Army. Can be heard at N.S.L. Concerts. Latest Music. Most Popular Programmes. Smart, Handsome Uniforms. Everything to draw public and ensure great success. Conductor holds many Public and Official Testimonials. A. HOLMES-DALLIMORE, Dorville-crescent, Ravenscourt-park, W.

ANGLO-ITALIAN BAND. Conductor, Signor Rabottini. WANTED, Known, this Famous Band, Military or String, in Handsome Uniforms, can now be Engaged for Exhibitions, High-class seaside Engagements, Flower Shows, &c. Highest testimonials. Apply by letter, F. P. RABOTTINI, Orchestral Association. 28 Gerrard-street, W.

WANTED, Known, the Original Blue Austrian Band open to Good Offers. CONDUCTOR, 53. Philpot-street. Stepney, London.

WANTED, by the Loyal Westminster Band (Thirty-one Professional Musicians), Engagements. Conductor, Mr. O. H. CARTER, 32, Tenison-st., London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, the Victoria Ladies' Quartette, Open for Easter and Summer. MISS ADELA SUTCLIFFE, 50, Osnaburg-st., Regent's-park.

WANTED, by Well-known London Restaurant Band, Engagement after June, for High-class Seaside Hotel or Pavilion. Handsome Uniform, and Solo Instrumentalists. Apply, MUSICAL DIRECTOR, 22. Crewdson-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, Known, The Red Rose Orchestra (Manton-Myatt Family. 10), Continuing most Successful Tour. Closed Ilfracombe, Saturday. This and Next Week, Torquay. Summer Engagement Settled (First-class Hotel, Fifth Consecutive Season). Offers Invited. Sure Attraction. Perm. Add., 28, Rosendale-road, West Dulwich.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Caledonian Orchestra, Engagement for Summer Season. A Superior Combination of Ladies and Gentlemen. Particulars apply, Box 1,133, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, by German Band, First-class Engagement for the Summer Season (Six-eight Performers, Soloists). FRITZ PREISICKE, Musical Director, Café Opera, Hamburg.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an Advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:— To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "49, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C., "Re Advertisement "'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.' "Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion. "Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:— "Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.' "Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer. "Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice. Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. WILLIAMS, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester;" Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. JESSON, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London;" 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. LEES, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTED.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS, BOLTON. WANTED, at Once, Big Star Turns, Startling Sensations and Big Novelties, in all Lines, Nothing too Big, Money no Object for Good Star Turns new to Bolton. A few Good Circus Artistes required for Present and Future Dates; also for Seaside Town, for the Summer Season. Ad., KING OHMY, Ohmy's Grand Circus, Bolton.

TUDOR'S HIPPODROME, BLYTH. WANTED, for the dates named only, April 3, 17, and 24, Big Novelty Acts. Address, 68, Eden-street, Cambridge.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE. WANTED, for March 20, and on, Specialities of every description. Address, C. ALGIE. P.S.—Artistes requiring the Earth must remember that Carlisle is a small City. Have tried fancy salaries, and tried others. When writing to the above, bear in mind it's a good break. Kindly state when last appeared in Carlisle.

WANTED, Novelties of every Description, suitable for Fêtes, must have pictorials, for June, July, August, and September. State lowest terms per day. Return fares paid from London terminus. Specimen litho and permanent address. Sylvester, Royal Agent, 271, Clapham-road, London. No callers. Interviews by appointment.

TRANSFIELD'S HIPPO., NEW BROMPTON. WANTED, Equestrians, good Knockabout Clowns, and Agoustes, useful Circus Artistes, Refined Variety Artistes, and Big Novelties (not aerial). T. G. TRANSFIELD, as above.

WANTED, for Galas, Easter and Whit Week, Bristol; also for Yorkshire, June 21, 22, 23; and Gala Season; Acrobats, Gymnasts, Bar Performers, Dog Shows, and Novelties. Mons. Leonard, Grovinas, Horton, N. Linder, write. Wood, Caterer, Easton, Bristol.

WANTED, Aerial and Ground Acts, all Lines, for Galas, Whit Week, onwards. Lithos, Terms, Vacant Dates, to BURTON, Gala Caterer, Fargate, Sheffield. Deltinas write.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, for Immediate Dates. Lowest Terms and Lithos. to Andy's Circus, Bolton.

NEW KLONDYKE CIRCUS. WANTED, for Tenting Season, Equestrians, with own horses, Rough Riders, suitable for Wild West; Artistes in all Lines; grooms, tentmen; also Bandsmen and smart Agent; commencing Easter. Address, HARRY LYONS, Klondyke Circus, Balla, co. Mayo, Ireland.

WANTED, for Mr. John Leopold's NEW FRIVOLITY COMPANY, a Good Tumbler. Also Top Mount. Apply, JOHN ELLERY, Court Theatre, Wigan.

WANTED, Acrobatic, Cycle, Aerial, Ground Acts, all Lines, for Galas. Lithos, terms, vacant dates, to BURTON, Gala Caterer, Fargate, Sheffield. Seltinas write.

WANTED, a Young Man, not more than 5ft. in Height, must Tumble, and be Funny Especially. Write, with all Details, to F. L., care of Mr. Gely, 75, Rue des Martyrs, Paris.

WANTED, Gymnast, to work Acrobatic Sensation, Amateur not objected to. Particulars, Age, Height, Terms, A. ASHBY, Terriss T., Rotherhithe, S.E.

WANTED, Gymnast, must be good all-round, under 10st. Box 1,239, care of "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Young Man, for Animal part, one used to gymnastics preferred. Address, ALFRANO, Circus, Bolton.

WANTED, Smart Willing Girl, over 16, with some knowledge of Trapeze, under 8 stone; Good Home to a Good Girl. Send full particulars, Box 1247, care of "The Era."

WANTED, a Smart Lad, that can do a little Ground Tumbling. Apply Box 1,256, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty for Fêtes and Galas, A First-Class Circus Company, For terms and full particulars, The Rentreag, 30, Portland-place, Carlisle.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Monday 27, onwards, Miss Daniels, Equestrienne, Also A. Gaertner, Juggling on Globe and Agouste. Can be engaged together or separate. Hippodrome, Carlisle.

WANTED, Known, the Hanneford Family, Dashing Bareback Equestrians, will be at Liberty Monday, Feb. 27, with a number of First-class Bareback Acts. All Acts Up to Date, and Second to None. Address, Circus, Stockport.

WANTED, Comical Walker, Talking Clown, with Good Entrées, Vacant March 13; also Tenting. Wire, or Write, P., Aberdare.

WANTED, Two Dominos (Clown and Donkey). Liberty, Mar. 6, 13. Finish to-night at John Henry Cooke's, Royal Circus, Edinburgh, 12 weeks engagement, the most comfortable I ever had in a Circus. Thanks to every member of Mr. Cooke's family for their kindness. Monday Next, Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Three Leonards, Triple Bars. Acrobatic Pyramid of Chairs, and Clowns, with Entrées. Liberty Monday. 7, Melville-street, Nottingham.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Eleonora, Lady Gymnast, La Belle Tosca, Charming Wire Expert; also the Beautiful Vanda in her Up-to-Date Juggling Act. Three Distinct Specialities. Vacant, March 6, also Galas. Address, 36, Bridge-street, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Known, The Maros, Comedy Bar Performers. Feb. 27, Hippodrome, Ashton. Free, March 6. Address as above.

WANTED, Known, Harland and Rollison, Grotesques, Musical; Vacant March 13, 20, 27. After Saturday, Hippo, Wakefield; March 6, Palace Varieties, Aberdare.

WANTED, Tenting, Tours, &c., by Darwin, Trapezist, and Vandetta Bros., Acrobats, two distinct acts. Lithos. 49, St. Paul's-rd, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday next, Bros. Lloddge, Silver Chain Acrobats. Wire, Hippodrome, Coventry; after, 55, King-cross-street, Halifax.

WANTED, Known, Pareni, Daring and Sensational High-Wire Artist, big attraction for Galas, August Bank Holiday, Return Carpet Weaver Fête, Kidderminster. Thanks to McAskell for offer three days Northampton. Permanent address, 200, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro, the Great and most Daring High-Rope Performer, Open for Fêtes and Galas. Apply, 121, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea; or, Mr. T. Wood, Easton, Bristol.

WANTED, Monday next, through Disappointment, The Cedrics, Equilibristic Comedy Speciality Artists, Success of the Programme. Hip., Carlisle.

WANTED, Known, Alice Fontainbleau, fast booking up for Summer Season, a few vacant dates; three shows, Rolling Globe, Troupe of the best-trained Trick and Leaping Dogs in the World, also Liberty Horse. These turns are open to engage separate or together. Good printing. Permanent. Marquis of Granby Hotel, Lincoln.

WANTED, John Irvin, Foot Equilibrist, big success, fifth week at Cook's Royal Circus, Edinburgh, March 6, the New Hippodrome, Accrington. Liberty March 13 and 20. Agents, Brothers Artois, "Era" Office, London; or JOHN IRVIN, 144, High-street, Deptford, London.

WANTED, Tenting Season, by the Delamere Trio, Original Comedy Equilibrists. 37, Alfred-street, Preston.

WANTED, Known, Leonzi, World's Greatest Human Knot, in his marvellous Contortion Act, Liberty Feb. 27. Wire, Hippodrome, Fitz-alan-square, Sheffield.

WANTED, May and June Dates, by Goliath, the Boy Athlete, a Big Success, Panto. Com., Theatre Royal, Hereford.

WANTED, Monday next, by Four Arizonas, Acrobatic Tumblers, Jugglers; Will Percival, Comedian, Dancer. Palace, Northampton.

WANTED, Known, Gingero, with his Marvellous Troupe of Performing Bulls, Sheep, and Goats, and Dog, Finishes to-night; Liberty Feb. 27. Wire or write, GINGERO, Grand Circus, Stockport.

WANTED, Known, Youth, with Knowledge of Juggling, wishes to Join Troupe or Juggler. GIBSON, Tower Lodge, Station-rd., Willesden Green.

WANTED, to Join, for Triple Bar, Knockabout, Pantomime, or any other Comedy Acrobatic Act. Box 1,257, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Engagements, Balloon Ascents, Parachute Descents, Captive Balloons, Airship Flights. SPENCER BROS., LTD., Aeronauts to Crystal Palace, 45a, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, N.

WANTED, Secretaries of Fêtes and Galas to ensure record gates by engaging Captain Bidmead for BalloonAscents or Parachute Descents, per. Add., 94, Balaam-street, Plaistow, Essex. Walter Mizen, Alma Beaumont, Edgar Wilson please write.

WANTED, Known, K. Bernardo begs to thank Mrs. Davies, Circus, Mr. Duffy, Circus, Mr. Wirth, Circus, Australia, for offers for tenting season, but have settled for the eleventh season with J Lloyd.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

ABERDEEN and DUNDEE. PALACE VARIETY THEATRES. Booked in Conjunction with Plymouth, Bristol, and Sunderland. WANTED, Artistes Engaged to forward Bill Matter Two Clear Weeks in advance. Always Vacancies for Star Turns. ERNEST SHELDON, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Variety Artistes, all Lines, Star Comedians, Star Serios, Acrobats, Triple Bar Acts, Aerial Acts, Japanese Acts, for Manchester, Salford, Eccles, Dewsbury, Rochdale, Oldham, Bury, Morecambe, Yarmouth, Brighton, Clough Hall, Harecastle, Ireland, Scotland, Wales. Lowest Terms Bookings, Lithos, &c. EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. Telegraphic Address, "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Variety Artistes, all Lines, for Scotland and the North. Lowest Terms, KIRALFY'S Agency, 16, Frankfort-street, Crossmyloof, Glasgow.

SCARBOROUGH. WANTED, First-Class Variety Artistes, all Kinds (Serios excepted), for Summer Season, commencing June 12. Terms, lithos (if any), and full particulars, with permanent address, where possible, to MORGAN, Aquarium.

WANTED, Variety Artistes, all Lines, to Open March 13, for Four Weeks; also Bioscope, with Plenty New and Good Films. State lowest terms. HARRY FIRTH, K. T., Walthamstow.

WANTED, Every Kind of Variety Artistes, Novelties Cinématograph, Latest Pictures. No Fancy Prices. Theatre Small. Open Saturday, March 4, and following week, Empire, Kilburn, London. BRIEN MCCULLOUGH, 12, Elm-grove, Hammersmith, London.

WANTED, Variety Artists to work Smalls, in conjunction with First-Class Bioscope. Terms, Shares. MCKENZIE, 60, Molyneux-street, Wolverhampton.

THE COLISEUM, SHEERNESS. Sole Proprietor, J. C. DORLING. General Manager, CHAS. MELVIN. WANTED, Immediate and Future Dates, Variety Artistes of all Descriptions, Large and Small, Call Monday:—O'Connor and Brady, the Castles, Florrie Farren, Stebb and Trepp, Learto, Bioscope, Mansel Fane, Gertie Gitana, &c. Rehearsal, 1 o'clock.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE. WANTED, Artistes, in all Lines, Rehearsal Monday Next, 2 o'clock, for Grais' Baboons, Les Prinellias, Sisters Le Graham, James Brady, Will McIvor, Mexican Mac, Mrs. Holden, Vernon's Bioscope. Letters, S. L. LEE.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, GREENOCK. Lessee and Manager, H. L. SKIVINGTON. WANTED, Comedy Star Artistes, for Immediate Dates. Nothing too Big.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Immediate and Future Dates. Lessee and Manager, WM. MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artistes, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, March 13, 27, April 10; good Living Freak or Novelty wanted, March 20, must be good, to follow Lucy Moore, four weeks' engagement. Lowest terms. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin.

WANTED, Star Artistes, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, Late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c. Travelling. Letters, 1, Fairbourne-road, Levenshulme, Manchester.

WANTED, High-Class Artistes, Summer Season, Tynemouth. Address, MANAGER, 21, Porchester-gardens, Bayswater.

WANTED, Artistes, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, March 6 and 13. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote Lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, for Galas and Fêtes. Send lowest terms, perm. address, and lithos. DUCAREL, Roseville-terrace, Leeds.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Artistes, in all Lines, from now, on. Apply, Mr. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Singles doing Doubles, Novs.; also Good Drummer. HARDIMAN and JEAPES, Empire, Oldsbury.

WANTED, Artists, for Royal Albert Hall, Yarrow-on-Tyne, for March 13, 20, and 27. W. THOMPSON, 72, High-street, Wallsend.

T. A. EDWARDES'S VARIETY THEATRES.
WANTED, for Derby, Grimsby, Attercliffe, and Stoke, Artistes in All Lines, Star Vocalists, Specialities, and Anything of Drawing Power. To Avoid Possible Friction, No Application for Engagements for Stoke can be Entertained by Artistes Holding Contracts for Hanley until the Conclusion of their Hanley Engagement. Mr. Edwardes is now in a Position to Offer a Six Weeks' Engagement at His Own Four Establishments, and two others, by Arrangement. No Hall Barred Within a Reasonable Time. Artistes are Particularly Desired to Send all Billing Matter (registered) to Derby Direct. All communications to T. A. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, March 6, 13. Address, HUGH DEMPSEY, Corn Exchange, Boston, Lincs.

WANTED, First-class Artistes, Performances and Aerial Shows; also Ballet Troupes, June 12, July 3, 10, Aug. 7, 1905. Apply, Sample Lithos, Posters, &c., to W. and J. WILDER, 29, Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Artistes, in all Lines, Nothing too Big, for England; also Continent. Send Full List of Bookings, Lowest Terms, &c., to BARNARD and DETRICH, Continental Hustlers, 7, Clayton-square, Liverpool.

WANTED, every Music Hall Artiste in the United Kingdom to put their names on the Books of Harry Burns's Agency.

London, Manchester, and Hartlepool.

WANTED, Artistes of all Descriptions. Write, with full particulars. Stars wanted immediately; price no object. JOHNSON, Variety and Speciality Agent, 86, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Nothing too Big. Geo. Saphrini, Variety Agent, 5, King-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artistes for Waxwork and Variety Business. Lowest Terms. PICKARD, 101, Trongate, Glasgow.

The Money Spider, Tom Toy, the Agent, just returned from Tour of the World.
WANTED, only First-Class Artistes, known to me and new to Scotland. Address, Empire, Greenock. Permanent office, 108, Eglinton-street, Glasgow. Telephone number and telegraph address shortly.

GEO. ZALVA'S AGENCY,

Residential Offices, The Hippodrome, Scarboro'.

Telephone, No. 288. Telegraphic Address, "Zalva, Scarborough."

WANTED, the Best of Specialities, and Variety Artistes, of all Kinds, to Communicate Immediately, with Full List of Bookings, Lowest Terms, &c.

Comedy Acts out Easter, Write.
Big Acts out Whit Week, Write.
A Really Big Japanese Troupe Wanted, for Whit Week, Scarborough.

Apply, with Fullest Particulars, GEO. ZALVA, 19, Chapelfield-road, Norwich, till April 3.

Keep me Posted with Your Address.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, and Specialities, Feb. 27, and March 6, onwards. State Lowest Terms, Bookings, &c. I can Place You. Jess Verno's Agency, 61, West Derby-st., Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment," Telephone 2,076 Royal.

Representative, JESSE BURTON, Esq.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to Brooks, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

EMPRESS T. OF VARIETIES, HARTLEPOOL.
Sole Proprietors, Councillors EVERTON and CRAGG.
General Manager, HARRY BURNS.
TIVOLI T. OF VARIETIES, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Sole Proprietors, Councillors HALL and SWEENEY.
General Manager, HARRY BURNS.
WANTED, Known, these places booked in connection with all North Tour. All communications to be addressed to Harry Burns's Agency, Empress, Hartlepool. Telephone, 0331; telegrams, "Burns, Empress, Hartlepool."

CIRCUS, STOCKPORT.
WANTED, through disappointment, Variety Turns for Monday, also Mar. 6. Say if new to Stockport. Communications, DAVENPORT, Circus, Stockport.

WANTED, Good, Refined Music Hall Turn, be Introduced in American Drama, Weeks, March 6, April 10, 17, London Dates, No Sketches. State full Particulars, Terms, where Performing. No Wires. MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmunds-terrace, London.

WANTED, Good Turns for Outdoor Shows, Thursday, July 13, and other dates. GAMBLING, Agent, 97, Mawson-rd, Cambridge.

WANTED, Star Turns for March 20, and onwards. Terms and particulars to Brooks, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Star Turns, in all Lines, for Feb. 27, and on. Fred Durham's Agency, Telephone, 15 Brixton. 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London S.W.

THE GLASGOW SYNDICATE HA[illegible]
TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S VARIETY THEATRES, GLASGOW.
One Performance Nightly at Both Houses.
WANTED, First-class Funny Acts of all Kinds, Good Singing Turns, Sensational Novelties, and Brilliant Stars for Tops. Future Bookings can be made for One Week Only at a time, and none but those Turns capable of Working both Theatres the same night can be entertained.
Bill Matter Two Weeks in advance is imperative.
S. KING ALEXANDER, General Manager,
Head Office, Tivoli Palace Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Big and Small Acts, Sensational Attractions for Fêtes. Full particulars, G. PRINCE, 97, Wheeler-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Big Star Acts, Comedians, &c., &c., immediate dates, on; can keep you working. Artistes must send full list of bookings complete, and absolute lowest first instance, or no notice taken of applications.

NOTE.—Kindly accept silence as a polite negative. Harry Burns's Agency, London, Manchester, and Hartlepool. Telegrams, "Burns, Empress, Hartlepool." Tokio's Japanese Troupe, Zarmo, juggler, wire addresses immediately.

WANTED, High-Class Acts of all Kinds, March 6 onwards. Big Tops write. Those on my books keep me posted. Send list of bookings and vacancies to Mr. FRED NEIMAN, 74, The Grove, Camberwell, London, S.E.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

PALACE THEATRE, CORK.
Manager, HENRY KEMBLE.

WANTED, March 6, 13, 20, and onward, Big Specialities, Duettists, Musical Acts, Star Comedians, &c.

Hardeen Broke all Records Last Week, Hundreds Turned Away Nightly.

Call Monday, Feb. 27, Achmed Ibrahim Arab Troupe, Charles Paver, Gracie Logan, Alhambra Quartette of Lady Dancers, Moxon Family, Dellor and Oxford, Le Warren, Four Maisanos. Rehearsal, 2 o'clock.

WANTED, Good Specialities for Kirn Gardens; also First-Class Novelties for outside attractions, June 25, onwards. Terms to COURTNEY, agent, Broughton-place, Edinburgh. Reliable acts for Galas, send lithos, &c.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, The Bijou Empire, Theatre of Varieties, Hull.
Lessee, T. N. TURNER.
Manager, FRED THORNE.
Re-opens March, 13, 1905.
Immediate Vacancies,
State when and where last in Hull.
All communications to Mr. FRED THORNE.

SHANKLIN.
To Musical Artistes.
WANTED, Applications from High-class Professional Concert Parties for the Sole Right to give Al-fresco Entertainments on the Beach at Shanklin during the forthcoming Season, 1905, say from June to 1st October.

Letters, which should be addressed to the Clerk to the Urban District Council, should state Amount of Royalty offered for the Facilities given, and should also be accompanied by a Photograph of the Artistes, and a Specimen Programme (if any), must reach the Council Chambers, Shanklin, I.W., on or before March 31 next.

PALACE THEATRE VARIETIES, ABERDARE.
WANTED, March 6, onwards, Good Tops and Bottoms of Bill, Something Striking, Comedians, Serios, Knockabouts, Specialities, &c. WILL GREGORY, General Manager.

WANTED, immediate and later dates, anybody and everybody to Draw, must be big and Refined, for the Biggest London and Provincial Syndicates. Geo. Aytoun, the 18 years established Agent, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, London, S.E. Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone 1949 Hop. Our Tom Rice again on Tour.

WANTED, Bar Novelties, all Descriptions, Giants, Dwarfs; also Variety Artistes. Wire Lowest Terms, J. PENTY, Varieties, Knottingley, Yorkshire.

Kinross Gymnastic Games.
WANTED Outdoor Amusements for the above Games, on July 17, 1905.
Apply, D. FERGUSON, Secretary, Kinross, N.B.

WANTED, Startling Sensational Attractions, for Fêtes, Commencing Easter Monday. Must have Picture Posters. Send Lowest Terms Daily. Railway Fares Paid. Perm. Add., Specimen Picture Poster, to ALFRED MONTGOMERY, the Oldest Established Reliable Fête Provider in the World, 51, Cornwallis-rd., Upper Holloway, London, N.

WANTED, Good Pair of Boxers, and Other Artistes, for Salisbury, May 15 (Four Nights). F. BOULTON, P.O.W. T., Southampton.

WANTED, Tenor, Quartette, for Halls. Apply to-day, 12 to 6, JORDAN, 15, Vespan-rd, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, for Corn Exchange, Bedford, Easter Monday only, Minstrel Troupe or other First-Class Entertainment, on Sharing terms. Enormous business certain. E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, March6, onwards, for South, West, and Wales, Serios, Sisters, and All Lines. Gannon, Agent, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Good Dashing Serio and Dancer, must be Prepossessing, and have Good Songs and Wardrobe; also Pair of Sisters. Send Photos. Full Particulars, and Lowest Terms (No Best Offers), Combination Tour, all Fares Paid after Joining, to Dr. ABBOTT, Town Hall, Mirfield, Yorks.

First-Class Pierrot Artistes.
WANTED, Comedians, Baritones, Soubrettes, must be very refined, young, and good appearance. Apply by letter, with full particulars, photos, and lowest terms, to LEONARD THIEL, 13, Anhalt-rd, Albert Bridge, S.W.

WANTED, Good Funny Comedian and Dancer, with Own Songs. Amateurs Save Stamps. Send Photos, Lowest Combination Terms (No Best Offers). All Fares Paid after Joining. Full Particulars to Dr. ABBOTT, Town Hall, Mirfield, Yorks.

WANTED, all-round Comedians, gentlemanly, good voice, and Speciality Al Fresco Entertainments. Photo, age, height, first letter, BILLY MOORE, Palace, Bridlington.

WANTED, Good Comedy Knockabout Comedian at once.
To Join Well-known Troupe.
No Amateurs Need Apply.

Address Box 1254, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, six Young Ladies, height 5ft. 2in., weight about 112lb., to assist on stage. CARL MYSTO, Palace, Derby; or 2, Clarence-square, Halifax.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, having Machine and Films for Two Hours' Good Show. Lowest Terms, Four Weeks. SAXTON, 117, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, Contralto, Good-Class Light Comedy Coon, and Concerted repertoire. Sketches. Would join Concert Party. Box 1,222, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Cara, Magda, the Greatest Single Lady Gymnast in England. First Appearance in London. Wanted, Agents, See what they are Engaging. Feb. 27, Sadler's Wells.

WANTED, by Florrie Vongar, Serio and Descriptive Vocalist, Six Nights, Mon. Next. Wire, Oxford, Middlesbro'; or, to save time, 48, Martin-road.

WANTED, by Sheila McNeil, Comedienne, Monday next. Wire, till Sat., Tivoli, N. Shields; then, 148, Fountains-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, March 13, and on, by Miss Madge Osmond, Dainty Young Male Impersonator, Big Success Principal Girl Harry Firth's "Cinderella" Panto., Amphitheatre, Ramsgate; Next, K. T., Walthamstow.

WANTED, by May Duncan, the Dainty Soubriette, Summer Engagement with First-class Pierrot Show. Offers, Florence-place, Gourock, N.B.

WANTED, Florrie Claribel, Tyrolean Songstress and Smart Dancer, Big Success this week, Hippodrome, Wigan. Vacant Monday. Wire.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Three Sisters Adrienne, at Liberty Monday, also 6th. Wire, Empire, Dudley. Always a Success.

WANTED, Picitt, the Muscular Master of Manacles, Handcuff Marvel without Fake, Fetters, or Trick Boxes, Depending Entirely upon the Scientific Use of My Strength. An Athlete in Athletic Dress, convincing the most Sceptical that I Cannot Conceal Anything for the purpose of Escaping from the Chains, Fetters, or Boxes used to secure me. Searched from head to feet any moment during my act. Conjurers' Methods Impossible. The Only Act in this line that has not been Copied or Exposed. Managers requiring a Big Top of the Bill Sensation, send for Lithos. and Printing. Vacant, April 10. Few Dates, May, June, and December. Booked Solid, 1905 (nearly all Returns).
Now Making Tour of Scotland.
I commenced in November, at Palace, Dundee, and will conclude April 1.
April 3, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

All coms. to Drill Hall, Stromness, Orkney, N.B.

WANTED, Feb. 27, through Disappointment, also March 6, on, with Exceptions, by Kardoc, Champion Handcuff King and Prison Breaker. Unsolicited Testimonial, Hippodrome, New Brompton, Feb. 17, 1905: "Dear Kardoc, Herewith a little cheque as a present on top of your salary, in slight acknowledgment of the conscientious way you have helped to work up the record week we have had here. Shall be only too pleased to do business with you at future date. Best wishes, faithfully yours, W. J. Mackay." Thanks to Mr. Mackay for above Testimonial and Handsome Present; also for Most Comfortable Engagement. Wire or Write, 320, High-road, Chiswick.

WANTED, Monday next, and on, by Bernardo, Comedy Juggler. Address, Empire Theatre, Cradley.

WANTED, Monday next, Dan Kirton, Versatile Comedian, Premier Dancer of the World. Wire, Paragon, London.

WANTED, by Bob Rixby, Character Comic (one of the best), Monday. Wire, 7, Frederick-crescent, Vassal-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Monday Next, by Harry Leaton, Comedian and Vocalist. Big Voice, Good Songs. Castle T., Tirphie; New, Tredegar.

WANTED, by H. Morris, Mimic and Comedian, Mar. 6. Going Strong. Mon., Hippo., Ipswich.

WANTED, by Vosper (the Master Facial Mimic), Mar. 6, 13, and 20, Act entirely Up-to-Date. P., Lancaster.

WANTED, Known, Rem. Lang, Original Comedy Conjuring Act. Liberty Monday. 106, Palmerston-street, Beswick, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, Feb. 27, Sardous, Illusionists, Marvellous Mystifiers, always Big Hit; also Marie Riviers, Balladist. Corn Exchange, Boston.

WANTED, Known, Stewart Braide, well-known Comedian, at Liberty for coming season; High-Class Al Fresco, &c. Splendid répertoire of songs. Public Hall, Arbroath, N.B.

WANTED, Neddy Vokes, the World-Known Comedy Musical Comedian, Liberty. Wire, 16, Moreton-st., Strangeways, Manchester. Wire.

WANTED, Monday, also March 6, Cambo, the Musical Monkey, Great Novelty. Two Acts if required. Wire, any distance, 59, Urquhart-road, Aberdeen. Wire.

WANTED, March 6, onward, by Charles Coore, White Coon Vocalist. Next week, Regent, Salford.

WANTED, by Fred Casburn, Quaint Comedian, Next Week, also March 6. Wire, Empire, York; after Sat., Hertford-street, Hunslet, Leeds.

WANTED, Monday next, Robb Gilmore, the Talented Grotesque Comedian. The Man with the Laugh. Wire, Empire, Paisley.

WANTED, by Harry Plant, Novel, Comic, Vocal and Musical Act, also Comedian, at Lib. Monday next for Halls or Tour. Wire or Write Offers to Witton Park, Co. Durham.

WANTED, March 6, 13, and 20, for the new and novel act, "The Man in Red," elaborate show, magnificent dresses. Starring Feb. 27, Tivoli, Glasgow. A sensational and bewildering show.—Glasgow Press. 70, Renfew-st, Glasgow.

WANTED, Feb. 27, March 6, 13, for The Pattinsons (Belle and Andrew), Celebrated Musical and Vocal Entertainers, English, Scotch, and Gaelic Songs, Evening Dress, and Full Highland Costume, Double Xylophone Playing, and the Greatest Novelty Piano Playing Greatest Novelty Piano Playing in the World (Patent Protected, Reg. No. 21,579). Appeared before Royalty with Huge Success. Huge Success at Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow, this week. Managers and Agents invited to see this Great Act. Academy of Music, 24, Paterson-st, S.S., Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, that Frank Carlton (Winner of the 50 Guineas Championship Challenge Belt, London, 1900 and 1901, and MISS FLO ATKINS, the World's Champion Lady Concertinist, will be known from March 6 and Onwards as CARLTON and ATKINS. The favour of an early reply will oblige. CARLTON AND ATKINS, 40, Chadwick-street, West Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, through Hall Closing, Feb. 27, by Dr. Demane, with Magic Kettle; also Margaret Chappelle, Smart Character Comedienne. Wire for Monday, DEMANE, Grand, Doncaster.

WANTED, Monday, by Kid Johnson and Maisie Pelham, American Comedy Speciality Act, through mistake in commencing Tour. Wire, Hippodrome, Salford.

WANTED, Monday, by Kid Johnson and Maisie Pelham, American Comedy Speciality; also Anece Edwards, Comedienne. Wire, 41, St. Mary's-square, Kennington.

WANTED, Monday, by Dave Wallace, Star Comedian; Marie Tilley, Comedienne, Expert Dancer. Wire, Coliseum, Sheerness.

WANTED, Known, The Weimars, Big Success, Empire, Burnley, Vacant Feb. 27, March 6. Wire, Empire, Burnley.

WANTED, Monday next, by Marcus Boyle, Comedian; also Ada Whitton, Burlesque Actress. Wire, Empire, Dudley.

WANTED, Known, Liberty March 6 and 13, Camerons (Jim and Marie), Comedy Duologue; single and double. Hippo, New Brompton.

WANTED, 26th, also 6th, by Unita and Paul, Sensational Comedy Gymnasts. 12, Canterbury-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Roma and Romani, Premier Continental Musical Speciality Artistes, First Vacant Date, June 5. 32, Gratton-rd, W. Kensington, London.

WANTED, Known, Dale and D'Argan, Acrobatic Conjurors, have a Few Summer Dates Vacant. Feb. 27, Garrick Theatre, Hereford.

WANTED, by Tell and Tell, Equilibristic Comedians, March 13 and 20. Wire, Paddington Palace, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Reed and Lerne, Vacant Monday, March 6, through Disappointment Britannia M. H., Glasgow. Wire, Hippo., Bury.

WANTED, Monday next, by Demi and Semi, Musical Act, Singing, Patter, and Dancing. Wire, Palace, Southampton.

WANTED, Monday, Feb. 27, by the Tokio Trio, Brilliant Musical Act, Success Guaranteed. Wire, Hippo., Macclesfield.

WANTED, by the St. Johns, Comedy, Musicians and Dancers, Feb. 27, March 6. Wires, O., Middlesbro'; letters, 49, Oxford-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, the Barger Trio (Beta, Norman, and Tom, jun.), in their Sketch, "Quilts, or Easily Deceived." Lib. Mar. 6, on, with Exceptions. Re-engaged, Pavilion, Llandudno, June 5 till Sept. 23. Address, Ventonfield, Victoria-road, Tue Brook, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Four Arizonas, Acrobatic Tumblers, &c.; also Will Percival, Comedian, Dancer, Monday, Palace, Northampton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday, through Closing Tour, Halls, Tippling Toffs and Terriers, Big Success This Week, Hippo, Wakefield. Wire for Mon.

WANTED, Monday, also March 6, 13, 20, by the Delamere Trio, Comedy Equilibrists. 37, Alfred-street, Preston.

WANTED, Known, Three Martinettes, Liberty, Feb. 27 onwards, finishing season Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh. Wire after Monday, 27, Sydney-sreet, Manchester.

WANTED, by R. J. Golding, Ventriloquial Jokist and Romano Conjuror, March 6, onward. 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Monday by Gillin, Ventriloquist. Finish To-night, Royal, Warrington. Wire, Monday, VENTRILOQUIST, Rotherham. "Me Hat's Off."

WANTED, April 3 and 10, onwards, for the Funniest of all Sketches, "Fun on the Bristol," Thirty to Forty Minutes' Laughter; Special Scene carried. Thanks D. Barnard, Esq., for Contracts for T. R. and Westminster M. H., Liverpool. Ad., MAURICE LOVE, Town Hall, Dalkeith, N.B.

WANTED, Feb. 27, onwards, The Lawleys' Original Act, "A Motor Honeymoon." Address, 3, Park-crescent-mews E., Portland-place.

WANTED, by Percival Wright's Vaudeville Co., Piers, Halls, &c., July onwards. Eight Star Turns, including Pictures. Shares or Rental. Box 1,192, care of "The Era."

A Novelty at Last.
WANTED, every Manager and Agent in quest of a Novel, Mystic, and Dramatic Scena, to witness production March 16, Palace, Blackpool, of J. Cowper Worden's undoubted novelty. Everything Carried. Mystic Effects, Elaborate Scenery, And Five Efficient Artistes for the Halls. Wanted, March 20, onwards, for this great novelty. All communications to J. C. WORDEN, Lynnhurst-South Shore, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement with Hypnotist, by Itheria, the Mystery; a novel and unique act. BIXBY, 15, Ebner-street, Wandsworth, London.

WANTED, by Devereux's Great Dog Show, Monday next, through Hall not being Ready. Wire, Grand T., Islington, London, N.

WANTED, by Albert Morrow's, "Devil of a Kettle" and other Bewildering Mysteries, March 13 and 20, a Star Act, with Great Drawing Powers. Put me on the Bill, and I will Pack the Hall. Sensational Local Advts. This Act is Fully Protected. Pirates Beware. This Week, T.R., Inverness; Next, N. Theatre, Arbroath, N.B.

WANTED, Bookings, for Payne's Bio-photoscopes, One Show, at Liberty March 6, with the Latest Pictures. Empire, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Engagements for Up-to-Date Pictures. Reduced Prices. THE WALTURDAW COMPANY, LIMITED, 3, Dean-street, Holborn, London.

WANTED, Bosanquet, and His Wonderful Bosanquephone, Vacant Feb. 27, through Misunderstanding. Sure Attraction; Beautiful Lithos. Wire, 15, Albert-square, Clapham, London.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Handsellers to know Simons is the Man for Cheap Second-hand Watches and Jewellery. Send £5 for Special Parcel.

117, Houndsditch, London.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Others to Know Simons' is the Cheapest Place for Clocks, Bronzes, Field Glasses, and Cheap Jewellery. Best-class French Paste Stocked for the Profession. 117, Houndsditch.

Fire. Fire. Fire.
WANTED, Known.—Have you Insured with Mr. Pope, the Showman's Fire Insurance Man? If not, hurry up, before you have a Fire. Send Post-card To-day to F. F. POPE, Abingdon-on-Thames, who will call on you anywhere.

WANTED, Shooting Gallery proprietors to send us guns to be cleaned, oiled, and repaired for the coming season. Ammunition, rifles, card targets, glass bottles, and globes at lowest prices, with prompt delivery.
BUCK AND PATERSON (LTD.),
66, Union-street,
Borough, London, S.E.

WANTED, Showmen and others to note, a Sensational Advertising Device, the Sign that Speaks, wonderfully attractive and novel. Full particulars from THE ADVERTISING PHONOSCOPE CO., 48, Cranbourn-street, and 1, Bear-street, London, W.C.

Tom Taylor and Sons, Launch and Boat Builders, Staines, Middlesex.
WANTED, Known, Contracts Taken for Running and Supplying Launches (Steam, Electric, and Oil Motor); also Boats of Every Description on Lakes or Artificial Water. Lakes and Artificial Water Rented for Working Electric Launches and Boats of all descriptions at Cheap Fares. Builders and Workers of Electric Launches at Earl's Court, Crystal Palace, Glasgow Exhibition, and Cork Exhibition.

WANTED, Showmen to Know, that Leete's Colours and Varnishes are the Best. Vermilionettes, Permanent Reds, Carmines, Carriage and Copal Varnishes, Gold Leaf, Brushes, &c., and every Requisite for Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Carriage Paid on all Orders £2. Write for price list, or call, Leete's Colour Works, 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Electrical Specialities. SIMPKIN, WILKINSON, and GIBSON, 66, Kirkstall-road, Leeds, Manufacture Dynamos, Arc Lamps, Switchboards, &c., Specially for Showmen. Also Stock Cable, Globes, Carbons, Incandescents, and Every Requisite.

WANTED, Showmen to Know, Greeves and Co. still Selling Silvermine Butterscotch, with Fortunes, 3s. gross. 104, Belgrave-gate, Leicester.

WANTED, Known, Showmen's Painting, Switchback, Galloping Horses, Showcloths, Scenery. Good, cheap. DAVIS TURNER, Showmen's Artist, 4, Devon-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Showmen, &c., to Know, Wonderful Bargains in Automatic Machines. Lung Testers, cost £5, price 30s.; Electric Shock, cost 80s., price 30s.; Two-Div. Future H. and W. Machines, 25s.; Three-Div., 40s.; Six-Div. Machines, such as Eye, Astrologer, &c., 60s. and 80s.; Picture Postcard Machines, cost £5, price 30s.
MASON, 17, Settles-street, London, E.C.

WANTED, Showmen, Fair-Keepers, &c., to See our Latest Novelty for Pipe-breaker Stalls, &c., Bombardment of Port Arthur, Sure Money taker; also our New List of Everything for the Fair. Estab. 50 Years. STACEY AND CO., Settles-street, London, E.

WANTED, Novelties, to Follow Lion Faced Lady. Shares. Best Position in Portsmouth. Write or wire for Monday next. L. FRANKLIN, 4, Commercial-place, Landport, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Quick-Showing Novelties, to Open Feb. 27. Shares.
LEN. WHITE, Exhibition, 85, Bank-st., Rawtenstall.

WANTED, Monday next, First-class Novelties for Magnificent Premises, Exhibition Rooms, Oxford-street, Reading, Twopence Admission; also Stall Spaces to Let, 100ft. Plate Glass Frontage. SAXO AND CONNIE, Mathias Troupe. Wire.

WANTED, Quick Showing Novelties for Novelty Exhibition (Admission Free), from Feb. 27, onwards. Shares or Salary, Space to Let for Sticky Backs, Peep Show, &c. Wire or Write, DICK HUGHES, 33, Queen's-street, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Novelties, or anything suitable for Shop Business, with Paintings, Good Shows can have Six Weeks certain; Good Doorman, must be Abstainer. Write in, MANAGER, 370, High-street, Stratford, London.

WANTED, at once, experienced Hand seller and Planksman, must be well up in the business and quick runner, also willing to make himself generally useful.
Apply, Mr. T. HARRISON, Auction Mart, Putney Bridge, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, at once, good Watchmaker, must be steady.
SMITH, Auctioneer, Padiham.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Experienced Doorsman, for Cinématograph, Willing, and Useful all Round. Bell Write.
ALBERT FORSTER, Bury St. Edmunds.

WANTED, Doorsman, also a Describer, for Cinématograph. Good at Show Business, and Single. State Terms, with Board and Lodgings CRIGHTON, Fair Ground, King's Lynn, Norfolk; Downham Market, Norfolk, to follow.

WANTED, by Descriptive Vocalist and Comedian, Situation on Auction Mart, as Handseller, Planksman. H. O'BRIEN, Parsonage House, Church, near Accrington.

WANTED, for Johnson's Auction Mart, a Good Comedian. Fox, Vento. Write, H. JOHNSON, Auctioneer and Jeweller, Parkgate, nr. Rotherham.

WANTED, Auctioneer, and also Handseller, to Sell Watches and Jewel Goods.

Apply C. CHAPLAIN, 95, High-street, Birmingham, and 48, St. Mary-street, Cardiff, South Wales.

WANTED, Known, Carl Harmon's Royal Punch & Judy & Marionettes, also Bioscope, open for Engagements. 101A, Penwith-rd., Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Carl Whyte, with Lady in Trance. Conjuring and Knife-Throwing, Lib. Monday. 14, Medway-st., Chatham.

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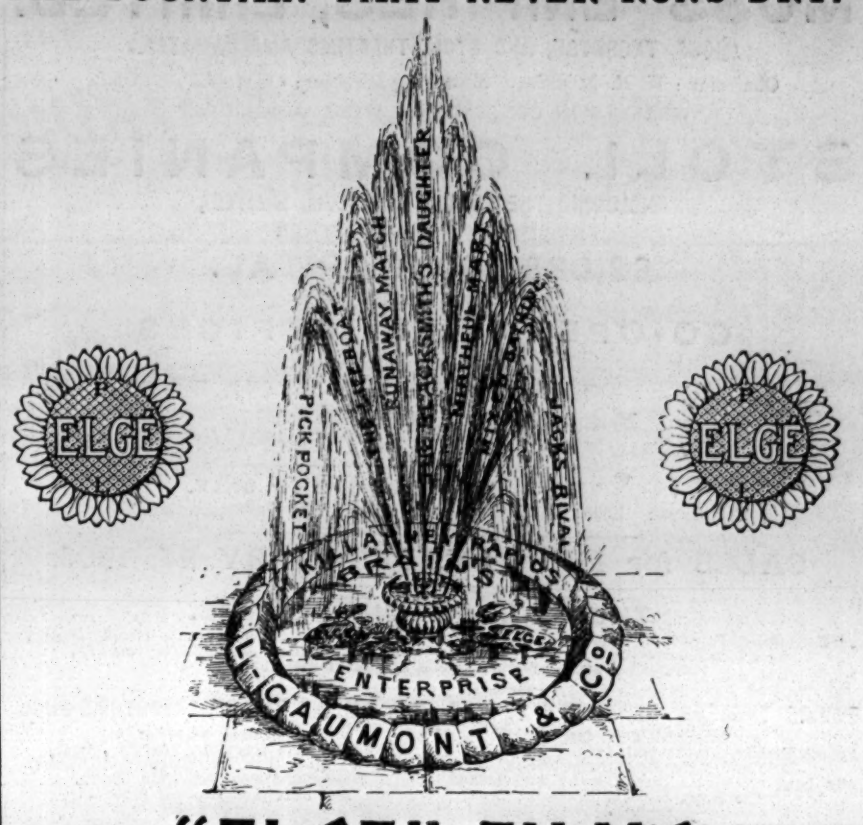

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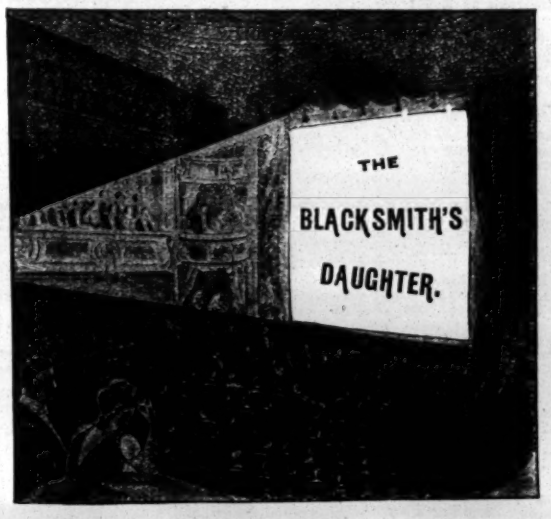

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Rehearsal, at 2.30, for
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Rehearsal, at 2, for
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Rehearsal, at 2, for
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Rehearsal, at 1, for
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EMPIRE THEATRE, CARDIFF.

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Rehearsal, at 3, for
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Rehearsal, at 1, for
Marie Kendall, Victor Travers, The Bostons, My Fancy, Three Donals, Walter Stanley, Sisters Neilson, Arthur Melrose, Proveanie Troupe.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
Annie Abbott, T. C. Callaghan, Fitzroys, Florrie St. Clair, De Vere and Kenwick, Bros. Hampson, Bioscope, "V.C." Sketch.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.

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Rehearsal, at 2, for
Harriett Vernon, Denton's Comedy Sketch, Gracie Taylor, Victoria Dagmar, Chas. Bignell, Pictures, Arthur Lloyd Trio, Les Papillons.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Fifteen for the Coliseum. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials must be sent to the CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE Weeks before opening, or at least TWO Weeks, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements Cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the Stage Department, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS PREVIOUS TO OPENING, with Assignments for same, which will be returned.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.
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FOR

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Martin Henderson.
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Lady Mansell.
Pat Rafferty.

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G. Linton.
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Clara Victor.
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Lukushima Troupe.

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All Artistes engaged must attend Rehearsal or their Contracts will be Cancelled

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Rehearsal 12.0 o'clock noon.

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W. J. Churchill.
The Langdons.
Musical Palmers.
Will Driscoll.
F. G. Brooke and Co.
Fred Southern and Co.
Florence Gwynne.
Dan Conroy.
Raymond's Pictures.
Bernard and Weston.

SADLERS WELLS, E.C.

Rehearsal 12.0 o'clock noon.

Steve McCarthy.
Maude Clifton.
Gilroy and Gross.
Leo West.
Cara Magda.
Geo. M. Marriott and Co
Bessie Spear.
Hal Forde.
Sisters Sprightley.
Brooks, Dale, and Blitz.

FORESTER'S, E.

Rehearsal 12.0 o'clock noon.

Harry Bancroft.
Flo Viller.
B. H. Almon.
J. W. Ellison.
Charles Bowker.
Dinah Morris and Coons.
Doody and Wright.
Gertie Delmore.
Alber and Amber.
Inez Clough.
Leonard Mortimer and Co.

THE PALACE, BOW, E.

Rehearsal at 12.0 o'clock noon.

Lily Leoville.
Flo Burris.
Phil Bransby.
Fredk. Maxwell and Co.
Johnny Dwyer.
Four Jumells.
Harry Walker.
Ada Victor.
Raymond's Pictures.
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Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.30 o'clock.
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Manager, ALBERT GILMER.

THE TIVOLI,

STRAND, W.C.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.0 o'clock.
Arthur Roberts and Co., Lady Haldon and Co., Fred Karno's Troupe in "Mumming Birds," Harry Ford, Ovide and Ludine, George Drawee, The Bohemian Twins, Ray Wallace, Wilson Hallett, Ben Albert, George D'Albert, Dorothy Kenton, The Two Kings, Amy Clevere, The Harry Alaskas, May Moore Duprez.
Joint Acting-Managers { JAMES HOWELL. ARTHUR YATES.

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WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE-ROAD, S.E.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 11.0 o'clock.
"Dreamland," supported by the Dareen Girls and a talented Troupe of artistes; Tom Burrows, Ray Wallace, May Moore Duprez, New York Quartette, Russell and Roper, Louie Freear, Michael Nolan, Imperial Bioscope, George Davis and Co., Harry Leybourne, Dot Hardy, Ben Albert, Harry Pleon, Rosa and Josepha Blazek, the Bohemian Musical Twin-Formed Sisters.
Manager, FRED MILLER.

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MILE-END-ROAD, E.
Artistes are particularly requested to attend Band Rehearsals, Monday, 3.0 o'clock.
"The Road to Ruin." Ginnett's Rejected Remounts, Maud Esmond, Walter Munroe, Vesta Victoria, Athas and Collins, Dorothy Kenton (the girl with the banjo), Geo. Mozart, Bonnie Goodwin's Pics, Phil Ray, F. Clements, Gus. Garrick, Alexandra Edwin, Roy and Fenton, the Avrignys, Harry Weldon.
Manager, CHARLES BEECHAM.

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Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.0 o'clock.
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Manager, FRANK WEEKS.

EUSTON,

EUSTON-ROAD, N.W.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.0 o'clock.
Joe Elvin and Co., Harry Ford, Karno Trio, Arthur Reece, Tambo and Tambo, Will English, Alice Yorke and Co., G. H. Elliott, Forest and King, Amy Sullivan.
Manager, FRED M'AVOY.

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Manager, NELSON FRANCIS.

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CLAPHAM.
Two Houses Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday at 2.0 o'clock.
Pink and Vendome, Wright and Elton, Two Graces, Lieut. Albini, George Newburn, Zaro and Arne, Ruffell's Bioscope, Newham and Latimar, McCann's Dogs, Russian Fat Girl, Gus Elen.
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(commencing punctually at 2.30 p.m.).

CHARLES F. REDFERN

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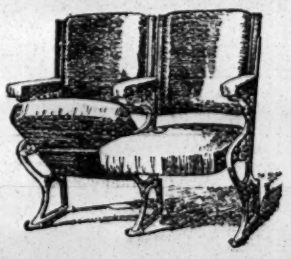

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.

"The Era" Almanack and Annual for 1905, conducted by Mr. Edward Ledger, is the vade mecum of the dramatic and music-hall profession, containing as it does all an artiste desires to know in connection with the stage. A feature of the publication are the stories of adventure told by well-known artistes like Sir Henry Irving, George Alexander, Harry Pleon, John Le Hay, Constance Moxon, Walter Passmore, Fanny Wentworth, and John Lawson. Mr. Henry Arthur Jones discourses wisely on the "Foundations of a National Drama." The Annual is one that will interest and amuse not only the "professional," but the general public.—

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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT FOR ACTOR AND COMPOSER,
BY ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B.

Publishd at "The Era" Offices,
49, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.

Mr. A. A. Strong has published a book on "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," which should be in the hands of everyone who is obliged to know about this perplexing subject. Dramatic copyright in England is in a particularly unsatisfactory state, and it is much to be hoped that ere long some more rational method of securing protection for a play may be devised than the slovenly and sometimes costly "production for copyright purposes," which is at present required.—St. James's Gazette, Aug. 2nd, 1901.

MUSIC HALL CARDS.

Alphabetically Arranged—Limited to Three Lines.

ABADAROFFS, Prehistoric Mountebanks. Monday, Hippo., Ipswich. Vacant March 6 and 13. 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

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ABEL and WELSH, England's Greatest Grotesque Eccentrics, Alcazar, Marseilles, France.

AERIAN and OSTARA, World's Greatest Gymnasts. Address, 1, Brook-road, Wood-green, London.

AISTON, ARTHUR, and RUBY DANZELL, ABANAZAR and PEKOE, James Kiddie's "Aladdin." Monday, Opera H., Southport.

ALBERT, SISTERS, Vocal Duettists and Dancers. This, Palace, Glasgow; next, Hippodrome.

ALBERTO, FRED, Eccentric Irish Comedian and Dancer. Great Hit, Victoria, Burnley. Next, Theatre Royal, Aston.

ALBINI'S WONDERS. The Return of "She," Magic Kettle, the Mysterious Lady in Black Acts. Grand, Clapham, 27th.

ALBERY, HARRY, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer, Vacant, March 6 and 13. Address, Monday Next, T. R., Smethwick. Hurrah!

ALETHEA, Contortionist and Gymnast, Mar. 1, Six Weeks, Return Fourth Engt., Nouveau Cirque, Paris.

ALEXANDER'S, JOHN, Burlesque Company, Alhambra, Belfast.

ALLEN, ARABELLA, the Dickens Girl. Next Week, The Empress, Brixton.

ALMO TROUPE, Drill Hall, Hereford.

ALMON and AIDA, Unique and Unrivalled Hand-Balancing Act. This, Palace, Bow; next, Foresters'.

ALVANTEE, King of Slanting Wire, Lib. 27th, Circus, Stockport. Human fly, trapeze. 37, Maskell-street, Ardwick, Manchester.

AMERICAINES, LES BELLES, This Week and Next, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool. Agent, H. Day.

ANDERSONS, AUSTRALIAN TWIN. Perfect wonder workers with the skipping-rope. —Vide Oswald Stoll. Mth. of Feb., Alhambra, Paris.

ANDOS, Japan's Greatest Troupe, Empire, Birmingham.

ANDYS, FIVE, Smartest of Risley and Double Somersault Artistes. Feb. 27, Ohmy's Circus, Bolton.

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ATLAS and Beautiful Miss VULCANA, the Society Athletes. World's Greatest Artists. 27th, City, Leeds. Require 6th, One Week.

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ATTWOOD, HAPPY. Agents, Fioni or Sydney Smith. Monday, Hippodrome. Dewsbury.

AUBREY, ALEC, Renowned Electric Gymnast, Big Success Everywhere. Palace, Cork. March 6, Return, Tivoli, Dublin.

AUSTIN, RUMBO, The Comedy Sensation. Empire, Newport.

AVON and CREST, Edward Avon, cleverest of all Legmania Dancers, vide "Era," Feb. 27, Victoria, Broughton.

AVONDALE QUARTETTE, Still Topping the Bill with C. W. Poole's Myriorama. Great Success. This, Abergavenny; next, Hereford.

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BANDON, SID, Tivoli, Birmingham. "Sez I to myself, sez I," Alf. Ellerton.

BANDONI, the Original Concertina King and One Man Band. Monday, Palace, North Shields.

BARCLAY, GEORGE, and CO., Variety Agents. Telephone 84 Streatham. 221, Brixton-hill, London, S.W.

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BARRETT and KNOWLES, The Popular Panto. Comedians, covered with Medals. Ask the Pros. Alexandra, Brum.

BARTHOLOMEW, SISTERS, Westminster, Liverpool. Feb. 27, Gaiety, Oldham. Perm. Address, 15, East-rd, Kingston.

BARTLETT, MISS ROSIE, Concludes Pantomime, King's Theatre, Nottingham. Next Week, Resting. 10, Effra-road, Brixton.

BASS and GUINNESS, Comedians and Dancers, Vacant Feb. 27 and March 6; also panto. Permanent, 149, Spring-street, Bury, Lancs.

BAWN'S AGENCY, 10, Victoria-parade, Balham-hill, London, S.W. 'Phone, 178. Balham. Tels., "Orderless, London."

BAYMAN, CHARLIE, Negro Comedian, a Pronounced Success at the Empire, Portsmouth. Monday, Granville. Higham.

BEANLAND, CHARLES, Monday next, Return Tivoli, South Shields. Agent, Harry Day.

BEATRICE, SISTERS, Duettists and Dancers. Empire, Oxford. Liberty, Monday. After Sunday, 35, Florence-street, Islington.

BEAUMONT, MISS MAUDE, Principal Boy, Theatre Royal, West Bromwich.

BECKWITH, AGNES, The Original, and her Wonderful Troupe of Lady Swimmers, Dis. Taylor, 72 Clapham-road, S.W.

BEES, THE TWO (HARRY and FLORA BLAKE) New Indian Scena by Alb. Voyce, Esq., Feb. 27. Palace Theatre, Dundee.

BEKKER, HENRI, Comedy Conjurer, This, Palace, Portsmouth; next, Empire, Bristol. A Show by Itself.

BELFORD and MARS, Vocal Comedy Duo, Thank Erno Aguzzi for 4 Weeks. Address, Perm., 178, High-street, Southampton.

BELL and MYERS, Eccentric Comedy Act. Free Monday; also March 6. Wire or write 55, King Cross-street, Halifax.

BELROSE, MR. GEO., Basso, and Miss DE VELIN, Soprano. Speciality Duettists. Palace, West Hartlepool.

BENSON, ALLY, Comedian and Whistler, just concluded 10 weeks successful Pantomime. Add., 81, Brunswick-st, Manchester.

BENT, HARRY, the Novel Mimic; also Carlotta Lunn, in Town. Letters, 14, Paternoster-row, City, London.

BENTLEY'S AGENCY, 169, Stamford-street, S.E. Tel. 12706 Central. Manager, Horace Sheldon.

BERNARD, CRESSWELL, Character Sketches from Dickens. This, Abergavenny; next, Drill Hall, Hereford.

BERNARD, GEO., Send me one of your Photo. Post-cards. I'm Collecting Celebrities, Concerts. 123, Tamworth-road, Newcastle.

BEST, MR. CHARLES F., as M'Bunker, "The Mountebank," Feb. 27. Hippodrome, Coventry.

BISHOP and VALE, Comedians. Conclude Big Success, Grand, Sheffield; Monday, Palace, Bradford.

BLARNEY and KENNARD, Jimmy Green and Johnny Stout, Gar. Kiddie's "Bo-Peep." This and next, Queen's, Longton.

BLISS and BLISS, Comedians, Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.

BOHEMIANS, THE (Will and Madge), Musical and Comedy Artists. This, E., Leicester; next, E., Ardwick, Manchester. G. Foster.

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BORELLI, SIGNOR and MADAME, Empire, Edinburgh. Agents, T. Shaw and Co.

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BOSWELL, A. P., Big Hit, Palace, Belfast. Vacant Monday, through closing. Wire, 14, Joy-street.

BOULTON and BARTENELLI, Emperor Nicey Picey and Principal Speciality. Vac. April 3 and 10. P. O. W., Southampton.

BOWERY BOYS, THE, Comedians, Boxers, &c. Vacant, March 13, on. Success, Panto. Monday, Amphitheatre, Ramsgate.

BOWMAN, J. H., Anglo-American Vocalist, Dancer. Parthenon, Liverpool. Offers invited for Mar. 6, 20, 27.

BOYCE, FRANK, Vocal Comedian. Hippodrome, Grimsby. Monday, Palace, Derby.

BOYLE, MARCUS, My Bonny Boy. Immense hit of "Mary Magee" (parody). Navaho.

BRENTON, SISTERS, Refined Duettiests and Dancers. Usual Suc., Queen's T., Yarmouth. Feb. 27, G. T., Ilkeston.

BREWSTERS, THE, This Week, Alhambra, Belfast. Next, Tivoli, Dublin.

BRITISH QUARTETTE, THE (John Bull, Sandy Pat, and Taffy), Speciality Vocalists, Feb. 20. Palace, Cork.

BRITTON, LITTLE, Eccentric Comedian, Snowball Tillers, Ohio. This, E., New Cross. Next, Empire, Stratford. Dis. Mar. 20.

BROMLEY and FONTEIN, Operatic Humorists, Conclud. York. Feb. 27, E., Rochdale. Vac. Mar. 6.

BROOKLANDS, THE (ETHEL and BELLA), Big Success Second Boy and Girl, "Babes in the Wood." Victoria, Broughton.

BROOKS, ALF, 10th Week of Panto., Success Everywhere as Idle Jack in "Dick Whittington." Next, T. R., Wednesbury.

BROOKS, GEORGE H., Musical, Dramatic and Variety Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

BROOKS BROS., SISTERS BRAND, Tenth Week Pantomime. Tenth Week. Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

BROWN and ROBINSON, Nulli Secundus. Feb. 27, Hippodrome, Wigan.

BRUE and ROSS, Great Australian Comedy Artists, Still Keeping the Audience in Roars of Laughter. Monday, P., Altrincham.

BURG, HAUD, and WISE. "Ye Brown Cow Inn." Monday, Empire, Nottingham.

BURGATILES, THE FOUR, Musical Pantomimists. C. W. Poole's Myriorama, Abergavenny, Mon.

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CAMBO, The Musical Monkey, Big Success Scotch Concerts. Vacant Monday. Wire 59, Urquhart-road, Aberdeen. Wire.

CAMERON, LOUDOUN, the Celebrated Conjurer. Feb. 27, Hippo., St. Helens; March 6, Palace, Cork.

CAMERONS, THE (JIM and MARIE), Comedy Duologue, "Sammy in London." Hippo., New Brompton, Kent.

CANDLISH, WILL, Scotch Musical Nigger and Patterologist. Next, Hippo., Wakefield. Vacant March 6 and 13.

CARL and CARR, Comedians. Usual success with Workhouse. Required, March 13, 20. This, P., Plymouth.

CARLTON, HENRY, Palace, Lancaster.

CARR and ROSE (FRED and ADA), the Stars of Vocal Comedy, in "Their First Quarrel," Palace, Tottenham.

CARY, FRED, Abanazar, Queen's, Liverpool.

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CHARD'S DOG CIRCUS. Hippodrome, Bolton. M. or J. Write, see other address.

CHARNLEY, SISTERS, (Annie and Edie), baton manipulators, duettists, and dancers, Monday, Metropole, Gateshead.

CHESTER and LEE'S MARIONETTES, Saturday, Popular Concerts, Temperance Hall, Derby.

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CHINKO, Concludes Plymouth, Bristol, Sunderland, Manchester. March 1, Cirque Ciniselli, St. Petersburg.

CHIRGWIN, Stoll Tour for Three Weeks. Friends kindly refrain from Copying.

CHIVERS and DE MONTI, Skaters, Knockabouts, and Chair Jumpers, Liberty for Halls. Feb. 27, on. 204, Breck-road, Liverpool.

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CLIFFE, TOM E., Versatile Comedian and Speciality Dancer. Many thanks for Offers; still vacant Panto. Xmas. Agent, Pacey.

CLYO, HARRY, and ROSE ROCHELLE, Enormous Success, O. H., York. Next, Scotch Concerts.

COBORN, CHARLES, Empire, Glasgow.

COLEMAN, ROSIE, and HARRY Conlin. 18, Walcot-gardens, Kennington-road.

COMELY, MABEL, Comedienne, Feb. 27, Palace, Swansea.

COMPTON, GRACEFUL GRACE, invites offers Xmas. Principal boy, 11th week, with Kiddie's "Bo-Peep" Co., Queen's, Longton.

CONROY, OLIVER, Big Hit as Sammy Sackless, "Robinson Crusoe" Panto., Prince's T., Bradford. Vacant 1905-6. Monday, G., Sheffield.

CONWAY, TOM W. (Conway and Tindall), Battersea Empire, S.W.

COOKE, STEVE, Comedian. Amphitheatre, Ramsgate. Vacant, March 13.

CORNISH, WILL, in his Unique Musical Bell Act. This week, Hippo., Dewsbury; next, Oxford. Middlesbro'.

COVERDALE, CHAS., Palace, West Hartlepool. Feb. 27, Regent, Salford. Panto. Settled 1905-6, with F. W. Warden, Esq.

COVENTRY, LUCY, Versatile Comedienne, Male Impersonator, Coon, &c. 37A, Church-st., Stoke Newington.

CRAIG, ROZE, and CRAIG, A Trio of the World's Leading Athletes. Empress Theatre, Hartlepool.

CRANK, ORIGINAL, Trick and Burlesque Cyclists. New Act in Preparation. Perm., 19, Alexandra-road, Manchester.

CRAY, LITTLE MIKE, Comedy Juggler, and His Acrobatic Dog, Dooley. This Week, Middlesbro'. Next, E., Burnley. Lib., March 6.

CRESSER, MISS ADA, Staley's Transformation Company. EMPIRE, EDINBURGH.

CREW, J. H., and MAUD MARLOW, Grand, Clapham, Two More Dates, and all Gibbons' Halls. Monday, Palace, Belfast.

CROWSON, WILL, CISSIE CONYERS, next, Hippo., Grimsby. Thank Little, Esq., for comfortable tour, and contract for 1905-6.

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CURRAN, FRED, Peculiar Fellow, Tremendous Success Barrasford Tour. Monday, Empire, Bristol. Geo. Foster.

CURRY, PERCY, Comedian. Feb. 27, Queen's, Gateshead. Panto. arrangements 1905-6 complete.

CUTHBERT, MAUD, Serio and Ballad Vocalist. Address, Robini, Gatton House, Pleasant-place, London, N.

DAGMARS, THREE (Tom, Dick, and Harry), Lib. March 13 and 20. Monday, Alhambra, Belfast.

DAINTON GIRLS, THE, Gipsy and Character, Duettists. This, Big Success, Hip., Wigan; next, Parthenon, Liverpool.

DALE, MR. HARRY, Hippodrome Manager, Stage and Arena, General Manager and Ringmaster, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy.

DALE and D'ARGAN, Acrobatic Conjurors. Tenth Week. Thompson's Panto., "Aladdin." Feb. 27, Garrick Theatre, Hereford.

DALE and VALE, Specialité Dancers. This week, Empire, Ashton; Next week, Queen's Park Hippo., Manchester.

DALTON'S AGENCY. New Acts always required. 5, Matlock-avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester.

DANA, Just arrived in England. New and Quaint. See later Advertisements.

DANBYS, THE, Look out for new Comedy Act. Add., Theatre Royal, West Bromwich.

DANE, J. P., The Versatile Comedian, Hit of the Bill, Pavilion, Glasgow. Resting; Indisposed. 14, Kilshaw-street, Liverpool.

DANIELS, THE TWO, third year as Cannibal King and Commandering Chief, "Robinson Crusoe," Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

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DELEVINES, FIVE, Musical Melange. "Flirtation." Empire, Leeds.

DELLER and OXFORD Terrific Success Belfast and Dublin. Monday next, Palace, Cork.

DENBY and DENT, Comedians, Monday, Palace Theatre, Southport.

DENMARK, DORA, Principal Boy, Firth's "Cinderella." At Liberty, March 6, and on. Mon., K. T., Walthamstow.

DE ROSE, MDLLE. J. H. HAWTREY Principal Boy, Malicio, J. Kiddie's "Cinderella," T. R., Darwen.

DERWIN, Magician, Novelty Magical Act. Communications, 17, Victory-street, Bolton.

DE VOYE, JAMES, and BILL, his Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Feb. 27, Lyceum, London.

DIXON, CHARLEY, KATE LYND, Original Entertainers. Monday, Circus Hippodrome, Carlisle.

DOBITO and BUXTON, Specialité Duettists. Vacant, March 6. 1, Edith-road, Selhurst, S.E.

DODDY and BELLE, The Long and the Short of It, on tour. Address, "Era" Office.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, Singing Boxmakers, Woolwich and Greenwich; Mon., P., Plymouth; vacant, April 3 and 17.

DOMINOS, TWO (Clowns), and Donkey, A Comic Act. Monday, Tivoli, Glasgow. Vacant, March 6 and 13.

DOODY and WRIGHT, Metropolitan, Foresters'.

DORMER, DAINTY DAISY, Eleventh Week Princess's, Glasgow. March 6, title rôle "Goody Two Shoes," Queen's, Leeds.

DORRETTA, LITTLE, a Charming and Talented Juvenile Acrobatic Song and Dance Artist. Touring with C. W. Poole's Royal Myrio.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH, The Dainty Singing Maiden. Concludes To-night, Palace, Walthamstow. Gigantic success.

DOVE, MISS ETHEL, This week, Collins's and Tottenham; next week, London, Shoreditch.

DOVER, CLIFFE, Dame, Dottridge and Longden's "Forty Thieves." Finish to-night. Monday, resting one week.

DRYDEN, CISSIE, Vocal Character Actress. Communications to Fred Higham, York-rd., London.

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DUDLEY, BEATRICE, Soubrette and Speciality Dancer. This, A. T., Kettering; Next, P.O.W.T., Nuneaton.

DUDLEY, LYDIA, Versatile Artiste, Monday, Theatre Royal, Liverpool. Communications to the above for March 6 and 13.

DUNCAN, Club Manipulator and Juggler; OSWALD, Staircase Performer, &c. Queen's Park Hippo., Manchester.

DUNCAN and MORTON, Refined Comedians. This, Portsmouth; next, Empire, Bridgwater.

DUNNING and KAHN and KAHN, Several Vacant Dates in 1910, 1911, and 1912. Palace Theatre, Leicester.

DURHAM'S FRED, Variety Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 1a, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

DU ROCHE, MDLLE., This Week, Grand, Gravesend; Next Week, Feb. 27, Gaiety, Chatham.

EILEEN and MAYNIE, Sisters, Novel Instrumentalists, Expert Dancers. Monday, Oxford.

ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast, also LA BELLE TOSCA, Two or Three Acts. Vacant, Mar. 6 and 27. Add., 36 Bridge-st., Macclesfield.

ELLA'S, MISS, best existing Lion Show. Palace, Croydon.

ELLERTON, ALF, Song Writer Found Guilty by Dunville, Ford, Albert Mayne, Leamore, &c. 19, Pulross-road, Brixton.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Address, Gaiety Theatre, Birmingham.

ELVINS, THE, In their successful Sketch, "A Brother's Crime." Artistic! Bright! Clever!

ELVY, ARTHUR, the Gentleman Comedian. Usual Success, Empire, Battersea. Cazman's Agency.

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ERICK, FRED, Comedian, On Tour, at Lib. Whit Week on. First-class Al Fresco. Coms., 428, Liverpool-street, Seedley, Manchester.

ESDALE BROS., Refined Comedians, This Week, Royal, Oldham; Next, Hippo., Accrington. Vacant, April 3.

EVANS, WILL. WILL EVANS. Tel., 165, Richmond.

FAME, PEGGY, Success Palace, Lancaster; Monday, Grand, Gravesend. Liberty one week, Mar. 13.

FANNING'S FANTOUCHES, On Tour with C. W. Poole's Myriorama. Victoria Hall, Exeter.

FIELDING, ANNIE, and BERT HULL, "An Officer's Flirtation." Feb. 27, Gaiety, Birmingham.

FIELDS and ACRES, Comedy Park Keepers. This, Gaiety, Oldham; or perm., 115, Hope-street, Salford.

FINDEN, MR. and MRS., The Duchess, Balham. Agent, Geo. Barclay.

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FOX, ALEXANDER, Great Ventriloquist, in his Novel and Unique Entertainment. Vacant, March 20. C/o Mrs. Williams, Usk.

FOX, G. D., Conductor, Composer, and Arranger. 134, Queen's Park-road, Brighton.

FRANCE and FRANCIS, Comedians, Specially Engaged for another week. Hippodrome, Macclesfield.

FREDRICKS, CARL, and YA PYN KETO FAMILY, Baron and Specialities, "Cinderella," Prince of Wales' Theatre, Liverpool.

FREELAND, Public Hall, Berwick-on-Tweed. Got to have it.

FRENCH'S, GEORGE, TROUPE, and the SNOW FAMILY, on Tour. For Vacant Dates, address, 14, Second-av., Queen's-pk., Ldn., W.

FRIDKIN'S, BORIS, COSSACK TROUPE, Operatic Singers, and Acrobatic Dancers. Feb. 27, Tivoli, South Shields.

GANNON, NELLIE, and HARRY WRIGHT. Huge Success, Lancaster. Mon., G., Gravesend. Lib. Mar. 13, week only. South.

GELDER, VAN, and LI-LI, Humorous Magicians, a Great Act for Circuses and Halls. Complimented Nightly, Palace, Derby.

GEORGE, WALTER, Musical Sketches, London Pavilion nightly. Address, 35, Marquess-rd, Canonbury, N.

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GERTRELLA, Dancer-Gymnast. New Act, "In Cupid's Garden." Continental Tour.

GIBSON QUINTON, "Q.G." All communications to permanent address, Tivoli House, Scarborough.

GILLIN, Unique Ventriloquial Humorist, Royal, Warrington. Vacant, Monday; wire, Rotherham.

GOLD, HARRY, at Liberty. "Gold," Animated Song Sheet, "Gold." 2, Jessamine-villas, Percy-road, Ramsgate.

GOLDING, R. J., Ventriloquial Jokist and Romano Conjuror, Open March 6, on. 32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow.

GOLIATH, the Boy Hercules. Perm. Address, 41, Brunswick-street, Blackpool.

GRAHAM, ERIC, MILLIE HARRIS. T.R., Liverpool. Feb. 27, Hippodrome, Accrington.

GRANADAS, LOS, Electrifying Bounders, Hippodrome, Hastings.

GRANT, JAMES, Great success as the new Scotch Comedian. Grand, Falkirk. Wanted, funny Scotch songs.

GRAPHO and JACKSON, Comedians, Rehearsing New Act, "In the Restaurant," by Harrington and Le Brunn. Thanks to Sley.

GRAY, MR. GEORGE. "The Fighting Parson." Address, care of "The Era" Office.

GREGORY, WILL, General Manager, Palace Theatre, Aberdare. Always Vacancies for good numbers.

GREY and WELFORD, Grotesque Boxing Comedians. This week, Grand Hanley. Next week, Hippo, Queen's Park, Manchester.

GROSVENOR SISTERS (THREE), Operatic Vocalists, "Dick Whittington" Panto. Next, Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.

HALDYNE DUO, Tremendous Success, Canterbury, Gatti's. We wish to thank Tom Tinsley, Esq., for allowing us to perform.

HALL, CLIFTON, Versatile Comedian, Staying with relatives again next week, Zoological Gardens, Burton-on-Trent.

HALLS, TOM, Tippling Toffs, and Terriers, all Tumblers. Wire for Monday, Hippo., Wakefield.

HANVARR and ANNA LEE, "The Golfer and the Maid." Permanent Address, 17 Newlands-street, Liverpool.

HARCOURT, FRED, Palace, Aberdare.

HARDY, the American Blondin, "King of the High Rope." Address, Niagara Villa, Doggett-rd., Catford, S.E.

HARLAND and ROLLISON, Finish to-night Hippo, Bury. Monday, Hippo, Wakefield. Vacant March 20 and 27.

HARMONY FOUR, THE (T. C. Bergeron, F. M. Barrett, Edw. Hughes, Alex. Ferguson). Address, Lyceum, London.

HARRIS and WORTH Finish To-night Principal Comedians "Robinson Crusoe," Nottingham. Pavilion, Leicester.

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HASTINGS, GEORGE, KITTY GOWER, Char. Vocalists, Lightning Change Artistes, Trans. Dancer. Vac. Mon., T., Man. Agt. Stebbing.

HAYDEE'S, MDLLE., Electric Mannikin Theatre. Alh., Hull. Feb. 27, Hippo., Glasgow.

HAZELTON, MISS BELLE, Dainty Comedienne. Address all coms., care of "The Era."

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HERALD COMEDY FOUR. Granville, Walham Green.

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HERMAN, SYDNEY, Hebrew Entertainer. IVY LENNARD. A Big Hit, Oxford, Middlesbrough. Mon., Public Hall, Barnsley.

HILL, BARRY, and LANG, Tremendous Success, Hippo., Stoke; Monday, Palace, Aberdare. Vacant, Mar. 6, 13. Wire.

HILL, ROWLAND, Ye Dame, Victoria Theatre, Broughton, Manchester.

HILTON and HILTON, Comedy Bar Comedians. Feb. 27, Empire, Wolverhampton.

HINTON and WOOTON, Starring, South Africa. Per., 6, Market-place, Willenhall, Staffs.

HOOK, WALTER W., 1457th Consecutive Show New Century Pictures. Mechanics', Burnley. Next, Athenæum, Bury.

HOPE, F., Sensational Trick Cyclist. Palace, Aberdare. Next, H., Ton-y-pandy. Vacant, March 6th.

HOWARDS, THE, (RALPH and NELLIE), Grand Theatre, Bolton.

HOWARD, WILSON, and CARLOTTA ANSON, Comedy Duologue, "My Military Mash." 14, Market-terrace, Crewe.

HOWARDS, THE MARVELLOUS, (Thomas, Louie). Combination Huge Success. Moss-street, Paisley, or Emp., Birmingham.

HULA, SISTERS Vocalists and Expert Dancers, at Liberty March 13, 20, on. Wire or write, Empire, Oxford.

HULBERT, Ventriloquist; and DE LIL, Illusionist. Vacant Apr. 17, May 1, 15. Palace, Bradford.

HUMBER, FANNY, Society Entertainer. Opera House, Kidderminster.

HUNTER, G. W., Comedian and Raconteur. Feb. 27, Coliseum, Brighton.

HUXTER, THREE BROTHERS, This, Liverpool; next, Ashton. Permanent, 10, Middle-street, Worcester.

HYAM, GEORGE, and NELLIE ROSE. Pardoe's "Cinderella." Theatre Royal, North Shields. Monday, Chorley.

INGLE, ARTHUR, Coster Juggling Comedian, Most Novel and Best Act on the Road. Terms, King's Head, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

IRIS, MISS LILY, Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, "Robin Hood." All letters, en route.

JOHNSON, T. W., the Dusky Dandy, concluded Panto. with F. J. Little, Esq. Re-engaged 1905-6. Met., Camberwell. Lib. March 6.

JOHNSTONE, TOM, Humorous Vocalist and Mimic. See advertisement, back page. Feb. 27, Livermore's Palace, Plymouth.

JUDGE'S, SISTERS, Marvellous Performing Cockatoos, Parrots, and Macaws. 6, Ashbrook-rd, Holloway, London. Thanks to R. Cass.

KATOS, THE, Komical Kidgets, Empire, New Cross.

KAVANAGH, J. H., Comedian, Concludes to-night another gigantic success, Tiv., Manchester. Monday, Empire, Battersea.

KEDWARDS, THE SISTERS, Speciality and Clog Dancers, Success Pardoe's Panto., Grand T., Chorley. Liberty shortly.

KEENE, BILLY, and JESSIE ADAMS, Refined Duettists and Dancers, Huge Hit, Duchess, Balham; Pier Pavilion, Southport.

KEEYS, F. J., Character Vocalist. New Songs in Study by F. V. St. Clair. 12, Panton-st., W., or c.o. "Era."

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KENDAL, BEATTIE, Dashing Character Vocalist. The Latest Manchester Success.

KERNO, LOUIS, Coon Vocalist and Dancer, latest Scena, "Ma Dusky Belle." This, Hippo., Wakefield. Next, Empire, Wigan.

KESSLER, MISS MABEL, England's Premier Lady Cornet, Posthorn, and Bugle Soloist. Alhambra, Belfast. Next, P., Stoke.

KIMBERLEY BOYS, Theatre Royal, Warrington.

KING and DELANE (GEO. and TOM), In their Refined Vocal Comedy Act. Monday, Empire, Rochdale.

KLOET, MDLLE., "An Artist's Model," in Her Latest Creations, Barrasford Tour. Monday, Pavilion, Newcastle.

KLOOF and RAMSAY Thank Bentley's Agency re our only Vacancies, stopped by Barring Clause. Cleveland Cot., Walcot, Bath. Lib.

KNICK-KNACKS, THE. This, Tivoli, Barrow. Feb. 27, Empire, Leeds.

KORRIES, Success, Empire, Sheffield. Johnnie's Birthday, Tuesday, 28th.

KYASYAS, LES, Novelty Athletic Teeth and Hair Experts. Vacant Feb. 27. Wire 233, Katherine-street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

KYDD and KYDD, Comedians, Vacant March 20. Also Al Fresco Season. 39, Edwards-place, Commercial-road, Hull.

KYOTO, The Original Comedy Jap; Also MAY GERALDINE, Comedienne. Success. Monday, Stoll's Hippo., Manchester.

LAKE, LEW, "Bloomsbury Burglars." Grand, Sheffield.

LA MARA, CHUMMIE, WILL SERGEANT, Palace, Camberwell.

LAND, FRED, Comedian. This week, Grand, Halifax; next week, Gaiety, Birmingham.

LANG, GENTLE BROTHERS. 137, Drakefell-road, Brockley.

LARELLS, THE, Clean Comedy Bar Act, Monday, 9.30, Palace, Hammersmith, London. Thanks Dalton for gala contract.

MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN,
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MR. and MRS. STUART LOMATH,
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MR. FAWCETT LOMAX,
Globe Theatre, Deal.
Offers invited.

MR. ARTHUR LONGLEY,
as Lord Cheyne, "Three Little Maids,"
Theatre Royal, Bournemouth.

MR. and MRS. BERESFORD LOVETT,
Hiram Q. Pegg, "Miss Mischief" Co.
March 6, Theatre Royal, Hull.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM LOWE,
Osmond Tearle Répertoire Company.
Address, en route; or, 41A, Myrtle-street, Liverpool.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES L. LUDLOW
(Agnes St. Clair). C. L. L., Cook, "Whittington." Alexandra, Birmingham. Lib. Mar. 20.

MR. WILLIAM LUGG,
with Sir Henry Irving.
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MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY,
on Tour with own Co., "Wearin' o' the Green."
En route; or, Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

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Offers invited. 7, North Place, Brighton.

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Mar. 6, Dalston Theatre, N.E.

MR. J. T. MACMILLAN.
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MR. and MRS. PERCY MAITLAND
(Ella Seton), "As Midnight Chimes" Co.
Dis., Easter. Ad., March 6, Royal, Scarborough.

MR. GEORGE MALLETT.
Mrs. Langtry's Co. Disengaged March 6.
Parts or Management. 5, Upper Westbourne-ter., W.

MR. H. F. MALTBY.
Prince Mazaroff in "Slaves of Passion."
March 6, Lyric Theatre, Bromley, Kent.

MR. FREDERICK MANTELL,
Lord Percy Fitz-Sherry and Stage Manager,
"Miss Mischief" Co. Royal, Hull. Dis. Shortly.

MR. MAITLAND MARLER,
at Liberty.
Address, 333, King-street, Hammersmith, W.

MR. PERCY MARMONT,
4, Esmond-road,
Bedford Park, N.

MR. PERCY MARSHALL,
Carbury, "Lady of Ostend," &c.
March 6, Pleasure Gardens, Folkestone.

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Advance Representative. Compton Com. Co.
Kirkcaldy and Falkirk.

MR. HERBERT MAULE,
Returned from South Africa. Disengaged.
Offers invited. Add., Burnholme, Norton-on-Tees.

MR. WALTER MAXWELL.
Address,
March 6, Theatre Royal, Huddersfield.

MR. ALEC MAYHEW,
Juveniles, Heavies, Character; Disengaged.
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MR. G. MAYOR-COOKE,
Chas. Frohman's "Sherlock Holmes."
Royal, Edinburgh.

MR. QUINTON McPHERSON, Retained by Mr. Charles Frohman for Mr. Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes." Empire, New York.

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(Miss Vyvyan Montgomery). Resting.
Mr. Metcalfe, Theatre Royal, Sunderland.

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MARIE HARCOURT, Napoleon and Marcel, in
"Napoleon the Great." Junction T., Manchester.

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On Tour with Mr. F. Melville's Co.
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Add. A. A., or 34, Gorst-rd., Wandsworth-common.

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Character, Irish, German, &c.
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Bingle, "The Girl from Japan."
Grand Theatre, Brighton.

MR. WILFRED E. SHINE,
Disengaged.
Address, Royal Court Theatre.

MR. JOHN B. SHINTON,
Lead, "When Woman Hates."
March 6, Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

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Disengaged, Acting-Management.
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Resting, One Week.
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Character Actor, Dialects, Sing, Disengaged.
Care of Hansen, 6, Union-place, Edinburgh.

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Address, Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.

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Starring, title-rôle, "The New Clown."
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New Theatre,
Hawick.

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Resident-Manager (Eleventh Year),
Royalty T. and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness.

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Dis. April 3rd. Business or S. Management.
Mar. 6, Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.

MR. AUGUSTIN SYMONDS
Dis., Comedy Char., Man; KATE PARRY,
Juv., Light Com. 25, Kathleen-rd., Clapham, S.W.

MR. ALGERNON SYMS
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Permanent address, 3, Springdale-road, London, N.

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As Convict 263, The "V.C."
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MR. and MRS. EDWARD THANE
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New King's Theatre, Hoxton, N.

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Light Comedy, Dudes, &c. Disengaged.
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Rev. Elihu Garside, "Winnie Brooke, Widow,"
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MR. and MRS. CHAS. B. VAUGHAN,
Miss M. Lewes, Lead, "The Garden of Lies."
Mr. Vaughan, "Sunday" Co. Court T., Wigan.

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Theatre Royal, Dunfermline, 6 Nights.

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Opera House, Leicester.

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Pantomime,
Prince's Theatre, Bristol.

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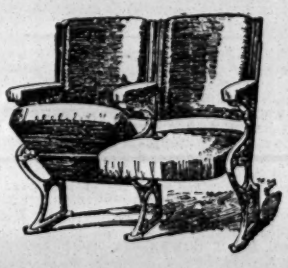

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.

"The Era" Annual for 1905 is an invaluable work of reference, besides being an interesting publication containing many contributions from actors and actresses.—Globe, Jan. 23, 1905.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, FEB. 1.—*The Duchess of Dantzig* has scored a success of the first magnitude at Daly's Theatre. It is considered the best musical play produced in New York for a long period. Every newspaper has praised it, and held it up as an example to native producers of the same sort of entertainment, stress being laid on the excellence of the stage management and the efficiency of the chorus. Miss Evie Greene, in the rôle of Catherine Upsher, jumped into immediate popularity, the comments on her personality and performance having been most flattering. Mr. Holbrook Blinn, as Napoleon, gives a faithful character study, and makes a decided hit. Mr. Lawrence Rea, who plays Phillipe in the first act, and Adhemar in the next two, wins high honours, his fine baritone voice being heard to advantage in several good numbers. Mr. Courtice Pounds, as Papillon, the pedlar, contributes some excellent bits of low comedy. Mr. Lemprière Pringle's Lefebvre is a capital representation, and as Renée de Saint-Mézard, Miss Adrienne Augarde is dainty and delightful. Mr. Ivan Caryll led the orchestra on the opening night, and Mr. George Edwardes also graced the occasion in person, and was called before the curtain and applauded until he made a speech.

MR. E. S. WILLARD is always sure of a warm welcome in New York, and the greeting that he received at the Knickerbocker Theatre on the 23rd ult., when he acted the principal part in the late Wilson Barrett's play, *Lucky Durham*, for the first time in America, was extremely cordial. Mr. Willard had not been seen at a Broadway Theatre for several years, his engagements of late having been fulfilled mostly at the Garden Theatre in Madison-avenue. Mr. Willard gave a splendid portrayal of John Durham, and his performance has received high praise.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM'S season at the Lyceum Theatre, New York, has been one of continuous prosperity, and the acting of Sir Charles and his excellent company—in which Miss Mary Moore, Miss Vane Featherstone, and Mr. Alfred Bishop are conspicuous—has given great pleasure to a host of appreciative playgoers. Eight weeks was divided between *David Garrick* and *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace*, and then *The Case of the Rebellious Susan* was produced. This clever comedy was not unknown to the local public, as it was performed about ten years ago by Mr. Daniel Frohman's stock company at the old Lyceum Theatre. On the 30th ult. the company began a short tour, which will include Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington, and one or more of the Canadian cities.

MR. EDWARD TERRY and his London company appeared in the comedy of *Love in Idleness* at the Princess's Theatre, New York, on the 30th ult., this being the first presentation of the comedy in America. Mr. Terry gave a delightful embodiment of Mortimer Pendlebury, the amiable gentleman whose ruling propensity is procrastination, and charmed a large audience. He was ably supported by Miss Cynthia Brooke as Abigail Bright, Miss Olive Wilton as Maggie, Miss Beatrice Terry as Martha, Mr. Tom Lovell as Frank, Mr. Arthur Cornell as Rushey Platt, M.P., Mr. Hylton Allen as Jack Fenton, Mr. George Howard as Eugene Gondinot, Miss Nellie Mortyle as Mrs. Trott, and Miss Clara Earle as Louise Gondinot.

MISS KATIE BARRY, now in the third year of her engagement with Messrs. Shubert Brothers, is appearing in their latest musical production, *Fantana*, which has scored a success at the Lyric Theatre in this city. The book was written by Sam S. Shubert and Robert B. Smith, while Raymond Hubbell composed the music. Mr. Jefferson De Angelis is the star, and the company includes Miss Adele Ritchie and Messrs. Frank Rushworth, Robert Broderick, Fletcher Norton, and Hubert Wilke. There are three acts, the scenes being laid at Monterey, California; Nagasaki, Japan; and on board the yacht "Japonica," homeward bound. The story tells how Commodore Everett, owner of California vineyard, tries to induce his daughter, Fantana, to marry a bogus French Count. Fantana has placed her affections elsewhere, and exhibits so much determination in the matter that her father seizes upon an invitation to accompany a Japanese diplomat on his travels as an opportunity to separate the lovers. Miss Barry appears as Jessie, a Cockney maid, and thanks to her droll personality the piece is very entertaining whilst she is on the stage. One of her best bits is a song called "My Word," in which she tells of the strange things she has seen from London to Japan, one verse being taken up with a clever imitation of a phonograph. Miss Adele Ritchie, as the Commodore's daughter, sings and dances delightfully.

"THE MONEY MAKERS," a comedy in three acts, by George Rollitt, has had a short run at the Liberty Theatre. This play was chosen as the first vehicle for the début of Miss Ida Conquest as a star, at the head of her own company. Miss Conquest appeared as Dot, the ambitious young woman who starts a "tipster's bureau," her company including Messrs. Edmund Lyons, Cyril Scott, Eugene O'Rourke, and Harry Nichols.

MR. GEORGE ADE is writing a play that is to bear the title of *The Second Time on Earth*. The principal character is a millionaire, who has a wayward son. The latter, in order to obtain possession of his father's fortune, has the old man committed to an asylum. After a while the father obtains his freedom, and it turns out that his stay in the asylum has completely rejuvenated him. He returns to the outside world, younger in his thoughts and actions than his son.

MESSRS. JOSEPH WEBER and FLORENZ ZIEGFIELD, JR., have dissolved the partnership which they formed at the beginning of the present season to conduct the music hall formerly managed by Messrs. Weber and Fields. Miss Anna Held, the wife of Mr. Ziegfield, has been one of the principal members of the company now playing at the Weber Music Hall. Miss Held found that her part was unsuited to her, and she will retire from the company to appear in a revival of *Papa's Wife*. Mr. Weber will now have entire control of the music hall that bears his name.

MISS LILLIAN RUSSELL has scored an emphatic success as Lady Teazle at the Casino. In no part that she has played during her long and brilliant career has she been seen to better advantage. The musical version of Sheridan's comedy, *The School for Scandal*, is one of the substantial successes of the season.

MR. JOHN MATTHEWS, an actor who was on the stage of Ford's Theatre, in Washington, when President Lincoln was assassinated in 1865, being a member of the company then appearing in *Our American Cousin*, died in New York recently, aged sixty-nine. Mr. Matthews was the almoner of the Actors' Fund for many years, and in that capacity served many old and needy players.

"THE GREEN BOOK, or Who's Who on the Stage," a new annual which should prove of great value to all connected with the stage, is announced to appear in April next. The book, which is edited by Mr. Bampton Hunt, will be a stout volume of from 400 to 500 pages, and will contain short biographies and useful particulars concerning 2,000 to 3,000 dramatic, musical, and variety artistes. Managers, proprietors, and musical directors are also to be included. No charge is to be made for the notices published, and the biographies, in order to secure accuracy, are to be contributed by the subjects themselves. Forms to be filled up can be obtained by leading artistes on application to the publishers, Messrs. Lynn and Co., the moving spirit of which is Captain W. V. Simmonds Lynn, who is a son of the late Dr. Lynn, a famous entertainer of bygone days.

AMUSEMENTS IN PITTSBURG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PITTSBURG, Pa., Feb. 6.—An event that had been eagerly looked forward to for some time took a tangible form with the production of Richard Wagner's sacred festival play, *Parsifal*, in English, at theNixon Theatre, last week. The work was presented by Henry W. Savage's powerful company, which includes, among others, Mmes. Kirkby Lunn, Hanna Mara, Florence Wickham, and Messrs. Alois Pennarini, Francis Maclennan, Johannes Bischoff, Putnam Griswold, Ottley Cranston, and Franz Egnieff. The performances were highly artistic, and deserving of praise. Both the singing and the orchestra were of a high standard of excellence, while the work was handled with marked respect for its beautiful and solemn theme. The theatre was crowded each night of the week, and the arrangement of starting the play at 6 p.m. and allowing a pause from 7.45 to 9 p.m. for dinner was found very convenient.

Miss Amelia Bingham appeared as Olympe de Cleves in Pierre Decourcelle's four-act play, *Olympe*, at the New Alvin Theatre. The play, which deals with the love of an actress for a boy studying for the priesthood, gives Miss Bingham opportunities to display the many-sidedness of her histrionic talent, and she succeeds in charming the audience. Messrs. Henry Woodruff, Wm. McVay, Fred Paulding, and the Misses Grace Barton, Ivy Troutman, Alice Gale, and Emma Dunn give her strong support, and help to make the performance a success.

A very interesting play founded on one of Wilkie Collins's clever novels was presented under the title of *Her Second Life*, by Geo. A. Blumenthal's company, at the Gaiety Theatre during last week. Every phase of the character of Mercy Merrick was admirably depicted by Miss Eugenie Blair, whose attractiveness, diction, and style won for her much merited applause. The real Grace Roseberry was satisfactorily impersonated by Miss Harriet Ross. Miss Frances Newhall was a dignified and warm-hearted Lady Roy; while Mr. Frank Sheridan made an ideal minister. The costumes and staging were excellent. Mr. Malsch, of the Gaiety orchestra, introduced a descriptive musical sketch into his programme entitled "In the Clock Store," by Chas. J. Oath, which illustrated the winding, ticking, and striking of all kinds of clocks in a watchmaker's.

The favourite Irish comedian, Mr. Andrew Mack, produced last week, at the Bijou, an Irish-American play called *The Way to Kenmare*, written by Edward E. Rose, for which Mr. Mack had composed several very tuneful Irish songs, which he sang during the evening. *The Way to Kenmare* treats of the hunt of Dan Maguire after the lands and title of the Earldom of Kenmare. It is a romantic play, full of Irish wit and humour, and pleased immensely.

"M'Liss," Bret Harte's beautiful story of the Sierras, paid a return visit to Pittsburg, selecting the Empire Theatre as its temporary home. Messrs. A. J. Spencer and Sargent Aborn's capable company, with Miss Nellie McHenry in the title-rôle, again gave spirited representation of this descriptive play, and were accorded a warm reception.

The Duquesne Theatre has been occupied by Messrs. Broadhurst and Currie's company in a musical comedy entitled *A Son of Rest*, by G. Weston and M. S. Witt. The chief rôle was taken by Mr. Nat M. Wills, who as Hunting Grub, a man who agreed to impersonate Capt. Warren for twenty-four hours for $500, created a great deal of fun and laughter. Some catchy songs and clever dances interspersed among the two acts made the comedy an agreeable distraction for the cold winter evenings.

Rosie's Knickerbocker Burlesquers were the attraction at Harry Williams's Academy during the week under review. They presented a funny musical comedy in two acts, called *Riley's Speech*, by Frank Finney, which pleased the audience throughout.

The headline of the Grand Theatre programme was occupied by Maggie Cline, the Irish comedienne, who sang, among other things, her favourite "Throw him Down, McClusky." Madame Celina Bobe gave examples of her skill on the violin and xylophone. A very clever sketch was given by Edmund Day and company in *The Sheriff*, an Arizona incident. Johnson, Davenport, and Lorella appeared in an acrobatic comedy speciality. Caicedo's performance on the wire was loudly cheered. Marcus and Gartelle caused much laughter with their roller-skating act. The Valveno Brothers did some extraordinary gymnastic tricks, and Margaret Scott's vocal selections were favourably received.

"The Gayest of the Gay; or the Life of a Woman," by Arthur Shirley and Eric Hudson, was produced for copyright purposes at the Opera House, Workington, on Thursday.

Mr. Denis O'Sullivan, Miss Marie Dainton, and the whole of the original cast from Wyndham's Theatre, in *Peggy Machree*, will appear at the Kennington Theatre next week, with a matinée on Thursday. On Ash Wednesday the Elizabethan Stage Society will give a special performance of the morality play, *Everyman*, commencing at 3.15.

Messrs. Oetzmann and Co., of 62 to 79, Hampstead-road, N.W., announce that they have purchased the entire stock of Messrs. Norman and Stacey, Ltd., of 252 to 256, Tottenham Court-road, and are now removing it to their own showrooms and galleries in Hampstead-road, and that all goods are marked in plain figures at the lowest possible competitive prices for cash. Deferred payments with full benefit of cash prices can be arranged, interest only being added to cover the period over which payments are extended.

Presentations.—At the Pavilion, Mile End, on the 18th. ult., on the conclusion of the pantomime of *Cinderella*, and in presence of a large audience, Miss Rose Hamilton, the accomplished Dandini, in a few well-chosen words, and on behalf of the principals and chorus, presented Mr. Fred Boustead, the able stage-manager, with a handsome dressing-case, and his loyal assistant, Mr. Harry Bristow, with a very fine carriage clock, together with a solid silver cigarette case and vesta box. Both these gentlemen suitably responded, after which, amidst great enthusiasm, Mr. Isaac Cohen came forward and expressed his gratitude to everyone concerned for the splendid manner in which all had helped in making the pantomime such a brilliant triumph. "Auld Lang Syne," sung by audience and company, brought these interesting proceedings to a happy close.

Mr. W. J. Galloway, M.P., who presided over the seventeenth annual dinner of the Musical Instrument Trades' Protection Association at the Hotel Great Central on Thursday, said as long as there was a section of the community which believed that its just rights were not protected by the State, so long would there be a menacing danger to the community. It was the proud boast of an Englishman that what was his own was his own. If that were true of material things, it was ten thousand times more true of the product of men's brains. The argument of their opponents was that the price of music was too high, and their rights were not to be protected unless they made the price such as Parliament thought fair. It was as reasonable as to suggest that the House of Commons should fix the price of all articles, raw or manufactured. They had been unfortunate in the ballot this Session, but he felt that the Government could not be so blind to its responsibilities as not to take up the matter.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, Jan. 24.—*Blind Man's Buff* replaced *Pretty Peggy* on the 21st, and Miss Nellie Stewart gave another example of her versatility as Eleanor Carley. Mr. Harcourt Beatty played the bounder Sam Coast with refreshing audacity, and Mrs. Maesmore Morris made Mrs. Steven Carley a typical social butterfly, handsome and frivolous. Mr. Carley had a competent exponent in Mr. James Lindsay. Lieutenant Coleman did not give Mr. Malcolm Dunn many chances, but what there were he took. Miss Roland Watts Phillips did well as Bella Skindle. The scenery was by Mr. W. R. Coleman, and Mr. Harry Parker stage-managed the play.

"H.M.S. Pinafore" still runs at Her Majesty's Theatre. Owing to the indisposition of Miss Bastian, the part of Josephine was taken on Tuesday by Miss Vinia De Loitte, whose work was excellent. This pretty and piquant young actress has a clear soprano voice, and her enunciation is good. Since Tuesday, the rôle has been entrusted to Miss Dolly Cartees.

"A Desperate Game" is still played at the Theatre Royal by Mr. Bland Holt's combination. The feature of these performances is the never-failing vitality and popularity of the actor-manager himself.

The Tivoli sees the last, this week, of Madame Marzella and her charmed birds. Madame Olivette still mentally solves arithmetical posers, and "Historicus," a precocious child, remembers dates and events to the surprise of her questioners. Miss Nita Leete, the favourite contralto; Miss Fanny Powers, an expert mimic; the Fernandez May Trio; Ford and Bentley; Fred Bluett and Professor Davy's Marionettes, continue to appear.

Great satisfaction prevailed when it was ascertained that it was not the popular comedian, Mr. Robert Brough, who was killed in a recent railway collision in England. Mr. Allan Hamilton is paving the way for the Brough-Titheradge-Fleming season at the Criterion.

Mr. Harry Flynn, an old-time actor, died on the 20th, and was buried next day at the Necropolis.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The concert given on the 23rd ult., at the Royal College of Music, opened with the Quintet of Brahms, for strings, Op. 111, played with much care and skill by Oonah Sumner, Frank Bridge, Janet Macfie, and Ivor James. Bach was represented by a couple of preludes for the organ, the player being Mr. Harold Drake, who was very successful. A violin solo, by Kriel, was neatly rendered by Mr. Edmund Weeks. A trio by Dvorák concluded the concert, the executants being Miss Olive Blume and Messrs. Herbert Kinze and Ivor James. Two songs by Bemberg were cleverly rendered by Miss Dorothea Kershaw, who was most successful in the second, called "A Tois." The duet, "Amours Villageois," by Goring Thomas, was sung by Miss Margaret Tout and Francis Carey. Miss Maud E. Wright sang a couple of songs from Tennyson's "Maud," composed by A. Somervell, with great effect. The accompanists were Mr. J. Wiltshire, Miss Clara Smith, and Mr. Ivor James, who were very efficient. The next concert of the Patron's Fund (orchestral) will be given on March 9, at the College. A great deal of interest has been taken in the fund owing to the encouragement given to native composers. The concert at the Æolian Hall recently made an excellent impression, and was warmly taken up by the students.

After an interval of eleven years, a return visit has been paid to the Marina Theatre, Lowestoft, of Prof. E. K. Crocker's performing horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, &c. The entertainment given is of an excellent character, and is warmly applauded. Some interesting animated pictures are also shown.

Miss Winifred Maude's company is at the Theatre Royal, Peterborough, with *The Sins of a City*. Mr. Ivan Gore is successful as Donald McIvor; Sandy Macdonald is exceptionally well presented by Mr. Horace E. Herbert; Mr. Leslie Beaufort as Ralph Blackwater ably brings out the villainous traite of the character. Mr. Victor Du Cane scores as Joe Woodleigh; Miss Winifred Maude is well suited to the part of Seaweed, and Miss Marie Lyons is successful as Loebia. Mrs. Henry Hackett as Madge causes roars of laughter.

A Welcome change is provided at the Royal Pontypool, this week, with variety. Mr. Will Onda's company, in his new farcical absurdity, *Servants Wanted*, is attracting appreciable audiences. Mr. Fred Jones is heard to advantage in some fine descriptive songs, and Mr. Wilfrid Gregory, a flexible marvel, is also a good turn. A sketch entitled *A Quiet Night*, is equally funny.

At the Theatre Royal, Runcorn, a first-class variety combination is appearing successfully this week, comprising the Five Rhymes, Continental musical comedians, in a quaint and clever piece of business; Sam Shipley, comic vocalist and universal favourite; Le Wist, ventriloquist and conjuror; Butt's exceedingly clever performing dogs, a sound turn; Miss Beatie Worth, a pleasing serio, with very fine songs; and the Cinematograph, with latest pictures.

The capital programme at the Stoke Hippodrome this week includes the Sisters Phillips and the Bros. Lorenzi, who are really funny in their absurdity, *The Saucy Kipper*. Miss Madge Grey is a distinct success; De Voy, Hurst, and Fredericks are seen in a capital sketch; Spring, Spring, and Carlo, barrel jumpers, display much ability; the Ashers are clever dancers; Mabel Kusler, a cornet and horn soloist, meets with much success; Richard Teasdale, coster comedian, is good; the Bioscope shows several capital pictures. Mr. Frank Egerton took his benefit on Friday.

At the Theatre Royal, Waterford, on Monday evening an appreciative audience assembled to witness the well-known comedy, *A Prodigal Father*, in which the popular actor, Mr. Charles Collette, appeared as Stanley Jones, and was warmly applauded for his clever portrayal of that character. The company included Messrs. Edmund Beresford, Major D. Seelar, Aubrey Mallalieu Ernest Wintour, Misses Rosamund Bury, Ruby Chester, Irene Ross and Mabel Luxmore. The curtain-raiser was the amusing farce, *By Mutual Consent*. The singing of Misses Chester and Bury was excellent, and Mr. A. Mallalieu's song, "I'm Doing Very Well Just Now," was loudly applauded.

Mr. Frank Lascelles, who has been lying seriously ill at Oxford, is now on the way to recovery; and after a short rest in the South of France will be back at work again next month. Mr. Lascelles, at the time of his illness, was under engagement to Mr. Tree to play Ferdinand, in *The Tempest*.

Presentation.—At the termination of Messrs. Little and Darcy's successful pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, at the Theatre Royal, Jarrow, Mr. Will White, the general-manager of the company, was presented by Messrs. Little and Darcy with a beautiful half-hoop diamond ring and five-pound note; also by the three Sisters Silcott, Mrs. Silcott, and Mr. James Ferguson with a massive solid silver memo. and card-case; and by Mr. Archie Daunton Shaw, of the Daunton Shaw Troupe Trick Cyclists, with a letter case. Mr. White's little daughter Mabel was also remembered, and was presented with a handsome watch by Mr. Josh Clifton, of the Three Woodbee Wonders, comedy acrobats. Mr. Will White rejoins Messrs. Little and Darcy, with whom he has been general-manager for the last five years, again in August, to take over the management of the *Executioner's Daughter* and *The Forty Thieves* at Christmas. Mr. White was accorded a hearty send-off as he left for Oxford to fulfil his engagement as advance-manager with Mr. Ralph Pringle's North American Animated Photo Company.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—New Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews.—The attraction this week is Messrs. Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholl's company in that ever-popular play, *The Life that Kills*. Mr. Fred Moule's representation of Kendal Croat is received with rounds of applause. Mr. William E. Passmore's rendering of the part of Lord Kelmarsh gives evidence of much ability; Mr. Ernest G. Fare is a manly Hector Rodney; Mr. Morris Maud acts naturally as Valentine Telford; Mr. Wilton Drury, as Samuel Flatfoote, causes roars of laughter, and is ably seconded by Mr. Hall Menzies as Jack Jolliffe. Miss Marie Menzies arouses the sympathy of the audience as Laurie Linden; Little Violet is good as Mary Linden; Miss Lucy Murray is excellent in the dual rôle of Tom and Johanna Dicks; and Miss Kathleen Cavanagh, as Brenda Croat, is rewarded by the disapprobation of pit and gallery. *Hearts of Stone*, a new play by Mr Fred Moule, was billed for Friday.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Will Gregory.—This week the manager has a really excellent show. Mr. Fred Harcourt, a conjurer and illusionist, is very clever, and receives rounds of applause; Miss Lilian Warren sings several illustrated songs, and is a warm favourite; the Three Sisters Lee, vocalists and dancers, also have a great reception; Tom Owen, the Welsh comedian; and Whimsical Walker, are old favourites here, and add to their reputations; the Two Seebolds are very good in their musical act; Messrs. Hill, Barry, and Lang, knockabouts, are worthy of special note; Mons. Peklaw and Miss Dolly Bost, comedienne, also add to the evening's entertainment.

ABERDEEN.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah, C.A.—Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer and company opened their week's engagement with *Mary Queen of Scots*. Mrs. Palmer acted powerfully in the title-part; and Mr. F. Skein impersonated the Earl of Leicester with great skill. Miss K. Herbert made a dignified Elizabeth; and the parts of the Earl of Shrewsbury and Lord Burleigh were capably played by Mr. A. St. Aubyn and Mr. S. Bland. The other members of the company gave efficient support. The repertoire of the week includes *Jane Shore*, *Sapho*, *Leah*, and *Nell Gwyn*.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. Ernest Sheldon.—Captain Bevan's Gordon Highlanders show marvellous proficiency in the most intricate military movements; and Miss Ramin's troupe of educated monkeys provide much amusement; the Vandykes' musical sketch, *Nicodemus*, is highly amusing; and the Sisters Fordyce are exceptionally successful as singers and dancers. Miss Fanny Wentworth provides an admirable turn; and Mr. Harry Zetter dances and sings with great acceptance; Mr. Slingsby gives a capital ventriloquial entertainment; and the three Sisters Youngham sing a number of entertaining ditties. The Bioscope show of pictures is as usual up to date.

Hamilton's Excursions.—This popular and old-established entertainment is drawing large audiences to the music hall. The series of war pictures are particularly vivid, and Mr. Claude Howell is an admirable lecturer. Among the members of the variety company are the Sisters Urma, daring and graceful acrobats; the Navaho Trio, pleasant singers and dancers; Mr. Tom Birchmore, a very amusing comedian; Tom Le May, an entertaining musical clown; and Hector, a dextrous slack-wire artiste.

ABERTILLERY.—Theatre Metropole.—Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General and Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom.—This week we are having a visit from the Chas. W. Poole's mammoth amusement company and latest myriorama. The pictures, as usual, are up-to-date, and special mention should be made of the set of pictures illustrating submarine warfare. In the variety part of the programme are some clever turns, including Miss Daisy Graham, whose performances with her trained birds and her clever coon dog, Nap, are very amusing; Little Doretta, acrobatic song and dance artiste; Mr. Harry Stewart, American protean change artiste; Miss Kitty Woodford, with her highly trained canine circus and orchestra; the Six Clevelands, lady and gentlemen acrobats; Leonard and Mac, eccentrics; and the Sisters Zetina.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—On Monday night Mr. Charles Frohman presented *Sherlock Holmes*, with an excellent cast. The title-rôle is a creditable performance by Mr. Kenneth Rivington. Arthur B. Murray presents a capable performance of Professor Moriarty. James Larrabee is cleverly depicted by Ernest Gray. Fred Inwood must be complimented for his rendering of Dr. Watson. John Forman is a good performance by F. Clive Ross. Sir Edward Leighton is well depicted by Howard E. Lang. Lightfoot McTaque is admirably played by T. Williams. A praiseworthy performance is given by Miss Florence Radcliffe as Alice Faulkner. Ethel Gordon is well cast as Mrs. Faulkner. Madge Larrabee is well depicted by Carrie Lacey. Marjorie Murray and Hattie Newcombe are good in their respective parts, Theresse and Mrs. Smeedly.

The New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker.—A very attractive bill here includes the Six Brothers Luck, who bring down the house with their amusing sketch, *The Hermit* The Brothers Esdale are two clever comedians and patterers; Susie Harrison is a chic and dainty comedienne; Mr. Eric Graham is well received; Mr. J. W. Harris is a smart character comedian; Tonnine is duly appreciated in his celebrated conjuring act; and Rappo is a smart acrobat, who is ably assisted by Mdlle. Ella. The whole is concluded by the Hippodrome Bioscope.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sonnes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—Mr. Vivian Grantham may congratulate himself upon having a talented company, who give a capital interpretation of *Slaves of Passion* here this week. This sensational drama (which is starting on another tour), is full of interesting situations, and tells a story of Russian life, with many thrilling episodes. The powerful acting of Mr. H. F. Maltby in the difficult rôle of the despotic Prince Mazaroff is appreciated. Mr. Alf. H. Majilton's clever conception of Paul de Beaupre causes that rôle to be one of the most successful of the performance. Mr. Vincent W. Carlye, as the persecuted Sculptor Ivan, does well; Mr. Vivian Grantham's portrayal of the quasi-affected baronet, is capital; whilst Mr. T. Neldon's ability as a comedian is fully evidenced in the rôle of Harry Dunn, and he, with Miss Maude Merrick (a chic Lisette), gives a dance and duet *à la* Japanese. Miss Constance Medwyn's charming portrayal of Zara is excellent in every way; and Miss K. Hallam's graceful appearance and natural acting cause the rôle of Princess Sophia to be a huge success. Miss Maude Henderson, as the Baroness, is capable; and Miss Joan Pereira gives the part of Leonie an effective rendering. Mr. Edward Van Biene, who is general manager of the company, does well as the Colonel; and others in minor rôles are Messrs. Frank Colson, W. Aldred, Chas. Pick, and R. Dryden.

ALTRINCHAM.—New Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. Budd, Howe, and Taylor; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Gilman.—The visit of Miss Grace Warner's company in the musical comedy, *A Little Widow*, has been a welcome one, the most being made of the humorous incidents by an accomplished cast of performers. In the title-rôle, Miss Grace Warner acts with vivacity, and sings in a spirited manner; whilst Mr. George Gordon acquits himself with marked ability. As his brother, Mr. St. Bernard Wyntour is deserving of much praise.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company is here for the week with *Sunday*. Miss Jean Sterling Mackinley is a gifted actress, and gives an intelligent interpretation of Sunday; Mrs. Naresby is gracefully acted by Miss Elizabeth Watson; Miss Helen Macgregor, as the Nun, plays with intelligence; Sunday's Four Foster-Fathers are very ably interpreted by Messrs. F. Powell, Jno. H. Manley, T. Norman Walter and Whitford Kane; Colonel Brinthorpe has a capable exponent in Mr. J. Edward Pearce; and the villain, Arthur Brinthorpe, is forcibly depicted by Mr. Chas. B. Vaughan. As Tom Oxley, Mr. Ernest A. Douglas is very satisfactory.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. C. Revill; Director of Entertainments, Mr. F. Wilmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. Campkin.—The New Mace, knockabout comedians, are very laughter-provoking; Marion Hood, ballad vocalist, sings some good songs in artistic style; the Maros, triple bar comedians, are experts; the Sisters Dorrell are distinctly clever comediennes and dancers; banjo playing is done to perfection by Casselli and James; Morny Cash challenges attention as a singing comedian; and the Three Bros. Huxter, tumblers and vaulters, are watched with great interest. The animated pictures are also interesting.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The great attraction here this week is Edwin Boyde, comedian, whose songs are very effective; Moto, introduces an artistic and humorous musical melange; Mr. H. O. Wills proves very amusing; Ralston and Francis greatly entertain with a nautical musical scena; Carle and Carmanelli introduce a novelty, entitled, *The Electric Moulding Wheel; The Magic Album* is a pretty and pleasing act; Chas. Serra is a clever equilibrist; Billy Williams, Australian comedian, takes well; Emma Don and her black and white quartette of vocalists, in a vocal scena, are enjoyed; and good fun is got out of the animated pictures.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claud Seaton.—*Napoleon the Great*, a drama of stirring interest, is being presented here this week by Mr. Frank M. Thorne's Company, under the direction of Messrs. Carson and Granville. Mr. Hugh Montgomery, always a sound actor, gives a forcible and dignified representation of Napoleon; Mr. Philip Harper is well placed as Colonel Jules Meuron; Mr. J. Maine is satisfactory as Paul Laczinska; Mr. Frank M. Thorne is highly amusing as Pierre Pomponnet, judiciously introducing the lighter vein. Miss Chrissie Dunbar is excellent as Marie Walewska, and shows a careful study of the part; Miss Maud Russell is good as Mdlle. Leoni Marbœuf; so also is Miss Florence Thorne as Mère Dumont; and Miss Adelaide Cromer as Lisette.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbons.—The Three Abers give a clever and novel exhibition of wire and hand equilibrism; Minnie D'Aubyn is a comedienne with good songs; Jubal and Joyce, comedians and dancers, introduce some laughable cross-talk; the Brothers Zampah, described as one-legged marvels, give an excellent turn as acrobats and jumpers; Lade Henderson has a good style as a vocalist, and his songs are well received; Diana Hope and Company give a highly dramatic and interesting sketch, entitled *Her Good Name*. Johnny Chippendale wins hearty applause with his songs and eccentric dancing; and an excellent series of films by the Palace Bioscope, under the direction of Messrs. Blake and Clayton, completes the bill.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—Messrs. H. J. Callan and Wentworth Croke's No. 1 company is appearing here this week with *Florodora*. Mr. Arthur Leesville's witticisms as the eccentric phrenologist Anthony Tweedlepunch, evoke roars of laughter; Mr. William Elerard, as Frank Abercoed, acts as well as he sings. He is especially successful in "The Shade of the Palm." Mr. Frank Grans is a buoyant Captain Arthur Donegal, and his song, "I Want to be a Military Man," is rendered in excellent style. Mr. C. Young Fiscott extracts plenty of humour out of the part of Cyrus Gilfain; Leandro is cleverly sketched by Mr. W. Rousell; and Gilfain's clerks have admirable representatives in Messrs. Victor Huntley, E. B. Davies, Albert Zietz, Percy Robinson, Percy Harris, and William Bradfield. Miss Violet Leslie makes a sweet Dolores, and her charming vocalisation is greatly admired; Mis Cissy Sephton is an extremely graceful and captivating Lady Holyrood, and her songs, "Tact," and "I've an Inkling," go wonderfully well; Miss May Yates is bright and coquettish as Angela Gilfain. Angela's friends are charmingly portrayed by the Misses Violet Braham, Ruth Fox, Ethel Vivian, Adelina Waldon, Joan Lelland, and Miss Newland; and Miss Josephine Ellis is successful as Valleda. The augmented orchestra is under the bâton of Mr. Irvin.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Messrs. Moody-Manner's B company is paying a welcome return visit here. On Monday *Carmen* was finely rendered, the dressing and setting, particularly of the second act, being especially admirable. A singularly fascinating and original Carmen was presented by Miss Teify Davies, whose singing and acting were marked by much distinction; and as Michaela, Miss Grace Nicoll sang with complete artistic success. Mr. Charles Carter was a fine Don Jose, and the picturesque Escamillo was capably rendered by Mr. Walter Barrett, while the humours of Il Remendado and Il Dancairo were quaintly presented by Messrs. R. Brookes and S. Lansdale respectively On Tuesday, for the first time in this town, *La Traviata* was given. Miss Grace Nicoll scored a great triumph as Violetta; Mr. Edward Arthur's fine voice was heard to great advantage as Alfred Germont; and Mr. T. H. Wood made a success of George Germont. *Faust*, *Mariana*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *I Pagliacci*, and *The Bohemian Girl* are other operas billed for the week.

Tivoli Theatre of Varieties.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—Melot Hermann, the renowned French conjuror, heads the bill and creates a great sensation by his wonderful powers. Mountford and Walsh prove themselves amusing duettists; Land, the Swedish specialist, is clever in his female impersonations; Bert Woodward is a smart trick cyclist; Tom Parker, a comedian of considerable merit, meets with great success, as also does George Collins, comedian; Miss Lillian Rigby gives a pleasing musical item; and Vernon's Bioscope shows some capital pictures.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—The delightfully farcical romance, *The Duke of Killicrankie*, has been presented for the first time locally this week by Mr. Charles Frohman and Mr. Arthur Chudleigh's company. The four dominating characters of the piece are impersonated by such first-class artists as Mr. Scott Craven, a truly commanding Duke of Killicrankie; Mr. Arthur Grenville, who is highly diverting and clever as Mr. Pitt-Welby, M.P.; Miss Doris Templeton, as the abducted, but finally conquered Henrietta Addison; and that charming comedy actress, Miss Aida Jonoure, as the strong-minded Mrs. Mulholland. Good support is given in other important characters by Miss Margaret Damer (Countess of Pangbourne), Mr. Pat Newall (Ambrose Hicks), Mr. Guy B. Watson (Alexander MacBayne), and Miss Helen K. Robertson (Mrs. MacBayne). Mr. Jerome K. Jerome's one-act play, *Barbara*, precedes the chief attraction, and this charming little piece is well acted by Miss Margaret Damer, in the title-rôle; Miss Gillian Scaife, a bright Lillie; Mr. Pat Newall, a capital Cecil; and Mr. Frank McDonnell as the lawyer Finnicum.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. W. Trussell.—Of the many illusions now before the public, none is more calculated to bewilder an audience more than "Aga," in which a lady is suspended in mid-air with apparently no support whatever. Barton and Ashley, evidently from across the "Pond," create amusement in their laughable interlude, *Canal Boat Sal*; Moretti and Alice, equilibrists, are exceedingly daring and clever; Florence Deighton displays a powerful soprano voice in some popular ballads; Tray and Rich, black and white comedy team, are great favourites; Ruby Winstone, comedienne and dancer; Teddy Derham, comedian; and Herbert Betts, comedian, are well received. The second performance on Wednesday was under the immediate patronage of Sir Tristram Tempest and the members of the Bath Cycling Club.

BATLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. M. Hurst.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company opened here on Monday with the drama *Honour Thy Father*. Mr. J. W. Evelyn made a capital Gabriel Garth; and Mr. Douglas B. Watson gave a powerful portrayal of Jack Halyard. The rôle of Duncan Bly was exceedingly well acted by Mr. Juan de Alberti, and Messrs. W. H. Melrose and Mr. Walter Dale were both suitably placed as Ned Pennycomquick and Mike Cobblestone. Mr. Claude Merton did well in the dual rôle of Job Merry and George Bloggs; and Mr. Frank Eden worked hard as Dr. Sleek. Gertrude Garth was in the safe keeping of Miss Kate Newton; and Miss Mabel Coleman gave a touching rendering of Lilian Garth. Miss Lizzie Moorby did good work as Poppy Cornleigh, and Miss Maud Grey and Miss Kitty Russell are both worthy of special mention as Violet Wilfred and Mercy Merry.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—For the first three nights of this week Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge's company presented *The Cricket on the Hearth*. It would be difficult to find a couple more suitable for the characters of John Peerybingle and Dot than Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge. Miss Ivy Lucy, as the cricket, performed some graceful dances; Miss Maggie Robertson's singing and gestures as Fairy Christmas were extremely praiseworthy; Miss Violet Gillies was the Fairy Queen; and Master T. Robertson the demon of mischief. Mr. Sydney Sarl made an excellent Tackleton; and Mr. David Curtis realised Dickens's creation of Caleb Plummer, admirably. Mr. Alexander Wills, as Edward Plummer, acted with skill; Miss Sybil Ruskin, as Bertha; Mrs. James Thurlow, as Mrs. Fielding; Miss Lilian Burleigh, as May Fielding; and Miss Dora Levis, as Tilly Slowboy, were well suited to their respective parts. Mr. Malcolm Barrington's company, with *Joseph Entangled*, were billed for the rest of the week.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. McCann.—Messrs. Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell's company is presenting Mr. J. M. Barrie's clever comedy, *Little Mary*. One of the finest impersonations was that submitted by Mr. George Mudie, who, as the Earl of Carlton, was very successful. The rôle of the little Irish mother, Moira Loney, was admirably sustained by a charming actress, Miss Ethel Dane; and the rôle of Lord Rolfe was capitally realised by Mr. Arthur Kightley. The rôle of the old apothecary, Terence Reilly, was well embodied by Mr. Ean Macdonald; and the rôle of Lady Milly was delightfully sustained by Miss Margaret Nybloc. Miss Elspeth Dudgeon was decidedly successful as the Countess of Plumleigh, and Mr. George A. Brandram presented a life-like impersonation of a fashionable London physician in his conception of Sir Jennings Pyke. Mr. Lewis Edgard was excellent as the Earl of Plumleigh, and the cast was completed by Miss Beatrice Kelson as Eleanor Gray and Mr. F. Watts as Mr. Deighton. *The Monkey's Paw* was a capital curtain-raiser. The various rôles were cleverly sustained by Miss Elspeth Dudgeon, and Messrs. Geo. S. Brandram, Arthur Kightley, Lewis Edgard, and Ean Macdonald.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. John P. Beardmore.—The star here this week is the Australian prima donna, Miss Ada Colley, whose fine voice has been heard to the utmost advantage in several songs. Mr. Frank Gerald has produced with great success a humorous sketch entitled *Nothing to Nurse*, in which he appears with much success as Charles Mulberry, and a charming actress, Miss Evelyn Vaudray, impersonates Madge Marigold in delightful style. Other rôles are portrayed by Messrs. E. Petley and Fred Rolls. The startling equilibristic act by the Bros. De Wynne has created quite a sensation; and an unmistakable hit has been made by Mr. Herbert La Martine, a good vocalist and exceptionally smart dancer. Mr. Daniel Gillen's ventriloquial act has been received with acclamation; and others appearing are Miss Marlow, comedienne; Mr. J. H. Crew, comedian and dancer; and the unique Palace pictures.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Limited.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Brock.—The star here is Miss Marguerite Broadfoote, an accomplished comedienne, whose delightful rendering of catchy songs gained her, on Monday, a good reception. The cycle act by the Proveanie troupe is of a startling nature, their feats being received with much applause. My Fancy is aptly described as the sand dancing marvel, her remarkable performance being rewarded with enthusiastic plaudits, fully deserved. The Three Donalds are sensational athletes, and their smart act has been voted first-class. The Bostons, versatile performers, appear in their exceptionally funny act, and others appearing are the charming Sisters Neilson; Mr. Walter Stanley, comedian; Mr. Victor Travers, comedian; and Mr. Arthur Melrose, a capital whistling comedian.

New Alhambra Theatre of Varieties.—General Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The clever comedian, Mr. Sam Mayo, heads the bill, and his humorous treatment of several really funny songs gained him deserved encores. Mr. John Alexander and Company appear in their side-splitting sketch, *The Troubles of a Tourist*; and Miss Effie White, the charming *danseuse*, is seen to the greatest possible advantage in some beautiful Kaleidoscope dances with their marvellous electrical effects. The views exhibited this week by Weisker Brothers' Bioscope are decidedly realistic, and an acquisition to any variety programme. The Three Dagmars are marvellous acrobats; and the gymnastic act by Onda and Leon is very smart. Others appearing are Miss Mamie Iris, a charming vocalist and smart sand dancer; Mr. Geo. Foyle, character comedian; also Miss Annie Laurie, comedienne.

BILSTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Battersby.—In *The Convict's Daughter* Mr. Frank Bertram's company has the special advantage of the services of Mr. J. W. Wilkinson, whose impersonation of the mysterious character Michael Graham is an excellent one. Capital work is seen in Mr. A. Lovett's Harold Trevalyen, Mr. G. M. Williams's Jasper Thorn, and Mr. J. K. Walton's Frederick Neville. The Edith of Miss Nellie Clyde, and the Marian Thorn of Miss Maud Osmond are both interesting portrayals. The comedy parts of Patrick O'Largan and Betty Hyne found suitable exponents in Mr. Alfred Terris and Miss Grace Harlington.

BIRKENHEAD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. George Testo Sante's company in *The Life of a Showman*, is attracting numerous audiences here. Mr. Santo is prominent with a vigorous and able rendering of Brian Leader, an impersonation which he embellishes with some extraordinary feats of strength. The villain of the piece is well embodied by Mr. Sam Arthur as Hendrick Marcias; the Rev. Cyril Arliss is well represented by Mr. Edward Warden; Mr. Charles Osborne is an efficient Sir Noel Hart

mally large audiences this week, Mr. T. Edward Ward's company being engaged. Miss Ward, as Honor Symes, displays rare sympathetic qualities; Mr. Percy Brown acts as Mark Desmond with capital expression; Mr. Charles H. Lester portrays the character of the dastard, Gilbert Fernside, in a lurid manner; Miss Helen Raby acts well as the "woman of pleasure," one Bella de Lara; and Little Holly Haslewood as the "illegitimate" leaves an excellent impression. The comedy passages are in experienced hands, Mr. T. Edward Ward, Mr. Reginald South, Mr. Victor Mason, Miss Amy Maitland, and Miss Marguerite Thorne being especially successful.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben Sydney.—*The Red Café*, which is represented here by Mr. Philip F. Knox and Miss Edith Grenfell's company, has met with the hearty reception that it merits. The acting calls for loud praise, Mr. Philip F. Knox for his heroic bearing as Count Sergius Petrosky, Miss Edith Grenfell for her graceful and sympathetic acting as Zitka Marsoff, and Mr. Martin Henry for his vivid impersonation of the villainous De Piayre being singled out for much attention. Miss Lily Gullick, Miss Lester Stephens, Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson, Mr. R. S. Entwistle, and Mr. Ernest Noble also do exceedingly well.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; Manager, Mr. Dan Barnard.—*A Trip to Rum-Fum*, in which Miss Cissie Moxon and company take the audience through an infinity of fun, wit, and melody, has filled the theatre nightly since Monday last. Miss Cissie Moxon in her vivacious and clever study of the music-hall girl, Florrie Hixie, has created a pleasant effect; Miss Stella West has been remarked for her charm as Angelina Toft; Miss V. Desmond as Peggy O'Hooligan invests the character with many winsome characteristics; and Mr. Shea as Larry O'Hooligan, Mr. T. Dupone as Biddy, Mr. J. Richardson as Hezekiah, Mr. J. Rogers as Cecil Toft, Mr. T. Cook as Scriviner, and Mr. A. Moss as Thady are all deserving of special praise. The Saxon Troupe shine in their international dances.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Hagedorn's Wonderful Grotto is the principal item this week. Ethel Arden, George Abel and company are presenting their smart sketch, *Three of a Kind*; Frank Hilbert, exposes the box trick and police handcuffs; a clever and artistic entertainment is that provided by the Andos Little Japs, whose walking the tight-rope is loudly applauded; May Mars, comedienne, is well received; La Testa, Frank Harwood, Edie Verno, and Bertha Palliser's excellent singing add largely to the success of the programme.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—The Savonas and Elliotts remain another week, and continue to attract packed houses, while Fred Earle is loudly applauded for his comic songs. The Bellony Bros. have a sensational cycle balancing act. The acrobatic performance of the Paul Hesse Trio and Senorita Elvina is smart. Fielding and Hall, Alice Ormonde, Fred Land, and Cliffe and Kean appear with their usual success.

HIPPODROME.—Managing Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Smaun Sing-poo, whose age is twenty-two, and only weighs 18lb., is the novelty turn here, and gives a smart gymnastic display. The Jees, in their musical sketch, *The Blacksmith*, are a clever turn, as also are the O'Learys, in their burlesque act. Walton and Miss Ella have a fine dog show. Other popular turns are Bertha Pertina, Carrie Joy, Sid Bandon, Frank Coyne, and the Toreadors.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident Manager, Mr. George Foster.—The Astleys are presenting their musical entertainment, which is loudly applauded; while Clown Zertho, with his well-trained dogs, give an interesting performance; Grell and Grey, in their sketch, *Bertie's First Lesson at Tennis*, is well received; Harry Anderson is applauded for his songs; Seeley and West, comedy musicians, also come in for a good share of applause; the Sisters Lunelle, Ted Cowan, and Winnie Derson also contribute to the excellent programme.

BLACKBURN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Business-Manager, Mr. Reginald Yorks.—The Milton Ray's pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, is doing good business here. Miss Nellie Merton, as Beauty, gives a pleasing performance; Miss Maidie Scott is an attractive Valet; and Miss Doris Drelincourt, as Prince Greatheart, wins much admiration. Mr. Rolando Martin, as Sammy the Page, gives a humorous performance; Mr. Edwin Garth is very funny as Wilhelmina; Mr. George Rydon and Messrs. Fyne and Hurley also contribute greatly to the amusement of the audience. Some excellent specialities are provided by the Four Trees, Wallau, and the Four Elderados.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company, in *The Two Little Drummer Boys*, is paying its first visit to Blackburn. Miss May Day and Miss Ethel Frances Greene portray the two little heroes in a highly efficient manner; Miss Blanche Steele gives a powerful rendering of Lola Grey; and Miss Mabel Scudamore is good as Mildred Grey. Mr. Leonard Booker duly earns the execrations of the audience as the villainous Richard Redstone. Mr. William H. Sams is an excellent Commander Noel Tregarthen. The comedy is well looked after by Mr. Oscar Power (Jack Jolly), Mr. Tom E. Sinclair (Ben Baxter), and Miss Lizzie Chambers (Lucy Wilson). Mr. W. H. Hallatt, as Captain Yorke, and Mr. George Cecil Murray, as Admiral Grey, also render good service.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Drury.—Variety is once more the order of the day at this popular place of amusement. Rosina Casselli and her Midget Wonders are well received. Another good turn is furnished by Lady Mansell and her troupe of juveniles. Billy Elliott is an old favourite in Blackburn. Ethel May, Martine and Son, Viviana, Pat Rafferty, Professor Thornbury, and Vanola also appear.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Miss Nettie Ware's company is here this week with a sensational drama entitled *When Woman Hates*. The principal part, Cora Daintry, is sustained with undoubted ability by Miss Elaine Verner; Mr. John B. Shinton portrays the heroic Lieutenant Rokeby with distinction, and Miss Ada Ryder is admirably suited to the rôle of Marie Rokeby. Mr. Albert Guyon as Godfrey Lawton, and Mr. Harding Thomas as Colonel Vancusson are also successful.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*The Duke of Killicrankie* as enacted by Mr. Leigh Lovel's company is doing well here this week. Mr. Herbert J. Bentley gives a capital representation of the title-rôle; Mr. Lovell scores a huge success as Henry Pitt Welby; Mr. H. Douglas Cottell amusingly portrays Alexandra MacBayne, and Mr. F. Danyers-Yates does well as Ambrose Hicks. The Lady Henrietta Addison has a charming exponent in Miss Octavia Kenmore, and Miss Namoi Neilson's Mrs. Mulholland could not be well improved. *Clause Number Six* is an interesting curtain raiser played by Mr. F. Danver-Yates (Charles Spotter), and Miss Helen Tytler (Dorothy Meadows).

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—A very diversified bill, in which some capital turns are included, is presented here this week. Ameen Abou Hamad's Arabian acrobats submit a splendid show, and the Beccaccio Trio of singers and instrumentalists also give a good account of themselves. Rose Harvey, the actress-vocalist, is always well received; Leah Arden shines as an operatic ballad vocalist; Mannings' entertainers contribute a laughable sketch; the San Remo Girls dance gracefully; Mazon and Marie are clever musicians; Fred Dunstone is a good comedian; and Stave wins appreciation in an Indian electric act.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. George E. Good.—The stage here has been occupied this week by the Ediscope and Barnum's electric animated pictures. Accompanying them are variety turns, including the singing Lancashire mill hand (Miss Jessie Harper), a great favourite. Le Brun, juggler, is good; Vera Snowdon is a successful vocalist and dancer; Mons. Edgar contributes a good musical act on the trapeze; Clown Ohmy is amusing with his dog, Toby; Will Ivor scores as a stilt performer; Loder Lyons gives a smart ventriloquial turn; the Roches are prominent as duettists; and Cecil Terry is an acceptable comedian.

TUDOR'S CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Tudor.—The same company remain here from last week, and have introduced some new scenas.

BOLTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—*Laughter Land*, musical pantomimical absurdity, is being played here this week by the "Cragg Congress of Comedians." The Cragg (six in number) undertake a variety of characters, in which they display acrobatic feats of a marvellous character.

GRAND THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon. The bill here contains the following artists, who make up a good variety programme:—Park's Eton Boys, who are warmly applauded for their melodious singing; Jack Pleasants, comedian; Wee Mona, who delights the audience with her coon singing and dancing; the Toros, marvellous equilibrists, &c.; the Bros. Lavelle, quaint comedy acrobats; the McKays, comedians, &c.; Mondray and Raymond; the Three Sherrys; the Howards; Blanche Haddon. The Imperial bioscope is also an an attraction.

OHMY'S CIRCUS AND VARIETY HIPPODROME.—Good houses appreciate the performances given here by Chard's American Troupe of jumping and performing dogs; the Two Padleys introduce an amusing boxing act, and also prove themselves expert dancers and tumblers. Mons. Swifelo, daring gymnast; Mr. George Ginnett with his performing horses and ponies; the Andy's Troupe of acrobats; clever riding by Miss Ada, Miss Lily, and Claude Ohmy, also contribute.

VICTORIA HALL.—J. P. Sousa and his band gave two performances here last Monday to crowded and appreciative audiences.

BOSCOMBE.—HIPPODROME.—Owner and Licensee, Mr. F. Mouillot; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—Under this title the former Grand Theatre here reopened on Monday with a bright and well-varied programme, on the two-houses-a-night system. The large audiences which gathered on Monday night, and their keen appreciation of the excellent fare provided, testified to the fact there is an opening for a high-class variety theatre in the neighbourhood. Probably the item most appreciated was the marvellous performance of Captain Woodward's seals and sea-lions, which provided one of the finest examples of animal training ever seen here. Another turn of considerable merit was the thought-reading séance of Mahatma; while Mr. H. A. Moore's imitations of well-known artistes were also much appreciated, as was a pleasing vocal fantasy, entitled "The Heirloom," sung by Miss Peggie Lennie and Mr. Walter Hast. Other capital turns were Mr. Henry Calvo's sketches at the piano; Vincent, acrobatic table expert; Miss Lilian Boanas, Australian prima donna; and Ruffell's Bioscope. Shortly before the conclusion of the performance, Mr. Mouillot came before the curtain, and in a brief but happy speech thanked the public for supporting his new enterprise by their attendances that evening.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—That charming comedy, *Merely Mary Ann*, as presented by Mr. Charles Frohman's company, is being well received here this week. Chief honours among the men are borne off by Mr. Alexander Calvert as Lancelot, Mr. Reginald Dance as Peter, Mr. Fred Grove as the Rev. Samuel Smedge, and Mr. W. Wilson as Lord Tottenham. As Mary Ann Miss Grace Armytage Noble is delightful, and brings much sympathy and talent to the part, while the Mrs. Leadbatter of Miss Alice Esden is a clever character sketch. Other notable rôles are well filled by Miss M. Alison Alexander, Miss Madge Johnstone, Miss Millicent McLaughlin and Miss Amy Thomas.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Pemberton.—It was announced last week that *Cinders* would terminate on last Saturday evening, but in consequence of the regrettable illness of Sir Henry Irving, whose engagement is postponed, the run of Mr. Hart's charming pantomime has been extended. There are some alterations in the cast, but the performances are as attractive and as enjoyable as ever with Mr. Harry Dent in Mr. J. W. Rowley's part of The Baron, and Miss Adelaide Gracey in Miss Marie Daltra's rôle of Gingeretta Hogg. Messrs. Grell and Grey have departed, and they are missed, but the rest of the company do much to fill up the vacancy, and Mr. Dent is noticeable in a clever guitar performance. Benefits and performances for the charities are the order.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—After a successful tour, Mr. Peter Eland's pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, was reproduced here last Monday evening to a large audience. There are some alterations in the cast; Miss Swires' part of The Fairy is now in the hands of Miss Jennie Whitehead, and Mr. Hill gives place to Mr. M. Johnson as a prominent comedian; Miss Mabel Manley prettily maintains her part of the title-rôle; Miss Dolly Hook, the principal boy, is eminently successful; and the company generally maintain a high state of efficiency.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, Moss' Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. J. Kelly.—Leon Morris's ponies provide a lot of amusement here this week, with their antics, and wrestling with John Hedge; there is a good turn by Lily Tiso, comedienne; and in "Funnabalism" Alfonso Burns and Gaston Evans introduce good dancing, comedy, and acrobatic business; there is novelty in the clever acrobatic dancing by the Four MacGovern Girls; a very welcome reappearance is made by that quaint Scotch humorist, W. F. Frame, who elicits much laughter; Collins and Rice are good in a comedy speciality; Rastus and Banks do capital comedy singing and dancing; a smart ventriloquial sketch is submitted by Tom Edwards; and the American Bioscope produces some interesting scenes.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. W. Berry.—Coco, the educated monkey, is a great and very interesting attraction here this week; Harris and Worth submit capital comedy; much interest is centred in the performance given by the blind musical genius, Martin Henderson; in their speciality "The Jap and the Russian," and on the trapeze, Rezene and Robini are funny as ever; Jack Charman submits a good vocal turn; Bishon and Vale are capital comedians in the knock-about style; Grace Merton sings sweetly as the original Street Singer; and the famous J. W. Rowley is delighting his many admirers with his capitally-rendered comic songs.

BRIDLINGTON.—PEOPLE'S PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Morgan.—Messrs. Collins and Stephenson's pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*, is the attraction here this week. Miss Gertie Rowan, as Sinbad, gives the necessary dash and finish to the part, and her songs are well rendered. Miss Florrie Goldstone is a fascinating Princess Zaza; Miss Annie G. Brevitt as Haidee, and Miss Lola Rosslyn as Prince Florizal, give their parts an excellent rendering. Mr. Tom Cattle is most amusing and clever as Tinbad the Tailor, and his dances with Miss Rowan are very smartly done. Mr. Billy Moore, as the Captain, is responsible for much of the fun of the piece. As Mrs. Sinbad, Mr. George Casey is the proverbial dame of pantomime; and Mr. Dan Harley, as the first mate of the Sunrise, adds greatly to the fun of the piece, his eccentric dances being received most rapturously. Mr. E. Percy is a good Rajah, and Miss Dolly Seymour enacts the part of the good fairy with success. The specialities include Percy Victor's very clever dog minstrels; the Zaza Girls, in some well-executed dances; Eddie Clay, the tramp musician; Johnny and Edna, a pair of exceedingly clever cake walk artistes; and Mr. Billie Moore, a lightning gun manipulator.

BRIGHOUSE.—ALBERT THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Morton-Powell; Business-Manager, Mr. M. Manley. The American-Indian actress, Go-Won-Go-Mohawk, with her company is at the above theatre this week in the picturesue and sensational drama *Wep-ton No-Mah, the Indian Mail Carrier*, in which the acting of Go-Won-Go-Mohawk has created a very favourable impression. A few of the members of the company can sing a good song, and all do their share of the work satisfactorily.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Opening a week's engagement here on Monday, with *The Only Way*, Mr. Martin Harvey and company attracted a crowded and enthusiastic audience. Mr. Martin Harvey submitted a powerful and thoroughly artistic impersonation of Sydney Carton; Miss N. de Silva imparted touching pathos to her portrayal of Mimi; Mr. Charles Glenney gave a forcible enactment of Ernest Defarge; Mr. Fred Wright, sen., achieved conspicuous success as Doctor Manette; Mr. P. Alexander as Mr. Lorry and Mr. Percy Anstey as Charles Darnay displayed excellent acting; and Miss Coleridge was a graceful Lucy Manette; while Mrs. Frederick Powell, as "the Vengeance," and Miss Bessie Elder as a Citizeness, were duly vigorous. The programme for the week also included *The Breed of the Treshams*.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company is here this week with *The Sledge Hammer*, and is doing excellent business. Mr. Charles Herbert makes the most of his opportunities as Mat. Shew Derrick, whose sons, Everard, Jacob, and Simon, have effective exponents in Mr. W. V. Garrod, Mr. A. Northway, and Mr. Lawrence Konrad respectively, the sledge hammer fight between the two last-named being very exciting. Miss Bertha Kingston gives a sympathetic portrayal of Rose Maywell; Mr. Frank Litchfield is distinctly successful as the earnest, and, at times, humorous Tom Walker; and much amusement is also afforded by Miss Ellaline Thorne as Catherine Hennis. Admirable support is rendered by Mr. Maxwell Davidson, Mr. Thomas Ashton, Mr. F. Dallas, Mr. L. V. St. Clair, Mr. W. Vincent and Miss Fanny Thorne.

The pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, closed its successful run here last Saturday evening amid a scene of great enthusiasm. In response to loud calls, Mr. Ernest Carpenter, managing-director, and author of the pantomime, came forward, and, in a neat speech, expressed his warm appreciation of the support given him by the Brighton public, and also cordially thanked his pantomime company, Mr. W. F. Crowe (resident-manager), the staff, Signor G. D. La Camera (musical director), and the orchestra. Mr. W. F. Crowe was also called to the front and presented with a silver cigarette case and match box, and also a diamond pin. In reply, he said he would do his utmost to promote the success of the excellent programmes arranged by Mr. Ernest Carpenter for the enjoyment of the patrons of the theatre. On behalf of the patrons he presented Mr. Carpenter with a souvenior of his first pantomime at Brighton. The Tally-Ho Trio (great favourites), Mr. J. H. Booth (assistant stage-manager), Sig. La Camera, and the principal members of the company also received handsome presents; and Mr. Carpenter embraced the opportunity of stating that *Robinson Crusoe* would be the subject of his next Christmas pantomime. The presentations were made to the accompaniment of deafening applause, and the enjoyable evening closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—Joe O'Gorman, the Irish humorist, submits a delightful turn; Jack Camp's amusing songs and patter are warmly appreciated; Tom Davies' Trio of cyclists provide great sensation in "Whirling the Wheel"; Mdlle. Violi is a clever performer on a variety of instruments; Atroy is a smart juggler and hoop manipulator; two sketches, *The Man in Possession*, presented by Gus Blake and Maude Granby, and *Getting Even*, by Fred Sinclair and Gracie Whiteford, are highly amusing; Levano, a marvellous Arab tumbler, is well received; the Sisters Caselli are dashing soubrettes and dancers; and the Alhambra pictures are very interesting.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company, are here this week with *The Manxman*. Mr. Cross gives an admirable impersonation of Pete; Miss Minnie Watersford acquits herself with complete success as Kate Cregan; Mr. Henry Heiler's Cæsar Cregan is a capital character study; Mr. William Burchill is very effective as Philip Christian; Miss Nancy Mitchell makes a capital Nancy; and other characters are well sustained by Mr. Edward McClean, Mr. C. H. Ogden, Mr. E. Cartell, Mr. H. Wadely, Mr. J. Allen, Mr. W. Horgan, Mr. H. H. Morton and Miss K. Livesey.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Barrasford Quartet (Mdlle. Bertrin, Mdlle. Lozini, M. Cauveren and M. Auguste Delcoin), are re-engaged, and are highly successful in selections from *Faust*; George Lashwood, comedian, is as great a favourite as ever; the Barra Troupe submit charming musical selections on various instruments, and are deservedly applauded; Lillian is a very expert trick cyclist; R. H. Douglas, entertainer, evokes hearty applause and roars of laughter; V. J. De Henau is a marvellous painter with his feet; Bob Hamilton, comedian and concertinist, is very entertaining; Mdlle. Aladina and her performing cockatoos, provide an excellent turn; Nellie Kilburn is a charming comedienne; and the programme includes animated pictures.

COLISEUM.—Manager, Mr. C. Smith-Wilkes.—Alexandra Dagmar, the popular burlesque actress, is enthusiastically received, and scores a great success in her burlesque of *The Duchess of Dantzic*; Edie King proves herself a charming comedienne and graceful dancer; G. W. Hunter is very entertaining with song and story; Billie Taylor is highly successful in his latest and mirth-provoking speciality, *Electric Mania*; Leslie H. Murray's card tricks and conjuring merit warm praise; Kitty Gresham, "the Society Girl," is a pleasing vocalist; Rosie Sylvester sings and dances herself into favour; Benson Kleve is a clever character comedian and patterer; and the Coliseum pictures are very enjoyable.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—We are now in the last two weeks of the very successful pantomime, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and the house is crowded at each performance with an enthusiastic audience. The company, headed by Miss Lil Hawthorne, as principal boy, has proved to be an exceptionally capable one, all the principals having now become established favourites. The staging of the pantomime is on a magnificent scale. Miss Lil Hawthorne's benefit was announced for Friday, many extra attractions being provided.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—This is the last week of *Robinson Crusoe*. The attendance has never flagged since the opening night, and it is generally admitted that this is the best pantomime ever seen here. The company is a strong and able one, the principals being very popular with all parts of the house, while the mounting generally is both liberal and artistic.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Harmony Four head the programme with a very pleasing turn, which obtains appreciation by all parts of the house. Brinn creates quite a sensation with his clever speciality, "Pastimes on a Battleship"; Henri Bekkar is an expert conjurer, assisted by Mdlle. Maie; Jules Keller does a clever act, walking, dancing, &c., upside down: Harry Drew, basso, sings in artistic style; Fred Curran, comedian, has some good songs; Larry Lewis is popular in the same line; and the Judges are smart at leaping, tumbling, and other acrobatics. The performance concludes with a fine display of animated pictures.

PALACE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Harry Lauder, Scotch comedian, heads the programme. His songs are all amusing, some of them may be classed as character studies, and he obtains much applause for his efforts to entertain. Miss Maggie Duggan is also much appreciated; she has some good songs, which are rendered in artistic style. Miss Ivy Nelson, comedienne, does a pleasing turn of song and dance; Ovieto and Bray (George and Lottie) present a good comedy and speciality act, Miss Bray doing an exceptionally clever skipping-rope dance; Rozaire Belleros Troupe score with a comedy acrobatic act; Boyd and Gilfain do an excellent burlesque and musical turn; Hector and Paulus are smart comedy acrobats and equilibrists: Monks and Woods (Bert and Lucie) score in a musical duologue, *Queen of Hearts*; Leslie Race, comedian, pleases; and the performance concludes with some new animated pictures. The matinée on Thursday, with special attractions, was for the benefit of the Bristol Marine Ambulance Corps.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LTD.—Managing Director and Licensee, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. B. Astin.—Pantomime again has possession of the boards here, and on Monday a full house gave every indication of enjoying Mr. H. A. Jordison's *Babes in the Wood*. Reggie and Cissie (the babes) are respectively played by little Miss Dolly Cullen and little Miss Elsie Jordison, who are pretty dancers. Messrs Cullen and Carthy, as Beery Bill and Sleepy Dick, keep the house in roars of laughter. Mr. Roland Hill is a droll Dame Peggy; Robin Hood has a clever exponent in Miss Madge Daley; Miss Ada Martini dances prettily, and pleasingly sustains the part of Maid Marion. Mr. Edward Avon is an amusing Baron Toodle, and scores with his legmania. Little John and Phyllis are represented by the Misses Ethel and Bella Brookland, whose dancing goes well. Little Cluley, as Bantam, assists the laughter. Miss Gabrielle Harver as Will Scarlett, Miss Beattie Scots as Allan-a-Dale Miss R. Eaton as Ariel, and Mr. W. Francis Greene as Herne work well. Jordison's Empire Troupe of dancers are favourably received. Among the specialities, that by Mr. George Chanti, introducing many startling and pleasing scenic novelties, is much applauded. The staging is excellently carried out by the aid of the extensive electric lighting installation.

BURNLEY.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Culcen; General Manager, Mr. James E. Culcen.—*The Conscript* is being presented here by an excellent company, under the direction of Mr. George Mitchell and Mr. John Belton. Mr. George Mitchell plays the part of Karl Truevitch in a natural manner, and with such force and dignity that every word and movement stamps him as an actor of ability. Mr. Howell Travis gives a clever and convincing portrayal of Ivan Manloff. Count Paul Hardiski has a capital exponent in Mr. Horatio Sinclair. Mr. John Belton makes an effective Dar Doggervitch. Maxim Fredka is ably represented by Mr. Edward Hill. Miss Mary Dawson, as the heroine, Nadia Truevitch, fills the part with credit, and receives cordial applause. Miss Elizabeth Doone contributes some sound acting as Catherine Silka. The comedy element is successfully sustained by Mr. Harry Tilbury as Tretch Tretoff, Miss May Carlton as Dame Kolinka, and Miss Bella Tilbury as Wanda. Miss Arline T. George gives a good rendering of Little Karl; Michael Andrevitch is ably portrayed by Mr. Frank Harvey; Mr. George Oliver is seen to advantage as Woolf Stilvitch; Mr. W. F. Armytage is a satisfactory General Koorshoo, and Mr. E. F. Case an efficient Commander Jolly.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. C. Hamer.—The diversified and well arranged programme this week includes Messrs. Henry Abdy's and Mdlle. Marvelle's hippodrome, consisting of cockatoos, &c., who contribute an enjoyable entertainment. Mdlle. Nadji, premier hand-balancer, gives an exceedingly smart turn. Charles's Stage Circus is a wonderful performance. Little Mike Cray, comic juggler, does several amusing tricks which create much merriment. Miss Alicia Mayne, Australian soprano, receives a hearty reception. Charles Slaman, comedian, is a popular artist, and the biograph submits a series of interesting and humorous pictures.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Walter.—A great attraction is here this week in Mr. W. W. Kelly's No. 1 *Royal Divorce* company. Miss Edith Cole, an emotional actress of exceptional ability, imbues the rôle of imperial dignity with an underlying note of womanly tenderness and grace which completely fascinates her audience. The loyal Stephanie is portrayed with piquancy and zest by Miss Helen Richmond. A truly regal figure is that of Ethyle Murray, who is seen to advantage as Marie Louise. The Napoleon of Mr. Frank Lester is a triumph of histrionic art; Mr. Trevor Lowe gives a sterling performance as Marquis de Beaumont; Mr. H. Gray Dolby achieves distinction as the diplomatic Talleyrand; while Mr. Alfred Grenville is an unqualified success as General Augereau. Mr. Ernest G. Batley, Mr. Dennis Bryan, Miss Gertrude Entwistle, Miss Teresa Gilmour, and Miss Maggie Cardiff render efficient aid.

BURY (LANCS).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The Athenæum Amateur Operatic Society are playing *The Yeomen of the Guard* here this week, in aid of charity.

OLYMPIA CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Culling again provides excellent fare here, including Selma Braatz, a wonderful lady juggler; the Revel Troupe in a funny act entitled *Mischief*; Boy Glen, a young comedian; The Berringtons, jugglers; Ryde and Beeman, acrobats; and the Cape Girls, dancers.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. Broadhead.—The Imperial Troupe of singers and dancers head the bill and are an exceedingly clever turn. Others in the programme are Agnes Kfembser, juggler; the Sisters Russell, duettists; Saxo, in imitations of German cornets; McCann, comedian and dancer; and Frank Staley, actor vocalist.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Messrs. Lawrence Grant and Malcolm Barrington's excellent company opened here on Monday night with *Joseph Entangled*. We have several pleasing recollections of Mrs. Mouillot in various characters, and as Lady Verona Mayne she was equally successful. Mr. Lawrence Grant was easy and natural as Sir Joseph Lacy; Mr. Hugh Ardale did justice to Hardolph Mayne; Harry Tavender was well rendered by Mr. F. H. Denton, as was Mrs. Tavender by Miss Evelyn Maxwell; Mr. C. Leveson Lane was satisfactory as Jermyn Pyecroft; Mr. Everard Digby played Professor Tofield in an easy manner; and Mr. Guy Lane (Knapman), and Miss Claire Cavendish (Mrs. Knapman) also did well. The play was followed by *Heart of Gold*.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—Enthusiastic audiences have crowded to see *The Cingalee* at the Royal this week. The play is presented by one of Mr. George Dance's chief companies. The greater share of the work falls on Mr. Lauri de Frece, who, as Chambhuddy Ram, is successful in keeping the house in shouts of laughter. Mr. Kenneth Wynne has a capital voice, and makes an excellent Harry Vereker; Mr. Fred. W. Pattrick does exceptionally well as Boobhamba; Mr. F. W. Ford gives an amusing delineation of Sir Peter Loftus; and as Bobby Warren, Mr. George Mudie, jun., scores a success. Miss Nancy Freyne, who has a pleasing voice, plays Lady Patricia in lively style; Miss Mabel Sealby is entitled to praise for her excellent portrayal of Peggy Sabine, and Miss Ethel Negretti, in the rôle of Nanoya, has ample opportunity for displaying her vocal ability.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business Manager, Mr. Robert Sawin.—Mr. Wm. Maclaren and Miss Lily Bandmann are appearing here this week in a welcome revival of *Proof*. As Pierre, Mr. Maclaren has a part which he fills with considerable success. The Madeleine of Miss Lily Bandmann is marked by many pleasant touches that win the sympathy of the audience. The numerous characters are exceptionally well impersonated by the clever artistes. *David Garrick*, followed by the screen scene from *The School for Scandal*, was presented on Wednesday night with great success.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—The star turn this week is that of the Dandies, whose performance as a combination of refinement, melody and humour would be difficult to beat. A sensational wire balancing act by Harry Lamore is a great attraction; Swan and Bambard provide a diverting knockabout entertainment; W. H. Fox, as "Paddywhiski," is an old Cardiff favourite; and McPhee and Hill, on the horizontal bar, are another well-known couple. Ryan and Hall, in a clever acrobatic act; George Tacius, the double-voiced vocalist; the Bros. Fortune's novel comedy turn; and some capital bioscopic pictures complete an excellent programme.

CARLISLE.—ALGIE'S HIPPODROME.—Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Veitch; Manager, Mr. C. Algie.—The management has secured a big attraction this week in the engagement of Mons. Paul Courto in his wonderful and original dog-cart act. Entering the ring in an ordinary dog-cart drawn by two spirited horses driven tandem fashion, Mons. Courto, in ordinary evening dress, executes some marvellous and daring leaps and somersaults from the cart on to the horses and back. Another especially good turn is provided by Zaran, an acrobat and comedian of quite unusual ability, whose "comedy on a lamp-post" causes roars of laughter. Mr. Charlie Dixon, an eccentric comedian, proves himself a laughter maker of the first order. Mdlle. Cecilia De Pasto, a lady of handsome appearance, gives an exhibition of clay modelling and paper tearing which is decidedly interesting. Serony, comedian; Miss Kate Lynd, vocalist; and De Oka, a smart aerial gymnast, contribute turns which add to the popularity of a really excellent performance.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman.—Mr. A. E. Smith's pantomime, *Aladdin*, opened on Monday to a crowded house. Miss Elsie Douglas, as Aladdin, sings and dances herself into the good graces of everybody, and wins much approval for a vivacious performance Miss Kathleen O'Neill sings well, and gives a graceful and entertaining rendering of Princess Badroulbadour. Miss Fannie Douglas is smart as Peko. Mr. J. H. Maxwell, as Abanazar, is amusing, and this clever artiste causes hearty laughter whenever he appears. Widow Twankey has a highly diverting exponent in Mr. Fred Ramsdale, who sings and dances in capital style. Miss Maudie Bettison, as the Genie of the Ring, is the possessor of a charming voice, which she uses to advantage in her various songs. The Brothers Taylor are successful knockabouts, and make two good Chinese policemen. Mr. J. Matthews does well as the Grand Vizier. Mr. J. Arnold is a capital Emperor. Madam Helen Godfrey conducts an augmented orchestra well, besides giving some clever imitations on various instruments in Scene 10. The Four Snowdrops are a quartette of smart lady dancers. Mr. Maxwell is loudly applauded for his hat-spinning business. Arnold, as an illusionist, is also well to the fore.

CHATHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. George G. Ridley.—Messrs. Carson and Granville's company is here in *Defending His Honour*.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—The great attraction here is the Poluski Brothers in their successful motor car act, which causes roars of laughter. Next in popularity come the Sisters Govell, a pair of clever serios and dancers. Signor and Madame Prosper Benn score in a musical scena, entitled *From Pavement to Stage*. Beatie Foster, vocalist; Stirtevant Swift, coon singer; Matt Wilkinson and company in *That French Woman*; Lacey's Erascope, and Wallace Whitney complete the bill.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank J. Donne.—The Coloured Meisters top the bill, followed by Chris. Richards, eccentric comedian; Mdlle. Rosa's dog circus; Mdlle. Du Roche, vocalist; J. C. Manley, character vocalist; the Paul Courtney combination; Stanley and Tich Bourne, duettists and comedians; and pictures shown by the Edisonograph.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—On Monday evening Messrs. H. B. Levy and John Walters' juvenile company commenced a fortnight's engagement in the pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*. The scenery is beautiful, the singing well worth hearing, and the dancing a particularly pleasing feature. A warm welcome was awarded Miss May Gibson, as Little Miss Muffett; her voice has developed quite tunefully, and demands for encores were merciless. Miss Molly Rafferty in the title-rôle soon wins the hearts of the audience; and her sister, Kitty, as Fairy Queen is quite charming, speaking her lines with remarkable fluency. Boy Blue, Robin Hood, and Tommy Tucker are prettily impersonated by the Misses Lottie Harper, Flo Le Roy, and Kitty Trewitt respectively; Miss Isa Gibson being Marjorie Daw, and Miss Mona Townshend, Nancy Lee. The biggest "hit" of the young comedians is Paddy Mills as Sunny Jim; Fred Ell

bats; they perform a number of clever feats. The Four Maisanos introduce a musical act, which is original and clever. The Moxon family do some juggling and balancing acrobatic feats. Deller and Oxford sing and dance, and their dialogue is smart. Charles Paver, comedian, won applause. Gracie Logan is an excellent serio and dancer; Le Warren is a clever ventriloquist, and the Alhambra Quartette of lady vocalists and dancers are pleasing.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Bennett.—*A Trip to Chinatown* is being produced at this place of amusement this week. Welland Strong, "the dying man," is a most amusing character, in which Mr. Chas. Seguin is very successful. As the gay widow, Mrs. Guyer, Miss Kitty Marion performs capitally. Mr. Will Smith makes an excellent waiter. Other numerous characters are successfully taken by Mr. Jerrold Manville as Ben Gay; Mr. Leslie Norman as Rashleigh Gay; Oswald Grey as Saxon Blood; Mr. S. Champion as Slavin Payne; and Miss Daisy Revell as Flirt. Little Britton, as "Jones of Chinatown," is claimed to be the smallest comedian in the world.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—Mr. T. Jarman's Co. have paid their first visit to Crewe with the Anglo-Russian drama, entitled, In *Dark Siberia*. Mr. W. T. Riley, in the character of Captain Gordon, and, afterwards as the disguised Kobe, acted very satisfactorily; Major Waroff was portrayed in a truly villainous manner by Mr. Wilson Howard; Miss Cecilia Ransome was entrusted with the difficult part of Paul Gregorovitch, and she gave an excellent rendering; the vacillating character of Colonel Nevski was played by Mr. B. H. Ross with much success; Miss Carlotta Anson appeared to great advantage as Princess Natalie; and Mr. H. Goodier made a very adroit Bruin, his antics causing much amusement. The comedy element was adequately represented by Mr. Louis Weston as Sergeant Petrovitch, who received good support from Miss Linda Riley as Ivanova. Mr. J. Thompson gained applause as the machinist of the swinging bridge, which was very effective.

CROOK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Wallace Davidson.—*The Best Must Win*, played by Messrs. C. Draycott and H. B. Peppin's company, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Draycott submits a fine performance; Miss L. W. Lloyd's rendering of Denise is all that can be desired; and Mr. R. Watson is an able Paul. Mr. H. W. Monte displays ability in a Hebrew character; and Miss Kate Maynard appears as Lucilla la Touche; Miss Maud Hetherington is a smart Surgette. On Wednesday and Thursday nights *The Stolen Birthright* was given, and on Friday *East Lynne*.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Lawrence.—The ever green *Geisha* is being played here. Miss Violet Kenyon makes a conquettish O Julietta Diamant; Miss Aubrey Ashton gives prominence to the rôle of Lady Constance Wynne; Miss Florrie Saunders' singing and acting as Molly Seamore meets with approbation; and Miss Violet Moore endows O Mimosa San with feminine charm, and sings in finished style. Mr. Edward Carlton works the audience into a state of uncontrollable mirth in the part of Wun Hi; Mr. Lionel Brahm deserves congratulations for a capital rendering of the Marquis Imari; Mr. Arthur Cartright's fine vocal powers have full play in the rôle of Reginald Fairfax; and useful aid is also given by Mr. J. Hornby as Captain Katana and Mr. Harry Reynolds as Takemine. The remaining characters are well attended to, and the costumes and chorus are capital. *The Greek Slave* has also proved an attraction.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James.—An excellent representation of *The Black Flag* is being given here this week. Mr. Bernard Copping appears to considerable advantage as Harry Glyndon; Mr. E. Ruston is a very careful exponent of Jack Glyndon; and the father, Owen Glyndon, is capitally enacted by Mr. H. H. Barrington. Mr. Herbert Landeck is extremely amusing as Sims Lazarus; and Mr. E. Tresner gives a clever piece of acting as Jim Seaton. Miss Nellie Howett is charming and ladylike in her impersonation of Naomi Blandford; and Miss Millie Henderson is a satisfactory Topsy Carroll.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Resident General-Manager, Mr. Eustace H. Jay.—A varied and entertaining programme is supplied here. Phillips and Terry are exhilarating in comedy act, *The Revolt of Man;* Adelina, facialist and impersonator of celebrities, is certainly well worth seeing; Fred Villiers, vocal comedian, is much above the average; Wright and Elton, speciality eccentrics, are very quaint; Beattie Bloom, comedienne, is entertaining; and Wisper, comedy tourist juggler, submits a novel and amusing turn. The sketch, *A Matrimonial Substitute*, is smartly acted by Mr. Gene Hughes and Miss Lina Crews Hughes. Interesting turns are also given by the McMays, comedy pair; Nellie Chandon, serio; the Haldyne Duo, in vocal comedy act, *The Curate's Dilemma;* Nellie Willson, comedienne; Lloyd and Elvin, entertainers; and Harry Phillips, vocal comedian.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manageress, Mrs. T. W. S. Jennings.—The attraction here this week is *The Major*, played by Miss Ada Wallis' Company. Miss Ada Wallis appears as Angelina, an eccentric maid of all work. Mr. T. C. McQuire plays the Major. Specialities are introduced by The Sisters Valli, instrumentalists; and the Sisters Verne, dancers.

DRILL HALL.—The "New Era" Animated Photo Company opened here on Monday with a fine series of pictures, many of which are quite new. The different subjects are introduced by Mr. Bob White, who also contributes some first-class songs.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. E. L. Ormsby.—Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime *Cinderella* is proving a great attraction here this week. Miss Florence Watson is a dainty Cinderella, and sings with excellent taste. Mdlle. De Rose makes a dashing Prince Perfect, her vocal efforts being exceptionally well received. Miss Susie Bevan is an attractive Dandini, and Miss Pollie Kiddie is good as Viscount Nappe. As Pimples, the page, Mr. Charlie Harvey is foremost of the comedians; there is never a dull moment whilst he is on the stage. Mr. Will Saunders funnily impersonates Baron Shiphtalotte, and Mr. H. C. Lovell and Mr. Fred Denman are good as Ethel and Maud respectively. Miss Rose Pareezer looks and sings well as Fairy Sunbeam, and Mr. J. H. Hawtrey is a successful Demon King. Messrs. Houpla and Hecla furnish an exceptionally good acrobatic turn.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—The Ben Greet company is fulfilling an important engagement here with *The Darling of the Gods*. The play is well staged, and the company presenting it is one of all round excellence. The Zakuri of Mr. Edward A. Warburton is a striking and powerful assumption, exhibiting the varying moods of the character in a manner most realistic. As Kara, Mr. Alfred Goddard plays with rare ability, his impersonation being most creditable. An assumption that is as charming as it is clever is the Yo-San of Miss Inez Bensusan, who acts with distinction all through. Miss Edith Anton Laing, as Rosy Sky, also richly merits special mention. The Saigon of Mr. Leonard Grey is a strong and convincing depiction; Mr. Alexander Haviland submits a polished performance of Tanda Tani; Miss Stella Wynne figures very acceptably as Ni, the singing girl; and Miss Kate Hamilton appears with success in the part of Madame Asani. Mr. Launcelot St. George Lowther is highly praiseworthy as Inu, the dumb slave; and Mr. Ralph Hutton gives a powerful presentment of Kato, the fisherman.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Allan Edwardes.—Katie Lawrence, comedienne, is the star attraction here this week, and is meeting with a good reception; Datas upholds his title of "the living almanack," his feats of memory being really wonderful; Frank Boyce, a clever character comedian, is heartily appreciated; Ruby Aston scores well as a comedienne and dancer; Fred Lloyd and company appear in an amusing farce, *The Blind Spinster;* Zanfretta and Napio, described as "musical knife grinders," are praiseworthy; and the Two Rubies are pleasing dancers. The Bioscope is responsible for a number of entertaining pictures.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—*The New Mephisto* is always well received here. Mr. Albert Weston is in the title-rôle, and in the six separate and distinct characters he sustains, plays very cleverly. Dick Pilgrim is well embodied by Mr. Willie H. Vernon, and the Captain Meredith of Mr. H. P. Carr is a capital performance. Mr. Herbert St. John as Lord Hummingtop wins considerable popularity. Mr. Arthur Randal is a testy Major Bantam, and Miss Nellie Burdette as Dolly gives a dainty and distinctly pleasing impersonation. Marian Armitage maintains all the former interest created by her portrayal of Becky Pilgrim, and is loudly applauded. The Misses Dorothy Cecil, Leah Howard, and Lillian Gregory are also in the cast, and the Vocal Quartette of Thalian Glee Singers do more than justify their inclusion in an excellent combination of artists.

DOUGLAS.—NEW EMPIRE THEATRE.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Alfred Sugden; General Manager, Mr. Roberts Lena.—The lessee and manager of this popular place of amusement have proved indisputably that a stock season at towns, hitherto regarded as merely summer resorts, is possible and profitable if the plays are selected with knowledge, acted with earnestness, and reasonably staged. The stock company at the Empire is weekly gaining friends. The chief attraction on Monday was a dramatic story of the Crimean days, entitled *The Little Hero*. Miss Lena Lewis, a clever and versatile actress, was pathetic and boyish as the Trumpeter Dick; Miss Gertrude Lovel played with forcefulness as the adventuress. Her foreign accent was effective and her dramatic treatment of the rôle excellent. Miss Marie Lisle was quite in the picture as the heroine. Mr. Richard Walsh, a young actor of intelligence, played Mrs. O'Grady with humour and without vulgarity; Mr. Ernest Percival was well placed as the Sergeant, while his stage management is praiseworthy. The villain of Mr. Will Priestly, an arduous character, evoked the stormy execrations of his audience; Messrs. Frank Fox and George Ogden supplied welcome comedy relief; Mr. Roberts Lena, as the Rev. John Gray, was the personification of Charles Kingsley's muscular Christian, and his passionate acting aroused the keenest attention. For the last two nights of the week, the drama, *Crevation*, is billed, supported by Miss Lena Lewis, Miss Lovel, Mr. Roberts Lena and the full strength of the company.

DOVER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—The popular farcical comedy, *The Lady of Ostend*, was presented here for three nights, *The Cruise of the Saucy Sally* being played the latter end of the week, by Mr. Laurence Brough and West-end company. In the former play, Mr. Brough, as Le Baron de Longueville, is to be credited with an exceptionally able performance, and peals of laughter were evoked by his diverting impersonation of the débonair Frenchman. Joseph Carbury had a most humorous exponent in Mr. Percy Marshall, whose by-play and facial expression were clever and amusing. Mr. Harry Hampson was no less successful, the drollery of the part of Dick Whortles being well portrayed. Mr. L. Cory Thomas, as Toby Krockitt, was funny, and succeeded in keeping the audience in constant laughter. Mr. Hewson Elliot showed ability as Thompson; and Mr. W. Dexter, as John Humbert, and Mr. Harold M. McNay, as James, are worthy of mention. Miss Kate Milbury was responsible for a womanly and dignified interpretation of the part of Dorothy Whortles, and Miss Doris Wayne acted with considerable spirit as Millie Grace. Miss Maud Buchanan, as the "Lady from Ostend," handled the part with tact and skill; Miss Eleanor Gilbart gave an excellent character study of the mother-in-law, Matilda Carbury; and Miss Daisy Cook was smart as Jane. The farce was preceded by the comedietta, *Margaret's Stratagem*.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Limited; General Manager, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. Edward Tearle and company opened here on Monday, when *Othello* was produced before a large and appreciative audience. Mr. Edmund Tearle gave a powerful reading of the rôle of Othello, displaying much histrionic ability, which won for him hearty applause. Miss Esther Tearle portrayed the character of Desdemona in a charming manner; and Iago had an able exponent in Mr. William J. Miller. The Cassio of Mr. J. V. Fairley was an admirable performance; and Emilia was played in an effective manner by Miss Mary Campbell. Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree capably sustained the rôle of Roderigo. *Under the Red Robe, Macbeth, The Three Musketeers, Julius Cæsar*, and *Hamlet* were also in the week's programme.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company commenced a six nights' engagement here on Monday with *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Edward Kipling, in the title-rôle, was most successful; and Mr. George Barrett displayed clever comedy in his representation of the criminal, Crookie Scrubbs. Miss Hilda Antony made a graceful and pleasing Aurora, and sang several numbers with great taste and ability. In the rôle of Lady Bickenhall Miss Scott Lestelle acted particularly well, and her songs were effectively rendered. Mr. Campbell Bishop acted his part of the magistrate, Mr. Crank, in good style; Mr. Chas. Hanbury was all that could be desired as Michael Brue; and Miss L. Zambray was excellent as the servant, Daisy. The remaining parts were capitally acted, and the dances were cleverly executed.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; General Manager, Mr. Kennedy Miller.—Messrs. Garside and Knowles' company occupies the boards here this week with *The London Fireman*. Mr. J. Forbes Knowles gives a capital portrayal of the rôle of Hal Curtis; and as Viscount Fleming Mr. Robert Grey meets with success. Mr. Edward L. Garside scores as the returned convict; and Miss Eila Vane is effective as Grace Curtis. The parts of Nixey Stinger and Polly Bramble are played in a humorous manner by Mr. Charles Preece and Miss Nellie Garside; and Miss Nellie Shirley makes an admirable Ida Curtis. The part of Abel Fortnum is well played by Mr. J. Bradley; and as Countess Fleming Miss Violet Temple is creditable.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. S. FIGGIS.—The principal attraction here this week is the Boisset Troupe in the laughable sketch, *The Bricklayers*, which meets with a cordial reception. The coon songs and dances of Daisy Mayer are nightly appreciated, and the musical imitations given by Albert Whelan are well received. H. F. Wilson, tenor vocalist, scores a success, as does also Fred Terry, eccentric comedian. Cyclo supplies a clever cycling act; and Lulu Gould is a chic comedienne. The Jackson Family, who remain from last week, are going as well as ever, and the Empire pictures are interesting.

TIVOLI THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The principal feature here this week is the Pichel Troupe of acrobats, whose daring and sensational performance meets with unstinted applause. Another excellent turn is that provided by the Brewsters, vocalists and dancers; and Will Ellerslie is a smart comedian and mimic. The Ross Clyde company, in the sketch, *I Must Have It*, is highly amusing; and Elsa Joel is a charming operatic vocalist. Sandy and Carl, comedians and dancers, excel; and Florrie Bray is a pleasing comedienne and dancer. Belloni, the flying snake; Jack Lane, Yorkshire rustic; and Melanie, wire walker, complete the programme.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The company engaged here includes: Oresta, musical clown; Madame Hypa, clairvoyant; Abe Laxey, comedian; Marcella, the Midget Queen; Prof. Anderson, ventriloquist; and Eugene, palmist.

SAMUELS' EXHIBITION PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. S. Samuels.—The bill here includes: Leon and Leoni, musical eccentrics; the Magic Kettle, a scientific problem; Kitty Lacelles, serio; Miss May Ashton, serio; Desboroughs, refined entertainers; George Harcourt, tenor vocalist; and Sheelah, palmist.

DUMFRIES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. Livesey's company opened on Monday in the play entitled *The Crimson Club*. The principal part, Richard Fenton, is in the able hands of Mr. Gus C. Livesey. Mr. Lionel Thomson makes a good deal of his part as the villain, Sir Philip Garside. Miss May Wyniard sustains the rôle of Muriel Lockwood in a charming manner; Miss Frances Waring submits a capital portrayal of Julia Marsden. *The Ticket of Leave Man* and *A Trip to Belle-Vue* are also in the week's programme.

EASTBOURNE.—PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Alfred B. Tapping, Miss Alice Fairleigh and company are appearing here in *Jim the Penman*. Mr. James C. Aubrey gives a very clever impersonation of the luckless James Ralston, and he does good sound work. Mr. A. B. Tapping contributes a very fine character sketch as Baron Hartfield; Mr. Charles Grey, as Louis Percival, has much to do, and he performs it in a very able manner; Mr. E. W. Maule Cole does admirable work as Captain Redwood; Mr. King Fordham is a bright and breezy George Ralston; and in the smaller parts Mr. Charles Francis, Mr. Maurice Drew and Mr. John Wemyss, give valuable help. As Mrs. Ralston, Miss Alice Farleigh is very powerful, and a fine stately presence enhances the effect. Miss Alma Reeves Smith is a pretty girlish Agnes; and Miss Beatrice Mervyn is a very capable Lady Dunscombe. During the latter part of the week Mr. Arthur B. Malden is giving his illustrated tours and cinematograph entertainment here.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. Standen Triggs.—Mrs. Langtry and company were billed to appear here on Friday afternoon in *Mrs. Derring's Divorce*.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—At the top of a good variety bill is Miss Rachel Lowe, whose original songs and style soon make her a favourite with the audience. The Trentanovi Sisters are graceful ladies, who provide a novel and daring trapeze act; Mr. Joe Hayman and Miss Mildred Franklin appear in a smartly worked and witty sketch; Mr. Dan Paulton is an especial local favourite, and obtains quite an ovation for his excellent comedy work. Mr. L. V. Granville displays considerable histrionic ability in his impressive character impersonations. Miss Marion Van-Flyman is an elocutionist who keeps the audience thoroughly amused while she is on the stage; Mr. Laffan B. Jolly is a hardworking laughing comedian; Clarke's Nippers are smart boxers, dancers and athletes; and the Hippodrome pictures provide a pleasing item.

EBBW VALE.—KING'S THEATRE.—Sole Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Knight.—Mr. Finch-Hatton's company in *When London Sleeps*, is paying a welcome return visit here. Captain Rodney is finely embodied by Mr. Walter H. Wilson, and Mr. Albert Wray scores as David Engleheart; Mr. Edward Vivian does well as Mr. Farnaby Fuller, and Mr. D'Arcy Kelway makes a capital Bob Jones. Queenie Carruthers finds a capable and clever impersonator in Miss Mabel Cluer. The juvenile part of Lelia is nicely played by Little Lily, and Miss Hilda Clyde is quite a success as Hilda Carrode.

EDINBURGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Limited; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Hollister.—Mr. George Dance's company paid a return visit to this theatre on Monday with the musical play, *The Girl from Kay's*. There was a good audience, and all the favourite numbers were heartily encored. Mr. H. C. Barry was again seen in the rôle of Max Hoggenheimer, and his presentment proved as droll and as finished as ever. He was ably seconded by Mr. Leslie Roy Cathie, whose rendering of Percy Fitzthistle was capital, the character of Harry Gordon being in a like manner nicely acted by Mr. Garnet Wilson. Another clever piece of humorous acting was furnished by Mr. Fred Rolph, who made an entertaining Joseph; Mr. Cameron Carr was a satisfactory Mr. Chalmers; and Uncle Theodore had an excellent representative in Mr. Samuel Lysons. As Winnie Harborough, Miss Nancy Hervyn showed herself to be a bright and accomplished actress, her winsome presence, charming singing, and graceful dancing securing the warm approval of the house. Miss Rita Leonhardt sang and acted with effect as Norah Chalmers, while Miss A. Feriman made an engagingly vivacious Ellen. Other parts were satisfactory filled, and the powerful and attractive chorus did their work well. The piece was beautifully staged, and Mr. Sydney Shaw conducted.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Limited; General-Manager, Mr. G. T. Minshull.—A visit from the celebrated Compton Comedy Company is an event which is warmly welcomed by playgoers here, where Mr. Compton is such a prime favourite himself, and where, year after year, he and his band of players have diffused the sweetness and light of the rare and radiant old English comedies. The provinces are blessed indeed in the annual visitations of so versatile and gifted a legitimate comedian, and the occasion has served to show that in Edinburgh the company is as popular as ever it was, and that Mr. Compton himself is still a king of hearts. *The School for Scandal* was the piece selected to open with on Monday, when a keenly appreciative audience accorded hearty greeting to players and play alike. Mr. Compton was in his blithest and best Sheridanian spirits as Charles Surface, infusing an abundance of life and good humour into the part, and playing with that graceful ease and polish for which his art has always been distinguished. The audience was kept delighted from start to finish, and at the close the popular actor-manager had quite a reception, and expressed his thanks in an appropriately happy speech. Mr. Henry Crocker played Sir Peter Teazle in business-like and effective fashion, and the hypocritical side of Joseph Surface's nature was aptly emphasised by Mr. A. B. Imeson. Mr. Charles R. Stone, an admirable actor, was the good-hearted Sir Oliver Surface to the life; and Crabtree and Sir Benjamin Backbite had able exponents in Messrs. Arnold Lucy and G. Wallace Johnston. Mr. Francis Sydney (Mr. Compton's son), made an interesting first appearance here as Trip, a small part, played with a good deal of the family ability. Miss Haidee Gunn is a young player with a future, and her brilliant rendering of the difficult rôle of Lady Teazle stamped her as an actress, not only of emotional power, but of intellectual discernment. Miss Evelyn Hall was a satisfactory Lady Sneerwell, and Miss Marie Hassell appeared to advantage as Mrs. Candour, while as Maria, Miss Mackenzie (Mr. Compton's daughter) spoke her lines with simple eloquence and feeling, and altogether made a marked impression. On Tuesday, *The Rivals* gave Mr. Compton another opportunity of revelling in humour and character, and the famous comedy went with a rattle. The other performances of the week were *She Stoops to Conquer*, on Wednesday; *To-morrow*, on Thursday; and *David Garrick*, on Friday.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—On Monday the indefatigable manager presented in *Dick Whittington* his third pantomime since the opening of the theatre, and for the third time his enterprise was crowned with complete success, a prosperous run being assured. Mr. John Tiller has provided the dramatic fare on this occasion, and a more amusing and sprightly evening's entertainment could not be desired. The comic side is exceptionally strong, and it is a pleasure to welcome back to Edinburgh that droll eccentric comedian, Mr. Bob Selvidge, who, as Jack Idle, energetically keeps the ball of fun rolling, and has many comic nuts to crack. Mr. Selvidge's characteristic methods were productive of the happiest results, his impersonations and caricatures being exceedingly mirthful. Good work was done by Mr. Harry D. Lyndon, who was capital in the double rôle of Alderman Fitzwarren and headsman of the Emperor of Morocco. Mr. Dan Thomas, Mr. Will Mackney, and Mr. J. E. Aitken lent plentiful support in the comic line, Mr. Barry Gilmore's Cat being acrobatically amusing. Miss Gracie Grahame, as Dick Whittington, was full of charm and vivacity, her songs being well rendered. Miss Fanny Harris also scored as Alice, her Japanese song going splendidly, and her dancing being most effective. Miss Edna Morgan and Miss Gracie Woodleigh were also excellent in their respective parts As in all Mr. Tiller's productions, the dancing was an attractive feature, the Diamond Quartette being graceful exponents of the terpsichorean art, and the Excelsior troupe of trained children adding to Mr. Tiller's already numerous laurels.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—The programme here this week contains a laughable sketch, *Bargains*, played by Hugh Stanton and company, a performance by Richard List's bears, and the continuance of Staley's novelty act, a brilliantly attractive item that secures cordial applause. The musical tit-bits of the Borellis are much enjoyed, and the female impersonations of Mr. Russell Wallet prove very clever. Mr. Tom Colquhoun has a fine baritone voice, and uses it well, and Mr. Mark Leslie's coon songs and dances are very acceptable. The Labakans create amusement as grotesque acrobats, and the three Sisters Klos introduce a graceful gymnastic turn that is highly popular. Pictures on the American bioscope are also given.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Tom Ellis.—The drama staged here on Monday was *The Lightning's Flash*, by Mr. Leslie Vyner's company, the entertainment being witnessed by a large and well pleased audience. Mr. Leonard Robson, who is an excellent vocalist, shone to advantage as Stephen Merrick, and Miss F. Russell-Spiers won golden opinions as the hercine.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Although late enough in the season for pantomimes, that at the Grand this week has done capital business. *Aladdin* has lost none of his charm, and the story as written by Fred Locke is fresh and piquant, and as presented by Mr. J. H. Savile's company it has formed a powerful attraction. Miss Florence Wilton appeared in the title-rôle, and acted the part very effectively; while as the Princess Miss Gertrude Branscombe was pretty and petite. Mr. Willie Garvey's interpretation of the Widow Twankey was highly entertaining; and as the villain, Abanazar, Mr. Will Sherlock was also very amusing. The Boston Twins, Frank and Ross, as the Chinese Policemen, provided no end of fun. The other principals were Mr. Karl Mora as the Emperor of China, Mr. Jas. Grant as McKasrac, and Mr. T. W. Kelly as So Sli. During the intervals some clever dancing turns were given by Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of lady dancers, and in the palace scene Messrs. Hess and Lisbon gave an interesting and skilful roller skating exhibition.

FARNWORTH.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy and his company, in *Dan the Rake*, are paying us a visit this week. As Dan Donelly, Mr. Rice Cassidy is the source of much amusement, his songs and dances meeting with approval. Miss Lillian Clare gives a capital performance as Madge; Mr. Frederick Biron makes the most of his opportunities as the villainous Captain Tom Cooper; as Achille Mr. Norman Hall causes much laughter by his amusing leg mania business; and Mr. Frank Copeland gives a manly representation of the part of Lieutenant Charles Kavanagh. Miss Florence Halton acts daintily and with pathos as Helen. As Mrs. Donelly Miss Ada Roscoe displays much sincerity, and her acting throughout is of a very high standard of excellence. Mr. J. Cuthbertson, as Trooper Jackson, and Mr. Stephen Crossley, as General Lake, act capably.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Godfrey Lamplugh's company is this week presenting the musical comedy, *Miss Mischief*. Mr. T. E. Conover causes plenty of amusement as Private Harris, V.C.; Mr. Arthur Jenner makes an excellent Admiral Sir H. Bethune; Mr. Cecil Curtiss, as Captain Jack Bethune, plays and sings with distinction; Mr. Beresford Lovett's impersonation of Hiram Q. Pegg is clever; Mr. Frederick Mantell is irresistibly funny as Lord Percy Fitzsherry; Mr. H. Ellesmere, in the rôle of Count von Himmelblau, is very good; the Misses Kriesborg, Maynard, Royston, and Thelma are a quartet of exceedingly clever and graceful dancers; Miss Eileen Guilbert is pleasing as Lady Orrery; Miss Crissie Francess scores a success as Mary Ann; and Miss Isa Bowman, as Kitty Malone, suits the part admirably, her songs and dances being delightfully rendered.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton.—Messrs. Clift and Forster's company appeared here for three nights in *Two Little Vagabonds*. Miss F. Ferina and Miss Eva Lumley gave excellent representations of the two boys; Miss Elena Lonsdale as Marion and Mr. W. Forster as George Thornton were powerful representatives of their respective characters. Miss Evelyn Shaw gave a clever character sketch of Biddy Mullins; Bill Mullins, Dido Bunce, and the Cough-Drop, were cleverly played by Mr. Chas. Brandon, Mr. Dick Winslow, and Mr. J. A. Whitehouse; Barbara Scarth and Capt. Dorville were capably rendered by Miss Daisy Royal and Mr. Cyril Mackay; and the rest of the characters were well filled by Messrs. D. Barnes, W. Crowe, H. B. Major, and Miss Lottie Coleman.

GATESHEAD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Smith.—After undergoing complete re-decoration this theatre is now one of the most comfortable in the district, and the money spent by the management in their endeavour to attract the public ought to be soon repaid, if the "houses" that have ruled during the week continue. The re-opening of the theatre was made with the dashing pantomime *Cinderella*—a production that has met with unbounded success in Edinburgh and Newcastle. The pantomime goes with a swing throughout; the dancing and singing being particularly bright. Miss Ada Twibell continues to score success in the rôle of principal boy, Prince Rupert; while Miss Fanny Wright makes the most of the part of Dandini. Miss May Marton is a charming and dashing Cinderella, her singing being particularly good. In the character of Buttons, Little Zola causes much amusement, and Messrs. Conan and Doyle, as Henry and Herbert, maintain their position as favourites with the audience. Messrs. A. G. Spry and Percy Curry are responsible for much merriment, and the singing of Mr. Arthurs Verness earns him much applause.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Straughan.—A powerful variety combination is here this week. The bill is headed by the Three Henriques, who present a novel comedy acrobatic act; the Naron Bros., comedy cyclists, provide an entertaining show, and Julian Mack, comedian, evokes roars of laughter. Dolly McCalla gives a good turn, as do also the Three Clarions, comedy artistes. Lord, Murray, and Lord are responsible for a smart comedy athletic act, and the Vance Bros. are a couple of clever instrumentalists. The bill also includes Bert Holmes, actor vocalist; Mephisto, contortionist, and Edie Endon, coon vocalist, all of whom provide good turns.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—Mr. E. C. Matthews and his company are presenting the popular drama *The Shaughraun*. Mr. E. C. Matthews is very droll as Conn, and keeps the house in continuous merriment with his quaint sayings. Moya is charmingly played by Miss Isabel Cairns, and Miss Teresa Moore pleasingly portrays the part of Arte O'Neill. Mr. George Thorne, jun., gives a good rendering of Robert Ffolliott, and the Captain Molyneux of Mr. Alexander Bradley is full of merit. Claire Ffolliott is cleverly undertaken by Miss Bernice Fielding. Mr. Ernest Munro skilfully depicts the bad character of Corry Kinchela, and Mr. Tom Nerney does good work as Harvey Duff. Miss Lizzie Cooke gives a good representation of Mrs. O'Kelly. Mr. Valentine Cooke is a capable Father Doolan, and Mr. James Williams is Sergeant Jones.

ROYALTY, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—*Cousin Kate* provides a pleasant and attractive evening's entertainment here, and the company organised by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison is well selected. Miss Edith Walker is excellent as Cousin Kate, and her ability is thoroughly demonstrated. Mr. Walter Ringham acts pleasantly as the young Irishman, Heath Desmond, and carries through his share of the comedy in first-rate style. Miss Hilda Honiss is well suited as the conscientious Amy Spencer. Mr. Donald Maclean, as the clergyman, ably fills a somewhat thankless part. Miss Nina Cressy as Mrs. Spencer, Miss Betty Castle as Jane, and Master Vyvian Thomas as Bobby complete a good cast. *A Case for Eviction* precedes.

KING'S THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—Mrs. Russ Whytal and company are appearing here in *The Cardinal*. The title-rôle is undertaken by Mr. Philip Cuningham, who gives a most impressive and commanding impersonation of the great dignitary. In the part of Filiberta Mrs. Whytal acts with much tenderness and pathos, and is admirably supported by Mr. Gerald Kay-Souper, who takes the part of Giuliano; while in depicting the sinister character of the outlaw Strozzi, the success of Mr. Douglas Gordon must also be recorded. Mr. George Ingleton's reading of the part of Baglioni is clear and incisive, and Mr. Oscar Adye gives a touch of character to the merchant Chigi; other well-filled parts being the Ramsam of Mr. Eric Dane, the Beppo of Mr. David Denard, the Pietro of Mr. W. A. Reed, and the Francesco of Mr. Harold Sims Standing. As the Cardinal's mother Miss Katherine Maude acts with the necessary distinction and force, and Miss Freda Bramleigh gives considerable point to the lines of Honoria; the other ladies in attendance being gracefully represented by Misses Nellie Duval, Lilian Bailey, and Agnes Scott, and the Page by Miss Kitty Wells.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—The closing week of the pantomime *Goosey-Gander* was entered upon on Monday evening, when the house was crammed from floor to ceiling. The evening was set apart for the benefit of Miss Lily Morris, who has enacted the rôle of principal boy with grace and ability. The attractions were as excellent as they were numerous, the special turns of Mdlle. Beatrice and Mr. Chas. Diamond being cheered to the echo. Mr. Sammy Shields excelled himself in his football song and patter; the wrestling bout by Alex. Munro (Scottish champion) and Arthur Williamson (Australian champion) created interest and excitement; and the support accorded Miss Morris by her confrères was worthy of the great reception. Mr. Rich. Waldon took his usual well-deserved annual benefit on Thursday, when he had again a bumper house.

GRAND THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Mascard.—This is the last week of *Cinderella*, one of the most successful pantomimes ever seen in Glasgow, which finishes to-night with the record run of eighty-one nights and thirty-one matinées. On Monday the popular favourite, Mr. Dan Rolyat, took his benefit, when Messrs. Regan and Ryan, from the Princess's, appeared, and all the principals in *Cinderella* contributed special items. The house was a bumper one, and the enthusiasm was great. A special matinée for charity was given on Wednesday, and a novelty was introduced in the sale of Cinderella's four ponies, kindly gifted to the cause of charity by Mr. Robert Courtneidge.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Dunbar.—A very large and appreciative audience welcomed the return visit of Mr. Bulmer and company in *Sentenced for Life*. Mr. Ernest Vaughan, as Capt. Paul Derrick, leaves nothing to be desired; Mr. Edward B. Louis, as Lieut. Roy, gains the appreciation of the audience in his clever impersonation of the hero; Mr. Walter Purvis amusingly sustains the character of Percy McGentle, and is responsible for many smart jokes and clever patter; and a word of praise is due to Miss Madge Douglas as Adele Gray and Miss Gladys Hawthorn as Kate Rennel.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Frank Lindo's company is here this week with *Home, Sweet Home*, in which Mr. Lindo gives a forcible rendering of Stephen Armitage. Miss Marion Wakefield gives a delightfully charming representation of Joan; Mr. George Jarvis, as David Armitage, gives a good picture of the simple-hearted old fisherman; the villainy is ably handled by Mr. Wilson Coleman as Lucas Lyle; Capt. Gerald Gambier is a fine figure as the Duke of Ancaster; Mr. Sidney Bryant as the Duke's son and Mr. Ernest E. Owens as Lord Silvermere are amusing; and Miss Gertrude Bingham, as a star from "the halls," contributes a full share of the amusement. Great praise is merited by little Madge Bingham in the child part of Dora Armitage; and Mr George Overs as Dick, a fisher lad, and Mr. Jack Lennard as a lifeboat man, are picturesque figures. Mr. Danvers as the oldest inhabitant, Mr. Norton Shields as the Doctor, and Miss Amy Carlton as an aristocratic dame complete an efficient cast.

EMPIRE, LIMITED.—District-Manager, Mr. S Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Aldin.—Charles Coburn, after a lengthy absence, is proving his sterling qualities in

a pleasant voice, which is heard to advantage in a duet with Mr. Wardroper. Miss Louie Codman is a delightful Cora Angelique, and Miss Florence Hersee plays Kissie Fitzgarter in a breezy fashion. An excellent chorus and orchestra are under the able direction of Mr. Ernest Hartmann.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—Shean, Fox and Shean head the bill here, and do a very amusing comedy turn. Fitch and Carey, speciality comedians, are amusing; Mdlle. Sarti is seen in a number of striking poses; Frank Sauterons, Barrel King, is exceedingly expert; T. W. Barrett, the Nobleman's Son, does well; the Toy Trio give an amusing act entitled *The Actress and the Bricklayer;* "Del" Levey, the fencing girl, gives a good turn; and the Gladenbecks are applauded for their ring speciality act.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Tolfree.—The D'Oyly Carte Opera company opened here on Monday with the ever-popular *Mikado*. Mr. C. H. Workman and Mr. Fred Billington, in their old parts of Ko-Ko and Pooh-Bah, were as diverting as ever. The great contrast in their styles only adds to the humour of their work. Miss Norah Maguire sang sweetly and made a charming Yum-Yum; whilst Mr. Pacie Ripple accomplished excellent vocal work as Nanki-Poo. In the character of Katisha, Miss Theresa Rassam was highly dramatic, both in acting and singing; and the Mikado was quaintly portrayed by Mr. Albert Kavanagh. Others who may be mentioned were Mr. Lester Tunks as Pish-Tush, Miss Jessie Rose as Pitti-Sing, and Miss Alice Lisle as Peep-Bo. *The Mikado* was repeated on Thursday and other operas given were *Iolanthe* on Tuesday, *Patience* on Wednesday, *Princess Ida* (for the first time in Grimsby) on Friday, and *The Pirates of Penzance* at the Thursday matinée.

NEW PALACE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. Stewart Cecil.—Cycle feats upon a miniature track have been performed here, by Staig's troupe, this week, but the most sensational part of the turn was the racing by lady and gentleman artistes, on motor bicycles. Juggling of an original character was presented by Gintaro, whilst his top spinning was also remarkable. Much interest was caused by the Abd'el Kader Trio, whose painting and torn paper designs were very beautiful. Novelty was provided by Les Bollingers, who create pictures by cutting up rags, &c. A bright musical comedy, on a small scale, was *The Little Charwoman*, for which Nannie Goldman, William Holles and company, were responsible. An amusing comedy act, *Lost, a Husband*, was contributed by Eller and Rose, whilst other good turns were given by Steel and Laing, comedy acrobats, singers and dancers; Will Musgrave, comedian; and Louis Murray, actor vocalist.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—Gymnastics of a novel description have been exhibited at the Hippodrome this week by the Max Trevelley-Harley Troupe. Tumbling and equilibristic work are their speciality. The intelligence shown by Jimson's dogs has been the subject of much favourable comment. A pathetic sketch, *The Little Colonel*, given by Ernest Montefiore and company, is an interesting item. Will Crowson, beside singing good songs, has proved himself a clever manipulator of bones. Smart jugglery, with barrels, &c., is shown by Charles Ulrick. Mark Tapley, comedian, has some amusing business; whilst other contributing include Master Henre, juvenile juggler, and Cissie Conyers, balladist. The Hippodrome bioscope, with especially funny pictures, completes the programme.

HALIFAX.—GRAND THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Acting-Manager, Mr. Norman Robinson.—*The New Barmaid* is here this week. Mr. Joseph B. Montague, in his old part of Bertie White, keeps the house in excellent humour; Mr. Alexander Loftus is a good William, the waiter; Mr. Leslie Austin does well as Captain Lovebury, and his effective singing is appreciated; Miss Nance O'Neal makes a charming barmaid; Miss Violet Osmund is particularly smart and effective as the lady journalist; and Miss Hilda Blanche plays effectively. The dresses and staging generally deserve praise.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Frank Macnaghten.—A good company is here this week. The Brothers Horne do a very amusing turn, which is skilfully carried out; the Lukushima Troupe of acrobats are particularly smart in their work; Clara Victor sings her songs with striking effect; Virginia, with genuine piccaninnies, are in great demand; Millie Howell is successful in her songs; Janet H. Reynolds has a good voice and an attractive style; Linton, on the tight-rope, is clever in his line, and Johnny Holland and Co. give a sketch which causes considerable amusement.

HANLEY.—ROYAL, LIMITED. — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard.—*In the Ranks* is being presented this week by Messrs. Arthur Carton and H. Armitage's company. The piece is enthusiastically received, and the scenic effects are good. As Ned Drayton, Mr. Edward Lloyd is highly successful, his representation being marked by true histrionic ability; Miss Edith Blair-Staples contributes a clever portrayal of Ruth Herrick, being both dignified and sweet; Gideon Blake finds a good exponent in Mr. Herbert Cecil; Mr. James E. Page, in the character-part of Richard Belton, is deserving of much praise for his clever portrayal; Mr. A. Palling is well placed as Colonel Wynter; Captain Holcroft is naturally represented by Mr. A. W. Chappell; Miss Lallah Davis does well as Barbara Herrick; and Miss Harriet Russell is most amusing as Mrs. Buzzard; Mr. Cecil Morand is well placed as Joe Buzzard.

GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. James Wynes.—Bella and Bijou hold the premier position this week, and are received most enthusiastically, each of their items being cheered to the echo. The Aurora Troupe of cyclists contribute a really clever turn; the Lyons Trio are seen in a smart pantomimic act, which is much appreciated; the Ethairien Bros. supply a most amusing turn, a portion of which consists of burlesque conjuring; Kopski, the pianist, is well received; Eno, in his impersonations, is exceedingly good; Jenny Reeve is a smart comedienne; and the Grand Pictures are, as usual, excellent.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cyril Fielding Smith.—Vaudeville entertainment has been provided here this week. The artistes include Franco Piper, in his clever manipulations with the banjo; the Villions, acrobatic cyclists; Sidney Lee, the prince of magicians; Cil Gorman, burlesque actress; Kitts and Windrum, who give a smart society sketch; George Daunton; Lynn, the American newsboy vocalist; and the Gregson Comedy Trio.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Craggs; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—The bill is headed by Menotti, the Stockholm Wonder, whose wonderful performance on the high wire holds the audience spellbound; Phil Herman is here once more, and adding considerably to his already large circle of admirers; Andy Caine is refreshingly original in his business, and his songs are well received. Craig, Roze, and Craig, in a gymnastic display, are rewarded with considerable applause that is richly deserved. Some pleasing songs and neat dancing fall to the lot of Sadie Simpson. Shaun Glenville, Irish coon and dancer, James Lowrey, the singing furnaceman, and Burns' Bioscope, with the pictures of scenes from *William Tell*—which are accompanied by an admirable orchestral selection from that opera, rendered in a style that reflects every credit upon the conductor, Mr. Dobbing, and his musical staff—completes the programme.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Gaze.—Mr. Percy D. Standing and company opened a week's engagement on Monday with the merry farce, *His Excellency the Governor*, which has lost none of its former attractiveness, the whimsical incidents causing roars of laughter. Mr. Percy D. Standing played the title-rôle with good result; Mr. Robert J. Danson was properly prim and self-conceited as the Rt. Hon. Henry Carlton, M.P.; his sister, Mrs. Wentworth-Bolingbroke, was divertingly arrogant and chillingly austere as played by Miss Phyllis Manners; Miss Joan Ellis easily led captive the Governor, his aide-de-camp, and secretary, by her charming personality as Ethel Carlton; Miss Miriam Leigh played with great spirit as Stella de Gex, whose vivacity and attractiveness she accentuated. Mr. Wm. Allison was very quaint as Mr. Baverstock; and Mr. C. W. Standing infused a breezy style into his presentment of Capt. Carew. A new one-act play, entitled *At Evensong*, preceded, a full account of which appears in another column.

PIER PAVILION. — Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner: Entertainment Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—*The Passion of Life* is a sensational drama of the first order, and is well played by Mr. Herbert Fuller's company. Mr. Francis Everard gives a true Irish touch to the part of O'Brian; Daddy Kenny is ably represented by Mr. Charles Webb; a fine study of Jack Kenny is submitted by Mr. Harold Wallace; equally effective is the Ralph Flint of Mr. H. Evan Gibbon; Mr. Fawcett is capital as Abdullah, an Indian; a good character-sketch of the Scotchman, Fergus M'Kenna, comes from Mr. F. C. Wybert; the Princess Nitra is charmingly portrayed by Miss Edith Mitchell; Miss Violet Bray-Weaver is natural as the Irish girl; and Miss Agnes Collier as Belle O'Neal quite realises the spirited character entrusted to her.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — General-Manager, Mr. Harold Penny.—Mr. Tom Parker, an excellent comedian, holds the place of honour on the bill this week; the Lorrisons introduce a laughable entertainment; Miss Flo Penley is an attractive comedienne and dancer; a good turn is given by Orpheus in an instrumental speciality; Miss Lydia Dreams is very clever in an original ventriloquial production. Mr. Louis Seymour receives great applause as a character comedian; as a vocalist and dancer Miss Alice Lloyd is successful; a series of amusing comedy acts are given by Los Hermanos Granada.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; General-Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank J. Pitt.—Mr. John A. Thomson's pantomime, *Aladdin*, proved to be a great success here on Monday. Miss Beatrice Varley as Aladdin sings and acts excellently. Miss Emilie Cameron makes a pleasing Princess Badroulbadour, and as Widow Twankey Mr. Albert Williams is decidedly good. The Sisters Isabelle as Pekoe and Nicey are particularly fresh and bright, and their dancing and singing are excellent. Messrs. Dale and D'Argan as the Emperor and Vizier contribute largely to the fun. Mr. Charles Wood does well as Abanazar. Clever specialities are introduced by Goliath (in his marvellous feats of strength), the Sisters Isabelle, coon artists; Messrs. Dale and D'Argan, grotesque tumblers; and Mr. Charles Wood, popular entertainer.

DRILL HALL.—Manager, Mr. A. Lovesey.—Messrs. Poole, with their ever-popular myriorama, are making a return visit here this week. Besides the animated and other pictures there is a good variety entertainment, which includes Allan Hanbury, a clever comedian; and Monsieur Henri, in a smart balancing act.

HOYLAND.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Owner, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—This week we have a very welcome return visit of Mr. Fred J. Kirke and company, in the new musical and dramatic comedy, *The Naval Detective*, which drew a full house on Monday night. Mr. Fred J. Kirke, in his three impersonations, viz., Lieutenant Jack Bresford, the Rev. Frequent-Nipper, and Pat McGuinness, is very good, and wins applause. Miss Maudie Vincent, in the triple part of Mam'sell Lucette, Philis Lestie, and Bill Mainway, meets with appreciation; as Susan Scrubbs, Miss Edith Claris does well; and Mr. Arthur E. Ray is admirably suited to the part of Captain Hustle. Miss Maud Vincent, the Gaiety Girls, Miss Edith Claris, the Sisters Gwynne, and Harry E. Ray supplied variety turns.

HUDDERSFIELD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—This week's bill is *Beauty and the Barge*, played by Mr. Cyril Maude's company. The spontaneous humour of the piece, both in its broader and more subtle vein, has been highly appreciated and vociferously welcomed by delighted houses. Captain Barley's affability is irresistible in the hands of an experienced comedian like Mr. Blake Adams, who also touches a deeper note with true effect at the close of the last act. Miss May Fairclough is delightfully natural and winsome as Ethel Smedley; Mr. Horace Lane as Lieut. Boyne has just the right breezy, unabashed method of love-making usually associated with the Navy. Miss May Deverell is prettily unaffected as Lucy Dallas; Miss Mary Griffiths as Mrs. Baldwin, and Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite as Mrs. Porter, are commendable for two well contrasted impersonations; Mr. Percival Knight is quietly effective as Manners; Mr. Charles Goold is highly diverting as the ponderous mate, Tom Codd; and Mr. Fred Knight is satisfactory as Dibbs. Mr. Charles Caffrey causes much amusement as George Porter; and Mr. W. Pemberton as Major Smedley, and Miss Ethel Stalman as Mrs. Smedley, renders efficient support. Mr. Forrester Harvey puts in good work as the lovelorn Augustus; and the minor characters are in capable hands. *That Brute Simmons*, well played, precedes the principal piece.

VICTORIA HALL.—The provincial company of Messrs. Maskelyne and Cooke is here for a week, under the direction of Mr. David Devant, whose bewildering ingenuity seems more dexterous than ever. The various illusions have lost none of their attraction, and are perfectly worked by Mr. Devant and the capable colleagues associated with him.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Local-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller. After a lapse of years, we have a welcome revival of *The Lights o' London*. The company selected gives a good account of the old play, and makes one wish that Mr. Herbert Hollister may have much success with his undertaking.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, MORTON'S, LIMITED. — Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—Mr. F. Marriott-Watson's play, *What a Woman Did*, is drawing good houses this week. Mr. W. A. Armour fills the rôle of Conrad de l'Orme with much skill. This play has many points in it that will bear comparison with much previously seen in the city.

PALACE THEATRE.—Moss' Empires, Limited; Local-Manager, Mr. A. Graham.—Tilly Bebé, with her 12 performing lions, is a big draw; Rossou's Midgets are now well known in this city, but none the less does their entertainment meet with favour; Mr. James Fawn is a comedian always sure of a favourable reception; the Sarnthalers are Tyrolean vocalists and dancers, who provide an enjoyable turn.

CIRCUS.—Resident Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—The Biograph Animated Photo Co. is concluding a very successful run here, which has been extended three weeks beyond the time first arranged.

HYDE. — THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED. — General Manager, Mr. Joseph W. Maloney.—Excellent business is being done here this week by Mr. Charles Macdona's company in *A Country Girl*. Mr. Herbert Standing, Junr., as Geoffrey Chaloner, gives a manly and convincing rendering to his lines, and sings his numbers in good style. Mr. Bernard Vaughan makes a dignified Rajah of Bhong, and scores with the song "Peace, Peace." Mr. W. O. Billington submits an excellent sketch as the fussy little squire, Sir Joseph Verity; and Messrs. F. H. Sharp, Harry Fairplay, and Mr. M. Raven are well placed as Douglas Verity, Granfer Mummery, and Lord Anchester respectively. Mr. Richard Telford misses none of the opportunities the part of Barry affords, and the unflagging energy with which he works secures him rounds of applause. Among the attractive features are his duets "Two Little Cheeks," and "Quarrelling," with Miss Sadie Neville, who looks pretty as Madame Sophie, and gives a particularly arch and engaging performance of the smart little dressmaker. Miss Neville is also a clever vocalist, and her song, "My Partners," is nightly encored. Miss Daisy Davis, as Marjorie Joy, and Miss Anna Robertson, as Nan, not only look charming, but act in a manner which meets with unqualified approval. The former sings "Coo" very artistically, and the latter scores in several numbers. Miss Lucie Lever makes an excellent Princess, and sings "Under the Deodar" with sweetness and expression. The chorus is excellent.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers; Musical-Director, Mr. C. Keith Smith.—Messrs. Griffin and Drake's pantomime, *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, occupies the boards this week. Miss Lily Jackson's Dick Whittington is a clever performance, and Miss Emmie Hands as Alice Fitzwarren deserves high compliments. The Misses Pauline Grosvenor and Lily Drake (Billy Taylor and Dolly Dimple) are successful exponents. Mr. Mark Lane plays brightly as Martha Muggins, Fitzwarren's cook; Mr. Ben Ford as Alderman Fitzwarren, and Mr. Will Dennis as Idle Jack also add to the amusement; and Miss Gladys Wells appears to advantage as Fairy Blue Bell. Ballet is to the front, many juveniles being introduced; the one entitled *A Child's Dream of Fairyland* being specially good. Several specialities appear, notably Walter Griffin, vocalist; Mona and Gladys Wells, singing mill lasses; Griffin Quartette, dancers; Jazon and White, speciality artistes; Sisters Grosvenor, operatic vocalists; The Estos; Sisters Brenton, dancers; and Mdlle. Luba de Sarema, with performing ponies, dogs, &c.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. G. Fisk.—Mr. George Alexander's comedy, *Saturday to Monday*, has been played here during the week to good business, by a company under the direction of Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison. Mr. Stuart Champion made a good impression as Lord Culvert, and Mr. Dallas Walford scored a success as the irrepressible Man about Town. The chief female parts were well sustained by Miss Moyra Creegan, and the other rôles were in capable hands.

HIPPODROME.—The new turns in the programme for the current week were Dandy George and his dog Rosie, Ailsie Douglas, and the Bensons, and among other turns were Harry Morice, comedian, Abadorffs, comedy acrobats, W. F. Moss, comedian, and Jess Thorne, comedienne.

KETTERING. — AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Mr. Howell Webb's Company is here this week with *The Convent Bell*. Mr. Stanley Carlton plays the hero, Philip Vautiar, in good style, and Mr. Oliver Birrell gives a powerful rendering of the fiendish Henri Cassella. Mr. Howell Webb is a typical sailor and causes hearty laughter by his clever comedy, and he is admirably supported by Mr. Teddy Miles as Jean. Miss Ruby Maude is an excellent Marguerite Courier; and Miss Amy Bartlett is deserving of praise as the Lady Mother; Miss Florrie Manderville acts and sings in a charming manner as Susette.

KIDDERMINSTER. — NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon, jun.—Mr. Henry Sivinerd's company is here in the musical comedy, *Dare Devil Dorothy*. Miss Marjorie Cecil is a charming Dorothy; Miss Kathleen Garnon, as Ruth, is good; and Miss Nellie Harcourt and Mr. Arthur Verne are both very funny in their respective parts. The play is well staged.

KILMARNOCK.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—The first three nights of this week the powerful drama, *When the Lights are Low*, was presented by Mr. Henry Eglington's company. Mr. Edward Heanley was good as Guy Goldsworthy; and Mr. Tom Ronald successful as Roland Goldsworthy. As Nan Christie, Miss Grace Baring did very pleasing work; and Violet Christie was well portrayed by Miss Cicely Desmond; while Little Mabel Ronald was a clever and natural Stella Goldsworthy.

KIRKCALDY. — KING'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan, Resident Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—Mr. H. J. Montague's company is appearing this week in the Osmond Tearle repertoire of Shakespearean and classical plays. On Monday night *Hamlet* was produced, and met with a good reception. Mr. Walter Bentley as Hamlet was excellent, and gave a subtle rendering of the part. Claudius was well played by Mr. J. Taley, and Mr. V. Gilbert was successful as Horatio. Mr. Lowe as Polonius was natural and realistic, and Mr. F. Sargent as Laertes does well in the part. Mr. C. Allen as First Player spoke his lines with dramatic vigour and expression. Mr. P. Gordon as First Gravedigger was effective and full of dry humour, and Mr. C. Kingsley successfully played the Ghost. Miss Fanny Chamberlain as Gertrude, Queen of Denmark, played excellently and with dignity. Miss Lillian Herries as Ophelia was charming, graceful, and thoroughly successful. On Tuesday *The Merchant of Venice* was presented. Mr. Walter Bentley scored a success in his vivid impersonation of Shylock, the character of the part being well sustained throughout. Miss Lillian Herries as Portia played brilliantly, and also scored a success. On Wednesday *Othello* was given, with Mr. Walter Bentley in the title-rôle and Miss Lillian Herries as Desdemona.

LANCASTER.—PALACE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. W. J. Fergusson and John Porter.—Miss Ada Fawn, comedienne, is paying a welcome return visit here; Mr. Fred Horsefall, mimic and vocalist, is highly appreciated; and The Marples, duettists and dancers, are very smart. The Two Neros, legmania artistes; Miss Kitty Tims, burlesque actress; Andy Fagan, comedian; Vosper, impersonator; Fred Herbert, vocalist; and Walter Payne's animated pictures combine to make up a capital programme.

LEEDS. — GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The return visit of Mr. H. M. Paull's clever comedy, *The New Clown*, is proving a very welcome one. Mr. Frank Stanmore now has the leading part of Lord Garston, and is responsible for an effective and humorous effort. An old favourite, Mr. G. H. Snazelle, is warmly welcomed in his usual part of Dixon, the circus proprietor. Miss Beth Elliott wins great favour for her winning portrayal of Rosie Platt, the circus artiste. Good work is also done by Mr. Chas. Pierpoint, Miss Katherine Maitland, and Miss Nona Wynne. A clever little curtain-raiser, *Under the Old Name*, is excellently presented by Mr. W. T. Elworthy and Miss Elliott.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley are here with the attractive sporting drama, *Bound to Win*, and very satisfactory patronage is bestowed. Mr. and Mrs. Kimberley enact the leading rôles of Harry Lyndon and Marion Forbes in powerful and attractive style, and very high praise must be awarded to Miss Kathleen Eckhart for her portrayal of the adventuress, Gladys Orme. Mr. Sydney Rennef and Miss Lottie Addison are also noticeable for their masterly handling of important rôles; and in the comedy parts of Horatio Buffett and Winnie Oakley, Mr. Edgar Morgan and Miss Edie Macklin take full advantage of their opportunities.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—*Lucky Durham*, as played by Mr. William Greet's company, has been witnessed nightly by a large and interested audience. Mr. William F. Grant presents the rôle of John Durham powerfully and with conviction. Mr. Henry de Solla is responsible for a very fine study of the bankrupt Lord Mountfallon; and Mr. Paul Belmore is no whit behind in his realisation of the character of the Hon. Reginald Steighton. Miss Molly Pearson is to be noted for a pleasing and sympathetic effort as Helen Vallerton; and a very promising actress is Miss Jessie Winter, who displays considerable talent in the part of the Hon. Margaret Steighton. Of a good all-round company, Mr. Daniel McCarthy, Mr. A. Gambier Melford, and Miss Emily Levettez are prominent.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. G. Mooney.—An interesting and diversified programme here is headed by Otto Schumann in an equestrian display by some remarkably well-trained horses and dogs. The Three Nevarros are giving a really marvellous acrobatic and balancing act, and arouse much enthusiasm, as also does Jake Friedman with his "one-man opera." Mendel, the blind musician, finds great favour with his talented display; the Five Delevines are again very popular in a musical acrobatic extravaganza; Harry Martell, comedian, contributes a successful turn; vocal items by George Ridgwell are thoroughly enjoyed; a bevy of pretty ladies by the name of The Julians, sing and dance in attractive style; and the Knick-Knacks are duettists and speciality artistes of merit.

TIVOLI.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; General-Managers, Messrs. Edgar O. Waller and Chas. Weldon.—That most remarkable man, Dr. Walford Bodie, stays on a second week here and is filling the house to overflowing at every performance. His wonderful hypnotic and electrical feats continue to arouse the greatest wonderment and enthusiasm. A good company supports, of whom Norman Mills, actor vocalist; The Sisters Lyle, duettists; and The Garden Troupe of dancers, are prominent favourites. The accomplished vocalism of Helen Henri is thoroughly enjoyed, and we are further entertained by The Schallers, in amusing speciality, and Les Fontains with a smart marionette show.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—Atlas and Vulcana head the programme here in a very fine athletic and posing act. Lola Patey, the Cinderella of a local pantomime, makes a most successful début as a variety artiste, and a very cordial welcome is accorded her. Amy Anderson and Co. present their coster incident in clever style; Charlie Deane, comedian, is doing a successful week; and Chas. Johnson also scores in a similar line. A Chinese conjuring exhibition by Shang Hai; acrobatic and wire act by Anthy; and contributions by Ethel Loftus, comedienne, are other favoured features of the bill.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. D. Leigh.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's versatile company, presenting the pantomime, *Goody Two Shoes*, entered on the concluding week of their engagement here on Monday evening. The comedians continue to greatly amuse, and the ladies of the company have become popular. Hagedorn's wonderful fairy grotto, with its many beautiful tableaux and fountains of real water, elicits the utmost delight. Mr. Herbert W. Harwood's troupe of lady vocalists and dancers, the Five Sunbeams, distinguish themselves. In the title-rôle, Miss Minnie Cunningham continues to please all with her very dainty and popular performance, and Miss Georgina Leonard, as the principal boy, Roland, secures well-merited appreciation. Mdlle. Molly Wolstenholme makes an excellent impression as Benevolentia, and Miss Amy French, as Mephisto, is very good. Miss Rose Tilley and Miss Rita Rhylle, as Peter Piper and Dolly Dimple, are a smart couple. Miss Sheila Redgrave, as Frank Frisky, and Miss Hilda Stewart, as Pansy Blossom, do well. Messrs. Downes and Langford continue their mirthful career as Truthful Tommy and Phil the Philosopher, and Mr. Fred Lincoln, as Dame Fanny Freckles, is also the cause of much merriment. Mr. George French's eccentricities as Simon arouse hearty laughter, and Mr. Harry F. McClelland as Baron Grab and Mr. Harry Rousby, as Sendy Sapps, are responsible for some entertaining comedy business.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Lieut.-Col. J. A. Winstanley; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. C. Candler.—Mr. C. Watson Mill and his No. 1 company are here on a return visit with *A Wrecker of Men*, which is capitally staged and well acted. Mr. C. Watson Mill makes a conspicuous success as Jim Murley, and Miss Rosalind Tate is also seen to considerable advantage as Risca Mallison. In the double part of Karnaphus and Ezekiel Isaacs, Mr. J. W. Ryder deserves high commendation; Mr. George Harvey is very good as Railton; Mr. Charles Yorke makes an excellent impression as Pharosophus; Mr. Percy Horton is manly and convincing as Guise Strange; Mr. Frank Oliver is well placed as the Hon. Reggie Verincourt; Mr. Gilbert Brooke is a success as Erric Melville; Miss Victoria May gives a clever embodiment as Dorris Melville; and Miss Gracie Garside, as Vavasole Slopper, acquits herself to the satisfaction of all.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Vidal.—Mr. A. C. Lilly and company, in the military drama, *Drummed Out*, are maintaining the reputation created on former visits. Mr. A. C. Lilly excels in the part of Troop-Sergeant-Major Usher; Miss Kitty Kirwin, as Mrs. O'Flanagan, is thoroughly amusing. Mr. N. Watts Phillips makes a good impression as Trooper Roberts; and as Ethel, his wife, Miss Leslie Warner is to be praised. Other parts are impersonated by Mr. W. G. Blunt (who is also stage manager for Mr. Lilly), Miss Iva Howard, and Master Leo Gordon. Starr and Leslie, the clever speciality artists, are repeating their usual success on a return visit; Walter Bellonini, a very smart juggler, gains the admiration of all by his dexterity and deftness; John Tiller's Dancing Girls give a bright and entertaining turn; Professor Dunning proves a very amusing ventriloquist; Fred Poplar, a versatile comedian, is scoring a success; Kahn and Kahn, with their modern necromancy, bewilder the audience; Harry Bedford, comedian and dancer, goes well; and Kitty Wager, comedienne, is also successful.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—The premier position is held here this week by the Royal Zerbinis, who are giving with great success their pretty and enjoyable musical scena, *In Fairyland*. At the other end is Vandinoff, the remarkably clever lightning artist in oil colours, who gains an enthusiastic welcome. The Two Whites, American comedy artists, give an excellent turn; Nellie Lewis, burlesque artist, is good; and others who are entertaining are Henriot and Sauvion, burlesque conjurors; Harry Thurston, mimic; Lal Cliffe, comedienne and dancer; and Lillie Lawrence.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Dewhurst.—Mrs. T. Morton Powell and company occupy the boards here this week with the drama entitled *A Woman's Devotion*. Mrs. Morton Powell's portrayal of Gilbert Le Grande is fascinating and piquant; Miss Maud Hastings as Maisie Loyale, the sorely tried girl, acts with passionate force and pathos; Mr. Geo Gaisford as Richard Chesney plays with true artistic feeling. Villainy is well delineated by Mr. Frank R. Robertson as Philip Dangerfield, and he is ably assisted by Miss Ethel Tinsley as Cora Eversleigh. Mr. W. B. Sommerville acquits himself well as Paul Eversleigh; Mr. Fred Hodson is an amusing Bob Savage, his efforts being ably seconded by Miss Agnese D'Aragon.

LINCOLN.—PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Brandon Blake.—A lion show is an innovation here, and Miss Bryant's party of African lions presents an entertainment that is thrilling and clever as well as unique. Susie and Protti give a very interesting dancing display; Lidden and Hayward create uproarious mirth with *A Quiet Rehearsal*; and another most amusing sketch is *A Bit of String*, presented by the Harris L. Bell and Lily Pearl Co., The exceptionally good bill is completed by Tom Dunmore, an entertaining comique; Brothers Les Bois, clever burlesque jugglers; Sisters Desmond, brisk and smart duettists; and Gilbert Rodgers, a popular character comedian.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—The pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, which has had a successful run, terminates to-night. Last evening, Mr. Edward Lewis took a benefit.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Mr. Edward Morris's company has been here this week with *As Midnight Chimes*. Included in a good all-round cast is Mr. Melville Bickford, whose impersonation of a dealer in contraband goods was excellent. Mr. Frank E. Petley was a finished Dave Stannard, and bore himself in manly style; Mr. James Salter proved a host in himself as Tat Spavin, and created roars of laughter; a vivacious French maid was portrayed by Miss Nita Imeson; and other artistes who acquitted themselves with credit were Miss Gertrude Price and Mr. H. Belmore. The scenic effects were good.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—Gervais Le Roy, Mdlle. Tahua, and Leon Bosco top a highly entertaining and interesting programme, their show being original and mystifying; the Skandia Troupe of Acrobats are decidedly clever and artistic; the Smythsons, in their sketch, *The Lie Alarm*, are very laughable; the Scottish Meisters delight everyone with their singing and comedy; Pete Dwight and Son are particularly good step-dancers; and Salvino, the boy musician; Lily Pender, comedienne; Hill Stuart, actor and mimic; Cordite and Buffalo, rope spinners and lariat manipulators; and the Bioscope add to the evening's enjoyment.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. H. Fineberg; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Simmons.—The attraction here is Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's stirring military drama, *Revenge*, played by his own first-class company for the first time in this city. As Prince Orloff, the leader of the conspirators, Mr. Hill-Mitchelson played with much dramatic power; Mr. Wellesley Draper rendered the somewhat difficult part of Captain Loris Vanessa with credit; a capital King was submitted by Mr. Theo. Balfour; Miss Alice Barber gave a pleasing Cora Brook; the Queen was presented with much grace and charm by Miss Violet Carlyle; and Miss Grace Almers undertook with satisfaction the male character of Lieut. Maurize.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Granville; Manager, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—After a fortnight's good business, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's charming pantomime, *Aladdin*, finishes here to-night.

EMPIRE, LIMITED. — District Manager, Mr. T. A. Cook; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Stratton.—A good general programme has been submitted here this week. At the head is Mr. Arthur Lennard, to whom was accorded a hearty reception for his capital songs; Miss Florrie Gallimore sustained her high reputation, and was loudly applauded for her new songs; Driscoll and Beattie caused continuous laughter with their *Two Old Rogues* sketch; a neat ventriloquial turn, *Ally Sloper at Home*, was given by Barney Fox; Miss Winona Winter and Mr. William H. Banks provided an enjoyable playlet, entitled, *When I Help Ma do the Washing;* Daisy Ray was seen to advantage as a coon singer and sand dancer; a neat turn as vocalists, banjoists, and dancers was given by the Three Sisters Slater; Collins and Hart go through a humorous acrobatic act; and the rest of the programme contained the names of the Little Ulpts, quaint eccentrics; Fraser and Mac, in mirth and melody; Lizzie Fletcher, comedienne; and Ellen Martin, an accomplished vocalist.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford. Rosaire and Doreto, a couple of clever eccentrics, are here this week, keeping the audience in roars of laughter; the Hartley Wonders cause some surprise with their wonderful jumping; the Musical Johnstones provide an enjoyable turn, and render some finished work with the xylophone, the overture to "William Tell" being cordially applauded; Maggie Walsh, the original Lancashire singing mill girl, renders several acceptable songs; Harry Allister is good as a character impersonator; J. P. Dane gives several of his popular pieces; and Nelson's Newsboys sing and dance admirably. Others in the bill are Lily Flexmore, dancer; Wal Croft, comedian; and Arthur Royd, vocalist.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. O'Toole.—The principal attraction here this week is provided by a dramatic sketch company, controlled by Mr. Will and Miss Ada Randle. *Love for Gold* is a capital trifle, and well played by a numerous company. The Sisters Hypatia are a couple of accomplished duettists; the popular old-time favourite, Billy Richardson, with his funny stump speech, is as bright as ever; Frank Tyrell does well as an eccentric comedian and dancer; Miss Lydia Dudley, a favourite comedienne, has several good songs; and Chris Masters is a clever character vocalist and dancer. The animated pictures continue to be an attractive feature.

NEW PARTHENON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—James Shingleton, the original singing collier, is at the head of the bill here this week; Juan and McQue create great laughter with their sketch, *The Coachman and the Footman*; the Sisters Terry are versatile duettists and mimics; J. H. Bowman gives a good sample of tricky dancing, and renders several catchy songs; and others who appear are George Reeves, eccentric character comedian; and Frances Drew, burlesque actress.

PADDINGTON PALACE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. J. Kiernan.—Percy Boucher's sketch company is here this week with *Shadows of Our City*. Additional support to

PARK PALACE.—Director, Mr. James Kiernan.—Charles Majilton's sketch company is here this week with *Round the Clock*, which has caused as much uproarious laughter as ever. A variety programme is also provided by Charles Sweeney, comedian; Tell and Tell, equilibrists; Sisters Browne, vocalists and dancers; Madeline Majilton, burlesque actress; Fred. Wilson, comedian; P. A. White, coon; Harriett Round, entertainer; Herbert Ashmore, actor-vocalist; Dickie Clare, character-actor; Nellie Clare, vocalist and dancer; and Carrie Joy, soubrette.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John Tilly.—A bright and interesting entertainment is being given here this week by the Royal Gipsy Children, who include the charming and clever Misses Letta Star, Evie Lynn, Sisters Maud, vocalists and dancers; La Petite Carlina, quick change artiste; the Lizzette Quartet of clever young lady acrobats; Elsie Rubina, a charming wire walker; the Misses Patie Burton, Ada Lorne, Alice May Dunn, Gracie Bard, and May Bishop, all clever and charming.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Messrs. May and Huntley's company in *Robinson Crusoe*, appear here this week, and the audience is kept in a merry mood from start to finish. Miss Beattie Wilson is Robinson Crusoe; Miss Florence Kendall is the sweetheart, Polly; Miss M. Macartley, the French maid; and Miss L. Gilbert the Princess. Mr. Horace Barri, Mr. Fred Macey, Mr. James May, Mr. Bertina, and Mr. Will Bruton, also contribute. Special turns are given by Miss Doris Mydleton, Mr. E. Howard, and Mr. Frederick Golding, cartoonist.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis Beaufort.—Messrs. Renad Brothers occupy the boards here this week with that mirth-provoking musical absurdity, *The Swiss Express*. The fun runs fast and furious throughout, as James and John, Dr. Gull's eccentric servants, Messrs. Charles and Frederick Renad keep the house in roars of laughter. Dr. Gondimar Gull is humorously impersonated by Mr. Wilford Bailey. Mr. George Power is decidedly good, his Rhino being a very clever bit of acting. Dudley Green is impersonated in characteristic style by Mr. Alec Wylie, and both Mr. H. Alexander and Miss Nellie Fern are amusing as Mr. and Mrs. Septimus Squeeze. Miss Idris Banfield is a charming Virginia, and sings and dances delightfully. Mr. Cecil Barrett causes considerable amusement as the Gendarme. The Brighton Girls give some capital exhibitions of lance and sword drill, and win for themselves much applause by their excellent singing and clever dancing.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—*A Life's Revenge* is the drama here this week, and is under the personal supervision of Miss Marie Dagmar and Fred C. Somerfield. Mr. Fred C. Somerfield, as Prince Boris Strogoroff, is most realistic in his portrayal of the part; Miss Amy Ellan is a capital Marcia Vittoria; Mr. Walter Roberts does well as Michael Orloff; Miss Marie Dagmar is good as Princess Vanda; Mr. Charles E. Warne and Miss Maudie Grayson are responsible for the fun, and the manner in which they keep the audience in a good humour testifies that their efforts are successful.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Bendon.—Licensing Justices must have their way, and as these gentlemen have decreed that the place is unsafe, the Hippodrome will be closed after this week. To show their practical sympathy, the Macclesfield people packed the Hippodrome on Friday night, the 24th ult., which was set apart for Mr. and Mrs. Bendon's farewell benefit. The turns this week are headed by the Seltina Troupe of acrobats, who, with some daring tricks, get well applauded; Sterling and Cashen, comedians and dancers, are a pleasing turn; the Brothers Larette, barrel jumpers, show astonishing agility; Lenard Gale, character vocalist, is welcome; Bert Brookes, comedian, is very funny; Miss Gladys Walford, refined serio, is entertaining; and The Smarts' comedy sketch is amusing.

MAIDENHEAD. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. Edgar Dereve and F. L. Schmitz.—Mr. Geo. Littleton's company, in *At War with the World*, is here this week, Mr. Littleton doing well in the part of Tom Redfern, and Mr. Geo. Littleton, jun., taking the rôle of the Squire. Mr. A. J. Allen as Farmer Maddox, and Mr. Frank Holyoake, as Jack Arkwright, are successful; Mr. A. E. Johnstone is a splendid "villain"; and Mr. F. J. Lewis is distinctly clever in his presentment of Gregory Blotts. Mrs. Leslie is well represented by Miss Nora Kingsley; and her daughters, Edna and Mabel, find good exponents in Miss Lilian Beaumont and Miss Daisy Humphreys.

MAIDSTONE.—CORN EXCHANGE.—Manager, Mr. J. Beslee.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's company is here this week, under the direction of Mr. G. W. Bowes, in the ever-popular *Gay Parisienne*. The play is as attractive as ever, and the audience laughed continuously throughout the evening, although this is the third visit of this excellent company here. The Ebenezer Honeycomb of Mr. Tom May, the Major Fossdyke of Mr. Arthur Watts, and Miss Alexina Glenroy, as Mdlle. Julie Bon-bon, deserve special mention for the clever business and humour they put into their parts.

MANCHESTER. — PRINCE'S THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oscar Barrett; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—Mr. C. P. Levilly's Company gave a brilliant performance of *La Poupée* here on Monday. The cast includes a number of those seen in the revival of *Amorelle*, at Manchester, a year ago, chief of them being Mr. Eric Thorne and Miss Stella Gastelle in their old parts of Hilarius and Alesia. Mr. Thorne's rendering of the doll maker is inimitable, and caused roars of laughter all the evening; while Miss Stella Gastelle's performance is distinguished by her well-known histrionic and vocal charm. Mr. Gerald Clifford is highly successful as the simple youth, Launcelot; Miss Madge Avery gives a capital depiction of Madame Hilarious; Mr. Frederick Hobbs is so excellently equipped for his part of Father Maxime that he gained encores for both his songs on Monday; while Mr. Fred Seymour and Mr. Robert Fairbanks figure admirably as Loremois and Chanterelle, scoring the usual encore in the trio, "She's Charming," with Alesia. Others who figure creditably are Mr. Vernon Reed, as Balthazar; Miss May Bradbury, as Henri; and Miss D. H. Stephens, as Guduline. Incidentally, there is a neat dance of three "dolls," and it should be mentioned that at the end of the first scene in Act 2, after the rendering of "I know a maiden fair to see," the enthusiasm of the house demanded a call before the curtain.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Oscar Barrett; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—Arthur Law's entertaining comedy, *A Country Mouse*, was given here on Monday with considerable success by a company under the direction of Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison, of whom the latter figures in the cast as Archibald Vyse. Mr. Hutchison gives a capital rendering of this important part, and he is remarkably well supported by Miss Violet Harley, as Angela. Miss Violet Ley, as Lady Sylvia has also opportunities, which she is well able to exploit; and other good parts are in the very capable hands of Mr. F. G. Thurstans, Mr. Edward Bonfield, Mr. Charles Harley, and Miss Dorothy Cacey. Of the remainder, Mr. John E. Watson and Miss Charlotte Mead figure commendably. The piece is preceded by a farce entitled *His Landlady*, by George Mudie, which is bright and entertaining.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. W. H. Broadhead; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson's drama, *The Traitor*, is on a return visit here this week, and is excellently played by an exceptionally capable company, under Messrs. Hill Mitchelson and Harris Fineberg. The interest is sustained through quite a number of strong parts, the principal ones being in the practised hands of Mr. John C. Carlyle, Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan, Mr. Frank Sutherland, Miss Isabel Hunt, Miss Hettie Senior, Mr. Edwin Jenner, Miss Ruth Shepherd, and Miss Lily Roselle; while Mr. Edward Swinton and Mr. Edward Lowrie contribute plenty of fun. The drama is effectively staged and interesting throughout.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A good programme is submitted here this week, J. W. Rickaby, comedian, figuring prominently in some excellent and amusing songs. Capital turns are given also by Alfred Seigel, champion middleweight wrestler in the Græco-Roman style; Wilson, bone soloist; Hicks' Clerks, vocalists and comedians; Percy Farrimond, the singing collier; the Sivados, in a clever cycling act; Elverton, the American spinning marvel; Ada Seale, the singing mill girl; Kitt Keen, Ethiopian entertainer; and the Sisters Marion, juvenile vocalists.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A company under Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds occupy the stage here this week in *The Golden Ladder*. The drama is an exceptionally attractive one, and is very well played by a long cast, headed by Mr. Harry Cullinford, as the Missionary, and Miss Conyers Radcliffe, as Lilian Grant. Beside the sensational, the piece contains plenty of humorous incident, and the staging is throughout elaborate and realistic. Large audiences are attracted.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Potasch.—Pantomime again fills the stage at this popular theatre, in the shape of *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, presented by a company under the personal direction of Miss Daisy De Roy, who herself sustains the part of Alice in a style worthy of considerable praise. Miss De Roy's well-known abilities as a comedienne and vocalist are prominent throughout, and there is also some good singing by other members of the cast, notably, Mdlle Lucretia, who presents Dick in dashing style. These are supported by many capable artistes, notably Messrs. James Barrasford, Sydney T. Pease, J. C. Bland, Frank Royal, George Welch, Miss Beatrice Tilley, Miss Poppy Lytton, and Little Jupiter (the cat), who keep things briskly moving; while the scenery is pretty, and the dresses and chorus are all that could be desired. The pantomime is one of the best on the road.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Woolford's Circus, with its cleverly trained animals, is a big attraction here this week. The Geoffreys are seen to great advantage in a really excellent comedy sketch, entitled *Spoofed*, and cause much merriment. Bert Williams is a smart and amusing ventriloquist; and Hall, an exceedingly clever animal mimic, is deservedly applauded. The gymnastic act of the Three Donans is wonderfully expert; Lachie Thompson's Topweights, two juvenile boxers, wrestlers, and club manipulators, are extremely smart; and the Mozondos do some astonishing barrel jumping. Other enjoyable items are those of George Prince, comedian; Guy Ryder, whistling comedian and vocalist, and the animated pictures. On Monday evening, owing to indisposition, Port Mason, the American baritone, was unable to appear, his place being ably filled by the charming Sisters Manan, whose excellent singing met with considerable favour.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Leo Till, the well-known mimic, gives a humorous entertainment, in which he introduces many novel ideas and clever imitations of musical instruments, animals, and sounds in general. Walter Curtis is a first-rate entertainer, his patter and singing being greatly enjoyed. A diverting sketch, *The Lady and the Lunatic*, is given by the Muirs; the Ralston Boys sing well; Grey and Welford present an amusing boxing act; and Oswald shows much ability in hand-balancing. Dale and Vale sing and dance acceptably; Marie Winsome is a pleasing male impersonator; Duncan is good at club swinging; and Winnie Scott sings and dances nicely.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—The entertainment here this week opens with a selection of "Famous Convivial Songs," arranged by Mr. Frank J. Smith, the musical director, which is excellently rendered by the orchestra, the vocal portion being in the hands of Mr. George A. Fox. The bright particular star of the week is Millie Lindon, that most refined comedienne, fresh from her success at the Prince's pantomime, who sings so delightfully four songs, including "The Angel of My Dreams" and "Mimosa." Another artiste from the Prince's is W. H. Powell, a sterling comedian, who provides a most amusing turn; he scores with his song "Something is going to happen," his patter is decidedly original, and his imitations of a juggler and a lady tight-rope walker are capital. Lilian Doreen sings "The Garden of Life" with excellent effect, and is deservedly well received; Maud Dewey is a charming *siffleuse*, her bird imitations being very well done; Clark and Gold appear in an original act, *The Astronomers*, introducing songs, dances, patter, and banjo playing; Alf. Lawton sings two songs with patter added; the Sisters Morgan are pleasing duettists and dancers; Les Rubens sing nicely; and the Willette Brothers are head- and hand-balancers of merit.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Collins.—Marlo and Dunham Trio are here this week, and go through a remarkable performance on the triple bars and revolving trapeze. Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten introduces some clever juveniles, who sing and dance in a delightful manner, and are heartily recalled. Raymond and Kurkamp present, with decided success, a most refined vocal and instrumental turn; and Jack Lorimer is a most versatile comedian, who entertains with eccentric song and dance, and clever imitations at the piano. Lizzie B. Raymond is a highly amusing comedienne; the Seddons are extremely funny in a juggling act; and Rita and Roma, duettists, contribute a good turn. Howe and Ardie are clever and grotesque gymnasts; the Bohemians are entertaining musical and comedy artistes; and the Wotpert Trio are very clever Continental acrobats.

PALACE.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. P. Watson; Assistant Secretary, Mr. J. Hewitt.—Remaining from last week are the excellent turns of Fred Karno's Comedians in the latest success *Mumming Birds;* and the Three Sisters Hayden, vocal character comediennes, who sing very pleasingly. Al Lawrence, the mimetic comedian, contributes a refined and very clever turn, and is well received; Gus Hindell makes a hit with his up-to-date scena, *Boys will be Boys;* and Frank Cumminger is a smart sand dancer. Other good turns are George Bohee, banojist; George Antill, "Evening Shadow" comedian, who sings a song with dance added; the Brothers Obo, duettists and patter comedians; G. W. Foster, comedian, and Amstell and Line, comedy artistes.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—Happy Fanny Fields, the well-known "Jolly Dutch Girl," is here this week. She sings in good voice, tells some funny stories in a decidedly original manner, contributes a sabot dance, and meets with a warm reception. Well received, also, are the excellent turns of the Caledonian Boys' Orchestral and Concert Combination; the Tourbillon Troupe of acrobatic cyclists, who do some daring things; and O'Gust, a remarkably clever and amusing mimic of sounds. Peppo's Monkeys are well trained; Clarice Netta is a pleasing soprano vocalist; May Geraldine sings and dances nicely; Kyoto introduces his "Mysterious Japanese Box," and does some burlesque conjuring; the Alphonso Trio appear in a novel juggling act; and the Choristers sing "Genevieve."

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. E. Macknight; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Hardy.—This week an excellent all-round company has been appearing in the new play, *The Designers*, recently produced in London. Mr. W. Hargreaves does well as John Huggins, and Mr. E. O'Grady is capital as Mr. Cuvial, the manager at Delamere's. Mr. William Luff is amusing in the rôle of Wilfred Fry; and Mr. Arthur Dennis creates great merriment as Percy Loraine. Miss Dorothy Sidney, as Mabel; and Miss Iva Rozant, as Miss Rachel Huggins, are good in their respective parts, and the other characters in the cast are ably sustained.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert J. Lewis.—*Judy, or the Fatal Hand*, presented by Mr. George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's Company, is here this week. In the dual rôle of Alice and Polly, Miss Mary Neil submits a clever impersonation. As Grip, Mr. George Kirk makes the most of his many opportunities and scores. Mr. William Vane is well suited as Sterling, and Mr. Richard Ferris plays the despicable part of Duburg with success. Jim, the Coster, and Geddles, the Showman, have creditable representatives in Mr. Will Casey and Mr. G. Langdon. Blake is well played by Miss Violet Langley; and Miss Florrie Groves makes a bright and animated Judy.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company are playing here this week in *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr. S. Livesey gives a fine portraiture of John Strong; the Captain Leo of Mr. Jos. Carter is a highly capable effort; Mr. Fred Wells does well as Lucas Marler; Mr. G. V. Campbell is capital as Billy Twig; Miss Laura gives sympathetic treatment to the rôle of Kate Strong; the Ruth Parkins of Miss M. Edwards is a thoughtful rendering; and Miss T. C. Livesey makes an interesting Sal Parkins.

MIDDLESBOROUGH.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Middlesborough Grand Opera House, Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Licensee, Mr. T. Hopcutt.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company is paying a welcome return visit to this elegantly appointed theatre, and is meeting with the enormous success it deserves. A most excellent week's programme of high-class music has been submitted to the very numerous lovers of such entertainment in the iron town. On Monday *Lohengrin* was presented to a large and most appreciative audience. Mr. Joseph O'Mara as the Knight of the Swan, was all that could be desired. His acting was fine and his vocal efforts were deserving of the highest praise. Elsa was portrayed by Madame de Vere in a manner that commanded commendation, and her beautiful soprano voice was heard to much advantage in the part. Miss Toni Seiter was responsible for the difficult rôle of Ortrud, and was thoroughly successful in the character. Mr. William Dever's excellent baritone voice was admirably used in the part of Frederick of Telramund; and the singing of Mr. Charles Magrath, as the King was very good. The opera was magnificently staged, the chorus was powerful, tuneful, and finely balanced, and the augmented orchestra, under the baton of Herr Richard Eckhold, added in no small degree to a delightful evening's enjoyment. During the week the other fare submitted has been *Carmen, The Bohemian Girl, Faust, Tannhauser, Daughter of the Regiment*, and *Maritana*.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson. Mr. John Hart's Company in the new comedy-drama, *The Blanchard Diamonds*, is here this week. Miss Maud Hillyard and Mr. Albert Ward, who are no strangers to the Theatre Royal audiences, undertake the principal rôles. Both artistes are quite at home in their parts, giving a most dignified and impressive impersonation, and with a warmth of feeling that is consistent with the situations. As Richard Croall, Mr. Benson North plays with much intelligence and skill; and admirable too, is the acting of Mr. Edmund F. Kennedy. Mr. Edward Rochelle is a capable Joe Tregellis, and mention should be made of the excellent rendering of Sir John Blanchard by Mr. Walter Russell. Miss May Congdon, as May Sherringham, pleases immensely, giving a most charming rendering of the heroine. Miss Hilda Holt is worthy of praise for her Mrs. Croaker, and Miss Julie Kennard, Mrs. Richard Edgar, and Miss Nellie Dallas deserve special mention.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. Brill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Rembges. An attractive programme includes Wilson and Waring in a comedy act. They provide an amusing turn which is greatly appreciated. The Hudson Powell Troupe, in an acrobatic sketch are successful; and Syd May's impersonations of well-known music-hall artistes pleases immensely. The Bros. Rohda provide an entertaining equilibristic act; and Miss Maggie Rimmer is a graceful dancer; Charles Craston is an amusing comedian; and an enjoyable turn is submitted by L. B. Athol, character comedian; Mdlle. Florence, Dutch comedienne, and some amusing films flashed on the "Bio" complete the bill of fare.

OXFORD.—Lessee, Mr. William Peacock; Manager, Mr. William Ainsworth.—The Three Richards head the bill here, and are well received for their wonderful acrobatic performance. An amusing turn is provided by Spry and Monti; and Will Cornish in a musical bell act, proves most delightful. Morton and Bowman keep the houses in good humour in a laughable sketch, *The Butcher and the Slavey*. Miss Mollie Doon is a charming comedienne; and Miss Bessie Travis provides a delightful ventriloquial turn. They are supported by Barrett and Anastasie, gymnasts; Frank Coyle, comedian; and Miss Violet Wilton, who is heartily applauded for her dancing. The "Bio" completes the programme.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—This week the playgoers of Motherwell have a great inducement to patronise the theatre, as Mr. F. R. Benson's North Shakesperean company has an excellent repertoire for the week. *The Merchant of Venice* was staged on Monday, and before a crowded house Mr. Henry Herbert gave a fine performance in the title-rôle. As Antonio, Mr. F. Owen Chambers was at his best and received continued applause. Mr. Ivan Leslie was in good form as Launcelot Gobbo, and his acting received due appreciation. Mr. Allen Wade was clever as Gratiano, and was ably supported by Mr. Courtenay Foote as Bassanio. The Portia of Miss Gladys Vanderzee calls for special mention, and Miss Catherine Boyce was well placed as Nerissa. Mr. Arthur Fane was admirably suited as the Duke of Venice. The repertoire includes *Twelfth Night, Romeo and Juliet, Merry Wives of Windsor, As You Like It* (matinee), and Hamlet.

NEWPORT. — LYCEUM. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper. Mr. Charles Macdona's company, with *The Three Little Maids*, was accorded a warm reception here on the opening night, Monday, when the comedy was played with spirit, the whole piece going with a swing from start to finish. Ada Branscombe (Miss Vera Vallis), Hilda (Miss Nellie Groves), and Edna (Miss Mabel Lavelle), are piquant and charming; Miss May Wright's Gretchen was humorous, and her dancing admirable. Mr. Edgar K. Favelle sings well, and acts earnestly as Brian Molyneux; Madame Ilma Novina is successful as Lady St. Mallory; and Mr. W. Piercy Morgan plays the Rev. Mr. Branscombe realistically. Mr. Ernest Drake's Cupid scores in his dancing; and Mr. M. Jules Charmetts, as M. de l'Orme, plays a 'cello solo very creditably. Mr. Frank Henderson as Lord Cheyne bore much of the burden of the piece, and there was never a moment when his presence did not brighten the performance.

EMPIRE.—Moss's Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—The famous Hungarian, Jan Rudenyi, heads the bill this week, his playing proving him to be a violinist of the first order, and the house was not slow to show its appreciation. Ida Heath exhibits cleverness in introducing a fine selection of national dances; Prof. Bernar, with his marionettes, presents an interesting turn; and two capital comediennes are Sable Fern and Marie Collins. Spot, the enchanting coon, introduces something new in cake walk style, and his troupe of dancers acquit themselves in an admirable manner. Lukos Herford and his dog acrobats are interesting; Rumbo Austin, the Nipper King, and his troupe of parody acrobats, are responsible for a really good turn; and the Bioscope proves an attractive item.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—Mr. William Greet's company is the attraction here this week in *The Sign of the Cross*. Miss Evelyn D'Alroy gains great applause for her touching and sympathetic rendering of Mercia; Miss Ivy Millais scores a marked success as Stephanus; Mr. F. R. Woulfe is good as Marcus Superbus; and Mr. Frank Wood presents Glabrio with fully matured spirit and unction.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—The variety this week is both excellent and numerous, ten turns being furnished, headed by Foreman and Fannan, quaint comedians, as "The Millionaires." The Solari Duo, with a pleasing vocal and instrumental act; Flo Varley, a chic comedienne; Nina Elmo, a dashing serio; the Sisters Bronson, character duettists and dancers; Tate and Tate, comedy trampoline acrobats; Nelson Hardy, ventriloquist; Togo, Japanese juggler; the Eltenos, a clever pair of comical acrobats on the triple bar; and Will Fieldhouse, comedian and character vocalist.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. Charles A. Chandler's company is appearing here this week with *The Bells of Haslemere*, which has attracted good audiences. The part of Frank Beresford is in the able hands of Mr. Leonard Yorke, who is responsible for a capital impersonation; Mr. Charles A. Chandler distinguishes himself as Captain Vere; and Mr. Montague Turner is highly successful as John Silkstone. Mr. Douglas Hamilton is seen to much advantage as Matthew Brookfield, and Mr. Charles Cecil gives a careful representation of Reuben Armstrong. As Norah Desmond, Miss Florence Chandler is worthy of much praise. Miss Stafford Smith makes the most of the part of Dorothy Tremble; Miss Harrietta Polini is good as Evelyn Brookfield; Miss Mary Hadacre is satisfactory as Mary Northcote.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—A good bill of fare here is headed by the Three Geraldos, in their smart juggling act; and also includes Mr. Alex Gay, the clever bricklayer conjurer; Mr. Ben Harris and company with their enjoyable sketch, *A Promising Pupil;* Miss Mabel la Blanche, the favourite comedienne; Miss Della Doree, comedienne and dancer; Bandoni, the one man band; Mr. Dan Thomas, tenor vocalist; and the Bio-Photoscope.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Manager, Mr. Percy Webb.—Mr. Gus Levaine's pantomime of *Sinbad the Sailor* is here this week. In the title-rôle Miss Kitty Bishop makes a fine Sinbad, and her songs, especially "Under a Panama," are loudly applauded. As Dorothy Miss Lizzie Lind scores well. Mr. Charlie Howard as Mrs. Sinbad causes roars of laughter, and is well supported by Mr. Charles Arnett and Mr. Tom Ashby. Mr. Edward Haswell's fine voice enables him to do full justice to the musical numbers allotted him. Miss Marie Harding is a charming Princess Irza. The Electric Troups of Lady Dancers, Mdlle. Alberta on the wire, and the Bros. Loyal complete a good company.

NORWICH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Ben Greet's company in *La Poupee* has been well received here this week. Miss Cissie Ward pleasingly represented the character of Alesia, and obtained well-deserved applause; Miss Alice McFarlane was excellent as Madame Hilarious; Mr. Algernon Lee as Launcelot was extremely good; whilst Mr. Joseph A. Brull did well as Father Maxime; Mr. Harry Bishop as Loremois, and Mr. Stanley White as Baron Chanterelle, deserve praise for their work. Mr. Edward Thorlby was humorous as Hilarious. The chorus rendered valuable service throughout the piece, and the concerted numbers were well rendered.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—The company here includes the Dayton Family, who are marvellously clever in their Risley performance. Charles Baron's menagerie is well received. Esme Gordon is a pleasant singer, and dances well. Miss Anita Wayman, the Scottish Nightingale, deserves every commendation for her turn. Ormond Penstone prestidigitateur, is very clever. Daisy James is a warm favourite. The Watson Family's classical entertainment is admired. The Jackley Wonders are clever acrobats, and Slade Murray is successful.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—Mr. Walter Reynolds' new comedy drama, *Mr. Smith*, was produced here on Monday, a detailed report of which will be found in another column.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—Miss Annie Bell and company are appearing this week in *Sapho*. Miss Bell gives a really excellent performance as Fanny, full of energy and passion, and revealing abundant emotional power that calls forth keen interest and sympathy. Mr. Frederick Ross plays Jean capitally, aptly imbuing this complex character with true artistic feeling. Mr. H. W. Curnock embodies Paul Dechlette acceptably, and Mr. Archie Helsby acts with intensity and vigour as Eugene Flamant; Uncle Cesaire has a humorous exponent in Mr. George Antley, and Mr. H. Langford furnishes a careful study of Caoudal. Minor parts are well taken by Misses Lucy Desmond, Gladys Oliver, and Clara Greenhalgh; and Messrs. J. A. Storey, C. Simlax, and Phil Roberts. Little Lottie Ray deserves commendation for her impersonation of Joseph.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. W. Bull.—*A Modern Adventuress* is paying its first visit here this week, and the company of Messrs. Carson and Granville gives a strong and realistic presentation of this stirring drama. Miss Beatrice M. Anderson plays the name part with an expressive intelligence and dramatic force that compel high commendation, and Miss Alice Defoe gives a sympathetic rendering of Vivette Delby. Mr. Geo. D. Knight embodies the banker, William Delby, with credit to himself, and Mr. Royce Carleton gives a manly and earnest delineation of Harry Delby. The villainy of Wallace Danton is incisively portrayed by Mr. Edward M. Hamilton. Mr. Evan Roland as John Crompton, a blunt Yorkshireman, and Mr. Geo. P. Lester as Walter Beal, impart strength to the piece.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting Manager, Mr. C. H. Bowmaker.—The acrobatic performance of the Kellinos is not only skilful and varied, but is rendered exceedingly pretty by the Venetian setting, and their reception is hearty in the extreme. Very dainty look the Reiff Brothers in their spotless white clothing, and no less perfect is their clever dancing. The precision of their movements is remarkable, and the singing accompaniment makes a decided novelty. In a scena Miss Cora Casselli demonstrates her ability to grasp the Spanish character and convey it into action. In a smart manner Sydney James exhibits his various accomplishments as ventriloquist and mimic, in which he is ably assisted by C. L. Pike. Les Brunin have discovered the art of imparting vivacity to a juggling turn, and skilful manipulation of billiard balls. Lily Burnand gives a welcome song. Ambrose Thorne creates a good impression, and there is some excellent piano playing by George Ross and Ella Grayson, and other items are rendered by Arthur Gill, Baker and Balfe, and Burg, Hand and Wise.

NUNEATON. — PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr. Norman Macowan's company presented for the first three nights this week *Monsieur Beaucaire*, which was enthusiastically received by a large assembly each night. Mr. Norman Macowan displays much dignity, suavity, and grace in the title-rôle, and is at once a favourite. Miss Violet Sterne excellently fills the part of Lady Mary Carlisle; as Lucy Rellerton Miss Florence Lincoln figures in a dainty and girlish manner; Mr. H. P. Owen makes a splendid Major Molyneaux; Mr. Conybeare Gough does well as Mr. Rakell; Mr. F. Stuart Willson does justice to the part of Winterest; and Miss S. Izzard as Countess of Greenbury is good, her make-up being very quaint. The gentlemen of fashion are well carried out by Mr. W. Cronin-Wilson and Mr. Edgar Kent; Mr. Hans Schlesinger makes a fine Ambassador, and Mr. P. Ramsey Forman is well suited to the part of Captain Badger. For Thursday, Friday, and Saturday a variety company was billed.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hulme.—A crowded audience assembled here on Monday to witness the production of Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company in *The Cotton Spinner*. Mr. John S. Hayden in the title-rôle interpreted his part with marked ability; Miss Mary Austin was commendable as Mary Prescot; and as Arthur Northbury Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds was effective. As Major Stratton Mr. Ernest C. Edwards was very smart, and in company with Miss Bella Power as Lady Charlotte Needy provided much humour, which was duly appreciated. Miss May Gumshaw was creditably portrayed by Constance Harrington, and Mr. Frank Eaglesfield as Foster Cunningham was all that could be desired. Animated pictures by the Bioscope occupied the intervals.

THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Knowles.—An exceptionally high-class programme is submitted here this week, including as premier turn Dida, whose mystifying illusions were greatly appreciated. The Great Alexander was well received for his smart and daring cycle tricks; Ford and Hanson were duly appreciated for their American musical speciality; Jean Seul gave a smart conjuring performance; the O'Malleys created roars of laughter in their eccentric comedy act; Mr. C. Emlyn Jones and his Emerald Ladies' Quintette gave a grand vocal performance; Terry and Lambert created much diversion in their domestic quarrel scene; and Harry Buckley proved to be a smart eccentric comedian.

GAIETY, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—An up-to-date company is submitted here this week, including the Wedburns, first-class vocalists and patter comedians; the Valmores, comedy artists, in a laughable sketch, *A Restaurant Up to Date;* Herman Friscari, hat manipulator and juggler; the Jansons, in a novel gymnastic act; Miss Vera Mayne, comedienne; the Pacers, vocalists; Sisters Bartholomew, duettists and dancers; and Raymond's Bioscope in new pictures.

OXFORD.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. G. P. Wells.—Miss Linda Keston's company is here with the pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*. Mr. Sydney Vereker makes a most successful Ko-Hop; and Mr. Albert E. Mann is well suited as Maud Hannah; Mr. Will Holland as Reginald Augustus, and Mr. Tom Banks as Sybil Irene, are both highly amusing; Mr. Fred Mansion fulfils the duties of the Beast very capably. Miss Marie Beaufort is an adequate Prince Charming; Miss Janet Lawton gives a very spirited portrayal of Dandy Veller; and Miss Marie Lawrence is good as Polly Perkins; Miss Gertrude Wright is a charming Amoroso; and Miss Margarite Romney does well as Malicio; Miss Linda Keston is fascinating as Beauty. Acrobatic dances are given by the Four French Idols, Miss Trissy Mills, Miss Rosie Knolt, and Sisters Hula. Mr. Albany Ward shows some capital up-to-date animated pictures.

TOWN HALL.—Mr. Ralph Pringle's North American Animated Photo company is fulfilling an engagement here and provides an excellent programme. Some magnificent pictures are presented, comprising the most recent events. Excellent variety turns are contributed by Eileen and Maynie, Miss Pansie Dulford, and Mr. Lester King. Eileen and Maynie have a hearty reception for their clever musical mélange.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—The great success which has attended *A Chinese Honeymoon* since its inception, has been repeated here this week. The company is that of Mr. George Dance, which is ably piloted by Mr. Bertie Ralland. Mr. Foster Courtenay plays the part of Mr. Pineapple with great gusto and drollery; Mr. Percy Yorke submits an admirable rendition of Tom H. Atherton; Mr. Leonard May delights all by his representation of Hi Lung; Hong Chow is charmingly portrayed by Mr. Philip Haydn; and Mr. P. Allerton Turner makes a successful Chippie Chop. Miss Nellie Wigley as Soo Soo, plays the rôle with brightness and sings well; a very capable Fi Fi is found in Miss Vera Vere, whose quaint deportment is very mirth-provoking. Miss Jose Collins invests the part of Mrs. Pineapple with any amount of chic; Miss Alice Drummond gives a decidedly clever sketch of Mrs. Brown; and Miss Annie Crisp is capable and smart as Mi Mi. Misses F. Sinclaire, L. Collins, Eva Cross, F. Plunkett, Muriel Ormonde, and Edie Ross acquit themselves in splendid fashion in their respective rôles. The chorus is a strong and efficient one.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—Here this week are Louis Hardt, the boy Samson; Carrie Bernhardt, serio and all-round dancer; Cambo, musical monkey; Bros. Allison, eccentric comedians and expert dancers; Minnie Osborne, serio; and the Cardonas Trio, knockabout comedians. The Empire Cinematograph is also shown with latest films.

PENZANCE.—ST. JOHN'S HALL. — Mr. Ben Greet's *Florodora* company, under the direction of Mr. J. Bannister Howard, appeared here for two nights this week. The present tour is under the personal direction of Mr. Arthur Howard, and the

PORTH.—POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr W. Bynorth.—On Monday evening Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company opened here to a good house with the drama, *A Traitor Prince*. Mr. G. M. Montanini gives a powerful rendering of the part of Prince Rao Dalmirez, and is ably assisted by Miss Beatrice Western as Vashti, an Indian snake charmer. Mr. Alex. Temple is successful as Lieut. Frank Derrick; Miss Lilian Roseberry does remarkably well as Lola Vane; Colonel Vane has an able representative in Mr. Frank Fuller; the Hon. Bobby Vavasour Dalrymple is meritoriously played by Mr. Austin Mortimer; Mr. E. Carter Livesey creates roars of laughter as Billy Bright; Mr. H. Artrand deserves mention as Cara; Miss Cissie Cleveland is well received as Pansy Blossom, her singing and dancing being much appreciated; and Miss Jane Massey is very amusing as Mrs. Martha Blossom.

PORTSMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—*The Earl and the Girl* is paying us a first visit, and is a decided success. Mr. William Greet's large and able company presents this pretty and sparkling musical comedy in the best manner. Mr. William Stephens is first-rate as the dog trainer, Jim Cheese. Dick Wargrave is admirably played by Mr. Percy Carr. Mr. Fred Hill does very well as the Hon. Crewe Boodle. Miss Aimee Grey was successful and charming as Elphin Haye. Miss Florence Imeson is vivacious and attractive as Daisy Fallowfield. Liza was cleverly impersonated by Miss Dot Carey. The remainder of the cast worked well together to make the comedy go. The scenery and dresses were remarkable for brilliancy and elegance.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Military plays always command good houses here, and Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company, in a new version of *The Indian Mutiny*, is this week no exception. Mr. H. Ryeland Leigh gives a capital impersonation of Lieut. Manley. Mr. H. G. Brandon, as Captain Manley, is well placed. Mr. W. S. Tindall acts carefully and well as Major Ingleby. Mr. John Hignett is very droll and amusing as Terry O'Brien. Miss Kate Bruce and Miss Agnes Kingston are good as Mrs. Ingleby and Kate Ingleby, Mr. Villiers Stanley is impressive as Nebon Singh. Messrs. J. S. Sheddon and Ernest Keand are of great utility as Abul Khan and Ra Goonga respectively; and Miss Maud Digby gives a very intelligent rendering of Ghuz-nah.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The habitues of this house have been well catered for this week. Mike S. Whallen, American patter vocalist and comedian, made a welcome appearance, and gained plenty of applause. The Sevinos gave a very pleasing and entertaining act entitled *The Rival Arts*, which went immensely. The Chicago Girls, duettists and dancers, were very good; Jessie Albini, dainty comedienne, was much to the liking of the audience, and had a good reception. The Three Delaries, for their graceful acrobatic act, *In the Demon's Grotto*, had a well-deserved recall. Other good turns were given by Daisy Lane, chic soubrette; Harry Carmen, vocal comedian; Philip Sefton, actor vocalist; and Payne's Bio-Photoscope, with a series of new pictures.

PRESTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Messrs. Carson and Granville's company, in *The Heart of a Hero*, is appearing here this week. Jem Resdale is well taken by Mr. Fred W. Goddard; Mr. Chas. E. Johnson ably portrays the unscrupulous schemes of Wilfred Marl; as Jack Collinson Mr. G. Sutherland acquits himself admirably; Mr. Eric Forth makes a good Dave Pritchard; Mr. Harry Scatchard plays a powerful part as George Winston; Mr. Hugh Brady causes much amusement as Timothy Heighno; Miss Cissie St. Elmo cleverly impersonates Nell Resdale; Miss Lily Langley in the rôle of May Ryder deserves praise; and Miss Beatrice Hudson as Mrs. Ryder, Miss Ida Mackay as Susie Slack, and Mr. A. B. Mackay as Mark Marl render efficient aid.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn and Miss Sidney Crowe's company in *The Way of the World* is doing good work here. Cecil Montague is played with much credit by Mr. Montague Beaudyn, and the villainous part of Capt. Fred Slade is in the capable hands of Mr. Herbert Skardon; Mr. W. Robertson Foulis being an acquisition as Matthew Malyon. Mr. Louis Scott depicts Horatio Bluff very satisfactorily; and Mr. Frank Stanley is humorous as Ned Montague, and is ably assisted by Miss Violette Vivienne as the champion strong woman; Miss Irene Munroe is eminently successful as Kate Montague; and Miss Annie Clunn is good as Marion Fanshaw; while the delineation of Adela de la Roche by Miss Sidney Crowe is a powerfully dramatic one.

RAMSGATE.—AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—Messrs Hinton and Price's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, produced by a Ramsgate townsman. Mr. Charles Price has been enthusiastically received here this week. Miss Kitty Phelps is a dashing and popular Dick, and Miss Dais Clements (of Ramsgate), a charming Alice. The comedy element is well represented by Messrs. M. Stephens (Fitzwarren); H. Rennior (Idle Jack); T. B. Seymour (Capt. Bunting); S. Cooke (Betsy Mary Ann), and the Bowery Boys (Shuffle and Shirk.) Mr. H. Cardoe is extremely clever as Tibby, the cat. Miss Maud Leonard admirably fills the rôle of Sir Royland; and Miss Violet Welsh is a pleasing Princess Charming. Many popular songs and smart dances are introduced, and the specialities are excellent. Miss Gracie Clements is a pretty Fairy Goodwill, and scenery and dressing are of first-rate order.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor.—Mr. C. St. John Denton's Co. is performing the successful musical comedy, *Kitty Grey*, this week, to good business. Miss Hilda Guiver plays in first-rate style in the title-rôle; Mr. Robert Whyte, jun., as the King of Illyria; Mr. Robert Selby as Sir John Binfield; Mr. Leslie Harris as Lord Plantagenet; Miss Ely Helene as Lady Binfield; Miss Emily Stevens as Mrs. Bright; and Miss Hilda Scarisbrick as Sadie de Poulson, are excellent in their respective parts, and the other characters are ably impersonated. Miss Madeline Rossiter introduces some graceful speciality dances.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Clucas.—*The Earl and the Girl* is paying its first visit here this week. On Monday the theatre was packed in all parts. Mr. Reginald Switz is a comedian of excellent qualities, and his impersonation of Jim Cheese convulsed the audience with laughter; Mr. Alec Fraser portrays with irrepressible spirit and buoyancy the part of Dick Wargrove; Mr. Haddon Cave, as Crew Boodle; Mr. H. B. Brandreth as a Bunker Bliss; Mr. Frank W. Cane, as Downham; and Mr. W. T. Hybert, as Mr. Talk, are each to be complimented on successful efforts. Miss Mary Fraser is delightfully piquant as Elphin Haze; Miss Cynthia Carez gives a careful study of Lizo Shoddham; Miss Maud Adams is effective as Miss Shimmering Block; Miss Mary Morison makes a dignified and stately Miss Bliss; and Miss Maude Aston, as Daisy Fallowfield, has had a gratifying reception.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee; Business-Manager, Mr. S. L. Lee.—Grais Baboon Prodigies perform some extraordinary feats; Diavoleno, by a marvellous act, "Cycling the Loop," fairly brings down the house; Mrs. Holden, the lady who has thrice been almost buried, and who is a local native, is introduced between the turns; Sisters Le Graham, burlesque actresses; Will McIvor, vocalist; Les Prinellas, in "A Country Flirtation"; Vernon's Bioscope; Mexican Mac, sharpshooter; and James Brady, comedian, complete an attractive programme.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Charles Morritt, magician, mystifies the audience with his clever tricks and illusions; he also introduces a blind man, whose feats of calculation and memory are astonishing. Other excellent turns submitted include: Bromley and Fontein, operatic humourists; Master George, boy soprano; Fred Cullane Trio, in *The Ladies School*; King and Delaine, in comedy act; the Empire Bioscope; and the Waldrons, burlesque adepts.

ROTHERHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Manning.—Messrs. Preston and Doherty's company is providing the bill here this week with *The Rich and Poor of London*. Miss Dora Dench is very pleasing as May Baithwaite, and Miss Marie Ramez is seen to advantage in the difficult rôle of Ruby Redgrave. Miss Lilly Woods gives a careful rendition of Auntie Scrimp, and Miss Dora Pass is a sprightly Polly Philoot. Miss A. McFarlain as Seadrift, and Master Bert Dench as Dixie, both give evidence of careful training. Mr. Robert Hall is a manly Dr. Leonard Morton; and Mr. Andrew Money gives a capital portrayal of the part of Mark Stanley. Mr. Sidney C. Cranston as Gussey Lamb, is very humorous, his songs being well received; and Mr. Tom Bowman as Daniel Drake, is a typical fisherman; Mr. Jack Sydney scores as Matthew Grabbain, and Mr. Sidney Dench gives an excellent rendition of Spider Jack.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, The Rugby Theatre and Entertainments, Co., Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Parker Royston.—This week Charles Prinz is here with his troupe of seventeen forest bred lions, and crowded houses are the rule. The company also includes Miss Beatrice Dudley, dancer, who is specially worthy of mention, and Mr. Charles Bradford, who pleases by his artistic rendering of several songs. Miss Nellie Dunbar is excellent in her speciality dance, and the Wys Troupe of pantomimists are a great success in the absurdity *Vivo*. The Parez Trio are talented performers on the mandoline, piccolo, &c. Les Picturesque Poses, a series of living and artistic pictures, are charmingly represented by a bevy of handsome damsels. The Bioscope is also very good.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. G. Fulton's company is here in the new modern drama, entitled *The Poor Must Live*. The Earl of Marshwood is carefully sustained by Mr. Pan E. Draco; Mr. C. Brereton Borer shows ability as Donald, the son. Miss Olive Fulton's portrayal of the adventuress, Olga D'Eyncourt, is very good; and Miss Mary Mallalieu is a charming Dorothy Murdock. Mr. Herbert Clifton, as Dick Sully; and Miss Pattie Elliott, as Moya Darling; with Mr. Dick Thomas, as Hooker Holdswitch, are very amusing, and the falsetto singing by Mr. Herbert Clifton of "By Killarney" and other songs is excellent. Mr. G. Fulton, as a society blackguard, Clifton Manville; Mr. Arthur Trail, as Sam Sully; and Miss Jenny Bostock, as Sal Darling, also deserve special mention.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Frederick Yates.—Signor Pepi, with his quick change exhibition, is heading this week's bill, and gaining much applause from crowded houses. Charles Coverdale, with his droll patter and mimicry, causes roars of laughter. Hanco, the Jail Breaker, gives an amusing turn, exposing the box trick and handcuff mystery. The remainder of the programme includes Charles Cooray, white coon vocalist; Ada Vernon, comedienne; Les Strads, musical eccentrics; Bernard Stuart, a funny actor and mimic; Johnny Worman, comedian; and Daisy Belfry, chic comedienne.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. J. B. Taylor.—The chief item in the programme here is the American comedy dramatic sketch, *Sold to Slavery*, in which Mr. Arnold Bell appears as Salem Scudder, assisted by Miss Frances Campbell, as Zoe. Jacob McClosky is well portrayed by Mr. Cuthbert Imrie; and an enjoyable performance is contributed to by Mr. F. C. Robson, as George Peyton; Mr. Dan Farrough, as Wahnotee; Mr. C. Reid, as Colonel Pointdexter; Miss Violet Campbell, as Dora Sunnyside; Miss L. Earle, as Mrs. Peyton; and the other members of Mr. Harold Bell's company. Some excellent turns are also given by George Russell, laughing comedian; The Swift Trio, in an amusing bicycle act; Max Gruber, with his elephant and horse; and the Danvils, clever illustrated song artistes.

L. & N.W. PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. A. Higham; Manager, Mr. Sam Higham.—Among the artistes making things merry at this house are Mr. Joe Hunt, comedian; Mr. Frank Dennett, descriptive vocalist; and Mr. Arthur Sheridan, comic.

BRIDGE HOTEL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Tom Bradbury.—Mr. Edward Gresty, tenor vocalist, heads this week's bill, which also includes Mr. Mick McGinnis, comedian; and Mr. Fred Carter, baritone vocalist.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—Variety is substituted for drama here this week, and the change is very agreeable. Mr. Chas. McGrath and company head the bill, and present the ever-popular *Muldoon's Picnic* as a sketch. In addition to Mr. McGrath, who appears as Mulcahy, Mr. J. P. Kennedy, Mr. Geo. Henry, Mr. W. Gardiner, Miss Grace Burns, and Mrs. Ryan appear. Amongst other clever turns are T. E. Gilbey, on the unsupported rocking ladder; Pat Nolan, the great Irish Fritz; Miss Eunice Titiens, ballad vocalist; Bill Bailey, eccentric comedian; Louis Murray, actor-vocalist; and the Two Gems, vocalists and dancers.

SHEERNESS.—THE COLISEUM.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Darling; Manager, Mr. Chas. Melvin.—Another capital programme is presented here for this week, and includes Learto and his remarkably clever dog, in a musical turn, for which they are heartily applauded; the Castles, duettists and dancers, are well received; Stebb and Trepp cause hearty laughter with their grotesque antics; and O'Connor and Brady are a couple of knockabout artistes that would be difficult to beat; Miss Gertie Gitana appears with marked success in her song scena, "A School Girl's Holiday." Mr. Mansell Fane, baritone vocalist, and Miss Florrie Farren, comedienne, also contribute to an entertaining programme.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. P. Reymond.—Amongst the artistes appearing here for this week are Phil Reymond, character and descriptive vocalist, his songs being up to the usual standard of excellence. Other praiseworthy items include Miss Edie Charmby, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Horace Sade, vocalist and instrumentalist; Miss Vera Dalwood, comedienne; Miss Lily Randall, comedienne; and Gon. Silo, comedy juggler

SHEFFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. F. W. Purcell; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. S. Carter.—In consequence of its continued great success, Mr. Fred Karno's pantomime, *Cinderella*, has been retained another week, and crowded audiences have applauded the talented company, headed by Miss Winifred Hare, the lovely ballets, and the magnificent scenery.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont. — There was a large and delighted audience here on Monday, when Mr. George Edwardes' company commenced a return visit in *The Cingalee*, which was mounted and played in the usual high-class style. Mr. E. Statham Staples caused roars of laughter as Chambhuddy Ram; Mr. Reginald Kenneth was a smart representative of Harry Vereker, and he sang effectively; Mr. Colin Coop was successful as Bookhamba; and Messrs. W. J. Manning as Sir Peter Loftus; Willie Warde as Myamgah; Jack Cannot as Bertie Lawrence; Edgar Warde as Willie; and Harold Thorley as Bobby Warren were all good. Miss Kathleen Severn was a fascinating Nanoya; Miss Lily Elsie was a pretty and vivacious Lady Patricia; and Miss Eva Sandford as Peggy was the incarnation of feminine grace and gaiety.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*Bigamy* was played here on Monday to a good audience by a strong company, under the direction of the author, Mr. Fred Moule, and Mr. Alfred Penville. Miss Grace Lester, an artist well known to Mr. Forsdike's *clientèle*, gave a fine and well-considered impersonation of the leading character; and the support was good all-round.

EMPIRE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—The star this week is Miss Vesta Tilley, who was enthusiastically cheered by crowded houses on Monday. Twenty-five years ago Miss Tilley "topped the bill" at the old Alhambra, over the way. Other clever artistes who appeared on Monday were the Royal Korries, musical comedy entertainers; who are great favourites here; Will Haines; Amber Austa; Billy Hobbs; the pretty and talented Sisters Meredith; Sinclair and Parr; Jimmy Shields, an old favourite; and that ever-welcome artiste, Mr. Tom Costello, who had a big reception on his first entrance, and pleased the audience greatly with his new impersonations.

GRAND PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Beagle.—Here are appearing nightly Lavers and Lake, Evelyn Taylor, Kisbey, Tom Dunmore, the laughter-provoking Oliver Conroy (a "Sheffield blade"), Pallister's Pictures, with up-to-date views, and Francis Haskall. Good business is still the rule at this cosy and well-managed music-hall.

SHREWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Business Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—On Thursday evening, the 23rd ult., Mr. W. C. Dornton, who has made himself exceedingly popular since he entered upon his duties at this theatre about twelve months ago, took his first annual benefit, and a crowded house enjoyed a long and varied programme. Many friends, in and out of the profession, lent valuable aid to ensure the complete success of the benefit, which was under the patronage of the borough member, Mr. H. D. Greene, Esq., K.C., the Mayor of Shrewsbury (Mr. H. J. Hearn), and many aldermen and councillors.

SMETHWICK. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Mr. James Kiddie's company is here this week with *Dick Whittington*, a large audience being present on Monday evening. Miss Bessie Willow, in the title-rôle, met with a most enthusiastic welcome, and her spirited performance thoroughly earned it. Miss Leah Laurie played Alice very prettily, and her songs were deservedly encored. Miss Florence Hilton made a dashing Sir Algernon de Mash, her singing being very much appreciated. Mr. Cyril Dundas makes a valuable addition to the fun as the Alderman. The Cat, W. V. Vido, is smartly enacted, and as the Fairy Queen, Miss Meta Anderson sings in excellent style. The pantomime is elaborately dressed, there is a large and handsome chorus, and the scenery is very fine. Special mention should be made of the clever dancing of Messrs. Curtis and Vanity.

SOUTHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sydney Paxton.—Mr. Mouillot's own company is here in *A Message from Mars*. Mr. F. Rawson Buckley is excellent as Horace Parker, and Mr. W. H. Brougham delights the audience with his rich and powerful voice in the part of the messenger. Another old favourite is Mr. Bruce Lindley, who acts with pathos as the tramp. Miss May Laker is a fascinating Minnie Templar, and Miss Flora Hastings plays well as Miss Parker. The electrical effects and illusions reflect great credit on Mr. James Mayall, the stage manager.

PRINCE OF WALES'.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. J. W. Gordon.—Mr. J. D. Hunter is this week attracting crowded houses with his pantomime, *Aladdin*. It is a picturesque show, and quite one of the best Mr. Hunter has put on. Miss M. Sadie, in the title-rôle, is extremely dashing, and sings "The rain came pitter patter down" with much taste. Miss Elsa Brull is a charming Princess, singing and dancing admirably. Miss Vera Dudley as Pekoe, and Miss Ivy Boulton as Nicey Picey, also deserve mention. Mr. Hunter is a host in himself as the Dame. Mr. Dick Tubb as the Vizier causes roars of laughter with his clever fooling; Mr. Fred. Boulton is a comical Emperor; and Mr. Victor Vernon displays genuine comedy as Abanazer. Mr. George Mayer and Mr. Ben Boden are a couple of very amusing policemen, and dance remarkably well. The specialities include Mdlle. Bartonelli, in her graceful contortionist act; the Four Sisters McQueen, who sing "Annie Laurie" splendidly; the Verona Jap Quartette of lady dancers, who dance gracefully; and the Eccentric Boultons, musicians and dancers, who prosper well. The patriotic tableau, *Britannia Rules the Waves*, which closes the first part of the show, and the finale, *The Feast of Lanterns*, are also features of a capital all-round performance. Mr. Surtees Corne is the conductor, and Mr. L. J. Gunnell, business manager for Mr. Hunter.

PALACE.—Manager, Mr. Chas. Marte.—The Wille Brothers, equilibrists and balancers, are wonderfully smart; a like remark also applying to the Picquayo, in their clever acrobatic act. Burke, Andrus, and Frisko's sketch, *Trafalgar Square, 4 a.m.*, evokes hearty laughter. Other turns meeting with approbation are given by the Ritchies, eccentric cyclists; Frank Bertram and Co., in an amusing sketch, *The Chaperon*; Alice Digby; Alice Carney; and Charles Danvers.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Marlow, sen.; Manager, Mr. W. Marlow, jun.—This week's attraction is provided by Mr. Fred Karno, whose powerful company is presenting the most successful musical pantomimical farce, entitled *His Majesty's Guests*. From start to finish the play is excellently rendered, and hilarity reigns throughout. The performance of the Karno gigantic knockabout troupe is a very enjoyable feature, and merits considerable praise. The play is well mounted. Mr. Harry Roxbury, who impersonates Sergeant Lightning in a realistic manner, sings well, and his vivacity is extraordinary; Mr. Frank Morton, as Lord Easem, possesses a fine voice; Mr. Miffin is well taken by Mr. Chas. Usher; Mr. Fred Whittaker, as Bunker, is most amusing; Mr. M. Johnson does credit to the character of Fritz; Miss Edith Ager portrays Dolly Miffin very creditably and sings well; Miss Amy Rogerson is an exacting Miss Manly, and provides much merriment; Selina is in the capable hands of Mr. Harry Howe, whose agility in the part is surprising; and Miss Leonara Castelle, as Lady Maud Easem, is heard to advantage with her singing.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; General Manager, Mr Alf. Hemming.—*Little Aladdin*, under the personal direction of Mr. James Kiddie, has undoubtedly "caught on" here. Mr. Joseph L. Barry is responsible for a very smart "book." Witty Watty Walton is a great favourite, and is most amusing as Widow Twankey. Miss Marie Beresford presents an excellent representation in the title-rôle. The Two Kelsos are responsible for much hilarity. The Caenville troupe of lady dancers are also much appreciated.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is fulfilling an engagement here, in *At Cripple Creek*, for the first three nights, and *Under Two Flags* for the remainder of the week. In the former play, Mr. Wilfred E. Payne furnishes a striking and vigorous embodiment of Joe Mayfield; Miss Emelie Polini acts with quiet dramatic force the unfortunate Ann Marbury. Mr. Charles D. Pitt picturesquely sustains the part of Manuel Alvarez; the Wahketah is impressively rendered by Mr. Reginald Harley-West. Ben White has a mirth-provoking exponent in Mr. Albert Rogers; and a diverting Reggie Harwood is seen at the hands of Mr. Will Hook. Miss Hope Main pleasingly contributes Belle Gordon; Miss Daisy Carlton, a fresh and vivacious Maggie Mason, is warmly received. Another noteworthy performance is little May Douglass as Little Tatto. A one-act farce, entitled *Aunt Rebecca*, preceded.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Annie Abbott, the little Georgia Magnet, is causing considerable interest by her magnetic display. A dramatic episode, *V.C.*, acted under the direction of Mr. Harry Howard, is well received. The Fitzroys contribute a clever gymnastic act. Harriet Alexander, with her *Home from School* speciality, affords a delightful entertainment. De Vere and Kenwick, bright comedy artistes, merit applause; Florrie St. Clair is a charming comedienne; Arthur Albert, character vocalist; and the popular American Bioscope are two good items; and T. C. Callaghan completes the bill.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Jas. Sweeney.—The Boris Fridkin Troupe, who head the bill, score heavily by some enjoyable vocalisation and dancing; a ventriloquial act, entitled, *Fun in a Studio*, by Oakdene, is appreciated; Stanley and Vandyke, in a funny comedy act; charming songs by Nellie Ellaine; and Harry Maynard, character vocalist, are included in the successful items. The Tivoli Bioscope is again in evidence, and an amusing comedian is A. C. Bostock. Charles Beameano, comedian, is also distinctive.

STALYBRIDGE.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Leighton Rooke.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's Co. is here with the sensational drama, *The Greed of Gold*. The artistes have been well selected, and include Messrs. Carthage Caldcleugh, W. Hedbrunn, W. M. Cameron, T. G. Warry, Jas. Magrath, B. Fox, Ernest Bright, W. Launder, John Field, C. Osborne, C. K. Eglinton, A. C. Cooper, J. Wilks, the Misses A. Verity, Grace St. John, Winnie Donovan, Hettie Woods, &c. The scenic effects are excellent.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The St. Helens Theatre, Limited; General Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader. — Mr. Loader, the popular and energetic manager, took his fourth annual benefit on the 23rd ult., the house being packed from floor to ceiling. In addition to *Urbanora* and Mr. Charles R. Stone's *My Sweetheart* company, a very excellent programme was provided, including the St. Helens Amateur Operatic Society, in two scenes from *The Lily of Killarney*. Mr. Charles E. Stelling and his performing dogs; Mr. Tom Walker, baritone vocalist; the Orpheus Quartette; King and Delaine, sketch artistes; Mr. Joe Mac, comedian; and the Sisters Claribell, instrumentalists and dancers. Mr. Frank Macnaghten's company, with *The King's Pardon* occupies the boards here this week. The drama is well played throughout, the principal characters being in the able hands of Messrs. Charles Stirling, Clifford Yorke, Charles Whitlock, C. A. Leicester, Jack Hames, Harry Belford, and Val Gully; Misses Georgina France, Pollie Denville, and Violet Clarke.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. T. Barrasford, Will Sley, and F. Willmott; Resident Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Mr. Tom Grave, in his sensational cycling feat, heads the bill here this week. The New York Comedy Four are paying a welcome return visit. Other good turns include Lozelle, gymnast; the Rushforths, in illustrated songs; Musical Silvo; London Cameron, conjurer; the Wynfords, barrel jumpers; King Leo, ventriloquist; and Mr. Herbert Maden, vocalist.

ST. LEONARDS.—PIER PAVILION.—Pier-Master and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Mr. Roland Bottomley and company are appearing in a modern comedy, written by himself, entitled *The Impertinence of Nancy*. Mr. Rupert Lister, as Ned Wynton, gives a telling impersonation. The author appears in the character of Brabazon, a part that is portrayed by Mr. Bottomley with a vividness and realism which are most effective. Miss Mary Thornhill shows true dramatic talent, and in the character of Nancy sustains her part with natural ease and grace. Equally successful is Miss Edith Bottomley as Sylvia Wynton. This important rôle of Ned's wife is admirably acted, and Miss Bottomley plays with great delicacy and refinement. Mr. Stewart Wallace faithfully represents the Curate.

STOCKPORT. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Crowded audiences have testified to the popularity of *Floradora*, which has been admirably presented by Mr. Tom B. Davis's company, under the direction of Mr. Wentworth Cooke. Mr. Albert Bruno is exceedingly funny as Tweedlepunch; and Mr. T. E. Buxton is amusing as Cyrus Gilfain. Mr. Derrick Knowles makes a pleasing Captain Arthur Donegal; and Mr. Cyril Dane as Frank Abercoed meets with much favour. Dolores has a charming representative in Miss May Desmond; and Miss Daisy Byford portrays the part of Angela Gilfain in captivating style; whilst Miss Réne Steadman displays merit as Lady Holyrood.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Davenport.—Aerian and Ostaro, in a daring aerial act, head the bill here this week, and are greeted with applause. Among others engaged are Frank Newbury, a clever whistling comedian; the Two St. Johns, in an amusing musical performance; and Miss Bonnetta Bonccia, who is a graceful gymnast. In addition there is abundant equestrian talent, and plenty of fun created by the clowns, Rabbit, Ju Ju, and Ping Pong, the performance concluding with a laughable absurdity, entitled, *Harem Scarem*.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs. Weldon Watts; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—The attraction here is Mr. Fred Karno's company in *Saturday to Monday*. Mr. Fred Kitchen as John Willie Jaggs is inimitably funny, and keeps the house in a constant roar of laughter; Mr. Jack Lloyd's Alphonse de Gagge is cleverly done; Mr. Dick Harcourt's Mr. Blake is well filled, and Mr. Chas. Baldwin's Mr. Potts is good; Bartlett Jaggs and Jane Ellen Jaggs by Mr. Lepo and Master W. Bentley are very comical; other characters are all in safe hands. As Clorinda Blake Miss Aggie Morris is full of vivacity, and Miss Gladys White's Violet Blake is a refined impersonation. In the last act the band of the Estrellian Guards play some spirited music, and add much to the success of the play; and specialities are also given by the Camille Dancing Girls.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. Batty; Manager, Mr. W. Batty.—A big company is here, including Alma and Abdullah, with *Electra's Bower* and *Electra's Dream*; Sandor Trio, gymnasts; Tee and Tee, musical eccentrics; the Morton Trio of Vocal Comedians; Rose Waller, balladist; Read and Wright, singers and dancers; the Bristons, comic cyclists; La Superbe, a wonderful danseuse; Tom Basset, Shakespearian comedian; and Payne's biograph.

SUNDERLAND. — AVENUE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; General-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is here this week in *The School Girl*. The rôle of Lilian Leigh is charmingly portrayed by Miss Nellie Hobson; and Miss Jenny Bonney is decidedly successful as Cicely Marchmont. As the Mother Superior, and afterwards as Mrs. Marchmont, Miss Kate Foster is thoroughly efficient: Miss Alice Sands makes a winning Mimi. Mr. Herbert Darnley as Sir Ormsby St. Leger, causes considerable amusement; Mr. Charles Adeson as General Marchmont and Mr. Alfred Leslie as Tubby Bedford are equally successful. Mr. H. Ansdell is well placed as Edgar Verney, and Mr. Charles W. Anson makes the most of Peter Overend.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; General-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mr. Arthur Richmond's company, in *The Beautiful Avenger*, is here this week. Mr. Algernon Syms is a manly Cyrus Telford, and Mr. Edwin Walton gives a commendable rendering of Zadox Foxbane. Mr. Charles T. Doe as Herman Foxbane and Mr. Arthur Richmond as Jim Jahms make the most of their opportunities. As Victor Stanhope, Miss Nannie Meade is excellent, and Miss Cissy Podmore is a pleasing Edna Volta.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George W. Wybrow.—Another excellent programme is provided here this week. The Selbinis troupe of trick cyclists perform some clever and daring feats, and are accorded a flattering reception; Coram is a ventriloquist of more than usual ability; the Collinson combination, in their comedy act, *The Cook's Guest*, are highly amusing; The Leotards, comical clowns; The Autos, in their novelty act, "The Musical Doll"; Harry Clifford, comedian; Booker and Narbis, in their sketch, *The Interviewer*; Hart and Rudd, comedians; and Vernon's animated pictures, all contribute acceptable turns.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Sutton Theatre Syndicate; Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Good business is being done at this theatre this week, where Messrs. M. H. Grenville and F. Osmond's company are playing in *The Still Alarm*. Mr. Mathew H. Glenville as Jack Manley, an American fireman, gives a well-studied rendering, which the audience are quick to appreciate. Mr. Fred Osmond as Doe Wilber, plays the character to perfection; and Mr. Tom Beasley as Willie Manley, and Miss Hettie Zillwood, as Carrie Wilber, cause great merriment, the singing of the latter being greatly enjoyed. Miss Mary Lovett as Elinor Fordham, plays the part with great earnestness. As Joe Jones, Mr. Lewis Gordon scores a great success. The part singing of various members of the company is amongst the best of its kind.

SWANSEA. — GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons, Ltd.; Lessees and Managers, Messrs. E. Oswald Brooks and J. W. Woodbridge; Resident Partner, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks.—*If I were King* has occupied the boards here during the week, and Mr. J. Huntly McCarthy's delightful romantic play has had an excellent interpretation at the hands of Mr. Frank Fenton's company. The François Villon of Mr. Frank Fenton is admirable, and capital portrayals of Katherine de Vancelles and Huguette du Hamel are given by Miss Elsie Roberts and Miss Louise Vansittar respectively. Mr. E. Bellenden Clarke is admirable as Louis XI., and capable support is rendered by the other members of the company. The pretty dramatic sketch, *The Patriot*, is played as curtain raiser.

NEW STAR.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Coutts.—The attraction here has been the drama, *Gipsy Jack*, played by Mr. Henry Bedford and his company. On Friday night *Mafeking* was performed.

NEW EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Mitchell.—A very enjoyable programme is provided here by the following artistes: Chirgwin, who is always sure of a hearty welcome; Norman and Leonard Trio, in their musical sketch, *The Itinerant*; Basalari, double-voiced vocalist; Frank Leslie, descriptive vocalist; the Kieffer company, in their amusing pantomime, *The Mill in the Forest*; Bard, the wire wonder, and his cleverly-trained balancing dog; Conn and Conrad, on the barber's pole; Ryder Stone, in his clever song scena, "Are yer 'Sleep?" and Cruikshank, clever and quaint musical comedian.

PALACE.—Lessees, The Swansea Varieties, Ltd.—The engagements here for the current week include Thomas Harris's troupe of wrestlers; Ruby Bijou, dainty dancer; Rozel, aerial gymnast; Mabel Comely, serio; Geo. Banney, patter comedian; Sabino, instrumentalist; and the Palace pictures.

TONYPANDY.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting Manager, Mr. H. Counsell.—Mr. Horace Stanley and company are here in *The 10.30 Down Express*. Mr. Stanley has gathered a capable company, and the play is carefully staged. Jack O'Malley is well portrayed by Mr. Harry T. Wood, and James Inderwood as played by Mr. W. Campbell is a thorough villain. Bessie Leigh is presented in a sweet and pleasing manner by Miss E. Bartlett.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 27,
"AS YOU LIKE IT."

Last week we gave a notice of Mr. F. R. Benson and company in one of Shakespeare's grimmest tragedies; now this week we are called upon to comment on their presentment of the Bard's delightful fantastic comedy, *As You Like It*. By many the pastoral play *As You Like It* is voted one of the prettiest and wittiest of all Shakespeare's lighter efforts, and the charming sylvan surroundings and the delightful fooling of the clown Audrey and Rosalind, and the words of wisdom that fall from the lips of the melancholy Jacques, certainly warrant such an opinion. Mr. F. R. Benson shows to great advantage as Orlando, whom he depicts as a high-spirited, virile character, even though he be deep in love, and no mawkishness or namby-pamby sentiment is permitted to stray into the fervour of his love-sickness. Mrs. F. R. Benson makes of Rosalind a young lady as nimble of toe as sprightly of wit, and she is particularly good in the comedy scenes and in the scene where she faints at the sight of Orlando's blood-stained 'kerchief. Mr. Arthur Whitby excels as the pessimistic philosopher Jacques, and it is a treat to hear his fine delivery of such celebrated speeches as "All the world's a stage." On all sides one hears nothing but praise of his fine performance in the part. Miss Gertrude Scott is a charming and attractive Celia, and makes the most of her part. Mr. Cyril Keightley, as the banished Duke, is full of dignity and pathos. Miss Mabel Moore creates a good impression as Phœbe. Mr. B. A. Pittar is deserving of high praise for his lifelike embodiment of the honest and aged servitor, Adam. Mr. George R. Weir, as Touchstone, a clown, is entirely excellent, and he delivers his quaint moralisings with due point and emphasis. Miss Leah Hanman causes much laughter as the country wench, Audrey. Mr. Percy D. Owen, as William, a country lout; Mr. George Buchanan, good as Silvius; Mr. H. O. Nicholson as Corin; Miss Cissie Saumarez, who sings very sweetly as Amien; Mr. Saville Percy as the courtier, Le Beau; Mr. Sanders, and Mr. Philip Sanders all merit commendation. On Tuesday *The Comedy of Errors* was given; on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday *She Stoops to Conquer;* and *Macbeth* on Wednesday at a matinée.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Musical Play, entitled
"THE ORCHID."

Mr. Robert Arthur and his able manager, Mr. Leslie Hughes, have another strong attraction this week in the shape of Mr. George Edwardes' company, who are playing *The Orchid*. This is not the first visit here of this company, but several new items are introduced which serve to make it even a brighter show than it was before. Several members of the cast remain as before, notably Mr. George Gregory, who repeats his droll performance of Meakin. He works with unflagging energy, and contributes very largely to the success of the play. Guy Scrymgeour is admirably played by Mr. Charles Brown, who realises the part admirably. He has one song anent the English "At Home and Abroad," which he joins Mr. George Gregory in, and which is most amusing, the "business" being particularly humorous. Mr. Brown also introduces with every success "Bedelia's" successor, "Carrie from Paris." The "pushful" Mr. Aubrey Chesterton is again played by Mr. Ellis Ogilvie, who scores heavily with his palpable skit on a popular statesman. Lady Violet is daintily played by Miss Rita Everard, and she sings nicely. "Little Mary," of course, was redemanded several times. Josephine is embodied by Miss Gertrude Gilliam in a dainty manner; she sings and dances well. The peculiarities of Caroline Vokins are capitally portrayed by Miss Gertrude Alyward, who is decidedly amusing in the character. Zelie Rumbert has still Miss Ethel Griffies as an exponent, and none better could be wished for. A smart and fetching Thisbe is found in Miss Amy Payne, who scores heavily in the part, while Miss Katie Leechman makes a suitable Lady Anstruther. Mr. Donald Hall is well placed as Dr. Faussett, and Mr. Clifford Seyler is in fine form as the Comte Raoul, and causes much amusement by his sketch of an excitable Frenchman. Mr. E. W. Coleman deserves praise for his Zaccary, his dancing being specially neat. There are various other parts, in all cases well filled, and the chorus do much good work. Mr. Ernee Woodville conducts the orchestra with marked success, and thereby materially adds to the general excellence of the performance. The dresses are extremely pretty, and the scenic effects are on a lavish scale. Mr. Adair Nelson is the manager for Mr. Edwardes.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Play, in Four Acts, entitled
"SAPHO."

Miss Olga Nethersole's company, with *Sapho*, is the attraction here this week. Miss Cecil Cromwell, as Fanny le Grand, otherwise known as Sapho, has a very difficult character to sustain, and succeeds admirably in her task, playing with consummate power, and giving a performance that is in detail most artistic, and which richly deserves the loud and continued applause that was on Monday freely awarded this talented actress. Mr. Arthur Royston, as the weak-willed Jean Gaussin, proves himself to be an actor of great force and skill by his conception of the part, which he renders with earnestness and effect. A true touch of comedy which helps to relieve the heavier portions of the play is given by Mr. A. T. Hendon in his broadly humorous delineation of Uncle Cesaire, and an excellent exposition of Flamant is that of Mr. Slaine Mills, who is to be especially commended for his efforts in the last act. Joseph is cleverly played by Miss Irene Wakefield, and Miss Constance Raymond is satisfactory as Alice Doree. Mr. Knox Monk is good as the jealous Hettema, and Miss Winifred Searson leaves nothing to be desired as Madame Hettema. Divonne receives full justice from Miss Isabel Derrie, and an intelligent reading of Caoudal is given by Mr. Frank Melrose. Dechelette is brought into prominence by Mr. Lytton, and Mr. John Barnum is a capable De Potter. The remaining characters are competently sustained by Mr. John Crome, Mr. G. Lawrence, Mr. E. C. Ashley, Mr. Edward Smith, Miss Wynter, Miss Rosa Sullivan, Miss Clara Halkin, Miss Minnie Summers, Mrs. Wakefield, and Miss Beatrice Fairfax. The scenery is elaborate, and the dresses and mounting are capital. Mr. H. Jalland is the courteous general manager for Miss Olga Nethersole.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, Feb. 27, Benedict's Opera, in Three Acts, entitled
"THE LILY OF KILLARNEY."

The last week of the English Opera season at this theatre was commenced on Monday by Mr. J. W. Turner's company in a performance of *The Lily of Killarney*. The duration of the opera season has this year been shortened, but conspicuous success has attended all the performances. The interpretation of the opera by Mr. Turner's company is excellent. Mr. J. W. Turner, as Miles-na-Copaleen, rendered his music in a tasteful and finished manner, and Mr. Chas. Le Sueur gave a true picture of Hardress Cregan, and sang with considerable effect. Much praise is due to Mr. Tom Griffiths for his fine portrayal of Danny Mann, his acting being of a high order of excellence, and his vocal efforts marked by great skill. Mr. Sidney Clifford was all that could be desired as Father Tom, and Mr. George Ridding, as Corrigan, was a typical Irishman, and played his part with every show of ability. Miss Kitty Brownless is deserving of special mention as Annie Chute; her performance all through was impressive, and her voice has been carefully trained. As Mrs. Cregan, Miss Mabel Dennis was well placed, and Miss Constance Bellamy added to the charm of the performance with an exceptionally fine rendering of Eily. The piece was well staged, and the chorus and orchestra did excellent work under the direction of Mr. T. Lawton. Other operas for this week were *Tannhauser, Faust, Carmen, The Bohemian Girl, Maritana*, and *Hänsel and Gretel*, preceded by an act of *The Daughter of the Regiment*.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Drama, by Walter Melville, entitled
"A GIRL'S CROSS-ROADS."

The first visit to the Elephant and Castle Theatre of Mr. Walter Melville's sensational drama, *A Girl's Cross-roads*, met with unqualified success on Monday, and a packed house enthusiastically showed its approval of the play. There is no shadow of a doubt that the piece appeals to the masses, and the many exciting and thrilling incidents with which the drama abounds add a piquant relish to the somewhat weird plot evolved by the author. The story of the downfall of a woman through the curse of drink is no new one, and Mr. Melville in this drama vividly depicts the danger of surreptitious drinking, as Barbara Wade is seen to sink, step by step, from a position of honour to the very lowest depths of poverty and squalor. A clever portraiture of Barbara was given by Miss Hilda Beverley, who acted with a sincerity that proved her to be an artiste of undeniable ability and resource. Her efforts met with the greatest appreciation from the audience, and she received several recalls at the end of the last act. A striking representation of Farmer John Meadows was given by Mr. Charles Franmore, and he thoroughly deserved the marks of approval that greeted his work. As Jack Livingstone, Mr. Cecil A. Melton played with a manly force that was convincing and natural. Toby Turvey was entrusted to the capable hands of Mr. Fred Ingram, who fully entered into the spirit of the part. The eccentricities of Toby were the cause of much merriment, and were cleverly depicted by Mr. Ingram. Miss Lilla Norden, as Tilly Vane, delineated the part in a vivacious fashion, and gave considerable assistance to Mr. Ingram in his comicalities. Cuthbert Lumley had an able exponent in Mr. P. Barry-Lewers, and Mr. John Brooks was well suited as Luke Ramsden. Miss Nellie Oliver gave a creditable performance of the wayward Nellie Meadows, whilst Miss Grace Richardson as Constance Cornell speedily became a warm favourite by reason of her charming and sympathetic acting of the part of the young school mistress. Mr. Charles Terry was excellent as Dr. Weston, and several minor characters were well played. The scenery and general mounting of the drama were unusually effective and elaborate.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Musical Play, in Three Acts, by Patrick Bidwell,
composed by Clarence Lucas and Michele Esposito, entitled
"PEGGY MACHREE."

The attraction at this popular theatre this week is Mr. Charles E. Hamilton's company in Mr. Patrick Bidwell's new play, *Peggy Machree*. It is hard to imagine what the play would be without Miss Marie Dainton as the bewitching Peggy, and Mr. Denis O'Sullivan as the hearty and lovable Barry Trevor. Miss Dainton, full of life and spirits, and dainty in her singing, charmed the audience whenever she was on the stage. Perhaps she was at her best in "The Old Oak Tree"—a song reminiscent of a certain owl and a sycamore tree—for here her powers of mimicry found play, and this is Miss Dainton's special line. Mr. Denis O'Sullivan was a dashing Barry Trevor, and scored throughout, not only in his singing, which was as sympathetic as ever, but also in his acting, which was exceptionally free and finished. Amongst others in the cast, Miss Dorothy Garden and Miss Jenny Dawson, as the Hon. Emily Pryor and Madame de la Cour respectively, were dignified and refined, as became their station, and Miss Annie Brophy was quite equal to the part of Moira, Peggy's foster-mother. Miss Van Arnold's "Cow-girl" was all that could be desired, and Miss Ida Lawrence contributed two very welcome dances. Mr. J. Greene Campbell scored largely as the canny Scot, McDougall, and Mr. Dan Fitzgerald made all he could of the part of the piper, Michael, who never piped, by the way, but perhaps we may congratulate ourselves on this. The two gentlemen of the higher classes, Captain de la Cour and Sir Lawrence Borthwick, were well portrayed by Mr. Mark MacDermott and Mr. Erskine Lang. The latter was the "Popinjay" to the life, and fully justified the unanimity of the rest of the characters in alluding to him under the epithet. Mr. Alex. Johnstone was a good Sergeant Brampton. The chorus and mounting were adequate, and the whole play went with a swing for which Mr. Edward Jones, the musical conductor, is largely responsible.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Opera, entitled
"LOHENGRIN."

For the first time since the opening week in October, 1903, the Carl Rosa Opera Co. is paying a welcome and eagerly anticipated return visit. The manner in which their representations are given should draw all North London opera lovers to Mr. Purcell's handsome house this week, and, as a matter of fact, the place has been full for each performance, the Thursday matinée proving no exception. On Monday, the company opened with an excellent performance of *Lohengrin*, with Herr Julius Walther in the title-rôle. Madame Sobrino also gave a charming performance as Elsa, singing with great dramatic expression. On Tuesday evening the evergreen favourite *Faust* was presented, with Mr. Edward Davies in the title-rôle, Mr. Arthur Winckworth as Mephistopheles, Mr. James (Valentine), Mr. A. Richard (Wagner), Miss Anna Hope (Siebel), Miss Wilson (Martha), and Miss Lizzie Burgess as Marguerite. Miss Burgess has a voice of excellent range and quality, and gave an excellent interpretation of Marguerite. On Wednesday evening, Mozart's *Don Giovanni* was presented, and proved a veritable feast of good things. With three prima donnas, Madame Sobrino, Madame Una Bruckshaw, and Miss Lizzie Burgess, Herr Charles Victor, Edward Davies, and Arthur Winckworth as principals. Herr Charles Victor is an ideal Don, his acting and singing being alike admirable. Little wonder, then, that at the conclusion of his efforts he should be greeted with a prolonged outburst of applause, a well-deserved tribute to an extraordinarily clever artist. The greatest enthusiasm was also evoked by the impersonation by Madame Sobrino of Donna Anna. She sang beautifully, and with magnificent effect, and not only gave evidence of being a singer of a very high order, but also a clever actress. Miss Lizzie Burgess's beautiful voice is not heard to the greatest advantage in the part of Donna Elvira, but she still reveals the possession of great musical gifts in an unmistakable manner. Madame Una Buckshaw as Zerlina, a part that requires artistic handling, proved herself more than equal to the task, and acted and sang with great ability. Mr. Edward Davies was well suited to the part of Don Ottavia, and Mr. Arthur Winckworth was also excellently cast as Leporello. Mr. Frank Arthur (the Commandant) and Mr. Henry Butcher (Masetti) rendered able assistance. Acknowledgment should be made of the all-round excellence of the choruses; the specially augmented orchestra, under the direction of Messrs. Eugene Goossens and Walter van Noorden; and the rich costumes and elaborate scenery and stage appointments under the management of Mr. Geo. Beale. *The Bohemian Girl, Rigoletto, Carmen*, and *Tannhäuser* are also in the week's programme.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, entitled,
"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."

Monday at this theatre marked two events—a change of proprietorship and the beginning of the dramatic season, Mr. George Davey, the late lessee, having terminated his connection with the theatre on Saturday, at the close of the pantomime. His unvarying courtesy and generosity have made him, during his *régime* here, one of the most popullar of North London men, and he carries with him into his retirement the esteem and regard of all the habitués of the house, an enviable distinction to which Mr. Oswald Brand and Mr. O'Connor can also lay claim. The new acting-manager here, Mr. Newman Maurice, is a gentleman well known for many amusing comedy creations at this theatre, and the popularity which he already has gained shows every sign of increasing in the near future. The drama chosen to inaugurate the legitimate season here is probably the best selection that could have been made. *The Girl who Lost Her Character* created a sensation in this neighbourhood last autumn on its production at the Standard Theatre, and the interest created then showed no diminution on Monday. The house was completely packed, standing room being at a premium, and the reception o fthe play was emphatically complimentary, and its success never for a moment in doubt. Mr. Melville touches on a general imperfection of human nature in each of his plays, and he always draws the moral with an unsparing hand, and this holds good in this latest production of his. Woman's frailty and man's inhumanity form its keynote, and that the painful progress of the story made its mark was abundantly evident. The construction of the play is excellent, and the mounting, as in all Mr. Melville's productions, beyond reproach. A most capable company has been engaged, including many ladies and gentlemen very well remembered here in the past for good work. Principal honours of course fell to Miss Ada Marius, who portrays the title-rôle. The part is exceptionally difficult, for almost the whole gamut of human passion is presented in rapid sequence to the audience, and, coupled with the mental effort, there is a physical strain in the second act of very great proportions—in the scene where she wrecks the Captain's rooms. We can, however, only congratulate her on a fine performance, the call she gained in the second act being thoroughly well earned. Miss Ethel Bracewell, in the juvenile part, acted nicely, and proved a most excellent foil to the former rôle. Miss Marie McAulay, as the female representative of villainy, played an intense part with conviction and success, her acting being sound and well balanced. Miss Daisy Maynard, as Isabella Jones, had a liberal share in the welcome comedy scenes, and soon established herself as a great favourite. As for the gentlemen, Mr. Edwin J. Collins, as the Rev. Robert Everton, playsd the part with that earnestness and success his previous visits here had led us to expect. It is a very pleasant rôle to play to a popular audience, and contains many good chances, of which he availed himself to the full. As Jack England Mr. Wingold Lawrence made another hit here, his excellent presence and voice making a pleasant impression. A gentleman who shared to no small extent in the general triumph was Mr. G. Hammond Asquin, whose performance as Dick Punch was exceedingly humorous and effective; his many scenes went with great "go," and he made an excellent first appearance here. Mr. John Dixon, as Rev. Cassage, did all that was possible with a small part. Mr. Frank Adair, as the Captain, is entitled to warm commendation; he played the part with that cynical humour that was so effective in the original performances, and is to be congratulated on his make-up. Mr. Wm. Fraser Brunton acted with sincerity the rôle of Sutton, and was very acceptable in the part; and Mr. Frederick Loyd, as Weatherby, the detective, was good in a small part. The scenery was in every respect distinctly above the average, and Mr. Edward Reeve's incidental music was a valuable accessory to the general success.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Feb. 27, for the first time in London, the Drama, in Five Acts, by Langdon McCormick, entitled
"HEARTS ADRIFT."

Captain Teddy	Mr. Arthur Estcourt
Edmund Gerue	Mr. Percy Rhodes
John Lane	Mr. Edwin Wilde
Robert Darney	Mr. Cecil C. Klein
Pidgeon	Mr. J. P. Dryden
Simon Green	Mr. John Gerant
Little Tim	Harry Pleon, Jun.
Sam Redway	Mr. Fred Baines
Jim Gregory	Mr. G. H. Winn
Sam Call	Mr. William Gomer
Carrier	Mr. Bert Savadge
Officer True	Mr. Joe Rogers
Rosie	Miss Dora Barton
Julia Lane	Miss Maude Tremayne
Peggy MacGuire	Miss Ella Dixon
Energy Mugs	Miss Beatrix Bell
Mother Hagslow	Miss Ada Perry

Hearts Adrift has any amount of bustle, excitement, and effective situations, and the action is never for a moment allowed to flag. Act I. opens in the office of Mr. Lane, a solicitor. To him enters Captain Teddy, a seafaring man, who in the past had broken his wife's heart, crippled one child in a fit of rage, and deserted them all. But having become rich, he wishes to make amends, and produces £10,000 in notes, which he desires the lawyer to invest for the use of his children. This money does not escape the notice of the villains, Edmund Gerue, a "promoter," and Pidgeon, an alleged inventor. The fingers of these worthies itch for the money, but they find an obstacle in Robert Darney, confidential clerk to Lane, who warns the lawyer against their schemes. He loves Rosie, the flower girl (who happens to be one of Captain Teddy's children), but is loved by Julia, niece of Mr. Lane—a lady whom we are told has a past, and is not above suspicion of taking her uncle's cash. Of course, Darney will have none of her, and this *spretæ injuria formæ* turns her love to hate. Presently, Pidgeon starts to "crack" the safe, and does it. He is caught by Mr. Lane, but the latter is shot by Gerue from the window of a house opposite. Needless to say, Darney is denounced as the murderer, but Captain Teddy makes a sacrifice by accusing himself of the murder.

In the next act, Captain Teddy, in the condemned cell, takes leave of his friends and children, but at the last minute the warder, who is discovered to be an ex-soldier, who owes his life to the Captain, changes places with him, and escapes. Comic relief is supplied in the doings of "Si" and Peggy in their East-End Restaurant. Their maid is one Energy Mugs, who suffers from the disease of tiredness, but is sufficiently awakened to take an interest in a little boxing with "Si." After this, Redway, the detective, comes in search of Captain Teddy. His presence is disclosed by an indiscretion on the part of Rosie, but at the critical moment he appears most effectively disguised as "Si" and the law is foiled again.

In Act III. we are taken to Pidgeon's workshop, where a lively scene occurs when the time comes to ascend in the much-talked-of airship. The virtuous party succeed in annexing both the notes and the airship, and Gerue is left behind at the end of the tow-rope. In the next act we find them in hiding in the Essex Marshes. A plot to poison the Captain is foiled by the crippled boy, who changes the poisoned cup, and in an affecting scene the Captain succeeds in winning the forgiveness of his children, before the detective carries him off. The final act takes place in the garden of the Lanes' country house. Gerue is married to Julia, but his felicity is disturbed by the arrival of a stranger, who poses as a long-lost brother of Mr. Lane, bent on probing the mystery of his death. By some ingenious cross-questioning, he induces Gerue to incriminate himself, and then throws off his disguise, and appears as Captain Teddy. Again the police appear on the scene. There is a lively display of firearms, and Julia shoots her husband, and then herself.

Mr. Estcourt, as Captain Teddy, plays throughout with much earnestness and sincerity; Mr. Percy Rhodes is a capable exponent of Gerue; Mr. Klein, as Darney, is an interesting hero—not so foolish as the hero is usually shown; Mr. Dryden gives a good study as Pidgeon, as also does Mr. Fred Baines as a detective; Master Harry Pleon, as the crippled child, is quite a success; Miss Dora Barton is a sympathetic heroine; and Miss Maude Tremayne, as Julia, both looks and acts like a lady of "grit." Considerable praise is due to Miss Ella Dixon, who acts brightly as Peggy MacGuire, and there is plenty of fun when she and her swain, Simon (capably acted by Mr. John Gerant) hold the stage. Minor parts were effectively taken by Miss Beatrix Bell, as Energy Muggs, and Miss Ada Perry, as Mother Hagslow.

EALING THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Comedy, in Four Acts, by I. Zangwill, entitled
"MERELY MARY ANN."

Merely Mary Ann is drawing crowded houses at Mr. Arthur Carlton's superb theatre. The aristocratic, but poor, Lancelot is portrayed with obvious sincerity by Mr. Douglas Gerrard, who becomes very passionate in parts, delivering his lines with impressive power. Miss Nita Faydon, who combines youthful grace with dramatic qualities of rare excellence, thoroughly succeeds in depicting the innocent, gentle, and lovable nature of Mary Ann, and where the pathos of the rôle calls for adequate expression she excels. Mr. N. Carlow Grand, as Peter, is most effective, and does justice to all the numbers allotted him, and Mr. J. W. Macdonald is a comical study as the Rev. Samuel Smedge, creating much amusement. The bumptious Herr Brohmson is finely acted by Mr. Herbert Greville. Mr. Edward Jephson cuts a quaint figure as Lord Tottenham after his motoring ride. Mrs. Gwynneth Golton, a lodging-house keeper, is capably enacted by Mrs. Leadbetter, who is ably assisted by Miss Kathleen Coleman as Rosie. The Sisters Tuppitt are in the hands of Miss Enid Hall and Miss Violet Greville, who are at their best, and Miss Edith Hunter is pleasing and satisfactory as the professional chaperon, Lady Chelmer. The inquisitive Lady Gladys Tottenham is commendably portrayed by the winsome Miss Mabel Taylor, and Miss Violet Tagg is good, and deserves praise. The minor parts are successfully undertaken by Mr. Herbert Chown and Miss Margaret Marshall, and congratulations are due to Messrs. Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell for the excellent company they have. Mr. F. S. Jennings is the capable resident manager.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Comic Opera, entitled
"VERONIQUE."

An enthusiastic reception was extended to *Veronique* on its initial appearance at Stratford on Monday night. The piece is superbly mounted, and well interpreted by Mr. George Dance's company. Miss Ruth Lincoln makes a fascinating Veronique, and sings delightfully, her "swinging" song especially being in high favour. Miss Maud Boyd plays Madame Coquenard excellently, and her charming vocalisation affords keen pleasure. Miss Lena Maitland's rendering of the Countess de Champ Azur is in true comedy vein, and Miss Gracie Sinclair is a captivating Denise. Mr. Leslie Holland is well suited as Mons. Coquenard, and his untiring efforts to amuse are rewarded with unstinted applause. Florestan de Vallancourt has a buoyant and dashing representative in Mr. Scott Russell, whose fine voice is heard to great advantage in the numbers allotted to him. Mr. Ivan Berlyn is very droll and amusing as Mons. Loustôt, and a decidedly clever performance as Seraphin comes from Mr. Tom Shelford. Miss Button Barton plays appropriately as Aunt Benoit; and Mr. Ernest Cresfan, Mr. Tom Robertson, Mr. Herbert Dickeson, and Mr. Frank Rickards render minor parts capitally. The orchestra is this week augmented, and under the direction of Mr. Victor Champion.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Arthur Shirley and E. Hill Mitchelson, entitled
"I DEFY THE WORLD."

The return visit of this piece attracted a large audience to the Stratford Theatre Royal on Monday night, and its many thrilling situations appeared to keenly interest those present. Mr. Julian Malvern's company very successfully interprets the piece, which is exceedingly well mounted. Mr. Roy Fortesque plays Leon Darville with much ability and resource, possessing an excellent stage presence and fine declamatory powers. Mr. Richard Vane easily succeeds in arousing the ire of the more susceptible among the audience by his effective acting as the truculent Count de Beaulieu; and Mr. Alfred Denning makes a soldierly and dignified General Delaporte. Mr. Chas. Conway causes many a thrill by his vivid delineation of the hunch-backed blackmailer Laroche, and Mr. H. Creagh Hunt does well as André. Mr. Chas. M. Julian causes plenty of amusement as Samuel Wozzle, and Najac and Bochon are successfully interpreted by Mr. A. Raymond Shaw and Mr. Harry Emerson respectively. Miss Malvern plays with much realism and force as Blanche Darville, and Miss Trixie St. Albans is a tender and sympathetic Pauline Delaporte. Miss Lillah Shelton is a vivacious Marie Wozzle, and Miss Flo Bevan plays little Fanchette very intelligently. Minor parts are in capable hands.

WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Drama, in Five Acts, by Frederick Melville, entitled
"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."

This interesting play of human life proved a most potent attraction to the loyal West London playgoers, who turned up in full force to welcome the reappearance of Mr. Frederick Melville's talented company. In the repulsive character of Charles Devereux Mr. Clarence Hague fairly revelled, and the merits of his performance were but enhanced by the pronounced hostility that his various entrances always evoked. The low comedy powers of Mr. Alfred Wellesley found ample scope for their development in the amusing character of Timothy Tuttutt. Mr. Wellesley kept things going in capital style whilst he was on the stage, his efforts being ably seconded by Miss Marie Kildare as Pattie Lovejoy. Miss Kildare is an old Marylebone favourite, her popularity but increasing with each succeeding visit. Mr. Edgar L. Hocking caused much hilarity as the old rustic, Joe Lampkin; Mr. Bernard Liell did well as Geoffrey Broughton; Mr. Charles Willowby was creditable as John Williams; Mr. Gilbert Heron was decidedly impressive as the Rev. Mr. Dean; Mr. Fred L. Allen was good as the much-worried Sir George Lancaster; Mr. W. Browning should be mentioned for his Dr. Fenwick; and Mr. Horace Hunter enacted George Madison with much earnestness and restrained force. The trying rôle of Lucy was sustained by Miss Isla Garnet Vane, in a sympathetic and delightful way; Miss Georgette Thierry, as Lady Lucretia Lancaster, was full of energy and passion, her enunciation being exceptionally clear; and Miss Barbara Gott, in the important part of the Mother Superior, played with quiet dignity and ease. The piece was staged and mounted with that lavishness always expected in a Melville production, the general-manager being the experienced Mr. John A. Atkin.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Drama, by Edward Thane, entitled
"THE MOCKERY OF MARRIAGE."

Miss Olga Audre and company are appearing here this week in *The Mockery of Marriage*. The piece abounds with incident and excitement, and the cast is equal to all emergencies. Miss Olga Audre is forcible as Alva Kenyon, the wife of one of the most relentless stage villains conceivable, and becomes a firm favourite with the audience. Dick Kenyon is represented with stoical hardness by Mr. Arthur Wimpenny. One of his chief companions in wickedness is Seth Pearce, a detestable character, vividly played by Mr. Frank Dalton. Mr. Talbot Hindley, as Old Pete, reminds one of Uncle Tom, and the part is well played. Mr. Charles Boult as Jack Stanley, Mr. Will Skelton as Toby Wright, Mrs. Sydney Halling as Mary Ann, and Mr. Harry Nelson as Silas Dingle, all help materially in sustaining the interest of the story; and the cast also includes Mr. Harold Graham, Miss Florence Zillwood, Miss Sullivan, Mr. Harry Stebbing, Mr. C. Ellis, and Mr. L. Collard. The Four Aces go through a clever acrobatic performance during the fourth act.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."

The Girl from Japan met with a favourable reception on Monday from a house crowded in all parts, the humour of the comedians and the brightness of the music and dances combining to ensure a satisfactory evening's entertainment. Most of the success is certainly due to the efforts of Mr. Frank Sherlock, who, as Bingle, a man of many capacities, from bailiff to Nabob, contrives to excite hearty laughter by his resourceful methods and comical acting. Lord Allenbury is played by Mr. George Hudson very pleasantly, his songs being also admirably rendered. The Sir Mulberry Flippington of Mr. Charles Lupton is a clever piece of work, and Mr. Percy Baverstock makes an exceedingly brisk General Baugh. Mr. H. Carlyle Prichard sustains the character of the Rev. John Smith with much ability, and Horatio Binks is well placed in the hands of Mr. Colet Dare. Miss Rita Tomkins is a fascinating Polly Perkins, her appearance and deportment being all that could be desired. Lady Flippington is energetically rendered by Miss Florence Nelson, and Miss Effie Rydon undertakes the Countess de la Rue with happy results. Miss Dorothy Glenton makes a dainty and winsome Violet (the girl from Japan), and scores a conspicuous success. The artistic dancing of Miss Jean Van Dalle is a bright feature of the production. The chorus is very animated, and sings with expression.

LYRIC OPERA HOUSE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Drama, by Max Goldberg, entitled
"THE RICH AND POOR OF LONDON."

Melodrama, as presented by Mr. Samuel James's stock company, still holds sway at this house, and this week's production, *The Rich and Poor of London*, is an excellent sample of what is to the taste of the Lyric's patrons, for the theatre is crowded nightly. Mr. Douglas Vigors is seen to much advantage in the part of Dr. Leonard Morton, and Mr. A. P. Kaye plays exceedingly well as Gussie Lamb. A remarkably clever rendering of Spider Jack is given by Mr. Robert Forsythe, his impersonation meeting with marked approval. Conspicuous ability is shown by Mr. Fowler Thatcher in the character of Matthew Grabham, and Mr. Henry St. Leger ably sustains the rôle of Billy Binks. Mr. Edward Boddy is a capable representative of Daniel Drake, and Mr. Carter Blight acts acceptably as the Earl of Ravenswood. Mr. J. J. Bartlett revels in the villainies of Mark Standing, and receives the loudly expressed odium of the audience with his usual sangfroid. Miss Florence Dalton, looking very handsome as the notorious Ruby Redgrave, plays with rare power and ability. As May Braithwaite, Miss Daisy Scudamore acts with much sympathy and feeling, and Miss Lucy Beaumont makes a very animated and pert Polly Philpot. Miss Blanche Stanley gives an excellent character sketch of the repulsive Auntie Scrimp. The two children, Seadrift and Dixie, are deserving of high commendation, as played by Miss Ida Thompson and Miss Marie Aida Dowsing.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Comedy, by Brandon Thomas, entitled
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."

There could be no doubt in the mind of anyone present at the Grand, Woolwich, on Monday, that the general public finds the vagaries of *Charley's Aunt* as amusing as ever. Mr. Brandon Thomas's company was in fine form on Monday, and rattled through the piece at the express speed essential to its successful interpretation. Mr. Thomas himself played Colonel Chesney, and, aided by a good stage presence, and the practised actor's appreciation of the possibilities of every line of his part, gave a capital impersonation. Mr Stanley Cooke's Lord Fancourt Babberley was a most laughable performance, and to say that he kept his audience in a continual state of amusement would be a mild way of describing the shouts of merriment which were continuous while he had possession of the stage. Stephen Spettigue found a capable representative in Mr. Simon Ord, whose dryly humorous style and clever make-up were irresistibly comic. Mr. Arthur Soames was responsible for an excellent rendering of Jack Chesney, and Mr. R. B. Mason made the most of Charley Wykeham. Miss Lena MacNaughten was an imposing Donna Lucia, her calm manner and the quiet humour with which she delivered her lines adding to the value of her impersonation. Miss Violet Cooper acted charmingly as Kitty Vernon; Miss Geraldine Greville was equally successful as Amy Spettigue; and Miss Dorrie Roberts submitted a pleasing rendering of Ela Delahay.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the adaptation of Wilkie Collins' novel, entitled
"THE NEW MAGDALEN."

Miss Lilian Dundas' company is appearing here this week in the well-known adaptation of Wilkie Collins' novel, *The New Magdalen*. The piece is interpreted by a company, including Miss Lilian and Mr. Henry Dundas. Miss Dundas gives an excellent impersonation of Mercy Merrick, who passes herself off as Grace Roseberry, and in her scenes with Julian Grey, a clergyman, splendidly played by Mr. Henry Dundas, she gives a very pathetic rendering of a broken-hearted woman. Miss Ethel Carullon gives a good account of herself as the real Grace Roseberry; Mrs. Walter Bentley makes an excellent and motherly Lady Janet Roy; Mr. A. W. Tyrer is good as the War Correspondent, Horace Holmcroft; Mr. Arthur Lewis makes an ideal servant. Mr. E. Barrington Foote and Mr. A. Mansfield, as Surgeon Surville and Captain Arville of the French Army, are good; and the Ignatius Wetzel of Mr. Sidney Young is a splendid study of a German surgeon. Mr. John Hatton is good as his assistant, and Mr. Vivian does well as the Detective Chisholm. The

play is well mounted, and the uniforms and dresses add to the attractiveness of the performance. On Monday evening a special souvenir was given to all the ladies in the audience in the form of a copy of the novel.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Drama entitled

"THE GRIP OF THE LAW."

Mr. Frederic Moule's sensational drama, entitled *The Grip of the Law*, is exceedingly well acted by Messrs. Moule and Nicholls' clever company. Mr. Herbert Evelyn gives an artistic rendering of the difficult part of Noel of the Night. Mr. Edwin Maydew is an agreeable and painstaking representative of Dave Arkwright. Mr. William Matthews is highly successful as Frank Paul; Mr. Courtney Robertson is excellent as Jacob Hockaday; Mr. Sam Roberts is a great favourite as Andy Blunt; Mr. Stevenson, as Ezra Brown, is good, as is Mr. W. Garrick as Inspector Martin; Mr. James Hill is an effective Sir Digby Dunstan; and Mr. Hal Lowe a competent Gabriel Pilgrim. Miss Ada Lucelle is excellent as Mrs. Raddiscombe; Miss Olive Parker, as Marian Arkwright, acts admirably; Miss Ada Frank causes much amusement by her clever impersonation of Beaulah Bliss; and Miss May Grayse adds greatly to the success of the play by her gentle and attractive rendering of the part of Rose Hockaday.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Romantic Play, in Four Acts, by Robert Stephen and E. Lyall Swete, entitled

"MISS ELIZABETH'S PRISONER."

There have been good houses at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, this week, to witness this most attractive and interesting play, which is being presented by Mr. Lewis Waller's company under the personal direction of Mr. Peter Davey. The play is staged and acted in a manner worthy of a production that achieved such success at the Imperial Theatre, and the tour, which commenced recently, has proved up till now a gratifying success. A most capable cast is engaged in the production, the leading rôle, that of Miss Elizabeth Philipse, being portrayed by Miss Essex Dane, who charms her audience with a fine conception of the part. The part of Captain Harry Payton is filled by Mr. Norman Partridge with marked ability, and a fine interpretation of the part of Mr. Valentine is given by Mr. J. Harold Carson. Mr. Elliot Ball gives satisfaction as the bluff Major Colden. A word of commendation is also deserved by Miss Marguerite Cellier, as Molly Edwards; by Mr. F. Cellier, jun., as Sergeant Carrington; by Mr. Arthur Somers, as John Edwards; and by Miss Leonora Braham, as Mistress Sarah Williams. The play is preceded by the commedietta, *The Borrowed Uncle*, in which the parts are played as follows:—John Griffin, Mr. Arthur Somers; Dr. Arthur Wakefield, Mr. F. Cellier, jun.; Timothy Felby, Mr. J. Harold Carson; and Lucy Winwood, Miss Marguerite Cellier.

"MR. SMITH."

A Comedy Drama, in Three Acts, by Walter Reynolds. Played for the first time at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, on Monday, Feb. 27.

Mr. Earle Godwyn Smith	MR. HAMILTON STEWART
The Earl of Oxted	MR. HENRY LATIMER
Lord Angleland	MR. F. LUMSDEN HARE
The Hon. Dudley Dysart	MR. SYDNEY BLOW
Jack Berkeley	MR. ARTHUR BURNE
Herr Deidrich Anheuser	MR. E. DAGNALL
The Duchess of Angleland	MISS AGNES KNIGHTS
Lady Mary	MISS OLIVE TEMPLE
Ruth Anheuser	MISS PHYLLIS RELPH
Mrs. Smith	MISS HENRIETTA COWEN
Benson	MISS LINDA YLDERSON

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The author of the above-named play is a prolific writer in the realms of melodrama, but in *Mr. Smith* he has ventured into pastures new, and not without success. The cognomen of Smith covers a personality who finds it necessary, in the interests of the masses, to utter strong invectives against the anomalies and social customs of the classes, and this he does with a freedom and vigour that are heartily relished by the audience. The play contains many delightful bits of humour and some dainty passages of pathetic emotion, and the interest is kept alive right up to the finish. The story runs as follows:—Mr. Smith, a young engineer, has risen from the ranks, and his attainments have brought him into close touch with the Government, thereby gaining him great notoriety. While at Harrogate, he meets and falls in love with Lady Mary Angleland, one of a noble house whose ancestors reach back to the eleventh century. His love is returned, but the lady greatly fears his introduction to her proud and haughty relatives. Taking advantage of his Christian names being Earle Godwyn, Lady Mary mentions him as such to her mother, but Smith absolutely declines to be party to any deceit. Lady Mary cannot be married without the consent of the Duchess, the Earl and Lord Angleland, and Smith is quickly made aware of their refusal to the alliance. Nevertheless, he determines to overcome all obstacles and gain the lady of his choice. The Earl of Oxted is an enthusiastic dabbler in engineering, and through the influence of Smith some of his plans are accepted by the Government, his prejudices towards Smith being thus overcome. The Duchess was favourably impressed with the young engineer from the first, and, happening to overhear a conversation between the two lovers, she realises the true worth of his nature, and her proud scruples are entirely removed. The last and bitterest opponent is Lord Angleland, whose riotous manner of living has brought him perilously in danger of the law, but the timely interference of Smith, who averts a scandal, brings this objector into line. At this juncture, Smith is offered a baronetcy, which he promptly declines, preferring to remain "Mr. Smith." Mr. Reynolds has gathered around him an excellent company, and the fall of each curtain brought several recalls. Mr. Hamilton Stewart played Smith with a quiet dignity and restrained method that made his performance worthy of all praise, and the audience showed marked appreciation of his efforts. Mr. F. Lumsden Hare, as Lord Angleland, aptly assumed the arrogance and callousness of the young rake, and Mr. Sydney Blow played with incisive force as his friend, the Hon. Dudley Dysart. Mr. Henry Latimer put so much vigour into the rôle of the Earl of Oxted, that the portrayal lacked somewhat the necessary dignity. Mr. E. Dagnall added a fine touch of humour to his interpretation of Anheuser, and Mr. Arthur Burne gave an earnest and capable rendering as Jack Berkeley. Miss Olive Temple endowed the part of Lady Mary with a tender charm that won all hearts, and Miss Phyllis Relph offered a rich character study of Ruth Anheuser with her usual ease and ability. Miss Agnes Knights submitted a refined impersonation of the Duchess of Angleland, Miss Henrietta Cowen presented an intelligent reading of Mrs. Smith, and Miss Linda Ylderson was an efficient maid. At the final fall of the curtain, in response to calls for the author, Mr. Reynolds expressed his thanks for the appreciation of his play, adding that he had a tender spot in his heart for Nottingham, as it was on that stage he first made his appearance in 1874.

PRESENTATION.—On Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Avenue Theatre, Sunderland, Master Randolph Churchill, the son of W. J. Churchill, was presented with a gold-mounted walking-stick, also a silver watch, from the members of the *Sleeping Beauty* company. With thanks on behalf of my son, believe me, yours, &c., W. CHURCHILL.

"DER STROM."

A Drama, in Three Acts, by Max Halbe, produced for the first time in England, at the Great Queen-street Theatre, on Monday, Feb. 27.

Frau Philippine Doorn	IDA WEISS
Peter Doorn	RUDOLF LEYRER
Heinrich Doorn	HANS STOCK
Jakob Doorn	HEINZ PABST
Renate	ROSA BERTENS
Reinhold Ulrichs	MAX BEHREND
Hanne	ADELE MEYSEL

Frau Rosa Bertens, of the Deutsches Theater, Berlin, had a very cordial reception on making her first appearance at the Great Queen-street Theatre on Monday night, in Herr Max Halbe's drama, *Der Strom*. This piece was in strong contrast to recent productions in the series of German plays being presented at this house, the deeply tragic element forming the predominant feature of Herr Halbe's work. The primitive passions of the men and women who take part in the story are powerfully depicted, and the technical skill shown by the author also wins warm admiration. He contrives to impress one with the fact that mere man cuts a very poor figure upon the stage of life when his destinies are at the mercy of the forces of nature; and the element of doubt and dread thus induced pervades the play from beginning to end. Peter Doorn and his family dwell in a country place, where their lives are always threatened by the river which runs close to the house. The stream is dammed up by strong breakwaters, but should they give way the house and its inhabitants are doomed. With Peter Doorn and his wife, Renate, live his grandmother and his younger brother, Jakob. Peter is a moody, melancholy man. He has committed a grievous sin, and his guilty conscience allows him no peace. When his father died Peter Doorn destroyed the will which equally divided the property amongst the old man's three sons. Jakob was sent to the village school, and eventually became a mere labourer on the farm, while Heinrich, the second son, left home to seek a living. In the relentless river the Doorns' two children were drowned, and seeing in this calamity a punishment for his crime, he has made a full confession to his wife. The secret is also shared by the grandmother and an aged labourer known as Reinhold Ulrichs. When Heinrich arrives on the scene quite unexpectedly, he does not receive the cordial welcome he naturally expected, and he is chilled by the air of gloom which prevails. He is an engineer, and his mission is to make an examination of the breakwaters and strengthen them. He and Renate were once sweethearts, and he tells her that he has been married but has lost both wife and child. Renate's old love for him re-awakens, and she is about to tell him her husband's shameful secret, but is interrupted by Jakob, who, jealous of his brother, invents the story that he is wanted at the works. A passionate scene between Peter and his wife follows, as he refuses to confess to his brothers how he has defrauded them of their heritage. At last she herself tells Heinrich, who protects her from the violence of her enraged husband. At this moment there are loud cries heard without that the stream is rising, and the men rush forth to ascertain what is happening, bringing the third act to a very dramatic conclusion. In the last act, Peter, confronted by his two younger brothers, denies the truth of his wife's admission, and threatens to turn them out. Jakob, furious at the turn affairs have taken, rushes out, and, going to the breakwater, begins to dig furiously at its foundations. Peter interrupts him, and in the struggle which follows both are carried away by the stream. "Peter has saved us all, Renate," exclaims Heinrich, "and Jakob has fallen a sacrifice—who dare call him guilty?"

Frau Rosa Bertens quite justified her selection for the part of Renate by an admirable performance, in which she represented with telling force and fidelity the feelings of a woman placed in a terribly trying position—despising her husband, and at the same time open to the temptation of yielding to an old lover. At the conclusion of the third act the curtain was raised three or four times, so hearty and general was the applause. Herr Rudolf Leyrer also played well the part of Peter Doorn; and Herr Hans Stock was natural and appropriately passionate as Heinrich. Herr Heinz Pabst, as Jakob, excellently portrayed the intensity of the youth's feelings for his elder brother's wife. Herr Max Behrend presented a capital sketch of old Reinhold Ulrichs, and Fräulein Ida Weiss was good as the aged, decrepit grandmother. Fräulein Adele Meysel, as the maid-servant, Hanne, completed the cast.

"THE LONELY MILLIONAIRES."

A New and Original Comedy, in Three Acts, by Mrs. Henry de la Pasture, Produced at the Royal Court Theatre, on Saturday, Feb. 25.

Thomas Frankland	MR. FRANK MORRIS
Christina	MISS IONE MACDONALD
Miss Moreton	MRS. HAROLD WHITAKER
Lady Medwyn	MRS. HENRY DE LA PASTURE
Luigi Peretta	HON. STEPHEN POWYS
Doctor Buller	MR. W. FARREN, JUN.
Lord Frederick Hereswid	MR. HAROLD WHITAKER
Sir Charles Ducarel, Bart.	THE EARL OF ALTAMONT
Joseph Lipscombe	MR. EDWARD ELIOTT
Maria	MISS ANNIE SCHLETTER

It is not often that we get such a charming and really clever new comedy produced by amateurs as that which Mrs. Henry de la Pasture first presented to an audience on Saturday afternoon. The title of the piece—*The Lonely Millionaires*—is appropriate to the subject matter. One Thomas Frankland, a retired cotton spinner and a millionaire, takes up his residence, along with his daughter, at Cleddon Hall, the former owner of which, Sir Charles Ducarel, has, at the time the story opens, redeemed his shattered fortunes abroad, and is now a millionaire. In the hope that he may find some means of regaining the old hall, he succeeds in obtaining a position as secretary to Frankland, at a salary of £100 a year. In spite of the fact, however, that Ducarel assumes the title of plain "Mr. Charles," in order to hide his identity, he is recognised by Lady Medwyn, now in the employ of the millionaire Frankland as chaperon to the latter's daughter, Christina. Fifteen years previously, before Ducarel became a prosperous Buenos Ayres merchant, he had been a great admirer of Lady Medwyn, and even now, in the soberer prime of life, he felt that the old attachment had returned to him, if not exactly with the former vigour, at least with a greater steadfastness. But for some reason or other, Lady Medwyn does not favour his suit, and we are very soon told the reason why. The retired cotton spinner is anxious that his daughter, Christina, a pampered young lady, who is already giving her father trouble as the result of being spoilt, should marry as soon as possible, so that he can get her off his hands and settle down to a life of quiet retirement. His intentions, however, are that Lady Medwyn shall share his retirement. The suitors to the hand of the millionaire's daughter are, of course, several and varied. One is a Lord Frederick Hereswid, a gilded fop, who has been appointed land agent to Frankland. But the one who has made the strongest impression upon the girl's untutored mind—untutored, that is, so far as love and the meaning of existence are concerned—is Luigi Peretta, her drawing master. Luigi is her first love, and Christina has been told that the earliest affection is the truest and most lasting one. The Italian does not hesitate to take advantage of his position, the dowry, and not the girl, being the object he aims at securing. The anniversary of Christina's birthday is to be celebrated by the fulfilment of a promise previously made by her father that he will give her whatever she most desires. But when she gravely informs her parent that what she most desires is the permission to marry Luigi Peretta, Frankland withdraws from his promise. He recognises—as does everybody else with the sole exception of the girl—that the only thing the wily Italian cares about is the money which will become Christina's upon her wedding-day. To get rid of the drawing-master in such a way that he will never again come in contact with Christina is the problem which Frankland and his secretary set themselves to solve. After some bargaining, Luigi agrees to surrender all claims to the girl and to leave the country upon receiving a consideration in the shape of a cheque for £5,000. The document he signs to this effect is shown to Christina, who believes that the Italian's acceptance and his relinquishing her for a sum of money are nothing less than a cruel plot to get rid of him. But the trouble does not end there, for the girl is suddenly found to be missing. Not unnaturally, it is thought that she has left for London to join Luigi. Ducarel follows in hot haste. Arriving at the Italian's studio, he finds a woman and a couple of cots containing babies. He learns that the woman is Luigi's wife and the children are Luigi's children. Later there enters Christina, in search of her late drawing-master. When she discovers that Luigi is not free to marry her, and how badly he has deceived her, her feeling towards this man changes to bitter hatred. A few minutes later the redoubtable Luigi appears before them, and as he is confronted both by Christina and Ducarel, astonishment and fear for the moment make him spellbound. There is an angry scene, Ducarel takes the girl away, and in the end they become united, as also do Lady Medwyn and Frankland.

The story was pleasantly told by a company of talented amateurs. By far the best-acted part is that of Thomas Frankland, as brought before us by Mr. Frank Morris. Mr. Morris gives us a really clever study of a rough and ready, honest, and hard-working man who has risen in the world. We think, however, that Mr. Morris might have given a little more attention to his dialogue. Mr. W. Farren, jun., had very little to do as Dr. Buller, but that little was done well. The Hon. Stephen Powys exhibited careful training, and not a little histrionic ability, in the rôle of the Italian drawing-master, while the character of the sententious butler, Joseph Lipscombe, was admirably portrayed by Mr. Edward Eliot. Among the ladies first praise must be given to Miss Annie Schletter, who, as the offended and deceived wife of the Italian, gave us a highly dramatic picture. Mrs. Henry de la Pasture, the authoress, was quiet, unaffected, and demure as the widow, Lady Medwyn; and the Earl of Altamont presented a creditable performance of Sir Charles Ducarel, the erstwhile secretary. Miss Ione Macdonald charmed everybody with her Christina, and Mr. Harold Whitaker provided some funny moments as the conceited Lord Frederick Hereswid. It should be mentioned that three performances of *The Lonely Millionaires* were given in aid of the Girls' Club (St. Martin's-street, Leicester-square), the Blue Lamp, and the Cornwall Club.

"AT EVENSONG."

Play, in One Act, by Fewlass Llewellyn, given for the first time at the Gaiety Theatre, Hastings, on Monday, Feb. 27.

Rev. John Dykes, M.A.	MR. PERCY D. STANDING
Jack Dykes	MR. ROLAND DANIEL
Harry Charlwood	MR. C. W. STANDING
Verger	MR. WM. ALLISON
Grace Templeton	MISS JOAN ELLIS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The action of this little play takes place at a vicarage, where the vicar is discovered at his devotional reading just prior to evensong in the adjoining church. His only son, Jack, lies under the accusation of stealing a bag of gold from the bank at which he was employed, and the result of his trial is being awaited with dread. The vicar expresses himself unequal to conduct the service, when Jack enters with the joyful news that he has been acquitted, mainly, he believes, through the good offices of his friend, Harry Charlwood, who was one of the jury, and had brought the others over to his view. Grace Templeton, the vicar's ward, is betrothed to Jack, and during his incarceration it has come to her knowledge that she is heiress to a large fortune, and the young folk are happy in their future prospects. Jack leaves to interview the bankers as to his reinstatement, and in the interval Harry appears, and is warmly thanked by the vicar for his services to his son. Being temporarily left alone with Grace, Harry, who is under the impression she is Jack's sister, declares his love, and asks her to marry him. Grace enlightens him as to her position towards Jack, who returns much dejected, saying his employers still believed him guilty. Harry expresses his determination of emigrating to South Africa, and Jack at once says he will join him and win back a fair name. Harry persuades him to remain and live down the bankers' suspicions. Moved by Jack's evident anguish, a great mental struggle takes place in Harry's mind, and he eventually confesses that it was himself who had taken the bag of gold: he was in dire need of money in order to provide for his ailing mother, and could not resist the temptation. At this point the church organ peals forth, the choir chanting the "Nunc Dimittis" is heard, and the curtain descends upon Harry declaring he will himself write to the bankers and exonerate his friend. Mr. Percy D. Standing was thoroughly well suited to his impersonation of the vicar, every word and gesture conveyed the impression of a chastened sorrow and a noble mind, suggestive of honourable resolves. Mr. Roland Daniel successfully assumed the exuberant joy of an honourable man released from an undeserved degradation, as well as his bitter humiliation and despair at his employers' injustice. Mr. C. W. Standing delineated the unstable family friend, and his remorse at the finish was forcefully conveyed. Mr. Allison, as the verger, had only a small opportunity, but delivered his lines most effectively. Miss Joan Ellis was charmingly sympathetic as Grace Templeton.

SIGNOR ZOCCHI, of the Paris Opéra Comique, recently accepted an engagement to sing in *Lakmé*, at Rouen, at a Sunday matinée; and was also billed to appear at the Paris Opéra Comique, in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, the same evening at eight. He arranged to catch a train from Rouen at 4.58, which would bring him into Paris at 6.40, giving him time to dress for the Opéra Comique performance. The train, however, was two hours late; so the tenor chartered a motor to intercept the six o'clock express at Mantes. The motor was delayed by a gendarme; and the train was lost. Signor Zocchi reached Paris at nine, and found himself in time for *Cavalleria*. For fulfilling an engagement at Rouen without leave he was fined 2,000f.; and, on examination, discovered that he had lost from his pockets the entire amount he had received for his Rouen engagement.

"JINNY THE CARRIER," a four-act comedy, by Israel Zangwill, was produced at the Park Theatre, Boston, on the 20th ult. The scenes are laid in the County of Essex, about twenty-five years ago. Miss Annie Russell appeared as Jinny Quarles, the village carrier. The story deals with the attempt of Will Flynt, the rival carrier, who has been in Canada, to introduce progressive ideas into his native village. Jinny's father, old Gaffer Quarles, with a fine fund of antiquated humour which borders on pathos, is one of the best characters in the comedy, this rôle being effectively played by Mr. Fuller Mellish. Mr. Oswald Yorke appeared as Will Flynt, and Mr. George W. Wilson impersonated the village deacon. By all accounts Mr. Zangwill has written a sweet, wholesome play, rather talky, and somewhat deficient in action, but full of strong character drawing. The piece was well received, Miss Russell and the principal members of her company responding to repeated curtain calls.

"MISS JACK."

A Comedy, in Three Acts, Played at the Brixton Theatre on Saturday Afternoon, Feb. 25.

Captain Ralph Alderson	Mr. ERIC MAYNE
Duke of St. Aubyn	Mr. H. GOMER MAY
Gerald Tenby	Mr. EDMUND WALLER
Lord Leighton	Mr. J. HENNESSEY
Mr. Smithson	Mr. FREDERICK JACQUES
Rev. Silas Yapp	Mr. E. STRICKLAND
Fisher	Mr. EDGAR J. COYNE
Countess of Desborough	Miss ROSEMARY REES
Duchess of St. Aubyn	Miss ETHEL WARWICK
Mrs. Yapp	Miss MINNIE RAYNER
Craven	Miss ETHEL RAINFORTH
Clarisse	Miss MADGE BERESFORD
Madame Chabot	Miss ALICE LANGLEY
Jacqueline Fitzmaurice	Mrs. LEWIS WALLER

Smartness is not over-prominent in the comedy above named, which, by arrangement with the "Smart Set" Publishing Company, was introduced to London playgoers on Saturday, having been first produced at the St. James's Theatre, Manchester, last December. The humour is of the mildest, and not always new, and the story makes no decided claims upon the attention, the closest observance being baffled at times in its pursuit. The author is scandalised at the doings of Society, but no new light is thrown upon their iniquities, and he is happiest when portraying the peculiarities of humbler folk. Aristocrats abound in the story, the opening of which introduces us to the home of the Countess of Desborough, a widow whose resources have completely run out through over-indulgence in gambling. To her Miss Jacqueline Fitzmaurice, a young American girl, who pretends to be wealthy, comes with a double motive—first, to gain an entrée into Society, and secondly to punish Lady Desborough for jilting Col. Ralston, a friend of her father's, who had eventually died in Colorado. She gains her first point by holding out a bundle of love-letters which my lady had sent to Ralston, and threatening to make them public if she should refuse to chaperone her, and the second she abandons when she learns from Captain Ralph Alderson, a friend of the Countess, that the latter is innocent of blame in the transaction. The Captain is an impressionable man, and has fallen in love with the heroine of a story he had heard on his travels in Colorado, of a young lady who had single-handed rescued an Englishman from a band of half-castes, just as they were preparing the stake. He has vowed to seek out the lady and marry her, but he waits until the very last before disclosing what the audience foresee at once—that "Miss Jack," as Jacqueline is called, and the heroine are identical. "Miss Jack" has a gay time with the Countess of Desborough, with whom she has become fast friends, and is the "rage" of the London season. She has many wooers and a corresponding number of enemies, more especially among the ladies, who are rejoiced when the bank where her money is deposited fails, and the small sum that constitutes her fortune is gone. Captain Alderson comes to the rescue, and after dissipating the malicious rumours that have been circulated, offers his heart and hand to "Miss Jack." There is another worthy young man who loves Jacqueline, and to whom a certain Duchess pays dishonourable court, but what becomes of him no clue is given, while of the ultimate fate of the countess chaperone, who without her protégée is penniless, we are left equally in doubt.

All Mrs. Lewis Waller's vivacity and piquancy were required to maintain the interest of the title-rôle. Young ladies who rival the sterner sex in pluck and intrepidity have figured so many times in romance that there is nothing remarkable about "Miss Jack"; but Mrs. Waller made her conspicuous by a charming manner and by the pleasing shades of variety which she introduced into her American accent, at the same time stimulating the laughter by her merry style and impulsive actions. Mr. Eric Mayne played the part of Captain Alderson in a polished manner, acting expressively in the few love-making moments which the cautious captain permitted himself. Miss Rosemary Rees was pleasant and prepossessing as the Countess of Desborough, and the spite and malice of the Duchess of St. Aubyn were cleverly contrasted with her effusive amiability by Miss Ethel Warwick, whose appearance in the part gave it stateliness and grace. The Duke of St. Aubyn, a dull-witted scion of nobility, was played with characteristic drollery by Mr. H. Gomer May; and the impecunious and unprincipled Lord Leighton—the best conceived character in the piece—received excellent interpretation at the hands of Mr. J. Henessey. A ludicrous curate was cleverly held up to ridicule by Mr. E. Strickland; the quaint comedy powers of Miss Minnie Rayner were effectively employed as his doting mother; and as Clarisse, a French maid, and as Madame Chabot, a costumier, Miss Madge Beresford and Miss Alice Langley both contributed valuable means of enjoyment.

"OVER THE HILLS TO THE POOR HOUSE."

A Play in One Act, by A. Romaine Callender, produced at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, at a Matinée on Friday, Feb. 24.

Rev. Mr. Webb	MR. ARTHUR LESTER
Mr. Splodgers	MR. ROTHBURY EVANS
Mr. Snodgers	MR. HARRY MELBOURNE
Mr. Crumbles	MR. WILFRED BECKWITH
Mr. Whiteley	MR. G. KINGSLEY
Mr. Hardheart	MR. HARRY BELDING
Philip Glover, M.D.	MR. SIDNEY ARNOLD
Master of the Poor House	MR. ALFRED HILLIARD
Reuben Farnicombe	MR. ROMAINE CALLENDER
Martha Farnicombe	MISS CLAIRE PAUNCEFORT

The piece is a rather strenuous illustration of the harsh way in which the poor laws are administered, and of how cruelly they may be applied to old folk in particular. The meeting of the guardians, before whom old Reuben Farnicombe appears, is a realistic feature of the setting, and the business of the meeting is enlivened by some amusing recriminatory passages between two of the members, who quarrel on the smallest pretext. Including the Rev. Mr. Webb, who is chairman, the guardians are a hard-hearted lot, and not even the heroic protests of the medical officer make the least impression on their inhumanity. The ordeal of Reuben Farnicombe and his wife Martha, who are condemned to take their separate domiciles in the poor house, ends with their death, the prospect of parting being too much for them to bear. Mr. Romaine Callender played the aged Reuben excellently, and Miss Claire Pauncefort acted with sympathy as the faithful old wife. The remainder of the cast sustained their various parts with lifelike vigour and ability, and the piece, though long drawn in the pathetic passages, went very well. The matinée performance was given, by kind permission of the United Theatres Co., Ltd., for the benefit of Mr. Romaine Callender, and was under distinguished local patronage. A variety concert which followed the new production was contributed to by Mr. George Robey, Mr. Harrison Brockbank, Mr. Harry Maxam, the Anartos, Mr. E. Harcourt Williams, Miss Hilda Jacobson, Miss Louie Collier, Miss Dorothy L. Clarke, Miss Daisy Jerome, Miss Barbara Aird, and others; and Mr. Romaine Callender made a neat speech of thanks at the close.

THEATRICAL PATENTS.

The following applications are specially drawn for *The Era* by Messrs Hughes and Young, patent agents, 55 and 56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will give advice and assistance free to our readers on all patent matters.

413. Oskar Messter, 18, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. An improved method of working a phonograph and cinématograph in conjunction.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LA FEMME AU MASQUE,"

Comedy-Bouffe, in Three Acts, by MM. Daniel Riche and Leo Marchès, Produced at the Theatre Cluny, Feb. 23.

Roland	M. J. PONCET
Le Commandeur	M. DORGAT
Jacques	M. DUPONT
Némorin	M. ARNOULD
Fonville	M. LUREAU
Amour	M. WAGMANN
Raymonde	MDLLE. FAVELLI
Amélie	MDLLE. BERTRY
Lucienne	MDLLE. BRUNEL
Madame Langlois	MADAME FRANCK-MEL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, MARCH 2.—In their anxiety to makes us laugh the authors of *La Femme au Masque* have overdone things, and got their personages into a network of imbroglios and complications from which they can only with difficulty be extricated. The title of the piece suggests the story of Gervex's famous portrait of the society lady who posed with nothing but a velvet mask to conceal her identity. In the above farce, however, a photograph is the cause of the trouble. Madame Lucienne Desselin has had herself photographed as "naked as a worm"—as we say here—her pretty face hidden by a mask. And as it is not customary for society women to pose *in naturalibus*, Lucienne, with commendable sense of propriety, has ordered only two copies, one of which she has presented to Jacques, her husband, and the other to her lover, Maurice. It was rather a pity she should have trusted the latter, a careless youth, who keeps a famous and costly cocotte, Mademoiselle Raymonde, in royal style, and loses the photo in that lady's drawing-room. Raymonde finds it and is horrified. Not that her modesty is hurt at the sight of so much unadorned beauty. *Elle s'en fiche.* Nor would she have cared at all had she known that the thing dropped from Maurice's pocket. Maurice does not exist for her. Jacques, Lucienne's husband, is the man on whom she dotes; and as she believes him to be the owner of the portrait, her jealousy is roused, and she goes to Jacques' house to demand an explanation, not knowing that the man is married. There she meets Lucienne, in whom she recognises a school friend. At first the young wife and the cocotte are overjoyed at meeting. This joy, however, is of short duration; for when Lucienne learns that Raymonde is her husband's mistress she promptly shows her school friend the door. Raymonde has restored the photo to Lucienne, who takes her husband severely to task for being unfaithful and allowing her portrait to find its way into his mistress's hands. Jacques stutters at first; but he soon proves his innocence by producing the portrait Lucienne gave him, and then turns the tables on his wife by asking her where the second photo comes from. This time it is Lucienne who stutters. And now the plot loses itself in a mad chase after photos. These photos pass through the hands of numberless people, who appear and disappear in a bewildering manner, and lead to impossible situations, until everyone is exhausted and the dénouement puts everything more or less straight. The first act is smartly written, but the second and third baffle description. The work, however, is spiritedly played by a good all-round company, among whom M. Poncet, M. Dorgat, M. Dupont, Mdlle. Favelli, Mdlle. Bertry, and Madame Franck-Mel.

"LA PETITE MILLIARDAIRE."

Farce, in Three Acts, by MM. Henri Dumay and Louis Forest. Produced at the Athénée, Feb. 24.

Kikewitch	M. LEVESQUE
Gruneman	M. MILO
Stanley Ross	M. BULLIER
Barbazon	M. A. BAUDOIN
Prince Ladislas	M. LEUBAS
Morain	M. LAUMONIER
Betsy	MDLLE. DIETERLE
Juanita	MADAME CAVELL
Cléo	MDLLE. TEMPLEY
Rozia	MDLLE. CAUMONT

It is not often that so poor a production as *La Petite Milliardaire* comes our way. If the Athénée wanted to change its genre to go in for farcical comedies, they could easily have secured something better. The plot is as follows: Stanley Ross, a milliardaire, is anxious that his daughter Betsy should marry a big title, whereupon Kikewitch and Gruneman, two Jewish marriage brokers, start off to find the required article, in the hope of securing a commission on the dowry. Kikewitch has laid his hands on Ladislas, a ruined Polish nobleman; whilst Gruneman's candidate is the Count de Barbazon, hailing from the South. Neither of them find favour with Betsy. She has lost her heart to Jacques Morain, her father's secretary, who is on the point of being accepted by old Ross when the two marriage brokers, seeing their prey escape, send for Cléo, a young lady from the half-world, with whom Morain at one time had a liaison. Cléo bursts upon the unsuspecting Morain, and the jealous Betsy breaks off with him, and decides to take either Ladislas or Barbazon. She finally fixes upon Ladislas. The latter has just offered his heart to Juanita, a lady with a volcanic temperament; but when he hears that Betsy's choice has fallen upon him, he at once leaves Juanita, who consoles herself with the fiery Barbazon. When, however, Ladislas's Polish relations—half-savages—appear upon the scene, Betsy loses courage, and in order to rid herself of her nobleman informs him that she will not accept a cent from her father, and that the man who marries her must accept her without dowry. Ladislas at once disappears, and it is Morain who carries off the prize. Everybody is happy, even the disappointed Ladislas, to whom Stanley Ross hands a trifling cheque for £100,000, out of which Kikewitch and Gruneman are to receive their share. The excellent Athénée company worked with a will against heavy odds. MM. Levesque and Milo, the two matrimonial agents, were admirable. M. Baudoin's impersonation of the Marseillais was intensely droll; and the same can be said of M. Leubas's Ladislas. Madame Cavell, Mdlle. Dieterle, and Madame Templey can also be congratulated on their success.

IN order not to interfere with the rehearsals at the Gaîté of M. Catulle Meudes's comedy *Scarron*, Mdlle. Gilda Dharty is now playing the rôle to be impersonated by Mme. Jane Hading the moment this artiste will have fully recovered from her recent indisposition.

AT the Sarah Bernhardt Theatre Madame Bernhardt intends to give an exact reconstitution of the performance of *Esther* as given at the College of Saint-Cyr in 1689. All the rôles will be played by ladies, and we will even see Louis XIV., with his suite, seated at the back of the stage, as was customary in those days.

QUEER incidents, of which no mention is ever made in the Paris Press, occur sometimes at our theatres. A few nights ago, at the Comédie-Française, during the performance of *Notre Jeunesse*, the curtain suddenly came down before the end of the second act. The prompter had dropped off to sleep, and had touched the electric button which gives the signal for the lowering of the curtain.

AT the Opéra, owing to the illness of one of the artistes, *Tannhäuser* was given instead of *Tristan*. But as nobody sent word to M. Mangin, who always conducts *Tannhäuser*, a member of the orchestra had to take the bâton in his trembling hands. It was, it seems, a unique performance.

A COPY OF "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. *The Era* is posted on Saturday in time to reach London Subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery, and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London Post. Address, the PUBLISHER.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree often goes to rehearsal without his breakfast. In a pause he sustains his strength with a bath-bun; an old actress who knows Mr. Tree's peculiarities in this respect, invariably takes a bun to rehearsal, and if she sees him looking very tired gives it to him. Mr. Tree seldom stops a rehearsal once commenced. He says "Everybody comes back from lunch demoralised. Besides, rest is so fatiguing." As everyone knows, Mr. Tree has been building a fine suite of rooms at the top of the theatre, decorated with life-size Shakespearean pictures. "How on earth can you afford to do this?" a friend asked him. "I can't," he replied; "I hope that I may be able to afford them some day. Extravagance is the luxury of the poor as penury is the luxury of the rich. If you did not have things when you can't afford them, you would never have anything at all."

Mr. Tree was recently going into the country accompanied by a friend. As they settled themselves in the railway carriage, he lighted a large cigar. Presently a mild-looking gentleman got in. He took out his case, produced a very mild cigarette, and lighted it. Mr. Tree blew a great cloud of smoke, and, turning to the intruder, looked steadily at him, saying, "Pardon me, sir, but are you aware that this is not a smoking carriage?" The mild man looked up nervously. "But—but—but *you* are smoking." "Ah, yes, but I thought perhaps *you* might have conscientious scruples," said Mr. Tree in his blandest manner.

Miss Viola Tree, according to the writer of an amusing article in the new magazine, *The Grand*, inherits her father's gift of humour. In Edinburgh, when she made her professional début as Viola in *Twelfth Night*, the members of the company were exceedingly anxious about her, and the most nervous was Mr. Tree himself. After the second act Miss Tree went carelessly down the passage whistling. "Well," Mr. Tree asked with the tenderest solicitude, "how are you now?" "I'm all right now," was the answer. "At first when I saw the sea of faces I thought it was the French Revolution, but now I have persuaded myself that it is only the Zoo."

Mrs. George Grossmith, we regret to state, died on Tuesday at her residence in Russell-square. Her long and painful illness had been borne with the greatest fortitude. The most sincere sympathy is to be extended to Mr. George Grossmith in his sad bereavement.

Mr. George Alexander is arranging a matinée at the St. James's Theatre, on the 23rd inst., in aid of the Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief of the London unemployed. The following ladies and gentlemen have very kindly promised to contribute to the programme:—Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. Rutland Barrington, Miss Eva Moore, Mr. George Grossmith, jun., Mr. C. Hayden Coffin, Mr. Oscar Asche, Miss Lily Brayton, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Miss Marie Tempest, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Mr. Allan Aynesworth, Mr. Lewis Waller, Miss Marie Studholme, Miss Connie Ediss, Miss Hilda Trevelyan, Miss Margaret Bussé, Mr. H. Nye Chart, Miss Frances Wetherall, Miss Marion Terry, Mr. Eric Lewis, Mrs. Kemmis, Miss Lettice Fairfax, and Mr. George Alexander.

Messrs. Harrison and Maude will this evening put on at the Haymarket Theatre, in front of *Beauty and the Barge*, Messrs. W. W. Jacobs and Louis N. Parker's play, *The Monkey's Paw*, in which Mr. Maude will appear, supported by Miss Bella Pateman, Mr. Edmund Maurice, and Mr. Wilfred Forster. *The Monkey's Paw*, which was originally produced at the Billington matinée, at the Haymarket, in October, 1903, will also precede *Everybody's Secret*, to be produced on Tuesday, March 14.

The great scene in *Everybody's Secret* comes in the second act, where the flat in Vicarage Chambers, the home of the imprudent young couple, is visited by Mr. Cyril Maude, as Sir Michael Parkes, and Miss Carlotta Addison, as Lady Parkes. We can quite imagine Mr. Maude's *grandpère*. It should have something of the quality of Victor Hugo, who wrote:—

Jean was on dry bread in the dark; and I,
In flagrant breach of law and equity
(But for our love and tender friendship's sake),
Stole to the culprit's side with sweets and cake.

M. Huguenet was the original of "grandad" in the French piece, as produced at the Coronet, and nothing could have been more delightful than his scene with the youngsters—a scene that we feel sure Mr. Maude should be able to endow with a *cachet* entirely his own. Miss Carlotta Addison has put it on record somewhere that she would like to associate herself with a part in which her tongue could run on more venomous lines; but in *Everybody's Secret* she will be just the dearest old grandma possible.

Sir Henry Irving, up to latest advices, was resting at the Star and Garter Hotel, Wolverhampton. He is progressing very favourably, and was "up" on Thursday for the first time. He expects to be able to leave Wolverhampton towards the end of next week.

It was originally arranged that the presentation of the illuminated address and silver casket should be postponed until April, when Sir Henry Irving would return to Wolverhampton on his way from Stratford-on-Avon. In the events that have happened, however, and of Sir Henry being unable definitely to decide to return there, the Mayor of the Borough, the Town Clerk, and one or two members of the committee will in all probability wait upon the distinguished actor at his hotel a few days before his departure, and make the presentation privately on behalf of the town and the subscribers.

Numberless inquiries have been made in the course of the week at the Grand Hotel, Wolverhampton, where the distinguished patient is staying, whilst messages of sympathy, both by letter and telegram, continue to flow in. On Monday the Royal Arch Masons of Stafford, meeting at Wolverhampton, sent their good wishes through Lord Dartmouth, the Grand Superintendent, to Bro. Sir Henry Irving, who replied in warm acknowledgment of their "fraternal love and greetings." Sir Henry on Saturday telegraphed to the manager of the Northern Counties Theatre Company stating that, owing to illness, he would be unable to fulfil his engagements with the company. This decision affects Bury, Rochdale, and Halifax At Rochdale, although the visit was to take place a month hence, over 200 seats had been booked, and record takings were anticipated.

Mr. and Mrs. Kendal have been enthusiastically welcomed by crowded audiences this week at the Kennington Theatre, where the refined art of the eminent actress has been employed in *Still Waters Run Deep*, her charming personality winning the hearts of all in the part of Mrs. Sternhold. Mr. Kendal, as John Mildmay, again submitted a splendid piece of acting, his exquisite sangfroid making the part irresistible. Captain Hawksley was in the very good hands of Mr. Bassett Roe, who successfully portrayed the villainous attributes of the rôle, and Mr. Ernest Hendrie created roars of laughter with his original style as Mr. Potter. Miss Elsie Clarens appeared to great advantage as Mrs. Mildmay, and the support given by Mr. W. Rutherford, Mr. Hubert Harben, Mr. Metcalfe Wood, Mr. Robert Burnett, and Mr. Sheldrick was throughout excellent. The other plays announced have been *The Elder Miss Blossom* and *The Housekeeper*.

"The Education of Mr. Pipp," a comedy in three acts, by Augustus Thomas, was recently produced by Messrs. Kirke La Shelle and Daniel V. Arthur at the Liberty Theatre, New York. This play was suggested by the well-known series of cartoons drawn by Charles Dana Gibson. Mr. Pipp's education, according to the artist's fancy, began when he was some sixty years old, and after he had accumulated a highly remunerative collection of stocks and bonds. In the stage version, the Pipps hail from Pittsburg, where they have made a fortune in steel. They begin their career of social conquest in New York, and pursue it victoriously in London and Paris. Mr. Pipp, senile and downtrodden; the effulgent Mrs. Pipp and her two daughters, accepted types of the "Gibson girl"; a Count, a Duke, and a Baron; an English Dowager, and some pompous servants—in fact, all the characters introduced in the sketches appear in the play. The henpecked millionaire becomes a hero, while Mrs. Pipp's experiences are calculated to enlighten the match-making mammas of America, and deter them from pushing their daughters into foreign society. There are three scenes, the first showing the Pipp mansion in "Millionaires' Row," New York; the second being laid on the lawn of Carony Castle, Herts, England; and the third in the courtyard of a small hotel in Paris. Mr. Digby Bell and Miss Kate Denin Wilson were decidedly successful as Mr. and Mrs. Pipp.

General Lew Wallace, the author of "Ben Hur," who died recently, wrote another work, entitled "The Prince of India," and this story is being dramatised for production at one of Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger's American theatres early next season. It is related that when General Garfield was President of the United States, he offered General Wallace the post of Minister to Turkey if he would write a story with scenes laid in the Holy Land, which General Wallace had never visited. The offer was accepted, and "Ben Hur" was written. "The Prince of India" has for its principal theme the love of the Greek Princess Irene for the young heir to the Moslem throne. The Wandering Jew will be one of the characters in the play.

Madame Rejane, the celebrated Parisian actress, was sued in the Westminster County Court, on the 24th ult., by Messrs. Haydock and Sons, for £37 16s., the price of some theatrical printing. The defence was that the plaintiffs' claim was included in a financial arrangement made between Mme. Réjane and a Mr. Webber, who acted as her manager. The magistrate, after hearing the evidence, decided to adjourn the case for the attendance of Mme. Réjane, who, it was stated, was then on her way back from New York, and directed that the defendant should pay the costs of the day.

Miss Ellen Terry is busily engaged in rehearsals for Mr. J. M. Barrie's new play, as yet without a name, which is to be produced this month at the Duke of York's Theatre. The celebrated actress will play the rôle of a mother who has to solve an intricate problem in respect to her daughter's welfare, a situation which Mr. Barrie has treated with the utmost delicacy. Miss Irene Vanbrugh will also be seen in a part of the highest importance. *Peter Pan* will be not lost but gone before, as the droll conceit will serve as a Christmas attraction at its present place of abode.

The Shakespeare Memorial scheme, for the promotion of which a meeting was held at the Mansion House on Tuesday, has a wide scope. It will be remembered that, a short time since, Mr. Richard Badger offered to open a subscription for a Shakespeare Memorial with £2000, an additional sum of £1000 for a specific purpose, and £500 for the general working expenses of a public appeal; and the London County Council agreed to supply a site for a monument. Other objects of the promoters are: "A Shakespeare House" for the study and appreciation of the poet's work, a Shakespeare library, and a lecture theatre.

Mr. Oscar Hammerstein, who has built nine theatres in New York, has been stirred up by the District Attorney's assertion that there are many unsafe theatres in the "Empire City," and has written that official a characteristic letter, which has been published in the newspapers. It seems that the District Attorney was accompanied on his tour of inspection by a "stout, heavy man," and Mr. Hammerstein says in his letter "never take a fat man or a fat woman to a theatre. They are always dissatisfied, as seats and aisles are designed for persons of natural dimensions only." Mr. Hammerstein denies that winding stairways are dangerous, and makes the somewhat novel assertion that fatalities are much more likely to occur on stairways that are long and straight. He winds up by saying, "My theatre is my living; my reputation is my pride. You have injured both maliciously and premeditatedly. What redress has a citizen who is infamously vilified by a man in high office? I will try and solve the problem." Then he intimates that he will be much obliged if the District Atorney will sue him for libel.

Mr. George Edwardes is sending a company to South Africa, on Saturday, to play, under the direction of B. and F. Wheeler, the following répertoire of pieces: *The Cingalee*, *The Orchid*, *Veronique*, *Lady Madcap*, *Duchess of Dantzic*, and *Madame Sherry*. The principal members of the company will be Messrs. Myles Clifton, George Grundy, Edmund Sherras, Arthur Staples, Percy Cahill, T. Norbury, Sidney Holland, and Victor Gouriet; Misses Daisy Wallace, Maud Thorne, Millie Vere, Violet Walters, Blanche Vaudon, Nellie Palmer, Sybil Thorne, Cicely O'Nolan, Lilian Bell, Mabel Gregory, Irene Wood, and Miss Anna Hickisch. The Australian rights of *Leah Kleschna* have been secured by Mr. J. C. Williamson, and the South African rights by Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler.

Mr. Frank Weathersby will take a company to St. Leonards for a special week on March 20, with Mr. Haddon Chambers' comedy, *The Tyranny of Tears*.

A memorial window or tablet is to be placed in the New York church, of which the late Mrs. Gilbert was a member, to commemorate the affection and esteem of the congregation and members of the theatrical profession for the veteran actress.

"Two Men and a Maid," a play in four acts, by Malcolm Watson, was produced for copyright purposes at a matinée at the Opera House, Northampton, on Wednesday.

Mr. Gerald Alexander, who had the distinction of being a member of Lord Anglesey's company, is again taking the well-known farce, *Facing the Music*, on tour, with Mr. Galwey Herbert as his partner. Mr. Herbert has long been associated with the play in Australasia, under Mr. Frank Thornton, and at present is a member of Messrs. Harrison and Maude's Co. at the Haymarket.

Mr. Alf. Maynall has been r-engaged by Messrs. Warden and Mouillot for panto. 1905-6, at the Opera House, Cork.

Mr. Hy. Wright, jun., stage-manager at the Court Theatre, Liverpool, for Mr. Robert Arthur's successful pantomime, had to go on for Mr. Horace Mills' part no less than nine times during that gentleman's indisposition, and again last week he had to play Mr. Walter Groves' part of the Dame, the latter gentleman also being taken ill.

Little hope is entertained of the recovery of Mr. Luscombe Searelle, who lies seriously ill in San Francisco. A number of years ago Luscombe Searelle was the director of the Tivoli Opera House in San Francisco, and made it justly popular with theatre-goers. After he left here he went to London, and there made a name for himself as a composer. *Satanella*, a well-known piece, is from his pen. Next he drifted to South Africa, and there amassed a large fortune in the theatrical business. At one time he was owner of at least a dozen theatres, and counted among his friends such celebrities as Barney Barnato and Cecil Rhodes. The Jameson Raid was the cause of his downfall. He was accused of having aided the raiders, was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death. British Lord High Commissioner Milner saved his neck, but he was compelled to leave the country, and all his property was confiscated. He went to New York, and there became acquainted with Mrs. Ella Wheeler Wilcox, and collaborated with her in the Biblical play, *Mizpah, or the Story of Esther*. A $5,000,000 claim of Mr. Searelle against the British Government has been allowed, and will soon be paid. This claim arises out of the confiscation of the property already spoken of before the outbreak of hostilities in South Africa. He was a pronounced British sympathiser, and was deep in the schemes of the revolutionists at the time of the Jameson raid. Among other acts in favour of the uprising he purchased several thousand stands of arms, and concealed them under the stage of his Johannesburg theatre. A Boer stage hand discovered the secret of the hidden rifles, and informed President Kruger. Not only were the arms confiscated and used against the English later, but all Searelle's estate was taken by the Boer Government, and he was sentenced to be shot. He was allowed his freedom thereafter, and allowed to depart, never to return.

The Scenic Artists' Association are anxious to obtain for their first Annual Exhibition at the Grafton Galleries, Bond-street, W., April 10 and five following days, specimens of the works of Bolena, Gates, Hunt, Marinare, Mulready, Marshall, Roberts, Tomkins, and other famous deceased scene painters. The secretary, Mr. H. Lawrence Harris, will be obliged if owners willing to lend their paintings, water colour sketches, and models, will communicate with him at 5, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C. Mr. Harris will also be glad to hear from artists willing to give their services at the daily matinée entertainments at the Exhibition.

A revival of Goldsmith's comedy, *She Stoops to Conquer*, is booked for the New Amsterdam Theatre, New York, in April. Miss Eleanor Robson will appear as Kate Hardcastle, and Mr. Kyrle Bellew will play Young Marlow.

"King Henry the Fifth" will reach its 50th performance at the Imperial Theatre, on Monday. Principals of schools having thoroughly recognised the educational advantages of this play, Mr. Lewis Waller has obtained the patronage of many of the younger generation, and the management by way of encouragement have offered special facilities for scholastic institutions booking in large numbers.

The total number of pirated copies seized by the agents of the Musical Copyright Association during the first two months of the present year is 728,386.

Drury Lane's grand spectacular production of *Mother Goose*, at the Grand Opera House, San Francisco, is doing a large business, and both Press and public are agreed as to the magnificence of scenery, costumes, and general stage presentation.

The season of grand Italian opera at the Tivoli Opera House, San Francisco, has been both a financial and artistic success from its inception. It has served to introduce a prima donna named Luisa Tetrazzina, whose Lucia, in the opera of that name, revealed excellent dramatic and vocal abilities.

Mr. George Edwardes, in order to meet the wishes of many who cannot attend Saturday matinées, has arranged to give an extra morning performance on Thursday of *The Cingalee*, which attains the anniversary of its production to-day, and is shortly to be withdrawn. The above will be the only mid-weekly matinée ever given of this successful play.

Mr. Chas. Thorburn, general manager for Mr. George Musgrove's *Belle of New York* company, who is hard at work in the same capacity for Mr. Musgrove's forthcoming *Prince of Pilsen* production, was for a term of years the principal boy soloist at the Brompton Oratory. Once, at the conclusion of a crowded service, Miss Mary Anderson, who was a frequent worshipper there, found herself hemmed in by a crowd of too ardent admirers to an extent which made her exit from the sacred building one of great difficulty. Master Thorburn, who had espied the condition of affairs from the organ loft, promptly appeared upon the scene, and extricated the famous actress by means of a side door from her embarrassing position. On the Sunday following Miss Anderson sent for her youthful rescuer and presented him with a silver-bound prayer-book and an autographed photograph of herself, which to-day are amongst his most treasured possessions.

Mrs. F. M. Paget has, we are glad to hear, undergone a most successful operation for cataract, Sir Anderson Critchett being the skilful oculist.

Mr. Ernest E. Norris, the manager of the Elephant and Castle Theatre, states that there is not the slightest foundation for the rumour that the theatre will shortly close. Thanks to the enterprising management, the business has gone up by leaps and bounds, and this week enormous houses have nightly witnessed *A Girl's Cross Roads*.

Mr. Edward Compton was accorded many recalls at the conclusion of his engagement at the King's Theatre, Glasgow, on Saturday. In a pleasant speech he thanked the splendid audience for their presence in such goodly numbers, and remarked that the week had not only been a record one for him in Glasgow, but it was the best he had ever done anywhere. He did not think their plays had ever gone better than they had done on this visit; every point, every witticism, and every "situation" was seized upon with such alacrity that their nightly work had been in a double sense "a labour of love." Might he be allowed, he asked, to offer them his congratulations on the possession of their beautiful new theatre, which was as handsome, as spacious, and as comfortable a temple of Thespis as any he knew of in Great Britain?

Mr. Compton humorously remarked that as he was constantly called the "King of old comedy," they would now be able to say that "King Edward" had appeared in that theatre, and had set the seal of his august approval on it. A fortnight ago, the popular actor continued, he completed twenty-four years' work as director and chief performer in the Compton Comedy Company. He thought his success was in the main due to the closeness with which he had followed the ideal with which he started—of producing only the best comedies, and only those which made for good. In fact, he thought his audiences would bear him out that the evening's amusement had always borne the night's reflection.

Master Cyril Smith, whose serious illness—which necessitated his detention at the Borough Hospital, Plymouth, severed his connection with the tour of Sir Henry Irving—has already been mentioned in our columns, is, we hear, making progress to recovery, though slower than had at first been expected. Master Smith desires to thank heartily all those who have so kindly enquired after him.

Mr. Charles Santley completed his seventy-first year on Tuesday. He studied in Italy about the fifties, finishing in London under Manuel Garcia. Mr. Santley first appeared in opera in 1859, and began his long career at English festivals three years later. Both Mr. Santley's wife (a granddaughter of Chas. Kemble) and his daughter, Miss Edith Santley, were before marriage well known on the concert platform.

Miss Violet Fulton is another addition to the ever-increasing list of actresses who play in other languages besides their own—a distinction that she shares with Miss Margaret Halstan and Mrs. Patrick Campbell. Miss Fulton is now at the Théâtre des Capucines, Paris, with Mme. Jeanne Granier, and will shortly play in a new comedy that is being written for that theatre by M. Féraudy, of the Comedie-Française.

The Oxford University Dramatic Society revived *The Clouds* of Aristophanes at the New Theatre, Oxford, on Wednesday. The smoothness of the performance did credit to the stage-managers, Messrs. A. D. Godley, C. Cookson, and C. Bailey; and the scenery, by Mr. E. R. Jones, was effective. The music was specially composed for the play by the University Professor of Music, Sir Hubert Parry, and was well performed by an orchestra conducted by himself. The heaviest share of the work fell on Mr. Mercer, as Strepsiades. This rugged character sharply contrasted with the foppish and effeminate Phidippides, played with taste and artistic finish by Mr. Compton-Mackenzie son of Mr. Edward Compton.

Ibsen's *Die Wildente* (the wild duck) will be repeated at the Great Queen-street Theatre on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Frau Rosa Bertens appearing as Gina Ekdal. On Thursday, and for the remainder of the week, Sundermann's powerful play, *Es lebe das Leben* will be produced, in which Frau Rosa Bertens will no doubt repeat her marvellous rendering of the part of Beate, which she gave two years ago, during the fourth German season. On Saturday, a special matinée of *Der Strom* will be given.

Mr. Walter Reynolds' new comedy-drama, *Mr. Smith*, an account of the production of which, at Nottingham, appears in another column, will make its London début on Monday at the Camden Theatre, a matinée being given on Saturday. The comedy-drama, although it contrasts the manners and customs of high and low life, has nothing of the problem play about it, being designed to draw laughter rather than tears, and such high hopes are entertained of it that a season at a West-End theatre is in contemplation.

Miss Constance Elgin (Mrs. Douglas Cecil) has been engaged by Mr. Tom H. Taylor to play the title-rôle in *The Female Swindler* company. Mr. Douglas Cecil has also been engaged to play Harold Travers in the same piece.

Mr. Mouillot will produce, at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, on Monday, a new comedy-farce, entitled *While the Cat's Away*, written by Edward F. Parry, the well-known judge, and himself. An excellent company has been engaged to support Mrs. Mouillot and Mrs. Lawrence Grant, who appear in the principal parts.

Mr. Matthew Brodie, who at one time was an in-patient at the Royal Infirmary, Sheffield, gave a concert there last week to the nurses, doctors, and convalescent patients. He was ably assisted by all the principal members of Mr. George Edwardes's *Duchess of Dantzic* company, including Miss Amy Augarde, Miss Kate Trail, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton, and Mr. Mackay. In a speech, Mr. Brodie said "he looked upon Sheffield as his second mother."

At Guildhall Police-court, on the 24th ult., Wm. Garvey, newsvendor, was charged, on remand, with stealing a gladstone bag and contents, value about £4, the property of Mr. Marmaduke Langdale. Detective Harris, on the evening of the 19th ult., saw the accused following the prosecutor in Bishopsgate-street. In order to obtain a light for his pipe the prosecutor put down a gladstone bag he was carrying and entered a doorway. Then the prisoner quickly picked up the bag and ran off with it. When taken into custody and hearing that the value was but a sovereign, he said: "Oh, lor'! I would not have troubled to take it had I known." A previous conviction for felony was proved against him, and Alderman Sir J. Knill sentenced him to two months' hard labour.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark were present on Monday evening at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, and witnessed the performance of *Lady Madcap*.

Lady Maud B. Wilbraham and Lady Elphinstone Maitland have obtained the sanction of Sir Henry Irving and the committee of the Actors' Benevolent Fund to organise a "Shakespeare Ball" to be held in the Empress Rooms in May in aid of the fund, which helps needy members of a profession whose leading representatives are so frequently called upon by Society ladies to give their voluntary services to other charities.

"The Prince of Pilsen" will be produced at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, next week, by Mr. George Musgrove's Co., on an unusually lavish scale, the dresses, scenery, and general equipment being an exact replica of the recent gorgeous production at the Shaftesbury Theatre. Mdlle. Christine Rayinski, a young Hungarian lady, who has been selected from nearly a thousand fair candidates for the part of the "Gibson Girl," will on this occasion make her London début. In addition to Mr. Edwin Adeler, in the American-Dutch part of the pseudo Prince, the cast will include Messrs. Alfred Selby and Lawrence Wensley, and Misses Beatrice Lamotte, Meg Hamylton, and Millicent Marsden, each of whom, like Messrs. Leonard Hornsey, the musical director; Hugh Fleming, press representative; and Charles Thorburn, general manager, was concerned in the success of Mr. George Musgrove's *Belle of New York* company.

Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee concludes to-night a seven months' engagement with Mr. Gordon Starkey as Horace Parker in *A Message from Mars*.

"An Abandoned Woman," a new play in five acts, by Myles Wallerton and Francis Gilbert, will be produced on Monday at the Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Mrs. Fiske, in *Leah Kleschna*, is in the eleventh week of her engagement at the Manhattan Theatre, New York, and the great interest which the play aroused at the outset shows no signs of diminishing.

Mr. Fred Cherry, the inimitable comedian, has make a great success in *The Face at the Window* and *The Black Mask* company on tour.

The twentieth committee meeting of the Scenic Artists' Association was held at their offices, 5, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., on Monday. There were present Mr. Walter Hann (in the chair), Mr. Joseph Harker (vice-president), Messrs. E. G. Banks, Richard Douglass, Geo. R. Hemsley, W. T. Hemsley, R. C. McCleery, Harry Potts, W. Raphael, W. B. Spong, H. Warner, and H. Woolls, and Mr. H. Lawrence Harris, secretary. The following scenic artists were elected members of the Association, namely, Mr. Horace Bray, of London; Mr. Thos. Holmes, of Liverpool; Mr. W. McCulloch, of Sheffield; Mr. Fred Walmsley, of Portsmouth; and Mr. Geo. Miller, of Kingston-on-Thames. Mr. W. B. Spong intimated that as he would be away from England for some time, he was obliged to resign his office as a member of the committee, and Mr. R. H. Halley was elected in his place.

Messrs. E. G. Banks, Richard Douglass, H. Potts, William Harford, R. H. Halley, and Joseph Harker were elected to serve on the Exhibition Selection Sub-committee, which will meet on Tuesdays, March 7, 21, and April 4, at eight o'clock. Messrs. Walter Hann, George Tweddell, H. Woolls, and Sir Philip Burne-Jones, Bart., were elected to serve on the Exhibition Invitation Sub-committee, which will meet at three o'clock to-day and on Saturdays, March 18 and April 1. Messrs. W. Raphael, W. T. Hemsley, Geo. R. Hemsley, and R. H. Halley were elected to serve on the Exhibition Finance Sub-committee, which will meet at eight o'clock on Fridays, March 10, 24, and April 7. Messrs. E. G. Banks, William Harford, R. C. McCleery, R. H. Halley, G. R. Hemsley, Harry Potts, H. W. Owen, and H. Warner, were elected on the Exhibition Entertainment Sub-committee, which has already met once, and which will hold their next sittings on March 14 and 28. Mr. Walter Hann was invited to preside at the meetings of each sub-committee. The secretary read letters from Mrs. T. Walford Grieve, offering to lend to the exhibition drawings by the late John Grieve and the late Thomas Grieve, and from Mr. F. J. Sewell, of Chester, a painting by A. W. Callcott, and from Mr. E. W. Hart, of Chard, a painting of "Rubens receiving in his Studio Marie de Medici."

Mr. Cyril Maude's new theatre is appearing definitely on the theatrical horizon, and the plans of the proposed building are in the hands of the County Council. It is intended to be opened with a new play by Mr. W. W. Jacobs, the author of *Beauty and the Barge*.

The Dowager Countess of Limerick will give her patronage to a matinée, at the Court Theatre, on Monday, March 20, in aid of the Distressed Gentlefolks' Aid Association, when two new plays by Mr. H. C. M. Harding, *The Dancer*, a Spanish episode in one act, and *The Little More*, a comedy in three acts, will be produced. A strong company has been engaged, including Mr. Dawson Millward, Mr. Lennox Pawle, Mr. F. Lumsden Hare, Mr. A. E. Anson, Miss Henrietta Watson, Miss Hilda Rivers, Miss Mabilia Daniell, Miss Bussey, Miss Barbara Hannay, and Mr. W. Grahame Browne, who, besides playing an important part, will produce *The Little More*

"The Merchant of Venice" will be played at matinées at Terry's Theatre on Thursday and Saturday next, when Mr. Henry Ainley will, in the part of Bassanio, essay a Shakespearean lover for the first time. Mr. Norman Forbes will enact Shylock, and Mr. J. H. Barnes Antonio, and the part of Portia will be in the hands of Mrs. Constance Stuart. The production is under the direction of Mr. J. H. Barnes, Mr. Lewis Sealy being the business-manager.

Mr. Ernest E. Norris intends to produce *The Colleen Bawn* at the Elephant and Castle Theatre on March 13 next, for the Irish festival week. Elaborate effects will be introduced, including a choir of male voices, and special music is now being organised for the production. Mrs. Bennett, the popular Surrey-side actress, has been engaged for the revival by Mr. Norris, who will himself play a prominent part in the revival.

Mr. Tom B. Davis, the managing director of the new Theatre Royal, Birmingham, who recently adopted the system of booking seats in that establishment from 1s. 6d. upwards, will not continue the practice after the close of the present pantomime. The experiment has been a failure. All Mr. Davis's experience led him to believe that such would be the case, but he gave way under strong local pressure. When the matter came up for discussion, prior to the prospectus being published, he told the directorate what would happen, and reminded them that Sir Henry Irving started the system at the Lyceum some years ago, and for a month the public were able to book seats in the pit. The result was that the regular habitués of the pit were crowded out, while the dress circle was practically empty. This is really what has happened at the Birmingham Theatre Royal, and the proprietors have lost hundreds of pounds by the innovation.

Miss Lillah M'Carthy, the late Wilson Barrett's leading lady, who has not been seen in London for considerably more than a year, when only a brief glimpse of the talented actress was afforded, will have her first real chance since the death of the late eminent actor, at the matinée of *Agatha*, at His Majesty's, on Tuesday, when she will enact the part of Lady Fancourt, the mother of the young lady who gives the title to the play.

Messrs. George Edwardes and Charles Frohman's *Are You a Mason* companies, which have been running for over three years under the management of Mr. Arthur Whittaker, will finish touring to-day, Messrs. Edwardes and Frohman having disposed of the provincial rights of the piece.

Mr. Willie Edouin will produce *Off the Rank*, Mr. Laurence Sterner's farce, on Tuesday next, at a matinée at the Comedy Theatre. It is expected that in addition to the admirable company already announced, Miss Susie Vaughan will be included in the cast.

Maxim Gorky's realistic drama, *Nachtasyl* (*The Night Refuge*), was recently performed in German for the first time in America at the Irving-place Theatre, New York, last week by Herr Conried's company. The play is full of remorseless realism, being peopled with a heterogeneous crowd of criminals and unfortunates plunged in the lowest depths of human misery. Mr. Harry Walden gave an effective representation of a degenerate nobleman, and Miss Hedwig von Ostermann was an excellent Natascha.

"Dr. Janet, of Harley Street," a play in three acts, dramatised from Miss Kenealey's novel by S. Creagh Henry, will be produced at the Crystal Palace on Monday. The cast will include Misses Lillah Wilde, Helen Anderson, Davies Webster, and Constance Owen; Messrs. Herbert Terry, Wyn Weaver, James Gelderd, and Creagh Henry.

Mr. E. S. Willard gave four performances of *The Professor's Love Story* at the Knickerbocker Theatre, New York, before he closed his engagement there on the 18th ult. It is a long time since Mr. Willard first introduced his delightful embodiment of the genial and absent-minded Professor Goodwillie to New York theatregoers, and he has repeated it many times in the interim; but the announcement of his appearance in this character never fails to attract large and appreciative audiences.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"SCHUSSELCHEN."

Tragi-Comedy, in Four Acts, by Georg Reicke, produced at the Deutsches Theatre, Feb. 21, 1905.

Hessen	HERR KLEIN
Frau Hessen	FRAU OTTO-KOERNER
Christine	FRAULEIN OLLY
Ihr Vater	HERR MARX
Paul	HERR STROBL
Max	HERR ABEL
Lottchen	FRAULEIN RENZ
Frau Baumann	FRAULEIN GALLUS
Luise	FRAULEIN SEELEN
Emma	FRAU FREDI LINDNER
Erster Haendler	HERR PROHASKA
Zweite Haendler	HERR VON REICHARDT
Bremann	HERR WALDOW
Roberts	HERR SCHLAEGER
Dr. Mack	HERR LORENZ
Gerling	HERR ASCONA
Eine Dame	FRAULEIN HUBLER
Zweite Dame	FRAULEIN GROSS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, MARCH 2.—When our second Mayor is not engaged upon municipal matters, he employs his time in play-writing, and several excellent pieces have resulted. Herr Reicke possesses a fund of bright humour, which is very refreshing, and he understands how to fascinate his audience by increasing the interest of the plot from act to act. *Schusselchen* is not as good as some of its predecessors, but the reception was very cordial, and the author was compelled to reappear several times. The heroine, known by the nickname of Schusselchen, is Christine, wife of a Government official, Landgerichtsrath Hessen. He is an order-loving Beamter, dignified and somewhat pedantic; she of the so-called Bohemian type. Christine was a painter before her marriage, and with her husband's concurrence she has remained one. She is very "up-to-date"; her aspirations outrun her capacities, and she is wild and feather-brained, though charming. Her disorder is proverbial in the household; she loses everything, and her husband finds to his disgust his new white tie used by his "little wife" as a book-marker. He brings his mother to live with them, to look after the children and the house-keeping; he himself seeks the repose his nerves need elsewhere. The result may be imagined; Schusselchen does not hit it off with her mother-in-law, and she becomes jealous of her husband's absences, for she loves him devotedly, in spite of everything. She makes her mother-in-law retire, and gives up her painting, with the laudable intention to reform. But it is too late; the children cry for "grossmamma"; the very servants do not take Schusselchen seriously. So Herr Landgerichtsrath sets out to bring his mother back; and Christine allows her cousin Paul—who is an artist, too, and who has always loved her—to make very decided advances to her. For a time, everything looks very dark; the young wife, knowing her husband has his consolations, and feeling herself at the end of her resources, is even on the point of suicide. She is, however, brought to her senses by a few gentle words from her father, and gradually everything rights itself. Christine confesses her faults to her husband, and they both resolve to turn over a new leaf. The interpretation was an excellent one, Fräulein Marietta Olley carrying off well-deserved laurels in the name-part.

HERR GEORG ENGEL'S well-written play, *Im Hafen*, is still running successfully at the Schiller. It is one of those quietly convincing, pathetic pieces for which the author is known, and again the action passes in a fishing village of the Pomeranian coast. The plot is as follows:—Clas Druehs, a master fisherman, has married Hedwig, the adopted daughter of the village schoolmaster, Jarmer. Clas is a simple, God-fearing man, but of a naturally gloomy nature. Hedwig was educated and brought up with Jarmer's only son Heinrich, and between the passionate boy and the pretty girl a love-affair resulted. The schoolmaster sent his son abroad to learn engineering, and Hedwig, later on, married Clas, and became the mother of his child. Clas has naturally heard gossip about the boy-and-girl love affair, but does not pay attention to it, until Heinrich returns home. He then gradually becomes suspicious, and in consequence gloomier than ever. Before starting on a fishing expedition, Clas makes his wife—whom he deeply loves—take an oath before a statue of the Saviour that she never has been and never will be untrue to her marriage vows, after which he goes to sea with an easy mind. The young wife, to do her justice, tries to keep her promise; but her love for the friend of her girlhood flames out into unconquerable passion. Heinrich has little real love for her, but his sunny, bold temperament appeals to her, and she cannot resist him. She breaks her oath; and the next day Clas returns. His mother would tell him of his wife's fall did not Hedwig do so herself, and the effect upon the fisherman is terrible. The woman's sin he might overlook, he says, but he cannot trust the God who has failed him. His faith is shaken to its foundations, and no word the pastor can speak can offer any comfort in his desolation. So poor broken-down Clas takes his little child in his arms and seeks for both a grave in the depths of the sea. The story is so simply told, the characters are so human, that the play—if well acted—must convince and please. The cast was a good one, and the reception of the piece enthusiastic.

AT the Kleines, Otto Erich Hartleben's one-act drama, *Abschied vour Regiment*—already described in your columns—and *Angele*, comedy, in two acts, by the same author, are being given several times in the week. At the companion theatre, the Neues, Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* is holding the boards almost exclusively, and drawing crowded houses.

HERR HUMPERDINCK'S new opera, *Die Heirat wider Willen* will, it is announced, be given for the first time on any stage at the Royal Opera, about the middle of March.

"ALT-HEIDELBERG" attained to its 500th performance at the Berliner on Saturday—an almost unprecedented jubilee in the annals of our theatres. The occasion was naturally considered one of importance; flowers and recalls were innumerable, but our managers have not yet adopted the English custom of giving souvenirs. Director Halm appeared on behalf of the author, who was unfortunately prevented by indisposition from being present. Fräulein Faliansky—who created the rôle of Kathie—was engaged for Saturday specially, and had a hearty welcome.

BJORNSON'S comedy, *Die Neuvermählten*, was given on Thursday at the Kleines for the 25th time. The amusing play has lost little of its powers of attraction, and is good for at least another five-and-twenty performances. Herr Engels and Fräulein Wangel were in the first-rate "double" company.

LUCILE GRAHN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Can any of your readers give me information—biographical and professional—about Lucile Grahn, one of the great dancers who took part in the celebrated "Pas de Quatre" at the coronation or marriage of Queen Victoria? I saw her play a dumb girl in a piece called *Yelva, the Russian Orphan*, in Berlin in 1848. Where was she born, and is there a biography of her to be had?

Yours faithfully, HERMANN VEZIN.

10, Lancaster-place, Strand, Jan. 12.

THE event of the week at the Tunbridge Wells Opera House has been the flying matinee on Thursday, when Mrs. Langtry appeared with her London company, including Mr. Leonard Boyne, in *Mrs. Dering's Divorce*. The evening bill has consisted of *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace*, with Mr. Langhorne Burton as Captain Mowbray, and Miss Francis Davis as Mrs. Gorringe, and for the week end, *Jim the Penman*.

DRAMATIC STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE.

The first public performance by students of the newly-established Academy of Dramatic Art was given at His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday afternoon. There was a large and distinguished audience, amongst those present being Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, in a private box; Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. H. A. Jones, Mr. Comyns Carr, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. Lawrence Irving, and Mr. Oscar Asche. The programme opened with *The Schoolmistress*, by A. W. Pinero, rehearsed for the occasion by Mr. Frederick Kerr, the scene being the reception-room at Miss Dyott's seminary for young ladies, known as Volumnia College. Miss Dyott's scholars had some very sprightly representatives amongst the lady students, Miss Ruth Parrott especially distinguishing herself in the part of the first articled pupil, Peggy Hesslerigge. A neat figure, a bright, expressive face, and natural acting were the principal points in her favour. The other pupils had genuinely girlish and winsome representatives in Miss Irene Clarke as Dinah, Miss Dagmar Wiehe as Gwendoline Hawkins, and Miss Hilda Moore as Ermyntrude Johnson. Miss St. Clair Swanzy played very well as Miss Dyott. Mr. J. R. Owen was fairly amusing as the Hon. Vere Queckett, but was rather inclined to overdo the inanity of the young gentleman. Mr. S. Yates-Southgate emphasised the comic ferocity of Rear-Admiral Rankling, and satisfactory work was done by Miss Kathleen Earle as Mrs. Rankling, and Miss Ida Vinall and Miss Dorothy Lart, as the servants, Tyler and Jane.

The next item was a short sketch without words, invented and rehearsed by Madame Cavallazzi, with music specially composed by Mr. Leopold Wenzel, entitled *A Village Story*. The scene is a room in old Pierrot's house in summer-time. Angèle Pierrot's daughter is gazing out of the open window with all the longing of a caged bird to be free. Her father, watching her, realises that the girl whom he has brought up so lovingly has ambitions beyond the little home in the village, and the thought makes him angry. He gives her the choice between her father and the world, and she begs him to let her try that outside life of which she has heard so much. The angry old man bids her leave his house for ever, and she obeys the cruel mandate. The curtain then falls for a moment to mark the passage of six months. When it rises again it shows Pierrot's home at Christmas-time. The old man is brooding sorrowfully over the fire, his food, brought by his faithful old servant, François, untouched on a table by his side. After a pathetic scene between master and man, the midnight chimes are heard calling the people to the Christmas mass. The villagers, passing the window, see the old man. A woman, full of sympathy for his loneliness, knocks timidly at the door and enters with her child and several other men and girls to give Pierrot Christmas greeting. Then into the room steals the figure of a young girl, who advances timidly, and with an anxious happiness in her face. The old man recognises his daughter, and raising his trembling hand, tells the girl to go, and that she is lost to him for ever. Angèle, terrified, is about to open the door, when Pierrot, rushing towards her, clasps her frantically in his arms, and then falls seemingly lifeless. Gradual signs of returning life are, however, noted, and to the joy of the two anxious watchers Pierrot's eyes gradually open. Slowly his gaze falls, first on his weeping daughter, then on his faithful servant. He draws the girl to his heart with a world of tenderness, while he stretches out his other hand to François, who, falling on his knees, kisses it. Mr. J. Goggin, as old Pierrot, and Mr. J. R. Owen, as the faithful François, gave unquestionable evidence of their ability as pantomimists, their expression and gestures being apt and appropriate. Miss Agnes Bartholomew was a charming and pathetic Angèle, and Mr. S. Yates-Southgate and Miss Florence Wells ably played the parts of a rich farmer and his wife, the villagers being represented by the Misses Muriel Alexander, D. M. Edwards, and Viola Holland. At the conclusion the principals were called for, and Madame Cavallazzi received the compliment of a special call.

Next came the first act of T. W. Robertson's *Caste*, which had been rehearsed by Mr. George P. Bancroft, with the assistance of Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft. Miss Callish gave a delightful rendering of Polly Eccles—a Polly full of high spirits and natural girlish coquetry. Mr. Frederick W. Lloyd did very well as Captain Hawtree, and the famous business with the cooked ham and the kettle went very briskly. Mr. Charles Maude, as the Hon. George D'Alroy, and Miss Savile as Esther, played the lovers creditably; Mr. Cecil Yapp portrayed the peculiarities of Eccles with considerable success; and Mr. J. R. Owen deserves a word of praise for his excellent Sam Gerridge.

After an extract from Tennyson's poem, "Enoch Arden," had been admirably recited by Miss Agnes Bartholomew, four scenes from Shakespeare's *Winter's Tale*, prepared by Mrs. Crowe (Miss Bateman) and rehearsed by Mr. J. Fisher White, were presented. In this Miss Muriel Alexander, as Paulina, showed passionate intensity and feeling in her denunciation of the King of Sicilia for the vile treatment of his Queen, Hermione, a part that was gracefully embodied by Miss Maud Cressall. Mr. Basil H. Watt's Leontes was not deficient in dignity, and a robust Antigonus was presented by Mr. Fredk. Roberts; Mr. Cecil Yapp was successful in his embodiment of Autolycus; but Mr. Max Montesole proved scarcely equal to the difficulties involved in the effective representation of a Shakespearean clown. The minor rôles received careful treatment. A recitation in the cockney dialect by Miss Muriel Alston was cleverly rendered.

The performance concluded with three pretty dances arranged by Mr. Louis Hervey d'Egville. These were Polish mazurkas, pavane, and the tarantella from *Much Ado about Nothing*. Those who took part in the dances were deservedly applauded for the grace and charm of a really delightful performance. Mr. Cecil King was stage-manager, Mr. Louis Mercanton assistant stage-manager, and Mr. Adolf Schmid musical-director.

At the conclusion, in response to prolonged applause, Mr. Tree appeared and briefly thanked the audience. He said he was very glad that the performance had proved so successful, as it was encouraging to those who had taken part in it, and also to those who had trained the students. There would, he added, be another Academy performance this season.

The gold medal offered by Sir Squire Bancroft to the best performer was awarded by him and Lady Bancroft to Mr. J. R. Owen. Mr. Cecil Yapp, the Eccles and the Autolycus, and Mr. J. Goggin, the old Pierrot, were two more students to whom high commendation was given. Amongst the ladies Miss Maud Cressall, the Hermione; Miss Agnes Bartholomew, the Angèle and reciter of "Enoch Arden"; and Miss Callish, the Polly Eccles, were singled out for special praise.

PRESENTATION.—On Saturday night last Mr. Ned Warden, in the Palace scene of the successful pantomime *Puss in Boots* at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, presented Mr. Martin Adeson with a magnificent dressing-case, with cut glass bottles and silver fittings. Mr. Warden said, in presenting Mr. Adeson, who had amused them for so many weeks, he could not do better than read the inscription, which ran as follows:—"Presented by the directors of the Theatre Royal (Dublin) Company, to Martin Adeson, Esq., as a slight memento of his great success in *Puss in Boots*, 1905." The audience sang "He's a Jolly Good Fellow," and Mr. Adeson replied in a happy little speech.

DEATH OF MISS FLORRIE ORMONDE.

We regret to announce the death of Miss Florrie Ormonde, which took place on the 24th ult., at Prince of Wales-road, Battersea Park. The deceased lady, who was in her thirty-first year, had been suffering for some time from that terrible disease consumption, which eventually proved fatal. Miss Ormonde had a most varied theatrical career. Her first engagement was as principal dancer in *Faust Up-to-Date*, which company she left after a long tour, to appear and immediately win success at the music halls. Miss Ormonde at this time introduced what is now so popular and common—the "leg twist," and was noted for her marvellous high kicking. After a long connection with the variety halls, she once more returned to the legitimate stage, appearing first in the Rob Roy Opera Company. In quick succession she became engaged in Mr. Arthur Roberts's company, Bandman's Opera Company, and others, during which time she travelled nearly all over the world.

Miss Ormonde's death will be deeply regretted by a large circle of friends, with whom she was very popular. The funeral, which took place on Wednesday at Wandsworth, was attended by many friends and relations, among whom were her brother, Mr. James Sale (musical director of the New Grand Palace, Clapham Junction), Miss Kitty Ostin (who had been with her for many years), Mrs. Baker, and many others. Many fine wreaths were sent from admirers, including one from Mr. Sale, and from brother and sister artistes all over the country.

THE LATE MISS FLORRIE ORMONDE.

A PROVINCIAL THEATRE SUPPER.

The annual supper of the working staff of the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, took place on Monday, at the King David Hotel, after the performance of *The Sleeping Beauty*. The function was under the genial presidency of Mr. J. M. Chute, and was favoured by the presence of many of the principal actors in the pantomime. After supper, toasts, songs, and recitations proceeded merrily, the pleasure of the company being continuous. Mr. Chute was supported by, among others, Mr. W. H. Rawlins, Mr. Albert Le Fre, Mr. George Miller, Mr. T. Alders, Mr. Fred Conquest, Mr. David Miller, Mr. Lionel Victor, Mr. W. Wakeman, Messrs. Watts, Graham, Lewis, Seghelloni, and Sheffield, Mr. George Chapman (musical director), Mr. G. Jackson (scenic artist), Mr. H. Turner (stage manager), Mr. H. Owen (master carpenter), Mr. Charles Arnold, Mr. Fred Irwin, Mr. F. M. Lyne, and others. Mr. F. S. Green (acting manager) was unavoidably absent. The President, who was greeted with much enthusiasm, submitted the loyal toast in felicitous terms, and afterwards gave "The Staff," in doing which he spoke in praiseworthy terms of the invaluable assistance that he always received from them, individually and collectively. He had special praise for the beautiful scenery of the pantomime, for the excellence of the stage management, and for the splendid music provided by Mr. George Chapman, who, he was glad to say, had proved himself to be a thoroughly capable and skilful musical director. He (the speaker) had seen a number of pantomimes this year, and he could confidently say that the music in the Bristol production was equal, if not superior, to that he had listened to elsewhere. The toast was acknowledged by Mr. G. Jackson, Mr. George Chapman, and Mr. Henry Turner. The Chairman afterwards in eulogistic terms gave "The Working Staff," to which Mr. Henry Owen, Mr. Momber, and Mr. A. Vawn responded. "The Members of the Company" was a most congenial toast from Mr. H. Turner, who infused much humour into his comments on names and characteristics. Mr. W. H. Rawlins and Mr. Le Fre were also very much "at home" in their responses.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Stuart Robson—Saturday, March 4
A. Hall Menzies—Saturday, March 4.
Miss Ada Hollingsworth—Saturday, March 4.
Miss Nancy Renshaw—Saturday, March 4.
Miss Effie Mason—Saturday, March 4.
Miss Mary Campbell—Saturday, March 4.
J. Somerville Ellis—Saturday, March 4.
H. Godfrey Turner—Saturday, March 4.
Fred Emney—Sunday, March 5.
Fewlass Llewellyn—Sunday, March 5.
Hercat—Sunday, March 5.
Harry Bawn—Sunday, March 5.
Walter Norman—Sunday, March 5.
Frank Aylmer—Sunday, March 5.
John Deakin—Sunday, March 5.
Leonard Rayne—Monday, March 6.
Will Bishop—Monday, March 6.
Charles Lester—Monday, March 6.
Miss Lily Seymour—Monday, March 6
Charles Cartwright—Tuesday, March 7.
Miss Ida Murray—Tuesday, March 7.
Stanley Radcliffe—Tuesday, March 7.
Albert E. Ansell—Tuesday, March 7.
Fred Graham—Tuesday, March 7.
Miss Florence St. John—Wednesday, March 8.
Miss Ernestine Walter—Wednesday, March 8.
Leonard Russell—Wednesday, March 8.
R. Leoncavallo—Wednesday, March 8.
Edward Ottley—Wednesday, March 8.
Miss Florence Lingard—Wednesday, March 8.
James Skea—Thursday, March 9.
Lionel Brough—Friday, March 10.
Edward Terry—Friday, March 10.
Little Cliff—Wednesday, March 8.
Albert G. Yates—Saturday, March 4.
Rose Cunningham—Tuesday, March 7.
Miss Katherine Rind—Saturday, March 4.
David Collins—Friday, March 10.

MRS. REANO, the wife of Mr. T. Haydn Reano, musical director of Mr. Charles Chard's *Goody Two Shoes* pantomime, presented her husband with a fine baby boy on Wednesday. Both mother and son are doing exceedingly well.

ADA REEVE'S INTERVIEW

In the Court of King's Bench, on Tuesday, before Mr. Justice Grantham and a special jury, an action was brought by Mrs. Adelaide Mary Cotton, the wife of Mr. Wilfrid Cotton, better known as Miss Ada Reeve, to recover damages for a libel published in the *Weekly Dispatch* of February 28, 1904, and for breach of an agreement in publishing an article without her consent, and claiming a declaration that the article was not written by her. The defendants admitted the publication, but denied that it was a libel.

Mr. Rufus Isaacs, K.C., and Mr. R. G. Drake (instructed by Messrs. Cohen and Cohen) appeared for the plaintiff, and the defendants were represented by Mr. Montague Lush, K.C., and Mr. Hugh Fraser (instructed by Messrs. Lewis and Lewis).

After the case was called on an attempt was made to settle the action, but counsel failed to agree.

Mr. Rufus Isaacs, in opening the case, said this was an action for libel and the breach of other legal rights, brought by the plaintiff, Mrs. Cotton, who was professionally known as Miss Ada Reeve, the well-known singer and actress. Articles were alleged to have been published by the defendants, which professed to give an authentic account of an interview which was alleged to have taken place with Miss Ada Reeve. The matter which had given rise to the present action was substantially that the interview was put in the form of an article, and was then shown to Miss Reeve before publication. Miss Reeve raised an objection, but the article was published, apparently in spite of her objections, and, curious to relate, purporting to bear her signature, as if she had written it. The article praised her in many respects, but what it did also do, and what Miss Reeve strongly objected to, was to hold her up to her own profession, and to the outside world who knew anything of the profession, as a vain, boastful braggart. The article stated that the plaintiff was earning the salary of £250 per week, which, counsel added, even in these days of somewhat princely salaries, very few singers or actresses obtained, and would make people envious.

His Lordship: Are you suggesting that you missed your vocation, Mr. Isaacs? (Laughter.)

Continuing, counsel said that the result of the article was that it made Miss Reeve look very foolish, and she was made to appear to have said things which were absolutely untrue. Miss Reeve never made these statements. They appeared in a highly-coloured article which read very well; and was displayed in a way which would be apt to make one spend pennies in purchasing the paper. The headlines were:—"How to sing for £250 a week." "A confession describing the road to success in musical comedy, by the Queen of comic opera, Miss Ada Reeve." Miss Reeve's signature was at the end.

His Lordship (referring to a newspaper held up by Mr. Isaacs): Ornamented by her hat.

Mr. Isaacs: There is also a portrait underneath it, although, perhaps, difficult for your lordship to see.

Miss Reeve was called, and said she was interviewed by a gentleman last February, and a few days later the article was published. The interviewer said that he represented the *Weekly Dispatch*, and had come to interview her. The witness told him that she was very busy, but eventually consented to answer him one or two questions, and said that the history of her career appeared in a book which she mentioned. To the best of her recollection the first question he asked her was, "What would be your advice to girls about to go upon the stage?" She replied, "When I am asked, as I occasionally am, whether my own little girls are going on the stage, I say 'Not if I can prevent them.'" To the best of her recollection there was scarcely anything else in the article that she really answered to the interviewer. The question of money was never suggested by either her husband or herself, and no question was raised as to salary. The interview did not last more than five minutes, and when the article was read over to her by the interviewer, she at once strongly protested against the salary being mentioned. She was very angry about it, and said she would not allow any question of salary to be mentioned, and explained that the question of salary concerned nobody but herself and the management. She added in the witness-box that she would rather the public thought she earned 30s. per week. Then they would not expect so much from her. She also denied signing the article. She thought it would be extraordinary bad taste to mention her salary, and she had had it mentioned to her many times since.

His Lordship: It is made worse by advertisements in other papers.

At this point Miss Reeve was requested to leave the witness-box and consult with counsel. Afterwards Mr. Lush said that the defendants desired to entirely accept Miss Reeve's explanation as to the interview, and that she did not in fact understand how the article was to be published. The interviewer thought he had explained to her how the article would be published. The defendants expressed regret that the mistake had been made, and had agreed to pay a sum of money in satisfaction of the lady's costs.

Mr. Isaacs said the action had not been brought to put money into the pocket of Miss Reeve; but she did feel that she had cause for complaint, having regard to her statement that she did not authorise the article. He appreciated Mr. Lush's remarks as to the misunderstanding as to what had taken place, and, on behalf of his client, consented to take an agreed sum that would indemnify her for the expenses she had incurred.

A juror was then withdrawn, and the action terminated.

"THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROAD."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In May of last year I copyrighted a comedy-drama, entitled *A Knight of the Road*, in which the hero, a highwayman, comes to an inn, makes love to the landlady, and promises to renounce his predatory life; in the closing act the inn is raided by constables, who are routed by the highwayman and others. I only mention the coincidences of title and a certain resemblance of circumstances between my play and the Palace sketch, lest I might, by and bye, be accused of plagiarism.—I am, yours faithfully,

I. L. CASSILIS.

99, Camberwell-grove, London, S.E.

MISS LILY MORRIS, who so successfully essayed the part of principal boy in Mr. Waldon's pantomime of *Goosy Gander* at the Royal Princess's Theatre, Glasgow, was on Monday evening accorded a deserved and successful benefit, when Miss Morris was the recipient of floral tokens and other gifts. The chief of these was a handsome dressing-case of chaste design and workmanship, which constituted a prize presented by a local newspaper for the most popular pantomime favourite among the ladies engaged in the Scottish pantomimes. Mr. W. Mowbray Harle, in a neat speech, handed over the prize, and Miss Morris, in a few courteous sentences, spoke and smiled her thanks. It is worthy of note that the prizes were won by the four principal boys in the Glasgow pantomimes, as follows:—1st, Miss Lily Morris (Royal Princess's Theatre), *Goosy Gander*; 2nd, Miss Frances Earle (Royalty Theatre), *Jack and Jill*; 3rd, Miss Annie Purcell (Theatre Royal), *The Forty Thieves*; and 4th, Miss Maude Mortimer (Grand Theatre), *Cinderella*.

MR. F. W. WYNDHAM, looking well and hearty after his arduous pantomime season, has gone for a six weeks' trip to Jamaica.

NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

BERLIN.

FEB. 4. *Hotel Pompadour*, farce, in three acts, by MM. Mars and Xanrof, German by Max Schoenau—Residenz.
" 5. *Angele*, two-act comedy, by O. E. Hartleben—Kleines.
" 8. *Die Brüder von St. Bernhard*, five-act play, by A. Ahorn—Deutsches.
" 11. *Nebeneinauder*, three-act play, by Georg Hirschfeld—Lessing.
" 11. *Im Hafen*, drama, in three acts, by G. Engel—Schiller O.
" 11. *Höhere Töchter*, musical farce, in four acts, by MM. Manstedt and Schott, music by G. Steffens—Luisen.
" 14. *Der Beste Tip*, musical farce, in three acts, by MM. Kren and Schmidt—Belle Alliance.
" 15. *Rübezahl*, opera, in three acts, by H. Sommer, words by E. König—Royal Opera.
" 18. *Der Kaiserjaeger*, three-act comedy, by MM. Brennert and Oswald—Berliner.
" 21. *Schusselchen*, tragi-comedy, in four acts, by G. Reicke—Deutsches.

A SAD CASE.

MR. PERCY ELLIS.

In a letter which we have received from Mr. A. F. Henderson, general-manager for Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Henderson requests us to open our columns to an appeal on behalf of Mr. Percy Ellis, the late assistant-manager of the New Theatre, St. Martin's-lane, and, after having enquired into Mr. Ellis's circumstances, and having assured ourselves that his is a genuine case of distress, we have much pleasure in acceding to Mr. Henderson's charitable wishes.

Mr. Ellis is in an advanced stage of consumption, and, having been unable to follow any employment for nearly twelve months, his finances are completely exhausted, and he is in actual want.

All subscriptions for the above deserving appeal will be duly acknowledged in these columns. They may be forwarded to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, Hon. Treasurer to the Fund, care of *The Era* office, or direct to Mr. A. F. Henderson, New Theatre, St. Martin's-lane.

	£	s.	d.
Miss Ellen Terry	3	0	0
E. W. Hemingway	2	2	0
Topical Times	2	2	0
Martin Harvey	2	2	0
Charles M. Simons	2	2	0
T. E. Johnson	2	2	0
E. T. Habbigam	2	2	0
"Merely Mary Ann" Co.	2	5	0
George Ashton	2	0	0
H. M. Ross	2	0	0
H. J. S. Booth	1	1	0
Miss Carlotta Zerbini	1	1	0
"In Memoriam"	1	1	0
Charles Carey	1	1	0
Henry Squire and Co.	1	1	0
T. Harris	1	1	0
B. C. K. D.	1	1	0
Mrs. E. Drew	1	1	0
R. Watson	1	1	0
Herbert Clarke	1	0	0
Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton	1	0	0
Peter Davey	0	10	6
F. Stevens	0	10	6
J. J. Calder	0	10	6
J. Moy	0	10	6
District Messengers	0	10	6
John Hyman	0	10	6
D. Crichton	0	10	6
Anon.	0	10	6
F. C. Briggs	0	10	6
J. W. Lethbridge	0	10	6
The Misses Habbigam	0	10	6
Miss Audrey Boyce	0	10	6
T. Sutton	0	10	0
Hubert Willis	0	10	0
"A Sympathiser"	0	7	6
Robson Paige	0	5	0
H. Brice Mundy	0	5	0
Charles B. B.	0	5	0
H. Bryan Mundy	0	5	0
	£37	3	0

FORBES ROBERTSON IN NEW YORK

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Forbes Robertson, whose masterly interpretation of *Hamlet* and fine embodiment of Dick Heldar in *The Light that Failed* made a strong impression in New York last season during his engagement at the Knickerbocker Theatre, appeared at the same house on the 20th ult. in the new play, by Henry V. Esmond, entitled *Love and the Man*, which had its first presentation in New York on this occasion, after meeting with a favourable reception in the principal cities of Canada. Mr. Robertson played the part of Gerald Wagoneur, a member of Parliament, and a powerful politician. He is the strongest man in his party, and the hopes of his political friends rest upon him. But, while he is thrilled with the desire to succeed, there comes to him, after an exciting debate in the House of Commons, the feeling that his life, after all, is incomplete. Wagoneur is a bachelor, and he longs for a home, and a wife and children. While in this state of mind he comes in contact with Lady Gaudminster, a friend of his sister. Her husband, a crippled rake, has made her life unbearable. An attachment springs up between Wagoneur and Lady Gaudminster; and, in the second act, she is driven to revolt, and turns openly to Wagoneur for sympathy. A stormy scene occurs, and Gaudminster denounces Wagoneur, who reproaches the husband, and declares his intention of taking Lady Gaudminster from him. In the third act, she is living with Wagoneur's sister at a little cottage in Hampshire, having applied for a divorce as the only way out of the "tangle." Wagoneur has withdrawn from the political struggle; but his party faces a crisis, and his friends beg him to take up the work he has laid down, assuring him that the world at large knows nothing of his love affair, and that his reputation is untarnished. His sister pleads with him not to sacrifice his prospects; and, as Lady Gaudminster decides to become reconciled to her husband rather than allow Wagoneur to wreck his career, he accepts the call. In the fourth act, Wagoneur has risen to the Premiership, and, one day, as he is about to make the speech of his life, he learns that Lady Gaudminster is dying. She asks him to come to her, but his duty forbids, and he sends a message asking her to live while he does the work that she would have him do. Wagoneur makes his speech, and then, throwing affairs of State to the winds, he hurries to her side. The reconciliation between husband and wife has not been successful, and Gaudminster, having repented his decision, devises a situation that will compromise his wife and Wagoneur. But his plan is frustrated by Gaudminster's own death in a fit of passion.

Mr. Forbes Robertson's embodiment of Gerald Wagoneur was an intensely interesting and impressive character study, and the audience testified its appreciation of his performance in a very hearty manner. Mr. Ian Robertson's able impersonation of the decrepit Lord Gaudminster deserves mention, and credit is due to Miss Kate Rorke for her capable representation of Lady Gaudminster.

COVENT GARDEN BALL.

Messrs. Frank Rendle and Neil Forsyth are bringing their remarkably successful series of fancy dress balls to a speedy end at Covent Garden. The reason they are compelled to shorten their season is the fact that the Grand Opera Syndicate has determined to begin operations somewhat earlier this year, and that the theatre will be wanted for rehearsals by Dr. Richter and the German company. On the night of the 24th ult. there were the usual number of attractive costumes. One of these, carried out in cerise and white, had the catchy title of "Bewitching witch's witching"; another of pale pink and white was called "An Angel of Peace"; a "Moonlight Carnival" was made entirely of whate material, and a "Morning" of pale blue, while a "Faith, Hope, and Charity" dress was carried out in pink. All these dresses were lit up by little electric glow lamps, and several of them secured some of the many valuable prizes given for the prettiest, most original, and most artistic dresses.

"GARRICK" AT THE ALBERT HALL.

Laundry maids benefited greatly by the performance of Wm. Muskerry's play of *Garrick*, which was given on Tuesday in the West Theatre of the Albert Hall in aid of the Laundry Girls' Club of St. Alban's Mission, Fulham. The large audience were thoroughly appreciative of the story of the famous actor who staked his life's happiness in order to preserve his honour as "an actor and a man." Fortunately, the leading parts had talented representatives, the rôle of Violet Gresham being in the hands of Miss Elsie Duddell, a pupil of Miss Stella Brereton, who reflected in every phase the influence of her accomplished teacher. Graces of deportment and beauties of delivery combined to make her rendering a charming one, and, though certain habits of pronunciation still remain to be corrected, her rendering was surrounded with so much delicacy, especially in the portrayal of emotion, that Miss Duddell became quite captivating. Mr. E. Gordon Taylor acquitted himself creditably of the arduous part of David Garrick. He was earnest and expressive, and declaimed his lines dramatically, while his drunken scene showed little room for improvement, but there were times when his fervour overmastered his distinctness, with the result that some of David's finest speeches were lost. Alderman Gresham, of the East India Company, had a worthy and dignified exponent in Mr. Martin J. Cahill, an amateur performer of long experience, who by his natural and forcible acting often kept the interest of the piece intact. The Hon. Tom Tallyhant was also well played by Mr. A. Damer Dawson, who presented the good-humoured tippler in excellent comedy vein, and Mr. Alec Shorey cleverly invested Sowerberry with the requisite acidity. Miss Jessie Neill caught the vulgar accent of Selina Sowerberry realistically, and Mrs. Ernest Renton, as Mrs. Rumblelow, and Mr. Alex. J. Niell, as Simpkins, added to the merriment which the performance occasioned. The comedy was exceptionally well dressed, and was preceded by Mr. Sidney Grundy's one-act play, *In Honour Bound*.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

A students' concert was given in the theatre on Wednesday evening, in the presence of an immense audience. As usual, pianoforte solos had a large share in the programme, Miss Loïs Barker opening with "Espenlaub," by M. Sauer, which she played with much facility. Miss Gwen Williams, in the Adagio and Finale from a Sonata of Chopin, proved herself a worthy Steinway scholar, and Miss Daisy Cadney played the Ballade of Chopin in G minor in a very artistic manner. Miss Doughty succeeded well as a 'cellist in a "Lamento" by Gabriel Marle, and in the obbligato to Goring Thomas's "Summer Night," which Miss Helen Sola sang extremely well. Miss Hilda Lett displayed much ability in violin solos by Ysaye and Wieniawski, the latter being the most successful. In mandolin solos Miss Lily Selden acquitted herself admirably. Miss Holbrook shone, as novices seldom do, in the "Jewel song" from *Faust*, which she executed with remarkable brilliancy and finish. Generally, we have to make allowances in these operatic show melodies, but Miss Holbrook was quite equal to her task. Mr. Edwin Lewis attempted the "Flower song" from *Carmen*, and certainly did himself credit. Miss Ethel Willott displayed good intentions and excellent expression in two songs of Grieg, but a little more vigour would have increased their effect. Mdlle. Chaminade's "Song of Faith" did not quite suit Miss Gertrude Gill. There are many other songs in which she would be heard to greater advantage. Mr. Harold Bills was fairly successful in a song by Landon Ronald. Miss Kate E. Ward accompanied, and revealed her thorough capacity in this useful department.

A "DENZA" CONCERT.

At Steinway Hall, last Saturday, a concert was given by the London Academy of Music, the programme consisting of the works of Signor Denza, a composer who has written no less than six hundred songs, besides other important musical works, many of these having been extremely popular, and one in particular had a circulation of half-a-million copies. In his early life Signor Denza was acquainted with some of the most celebrated Italian composers, for example, Rossini, Mercadante, and others, and during recent years his ability has made him a general favourite. Therefore we were not surprised to see a very large audience at Steinway Hall. The programme was happily chosen to bring out the beauties of his works, and its success was unquestionable. It began with three part-songs by Signor Denza—charming works, and admirably rendered by the choir. One of the composer's ballads was given by Mr. Max Chelminski, with much grace and skill; and Madame Denza sang a cycle having the picturesque title, "By Sea and Woodland." It was the first time of their performance, and one of these, with an organ obbligato by Mr. Carl Weber, was so successful that it had to be repeated. The vocal talent of Madame Denza had its full share in this result. A duet, "The Lark and the Nightingale," employed the vocal ability of Miss Daisy Irvine and Miss Johnson most agreeably, and won for these ladies cordial tokens of approval. A cantata, "The Garden of Flowers," furnished the choir with another dainty selection, and this was contrasted with a semi-chorus, "White Butterflies," which afforded the utmost pleasure to all who heard it. The contralto solo, "Lovely Rosebuds," was sung with charming grace by Miss Cecile Brandon, and the soprano solo, "The Bees," accompanied by a humming chorus, was one of the most perfect items of the evening, the soprano and the choir being equally entitled to commendation. In the semi-chorus, "Good Night," the ladies who deserved recognition were the Misses Florence Snell, Cecilia Moses, Kathleen Child, Nellie Harris, Cecile Brandon, Beatrice Bangill, Nina Johnson, and May Adams, all of whom exerted themselves most successfully. Many other compositions of Signor Denza were included in the programme, and several pianoforte solos by M. Carl Weber were played by the composer, one of the most attractive being a "Souvenir de Bal." All were performed by special request. Signor Denza wishes that the proceeds of the concert shall be devoted to the Scholarship Fund of the London Academy of Music, which is now incorporated with several other local societies. Miss Ada Petherick accompanied the choir.

"The Era" can be obtained at any of Smith and Son's bookstalls throughout the provinces.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

Dempsey.—March 1, at 143, Prince's-road, London, the wife of Michael Dempsey, of a daughter.

Harmston.—Feb. 26, 1905, at 36, Albany-road, Kensington, Liverpool, Blonde, the wife of George Harmston (late of Harmston's Circus), of a son. Both doing well.

Metcalfe.—On Feb. 26, at 68, Royal Hill, Greenwich, to Hugh and Vyvyan Metcalfe, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Durham—Jefferson.—On Sunday, Feb 19, 1905, at St. Matthew's Church, Camberwell, by the Rev. Day, Edward P. Durham to Margarette Florence Emily Jefferson (Maud Jefferson).

St. Clair—Lockhart.—On Monday, Feb. 20, at St. Cyprian's Church, Hay Mills, Birmingham, George St. Clair (cyclist) to Minnie Lockhart (of the Sisters Lockhart).

DEATHS.

Beckwith.—Feb. 4, at Victor, Colorado, Lizzie Beckwith, youngest daughter of Professor Fred Beckwith, professional lady swimmer.

Browne.—Feb. 17, at the residence of her son-in-law, Leonora Mary, the beloved wife of the late Chris Browne, negro comedian. Interred at St. Philip's Cemetery, Manchester. Deeply mourned.

Douglass.—Feb. 17, Mrs. Byron Douglass, of cancer, at 169, Munster-road, Fulham. Deeply regretted by husband and children.

Flynn.—Jan. 20, at Sydney, Australia, Harry Flynn, actor.

Grossmith.—Feb. 28, at 55, Russell-square, after a long and painful illness, borne with the greatest patience, Rosa, the dearly loved wife of George Grossmith.

Ormonde.—Feb. 24, at 30, Connaught-mansions, Prince of Wales-road, Battersea Park, S.W., of consumption, Florrie Ormonde, comedienne and dancer, in her thirty-first year.

Presley-Emery.—Feb. 19, 1905, at her residence in Bath, Mary Jane Presley, sister of Percy C. Emery, and aunt to May Emery (Mrs. Fred Southern), Squire Jack, and Marie Emery. Previous to interment at Locksbrook, a full choral service for the departed, the Rev. Prebendary Norton-Thompson officiating, was held in Christ Church, in the city of Bath. "One of the best."

In Memoriam.

Brown.—In loving memory of Henry Brown, Shakespearian jester, who died March 4, 1902. Never forgotten by his sorrowing wife and children.

Coleman.—In loving memory of George Coleman, who died March 3, 1900. Never forgotten by his loving mother, sisters, and brothers.

Noyle.—In ever-loving memory of our dear mother, who fell asleep Feb. 28, 1899. Never forgotten by her devoted daughters, Katie, Louise, Ruby, and Pearl.

MISS SYBIL NOBLE'S ENTERTAINMENT.

Miss Sybil Noble may be congratulated on the complete success of her humorous and dramatic entertainment at the Queen's (Small) Hall on the evening of the 22nd ult., every item in the excellent programme proving most enjoyable to the large audience present. Especially appreciated were the original sketches from nature of Lieut.-Col. F. Grundy, a humorist of decided ability, whose easy and finished style suggest considerable familiarity with the footlights. Mr. Grundy's first sketch included a remarkably natural and funny impersonation of a proud father watching his son's first appearance at a first-class cricket match; his second contribution, "A Wedding Breakfast," in which he portrayed the fond parent of the bride, who is induced to say a few words on the auspicious occasion, and in which he cleverly hit off the peculiarities of some of the guests present, being also a most enjoyable item. Mr. W. G. Smith Wright, a versatile artiste and a wonderfully gifted mimic, gave a humorous mock melodrama, in which the characters were supposed to be undertaken by Signora Duse, Sir Henry Irving, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Messrs. Forbes Robertson, Herbert Waring, Lewis Waller, George Alexander, and other notable actors. Mr. Smith was particularly happy in his imitations of the voice and mannerisms of Mr. Alexander, Mr. Waring, Mr. Waller, and Mr. Beerbohm Tree—always a favourite subject with mimics—all his portraits being quickly recognised and applauded. His other contribution included a burlesque of Tyrolean and Italian singers, and a realistic imitation of a gramophone, and in response to a unanimous demand for an encore he gave a cleverly-rendered hunting song. Still more laughter was evoked by Mr. Percy French, whose first sketch was humorously given, and illustrated by some ingeniously executed crayon drawings. In the second half of the programme he was also responsible for much mirth with a ludicrous description of a gentleman of a retiring disposition, who is persuaded to attend a children's party and help amuse the youngsters. Miss Sybil Noble sang with much point and charm "Men," and was also heard with pleasure in a romp song, "I never had a mother or a father," with a neatly executed dance at the conclusion. Miss Noble, however, was enabled to display her undoubted acting abilities best in the pathetic little song, "Only a penny," a number in which she was particularly successful. The agreeable voice and cultured singing of Miss Marjorie Fitzgerald were heard with pleasure in a couple of all too brief songs, "I know a lovely garden" and "Since we parted"; and the Blue Viennese Trio also contributed to the evening's enjoyment, the concluding item of which was *Nancy's Manœuvre*, a one-act farcical comedy, by Miss Sybil Noble. In this the authoress was seen to considerable advantage as an actress, Nancy Tempest, who hits upon the idea of impersonating a "slavey" in order that she may make the acquaintance of her fiancée's father, Mr. Pepper, a fiery but good-hearted old gentleman who is strongly opposed to his son wedding anyone connected with the stage. In the end, of course, old Pepper capitulates to the lady's charms, and the young couple are made happy. The best acting in this entertaining trifle, however, was again contributed by Lieut.-Col. F. Grundy, whose impersonation of the elderly Mr. Pepper was most natural and amusing.

THEATRICAL FOOTBALL.

Brisol X.L.C.R. and Harry Hare's Orchestral Band Athletic Clubs v. Music Halls A.F.C.

Played on Clifton Downs, Feb. 11. The following were the teams:—

Bristol X.L.C.R. and Orchestral Band.—Harry Belding, goal; Jack Lewis and Archie Hamlin (captain), backs; Arthur E. Bailey, Syd Carter, and Harry Slade, half-backs; Jack Aubrey, Harry Edwards, Eddie Bowman, Ernie Belding, and Harry Clements, forwards.

Music Halls A.F.C.—F. B. Nicholls, goal; T. Denton and Jack Tyley, backs; T. Neagle (captain), J. Lacey, and D. O'Connor, half-backs; W. Meadows, B. Cullen, F. Hansford, W. Hinder, and P. Reardon, forwards.

Mr. Harry Hare was the referee, and the linesmen were T. Palmer and Alf. Mattock. The result was:—Bristol X.L.C.R. and Orchestral Band, 2 goals; Music Halls A.F.C., 5 goals. Messrs. S. Carter, J. Aubrey, P. Reardon (2), B. Cullen, J. Lacey, and J. Tyley scored the goals for their respective sides.

CHAT WITH MR. LENNOX BARRY.

(By our own commissioner.)

Mr. Lennox Barry, the recently appointed general-manager of the Battersea Empire, is the youngest man in London holding such a position. His advancement in the profession has been singularly rapid, and, as he is now little more than twenty-five years old, one may reasonably expect great things of him. Proprietors and directors of business concerns realise the wisdom of permitting young men to take an important part in the management of affairs. In the impressionable days of one's youth the rigour of the times are more readily discernible. While the faculties are in the educative stage, and life has not yet had time to become a settled conviction, a speedy recognition of the trend of things brings in its wake the impulse to act accordingly. And thus is brought about the materialisation of new ideas. At the same time, we should be the last to decry age and experience. They are necessary to the proper conduct of the world's transactions. That steadying ballast which comes with maturity of years is needed to keep in check the boisterous gales of youth, lest the vessel be driven out of her course.

Talking about vessels reminds us that the subject of this interview knows something about a life on the ocean wave. He was in the merchant service for three years. He served an apprenticeship as a midshipman on the *Hyderabad*, and gradually rose until he became the holder of a second officer's certificate. He had voyaged twice round the world before he was eighteen, and twice

Photo by Parker.
MR. LENNOX BARRY.

has he been shipwrecked. His first experience was, perhaps, the worst, for he was kept three days and three nights in an open boat in the South Pacific Ocean, the little party being finally picked up by a passing steamer. Mr. Barry recalls that the first occasion on which he sang in public, though in a non-professional capacity, was at a concert at the Seamen's Mission Hall, Sydney, and his début on the stage as a baritone vocalist took place at the Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco. After performing at several of the American halls, he returned to England, and became connected with the Hull Press for a period of eighteen months. Then for a time he was associated with Sydney James's Strolling Players, at the New Spa Gardens, Bridlington. His most successful song at this period was "Doreen." A pantomime engagement in *Aladdin* at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, followed, during the run of which Mr. Barry was brought before the notice of Mr. George Edwardes's manager, who took him on for the chorus of *The Messenger Boy* company. For a couple of tours of this piece Mr. Barry acted as assistant-stage-manager, being later appointed to the position of stage-manager for two ensuing seasons. Turning his attention to the variety stage again, our interviewee secured a contract for the Moss and Stoll palaces, singing "Doreen," "Bid me to love," and other high-class songs, with which he also appeared at several of the metropolitan halls. His next venture was the production of *The Island of Pharos*, a play that has since been through the provinces. Subsequently Messrs. Arthur Hart and J. Malone "requisitioned" Mr. Barry's services to stage-manage during a couple of tours of *My Lady Molly*. Running a concert party at some of our seaside resorts, and playing the part of Hi-Lung in Mr. George Dance's *Chinese Honeymoon*, combining stage-management at the same time, are among Mr. Barry's more recent achievements. From *A Chinese Honeymoon* Mr. Barry went straight to the Battersea Empire as business-manager. After five weeks he was appointed general-manager, attending to the front of the house as well as to the bookings of artistes, so that his promotion has, to say the least, been very rapid. But then, Mr. Barry is one of the most resourceful and energetic of men.

Like many others who have shown themselves to be possessed of sound commercial instincts, Mr. Barry hails from the shire of broad acres. His father, Mr. William Hainstock, is one of Hull's largest American produce importers, and is also financially interested in several provincial theatres. Mr. Barry is an interesting conversationalist, and he has many yarns to tell of strange sights in strange lands. On one of his trips his ship carried a number of Seventh Day Adventists, who were going to the famous Pitcairn Island with the object of converting the inhabitants. Mr. Barry tells us that it was quite a sight to see these Adventists turn up on the deck of a sailing boat on a Saturday (their Sabbath) in their best frock coats, tall silk hats, stiff collars, and highly polished boots. While Mr. Barry was stationed at Pitcairn Island one of the natives to whom the ministrations of the Adventists had been specially directed, murdered his wife. There being no one in the island to act as his judge and executioner, the assassin had to wait for the annual visit of the British gunboat—a period of suspense, in this case extending over nine months.

At the usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association, held on Tuesday, Mr. H. B. Irving was unanimously elected as the chairman for the year 1905-6. Mesdames Elisabeth Kirby and Kate Phillips, and Messrs. Acton Bond, Wm. Devereux, A. E. Drinkwater, H. B. Irving, Douglas Gordon, Lawrence Grant, Arthur Holmes-Gore, Alfred Kendrick, M. R. Morand, and Hubert Willis were unanimously re-elected as members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The secretary reported that the debt, costs, and arbitrator's fees had been paid under an award in a case referred to arbitration. It was resolved that the patronage of the A.A. should be given to the forthcoming "Shakespeare Ball," promoted by Lady Maud B. Wilbraham and others. The hon. solicitors reported that the claims of two members had been paid, together with the costs of the judgments recovered in the actions brought to enforce such claims.

ON THE ROAD, MARCH 6.

Aladdin (Kiddie).—Opera House, Southport.
Amorelle.—Theatre Royal, Hanley.
Armadale Repertoire.—King's Lynn.
At War with the World.—T. R., Rugby.
Austin, Miss Mary.—Opera House, Wakefield.
Bandmann-Palmer.—Her Majesty's T., Dundee.
Beautiful Avenger.—Alexandra Theatre, Hull.
Beauty and the Barge.—Southport.
Beauty and the Beast (Ray).—Belfast.
Belle of New York.—Hartlepool.
Benson, Mr. F. R. (A).—Coronet Theatre, W.
Benson, Mr. F. R. (B).—Hawick.
Between Two Women.—T. R., Sunderland.
Biggest Scamp on Earth.—Peterboro'.
Blanchard Diamonds.—Victoria O. H., Burnley.
Bound to Win.—Darlington.
Bulmer, Mr.—Century Theatre, Motherwell.
Cardinal.—Empire Theatre, Oldham.
Chinese Honeymoon (M.).—Aberdeen.
Chinese Honeymoon (Macdona) (S.).—Worcester.
Christian.—Theatre Royal, Plymouth.
Cingalee.—Bath.
Compton Comedy Co.—Opera House, Perth.
Conscript.—Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.
Convict's Daughter.—P. of W. T., Grimsby.
Country Girl (Dance) (M.)—Halifax.
Country Girl (Dance) (S.).—Colchester.
Country Girl (N.).—Todmorden.
Country Girl (S.).—Newark.
Country Mouse (N.).—Court Theatre, Liverpool.
Cousin Kate.—Kirktaldy.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Loughborough.
Darling of the Gods.—Northampton.
Defending His Honour.—R. T., Barrow.
Designers.—West Pier, Brighton.
Dick Whittington (Kiddie).—Smethwick.
D'Oyly Carte.—Prince's Theatre, Manchester.
Duchess of Dantzic (Dance).—York.
Duchess of Dantzic (Edwardes).—G. T., Hull.
Duke of Killicrankie (Lovel).—Glasgow.
Earl and the Girl.—Theatre Royal, Ashton.
Eternal City.—Leicester.
Face at the Window.—T. R., Jarrow.
Facing the Music.—Birmingham.
Fatal Wedding (M.).—Theatre Royal, Preston.
Fatal Wedding (N.).—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Fatal Wedding (S.).—Theatre Royal, Wednesbury.
Fiends of London.—Opera House, Coventry.
Florodora (Callan).—Royalty Theatre, Chester.
Florodora (Davis).—Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.
Florodora (Howard).—Malvern.
Frivolity.—Lyceum Theatre, Govan.
Gay Parisienne.—Alexandra Theatre, N.
Geisha and Greek Slave.—Buxton.
Gipsy Jack.—Pontypridd.
Girl from Kay's (N.).—Glasgow.
Girl from Kay's (S).—Nuneaton.
Golden Ladder.—Theatre Royal, Leicester.
Goody Two Shoes.—Queen's Theatre, Leeds.
Go-Won-Go Mohawk.—Manchester.
Grip of Iron.—Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.
Harvey, Martin.—Shakespeare Theatre, S.W.
Heart of a Hero.—Royalty Theatre, Barrow.
Her Fatal Past.—Theatre Royal, Croydon.
I Defy the World.—Bedford.
Indian Mutiny.—West London Theatre, W.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—T. R., Portsmouth.
King's Pardon.—Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.
Ladder of Life.—King's Theatre, Nottingham.
Lady of Ostend.—Pleasure Gardens T., Folkestone
La Comedie Anglaise.—Newmarket.
La Poupee.—Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.
La Poupee (Howard).—Reading.
Laughter-Land.—T. R., West Bromwich.
Life of a Showman.—Lyceum Theatre, Crewe.
Lightning's Flash.—Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank.
Lights o' London.—Met. Theatre, Birmingham.
Little Cinderella (Kiddie).—T. R, Darwen.
London Actress.—King's Theatre, Cardiff.
London Fireman.—Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
Lucky Durham.—Theatre Royal, Rochdale.
Manxman.—Opera House, Blackpool.
Marriage of Vengeance.—Star Theatre, Swansea.
Merely Mary Ann.—D. P. Theatre, Eastbourne.
Message from Mars.—Lyceum Theatre, Newport.
Midnight Mail.—Theatre Royal, Bolton.
Mockery of Marriage.—Grand Theatre, Walsall.
Monsieur Beaucaire.—Grand Theatre, Fulham.
Moody-Manners (A).—Edinburgh.
Moody-Manners (B).—Theatre Royal, Barnsley.
Moody Manners (C.).—Settle.
My Lady Molly.—Broadway Theatre, S.E.
Napoleon the Great.—Junction T., Manchester.
New Mephisto.—New Theatre, Glossop.
Norman V. Norman.—Opera House, Perth.
Orchid (Edwardes).—Theatre Royal, Newcastle.
Orchid (Dance).—Sunderland.
Otto the Outcast.—Empire Theatre, Dundee.
Peggy Machree.—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
Prince of Rogues.—Burslem.
Proof.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
Red Riding Hood (Eland's).—C. T., Bacup.
Revenge.—Opera House, St. Helens.
Royal Divorce.—Theatre Royal, Stockport.
Royal Revenge (Clyndes).—P. T., Glasgow.
Sapho (Annie Bell).—Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.
Saturday to Monday.—Southampton.
Scarlet Woman.—Theatre Royal, Edmonton.
School Girl (Macdona).—Glasgow.
Sergeant Brue.—Theatre Royal, Aldershot.
Sherlock Holmes.—Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.
Sign of the Cross.—County Theatre, Kingston.
Silver King.—Star Theatre, Liverpool.
Sinbad the Sailor (Levaine).—Bootle.
Sin of Her Childhood.—P. of W. T., Mexborough.
Sins of a City.—Aquarium Theatre, Yarmouth.
Sledge-Hammer.—Prince's Theatre, Accrington.
Sorrows of Satan (Somerset).—Dublin.
Still Alarm.—Grand Theatre, Nottingham.
Sunday.—Court Theatre, Wigan.
Swiss Express.—Theatre Royal, Rotherham.
Three Little Maids (Macdona) (S.).—Bournemouth.
Three Little Maids (Macdona) (S.).—Swansea.
Traitor.—Osborne Theatre, Manchester.
Traitor Prince.—Theatre Royal, Bristol.
Trip to Chinatown.—Burton-on-Trent.
Two Little Sailor Boys.—Q. T. Longton.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—Darwen.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Tully).—Llanelly.
Under Two Flags.—O. H., Middlesbrough.
Veronique.—Cardiff.
Victim of Villainy.—Marina T, Lowestoft.
Village Blacksmith.—Opera House, Dudley.
Warner, Grace.—Avenue Theatre, Kettering.
Way of the World.—Theatre Royal, Merthyr.
When a Man Hates.—Theatre Royal, Macclesfield.
When a Woman Hates.—R. T., Liverpool.
Woman's Devotion.—Theatre Royal, Blackburn.
Woman of Impulse.—Theatre Royal, Gloucester.
Wrecker of Men.—P. of W. Theatre, Southampton.
10.30 Down Express.—Ebbw Vale.

Mr. Dan Conroy, after a successful season in town, starts a provincial tour at the Empire, Wolverhampton, on Monday.

Makes the Skin as Soft as Velvet.—Beetham's "Larola" preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, chaps, irritation tan, &c., and Keeps the Skin Soft, Smooth, and White. Invaluable for the Complexion. Delightfully Soothing and Refreshing after dancing, cycling, motoring, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists. M. Beetham and Son, Cheltenham.—[Advt.]

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(*Continued from page 11.*)

Walthamstow. — King's Theatre.—Mr. Harry Firth's company is here this week in *Cinderella*. Miss Madge Osmond is a pretty and engaging little Cinderella, speaking her lines with great distinctness and point. Miss Dora Denmark is a fine Prince Perfect; and the valet, Dandini, is well played by Miss Ethel Mohr. The two plain-looking sisters are amusingly interpreted by Mr. J. Binns (who also stage-manages) and Mr. H. Haines, as Butterina and Margerina. Mr. E. Wilson extracts much comic capital from the part of Baron Pebbly-Beach, and Mr. Fred Park is amusing as Pimple, the page. The other parts are efficiently filled. Some clever specialities are given in the palace scene, notably by Mr. Fred Earle, a capital sleight-of-hand artist; Miss Ethel Mohr, Lieut. Chas. Valvo, the Four Sisters Godfrey, Miss Clarisse Mignon, Miss Madge Osmond, and Messrs. Marsh and Morris. The pantomime is received at every performance with laughter and applause.

Palace.—It has been said by those of old time that "nothing succeeds like success," and the adage was never more brilliantly fulfilled than in the case of the Walthamstow Palace, under the skilful management of Mr. Arthur J. Barclay and his courteous and obliging adjutant, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter. The programme for the present week is of exceptionally good quality, so much so that at the first house on Monday night there was hardly a vacant seat in the theatre. The popular comedian, Mr. Will Evans, was at his best, and in his amusing new skit concerning the production of *Robinson Crusoe*, kept his audience in a state of hysterical laughter. His success was immediate and pronounced. Carlile and Walker gave an amusing few minutes' comedy act, in which their burlesque doings were decidedly clever. The Zaro Troupe of acrobats performed some exceedingly daring feats of the muscular order, and achieved a big success. Miss Wynnie Darrell, looking extremely dainty, sang with the greatest taste and danced charmingly. One of the hits of the evening was made by Mr. Will Van Allen, who, as the "musical tramp," repeated a performance that has before now won favour on these boards. An amusing dialogue of Hebraic nature was given by Jordan and Harvey. Woodhouse and Wells were well received in their clever patter and nimble dancing. Valazzi—an artist of the Cinquevalli school—gave an exceedingly neat, graceful, and original series of performances in the juggling department, while his cannon-ball exploits elicited much applause. The concluding item of the programme was the one-act play, *The King's Hat*, under the direction of Mr. Harry Howard. This proved to be a pretty and spirited piece of the period known as Cromwellian, the owner of the "hat" in question being, of course, no other than Charles II., of merry memory. The company engaged have been carefully selected, and all play with a loyalty to their author that might be a lesson to actors in a more important production. Miss Ethel Cunningham is a pretty and winsome Lady Delauney. Mr. S. T. Ewart is vigorous as Sir Reginald Delauney; Mr. H. H. Stewart is very fine as the wicked, card-playing Colonel Digby; Mr. Frank France is admirable as Captain Meers; Mr. Arthur Fitzgerald, a capital Ferrin; and Mr. Clifford Brooke, capitally made up, a right regal representative of the King. The scene of the Great Hall at Thursby Manor is very handsome, and the costumes singularly rich and tasteful. The play was received with loud applause.

Warrington.—Royal Court.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr. J. Potter.—After an absence of several years, Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company is here this week in the remarkable play, *The Face at the Window*. Mr. Augustine Knight, as the Indian bravo, Le Loup, gives a skilful rendering of the character. Mr. T. W. Dunscombe is convincing and forcible as Paul Gouffet, the detective; Mr. George Phythian gives effective aid as the banker, De Brisson; and Mr. Alfred Warne scores as Lucien Cortier. Mr. C. Alan Himeson, as Peter Pottlebury, and Miss Gwynne Warren, as Babette, are genuinely amusing; Miss Marie Barrett depicts the heroine, Marie de Brisson, with marked intensity and feeling; Mr. F. C. Raphael makes a surly cut-throat of Jean Barbelm; and Miss Jeannie Dempster, as La Pinau, submits a clever character sketch.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Will mott.—Ike Scott and Son are here again this week, and their business is as entertaining as ever. The Brothers Hainson are capable comedians, a remark which also apolies to the Kimberley Boys. Essman is an expert juggler, and Eugene and Willie clever musical acrobats. Walter Adams sings several songs in fine style, and Gerald Mount is a mimic of remarkable ability. The Royal Bioscope, manipulated by Mr. Wiesker, depicts a series of charming pictures.

Wednesbury. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—Miss Lena Stanton's pantomime in *Dick Whittington* is proving a great success here this week. The rôle of Dick Whittington is charmingly acted by Miss Lena Stanton, and as Alice Fitzwarren Miss Marie Gerrard is active and sprightly. Alderman Fitzwarren is humorously portrayed by Mr. George Green. Miss Maud Linn does well as Polly, and as the Cook Mr. George James creates roars of laughter. Mr. Alfred Brooks as Idle Jack does some clever work. Miss C. Shannons is a charming Princess, and the specialities, which are excellently performed, include Little Keeno, the boy wonder, in his dancing and vocal entertainment; the Cecil Troupe of lady acrobatic dancers, who receive warm applause; Mr. Joe Pauletti, the French cycling clown, and the Great Rynfield in his marvellous chair performance.

West Bromwich.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. P. Moore.—A large audience gave an enthusiastic welcome on Monday night to Mr. Peter Thompson's comical pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, the scenery and dresses of which are excellent. Miss Maude Beaumont makes a conspicuous success by her winsomeness, smart acting, and singing, as Robin Hood; the Maid Marion of Miss Molly Hackett is all that can be desired; the good fairy Blue Bell is played by Miss Katie Lever, who is to be congratulated on her fine voice; Mr. J. Templar Ellis is seen to considerable advantage as Sir Scoundrel, the bad baron; the two orphans, Bertie and Cissie, are in the hands of the Sisters Grahame, who contribute greatly to the dancing and musical portion of the entertainment; the droll eccentricities of The Danbys, as Tired Tim and Willie Wearied, cause screams of laughter; as the nurse Evelean Mr. Fred Danvers is very amusing; Miss Fanny Humber gives great satisfaction as Will Scarlet; and the same may be said of Miss Minnie Moran, as Dorothy Dimple. The specialities are all good and well received, but special mention should be made of the smart performance of Mr. N. T. Kioto, who is described as the most wonderful equilibrist; of Miss Rosa Walmsley, for her charming dancing; and of the Yankee Quartette of lady dancers.

West Hartlepool. — Grand Theatre. — General Manager (for Mrs. Weldon Watts). Mr. Sidney Bacon; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred Conneaux.—The play *Sherlock Holmes*, which has on previous occasions achieved popularity here, is the attraction this week. The lion's share of the honours of the play falls to Mr. H. A. Saintsbury, who, in his masterly performance in the title-rôle, is a decided success. Dr. Watson has a creditable representative in Mr. Lawrence Leyton. The fine acting of Mr. J. Poole-Kirkwood as John Forman is fully appreciated. As Professor Moriarty Mr. W. F. Stirling is responsible for some powerful acting. The interpretation of James Larrabee by Mr. Leslie Carter, and of Madge Larrabee by Miss Maude Lindon, is entirely satisfactory. Mr. G. Mayor-Cooke is a distinct success as Sidney Prince. It would be almost impossible to find a better Billy than that of Walter Hicks. Miss Vera Longden achieves a triumph in her clever conception of the rôle of Alice Faulkner.

Palace.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—The list of artistes is headed by E. R. Dainez and his comedy circus of performing donkey, pony, and dogs; Ross and Lewis, in American comedy and eccentric dancing, are a strong attraction, the latter being especially so. The audience listen with pleasure to the fine singing of Belrose and Develin in operatic specialities, for which they are enthusiastically recalled. The mimicry of Rosie Archer is fully deserving of the encores which it gains; Charles Gardner, comedian, is well received; as also are the Zampos, dancers and baton manipulators, and George Edney, character comedian; Olga gives a graceful and pretty exhibition on the trapeze.

WEST STANLEY.—VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. C. Rawes; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Williams.—*Queen of the Night* is the attraction here this week, and is played by an excellent company. Miss Vere Mosley in the title-rôle proves herself an able artist, and as David Penrath Mr. Barron does well; Mr. Chas. Sandford is a successful Philip Stoneleigh, and Mr. Stillwell is well placed as Dr. Frank Cavendish.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company is fulfilling a week's engagement here with *The Sin of Her Childhood*. Miss Mary Fulton is good as Mary Haysel, and as Stephen Haysel Mr. Austen Milroy does excellently. Mr. J. A. Campbell is an able Captain Thornton, and as Barney Mr. Fred Elvin is very funny. Miss Jenny Hicks as Marin Haysel suits the part admirably, and a word of commendation is due to Little Dot Moss for her careful rendering of the part of Hannah Spry.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark.—Mr. Chas. Harrington's No. 1 company was here for three nights, in the popular play *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Mr. J. Carr makes a sympathetic figure as Uncle Tom, and Mr. C. Harrington is suitably cast as Mr. St. Clair. In the rôle of Legree, Mr. J. H. Rogers plays well, and Mr. Guy P. Ellis is a manly George Harris. Miss Ida Fane acts naturally as Aunt Ophelia, and Miss Sylvia Stella is amusing as Topsy. Miss H. Johnson as Eliza Harris, and Miss Zerlina Zerbini as Cassy, are both good in their respective characters, and Little Minnie is a clever child actress. On Thursday and Friday the local Operatic Society appear in *Patience*.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. James Kiddie; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Thomas Swinton.—Mr. Frank Stephens and company are here with the late Mr. F. A. Scudamore's sensational play, *Because I Love You*. Mr. Frank Stephens enacts the rôle of the "Vulture," and Nelly Bly is sympathetically played by Miss Madge North. Professor Predate, in the hands of Mr. Howard Tracey, and Capt. Stirling in those of Mr. Matthew Bolton, are well-acted characters; and as Lady Ursula Milfoil Miss Trissie Humphrys gives an excellent impersonation. Miss Nell Ingram and Mr. Horace Buckley create much merriment in the comedy parts.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. John Worswick.—Mr. John Leopold's company, including the original Leopolds, have presented *The New Frivolity* here during the week. The company is a powerful one, and the performances have been witnessed by large and appreciative audiences.

GRAND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. Worswick.—The star burlesque actress and comedienne, Marie Loftus, is the great attraction this week, and has been well received. The Five Foys, in their speciality absurdity, *The Excursion Depôt*, are highly amusing; and the Ernestine Trio, in a laughable sketch, *A Yorkshire Lad in London*, with Tom Foy as the principal comedian, provide capital entertainment. Frank Dunlop, comedian and story-teller; the Donatos, one-legged acrobats; and Bertha Winder, champion lady clog-dancer, are all excellent. Walter Emerson, comedian; Brown and Robinson, vocalists; and Lottie Liegenberg, in her quick-change vocal sketch, *The Lady Slavey*, make up a remarkably strong and clever company.

EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr. W. Birchall.—An acceptable programme is provided here this week. The Brothers Lloddge, silver chain acrobats, give a smart turn; and the Sisters Linn are clever character duettists and coon vocalists. W. H. Smart, champion jig dancer; Lilian Yorke, comedienne; Kitty Lavigne, dancer; Tom Lake, versatile comedian; Louis Kerno, descriptive vocalist; and Nellie Linton, in her latest selection of songs, complete a good list.

WINDSOR.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Licensee, Mr. Fred L. Connynghame; General Business-Manager, Mr. Worton David; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Nash.—*A Woman of Impulse* has been played here this week by Messrs. Leonard Pagden and Lewis Gilbert's company. Miss Marie de Roos acts the rôle of Lady Langford with striking dramatic power, marked by subtlety and passion; Mrs. Dudley is ably and skilfully impersonated by Miss Lina Nazeby; Bertha Dudley finds a bright and natural representative in Miss Katie Johnson; Carl Navourac has an excellent exponent in Mr. Lewis Gilbert; Mr. Pagden, in his original character of Sir Mathew West, a brusque, plain-speaking Yorkshireman, is admirable; Mr. W. Ruddle Brown assumes the rôle of Sir George Langford with courtly ease and dignity; as Col. Challace Mr. Edward Sorley makes an excellent impression; Mr. William Wallace presents a good and amusing conception of the bachelor Dr. Fartlett; and Mr. James P. E. Hussey, in conjunction with Miss Nazeby, provides effectively the lighter humour and sentiment.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—Miss Ada Reeve and her company are appearing here this week in *Winnie Brooke, Widow*. Miss Reeve was unable to appear as Winnie Brooke on Wednesday and Thursday; and the part was admirably performed by Miss Kitty Clinton. Miss Alice Lawrence gives a capital impersonation of Mrs. Elihu Garside. Mr. Charles Weir, who appears as Dudley Mayne, is seen to great advantage, his acting being excellent; Mr. Edgar Stevens is very good, and sings well, as Reginald Frampton; Mr. Frederick Tyrrell gives an admirable portrayal as the Rev. Elihu Garside; and Mr. L. Ashton-Jarry is convincing and praiseworthy as Julian Croft.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—This week's bill is headed by Nellie Wallace, an eccentric comedy artiste of considerable merit; Drum and Major, two clever and amusing comedians, also appear; and the programme also includes Herman Urquhart, foot equilibrist; Hilton and Hilton, acrobats; Edna Cragg; Allan Wye; the Three Musical Shipbuilders, and the Bioscope.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. L. Warde.—Mr. Gordon Starkey's company is here this week, appearing in *A Message from Mars*, on a return visit. The leading character, that of Horace Parker, is ably impersonated by Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee; Mr. Wm. Lockhart scores as the Messenger; and Mr. Percy Taylor, as the Tramp, is very good; while Mr. Collins-Rolfe, as the American millionaire, is well placed. Miss Edith Cuthbert as the heroine, and Miss Violet Auberies as the aunt are commendably represented; and the mechanical effects leave nothing to be desired.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Miss Rosalind Scott-Watson's company is here this week with the powerful drama, *The Scarlet Woman*. Mr. Reginald Fox excellently portrays the manly character of Richard Marchant; Mr. Philip Gordon capably delineates the vacillating Philip Gordon; Mr. H. E. Robinson enacts the villainy of Will Raymond, alias Oscar Brandon, to perfection, being greatly aided by Mr. J. E. Cowel as Joe Cartwright, and Mr. Tom Wheeler an Jack Cartwright. Mr. H. Lauderdale is good as Jacob Isaacson; and Mr. Tod Squires is highly amusing as Samuel Hopkins, as are Miss Lilly Marshall as Fanchette and Miss Ruby Hamilton as Charlotte Simpkins. The singing of the latter was highly appreciated. Miss Muriel Alleyne leaves nothing to be desired as Margery Honor; Miss Bertha Adams deserves great praise in the juvenile part of Jeanne; Miss Scott-Watson is good as Mrs. Desmond; and Miss Rosalind Scott-Watson gives a really excellent and forcible presentment of Marie Brandon, the scarlet woman. *Trilby* was presented on Wednesday.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. H. Barrow.—*The Biggest Scamp on Earth* is the attraction here this week. Mr. W. H. Burton, as Napoleon Hawk, gets through a lot of hard work satisfactorily; Mr. P. C. Waram is manly and interesting, playing in a particularly easy style; Miss Frances Delaval is entitled to unstinted praise for her efforts, which are highly appreciated; and Mr. Evan Roberts is aptly placed as Vivian Wakefield, in which rôle he is exceptionally clever; Miss Louise Brandon and Miss Doris Denham, as Irene May and Bobby, are alike excellent, and give natural portrayals.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—York Operatic Amateurs, under the direction of Mr. W. A. Forster Todd, have possession of the theatre this week, and have appeared in *Falka*, the production of which has been in the able hands of Mr. Hugh Moss. The company is strengthened by the inclusion of Miss Midge Clark, who throughout is a most delightful Edwige, singing and acting alike with much grace and charm of manner.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

S. A. F. (Alford).—*No.*

ARTHUR A. HUNT.—*We would suggest you make use of our advertisement columns.*

G. PETERSON.—*We have no record. Why not write to the manager?*

ABANAZAR.—*We have not been able to ascertain the exact date. You will see by reference to our Music Hall Gossip that the question is likely soon to be settled by Parliament.*

HARRY LISTON.—*Sir Henry Irving's birthplace is Kineton, Somerset.*

NEMO.—*We regret that we are unable to inform you. With respect to the Deutsches Theatre, in Berlin, you might obtain some information by applying to the managers of the German company, at the Great Queen-street Theatre.*

C.T.—*It is not unlikely that one or two suburban theatres will be included in his tour.*

A. P. S.—The Yeomen of the Guard *was first produced at the Savoy Theatre on October 3, 1888, and* The Gondoliers *at the same house on Dec. 7, 1889.*

JOE B.—*Miss Ada Reeve played Julie Bon-Bon when* The Gay Parisienne *was transferred to the Duke of York's Theatre.* (2) The Toreador *was produced at the Gaiety Theatre on June 17, 1901.*

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

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THE Elizabethan Stage Society will give a special performance of the fine old morality play, *Everyman*, at the Fulham Theatre this afternoon at 3.15.

MISS MAY HOWARD was awarded, at the Grand Theatre, Islington, the handsome diamond ring presented by "Ally Sloper" to the lady pantomime artiste receiving the greatest number of votes for the week ending Feb. 11. The lady in question gained no less than 755 votes, being the second best number up to present records.

MR. FRANK MACNAGHTEN'S company is touring in the North and Midlands with *The King's Pardon*, a play from the pen of Mr. Brandon Blake, and dealing with the days when George was king. Success is met with wherever it goes, proof positive that it is a drama above the ordinary standard.

MR. HENRY JOHNSTON, whose popularity as acting-manager of the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, has for the five years he has filled that office been most conspicuous, is to be presented with a testimonial, which will take the form of a cheque, at a smoking concert, to take place on Friday next, at Ye Olde Royale. Mr. Johnston is well and favourably known to both the profession and the public for his excellent business principles and general suavity of manner, and the movement is meeting with cordial support from all parties.

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"If all the stars were mine" (Smith and Stromberg)	Miss Lilian Doreen
"I'm Afraid—and Why?" (Wincott, Leighton, and Mayo)	Sam Mayo
"I'm a girl of Tennessee" (Eden and Byng)	Miss Lil Hawthorne
"I'm coming home to you" (Herbert Darnley)	Miss D. L. Clark
"I'm going to sea [sea]" (Leamore and Collins)	Tom Leamore
"I'm round there to-night!" (Wincott and Leighton)	Dan Crawley
"Isn't that like a Man?" (Paul Mill)	Paul Mill
"It's all right in the summer time" (Murray & Everard)	Miss Vesta Victoria
"It's the Poor that help the Poor" (Mills and Castling)	Miss F. Gallimore
"I've been a Naughty Boy all Day" (Carter and Weston)	Miss G. Leonard
"Jolly Jarge" (Mills and Arthurs)	George Bastow
"Julia" (Robson and Hyde)	Miss Gladys Mavius
"Just a Girl" (Elton and Harrison)	Miss Minnie Cunningham
"Little Jap Horner" (F. V. St. Clair)	F. V. St. Clair
"Ma Havannah Queen" (Gifford and Lawrance)	G. H. Elliott
"Ma Dusky Rose" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Florrie Robins
"Maude! Maude!" (Barnes and Collins)	Miss Lottie Lennox
"My Little Black Pearl" (Leslie Stuart)	Eugene Stratton
"My Fiddle is My Sweetheart" (Harry Hunter)	G. H. Chirgwin
"My Japanesy Girl" (Delmar and Parry)	Hal Forde
"My Lily of the Valley" (Frank Leo)	Miss Sable Fern
"Oh, Nancy Lee" (T. W. Connor)	Miss Millie Hylton
"One Little Cottage all Our Own" (J. F. Lambe)	Miss Dolly Harmer
"Revenges" (Dunlop and Pether) [Above also sung by Whit Cunliffe].	Wallis Arthur
"She must have known!" (David and Scott)	J. E. Coyle
She said, 'Baa! Baa! Baa!'" (Harrington and H. Allen)	Miss Florrie Forde
"She taught him a thing or two, too" (Leigh and Le Brunn)	Miss E. Douglas
"Sit on 'em and keep 'em warm" (Wincott & Leighton)	Harry Champion
"Take this message to my sweetheart" (Mills and Castling)	Miss Marie Kendall
"That's him! That's him! That's him!" (Mills and Scott)	Harry Freeman
"The Boarding House Keeper" (Dickson and Randall)	Harry Randall.
"The Angel of My Dreams" (Leigh and Pether)	Miss Millie Lindon
"The Gambling Man" (Jerome and Schwartz)	Miss Carlotta Levey
"The New Insurance" (Arthurs and Lyle)	Ernest Shand
"The New Perjarma 'At" (T. W. Connor)	Gus Elen
"The Playground in the Sky" (Bateman and Pether)	Milner Verren
"There goes my Soldier-Boy!" (Leigh and Savage)	Everybody.
"There was something on his mind" (Leigh and Le Brunn)	Miss Marie Lloyd
"The Saftest o' the Family" (Lauder and Beaton)	Harry Lauder
"The Seaside Sultan" (C. W. Murphy)	Miss Vesta Tilley
"The Statue in Trafalgar Square" (Arthurs and Lyle)	George Lashwood
"The Truth or a Lie?" (Barnes and Weston)	George D'Albert
"The Ugly Duckling" (Murphy and Lipton) [Above also sung by Park's Eton Boys, Miss Ella Dean, and Miss Phyllis Dare.]	Miss Edith Courtney
"The Workhouse Gate" (Shelley and Philpot)	Herbert Shelley
"Then She Started Tickle-ing" (Mills and Carter)	Pat Rafferty
"Therein Lurks Unseen Danger" (E. W. Rogers)	Arthur Rigby
"There's another one out of work" (T. W. Connor)	George Brooks
"Three Makes Jolly Fine Company" (Rogers and Collins)	Arthur Lennard
"Topsy-Turvy" (Geo. Rollit)	Arthur

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1905.

THE BERNARD SHAW BOOM.

There are few studies more interesting than that of Booms or Crazes. The accepted theory respecting them is that whole classes or communities become hypnotised; and, in that state, perform the operation described by DICKENS'S Marchioness, when she made orange-peel, soaked in water, serve as sherry, by "making believe very much." A notable example was the acceptance, in many well-regulated West End nurseries, of "Alice in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking-Glass." Those delightful works are caviare to children. Appreciation of them depends on an active literary sense, a comprehension of irony, and a certain amount of scholarship. How, for instance, can we expect a real child to be amused by the mock philology of "The Jabberwock," or the very "smart" parody of "You are old, Father William"? The children of the present generation, bad as they are, are not scholars; and the original poem is only familiar to their elders of the last generation. Yet we remember—the LEWIS CARROLL Boom is over now—hearing dozens of decorous, well-dressed little humbugs, obedient to the prevailing Fashion, feigning rapture at the perusal of LEWIS CARROLL'S works, when all they really cared for was TENNIEL'S illustrations of them. In the honest freedom of the nursery, CARROLL was cast under the sofa, while the child, free from the tyranny of the Boom, solaced himself or herself, on the hearthrug, with "Robinson Crusoe."

Another interesting example was the OSCAR WILDE Epigram Boom. Samples of the article were occasionally observed embedded in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, at the recent revival of that piece at the St. James's; but they are rare in that particular play. Yet, at one time, the OSCAR WILDE epigram was "all the rage." Mr. HENRY ARTHUR JONES, yielding perforce to its vogue, worked up most of the "society" dialogue in *The Masqueraders* in this style; indeed, it was generally adopted by all dramatists. Yet the specially WILDE-ian epigrams in *Lady Windermere's* Fan hardly got a laugh at the revival. They had had their Boom.

At the bottom of every Boom there is Talent. It is curious to notice, however, that it is not the enduring, but the ephemeral qualities of the author which create the Boom. His affectations and eccentricities are, so to speak, the Big Drum which calls the people into the booth. Once inside, he has only to let the intrinsic merit of his work "tell." In examining a Boom, we must always separate the sterling from the trashy element.

We are now passing through a BERNARD SHAW Boom; or, perhaps, it would be more accurate to state that it is passing over *us*. We confess that, with certain exceptions—a reference to a notice in this issue will show we include *How He Lied to Her Husband* amongst the number—Mr. SHAW'S work irritates us. We are quite impenitent on this point. We feel we do well to be angry—or, at any rate, regretfully disturbed—when a man of such priceless gifts as Mr. SHAW'S, a man who occasionally displays such a real and remarkable instinct for stage-craft, and whose exquisitely humorous power is obvious to the naked eye, renders so much of his work ephemeral and unsatisfactory by what appears to be mere careless conceit or sheer love of paradox. Many of his cleverest plays, such as *The Philanderer* and *You Never Can Tell*, are mere jumbles of incidents, thrown together with a self-complacent inconsequence which insults the commonsense of the spectator. And the worst of it is that in Mr. SHAW'S case the irrationality and bad workmanship are *essential* to these plays. WILDE with all his "frillings," had the instinct of the Good Workman. Consequently, his work lives. *Lady Windermere's Fan*, so far from being egoistic, "cranky," or badly-constructed, is one of the simplest, most sincere, and 'actable" pieces of the epoch. *The Importance of Being Earnest*, airy and whimsical as it is, is thoroughly workmanlike in its plan and development. For WILDE was clever enough to realise that when he had to go out of his "Society" clique, and appeal to the General Public, it was a case of "no more nonsense." This is where Mr. SHAW is less perspicuous than was Mr. WILDE.

We regard, therefore, the present Craze for Mr. SHAW'S plays as in the nature of a Boom on the Stock Exchange. Financially, we estimate shares in "SHAW, Limited," as fit for speculative purchase, but not suited for investment. How much of Mr. SHAW'S peculiarity is "pose," and how much is natural and spontaneous, we cannot say. The author of *Candida* has already attributed to himself three personalities; possibly he possesses even more. What we desire to emphasise is that there is no instance on record of careless workmanship surviving the test of time. The Chippendale chair endures years of wear and tear; the cheap machine-made modern article soon goes to pieces.

It often happens, however, that having attained to a Boom chiefly by his oddities, an author finds that he can afford to "go in his doublet and hose." This transformation often takes place just at the point most desirable for the writer's improvement—*i.e.*, that at which he is admitted into what used to be described as the *beau monde*, and is able to look about him and "take notes." Mr. SHAW, we fancy, has reached this point. He tells us in one of his prefaces that, when he was a younger man, he refused to go into Society for fear his character should be injured by evil associations. That objection has probably been removed by increased age. Mr. SHAW, as he told the readers of *The Clarion* last week, is now a landlord and a capitalist; and we understand that he is also a married man. We wrote the other day that he was "incorrigible"; but *How He Lied to Her Husband* gives us hope. We look to BERNARD SHAW, as we once looked to OSCAR WILDE, to write for us a real "modern classic" in the way of comedy. Shall we be as deeply disappointed in the one case as we were in the other? We wonder.

MR. NEWMAN MAURICE, who started the duties of acting-manager at the Grand Theatre on Monday, held for a considerable period a similar position at Terriss's Theatre, Rotherhithe, and has been for the past fifteen years associated with Messrs. Walter and Fredk. Melville. As a matter of fact, Mr. Maurice originated practically all the comedy parts in the plays written by the Melville brothers, and he has frequently on tour combined acting with management. For a period of seven years Mr. Maurice ran the Bijou Theatre, Teddington, which, it may be remembered, was burnt to the ground last December, resulting in a serious loss to its lessee. Mr. Maurice's wife is professionally known as Miss Rose Moncrieff. That lady has just finished a successful pantomime engagement in the *Red Riding Hood* pantomime written by her husband.

"THE SQUAWMAN" is the title of a new play written by Edwin Milton Royle, which is to be produced in New York on Easter Monday with Mr. William Faversham in the title-rôle. It tells the story of an Englishman who is travelling in the West, and who falls in love with an Indian girl, and marries her. There are two scenes laid in America, and one in England. For this production Mr. Faversham has been "loaned" by Mr. Charles Frohman to Messrs. Liebler and Co.

MR. J. T. GREIN, in a lecture on State-aided theatres at the Passmore Edwards Institute, on Monday, said that he had found by experience that very few people in England knew what was meant by subsidised theatres. At the present time France, the most artistic country in the world, led the way in the matter of State-aided theatres, for in Paris there were no fewer than four. To the Comédie-Française the State gave £9,000 a year, and exercised some right of selection in the plays produced. The actor's point in regard to the Comédie-Française was that it was the acme of his ambition; it inspired him to do great things, and after five years' service at it he was assured of comfort for the rest of his life. In Germany the little city of Weimar contributed £75,000 that it might have the best plays of its best dramatists played in the best manner. In the matter of theatres we had plenty—too many. In ten to twenty years there would be such a slump in theatres as would possibly put an awful check on this form of speculation. One proof that our public was amenable to good plays was the success of one when it came. In his opinion the public did not care a rap whether a play was under dressed or over dressed, but it did care for good plays—plays with grip in them and properly acted.

MR. TREE ON ACTING.

There is nothing so interesting as the views of a man on a subject which he thoroughly understands, and the information which a representative of the *London Magazine* has extracted from Mr. Beerbohm Tree on "How to Act" is both valuable and readable.

"The first attribute required among the natural endowments for the actor's calling is, in my opinion," says Mr. Tree, "that peculiar temperament which informs all he does and all he is taught. You may call it the artistic temperament if you choose. It is this which enables him to be versatile in his nature, and to have the mimicry of the mind which enables him to present that copy of Nature which is called art. So far as the general education of the individual goes, I believe one must know, or, let me say, one must understand, a little of everything rather than everything of one thing, which the ordinary educationalist insists upon. Certainly, everything the actor does know or understand he will find very useful. Thus a knowledge of music, for instance—it need not be too profound a knowledge—is a great advantage to the actor. And the same holds good with regard to all the arts. In that little knowledge, which is supposed to be dangerous in most walks of life, is the desideratum of the stage artist.

"For him, too much reading, however good it might be for certain other callings, I hold to be destructive rather than otherwise of the imaginative faculty; and it is the imaginative faculty which the actor should cultivate in every way and by every means in his power. On the other hand, the actor should have a bowing acquaintance with all the European languages, so that he may be able to pronounce correctly any foreign words which may happen to fall into his part, and audiences may be spared half-a-dozen or more pronunciations of simple French, German, or Italian words and names, as is so often the case on the stage at present. From what I have said, you will have gathered that I do not regard a university education as advantageous to the actor, since it is not particularly calculated to open up the artistic mind. The actor (may I go so far as to say?) must have an original observation, and therefore be detached, as it were, from other people. If he sees everything in that conventional onlook which a too rigid regard for what is called good form is apt to generate, it is impossible for him to give an original point of view to his impersonation; and acting must be individual in its conception and representation. In this respect my counsel would be: 'Always do what you think you ought to do, and never listen to advice.'

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES.

"Since you insist on my drawing on my personal experiences for an exemplification of this cultivation of the original point of view, I will confess that after I played the Rev. Robert Spalding in *The Private Secretary* I was strongly urged and tempted by pecuniary considerations to go away and continue playing the part. I refused to do this, as I did not want to become a fly in amber; and I went and played Macari in *Called Back*, and Macari is the very antithesis to *The Private Secretary*. Again, I used to be told that I must never try to play into the domain of Shakespeare. That, however, has now all passed away; and after all it is only right that a man should fight for everything that he wants to achieve. To return, however, to the general question of education, I think that, notably among women, too refined and genteel an education is by no means the best for the stage, where emotions and their expressions have of necessity to be uppermost, for the natural tendency of education is, as you are aware, towards the suppression of the representation, if not of the perception, of emotion. Essentially necessary is what I may call a general social education of a very wide nature, a general knowledge of 'how to behave' under any given circumstance, so that the audience does not have to criticise as incorrect certain actions which its own knowledge or intelligence knows to be different from the way in which they are represented on the stage. Happily, I think all English actors have this general education to a much greater extent than the French, who are always held up for our admiration, for you rarely see on the French stage a modern actor gifted with distinction of manner.

"I am a strong believer in a study of Shakespeare, but I am also alive to the fact that, say in a modern farce, one great essential in the art of acting can be learnt by the apt pupil—the value of pace apart from naturalness. In this regard, as is well known, Monsieur le Bargy, the distinguished teacher at the Paris Conservatoire, is a staunch advocate. To my mind, however, the greatest of all the technical requirements of the actor is instinct. It is greater than learning. It is inherited knowledge. By every means in his power the actor should develop this quality. A knowledge of dancing, fencing, pantomime, gesture, the art of speaking out, is useful; but, having acquired them, you must throw them away, or at least you must appear not to use them, remembering always the maxim which was formulated in the words, 'Summa ars est celare artem'—the highest art is that which conceals artifice.

NOTHING EQUALS INSTINCT.

"I have said the greatest of all the actor's equipments is instinct. In this connection, since again you insist on my personal experience, I will give you an illustration. I remember, when I had been about a year on the stage, I was introduced to the late Dion Boucicault. He was good enough to compliment me on a performance of mine which he had just seen. 'What I most liked about you,' he said, 'was that you have all the tricks of the trade.' And he inquired how long I had been on the stage. I told him, and asked what he meant by 'the tricks of the trade.' 'For one thing,' he replied, 'you allowed its appropriate gesture to slightly precede the speech it was illustrating.' 'Did I?' I answered. 'I did not know it. Perhaps if I had known it I should have done it wrongly.' In the same way, I remember, when I was a comparative novice, studying Darwin's 'Expressions of the Emotions.' I studied them very thoroughly and deeply. But I found in practice that I could not help doing the very things which he had shown us by means of descriptions and illustrations. I came to doing by instinct what he demonstrated by science should be done.

FREEDOM OF GESTURE.

"On the stage, gesture should be free and broad. You see the freedom and breadth of gesture when anyone is in a passion, for it is then that he goes to the end of gesture, and is broad and forcible. On the other hand, the man or woman who would be an actor has to remember that more forceful than gesture is, at times, the force of no gesture at all; and it is necessary to learn where this should not be used. The whole question how far technique should be taught is, in my opinion, a very subtle one; for in just the same way as one can be taught to think by machinery, as it were, so in the same way one can get to act mechanically, and to rely on technical training and become a machine to represent emotion.

REALISM IN ACTING.

"When you ask me how far the actor should cast off the conditions of real life on the stage when representing the emotions of the character he is impersonating you open up a subject which is very wide. To my mind, the more you can imagine a thing, the more nearly you can live it, the better you can act or represent it. In this connection the artistic representation of an event in life will frequently touch one even more than will the actuality itself. Thus, one may be moved to tears by an imaginary sorrow which, if one met it in private life, one would pass stoically by. This expression, you see, opens up another question: whether the would-be actor should shed real tears on the stage or not.

"Personally, I do not think there is any harm in the real tears, but on this point, again, it is impossible to lay down any hard and fast rule. I have heard many able persons maintain that the actor should not feel emotion while he is on the stage. According to these authorities, his emotion should be felt in studying the part, and he should reproduce the result of that study in exactly the same way as he reproduces the study of his lines. On the other hand, no less able persons have maintained just the opposite; and you will find many actors and actresses who do cry on the stage.

"For myself, I will admit that I prefer to have the feeling I am representing, and to act when the illusion is complete for me; but there are others who do not think with me."

A VEDRENNE-BARKER MATINEE.

On Monday afternoon, March 1, for the first time in England, the Play, in One Act, by Bernard Shaw, entitled

"HOW HE LIED TO HER HUSBAND."

He	MR. GRANVILLE BARKER
She	MISS GERTRUDE KINGSTON
Her Husband	MR. A. G. POULTON

How He Lied to Her Husband has been described as a travesty on *Candida*. It is nothing of the kind. A travesty is created when a serious piece is made absurd by exaggerating its sentiments. The leading sentiment of *Candida* is the Mother-Spirit of the Woman choosing the most dependent of two men, simply because he needs her help the more. Any "travesty" of *Candida*, therefore, must run on the lines of exaggerating this sentiment till it becomes ridiculous. *How He Lied to Her Husband* has "nothing to do with the case." Mrs. Bumpus is no more like Candida than Bumpus is like the clergyman husband; and the Poet in the alleged travesty does not in the least "burlesque" the youth in the East-End play. What Mr. Shaw has done is simply to take the old trio of the wife, lover, and husband, and treat it with such an unexpected, ingenious, and amusing dénouement that one is plunged into surprise, admiration, and merriment.

A sentimental poet—name not given—has been "hanging around" Mrs. Bumpus, a rather attractive and socially ambitious South Kensington hostess. He has written some "red-hot" love poems to her, addressing her by her Christian name, Aurora. These poems have been stolen by a spiteful sister-in-law, who is likely to show them to Mr. Bumpus; and Aurora persuades the Poet to deny that the verses were addressed to her. Confronted with the husband, he does so; but the result is curious. Instead of being pacified, Bumpus is deeply offended by the suggestion that his wife has not been deemed worthy of the Poet's amorous worship; and the irritation arising from what Bumpus looks upon as an insult to his wife—whom a Royal Duke had to desert, because he felt her attraction for him becoming too powerful—leads to an actual fistic conflict, which, by the bye, is a little too farcical for the rest of the piece, and might well be omitted. In the end, the Poet retires in disgust, and the audience goes away delighted.

The piece was most cleverly acted. Miss Gertrude Kingston, who had been most fortunately secured to play She, hit off exactly the social type indicated, and treated the part with just the right amount of sly artistic malice, and, at the same time, with admirable unconsciousness and seriousness. Mr. Granville Barker embodied the Poet almost flawlessly, his appearance, diction, and style being all irreproachable. Mr. A. G. Poulton realised to the full the common-place but uxorious Bumpus, and threw great energy into that individual's angry remonstrances. Altogether, the performance was a most enjoyable one. *How He Lied to Her Husband* evoked hearty laughter throughout, and was received with vigorous expressions of approval. Mr. Shaw's piece was immediately preceded by a translation by Christopher Horne from the German of Arthur Schnitzler, entitled

"IN THE HOSPITAL."

Karl Rademacher	MR. J. D. BEVERIDGE
Florian Schubart	MR. GEORGE TROLLOPE
Alexander Weihgart	MR. RUDGE HARDING
Dr. Lantner	MR. HOWARD STURGE
Dr. Tann	MR. EDMUND GWENN
Juliana Paschanda	MISS ISABEL GREY

In the Hospital is a gruesome but strong little piece. It gives great opportunities to the representative of the leading rôle, Karl Rademacher, a disappointed journalist, who is dying in poverty and in a hospital, bitter in his hatred of his old acquaintance, an important poet and dramatist named Alexander Weihgart. Rademacher takes into his confidence an actor named Florian Schubart, and tells him that Weihgart's wife was his (Rademacher's) mistress. The exhaustion of this revelation, however, subdues the dying man, and when Weihgart, a pompous, heartless worldling, comes to see his old "friend," Rademacher refrains from any revelations, and dies peacefully, in scornful contempt of Weihgart's pettiness. Mr. J. D. Beveridge was very impressive and thrilling as the moribund journalist, and acted with an intensity and earnestness which riveted the attention. One only realises what a fine actor Mr. Beveridge is when one sees him in a rôle worthy of his talents. Mr. George Trollope's Florian Schubart had a touch of the weird which was very effective, and he acted with tense energy and acute emphasis; and Mr. Rudge Harding's Weihgart was the essence of sleek prosperity and callous platitude. A great merit of this production was the care with which the details were worked out, the little parts of the Doctors and the Nurse having highly efficient and very conscientious exponents in Mr. Howard Sturge, Mr. Edmund Gwenn, and Miss Isabel Grey. The opening attraction of the afternoon was Mr. W. B. Yeats's Irish play, *A Pot of Broth*, which was noticed by us on its first production in London by the Irish National Theatre. Mr. Robert Pateman, as the plausible tramp, with his story about his magic stone, was full of persuasive appeal, and acted with an unction and earnestness that had their full value; Miss Amy Lamborn was a type of Irish peasant beauty as the credulous wife; and Mr. George Tully was quietly humorous as the easy-going husband. The Vedrenne-Barker matinées are certainly unique in the variety of their interest, and offer to epicures in dramatic fare a most tempting and appetising *ménu*. It is a real luxury to see such uncommon and original works performed with so much talent, care, and appreciation; and we are glad to know that the matinées are so successful.

MR. SAMUEL JAMES, the managing-director of the company now in possession of the Grand Theatre, Islington, informs us that it has been decided to run a few musical plays at the Grand, in order to break the monotony of the dramatic programmes. It is the intention of Mr. James—who, by the way, controls theatres at Hammersmith, Croydon, Windsor, Houghton, and Hetton—to select a stock company from his different playhouses, and to add to this one or two star artistes. Mr. George Davey has still an interest in the Grand, he having purchased £500 worth out of the £7,000 debenture shares offered to the public.

THE Bournemouth licensing magistrates on Thursday granted Mr. Mouillot a music and dancing licence for the Boscombe Hippodrome, recently known as the Grand Theatre, with the restriction that there was to be no promenade and no intoxicants. The application was strongly opposed.

THE SHAKESPEARE MEMORIAL.

The LORD MAYOR presided at a meeting which was held at the Mansion House on Tuesday afternoon, to forward the movement towards a Shakespeare memorial in London. There was a large attendance.

PROFESSOR GOLLANCZ, the hon. secretary, said that among hundreds of communications received was a telegram from Sir Henry Irving, who had looked forward to the meeting with great interest, and had hoped against hope to be present. He had sent Mr. Bram Stoker as his representative. Meetings had been held during the year at His Majesty's Theatre, and the provisional committee, which included Sir Henry Irving, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Sir Alma Tadema, R.A., the Hon. J. H. Choate, Lord Reay, Lord Avebury, Sir E. J. Poynter, P.R.A., Mr. George Meredith, Dr. F. J. Furnivall, Sir R. C. Jebb, M.P., Sir A. W. Rücker, and Mr. Frederic Harrison, would that day be merged into a general committee, at the head of which would be Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll. Amongst its 238 members were the Duke of Norfolk, the Duchess of Marlborough, Earl Roberts, the Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Alverstone, M. Paul Cambon, the French Ambassador; Count Paul Wolff-Metternich, the German Ambassador; Count Albert Mensdorff-Pouilly-Dietrichstein, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador; M. Alberto Pansa, the Italian Ambassador; also the Belgian, Bolivian, Brazilian, Chinese, Danish, Greek, the Netherlands, Portuguese Ministers, and Viscount Hayashi, the Japanese Minister; the Countess of Warwick, Lord Brassey, Lord Rothschild; the Lord Mayors of Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, and the Lord Provost of Glasgow; and the Agents-General of all the Colonies.

DR. FURNIVALL moved that the meeting approved of the proposal for a Shakespeare memorial in London, and sanctioned a list of names as members of the general committee, the list to be further added to.

MR. H. BEERBOHM TREE, in seconding, said various suggestions had been made for the memorial. There was, for instance, the scheme of a Shakespeare House, library, and statue. Then there was the idea of a national theatre. Personally, he thought such an enterprise would be fraught with danger. It would necessitate a capital of a quarter to half a million sterling, and such an attempt would, he thought, be contrary to the genius of the English people, for in this country it is not systems, but individuals, that counted in any cause. Certainly, whatever status the British drama might have attained, and whatever honour the drama of Shakespeare had received in the theatre, had been due to the enthusiasm, the initiation, the personal responsibility and ambition of individuals. Every night this week the works of Shakespeare were played at no less than four London theatres—a record that had not hitherto been reached. Shortly, too, Sir Henry Irving, who was rapidly recovering from an attack of overwork, would happily once more be appearing in Shakespeare on the London boards. Apart from the question of a national theatre, there was the suggestion that a theatre should be established by the municipality under the ægis of the County Council; but he wondered whether the business-like instinct which that body had already shown in relation to water-works and trams could be exhibited with anything like the same success in the conduct of a theatre. If they looked through the different capitals of Europe, did it not seem a singular and remarkable thing that everywhere in the squares and the boulevards the men who had done big deeds received such honour as could be paid them by a monument of stone or of bronze? We, too, should rear in marble or in bronze some definite image of the man who was the world's greatest poet. Surely to-day there existed some artists of the first rank who were capable of giving us such a statue, and even if, through sheer necessity, we had to go abroad—well, this was an international tribute to Shakespeare. Art belonged to no country. The nations of the world were in alliance with us in honouring the world's poet. Should there be any means left, let them devote that surplus to such a purpose that he who for centuries had ministered to the minds of the English people might through this memorial assuage their bodily sufferings. We could not make Shakespeare greater by marble or stone or bronze; his powerful rhyme would outlive any statue that could be raised to him, but we could honour this age by paying our tribute of gratitude and of pride to England's greatest mind.

MR. BRAM STOKER declared that the meeting could not possibly determine the form of a memorial, but it would be well if they should announce with no uncertain sound that such a monument should be erected. Something should be done for this man who had done so much for England and English literature.

The motion was agreed to.

LORD REAY, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor, hoped that the competition for the monument would be open to the whole world. MR. SIDNEY LEE seconded the resolution, and with the thanks of the Lord Mayor the proceedings terminated.

MESSRS. J. M. BARRIE, W. S. Gilbert, Arthur W. Pinero, and others have signed a protest in which they express their fullest sympathy with everything that honours the name of Shakespeare. They continue:—The greater the enthusiasm with which that illustrious name is received by every class of cultivated Englishmen, the more careful should we be to guard against well-intentioned but erroneous and dangerous modes of celebration. We hope that the scheme of the committee of the proposed Shakespeare Memorial may not be started without a great deal of careful consideration. Such a "Shakespeare House" as is proposed, consisting of museum, library, and lecture-hall, would be superfluous, and even embarrassing. All the authentic and interesting relics of Shakespeare, together with many others which are neither interesting nor authentic, are already assembled at Stratford-on-Avon. Any museum which could be formed in London would be a rubbish-heap of trivialities. Any Shakespeare library would be hopelessly inferior, whatever sum of money were squandered upon it, to the collection in the library of the British Museum. It is difficult to conceive of anything more superfluous than a Shakespeare lecture-hall, as accommodation exists on every hand for all the lecturing that can reasonably be desired, and for much that is of doubtful utility.

MUSIC, like "play-acting," runs in families, and one need therefore express no surprise at the success of the eldest son of Mr. Norman Salmond at the Royal College of Music, where he has gained a scholarship for the violin. The distinguished father helped to bear aloft the banner of English opera at the new house particularly devoted to that delightful form of the art built by the late D'Oyly Carte, and he opened in 1891 in *Ivanhoe*. The Royal English Opera House became, as we all know, the Palace, a house that—as has been shown during the past week—is again identifying itself with the lighter forms of lyrical work.

"A TANGLED SKEIN," a play in one act, by H. Tuite, was produced for copyright purposes at the Royalty Theatre, Glasgow, on the 24th ult.

MR. P. J. COOKE and the students of the elocution classes of the Northern Polytechnic, Holloway, will give an "open night" Shakespearean and humorous recital on Thursday evening next. A feature of the recital will be the perorations by Mr. Cooke of some of Sir Edward Clarke's forensic speeches.

MUSIC HALL GOSSIP.

Captain Jessel's Bill "to amend the law relating to public entertainment" will no doubt excite considerable controversy as to whether it will have the effect of bringing about a lasting settlement of what has so long been a vexed question. One of its main objects is to at once put a stop to the prosecutions of music hall managers for producing "stage-plays," by legalising the production under certain conditions of ballets and sketches in all theatres or varieties.

The measure is thus worded:

1. It shall be lawful in any music hall or theatre of varieties, licensed and kept for public dancing, music, or other entertainment of the like kind, publicly to present any ballet, ballet-divertissement, or ballet d'action, and those performances commonly called sketches, with or without dialogue, if no more than six principal performers take part therein, and if there shall be an interval of at least thirty minutes between any two such ballets or sketches, and no two ballets or sketches performed on the same day at such place of public entertainment shall have a connected plot. Provided that—

(*a*) No ballet, ballet-divertissement, or ballet d'action shall exceed seventy-five minutes in duration.

(*b*) No sketch shall exceed forty minutes in duration.

2. Any person may for hire act or present or cause or permit to be acted or presented any part in any such ballet or sketch aforesaid.

3. This Act may be cited as the Public Entertainment Act, 1905, and shall apply only to Great Britain.

The Bill is backed by five Unionist members (Captain Jessel, Mr. W. F. D. Smith, Sir Robert Mowbray, Sir Ernest Flower, and Major Jameson), one Liberal (Mr. Macnamara), and two Labour representatives (Mr. Crooks and Mr. Shackleton). The second reading has been provisionally fixed for Monday.

Though Miss Marie Lloyd is making an excellent recovery from her recent indisposition, it is impossible to say at present when she will be able to resume her professional engagements. She is staying at Brighton, and was able to pay a visit to the local Alhambra one day this week.

Unthan, "the armless wonder," caused considerable sensation on Wednesday when he accomplished the remarkable feat of so driving a phaeton from the Shepherd's Bush Empire to the Bank of England. Mr. Walter Digby, the well-known trainer of trotting horses, had promised him £25 if he succeeded, and provided the carriage and pair. Unthan, prior to the start, was photographed seated in a motor-car, a vehicle which he also drives as an expert, despite his physical deficiencies. When the armless wonder took his seat on the box and held out his feet for the reins he was wearing a 'bus driver's square hat and a pair of best silk "driving" stockings. At Shepherd's Bush Green a great crowd collected for hours before the start, and as Unthan waved his feet gleefully on taking his seat, a great cheer went up. Shortly before one o'clock Herr Unthan arrived safely in the City, having successfully accomplished 18 miles of the most difficult travelling in London.

On Monday next there will be considerable changes in the programme at the Empire. Mr. Bransby Williams, the well-known impersonator, will introduce, for the first time, a new monologue scena entitled *The Last of His Race*, by Miss Beatrice de Burg, the music by Cuthbert Clark. Other new turns are Rose and Harry Lubline, as mischievous servants; the Novikoffs, a Russian troupe of singers and dancers; Charles Montrell, in a juggling act; and the Three Eitners, wire walkers. In addition there will be Miss Anna Hickisch, who will sing popular ballads; Mdlle. Marquis and her highly trained ponies; the biograph with some new pictures; and the new fairy divertissement, *The Dancing Doll*, with Mdlle. Genée in the principal part.

Mr. C. W. Walker, the blind negro music hall comedian, with his charming coloured wife, Miss Ida May, has arrived in London on a tour of the variety theatres. Mr. Walker feared that if his blindness was known to music hall managers and the public his sole means of livelihood would be cut off, and so for over a year he has danced and sang with his secret unguessed even. But this week, for the first time, those outside his circle of personal friends have been told the truth, and Mr. Walker has been overwhelmed with sympathetic messages and congratulations on the skill with which in the past he has kept his audiences "in the dark" as to his misfortune.

Madame Roma's Aerial Wrestling Girls, whose gymnastic exercises in the air constitute a novelty in the English music halls, provide an exceedingly graceful turn, and excitement as well as admiration is caused by the movements of the dozen young girls who strive for mastery over one another while clinging to poles which hang perpendicularly from a cross-bar. So successful has been the show that Mr. Adney Payne re-engaged it after the first performance at the Oxford.

Miss Winifred Hare, always a charming vocalist and actress, will find quite her right environment at the Coliseum, where she will appear on Monday, March 13. She will present two songs, "Little Brown Dove," by Hannen Swaffer and Hermann Darewski, jun., and "Banish Sorrow," by the late Frederick Clay, who wrote *Lalla Rookh*, and whose muse was silent—poor fellow!—some time before his premature death. We hear nothing of *Lalla Rookh* now, though most of our leading tenors have familiarised us with one of its gems of melody, "I'll sing thee songs of Araby."

Judging from the warm reception Mr. Lennox Barry, the newly-appointed manager of the Battersea Empire, obtains when he appears on the stage to announce any special event, it would appear that Mr. Barry has in a very short time, by his courtesy and excellent management, made himself extremely popular with all his patrons, and the directors are to be congratulated on their choice of such an able gentleman to represent their interests. A special matinée is now being given at this hall every Wednesday at reduced prices, and if the attendance last Wednesday is any criterion, Mr. Barry has inaugurated a class of entertainment which should prove very popular with Batterseaites.

At the Battersea Empire on Monday was produced *The Right Road*, a very smart and well-written duologue, by Walter Hast and F. Warden Reed, the latter gentleman giving a most effective performance of Captain Jack, a society swindler. He was well supported by Miss Helen Grenville, who, as Nellie, scored well by her sympathetic rendering of the part. The duologue was handsomely staged, and was received with much favour.

Miss Dolly Harmer will produce a new low comedy song, by Carl Howard, at the Oxford, on Monday evening, entitled "All Scotch."

Owing to the success of the revival of *Over the Sticks* at the Oxford, the run will be continued till the termination of Mr. Joe Elvin's present engagement on the 18th inst. On Monday, the 13th inst., the popular comedian will produce a new comedy-farce, written by Wal Pink, music by George Le Brunn, with a special elaborate scene by Syd Cook, entitled *Out all Night*. This will be produced by Mr. Jesse Sparrow at the Camberwell Palace.

Mr. Alf. Leonard, of the Norman Leonard Trio, and Mr. Ryder Slone were the principal actors in what might have been a very serious accident on Tuesday at Swansea. While Mr. Leonard was at the piano rehearsing Cruikshank in a new song, Mr. Slone took deliberate aim at the player with a Derringer rifle (which, of course, he did not know was loaded), and put a bullet through the player's hat, grazing the crown of his head, and stunning him for a moment. Mr. Leonard is very gratified to learn that his friend Slone has decided to abandon rifle practice for the future.

Miss Vesta Tilley's motor-car, and incidentally her chauffeur, fell foul of the Birmingham police during her recent visit to that city, and, as the result of an obstruction, the latter, whose name is James Bousall, appeared at the Birmingham Police-court on Tuesday morning last. On the evening of the 16th ult. Bousall was waiting with the car outside the Grand Hotel, where the popular music hall artiste was staying, and in a few minutes a crowd collected round the car. As the crowd increased, a police sergeant and a constable requested the chauffeur to "move on," but the latter absolutely refused to budge. Mr. H. J. Manton, a magistrate, gave evidence. He said that he saw the crowd, and made inquiries as to the cause of the obstruction. The police officers were helpless. Mr. Milward appeared for the defence. The Bench concluded that the case was the penalty of popularity. The man should, however, have moved off when directed, but they thought the case would be met by payment of the costs.

The Two Bees, of *Hiawatha* fame, had a great reception at the start of their second week's engagement at the Palace, Aberdeen. The comic business supplied was entirely different from the previous week, and, if anything, even better. The principal change, however, was, instead of *Hiawatha's Wooing, Hiawatha Wed*, produced for the first time in Aberdeen. The sketch was a most unqualified success, and though the same sort of "catchy" chorus was not introduced, the scenic effects were magnificent, and applause interrupted the show several times, while at the end the two skilled artistes had repeatedly to bow their acknowledgments.

The numerous friends of Mr. Harry Burns, the energetic manager of the Empress Varieties, Hartlepool, will be pleased to learn that after an absence extending over nearly three months, through illness, that gentleman is once again able to resume his duties. He is to be heartily congratulated on his recovery from an illness which at one time assumed a most serious aspect.

Dr. Walford Bodie has been breaking all records at the Tivoli, Leeds. Last week hundreds were turned away at every performance, and so great has the nightly crush been, that Mr. Waller, the manager, had to apply to the Chief Constable for extra police. The scene at the doors nightly baffles description. The crowd commences to gather about four o'clock, waiting two hours till the opening of the early doors. Dr. Bodie is the talk of Leeds and district for miles around. No show that has ever visited Leeds has caused such a sensation. The gross takings last week at cheap prices (2d., 4d., and 6d.) were £667 0s. 3d., and this week the Doctor is beating his last week's record, playing to much over £100 nightly. He visits London again soon.

Dr. Walford Bodie has just purchased, through his solicitor (Mr. J. J. George), the Town Clerk of Macduff, another large block of buildings, and also the Corporation Baths, which he intends to transform into an up-to-date hydro. The Doctor has lately made extensive purchases of land and property in Macduff and district, and he is now one of the largest property owners in the famous little town. Plans have been passed, and building operations have commenced, for the erection of a large mansion for the Doctor's family at a cost of over £3,000. Messrs. Marshall McKenzie and Co., the well-known architects of London and Aberdeen, are the architects. The design, which is old English, is by Dr. Bodie himself. When completed, the Laird of Macduff, as the Doctor is styled, may be seen more at his beautiful Highland home.

Mr. Arthur Lennard, who, as we announced last week, was seriously injured by being thrown out of an Irish jaunting car, was determined that he would not disappoint his numerous Liverpool admirers, and appeared at the Empire in that city on Monday night. Mr. Lennard, although suffering considerable pain, and carrying his arm in a sling, made a great hit with his clever songs, and was the recipient of quite an ovation upon making his welcome appearance.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Bayne have made a genuine and deserved success with a refined and dramatic duologue, *An Emperor's Divorce*, at the Palace, Manchester, this week, in which Mr. Bayne repeats his well-known impersonation of Napoleon I., and Miss Evelyn Hope secures the sympathy of her audience in her pathetic rendering of Josephine.

"His One Great Sin," a new and original dramatic sketch written by Albert Guyon, was produced at the Metropole, Manchester, on Monday, and scored an immediate success, being at once booked by Mr. W. B. Broadhead for five of his variety theatres. The cast included Albert Guyon and Little Vera.

The Bijou Empire (late Empire), Grimston-street, Hull, has been redecorated, painted, and re-seated. Other improvements include an installation of the electric light, and entire new scenery has also been provided. The hall will reopen on the 13th inst., and will be run on lines equal to that of any provincial variety place of amusement. Mr. Fred Thorne, variety agent, is the sole responsible and booking manager.

Mr. Charles Coborn, that extremely versatile comedian, is favouring our Scottish cousins at the Empire, Glasgow, with a song in the Gaelic tongue. Next week, at Aberdare, he will warble to the Welsh in their native Cymraeg.

Mr. T. Allan Edwardes, the proprietor of the Palace (Derby), Hippodrome (Stoke-on-Trent), Palace (Attercliffe, Sheffield), Hippodrome (Grimsby), and Grand Theatre (Derby), has taken a well-earned holiday. At present he is visiting Paris, Nice, Monte Carlo, and other watering places in the south of France.

Dr. J. C. Oliver and Mdlle. Jeanetta are still in "Bonnie Scotland," where they have had continuous and successful engagements during the past twelve months.

Messrs. John P. Harrington and George Le Brunn have "placed" their latest "free" song, published by Messrs. Francis, Day and Hunter, and entitled "Queen of the Coral Isles," with several leading music hall artistes, and the demand for "singing permissions" is daily increasing. The author and composer are the proud recipients of a letter, commencing: "Mr. Seymour Hicks begs to thank you for the song, which he thinks delightful."

Dainton and Croger will shortly exploit on the stage of one of our leading West-End music halls a musical comedy interlude of a novel character, entitled *The Paying Guest*. The libretto and lyrics have been specially written for this accomplished "duo" by Mr. John P. Harrington, while Mr. George Le Brunn is responsible for the music.

Mr. Albert Chevalier has concluded his very successful engagement at the Circle Theatre, and is now appearing at the Orpheum Theatre in Brooklyn, one of the most popular houses in New York's big residential borough. The Circle and the Orpheum are both under the management of Mr. Percy Williams. Mr. Chevalier has had to sing at least three of his old favourites at every performance, which goes to show that, while the Americans are great sticklers for novelty and change, they can be just as loyal and conservative as their English cousins in the matter of old songs. Mr. Chevalier has confided to an interviewer that the theme of that masterpiece of homely pathos, "My Old Dutch," came to him in the midst of a London fog. The first time he sang it, the song was "booed." So he stopped it at that hall. It went very well elsewhere, however, and when he tried it again at the place where it was sung at first, they liked it there, too.

Mr. Chevalier has also recalled an amusing incident of his previous American tour. Being too ill to sing on a certain evening, he sent word to the manager, who made no announcement to the audience until the time came for Chevalier to appear. There was a big house, and everyone was in a high state of expectancy, when the manager went before the curtain, and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, I am sorry to announce that we have just heard that Mr. Chevalier is too ill to appear before you to-night. We have arranged, however, a turn which we believe will fill his place very admirably. I take pleasure in introducing Herr Pfungst and his trained baboon."

Mr. Charles Fisher, the clever and popular operatic artiste, writes from Johannesburg under date Feb. 6:—We had a lovely voyage on board the good ship Walmer Castle, and my party assisted in giving concerts, to the great delight of our fellow-passengers, a special vote of thanks being accorded to my wife and self. We landed at Cape Town Jan. 10 in the morning, and took train at night for Johannesburg. It was a horrible journey—three nights and two days in a railway carriage not big enough to swing a cat round—baking hot, and no food or drinks to be had except at certain stopping places. Having contracted a very bad cold, I arrived at Johannesburg more dead than alive. However, the little condensed "operas" at once hit the taste of the habitues of the well-conducted Empire, and we have created a record for Johannesburg by changing our bill every week.

Mr. Fisher refers in flattering terms to the Empire management, remarking that "it is a pleasure to work for such a firm, and no artiste need have any fear to come out here under their banner. After we opened I received the congratulations of the entire management and directors. This week we are putting on *Il Troratore*, and by the time you receive this letter we shall be playing at the Tivoli, Cape Town."

Referring to Africa's present and future from a theatrical point of view, Mr. Fisher says: As to the present, matters are in a very bad way, because the country is still so unsettled, and money scarce; but when things are settled, and the country once more in a flourishing state, there will be a great field open. Everything, however, must be of the very best. To make money here, the productions must be equal to any London one; there is no room for anything mediocre. Since my visit eight years ago the place has entirely changed. The town is now full of magnificent buildings. There is a splendid market, where you can obtain all kinds of fruit and vegetables, fresh fish, all moderately cheap; and one can live here almost as cheap as at home, but the cooking is "abominable."

Miss Nellie Wilson has proved herself an indefatigable worker in the cause of charity. Mr. Fruin, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, provided Miss Wilson with no fewer than six collecting cards for Mr. Barrasford's appeal for the institution, with the result that the captivating collector has obtained three hundred shillings for the Home, a splendid achievement.

The Criminal Investigation Department Sergeant's annual banquet took place at the Trocadero Restaurant on the 23rd ult. A large number attended, including Mr. H. Curtis-Bennett, Mr. G. G. Kennedy (the well-known Metropolitan magistrates), the Hon. Claude Hay, and many other gentlemen interested in this department. After an excellent dinner, such popular members of the musical profession as Mr. Eugene Stratton, Miss Vesta Victoria, Mr. Leo Stormant, and Miss Eveleen Speed contributed to a long and varied programme. Mr. Stratton introduced his budget of good stories, which were greatly appreciated. Miss Eveleen Speed, a promising young mezzo-soprano, was loudly applauded for her rendering of Tosti's "Good-bye," giving as an encore Lane Wilson's "Carmena" in fine style. Miss Vesta Victoria and Mr. Leo Stormont were naturally received with great approbation, and the various other artistes contributed to make what was undoubtedly a most successful entertainment.

At the Westminster County Court, on Tuesday, a claim was brought for the price of two dresses by Messrs. Harrison, theatrical costumiers, against Miss Kate Hardren and her agent. The dresses were said to have been ordered by the agent, and the lady was to appear at the Palace Theatre to impersonate the "Gibson Girl." Miss Hardren's defence was that she had lost a fortnight's engagement owing to "that awful abortion of a dress" that Messrs. Harrison had sent. In cross-examination, Miss Dhoyl, a dressmaker's assistant, stated that one of the complaints was that the dress was too wide. His Honour: Then the danger was that it might fall off. Mr. Butt, of the Palace Theatre, explained that it was not because of the dress that he did not engage Miss Hardren. Ultimately Miss Hardren was discharged from the case.

Carl and Carr, comedians, have been re-engaged for the pantomime season of 1905-6 by Mr. Arthur Carlton, at a big increase.

A trotting match for a substantial stake will take place between Mrs. Fred Ginnett's mare Cigarette and Miss Gladys Mavius' mare, at Wimberley Park, on Wednesday or Thursday next. The distance is one mile and a half, and the mares will be ridden by their fair owners.

The 395th meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Tuesday afternoon, when there were present Messrs. Harry Freeman, Albert Voyce, Michael Nolan, Harry Wright, Bob Hutt, James Finney, Tom McNaughton, Cliff Ryland, George Gray, Walter Munroe, Joe Elvin, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). Mr. Harry Freeman was voted to the chair. The committee passed a vote of condolence with the widow of Mr. John Thornborrow, their late agent in Newcastle, and afterwards Middlesbrough, and appointed Mr. W. T. Smith, stage-manager of the Empire Palace, Middlesbrough, as agent in that town. A letter was read from Mr. Douglas White resigning his position as hon. treasurer of the Association, and it was decided to write to the effect that the committee had received the letter with much regret, and also asking him to state his reasons for his action. Mr. Charles Pastor was unanimously elected a member of the committee. Dr. John Owen, M.D., F.R.C.S., of Liverpool, was appointed as hon. medical officer. The Secretary reported that 32 new members had joined during the past week, making a total number enrolled since the commencement of 11,374.

"Billy," dubbed the "human-brained" horse, made his first appearance before a metropolitan audience on Monday at the Lyceum. This equestrian wonder was born and bred in Dorsetshire, and is nine years old, having spent five of these in continuous training. His intelligence is remarkable, for he plays cards, is an expert arithmetician, and can tell the time by a watch. Numerous other tricks are performed by this cleverly trained animal.

The monthly committee meeting of the Music Hall Sick Fund was held at the York Hotel on Wednesday last. Mr. Pat Carey (president), occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. Fred Heath (hon. treasurer), W. Wainratta, and Tom Carney. The secretary (Mr. R. T. Baines) reported an addition of ten new members. After some formal business had been transacted, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

The funeral of the late Mr. J. W. Thornborrow, the much-respected manager of the Empire Palace, Middlesbrough, also for several years manager of the Empire, Newcastle-on-Tyne, took place on Wednesday afternoon, at Hammersmith Cemetery. The funeral cortège left the house of his father, 125, Dalling-road, Hammersmith, at two o'clock. Besides the relations of the deceased, a coach conveying a deputation from the Music Hall Artistes' Railway Association, consisting of Messrs. A. Voyce, Jas. Finney, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary), and also Mr. Kahl, secretary of the Empire, Middlesbrough, Limited, followed. Several handsome wreaths were laid on the coffin, amongst them being those from the directors of the Empire, Middlesbrough, the staff of same, friends from Middlesbrough, and the M.H.A.R.A., of which the deceased was for several years agent in Newcastle and Middlesbrough.

Although the piece was only lately produced in the halls, the Ross Clyde Comedy Company are meeting with gratifying success with their farcical sketch called *I Must Have It*. This week, at the Tivoli, Dublin, the Hibernians have roared with laughter at the merry trifle, which is played in the true spirit of farce, and goes with a rattle from start to finish.

Mr. George Sanford, of the well-known duo, Sanford and Lyons, has just undergone a serious operation on the throat. During their highly successful pantomime season at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, Mr. Sanford worked very often under great difficulties in consequence of his throat trouble. His many friends will be pleased to hear that the operation was successfully performed by Mr. Sanford's physician, Dr. Reid. Messrs. Sanford and Lyons commence an engagement at the Grand, Hanley, on Monday; then return to town to open at the Tivoli, the Oxford, and all West-End halls.

Mr. Stratton Mills and Alice Lethbridge are working a sketch in which the gentleman poses as "The Call Boy." The act is fully registered and protected.

Edna Cragge, after appearing in the pantomimes *Sinbad* and *Dick Whittington*, has returned to London, but opens on Monday at the Empire, Wolverhampton, with new dresses and up-to-date songs.

Mr. Alec Hurley is actively rehearsing, at the Oxford, with a view to early production, his new musical comedietta, in three scenes, entitled *The Coster's Beanfeast*, written by John P. Harrington, with music by George Le Brunn. A preliminary announcement of this sketch, from which the title was then withheld, appeared in these columns some months ago.

Frederick Maxwell and his clever company, including Miss Lois Du Cane, in *Lord Harkaway*, will be the chief attraction at the Surrey Theatre next week.

Anglers, of which there are many in the profession, will be interested to learn that the magnificent silver cup, the gift of Mr. Fred Redfern, of the New York Nippers, to the Stockwell Angling Society, was fished for in three matches, the last taking place at Pangbourne, and has been won by Mr. W. Eyke, of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's staff. The cup will be presented to this well-known and keen fisherman this month, on which occasion its holding capacity will be tested to the utmost.

The Duchess Palace, Balham, is scoring heavily this week with a very strong programme, one of the chief attractions being Miss Louie Freear, who made a great hit with "She jest walks on."

Miss Kate Hardren opens at Collins's, on Monday, with her "Gibson Girl" act, and a new song, "It's difficult," written by Mr. J. E. MacManus, and composed by Mr. E. Vousden.

Messrs. C. W. Murphy and Dan Lipton feel very gratified at the great success of Mr. Harry Weldon at the Oxford this week. They have been responsible in the past for most of his songs, and he has some promising numbers in study, also by the same firm.

Pat Carey, after a successful London season, leaves town to-night for the Stoll tour.

Miss Florrie Forde, after a well-earned fortnight's holiday on the Continent, opens on Monday at the Euston, London, and Collins's.

Aryama, the Japanese equilibrist, who has just returned from the Continent, finishes at the Empire, Leicester-square, to-night, after a very successful engagement.

Rezene and Robini, after a most successful tour of three months, return to London on Monday next for one week only at the Cambridge and the Granville, Walham Green.

Mr. Fritz Young has returned to America on business, but will be back again in about three weeks' time. His wonderful new illusion, *A Trip to the Rocky Mountains*, which was the success of the season on the other side last year, will probably be seen at Blackpool this summer.

At the Southwark County-court, on Thursday, Samuel Mundler, a dealer in lighting appliances at Newington-causeway, sued the Surrey Vaudeville Theatre, Ltd., to recover £50 damages for wrongful and violent ejectment from the Surrey Vaudeville. On the night of Jan. 21, said Mr. Harold Brandon, who appeared for the plaintiff, Mr. Mundler and six others went to the Surrey. There were three children, one eight, one six, and the other "an infant in arms, aged two years." Five tickets were first taken, but they were told that six were necessary. Another ticket was paid for at the box-office, where it was stated that the baby would be free. When the party got inside the hall, however, the attendant demanded seven tickets, and when plaintiff explained matters, and was about to take his seat, the attendant seized him by the coat, and flung him through an exit. He fell down, and his spine was injured. Thompson, the check-taker, declared that when he demanded another ticket the plaintiff pushed past him, and the man was simply escorted outside to see the manager. A police-sergeant declared that the party was very excited, and he and an attendant "got behind them, and gradually worked them out of the door." His Honour found for the plaintiff, damages £15, and costs.

A novel turn at the Metropole, Camberwell, on Monday evening, excited considerable interest. Mr. Bardell, a young Scotsman, entered a cage containing wolves and hyenas, and whilst the animals paced around him, freed himself within sixty seconds from three pairs of handcuffs and a pair of leg-irons with which he had been fettered. Next his head and hands were secured in a pillory, from which he as expeditiously extricated himself. His last trick was to effect his escape from a box in which he had been locked, and placed in the cage, his place, after the lapse of a few seconds, being taken by a monkey, whilst he made his re-appearance from the wings.

During a wrestling competition for the district championship at Toulon, on Sunday, one of the competitors, named Saint Feray, when seized by Basso, his adversary, round the waist, fell on his back and could not rise. He had his kidneys crushed, and was at once conveyed to a hospital.

Owing to the great success of Mr. Theodore Jones as Jack Sheppard, in the vocal scena of that title, by A. Voyce, he has secured the theatre and music hall rights, and new scenery and costumes by Morris, Angel and Co. have been specially provided for the coming tour.

Caicedo, the wire king, is meeting with great success in the United States. Writing from Detroit, he says that business is splendid. He adds that he is patiently waiting for English managers' offers for next winter. He wishes to get back as soon as possible to England, where his children are being educated.

Fanny Robina and Florry Cooper have just finished a highly successful tour of six months, and return to London on the 13th with new songs, including "Don't fly away, Robin" and "Right at the Top."

Mr. Andie Caine, after a successful pantomime engagement with Mr. Robert Arthur at the Kennington Theatre, opens on the Livermore tour on Monday, and returns to town in a few weeks with something entirely new.

The Empire, Kilburn, reopens to-night under the management of Mr. Brien McCullough, whose long experience in the halls should enable him to make his venture a certain success. A strong programme will include *The Shaughraun*, cinematograph pictures, and other attractions.

Miss Maude Mortimer finishes to-day a most successful pantomime engagement of thirteen and a half weeks at the Grand Theatre, Glasgow. Miss Mortimer has been in excellent form all through, and played at every one of the 111 performances given. On Monday the popular comedienne opens at the Metropolitan and Islington Empire.

Miss Rose Adams, the talented daughter of Harry Adams (of *On Guard* fame), deputised at the Camberwell Palace last week for Miss Leonard Vernon, and on Saturday night was the recipient of a basket of roses.

By the kind invitation of Mr. Oswald Stoll, the girls of the "Guards' Home" school for daughters of men in the service witnessed the noon performance at the Coliseum on Thursday. Buns and picture postcards of the Coliseum were given to each child at the finish.

The Hanley Theatres and Circus Company has decided to reopen the cosy house in New-street as a variety hall, on the two-houses-a-night system. It is to be called the Empire, and Mr. Alfred Edwardes, who formerly was manager, has been re-engaged for this important position. Variety business is thriving in the Potteries, and the Empire should prove a distinct success.

Mr. Pat Doherty, the Irish Dude, finished a nine weeks' successful engagement at the Islington Grand on Saturday night, having appeared at every performance in the palace scene, and made a big hit with Irish songs and step dances.

Mr. J. J. Dallas, whose great success at the Coronet Theatre at Christmas was "the talk of the town," has made another genuine hit at the London Pavilion, with Miss Bessie Allayne, in *The Bazaar Girl*. Mr. Frank Glenister offered his warm congratulations at the conclusion of their performance.

Walter Leaver, the acting-manager and chairman of the Royal Albert, Canning Town, takes his twentieth annual benefit on Thursday, the 16th inst.

Miss May Henderson, after highly successful Continental tour, at Vienna and Berlin, opens on Monday next at Hippodrome, Eastbourne.

Lauri Wylie, who recently made such a hit at the Oxford with his mimicking mannikin, is this week appearing at Collins's, where his reception each evening is very gratifying.

Miss Florrie Gallimore terminates a most successful Moss and Stoll tour to-night, and will appear for the first time at the Palace, Lancaster, having been specially engaged by Mr. Porter, the manager. The widely popular comedienne is sure to have the very heartiest of welcomes.

Miss Lizzie Beckwith, youngest daughter of the late Prof. Fred Beckwith, and winner of the Ladies' Championship of the World Cup offered at Earl's Court by the *Star* in 1893, died on the 4th ult. at Victor, Colorado.

The secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received the sum of £2 5s. 5d. from Mr. Fred Miller, the result of his effort with the Pence Box at the Canterbury Theatre of Varieties during the past month. The president and committee desire to thank Mr. Miller for his energy on behalf of the fund.

M. Ludwig Amann, the man of many faces, who will appear at the Shepherd's Bush Empire next week, does not, like some so-called impersonators, rely upon false noses, padded cheeks, or half-masks to obtain his effects. He depends only and solely upon ordinary "make-up," and the mobility and extraordinary flexibility of his features, and the almost unnatural control he has over the muscles of his face. It would be difficult to believe, in watching his performance, that it is the same man all the way through, were he not continually in full view of the audience, so completely does he assume the features of the particular individual he is impersonating. M. Amann is a Bavarian, having been born in Munich in 1855. When 23 years of age he commenced his theatrical career by joining the celebrated Duke of Meiningen's Shakespearean company, and it was whilst filling this engagement that he discovered his wonderful gift.

"The police had seized all my properties, and brought them along; so, giving a hurried look at Gourko, I turned to a mirror to 'make up.' It was a very anxious moment, I assure you, for if the General should take exception to my representation of him he had unlimited power to punish me. I adjusted wig and moustache, and summoning all my nerve, turned to the General a duplicate of his own face and overbearing manner. After the lapse of a second or two, but which seemed to me a much longer time, Gourko burst into a roar of laughter. My ordeal was over. The General ordered me to give him some additional impersonations, musicians played for him, and altogether we spent a very jovial evening."

THE LONDON MUSIC HALLS.

THE PALACE.

On Monday evening, Feb. 27, was produced here, for the first time on any stage, an original operetta by Henry A. Lytton, music by A. C. MacKenzie, entitled

"THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROAD."

Rose Merton	MISS B. GASTON-MURRAY
Will O'Dene	MR. HENRY CLAFF
Rupert Wilde	MR. WALTER HYDE
Jack Shadbolt	MR. LESLIE STILES
Tim Fearless	MR. CAIRNS JAMES
Sergeant Slowe	MR. ALEC DAVIDSON

Mr. Alfred Butt, the energetic young manager of the Palace, has made a move in the right direction. The production of such a high-class musical piece as *The Knights of the Road* is a distinctly creditable achievement; and it is to be hoped that the management will receive sufficient encouragement to persevere in a line that is deserving of the hearty support of all who appreciate an entertainment which aims to be artistic as well as pleasing. *The Knights of the Road* may be quoted as a type of musical piece which ought to become popular at the better-class variety theatres. It succeeds by perfectly legitimate means. The fact that the music has been composed by Sir Alexander MacKenzie is alone a sufficient guarantee of its quality; and a fully qualified company of artistes has been engaged for the performance of the novelty. The author of the libretto, Mr. Henry A. Lytton, an old Savoyard, has dealt effectively with the romantic and picturesque side of the highwayman's life. The real Dick Turpin was no doubt a very ordinary individual, but, fostered by the late Harrison Ainsworth's novel of "Rookwood," the halo of romance still clings to his adventurous career; and he remains a hero in the eyes of many a youth who has heard or read of his doughty doings as a cavalier of the road. In the new operetta the leader of the band of highwaymen is known as Will O'Dene, and right gallantly he bears himself as he makes love to Rose Merton, the pretty daughter of the landlord of the old-fashioned country inn, which is the only scene. Will, it seems, has had enough of the hazardous and not altogether reputable life of a highwayman, and he intends to become a soldier, and serve King and country. And it is perhaps just as well that he should quit his risky calling, for even his smart lieutenant, Rupert Wilde, has a fit of "the blues," the result of an accusing conscience, but as his moralising leads to melody, there is every excuse for it. While the jovial lads are melodiously celebrating the betrothal of Will and Rose, their merriment is suddenly checked by the appearance of Sergeant Slowe, of the King's Regiment, with a warrant of arrest; but surely he was a bold, not to say an imprudent man, to trust himself alone amongst the half-dozen offenders against the law. Just what one might expect happens. The sergeant is quickly overpowered, bound to a chair, and gagged, his would-be prisoners making good their escape. The plot, it will be seen, is extremely slight; and the story is mainly told by means of the half-dozen lyrics introduced. Mr. Henry Claff was a robust representative of Will O'Dene, and his fine rendering of the stirring song, "Who'll serve the King?" was greeted with much applause. Mr. Walter Hyde was a handsome and manly Rupert Wilde, and he sang in admirable style, "This portrait set in sapphires." Miss B. Gaston-Murray was a vivacious and winsome Rose Merton, and contributed a song with charming effect. Mr. Cairns James was amusing as Tim Fearless, an exceedingly timorous knight of the road, and he scored with a ditty, "I am so nervous," with a capital chorus. Mr. Leslie Stiles did well as Jack Shadbolt, and Mr. Alec Davidson, as Sergeant Slowe, completed the cast. The madrigal, "Ring the joy bells," was admirably rendered, and a pretty dance was greatly admired. The work done by the orchestra deserves warm commendation; and on the first night Sir Alexander Mackenzie bowed his acknowledgments of the general and hearty applause at the fall of the curtain. This week's bill also includes Miss Ethel Ross-Selwicke and Mr. Charles Esdale in an original duologue, by F. Kinsey Peile; "Little Bobby," Mr. Tom Hearn, Miss Vesta Victoria, Grant and Grant, Mr. Horace Goldin, and Miss Nina Gordon, who gives some clever imitations of well-known favourites.

THE TIVOLI.

Fresh importations into the Tivoli bill include the Bohemian Twins and *The Sporting Duchess*. The latter is a comedy interlude, which employs the abilities of Lady Haldon, who assumes the part of a duchess whose love for dogs transcends that for her late husband, inasmuch as she is in treaty with a matrimonial agency with regard to taking another spouse. The agency choose for her the Duke of Bayswater, the "horsey" cut of whose coat leads her ladyship to mistake him for a kennelman who has been recommended by a lady friend. The Duchess's instructions to him with regard to the canines are taken to refer to the matrimonial arrangements, and the nature of the conversation is obvious, nothing being neglected that would lead to a laugh. Lady Haldon makes an impressive appearance in her sumptuous silks and satins, and displays a pretty pettishness consistent with the circumstance, and Mr. Edward Gurney, as the Duke of Bayswater, is convincing in the expressions of horror to which his embarrassing situation gives rise. Mr. Greene Taylor and Mr. Walter Westwood lend assistance to the performance of the sketch, which is played in a luxuriously furnished apartment, of which a couple of handsome dogs form the ornaments. Curiosity is aroused by the appearance of the twin-formed Bohemian Sisters, who listen impassively while their praises are sounded by the gentleman who introduces them. Their accomplishments, in addition to being joined together after the manner of the Siamese Twins, consist of playing the violin and xylophone, an instrument upon which they are quite expert. Miss Amy Clevere is among the greatest favourites of the evening, and this week has introduced a new song-scena, entitled *My Paleface Queen*. It is a lyric illustrating the power of love, and Miss Clevere sings it in a way to make her hearers thrill with admiration. Her fair face, which but recently took the prize in a beauty competition, looks fairer still beneath the broad-brimmed hat, and her sweet voice rising in musical cadence, gives effect to the charming tune and the thrilling story which has been supplied by Messrs. Harrington and Le Brun. A dance of exquisite neatness and finish is added, the cleverness and novelty of which the audience are quick to perceive, the recalls the dainty artiste receives being enthusiastic. Mr. Arthur Roberts is a recent addition to the programme, and his olla podrida, entitled *Where's the Count?* maintains the reputation which the famous comedian has borne well beyond a quarter of a century. Mr. Roberts is among the noblest of our army of comedians, and his portrayal of Joe Muggins, the cabby, while recalling a famous success of comparatively recent times, is well equipped with the drollest conceits. The exigencies of his part include his appearance as a Russian count, in which he supplies a quaint mixture of foreign tongues, and he is also irresistible when, in the character of a police inspector, he delivers a speech for the defence. Mr. Roberts receives material assistance from Miss Ruby Celeste, who, as the dainty maid, joins him in a comic duet. Mr. Julius Wright plays well in the part of a young lover, Miss Lucy Webling as his sweetheart acts gracefully, and Mr. Stanley Damerell and Mr. Edwin Palmer also assist. The mirth-making extravagances of *Mumming Birds* continue to succeed in their design, the comic surprises supplied by Mr. Fred Karno's troupe of comedians multiplying continuously. The eccentricities of Mr. Harry Ford strengthen the forces of humour, in which the Harry Alaskas have no small share, the odd tumbling and twisting of the male performer being cleverly done. Mr. George D'Albert, who sings cheerily, "You can't blame me for that," has also a powerfully worded song as a commercial traveller, in which the British standard and Japanese ensign are held up to admiration, and the Russian flag is trampled figuratively in the dust, and wins as much applause as he could desire. Miss Ray Wallace, with her mimicries; Mr. Wilson Hallett, the clever silfleur; Miss Dorothy Kenton, the girl with the banjo; Ovide and Ludine, in a charming illusion; Mr. Ben Albert, comedian; the Two Kings, with a comedy musical act; Miss May Moore Duprez, and Mr. George Drawee and his dog constitute the remainder of the fine programme.

THE CANTERBURY.

The novelty of the fine programme presented at the Canterbury this week is an original vocal, aerial, and terpsichorean fantasy, entitled *Dreamland*, an attractive and prettily staged little entertainment, invented and arranged by Mr. Paul Valentine, and produced under the direction of the energetic manager, Mr. Fred Miller. The opening scene represents the interior of a well-stocked toy shop on New Year's Eve, wherein a little maiden has been in hiding in the belief that the toys will all come to life as soon as the clock has struck twelve. Tired out, she falls asleep, but a good fairy appearing, determines that her anticipations shall be fully realised, and the first vision she has is that of eight comely young damsels, who contribute a pretty song and dance. The toy soldiers and sailors next come to life, and execute some neat evolutions, ingeniously forming flags of various nations. A monkey and a nigger also indulge in a lively measure; and a charming little Boy Blue and Red Riding Hood sing a much appreciated love duet, the other occupants of the shop all becoming animated ere the scene closes. So delighted is the child with her dream, that the fairy promises her a peep into fairyland, and here it is that the flying ballet is introduced, the graceful movements of the dancers being loudly cheered. Ere the curtain falls garlands of flowers and multi-coloured ribbons are tastefully arranged in front of the fair coryphees, and when the whole scene is brilliantly illuminated with numberless electric lights, and the "toys" form up near the footlights, the scene is one of dazzling brightness. Mr. Valentine and Mr. Miller, who were called on the stage to bow their acknowledgments at the conclusion of this prettily-arranged scene, are to be warmly congratulated on the smoothness of the first production, and there is little doubt from the cordial reception accorded *Dreamland* on Monday night that it will remain an attractive item in the Canterbury programme for many weeks to come. The Doreen Girls and the numerous other artistes who took part in the fantasy were loudly acclaimed for their various vocal and terpsichorean numbers; and the costumes, scenery, properties, floral decorations, and electrical effects, all supplied by first-class firms, largely aided in the success.

In the variety portion of the programme a prominent position is taken by Miss Louie Freear, the inimitable comedienne sandwiching between her two drolly-rendered comic songs, "Twiddley Bits" and "She Just Walks On," a somewhat pathetic little ditty, "He didn't seem to know just what to say," a contribution that appealed greatly to the audience. Mr. Tom Burrows, "The King of Clubs," who recently created the world's record for continuous club-swinging for 45 hours 8 minutes, in the lounge of the Canterbury, gives an interesting and skilful exhibition, manipulating with much expertness a couple of razor-edged swords, and swinging two heavy axes with considerable dexterity. Miss May Moore-Duprez, the original jolly little Dutch girl, who has just returned from a tour round the world, sings of "My Lady Hottentot," and dances with exceptional grace and endurance; Mr. Michael Nolan gives a couple of really droll Irish songs, "Says Mary, 'No,'" and "The £5 Note"; Mr. Harry Leybourne submits an amusing interlude, in which he impersonates various artistes (?) to be encountered at a concert, his female imitation being especially mirth-provoking; and others appearing with success are Miss Dot Hardy, the New York Quartette, George Davis's sketch company in a well-acted and laughable farce, *Jack's Uncle*; Mr. Ben Albert, Miss Ray Wallace, Mr. Harry Pleon, and the Bohemian twin-formed sisters (Rosa and Josepha Blazek), the entertainment concluding with some interesting and comic pictures shown by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

SURREY.

With popular prices, a liberal programme, and a brilliantly-decorated house, Mr. Frank Macnaghten is "twice nightly" drawing crowded houses to the Surrey; and his energetic lieutenant, Mr. Frederic Baugh, can rightly boast that they are giving one of the best entertainments on the Surrey side. The most important dish on the "ménu" is a new, original, and romantic one-act sketch, by Dora Deane and Fred G. Brooke, entitled *The King and the Beggar*, which is well staged and admirably played by Mr. Fred G. Brookes's carefully selected company. The time is the present, and although the story is laid in Ostaria a mythical State on the borders of the Russian Empire—it is a stirring and romantic tale, into which are cleverly woven certain exciting incidents recently occurring in Russia. In the dual part of the Beggar and Gustavus, Duke of Cronberg, Mr. Fred G. Brooke plays with such force and intensity that he creates a strong and lasting impression. As Mascari, the King of Ostaria, Mr. Alec Forbes imbues the part with regal dignity. Mr. Graham Wood, as the scheming traitor, General Hugo La Costa, invests the character with the necessary malignant wiliness. As the British Attaché, Lieut. Harry Redwood, Mr. Frank Beresford is manly and earnest, and pleases the audience immensely. As Marcella, the disreputable Queen Consort, Miss Dora Deane does not spare herself, and portrays the vileness of the personage with marked emphasis. Miss Katherine Clarke, as the winsome Princess Venetia, is conspicuously good in a company of all-round excellence, displaying touching tenderness and true womanly devotion. In direct contrast is the screamingly funny scena enacted by Fred Southern and his company of comedians, entitled *The Private Hotel*. Its funny situations keep the house in a roar. The Musical Palmers' musical sketch includes all the popular melodies of the day, skilfully played on various brass instruments, and the life-like impersonation of Sousa by Miss Daisy Palmer wins rapturous applause. Those old Surrey pantomime favourites, Bernard and Weston, patter comedians, renew their former triumph under the Surrey's new régime; and their wit and fun evoke genuine merriment. Florence Gwynne is decidedly funny in her musical scena, as "Stage Struck Slavey," her spasmodic pianoforte solos and humorous song, "Keep off the Stage," making her a warm favourite. Will Driscoll does well with his smart song and dance, "If you want me, Lucy," assisted by a series of pretty and effective pictures. The Langdons sing a sweetly pathetic ballad, "My Old Virginia Home." The house takes up with startling effect the chorus of "Good-bye, little girl, good-bye," admirably sung by the Langdons. W. J. Churchill is highly successful in evoking laughter by his ditties, "If it wasn't for the men, girls wouldn't be wanted at all," and "My Wedding Day." Ella Shields, the Southern nightingale, who appears in a very pretty and striking costume, is the fortunate possessor of a rich, cultured, contralto voice, and knows how to use it. Her rendering of the pretty ballad, "There's somebody waiting for me," is excellent, and her coon song, "Alexandra," with its charming dance, brings down the house. Dan Conroy is a *raconteur* of no mean merit, and his funny stories excite hearty merriment. His vocal contribution, "Kiss, kiss, that's the way it goes," is also good. Raymond's Bioscope makes a decided hit with a film depicting "A Race for a Husband," which delights the spectators immensely. The Surrey Orchestra, under the skilful bâton of Mr. Henkinson, deserves a special word of praise for its brilliant work; and Mr. Chris Wordsworth, the acting-manager, has every reason to be proud of his patrons, his entertainment, and his attentive staff.

GATTI'S (ROAD).

Balancing extraordinary is the shortest and at the same time most appropriate description we can apply to the performances of the Trio Goldini, who style themselves American novelty artistes. The gentleman of the party manages to so manipulate his stick as to twirl a large round carpet on the point of it, the carpet taking a flat shape as it is balanced in the air. Another act consists of causing a number of pans to revolve in seemingly ceaseless motion on a pivot formed by a small piece of wood. The little girl, who may be the daughter of the other two, is marvellously agile, and turns somersaults like an experienced acrobat. The actions of the three performers are prettily illuminated by clusters of vari-coloured electric lights. The different meanings which can be applied to the notice, "Visitors are requested not to touch," are attractively explained by Miss Myra Stansfield in her song of that name. Equally popular is her other number, "Hello!" in which she records the adventures of Johnny Green, and she scores in "Millie on a Motor-car." Robinson Crusoe, from the point of view of burlesque, is introduced to us by Mr. Ernest Rees, whose droll eccentricities are rewarded by roars of laughter. Francis accomplishes some daring feats with the aid of a cannon-ball, a long balancing pole, and an assistant, who in an amusing way assumes nervousness. The Darrell Trio present an interesting musical act, the pianoforte work of the young ladies being exceptionally well executed. Lieutenant F. Travis, the well-known ventriloquist, needs no recommendation at this hour, and his amusing dialogues seem to retain their refreshing humour as when first submitted to the public. The troubles of a motorist on the road, and the humour of the situations into which a breakdown forces him, are comically demonstrated by Mr. Harry Tate's No. 1 company in the sketch, *Motoring*. Tiny Arnold, the midget comedienne and dancer, attracts a good deal of attention and admiration by reason of her delightful singing and graceful dancing. She gives us "A Girl from the B.T.T.," "Nina Jones," and "Christmas Goose," all of which are sung with appropriate expression and gesture. A change of dress in each song greatly enhances the stage effect. While singing "Nina Jones," she appears in a particularly handsome and picturesque orange coloured costume, and during her last item she wears a dainty dress of tinted chiffon and white silk. Her step dance and her Irish dance are very neatly and smartly performed. Miss Addie Dorina distinguishes herself in a series of quick changes, the whole of which fall into the title, *How it was done*. It is really a little sketch, the story of which centres round a bet made between a man and his wife. The former ridiculed the idea that a woman could so change her appearance, voice, and manner as to deceive her own husband. In the present case, the lady leaves the house, presumably to call upon a dentist, but, instead, reappears as different characters, whom her husband is most anxious to see. Finally, she discloses her identity. Miss Dorina is certainly to be congratulated on her impersonations and disguises. Others who assist in making the evening agreeable are Harry Royde, comedian and dancer; May Hart, burlesque artiste; Gus Harris, vocal comedian; and the Ashtons, Anglo-American variety entertainers.

NEW CROSS EMPIRE.

The usual large and delighted audience filled this favourite place of amusement on the night of our visit, and whether trade be good or bad seems to have no effect on the business here. The excellent orchestra performed admirably under the direction of Mr. J. H. Shackleton a collection of Welsh airs in celebration of St. David's Day, after which Mr. Charles Pastor appeared and sang his "Laughing Song" so naturally and with such apparent enjoyment that the audience joined heartily in the laughter, and applauded the artist loudly. Next came the Six Brothers Luck, whose clever entertainment, although well known here, is always welcome and never wearisome. Their really funny pantomimic sketch, entitled *The Demon of the Cellar*, evoked roars of laughter and prolonged applause, which the performance well deserved. This act was followed by charming Miss Mabel Thorne, who sang with marked success "Stop the War," and with assistants attired as Japs and Russians formed an effective tableau. A most successful item in the evening's programme was the smart turn of Clarke and Hamilton. The gentleman, made up as a tramp, exhibited his great skill as a pianoforte player, and he was ably assisted by the lady. Both afterwards donned Japanese costume, and sang "My Little Yokohama Queen," bringing their highly successful contribution to a close with a cleverly-executed dance. Next came the Katos, with their novel midget entertainment, which met with its full share of approval from the audience, and was exceedingly clever and enjoyable. They were followed by Paul Spadoni, who is a great favourite here, and whose welcome reappearance was the signal for an enthusiastic reception. M. Spadoni's marvellously clever tricks of juggling, balancing, and weight-bearing are too well known to need description, and it is sufficient to say that the tricks were executed with all his usual accuracy and finish. Some novel feats were warmly greeted by the audience. The Three Sisters Macarte were very clever in their unique wire act, including a graceful dance. These charming young ladies came in for a full meed of appreciation. Mr. James Finney and his clever sister, Marie, created a favourable impression by their clever swimming feats. This turn is a novel one here, and highly interesting. A thoroughly enjoyable programme is brought to a conclusion by the always-welcome Bioscope, by means of which much is brought within our notice that we should remain in ignorance of but for the life-like pictures now seen through this marvellous invention. Among the pictures shown were "Scenes in a Soldier's Career—Boys of the Duke of York's School, Highlanders, Pensioners," and many others equally interesting. Mr. Harry Burdette attends ably to matters in front.

CHELSEA PALACE.

It is a sight for sore eyes—the long queues, seven and eight deep, the people struggling to keep their places on the pavement outside the theatre of variety in "artistic Chelsea." That the fame and popularity of the Chelsea Palace have grown rapidly under Mr. Edward Swanborough's enterprising régime everybody in the borough will admit, and in no less degree will it be acknowledged that the house has taken a prominent place among the institutions of the neighbourhood. Mr. Leo Dryden is here this week with his scenas, *The Only Way*, and *For Freedom and Japan*, both of which find great favour with the audience. With true dramatic skill he portrays the pathetic character of the ne'er-do-well, Sydney Carton, and what with his fine acting and singing we get a most interesting study. His stirring song, "For Freedom and Japan," is extremely well received, the topical allusion it contains being quite in agreement with the sentiments of the "boys." "Sir" Samuel Redfern, who claims the honourable degree of "black boss of the benighted Bohemians," is a lively and entertaining jester. His grotesque manner of bringing out his funny points is absolutely irresistible, and creates endless mirth. Miss May Moore Duprez is a clever little comedienne, full of life and laughter, and with ideas of her own as to the making of merriment. She thoroughly understands how to tickle the risible faculties of an audience, and is an exquisite dancer withal. Mr. Arthur St. George sings and recites dramatically upon the burning injustice done to "Beck, the English Dreyfus," and his efforts to please are rewarded by the appreciation of his hearers. Mr. J. G. Grahame and Miss Z. Harrington appear in an interesting episode, entitled *A Daughter of Pleasure*. It tells the tale of a young man who is on his way to Bourges with a large sum of money to meet a sudden run on the bank. On his way he stops for a night at Paris, and there meets at his hotel a woman—a daughter of pleasure—he had known in former years. She drugs him, takes possession of his banknotes, and is about to make her exit when her eye suddenly alights upon a letter. It is addressed to the bankers to whom the young fellow will come as a deliverer from ruin. But on reading the name a recollection dawns upon her that it is not altogether unfamiliar to her. Her memory tells her that the name is that of her mother's bankers, and her former joyfulness now gives way to agony of mind at the thought of the trouble she is bringing upon her parents in their old age. With feverish haste she restores the young man to a sense of consciousness, places the money in his hands, and succeeds in getting him away in time to catch the train to Bourges. It is a well-written little play, and is effectively presented by Mr. Grahame and Miss Harrington. Sketch-writers might take a lesson from *A Woman of Pleasure*. Miss Bessie Lind is a dainty comedienne and singer, and her song, "Lucy," goes with a fine swing, and earns for the charming lady unlimited applause. The comedy and acrobatic turn of Stern and Stern is extremely diverting, especially when the two gentlemen assume a sleepy aspect, a sleepy walk, and a sleepy talk, their make-up providing an entertainment in itself. Mr. Leo. Stormont sings a naval song in stirring fashion, and his recitation, "Who's going to rule the sea?" which deals with the Russian warships' attack on the harmless Hull fishing fleet, awakens, as it is intended to do, the feelings of the audience against the authors of the Dogger Bank outrage, and secures for the brilliant elocutionist unstinted praise. Fred Karno's company, in their amusing pantomime, *Jail Birds*, are also here, and their wild antics arouse storms of laughter in the packed house. Little Miss Decima Brooke, a chic and engaging comedienne, completes the bill.

BATTERSEA EMPIRE.

There is no doubt that this house of amusement since the advent of Mr. Lennox Barry as manager has grown vastly popular with the public of Battersea. A light and wholesome entertainment is what Mr. Barry believes in, and, what is more to the point, is what appeals to his audience. A touch of melodrama, however, is also a welcome item, and the new and original domestic episode presented under the title of *The Right Road*, by Mr. Reed and Miss Granville, is fully appreciated. The story tells of one, a Mr. Cranbourne (otherwise known as Captain Jack), who, having been disgraced at his club by card-sharping, turns a society burglar, breaking into the house of a well-known duke, to search for, and possess himself of, the family jewels. While engaged in this search, the captain is disturbed by the entry of a little ragged slum girl, who, seeing the door conveniently open, embraces the opportunity of doing a little pilfering on her own account. Captain Jack sees in this newcomer an excellent ally, and promptly threatens to hand her over to the police unless she can find a case of jewels secreted about the room. The child discovers the gems, and also a revolver, with which she threatens the captain when he demands her find. The revolver, however, is empty, and the captain suggests they should talk matters over. Whilst this is being done, the child shows him a ring which her mother gave into her keeping before she died, and by the aid of which the captain discovers the child to be his own daughter, whom he had deserted some years ago. The pleading of the child soon convinces Captain Jack that it is never too late to turn to the right road, and the promise to start afresh with her help brings to a close a most interesting incident. Mr. F. W. Reed, as Captain Jack, gives an excellent representation, his manner being fresh and powerful, with just the proper touch of heaviness for the character. The child, Nellie, is admirably played by Miss Granville, whose Cockneyisms are evidently relished by the audience. Altogether the sketch (which has been written by Mr. Reed and Mr. W. Hast) should have a long and successful run. The comic element of the programme this week is in the capable hands of Silvo, a juggler of no mean ability; Mr. A. Passmore, with his "Old Story" song; Mr. J. H. Kavanagh, and Stephens and Stephens. The Zenary Brothers give a fine exhibition of hand balancing, and Cecil Merrie and Co. cause much merriment with *The Bewildered Barrister*. Miss Evie Hamilton is a pleasing singer and dancer, and Payne's Bioscope shows some good pictures, including Morgan's crucible works. Mr. G. Wareham is in charge of the orchestra, which does good work during the evening.

SADLER'S WELLS.

Without doubt one of the most popular things upon the variety stage at the present moment is Mr. Harry Tate's screaming absurdity, *Motoring*. The fun in the trifle is as much appreciated by audiences in the suburbs as it was when presented in the West-End some months ago. Mr. Tate struck a happy idea when it occurred to him to introduce into the little sketch the character of a village boy, whose imperturbability of face, maintained throughout a series of laughable incidents, is simply irresistible. Mr. Hal Ford sings in sympathetic strain of his "Japanese Girl." His topical allusions, founded on the A B C. of his "little book," are very neat and smart in their way, his puns being especially clever. "I exhibit at the Royal Academy," sings one of the Three Sisters Sprightly, while a second tells us that she exhibits on the pavement, and a third in the "fiscal" way—meaning fistal, of course, the victim being the lady's husband. The scena is certainly an interesting and original one, and the repartee which passes between the three "artists" is well interlarded with humour. The coon song and dance which follow excite general admiration, in spite of the fact that we are told by the ladies that all that is necessary to make a successful coon is an old song and a bit of rag-time music. Miss Bessie Spear, a juvenile comedienne, distinguishes herself with her song, "Violets, only one penny a bunch," and an extremely engaging picture she gives us in a coon song and dance. Brooks, Dale, and Blitz contrive to make things lively, with the assistance of their bucking mule; and the Gilroys exhibit skilfulness in the direction of sand dancing, praise being also due to them for their comedy business. The biggest item on the bill is a dramatic episode, entitled *The Nihilists; or, Sworn to Kill*, presented by Mr. Geo. M. Marriott and company. The sketch, which deals with the present situation in Russia, and is the work of Mr. Marriott, was produced at the Bow Palace of Varieties last week. The story, briefly, is this:—One Nicholas Petrovitch, a Nihilist, succeeds in winning over to his way of thinking Michael Tolstoi, described as "one of the people," and a man who had always advocated methods of moderation. Tolstoi, however, loses all sympathy with officialdom when he hears from the lips of the Nihilist that his wife, Vera Tolstoi, has been cast into prison, and has suffered indignities. Under a little persuasion, he joins a small band of Nihilists, and he and his new confrères have decided upon the destruction by dynamite of the palace of Count Orloff, at a time when a ball is being given. In the meantime, Vera Tolstoi has been arrested and taken to the Count's palace. He had long held her in admiration, but, then, unfortunately, he had favoured other women in his affection, and had afterwards discarded them. He tells Vera that her husband, Michael, is under arrest, but he is willing to sign an order for his release upon conditions that may be easily imagined. She pretends for the time being to agree to his proposals, and gains possession of the order. Part of the conversation is overheard by her husband and Petrovitch, the Nihilist, who have succeeded in getting into the palace by some means or another. While his wife is in danger, Michael Tolstoi will not consent to the destruction of the palace, and the Nihilist, in order to accomplish his murderous designs, endeavours to assure Tolstoi that Vera has been faithless to him, and for that reason her life can be of small account to him now. While they are conversing, Count Orloff and Vera return to the apartment, followed by some discontented officers and soldiers. The Count is killed, an explosion is heard, and the building falls to the ground before our eyes, and Michael and Tolstoi are re-united. Miss Edith Finlay exhibited considerable dramatic force and skill in her part of Vera Tolstoi, and Mr. Geo. M. Marriott made an admirable study of the plotting, wily, deceitful Nihilist, Petrovitch. Mr. Otto Minster put some good acting into his rôle of Michael Tolstoi, and the humorous element was well maintained by Mr. Walter Rousby as Peter Khorvitch, and Miss Nellie May as Katerina. The character of the principal villain of the piece, Count Orloff, was admirably portrayed by Mr. W. H. Porter.

HANDCUFFED AMONG HYENAS.

It is not every performer who creates a sensation at his first appearance on the stage, and the young Scotsman who made his début on Monday at the Metropole Theatre, Camberwell, handcuffed in a den of wolves and hyenas, may be said to have achieved a distinction. Bardell—for such is his name—does not merely understand how to deal with wild animals; he is also an expert in the gentle art of picking locks without the aid of keys or other tools. He begins his risky "turn" by entering the cage containing a couple of hyenas, who apparently do not seem to be on the best of terms with each other, and Bardell shows the difficulty of getting these animals to work properly. He is next seen in the cage, handcuffed and leg-ironed, directing the movements of two Russian wolves, in addition to the hyenas. The wolves jump over his head and shoulders, and one of them, a large male, has been taught how to count. So far his arithmetic is not in a very advanced stage, for he cannot reckon up more than ten. However, that is sufficient to show that he is a pupil of great promise. What strikes one as Bardell's most daring act is his appearance in the den with his head and hands firmly fixed in stocks. All the same, he contrives to make the animals jump over him in a graceful manner that compels the admiration of the audience. Bardell releases himself from the padlocked stocks while in the cage, and without any outside or mechanical assistance. Bardell is then handcuffed and placed in a box, the measurements of which are 1ft. 10in. high, 2ft. 10in. long, and 1ft. 6in. wide. The box is strongly padlocked, and is in sight of the audience, drawn along on trolley lines into the animals' den. In less than thirty seconds Bardell calls attention to himself from the dress circle, and the onlookers can only gaze in wonderment at the small cabinet which has been open to their observation all the time, and marvel at the escape. And when, a few seconds later, the box is opened, there jumps out a fine specimen of a sooty-faced mangaby. This trick is all the more remarkable because it is done in full view of the audience, and the box is not hidden for one second. How in such an incredibly short space of time Bardell can release himself from the handcuffs, get out of the box unseen—which in itself seems impossible—and at the same time exchange his occupancy in favour of a monkey, is a mystery which we will not attempt to unfathom. The whole act, from beginning to end, is a most interesting and remarkable one, and found great favour with a delighted house. A word of praise is due to Mr. Fred Wilby for his excellent supervision of the stage arrangements.

THE WELSH REVIVAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your theatrical gossip recently reference was made to the statement that theatrical companies have been hard hit by the Revival in Wales. The collier is now returning to his normal senses; and although a revivalist stated the other day that 54 theatres had been closed in Wales—I did not know there were so many—I do not know of a single one which has shut its doors. My receipts last week at four Welsh theatres in small towns were £100 1s. 9d., £108 6s. 6d., £125 11s., and £171 6s. 11d. I took nothing under £100 last week. I know of many others who, although not "doing their usual," are playing to paying business; and I would remind you, Sir, that Wales has felt the slump in trade, as well as other parts of the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,
C. W. POOLE.
General Manager of the Gloucester, Pontypool, Porth, Treherbert, and Maesteg Theatres, and proprietor of C. W. Poole's Myrioramas

Wotton Lawn, Gloucester, Feb. 21, 1905.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING, March 3, 1898.

Will be of great service.—CHARLES WYNDHAM, March 1, 1898.

Very useful.—*Sporting Life*, March 4.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News*, March 19.

MESSRS. A. R. DEAN AND SONS, of Birmingham, still maintain their reputation as the cheapest house in the trade for every kind of upholstery required in the fitting up of theatres and halls. As convincing evidence of the fact that they are the largest theatre furnishers and decorators in Great Britain, it may be stated that last year they either completely or partly furnished or decorated upwards of 50 theatres, music halls, and public buildings. They have during the last ten years completely or partly furnished or decorated upwards of 600 theatres, music halls, and public buildings, including over thirty in London alone. The firm has designed several new chairs for the current year, one of these having been christened "The Dean," its special features being neatness, handsome appearance, compactness, strength, and durability. It is worthy of note that the firm still retains the services of Mr. A. F. Windibank as manager of the theatre department (this gentleman has superintended the furnishing of upwards of 1,000 theatres, music halls, and public buildings); of Mr. Charles Bardell, as manager of their decoration department; and of Mr. L. R. Beck, as manager of their cabinet factory.

SORE THROAT, HOARSENESS.

Many Eminent Physicians and Throat Specialists strongly recommend "Condy's Remedial Fluid" as a Gargle for curing Sore Throat, Relaxed Throat, and Hoarseness. Sold by all Chemists and Stores at 1s. 1½d. All substitutes are inferior in composition. Insist on having "Condy's." A Book containing Instructions, and Reports by many Eminent Physicians and Throat Specialists is on every bottle, and will be sent free of cost from Condy's Fluid Works, 65, Goswell-road, London. [ADVT.]

THE EMPIRE COMPANY MEETING.

Mr. George Edwardes presided at the ordinary general meeting of the Empire Palace, Limited, held in Leicester-square, on Monday. In moving the adoption of the report, he said that during the past year the receipts had fallen off by £12,000, owing to the sketch agitation, which delayed the production of the new ballet, *The Dancing Doll*, which had since been produced, and was a great success. The agitation continued from April until November. If the new ballet had been produced earlier they would not have made that loss at all, for since *The Dancing Doll* had been produced it had played to £500 a week more than the old ballet, *The Milliner Duchess*. The result of the settlement between the various theatrical and music hall managers was that a Bill had been promoted to amend the law. The past year was the first in eighteen years that they had not done well and paid a big dividend. Over the whole period the average dividend had been 60 per cent. per annum, and this year's reduction was no reason for a change of management, as some people advocated. There had been some talk of a new policy for the theatre, and he believed that there were certain shareholders who would express their views on that matter at that meeting. He had wanted in the past to retire from the board, and was again on the point of retiring when the late chairman, Mr. H. N. Tennent, died, but in the circumstances he had stuck to the ship. If he was to be badgered and worried he would be only too glad to retire. He hoped and believed that in the future they would pay as good dividends as in the past. The London County Council had indicated certain requirements which might necessitate the closing of the theatre for structural alterations during some portion of July and August.

Mr. Tyrrell Lewis said it was for the shareholders to say if they were satisfied with the result shown. He moved an amendment to reject the report, and that the items in the profit and loss account sinking fund £430, alterations and repairs £4,669, and depreciation £6,300 be struck out, and the same dividend paid as last year. He expressed doubt as to whether the company was really solvent.

Sir Alfred Newton said the board really deserved the sympathy of the shareholders. The show now on the boards was attractive and money-making. He suggested that the company ought to make all its shares of one value, and not have some 10s. paid and others 15s. paid. He personally advocated making the whole of the shares £1 paid. They would be a more popular security, and the needful cash for the company's business would be obtained. He urged the meeting to reject unanimously the amendment, for Mr. Lewis was most illogical. First he doubted their solvency, and then wanted more dividend paid.

Mr. Peat, of Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co., the company's auditors, said that Mr. Lewis had addressed a letter to him on the affairs of the company. He asserted that Mr. Lewis had been on a wild goose chase in trying to find faults in the books of the company, which were properly and honestly kept. The company was perfectly solvent, and the statement of Mr. Lewis was most damaging to the company's affairs. If they altered the form of the balance-sheet they might benefit their competitors. Mr. Lewis's suggestion to pay a bigger dividend was a most remarkable proposal. He wanted money transferred to dividend account that had already been expended on repairs and the like. It was absurd, and no auditor would consent to such a proposal.

Other shareholders also spoke in favour of the board. The amendment was supported only by the mover and seconder, and the report was then unanimously adopted.

In reply to a question as to what stores had been supplied to the company by a gentleman who was a director, the Chairman said that it was only a small amount of a certain kind of brandy. The Chairman, in reply to a vote of thanks, promised that if the directors could make a big effort for the shareholders this year they would do it.

METROPOLITAN MEETING.

The fifth annual meeting of the Metropolitan Theatre of Varieties, Ltd., was held on Wednesday on the premises, with Mr. G. Adney Payne in the chair. After the Secretary (Mr. F. W. Wade) had read the formal notice,

Mr. G. Adney Payne said the company had paid £664 out of the revenue of the year, principally for reseating, and had laid out nearly £4,000 in six years in improvements. The scenery had been made fireproof before the County Council's order was issued. He had seen it stated that at the recent meeting of the Empire, Mr. George Edwardes said that an arrangement had been come to between the theatrical managers and the music hall proprietors as to the playing of sketches. No arrangement had been arrived at, because Mr. Stanley, acting for the Theatrical Managers' Association, wanted the music hall proprietors not to play more than one sketch in an evening. Mr. Payne then moved: "That the report and accounts, as circulated among the shareholders, be, and are hereby, adopted, and that a dividend of 5 per cent. for the six months ended December 31, 1904, making 10 per cent. for the year, be, and is hereby, declared."

Mr. Henri Gros, in seconding the motion, said: Last October we were fined £180 at the Marylebone Police-court, which fine has since been reduced to £90 by appeal, for playing *The Fighting Parson*. The prosecution, not being satisfied with this, also prosecuted me as your managing-director; and counsel, no doubt thinking they were acting for the best, agreed that I should enter into my own recognisances for £10, to come up for judgment, if called upon. I am in hopes that the magistrate will consent to have the case reheard, and inflict a fine, in order to dispose of the matter, and deliver judgment on the merits of the case. The same sketch is being played all over London without prosecution. The music hall managers are practically in agreement, and a Bill has been promoted to amend the law; but between promoting a Bill and getting it passed there is a great difference. It is not easy in these days to pass a private Bill through Parliament, and you, as shareholders who are essentially interested, I hope will use your best endeavours to interest your members in the House in this Bill, which is simply based on the recommendation of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, and the report they issued in the year 1892, with some extra indulgence of time to meet the wishes of the Empire directors as regards their ballets. The Metropolitan Theatre Company has been in existence six working years, during which period it has consistently paid 10 per cent. The shares stand to-day at about 35 per cent. premium, and they have been as high as 50 per cent. on par value. This means considerably more to the original shareholders, whose 10 per cent. per annum really amounts to 15 per cent. on their original investment. Independent of the reserve, we have paid off £5,000 on mortgage. We have a general reserve account of £12,000, which, taking the total of the reserve and the amount carried forward and the reduction of mortgage, makes a total of over £20,000.

The report was adopted, and the dividend agreed to, the meeting closing with the usual compliments to the chairman, board, and staff.

The Local Government Board has finally declined to assent to a loan for alterations to the Brighton Aquarium preparatory to letting it on lease, and expresses the view that it would be wiser for the Town Council to take steps to sell the undertaking.

"MY LADY NICOTINE."

One of the prettiest ballet divertissements that has been presented at the Alhambra for some time is *My Lady Nicotine*, which was seen there for the first time on Monday last. It is, as its title implies, an idealisation of Tobacco. Of the five scenes, the first is laid in a plantation in Virginia, about 1770. There is a little Legree business introduced; but this is only to bring in an "old-world" minuet, and some native dances, all very effective. In the second scene, the interior of a Turkish harem, there is a suggestion of an approaching tragedy. A dancing girl enters, and straightway proceeds to evict the reigning favourite from the affections of the proprietor. The favourite is obviously annoyed; and it is evident that the danseuse's life is in danger. Passing to Holland, we are in the land of long pipes and long smokes; and a sabot dance is done with admirable spirit. The two last scenes are allegorical. In a star-lit grove of colossal tobacco-leaves some very pretty combinations are made, and, in the end, a lovely female figure, emblematic of the "soothing herb," is seen reclining in the background. The grand effects of the ballet, however, are reserved for the last scene, The Abode of "My Lady Nicotine." Here there are some wonderfully effective contrasts and harmonies of colour, oranges and yellow russets predominating; and a bevy of prettily-plumed danseuses is especially conspicuous. Detachments carrying colossal cigarettes perform various evolutions; and upon an immense meerschaum in the backround a lovely lady reclines. Leaving her place of vantage, she does a delightful dance, and the ballet concludes with a very well arranged ensemble and tableau. As the cast of *My Lady Nicotine* is simply summarised on the bill, we can only say that Misses Edith Slack, Rosie Deane, Julie Reeves, Nellie Hill, Belle Davis, Susie Raymond, B. Fletcher, Queenie Wood, L. Lauri, D. Lyons, Reba Kaufman, Inez Kaufman, L. Bryant, Norah Saunders, May Earle, Sig. G. Rosi, Madame Cormani, and La Sylphe acquitted themselves *à merveille*. The scenery, by Messrs. E. H. Ryan and Philip Howden, is admirable, the former gentleman's seashore in Virginia being quite charming. Mr. Philip Howden has supplied a handsome Turkish interior for the harem scene; and Mr. Ryan, for his back-cloth in Holland, has adopted the firmly-outlined style which has been made so popular on postcards, &c. Mr. Howden's sets for Scenes IV. and V. are elaborate and picturesque, and do great credit to that able artist. The costumes, by Alias, from designs by Comelli, are worthy of the high reputations of both. The firm of Alias is famous for its never-failing taste, and its practised skill in carrying out cleverly and appreciatively an artist's ideas. M. Alias is essentially an artist, and inspires his employees with his own instinct. The properties by Laureys, including the immense pipe already referred to, are in every way excellent; and Gustave's wigs do him great credit. The floral decorations supplied by A. Gatti and Co., Limited, are extremely beautiful. *My Lady Nicotine* is invented and produced by Mr. Charles Wilson, who has developed an excellent idea very neatly and adroitly. Mr. Geo. W. Byng's music is just what ballet music should be—bright, lively, and appropriate to the action. Madame Cormani's arrangement of the dances is most praiseworthy, and the remarkably smooth way in which the ballet went on Monday was greatly owing to her painstaking exertions. *My Lady Nicotine* was received with uproarious applause; and, at the close, the leading artists and all concerned in the production were called before the curtain and cheered. In the variety company at the Alhambra are the Tschin-Maa Troupe of Jugglers, which includes a clever little "bender" and an expert knife-thrower; Les Kiners-Moulin, who terminate their turn with the balancing aloft, by the gentleman, of the lady, seated in a chair, and holding a table; Miss Kitty Traney, who, in a prettily-decorated dog-cart, puts a well-trained pony through his paces, making him dance and rear, and afterwards does Risley business with a little dog; the French Operatic Trio, whose rendering of an extract from *Faust* brings down the house; those clever balancers, the Pandurs; and the Charles Urban Trading Company's ever-popular "Ice Sports" views. *Entente Cordiale* opens the entertainment, and is as popular as ever; and the selections by the orchestra are, as usual, well chosen and capitally performed.

A TROUPE OF TRUMPETERS.

In the Court of King's Bench, on Wednesday, before Mr. Justice Grantham and a Special Jury, the case of Bisera *v.* Klaw and others was an action for breach of contract in connection with a troupe of trumpeters, and the defendants alleged that they were entitled to determine the contract at two weeks' notice, and, alternatively, that the plaintiff provided an incompetent troupe. Mr. Marshall Hall, K.C., and Mr. Cannot (instructed by Messrs. Judge and Priestley) were for the plaintiff, and Mr. Rose Innes (instructed by Messrs. Rose Innes, Son, and Crick) for the defendants.

Counsel for the plaintiff said that the defendants were well known in the American theatrical world, and the plaintiff was connected with a troupe of ladies who performed in the Drury Lane pantomime. Evidently they were a great feature in the 1902-3 pantomime, and Mr. Arthur Collins, acting on behalf of the defendants, entered into the contract the subject matter of the dispute. The Drury Lane pantomime was transferred to America, and subsidiary contracts were necessary with various artistes. The contract was in effect that the plaintiff's trumpeters should be engaged to appear at one of the defendants' theatres in New York in the pantomime *Mother Goose* whilst the piece was running in New York. A minimum engagement of eight weeks was mentioned, and the salary £60 a week on the defendants' usual terms of custom. In the middle of the eighth week, Mrs. Bisera was told that they were not to appear again, and were to leave the theatre.

The plaintiff was called, and was asked by Mr. Rose Innes whether the following description of the performance was accurate:—"It sounded like a lot of children blowing tin trumpets, emitting a noise and no harmony."

The witness did not answer the question, but said that nobody had suggested that the girls alleged to be foisted upon the defendants were entirely incompetent and could not play.

Mr. Rose Innes said out of kindness to strangers the troupe was kept on and paid a considerable salary.

Witnesses were called as to the experience of the troupe extending from two to sixteen years; and Mr. Marshall Hall suggested that a performance to prove competency should be given for the benefit of the Court.

Mr. Rose Innes: If the description given me is accurate, I should hope not, for the jury's sake.

Mr. Marshall Hall: Well, I have made the offer.

A member of the troupe said that after the performance she only heard the applause of the audience.

The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for £142, and judgment was entered accordingly.

Presentations.—Mr. George Davey, the retiring lessee of the Grand Theatre, Islington, on the occasion of the final performance of *Babes in the Wood* on Saturday, was presented with an illuminated address and a handsome silver cup, while Mrs. Davey was handed a diamond necklace. Mr. Oswald Brand, the manager, who made the presentations, mentioned that they had been subscribed for by the artistes, the staff, and the general public in recognition of Mr. Davey's courtesy and enterprise.

MISS JULIA KENT'S HORSESHOE.

The stage of the Grand Theatre, Islington, was the scene of a very pleasing little ceremony on the evening of the 18th ult., when Miss Julia Kent was the recipient of a floral tribute from the audience, as a mark of their appreciation of her success in the recent pantomime. The bouquet, consisting of scarlet geraniums and lilies, took the form of a monster horseshoe, probably the largest ever made. It stood over six feet in height, was about three feet broad, and took four people to carry it on to the stage.

At the close of the Palace Scene, Mr. George Davey (the proprietor of the theatre) stepped forward, and in a few well-chosen words, presented Miss Kent to the audience, and spoke of the great success she had made, and how popular she was, both behind and before the curtain. As a proof of her popularity, he had great pleasure in presenting her with the floral horseshoe on behalf of Islingtonians. In acknowledgment, Miss Kent stepped forward, and was immediately greeted with cheers and applause, and cries of "Speech!" In reply, Miss Kent said:—"My dear friends,—I am asked to say a few words. I have played many parts in my life, but never made a speech. Anyhow, on this occasion, I intend to try and say something. First, let me tell you how delighted, proud, and honoured I am to receive this floral tribute from the people of Islington. I had no idea that I had made myself such a favourite amongst you. We shall be leaving you shortly, as you know, but, though absent, I trust I shall live in your memory, as you will in mine, for some time to come. I can say no more, only a thousand thousand thanks. God bless you; long life and prosperity." Attached to the bouquet was a card, inscribed:—"Presented at the Grand Theatre, Islington, to Miss Julia Kent, from a few tradesmen and costers of Islington, Covent Garden, and Club Life." We reproduce a photograph of Miss Kent standing in the huge horseshoe.

The little lady, who is a clever and accomplished artist, is to be congratulated on having achieved such a triumph, She appeared as Robin Hood in the Grand's successful pantomime, which ran for nine consecutive weeks, and finished its merry career last Saturday.

MISS JULIA KENT.

Photo by Jacks & Co.

A SERIO-COMIC'S SEND-OFF.

Raptures of enthusiasm were expended at the Canterbury on the evening of the 24th ult., when Miss Victoria Monks, a comedienne whose popularity is particularly prominent at the favourite south-side hall, said "au revoir" to her admirers on the eve of her departure for America. The choruses of her best-known songs formed the burden of the evening, for it was not until close upon eleven o'clock that the supreme moment arrived, and Miss Monks appeared to receive the warm applause of a house crowded in every nook and corner. Radiant in a dazzling dress, Miss Monks began with "There's a girl in sight," following on with "If you want to have a row, wait till the sun shines"—the plaint of a recalcitrant nigger who faces the fury of his beloved with the above words being again productive of the utmost delight. A high state of excitement was reached when a floral procession began, a half-score baskets of the choicest blooms being handed up to the stage, until the fair recipient was obliged to answer the call for a speech. It was difficult, she said, to find words to thank them for their kind and generous reception. She realised that she was leaving friends—the best of friends—to go to a land of strangers. It had been said that she was an American, but that was wrong, for she could assure them that she had never seen America—that she was, in fact, an Englishwoman. Her best thanks were due to Mr. Adney Payne and to their worthy and esteemed manager, Mr. Miller, for the great kindness she had received at their hands. She looked forward to her return to dear old England and to her generous friends in front, and, again thanking them from the bottom of her heart, remained, with humble but sincere gratitude, their obedient servant, Victoria Monks. The speech, which was constantly applauded, was gracefully delivered, and finally Miss Monks was constrained to reappear and to give "Won't you come home, Bill Bailey?" ample excuse for his introduction being found in the clever singing of the coon classic and in the dance which accompanied it. After the performance the floral offerings, of which a two-masted ship and baskets labelled "Bill Bailey says 'Au revoir' and 'Bon voyage,'" were conspicuous, were artistically ranged round Miss Monks on the stage, and several flash-light photographs of them were taken.

"THE FIGHTING PARSON."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Referring to Messrs. Morris and Rickards' letter, published in your issue of the 25th inst., we are surprised that they should now purport to give an extract from the Judge's summing up in the action brought by our client, Mr. Chris. Davis, against Mr. Gray. The Judge made no notes at the time, and Mr. Gray's appeal from his decision was dismissed in the absence of any evidence of what the Judge had said. It is therefore very remarkable that Mr. Gray's solicitors should now purport to be able to quote his very words.

The fact is that the sketch was described in both programmes and synopsis at the Royal Music Hall as "by George Gray and Chris. Davis," and it was not until Mr. Chris. Davis applied to Mr. Gray for payment of the royalties due to him that any alteration was made.

If Mr. Gray really considers himself justified in describing himself as the sole author of the sketch, is it not somewhat remarkable that, while he was recently playing the sketch at the Oxford for some weeks, it was always described and advertised as "by George Gray and Chris. Davis"? It is obviously idle for Mr. Gray to endeavour now to dispute that Mr. Chris. Davis collaborated with him in writing *The Fighting Parson*. We have obtained, on Mr. Chris. Davis's behalf, two judgments against Mr. Gray for fees in respect of such collaboration, in addition to which Mr. Gray recently paid Mr. Chris. Davis a substantial sum in settlement of our client's claims in respect of the English rights of performing the sketch. You will therefore see that there has not been, as alleged, a settlement by our client "of all claims for his alleged collaboration," as our client's right to receive royalties in respect of performances outside England remains entirely unaffected.

Yours faithfully

WILKINSON, HOWLETT, and WILKINSON.

14, Bedford-street, Covent Garden,
London, W.C., Feb. 28.

[This correspondence must now either close, or be continued in the advertisement columns of *The Era*.—Ed., *The Era*.]

THE MUSIC HALL BENEVOLENT FUND.

MR. JOSEPH LYONS' CHRISTMAS APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION.

Donations already announced, £195 19s.

Harriett Vernon £1 1 0

Collected by Miss Lil Hawthorne, Prince's Theatre, Bristol, £4 11s.

J. M. Chute	21	Fred Conquest	10½
W. H. Rawlins	21	L. Victor	2½
Drew and Alders	21	George Miller	2½
Maggie Duggan	10½	D. M. Miller	2

Collected by J. W. Rowley, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

	£	s.	d.
J. W. Rowley	1	1	0
John Hart (Proprietor)	1	1	0
Mrs. Lionel Rignold	0	5	0

The President has collected among his private friends about £300 in addition to the above.

The President wishes it to be known that the funds have almost given out, and that immediate help is required.

The Secretary will be obliged if the ladies and gentlemen having collecting sheets will now forward them to the office.

Secretary, HORACE MARRIOTT.
Offices, 18, Adam-street, Strand.

The latest additions to Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's extensive catalogue of "Sixpenny Pops" include Mr. Harry Lauder's "Tobermory," "Cordalia Malone," Mr. Lionel Mackinder's fine song in *The Orchid*, and *The Catch of the Season* selections, arranged by Charles Godfrey, jun. The latter is a double number.

"THE ERA" SHILLING FUND FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

Total to date, 3092½.

	Shillings.
Thomas Barrasford	385
Thomas Barrasford, recent law case	315
M.H.A.R.A.	400
Lily Burnand	42
L. C. J. Livermore	42
C. Mannering	31½
Paul Cinquevalli	21
Gus Elen	21
Caicedo	21
G. Grais	21
Fred Neimann	20
Bros. Webb	10
Rozel	1

Collected by Mr Walter Stockwell, £1 14s.

	Shillings.		Shillings.
The Sivrouis	2	P. Palmer	1
Bandoni	2	F. Durant	1
Walter Stockwell	1	B. Jordan	1
Walter Wallis	1	Percy Murray	1
R. G. Fox	1	Grove Duo	1
Fitzroy	1	W. Munroe	1
Miss F. Chester	1	G. Barclay	1
W. Oliver	1	H. Simms	1
Richard Cass	1	Jack Richards	1
J. Spain	1	J. Laws	1
T. Callaghan	1	Jack Lorimer	1
T. Fitzroy	1	Mrs H. Simms	1
Jack Charman	1	Denmark Pair	1
Annie Laurie	1	H. H. Braham	1
Nellie Lewis	1	Eyre Wymfred	1
Walter Bartley	1	Frank J. Woods	1

Collected by Mr J. Sparrow, £2 9s.

J. Sparrow	10	Nellie Wilson	1
Wal Pink	2	Emma Don	1
Barton and Franklin	2	P. Murray	1
F. Reeves	1	J. B. Peterman	1
L. Dreams	1	Fitzroys	
J. Fortune	1	Alf Auckland	
Harry Goodson	1	T. C. Callaghan	
W. Bentley	1	Rex Fox	
R. Cass	1	Jordan	1
Mozondos	1	Pedlar	1
Tee and Tee	1	Bob Hanlon	1
Rossi and Vaughan	1	Laure	1
A. Veno	1	Travis	1
B. Monks	1	E. J. Sheldon	1
E. G. Bale	1	Tacius	1
Dandy George	1	G. H. Elliott	1
W. Stockwell	1	Stewart and Morgan	1
Valveno	1	C. Heath	
C. Chapman	1	Annie Laurie	
H. Cazman	1		

Collected by Harris and Worth, Macnaghten's Touring Pantomime, "Robinson Crusoe," £1 1s.

Harris and Worth	2	Miss Daisy Reed	1
Will Lytton	1	Miss Vivien	1
Jack Foley	1	Miss Harding	1
Miss Hurman	1	Miss Stewart	1
Chas. Cork	1	Mr Baines	1
Miss Leonard	1	Mr Charles Hylton	1
Miss Ivy Gallard	1	A. May	1
Mr James	1	W. Whylie	1
Harry Morgan	1	R. H. Barker	1
Miss Dora Langham	1	Miss Bartlett	1

Collected by Mr Fred Spencer, J. F. Elliston's "Cinderella" Company, York, 16½s.

Sisters Meredith	1½	Mabel Englehardt	1
Ernie Mayne	1	Hettie Zillwood	1
Tom Owen	1	Mamie Stuart	1
Tatten Hall	1	Belle Worstencroft	1
Don Harriadine	1	Carola	1
Fred Spencer	1	Lewis Leslie	1
Jack Lane	1	Marie Rayburn	0½
Madcaps	1	Marie Lindner	0½
Ted Houghton	1		

Collected by Mr Joe Lawrence, 19s. 6d.

Tray and Rich	2½	Ben Whiteley	1
Henry Clarke	2½	Harry Grey	1
Fenton and Harrison	2½	Syd Godfrey	1
Tom Tinsley	1	Reginald Rutter	1
Ras B.	1	Ted Leopold	1
Joe Hughes	1	Ariel and Astarte	1
Ben Elen	1	Forest and King	1
T. W. Wright	1		

Collected by Mr Harry Barnard, £1 2s. 6d.

Harry Barnard	10	Alec Jacobs	1
Henry Cazman	1½	Wooly Jacobs	1
David Phillips	1	Charlie Edwards	1
Ben Phillips	1	Charlie Booty	1
Lewis Phillips	1	H. C.	1
Joe Phillips	1	Mr Golding	1
Horace Barnard	1		

Collected by Grell and Grey, at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, Pantomime, "Cinders," £5.

John Hart	20	Eida Burman	1
J. W. Rowley	5	Miss Payne	1
Grell and Grey	5	C. Chambers	1
Roze and Calvert	2½	Will Ratcliffe	1
Carlton	2½	Cyril Rawden	1
F. Fowler	2½	E. W. Daunton	1
Katie May	2½	Mrs Keene	1
Leo Grieve	2½	J. Simpson	1
J. E. Nightingale	1	E. Dickson	1
D. Drew	1	Chorus Gents.	1s. 7d.
Maud Holland	1	A Friend	1s. 1½d.
Marie Daltra	1	Children	9½d.
Irene Verona	1		

Collected by Miss Nellie Christie, £2 8s.

Nellie Christie	20	Wally Scott	2
N. Coleman and Dome	5	Fred Solo	2
Tossing Austins	4	M. D. V.	1½
Mabel Osborn	3	Sisters James	1½
Virto	2½	P. L. F.	1
A. Kelsall	2½	Miss Castleton	1
Box Baxter	2		

Collected by Mr Tom Vine, £1 7s. 6d.

George Gilbey	5	Baby Violet M'Farlane	1
W. J. Churchill (Willie)	2½	George Bernard	1
Clara Nisbet	2½	Charles Frazer	1
Tom Vine	2½	Beattie Worth	1
Five Royal Zerbinis	2	John Sylvester Sage	1
Les Kyasyas	2	Peter Leckie	1
Fielding and Hull	2	Marie Mason	1
E. W. Selman	1	Mr Cumminger	1

Collected by Walton and Lester, Brixton Theatre, S.W., £1 7s.

Chard and Clarey	5	May Kent	1
Brett and Orford	5	A. W. Hanwell	1
Walton and Lester	5	Somers Bellamy	1
Nat Lewis	2½	Madge Haines	1
Ted Young	2½	Art Rowlay	1
Frank Bratsell	2		

Collected by E. A. Bridgen, the Granville, Walham-green, £1 10s.

Chas. Dixon	1	Lily Simmons	
Kate Lynd	1	Francis and Melli	1
Harry Lane	1	Edisonograph	1
Bella Bright	1	V. L. Granville	1
Tom E. Hughes	1	Victor Newman	1
E. W. Manning	1	Lieut. Albini	1
Great Scott	1	Tambo and Tambo	1
L. Lennox	1	Will Toole	1
Les Voces	1	Ruby Bijou	1
Sisters Caselli	1	Arthur A. Davenport	1
Lydia Dreams	1	Edwardes & Espinosa	1
Gus Hindell	1	Dora Clifford	1
Ida Royston	1	The Phantos	1
G. Onllaw	1	Cissy Dryden	1
Chas. Wren	1	John Lawson	1

Collected by Mr Joe Boganny, £3 3s.

Joe Boganny	10	W. Larner	1
E. B. Teena	5	Henry Scanlon	1
Tom Prichard	5	A. E. Jersey	1
Kimberley Boys	2½	Tom J. Morton	1
Will Poluski, jun.	2½	Tom Cruwys	1
Mignon Tremaine	2½	Connie Leon	1
Kate Hardren	2½	Will Mona	1
Frank Hilbert	2½	S. Major Jones	1
Dora Greve	2½	Tom	1
Nemo	2½	C. Lang	1
Violet Frew	2½	Tee and Tee	1
W. C. Walford	2	Fred Leighton	1
Kathleen Gray	2	Clarie Hilbert	1
R. Jenson	2	Massona	1
Claude Clifton	2	Will Freedo	1

Collected by Mr Tom Fancourt, 13s

Tom Fancourt	1	Harry Gribben	1
Jennie Rubie	1	Billy Elliott	1
George Belrose	1	Oliver Conroy	1
Ruby Winstone	1	Max Stirling	1
Lily Black	1	J. Brannhan	1
Beatrice Renee	1	George Bendon	1
Ernest Stevens	1		

Mr Frank Weston, £2 0s. 6d.

Brothers Forrest	3	Permane	1
M. Walton	2½	Hilgert Arkas	1
Nellie Wallace	2½	Tom M'Imray	1
T. Nelson Downes	2	W. G. Pratt	1
Al. Lawrence	2	E. B. Mayor	1
Ed. F. Reynard	2	E. Y. Stevens	1
T. F. Griffiths	2	Francess Letty	1
Densmore	1	Dan Llewllyn	1
Alexander Braatz	1	Warly Marus	
Raffaelo Trio	1	(Marus Bros.)	1
Yinlians	1	Emma and Victor	1
F. Finklestein	1	Slippere	1
S. Okimoto	1	The Four Cliftons	1
R. Royce	1	Phil Luck	1
D. Crombie	1	Adolph Luck	1
E. Leonard	1	Falcons	0½
Vock et Var	1		

Collected by Mr T. S. Lonsdale, £3 14s. 6s.

Capt. E. H. Warren-Wright	20	Kit Keen	1
Prof. Wingard	2	The Davenports	1
W. Pratt	2	The Four Jumels	1
Sherrys	2	Walter Payne	1
L. Whybro	2	Lillie North	1
A. Borghetti	2	G. Collins	1
Four Maisenos	2	T. Loader	1
Sisters Selwyn	2	Les Sprays	1
F. J. Barnard (Barnard's Marionettes)	1½	W. Martini	1
T. C. Gannon	1	F. Thorne	1
T. S. Lonsdale	1	Leslie Race	1
Ralston Bros.	1	France Piper	1
Tom Parker	1	The Jagos	1
Howard and Collinson	1	J. W. Ellison	1
Lee and Bentley	1	Sam Dalton	1
Leopolds	1	R. Gilbert	1
Millie Howell	1	E. H. Lucas	1
Sisters Hall	1	Wal Douglas	1
Dora Lyric	1	Carl Mysto	1
Arthur Reece	1	Hamilton Hill	1
Sisters Charnley	1	Alec Huline	1
Hanson	1	Hughes and Elliott	1
E. H. Williams	1	T. W. Rickaby	1
		Calcotts	1
		Will Farrell	1

Collected by Griff, £1 10s.

Griff	1	Mamma Griff	1
Alpha	1	The Young Griffs	1
Hadden Griff	1	The Old Griffs	1
Harry Griff	1	Baby Griffs	1
George Griff	1	Joseph Griff	1
John Griff	1	Crompton Griff	1
Victor Griff	1	Griff-Griff	1
Mrs. Griff	1	The Griff Troupe	1
Annie Griff	1	No. 1 Griff	1
H. H. Griff	1	No. 2 Griff	1
Henry Griff	1	No. 3 Griff	1
Griff senior	1	No. 4 Griff	1
Griff junior	1	No. 5 Griff	1
The Griff Family	1	No. 6 Griff	1
Papa Griff	1	No. 7 Griff	1

Collected by Mr. J. H. Stringer, £1 13s.

J. H. S.	1	M. Patarch	1
Lucks	6	H. O. Dixon	1
L. B. Brettell	1	W. H. Boyes	1
Mabel Thorne	1	F. E. Boyes	1
Ray Hartley	1	P. Greenhalter	1
Hilda Dugdale	1	F. Hewitt	1
Mabel Dauby	1	H. R. Tidswell	1
Vesta Davies	1	C. A. Boothroyd	1
J. Crichton	1	A. E. Needham	1
Walter Scott	1	H. Wasse	1
Herbert Rule	1	G. Michaline	1
Ernie Bee	1	H. A. Moore	1
Charlie Dillon	1	Will Cornish	1
P. Patarch	1	Frank Boissett	1

Collected by Mr. Will Johnson, £2.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Warmsley	2	Montague Body	1
New York Comedy 4	2	W. Jarnold, jun.	1
Mr. and Mrs. Burgess	2	Dorie Wynne	1
Hart and Leo	2	Eva Perrett	1
Will Johnson	1	Julie Lascelles	1
Daisy Martell	1	Amy Goodworth	1
Ben Albert	1	Mrs. Bennett	1
Leonard White	1	Mr. H. G. Bennett	1
W. G. Hurst	1	Dan Crawley	1
Lily Shaw	1	Lillian Bishop	1
Condor and Preston	1	G. F. Messer	1
Ruby Verdi	1	Fred Gould	1
Alf Hales	1	Bert Johnson	1
R. Kloss	1	Ted Johnson	1
Gwennie Harcourt	1	Jas. Burnett	1
Stanley Wigg	1	S. Mills	1
H. T. B.	1	Hiawatha	1
Walter T. Bayliss	1	Arthur Fuller	1

Collected by Jesse Burton, £2.

Lily Marney	2½	Clarence Hotel, Hyde-road	1
Tilly Bebe	2½		
Virto and Irene	2	Rose Tilly	1
Bill Bob	1	Albert Bushell	1
Walt. Elliot	1	Jack Charman	1
Jack Jones	1	Mdlle. Roza	1
Patsy Morton	1	Hamilton Hill	1
Billy Stephens	1	Edwin Adeler	1
F. M. Carpenter	1	Lennox Barry	1
Mr. Beer	1	Bill Banbery	1
Trixy Hardeen	1	Bill Humberston	1
A. Kelsall	1	Alf Chambers	1
Auto and Mobil	1	Bill Davis	1
Sergeant Maine	1	A. Burgess	1
H. Baldwin	1	J. C. Davies	1
T. Fox	1	James Farmer	1
A Friend	1	W. H. Maudry	1
Mr. Young	1	Jesse Burton	1
Mr. Cowan	1		

Collected by Mr. Will Evans, £2 9s.

Will Evans	20	Harry Poole	1
Cards, H. P.	10	T. A. Edge	1
Bunghole	2½	Charles Beecham	1
Ian Colquhoun	2	James Fawn	1
Whit Cunliffe	1	Dolly Harmer	1
G. H. Elliott	1	Harold Finden	1
Dandy George	1	Geo. Stevenson	1
Geo. H. Dyball	1	Mr. Binks	1
M. Hall	1	Mr. Coarde, of Bass and Co.	1
Chen Yorke	1		

Collected by Mr. Fred Coles, £2.

Six Bros. Luck	6	Charlie Dillon	1
Bonnie Goodwin	2	Bros. Huxter	1
Caban	2	G. P.	1
George Neno	1	Lily Turner	1
Lachie Thompson	1	S. W. Strachan	1
Post Mason	1	Creighton Adams	1
Tiny Reiff	1	G. T. H. Greene	1
Harry Calvo	1	Harry Hill	1
Juno Salmo	1	Mabel Thorne	1
Musical Palmers	1	Walter Emerson	1
Fred Wersker	1	Kroney Bros.	1
Dot Stanley	1	Wartenberg Bros.	1
Gilleu	1	Cissie Cutler	1
J. Crichton	1	Tom Grave	1
A. Jackson	1	Hanco	1
Herbert Rule	1	Frank Benson	1
Ernie Bee	1		

Collected by Miss Florrie Robina, 10s.

Florrie Robina	1	Florrie Robina	1
Florrie Robina	1	Florrie Robina	1
Florrie Robina	1	Florrie Robina	1
Florrie Robina	1	Florrie Robina	1
Florrie Robina	1	Florrie Robina	1

Collected by Mr. Tom Wootwell, 8s.

Queen and Le Brun	2	Harry Kirk	1
Walter Gasco	1	Tom Hales	1
Tom Hearn	1	Johny Danvers	1
Wootwell	1		

Collected by Mr. George Malcolm, 6s.

George Malcolm	1	Harry Danby	1
Alfred Collins	1	Freddie Malcolm	1
C. Bowen	1	Harry Ongar	1

Collected by Mr. Harry Anderson, £1 2s.

A. G. Hawkins	1	Harry Anderson, Jun.	1
C. Clarke	1	Mrs Anderson	1
Mrs. C. Clarke	1	J. S. W.	1
R. Robinson	1	F. C.	1
J. R. Hill	1	A. J. P.	1
W. and C.	1	H. Bennet	1
A. G. Cuthbert	1	Mrs. Ellice	1
G. Dike	1	Mrs. Bowden	1
Melvic	1	M. Dickery	1
"J"	1	H. Hall	1
Winnie Derson	1	Harry Anderson	1

Collected by Mr. Mike S. Whallen, 10s.

Mike S. Whallen	1	Victor Stevens	1
Frances McNulty	1	J. B. H.	1
Dolly McNulty	1	Alan Dale	1
H. Dent	1	Mr. Wood	1
Alma Jones	1	Mrs. Whallen	1

Collected by Mr Arnold Cooke, 16s.

Arthur Linton	1	The Metropole	1
Miss Ethel Lamont	1	The Joiner's Arms	1
Doris Ballard	1	W. S. R.	1
Gorgonzola	1	Mrs Kohler	1
Rules	1	F. Shelley	1
Windsor	1	C. W. Ringwood, The Rose and Crown, Hammersmith	1
Yates's	1		
E. C. Webb	1	Fred Murray	1
A. J.	1		

Collected by Miss Nellie Wilson, £15.

George Chirgwin and Kids	20	Rose Hamilton	1
Fred and Kitty Poplar	12	H. E. Adams	1
Clark and Hamilton	5	J. R. Dipple	1
Joe Elvin	5	Woolfe	1
Topsy Robina	5	Walter Norman	1
Marie Bernard	5	Harry Lundy	1
Stella Troupe	4	Mrs. Claxton	1
Mr. & Mrs. John Othen	3	Edward Bosanquet	1
Mrs. Fred Ginnett	3	Eileen Douglas	1
Floradora Girls	3	Bessie Travis	1
Nellie Wilson	3	Dot Hardy	1
Harry Phillips	3	Jo Jo Webb	1
Fred Karno	2½	C. Beecham	1
Tom Burrows	2½	Lydia Neilson	1
Kate Carney	2½	Little Queenie May	1
George Barclay	2½	The Anglos	1
Boswell's Circus	2½	Alick Addie	1
Vesta Victoria	2½	Annie Reid	1
Cliffe Berzac	2½	W. Sidebottom	1
Mr. and Mrs. Learoyd	2½	Whisper and Bloom	1
R. Dove	2½	H. Bosworth	1
Victoria Monks	2	D. D. Coomber	1
Ray Wallace	2	J. E. Giggs	1
Edith Carney	2	McMays	1
Alice Lloyd	2	L. L. M. B.	1
Rosie Lloyd	2	W. Peet	1
The Mayvilles	2	F. Chappell	1
Harry Clifford	2	J. T. Partridge	1
Marie Braham	2	Lennox Barry	1
Two Friends	2	Tom Hughes	1
Phillips and Terry	2	Minnie Beresford	1
Millie Tempest	2	J. King, sen.	1
John Nathan	2	J. King, jun.	1
Frank Seeley and Wife	2	M. Holley	1
Athas and Collins	2	Thomas Baylis	1
A. Grimmett	2	W. A. Weekes	1
Tom Shaw	2	Jessie Albini	1
Daisy James	2	H. C.	1
George Leyton	2	P. Block	1
M. B. Leavitt	2	Leon Bassett	1
Frank Tilsley	2	Jesse Sparrow	1
J. Broom, the Antelope	2	Walter Clyde	1
Mrs. Cuff	2	Mrs. Richardson	1
Rex Burnham	2	Hartley Milburn	1
Ethel Yorke	2	Charles Peace	1
Hanid Alexander	2	J. Selbini	1
Harry Fownaker	2	Musical Sylvo	1
J. Chanter	2	D. Reimann	1
Pimm, King's Head, Balham	2	Sam Mayo	1
Eustace H. Jay	2	Frank Hardup	1
Haldyne Duo	2	Mac, The Antelope	1
Emily Lyndale	2	W. Morfew, The Antelope	1
Fred Durham	1½	E. A. Boot, the Antelope	1
Milly Layton	1½	M. Clarke, The Antelope	1
John Gran Marx	1	Bob, The Antelope	1
Griffiths	1	Julia Warwick	1
Frank Esmond	1	Archie Duncan	1
Jack Tibbs	1	Julia Ryland	1
Alf Marchamp	1	Ethel Ryland	1
Pat Rafferty	1	Eva Grady	1
Maud Tale	1	Harry Rich	1
A Friend	1	The Ashers	1
G. Golding	1	The Antelope	1
Blake and Granby	1	Irene Meldon	1
Joe M'Connell	1	Old Queen's Head	1
Lennie and Hart	1	Chris Wren	1
H. Roberts	1	John Myland	1
Will Bishop	1	Ida Royston	1
Phil Ray	1	Mrs. Armstrong	1
Charles Pastor	1	Selina Seaforth	1
Frank Know	1	Jack Collinson	1
J. P. Lloyd	1	W. Skinner	1
Hilda, Crown & Anchor	1	Bijou Russell	1
Charles Stevens	1	Harry Elvin	1
Harriett Chanter	1	J. Mellors	1
The Two Errols	1	Sam Josephs	1
South Africa	1	Kallington	1
Dutch Daly	1	The Maples	1
Florrie Forde	1	H. Newbold	1
Alf Chester	1	George Layton	1
Charles Best	1	Mike Ryan	1
Nadji	1	Minnie Durham	1
Alf Abrahams	1	Pocket Short	1
Sisters Oswald	1	H. Frith	1
Maynard Dakin	1	G. Green	1
George Warwick	1	F. Warne	1
T. W. Harris	1	Willie Benn	1
W. H. Downs	1	Billy Ross	1
Lucy Weston	1	Florence Jaymen	1
Henry Clarke	1	Theo Dunkley	1
Jack Benton	1	J. H. Phillipi	1
Charley Pratt	1	W. Williams	1
Mrs. Vargur	1	C. Doble	1
Serpentelo	1	Mr. Barford	1
Dandy George	1	Mr. Gailbraith	1
Emmie Hyams	1	Mr. Kilpatrick	1
Maud Day	1	Frank J. Donne	1
Holly Taylor	1	Fred Wright, jun.	1

Collected by the Musical Palmers, £1 2s.

Geo. L. Mead	1	Elsie Cates	1
F. Glanville	1	Doris Cates	1
Mrs. A. Eaton	1	Margy Cates	1
Pulo	1	E. Whiles	1
Musical Palmers	1	M. A. Forge	1
Musical Palmers	1	W. Whiles	1
Musical Palmers	1	E. Wormald	1
Musical Palmers	1	Mrs. Wormald	1
Musical Palmers	1	W. Banbery	1
Steve McCarthy	1	Mrs. Banbery	1
Tom Anderson	1	W. Davis	1

Collected by Morris and Morris, £1.

T. B. Morris	13	C. Lolher	1
R. L.	1	Brown and Robinson	1
Mersano	1	M.	1
Mike Morris	1	Arthur Melrose	1

Collected by the Rushforths, £1 4s.

Sam Higham	2	Annie Senior	1
Alf Thorp	2	Effie Mortlock	1
Hilton and Hilton	1½	Lozelle	1
J. Adamson	1½	Herbert Maden	1
Loudoun Cameron	1½	The Wynfords	1
Corporation	1½	M'Queen	½
Wm. Ashton	1	J. Huntley	½
The Rushforths	1	Frank Tarbuck	½
Collin and Croft	1	G. L.	½
W. Dalton	1	Frank Craig	½
Mrs. Dalton	1	H. R.	½
Mr. Clare	1	Even money	1
J. Bradley	1		

Collected by Mr. Douglas Stuart, £3 1s.

C. Douglas Stuart	10½	J. Wright	2½
Maggie Duggan	10½	A. Briggs	2½
Mrs. Stuart	5	Will H. Fox	2½
J. Byrne (Oldham)	5	J. D. Humphreys	2½
C. McConnell	2½	Chas. Snell	2½
Fred Wood (S. Shields)	2½	Gus Beilbie	2
Bert Wilson (Birm.)	2½	N. Bennett	1
Fritz Young	2½	Bob Hutt	1
A. Hoyle	2½	Ted Leopold	1

Collected by Mr. Walter Hassan, £2 10s.

R. Judge	10	R. Riley	1
Jim Jones	2	J. Thompson	1
Leonard and Francis	2	H. Kemble	1
Clarns Bros.	2	Meier & Mora	1
Laares Troupe	2	Mdlle. Lilian	1
Bertha Pertina	2	Pollo Jerome	1
Smaun Sing Upoo	2	F. W. James	1
Mirzah	2	Mrs. Norris	1
J. Brown	2	Miss Taylor	1
J. Bell	2	Fred Curran	1
J. Cowap	1	Sidney James	1
G. Spencer	1	Otto Barra	1
H. Alston	1	Larry Lewis	1
J. Trowel	1	Loch and Lard	1
J. Jones, Junr.	1	Marquis Iton	1
T. McMahon	1	The O'Learys	1

Collected by Mr. Richard Cass, 14s.

Mrs. Richard Cass	1	Jesse Sparrow	1
Walter Stockwell	1	Fred Neiman	1
Rosie Penton	1	James P. Cass	1
Chris Wordsworth	1	Henri Cazman	1
W. F. Scott	1	J. L. Graydon, sen.	1
A. Loft	1	Fred Baugh	1
Frank Weeks	1	C. W. O'Connor	1

Collected by Hanvarr and Anna Lee, 18s.

Hanvarr	2½	E. A. F.	1
Anna Lee	2½	E. C.	1
Alf M. Stewart	2	Mrs. R. Lee	1
Motramos	2	Agnes Krembser	1
Fred Keeton	1	Connie Milten	1
Montague Biggs	1	L. D. R.	1
C. Webb	1		

Collected by Mr. Dan Conroy, £1 7s.

Dan Conroy	1	H. E. Ebdon	1
Mrs. D. Conroy	1	Reco	1
Dan Conroy, jun.	1	E. J. Sales	1
Harry Conroy	1	A. Marshall	1
James B. Conroy	1	N. Gasco	1
Miss Alice Conroy	1	C. R. Sweet	1
Miss Daisy Conroy	1	John Marx	1
Perhap Conroy	1	Maria Heaton	1
Maybe Conroy	1	R. Watson	1
Troupe Conroy	1	Geo. Sandford	1
Griff Conroy	1	Harry Weldon	1
Harry Arra	1	Dave O'Toole	1
Dot King	1	J. T. Newell	1
Rush Brock	1		

Collected by Mr. C. J. Bartleet Perry, £2 15s. 6d.

Morritt	2½	Mons. Slippere	1
Mdlle. Lumiere	2½	Chas. R. Whittle	1
Henri de Marse	2½	Keen and Waller	1
The Toreadors	2½	Earle and Ormonde	1
The Athlones	2½	Lukos and St. John	½
American Quintette	2	Gus Harris	1
Six Brothers Luck	2	Vaudeville Trio	1
The Erwins	2	Edith St. Clare	1
Bonnecelli Troupe	2	Geo. M. Schilling	1
Brian	1	Wal Croft	1
Chas. Vandyke Co.	1	Pollo Jerome	1
The O'Learys	1	The Arleys	1
Fielding and Hull	1	Lily St. Claire	1
Sid Bandon	1	Lily Flexmore	1
Fred Curran	1	Harry Drew	1
Florence Hill	1	A. Higginson	1
De Henau and Aladina	1	Collins and Kent	1
The Alesons	1	Marie Pownall	1
Alec McNulty	1	Reddick Anderson	1
Henri Abdy and Marbelle	1	Mons. Valoni	1
Bob Hamilton	1	Mdlle. Haydee	1
Mdlle. Lillian	1	R. Judge	1

Collected by Mr. Horace Wheatley, £2 12s.

Horace Wheatley	21	L. Anarto	1
Master Wheatley	1	Q. C.	1
Catherleen Wheatley	1	Dorothy L. Clark	1
Eileen Wheatley	1	Sam Walch	1
Terrance Wheatley	1	Cee Mee	1
Norah Wheatley	1	G. Gunhorp	1
Grandma Wheatley	1	Ernest Spalding	1
A. R.	1	Ned Kennedy	1
F. R.	1	J. W. Rickaby	1
Picton Roxborough	1	Tench	1
Fanny Wright	1	A. Bagot	1
Harry Maxam	1	Ganty	1
Miss La Touche	1	Mrs. Ganty	1
Louie Collier	1	Baby Ganty	1
Adeline Yohle	1	Bob Ganty	1
A. Anarto	1	Jack Ganty, Dog	1

Collected by Mueller and Coyne, £1 14s. 6d.

T. Tambo	1	J. C. M.	1
W. Mueller	1	S. M. Thompson, M.D.	1
C. Coyne	1	A. J. B.	1
L. Rates	1	An Irish Bark	1
Beatrice Hayden	1	Anna De Grey	1
Edie Veno	1	Jenny Driscoll	1
Alf Reeves	1	Fred Leslie	1
Ernest Korrie	1	F. J. Hayes	1
Maisie Cooke	1	Capt. R. J. Slavin	1
Leslie Bros.	1	O'Gust Family	1
N. Adams	1	Geo. Newburn	1
Peppo	1	Geo. Ridgwell	1
Mascotte Trio	1	Butterflies	1
J. Le Fre	1	Helen Martin	1
W. Le Fre	1	Will Moran	½
Wm. Robertus	1	W. B.	½
Frank Harwood	1	W. Fern	½
Fred Haulon	1		
G. E. Stamford	1		

Collected by the Three Novells, 9s.

Fred Staig	2	John Fossett	1
Paul Hesse Trio	1	R. Bentley	1
Ernest Dillon	1	Novells	1
G. Laplace	1	J. Taylor	1

Collected by Mr Dan Crawley, 6s.

Brothers Etharien	2	Lilian Bishop	1
Dan Crawley	1	Charles Sloman	1
Jake Friedman	1		

Collected by Mr John E. Coyle, £1 19s. 6d.

B. Q.	5	Mr Prestworth	1
T. G.	2½	Mr Stringer	1
R. and R.	2	Thompson Mac	1
W. M. Friends	2	Mr Lucas	1
R. W.	2	A. Rodger	1
L. M.	1	D. N. V. C.	1
D. D.	1	Harmsworth	1
L. C.	1	Harmsworth II.	1
J. P.	1	Soutter	1
G. P.	1	Cowen	1
F. C.	1	Mr Infant	1
D. D.	1	Misers	1
Mr. Guineas	1	Coyle	1
Two Friends	1	Coyle	1
Mr Loftus	1	Coyle	1
Mr Storrie	1		

Collected by Mr. Walter Munroe, £1 19s.

H. J. Corner	2½	Karl Hegel	½
Katie Butler	2	Tom McGovern	½
Romsakof	1½	Walter Munroe	2½
J. Dolaro	1	Charles Donal	2
Mr. Wilson	1	Ella Retford	1
Mrs. Tiso	1	A. Donais	1
Dandies	1	Madame Emmy	1
J. Olrac	1	Trapnell Family	1
Miss Winona Winter	1	Wilfredo	1
George Newburn	1	Robertus	1
Lilian Lowe	1	Tom Edwards	1
Josie Walker	1	Charles Nevardo	1
George Adams	1	Lillie Langtry	1

Collected by Mr. Bob Hutt, £1 1s.

Bob Hutt	5	Fred Dark	1
Mrs. Hutt	1	T. W. Rossier	1
Violet Hutt	1	Dai Davies	1
Cymric Bach	1	S. Delevine	1
Fantoche	1	F. Davies	1
Tom Gilmore	1	R. C. Jenkins	1
Arthur Godfrey	1	C. Mortimer	1
Minnie Duncan	1	C. D. Stuart	1
Clifford Morgan	1		

Collected by Mr. J. Sparrow, £3 13s. 6d.

Kioto	5	Fred Pemberton	5
Fred Eustace	3	Watson Family	3
W. Leotard	2	Ida Collard	2
Er. Montifiore	2	Blake and Granby	2
Newham and Latimer	2	Fred Karno	2
Les Voces	1	J. H. Hunt	2
Vickey Dalmar	1	The Kings	1
Johnny Dwyer	1	Hal Chapter	1
Kit Keer	1	Alaska	1
Hubert Bartlett	1	Gene Hughes	1
N. B. Ashley	1	Snow and Farron	1
Otto Schuman	1	Gertrude Glenn	1
Archie Glen	1	Zenary Bros.	1
Ryder Slone	1	Condon and Preston	1
Lyons Trio	1	Coram	1
Ted Leopold	1	Dan Conroy	1
J. C. Manley	1	Gilbert Girard	1
Max Trevally	1	Elysian Troupe	1
De Vere and Kendrick	1	G. P. R. Burgess	1
Francis	1	Nellie Adams	1
Clark and Gill	1	Geo. Prince	1
Fred Eltop	1	Allen and Gintur	1
Florry King	1	F. McArthur	1
Richard Cass	1	C. Clifton	1
E. Edelsten	1	Hughes and Elliott	1
Jessie Dryden	1	Warden Reed	1
McKay and Lawrence	1	Bert Danser	½
Harry Grey	1		

Collected by O'Connor and Brady, 13s.

J. O'Connor	2	E. R. Dainez	2
Gertie Gitana	2	Florrrie Forde	2
C. Brady	2	Doris Lillian	1
Frank Dunlop	2		

Collected by Miss Maude Mortimer, £1 13s.

Dan Rolyat	5	Maude Mortimer	5
Florence Smithson	5	Cleary	2
Winnie Browne	1	J. Humphries	2
Gwennie Hasto	1	H. Catchart	1
Lillie Souter	1	G. Kuyell	1
J. L. Johnson	1	S. Morris	1
May Vallance	1	J. A. W.	1
F. Storre	1	A. Mascard	1
A. Ashdown	1	C. Grant	1
S. Adeson	1		

Will the Collectors for Mr Thomas Barrasford's appeal for the Music Hall Home Fund kindly send in their lists to *The Era* Office to the hon. treasurer, Mr F. H. Pedgrift. They will be duly announced in our next issue. Those artistes who desire a collecting card please apply to Mr J. T. Fruin, secretary, 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E.

THAT popular farcical comedy, *Are you a Mason?* was witnessed for the first time at the Queen's Theatre, Swindon, on Monday last by a large and interested audience, to the accompaniment of roars of hearty laughter. It was presented by Messrs. Geo. Edwardes and Chas. Frohman's company, in charge of Mr. Arthur Whittaker, and capitally stage-managed by Mr. Frank Ridley. Mr. Anthony Fawcett as George Fisher, Mr. Harry Ashford as Amos Bloodgood, Mr. Arthur Claremont as Frank Perry, and Mr. Tom Mowbray as John Halton, by their remarkably fine performances, call for special mention, while of the ladies, Miss Harriet Trench must be commended for her delightful impersonation of Mrs. Bloodgood, and Miss Violet Graham for her earnestness as Mrs. Perry. The curtain-raiser, *Hushed Up*, was unusually well played.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

THE funeral of Mrs. E. Burgess, wife of Mr. C. Burgess, shooting gallery proprietor, took place on the 24th ult. at Keighley, where the family have wintered for a number of years. The deceased was well known on the road, and was held in high esteem, as was endorsed by the large number of travellers and townspeople who attended to show a last token of respect. The mourners included Mr. C. Burgess, Miss J. Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Burgess, Mr. A. Burgess, Mr. W. Burgess, Mr. E. Hanneford (nephew, Stockport), Miss E. Fuller (niece, Manchester), Mrs. A. Woodruff (Manchester), Mr. and Mrs. A. Akroyd (Sheffield), Mr. W. Sedgwick (Oldham), Mr. Herbert Mellor (Oldham), Mrs. W. H. Marshall (Bradford), Mr. R. Williams (Keighley), Mrs. W. R. Williams (Keighley), Mrs. A. Barker (Bradford), Mrs. G. Haigh (Keighley), Mrs. M. J. Riley (Leeds), Mrs. S. Sutherland (Leeds), Mrs. M. A. Hughes (Leeds), Mrs. G. Redfern (Bradford), Mrs. B. Redfern (Heckmondwike), Mr. and Mrs. Scott (Keighley), Mrs. J. Smith (Keighley), Miss T. Hale (Bradford), and the following friends: Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson (Leeds), Mrs. Simons (Leeds), Mr. R. Sugden, Mr. and Mrs. Blakey and Mr. Blakey, jun., Mr. G. Dalgoutee, Mrs. Halstead, Mrs. W. Feather, Mrs. Capper, Mrs. Stephen Feather, Mrs. J. Rooke, Mrs. W. Brooke, Mrs. U. Wilcock, Mrs. Ireley, Mrs. Sharp, Mrs. Poole, Mrs. W. Rooke, Mr. W. Fowler, Mr. J. Stirk, Miss M. Wilcock, Mrs. Richards, and Miss Edith. Wreaths were sent by the following: Mr. C. and Miss Burgess, A. and W. Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. J. Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. Ackroyd, Mr. and Mrs. Sedgwick, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Shaw, Mr. R. Williams and family (Keighley), Mr. and Mrs. G. Haigh, Mr. and Mrs. Blakey, Mr. R. Sugden, Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Simons, Mr. E. Hanneford, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Marshall, Messrs. Feather and Brooke, Mr. and Mrs. Capper, Miss C. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. A. Barker, Mrs. J. Rooke, Mr. W. Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. Snowden, Mr. J. Falconer, Mr. D. Smith, and Mr. R. Pickles. The funeral cortège consisted of a hearse and thirteen carriages, and one open carriage required to convey the numerous wreaths. Prior to leaving for the interment at Keighley Cemetery a short prayer was offered by the Rev. Seely, the pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Keighley. The service in the church cemetery and at the graveside was most impressive.

THE tale of the "bouncing lion" was concluded in the Court of King's Bench on Monday, when the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, Mr. George Leslie, for £22 on the claim, and on the counterclaim for Mr. G. Beach, the defendant

STORIES OF SHOWMAN LIFE.

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By the Rev. T. Horne.

"PEEP-SHOW TOM."

There is no body of men on the face of the earth more willing to recognise the nobility of talent than the travelling showman. If a man is really clever he will find a hearty welcome and a ready market for his genius or ability in Showland.

This fact accounts for a great deal of the undoubted success of show folk in adapting their business methods to modern requirements, and also in meeting the unfair attack of narrow-minded and partial enemies, and the ignorant zeal for unpractical reform on the part of would-be friends.

Every year this new strength of virility, fresh blood flows into the body; new men with new ideas find that only on the fair ground of the Empire can these fresh ideas be fully expressed and appreciated. Hence the ground booth. Merely a few sticks and canvas assist to introduce to a novelty-loving public men and women of genius and talent. Not show people in the narrow sense of being born on the road, but show people because, as kings and queens, they come to their own and find thrones of renown and fame in that wonderland of discovery, the Fair.

Your Wombwell, with his living marvel—the serpent in a box, that he carried under his arm—finds a gaping crowd on a fair ground, and the talent of the man, from that small beginning, creates England's first Royal Travelling Menagerie.

Your George Sanger, with a small exhibition of performing birds, goes through by sheer force of genius and talent the whole gamut of possible experience, the ups and downs of struggling, yet ever buoyant ability and talent. Is not his success written in "The book of the chronicles of the kings" of the road?

Your William Manders (from the desk of a lawyer's clerk) is called to inherit by right of birth Mother Hilton's Menagerie, eight waggon-loads. He brings into the world of shows such new ideas and ambitions that even the Wombwells tremble before him, and one of England's best and greatest menageries springs into being.

The young conjuror Randall Williams, full of keen ideas, starts out, on his marriage with a show girl, with only two waggon-loads to begin with, but by sheer talent rises rapidly to the top of the tree, and dies with wealth and honour the King of Showmen; a glorious empire, won and held only by force of ability and popular consent and acclaim.

Yes; it is an ever open door; all men may enter Showland. With their gifts of genius they may win or lose a king's place, honoured and loved by loyal people, the common folk of Merrie England who revel in that delectable land, where sordid toil and carking care are for the nonce forgotten, and men, women, and children enjoy the show.

Such a genius was "Peep-Show Tom." He flourished in the early sixties, and the story which follows is the secret of coming to claim a place in the grand free republic of Showland, the merchant adventurer of talent, the brotherhood of the road.

From whence he came and why he came no one ever knew, also whither he went at last, no one ever found out.

"Peep-Show Tom" was a silent, solitary man; when I first knew him he travelled the Lancashire round with a peep-show of the early Victorian era, one waggon-load. The waggon was drawn up lengthways on the ground, and by a cunning arrangement, much like the tilted frame of a modern shooting gallery, a front entrance was built out from the van side, exposing the inside contrivance of great magnifying lenses—staring eyes, of magic import to the wondering child raised from the ground to see the peep-show for the first time.

"Peep-Show Tom" was a genius in many things, but his greatest talent was mechanics. Give him an idea of the thing you wanted, and in a few hours he would return to you as pleased as a child with a new toy, and show you the invention of his fertile brain, the thing exactly you wanted, and that only "Peep-Show Tom's" genius could supply.

Now, one effect of a real genius in mechanics to Showland was the immediate coming into being of moving waxworks; the only sort of travelling waxworks up to that time were the then well-known shows of Ewin and Turnbull, Allsop, Springthorpe, and Jackson, only travelled from town to town and took private business in halls and shops.

Until "Peep-Show Tom" developed the mechanical idea, moving waxworks were unknown; his genius lay in the suggestion of suitable subjects, and the wonderful contrivances to give life-like action to the figures.

Then came into being the excellent waxwork show of Andrew Purchase, James Manders, and one or two others. I saw at a West of England fair recently two waggon-loads of waxworks, four or five waggons of wild beasts. The waxworks were the only surviving remainder of the once famous Purchase's moving waxworks.

It was Knott Mill Fair (Manchester's great fair), lasting over a week, and always timed for the Easter holidays. "Peep-Show Tom" had been busy all the winter repairing and improving the group of mechanical figures in Manders's waxworks; the show was resplendent in all the glory of a new front by Davison, the painting by Waire.

I am speaking of the year 1862. At the fair were on the big ground Wombwell's Menagerie, Pablo Fanque's Circus, Manders's Waxworks, Lomas with living marionettes, Williams's mechanical show, Mumming, and a small wild beast show—I think it was Billy Strand's.

On the Haymarket were Culver's marionettes, Chapman's birds, Macintosh's shows, and the great William Manders running the Wombwell's show, very thirsty for supremacy.

Amongst the small concerns on the big ground was "Peep-Show Tom's" one-waggon show. It was only in the winter that Tom could be induced to work at the making or repairing of waxworks, and the summer he always travelled his peep-show.

Now, on the third day of the fair—"Quality Day," it was called, from the number of Manchester cotton princes who drove up to the fair in their carriages, and always went the round of the shows, to the huge delight of the young folk—one of the finest of these notable equipages contained a lady, evidently a widow, and with her three handsome children, the youngest a bonny bright-eyed lassie seven years old, the other two boys evidently home from some public school for the short Easter vacation, all of them bubbling over with fun and merriment.

Wombwell's, of course, had been visited, and most of the big shows, when one of the children caught sight of the humble concern of "Peep-Show Tom."

"Come, mother, let's see a little show, now."

"Yes, quite so; I want you to do just as you please, dears."

Getting out of their carriage, the party went to the peep-show. As they neared it Tom, who was behind the frame, heard his outside helper say, "Bona slang, Mr. Master—quality folk."

"Oh, yes; quality day, quality," said Tom, sotto voce, "Ah me! the times gone by! How the past seems to haunt me to-day. What is it? Why have I this sense of the past so vividly before me to-day?" Saying which, he lifted the curtain and gazed at the audience. Spellbound for quite a moment, he stood transfixed, and gazed upon the widow and her children. Suddenly the lady caught sight of the startled showman, and then she in her turn was amazed. Involuntarily she stretched out her arms and said, "Come to me, my poor lost one," and then, speedily recovering her self-possession, she said to her children, "Never mind, my darlings, I was only speaking my thoughts aloud. Oscar," she whispered to her eldest boy, "take me back to the carriage at once before I faint. I must have air. I feel that I am sinking, sinking."

Well, the lady and her sons and daughter were driven home, and the children sent to the care of the housekeeper; then the lady said to the astounded coachman, "Drive me back again to the fair and to the peep-show we saw last on the ground." He did, in most respectful but puzzled obedience.

What happened between the lady and "Peep-Show Tom" is not told us, but from that moment "Peep-Show Tom" was seen no more on the fair-grounds of England.

This is the clue to the mystery:—

George Penrice, Esq., consulting civil engineer, was in his workshop in the Adelphi; clever, rich, and a rising consultant, he had the world at his feet. Now, at the tragic moment of this story, Henry Penrice was up in London on a long-promised visit to his brother, the civil engineer. Amongst other inventions were certain burglar alarm bells and mantraps of a most ingenious kind that the mechanical genius had made and perfected. There was one deadly engine of safety that he had secretly invented, the only possible use of which would be found on the limitless veldt of South Africa, or the great lowlands of Australia, or in the lawless zone of the far West of America.

It was an exquisitely finished, but diabolically terrible, full-sized figure of a man, placed in a long-cased clock—the old "Guard," George Penrice called it. By a connection of electric wires the panel door was so constructed that any tampering with the lock of the iron safe by its side would cause the door to fly open, the figure to slowly move on a pivot table, take aim, and shoot in a direct line with the door of the safe.

How it happened, and how his brother came to tamper with the safe, Heaven only knows. The fact material to our story is that the horrible and the unexpected things do happen. Henry was found stark dead and cold with a bullet embedded between his shoulder blades, and a look of terror on his face that may have paralysed from sheer fright before the deadly bullet was sped by the automaton.

It was George who found the body. We can well imagine the overwhelming calamity of it. For an hour that seemed an eternity of suffering he lay with the dead man's head upon his knees, fascinated with the weird terror of those staring eyeballs.

At last he roused himself. What to do he could not think. Then a helpful thought came to him.

"I will bring Morris," he whispered to himself. Even that whisper in the chamber of horrors sounded like a shout of gibbering, accusing, fallen spirits. "You did it—you, you, you; your fatal invention has turned upon you."

Stopping his ears to stay the horrid sounds of the creatures of his overwrought brain, he rushed out of his chamber into the adjoining suite of offices, found his old college chum, Bob Morris, barrister-at-law, and dragged him in a whirl of unintelligible exclamations to the chamber of death, and then more from what he saw than from the incoherent self-accusatory rambling of Penrice, did the clever barrister piece together the terrible fragments of the mysterious tragedy.

Then, with clear logical precision, the lawyer measured up the whole misery of the situation. He was obliged to tell his distraught friend that the case looked as black as black could be against him on the capital charge. There was the damning coincidence that, according to the will of the late Oswald Penrice, father of the brothers, the entail was broken and the young son of the dead man would not inherit. Under the same will it was provided that the younger brother should inherit on the death of the elder, and then at his death the property would be equally distributed amongst the heirs of both men.

Here was the fatality of the untoward and unfortunate accident. The world would persist in the belief that greed of wealth had perverted the genius of the engineer to having contrived a death-trap for his brother.

The lawyer counselled a deed of gift, giving up to the children and wife of the dead the whole of the property; then the unfortunate George must disappear for ten or twelve years.

All this was done. That night the Dover train carried an innocent man fleeing from blind justice. He utterly disappeared from the ken of men. More than eight years he travelled under various aliases, and then home and hunger overcame him; he returned, and found in the Bohemia of the fair-ground a safe asylum, and also a channel for his great mechanical genius to be useful to his fellow-showmen.

Now, it was his sister-in-law, the mother of the eldest boy of the happy children she brought to the fair, who found in "Peep-Show Tom" the long-lost brother of her dead husband.

She it was who finally persuaded him to return to the bosom of his family—his people never for a moment doubted his perfect innocence of the crime ugly rumour tried to fix upon him.

So, as quietly as he entered Showland, so did he leave it; but to this day you may find the mark of his genius in the few remaining waggons of

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"Pipes and the Dryad," a new opera in two acts by Florence Perugini Campbell and H. A. Y. Campbell, was produced for copyright purposes at St Alban's Hall, Acton Green, on Monday, Feb. 27.

Mr. F. R. Benson opens the third week of his most successful season at the Coronet with the *Orestean Trilogy*, which will be again repeated on Tuesday evening. During the remainder of the week he will play in the order named *The Comedy of Errors, The School for Scandal, King Lear*, and *As You Like It*. There will be matinées on Wednesday of *As You Like It*, and on Saturday of *The Merchant of Venice*.

At the Alambra, Stourbridge, the well-known drama, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, makes a welcome reappearance this week. The company appearing is under the direction of Mr. John Tully, and includes the well-known actress, Miss Edith Blanche, who appears with distinct credit in the dual-rôle of Eliza and Cassy. Uncle Tom is a careful study by Mr. William Taylor; and Mr. E. Kellen Taylor is very good as George Harris. Others who contribute include Messrs. John Tully, Fred G. Kay, St. Vincent Beechey, and Miss Kitty Wood.

The process of "Nettoyage-à-sec," or "Dry Cleaning," has been brought by the Chemical Cleaning and Dyeing Company, whose works are fitted with all the latest improvements in machinery and distilling plant obtainable in this country and on the Continent, to a high state of perfection. The process is becoming more and more appreciated by the public, as its advantages become known by experience. The expense of taking curtains, draperies, &c., of various kinds to pieces and remaking is saved, and many articles of furniture and decoration, which could not be cleaned by any other means, are now renovated and again brought into use, instead of being destroyed or thrown away. Nothing ought to be wetted with water in cleaning that can be treated by this process. The fact that the most beautiful furnishing materials can, when dirty, be perfectly restored has done more to facilitate their introduction and sale than anything else. The immense value of the process to the theatrical and music hall professions can hardly be over-estimated. Not only can ordinary costumes be renovated by this marvellous method; the draperies, curtains, and hangings of a theatre can equally well be subjected to its influence. Vast drop-curtains, covered with many square yards of quilting or ornament, can be treated by the "Dry" process, and made to look almost "equal to new"; and many a manager has blessed the invention of *Nettoyage-à-sec* for the saving he has effected by its aid, and by that of the Chemical Cleaning Company.

COLONIAL THEATRES.

AUSTRALIA.—MELBOURNE, SYDNEY.

Mr. J. C. Williamson,
Manager of the Leading Australian Theatres.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, MELBOURNE;
HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, SYDNEY;
THEATRE ROYAL, SYDNEY.
London Representative, J. A. E. Malone, Daly's Theatre.

AUSTRALIA.—Mr. HARRY RICKARDS'S AUSTRALIAN ENTERPRISES:—
NEW TIVOLI THEATRE, SYDNEY;
NEW TIVOLI HOTEL, SYDNEY;
NEW GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MELBOURNE;
NEW PRINCE OF WALES'S HOTEL, MELBOURNE;
THEATRE ROYAL, BRISBANE;
TIVOLI THEATRE, ADELAIDE;
THEATRE ROYAL, PERTH.

Mr. Rickards is always open to Engage First-Class Artistes for the above-named Theatres.
Address to the Head Office, Tivoli Theatre, Sydney.
Cable address, "Tivolian, Sydney."

AUSTRALIA.

BROUGH-FLEMING COMEDY COMPANY.
BROUGH-FLEMING COMEDY COMPANY.

All Arrangements now Complete until Easter, 1906.

All communications, c/o Messrs. Blake & Riggall, 120, William-st., Melbourne.

London Representative, R. Golding Bright, 20, Queen-st., Leicester-sq., W.C.

SOUTH AFRICA.—B. and F. WHEELER.
Associate Manager, G. H. SMITH.
Messrs. B. and F. WHEELER now control the only Circuit of Theatres in South Africa.
The leading Theatres in
JOHANNESBURG,
PRETORIA,
CAPETOWN,
DURBAN.

George Edwardes' Gaiety Co. will sail for South Africa per s.s. *Briton* March 11th.

Companies now Touring:—
The Wheeler-Edwardes Company,
Wheeler's Répertoire Company,
and
The Moody-Manners Opera Company.

London Representative,
J. A. E. Malone, Daly's Theatre.

AFRICA.—LEONARD RAYNE
is now in England on Business
relating to his Enterprises in South Africa.

Business-Manager in South Africa,
Grant Fallowes.
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George Rayne.
Portugal House, Portugal-street, W.C.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

ALDERSHOT, THEATRE ROYAL
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes.
Vacant June 12 (?), 26, July 17, 24, onwards.
Address, C. Sounes, Woodlawn, Blackheath, London.
Telephone 85 Woolwich.

BATLEY. — THEATRE ROYAL.
Under the Personal Management of the Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty.

Stage Capable of Mounting any Production.
Holding Capacity over 2,200.
Trade Flourishing in the Heavy Woollen District.
Batley is the Commercial and Geographical Centre of the Heavy Woollen District,
Population 160,000, 90,000
within a Radius of Two Miles from Theatre.
Average Receipts for Five Consecutive Weeks in Jan. and Feb., 1905, £170.
Returns for Four Consecutive Saturdays in Jan. and Feb., 1905, £78, £58, £56, £57.
Vacant May 15, 22, 29, June 5, 12, August 7.
Address, J. Edward Whitty, T. R., Batley.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis.
The handsomest and most complete Theatre in the Provinces; Holding Capacity over £300.
Only vacant Spring Date, May 29.
The Autumn Dramatic Season will commence on August 7 (Bank Holiday.) Vacant dates August 7, 14, 21, Sept. 11. For terms and dates apply to Mr. Tom B. Davis, Lyric Theatre, London, W.

BIRMINGHAM.—GRAND THEATRE.

Vacant, April 3, May 15.

Apply, V. Turner.

BLACKPOOL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.
The Press says:—The Grand is the prettiest theatre in the world.
Everybody is charmed with this magnificent temple of the drama.
Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree says:—There is no theatre in either London or the provinces better appointed or better managed.
Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree says:—It is the most perfect theatre in England.
Mr. Wilson Barrett said it was the most perfect theatre he ever performed in.
Congratulations and Compliments on every hand from both Public and Professions.
Every Comfort and Convenience provided for the Patrons of this lovely Theatre.
Each portion of the Theatre is provided with separate Refreshment Rooms.
The Theatre is Thoroughly Warmed and Ventilated on the most Modern Principle.
Electric Light, own Installation.
Matcham's Masterpiece is a Model Theatre.
Financial and Artistic Success.
Acknowledged by Everyone to be "the" Theatre. Second to None in the Kingdom.
Every Comfort and Convenience for the Artists.
The most Comfortable and Perfect Dressing-rooms of any Theatre in England.
Only First-class Companies. Holds at Ordinary Prices over £300. Open all the Year Round.
Holds at the same Prices £100 more than any Theatre in the Town.

BLACKPOOL COLOSSEUM.—SEASON 1905.
Situate at the junction of the Blackpool and Lytham Tramways, on the Marine Parade, opposite the Manchester Hotel, in the heart of Blackpool.
The Building (which is 127ft. in diameter, 41ft. high to the eaves, and 83ft. to the Lantern) is Lighted by Electricity, and as a place for Animal Entertainments is unique, it being the only building in Blackpool that, in consequence of its being free from pillars and other obstructions, affords the necessary height and space for Diavolo's performance of "Looping the Loop."
The Walls are covered with the World-renowned picture "Niagara" painted by the great artist Phillipoteau.
For the last eight or ten years Blackpool has been extending around and for miles south of the Colosseum in a marvellously rapid manner. Thousands of houses have been built and are occupied, and there has not been any place of Public Entertainment provided for the Masses of the People south of the Tower.
The Colosseum provides a long-felt want in this New and Populous Neighbourhood.
The Authorities estimate that about Four Million Persons visited Blackpool last Season.
The great Popularity of the Colosseum is shown by the fact that, although only partially occupied during a part of a Blackpool Season, upwards of 100,000 paid for Admission during the remaining part of the season.
Offers for the 1905 Season on Sharing Terms should be made to the Undersigned, who will furnish any further information.
Blans and Riding,
30, Birley-street; or,
Garlick and Sykes,
22, Birley-street, Blackpool.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.
The PRINCIPAL THEATRE.
Holds MORE MONEY at ORDINARY PRICES, and has better average Business throughout the Year than any Theatre in the Town.
The most Comfortable, Elegant, and Best Equipped Theatre. Large and Well Electric-Lighted Stage and First-class Orchestra.
All Visitors to the Theatre have Free Admission to the Winter Gardens, Floral Hall, Empress Ballroom, and Pavilion Entertainments, thus Companies visiting Her Majesty's Opera House have this additional attraction, which no other Theatre can offer. Only best No. 1 Companies booked.
For Dates address, Jno. R. Huddlestone, Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

BROMYARD, HEREFORDSHIRE.—THE PUBLIC HALL.
Lessee, E. T. Cuff, Falcon Hotel.
The above Hall is now Available for Concerts, Theatrical, Variety Entertainments of all Kinds.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE (Ltd.).
Man. Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.
A theatre among the most beautiful in England.—Sunday Times.
Vacant Dates (in Term Time, no Dramas), May 29 to June 7.
Silence polite negative. Address as above.

CHELTENHAM. — THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Gen. Man., H. Oswald Redford. The Popular County Theatre. Visited by the Best Artistes and their Companies all the year round.
A few good Autumn dates left.
Re Dates as above,
Silence in all cases a polite negative.

CHELTENHAM.—VICTORIA ROOMS (late Corn Exchange), HIGH-ST. Lessee and Man., Edward B. Shenton (late Lessee of the Old T R. and Assembly Rooms). Available for Entertainments, Concerts, Lectures, &c. Share or Rental. Seat 1,000 persons. Full dramatic Licence.

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Proprietrix, Mrs. Mary Watson.
Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.
One of the most successful and up-to-date Theatres in Scotland.
Lighted throughout by Electricity.
Communications re dates to Manager.

COLCHESTER, THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona.
Vacant Dates, April 17 (four nights), May 1, 8, and onwards. Apply to
Charles Macdona, 17, Shaftesbury-av., London, W.

DUBLIN.—QUEEN'S ROYAL THEATRE
Sole Proprietor and Patentee, Mr. Ellis Jones.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread.

Address, Mr. J. W. Whitbread.
Will Mr. Howard Hinton please send address.
Silence in all cases a respectful negative.

EAST DEREHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. For Vacant dates apply to
B. H. VORES,
27, Church-street, East Dereham.
Lease to be disposed of.

GLASGOW.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED. — The Most Popular Playhouse in the City. The Grand Pantomime "Cinderella" Terminates To-night, after a Record Run of 13 Weeks and 3 Days. Address all Communications to R. C. Buchanan, Managing Director.

GREENOCK, THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, The Executors of the late Alexander Wright; Mans., A. B. Wright and J. J. Wright.—Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1905. First-class Companies only. Silence a polite negative.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDR THEATRE.
The new Theatre to be opened in August, 1905. Now Booking only No. 1 Attractions. All communications re dates to R. C. Buchanan, G. T., GLASGOW.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.
Proprietors, Prince of Wales's Theatre Co., Gt. Grimsby, Limited.
Managing-Director, Joseph H. Curry.
Now Booking 1905.
Telegraphic address, "Curry, Grimsby."

HANLEY, THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Please note:
The Staffordshire Potteries for all Dramatic Purposes
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Hanley has undoubtedly the Largest Theatre and Stage in Staffordshire.
Lighted by Electricity.
Accommodation for 3,700 People.
Electric Trams and Trains after Performance to ends of the District, Longton, Stoke, Burslem, and Tunstall.
Vacant for First-Class Companies only, March 20, and onwards.

First-class Pantomime Required for Christmas, 1905.
Chas. E. Elphinstone, Managing-Director.

HULL, THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Wm. Morton.
Bookings this year include:—Moody-Manners Opera (Two Weeks), Mr. Tree's Production, "The Tempest," from His Majesty's Theatre, London; "Sign of the Cross," Martin Harvey, Mrs. Russ Whytal, in "The Cardinal," "Florodora," "The Prince of Pilsen," "The Walls of Jericho," Mrs. Lewis Waller, "Sunday," "The Duke of Killicrankie," Durward Lely and William Mollison's Company, in "The Bonnie Brier Bush;" "Our Boys," Mr. Louis Calvert's Company, in "The Garden of Lies," "The Lady of Ostend," Mr. Tree's Shakespearean Répertoire Company. Vacant at the Theatre Royal for High-class Attractions, May 1 and 15.
Note.—The New Alexandra Theatre (Morton's, Limited) Caters for the Drama-loving Public, and is a uniform Success. Holding Capacity, 3,000. Popular Prices. Sliding Roof. Smoking permitted.
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HULL.—THE CIRCUS.—General Manager, Edward Emerson.
One of the Finest and Largest Halls in the Provinces, Fitted with Large Stage, and Suitable for Circus, Minstrels, Panoramas, Concert, and Choir Parties, &c. Rental, Share, or Salary. Only a Few Vacant Dates.

ILKESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.

Vacant, April 19, and May 1, onwards
Silence courteous negative.

JARROW. — THEATRE ROYAL.

BARROW.—ROYALTY T. and OPERA HOUSE.
CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.
Vacant Dates:—Jarrow, June 26 and July 3 and 10. Barrow, Easter, May 29, June 19, onwards. The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions. Consett, April 3 and 17, on, Re Dates, Hugh Robertson, T.R., Jarrow.

KIDDERMINSTER.—OPERA HOUSE.
A Beautiful Theatre and pronounced success.
High-class Companies only entertained.
Vacant, March 13.
All communications, J. P. Moore, West Bromwich.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager,
J. BANNISTER HOWARD.

Wanted, Good Company, Easter Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
Now Booking Autumn.
Address, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.
Sole Proprietor and Manager, Lieut.-Col. J. A. Winstanley.—THEATRE ROYAL, Sole Lessee and Manager, Lieut.-Col. J. A. Winstanley. Re Dates Autumn, 1905, and Spring, 1906, for both Theatres, Address, Geo. M. Slater, General Manager for Lieut.-Col. J. A. Winstanley, Royal Opera House, Leicester. National Telephone, 1,156.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

LIVERPOOL. — SHAKESPEARE THEATRE. Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—All communications re Dates should in Future be Addressed to F. W. Wyndham, Esq., Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

LLANDUDNO. — NEW GRAND THEATRE. Seat 1,200.
Dates open:—3 nights Whit week, July 6 to 29; July 31 to August 2, September 11 onwards.
A. G. Pugh, Llewelyn Chambers, Llandudno.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.
A modern theatre perfect in line of sight, acoustics, stage accommodation, and comfort for artistes and public. The theatre seems to become more popular every week. Last night every available place was occupied.—Vide Press.
Receipts last week over £170 in three nights.
This week, "The Swiss Express." Six Nights.
After Easter the Theatre will only be opened last three nights of each week until October. It is not intended to overwork this mine, and three last nights are always preferred.
Only vacant dates,
May 15, and June 5, until September.
Apply, Messrs. Payne, Seddon & Robertson, Loughborough.

MORECAMBE, ROYALTY THEATRE.
Sole Lessee, Julian Malvern.
General Manager, Chas. M. Julian.
Vacant June 19, 26; July 17;
August 28 (three nights), Sept. 11 and on.
First-class Attractions only.
Address, Chas. M. Julian.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — OLYMPIA THEATRE.
Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton.
Seating Capacity 2,000.
Holding Capacity 3,250.
Vacant Dates April 3, 17,
May 1, and onwards (Easter Booked).
Can entertain Good Pantomime for next Christmas.
Smoking permitted in all parts.
Wire or write, Richard Thornton,
Empire Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

NORWICH, THEATRE ROYAL.—Enlarged, Redecorated, Lighted throughout by Electricity. Upholstered by Dean and Co.
Weekly Matinées for County Visitors.
Now Booking 1905.
Address, Fred Morgan, as above.

NOTTINGHAM.—GRAND THEATRE.
Manager, Charles T. Cooke. Vacant April 19, May 15, June 5, 26, and August Bank Holiday week. First-class Attractions only.
Silence a Courteous Negative.

OLDHAM, EMPIRE THEATRE,
The Premier Theatre. Holding Capacity £200.
Vacant for Principal Attractions Only.
May 22, 29, several in June and July.
Can Entertain First-class Pantomimes, Christmas onwards. Brilliant Productions Only.
All Communications to Ernest Dottridge.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managers of First-class Companies are invited to apply for Dates to
Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.,
Managing-Director.
Silence a polite negative.

PORTSMOUTH, NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton.
Open throughout the Year.
First-class Companies. Weekly Matinées.

RYDE. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager,
J. BANNISTER HOWARD.

Wanted, a few Vacant Dates for First-class Attractions.
Address, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Enormous Success under New Management. Refer Gar. Kiddie, Esq. Required first-class attractions for April 3, 10, and onward. Good business done here with first-class Companies.
Fast Booking for the Fall, 1905.
Wire or write to Jas. Kiernan, Manager.

SOUTHEND - ON - SEA. — EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, W. Marlow.
The Prettiest and most Popular Place of Amusement on the South-east Coast.
All the principal Attractions Booked.
First-class Companies Required for March 13, 20.
Managers please address all communications to W. Marlow, jun., Manager, as above.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—PIER PAVILION.—Under New Management. Redecorated. Extra Dressing-rooms added. Electric Light, &c. Now Booking 1905. First-class Companies, Artistes, Bands, &c., communicate Manager.

SUNDERLAND. — AVENUE OPERA HOUSE and THEATRE ROYAL.
Managing Director, Chas. E. Machin.
General Manager, Percival Craig.
Only Vacant Dates.
AVENUE.
May 1, 29, June 5, 12, and on.
ROYAL.
April 17, May 8, 29, June 5, 19, 26.
Managers please note Seaham Harbour is barred.
Apply, C. E. Machin, Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS OPERA HOUSE
Lessee, Charles Carey.
Vacant March 27 (week), May 1 (3 nights), May 15 and 22, June 5 (weeks), July 10 and 17 (cricket weeks).

VENTNOR.—GRAND PAVILION.—Under the Management of
J. BANNISTER HOWARD.

Wanted, Good Companies for Season Dates.
Address, 3, Bedford-street, Strand

WAKEFIELD OPERA HOUSE.
Vacant, March 27th, Share or Certainty, and on., with exceptions. Silence in all cases a Polite Negative for Date quoted. Sherwood and Co.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, W. H. Westwood.—Holds £180. Circle, 3s.; Stalls, 2s.; Family Circle, 2s.; Pit Stalls, 1s. 6d.; Pit, 1s. Amphitheatre, 9d.; Gallery, 6d. First Vacant Dates, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; June 5 and 12.

WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE (Essex). KING'S THEATRE.

Capital Theatre in High-street.
Seats 600 people.
To Let for Easter, Whitsuntide, and the Summer Season. For Terms, apply,
Mr. H. Padfield,
Portobello Hotel, Walton-on-Naze.

WEST BROMWICH, THEATRE ROYAL.—Open All the Year Round.
Cosy, Popular, and Prosperous Theatre.
Success assured by energetic personal management.
All communications to J. P. Moore, on the Spot.

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COMPANIES WANTED.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, Companies for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
May 15, June 12, 19, July 10, 17, 24, Aug. 14, 21, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
April 3, 10, May 1, June 5, 12, 26, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
April 24, May 22, June 5, 12, 19, 26, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
April 17, May 8, 15, Aug. 7, 14, 21, Sept. 4, on.
CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
Vacant, May 8, 29, June 5, 12, 19.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
Vacant,
April 24, May 22, June 12, 19, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Vacant,
March 10, two nights, for Concert Party, March 27
April 10, 17, 24, May 4, 22, 29, June 5, 12.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for STANDARD THEATRE,
Vacant, May 1, 15, June 5.
TERRISS THEATRE,
April 17, May 1, 22,
METROPOLE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM,
Important Attractions for May 1, 8, 29, June 5.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

WANTED, First-class Companies, GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE,
April 10, 24, May 1, 15.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
April 17, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON,
March 27, April 3, May 8, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL,
May 8, 29, on.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Good Drama, Vacant Dates, May 29, June 5-12. The Theatre has just been thoroughly Renovated, a Scene Dock added, and a Full Electric Plant (3 Colours) installed. HERBERT VERE.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Luton now doing excellent Business.
Musical Companies preferred.
Vacant March 13, 20, 27, April 10, 17, and Easter,
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Vacant March 16, 30, April 6, 13, and Easter.
Address, E. GRAHAM-FALCON,
County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, Companies, March 13 and 27, Luton; March 20, Bedford (6 nights each).
FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, for Bedford and Canterbury, Sharing terms, Sacred Concert Party or Band, for Good Friday, two performances. FALCON, C.T., Bedford.

WANTED, for Corn Exchange, Bedford, Easter Monday only, Sharing terms, Minstrel Troupe or other entertainment. E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, Good Companies, March 13, Pontypool; April 3, Treherbert and Maesteg; April 10, Gloucester; also Easter, Porth, Treherbert, Maesteg, and Pontypool. English Opera Co. Wanted, April 17, Gloucester.
Good Business for First-class Companies.
POOLE, Wotton Lawn, Gloucester.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for Theatre Royal, Leamington,
March 27, April 10 and 17, three or six nights each; also Easter vacant at Chester, Northampton, and Leamington.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, High-Class Attractions,
May 1, 22, 29, June 5, and Whit Week.
Address, HARRY YORKE.

WANTED, Big Attractions, March 27, April 17, May 1, 22, 29, June 19, July 3, August, onwards.
Theatre Royal, Darlington.

THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKPORT,
and
THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.
WANTED, for May 1 and 8, First-class Dramatic Companies. CHARLES REVILL, Stockport.

WANTED, Attractions, March 20 and April 10, Pavilion and O.H., Weston-super-Mare (3 or 6 nights). W. PAYNE, Resident Manager.

WANTED, Powerful Attractions for April 3, May 1, 8, and 22.
SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. STANLEY ROGERS.
WANTED, Companies, April 24, on, with exceptions.
STANLEY ROGERS, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, Musical preferred, from March and onwards,
also good Musical attraction
for Easter.
Full particulars,
MANAGER, Palace Pier, Brighton.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Good Dramas, for March 20, 27, April 10, onwards. Bookings include "Silver King," "Fatal Wedding," "Life's Revenge," "Worst Woman," &c. Good Business Done by Good Companies, over Three Figures Repeatedly Taken. Apply, DAVID WILLIAMS, Manager.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED First-Class Companies, for April 3, 10, 17,
Required, Big Musical Attraction, for Easter, April 24.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

WANTED, for King's Theatre, Cardiff, April 3, 17, June 5, 26, all July, best Dramas, must be new to Cardiff. Address, FRANK BATEMAN.

COURT THEATRE, GALWAY.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 20, April 24 (Easter), May 8, 29, and onwards, with exceptions. Now Booking Autumn.
For Terms, please address, P. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Proprietor.

THEATRES, BURY AND ROCHDALE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 20 and 27,
Vacant through illness of Sir Henry Irving.
HALIFAX, Vacant April 3.
Address (no wires),
OTTO C. CULLING, Theatre Royal, Bury.

STANLEY, DURHAM, ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction. April 3 (through obliging Mr. Sante).
Address, MARK H. LINDON.

COMPANIES WANTED.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

Managing Director, Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN.
The Leading Northern Theatre Tour.
Capital, £155,000.
WANTED, Wanted, Companies,
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
NEW CENTURY THEATRE, MOTHERWELL
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, AYR.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, LEITH.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.
GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, FALKIRK.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, GREENOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KIRKCALDY.

The Bookings include all the Principal Drama, Musical, and Comedy Attractions.
Important.
Managers doing business with us at New Gaiety Theatre, Leith, please note that Stockbridge is barred. The Tivoli, re-christened "The Grand," is in Stockbridge.

Address all communications to
R. C. BUCHANAN,
General Office, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.
Telegraphic address, "Bookings, Glasgow."

May 1, 29,, June 5, 12.
May 1, 29,, June 5, 12.
May 1, 29,, June 5, 12.
May 1, 29,, June 5, 12.
WANTED, High-class Attractions for Above Dates at the
AVENUE OPERA HOUSE,
SUNDERLAND.
Apply, C. E. MACHIN.

FOLKESTONE.
PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.
WANTED, High-Class Companies,
April 3,
June 5, 19, 26,
July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,
October 23, on, with exceptions.
Silence polite negative.
H. W. ROWLAND, Manager.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.
WANTED, Companies.—The Directors are prepared to Lease the above Magnificent Theatre for a Summer Season of from Two to Three Months, at a Fixed Weekly Rental, with the Use of all Scenery, Properties, and Appointments. Population of Leith, 80,000; whilst its close proximity to Edinburgh enables any special attraction to draw from the capital. Applications to Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN, Managing Director, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

NEW THEATRE, LOUGHBOROUGH.
WANTED, Companies, May 15 and June 5.
Now Booking Autumn.
GEO. ROBERTSON,
Loughborough.

WANTED, for T. R., Chatham, First-class Attractions, for April 17-24, June, and July; T. R., Aston, April 17, May 15, June, and July, with Exceptions; T. R., Smethwick, May 8, 29, June, and July 24, 31.
BARNARD,
10, Harborne-road, Birmingham.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Proprietors, Messrs. CARSON and GRANVILLE.
WANTED, Companies, March 20,
Special Attraction.
Business Enormous.
Address, FRED GRANVILLE.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARWEN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 20, April 3, on, with Exceptions.
Address, E. L. ORMSBY.
Silence a Polite Negative.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, March 27 and April 10. Last week, Mr. C. W. Somerset and Co. ("Sorrows of Satan"), third visit. This, "His Majesty's Guests" Co. Next, A. A. B. M. Co. "Trips Round the World," second visit. Address, GERALD HARDING.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, Good Dramatic Company, March 27, April 3, on, with exceptions. E. H. Page.

WANTED, No. 1 Company, for
the Grand Theatre, Islington.
Unexpectedly vacant March 20.
NEWMAN MAURICE, Manager.

QUEEN'S THEATRE,
KEIGHLEY,
Vacant.

WANTED, First-class Musical Attractions, April 24,
May 8 and 22.

DUMFRIES and DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, Companies, Dumfries, April 10, and on; Dunfermline, March 27, and on.
W. E. POTTS, Dunfermline.

NEW PAVILION,
ALTRINCHAM.
WANTED, a First-class Attraction (Fit-up), for March 20.
FRED BUDD FIELDS,
Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.

THEATRE ROYAL, HANLEY.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for March 20, 27, April 3 and 10, May 1, onwards.
CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Manager.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for Two Nights. Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, Good Companies, March 13, onwards, Refer, Edward Neville, Esq., re Business Done with his Excellent Company, in "The Anarchist Terror." Address, W. H. DUNANT PHILLIPS, Bordon Camp, Hants.

PALACE THEATRE, ABERDARE, S.W.
WANTED, March 13, and Easter, onward. Good Musical and Comedy Attractions,
Holding Capacity, 1,200.
Advantageous Terms,
Full Band and Staff, &c.
WILL GREGORY, General Manager.

ROYALTY THEATRE, LLANELLY,
Booked in Conjunction with the
NEW GRAND THEATRE, ABERAVON.
WANTED, Companies, March 9 (Three Nights), and on. Address,
JOHN TULLY, Royalty Theatre, Llanelly.

WANTED, Strong Attractions, April 3, 10, 17, for Theatre Royal, Castleford. Address, H. MASTERMAN, Castleford.

WANTED, No. 1 Companies, King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Vacant May 29, and Autumn.

WANTED, for the Theatre Royal, Blaydon-on-Tyne, Dramatic Companies, with Singing and Dancing Specialities, and First-class Varieties, Vacant Dates from March 20.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity.
Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

TOWN HALL, WHITLAND, SOUTH WALES.
WANTED, Known, Vacant Dates now being Booked for Dramatic and Variety Companies, &c. Good opportunity and every convenience. Situate Junction, Pembroke, Tenby, Milford, and Cardigan Railways. Apply PROPRIETOR, Whitland.

WANTED, Easter Week,
Entertainment, complete.
Share or Rental.
SHENTON, Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham. Seat 1000.
Silence polite negative.

WANTED, Known, Aberystwyth Coliseum, South Wales, Proprietor, Mr. D. Phillips, to be Opened Whit Monday, 1905. Vacant Dates now being Booked for Dramatic and Variety Companies. Shares or Rental.
Seats 1,500.
Manager,
H. E. WHEATLEY.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies.

EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
Vacant,
March 13, May 8, 15.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY, KENT.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY, KENT.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY, KENT.
Vacant,
March 27 (3 nights), April 10, 24, May 1, 8.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant,
May 1 (3 nights), 22, 29, June 12, 19.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant,
March 13, 20, April 10, 17, 24.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant,
March 27, June 19, July 31, August 14.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant,
April 17, 24, May 8, 15, 29.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant,
March 6(6 nights), 13 (6 nights).

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant,
Mar. 13 (3 or 6 nights), 20 (3 or 6 nights), April 3 3 or 6 nights).

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant,
March 27, April 3 (3 nights), 10, May 8, 15.

KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
Vacant,
March 20 (3 nights), 30 (3 nights), April 17 (3 or 6).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant,
April 6 (3 nights), 24, May 8, 15, 22, 29.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant.
March 23 (3 nights), 27 (3 nights), April 3 (3 or 6).

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
To be Let for Non-Dramatic Performances.

All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Manor House, Hayes, Middlesex.

WANTED, First-Class Dramatic Attractions, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Southampton, from April 24, onward.
Apply, F. MOUILLOT, 4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions,
BROADWAY, THEATRE, NEW CROSS, S.E.
April 3 Vacant.
GRAND THEATRE, MARGATE,
Vacant May 1, 8, 22, 29,
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH,
Vacant, April 17 (5 nights).
F. MOUILLOT, 4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-st, W.C..

GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Vacant, April 17 (5 nights).
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for
April 3, 10, 17.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies (Musical Preferred), March 20, 21, 22, Three Nights, Harrogate; 23, 24, 25, Three Nights; April 6, 7, 8, Three Nights.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

WANTED, Companies, First Three Nights of Week, T. R., Peterboro'; Last Three Nights, T. R., Grantham; Fare 1s. 10d.; March 20, April 17, May 8, 15, 22, 29; also March 16, 30, Easter (Grantham only), April 10 (Peterboro' only); also Later Dates, and Autumn. Write, EDWARD MARRIS, T. R., Grantham.

THEATRE ROYAL, WINDSOR.
WANTED, Big Attractions, March 13(?), April 10, April 17 (3 Nights), and on. CONNYNGHAME.

WORTHING, THEATRE ROYAL.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for three nights and one matinée, Vacant dates March 23, 27, 30, April 3, 6, and Holy Week. Bookings include all the latest attractions; Geo. Dance's and Geo. Edwardes' companies, Mrs. Lewis Waller, F. R. Benson, &c., &c. Communications, C. ADOLF SEEBOLD, Theatre Royal, Worthing. Silence a polite negative.

OLYMPIA THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Proprietor, Mr. RICHARD THORNTON.
WANTED, Companies, April 3, 17, May 1, and onwards. (See Provincial Theatres Column.)
Wire or write,
RICHARD THORNTON, Empire T., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, for Criterion, Worksop, big attractions, March 9, 10, 11, on; vacant Easter; also Summer stock. BURNETT, 73, Sherwood-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, big attractions, April 3, on, with exceptions, Grand Theatres, Chorley and Radcliffe. Address, SANTE, Opera House, Radcliffe.

THEATRE ROYAL, MERTHYR.
Sole Proprietor, Mr. WILL SMITHSON.
WANTED, for Few Dates in May, June, and July, Big Attractions, Business Still Good.
ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
Wanted, Aug. 7 and Later Dates, Big Attractions, Most of the First-class Shows already Booked. Good Band, Electric Installation, and Everything done to make things Successful. All letters,
WILL SMITHSON, Merthyr.

THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, through disappointment, First-class Attractions for weeks of March 20 and 27. Wire to-day, KELLY, O. H., Burton-on-Trent; next, T. R., Stockport.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-Class Companies, for March 20, 27, April 10, 17, and on. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, First-class Company, Victoria Theatre, Mansfield,
March 16, Open Last Three Nights Week Only.

WANTED, Companies, March 16 (3 nights), 27 (6 nights), on, big attraction for Easter.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Companies, Wednesbury, March 20, May 29, June 5; Bilston, Easter, May 15, 22, June 5. H. BATTERSBY, Theatre Royal, Bilston.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, April 17, May 1, 8, June 5.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 7, Oct. 16, 23, Nov. 6.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A DISGRACE TO HER SEX."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, May 1, 8, 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, April 10, May 29, Aug. 14.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, March 27, May 22, June 12.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 3, 24, and On, with exceptions.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, April 17, May 1 (?), Manchester District Preferred, August 7, 14, Sept. 18, on, with exceptions.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 10, 17, June 5, Aug. 14, 21.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Standard Theatre, London, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of
June 19 and 26,
June 19 and 26,
for this Powerful Attraction.
Wire, to-day,
KELLY, Opera House, Burton-on-Trent.
Next week, T. Royal, Stockport.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, July, Autumn,
Now Booking 1906. The Most Perfect Production of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" seen in this Country. CHARLES HARRINGTON, Theatre Royal, Darwen.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S TOUR.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
No Vacant Dates until Nov. 20.
WANTED, Big Theatres only, then and on.
March 6, Six Nights.
New Theatre, Consett.

"WHAT BECAME OF MRS. RACKET?"
"MY SWEETHEART."
WANTED, April 10, May 22, onwards, with exceptions.
STONE, to-day, Grand Theatre, Birmingham; next week, Opera House, Workington.

MISS MARY NEIL AND MR. GEO. KIRK'S CO.
"JUDY."
WANTED, April 3, to follow Grand, Nottingham, and precede Alex., Hull; also August Ban kHoliday. Magnificent new scenery, by the well-known scenic artist, Joseph Harker. GEORGE KIRK, Opera House, Porth.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
A New Oriental Play, by G. A. de Gray.
WANTED, March 27, April 3, May 15(?), Bookings for 1905:
March 6, Theatre Royal, Bristol; March 13, Junction, Manchester; March 20, Grand, Blackpool; Hull, Middlesbrough, Sunderland, Newcastle, Leeds, Preston, Leigh, Bradford, Burnley, Hyde, Rotherham, Ilkeston, Nottingham, Loughborough, Burton, Coventry, Birmingham, Rotherhithe, Stratford, West London, Leith, Falkirk, Kirkcaldy, Kilmarnock, Ayr, Motherwell, Govan, Paisley, Perth, Coatbridge, Greenock.
"THE DAYS OF CROMWELL,"
by Chas. Rogers and E. Carter Livesey, July 31, Aug. 7, on. BEAUDYN and LIVESEY, T. R., Bristol.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO.'S,
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, March 20, 20, April 10, 10, Everything Carried, Powerful Company, Racehorses Toured, and Paraded each Day in Colours. F. G. KIMBERLEY, Royal, Leeds; Next, Royal, Darlington (Return).

DAVID JAMES AND COMPANY.
WANTED, March 13 and 20, "Pair of Spectacles," or Repertory.
RUSSELL ROSSE, 10, King-street, W.C.

THOMAS THORNE AND COMPANY.
WANTED, March 20 and 27, "Our Boys," or Repertory.
RUSSELL ROSSE, 10, King-street, W.C.

"BETRAYED; or, What Men call Love."
WANTED, May 1, June 5 and 12. Refer: Lester Collingwood, Esq.
CECIL DU GUE, 11, Cunningham-place, Maida Vale.

WANTED, Good Theatre, Easter Week, for Pantomime, "Red Riding Hood."
Address, J. BANNISTER HOWARD, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

MR. BERT COOTE'S COMPANIES.
"THE FATAL WEDDING."
WANTED, Easter Week, April 24,
July 31—Aug. 7.
Address, CECIL BARTH, General Manager, 150, Oxford-street, London, W.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
Edmund Tearle's Tour. Shakespearian and Classical Répertoire, including "Under the Red Robe" and "The Three Musketeers."
WANTED, March 27, April 3, 10, 17, May 1, 8, 22, 29. Wire, Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.

"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
WANTED, May 8, May 8. Wire, WILSON, T. R., Gloucester. See Companies Page.

ALFRED B. CROSS TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, Theatres, June 19 and 26 (Suburban), Aug. 7. Few Autumn Dates for Best Theatres only. New Plant of Printing by Allen.
Mr. CROSS, as PETE, 1,100th Time.
Bookings, Bradford, Liverpool, Hull, Clapham, Jersey, Southampton, Nottingham, Huddersfield, G., Birmingham, Blackpool, Brighton, Northampton, Dublin, Newport, Yarmouth, Glasgow, Manchester, &c. H. M. Opera House, Blackpool, Mar. 6.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant, May 1, 8, 29, June 5, 26, July 10, 17, 31, Aug. 14 and 21,
Address,
J. W. CORDINER,
New T., Loughboro' (3); Opera H., Harrogate (3).

"THE GUILTY MAN."
"THE GUILTY MAN."
"THE GUILTY MAN."
WANTED, April 17, May 15, 22, on, with exceptions.
JAMES HARE, 68, Sayer-street, New Kent-road, S.E.

WANTED, for "The Shaughraun," March 20, and Easter Week. E. C. MATTHEWS, Theatre Royal, Glasgow. Next Week, King's T., Kirkcaldy.

"DEFENDING HIS HONOUR."
WANTED, Theatres, March 13 and 20, April 3, 17, and May 1, onwards.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"MISS MISCHIEF."
WANTED, March 20, April 3, for the highly Successful Musical Comedy,
"MISS MISCHIEF,"
by Mr. Reginald Bacchus and Dr. F. Osmond Carr.
Return Dates Offered at all Theatres Played.
Full Chorus and Dancers.
All communications,
GODFREY LAMPLUGH,
to-day, Pleasure Gardens Theatre, Folkestone; next week, Theatre Royal, Hull.

"A LONDON ACTRESS."
WANTED, April 3 and 10, on, for Miss Emma Litchfield's Success,
"A LONDON ACTRESS."
"A LONDON ACTRESS."
Address,
STUART CLEVELAND, King's Theatre, Cardiff.

WANTED, Known, "The Convent Bell," at Liberty March 13, April 10, May 29, June 5, 26. Thanks for Offers. Good Theatres required. To-day, WEBB, Kettering; next, Long Eaton, return.

THEATRES WANTED.

"HEART OF A HERO."
WANTED, Theatres, June 19, 26, also July 10, onwards
Wire, CARSON.
Theatre, Keighley.

"A MODERN ADVENTURESS."
WANTED, Theatres, April 10, May 22, 29, and June 5.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, Theatres, Wanted, Theatres, May 29, June 5 and 12.
LINGFORD CARSON,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
WANTED, April 24, for this Remarkable Attraction, onwards, with Exceptions, Spring, Summer, Autumn Dates now being Booked.
J. H. CLYNDES, Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

A Production Fit for any Theatre.
A. HAMILTON WARDEN'S TOUR
of the Great Spectacular and Realistic Drama,
"THE CITY OF MILLIONS,"
by Wm. Bailey, jun., and Chas. Berte,
Strengthened, Improved, and Few Features Added,
Absolutely First-class Cast, including
Mr. Eric Hudson and Miss Nellie Thearle,
Supported by Messrs. Wallace G. Court, Stapelton Roche, Fowler Thatcher, Sam Wilkinson, H. F. Housden, Bert Ratcliffe, Misses Maisie Hanbury, May Dallas, Audrey Canning, Olive Lloyd, Little Audrey Sutherland,
Seven Full Sets Magnificent New Scenery,
Special Properties,
Beautiful Dresses,
The Finest Plant of Printing on the Road, all by Allens,
Entire Elaborate Production Travelled.
Bookings and Re-bookings include,
Alexandra, N.; Marlboro', N.; Pavilion, E.; West London; Queen's, Liverpool; Osborne, Manchester; Princess's, Glasgow; Royal, Bolton; Royal, Bury; Grand, Nottingham; King's, Cardiff; Mr. Arthur Carlton's Theatres, Mr. Dudley Bennett's Theatres, Mr. Clarence Sounes' Theatres, Mr. Morton Powell's Theatres, &c.
WANTED, Easter Week, also May 1 and June 26, and onwards. Address, Ealing Theatre, W.

"HEART'S ADRIFT."
The Press and Public Unanimous.
The London Daily Express says:
A stirring drama of the true Drury Lane stamp, entitled "Hearts Adrift," was produced for the first time in London at the Grand Theatre, Fulham, last night, by Mr. Arthur Bertram's company, and scored an immediate success. In the most thrilling of several great scenic effects a giant airship figures.
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant, May 15, 22, 29, Whit.
BERTRAM,
Pavilion Theatre, E.

WANTED, Theatres, "The Biggest Scamp on Earth," F. A. Scudamore's Masterpiece, Miss Frances Delaval's Splendid Co., May 22, 29, and Whit; Aug. 7, and a few Autumn.
Wire, York; next, Peterboro' and Grantham.

"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
Carson, Granville, and Thorne's Co.
WANTED, for this Magnificent Attraction, May 29, Aug. 7,
on, with exceptions.
Address, FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's T., Liverpool.

"SILVER KING" CO.
WANTED, Dates, May 29,
Nov. 13, 20, Dec. 4, 11.
Address, POLINI,
93, Penge-road, Anerley, London.

WANTED, for "The Dandy Doctor," Theatres, July 24, Sept. 4, Oct. 16, on. Easter Settled. Open to Entertain Good Theatres between Easter and Whit. Full Company, Chorus, and Specialities. EDWARD MARRIS, Theatre Royal, Grantham.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER'S COMPANY
in
"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."
WANTED, Leading Theatres for March 27, April 24 (Easter), May 1, and May 22.
Address,
Mr. SILVANUS DAUNCEY, 22, Charing Cross, S.W.

"SAILORS OF THE KING."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Aug. 21, to follow Nottingham(?): Sept. 4, to follow West London; Oct. 23, to follow Leicester; First-class Company, Special Scenery, Printing, &c.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Theatre Royal, Darwen.

"THE SLEDGE-HAMMER," by Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Theatres. First Vacancy Sept. 4.
W. V. GARROD, Prince's Theatre, Accrington.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 7, on, with exceptions. FRED. BULMER, Century Theatre, Motherwell. N.B.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, April 3 (Scotland). FRED BULMER, Century Theatre, Motherwell, N.B.

WANTED, for Lizzie Boone and Fred Hammond's Co., in the Ever-Popular "My Sweetheart," March 20, 27, April 10, 17, Easter, and on. Splendid Printing by Allen and Sons, Stafford, &c., &c., Co. of Recognised Actors and Actresses. Address, BOONE and HAMMOND, 53, Mall-road, Hammersmith.

The Melodramatic Masterpiece.
The Melodramatic Masterpiece.
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
WANTED, April 3 (?) (Scotland), 10, May 1, 8 (South),
Autumn.
ROBERT PERRIS,
Kilmarnock (3),
Ayr (3).

Lyttleton's "AT WAR WITH THE WORLD."
WANTED, April 3, 10, 17, Easter, onwards, with exceptions.
Everything Reliable. Printing Always Ready.
GEO. LYTTLETON, Maidenhead; Next, T. R., Rugby.

"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
WANTED, May 1, May 1,
Wire, WILSON, T. R., Gloucester.

MESSRS. ROE and WOULFE'S COMPANY.
"THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE,"
Max Goldberg's Latest Success.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Easter Week, May 29, and June 5, only Vacant Spring Dates. Bookings this Spring: Prince's, Bradford; Royal, Sheffield; Star and Rotunda Theatres, Liverpool; Alexandra, Hull; Stockton, Newcastle, Gateshead, Huddersfield, Chester, Longton, Walsall, Victoria, Broughton. Now Booking Autumn.
DAN F. ROE, Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

WANTED, for "Life that Kills," May 1, 29, June 5 and 12. Sept. 11, and on.
"Grip of Law," April 24, and on through Summer;
"Bigamy," May 1, and few Spring and Autumn.
FRED MOULE, Lyceum Theatre, Pentre.

WANTED, for "At Twelve Midnight," March 20. Autumn Dates, Magnificent Hunting and Bridal Dresses, for "The Pink Wedding" Scene.
C. CLIFFORD, T. R., Windsor.

WANTED, May 8, 15, and 22,
"THE CONSCRIPT."
MITCHELL and BELTON, Gaiety, Burnley.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Big Theatres,
May 15 and 22,
to follow Stockport and Ashton-under-Lyne.
Address, C. M. JULIAN,
March 6, Bedford and Luton.

MISS NETTIE WARE'S TOURS.
"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL."
WANTED, Autumn Dates for this Successful Drama, Excellent Cast. Address,
JOHN B. SHINTON, Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

THEATRES WANTED.

"SAPHO,"
"SAPHO,"
WANTED, April 24,
May 22,
June 12.
Admitted by Press and Public to be the most Popular Version on the Stage.
Record Business last Four Weeks at the following Theatres:—
Palace, Newcastle. Refer Mr. Rowe.
T. R., Coatbridge. Refer Mr. Fountaine.
T. R., Blyth. Refer Mr. Good.
Q. T., Liverpool. Refer Mr. Granville.
Total receipts for four weeks over £1,500.
Wire for April 24, wire,
James Bell, Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.

P. ELAND'S "LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
WANTED, April 3, between Lincoln and Bradford, owing to continuation of Tour. Enormous Success. Wire, to-day, Alfred Hook, Prince's, Bradford; Next, C. T., Bacup.

"On Circumstantial Evidence."
WANTED, for March 20, wire, wire; March 27 (3 nights), May 1, 8, 29, June 5, 12, 19, July 10, 17, 24; booked and re-booked at West London Theatre, Lyric, Hammersmith, Dublin, Birkenhead, Croydon, Southampton, Portsmouth, Leicester, York, Newcastle, Liverpool, Glasgow, Oldham, Devonport, Worcester, Birmingham, Hastings, Ramsgate, Grimsby, Attercliffe, Leeds, &c.
Charles Clifford, T.R., Windsor (Return).

"HER FATAL PAST."
WANTED, Big Theatres, May 8, and few Autumn Dates. Another Success at M. T., Birmingham. Refer to Melville. Coms., Ward, T. R., Croydon

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY,
"WHAT A WOMAN DID."
Sixty-ninth week of continuous successful tour. Enormous success at Alexandra Theatre, Hull, this week. Refer to William Morton, Esq.
WANTED, March 13, April 10, 17, May 1, 8, 29, Whit Week, and onwards, with exceptions. Wire for March 13; agent and printing ready.
William A. Armour.
To-day, Alexandra Theatre, Hull; next week, T.R., Goole (3). King's, Sutton-in-Ashfield (3).

"THE TRAITOR."
Messrs. Mitchelson and Fineberg's Magnificent production.
WANTED, September 4, 11, 18, October 9, 16.
E. Hill-Mitchelson, T.R., St. Helens.

Miss WINIFRED MAUDE and COMPANY.
"THE SINS OF A CITY."
By Nita Rae.
WANTED, Forst-Class Theatres, March 13, 20, 27.
Production equal to any on the road.
Printing, Twenty Varieties.
Thirty-third Week of the Present Tour.
General Manager,
Mr. Victor Du Cane.
March 6, Aquarium Theatre, Great Yarmouth.

"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
WANTED, Easter Week, also May 29 and June 12, for above Money-spinner, now in its Second Year of Tour. Address, Eugene Bertram, Shakespeare T., S.W.

Mr. Padey Pennington's Tour.
To Managers and Agents.
WANTED, Theatres or Halls, Share or Rental, Padey Pennington,
Most Marvellous, Genuine, Screamingly Funny. Hypnotism, Thought-reading, Mimical, and Ventriloquial Variety Co.,
Best of Biographs, the Handcuff Mystery, as Given by Padey Pennington, St. James's Hall, throughout the United Kingdom, and also in Australia.
Add., Pennington, 3, Hanover-cres., Brighton.

THE SOCIETY ENTERTAINERS.
WANTED, Pier Pavilions, &c., for Summer, very High-class and Entirely Novel Show. Address, Box, care of "The Era" Office.

Pantomime.
WANTED, Theatre, Christmas, 1905-6, for Acknowledged Success. Particulars, Brydon-Phillips, Chantrey, 120, Chevening-rd., Brondesbury-park, N.W.

"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
WANTED, April 24, April 24. Wire, Wilson, T. R., Gloucester. See Companies Page.

ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Artistes for Musical Comedy, Town and Tour. Must be Young, of Good Appearance, and Good Voice. Send full particulars to Kelson Trueman, Regent House, 233A, Regent-st, W.

"THE SINS OF A CITY."
WANTED, Known, Possible Vacancies, all Lines, Long Tour. Photos (imperative where not known), Age, Actual Height, Last Two References, Lowest Terms. Winifred Maude, Aquarium Theatre, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Juvenile Leading Lady; also tall Baggage Man. State height, recent references, and terms.
William Bourne, 100, Leyland-road, Southport.

WANTED, for Tour, Smart, Rough Chambermaid, must Sing Well, Open March 20, Rehearse Week Previous. Age, Height, Terms, Photo., References, to Ernest R. Abbott, Miners' Theatre, Ashington, Northumberland.

WANTED, Young Gentleman, for Light Comedy part, splendid opportunity, First-Class Company, long tour; small premium, repaid in salary. Letter only, Advertiser, 99, Mowbray-st, Heaton, Newcastle.

"THE SIN OF HER CHILHOOD."
WANTED, to Rehearse, March 14, First-Class Gentlemanly Heavy Man (to look 17 in prologue). Must be capable of great intensity. Good voice, appearance, and wardrobe. State height, age, terms, and last two references to J. A. Campbell, P.O.W., Mexboro'.

WANTED, a sound young Romantic Actor and good Business Man combined, by a well-known Actor-Manager of good repute; Share high-class répertoire of Sketches, Scenas, &c. Capital £50 to £100. Principals only. Send particulars in first instance. Interview by appointment.
Box 1,279, "The Era."

LIZZIE BOONE and FRED HAMMOND'S TOUR,
"MY SWEETHEART."
WANTED, a First-class Tony, must have really Good Tenor or Light Baritone Voice. Terms, Photo., all Particulars, to 53, Mall-rd., Hammersmith.

WANTED, First-class Comedian, Capable of Character, to Sing Preferred.
Harry Starr, Empire Theatre, Dundee.

WANTED, Gentleman, for Tony, "My Sweetheart" (First Act Only),
One Night, March 24.
Address, with Photo., &c.,
Mrs. Gordon, P. O. W. Theatre, Southampton.

WANTED, through releasing, Gentleman for Responsibles, and A.S.M.; must be young, tall, and dress well. Rehearse March 7; open March 13. A. B. Cross, O. H., Blackpool.

WANTED, for Sketch, Light Comedian, must be Tall, Good Appearance, and able to Whistle Well, Good Low Comedian, and Character Old Man. Letters only, Mrs. Wal Pink, 84, Stockwell Park-rd., Brixton.

WANTED, Tall Juvenile Gentleman, to Double, and Combine Acting-Management. State Terms. Full Particulars, References, Recent Photo., Miss Scott-Watson, Theatre Royal, Edmonton.

WANTED, Artiste to play in and produce "Fun on the Bristol." Must have scrip and music. James Elphinstone, Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Two Sisters, must be Pretty, Petite, and Sing and Dance Well, and Capable of Small Parts, for Spring and Summer Tour; Two Amateur Actors can be Received. Photos., &c., to Gladys Gilchrist, T. R., Blaydon.

WANTED, two or three lady and gentlemen Amateurs and Novices desirous of Excellent Theatrical Tuition, practice and early appearances for Touring Company, with extensive Répertoire of Comedies and Dramas. Premium required. Salary from commencement. Interviews by appointment Write for particulars to Vaughan, 47, The Common, Upper Clapton, London, N.E.

WANTED, Lady and Gentleman, by well-known Actor-Manager, to train for the Stage; appearances in own company guaranteed. Course of ten lessons, 2 guineas. Box 1,280, "The Era."

ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, to Complete High-class Concert Party, Humorist (à la Grossmith), must be Versatile; also Light Baritone, Sing and Act Well; and Two Ladies (young), Soprano and Contralto, able to Play Piano and other Instrument (Banjo or Mandoline Preferred), Sing and Act Well. Permanent Engagement to First-class Artistes. Write, Gordon, 13, Bernard-st., Russell-sq., London, W.C.

WANTED, Good Acrobatic Lady Dancer, who can also Step-dance. Apply, Lawrence, This, T. R., Blackburn; Next, O. H., Blackpool.

WANTED, Six Smart Girls, at Once, must Sing and Dance, Age 21 to 24, State where last Engaged, Photos., &c., to Tour Germany and England. Address, Letters,
Mina Marie, Hotel Stadt London,
Friedrich-strasse, Berlin, Germany.

WANTED, Smart Acrobatic Dancer, Age 16, Height not over 5ft., Long and Good Engagement. Parents only dealt with. Apply, Box 1,259, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, a Lady, Good Elocutionist and Dancer, who is willing to be Trained in Fencing. G. H. C., 33, Wymering-mansions, Elgin-avenue, W.

WANTED, Dramatic Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, by a Refined Baritone, an Engagement, as Chorister, Vocalist Lecturer, or as Advance Agent, willing to fill in Spare Time in any Useful Capacity, Twenty Years' Experience in Minstrelsy in U.S.A. and Great Britain, Lifelong Abstainer, and Non-smoker, Highest References, Gentlemanly Appearance, Age 40. Now at Liberty. Wire, F. M., 21, Reed-st., Hull. Address, after Sunday, F. M., 40, Alpha-rd., Southville, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ada Brandon, Solo Harpist, Accepts Engts., Concerts, Entertainments, Splendid Erard Harp, Brilliant Selections, Handsome Costumes. Writtle, Chelmsford.

WANTED, Offers, by Three Sisters Seymour, Just Finished "Dick Whittington" Panto, Now at Liberty, for Musical Comedy, &c. Small Parts a Speciality. 41, Heyford-avenue, South Lambeth-road, Vauxhall, S.E.

To Managers.
WANTED, Known, Lady, with Trained Mezzo-soprano Voice, Offers Premium of £50 for Salaried Engagement, in Good Company, Comic Opera or Musical Comedy. Address, in Confidence, Full Particulars, Box 29, c/o 54, New Oxford-st., W.C.

PANTOMIME ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Principal Boy, for Easter Pantomime. Photos., Terms, and Particulars, to Brooks, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; High-class Work and Good Joinery at Reasonable Prices; Studio Capable of Largest Contracts. Add., Charles Sayer, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts for High-class, Bright, and Effective Scenery, at Lowest Prices. W. B. Robinson, Carlyle Scenic Studio, 170, King's-road, S.W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, a Manager.
The Directors of the Gateshead Alhambra Theatre (at present in course of Erection)
Invite Applications for the Position of General Manager, from Gentlemen of Experience and Ability, Capable of Taking Entire Management, and Conducting the Theatre,
either as a Dramatic or Variety House.
Applications, Stating Age,
Full Particulars of Experience,
Names of Past and Present Employers
(which will be regarded as Confidential),
and Salary Required,
Should be Addressed to the Secretary,
Mr. J. W. Armstrong, 13, Westgate-road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Endorsed, Manager, on or before March 11. Three Recent Testimonials should Accompany the Application.

WANTED, a Manager.—The Directors of the Empire, Middlesbrough, are now Prepared to Receive Applications for the Position of Manager. Apply, by Letter only, to the Secretary, 164, Drury-lane, London, W.C., giving Full Particulars of Experience, and References.

WANTED, Smart Agent, must Use Sticks and Brush if Required, Sober and Active.
Adams, Town Hall, Newbury.

WANTED, Known, Herbert Raymond, Liberty Monday, Business Manager or Advance, Permanent or Tour; concluding Pantomime (Management). Thanks to Miss Gertrude Gray and Cecil Clayton for present. Tours Booked and Arranged. Wire or write, 60, Belgrave-rd., Walthamstow.

WANTED, Situation as Stage Manager, in First-class Music Hall; 15 years' experience. Practical man. References. Box 1,223, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, £5 Bonus Given to anyone Securing for Smart, Well-educated Gentleman, Position as Acting-Manager or Assistant Acting-Manager, in Good Theatre or Music Hall. Address, Frank H. Dale, 26, Richmond-rd., Bayswater.

WANTED, by thoroughly Experienced Man, Management of any Class of Entertainment, Pier, Music Hall, Hippodrome, &c, or Advance, Free March 13.
Harry Dale,
Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, Engagement, by E. Walpole, Advance Agent, Just Concluded Panto. Tour, Experienced. References. Wire or Write, 253, Vauxhall Bridge-road, London.

WANTED, Known, J. I. Keith, Scenic Artist, at Liberty.
London, Provincial, and Continental Experience.
170, Hampton-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement by Strong Baggage Man; disengaged. Refer H. E. Chattell, W. Bourne, Esq. Beacher, 31, Asylum-st., Leicester.

WANTED, Known, Lady, Aged 37, Seeks Immediate Engagement, as Companion (Useful), Secretary, or Any Position of Trust, to Theatrical Lady or Gentleman,
Two Years' Unquestionable Reference
from Last Employer;
is also a Good Needlewoman.
Please Write to
Miss L., 85, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, an Engagement as Wardrobe Master by a thoroughly experienced Cutter and Maker from Design or Description, Historical or Burlesque, Experienced. W. Easton, 15, Dorothy-street, Liverpool, E.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME,
CARLISLE.
WANTED, a Good Working Leader (Violin), to Open March 13. Good Shop for Right Man, Sobriety Indispensable.
Address, C. Algie.

WANTED, Leader and Second Violin, for Empire, Shepherd's Bush, W.
Apply, stating Salary required, and giving names and addresses for References, to
Oswald Stoll, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-st., W.C.

WANTED, Leader, 'Cello, Pianist (First-Class), Variety business. Age, terms, references. Conductor, 56, Upper Orwell-street, Ipswich.

WANTED, Leader, Bombardon, Double Drums, Circus Tenting, Ireland. Ted Perry write. Hanneford, 38, Millgate, Stockport.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, Cornet (good), to open March 13, must be thoroughly experienced and reliable.
Fred. Taylor, Conductor.

3rd R. West Kent Regiment.
WANTED, a B flat Clarionet player, for the above regiment. For particulars, &c., Apply to the Bandmaster, The Barracks, Maidstone.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.
WANTED, Principal Clarionet, must be first-class instrumentalist.
Apply, with references and lowest terms, to Mr. James Howarth, Conductor.

WANTED, Two Bassoon Players, for one of His Majesty's Staff Bands.
Appy,
Rudall, Carte and Co.,
23, Berners-street, London, W.

COUNTY ASYLUM, MELTON, SUFFOLK.
WANTED, a Musician Attendant, who must be a good Double Bass player; wages to commence at £32, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform; £2 increase after one year's service; afterwards rising £1 annually up to £42; further increase according to ability as an attendant. Applications to the Medical Superintendent.

WANTED, to Open, Salford Hippodrome, March 13, Bass. Apply, stating Refs., &c., to
Percy B. Broadhead,
The Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, 'Cello, accustomed to Variety business. Apply by letter, stating age, references, and lowest terms. Mark envelopes "'Cello."
Oswald Stoll, Cranbourn-mansions, W.

WANTED, 'Cellist, for Opera House, Cheltenham. State age, references, and lowest terms, to Conductor.

WANTED, Flautist for Empire, Newport. Apply, stating Salary required, and giving names and addresses for References, to Oswald Stoll, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-st., W.C.

WANTED, Pianist, to Open March 6, Well up in Variety Business,
Evening Dress.
Apply, Stating Age, Terms, and References,
H. F. Miller, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, Pianist, to travel with Auction Mart, good Sight Reader and Accompanist; make himself useful. Send terms. Edwards and Page, Senghenydd.

WANTED, at once, good Pianist, able to read at Sight, to travel with Auction Vans. Apply, Williams, Auction Mart, Blaenavon, Mon.

WANTED, Portable Player, or other Instrument; also Lady Vocalist, Join Comedian, Pitching London. Start at once. Shares. Box 1,278, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Mandolinists and Guitarists, Ladies and Gentlemen, must Read Music.
Address, Box 1,264, "The Era."

WANTED, Tympanist and Double Drums, for Leeds, Grimsby, and Hull. Good Salary, Permanent. Apply, J. Thompson, care of 73, Highgate-road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham. Thanks to Gentlemen who Wrote in for Belfast and Glasgow.

COUNTY ASYLUM, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON.
WANTED, Musician Attendants, First Violin. None but thoroughly Competent Players need Apply. Wages Commencing at £33 per annum, increasing to £38 in the First Year, then by Annual Instalment up to £45, and according to Promotion to £50 and £65, with Board, Lodging, Washing, and Uniform. Apply to the Medical Superintendent.

WANTED, Orchestra Quartette, Vocal and Instrumental, Swiss Costume, to Play Morning, Afternoon, and Evening, One Week at Easter. Season Engagement if Suitable. Particulars, Salary, &c., Address, Managers, Switzerland, Metropole Arcade, Blackpool.

WANTED, Musicians, for Permanent Staff, 7th Battalion Rifle Brigade, Instruments, Cornet, Trombone, Clarionet. Ex-Army men, of Good Character, under 30 years' of Age, need only Apply. Former Service with the Colours will Count for Pension. P. H. Guest, 58, Princess May-rd., Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

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WANTED, by Edward Roden, Composer, Arranger, Engagement, Conductor or Pianist, Perm. or Tour. Wire, write, 10, Mervan-rd., Brixton.

WANTED, by Musical Director (Pianist and Solo Harpist), Engagement. References. Sinclair, 30, Emoire-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement by Musical Director (Violinist), experienced in Theatre, Variety, and Circus. Clem. A. Lawrence, 105, Cavendish-st, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Musical Director in First-Class Variety Theatre, Dis. March 11. Highest Credentials; reliable.
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WANTED, by Violinist (First or Second), Engagement; any business; experienced, reliable. H. Hurst, 19, Henderson-grove, Moss Side, Manchester.

WANTED, by Violin or Viola, Engagement; any business.
Reilly, 26, Pyramid-street, Everton, Liverpool.

WANTED, by a First-Class Violinist, Leader in a London Orchestra, young.
J., 67, Kingsgate-road, Kilburn, N.W.

WANTED, by First Violin, Engagement, any Business. Good References. H. Smith, 14, Prince's-square, Kennington-park, S.E.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement; can combine Clarionet. At Liberty, March 6. Violinist, 25, Tanfield-road, South Croydon.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Violinist, Experienced all Lines. State Terms. Address, Violinist, 36, Coin-street, Waterloo, S.E.

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement; combine string. Steady and experienced. Can join at once. Cuthbert Jones, 24, West Stewart-street, Greenock.

WANTED, by Cornet (First or Second), Engagement. Good Refs. if required. Now Dis. F. J. Baker, 2, Sunnyside-rd., Sandgate, Kent.

WANTED, by experienced Cornet, Re-engagement; any business. Refs. if required. Address, H. B. Metcalfe, 39, Whitehouse-st., Walsall.

WANTED, Engagement, First or Second Cornet, Music Hall or Theatre. Musician, 105, Oakley-street, Westminster Bridge-road.

WANTED, by good Clarionettist, Summer Engagement, military or string; excellent refs. Clarinettist, 9, Roby-street, Toll Bar, St. Helens.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, through Disappointment, any Business.
A. Miller, Opera House, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement or deputising. Bassist, 1, Honeybrook-road, Clapham Park, S.W.

WANTED, by Double Bass Player and Double Drummer, with all Effects, Engt., Variety Preferred. Late of Castleford Hippodrome. W. Johnson, 14, Dyson-street, Featherstone, Yorks.

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WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement, Reliable and Practical, Theatrical or Variety. Furnival, 35, Owen-road, Wolverhampton.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Bassoon, Engagement, Season or otherwise, References, Experienced, Sober. Queen's Theatre, or 50, Merrion, Leeds.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement, used to Variety Theatre Business.
Write, 24, Costa-street, Peckham.

WANTED, by Trombone, Violin, and Pianist, Engagement.
Nellie Kent, 12, Cardiff-grove, Luton.

WANTED, by Experienced Bombardon, Engagement, Tenting or otherwise. Address, J. D., 2, Market-street, Weymouth, Dorset.

WANTED, by Good Bombardon, Summer Season, Engagement. 15 Seasons' Refs. John Auckland, 4, Stoke-street, Beeston-road, Leeds.

WANTED, by Bombardon (Good), combine String Bass, Employment, any Capacity; reliable; experienced. B. Ruddock, 10, Harrison street, W.C.

WANTED, by a First-Class Second Horn player, Engagement for the Summer Season. Reference from Mr. Dan Godfrey, Municipal Orchestra, Bournemouth. A. Beltrami, 78, Commercial-road, Bournemouth.

WANTED, by Oboist, Engagement, Military or String, thoroughly experienced; any business. Oboe, 2, Church-street, Cambridge.

WANTED, by Young Man (25), Engagement, in Good Orchestra, Viola or Second Violin. Highest Refs. 212, High-st., Ecclesfield, Sheffield.

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WANTED, Orchestral Practice, Suitable for Little Girl on 'Cello.
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WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Re-engagement; thoroughly experienced, reliable, and best references. Address, Flautist, 78, Norfolk-street, Rotherham.

WANTED, by Pianist (First-Class), Engagement; any business; permanency preferred.
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WANTED, by First-class Pianist, Engagement; also Solo Violinist and Comedian; together, Seaside or Town. G., 121, Portsdown-road, W.

WANTED, by Solo Pianist, Accompanist (Belle Cole Tours), Engagements. Harold Scott, 45, St. Paul's-road, Highbury, N.

WANTED, by Drums, Xylo., &c., Engagement, First-class Experience, Lib. Mar. 11. E. Brightwell, c/o Smith, 174, New City-rd., Glasgow.

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WANTED, by Double Drummer, all Effects, Engagement, Theatre or Music Hall. F. McCrohan, 31, De Laune-st., Kennington-pk., S.E.

WANTED, Known, to Directors, Managers, Committees, &c., that the Famous Old British Guards' Band
is open for High-Class Summer Business, Seaside Engagement, or Exhibition Work. Enormous success last summer,
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WANTED, Known, the Original Blue Austrian Band open to Good Offers.
Conductor, 53, Philpot-street, Stepney, London.

WANTED, by Well-known London Restaurant Band, Engagement after June, for High-class Seaside Hotel or Pavilion. Handsome Uniform, and Solo Instrumentalists. Apply, Musical Director, 22, Crewdson-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, by the Loyal Westminster Band (Thirty-one Prof. Musicians), Engagements. Conductor, O. H. Carter, 32, Tenison-street, S.E.

WANTED, by German Band, First-class Engagement for the Summer Season. F. Preisicke, Musical Director, Café Opera, Hamburg.

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WANTED, by Violins (Leader, First, Second), Viola, 'Cello, Bass, Cornet (Trombone and Euphonium), Tympani, Combined or Individual Engagement. Address, as above.

WANTED, Known, Bateson's Orchestra, concluding successful season, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy. Particulars to Thos. Bateson, as above.

WANTED, April 20, for Spa Orchestra and Military Band, Scarborough, Good First Violin (Leader), Capable of Solos, Preference Given Player Doubling Third Clarionet; also May 29. Good First French Horn (Military). Apply, Charles Godfrey, Musical Director.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an Advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A Grateful Musician.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, Philip Germann, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice. Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. Williams, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester;" Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. Jesson, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London;" 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. Lees, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. Bartley, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTED.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS, BOLTON.
WANTED, at Once, Big Star Turns, Startling Sensations and Big Novelties, in all Lines, Nothing too Big, Money no Object for Good Star Turns new to Bolton. A few Good Circus Artistes required for Present and Future Dates; also for Seaside Town, for the Summer Season. Ad., King Ohmy, Ohmy's Grand Circus, Bolton.

BOSCO'S TENTING CIRCUS.
WANTED, Artistes of every Description, commencing Easter Monday, for six months' tour, Riders, Clowns, Comedians, Acrobats, Aerial Acts, Animal Shows, Sensational and Novelty Shows; useful families doing more than one act, write. Full particulars, with lowest terms for long tour. Bosco, Hippodrome, Belfast.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME,
CARLISLE.
WANTED, for March, and on, Specialities of Every Description, Suitable for Ring (Boarded) or Open Platform. Good Leader Communicate (Violin). Address, C. Algie.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTED.

WANTED, Talent, Novelties, smart Agent, Bandsmen, Grooms, &c., commence Easter. State lowest terms. First Circus in Ireland lit by Electricity; new ideas; will be an eye-opener. Add., Hy. Lyons, Klondyke Circus, Kiltimagh, co. Mayo.

DAVIES' PARAGON CIRCUS.
WANTED, for Tenting, commencing Easter Monday, useful people in every branch; Agent, Band, Stud Groom, Tent Master, &c. Address, Irvinstown, co. Fermanagh.

G. Manley and Sons' Circus.
WANTED, for Tenting, Artistes, in all Lines, anything Suitable for Ring, Grooms, Tentmen, Band; also a Good Agent. Notice.—The above Circus is now under the Sole Management of J. Manley. Address, Circus, Harlington, Middlesex.

WANTED, for Galas, Bristol, Easter and Whitsun, good Ground and Lofty Acts, also for York, June 21, 22, 23. Japs, Arabs, Wrestling Troupes. Strong Acts. Novelties. Nothing too big. Terms, Bills, Lithos, Wood, caterer, Easton, Bristol.

WANTED, for Kirkcaldy, entire week, January 1 (14 shows), First-Class Sensational Acts, in all Lines. State where act may be seen, and lowest inclusive terms. Calverto, Glasgow.

Fêtes and Galas commencing Whit-Monday
WANTED, Animal Acts, Trick Cyclists, and Up-to-Date Novelties for above. State Lowest Terms per Day. Fares paid from London terminus. Specimen litho., permanent address, Sylvester, Royal Agent, 271, Clapham-road, London. No callers. Sheldons write at once.

WANTED, for Pinder's Royal Circus and Menagerie, for Tenting season, one Principal Bar performer, double or triple. We will find clown partner; also groom. Tentmen write in. Pinder's Royal Circus, Leith.

WANTED, Young Girl, with Knowledge of Trick Cycling,
To Join Well-known Troupe.
Apply, Stating Tricks,
to Box 1,270,
"The Era" Office, London.

WANTED, first-class Bearer, Catcher, Thrower; also one good Tumbler. Costumes, Travelling Expenses paid. All particulars, salary, &c.,
Artist,
46, Cranmer-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, for Mr. John Leopold's NEW FRIVOLITY COMPANY,
a Good Tumbler.
Also Top Mount.
Apply, John Ellery, Lyceum Theatre, Govan.

WANTED, Lady Gymnast, for Known Family, for Stage Act Address, Full Particulars, Box 1,262, "The Era."

WANTED, Youth, Tumbler, that can do Flips, back and forwards.
Particulars, Granada, Hippodrome, Hastings.

WANTED, Smart Lad, between 14 and 15, who can Tumble and do Shoulder Business. Those who wrote before kindly write again. Apply, J. Zaro, 47, Larkhall-rise, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, for Easter Monday and Tuesday, Parachutist. Address, with lowest terms, to Chas. Harris, Naturalist, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Circus Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

OHMY'S CIRCUS, BOLTON.
WANTED, Known, Claude Ohmy and Sisters are at Liberty for the Summer Season with a number of First-class Acts, including the Three Sisters Deering, the Finest Equestrienne Act now before the Public, for Home or Abroad. Address, Claude Ohmy, Ohmy's Circus, Bolton.

WANTED, Known, Gingero, with his marvellous Troupe of Performing Bulls, Sheep, and Goats, and Dog. The only act of its kind in England to-day. Liberty March 6. Address, Gingero, Grand Circus, Stockport.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Lion Show,
Best in the Profession,
Vacant March 13 and 20,
London or South.
Communications,
2, Beck-road, Hackney, N.E.

WANTED, Known, Lillian Davies, Coon Equestrienne, Introducing the Smartest Cake Walk Dog in the Business, at Lib. Irvinstown, Fermanagh.

WANTED, Two Dominos, Clown and Donkey, a Comic Act, away from all other Animal Acts, Vacant Monday, my fault.
Tivoli, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Sunshine and Shadow, Premier Clowns, conclude to-night twelve weeks' comfortable engagement with Hengler's, Glasgow; liberty for a few weeks only. Address, 221, New-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, by Alec Aubrey, Renowned Electric Gymnast, March 13, 20.
Address, March 6, Week, Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Three Leonards, Triple Bars; also Acrobats, Pyramid Chairs, and Clowns. Lib., Monday. 7 Melville-st., Nottingham.

WANTED, March 6, 13, Mayeno Trio (two Ladies, one Gentleman), Acrobats, Rings, Tight Wire, Knockabout, Clown, up-to-date entries. Wire for Monday, Sands, Carlisle; after, G.P. Office, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Willetti Brothers, Speciality Acrobats. Head and Hand Balancers, great success. This, Tivoli, Manchester; Vacant Monday. Address above, or Stebbings.

WANTED, by the Arizona Troupe, Acrobatic Tumblers, Jugglers; also Will Percival, Pedestal Speciality, Monday. Wire, 3, Marsden-st, Liverpool, W.

WANTED, Known, Azeiky, great Arab Tumbler, great success, Tivoli, Glasgow, Liberty, Monday, onward; also Tenting Season, home or abroad. Tivoli, Glasgow.

WANTED, March 13 and 27, by Les Unionnes (2 Ladies, 2 Gentlemen). Electrically Illuminated Perpendicular Ladders. Novelty Gymnastic Pot-pourri. Address, Palace, W. Hartlepool.

WANTED, Known, John Irvin, Foot Equilibrist, Just Finished Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh. Thanks for Offers. Monday Next, the New Hippodrome, Accrington. Lib. March 13 and 20. Agents, Brothers Artois. "The Era" Office, London; or, John Irvin, 144, High-st., Deptford, London.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro, the Great and most Daring High-Rope Performer, Open for Fêtes and Galas. Apply, 121, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea; or, Mr. T. Wood, Easton, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, the Four Scoreys, Musical Comedy Artistes, at Liberty March 20. Add., 176, Penton-place, Walworth, London, S.E.

WANTED, by The Estos, Tenting Season, or Tour, with New Comedy Contortionist Speciality. Lib. April 24. As usual, Success, Griffin and Drake's Panto., Cat and Speciality. Panto., 1905-6, Settled, with F. Denman Wood, Esq. Failure impossible.

WANTED, by the Butt Marvels, Unique Barrel Jumpers, Wire for March 6, 13, 20, 154, New Hall-street, Burnley, or Fioni, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Goliath, the Boy Hercules, May and June dates. Perm. address, 41, Brunswick-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Valcon, Miniature Sandow, at Liberty for Monday; a Refined Strong Act, incomparable. Wire, 1, Redcross-st, Bristol.

WANTED, by Three Brothers, Job in Travelling Circus or Menagerie, with Horses or Ponies, Experienced, and not Afraid to Work. Write, John Reilly, jun., Bridge-st., Cootehill, Co. Cavan.

WANTED, Situations, by Two Brothers, with Thoroughbreds or Travelling Horses, thoroughly Experienced. Excellent References. Write, Lewis Brothers, 73, Bromley-cres., Cardiff.

WANTED, Engagements, Balloon Ascents, Parachute Descents, Airship Flights, &c. Spencer Bros., Ltd., 45B, Aberdeen-pk., Highbury.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

ABERDEEN and DUNDEE.
PALACE VARIETY THEATRES.
Booked in Conjunction with
Plymouth, Bristol, and Sunderland.
WANTED, Artistes Engaged to forward Bill Matter Two Clear Weeks in advance.
Always Vacancies for Star Turns.
ERNEST SHELDON, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Variety Artistes, all Lines, New to Neath, near Swansea, for March 13, Combination. No Fancy Prices, but Sure Money. Letters, MANNIKIN, Theatre Royal, Hebburn-on-Tyne.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager,
H. L. SKIVINGTON.

WANTED, Comedy Star Artistes, for Immediate Dates. Nothing too Big.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Immediate and Future Dates. Lessee and Manager, WM. MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, First-class Artistes, Performances and Aerial Shows; also Ballet Troupes, June 12, July 3, 10, Aug. 7, 1905. Apply, Sample Lithos, Posters, &c., to W. and J. WILDER, 29, Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Artistes, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, March 13, 27, April 10; good Living Freak or Novelty wanted, March 20, must be good, to follow Lucy Moore, four weeks' engagement. Lowest terms.
CHARLES A. JAMES,
Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin.

Keighley Friendly Society's Fête and Gala, to be Held June 17, 1905.
WANTED.— First-class Artistes, Aeronauts, Pyrotechnists, are Invited to Tender for the above.
Tenders must be in on or before March 13, to J. W. CLAYTON,
92, Marlborough-street, Keighley.

WANTED, Star Variety Artistes, Big Specialities,
March 13, onwards. Terms, bookings,
EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Artistes, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, March 13 and 20. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote Lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Gala Artistes of Every Description. Terms and perm. address to C. HAMILTON, Brookfield House, Brookfield-street, Hunslet, Leeds.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, from now on.
Apply, Mr. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artistes, for Gala, Easter Monday and Tuesday, at Shotley Bridge. Address, with Lowest Terms and Sample Lithos, to CHAS. HARRIS, Naturalist, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Artistes, Novelties, Spectacles, &c., In or Outdoor Attractions, June 5, onward, for Llandudno. LYNN, Palace, Northampton.

WANTED, for London Engagement and Tour, Artistes with songs characteristic of London streets, Policeman, Match Boy, &c. MANAGER, 76, Richmond-road, S.W.

WANTED, Refined Artistes all Lines, immediate. Robt. Gilmore, Comical Walker, Walter Adams, send lowest terms, bookings. DEAN COOK'S Touring Agency, G.P.O., Leeds.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, big specialities, on Shares or Salary, for March 13, 20, 27. HUGH DEMPSEY, Grand Theatre, Maidenhead.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, Bijou Empire, Hull.
Vacancies for Artistes in all lines from Mar. 20.
Tops wanted weekly.
Turns known to me write in at once.
Agents invited to forward list weekly.
No Commission deducted.
Sole Responsible and Booking Manager,
FRED THORNE, Agent.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
WANTED, Artistes, in all Lines, Rehearsal, Monday Next, 2 o'clock, for Revell Troupe, Kyoto, Miss Geraldine, Brothers Hampson, Vernon's Bioscope, E. J. Wilkes, J. H. Kavanagh, and Andreassen Brothers. Letters, S. L. LEE.

WANTED, for immediate and future dates, First-Class Artistes of every description, big Tops and Bottoms; money no object for Acts that can draw. Will the following please write:—Manhattan Comedy, Steinway Glee Singers, American Comedy Tour, Mark Sheridan, Sam Mayo, Vasco, Alf. Gibson, Harry Ford, Will Evans. I can place any artiste of ability. Lithos, lowest terms, &c. Yates' Agency, 3, Oxford-grove, Manchester, S.W.

BRITANNIA MUSIC HALL, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Artistes, in all Lines,
Good Combinations Wanted,
to Wire in for
April 13, and on.

WANTED, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, Late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c.
Travelling.
Letters, Next Week,
1, Fairbourne-road, Levenshulme, Manchester.

EMPRESS T. OF VARIETIES, HARTLEPOOL.
Sole Proprietors, EVERTON and CRAGG.
General Manager, HARRY BURNS.
All communications must be addressed to Business Agents only.
WANTED, Known, Call Monday, March 6, 1 o'clock prompt, Newhouse and Ward, Edie Charnley, Bennett and Martell, Cissy Curlett, Julian Mack, Burns' Bioscope, Oakdene, and the Four Cliftons. Signed, H. BURNS, General Manager. Telegrams, "Burns, Empress"; Telephone, 0231.

TIVOLI MUSIC HALL, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Proprietors, COUNCILLOR HALL & SWEENEY.
Business Manager, HARRY BURNS.
WANTED, Known, all communications must be addressed to Business Agency Only.
Telegrams, "Burns, Empress."
Telephone 0231.
Open Weekly with the Highest Class of Talent Obtainable.

WANTED, Clients to notify me with bookings up to date. MCASKELL, Alexandra Hall, Blyth, Northumberland.

WANTED, big Tops and Bottoms of Bills,
HARRY BURNS'S AGENCY.
HARRY BURNS'S AGENCY.
HARRY BURNS'S AGENCY.
HARRY BURNS'S AGENCY.
HARRY BURNS'S AGENCY.
Immediate and onwards.
Can place anything, no matter how big.
Booking every hall of note in England.
Four Trees, Charlene and Charlene
Wire addresses.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession.
Acts New in Dublin for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland.
Direct
or through Agents.
All Communications to
Will Sley,
41, Oxford-street,
Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09,144.

Ernst L. Warner's Agency, 156, Stockwell-park-rd., Brixton, S.W.
WANTED, Stars and Novelties, New to London; also Artistes, all Lines, Immediate Dates, North and Midlands. Send List of Bookings (not Vacancies), and Lowest Terms, E. C. JAZON, Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for March 13 and onwards. Terms and Particulars to BROOKS, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and Particulars to BROOKS, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-av., W

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, and Specialities, Mar. 6 and 13, onwards.
State Lowest Terms, Bookings, &c.
I can place you.
JESS VERNO'S Agency, 61, West Derby-st., Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment"; Telelphone 2076 Royal.
Representative, Jesse Burton, Esq.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, March 13, 20, 27,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for
March and April,
and all Dates through Summer of 1905,
Star Turns, Tops of Bills,
all the Finest and Biggest Acts Required,
Price no object, for
Manchester,
Salford,
Ashton,
Bury,
Preston,
Liverpool,
Oldham,
Rochdale,
Blackpool,
Morecambe,
Barrow,
Glasgow,
Dundee,
Aberdeen,
Belfast,
Dublin,
Newcastle,
Hull,
Leeds,
Brighton,
Bristol,
Birmingham,
Bolton,
Middlesbrough, &c.
New and Novel Acts can have Six Months' Solid Engagements. Send immediately. Terms, Photos, Lithos., &c., to
Will Sley, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09,144 Manchester.

WANTED, Star Turns, in all Lines, for March 6, and on. Fred Durham's Agency, Telephone 15 Brixton.
1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

NEW PAVILION, ALTRINCHAM.
WANTED, Variety Turns in all Lines, for March 27 and on. FRED. BUDD, Fields, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.

You all Know me. I am no Ham-bone.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Big Turns Only,
New to Scotland, Big Money to Artistes that can Draw. Address, Permanent Offices,
DREW BAILEY, 109, Eglinton-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Good, Refined Entertaining Act, for Exhibition, March 20, week, Two Shows Daily, must be a Good Turn.
Address, lowest,
HAGUE, Spa, Limited, Bridlington.

THE GLASGOW SYNDICATE HALLS.
TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S VARIETY THEATRES, GLASGOW.
One Performance Nightly at Both Houses.
WANTED, First-class Funny Acts of all Kinds, Good Singing Turns, Sensational Novelties, and Brilliant Stars for Tops. Future Bookings will be made for One Week Only at a time, and none but those Turns capable of Working both Theatres the same night can be entertained.
Bill Matter Two Weeks in advance is imperative.
S. KING ALEXANDER, General Manager,
Head Office, Tivoli Palace Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds,
Deveres and Sisters Jonghman wire address, urgent.
Deveres and Sisters Jonghman wire address, urgent.
Deveres and Sisters Jonghman wire address, urgent.
Dalton's Agency,
5, Matlock-avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester.

WANTED, smart Single Act or Turn new to Fleetwood, March 13. Combination terms. PHILLIPS, 127, Westbrook-street, Bolton.

GRAND CIRCUS, STOCKPORT.
WANTED, some Smart Acts, New to Town, for Mar. 6 (no Vocalists or Musical), also Mar. 13.
Communications. DAVENPORT, Circus, Stockport.

WANTED, Good Big Acts of Every Description, for Scotland and North of England. GEO. SAPHRINI, Variety Agent, 5, King-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Speciality Acts, of Every Description, for Galas, Commencing Whit Monday, June 12. Forward Specimen Poster, Lowest Terms, and Full Particulars. W. F. JURY, 49, Peckham-park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Big Specialities and Novel Acts, for March 13, onward. Big Tops Wanted. Those on my Book keep me Posted. Can always do with Good Numbers. Mr. FRED NEIMAN, Palace T., Bordesley.

WANTED, for Empire, Paisley, big specialities, Novelties, and Variety Artistes of every description, for March 13. Address, DELNO FRITZ, above.

WANTED, good Speciality for Eastbourne, April 24, must be new to the town; can place good Specialities for immediate dates. Enclose lithos, &c., to Day's Variety Agency, Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand. Telephone, 6915, Gerrard; "Terpsichore, London."

WANTED, Every Description of Talent suitable for Outdoor Entertainments. Send Vacant Dates, June, July, and August, lowest terms, specimen poster, and Full Particulars, W. F. JURY, 49, Peckham Park-road, London, S.E.

Jarrow-on-Tyne.
WANTED, First-class Variety Talent for March 20 and 27. Write, W. THOMPSON, 72, High-street, East, Wallsend.

WANTED, March 13, onward, big tops and bottoms of bill, &c.; anything with drawing powers. WILL GREGORY, General Manager, Palace Theatre, Aberdare.

WANTED, for the Coventry Hippodrome, for Present and Future Dates,
the Very Best of Artistes
in Every Branch
of the Variety Profession,
Big Stars,
Novelties,
Sensational Attractions,
with Drawing Power.
Write Direct,
with Absolute Lowest Terms, to
T. M. SYLVESTER, Hippodrome, Coventry.

WANTED, for the New Hippodrome, Maidstone (Proprietors, Messrs. MYLAND, BASKERVILL, AND CO. General Manager, T. M. SYLVESTER.
Opening Date,
Monday, March 20),
Artistes of Every Description
in the Variety Profession,
Comedians and Comediennes, Specialities,
Comedy Sketches, Big Novelties,
Sensational Attractions,
Ballets, Pantomimes, &c.
All must be Absolutely New
to Maidstone.
Good Bill Inspector, Window Bills,
to make himself Generally Useful.
Stage Hands,
Programme Girls,
and Check-Takers.
First-class Musical Conductor
to Supply Orchestra of Twelve Performers,
Must be Thoroughly Used to
Variety Business,
and to Two Performances Nightly.
Good Stage-Manager,
in fact a Complete Staff.

Apply, at once,
T. M. SYLVESTER, Hippodrome, Coventry.

Billy Keene's Pierrot Parties.
Established 1896.
WANTED, Refined Entertainers for above, must be young, strictly sober, and have large repertoire. State experience, age, and lowest terms, together with recent photograph.
BILLY KEENE, Hippodrome, Bury.

WANTED, Smart Acrobatic Dancer, Age 16, Height not over 5ft., Long and Good Engagement. Parents only dealt with. Apply, Box 1,259, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, March 13, onwards, for South, West, and Wales, Serios, Sisters, and All Lines. Gannon, Agent, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, First-Class Sister turn, singers and dancers, must do singles, for March 6. LULAINE, P.O., S. Hetton, Durham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Immediate Dates, and future dates, the Best Artists of every description, Acts out Easter Write. Acts out Whit Week Write.

My Bookings this week include the following Artists:—
Otto Schumann,
Akimoto Troupe,
Two Dates;
Agnes Lynch,
Three Dates;
Payne's Vagabonds,
Gerard's Lions,
Aerian and Ostara,
Three Dates;
Mystery Gauze,
Three Dates;
Vermette and Dionne,
Three Dates;
Primavesi,
Rumbo Austin,
The St. Johns,
Three Henriques,
Augustin and Hartley,
Slippere,
Three Dates;
Kramer Troupe,
Two Dates;
Sheila McNeil,
Three Dates;
Bizerlas Troupe,
Rochez Family,
Eight Eugenes.
Franklin Russian Troupe,
Three Dates;
Bessie Travis,
The Seven Bozzas.

My representative will visit the Following Towns Next Week to See Acts:—
Liverpool,
Manchester,
Leeds,
and
Birmingham.
Send full list of Bookings,
Absolute lowest terms,
GEO. ZALVA,
The Hippodrome,
Scarboro'.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Talent, all lines, for Galas Seasides. Seasides. Seasides.

James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street,
Liverpool.
Liverpool.

Telegrams,
Fioni,
Fioni,
Liverpool.
Telephone,
1686, Royal.

SHANKLIN.
To Musical Artistes.
WANTED, Applications from High-class Professional Concert Parties for the Sole Right to give Al-fresco Entertainments on the Beach at Shanklin during the forthcoming Season, 1905, say from June to 1st October.

Letters, which should be addressed to the Clerk to the Urban District Council, should state Amount of Royalty offered for the Facilities given, and should also be accompanied by a Photograph of the Artistes, and a Specimen Programme (if any), must reach the Council Chambers, Shanklin, I.W., on or before March 31 next.

WANTED, Good, Funny Comedian, Monday Next, New T., Blyth. Wire, Andy's Circus, Bolton; after Saturday, Alexandra Hall, Blyth.

WANTED, Cinematograph, March 20, Six Nights; also Good Variety Turns. JOHN ORTON, People's Theatre, Abergavenny.

WANTED, Known, Opening for Amateurs, Novices, in Variety Co., Working Around London. Small Premium. LEONARD, 95, Sperling-road, Tottenham.

WANTED, Man and Wife, for big Music Hall Novelty.
Address, GUS GARRICK, Vaudeville Club.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, used to Alternating, with or without own Machine, for Permanency, Start March 13, in Midlands. State Lowest Terms in First Letter, Box 1,269, "The Era."

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, 49, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Dora Denmark, Burlesque Actress, Liberty Monday. King's Theatre, Walthamstow, London.

WANTED, Monday next, by Nellie Elder, Refined Comedienne and Speciality, Tyrolean Vocalist. Wire quick. Empire, Wigan. A sure success.

WANTED, by Miss Anita Wayman, Soprano, "The Scottish Nightingale," Monday, 6th, and 13th, Vacant owing to Hippo., Ipswich, not being completed. Offers, this week, Hip., Norwich.

WANTED, Known, Baby Lloyd, Vocal Wonder, and Nellie Vann, Vocalist, Liberty, March 13, 20, Return; Mon., Hippo, Newport, I.W. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Three Sisters Adrienne, Vocalists, Dancers, and Whistlers, Vacant March 13 and 27, to follow Swansea. Address, 1, Salisbury-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, March 13, on, by Gene Smada, the Greatest Master of Handcuff Mystery, a most Genuine Show, absolutely no Fake whatever. I undertake to Release myself from Positions never yet Attempted by any other Handcuff King. Extract from Liverpool Express, Feb. 16, 1905:—An excellent exhibition of handcuff mystery, which surpasses anything shown before. Proprietors and Managers wishing for an Entirely New and Original Act, and a Big Top of the Bill Turn, should Book this Show at once. For Lithos., &c., Apply to my Business-Manager,
CARL BOLTON, 5, Promenade, Egremont, Cheshire.

WANTED, March 13, on, with exceptions, for Kardoc, World's Greatest Jail Breaker, Handcuff King, and Trunk Manipulator. See Card. Wire.

WANTED, March 6, on, Prince Perera, three grand draws, Conjuring, Handcuff King, Indian Box Mystery. 146, Rumford-st, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, by Leslie H. Murray, Magician and Card Manipulator, Monday Next; also March 13. Wire, Coliseum, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Tom Hulme, Tremendous Success, Baron. What Notices! Every Town Alike. This, Grand, Chorley; Next, O. H., Radcliffe. Good Songs for Sale. Lib. April, also Summer Season.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, March 6, on; also Summer, by George Ritter, Vocal Musical Speciality Comedian, Good Pianist, Good Répertoire of Songs. Just Concluded Twelve Weeks, Panto. Wire, 21, Four Post-hill, Southampton.

WANTED, Known, Bandoni, the Original Concertina King and One-Man Band, Expensive Fit-up, Liberty March 6, 13. Wire, Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Vokes, Comedy, Musical Comedian, Liberty, home or abroad. 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, Sidney Dolf, the Vocal Trickster, Tremendous reception at People's Palace, this week. Wire, 153, Lake-rd, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Chas. Woodward, Character Comedian and Actor-Vocalist, is vacant March 27, April 10, 17, 24. Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, Monday next, by Harry Leaton, Refined Comedian and Vocalist, with a big voice, good songs. Wire, Queen's T., Pembroke Dock.

WANTED, Known, Vulcaris, "the Scottish Grossmith," Special weeks vacant, Easter, onwards. Extensive répertoire. Terms, references, 5, Park-avenue, Dundee.

WANTED, by Vosper, the Master Facial Mimic, Monday next; also March 13 and 20.
Address, Palace, Lancaster.

WANTED, Engagement, by Fred. J. Hudson, Gentlemanly Lecturer, Baritone Vocalist, Artistic Whistler, and Musical Mimic. Splendid Refs. Wire or write, Public Hall, Barnsley.

WANTED, by the Pattinsons (Belle and Andrew), March 6, 13, and 27. Celebrated Musical and Vocal Entertainers. Appeared before Royalty. Huge Success at Tivoli and Queen's, Glas. "The Era" says: The musical and vocal entertainment provided by the Pattinsons was first-class, an act that is far above the average, introducing piano-playing, high-class trick, and imitations, singing (evening dress and full Highland costume) double xylophone playing, and the Greatest International Novelty Piano-Playing the Greatest International Novelty Piano-Playing in the World (Patent protected).
Academy of Music, 24, Paterson-st., S.S., Glasgow.

WANTED, April 3, 10, May 15, 22, by Kyoto, the Original Mysterious Comedy Japanese Box Act; also Miss May Geraldine, Comedienne and Dancer, Success, Stoll's Hippodrome, Manchester; Monday, Returns, Hippodrome, Rochdale.

WANTED, Known, Lauri Wylie and his Mimicking Mannikin, and Dora Rossetti, Brilliant Violin Soloist, Vacant few Weeks Summer, for Piers, Good Concert Parties, &c. Last Summer own Concert Party; Summer Previous, Chas. Parker's K.K.K.'s Stage-manage and Produce. This, Collins's; Next, Hippo., Coventry.

WANTED, Known, Dan Pedley and Marie Joyce, Vacant Monday, March 6.
Wire, Hippo, Ton-y-Pandy, South Wales.

WANTED, Monday next, Syd Herman, Hebrew Comedian; Ivy Lennard, Refined Songstress. M'ASKELL, Public Hall, Barnsley.

WANTED, Monday Next, by The Coopers, Introducing Songs, Patter, Cornets, Bugles, Post Horns, Coach Horns, and Gun Drill. Wire, 10, Broughton-lane, Attercliffe, Sheffield.

WANTED, March 13-20, also Al Fresco Season, by Carl and Carr, Refined Comedians, in our own Comedy Scena, "Workhouse." Complimented by Joe Haynes, Esq. Splendid Success, Queen's, Poplar. March 6, Empire, Dover (Third Return).

WANTED, Known, Dale and D'Argan, Novel Acrobatic Conjurers, have a few Summer Dates vacant. March 6, Alhambra, Stourbridge.

WANTED, Monday, by Doyle and Massey, Eccentric Knockabouts, Patterers, Dancers, and Burlesque Boxers. Wire, Empire, Oxford.

WANTED, March 6, 20, by Chant and Chant, Comedy Vocalists and Patterers. Hit of Programme. Wire, Empire, Paisley.

WANTED, Known, Duncan and Morton. Refined Comedians, Liberty Monday, March 6 and 13. Wire, Empire, Bridgwater.

WANTED, Known, Reed and Lerne, Vacant Monday and March 13, through Britannia, Glasgow, and E., Greenock; changing management. Wire, Hippo., Bury.

WANTED, Monday, also March 13, by Denton and Dale, Patter Comedians. Sure success. Wire, Empire, Dover.

WANTED, Known, Carlton and Atkins, Premier Musical Pair, at Liberty, March 6. 40, Chadwick-street, West Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Muir and Bartlett, with their répertoire of comedy duologues, have one week, March 13, vacant. Empire, Middlesbro'.

WANTED, by Demi and Semi, Musical Act, Patter, Dancing. Wire, 51, Canterbury-place, London, S.E. Liverpool to follow.

WANTED, Known, the Four Scoreys, Instrumentalists, Vocalists, and Dancers, at Liberty March 20. Add., 176, Penton-pl., Walworth, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, St. Johns, Comedy, Musical, and Dancing Act, at Liberty, March 27, on. Hippo, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Known, the Barger Trio (Beta, Norman, and Tom), in their Comedy Sketch, "Quits, or Easily Deceived." Re-engaged Pavilion, Llandudno, June 5 till Sept. 23. Terms and Dates, Ventonfield, Victoria-road, Tuebrook, Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday next, by Four Arizonas, Acrobatic Tumblers; also Will Percival, Comedian, Dancer. Wire, 3, Marsden-st, Liverpool, W.

WANTED, 6th and 13th, by Unita and Paul, Aerialistic, Twirling, Sensational, and Comedy Gymnasts. Wire, 136, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Albano Troupe, Refined Musical Speciality, Great Success, Empire, New Cross.

WANTED, March 6, and onward, by Gilroy, Vent. Lecture and Bioscope Operator, through termination of Biograph Wild West Tour. Wire or write till Sat., Town Hall, Dundalk; then 55, Effingham-street, Rotherham.

"A DRESSING-ROOM ROMANCE."
"A DRESSING-ROOM ROMANCE."
"A DRESSING-ROOM ROMANCE."
WANTED, March 13, 20, 27, by Albert Brasque and Cora Duncan, for the above most original, refined, well-acted, well-dressed duologue. Highly complimented by Frederick Yates, Esq., Regent Theatre, Salford; re-engaged July 3, 1905, and January 8, 1906, at an increase of salary.

Address, ALBERT BRASQUE, Circus of Varieties, Bury.

A Novelty at last in Sketches.
WANTED, Managers or Agents in quest of something new, weird, mystic, humorous, and pithy, to book a certain draw, a Sketch worthy the halls. Mr. J. Cowper Worden's new Dramatic Scena, "The Statue in the Square," Vacant March 20, onwards. Write or wire, J. C. WORDEN, The Palace, Blackpool.

WANTED, Dates, for F. H. Neville's Great Dramatic Sketch, "Hunted Down," an Instantaneous Success, Refer W. B. Broadhead, Esq. The Best Dramatic Sketch on the Road. Wire, Wire, Wire, Vacant March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 24, May 1, 8, 29, June 5, 12, 19, July 3, and on. F. H. NEVILLE, 97, London-road, Manchester.

WANTED, March 13, for Matt Wilkinson's Screaming Comedy Act, "The Registry Office." Wire, Barnard's, Chatham; next, Woolwich.

WANTED, Summer Engagements, Share or Certainty, by Don's Glittering Star Pierrot Troupe, Male and Female. Letters, 45, Allfarthing-lane, Wandsworth.

WANTED, three weeks, March 13, the greatest Animal Show on Earth.
CHARD'S Dog Circus, Palace, Cork.

WANTED, Engagements, Mystic Kettle, other Experiments with Liquid Air, same as Palace, London. BRANDON MEDLAND, 44, Lorrimore-rd., Kennington, S.E.

Mesmerism.
WANTED, Known, Scientific Entertainments given; Pupils taken; Subjects required, Male and Female. Letter in first instance to ALMA, 5, Holywell-row, Worship-street, Finsbury.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagements, Hypnotic Trance and Mesmeric Entertainment, by Prof. Fricker, the 30-day Trance Hypnotist. Box 1,276, "The Era."

WANTED, by E. L. Lauste, Ciné. Operator, March 13, on, thoroughly Practical in Every Branch of the Trade. Write, 8, Benedict-rd., Brixton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cinematograph Operator, Sundays, London, or near.
Box 1,258, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement for W. Payne's Bio-Photoscopes, with the Latest Pictures, Success Everywhere, Now Booking for the Summer Seasons, Piers, Pavilions, &c., Complete Change of Films Weekly. All letters, Empire, Portsmouth.
Films for Sale, Secondhand.

WANTED, Known, Albert Sayers at Liberty for Tenting, or any Big Show, with his Latest Animated Pictures. Two Successful Seasons with James Lloyd, Esq.; Great Success with Miss Mary Austin and Vivian Edmonds' "Cotton Spinner" Co. Sorry my gas-bag is empty; cannot say more. This, Empire, Oldham; next, O. H., Wakefield.

WANTED, Dates, Hughes' Electrograph; Returns booked at four Liverpool halls; one Show at Liberty. Permanent address, 11, Phœbe-Anne-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, dates for Bioscope; also Troupe of Dogs, one or both; high leaping Dog Show. LE CLAIR, Theatre Royal, Blaydon-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Engts., Brandon Medland's Vitascope, Best, Latest Films; also Wonderful Desseinatograph, Coloured, Lace-like Designs. 44, Lorrimore-rd., Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Engagements, Harmon's Bioscope, Great Variety Up-to-Date Comic and Trick Films. Liberty Easter. 101A, Penwith-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements for Up-to-Date Pictures. Reduced Prices. THE WALTURDAW COMPANY, LIMITED, 3, Dean-street, Holborn, London.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the following is a Complete COPYRIGHT LIST OF FAIRS, FEASTS, WAKES, AND CARNIVALS FOR MARCH, 1905, ENGLAND.

Mar. 4.	Bury	Mar. 23.	Okehampton
Mar. 4.	Chertsey	Mar. 23.	Retford
Mar. 4.	Stamford	Mar. 24.	Clitheroe
Mar. 4.	Wisbech	Mar. 24.	York
Mar. 6.	Dudley	Mar. 25.	Henley-in-Arden
Mar. 7.	Blandford		
Mar. 7.	Longton	Mar. 25.	Holmforth
Mar. 8.	Nottingham	Mar. 25.	Leigh (Dorset)
Mar. 8.	Biddesden	Mar. 25.	Stourbridge
Mar. 8.	Colne	Mar. 27.	Bridgnorth
Mar. 8.	Lichfield	Mar. 27.	Bridlington
Mar. 8.	Tetbury	Mar. 27.	Grantham
Mar. 8.	Tunbridge Wells	Mar. 28.	Alcester
		Mar. 28.	Ottery St. Mary
Mar. 18.	Alston (Cumb.)		
Mar. 21.	Upper Ottery	Mar. 30.	Stamfordham
Mar. 22.	Wootton-under-Edge	Mar. 31.	Worthen

SCOTLAND.

Mar. 11.	Haddington	Mar. 15.	Galashiels
Mar. 15.	Dumfries		

WALES.

Mar. 8.	Menai Bridge	Mar. 18.	Cowbridge
Mar. 15.	Penmorfa	Mar. 18.	Rhyadar
Mar. 17.	Corwen		

WANTED, Known, that the Next Meeting of the British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union will be held at the Queen's Hotel, Bury, on Wednesday next, March 8, at 2.30 prompt.
Important Business on the Agenda.

Signed, T. HURST, Secretary.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Handsellers to know Simons is the Man for Cheap Second-hand Watches and Jewellery. Send £5 for Special Parcel.

117, Houndsditch, London.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Others to Know Simons' is the Cheapest Place for Clocks, Bronzes, Field Glasses, and Cheap Jewellery. Best-class French Paste Stocked for the Profession. 117, Houndsditch.

Fire. Fire. Fire.
WANTED, Known.—Have you Insured with Mr. Pope, the Showman's Fire Insurance Man? If not, hurry up, before you have a Fire. Send Post-card To-day to F. F. POPE, Abingdon-on-Thames, who will call on you anywhere.

Tom Taylor and Sons, Launch and Boat Builders, Staines, Middlesex.
WANTED, Known, Contracts Taken for Running and Supplying Launches (Steam, Electric, and Oil Motor); also Boats of Every Description on Lakes or Artificial Water. Lakes and Artificial Water Rented for Working Electric Launches and Boats of all descriptions at Cheap Fares. Builders and Workers of Electric Launches at Earl's Court, Crystal Palace, Glasgow Exhibition, and Cork Exhibition.

WANTED, Showmen to Know, that Leete's Colours and Varnishes are the Best. Vermilionettes, Permanent Reds, Carmines, Carriage and Copal Varnishes, Gold Leaf, Brushes, &c., and every Requisite for Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Carriage Paid on all Orders £2. Write for price list, or call, Leete's Colour Works, 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen, Fair Keepers, &c. Stacey and Co., of Settles-street, London, E., are still to the Front with Everything for the Fair. Send for our new List, Post Free. Guns, Ammunition, Glass Globes, Targets, &c. See our New Throwing Game, Bombardment of Port Arthur. Sure Success. Noted House for Swing Ropes. Established 50 years (same address).

WANTED, Known, Electrical Specialities. SIMPKIN, WILKINSON, and GIBSON, 66, Kirkstall-road, Leeds, Manufacture Dynamos, Arc Lamps, Switchboards, &c., Specially for Showmen. Also Stock Cable, Globes, Carbons, Incandescents, and Every Requisite.

WANTED, Showmen, to Send for a Unique Picture of the Gathering of Showmen, at the Lynn Fair Ground, Last Week. EXFORD, 32, Liverpool-street, King's Cross, W.C.

WANTED, Showmen to Know, Greeves and Co. still Selling Silvermine Butterscotch, with Fortunes, 3s. gross. 104, Belgrave-gate, Leicester.

WANTED, Known, C. Gordon, jun., Successor to the Late C. Gordon, Showmen's Painter and Gilder. 146, Rice-lane, Walton, Liverpool.

WANTED, Shooting Gallery proprietors to send us guns to be cleaned, oiled, and repaired for the coming season. Ammunition, rifles, card targets, glass bottles, and globes, at Lowest Prices, with Prompt Delivery.
BUCK AND PATERSON (LTD.),
66, Union-street,
Borough, London, S.E.

WANTED, Amusement Caterers and others, to Know that the Advertising Phonoscope is the most Attractive, Sensational, and Effective Advertising Device yet Produced. It is the "Sign that Speaks." Full Particulars, ADVERTISING PHONOSCOPE CO., 1, Bear-street, Leicester-square, W.C.

WANTED, Novelties, Suitable for Wax Exhibition, for Edinburgh and Aberdeen.
HUMBER'S Permanent Waxwork Exhibition,
112, George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, for Monday, good Novelty, or anything suitable for shop, with paintings or posters. DE BRANCA, 56, Kirkgate, Leith, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Good Shows, Novelties, Shops, best positions in Wales, open at once. PROPRIETOR, Exhibition, 36, Union-street, Dowlais.

WANTED, Monday, Fat Lady, Strong Men, Lady Wrestlers, or any thorough Good Show. 2d. Admission, Spaces to Let, for Stalls, Automatics, Games, and Amusements. Wire, PROPRIETOR, Exhibition Room, Cheapside-corner, Oxford-st., Reading.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, for World's Fair, Hippo., and Coliseum Grounds, Llandudno, 12,000 square yards, Ornamental and Enclosed Gardens, Summer Season from June 5 till October, In and Outdoor Attractions, Swings, Roundabouts, Quick Showing Novelties, Pierrots, Artistes, All Lines, Elephant for Rides, Shows of Every Conceivable Description for Stage and Grounds, Firework Displays, Special Stalls in Theatre Auditorium, Spaces to Let in Annex and Grounds. Will entertain Shares or Rental (easy). Apply, Lynn (Sole Man. of Hip.), P., Northampton.

WANTED, First-Class Freaks, Human Curiosities, at Reynolds' Exhibition, Lime-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Tattooed Lady, to open March 13 Terms, Shares. All Letters to Baine's Great Waxwork Exhibition, Oldham-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Comedian and Dancer, for Bioscope Show; also Troupe of Lady Dancers; Permanent Situation to Suitable People, those used to Fair Business Preferred, Open at Once. Apply, Dooner, 204, West-street, Bedminster, Bristol.

WANTED, for John Proctor's Royal Bioscope, Good Knockabout Comedian, must be Used to Fair Business; also Good Organ Man. State lowest terms in first letter. Single Men Preferred. Write, Proctor's Royal Bioscope, Wisbech, Saturday and following week.

WANTED, Descriptive Vocalist, to Travel with Auction Mart, must have a Good Voice and Plenty of Songs. Those used to the business preferred. Write, C. F. Rowley, St. John's Rooms, Winchester. Can join at once.

WANTED, a good Tattoo Artist. Humber, Waxwork Exhibition, 112, George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, couple of Dancers, married couple preferred, for parading outside Norman's Cinématograph. Lowest terms to Market-place, Chorley.

WANTED, Known, Carl Harmon's Royal Punch & Judy & Marionettes, also Bioscope, open for Engagements. 101A, Penwith-rd., Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Tenting Season, for First-class Cinématograph and Films, used to the Business. W. Emiel, 80, Peckham-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Extraordinary Success, Eagle Davis's Knife Throwers, most Sensational Performance Travelling, Splendid Window Flash, Two Sensational Paintings, another Painting being done by Dudley Grove, Photographs, Enlargements, Bills, Lithographs, all in Beautiful Frames; Hundreds of Bills and Posters, for Billing Purposes. March 13, Humber's Waxworks, Aberdeen; March 27, One Month, Vickard's Waxworks, Glasgow; April 24, Waxworks, Edinburgh. Liberty May 15. Waxworks, Overgate, Dundee.

WANTED, situation by Practical Watchmaker and Floorman, to work for Travelling Auctioneers. Good reference. 7, Daltongate, Ulverston.

WANTED, Known, the Heaviest Girl in the World, Age Fifteen, Weight 350lb., Seeks a Re-engagement. Address, Mr. Holzhueter, 178, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, and others, to know that the business of P. COLLINS, LTD., Gondola Works, Walsall, has not been sold, or changed hands in any way, but will be carried on as usual by the same company and under the present management.
We hold all our usual Fair Grounds on long leases, so don't be misled by others offering ground in same towns.
All applications for grounds, or other communications, should be addressed direct to our offices.
We have at present ground to let at the following towns:—
Birkenhead (Easter), Longton (Shrovetide), Darlaston, West Bromwich, Smethwick, Oldbury, Dudley, Quarry Bank, Netherton, Stourbridge, Nuneaton, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and many others.
Most of these grounds, and numerous others, we are also willing to let during the year to Menageries, Circuses, and other large shows.
Full lists of these, and terms, can be had on application.
P. Collins, Ltd.

WANTED, all Travellers to Know I Have Ground to Let for Roundabouts, Shows, Stalls, and other Fair Ground Games at the following Spring and Easter Fairs:—
Hyde-road Spring Fair,
Gorton Spring Fair,
Beswick Spring Fair,
Walton-on-the-Hill Liverpool Spring Fair;
Shore Fields, Liverpool, Easter Fair;
Queen's-road, Manchester, Great Easter Fair;
also at Wolverhampton, for the Easter and Whitsuntide Fairs, held on the Corporation Ground, and same Ground as Collins's, Limited, held their last Christmas Fair on.
Note.—This is the Best Easter and Whitsuntide Fair in the Black Country. Rent Reasonable, and Nobody Barred.
All applications to be made, John Collins, World's Fair, Scotland-road, Liverpool; or, 20, Rufford-road, Liverpool.
Wanted, to Sell cheap, and all in good order, One Set of Tandem Bicycles made by Savage, of King's Lynn, to carry Twenty-four People. Fitted with Carved Rounding Boards, Carved Droppers, Top Centre, and Pay Box. All complete, with Lamps, Tilts, Rounding Cloths, and One Waggon to carry same.
Apply, John Collins, World's Fair, Scotland-road, Liverpool; or, 20, Rufford-road, Liverpool.

BRIDLINGTON TRADES EXHIBITION.
WANTED, to Let, for Six Days, March 20, One or Two Spaces, for Novelties, Jewellery, Glass Blowing, or any Large Special Exhibit, Working Models or Machinery. Address, Hague, Spa, Bridlington, Yorks.

GLASGOW FAIR.
WANTED, to Let, the Two Grounds, the Old and the New Fair Grounds (adjoining each other), for Roundabouts, Shows, Stalls, &c., &c. No one barred. Top Ground (Free Admission), 3s. 6d. per foot; Bottom Ground (Gate; The Carnival), 7s. 6d. per foot. To follow Greenock Fair. This should be the Best Glasgow Fair held for years, as, owing to Whitsuntide faling late, there will not be the usual private business before the Fair. Apply, Green, Carnival, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, I have a few more spaces to let in our new exhibition, to open shortly. Admission free; also large front window to let at entrance; also trumpet organ; with drum, for sale. No reasonable offer refused. Write, James Bayfield, Stewart's Exhibition, 108, Upper-st. Islington, N.

WANTED, Known, Important Notice to Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stall-holders, and the rest of the Travelling Community, to Take Notice that I am Setting Sail on Friday next, March 10th, commencing at Cheetham Hill, for Two Weeks; then to follow, Charlestown, Eccles, Stretford, Ordsall Lane Grand Easter Fair (Ground Extended on this Occasion), also Knutsford Royal May Festival, Congleton, Rochdale, Kirkburton, Altringham, Levenshulme, Longsight, Hollingwood, Gorton Brook, and a host of other places to follow, including Three New Grounds Never Before Mentioned. Keep your eye on the List right through to Christmas, 1905, including the Great Autumn Round. Rents most Reasonable. Wire or write.
Applications to be made to the Sole Lessee, John Whiting, Anchorage, Stretford, or Albert Jones, Oxford Chambers, Manchester.

SEAFORTH ANNUAL EASTER FAIR.
WANTED, Showmen, Roundabout Proprietors, and Stallholders, to Know there are Spaces now to Let, for all Kinds of Shows, Circuses, Menageries, Shooting Saloons, Emmas Cocoanut Sheets, and Stalls of all Varieties. Open Nine Days. No Better Fair in Lancashire. This is an Old-established Fair, and Close to Electric Cars, Trains, and Overhead Railway, where Thousands Come for Holidays. Expect to be Bigger Bumper than Ever this Year. Rents Moderate. Other Places to Follow. All Applications for Spaces to be Made to the Lessee, H. J. Wallis, Seaforth.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

EXPOSITION DE LIEGE, April-November, 1905.
L'EXTREME ORIENT (The Far East) will be the Most Attractive and Best Situated Concession at the Great World's Fair.
It covers about 25,000 square feet, and will contain a Beautiful Chinese Theatre, an Eastern Village, and a Host of Other Attractions
WANTED, to Let, Space for High-class Side-shows and Attractions, and a Number of Magnificently Fitted-up Shops and Stalls, facing the Industrial Hall, the Main Building of the Exhibition.
For Particulars, apply to British and Continental Enterprises, Ltd., 67, Shaftesbury-avenue, London, W.
Telegrams, "Avantallis, London." Telephone 7613 Gerrard.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Showmen and other Travellers to Know, all applications for Ground at Chester Races and Pleasure Fair, to be made to Margaret Collins, Union-street, Chester.

WANTED, Roundabout Proprietors, Cinématograph, and Other Shows, also Stallholders, and other Fair Travellers, to know that we have Ground to Let at our Fair Ground, Borough-road, Birkenhead, Easter Fair, Commencing Saturday, April 15, for Two Weeks.
This is the best situated Fair Ground in the Liverpool District, and our Christmas Carnival thereon was most successful.
All Applications to be made in writing to P. Collins, Limited, Gondola Works, Walsall.

BLACKPOOL SANDS.
WANTED, to Let, Ground, for Summer Season, at South Shore, Blackpool, Finest Position. Roundabouts, Swings, Cinematographs, Distorting Mirrors, Waxworks, Working Model Exhibitions, Stalls, &c. The Permanent Attractions on the Ground include the Maxim Flying Machine, and many others. Secretary, 9, Windsor-av., S. Shore, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, to Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stallholders, and others, Mr. E. Holland's Established Round of Spring and Summer Fairs, will commence this year at Holt Town, Manchester, Two Weeks, commencing Mar. 24. Wilmslow Annual Spring Fair, Apr. 7 to 17; Northenden, Easter Week, commencing Apr. 20; Chorlton-cum-Hardy to follow; Broad-street, Hanley, May 25; Marple, Hazel Grove, and Droylesden Wakes. Terms moderate, and none barred. All applications for space to the sole lessee, Mr. E. Holland, Fair Ground, Holt Town, Manchester.

To Travelling Showmen.
WANTED, to Let, Stands, for all Summer, for Shooting Galleries, Roundabouts, &c., at Shotley Bridge. Apply, Harris, Naturalist, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen, a Good Shop to Let, 59-61, Newington-causeway, Two Minutes' Walk from Elephant Castle, Thousands Pass Daily. Apply, F. Smith and Co. Terms, Half.

WANTED, to Let, large shop, to Auctioneers or First-Class show, best position in Dublin. Rent and gas £12 per month, payable in advance. Apply, Maxfield, 9, Mary-street, Dublin.

WANTED, to Hire, for Whit Week, a Good Trumpet Organ, for Parading. Lowest Cash Terms, &c., to W. Holloway, Empire, Henley-in-Arden, Birmingham.

Exceptional Bargains.
WANTED, all Showmen to Know that we have for Sale Several Second-hand Gavioliphones (Eighty-seven Keys), Playing by Paper Music; in Good Condition; also a Quantity of Brass Trumpet Organs, with or without Drums; and, having to make room for New Stock, we have decided to Sell these Organs at an Enormous Reduction, and no Reasonable Offer Refused.
Chiappa and Sons, Limited, 6, Little Bath-street, Clerkenwell, London; also at 17, Milton-street, Lower Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, H. Westrop's Fine Art Gallery. Carved Front, with Paintings by Whiting, of Norwich, Engine, and Organ, One Wagon Load, Road or Rail, a Quick Money-maker, to be Sold as a Going Concern. Write, from March 1-10, Spread Eagle Hotel, Wisbech.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, All Kinds, ½d. to 1d. slot. Guaranteed cheaper than elsewhere. 5, Denning-road, Hampstead-heath.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, Loveletter, Husbands, Babies, Black List, Licences, &c. Meurice, 20, Bidborough-st., W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, penny-slot machines; we are clearing some genuine bargains, 6-division Eye, Hair, and Astrologer, 70s.; Future, H. and W., 35s.; Love Letter, 20s.; Lung Testers, 25s.; Electric Shock, 25s. and 30s. Card and photos, good and cheap. Mason, Settles-street, London, E.

WANTED, to Sell, Slot Machines of All Kinds, Best and Cheapest in the Trade. Wormald, 123, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, to Sell, a Single Tube Shooting Gallery and Guns, Ready for Use. Duffy's Circus, Seaford-street, Belfast.

WANTED, to Sell, Auction Mart, two loads and one rail living waggon, together or separate; most compact lot on road. Box 1,266, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, First-class Portable Electric Light Engine, on Truck, Made by Savage and Co., Lynn, Five-Horse, with all Latest Improvements, No Reasonable Offer Refused, Practically New, Guaranteed Perfect; Four Sets of Showmen's White-Metal Harness, Patent Leather Collars, and Mounts, Equal to New, Cheap for Cash; Small Melston, or Organ, Suitable for Inside Picture Show, Forty-seven Keys, Recently Tuned; also a Self-rising Aerial Suspension, Finest in England. The above Lots for Sale, Cheap for Cash. Can be Seen by Appointment, J. Dooner and Son, 204, West-st., Bedminster, Bristol.

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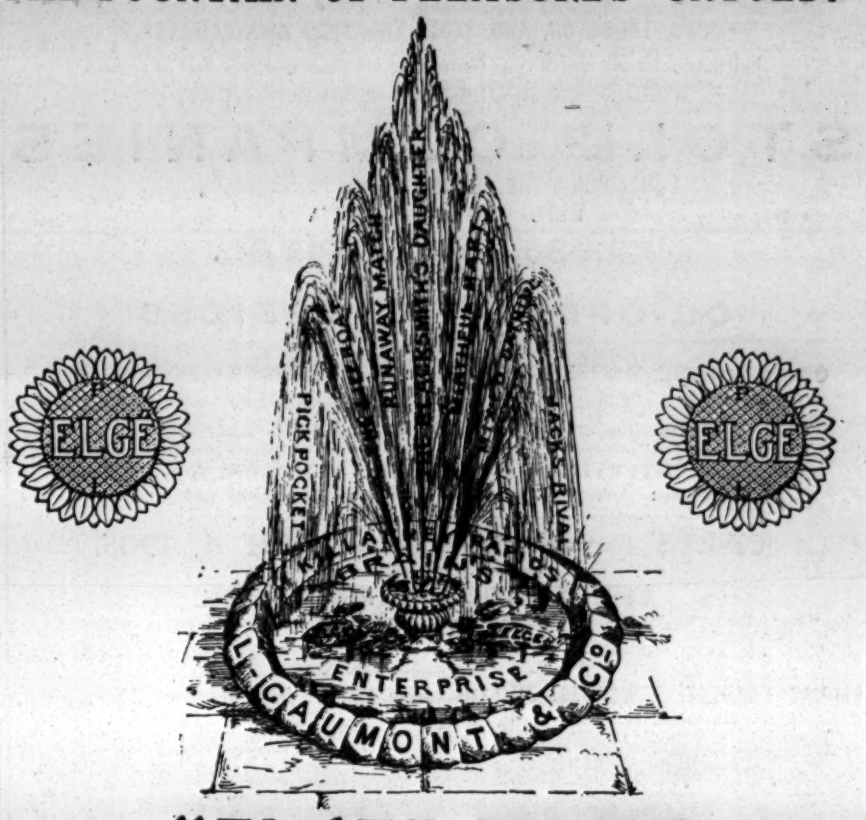

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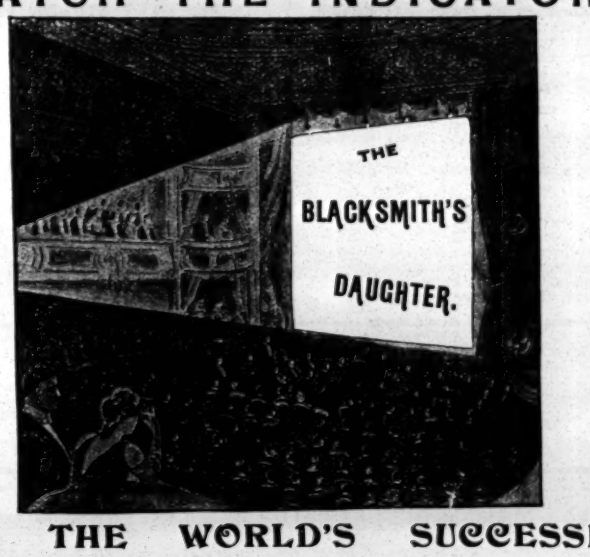

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"Butterflies in Fairyland," Jean Clermont's Animals, Cottrell Powells, Vasco, Alexandra and Bertie, Devona Sisters, Leonard and Francois, Chung Ling Soo, Cole De Losse Duo, Trapnell Family, Claire Beasy's Cats, O'Brien Brothers, Walthour and Kreamer, Mdlle. Chiquita, the Giant Machnow.

EMPIRE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
"Saturday to Monday," George Ridgwell, Knick Knacks, Prince Kokin, Morton and Elliott, Hanid Alexander, Four MacGoverns, Strolling Players.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
Sid May, Ethel Ra Leslie, Burns and Evans, Chamberlains, Japanese Guards, La Tostia, Great Lumars, J. P. Dane, Seeley and West.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
Tilly Bebe's Lions, G. W. Foster, Ella Retford, Rich and Rich, Elsie Robey, Rastus and Banks, Tom Stuart, The Howards, Bioscope, Rousbey's Electrolytes.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
Edward Lewis, Little Uno, "V.C." Co, Arthur Melrose, Jackson Family, Fred E. Terry, Sakers, Rossow's Midgets, H. F. Wilson, Peppo's Monkeys, Astley Troupe, Leon Morris' Ponies.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal, at 1.30, for
Malcolm Scott, Harry Clifford, Florrie St. Clair, Two Butterflies, T. C. Callaghan, Albert and Edmunds Troupe, Palles and Cussick, Richard List, Kate Butler, Leslie Bros.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal, at 2.30, for
Staley's Transformation, Mark Leslie, Clarke and Argyle, James Fawn, Labakans, Sisters Klos, Walter Stanley, Signor and Mdme. Borelli, Bros. Obo, Ian Colquhoun, "Bargain Mad."

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
Alexandre and Hughes, Chris Richards, Gipsy Wolf and Coons, Paul Mill, Meredith Sisters, Burnellys, Driscoll and Beattie, Daisy Ray, Nevarros, James Stuart.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
Tom Costello, Sisters Morgan, Harry Martell, Jake Friedman, Mendel, Five Julians, W. F. Frame, Korries, Five Delevines, Tom Edwards.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
"Mumming Birds," Harry Lawson, Lily Tiso, Fraser and Mac, Flo Challis, Sarnthalers, 3 Donals, Zertho's Dogs, Sisters Hayden, Five Olracs.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.

Rehearsal, at 1, for
Nelson Jackson, Lilian Lowe, Kitts and Windrum, Jenny Belmore, Delmore and Wilson, Billy Hobbs, Fred Neiman, Dion Wade, Willy Hale and Frances.

EMPIRE PALACE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal, at 1, for
Kate Carney, Manning's Entertainers, Orpheus, Two Graces, Tourbillion Troupe, Esta Stella, Bioscope, Hermann Melot, The Kreegers, Dora Martini.

NEW EMPIRE PALACE, SHEPHERD'S-BUSH.

Rehearsal, at 1, for
J. Tiller's Co. in "Ohio," Frank Seeley, Pawell Co., Flo D'Orville, Grant and Allen, The Allisons, Ergotti and King Luis, Percy Honri, Harry Wenburn, Onllaw Trio.

EMPIRE THEATRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal, at 3, for
Prof. Selkirk's Spectacle, Johnny Gilmore, Bros. Webb, C. H. Unthan, Pat Carey, Paul Sandor, Walker and May, Signorina Verera, Bioscope, Ludwig Amann, Boy Glen.

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EMPIRE THEATRE, NEWPORT.

Rehearsal, at 3, for
G. H. Chirgwin, Ryder Slone, Basalari, Kieffer Co., Norman Leonard Trio, Conn and Conrad, Frank Leslie, Bioscope, Cruikshank.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal, at 3, for
Will H. Fox, Nina Martino, George Tacius, Ryan and Hall, 3 Fortune Bros., Swan and Bambard, Bioscope, Spot, Five M.I.'s.

PALACE THEATRE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal, at 2.30, for
Kellino Family, Cora Caselli, F. V. St. Clair, Les Brunins, Baker and Balfe, Ross and Grayson, Lily Burnand, Burg, Haud, and Wise, Arthur Gill, Ambrose Thorne, Reiff Bros.

EMPIRE THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal, at 3, for
Agoust Family, Ida Heath, Rumbo Austin, Marie Collins, Clown Herford, Alf Arnesen, Jas. Bard, Sable Fern, Walton and Lester, Bernar's Fantoches.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY, LONDON, N.

Rehearsal, at 1, for
Woodward's Seals, Marba and Verity, Celeste, Grisse Bros., The Mezzettis, Preston and Balmaine, Barton and Franklyn, The Debreans, Payne's Vagabonds, Klein Family.

EMPIRE, NEW-CROSS, LONDON, S.E.

Rehearsal, at 1, for
Matweef Hugoston Troupe, Harry Freeman, Hamilton Hill, Sisters Oswald, Chas. Cardow, Albano Troupe, Chas. Norton, Percival, Harry Lamore, The Wotperts, Belloni's Cockatoos.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD, LONDON, E.

Rehearsal, at 1, for
Paul Spadoni, Sisters Macarte, James and Marie Finney, The Katos, Chas. Pastor, Emmy's Dogs, Clark and Hamilton, Russell Wallett, Bros. Luck.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
Arden and Abel Co., Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Starr and Leslie, Franco Piper, Dave O'Toole, Haskoll, Canary Co.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME,

OXFORD STREET.
Rehearsal, at 2.0, for
A. C. Lilly and Co., in "Drummed Out;" Emlyn Jones Quartette, Walter Bellonini, Professor Dunning, Kahn and Kahn, Caledonian Boys, Keno, Welch and Montrose, Illustrated Song, Bioscope, Ernest Shand.

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Four Performances Daily, at 12.0, 3.0, 6.0, and 9.0 p.m.
First and Third Performances.
"Port Arthur," Illustrated Song, Keino Johnstone in "Mr Watson," Decima Moore in "Mary, the Hielan' Fishwife," the Noiset Troupe, the Gothams, Four Herberts, Okito, Perry Corwey, H. Stanton and Co., Will Bishop in "My Gollywog," La Loie Fuller, Gatling Guards.
Second and Fourth Performances.
"The Derby," "Miss Extravaganza," Madge Lessing, Clown Caban, Three Amaranths, R. A. Roberts, Eugene Stratton, Millie Hylton in "The Military Maids," Sisters Geretti, Illustrated Song, Madame Alice Esty.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL, and COLISEUM, GLASGOW, in course of Erection.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal, at 1, for
The Boissetts, Lulu Gould, Harry Grey, Neilson Sisters, My Fancy, Victor Travers, Helen Martin, Two Bostons.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal, at 1, for
Collins and Hart, Geo. Adams, Rackett and Hazard, May Tyler, Four Royal Welshmen, Bioscope, Provenie Troupe, Martin and Quigg, Albert Whelan.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal, at 2, for
Harry Tate, Georgie Beaufort, Virto and Irene, George Antill, Belle Davis, Carlo and Maie, Lily Langtry, Four Trees, Conway and Leland.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.

Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal, at 2, for
F. Karno's Co. in "Jail Birds," Beatrice Renee, F. J. Keeys, Pictures, W. J. Ashcroft, and Co., Cyclo, Robert Ganthony, Nell Richardson.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Fifteen for the Coliseum. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials must be sent to the Co-operative Offices, at above address, Three Weeks before opening, or at least Two Weeks, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements Cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the Stage Department, Above Address, Two Weeks Previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.

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CALLS

FOR

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Chas. Ridgewell.
Dandy George and Dog.

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Lavers and Lake.
Nellie Lewis.
Esdale Bros.
Richard White.
Dick and Dorothy.
Henri Bekker.
Lord, Murray, and Lord.

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Carr and Rose.
Martin Henderson.
Ryde and Beeman.
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Lukushima Troupe.

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Darktown Entertainers.
Starr and Jerome.
Foros.
Bros. Les Bois.
Alicia Mayne.
Olga.
Belrose and Develin.
Ida Ross.
Aga.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.

Bros. Horne.
Lannons.
Geo. Linton.
Johnny Holland.
D. W. Watson.
Harry Thurston.
Eller and Rose.
Janet H. Reynolds.
Clemart.

PALACE, HALIFAX.

Rosina Casselli.
Herbert Betts.
Zerbinis.
Henriot and Sauvion.
Moretti and Alice.
Sinclair and Parr.
Vanola.
Ross and Lewis.
Pat Rafferty.

PALACE, CRIMSBY.

Ameen Abou Hamad Arabs.
Oliver Conroy.
Lily Flexmore.
Clara Victor.
Thornbury.
Ethel May.
Kisbey.
Gus Daniels.
Susie and Protti.

PALACE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.

Little Charwoman.
Chas. Dixon.
Kate Lynd.
Les Uniques.
Evelyn Taylor.
L. B. Athol.
Sisters Petram.
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THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.

Mr. T. Arthur Jones's Co. in "Life's Sweetest Sins."

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Messrs. C. and F. Renad and Co. in "The Swiss Express."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.

Mr. Charles Chard's Pantomime Co. in "Goody Two Shoes."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.

Mr. Frank Macnaghten's Co. in "The King's Pardon."

KING'S THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Mr. C. Finch Hatton's Co. in "The Ladder of Life."

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Mr. Baugh is "At Home" on Sundays, at the Foresters', from 1 till 3 and 6 till 11.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

All Artistes engaged must attend Rehearsal or their Contracts will be Cancelled.

SURREY THEATRE, S.E.

Rehearsal at 12.0 o'clock noon.
Fred Maxwell and Co.
Zaro and Arno.
Blotz and Klitz.
Inez Clough.
Ted Cowan.
Hal Forde.
Tiny Reiff.
Leo West.
F. G. Brooke and Co.
Raymond's Pictures.

SADLER'S WELLS, E.C.

Rehearsal at 12.0 o'clock noon.
Tambo and Tambo.
Flo Wood.
B. H. Almon.
Johnny Dwyer.
Flo. Burris.
Doody and Wright.
Gertie Delmore.
Florence Gwynne.
A Ba Re Post-Card Alb
Ella Shields.
"Daybreakers."

FORESTERS', E.

Rehearsal at 12.0 o'clock noon.
Spry and Monti.
Bernard and Weston.
Lily Leoville.
Franko Midgets.
George Brooks.
Lizzie Daniels.
George Marriott and Co.
The Warlocks.
Ladé Henderson.
Dora Lyric.
Bohemian Twins.

THE PALACE, BOW, E.

Rehearsal at 12.0 o'clock noon.
Harry Champion.
Winnie Derson.
Harry Anderson.
Two Wiltons.
Gracie Floyd.
Roy and Terris.
Cliff and Kean.
Teddy Denham.
Percy Murray and Co.
Joe Peterman's "Factory Girl."

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

ARTISTES (AND THEIR AGENTS) HOLDING OR SEEKING ENGAGEMENTS AT

THE OXFORD,

OXFORD-STREET, W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.30 o'clock.
G. H. Elliott, Dolly Harmer, Gladys Mavius, Duncan and Godfrey, Parisian Rag Pickers, Athas and Collins, Harry Weldon, Tom Foy, Louise Beaudet, Aerial Wrestling Girls, Amber Austa, Geo. Lashwood, Alec Hurley, Mike S. Whallen, Maud Courtney, Joe Elvin, Wm. Gourlay, Geo. and Gusti Edler, Fred Russell, Ray Wallace, The Glenroy Troupe.
Manager, Albert Gilmer.

THE TIVOLI,

STRAND, W.C.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.0 o'clock.
Arthur Roberts and Co., Lady Haldon and Co., Fred Karno's Troupe in "Mumming Birds," Harry Ford, George Lashwood, Gus Elen, Kitty Bell, Nat Clifford, Dan Crawley, Ovide and Ludine, George Drawee, Ray Wallace, Ben Albert, Dorothy Kenton, The Two Kings, Amy Clevere, The Harry Alaskas, May Moore Duprez.
Joint Acting-Managers { James Howell. Arthur Yates.

THE CANTERBURY,

WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE-ROAD, S.E.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 11.0 o'clock.
"Dreamland," Harry Ford, Gus Elen, Harry Pleon, Mike Whallen, Harry Weldon, Vesta Victoria, Athas and Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, Austin Rudd, Walter Munroe, Tom Foy and Co., Gladys Mavius, Frances McNulty, Brothers Redmond, Amber Austa.
Manager, Fred Miller.

PARAGON,

MILE-END-ROAD, E.
Artistes are particularly requested to attend Band Rehearsals, Monday, 3.0 o'clock.
Mr. George Gray, Will Evans, New York Quartette, Harry Ford, Ben Davis and Co., May Moore-Duprez, Nat Clifford, Three Romas, Tom Woottwell, Dorothy Renton, Prof. McCann, Little Ulpts, Michael Nolan, Edie King, Ray Wallace, Will English, Maud Esmond.
Manager, Charles Beecham.

SOUTH LONDON PALACE,

LONDON-ROAD, S.E.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.0 o'clock.
Dr. Taylor's Magic Kettle, Three American Idols, Mdlle. Ongar, Three Sisters Silcott, Lee and Kingeton, Barnard's Marionettes, Valazzi and Comedian, J. H. Milburn, Knight and Elton, Ernie Mayne, J. K. Reynolds.
Manager, Frank Weeks.

THE METROPOLITAN,

EDGWARE-ROAD, W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1.0 o'clock.
Arthur Roberts and Co., Paul Martinetti and Co., Bransby Williams, Tom Leamore, Tally Ho Trio, Doodey and Wright, Ernest Rees, Cliff Ryland, Dora Martine, Great Northern Troupe, Herbert Shelley, Bob Hutt, Sisters Bosanquet, Ben Albert, Sivronis, Three Laurels, Maud Mortimer.
Manager, J. W. Edgar.

EUSTON,

EUSTON-ROAD, N.W.
Two Performances Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 12.0 o'clock.
"Coco," the Human Baboon; Louie Freear, Fred Russell, Fred Ginnett's "Rejected Remounts," Dan Crawley, Hooper's Posé Plastique, Florrie Forde, Bros Redmond, Ben Albert, Gladys Huxley.
Manager, Fred M'Avoy.

THE EMPRESS,

BRIXTON ROAD, S.W.
Rehearsals on Monday, at 1.0 o'clock.
Joe Elvin and Co., "Fares, Please;" Vesta Victoria, Will Evans, Florence Schuberth, Alf Chester, Harry Weldon, Baroux and Bion, Lottie Lunn, Morton Comedy Trio, Fred Spencer, Sisters Hall, Harry Bent, Two D.s, Ruffell's Pictures, A. Bo. Kow.
Manager, Nelson Francis.

GRAND PALACE,

CLAPHAM.
Two Houses Nightly.
Rehearsals on Monday at 2.0 o'clock.
Gertrude Glenn and Co., Morny Cash, Barney Stuart, Childie Stuart, 3 Sisters Chester, Verno and Voyce, R. H. Douglas, Gilbert Girard, Farley, Rennie, and Farley, The Mayvilles, Claude Ginnett and Co.
Manager, H. Ketteman.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE,

UPPER-STREET, ISLINGTON, N.
Two Performances Nightly.
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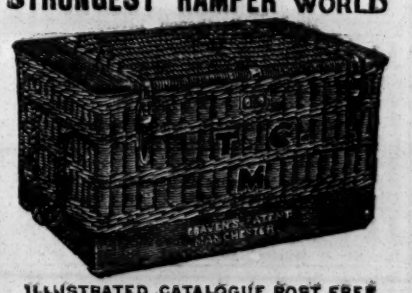

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.
"The Era" Almanack and Annual for 1905, conducted by Mr. Edward Ledger, is the vade mecum of the dramatic and music-hall profession, containing as it does all an artiste desires to know in connection with the stage. A feature of the publication are the stories of adventure told by well-known artistes like Sir Henry Irving, George Alexander, Harry Pleon, John Le Hay, Constance Moxon, Walter Passmore, Fanny Wentworth, and John Lawson. Mr. Henry Arthur Jones discourses wisely on the "Foundations of a National Drama." The Annual is one that will interest and amuse not only the "professional," but the general public.—

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BISHOP and VALE, Comedians. Conclude to-night, Big Hit, Palace, Bradford. Monday, Pavilion, Leicester.

BLARNEY and KENNARD, the Comedy Couple. Success, Q. T., Longton. Kiddie's "Bo Peep" Panto. Next, H. M., Walsall.

BLISS and BLISS, Comedians, Theatre Royal, Attercliffe.

BLYTHE, MARIE, March 6, Palace, Greenwich. No Vacancies. Agents, S. M. Hyman, Ltd.

BODIE, ALBERT EDWARD WALFORD. Bohemia House, Macduff, N.B.

BOHEMIANS, THE (Will and Madge), Musical and Comedy Artists. This, Empire, Ardwick; next, Palace, Chelsea. G. Foster.

BONANZAS, THREE, Chair Pyramidists and Staircase Artistes; also ZANO TRIO, Triple Bars. 127, Linaker-st., Southport.

BORELLI, SIGNOR and MADAME, Empire, Glasgow. Agents, T. Shaw and Co.

BOSANQUET, Violin Virtuoso, Introducing his Wonderful Bosanquephone. March 6, Palace, Lancaster.

BOULTON and BARTENELLI, Thank W. J. Wilder, Esq., for Contracts. Next, Theatre Royal, Dover.

BOWMAN, J. H., Anglo-American Humorist and Tricky Dancer. Mar. 6, Empire, Wrexham; Vacant, 20, 27.

BOYCE, FRANK, Vocal Comedian, Palace, Derby, going strong. Monday, Palace, Attercliffe.

BOYLE, MARCUS, My Bonny Boy. Metropole Theatre, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

BRANT, EUGENE, Funny Versatile Comedian and Vocalist, Smart and Clever. Vac. Mar. 13. Electrograph, Nantymoel, S. Wales.

BREWSTERS, THE, Chrystie's Hotel, Great George-street, Liverpool.

BRIGHTON GIRLS, THE, Lance and Sword Experts and Speciality Artists. Next, T. R., Rotherham, "Swiss Express" Co.

BROMLEY and FONTEIN, Operatic Humorists, Conclude, E. Rochdale; Mar. 6, Hanley.

BROOKES, BERT, Comedian, Concluded Panto., "Sinbad." Success. Return Hippo., Macclesfield, where wire for Monday.

BROOKLANDS, THE (ETHEL and BELLA), Big Success Second Boy and Girl, "Babes" Panto. March 6, Theatre, Derby.

BROOKS BROS., SISTERS BRAND, Concluded fourth season with Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's "Aladdin." Mon., Tivoli, Glasgow.

BROOKS, GEORGE H., Musical, Dramatic and Variety Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

BROWN and ROBINSON, "Facilis Princeps." March 6, Barrow-in-Furness.

BURG, HAUD, and WISE. "Ye Brown Cow Inn." Monday, Palace Theatre, Leicester.

BURGATILES, THE FOUR, Musical Pantomimists. C. W. Poole's Myriorama, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

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CAINE, ANDIE, Comedian, Empress, Hartlepool.

CALLAGHAN, T. C., FLORRIE ST. CLAIR, Empire Theatre, Edinburgh. Napoli and Co.

CAMBO, the Musical Monkey. This, Empire, Paisley; Next Week, Market Hall, Airdrie, N.B. Vacant March 27.

CAMERON, LOUDOUN, The Celebrated Conjuror. March 6, Palace, Cork.

CAMERONS, THE (JIM and MARIE), Comedy Duologue Artists. Transfield Hippo., Gillingham, Kent. Next, London Halls.

CANDLISH, WILL, Scotch Musical Nigger. Funny, Funny. Vacant, Monday, also 13th. Wire, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

CAPELLS, THE Ring Performers, Two Acts. Free for Galas. Perm. address, 47, Bronson-road, Merton, Surrey.

CARL and CARR, in Comedy Scena, "Workhouse." Splendid Success Queen's, Poplar. March 6, E., Dover. Vacant March 13, 20.

CARLTON, HENRY, The Popular Comedian, supported by his Comedy Team. Westminster, Liverpool, return. "Obliging a Lady."

CARR and ROSE (FRED and ADA), the Stars of Vocal Comedy, in Original Act, "Their First Quarrel," Palace, Bath.

CARY, FRED, Theatre Royal, Oldham.

CASS, ROSE, Palace, Camberwell. Fortune and Granville.

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CHANT and CHANT, Comedy Vocalists and Patterers. March 13, Albert Hall, Yarrow. Vacant March 20, 27.

CHARD'S DOG CIRCUS. Palace, Cork. Free, March 13.

CHARNLEY, SISTERS, (Annie and Edie). Monday, Empress, East Hartlepool.

CHESTER'S AGENCY, Dramatic and Variety Agents, 13, Oxford-street, Manchester.

CHESTER and LEE'S MARIONETTES, To-night, Temperance Hall, Derby. Saturday, Popular Concerts.

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CLARKE and ARGYLE, Pipers and Dancers, Moss and Stoll Tour. Vacancies June, July. This, Empire, Newcastle.

CLEVELANDS, THE FIVE, On Tour, Poole's Myriorama. Risca, Mon.

CLIFFE, TOM E., Versatile Comedian and Speciality Dancer. Next, Palace, Lancaster. Vacant Panto. Agents, Pacey and Reeves.

CLYDES, THE (AMIE and EVIE), Monday, R. A., Canning Town (Return). Thanks to Managers for Altering Dates.

CLYO, HARRY, and ROSE ROCHELLE, Harmonic Scotch Concerts, Return. All Coms., c/o Haldane, 110, New City-rd., Glasgow.

COBORN, CHARLES, Palace, Aberdare. Dymuniad da i bawb.

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COLLINS, GEO., the Quaint Star Comedian. Vacant Panto., Dame. This, Tivoli, Barrow. Next, Empire, Burnley.

COMELY, MABEL, Comedienne, Palace Theatre, Swansea.

CONROY, OLIVER, Eight Turns Nightly, Grand, Sheffield. Monday, Palace, Grimsby.

COOKE, STEVE, Comedian. Oxford, Middlesbrough. Vacant Panto.

CORNISH, WILL, in his Unique Musical Bell Act. This week, Oxford, Middlesbro'; next, Grand, Stockton (fourth return).

COVENTRY, LUCY, Versatile Male Impersonator, Coon, Serio, and Acro. Dancer. Dis. 6. 37a, Church-st., S. Newington.

COVERDALE, CHARLES, Bottom of Bill, Regent T., Salford, Enormous Success. Mar. 6, Empire, Battersea. Panto. 1905-6 settled.

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CRESSER, MISS ADA, Staley's Transformation Company. Empire, Glasgow.

CREW, J. H., and MAUD MARLOW, Big hit, P., Belfast. Monday, Hippo., Glasgow. Thanks, Will Oliver, Esq., for more contracts.

CROWN TRIO (W. Davidson, L. Davidson, E. Scofield), Speciality Vocalists. March 6, Gatti's at 10.5.

CROWSON, WILL, and CISSIE CONYERS, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

CULLANE, FRED, TRIO, Starring, Empire, Rochdale, in "The Lady's School." Next, Metropole, Gateshead. Success everywhere.

CULLEN and CARTHY, Terrific Hit as "The Robbers," V. Broughton. Monday, Grand Theatre, Derby.

CULLEN, LITTLE DOLLY, and ELSIE JORDISON. The pretty and clever "Babes," "Babes in the Wood" Co., G. T., Derby.

CURRY, PERCY, Big Success Ugly Sister. Address, Q. T., Gateshead. Panto. arrangements, 1905-6, complete.

CUTHBERT, MAUD, Serio and Ballad Vocalist. Address, Robini, Gatton House, Pleasant-place, London, N.

DAGMARS, THREE (Tom, Dick, and Harry). Monday, Poplar. At Liberty, Mar. 13 and 20. Big Success, Alhambra, Belfast.

DAINEZ, E. R., Comedy Circus, Donkey "Smiler," Clever Pony, and Troupe of Dogs, including Leaping Hounds. P., St. Helens.

DAINTON GIRLS, THE, Gipsy and Character Duettists. March 6, Parthenon, Liverpool.

DALE, MR. HARRY, Hippodrome Manager, Stage and Arena, General Manager and Ringmaster, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy.

DALE and D'ARGAN, Acrobatic Conjurers. Eleventh week Thompson's Panto. "Aladdin." Mar. 6, Alhambra, Stourbridge.

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DANBYS, THE, The Ruffians, "Babes in the Wood." Lyceum Theatre, Eccles.

DANDOE, ARTHUR, Concluded 11 weeks' Panto., T. R., Edinburgh. This week, "Belle of the Orient," Bedford M.-H.

DANIELS, THE TWO, Indian Chiefs, Original Make-up, with Specialities, at Lib. for Panto. Offers invited. Palace, Northampton.

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DELEVINES, FIVE, Comedy, Musical Mélange. Palace Theatre, Hull.

DENHAM, TEDDY, This Week, Palace, Bath. Next Week, Palace, Bow.

DE ROSE, MDLLE. J. H. HAWTREY, The Lady Foli. Actor Vocalist. 371, Queen's-road, Sheffield.

DE VOYE, JAMES, and BILL, his Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Lyceum, London.

DIXON, CHARLEY, KATE LYND, Very Big. Circus, Carlisle. Hit. Monday, Palace, West Hartlepool.

DOBITO and BUXTON, Specialité Duettists. Mon., Palace, Greenwich. Day's Agency.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, Original Singing Boxmakers, Hit of Programme, P., Plymouth; Monday, P., Bristol. Vacant March 27.

DOMINOS, TWO (Clown and Donkey), not a Common Moke, making a Ass of himself. Sat Upon a Thistle? No, never. Tiv, Glasgow.

DOODY and WRIGHT, Metropolitan and Sadler's Wells.

DORMER, DAISY, March 6, "Goody Two-Shoes," Queen's, Leeds. Booked at Palace, Shaftesbury-avenue.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH, The Dainty Singing Maiden. Brill and Graydon Tour.

DOVE, MISS ETHEL, Hammersmith Palace of Varieties.

DRYDEN, CISSIE, Vocal Character Actress. Communications to Fred Higham, York-rd., London.

DUCKETT, BERTHA, Charming Young Vocalist and Graceful Dancer. Monday Next, Pier Pavilion, Southport.

DUDLEY, LYDIA, Versatile Artiste, Usual Success, Theatre Royal, Liverpool. Coms., 18, Springfield, Liverpool.

DUNCAN, Club Manipulator and Juggler; OSWALD, Staircase Performer, Hand Jumper, &c. Hippo., Ashton-under-Lyne.

DUNCAN and MORTON, Refined Com. This, E., Bridgwater. Thanks to Syd Bird and H. Johnson for Contracts. See Wants.

DUNMORE, TOM, the Essence of Quaintness. This, Pavilion, Leicester; next, aften One Week's Absence, G. Sheffield. E. de Vere.

DUNNING and KAHN and KAHN, Stoll's Hippodrome, Manchester. Moss and Stoll's tours, 1905, 6, 7, 8. Coliseum soon.

DURHAM'S FRED, Variety Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 1a, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

DU ROCHE, MDLLE., This week, Gaiety, Chatham. Next week, March 6, Palace, Camberwell.

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ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Address, Empire Theatre, Dudley.

ELMO, NINA, Comedienne. Palace, Northampton. March 6, Standard, Pimlico. Agents, Day's Agency.

ELVINS, THE, (Bert and Jessie), In their Screaming Absurdity, "On the Boards."

ELVY, ARTHUR, All New Business. "He who hardens his heart with pride, softens his brains with same." London season.

ENDON, EDIE, Comedienne and Dancer, Big Success Met., Gateshead. Vacant March 6. Wire, or Verno.

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ERNEST, THREE SISTERS, Operatic Vocalists. Monday next, Royal Albert, Canning Town. 15, Albert-square, Clapham-road, S.W.

ESCALADERS, THREE, Hand Balancers and Double Ladder Experts. March 6. Coms., 15, Harford-stret, St. James's, Bristol.

ESDALE BROS., Refined Comedy Artistes, Vacant April 3. This week, Hippo., Accrington; Monday, Grand, Sheffield.

FANNING'S FANTOCHES, On Tour with C. W. Poole's Myriorama. Address, Drill Hall, Tiverton.

FARRIMOND, PERCY, The Great Lancashire Singing Collier. March 6, Oxford, Middlesbrough.

FIELDING, ANNIE, and BERT HULL, "An Officer's Flirtation." March 6, Alhambra, Brighton.

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FRANCISCO, Juggler, and MAY MOODIE, Piccolo Soloist. Next, Gatti's; Vacant March 27 and April 10.

FREANS, THE, The Irish Gentlemen. This week, Middlesex. Next, Bedford.

FREDERICKS, CARL, Cordelia, Ya Pyn Keto Family. 4, Brunswick-street, Bath. After Thursday, Winter Gardens, Cheltenham.

FREELAND, Public Hall, Carlisle. Got to have it.

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GELDER, VAN, and LI-LI, Humorous Magicians. Topping the Bill this Week at Bury. 95, Miall-street, Radford, Notts.

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GILLIN, Unique Ventriloquial Humorist, "Me Hat's Off." T., Pontypool. Mon., Hippo., Dewsbury.

GLENVILLE, SHAUN, Irish Comedian and Dancer. This, Empress, Hartlepool. Next, Tivoli, South Shields.

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GOLDING, R. J., Ventriloquial Jokist and Romano Conjuror. At Liberty, Mar. 6. Permanent, 32, Courtenay-rd., Waltamstow, London.

GOLIATH, The Boy Athlete. This week, Garrick Theatre, Hereford; next, Alhambra, Stourbridge.

GRAHAM, ERIC, MILLIE HARRIS. Hippo., Accrington. March 6, Parthenon, Liverpool.

GRANADAS, LOS, Electrifying Bounders, Alhambra, Brighton.

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HARLAND and ROLLISON Finish To-night, Hippo., Wakefield. Monday, March 6, Palace, Aberdare. Free, March 13, 20, and 27.

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HILTON, FLORENCE, London's Favourite Male Impersonator, concludes to-night, T. R., Smethwick. Monday, Royal, Oldham.

HILTON and HILTON, Comedy Bar Comedians. This, E., Wolverhampton. All Coms. 47, Nuttall-street, Liverpool.

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HOPE, F., Sensational Trick Cyclist. Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy. Vacant, March 6 and 13.

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HOWARD, WILSON, and CARLOTTA ANSON, Comedy Duologue, "My Military Mash," Ellesmere-street, Leigh.

HOWARDS, THE, (RALPH and NELLIE), Empire Theatre, Birmingham.

HUGO, FRANCES, on Tour, Principal Girl, Messrs. Hopkin Bros. Lib. March 20. Offers invited. 55, Oxford-road, Altrincham.

HULA, SISTERS, Vocalists and Expert Dancers. Liberty, March 13, 20, onwards. Wire or write, P., Swansea.

HULBERT, Ventriloquist; and DE LIL, Illusionist, Two Sound Turns. Vacant April 17. May 1, 15. Monday, Oxford, Middlesbro'.

HUNTER, G. W., Comedian and Raconteur. Address, care of "The Era."

HUTT, BOB, Metropolitan, Empire, Battersea.

HUXTER, THREE BROTHERS, Acrobatic Speciality Artists. This, Ashton; next, Stockton. P., 10, Middle-street, Worcester.

INGLE, ARTHUR, The Only Coster Juggling Comedian. Novel Act for Galas. King's Head, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

IRIS, MISS LILY, Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, "Robin Hood." All letters, en route.

JAMES, GEORGE, Comedian, Concludes Panto. to-night. Opens with "The Belle of Bangalore," Monday, T. R., Batley.

JOHNSON, T. W., Concluded Panto. Lib. 1 week, Monday. 295, Wyggeston-street, Burton-on-Trent.

JOHNSTONE, TOM, Humorous Vocalist and Mimic. This, Pal., Plymouth; next, Mar. 6, Livermore's Palace, Bristol.

JUAN and McQUE, Comedians, Parthenon Music Hall, Liverpool. Next, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent.

JUDGE, SISTERS, With Their Marvellous Performing Cockatoos, Parrots, and Macaws, Hippo., Boscombe, thanks R. Cass.

KARDOC, Jail Breaker, Handcuff Marvel, and his Mysterious Coloured Assistant, Success with own Co. 320, High-rd., Chiswick.

KATOS, THE, Komical Kidgets, Empire, Stratford.

KEENE, BILLY, and JESSIE ADAMS, Refined Comedy Artistes. Another Huge hit at Southport. Monday, Hippodrome, Bury.

KEEYS, F. J., Character Vocalist. New Songs in Study by F. V. St. Clair. 12, Panton-st., W., or c.o. "Era."

KEITH and MERSON conclude Ten Weeks' Successful Panto. with E. Dottridge, Esq. Mon., Hippo., Preston.

KENDAL, BEATTIE, Dashing Character Vocalist. The Latest Manchester Success.

KERNO, LOUIS, the Neat Coon Vocalist, and Dancer, in new Scena, "Ma Dusky Belle." Next, Hippo., Ipswich.

KIMBERLEY BOYS, This week, Royal, Warrington. Next week, Hippodrome, Accrington.

KIRK, HARRY, Comedian, Finishing To-night, Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

KLOET, MDLLE., Expert in Art of Posing, at Newcastle, Monday, Royal Albert, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

KLOOF and RAMSAY, Original, Funny Mus. Novelty Burlesques. Vac., Mon. (London only). 41, East-lane, Bermondsey, S.E.

KNICK-KNACKS, THE. This, Empire, Leeds. March 6, Empire, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

KNIGHT, STARR, Man in Red (Original). This Novel Act Disengaged Mar. 13. This, Tiv., Glasgow; next, P.O., Liverpool.

KORRIES, Palace, Hull. Thanks for birthday presents, motor car and hair pie.

KYASYAS, LES, Herculean Teeth and Hair Athletic Novelty. March 6, Palace, Chelsea. See this Act. Absolutely new.

KYDD and KYDD, Comedians and Dancers. Monday, Padd., Liverpool. Vacant March 20. Also refined Al Fresco Season.

KYOTO, The Original Comedy Jap; Also MAY GERALDINE, Comedienne. Success Stoll's Hippo., Manchester. Hippo., Rochdale.

LAKE, LEW, "Bloomsbury Burglars." Grand, Sheffield.

LA MARA, CHUMMIE, WILL SERGEANT, Palace, Camberwell.

LAND, FRED, Com. This, Gaiety, Birmingham; next week, Regent Theatre, Salford. Pacey and Reeves.

LANE, DAISY, HARRY CARMEN, Chic Comedienne. Polyglot Comedian. Finish E., Portsmouth. Monday, P., Manchester.

LANE, MARK, Still a Success as Cook, "Dick Whittington" Panto.

LANG, GENTLE BROTHERS. March 6, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

Lithographs by David Allen and Sons.

MR. D. EARLE CHARLES,
Advance Manager, "Charley's Aunt" Tour.
At Liberty shortly. Offers invited. Camden Theatre.

MR. FRED CHERRY, J. C. Wright's
Tour, 183rd Night in "Face at the Window"
and "Black Mask." Pavilion, Edinburgh.

MR. and MRS. GEORGE CHILD
(Miss Frances Brull). Present arrangements
complete. Add., "Melrose," Milton-rd, Hanwell.

MR. DUDLEY CLINTON,
Dr. Jüttner, "Old Heidelberg," and Répertoire. C.o. G. Musgrove, Princess T., Melbourne.

MR. J. H. CLYNDES,
"A Royal Revenge,"
King's Theatre, Kilmarnock.

MR. CECIL A. COLLINS,
Robert Curtis and S.-M., "The Fatal Wedding." Address, Metropole, Birmingham, or A.A.

MR. DAVID COLLINS,
Disengaged. Business Manager.
52, St. George's-road, Southwark, S.E.

MR. EDWIN J. COLLINS,
As the Rev. Robert Everton.
Mar. 13, Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham.

MR. JOHN R. COLLINS,
Address,
10, King-street, Covent-garden.

MR. SYDNEY COMPTON,
as Brassett in "Charley's Aunt."
Camden Theatre, N.W.

MR. WILFRID COMPTON, Beau Nash in "Monsieur Beaucaire." Mr. Macowan's Co. Address, Mar. 13, C. T., Reading.

MR. T. E. CONOVER,
Principal Comedian. Engaged by Messrs. Forster and Cliff. O. H., Norwich.

MR. FRED CONQUEST,
Pantomine,
Prince's Theatre, Bristol.

MR. TOM W. CONWAY,
at Liberty and for Panto.
9, Elm Park-road, Chelsea.

MR. BERNARD COPPING,
Lead. Miss ISA BELLINGTON, Lead, Com.
Disengaged March 20. Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

MR. J. W. CORDINER,
Gen. Man., "Dare-Devil Dorothy" (4th year).
Mar. 13. Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.

MR. L. CORY-THOMAS
Add., Mar. 13, Pier, Eastbourne.
Mar. 20. Grand Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. ERNEST H. G. COX.
"The New Clown" Co.,
This, O. H., Kidderminster; next, G. T., Hull.

MR. THOS. COURTICE,
"Duke of Killicrankie" Co. All Communications to 9, Oval-rd., Regent's Pk., London, N.W.

MR. HARRY J. CRANE,
Sir Gavin Macalister "The Garden of Lies."
Mar. 13, Theatre Royal, Hull.

MR. ALEC CRICHTON,
Comedian, at Liberty.
49, The Drive, Fulham, S.W.

MR. HENRY CROCKER,
Sir Peter Teazle, &c.
Compton Comedy Co., en route.

MR. JULIAN CROSS,
Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth, March 13.
Address, 13, Eglantine-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

MR. COLEMAN DAVIES
Disengaged next Christmas.
Address, Aquarium, Scarbro'.

MR. GEORGE DELAFORCE,
Harry Foxwell's "Abandoned Woman,"
Theatre Royal, Workington.

MR. HERBERT DICKESON, A.A.,
Mr. Geo. Dances, "Veronique" Co.
At Lib. shortly. March 13, Prince's, Bristol.

MR. HENRY DOUGHTY, Disengaged.
Miss VERA LESLIE. Mr. Benson's Season,
Coronet Theatre. 23, Hugh-st., Ecclestone-sq., S.W.

MR. OSWALD DOUGLAS, Dr. Colbrooke
(Original Part), "Life's Sweetest Sins" Co.
Coms., en route; or, 2, St. George's-square, N.W.

MR. KAY DRACO,
Business Manager, Geo. Dance's "Veronique."
March 13, Prince's, Bristol.

MR. ALBERT C. DUNCAN,
Business Manager, Charles Macdona's No. 1
"Three Little Maids." G. T., Southampton.

MR. and MRS. T. W. DUNSCOMBE
(Miss Marie Tennant). T.W.D., "Face at the Window" Co. T. R., Manchester.

MR. CHARLES A. EAST,
Lead, Heavies, Character or S. M. Dis.
March 18. 17, Adie-road, Hammersmith.

MR. and MRS. ERNEST C. EDWARDS
(Miss Bella Power), Major Stretton and
Lady Charlotte. T. R., Greenock.

MR. CHARLES ESDALE,
Palace Theatre.
Disengaged March 12.

MR. ROBERT FAIRBANKS,
Baron Chanterelle, C. P. Levilly's "La Poupée Co., Grand Theatre, Leeds.

MR. ANTHONY FAWCETT,
Disengaged for Character.
1, Claverton-street, Victoria, S.W.

MR. EDWARD FENTON,
Lieut. Pelham, "A Soldier and a Man."
March 13, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. ARTHUR FITZGERALD,
The Hippodrome,
Liverpool.

MR. HUGH FLEMING,
Advance Director, Geo. Musgrove's "Prince of Pilsen" Co. Kennington Theatre, S.E.

MR. & MRS. CHARLES FRANMORE,
Address,
16, Grosvenor-sq., Broughton, Manchester.

MR. and MRS. RICHARD FULTON
(Miss Gertrude Evans), Lazare and Adrienne,
in "Proof." Theatre Royal, Leicester.

MR. W. H. GARBOIS,
as Ellis Jordan, "A Wife's Triumph" Co.
Theatre Royal, Sunderland.

MR. W. V. GARROD,
Lead, "The Sledge-Hammer."
Osborne Theatre, Manchester.

MR. and MRS. WILLIE GARVEY
Kitty Jones.
All communications, Paisley Theatre, Paisley.

MR. HENRY GEORGE,
as Capulet, in "Romeo and Juliet."
Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

MR. JOHN GERANT,
Principal Comedy, "Hearts Adrift,"
Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.

MR. DOUGLAS GERRARD,
Lancelot (Lead), "Merely Mary Ann."
March 13, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.

MR. and MRS. LEWIS GILBERT
(Lina Nazeby), "A Woman of Impulse"
Co. Next, Maesteg and Treherbert, Three each.

MR. ALFRED GODDARD,
Prince Kara in "The Darling of the Gods."
County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames.

MR. DOUGLAS GORDON,
Stozzi, "The Cardinal."
March 13, Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

MR. J. LYNWARD GRAHAME
Disengaged shortly.
Address, Duke of York's Theatre, W.C.

MR. MAURICE GRANT,
Resting.
Melgate House, Slingsby, York.

MR. SYDNEY GREENSTREET,
Sir Toby Belch, Polonius, Dogberry, Felaship, &c., Ben Greet Co., America.

MR. FRED GROVE
and MISS EMILY GROVE, Frohman's
"Merely Mary Ann" Co., Theatre Royal, Brighton.

MR. LAURENCE GROVE,
Noel le Jolys, in "If I Were King" Co.
March, 13, Lyceum T., Ipswich; or A.A.

MR. CECIL DU GUE,
Lead, Mr. Melville's Season.
Standard Theatre, E.

MR. CHARLES HALLING,
Gordon Morley, in "A Daughter of the
Devil" Production, Dalston; next, Lancaster.

MR. FRANK HARDING.
Please address all communications,
38, Beaufort-street, Chelsea, S.W. Tel. No. 2077 Ken.

MR. FREDERICK HARKER
Disengaged.
"Berkeley," Chester-road, Erdington, Birmingham.

MR. CHARLES HARLEY,
"A Country Mouse" Co.
March 13, Opera House, Coventry.

MR. MORRIS HARPER,
Stage Manager, "Peggy Machree."
March 13, N. T., Oxford; 16, T. R., Leamington.

MR. and MRS. CHAS. HARRINGTON,
on Tour with own Company.
Theatre Royal, Leigh.

MR. CYRIL HARRISON,
At Liberty. Lead.
Add., 52, Upperton-gardens, Eastbourne.

MR. W. S. HARTFORD,
At Liberty, Lead and Stage-Management.
47, Godolphin-road, Shepherd's Bush, W.

MR. FRANCIS HAWLEY,
Edward Creighton and Stage-Management,
"Garden of Lies." Mar. 13, T. R., Hull.

MR. S. CREAGH HENRY,
at Liberty.
Address, 5, Milborne-grove, South Kensington.

MR. GALWEY HERBERT,
Messrs. Harrison and Maude's Co.,
Haymarket Theatre.

MR. & MRS. GRAHAME HERINGTON
(Madge Langton). Dis. for Principal Comedian and Stage-Manager. 36, Russell-sq., Brighton.

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Letters, 39, Harpenden-road, West Norwood, S.E.

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Disengaged. Principal Old Men, &c.
Address, 31, Crowndale-road, N.W.

MR. BALIOL HOLLOWAY,
Address,
Imperial Theatre, S.W.

MR. A. S. HOMEWOOD,
Matinée, Court Theatre, 20th, otherwise Dis.
Add., 86, The Drive, Fulham Park-gardens, S.W.

MR. ALFRED H. HOOK,
Bus. Man., Mr. Peter Eland's "Little Red
Riding Hood." Mar. 13, Opera House, Radcliffe.

MR. and MRS. WILL HOOK (Miss
Daisy Carlton), Miss Ida Molesworth and
Mr. Mark Blow's Co. Mar. 13, B. T., Stratford, E.

MR. FRANCIS HOPE,
Principal Comedian, Musical, Farcical
Comedy, Good Drama. 5, Elders-street, Scarboro.

MR. LEONARD HUBERT
will in future Adopt his Own Name, HUBERT
HARBEN. On Tour with Mr. and Mrs. Kendal.

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At Liberty for a few weeks.
March 13, Queen's Theatre, Leeds.

MR. S. HERBERT HUMBER and
MISS BEATRICE SINCLAIR. Both Dis.
April 2. Offers Invited. St. James's, Manchester.

MR. JAMES P. E. HUSSEY,
"A Woman of Impulse" Co.,
Jack Jeffries and Stage-Management.

MR. and MRS. FREDERIC JACQUES
(Miss Minnie Rayner), Soubrette, Char. Com.
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MR. POWELL JAMES, Disengaged,
Business or Stage Management.
Address, 42, Warwick-gardens, Harringay, N.

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General Manager,
"Heart of a Hero" Co.

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Touring the Success of 1904.
Life's Sweetest Sins.

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Sails to-day per Briton ss. for Cape Town.
Add., c/o Leonard Rayne, Opera House, Cape Town.

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Concluded Season, Grand T., N. At Liberty.
Address, 49, Waldemar-avenue, Hurlingham, S.W.

MR. WHITFORD KANE,
Jacky, in "Sunday."
March 13, Theatre Royal, Rochdale.

MR. OGILVY KEITH.
Address,
Charlmont, Western-parade, Southsea.

MR. C. B. KESTON,
Mr. Brandon Thomas's "Charley's Aunt" Co.
March 13, Camden Theatre, N.W.

MR. CLAUDE KING,
Juvenile Leading Business. Care of Messrs.
Sass and Nelson, Standard Theatre. Johannesburg.

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Miss EDITH KNIGHT.
Summer offers invited. King's T., Ebbw Vale.

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"Geisha." King's T., Hammersmith.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES LANGLEY
(JESSIE PRICE). Disengaged. Singly or
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MR. CHARLES A. LEICESTER,
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MR. ALFRED LESTER,
Special Week, Comedy Lead, T. R., Croydon.
Disengaged March 20. Offers invited.

MR. FRANK LESLIE,
March 13, Empire, Nottingham.
Booked by George Barclay and Co.

MR. EDWARD LEVY,
Dis. Heavies, Char., Juvs., or Com. 13,
Castledene-road, Anerley, S.E.

MR. D. LEWIN MANNERING, Baron
Bonelli and Stage-Manager in "The Eternal
City," on Tour. Leamington and Cambridge.

MR. and MRS. BERNARD J. LIELL
(Miss G. THIERRY). G. T., "Her Forbidden Marriage" Co. G. T., Plymouth.

MR. ARDENE LINDEN,
Chamboran, in "Proof."
March 13, Theatre Royal, Leicester, Six Nights.

MR. GEORGE W. LINDSAY,
Manager, "A Country Girl" (N) Co.
Crown Theatre, Peckham, S.E.

MR. FRANK LISTER,
Napoleon, "Royal Divorce." Offers invited
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MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN,
Disengaged.
28, Chelverton-road, Putney, S.W.

MR. and MRS. STUART LOMATH,
Disengaged April 3. Lead and Comedy.
Address, March 13, Theatre Royal, Attercliffe.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM LOWE,
Osmond Tearle Répertoire Company.
Address, en route; or, 41a, Myrtle-street, Liverpool.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES L. LUDLOW
(Agnes St. Clair). C. L. L., Cook, "Whittington." Alexandra, Birmingham. Lib. Mar. 20.

MR. WILLIAM LUGG,
with Sir Henry Irving.
7, Swift-street, Fulham, S.W.

MR. JOHN MACFARLANE
With Messrs. Sass and Nelson,
in South Africa.

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on Tour with own Co., "Wearin' o' the Green."
En route; or, Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

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(Miss Lily C. Bandmann), Touring own Co.
March 13, Theatre Royal, Leicester.

MR. J. T. MACMILLAN.
Address,
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MR. FRANK MACRAE,
Character, Scotch Character; Disengaged.
Address, Actors' Association.

MR. and MRS. PERCY MAITLAND
(Ella Seton), "As Midnight Chimes" Co.
Disengaged Easter. March 13, Harrogate.

MR. H. F. MALTBY.
Prince Mazaroff in "Slaves of Passion."
March 13, Amphitheatre, Ramsgate.

MR. FREDERICK MANTELL,
Lord Percy Fitz-Sherry and Stage Manager,
"Miss Mischief" Co. Royal, Hull. Dis. Shortly.

MR. MAITLAND MARLER,
at Liberty.
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MR. PERCY MARSHALL,
Carbury, "Lady of Ostend," &c.
Mar. 13, Pier, Eastbourne.

MR. ALFRED MARTIN,
Advance Manager, Compton Comedy Co.,
March 14, Paisley Theatre, Paisley.

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Returned from South Africa. Offers invited.
Add., 10, King-street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.

MR. WALTER MAXWELL.
Address,
March 13, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.

MR. QUINTON McPHERSON,
as Sid Prince, "Sherlock Holmes," with Mr.
W. Gillette. Empire Theatre, New York.

MR. and MRS. HUGH METCALFE
(Miss Vyvyan Montgomery). Resting.
Mr. Metcalfe, Palace Theatre, Newcastle.

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Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

MR. F. MORLAND.
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MR. and MRS. TOM MOWBRAY
(Miss Edith Ife). Disengaged March 20.
Lyceum Theatre, Newport, March 13.

MR. and MRS. ERNEST J. MUNRO
(Miss MARIE JONES). M. J., Disengaged.
Address, c/o E. M., Grand T., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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Disengaged. Juvenile Lead.
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MR. H. ADAIR NELSON.
Address, Eccentric Club,
Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

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Adelphi Theatre.
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Theatre Royal, Hull.

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Miss Ada Reeve's Co., Royalty, Glasgow.
Miss MARCELLA HUDSON (Mrs. D. P.-E.) Dis.

MR. WALTER PURVIS,
Miss LILY BRAMMER, Singing Soubrette.
T. R., Coatbridge, N.B.

MR. ALBERT E. RAYNOR, Sir Henry
Curwen, "Breed of the Treshams," with Mr.
Martin Harvey. Mar. 13, T. Royal, Birmingham.

MR. ARTHUR LAW RAYNOR.
Business Man. for Mr. B. Coote's "The Fatal
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Disengaged.
Address, 133, Lavender-sweep, Lavender-hill, S.W.

MR. ARTHUR RICKETTS,
Principal Comedian. Disengaged, Musical
Comedy. 10, King-street, Covent-garden, W.C.

MR. FRANK RIDLEY,
Disengaged. Address, A.A., or 34, Gorst-road, Wandsworth Common.

MR. HARRY H. RIGNOLD,
"The Rogues of the Turf" Company.
March 13, O. H., Northampton.

MR. WALTER L. RIGNOLD,
Disengaged.
Address, 28, Meadow-road, S.W., or A.A.

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Light Com., &c., Dis. for a Few Weeks.
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Own Tour. "Voice of the People."
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G. R. can accept good offers for Spring.
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Title-rôle and Genera l Manager, "The
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"The New Clown" Co.
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Address, 34, Margaretta-terrace, Chelsea, S.W.

MR. FRANK SHERLOCK,
Bingle, "The Girl from Japan."
Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

MR. WILFRED E. SHINE,
Disengaged.
Address, Royal Court Theatre.

MR. JOHN B. SHINTON,
Lead, "When Woman Hates."
Mar. 13, Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.

MR. GEORGE SHIRLEY,
Disengaged, Acting-Management.
65a, Long-acre, London, W.C.

MR. THOMAS SIDNEY is at Liberty,
as Producer, Stage Manager, Special Parts.
Address, 53, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.

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Character Actor, Dialects, Sing, Disengaged.
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Business Manager for "The King's Pardon."
This, T. R., Chesterfield; next, O. H., Doncaster.

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at Liberty Early in March.
Address, Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. GORDON STARKEY,
Address,
Care of "The Era" Office.

MR. GEORGE STEEL,
Disengaged. Lead, Heavies, &c.
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(Miss E. Robson). Special with D. L. Harding, Esq. Dis., Mar. 20, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

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New Theatre.

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Resident-Manager (Eleventh Year),
Royalty T. and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness.

MR. WALLACE STRANACK,
Dis., Apr. 3. Business or Stage Management.
Mar. 13, St. James's Theatre, Manchester.

MR. AUGUSTIN SYMONDS
Dis., Comedy Char., Man; KATE PARRY,
Juv., Light Com. 25, Kathleen-rd., Clapham, S.W.

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Permanent address, 3, Springdale-road, London, N.

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Theatre, Folkestone; March 16, T .R., Worthing.

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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT
FOR
ACTOR AND COMPOSER,
BY
ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B. (Lond.).

Chapter I.
COPYRIGHT AS OPPOSED TO PERFORMING RIGHT.
Chapter II.
PERFORMING RIGHT.
Chapter III.
INFRINGEMENT AND REMEDIES.
Chapter IV.
MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.
Chapter V.
INTERNATIONAL AND COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law" ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as "the Bermoothes" and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said, to state little more than that the contents include five chapters respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," "Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority, is not dry reading. The statutes, with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr. J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr. Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise, it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright" is dedicated to Mr. A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman.

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his text-book on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases, what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee.

THE C.C.C. LEADS.

FOLLOW WHO CAN.

PANTOMIME ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1904-5.

We are prepared to quote a Special Price for Cleaning up Pantomimes after the run of the Season. Please write for particulars.

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL.

Royal County Theatre,
Kingston-on-Thames,
March 3, 1905.

Dear Sirs,—

I have to thank you for your very prompt attention to my requirements. Everything was back here in good time for the performance on Monday evening. I have the pleasure to enclose cheque.

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PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

ALPHABETICAL LIST
OF
ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES.

Name.	Date.
Adams, Miss Nina Blake	September 17, 1904.
Aldred, Mr Charles	May 7, 1904.
Alleyne, Miss Frances	May 14, 1904.
Atom, Mr Willie	December 24, 1904.
Aubrey, Mrs W.	December 24, 1904.
Bailey, Mr Gordon	December 24, 1904.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.	May 7, 1904.
Bard, Mr Wilkie	September 10, 1904.
Barrett, Late Mr Wilson	July 23, 1904.
Barrington, Mr H. H.	November 12, 1904.
Barth, Mr Cecil	June 11, 1904.
Bartlett, Mr J. J.	July 2, 1904.
Benson, Mr F. R.	December 31, 1904.
Bertram, Miss Celestine.	July 2, 1904.
Billington, Late Mr John	September 10, 1904.
Bint, Mr Billie	September 3, 1904.
Blande, Miss Edith	June 25, 1904.
Booth, Mr J. H.	August 5, 1904.
Bostock, the Late Emma.	December 24, 1904.
Bracewell, Mr Joe	May 14, 1904.
Brayne, Mr Harry	July 16, 1904.
Brough, Mr Lionel	November 5, 1904.
Browning, Mr Charles	May 21, 1904.
Butt, Mr Alfred	July 30, 1904.
Cabourn, Mr John	August 13, 1904.
Campbell, Late Mr Herbt.	July 23, 1904.
Campbell, Miss Audrey	October 8, 1904.
Carne, Mr Joseph	May 7, 1904.
Cathie, Mr Leslie Roy.	May 21, 1904.
Celli, the Late Mr Frank	December 31, 1904.
Charles, the Late Mr Fred	August 6, 1904.
Cheevers, Mr J. E.	October 1, 1904.
Chippendale, Mr James.	September 17, 1904.
Churchward, Mr Hedley.	January 14, 1905.
Cinquevalli, Paul	January 14, 1905.
Clarence, Miss Nellie	November 12, 1904.
Clark, Mr Cuthbert	October 15, 1904.
Clavering, Miss Marie	October 8, 1904.
Clyde, Miss Hilda	May 21, 1904.
Coleman, Late Mr John.	April 23, 1904.
Collins, Mr. Cecil A.	February 11, 1905.
Colona, Late Don Edgardo	August 20, 1904.
Corri, Mr Clarence C.	November 5, 1904.
Craven, Mr Hawes	October 8, 1904.
Danbury, Miss Ethel	September 17, 1904.
Davis, Miss Flora	September 10, 1904.
Day, Mr David	October 8, 1904.
Deverell, Mr John W.	May 21, 1904.
Draco, Mr Kay	June 4, 1904.
Dryden, Mr Leo	July 16, 1904.
Dunrobin, Mr L. Race	July 9, 1904.
Edmunds, Mr Edmund	September 3, 1904.
Entwistle, Mr Harold	May 14, 1904.
Evelyne, Miss Alma	October 29, 1904.
Farrell, Miss Cissy	July 2, 1904.
Farren, Late Miss Nellie	April 30, 1904.
Feiber, Mr H. H.	August 13, 1904.
Fineberg, Mr Harris	December 24, 1904.
Firmin, Miss Dorothy	November 19, 1904.
Franks, Mr Wilfred	May 7, 1904.
Frebar, Mr Sydney	July 30, 1904.

Copies of the above can be obtained by communicating with The Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

PRUDENTIAL

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CHIEF OFFICE:

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

Summary of the Report Presented at the Fifty-sixth Annual Meeting, held on March 2, 1905.

ORDINARY BRANCH.

The number of Policies issued during the year was **71,874**, assuring the sum of **£6,954,650** and producing a New Annual Premium Income of **£377,587**.

The Premiums received during the year were **£3,969,016**, being an increase of **£154,160** over the year 1903.

The Claims of the year amounted to **£1,654,753**. The number of Deaths was **7,139**, and **6,259** Endowment Assurances matured.

The number of Policies in force at the end of the year was **742,147**.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.

The Premiums received during the year were **£5,979,335**, being an increase of **£132,781**.

The Claims of the year amounted to **£2,230,180**. The number of deaths was **233,015**, and **3,066** Endowment Assurances matured.

The number of Free Policies granted during the year to those Policyholders of five years' standing who desired to discontinue their payments was **112,606**, the number in force being **1,003,377**. The number of Free Policies which became Claims during the year was **22,211**.

The total number of Policies in force at the end of the year was **15,577,161**; their average duration is ten and three-quarter years.

The Assets of the Company, in both branches, as shown in the Balance Sheet, are **£55,359,505**, being an increase of **£4,142,128** over those of 1903.

The Staff Provident Fund, which was founded in 1898 for the benefit of the outdoor staff, shows a satisfactory increase for the year, the total amount standing to the credit of the Fund being **£138,280**.

GENERAL BALANCE-SHEET of the PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, being the Summary of both Branches, on Dec. 31, 1904.

LIABILITIES.

Shareholders' Capital	£1,000,000	0	0
Reserve funds	2,300,000	0	0
Life Assurance Funds	51,911,568	7	0
Claims under life policies admitted	147,933	16	5
	£55,359,505	3	5

ASSETS.

British Government securities	£3,352,296	0	2
Indian and Colonial Government securities	5,127,756	19	9
Railway and other debentures and debenture stocks, and gold and sterling bonds	4,556,180	8	6
Loans on County Council, Municipal, and other rates	12,956,382	10	3
Freehold ground rents and Scotch feu duties	3,784,323	16	4
Freehold and leasehold property	3,487,982	7	1
Mortgages on property within the United Kingdom	7,303,050	5	2
Railway, Gas, and Water stocks	7,408,311	15	7
Suez Canal Shares	165,742	7	5
Telegraph and other shares	97,789	2	6
Metropolitan Consolidated stock, and City of London bonds	267,930	15	7
Bank of England stock	200,559	18	6
Colonial and Foreign corporation stocks	1,142,054	9	2
Foreign Government securities	1,149,790	8	1
Reversions and Life Interests	1,052,757	17	5
Loans on the Company's Policies	1,881,959	1	6
Rent charges	308,901	7	10
Outstanding premiums and agents' balances	403,073	18	8
Outstanding Interest and rents	456,268	15	3
Cash—In hands of superintendents	35,155	17	0
Cash—On current accounts, and in hand	221,237	1	8
	£55,359,505	3	5

FREDERICK SCHOOLING. D. W. STABLE,
Actuary. *Secretary.*

THOS. C. DEWEY, *General Manager.*

We have examined the Cash transactions (receipts and payments) affecting the accounts of the Assets and Investments for the year ended Dec. 31, 1904, and we find the same in good order and properly vouched. We have also examined the Deeds and Securities, Certificates, &c., representing the Assets and Investments set out in the above account, and we certify that they were in possession and safe custody as on Dec. 31, 1904.

DELOITTE, DEVER, GRIFFITHS, & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

Feb. 15, 1905.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 30.—Princess's Theatre.—*Romeo and Juliet* has been drawing good houses at this theatre, and will run up till the end of the current week. Miss Tistell Brune's acting in the balcony and potion scenes is particularly effective. The Romeo of Mr. Greenaway and the Mercutio of Mr. Roy Redgrave are parts which are played most interestingly. Mr. Atholwood deserves a special word of praise for his clever impersonation of the apothecary.

Her Majesty's Theatre.—The revival of *The Geisha* is proving a source of delight to lovers of a bright and musical evening's entertainment. Miss Florence Young is pleasing in the part of O Mimosa San, using her fine voice to advantage. Miss Evelyn Scott makes an admirable Molly Seamore; Mr. Haigh Jackson is excellent as Lieut. Fairfax; and Mr. Lauri, as the crafty Wun Hi, revels in the musical comedy.

Theatre Royal.—*Sinbad the Sailor* continues to attract good houses, though it has now entered upon its sixth week. Miss Ravensberg still continues prime favourite with her audiences, her two songs, "My Home Girl" and "The Lily of the Valley."

Opera House.—A large and enthusiastic audience assembled at this theatre on Saturday evening. Hackenschmidt, who closes his season next Thursday night, appeared in his "poses plastiques," showing the marvellous muscular development he possesses, afterwards wrestling Mr. Gus Rennert, strong man, from Sydney, in the catch-as-catch-can style. An interesting bout lasted nearly ten minutes, when the Russian managed to throw his opponent. Another popular turn is the harp and violin playing by the Frasettis, who are also excellent performers on the xylophone. Gregson and Goodfellow contribute a new musical comedy sketch, entitled the *Stony Tourist*, which evokes roars of laughter.

Gaiety Theatre.—Mr. Martyn Hagan, Irish comedian; Miss Lucy Fraser, vocalist; and Victor, styled the "canary," made a successful first appearance here on Saturday evening. New pictures were shown by the Biograph, and a farce, entitled *North-East Lynne*, created hearty laughter.

SYDNEY, Feb. 1.—*The Best of Friends* is Mr. Bland Holt's latest success at the Royal, and its wealth of incident and general picturesque colouring made it intensely attractive. Miss Frances Ross has little but "masterly inactivity" to exercise in depicting Mercia, the heroine, whereas Miss J. Pollock has a congenial task in depicting Speed Spangles, the vivacious circus girl. Miss Harrie Ireland was Lady Aline Redwood, and got all possible value out of the character. Mr. Walter Baker was the Earl of Amesbury; Mr. Max Maxwell, Paul de Latone; Mr. Arthur Styan, the Boer commander; and Mr. Albert Norman, the Duke of Richborough. The circus proprietor, Ketoff, gave Mr. Charles Brown his opportunity, and the chief villain was played by Mr. Harford.

"The Pirates of Penzance" attracted a large audience to Her Majesty's Theatre, and its bright music and easily understood plot were much appreciated. A "rousing" welcome was accorded Mr. Howard Vernon, who played Major-General Stanley admirably. Miss Celia Ghiloni's Ruth was a delightful inpersonation. Mr. Walter Whyte was Frederick, and sang carefully. Miss Alexia Bassian made Mabel a grand opera character, and Mr. Ralston was a capable Samuel. Mr. Frank Wilson made an impression as the Pirate King. Miss Vinia De Loitte's singing as Edith was charming, whilst the Misses Sara Hyman and Ruby Armfield were well suited as Kate and Isabel. Mr. Ernest Fitts was as good a Police Sergeant as we have had, and the "Policeman's Lot" was thrice encored, as was the trio, "The Paradox." M. Leon Caron conducted, and Mr. Henry Bracy staged the revival, the most important of the series.

The Tivoli has lost Madame Marzelle and her birds, but has gained Bonita and Cleopatra, two attractive turns. The former is a smart rifle-woman, and the latter charms snakes and other reptiles. Fanny Powers has added new imitations of celebrities, and the rest of Mr. Harry Rickard's company fills an interesting bill.

The news of the death of Mr. William Rignold caused universal regret here, for, apart from his undoubted ability as an actor, the deceased was personally beloved by all who knew him, and they were legion in Sydney. Miss Marie Rignold is now on her way here as a member of the Van Biene company, engaged to Mr. Musgrove.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The concert at the Guildhall School on Wednesday evening opened with selections by performers on guitars and mandolines, pupils of Madame Waldahoff and Mdlle. Polyxena Crinos, followed by a song entitled "En Sourdine,' by Tellam, the vocalist being Mr. Edwin Lewis. He sang well, but the guitars and mandolines accompanying were not quite so harmonious as might have been desired. Nor did Mr. D. F. Charrington entirely succeed in "The Message" of Blumenthal. He was not in good voice to begin with, and if he had been recollections of Mr. Sims Reeves would have inevitably acted to his disadvantage. The violin solo of Miss Dorothy Linnell was a creditable effort. Her execution of two movements from the 9th concerto of De Beriot displayed her own talent to great advantage, and also showed how skilfully she had been trained. Mrs. Edwin Bennett sang "The Barley Sheaves" of Miss Needham with much grace, and Miss Evelyn Bendy was applauded with considerable warmth in "Le Jeune Patre," by Goring Thomas. Miss Grace Wigginton may be congratulated upon her rendering of Schumann's "Fantaisie stucke," Nos. 2 and 7, which were given with neatness and decision. A romance of Davidoff for violincello was carefully played by Miss Kathleen Holbrooke, and Miss Enid Cummings sang "Solveig's Song," by Grieg, with effect. Other vocalists of merit were Miss Olive Godwin and Mr. George Dryden, and Miss Helen Squire was set down for Heller's transcription of "La Fruite." The accompaniments of Miss Kate Ward were excellent, as usual, and Miss Ada Castiglaine, a clever pupil of Mr. Allan Beaumont, recited with admirable results "The Woman of Mumble's Head," and an amusing sketch, "Over the Fishpond to Fashion," by Cotsford Dick.

THEATRICAL PATENTS.

The following applications are specially drawn for *The Era* by Messrs Hughes and Young, patent agents, 55 and 56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will give advice and assistance free to our readers on all patent matters.

1,088. James Edwards, 6, Lord-street, Liverpool. Improvements in or applicable to show-cards or tablets, and other devices for exhibiting advertisements or announcements.

1,021. Emrico Giulietti, 6, Lord Street, Liverpool. Improvements in and relating to stages and the like for theatres and in arrangements for operating the same.

976. James Clements Boswell, 11, Hatton-garden, London. Improvements relating to apparatus used in connection with public amusement.

23,948. Hugo Brisacher-Lonergan, 81, High Holborn, London. Improvements in, and relating to toy shooting galleries.

23,960. William Goulton, 114a, Chancery-lane, London. New illuminators applicable to electric or other theatrical stage sights, or for forming electric or other letters, signs, or the like illuminative displays.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—New Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews.—The management here is providing a good variety programme. Madamoiselle Santoi and her 6 Merry Japs are heartily applauded; Levaini and Middies submit an interesting show; and Dan Arline also gives a good account of himself. Miss Freda Indor, male impersonator, is well received; a smart turn is provided by Wragg and Wragg, military athletes; Miss Bessie Hemming is a successful contralto vocalist; Harley and Hardon are good comedians; Hurman is an expert juggler; and the St. Louis Girls are clever exponents of the art of dancing.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Will Gregory.—The chief turn this week is supplied by Mr. Charles Coborn, who, during his time on the stage, keeps the house in excellent humour, with his songs and sayings. The Moxon Family of foot equilibrists perform some excellent feats; and Brady and Johnson's company, in the sketch, *Turning the Tables*, causes roars of laughter. Vere and Royal, vocalists and dancers, are popular, and the same may be said of the Weimars. Hadden and Clyde, in their laughable act, are appreciated; Heltha, in his hoop speciality, shows himself to be a clever artist; Miss Bessie Travis is a good lady ventriloquist; and Miss Marie Mayfield, serio-comedienne, and Sydney Dolf, mimic, also add to the evening's entertainment.

Public Hall.—Professor Barber is delighting huge crowds with his hypnotic entertainment, and Lloyd is a clever handcuff manipulator.

ABERDEEN.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah, C.A.—*A Chinese Honeymoon* is played this week by Mr. George Dance's company. Miss Vera Vere gives an exceedingly amusing representation of Fi-Fi; and Miss Nellie Wigley wins much applause by her smart dancing and clever singing as Soo-Soo; Miss Jose Collins is successful as Mrs. Pineapple; and Miss Alice Drummond makes a commanding appearance as the official mother-in-law. Mr. Philip Haydn, as the Emperor; Mr. Allerton Turner, as the Lord Chancellor; Mr. Leonard May, as Hi-Lung; and Mr. Percy Yorke, as Tom Hatherton; and Mr. Foster Courtenay, as Mr. Pineapple, all put in excellent work.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. Ernest Sheldon.—Mr. John Alexander and his combination of clever comedians are appearing with much success in an amusing sketch; and The Sisters Warwick show extraordinary agility as acrobatic cyclists; Sibb and Sibb contribute an interesting gymnastic exhibition; Primaveri delights the audiences with his juggling; and a capital performance is also given by Miss Effie White, danseuse; The Sisters Jonghman sing charmingly; Mueller and Coyne are comedians of great resource; The Volbeoque Sisters are equally pleasing as vocalists and dancers; and Mr. Harry Barker, comedian, also secures a favourable reception.

Hamilton's Diorama.—This entertainment, which is now in the third week of the present visit, continues to be well patronised. The war pictures and the turns of the variety artistes are of the highest interest, and the orchestra is admirably conducted by Mr. J. W. Eccleston.

ABERTILLERY. — Theatre Metropole. — Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General and Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom; Stage-Manager, Mr. Fred Thomas.—The boards here are occupied this week by Mr. C. Finch-Hatton's company in the successful realistic drama, *When London Sleeps*. As the villainous Captain Rodney, Mr. W. H. Wilson is quite realistic; Mr. Albert Wray, in the rôle of David Engleheart, plays with vigour and manliness. Mr. Edward Vivian, as Mr. Farnaby Fuller, is exceptionally good; as also is Mr. Paul Graydon as Bob Jones; Mr. Chas. Digby, as the hon. Bertie Broomhead, causes much mirth as Queenie Carruthers; Miss Mabel Cluer is quite a favourite; Miss Hilda Clyde, as Hilda Carode, plays the part for all it is worth. Miss Evelyn Clare, Miss Nellie Birchenough, Little Lily, and Miss Marie Kelway are all good in their respective parts. Mr. D'Arcy Kelway, as Sammy Blyth, also deserves special mention.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—On Monday Messrs. Northway and Garrod's company opened here with the *Sledge Hammer*. A very creditable performance of the part of Mathew Derrick is given by Mr. Charles Herbert; Mr. Maxwell Davison must be complimented upon his performance as Cornelius Derrick; Mr. Frank Litchfield as Tom Walker is effective, and Messrs. W. V. Garrod, A. Northway, and Laurence Konrad are good in their respective rôles of Everard Derrick, Jacob Derrick, and Simon Derrick. Miss Bertha Kingston as Rose Maywell proves herself a capable actress, and Miss Elialine Thorn is amusing as Catherine Henniss. Martha Derrick is well played by Miss Fanny Thorn.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Wilmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker.—Martin Conway heads the bill here, and on Monday brought down the house by his performance; Kit Keen is a smart coloured comedian; Irvin must be complimented on his success; Harry Hayton is an amusing coon; the Wynfords, barrel jumpers, are very good in their line; Lozelle is both neat and clever; the Kimberley Boys met with due appreciation.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—A capital interpretation of *Sergeant Brue* is being given this week by Mr. Frank Curzon's company. In the name-rôle Mr. Victor Widdicombe is responsible for a large amount of the fun created; as Crookie Scrubbs, Mr. T. A. Shale is excellent, his talented conception of the humorous criminal being wonderfully good; Mr. E. Percy Rogers sings and acts well as Michael Brue; Mr. Cecil Burt's impersonation of Crank, the magistrate, is a capable one in every way; and Mr. Albert Sealy, as Lawyer Habbishom, does well. A charmingly played rôle is Miss Violet Dene's Lady Bickenhall; Miss Constance Lait is a capital exponent of Aurora; and Miss Eliza Earle does well as Daisy.

ALTRINCHAM.—New Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. Budd, Howe, and Taylor.—A new and interesting programme has been provided this week. The Werners perform some daring and clever cyclist tricks, and their teacup track proves too much for many local champions of the wheel. Enjoyable double turns are given by The Percys, The Padleys, and Warner and Wilson. Miss Florrie Claribell, comedienne, is a favourite in song and dance.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—The new musical comedy, *The Earl and the Girl*, the joint production of Mr. Seymour Hicks, Mr. Percy Greenbank, and Mr. Ivan Caryll, is being presented here this week by Mr. William Greet's company—one of all-round efficiency. Mr. Reginald Switz scores in the matter of absurd humour as Jim Cheese, a dog trainer. He is exceedingly droll, especially in the second act, where he impersonates the Earl at a fancy-dress ball. As Dick Wargrave Mr. Alec Fraser proves himself a vigorous exponent of character, and Miss Mary Fraser is a charming heroine as Elphin Hayes.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The management here have again provided an attractive programme for the current week. The head of the programme is occupied by those remarkable musical comedians, patterers, and marvellous dancers, the St. Johns. Both their musical specialities and their expert toe-and-heel performances elicit approving cheers. Duncan furnishes some interest to the spectator as a manipulator of the clubs. Arthur Albert, as actor-vocalist, gives a really good turn, and Martinetti and Goosi, in their funny Continental novelty act, astonish the audience with their artistic cleverness. Fred Rose is a very quaint comedian, and Oswald astonishes with his wonderful handbalancing speciality; Harry Maxam, comedian, and Hall, clever mimic give very acceptable turns. Perhaps the feature of the week's bill is the Andos famous troupe of Happy Little Japs, acrobats, jugglers, wire-walkers, with real Japanese dancing and music. These artists are undoubtedly most expert and nimble, and perform some astounding acrobatic and juggling feats. The animated pictures are popular.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Seaton.—Once more pantomime holds the sway here, the boards being occupied by Mr. Charles Chard's well-balanced company with *Goody Two Shoes*. In the title-rôle Miss Annie Casey is seen to advantage; Miss Ida Gladstone plays with dash and finish as Roland; and as Simple Simon Mr. Charles Chard is irresistible, his humour being spontaneous, and his songs well received. Mr. Sydney Dean as Dame Freckles has a congenial part; Mr. James Kurry is highly diverting as Sammy Sops; Messrs. Bliss and Bliss are a couple of excellent comedians; and Messrs. Pete and Juno, as the Baron's coloured servants, are responsible for a good share of fun. Baron Grab is well played by Mr. Arthur Stratton; as the Fairy Benevoltia Miss Isa Steel is good; so also is Miss A. Marsden as Mephisto. Interesting specialities are introduced by the Sisters St. Julian; Messrs. Bliss and Bliss, Pete and Juno, and the Mikado Troupe of dancers. Mr. Haydn Reano is an efficient musical conductor, and Mr. Ernest Hartington is the general manager of the company.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbons.—Heading the bill this week is Carl Mysto, who gives a clever and exciting exhibition as a handcuff expert; Frank Boyce's descriptive songs are well received; the Two Rubies, international dancers, are good; Vincent, acrobatic table expert, gives a novel show; Robert Gilbert's dogs and cats show careful training; red Lloyd and Co. submit a highly interesting and amusing sketch entitled *The Blind Spinster*; Mark Tapley is a good comedian; and Messrs. Blake and Clayton present an excellent series of pictures, including lifeboat work, by means of the Palace Bioscope.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—Mr. Peter Eland's pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, is here this week. The company is a strong and well-balanced one. Miss Mabel Manley, a sweet Red Riding Hood, acts charmingly; Miss Dolly Hook enacts well the rôle of Robin Oakapple; Miss Rita Vincent is a graceful Bluebell Buttercup; Mr. H. Flockton Foster is a clever exponent of the Baron; and Mr. George Boyle infuses a good deal of humour into the rôle of Widow Bailey. Master Lennie Ankers and Mr. O. Mountain, as P.C.'s 9 and 10, are an active and mercurial pair of officers; Mr. Charley Howarth is particularly funny as the Baron's Page; and Mr. W. Raynor, as the Wolf, is a success. The Fairy of the Hood has a graceful and picturesque representative in Miss Jenny Whitehead. Specialities are introduced by the Florodora Girls, The Maros, triple bar comedians; Mexican Mac, sharp shooter; Syd Mountford, the modern magician; and Eastwood and Watson, the Japanese cake walkers. The scenery is pretty and the music attractive.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Messrs. Carson and Granville's company, in *The Heart of a Hero*, is paying a return visit here. The Jem Resdale of Mr. Fred W. Goddard is a good one; the Mark Marl of Mr. A. B. Mackay is capital; and Mr. Chas. E. Johnson plays with distinction as Wilfrid Marl; while Mr. Hugh Brady does good work as Timothy Heighno. Mrs. Ryder is well portrayed by Miss Beatrice Hudson; and Miss Cissie St. Elmo gives a clever and powerful delineation of Nell Resdale.

Tivoli Theatre of Varieties.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi.—The premier turn here is Alfred Barker and Miss Rozsika with numerous and varied performing animals, whose intelligent performance excites much wonder. The Two Cavaliers prove themselves skilful and pleasing musicians; Miss Minnie D'Aubyn is a capital serio and coon vocalist; Jimmy Shields, a great favourite, again pleases; Joe Humphries shows himself a smart comedian; Edie Grey and White Coons are highly appreciated; Fyne and Hurley create much amusement in the clever scena, *The Coster and the Dude*; Nellie Vanderbilt contributes an entertaining turn; and Vernon's Bioscope, with a good series of pictures, completes the bill.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—The first visit to Bath of Mr. George Dance's chief company, with *The Cingalee*, is unquestionably one of the biggest attractions of the present season. The artistes engaged acquit themselves with distinction. A great personal success was made by Mr. Lauri de Frece, a clever young comedian, who, as Chambhuddy Ram, literally sprang into popularity, his singing, dancing, and acting being remarkable for its freshness and energy. In much of his heavy work he has a charming associate in Miss Mabel Sealby, as Peggy Sabini, their several scenes and duets being received with rapturous applause. Mr. Fred. W. Patrick has a congenial part in that of Boobhamba, his song, "Persuasion," with up-to-date verses, gaining numerous encores. Sir Peter Loftus is acted by Mr. F. W. Ford in a fussy and amusing fashion; Mr. Kenneth Wynne makes an efficient Harry Vereker, singing a couple of baritone ballads with care; Mr. George Mudie, jun., puts plenty of life into his rendering of Bobby Warren; Miss Ethel Negretti further enhances her already high local reputation as Nanoya, her telling vocalism arousing great admiration in the effective and pretty "Cinnamon" scena. Lady Patricia Vereker is well impersonated by Miss Nancy Freyne, who is the fortunate possessor of a pleasant soprano voice which she displays to advantage in her one solo. Miss Poppy Wilkinson leads the tea girls with animation, her companions being Miss May Curtiss, Miss Iris Grosvenor, and Miss Minnie Muir. A charming impression is made by Miss Trissie March, whose dancing is graceful and skilful. The large chorus and increased orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Edward H. Whitehall, deserve high commendation for their share in a delightful performance.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. W. Trussell.—Especially varied is the programme this week, supremacy of position being held by the Lukushima Troupe of Japanese equilibrists. Albert Wyndham scores a legitimate success with his Shakespearean episode, *Prince Arthur*, receiving capital support from Miss Rose St. John, as the imprisoned Prince. Albini, after a long absence, presents his latest wonder, "The Lady in Black." Ryde and Beeman are an agile pair of grotesque acrobats. Martin Henderson, the well-known blind concertina artiste, is accorded a big reception. The Sisters Clive are refined comediennes and dancers, who have some taking numbers. Carr and Rose in their vocal comedy act, *Their First Quarrel*, command approbation.

BATLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. M. Hirst.—Miss Lena Stanton's company opened here on Monday with the musical comedy, *The Belle of Bangalore*. The title-rôle was undertaken by Miss Lena Stanton, who played it in a charming and artistic manner. Mr. Bruce Green rendered some capital songs, and was well placed as Rajah Roo. Mr. George James was good as Rum Omyo; and Miss Marie Gerrard admirably acted the part of Small Sing. Little Keeno, as it, a Mystery, was well placed. Mr. Harry Jay made a typical Pat Murphy. Some capital specialities were also introduced by Little Keeno, Jay and Ginger, the Cecil Troupe of Dancers, the Musical Melbahs, La Belle Esma on the silver thread; and Joe Pauletti, acrobatic French cycling clown.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—For the first three nights of this week the boards were occupied by Mr. Julian Malvern's company in *I Defy the World*. Mr. Roy Fortescue submitted a powerful rendering of Leon Darville; Mr. Richard Vane cleverly interpreted the evil designs of Count de Beaulieu; Mr. Charles Conway admirably impersonated Laroche, a blackmailer; Mr. H. Creagh Hunt made an excellent André; and Mr. Charles W. Julian as Samuel Wozzle, Miss Lillah Shelton as Marie Wozzle, Mr. Harry Emmerson as Najac, and Mr. A. Raymond Shaw as Bochon, well sustained the humour of the play. Miss Maud Malvern gave a womanly and pathetic representation of Blanche Darville, and Miss Trixie St. Albans made a sweet Pauline Delaport. Miss Flo Bevan, a clever little actress, met with the sympathy of the house as Fanchette. On Thursday and Friday *The Dainty Doctor* was presented.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James McCann.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company opened here on Monday with the successful musical comedy, *Sergeant Brue*, which met with a cordial reception from a good audience. The cast is a powerful one. Honours are due Mr. Edward Kipling, who, in the title-rôle, acted very cleverly, his humour being fairly irresistible. A delightful and charming impersonation of Aurora Brue was submitted by Miss Hilda Antony, her rendering of "Under a Panama" being exceptionally pleasing. The rôle of Michael Brue was assumed by Mr. Charles Hanbury, who kept the audience much

amused. His songs were encored and his dancing was voted first-class. An impersonation of decided cleverness was that furnished by Miss Hebe Bliss as Lady Bickenhall, and, undoubtedly, she quite captivated many admirers. Miss Bliss delighted all with her pretty dances, while her song, "Instinct," was capitally rendered. Mr. Thomas Holding was admirable as Gerald Treherne; and Mr. George Barrett created roars of laughter with his inimitable impersonation of Crookie Scrubbs. A splendid impersonation of Mr. Crank, the magistrate, was submitted by Mr. Campbell Bishop; and Mr. Paddy Dupres was the Inspector Gorringe to the life. Others parts were smartly undertaken by Miss Gladys Desmond, Miss Margaret Savile, Miss Marie Norma, and Messrs. Harry Turner, W. H. Page, Ivor Harvey, and Percy McLeod. The chorus was exceptionally powerful.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. John P. Beardmore.—The chief attraction this week is provided by Mr. Frank Gerald and company in *The King's Highway*. Mr. Gerald impersonates Dick Turpin in dashing style; and other rôles are cleverly sustained by Miss Evelyn Vaudray (charming as Eleanor Mowbray), and Messrs. Fred Rolls, C. Newton Buckland, Harry Prince, &c. Mr. Will Onda's company appear to great advantage in their pantomimical absurdity, entitled *A Quiet Night*, which has created roars of laughter. Grey and Welford provide a fund of amusement with their burlesque boxing act; and the cultured vocalism of Miss Lilian Travellie has been much admired; the Four Marsono's provide a very novel musical performance, their manipulation of several unique articles being decidedly clever; Jubal and Joyce, comedians; Mr. Sam Dalton, a first-class character comedian, author composer; and the accomplished Alhambra Quartette of lady vocalists and dancers complete the bill.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Brock.—Collins and Hart head the bill and have been very successful with their humorous acrobatic act; the Four Royal Welshmen have been accorded a splendid reception for their capital rendering of several songs; Mr. Albert Whelan, the popular Australian comedian, provides a first-class entertainment; and Messrs. Rackett and Hazard appear to immense advantage in their refined and clever musical act. The Proveanie Troupe of cyclists repeat last week's success, many of the feats being marvellous. The fine baritone voice of Mr. Geo. Adams has been much admired; and also appearing are Martin and Quigg, eccentric comedians.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Ross Clyde company provide the chief turn here and evoke much merriment with their excruciatingly funny sketch, *I Must Have It*. The cultured vocalism of Miss Elsa Joel has been much enjoyed, and Mr. Will Dalton is a very humorous comedian with a good style. Much interest has been centred in the attractive vocal scena staged by Major Moss and Son, entitled *Grandad's Birthday*. La Belle Lily is a daring trapeze performer, and is assisted in her act by Albert, a very droll clown. The new pictures introduced by Weisker Bros.' unequalled Bioscope are certainly very realistic, and form a decidedly attractive entertainment. Also appearing are Miss Ethel Loftus, comedienne and mimic; the Two Wambas, in their capital musical act; and Mr. Bert Lytton, swell comedian.

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—Mr. Charles H. Phelps has brought his latest piece here entitled *One Woman's Wickedness*. It is styled a musical comedy-drama, and includes songs, dances, and specialities. Foremost in the cast we have Mr. Phelps, as Jem Craggs, the escaped convict, assisted materially by Miss Florence Lloyd, the reprehensible Janet Raymond. Then the hero and the heroine have interesting representatives in Mr. Lawrence Brien and Miss Amy Dalby. Mr. Brien was applauded for his painstaking Philip Beaufort; and Miss Dalby fairly fetched the sympathy of the audience. We congratulate Mr. George Byrne on a good portrayal of Lord Fitznoodle; and in the still lighter rôles, Mr. Arthur Ferris, as Larry; and Miss Ethel Astbury, as Jenny Jiggles, fairly convulse the house.

BIRKENHEAD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. Charles Marsh's company is appearing here in *The Priest of the Temple* to the evident satisfaction of large audiences. Mr. Marsh earns premier honours by an able and powerful interpretation of Valerius. The important part of Appius Herdonius is cleverly treated by Mr. Henry Moxon; and Mr. Percy Ballard is well placed as Denis Fronton; Praestantia is charmingly and skilfully acted by Miss Marie North, and a numerous cast includes other efficient artists.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Bella and Bijou, talented vaudeville artistes, are on a welcome return visit; Miss Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten act is also a leading feature, the troupe of clever juveniles giving an interesting and entertaining turn. Harry Mountford and Maude Walsh are a great success in their capital speciality act; and Miss Lily Sharplin is an expert mimic; Mr. Walter King, an amusing comedian, is also here, and an excellent company includes Jack Lane, the Yorkshire rustic; the Paragon Trio of speciality vocalists; Mr. Will Musgrave, character comedian, and the bioscope.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—The last week of *The Babes in the Wood* has been attended by a great influx of patronage, and there is every indication that the pantomime will have a merry wind-up to-night. The military veterans, and other deserving bodies, have been invited to witness the performances this week.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, LIMITED.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—The last week of *Forty Thieves* has been marked by a succession of enthusiastic scenes, and a grand finale for to-night (Saturday), is assured. On Tuesday, Messrs. Brown and Le Clerq took a well deserved benefit, being assisted at a bumper house by the principal artistes from all the music halls and theatres. On several occasions lately the management has, with thoughtful generosity, invited the poor people and children of the various institutions to food and entertainment, besides giving them gifts of money. Needless to say, as in former years, all this has been richly appreciated.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—Messrs. Gerald Alexander and Galwey Herbert's company has supplied light and excellent fare in that most diverting comedy, *Facing the Music*, and large audiences have rallied to their support. Mr. Ernest Cossart, as Mr. John Smith, of the laity, keeps the house merry; Mr. George Percy, as the Rev. John Smith, adds a clever quota to the fun-making; and Mr. Chas. Fancourt as Dick Desmond, Mr. Gerald Alexander as Col. Duncan Smith, and Mr. G. Nelson Wallace as Sergeant Duffell, act well. The ladies, who appear to charming advantage, include Miss Katherine Parry as Mabel, Miss Eve Erskine as Nora, Miss Dolly Beaufoy as Miss Fotheringay, and Miss Rosa Carew as Mrs. Ponting. *My Lady Help* has preceded the comedy.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—Mr. Collingwood's production, *Dick Whittington*, continues to meet with hearty goodwill at every performance, the theatre being crowded nightly.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Walter Melville; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—Mr. Herbert Hollister's company is here in *The Lights o' London*, which continues its hold on the public in the fullest degree. Mr. Henry Lonsdale is greeted with tumultuous cheers for his strenuous acting as Harold Armytage; Miss Jeannie Burgoyne elicits praise and compassion in the character of Bess; Miss Ina Grant scores in the repellent rôle of Hetty Preene; Mr. Riddell Robinson depicts the evil course of Clifford Armytage with notable distinctness, and Mr. Herbert Hollister is seen to genuine advantage as Seth Preene. Mr. Percy Compton as Jarvis, Miss Emilie Dawson as Mrs. Jarvis, and Miss Gladys Murray as Shakespear Smith, are also successful.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben Sydney.—Messrs. Fred Moule and Alfred Denville's company is engaged here in the powerful play, *Bigamy*. Miss Grace Lester, by her clever acting as the bigamist, is a potent factor in the success and interest of the play; Miss Cynthia Mathews as her antithesis, Sylvia Dresden, acts with much taste and sympathy; Miss Lydia Mannington as the "strong woman," Lilian Lambkiss, sustains the humour of the play in a successful way, and is well aided and abetted by Messrs. Alfred Denville and Francis Serle as Cherrybull and Voltaire respectively. Mr. Chas. Burdon shines as Frank Merrivale; and Mr. Monson Thorpe as Sir Charles Dresden, and Mr. Kenneth Smith as Lionel Craven, are among other successful ones.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; Manager, Mr. Dan Barnard.—Messrs. E. Hill-Mitchelson's and Harris Fineberg's company is doing duty here in that excellent and elaborately mounted play, *The Traitor*. Mr. John C. Carlyle acts the hero, Prince Rudolph, and is rewarded with showers of applause for his fine, romantic performance; Miss Ruth Shepherd as the avenger, Zula, thrills the audience to the core with her power and fervour; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan, as the traitor, submits a clever performance; Miss Lily Roselle presents a fine picture of the Countess Zicka; Miss Anena Walton portrays Cen Cen in a charming manner; Miss Hettie Senior wins sympathy and esteem as Elsie Duprey; Messrs. Edward Cowril and Frank Sutherland provide much entertainment in the comic rôles, and Miss Isabel Hunt, Mr. T. W. Hirst, Mr. F. Day, and Cyril Maitland do well.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—An interesting turn is Rousby's electrical panoramic views of Paris, while Tilly Bebe performs with her lions in a daring manner. Elsie Roby returns to delight her audience in her low comedy musical entertainment. Tom Stuart, in his character impersonations of Martin Harvey, Wilson Barrett, &c., is clever. Rich and Rich, The Howards, G. W. Foster, and Ella Retford complete the excellent programme.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Professor Inman Hockinge is causing quite a furore with his electrical apparatus for the cure of paralysis and rheumatism; Lady Julia, the midget monkey, dresses, eats, drinks, and smokes like a human being; Tennyson and Wallis are exceedingly amusing in their songs and patter; while Tom and Marie Motramo are both humorous and musical. Rose Harvey and Alma Obrey are encored for their songs, as also are E. J. Sheldon, Maxwell and Francis, and Bob Baxter, all smart comedians.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The principal item this week is a sketch of the Cromwellian period, *The King's Hat*, which is thoroughly well played by Miss Ethel Cunningham and company. A clever musical entertainment is that of The Harmony Four; The Bounding Pattersons, in their flying bar act, and The Sands, in an acrobatic display, are smart; Mons. Amiel (contortionist), Mdlle. Lillian (trick cyclist), Edith St. Claire (descriptive and burlesque actress), Fred Curran R. Anderson, and Mollie Doon add to the success of the entertainment.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident Manager, Mr. George Foster.—A humorous entertainment of a high order is presented by Nelson Jackson, which is well appreciated; while a smart Society sketch, *The Entr'act*, is acted by Kitts and Windrum. Jennie Belmore is always a favourite. Lilian Lowe, whose sweet voice is heard to advantage, is encored. Other excellent turns are Dion Wade, Billy Hobbs, and Delmore and Wilson, comedians; Hale and Frances, hoop and globe act; and Fred Wilson, ventriloquist.

CURZON HALL.—Hamilton's Excursions are drawing larger audiences than ever. The entertainment is highly interesting, while the variety turns are well applauded.

BLACKBURN. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Business-Manager, Mr. Reginald Yorke.—Mrs. T. Morton Powell's company, in *A Woman's Devotion*, is appearing here this week. As Gilberte Le Grande, Mrs. T. Morton Powell is seen to advantage. Miss Maude S. Drewry gives a pathetic rendering of Maisie Loyale; Mr. George Davis is natural as Richard Chesney; and Mr. Frank R. Robertson is a powerful Philip Dangerfield. Cora Eversleigh is well sustained by Miss Alwynne Ermon; and Mr. Edward Mervyn and Miss Dot Seilby also render good service as Bob Savage and Mrs. Savage.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Messrs. Griffin and Drake are presenting *Dick Whittington* here. Miss Lily Jackson works hard as Dick, and Miss Emmie Hands is good as Alice. There is plenty of good fun for which Mr. Mark Lane, the Cook; Mr. Will Dennis, Idle Jack; and Mr. Ben Ford, Alderman Fitzwarren, receive much appreciation.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—The programme here includes: The Brothers Horne in their amusing sketch, *The Biter Bit*; Clemart, with an excellent ventriloquial turn; John Holland and Co., in their sketch, *My Friend, Boots*; The Lannous, high pedestal dancers; D. W. Watson, cornet soloist; Harry Thurston, mimic; Eller and Rose, comedians and dancers; and Janet H. Reynolds, vocalist.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company are paying a return visit here with *The Manxman*. Mr. Cross gives a fine performance of Pete. Kate Cregean finds a suitable exponent in Miss Minnie Waterford, who earns high honours. The difficult rôle of Philip Christian is handled by Mr. William Burchill with marked success, whilst Mr. Henry Heller gives a clever impersonation of Cæsar Cregean. Mr. Edward McLean, as Loss Christian, and Miss Nancy Mitchell, as Nancy, also play their parts well.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*In the Ranks*, played by Messrs. Arthur Carlton and H. Armitage's company, is the attraction here. Mr. Edward Lloyd gives a skilful interpretation of Ned Drayton, and Miss Edith Blair-Staples contributes a pleasing portrayal of Ruth Herrick. Mr. Cecil Morand, as Joe Buzzard, and Miss Harriet Russell, as Mrs. Buzzard, are responsible for the merriment, whilst several other parts are in efficient hands.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Mr. Edwin Boyde is probably the favourite of many excellent turns here this week. Lily Lena is a vivacious comedienne, whose songs are well received, whilst Griffin and Marks find favour as acrobatic comedians. Imro Fox is a clever conjurer; Eileen Douglas sings nicely; Mamie Cannon is successful in a little sketch, entitled *Life in a Flat*; and Arthur Stacey and Harry Nation are both good comedians.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. E. Good.—A capital attraction has been provided here for the first four nights of the week by Mr. Fred J. Kirke and company, with the musical comedy drama, *The Naval Detective*, Mr. Kirke appearing with success in the title rôle. On Friday, *Our Sailor Lad* was presented.

ALEXANDER HALL.—Proprietors, Blyth Theatre Co., Ltd.—Comical Bob Anderson, an old favourite here, opened on Monday with a good array of variety talent, including The Four Andys, Risley artistes; Branche Haddon, vocalist; Bob and Bob, patterers; Walter Payne's living pictures; McAskell, comic ventriloquist; Bert Denstone, comedian; and Rappo and Ella, equilibrists.

BOLTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company (including Mr. George Harvard, Mr. Fred. G. Evison, and Miss Mildred Carr), is here with *The Midnight Mail*, a drama from the pen of Mr. Arthur Shirley.

GRAND THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A capital programme is presented here this week, the chief attraction being Lockhart's elephants, introduced by Miss Mabelle, trainer. Also in the bill are Bijou Russell, sand dancer and coon singer; the McConnell Trio, in a laughable comedietta, *A Musical Mistake*; the Sisters Marion, juvenile vocalists; the Seabornes, equilibrists and acrobats; Miss Emily Adair, comedienne; Baker Melphor, baritone vocalist; the Wedburns, vocalists and comedians; Andy Fagan, Frank Cumminger, and the Imperial Bioscope.

BOSCOMBE. — HIPPODROME. — Owner and Licensee, Mr. F. Mouillot; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—Captain Gerrard, with his lions and tiger dogs, tops the bill here this week with a capital turn. Another popular item is the acrobatic performance of the Abdullah Arabs, including Little Fatima, a wonderful child. Will Driscoll, comedian; the Davenports, magicians and illusionists, and the Sisters Judge, with their parrots and cockatoos, are also much appreciated; as are the turns of Arthur Lawrence, actor vocalist; and Leo, the Australian variety picture artiste. Ruffell's bioscope continues to please with a new set of films.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—Mr. Charles Macdona's principal company, in *Three Little Maids*, opened here on Monday, and proved very attractive. As the three little maids, Miss Elsa Brettingham, Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald, and Miss Shelley Calton were quite excellent, and the three protegées of Lady St. Mallory were well represented by Miss Laura Wright, Miss Rita Narcelli, and Miss Jay. Mr. Arthur Longley as Lord Cheyne was very droll, and thoroughly sustained the interest which properly belongs to the part. The Cupid of Mr. Gus Oxley was to the liking of the audience; and Miss Laura Wright was particularly excellent as Gretchen. Appreciation may also be expressed of the remainder of a clever combination, among whom Miss Maud Shelton, Mr. Frank Lincoln, Mr. Charles Leverton, and M. Alex. Chentrens stood out prominently. Special praise is due to Mr. Julian Rutt as conductor of the orchestra.

BRADFORD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Pemberton.—The present week is finally announced as the last of the successful run of Mr. Hart's delightful pantomime, *Cinders*. Mr. Carlton's entertaining spoofing has extended to great proportions, and he is perplexing the audiences nightly with his marvellous illusion, "Kwerry?"

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Messrs. Harris Fineberg and John F. Preston presented on Monday for the first time here the realistic drama, *The Voice of the People*. Barry Phelps, a man of many parts, is a notable effort by Mr. J. Monkhouse. Mr. W. Howard Barlow is effective in the rôle of the villain, Steve Morris. The outcast, Liz, is cleverly played by Miss Gertrude Bonsor; Miss Violet Lawson is effective as the interesting working girl, Mary Maynard. Mr. Harry Rutland, in the character of a Sweater; Mr. Dan F. Roe, as a Society Swell; and Mr. J. Duncan, as the Rev. Meredith, accentuate the interest; and Miss Madge Nelson and Miss Annie Thomas well supply a large fund of humour.

EMPIRE. — Lessees, Moss' Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. J. Kelly.—A welcome return visit is being paid this week by Alexandre and Hughes, who are as popular as ever with their music and humour. Daisy Ray is seen to advantage in coon songs and sand dances; in comic song and manipulation of the hat, Chris Richards is diverting; the Burnellys are very clever acrobats on stilts; a delightful Romany scene by charming Gipsy Woolf and pretty gipsy maidens earns much applause. The Tramp on the piano, James Stewart, is original and funny; there is much humour in the sketch, *Two Old Rogues*, by Driscoll and Beattie; in an equilibristic and hand balancing act, The Three Navarros give a wonderfully clever performance; Paul Mill's comic vocalism is an acceptable item; and The Sisters Meredith's contributions in the way of Indian songs and quick change vocalism are tuneful and humorous too.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. E. Berry.—The strong attraction here this week is Aga, the suspended maiden, a remarkable illusion, which is clever and perlexing; The Foros are clever rifle shots, and they are unique in their equilibristic feats with picturesque surroundings; The Brothers Les Bois do some diverting tricks as jugglers; Alicia Mayne's illustrated songs are pleasing; Olga gives a good trapeze performance; in finished style, Belrose and De Velin sing popular duets; Ida Ross contributes smart Tyrolean songs; Starr and Jerome's duets and sand dancing are acceptable items; and the vocal and instrumental turn by the Darktown Entertainers is a contribution in comedy which, in its line, is diverting.

BRIGHTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Messrs. Charles Frohman and Arthur Chudley's company is here this week with *The Duke of Killicrankie*. Mr. Scott Craven imparts many artistic touches to his portrayal of the Duke; Mr. Arthur Grenville gives a very humorous impersonation of Mr. Henry Pitt-Welby, M.P.; Miss Doris Templeton makes a charming Lady Henrietta Addison; and Miss Aida Jenoure is an admirable Mrs. Mulholland. Among those who render able support, special praise is due to Mr. Pat Newall as Mr. Ambrose Hicks; and Mr. Guy B. Watson as Alexander MacBayne. The farcical comedy is preceded by *Barbara*. At Thursday's special London matineé, the St. James's Theatre company gave a performance of *Mollentrave on Women*.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—Mr. Frederick E. Philpott's company opened here on Monday with *The Girl from Japan*. Mr. Frank Sherlock afforded much amusement as Bingle; Mr. George Hudson was well suited as Lord Allenbury; Mr. Charles Lupton, as Sir Mulberry Flippington; and Mr. Colet Dare, as Horation Binks, submitted admirable impersonations; Mr. Percy Baverstock's General Baugh was a clever character study; and Mr. H. Carlyle Pritchard made an entertaining Rev. John Smith. Miss Rita Tomkins, a charming Polly Perkins, sang with marked success; Miss Dorothy Glenton was a bright and winsome Violet (the girl from Japan); and Miss Florence Nelson was effective as Lady Flippington. Miss Jean Van Dalle contributed some graceful dancing. The choruses were well sung, and the duties of conductor were ably carried out by Mr. Harry Richardson.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—Maggie Duggan gives her amusing songs with distinct success; Los Hermanos Granada, South American wonders, are clever performers, their sensational leaps and somersaults arousing much enthusiasm; Lydia Dreams is well received in her ventriloquial production, *The Last Call*; Alice Lloyd achieves great success in her latest London répertoire; The Golden Michalinis are very comic equilibrists and jugglers; The Sisters Lunelle (Louie and Nellie) are charming vocalists and dancers; the McKays are responsible for a clever turn of dry comedy and wet paint; Fielding and Hull are capital vocal comedy entertainers; Alice Digby is a charming comedienne and graceful dancer; Woodhouse and Wells are humorous comedians and patterers; and the Alhambra pictures are interesting.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Miss Ina Rozant and company are here this week with *The Designers*. Mr. W. Hargreaves gives a fine representation of John Huggins; Miss Ina Rozant is thoroughly artistic as Miss Rachel Huggins; and Mr. William Luff, as Wilfrid Fry, merits unstinted praise; Miss Dorothy Sidney is a pleasing Mabel; and Mr. Herbert Lloyd's Roodge is well played. Other parts are effectively sustained by Mr. E. O'Grady, Mr. Arthur Dennis, Mr. Frank Lester, and Mr. Gerald Clarke.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Barrasford Operatic company (Mdlle. Bertrin, Mdlle. Lozini, M. Cauveren, and M. Auguste Delcoin) are here for the third week, and are highly successful in selections from *Il Trovatore*; Mons. Ernesto is a very skilful juggler and musical equilibrist; Bertha Pertina, the dancing phenomenon, submits a very clever turn; the Brothers Lavelle are very smart and amusing acrobats; The Toreadors appear as burlesque bull fighters; The Vaudeville Trio are excellent vocalists, comedians and dancers; Gus Harris, Hebrew delineator, is warmly applauded for his rendering of "There may be some good in a Jew"; Harry Granton's company, including Mr. Edmund Campbell, evoke hearty laughter in the farcical comedy, *Packing Up*; Smaun Sing Hpoo, the famous Burmese Midget, excites much interest; Harry Drew, the well-known Welsh basso, is an excellent vocalist; and the programme concludes with animated pictures. Last week the sale of oil paintings, executed by V. J. De Henau, the armless wonder, realised £6 19s.; Mr. J. L. Toole contributed £1, and Mrs. Barrasford increased the sum to £10, a cheque for that amounted being forwarded to the Women's Hospital, West-street, Brighton.

COLISEUM.—Manager, Mr. C. Smith-Wilkes.—The Three Sisters Sprightly (Maud, Florrie, and Lily) are very popular, bright, brisk and up-to-date comediennes; Edward Ind, comedian, sings in capital style; Frances Manners, burlesque actress, is a charming vocalist; Jason and Jones, comedy duologue artistes, afford great amusement; Barrington is a clever trick pianist; Nellie Randall is a dainty and winsome comedienne; Charles Barko, the human lion, gives imitations of animals, birds, and musical instruments; the Itrams are admirable gymnasts, acrobats, jugglers and equilibrists; and the Coliseum pictures are highly interesting and amusing.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—There was a good attendance here on Tuesday at a flying matinée by Mr. George Alexander, assisted by Miss Margaret Busse, Mr. Leslie Faber, Mr. Herbert Dausey, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss Constance Drever, Miss Kate Rooney, Mr. Harold Montague, and Mr. Frank Boor. The leading attraction was a one-act play by W. J. Locke, entitled *The Flower o' the Rox*, in which Mr. George Alexander and Miss Lilian Braithwaite distinguished themselves, the other parts being capitally played by Miss Margaret Busse, Mr. Leslie Faber, and Mr. Hubert Dausey. Mr. Alexander gave several recitations in his best style; Miss Kate Rooney sang with much expression, "Out on the Rocks" and "The Lost Chord"; Miss Constance Drever charmed with the "Jewel Song" (Faust), and "April Morn"; Mr. Frank Boor successfully contributed "I'll sing thee songs of Araby," and two old English melodies arranged by H. Lane Wilson; and Mr. Harold Montague gave an entertainment, "Impressions of a Musical At-Home." Mr. Frank Mummery presided at the piano. The matinées provided by Mr. Chute are much appreciated, they are always enjoyable, and so attract large audiences. This is the last week of *The Sleeping Beauty*. The attendance during the run has been well maintained, and the opinion is unanimous that Mr. Chute has again beaten his own record for magnificent and tasteful staging. Miss Lil Hawthorne had a very successful benefit on Friday in last week; the house was packed in all parts, and there were extra attractions. Miss Hawthorne has worked very hard throughout, and is deservedly popular. Miss Zena Dare's benefit is announced for Friday, and Mr. Horace Mills is billed to appear.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—On Monday Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company appeared here in the new Oriental drama, *A Traitor Prince*, by a local author, Mr. George A. De Grey. The play is nicely staged, the final scene representing the Sacred Temple of Yama, God of Death, India, which is stated to be an exact representation of a temple now in existence in India. The principal characters are carefully taken by Miss Lilian Roseberry, Miss Beatrice Western, Mr. O. M. Montanini, Mr. Alec Temple, Mr. E. Carter Livesey (who produced the piece), Mr. Austin Mortimer, Mr. William Artrand, Mr. Frank Fuller, Miss Jane Massey, and Miss Cissie Cleveland, who also scores in a song and dance.

EMPIRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Kelly and Gillette do an excellent turn of acrobatics, &c., in their speciality billiard table act. Robertus and Wilfreds, assisted by a well-trained fox terrier, are very expert in the manipulation of india-rubber balls. Mdlle. Aladina has some highly trained cockatoos, which are both clever and amusing; the O'Leary's are smart acrobats and hand balancers; Charles West is successful as an impersonator; V. I. De Henan does some quick landscape painting with his feet, his pictures being really good, and he also performs various difficult acts; Miss Carlotta Leoy scores with her latest success, "The Gambling Men"; Sid Bandon, comedian, pleases all parts of the house; and Bob Hamilton, Scottish comedian and concertinist, does a good turn. The entertainment, two shows a night, concludes with some good animated pictures.

PALACE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary, Mr. F. I. V. Welchman.—The Alfonso Trio present a smart juggling pantomime, it is both expert and amusing; Margaret Ashton, American comedienne, has some pleasing songs, which go well with all parts of the house; Mdlle. Yvette has some highly trained dogs and ponies; Dolly, Agnes and Maud, singing cardboard boxmakers, please and amuse; the Five Whiteleys have a good pot-pourri act; Belle Braham, pictorial songstress, obtains applause; Nelson Hardy is a capable ventriloquist; Tom Johnston, actor vocalist, &c., does an agreeable turn; and Harry Bedford, comedian, is popular. The performance concludes with a selection of animated pictures.

BROUGHTON. — VICTORIA, LTD. — Managing Director and Licensee, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. B. Astin.—The realistic sporting play entitled *Rogues of the Turf* attracted a large house on Monday. The theatre is near the Manchester Racecourse, and the piece having several incidents in the locality forms an attractive entertainment, showing as it does the shady side of a great national sport. Mr. John F. Preston as Joe Flaxman, an old trainer, plays in his usual masterly style. The acting of Miss Hilda Shirley as the unscrupulous bigamist Marion is excellent. Mr. Hamilton Deane as Captain Dudley Clifton and Mr. H. H. Rignold as Moses Solomons are successful in portraying the chief rogues. Mr. Ernest R. Allen is an excellent Arthur Somerton, and Nellie Flaxman is charmingly presented by Miss Maude Stewart Drewry. The comedy business of Miss Mabelle F. Barlow as Phillis and Mr. Harry Benson as Sam Flaxman is duly appreciated. Mr. Hardy Macro as Sir Gerald Heathcote, Mr. Charlie Jackson as Peter Dawson, Mr. Alfred Wade as Steve Burton, and Mr. A. Hartley as Jem Strongarm give adequate support.

BURNLEY.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Culeen; Manager, Mr. James E. Culeen.—*The Shadows of a Great City*, played by Messrs. Mitchell and Belton's company, was warmly welcomed on a return visit to this popular house on Monday. Tom Cooper is well presented by Mr. Howell Travis, his acting being easy and natural; a popular representation is that given by Mr. Harry Tilbury as Jim Farren; Mr. George Mitchell as Arkwright is well suited to the requirements of the character; Mr. Horatio Sinclair as George Benson presents an ideal villain; Miss Mary Dawson gives an exceedingly good portrayal of Biddy Rooney; Miss Belle Tilbury possesses all the power and pathos necessary for the dual-rôle of Annie and Nellie Standish; Mr. John Belton proves a satisfactory Abe Nathan; and Mr. Ed. Hill and Mr. Frank Harvey render good support as Crouch and Downey.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Mr. Leslie Norman's company in the musical comedy *A Trip to Chinatown* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Chas. Sequin is a decided success as Welland Strong, and Mr. Jerrold Manville is amusing as Ben Gay; Mr. Leslie Norman as Rashleigh Gay, and Mr. Oswald Gray as Saxon Blood, both sing in good style; Mr. Will Smith and Mr. S. Champion as Noah Heap and Slavin Payne respectively render valuable aid. A droll little fellow is Mr. W. Atom as James of Chinatown. Miss Harriet Fawn, as Mrs. Guyer, makes a charming widow and is heard to advantage in her various musical numbers; Miss Daisy Revitt is dainty and chic as Flirt, and the rest of the parts are in capable hands. The Three Canadian Belles give some clever dances.

BURY (LANCS).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*Dan the Rake*, a musical play, occupies the boards here this week. Mr. J. Rice Cassidy, who takes the part of Dan, is exceedingly funny, and is ably assisted by Miss Lilian Clare, as Madge. Mr. Norman Hall scores in the part of Achille, a French cook; Mr. Frederick is sufficiently villainous as Captain Cooper. Mr. Frank Orchard, Mr. Frank Copeland, Miss Florence Halton, and Miss Ada Roscoe are also in the cast.

OLYMPIA CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The star turn here this week is Charles Morritt, the clever conjurer. Others are Ruby Bijou, dancer; Albert Brasque and Cora Duncan in a sketch entitled *A Dressing Room Romance*; The Two Neros, acrobats; The Autos; and the Boris Fridkin Cossack Troupe, singers and acrobatic dancers, who are all good.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. Broadhead.—Dr. Carl Herman, hypnotist and electrician, is here, and his operations upon rheumatic and paralytic subjects have so far been successful. Other turns include Keene and Adams, comedy entertainers; The Three Dorians, gymnasts; and Emma Don and company, vocalists.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—The stage here was occupied on Monday and Tuesday by amateurs, who gave performances in aid of the Cambridge District Nursing Association. The first piece presented was *The Ladies' Battle*.

HIPPODROME.—Mr. Anthony Powell announces this, as his concluding week here. The stock company, including Miss Marguerite Doris, Herr Footit, Mdlle. Eva, Mons. Harry, Lilian Sivado, Miss Duchess, and the Hippodrome pictures, have been successful, while Handy Andy and the Bros. Austin keep the audience well amused. Mr. Powell is an efficient ringmaster.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*Veronique* is being exquisitely presented here by Mr. George Dance's company. It is beautifully mounted, elaborately costumed, and superbly acted. Miss Ruth Lincoln, in the title-rôle, gives a charming portrayal; her captivating manner, combined with her sweet voice, making her performance perfect. Miss Lena Maitland, as the Countess, displays her vocal ability to great advantage; and Miss Maud Boyd, as Agatha, also wins approbation for her excellent singing. Mr. Leslie Holland, as Coquenard, receives an enviable welcome, and adds to his already wide reputation by his excruciatingly amusing impersonation; Mr. Ivan Berlyn does exceedingly well as Mons. Loustot; Mr. Scott Russel sings and acts with conspicuous success as Florestan; and Mr. Tom Shelford is particularly well suited in the part of Seraphin. A delightful little actress and dancer is found in Miss Gracie Sinclair as Denise. The chorus work, like that of the principals, is exceptionally good.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business Manager, Mr. Robert Sawin.—*A London Actress* is being well presented here by a company of talented artistes, including Miss Emma Litchfield, the clever authoress, and Mr. Stuart Cleveland. Good business is being done.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—The celebrated impersonator, Ludwig Amann, is making a welcome appearance here; Paul Sandor's entertaining miniature circus; the well-known musical Grimaldis; the Bros. Webb; Unthan, the armless wonder, more astonishing than ever; and Selkirk's novel juvenile spectacle, *The Handy Man*, are all capital and well applauded turns, while other excellent performances are given by Walker and May, eccentric coloured singers and dancers; Pat Carey, the refined Irish comedian; Boy Glen, an interesting racontour; Johnny Gilmore, the quaint comedian; Signorina Verera, the charming Italian chanteuse; and the American bioscope, with an excellent display of pictures.

CARLISLE. — ALGIE'S HIPPODROME. — Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Veitch; Manager, Mr. C. Algie. — The *habitués* of this popular place of amusement are well catered for this week. Mons. Courto still tops the bill, and his jockey act meets with enthusiastic commendation. Miss Maud Dewey is paying a return visit with her marvellous imitations of well-known birds; Mr. Dan Noble keeps the house in good humour by

Singer, magician and illusionist, introduces many novelties; Ada Seale, vocalist, contributes two good songs; Loudoun Cameron, spectacular magician, also gives a clever turn; and Rita Resdan, an impersonator of male characters, is most successful. Sandy and Carl, speciality comedians, are good; and Long Amos, comedian, creates much fun.

COVENTRY.—Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Bennett.—The powerful drama entitled *The Passion of Life* was accorded an enthusiastic welcome here on Monday. Mr. Hugh Carmichael is capital in the rôle of Horace O'Neal; Miss Nelson Ramsay shows capability as the hero's wife, Belle O'Neal; Mr. Talieseyn G. Davies deserves credit for his representation of the adventurer, Ralph Flint; while Mr. Harry Delmar is equally successful as the confederate, Abdullah. Miss Agnes Collier is a charming favourite as Princess Nitra; Mr. Herbert Fuller and Miss Emily Lewis are responsible for the humour, as Dan Grouts and Tilly Tripp respectively.

CREWE.—Lyceum Theatre.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—Mr. G. T. Sante and company have been appearing here this week with *The Life of a Showman*. Mr. Sante, who plays the title-rôle, exhibits some clever feats with heavy weights; the Bros. Testo produce a comic musical interlude with success; the parts of Dickie, as played by Master Harry Warden, and Lynette by Miss May Warden, are greatly appreciated; Mr. Sam Arthur as Hendrick Marais gives a good portrayal of the heavy villain, being well supported by Miss Amy McNeill as Agatha Winter. Miss A. Granville is suitably cast as Angelina Mutton.

CROOK.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Wallace Davidson.—An agreeable change is made this week by the engagement of Mr. A. E. Smith's company in the pantomime, *Aladdin*. Miss Elsie Douglas makes a graceful and dainty hero, her singing and dancing being excellent; Miss Maud Bettison, as the Princess, displays a good voice; Miss Fanny Douglas is a smart Pekoe; and Mr. Fred Ramsdale is clever as the Widow Twankey. Foremost amongst the specialities is Madame Helen Godfrey, a clever lady instrumentalist. Miss Elsie Douglas, an exceptionally good rag-time dancer; the Snowdrops, expert dancers; and Arnold, in a wonderful illusion act.

CROYDON.—Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Lawrence.—Mrs. Lewis Waller and company are winning golden opinions here this week, the attractions being *Zaza*, *Vilma*, and *The Admiral's Lady*. In *Vilma*, Mrs. Waller gave a well-thought-out impersonation of the title-rôle, which was full of skilful touches. Mr. Eric Mayne distinguished himself as Lieut. Count Alexis Souvaroff; the parts of Lieut. Vladimir Olitsky and Lieut. Nicholas Boroff, were safe in the care of Messrs. Edgar Coyne and Edmund Waller; Mr. J. Hennessey acted earnestly as Colonel Mazoff; Mr. Strickland was commanding as the Grand Duke Ivan; Mr. Frederick Jacques was efficient as Fadei; and Mr. H. Gomer May spoke his lines with effect as Peter Varensky. Miss Rosemary Rees acted with judgment and taste as the Countess Souvaroff; Miss Ethel Warwick's Baroness Olga Boroff was full of interest; Miss Minnie Rayner was a womanly Madame Varensky; and Miss Kate Kearney was of valuable assistance as Natouchka.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company is giving commendable renderings here of *Her Wedding Day* and *Her Fatal Past*. In the last-named, Mr. Percy Bell acts with skill and ability as Mark Desmond; Mr. Charles H. Lester gives a graphic portrayal of Gilbert Farnside; Mr. T. Edward Ward provokes hilarity as Jonathan Buckstone Nobbs; Mr. Reginald South is capital as P. C. Smithers; and Mr. Victor Mason is well placed as Dicky Bird. Miss Ward is quite in touch with her audience in the rôle of Honor Symes; Miss Marguerite Thorne is satisfactory as Martha Springwell; Miss Amy Maitland is praiseworthy as Kitty Springwell; and Little Holly Hazlewood is clever as Leonard.

Palace Theatre of Varieties, Limited.—Resident General-Manager, Mr. Eustace H. Jay.—Mr. Jay is being complimented on the excellence of his programme here this week. Peggy Lennie and Walter Hart bring down the house in their novel fantasy, *The Sea Nymph;* Rosie Lloyd, comedienne, is very good; Espinosa and Neilson are smart speciality dancers; Forrest and King are expert eccentric dancers; Horace White, ventriloquist, shows great skill; Tots Davis, comedienne, is a warm favourite; Maud Venn is a frolicsome comedienne; the New Macs are knockabout comedians and dancers, who would be hard to beat; the Raies, comedians and dancers, are received with approbation; Fanny Robina scores with her ditties, "Don't fly away Robin," and "My Little Baby Boy"; Stern and Stern are a unique pair of comedians; the Sisters Dorrell are fascinating duettists and dancers; Silent Tait is capital in a comic juggling act; Pattie Bella is a bright serio; and Mr. Fred. S. Partridge's orchestra works well together.

DARLINGTON.—Theatre Royal.—Manageress, Mrs. T. W. S. Jennings.—The boards here this week are occupied by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company in *Bound to Win*. Mr. F. G. Kimberley appears successfully as Harry Lyndon; Mr. Sydney Rennef contributes some good acting as Squire Forbes; Mr. F. Strickland is excellent as Philip Ayre; Mr. James Hont is quite at home as Ned Oakley; as Horatio Buffit Mr. Edgar Morgan puts in some capable work; Mr. Horace Custine is smart as Willie Wilkins; Mr. Fred Tenaur makes a good Joe Blake; and Master Harry Hont deserves praise for his "turn" in Act III. As Marion Forbes, Miss Lottie Addison (Mrs. F. G. Kimberley) is seen to advantage; Miss Kathleen Eckhart is well suited in the part of Gladys Orme; and Miss Edie Macklin, as Winnie Oakley, is a great favourite. A special feature is the introduction of two thoroughbred horses.

DARWEN.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. E. L. Ormsby.—Mr. Charles Harrington's company in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is the attraction here this week. Uncle Tom is capitally depicted by Mr. J. Carr; Mr. J. H. Renney gives an excellent impersonation of Phineas Fletcher; Mr. Charles Harrington renders the rôle of Mr. St. Clair with good taste; Mr. Guy P. Ellis makes a clever exponent of George Harris; and Mr. J. H. Rodgers is good as Legree. Mr. Fred Charles is funny as Marks, making the most of his opportunities. Eliza Harris is capably portrayed by Miss Hetties Johnson; and Topsy is cleverly undertaken by Miss Sylvia Stella; who dances and sings with excellent taste.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—This week local playgoers are being treated to a third spell of pantomime. *The Babes in the Wood* is the title, and the company has been organised by Mr. H. A. Jordison. Miss Ada Martine plays Maid Marion exceedingly well, and is, moreover, a charming vocalist and dancer; Miss Madge Daley, as Robin Hood, gives a dashing assumption; Miss Edie Dunker is a delightful Venus. The Two Babes are impersonated by Miss Dolly Cullen and Miss Elsie Jordison, who are in every way highly praiseworthy. The Misses Ethel and Bella Brookland in their respective rôles are responsible for some clever and graceful dancing; and Miss Kitty Caffrey is an attractive Marjorie. Messrs. Cullen and Carthy, who enact the two robbers, are extremely diverting, their jokes and patter having the merit of a comparative newness. Mr. Edward Avon, who plays Baron Toodle, is, in his particular way, unique, and he shines both as a comedian and dancer. Mr. Rowland Hill does well as Peggy, the Schoolmistress, making the most of his opportunities. A special word should also be given Little Cluley, whose impersonation of the Chief Constable is most humorous; indeed, he is as funny a little fellow as has been seen locally for many a long day. Several remaining parts are all well handled, and there are some capital turns by the Jordison Empire Troupe of dancers. Mr. Geo. Chanti gives his illustrations of the national dances and costumes of various peoples of the globe, with quick changes of scene and costume. His performance is as surprising as it is admirable. The production is thoroughly well staged.

Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The attraction here this week is the Imperial Boys' Orchestra, under the conductorship of Herr Wilhelm Linde. Their renderings of several selections are heartily appreciated. Charles Ulrick, described as The Barrel King, also gives a clever performance; The Fitzroys, society gymnasts, are skilful and graceful performers on the trapeze; Ralston Bros., introducing their chorus sensation, are clever and entertaining. Beatie Foster is successful as a descriptive vocalist; and Wallace Whitney, eccentric character comedian, and Jack Manley, comedian, both merit praise. The animated pictures add largely to the success of the programme.

DEWSBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Resident Manager, Mr. J. Herbert Asquith.—*Florodora*, under Mr. Wentworth Croke's management, is paying a third visit here. As Dolores, Miss Leonora Grieve sustains this rôle admirably, and is also heard to advantage. Miss Daisy Byford, as Angela, is distinctly good, and receives much support from Mr. Derick Knowles as Arthur Donegal. Miss Rene Steadman adds materially to the general success by her careful handling of Lady Holyrood; and Mr. T. Ellis-Buxton, as Gilfain, is consistent throughout. Mr. Albert Bruno, a new Tweedlepunch, evokes much genuine mirth. Frank Abercoed, in the hands of Mr. Cyril Dare, receives careful treatment. Mr. P. Howard Sturgess returns as business manager for Mr. Croke.

Hippodrome.—General Manager, Mr. G. Weldon.—A distinct success is being attained here by Gillin, a really clever and original ventriloquist. The O'Malleys, in their eccentric comedy act, are smart; Carrie Leslie, ballad vocalist, has sensible songs; Calmon, the wizard of the wheel, shows his skill as a trick cyclist; and J. T. Willcox, comedian, has a taking and refined turn. Senorita Fillis, globe performer, is distinctly clever; and Cohen and Page, society artists, with Louis Murray, actor-vocalist, and the Bioscope, worked by Mr. Harris, make up a sound and attractive programme.

DONCASTER.—New Grand Theatre and Opera House, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Ample delectation is provided here this week by a variety combination. Staig's motoring in mid-air causes a furore; Barney Noble, character comedian, is effective; Olive Poole, comedienne and clog dancer, is excellent. Mannering and Anderson, in the farcical sketch, *The Other Charlie*, convulse the house. George Wyres, a quaint comedian; Reg Bolton, comedian and patterer; Jay Lawrier, in the laughable sketch, *An Extra Turn*; and Billy Kass and Co., in *The Hot Member*, are all well received.

DOVER.—Theatre Royal.—Mr. J. D. Hunter's company opened here on Monday with *Aladdin*. The pantomime is staged with all the careful attention to detail so long associated with Mr. Hunter's production, and the whole performance is full of life and go. The cast has been carefully selected. Miss M. Sadie makes a dainty and captivating hero, and renders her songs in capital style, being repeatedly encored. She is considerably assisted by the excellent acting and charming personality of Miss Elsa Brull as the Princess Balbroubador, their numerous duets being particularly pleasing. Miss Vera Dudley, as Pekoe, proves herself a smart dancer, and Miss Ivy Bolton, as Nicey Picey, plays the part with unusual vivacity and animation. Miss Gertie McQueen's cultured voice is heard to advantage in a song entitled, "Always"; and the Four Sisters McQueen deserved commendation for their portrayal of the parts of the Genii of Lamp and Ring. Mr. J. D. Hunter, the possessor of a rich vein of suave humour, is irresistibly funny as Widow Twankay. A clever comedian, Mr. Dick Tubb is entrusted with the part of the Vizier and is exceedingly amusing; Mr. Fred Boulton, as the Emperor, is genuinely humorous; and much laughter is caused by the antics and practical jokes of Mr. George Mayer and Ben Boden as Wishee and Washee, two Chinese constabulary. Mr. Victor Vernon is mirth provoking as Abanazar, the magician, and wins success with his admirably rendered comic songs. The specialities include Mdlle. Bartenelli, an exceedingly graceful contortionist; the Verona Jap Quartet of Lady Dancers; the Four Sisters McQueen, operatic vocalists, and an extremely pretty spectacular finale, The Feast of Lanterns.

DUBLIN.—Gaiety Theatre.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Limited; General Manager, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. C. W. Somerset and company opened here on Monday with *The Sorrows of Satan*. Mr. C. W. Somerset gives a realistic impersonation of Prince Lucio Aramon, and Mr. Talbot Homewood appears with success as Paul Carruthers. Mr. Richard Norton admirably portrays the part of Crafton Lyle, and Miss Agnes Russell is effective as Margaret Forster. Lord John Wellington Burrows is played in an able manner by Mr. Keith Fraser, and as Mary (Margaret's child), Miss Daisy O'Neill is excellent. Mr. W. Rotherham, as Peter Wurrell and Mr. J. Malcolm Watson, as the Rev. Mr. Starkie, are both capital in their respective parts; and Miss Leah Marlborough makes an efficient Lady Delia Dragnette. Mr. Louis Downs is good as John Grabley, and the rôles of the Hon. Ethel Cholmondeley and Mother Wurrell are well sustained by the Misses Geraldine Somerset and J. Burnside.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot.—A farcical comedy, *While the Cat's Away*, and *Heart of Gold*, a one-act play, were produced here on Monday evening. Notices of these new plays will be found in another column.

Queen's Royal Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; General Manager, Mr. Kennedy Miller.—Mr. Kennedy Miller's annual benefit took place here on Monday night, when an attractive programme was presented to a large audience. The popular Irish drama, *Kathleen Mavourneen*, was played by Mr. Kennedy Miller's company, with much success, and the variety artists from the Empire and Tivoli theatres, together with the local talent who appeared, added considerably to the night's entertainment.

Empire Palace Theatre.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. S. Figgis.—At this popular establishment, the principal item is supplied by the Boisset Troupe, in *The Wild West*, which causes roars of laughter. The Sisters Neilson, comediennes and dancers, have many admirers; and Harry Grey, the Australian nugget, is well received. The Two Bostons, comedians, score a success; and Miss Helen Martin, ballad vocalist, merits applause. Victor Travers, eccentric comedian, is going strong; and Lulu Gould, who remains from last week, is as pleasing as ever. My Fancy is an expert dancer; and the Empire pictures are also good.

Tivoli Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Mr. and Mrs. Gene Hughes head the bill here this week, and meet with a warm reception. The musical turn of Silvo is appreciated; and Johnny Chippendale, comedian, is well received. The Narow Bros., knockabout cyclists, meet with success; and Carlotta Mayson is a capital comedy vocalist. Onda and Leon, conversational gymnasts, meet with approval; and Mamie Iris sings and dances in pleasing style. Harry Nelson is an amusing comedian; and Alec Aubrey, gymnast, and Mdlle. de Vena, club juggler, are also appearing.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The company engaged here includes Madam Hypa, clairvoyant; Abe Laxey, comedian; Sivane and Fieldon, comedy duo; Prof. Anderson, ventriloquist; Eugene, palmist; and Oreste, musical clown.

Samuels' Exhibition Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. S. Samuels. — The following artists are appearing here: Leon and Leoni, musical eccentrics; Kitty Lacelles, serio; Paul Pryde, comedian; Miss May Ashton, ballad vocalist; George Harcourt, instrumentalist; the Widerauxs, illusionists; and Sheelah, palmist.

DUDLEY.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—*The Village Blacksmith* is paying a first visit here this week. Mr. Samuel Livesay, as John Armstrong, acted in a bold and convincing style; Mr. Jos. Carter, as Captain Leo, made a typical stage villain; Mr. Fred Wells did well as Lucas Marlow; Mr. George Campbell worked hard as Billy Twigg; and Miss Laura Walker gave a powerful portrayal of the much persecuted heroine, Kate Strong.

Empire.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom Pritchard.—An exceptionally strong programme is provided at this house this week. The Elliotts, in addition to their marvellous musical abilities, give a bicycle turn that has never before been equalled in this town, each member performing with grace, ease, and agility tricks that appear impossible. The Two Leons are clever duettists and dancers; and Billy Williams is an Australian comedian with some good patter. Marie Reeve is a pretty little comedienne, who dances cleverly; Newham and Latimar are amusing duettists; George Formby is aptly described as a favourite comedian; and Mitzi, a Japanese juggler; and Melita, international dancer, complete the bill.

DUMFRIES.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. Henry Eglington's company under the direction of Messrs. J. C. Vaughan and Edward Heanley, opened here on Monday in *When the Lights are Low*. Mr. Edward Heanley was successful as Guy Goldsworthy; Mr. Dick Seddon was humorous as Willie Wilkens; Mr. Edward Millins, as Donald Macpherson, was well received. Miss Grace Baring was natural in her portrayal of Nan Christie; Little Mabel Ronald, as Stella Goldsworthy, played the part in a very pathetic manner. *A Fool's Paradise* was billed for Thursday and Friday.

DUNDEE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; General-Manager, Mr. Sandon Perkins.—Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer and company are located here this week. On Monday, *Mary, Queen of Scots* was produced, in which Mrs. Palmer, in the title-rôle, again proved herself to be a most artistic and painstaking actress. Mr. F. Skein made a capital Lord Leicester; Mr. S. Bland was a courtly Lord Burleigh; and Mr. Boyd Pearson a most excellent Sir Amyas Paulet. Mr. E. Grogan, as Sir Edward Mortimer, created a good impression.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—A capital company is at present playing here, headed by Mr. Harry Starr, the well-known author and actor. The play is entitled, *Otto, the Outcast*, in which Mr. Starr, in the title-rôle, gives a very clever performance throughout.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Will Parker; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Alf. Ross.—The premier position here is occupied by Park's Eton Boys, who repeat their success of last season. Mr. Jack Lorimer has scored a success with his songs and mimicry. Professor Vox again submits his smart ventriloquial entertainment; Raffin's monkeys go through a clever act; the Three Sisters Victoria are capable song and dance artistes; and Walter Wallis, comedian, takes very well. Annie Langley and Feather's cinematograph are also in the bill.

EASTBOURNE. — Pier Pavilion. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Langhorne Burton and company are appearing here in *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace*. Miss Frances Davie has much to do as Mrs. Gorringe, and her bright, vivacious acting makes her a complete success. Miss Kathleen Russell wins all hearts by her sympathetic rendering of Isabel; Miss Viola March does good work as Mrs. Jardine; and Miss Haidee Hemsley is an animated girlish Vicky. Mr. Langhorne Burton gives a fine rendering of the part of Captain Mowbray, his performance being most finished throughout. Mr. Langdon Bruce, in the difficult part of David Cairne, contributes a careful study. Mr. T. S. M. Stewart is a realistic and amusing Colonel Jardine and Mr. Brember Wills does well all that is necessary as Detective Jernigan.

Devonshire Park Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. Standen Triggs.—Mr. Charles Frohman's capital company is appearing here in *Merely Mary Ann*. Mr. Alexander Calvert, as Lancelot, contributes a well-defined and very capable performance full of point and interest. Mr. Reginald Dance is a frank and humorous Peter; Mr. Fred Grove is an amusing Rev. Samuel Smedge; and Mr. Frank Lacy does excellent work as Brahmson and Tottenham. Mr. Eric Fenton and Mr. George Belmore are efficient helpers in the smaller parts. Miss Grace Armytage Noble claims a large share of the honours of the evening for her artistic, unaffected work as Mary Ann. Unqualified praise must be accorded to Miss Alice Esden, whose performance as Mrs. Leadbatter is conspicuously clever. Miss Mabel Garden is an effective Rosie, and good help is given by the remaining members of the cast.

The Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—Barton and Ashley head the bill here this week, and return to again triumph with their original business and sketch, *Canal Boat Sal*. Miss May Henderson is an extremely smart step-dancer, and her quick, vigorous work is heartily applauded. The Langdons, in illustrated songs, provide a popular turn; Miss Mabel Hind sings sweetly in a pretty Japanese scena; Miss Beattie Bloom is a favourite as a comedienne; Whisper is a juggler with funny novel business and tricks; Mr. E. W. Selman scores as a comedian, and the Hippodrome pictures and Joko and Koko, with performing animals, complete the programme.

Ebbw Vale.—King's Theatre.—Sole Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Arthur Knight.—Mr. Horace Stanley's company is here in *The 10.30 Down Express*. Jack O'Malley is powerfully taken by Mr. Harry T. Wood; and Mr. Wallace Campbell makes the most of the part of James Inderwick; Mr. Fred Cooper, as Seth Coombes, Mr. Horace Spencer, as Sam Wagstaff, and Mr. Arthur E. Francis, as Blotherby, fill in a particularly strong comedy cast. Miss Effie Bartlett scored as Bessie Leigh, and Miss Kate Kilpack, as Peggy Potts, is one of the successes of the performance.

Eccles.—Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Potasch and Warale; Manager, Mr. P. Potasch; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. Ryan-Smith.—Mr. Peter Thompson's pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, is paying a return visit here this week. Miss Maude Beaumont makes a dashing Robin Hood; Miss Molly Hackett does well as Maid Marian; and the comedians include Messrs. J. Templar Ellis, the Danbys, and Fred Danvers. The Sisters Grahame play the parts of the Babes. Specialities include the Achmed Ibrahim Troupe of Bedouin Arabs, a truly marvellous troupe; N. Y. Kioto; and the Yankee Quartette of Dancers.

Edinburgh. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Limited; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Hollister.—*Sherlock Holmes* is the attraction at this theatre, and presented by Mr. Charles Frohman's excellent company, it thrilled a large audience on Monday. The main burden of the performance fell on Mr. H. F. Saintsbury, who, in the title-rôle, thoroughly realised the ideas of the authors. His imperturbable bearing and quiet nonchalant style were admirable, and by intense earnestness and carefully-finished acting he held the rapt attention of the house. Mr. Lawrence Leyton played Dr. Watson with notable ability, and the cool villainies of Professor Moriarty were vividly portrayed by Mr. W. F. Stirling. The character of James Larrabee was powerfully sustained by Mr. Leslie Carter, while Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood made a first-rate appearance as John Forman. Other parts were carefully filled by Messrs. Pelham Rayner, James F. Anson, and Gissing Walters, Mr. Walter Hicks causing much amusement as Billy. Miss Vera Longden gave a charming and sympathetic embodiment of the persecuted Alice Faulkner, and Miss Maud Linden was a sufficiently bold and crafty Madge Larrabee. Miss Lilian Locke proved a smart Terese, and Misses Clarice Doncaster and Ethel St. Leger completed a capital cast, as Mrs. Faulkner and Mrs. Smedley respectively. The play was elaborately staged.

Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Limited; General-Manager, Mr. G. T. Minshull.—Charming Miss Ada Reeve paid a return visit to this theatre with the successful musical comedy, *Winnie Brooke, Widow*. Miss Reeve's realisation of the title-rôle is one of her most radiant triumphs, and she displays in her acting as the fair and fascinating widow a mastery over the whole gamut of comedy, which proclaims her a consummate artiste. On Monday night Miss Reeve, though suffering from a cold and throat trouble, pluckily played her part, and played it to the entire satisfaction and manifest delight of the audience, who by the vigour and heartiness of their applause rose to the occasion as thoroughly as did the actress by the spirit and vivacity of her acting. Despite her cold, Miss Reeve sang with never-failing expression and remarkable effect, and after each act she had the warmest of receptions. Miss Reeve received valuable support from a well-chosen company. As Dudley Mayne, Mr. Charles Weir was excellent in all his scenes with Winnie Brooke, the way in which the would-be woman-hater gradually succumbs to the wonderful widow's charms being ably depicted. Mr. Edgar Stevens was the right man in the right place as Reginald Frampton, and as singer, actor, and dancer, acquitted himself well. Exceedingly humorous was the Julian Croft of Mr. L. Ashton-Jarry, whose comic by-play was of a high order. The Rev. Elihu Garside was impersonated by Mr. Frederick Tyrrell with a keen sense of the ludicrous side of the character, and the Hercules Grant of Mr. Donald Price Evans was a little gem of comedy. Mr. Ulick Broke was sufficiently crusty as Toby Blossom, and the genial Montague Brent of Mr. Harry Halley was a delightfully funny and finished creation. Miss Drusilla Wills was very droll as Honoria, the cockney laundry-maid, making the most of her opportunities; Gracie and Nora had comely exponents in Miss Mabel Murray and Miss Ruth Hazelwood, Mrs. Charles Maltby being admirable as Hannah, the housekeeper.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—The pantomime of *Dick Whittington* continues its merry run here, and John Tiller's sparkling extravaganza has been received nightly with unstinted applause. The dancing is a great source of attraction, and the comic side is not neglected, Mr. Bob Selvidge keeping things humming with his bright sallies and humorous quips. Miss Gracie Graham makes a dashing Dick, and has become quite a favourite, and no less popular is Miss Fanny Harris as Alice, whose singing is most successful. The dancing of the various troupes is most attractive, and the more elaborate ballets are full of Tilleresque grace and animation.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—Mr. Malcolm Scott, fresh from his pantomime triumphs at the Theatre Royal, in this city, appeared here on Monday, when his admirers assembled in force. His humorous discourse on things historical was as novel as it was amusing, and his many original remarks were received with loud applause. The Brothers Leslie combined comedy with music in diverting fashion, and the Two Butterflies showed remarkable agility as gymnasts, their act being characterised by neatness and grace. The Albert and Edmunds troupe are old favourites here, and were welcomed in their lively and laughable sketch, *A Trip to Boulogne*, in which all the members of the company distinguished themselves. Messrs. Palles and Cussick, with their burlesque boxing business and clever patter, caused much laughter; Miss Florrie St. Clair sang and danced with acceptance; and Miss Katie Butler was well received in her comic studies of humble life. Liszt's Bears remain over from last week; and Harry Clifford and T. C. Callaghan, both vocal comedians, complete the company.

Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Tom Ellis.—Mr. A. W. B. Kingston's company appeared at this house on Monday in the powerful drama, *A Man in a Thousand*, which had a hearty reception from a large audience. Mr. Victor Millard played the hero, Owen Penrose, with due effect, and other parts were well sustained by Messrs. James Sommerville, T. Alfred Duncan, and Will Oswald, whose comedy was first class. Miss Fanny Mathews was highly successful as Hester Penrose, the hero's mother, and Miss Vera Moseley also appeared with *éclat*.

EXETER. — Theatre Royal.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Pollard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Messrs. Parrington and Dew's company in that successful musical comedy, *The 'Varsity Belle* opened here on Monday. There was no doubt that both the play and the players were appreciated. Miss Florence Brandon was very smart as Gaye Sparkleton, and her rendering of "I would like to be a boy sometimes," coupled with her captivating style and charming manner, added much to the enjoyment of the musical farcical comedy. As Professor Septimus Stone, Mr. Henry Chichester was extremely funny. Mr. Harry Collier, the old Drury Lane clown, who is well known in the West of England, had a warm reception. He gave an intensely amusing rendering of the travelling actor-manager (Mr. Theocritus Ward Sparkleton). Mr. John R. Val, as the college scout, was a typical character. Miss Estella Despa scored as Mrs. Barker; and Miss May Cardew (the Professor's loving wife) and Miss Muriel Lochner (Bertie Perrin's intended) were both very successful.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—For the first three nights *Cousin Kate* was staged by the company of Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison, and was well received. Miss Edith Walker was a charming Kate Curtis; Mr. Walter Ringham did well as Heath Desmond; Miss Nina Cressy was a motherly Mrs. Spencer; Miss Hilda Honiss was effective as Amy Spencer; Mr Donald MacLean was satisfactory as the Rev. James Bartlett, and Miss Betty Castle was amusing as Jane. A pleasing curtain-raiser was *A Case for Eviction*. On Thursday and Friday *The Shaughraun* was presented by Mr. E. C. Matthews' company, Mr. Matthews himself appearing as Conn.

FARNWORTH.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell.—This week we are having a visit from that hardy annual, *The Grip of Iron*, which is being presented by Messrs. E. H. Knight and George Denham's company. The play does not seem to have diminished in drawing power, and a good house showed its appreciation on Monday. Mr. Fred Powell again played the part of Simmonet with all his old power, and right enthusiastic was his reception; Mr. John Brittain as Dodot, and Mr. Harry Agar Lyons as Alphonse de Coucon, the detectives, were all that could be desired. As Paul Blanchard, Mr. W. R. Winning gave a creditable performance; Miss Georgie De Lara, as Cora Simmonet, was excellent throughout.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Lawrence Brough's company, in *The Lady of Ostend* and *The Saucy Sally*, is here this week. In the first-named piece, Mr. Harry Hampson displays considerable ability as Dick Whortles; Mr. Percy Marshall is a first-rate Joseph Carbury; Mr. Lawrence Brough, as Le Baron de Longueville, gives a capital rendering of that rôle; Mr. L. Cory Thomas is equally successful as Toby Krockitt; Miss Maud Buchanan makes the most of her opportunities as the Lady of Ostend; Miss Eleanor Gilbart is good as Matilda Carbury; Miss Doris Vayne is effective as Millie; and Miss Kate Milford gives a very fine performance as Dolly Whortles. The curtain-raiser, *Margaret's Stratagem*, is exceedingly well played.

GAINSBOROUGH.—King's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Cromo.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company paid us a return visit with *The Chinese Honeymoon*, for three nights last week, and succeeded in drawing good houses. Mr. Steave Louch again gave his excellent representation of the Emperor, a remark which is equally applicable to Mr. Sidney Burt, as Pineapple. Miss Ettie Cinders was a vivacious Fi-Fi. Chippie-Chop and High Lung were well played by Messrs. L. Ashmeade and M. Stewart. Miss Florence Hallam, as Soo-Soo, and Miss Alicia Norton were good, and the latter was well supported by Misses Daisy Dale and Marie Ford, as the two bridesmaids. Miss Dulcie Garland was a commanding official mother-in-law. The chorus was powerful and well-balanced.

GATESHEAD. — Queen's Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Smith.—The pantomime of *Cinderella*, which closes its stay here this week, continues to draw crowded audiences. The singing and dancing of the principals are features that contribute primarily to the success of the production. The eight Lilies of the Valley and the four American idols have made many favourites by their dancing, and as the principal boy, Prince Rupert, Miss Ada Twibell continues to add to her popularity. Miss Fanny Wright, as Dandini, and Miss May Marton, as Cinderella, continue to earn the encomiums of the audiences by their charming singing. Little Zola, Mr. A. G. Spry, Mr. Percy Curry, and Messrs. Conan and Doyle, contribute successfully to the funny side of the show.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Straughan. The appearance of the famous wire walker Menotti, the Stockholm wonder, has drawn crowded audiences to this theatre during the week. He is supported by a capable company. The Fred Cullane Trio produces a novel sketch, entitled *The Ladies' School*, which causes much amusement, while two capable comedians are Happy Attwood and Marcus Boyle. Fields and Lewis provide a "taking" turn, and the electric wonders, Marconis, are responsible for a good show. The remainder of the bill is made up by Miss Leah Arden, operatic vocalist; Les Sperrys, comic acrobats; and the Leotard Bros., all of whom provide good turns.

GILLINGHAM. — Transfield's Hippodrome.—The attractions announced here include the spectacle, *Turpin's Ride to York*. Nellie Lucreece, comedienne; Water Levalle, coster comedian; Little Valdo, Albini, Rabbit, Beppo and Bubbles, all in the clown department; Prince, wire walker; Theobald's animated pictures; and Mdlle. Florence, globe walker, who is assisted by Mdlle. Queenie.

GLASGOW. — Theatre Royal, Limited. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphreys.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is here with the favourite musical play, *The School Girl*, in which Miss Nellie Hodson sustains with charming vivacity the rôle of Lilian Leigh; while the part of Cicely Marchmont is pleasantly rendered by Miss Jenny Bonney. Miss Kate Forster as the Mother Superior acts with quiet dignity, and uses her fine voice with telling effect; also doubling the part of Mrs. Marchmont successfully. Mr. Herbert Darnley as Sir Ormsby St. Leger plays the speculative dealer in mining shares with great spirit; while the easy-going Tubby Bedford is amusingly acted by Mr. Alfred Leslie, whose songs are received with great applause. Mr. H. Ansdell scores as the artist Edgar Verney; Mr. Charles W. Anson as Peter Overend is well suited, and Mr. Charles Adeson gives a good rendering of the gruff old General Marchmont.

Royalty, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—That pleasant farcical romance, *The Duke of Killicrankie*, is paying a second visit here, the company being under the direction of Mr. Leigh Lovel, who makes an amusing Pitt-Welby, and provides most of the humour of the play in his love-making scenes with the widow, Mrs. Mulholland, a part excellently played by Miss Naomi Nelson. Mr. Herbert J. Bentley gives a clever rendering of the Duke of Killicrankie. Miss Octavia Kenmore was a charming Lady Henrietta, and the Countess of Pangbourne was acted in dignified style by Miss M'Aimee Murray. Mr. H. Douglass Cattell as the Highland caretaker, and Miss Helen Tytler as his wife, gave two clevely played characters, and Mr. F. Danvers-Yates as the reporter completed the cast of principals. *Jerry and a Sunbeam* was given in front.

King's Theatre, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—*The Girl from Kay's* is once again attracting crowded audiences here. Mr. George Dance's company is a strong one. Mr. H. C. Barry is exceedingly funny as Max Hoggenheimer; Miss Nancy Harvyn's Winnie Harborough is a fine performance, and she contributes her share of the music in a finished manner. Miss Rita Leonhardt acts and sings with much taste as Norah Chalmers, and Miss Dorothy Firmin as Ellen, charmingly renders her numbers; Mr Garnet Wilson supplies a good study of Harry Gordon; Mr. Fred Rolph as Joseph is clever, and his business amusing; Mr. Leslie Roy Cathie plays Percy Fitzthistle comically, and Mr. Cameron Carr does well as Mr. Chalmers; Miss Mabel Champion is a stately Mrs. Chalmers.

Royal Princess's Theatre.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—After a successful season of pantomime, this house returns to its ordinary line of business with Mr. J. H. Clyndes' company in the romantic play, *A Royal Revenge*. Mr. Clyndes appears as the hero Alvarez, and gives a dignified rendering of the part; artistic support being given by Mr. Jas. Willoughby as the miser Vargas, and by Mr. Fred Rivers in the part of Azan Ben Musid. Mr. C. Jordan acts with considerable spirit as the young soldier Moudega, while the part of a humorous innkeeper is well filled by Mr. Jack Bigwood; other clever assumptions being the King of Mr. Geoffrey Broughton, and the Friar of Mr. R. Webb. The leading female rôle, Inez Alvarez, is feelingly depicted by Miss Bessie Elma; an attractive girl, Cora Casilda, is found in Miss Evelyn Shannon; as a pert serving-maid Miss Annie Gratton is good, and as the Mother Teresa Miss Lizzie Lennon ac

V. Sheridan makes a charming Julie Valois. As Raffaelle Duroc, Mr. P. E. Wright gives a capital portrayal of the character; Mr. W. A. Armour is excellent as Conrad de L'Orme; Mr. J. Wood, as Fritz, and Mr. E. Rignold, as Peter Pippin, provide the comic element; Mr. F. Carlton is a clever Pitou; and Mr. R. Kloof is well placed as Gaspard Villeroy. In the garden scene specialities are introduced with great success by Misses Nora Waylett, Louie Lonora, Messrs. Reginald Kloof, Jim Woods, Frank Carlton, and Fred Rignold.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Miss Winifred Maude and company occupy the boards this week with the play, entitled *The Sins of a City*. Mr. Ivan Gore is successful as Donald McIvor; Mr. Horace E. Herbert is manly and earnest as Sandy; Mr. Victor du Cane gives a clever rendering of the dual rôles of Joe and Jasper Woodleigh; Ralph Breakwater is capitally represented by Mr. Leslie Beaufort; Miss Winifred Maude, as Seaweed, shows herself to be an accomplished actress; Miss Jenny Hacket is bright and merry as Madge; Miss Ellen Gray as Jenny, Miss Marie Lyons as Lesbia, and Miss Lily Seymour as Mrs. Miggs, skilfully play their respective parts. Admirable also are Mr. Victor C. Moors as Isaac Levi, and Mr. W. E. Simpson as P.C. Johnson.

GREENOCK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Executors of the late Mr. Alex. Wright; Managers, Messrs. A. B. Wright and J. J. Wright.—Mr. Osmond Tearle's company is here this week with a round of Shakespearean plays. On Monday, *Hamlet* was played. Mr. Walter Bentley's Hamlet was a fine piece of acting, and deserves the highest praise; the King was well played by Mr. John Lawton; Mr. Vivian Gilbert was excellent as Horatio; and Mr. Fred Sergent was very good as Laertes. Mr. William Lowe played the part of Polonius with ability; the Marcellus of Mr. James Duncan was an excellent piece of acting; and Mr. Charles Kingsley played the Ghost successfully. Mr. L. Evans was good as Bernardo; Mr. Stanley May gave a careful embodiment of Rosencrantz; and Mr. Edwin Beverley made a capital Guildenstern. Miss Lilian Herries took the rôle of Ophelia, and acted throughout with rare ability and power; Miss Fannie Chamberlain was all that could be desired as the Queen of Denmark; and Miss Phyllis French played with ability the part of Osric. *The Merchant of Venice, Othello, As You Like It, The Lady of Lyons*, and *Macbeth*, are also in the bill.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—Willie W. Bain, who heads the bill here, gives a clever display of wrestling; Harry Zetter is a smart comedian; Gravetta and Parr given an interesting pot pourri act, introducing clay modelling; the Great Dardini, and his black assistant, provide an intensely funny juggling act; the Brothers Vance, comedy instrumentalists, are amusing; Tom and Florrie Poole, burlesque artistes, are smart; Sam Thomson, Scotch comedian, is applauded; and Tom Bassett, Shakespearean comedian, gets a hearty reception.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant Manager, Mr. S. Tolfree.—The drama, *The Convict's Daughter*, which has appeared here this week, is presented by Mr. Frank Bertram's company. As the escaped convict, Mr. J. W. Wilkinson shows great versatility, portraying the amusing impudence of the tramp and the powerful emotion of the wrongly-convicted man with equal ease. Mr. J. K. Walton is also imposing as the banker, Frederick Neville; and as his adopted daughter, Edith, Miss Edith Clyde is satisfactory. The contrasting characters of Harold Trevelyan and Jasper Thorn are respectively taken by Mr. Aidan Lovett and Mr. G. Moreton-Williams. Mr. Alfred Terris is responsible for much humour as the Irish constable, Patrick O'Laragan.

NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. Stewart Cecil.—Acrobatics of an extraordinary description have been seen here this week. The performance of the Ameen Abou Hamad Troupe of Arabian gymnasts is as clever as it is *bizarre*. They are experts at pyramid building and tumbling. Susie and Protti have submitted illustrations of various kinds of dancing, which have been greatly appreciated. A ventriloquial turn of a decidedly novel kind is that given by Professor Thornbury, who uses figures sketched by himself in place of pupils. Other turns are Oliver Conroy, comedian; Lily Flexmore, comedian and dancer; Clara Victor, balladist; Gus Daniels, vocalist; and Kisbey, in a favoured speciality, *The Callboy*.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—A smart display of juggling is that given at the Hippodrome by the Three Geraldos. They are especially clever in the manipulation of clubs and hoops. The Brothers Lang, who are described as affectionate, but who show their fraternal feelings in a rather unique fashion, have provided an amusing turn. Clever juggling is also presented by Angeline, a lady performer. A display of physical contortion, by Wilfred, is interesting, and the same may be said of Major Sitherland's gun spinning. Law and Norman, in a comedy act; Bouvrie Pleydell, comedian and dancer; and the Bioscope pictures complete the programme.

GUERNSEY.—ST. JULIAN'S HALL.—Lessee, Mr. C. Robert Perkins.—This week the boards are in possession of the Guernsey Musical and Dramatic Club, in Gilbert and Sullivan's opera, *The Pirates of Penzance*. On Monday the performance was under the patronage of the Lieutenant-Governor and the élite of the island. The opera has been carefully rehearsed, the chorus works well together, and to the music full justice is done by an efficient orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. E. Dobree. The audiences are large and responsive, and from an amateur standpoint the interpretation is really excellent, and reflects great credit on all concerned. Mr. F. W. McKee, a favourite here, has in Major-General Stanley a part that suits him admirably, his acting being truly artistic; Mr. G. H. Cadman—a decided acquisition to the club—presents a conception of the Pirate King that is both musically and dramatically good; Mr. A. Rose makes the most of his opportunities as Samuel; Mr. J. G. Courtice, R.A., as Frederic, proves himself a clever amateur; and General Stanley's daughters are engagingly played by the Misses Cheyne, G. Durand, and Robinson. The part of Ruth is entrusted to Miss G. Palmer, whose efforts merit warm praise. Mrs. Crawford, as Mabel, has won her way to the hearts of the audience; Mr. A. J. McKee is very droll as the Sergeant of Police; and Mr. F. W. McKee is to be complimented on his able stage-management.

HALIFAX.—GRAND THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Acting-Manager, Mr. Norman M. Robinson.—Mr. George Dance's company, in *A Country Girl*, is here this week, and is being received with considerable favour.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Frank Macnaghten.—This cosy, comfortable, and popular theatre provides some excellent entertainments for its patrons. This week's company includes Madame Rosina Casselli, with a troupe of extremely clever performing dogs; Pat Rafferty, Irish comedian; Henriot and Sauvion, burlesque conjurors; Sinclair and Parr, vocal duettists; Vanola, antipodeste; Ross and Lewis, a clever turn, in which excellent dancing is prominent; Herbert Betts, comedian; Royal Zerbinis, in an electrical musical scena; and Morretti and Alice, equilibrists.

HANLEY.—ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Howard.—Mr. C. P. Levilly's company is this week presenting the sprightly comic opera, *Amorelle*. Miss Ada Grey, as Lesbia, is distinctly successful, this lady has a capital appearance, and renders her vocal items admirably. Mr. Leon Simkin, as Dr. Crow, is exceedingly funny, and makes the most of his opportunities; Miss Empsie Bowman, in the title part, is well placed, her songs "I Wander" and "I don't cry for the Moon" being exceptionally good. Jules finds a clever exponent in Mr. Arthur Cozens; and Mr. Horace Manger, as Alphonse, is highly successful; Mr. Edward Granby does well, and Mr. George Paulton, as the banker, is seen to advantage. Mr. Fred Carrington, a gentleman with a capital voice, is heard to advantage in "'Twas a stormy Night."

GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. James Wynis.—Another good programme is submitted here. The premier position is held by Mr. Cliffe Berzac, with realistic representations of the St. Leger, which is both novel and entertaining; Lilith, the flying lady, introduced by Mr. Fred Harcourt, is well received; Tom Lloyd, who is always welcome here, is once more received with enthusiasm; Vermando is a smart ventriloquist; Fred Harcourt, in his conjuring turn astounds his audiences with his feats; Great Scott juggles admirably. One of the best turns on the bill is Sandfor and Lyons, patterers, singers, and dancers, who contribute a turn of much excellence; Lilian Warren, in her illustrated songs, meets with success. The Grand pictures are excellent.

EMPIRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—This cosy house was reopened on Monday as a variety hall once more, and with Mr. Edwardes as manager should prove successful. Ben Harris and company present a boxing sketch, viz., *A Promising Pupil*, which is most entertaining; The Herald Comedy Four are excellent, their singing being capital, and their dancing good; Miss Kitty Timms is a good ballad vocalist; Arthur Kendall is a smart descriptive vocalist; Bromley and Fontein are a capital duo; Joe Mac is a distinct success; The Alskarno Trio are Risley performers and tumblers of ability; The Sisters Bronson are a success, and the Empire pictures are capital.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cyril Fielden Smith.—The York Operatic Amateurs, under the direction of Mr. W. A. Forster Todd, produced the comic opera, *Falka*, here, after a week's run at the York Opera House, in aid of the Harrogate Infirmary Enlargement Fund. The production, which has been superintended by Mr. Hugh Moss, proved a great success.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Craggs; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—The programme here, which is an attractive one, is headed by The Four Cliftons, marvels in the acrobatic line; their performance is greeted nightly with unbounded enthusiasm. Julian Mack's "Doomsday Book" is conspicuous for its wit and humour; Cissie Curlett, mimetic vocalist, is clever; a smart and clever cycling exhibition is given by Newhouse and Ward. A pleasing turn is contributed by Edie Charnley, comedienne and dancer; and Oakdene, ventriloquist; and Bennett and Martell, the lunatics, on a return visit, complete the bill.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Gaze.—Mr. Fred Karno's company, in *His Majesty's Guests*, is paying a week's visit here. Laughable is the diverting humour of Mr. Harry Roxbury, as Sergeant Lightning; Miss Leonora Castelle successfully plays the part of Maud, the Shoplifter; Mr. Frank Morton does well as Flash Jack; Mr. Mifflin is well presented by Mr. Charles Usher; and, as Dolly, Miss Edith Ager is pleasing. Miss Amy Rogerson is much in evidence as Miss Manly; and Mr. Harry Stuart, as a cleric hunting for subscriptions causes a diversion.

PIER PAVILION.—Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. Arthur B. Malden is occupying the boards this week, with a series of cinématograph lectures, illustrating views of cities, and scenes from all parts of the world.

HIPPODROME PALACE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr. Harold Penny.—The attractive comedienne, Miss Connie Milton, opens a good programme this week. The Collings Comedy Company introduces a comical and amusing sketch; Miss Gracie Taylor possesses a pleasing voice and style as a vocalist; Messrs. Onda and Artell engage in a clever turn of gymnastic trapeze; the Tom Davies Trio give a remarkably skilful bicycle act, entitled "Whirling the Wheel"; an amusing comedian is seen in Little Cliff; the Sisters Caselli are charming soubrettes; the Tribune Trio introduce a laughable sketch; the new bioscope exhibits some original films.

ST. LEONARDS PIER PAVILION.—Pier-Master and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—The good audiences which patronise the Pier Pavilion at the evening performances is a good sign that the dramatic season just commenced will be a success. This week the curtain rises to an interesting little one-act play, entitled, *Nan; or, Good for Nothing*. In this piece, Miss May Anderson, in a very natural manner, takes the principal character; and, in the following play, entitled *Our Doctor*, this lady shows much dramatic talent in the part of Julia. In this little drama also Mr. David James gives a clearly-drawn sketch of the Irishman, Felix O'Callaghan; he delights his audience with his songs and dialogue. Miss Rachel de Travis quite realises the part of the young widow; Mr. Norman Clarke acts the old gentleman to the life; and Charles, his son, could not have had a better representative than Mr. H. Allistoun.

HAWICK.—NEW THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Payne-Seddon; Lessees, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and Gordon Starkey.—Mr. F. R. Benson's North Shakespearean company has been here with *The Merchant of Venice, As You Like It, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Romeo and Juliet, The School for Scandal*, and *Hamlet*. The company received a hearty reception from a good audience on the opening night, when *The Merchant of Venice* was submitted. Miss Gladys Vanderzee gave a capital impersonation, and scored a success as Portia; Mr. Henry Herbert acted with much force as Shylock; Mr. F. Owen Chambers was seen to advantage as Antonio; Bassanio was ably played by Mr. C. Foote; and Mr. A. Begbie was good as Lorenzo. Miss Katherine Boyce is to be congratulated upon her Nerissa, and Miss C. Laws very capably sustained the rôle of Jessica. The rest of the characters were in good hands.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; General-Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank J. Pitt.—This week a capital entertainment is provided here by Mr. Fred Karno's company in *His Majesty's Guests*. Mr. R. H. Kitchen fairly revels in the part of Captain Lightning, and throughout the piece never fails in his efforts to create laughter. Warm praise is due to Mr. Charles F. Howard as Lord Easem, his singing being quite a feature of the entertainment. Miss J. Newcombe makes a sprightly Lady Maude, her business being smartly done; Messrs. James Ross and Chas. Cardon's Selina and Fritz are most amusing, and they are responsible for a large share of the success. As Miss Manley Miss Clara Moore is effective; and Miss Doris Ainsley makes a sweet Dolly and sings effectively. Mr. Wellesley Smith is well suited as Miffin. Mr. W. Smith is the manager for the company, and the orchestra is under the bâton of Mr. O. H. Bamberger.

HOYLAND.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Owner, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—Mr. King has this week engaged an excellent variety company, including Alveno and Cleo, on the revolving break-away ladder; Roy Lovell, vocalist; Mint and Mart, comedy sketch artists; F. Orsley, comedian and clog dancer; The Bradley trick cyclists; McCleino, on the swimming mast; The Sisters Varley, duettists; Flo Melville, serio and dancer; and Mons. Leo, jail breaker and handcuff prince.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy G. Arthur.—Messrs. Bright and Maxwell's company on Monday met with an appreciative reception in *Merely Mary Ann*. The name part is played by Miss Nita Faydon with charming naturalness; Mr. Douglas Gerrard as Lancelot interprets the part with a manliness which very acceptably minimises the inherent priggishness of the ultra-sensitive composer; Mr. A. Carlaw Grand realises cleverly the part of Peter; Miss Gwynneth Galton contributes a well-studied piece of character-acting as the lodging-house keeper, Mrs. Leadbatter; and Rosie is effectively played by Miss Kathleen Colman.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—A capital entertainment is furnished here by Mr. Godfrey Lamplugh's company, in the musical play, *Miss Mischief*. Miss Isa Bowman in the title-rôle gives us a taste of those delightful powers that have made her welcome in all quarters. Mr. T. E. Conover as Private Harris, V.C., contrives to materially assist to prolong the fun. Mr. Cecil Curtis makes the most of the part of Captain Jack Bethune; and as Admiral Bethune, Mr. A. Jenner is equally praiseworthy. Mr. Beresford Lovett and Mr. Fredk. Mantell are droll as Hiram Q. Pegg and Lord Percy Fitzsherry; and as Mary Ann Smith Miss Crissie Francess is vivacious. The chorus, scenery, and dresses are excellent, and the dancing enjoyable.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Local-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—*The Duchess of Dantzic* is being played here this week, and the legend "House full" has had to be exposed each evening. The company is one of all-round merit. Miss Amy Augarde reveals many new charms, her Madame Sans Gêne being a charming stage picture, and one that will add much to her reputation in this city. The musical numbers allotted her are delightfully rendered. As the Emperor, Mr. Matthew Brodie looks and acts the part admirably. Mr. T. W. Volt shows his versatility as Papillon; piquant and pleasing is the Renée of Miss E. Fink; and Mr. Herbert Clayton as Lefebvre is very good.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Lessees, Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—Mr. F. A. Scudamore's striking play, *The Beautiful Avenger*, is the attraction this week, and is highly pleasing to the patrons of this house. Miss Nannie Mead gives evidence of exceptional ability in combining the rôles of Vashti Volta the avenger, and Victor Stanhope, explorer. Mr. Algernon Syms admirably fits the part of Cyrus Telford; Mr. Edwin Walton revels in the evil-doing of Zadoc Foxbane; and is effectively seconded by Mr. Charles T. Dols as Herman. Miss Cissy Podmore and Miss Lillian Hawkins both do good work in different ways as Edna Volta and Arabella Binks.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. A. Graham.—An exceptionally strong bill is presented by Mr. Graham this week. Mr. Tom Costello is always welcome, and the recent additions to his repertoire makes his visit still more pleasing. W. F. Frame, "fra' Scotland," affords a heap of fun; Mendel, the blind pianist, shows marvellous powers of memory; Jake Friedman, the "one man opera," is a pleasing member of the company, keeping the house well entertained; the Five Delevines amuse and astonish all; the Sisters Morgan in song and dance are captivating; and Harry Martell, the Julians, the Korries, and Tom Edwards, also contribute to the bill.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—General Manager Mr. Joseph W. Maloney.—*Sherlock Holmes* is being admirably presented here this week by Mr. Charles Frohman's company. A polished and highly finished study of Sherlock Holmes is submitted by Mr. Kenneth Rivington; and Miss Florence Radcliffe endows the part of Alice Faulkner with a grace and charm which is irresistible; Mr. Fred Inwood plays naturally as Dr. Watson; Mr. F. Clive Ross is good as John Forman; a very praiseworthy performance is given by Mr. Arthur B. Murry, as Professor Moriarty; the rôle of James Larrabee is skilfully embodied by Mr. Ernest Gray; and Mr. Harry G. Wright is amusing as Sydney Prince. Miss Carrie Lacey looks attractive as Madge Larrabee, and displays histrionic ability; and Miss Marjorie Murray is a pert Therese.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers; Musical-Director, Mr. C. Keith Smith.—A company, which includes Miss Annie Bell, is this week playing *Sapho*. Miss Bell herself appears with distinction as Fanny; Mr. Frederick Ross as Jean Gausin handles the part with discretion; Mr. Archie Kelsby presents a careful study of Eugene Flamant, and Miss Lottie Ray as Joseph plays well The Wilful Child. Mr. George Antley as Cesaire is capital; Messrs. K. W. Curnock and H. Langford respectively, as Paul Dechelette and Caondal give strong support; and the rôles of Father Legrand and Machaume lack nothing in the hands of Mr. J. A. Storey and Miss Laura Ray.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. G. Fisk.—*Miss Elizabeth's Prisoner* has been played here during the week by Mr. Peter Davey's company Mr. Norman Partridge is a manly representative of Captain Peyton, and due justice is done to the part of the Major by Mr. Elliott Ball. Mr. J. Harold Carson is seen to advantage as Mr. Valentine, the much-married man, and Messrs. Tom Taylor, Arthur Lomers, and F. Perry are of great assistance to the cast. Miss Essex Dane gives a striking and dignified portraiture of Miss Elizabeth, and other ladies' parts are adequately filled by Miss Leonora Braham and Miss Margaret Cellier.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Fred Barrett.—The chief artist in this week's programme at the Woodbridge-road place of entertainment is that popular comedian, Mr. Charles Bignell, whose songs and droll business are much applauded. Other new turns include Aryama, termed "The Japanese Wonder"; Curtis and Vanity, duettists; Master Heure, boy juggler; Miss Jessie Venlow, comedienne and dancer; Bert Raynor and Cissy Reece, singers and dancers; and Ernest Heathcote, comedian.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company is paying a welcome visit with *The Face at the Window*. Mr. Augustine Knight is good in the part of the Chevalier Lucia Delgado, while Mr. T. W. Dunscombe is quite at home in the rôle of Paul Gouffet; Mr. Alan Hineson is droll as Peter Pottlebury; Miss Marie Barrett gives a charming rendering of Marie de Brisson; Miss J. Dempster is quite at home as La Pinau, and Miss Gwynne Warren scores as Babette.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Thompson; Manager, Mr. W. Childs.—After being closed for some time this place of amusement has been renovated and was opened on Monday by a first-class variety company, including the Original Franklin Troupe of Russian vocalists and dancers; Mr. W. S. Hutchinson, ventriloquist, an old Jarrow favourite; Miss Rose Winstanley, vocalist; Sisters Hypatia, vocalists and dancers; Miss Mollie Dent, comedienne and vocalist; Handel and Lee, talented musicians, with electrical effects; Miss Florrie Irvine, speciality dancer; the Jetneys, coloured comedians and dancers, and Mdlle. Kloet, with an original speciality, which meets with great success.

KEIGHLEY.—QUEEN'S THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Barnes.—Mr. Lingford Carson's drama, *A Modern Adventuress*, which was originally produced at Keighley, is drawing crowded audiences. Miss Kate Froude gives a fine impersonation of the adventuress, and displays unmistakable artistic talent. Mr. Leonard Aardale is seen in his original character of Pietro Donelli, and the applause lavished upon him is the reward of excellent work; Mr. E. J. Hamilton as Wallace Danton, presents a finished study complete in every detail; Mr. Evan Roland as the bluff Yorkshireman is prominent and scores a distinct success; Miss Emily Custance well supports him as Sally Hodges; Miss Alice Defoe is pathetic and effective as Vivette; Mr. Royce Carlton successfully represents Harry Delby.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon, jun.—The boards are occupied this week by Mr. I. F. Buckley's No. 1 company, under the direction of Mr. W. T. Elworthy, in the comedy entitled *The New Clown*. Mr. Frank Stanmore, in the leading part of Lord Cyril Garston, is very effective; Mr. G. H. Snazelle, as Dixon, is popular, and cleverly acts his part; Miss Beth Elliott portrays the character of Rosie Platt in a winning manner.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Bannister Howard; Business-Manager, Mr. Herbert Leonard.—Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale's company opened on Monday with *The Bells*. Mr. Armadale gave a powerful impersonation of the Burgomaster; the part of Madame Mathias was capably undertaken by Miss Marie Florence, as was also that of Annette by Miss Violet Wilson; Father Herman and Fritz found capable exponents in Messrs. W. F. Clitheroe and Henry Osman. On Tuesday evening the company gave an equally meritorious performance of *The Vicar of Wakefield*, with Mr. Armadale as Dr. Primrose, and on Wednesday *The Bells* was repeated.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Hy. Wilkinson.—This week the boards are occupied by Mr. Will Hebden and company with *A Day in Paddy's Market*. Mr. Hebden appears in various rôles with success, and he is ably supported by Miss Jennie Clare as Mary Manners and Mr. L. Martland as the dude Percy Fitztalbot.

PALACE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. W. J. Fergusson and John Porter.—Miss Florrie Gallimore, who heads the bill here, has a wonderful reception; Bosanquet, violinist, brings down the house; Miss Odeyne Spark sings songs that are very catchy; Frank Hartley, the boy juggler, is very smart; and other attractions in a capital programme include Tom E. Cliffe, comedian; Miss May Fallowfield, vocalist; Mr. George Reeves, comedian; and Walter Payne's animated pictures.

LEAMINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company, in *The Garden of Lies*, was the attraction here on the first three days of the week, and played as it was by a powerful company, including Mr. Henry Renouf, as Denis Mallory, and Miss Miriam Lewes, as the Princess, was received with enthusiasm by large houses. At a flying matinée on Thursday, Mr. George Alexander and party appeared in a most attractive programme.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—This week brings a most welcome return visit of Mr. George Edwardes' company with *The Cingalee*. Mr. E. Statham Staples is happy in his delineation of Chambhuddy Ram. Excellent vocal work characterises the Harry Vereker of Mr. Reginald Kenneth; Mr. Colin Coop is clever and humorous as Bookhamba; and Mr. W. J. Manning is as usual eccentric and entertaining as Sir Peter Loftus. Nanoya is a fascinating portrayal by Miss Florence Smithson; Miss Eva Sandford is an exceedingly clever Peggy Sabine, and Miss Lily Elsie is a pretty and vivacious Lady Patricia. Mr. Jack Cannot is a success as Bertie Lawrence; Mr. Harold Thorley as Bobby Warren is no less effective; and Mr. Willie Warde and Mr. Edgar Warde also render valuable support.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—Under the alluring title of *Life's Sweetest Sins*, an excellent domestic drama is being presented here by Mr. T. Arthur Jones and company. Mr. Jones gives a powerful presentation of Captain Marston; Dr. Colbrooke has a convincing exponent in Mr. Oswald Douglas; in the humorous character of Bob Tanner success is achieved by Mr. Fred Russell; Miss Madge Morley displays considerable ability as the heroine, Doreen Rivers; and equally effective is the Fay Colbrooke of Miss Amy Rudd.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Bush.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's popular pantomime of last year, *Goody Two Shoes*, fills the bill here, and repeats the huge success previously achieved. Miss Daisy Dormer is again to be complimented on a dainty and charming effort in the title-rôle, which she has resumed for this week only. The principal boy is Miss Georgina Leonard, a dashing and attractive actress; Messrs. Downes and Langford are prominent throughout with many mirth-provoking encounters; Mr. George French is also very entertaining in his quaint conception of Simple Simon; and other contributors to the fun are Mr. Harry Rousby, Mr. H. F. McClelland, and Mr. Fred Lincoln. Hagedorn's Fairy Grotto forms an effective background for some striking tableaux.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Limited; Resident Manager, Mr. G. Mooney.—Fred Karno's comedians are prominent in the Empire programme this week with *The Mumming Birds*; Clown Zertho's remarkably well trained dogs also form an interesting feature; the Five Olracs do an expert acrobatic turn; the Three Donals are also acrobats of more than average ability; the Sarnthalers, a Tyrolean song and dance troupe, are deservedly popular; Lily Tiso is a promising comedienne; and Frazer and Mac, comedians and patter artistes, are old favourites. The Sisters Hayden, character vocalists; Flo Challis, speciality artist; and Harry Lawson, comedian, are also in the bill.

TIVOLI.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; General-Managers, Messrs. Edgar O. Waller and Chas Weldon.—An exceedingly smart ventriloquist, Edward F. Reynard, is a leading turn here. An expert wall-scaling exhibition by the American Zouaves is most interesting; as also are the hand-balancing feats of Jules Kellar, and the remarkable equilibristic propensities of Hen Obed, an Eastern artist. The Laares Troupe are responsible for still another acrobatic display; excellent vocal work is the speciality of Ella Rose and Miss Du Barry, and success attends the efforts of both; and the Sisters Albert, vocal duettists and dancers, complete the bill.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—Raymond and Kurkamp distinguish themselves here with an excellent vocal and musical turn, the trumpet solos by the lady being especially enjoyed. At the bottom of the bill appear Howard and Collinson with a laughable speciality, *The Porter and the Parcel*; Ailsa Douglas scores a success with her good singing; the juvenile Codge whistles himself into favour; James Kurry and Harry Royston supply an abundance of the comedy element; and Percy Hannam, baritone vocalist, and Eugene and Willie, musical acrobatic clowns, are other outstanding features of the bill.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General Manager, Geo. M. Slater; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. D. Leigh.—A large audience on Monday gave a cordial reception to Mr. Ben Greet's company in *The Eternal City*. The highest commendation must be awarded to Miss Helen Haye for her fine impersonation of Donna Roma Valona. Mr. D. Lewin Mannering, as Baron Bonelli, is a thorough success, and Mr. Frederick Victor as David Rossi makes an exceedingly favourable impression. Mr. Leonard Grey as Pope Pius XI. ,and Mr. P. L. Julian, as Bruno Rocco, are both well to the front with admirable portrayals. Mr. Charles Stafford is very good as Minghelli.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General Manager, Geo. M. Slater; Acting Manager, Mr. J. C. Candler.—The attraction here this week is Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company in Wilson Barrett's play, *The Golden Ladder*. Mr. Harry Cullenford is in every way suited to the part of the Rev. Frank Thornhill, and scores a conspicuous success. Mr. J. Milne Taylor plays with dramatic power as Michael Severn. Mr. John McElroy creates great merriment as Samuel Peckaby, being capitally assisted by Miss Nellie Graham as Mrs. Peckaby. Miss Conyers Radcliffe is seen to great advantage as Lilian Grant. Mr. Raymond Chester is good as Noah Learoyd, a Yorkshireman. Messrs. Graham Winsford, Dan Mining, Edward Bikker, and Misses Janet Wakeling, Jessie Gillette, Alvina Mining, and Little Vera are also to be complimented on portrayals of much merit.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Vidal.—The premier position here this week is held by the Kellinos, the remarkably clever acrobats, who are giving with the greatest success their original act, *Venetia*. Owing to illness, F. V. St. Clair, who was billed to appear here on Monday, was unable to do so. As a deputy the management secured the services of Frank Hilbert. This gentleman first goes through a performance in which he thoroughly astounds the audience with the ease in which he escapes from handcuffs, etc., and then, in full view of the "house," explains the mystery. His turn is very popular. The Brothers Reiff, billed as America's neatest singing and dancing act, are a smart turn. Les Brunin gives a novel juggling and billiard-ball act. Cora Cassselli, in a Spanish rôle, with dramatic song and national dance, is repeating her usual success. Lily Burnand, a sprightly comedienne, scores. Burg, Hand, and Wise give, to the accompaniment of hearty laughter, their original acrobatic comedy act. Baker and Balfe prove a popular turn, with their latest selections on the xylophone. George Ross and Ella Grayson create much merriment with their comedy duo, *The Professor and the Pupil*. Ambrose Thorne, in his light comedy songs, is well received, as is also Arthur Gill, the man of many voices.

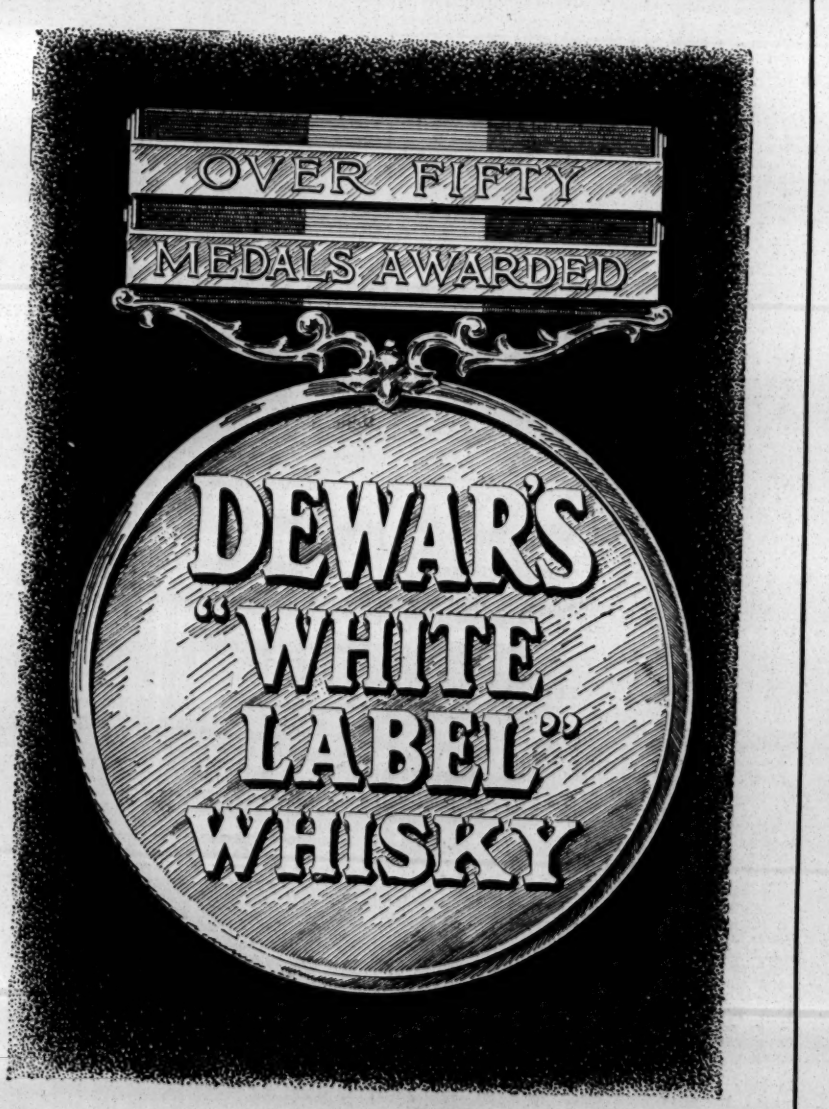
PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank McNaughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Topping the bill here this week are the Loma Trio, who give a fine performance as herculean gymnasts. Raymond's bioscope is projecting some entirely new pictures, and is proving one of the most entertaining items in the programme. Kathleen Robinson, comedienne and dancer, is scoring a success. Bishop and Vale maintain their popularity as entertaining comedians. Others appearing are Herbert Rule, comedian; Harry Cotton, eccentric comedian; Charles Sloman, comedian; and Millie Varcoe, serio.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Dewhurst.—Mr. T. Jarman's company is appearing here with the drama, *In Dark Siberia*. Mr. W. T. Riley appears to great advantage as Captain Gordon, and afterwards as Kobe, arousing much enthusiasm. Mr. Wilson Howard is an able representative of Major Waroff; Mr. Bert H. Ross is very natural as Colonel Nevski; Miss Cecilia Ransome deserves great praise for the admirable representation of Paul Gregorovitch. Princess Natalie Orloff finds a capable exponent in Miss Carlotta Anson; Mr. Louis Weston causes much amusement as Sergeant Petrovitch, and is well supported by Miss Linda Riley as Ivanova; Mr. H. Goodier scores as Bruin, and Miss Ethel Birckham as Sonia Gordon deserves mention.

LIMERICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Robert Fogerty.—Mr. Lilford Arthur's company presented *The Prodigal Father* on the 2nd inst. Mr. Charles Collette sustained the heavy rôle of Stanley Jones with rare ability; the part of Percy Jones was well enacted by Mr. Edmund Beresford; and as Tom Breeze we had a clever interpreter in Major David Sellar. The part of Catesby Duff was cleverly acted by Mr. Aubrey Mallalieu, and as Smith, Mr. Ernest Wintour was excellent. The rôle of Kate Jones was well sustained by Miss Rosamund Bury, who sings sweetly; Miss Ruby Chester was a vivacious and artistic Dolly Bond; Miss Irene Ross a clever little Angel Birdikens; and as Beadle, Miss Mabel Luxmore was clever.

LINCOLN.—PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—Ahrensmeyer, the cowboy hypnotist, is presenting a remarkable performance here. Dandy George and his dog Rosie contribute a smart and taking turn; Tray and Rich are a good pair of comedians; the Two Whites create amusement with song and dance; Calvo, the vocal mimic, is successful; and George Ridgewell, comedian, scores with a couple of capital songs.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—Good-bye was extended to Mr. Robert Arthur's ninth successful pantomime on Saturday night last, and Monday ushered in the regular dramatic season with *A Country Mouse*, presented by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. Angela the ingenious, presented by Miss Violet M. Harley, is full of charm and archness. As the captivating Archibald Vyse Mr. Percy Hutchison plays with ease and discretion; an excellent Duke is submitted by Mr. F. G. Thurstans; and Mr. Charles Harley seems quite at home as John Bowlby, M.P. Miss Violet Ley and Miss Dorothy



GRAND PRIX
ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION, 1904.

Cacey fill their respective parts with credit. *Judged by Appearances*, from the pen of Mr. Frederick Fenn, is the curtain-raiser.

Shakespeare Theatre, Limited.—Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gaffney.—*Aladdin*, the only remaining pantomime remaining in Liverpool, will finish here on the evening of the 25th inst.

Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, Jun.—Miss Nettie Ware's company is here this week with, for the first time in Liverpool, *When Woman Hates*. Miss Elaine Verner fills the rôle of Cora Daintry with earnestness and dramatic force; praise is due to Mr. John B. Shinton for his Lieut. Rokeby; Mr. Albert Guyon, as Godfrey Lawton, is a villain of a despicable type; the comedy part as P.-c. O'Brien is in the capable hands of Mr. Will Percy; and as Marie Rokeby and Edith Rokeby Miss Ada M. Ryder and Miss Alicia Raleigh acquit themselves creditably.

Lyric Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—The principal item in this week's bill is Mr. Joe Peterman's musical comedy, *The Belle of the Orient*, which is a great success. Tate and Tate are clever acrobats; Alf Farrell and Harry Hilton keep the house in roars of laughter; Bert Woodward's cycling act is well received; and Vivana's dancing is greatly enjoyed; the Rushworth's illustrated songs are good, and King Leo's ventriloquial item is very enjoyable.

Star Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. H. Fineberg; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Simmons.—*The Silver King* is being played here by Messrs. Polini and Austin Melford's company. Mr. Herbert Ford is an excellent Wilfred Denver; Miss Lilian Bethel a delightful Nellie Denver, and Mr. E. J. George a capital Jaikes.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Granville; Manager, Mr. Fred Granville.—*The London Fireman* has this week paid a first visit to Liverpool. Mr. J. Forbes Knowles is successful as Hal Curtis; a typical villain is presented by Mr. Edward L. Garside; Miss Nellie Shirley, as Ida Curtis, acts with grace and discretion; Miss Violet Temple is a delightful Gladys Fleming; and Mr. Robert Grey shows to advantage as Viscount Fleming.

Empire, Limited.—District Manager, Mr. T. A. Cook; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Stratton.—Fresh from the Liverpool Royal Court Theatre pantomime, Mr. Edward Lewis, heading programme here this week, has been accorded a hearty reception. A well-acted trifle, entitled *V.C.*, is given with effect by Mr. Harry Howard's company; the Rossow Midgets are exceedingly interesting; Morris's ponies display evidence of careful training; the Astleys, described as American musical farmers, give a refined entertainment; some wonderful whistling is submitted by Arthur Melrose; and others in the programme are Peppo's monkeys; the Jackson family of clever musicians; H. F. Wilson, vocalist; Fred E. Terry, comedian; the Sakers, comedy artistes; Little Uno, and Miss Daisy Mayer, a smart dancer.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Three Rainats are at the top of the bill here this week with their surprising work on the trapeze; Mr. Frank Coyne presents a number of new and taking songs; the shooting by Henri de Marse is exceptionally clever; the Jees give an acceptable turn with their "musical smithy"; Miss Lillie Soutter has a lot of funny "business"; some wonderfully trained pigeons are shown by Mons. Valoni; the Baldwin Bros. create much laughter with their eccentric acrobatic work; and others who appear are Carrie Joy, comedienne; the Two Errols, clever jumpers; and May Kent, burlesque artiste.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. O'Toole.—A return visit of Mr. Percy Boucher and his company with *Shadows of a Great City* has been the special attraction here this week. Variety turns are given by Miss Florrie Hall, soubrette; Mr. Jack Stewart, comedian; and Mr. Bert Osborne, solo banjoist. The Electrograph is also a feature.

New Parthenon.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—A very satisfying bill of fare is presented here this week, at the head of which are the Three Schaffers, gladiatorial marvels from Paris. W. O. Wills, comedian, is very amusing; Tom Blake shows himself a rollicking Irish comedian and clever dancer; Millie Harris sings several songs in a pleasing manner; as a comedian and descriptive vocalist Mr. Herbert Maden is good; Eric Graham gives several character songs; and the Dainton Girls are charming character duettists.

Paddington Palace, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. J. Kiernan.—Foremost in the bill presented here this week are the Vyponds (Fred and Maude), whose society entertainments, entitled *The Honeymoon* and *The New Servant*, have been witnessed with much pleasure. Tell and Tell are a couple of quaint eccentrics; the Dagonets, with their American banjo song and dance, are a good turn; George Edney provides a number of popular ditties; the dancing and singing of the Radium Girls are pleasing; Arthur Aiston has a number of comic songs; and an acceptable turn is that of Mayzy Osmunde, vocalist and speciality artiste.

Westminster.—Proprietor, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Henry Carlton, a popular comedian, is at the head of the bill here this week with his comedy team in the military absurdity, *Obliging a Lady*, which causes endless laughter. Kempston and Murdock, speciality artistes, are a good turn; Baker and Rose provide a clever quick-change act entitled *The Waif's Ambition*; the Moyondos go through an expert performance with their barrel and tumbling act; Mr. and Mrs. Allen Wye have a laughable farcelet, *What Happened to Watt*; Paul Pry is a smart comedian and whistler; and others who appear are Miss Marie St. John, coon and descriptive vocalist; and R. S. Hamilton, comedian.

Park Palace.—Director, Mr. James Kiernan.—Jack and Evelyn, smart entertainers, are here on a farewell visit; Kydd and Kydd, as patter comedians and dancers, are excellent; Wright and Aitken, assisted by Miss Belle Adams, present a neat comedy duologue, *The Lady Sport*; Frank Tyrell is a comedian and dancer of merit; and others on the programme are Chris. Masters, character vocalist; Fox and Melville, American song illustrators; and Joe Cookson, ventriloquist.

LLANELLY.—Royalty Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John Tully.—Mr. Tully's well-known company is here in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The popular and genial proprietor and manager himself plays the part of the Kentucky pedlar, Phineas Fletcher, with great success. Miss Edith Blanche, a charming and clever actress, is equally successful in the dual parts of Eliza Harris and the slave, Cassy. Uncle Tom is capitally impersonated by Mr. William Taylor; Mr. E. Kellar Taylor plays the part of George Harris well; as Marks, the lawyer, Mr. St. Vincent Beechley is very good, as is also Mr. Chas. Colwyn as Mr. St. Clair. Mr. Fred G. Kay scores in the part of the rascally Legree; Little Miss Marie is a charming Eva; and Miss Kitty Wood, in the part of Topsy, is clever, her flap shoe dance and specially in the plantation scene being rapturously applauded. As Aunt Ophelia, Miss Marie Lyndon is smart; and Miss L. Danby makes a good Chloe. In the plantation scene clever specialities are also given by Miss L. Francis, vocalist; Messrs. Will Pettit, banjo soloist; Billy Taylor, whistling coon; Sergeant H. Danby, rifle and tambo expert, and the Long Brand Minstrels.

LONG EATON.—Lyceum Theatre.—We have a return visit from *The Convent Bells* company, under the direction of Mr. Howell Webb. This musical comedy drama introduces Mr. Stanley Carlton, who is applauded for his songs, and Miss Ruby Maude, a popular figure, as the affianced wife. The humorous element, entrusted to Miss Florrie Mandeville, Mr. Howell Webb, and Mr. Teddy Myles. The convict and convent scenes are well staged.

LONGTON.—Queen's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. S. Howard. — Mr. W. H. Hallett, with *Two Little Sailor Boys* company is here this week Mr. W. H. Sams, as Noel Tregarthern, plays with good effect, and as Richard Redstone, Mr. Leonard Booker is a distinct success. Mr. W. H. Hallett gives a telling performance as Captain Tom Yorke. Both Mr. Oscar Power, as Jack Jolly, and Mr. Tom E. Sinclair, as Ben Baxter, do good service. Miss Mabel Scudamore gains many admirers with her sympathetic portrayal of Mildred Grey. Miss Blanche Steele is excellent as Lola Yorke. The two little sailor boys, represented by Miss May Grey, as Cyril, and Miss Ethel F. Greene, as Tom, win the approbation of interested audiences.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Secretary, Mr. Charles E. Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Louis Beaufort.—On Monday, Mr. Henry Swinerd's company, under the direction of Mr. J. W. Cordiner, presented *Dare Devil Dorothy* to a capital house. Miss Marjorie Cecil plays well as Dorothy Montrose, and her songs are favourably received. Miss Kathleen Garnon is good as Ruth. A sound performance of Captain George Fielding is given by Mr. Cecil W. Parke. As Captain Edward Dudley, Mr. Henry C. Ward acts the villain in fine style. Miss Nellie Harcourt, as Judith, together with Mr. Arthur Verne, as Silas Crump, dance and act excellently. Mr. Wilfred Carr is good as Featherstone Haugh. The sisters Mabel and Lillie Blake introduce some clever dancing, and the orchestra is under the able bâton of Mr. W. H. Eveleigh. For the last three nights of the week Mr. Clifton Alderson's *A Soldier and a Man* company provides the attraction.

LOWESTOFT.—Marina.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—A powerful attraction is provided this week in the drama, *A Victim of Villainy*, ably submitted by Mr. Walter Howe's company. Mr. Howe, who is responsible for the book, gives a really fine presentment as Frank Manton, and is warmly applauded. Mr. C. E. Wilton is powerfully cast as Stephen Cavanagh; and Mr. Leonard Howe makes the most of his opportunities as Walter Lennox. A capital sketch of the kind-hearted policeman is afforded by Mr. Geo. Mallin. A sympathetic picture of Mary Manton is given by Miss Rosa Lehmann, and Miss Muriel Dean is attractive as Cavanagh's wife. Miss Grace Mignon, as Eric, is well placed, and other parts are carefully treated. The scenery includes several fine sets.

MACCLESFIELD. — Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—The Olga Audré, Travis Green, and Arthur Hinton company is here this week in *When a Man Hates*, and on Monday this remarkable play was presented to a good audience. Mr. Arthur Hinton took the part of Pietro Danelli, and gave an admirable interpretation of that difficult rôle. Mr. Graham Arthurs appeared as Laurence Hastings, the young curate, and made the part most life-like and interesting. Mr. Frank Brunell acted acceptably as Detective Smart. Mr. Gerald Bryne as Paul was very good; and a capital representation of Sir Rupert Trehorne was found in M. Ploens Grino. Miss Leila Zillwood played with rare power and feeling in the rôle of Olga; Miss Marion Forrester was all that could be desired as Letty; Mr. Sydney Benson, as Peter Pimple; and Miss Nana Flensberg, as Dolly, were responsible for the humorous part of the play, and it could not have been in better hands, and their songs and dances brought down the house; Mr. William Beck, as Sergeant Wiggins made the most of his opportunities.

MAIDENHEAD. — Grand Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Edgard Dereve and F. L. Schmitz.—Mr. Hugh Dempsey's variety company has attracted good houses, and Mr. Dempsey himself still retains his character as an excellent and versatile entertainer. Vocal numbers are also contributed by Miss Annie Revande, Miss Nanoni, and Miss Marie Riviers. Miss Walla Sanger sings and dances, with limelight effects, and introduces her dog, "Nellie," who performs a serpentine dance; and Mons. Mellini shows a capital selection of cinematograph views. Leopold Leglere's troupe of acrobats neatly perform feats requiring much skill and daring; Sardou mystifies with his cabinet illusion; The Saxons contribute marvellous exhibitions of strength; and Barney, the kicking mule, defies all comers.

MAIDSTONE.—Corn Exchange.—Manager, Mr. J. Beslee.—Mr. John Thompson's pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*, has been attracting good audiences here this week. Miss Ella Willmer, as Red Riding Hood, Miss Blanche Bayley, as Prince Allfair, and the comedians, Mr. John A. Thompson, as Dame Trot, Mr. C. W. Coleman, as Baron Sherlock Holmes, Mr. W. Lovell Rowland, as Simple Simon, and Mr. Fred Anderson, as Tommy Green, deserve special mention. The piece is well staged, and concludes with a pretty transformation scene, entitled "The Land of Butterflies."

MANCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Managing Director, Mr. Oscar Barrett; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—Although the run of *Mother Goose* at this theatre is drawing to an end, there is no abatement in the popularity of this phenomenally successful pantomime, which is a really fine example of Mr. John Hart's enterprise in this kind of fare. Recent innovations include several new songs well worthy of remark, namely, "It's Hard," by Mr. George Robey; "Falling In," by Little Gantz; "Good-Bye, Little Girl, Good-Bye," by Miss Hilda Jacobson; "For Ever," by Miss Ethel Haydon; "Mother," by Miss Daisy Jerome; "The Busted Dolly," by Miss Venie Clements; and "Nursery Rhymes," by Mr. George Bastow, the latter of whom did not, however, introduce his song on Monday evening. New "business" also has been introduced with excellent effect, Mr. George Robey being mainly responsible for the development in this direction. All the parts are played with considerable spirit and success, those above-mentioned being seen in the principal rôles. Taken altogether, this pantomime must be remembered as one of the most gorgeous and entertaining ever seen in Manchester.

Prince's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oscar Barrett; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—A highly successful visit of the D'Oyly Carte Opera company is to be recorded here this week. The repértoire includes all the well-known Gilbert and Sullivan pieces, *The Gondoliers* being staged on Monday night. The principal parts were in the hands of Mr. C. H. Workman, Mr. Fred Billington, Mr. Pacie Ripple, Mr. Albert Kavanagh, Mr. Leicester Tunks, Mr. Fred Drawater, Miss Norah Maguire, Miss Therese Rassam, Miss Jessie Rose, and Miss Alice Lisle, a groupe of capable and popular singers who do full justice to the remainder of the repértoire, which is made up of *The Mikado*, *Patience*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *Trial by Jury*, and *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Each piece is elaborately put on, and rendered cleverly and brightly. The operas are reproduced under the direction of Mr. Fred A. Leon.

Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Oscar Barrett; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—Mr. Charles Frohman presents here this week Messrs. Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell's company in *Little Mary*, J. M. Barrie's curious and entertaining comedy. The company includes Mr. George Mudie, who figures amiably and cleverly as the Earl of Carlton; Miss Ethel Dane, whose rendering of Moira Loney is an exceedingly charming piece of work; Mr. Arthur Kightley, who gives a smart and pleasing delineation of Lord Rolfe; Mr. George A. Brandram, whose depiction of the self-important Sir Jennings Pyke is one of the best things of the evening; and Miss Elspeth Dudgeon, who gives a firm and satisfactory interpretation of the Countess of Plumleigh. Other parts are well rendered by Mr. Dan Macdonald, Mr. Lewis Edgard, Miss Beatrice Kelston, Miss Margaret Nybloc, and Mr. F. J. Watts. The comedy is preceded by a powerful but unpleasing "story" in two scenes, *The Monkey's Paw*, by Messrs. Louis N. Parker and W. W. Jacob, which is played in a style which brings home forcibly the gruesomeness of the piece. Both plays are produced by Mr. Addison Bright.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. W. H. Broadhead; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The American Indian actress, Go-Won-Go-Mohawk, pays a return visit to Manchester this week, in her well-known drama, *Wep-Ton-No-Mah*, which is a bright and unique entertainment. Go-Won-Go-Mohawk is the centre of interest as the mail carrier, and she is supported by an excellent company, the principals being Mr. C. W. Charles, Mr. George Courtney, Mr. Guy D. Hackney, Mr. Dan Ryan, Miss Minnie Coepel, and Miss Jessie Hart. The acting is lightened by some excellent singing and dancing in the second act.

Metropole Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The bill here this week is headed by H. Hesslegrave and company in an amusing dialect sketch, entitled *Soft Tommy*. Gardiner, Griffin, and Gardner, musical comedy trio, are also here in their absurdity, *The Rat-Catcher*. Other good turns are Frank Dunlop, comedian and story-teller; the Stoll Brothers, comedy wrestlers; Wee Mona, a clever juvenile vocalist and actress; George Prince, comedian; Harleno, the man with the hat; Rem Lang, society entertainer; the Sisters Hayward, comediennes; and Gilroy and Cross, comedians and dancers.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—An interesting and sensational drama, *Napoleon the Great*, by Frank M. Thorne, was staged here on Monday. The play is in the hands of a well chosen company, of whom Mr. Hugh Montgomery figures with distinction as Napoleon; Mr. Frank M. Thorne is seen to advantage as Pierre Pomponnet; Mr. Phil Harper acts vigorously as Colonel Meuron; Miss Chrissie Dunbar does admirably as Marie Walewska; and Miss Maud Russell distinguishes herself as Mdlle. Marboeut. Of the remainder of the cast, which is thoroughly efficient, Mr. J. G. Maine and Mr. C. W. Spencer are notable. The staging is excellent, and the action brisk and exciting.

St. James's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Potasch.—Mr. John Wainwright and company are here this week in *It's Never Too Late to Mend*, in which Mr. Wainwright is seen in his old part of Tom Robinson. The attractiveness of the play does not seem to wear out, and it is being given in capital style by the company engaged. Besides Mr. John Wainwright, Miss Minnie Wilton, Mr. Wilfred Graham, Mr. Charles F. Johnson, Mr. Harold Webb, Mr. Fred Owen, and Miss Kate Randolph distinguish themselves in prominent parts. The play is well staged.

Hippodrome (Hulme).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—*The Magic Album*, here this week, reveals a capital series of artistic living pictures, a novelty proving very popular. The New York Comedy Four also come in for a good reception, their excellently-rendered glees and humorous style being much appreciated. Hicks' Clerks are amusing, and their singing is good; Marie Winsome, as usual, scores as a male impersonator; Max Sterling is exceedingly smart at sleight of hand tricks; and Charles Ashdowne, comedian, contributes a capital eccentric dance. Others who figure to advantage in the programme are the Four Magnets, novelty dancers; the Wallonells, in a comedy bar act; Winnie Scott, comedienne and dancer; and Bert Bowden, comedian.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—This week, Arthur Gilbert, who sings humorous songs in his own distinctive style, is one of the attractions. The Geoffreys cause much amusement with their capital sketch, *Spoofed*; Tom E. Hughes sings "One of the Upper Ten" and other songs with much success; and Bert Williams gives a good ventriloquial act. Clown Charlton is clever and amusing; the Swift Trio are expert cyclists; and George Russell tickles the audience with his laughing songs. In addition, the Three Shipbuilders give an excellent musical turn; the Sisters Bartholomew sing and dance; the Singing Collier, Shingleton, meets with much appreciation; and the Danvils are applauded for their illustrated songs.

Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Prominent turns here this week are Fanny Wentworth, the well-known society entertainer, in her musical sketches at the piano; and Daisy James, a first-rate comedienne, who makes a decided hit with her Gibson Girl song. Maidie Scott sings in a pleasing manner, and is highly successful in her effective scena, *Jolly Japan*. Mr. H. Perrette and Bessie Shelley are seen to advantage in a capital item, *Teasing the General*; and Myra Stansfield, a charming comedienne, sings nicely. Other good turns are Fred Gilbert, in his clever ladder act; Charles Danvers, comedian; Tom Yorke, coster comedian; the Voldam Brothers, acrobats and balancers; and Ernest Sewell, conjurer

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Collins.—Annie Purcell, well known in musical comedy, heads the bill here this week, and meets with a good reception, her well-rendered songs being highly appreciated. Ethel Arden and George Abel are once again here in their amusing sketch, *Three of a Kind*; and roars of laughter follow their efforts. A decidedly pleasing and beautiful electric illusory act is presented by Frances Haskoll, "the vocal chameleon"; and Franco Piper "gets a tune" whilst manipulating banjoes in a wonderful manner. Starr and Leslie introduce some good singing and clever juggling in their speciality; Fred Poplar has some amusing patter, and a capital song; Kitty Wager is a pleasing comedienne; Dave O'Toole, comedian, is very amusing; and the Canary Company causes some laughter in their item, *Fun in a Kitchen*.

Palace.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. P. Watson; Assistant-Secretary, Mr. J. Hewitt.—An all-round excellent company is here this week, headed by "the Manchester idol," Vesta Tilley, whose reception at each performance is most enthusiastic. It speaks well for this clever lady's popularity that almost all the seats were booked up the week before her arrival. On Monday night she was in excellent form, and although she contributed four songs, the audience clamoured for more. A fine performance on the rings and trapeze is given by the Delavines in their speciality, *The Demon Grotto*. The Anartos also provide a capital turn, their patter being most amusing, and their musical selections delightful. Harry Rogerson makes a hit with his sleeping song; the Carina Sisters render violin and cornet solos in fine style; and Bertha Winder, champion lady clog dancer of the world, is well received. A clever up-to-date ventriloquist is Coram, who is deservedly applauded. Other good turns are Mdlle. Nadji, a clever hand-balancer; and Daisy Lane, comedienne, who sings nicely. An enjoyable series of animated pictures complete. Clem Lisbon, comedian and expert dancer, figures on the programme, but did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

Manchester Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—Ernest Shand, the popular London comedian, is at the top of the bill here this week, his smart business being heartily appreciated. A. C. Lilly and Co. also appear in their elaborate military episode, *Drummed Out*. Another good turn is the Caledonian Boys' orchestral and vocal combination; while varied and entertaining business is supplied by Keno, Welch, and Montrose, comedy acrobats; Professor Dunning, ventriloquist; Walter Bellonini, a smart juggler; Kahn and Kahn, in their modern necromancy; the Emlyn Jones Quartette of accomplished vocalists; a capital Bioscopic series of pictures; and two pleasing vocal items by the Hippodrome choir.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert J. Lewis.—*The Way of the World*, played by Messrs. Montague Beaudyn and Sidney Crowe's company opened here on Monday. As Cecil Montague Mr. Montague Beaudyn submits a crediable impersonation, and Mr. Herbert Skardon is effective as Captain Fred Slade. Matthew Malyon is capitally acted by Mr. W. Robertson Foulis; Mr. John Keane as Sir John Slade, and Mr. E. Vicars Kees as Silas Montague, are both good in their respective parts; Mr. Louis Scott as Horatio Bluff, and Mr. Ernest Turner are responsible for much humour; Miss Sidney Crowe is seen to advantage as the circus queen, Mdlle. de la Roche; Miss Irene Munroe gives a pleasing rendering of Kate Montague; Miss Annie Clunn is satisfactory as Marion Fanshaw; and Miss Violet Viviennie scores as Polly Bell.

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales' Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company is this week representing *The Sin of her Childhood*. Mr. Austin Milroy gives a vigorous impersonation of Stephen Haysel; the Rev. Alan Grev of Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves is a first rate study; Mr. J. A. Campbell does well as Captain Thornton; Mr. Fred Elwin is amusing as Barney O'Rielly. Miss Mary Fulton gives an admirable rendering as the heroine, Mary Haysel; Miss Jennie Hicks creditably fills the rôle of Maria Haysel; Miss Dot Moss contributes some clever songs and dances.

MIDDLESBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Middlesborough Theatres, Limited; Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Mr. Bert Coote's company in *The Fatal Wedding*, is occupying the boards here. Little Miss Marjorie Lawrence, as Jessie, gives a most charming and refined impersonation; Howard Wilson is ably sustained by Mr. S. Herbert Humber; and Miss Gertrude Harrison is successful as Cora. The other rôles are ably sustained by talented artistes. An attractive feature of the production is the performance given by a group of pretty and well-trained children.

Opera House.—Proprietors, The Middlesborough Grand Opera House Company; Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Hopcutt.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is fulfilling a week's engagement here, in *Under Two Flags*. As Bertie Cecil, Mr. Wilfred E. Payne gives a powerful rendition, and Mr. Will Hoop is successful as the faithful Rake. Miss Emeline Polini, as Cigarette, has innumerable opportunities, and she gives a most realistic impersonation.

Empire.—Proprietors, The Middlesborough Empire Palace of Varieties, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill.—Mr. Charles Rainbgiers, of the Middlesex, is still courteously and ably carrying out the duties of manager here *pro tem*. This week the numerous patrons of the comfortable hall have had an opportunity of witnessing Herr Grais, with his really wonderful baboon prodigies; Wal Pink, an old and valued Teeside favourite, together with his efficient company, presents *Uncle's Wife*, one of his ever-welcome and funny sketches; Lind, in an entertaining performance; Muir and Bartlett, in an interlude, entitled *A Clerical Complication*; Terry and Bentley, comedians; the Three Sisters Slater, banjoists and dancers; Miss Kathleen Gray, burlesque artiste; and the bioscope, showing a capital picture, entitled "The Blacksmith's Daughter," are also in the bill.

Oxford.—Lessee, Mr. William Peacock; Manager, Mr. Wm. Ainsworth.—A highly attractive programme is submitted to the patrons of the Oxford this week. Dida, who heads the bill, is a most astounding turn, and proves a great attraction. McPhee and Hill, in a horizontal bar act, are favourites, and the Paul Hesse Trio prove themselves smart acrobats. The Clarions are applauded for their comedy act; Steve Cooke, as a burlesque comedian, does exceedingly well; Sadie Simpson is a pretty comedienne; and Percy Farrimond, tenor; Mons. De Lil, conjuror; the Fordyces, vocalists and dancers; and Professor Hulbert, complete the bill.

NEWPORT.—Lyceum.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Mouillot's company is paying a return visit here this week with *A Message from Mars*. Mr. F. Rawson Buckley, as Horace Parker, is delightfully natural, entering into the spirit of the part thoroughly. The Messenger (Mr. Brougham) is impressively solemn. Mr. Bruce Lindley gives a fine study of a Tramp; and Miss May Laker does well as Minnie Templar. Miss Flora Hastings, as Miss Parker, and Mr. Frank G. Dunn as Arthur Dicey, are well-played characters.

Empire.—Moss's Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—Chirgwin, who is very popular here, heads the bill this week. Cruikshank supplies a musical treat; and Ryder Stone scores in his song-scena, *Are Yer 'Sleep? The Mill in the Forest*, a sketch played by the Kieffer Co., is a source of amusement. The Norman and Leonard Trio show considerable musical skill; and a unique performance is that of Basolari, the double-voiced vocalist. Frank Leslie is a good descriptive vocalist, and the bioscope shows some amusing pictures.

NORTHAMPTON.—Opera House.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—*The Darling of the Gods* is being presented here this week, by the Ben Greet company. Miss Inez Bensusan, in the part of Yo-san, displays talent in her rendering of this difficult part; Mr. Alfred Goddard gives excellent support in his embodiment of Kara; Mr. Edward A. Warburton gives a well-studied representation of Kakkuri; and Mr. Sidney C. Sinclair is very good as Ino.

Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—A big success has been scored this week by Rachel Lowe, a singer of novelty songs; the Two Daniels are smart negro delineators, instrumentalists, singers, and expert dancers; the Bros. Levett are fine vaulters; the Seltina Troupe maintain their excellence as acrobats; Arthur Paget is a good comedian; and Lynn, the singing newsboy; Mr. Harris I. Bell and Miss Lily Pearl's company, in a vaudeville, entitled *A Bit of String*; Ethel Yorke; and Mahatma, also appear.

NORTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—*A Life's Revenge* is presented here this week by Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company. As Prince Boris Strogoroff, Mr. Fred C. Somerfield acts with considerable power; Mr. Walter Roberts (an old local favourite) is responsible for a capital impersonation of Michael Orloff; Mr. John F. Traynor shows great ability as Paul Starovitch; and Mr. T. G. Vane is good as Maurice Trevor. Miss Amy Ellam gives an excellent portrayal of Princess Vanda Ivyaa; Miss Lillie Monckton, as Marcia Vittoria, plays the character in a highly satisfactory style; Mr. Charles E. Warne, as Colonel Tumbleoff, and Miss Maudie Grayson, as Daphne Dashaway, supply the comedy element, and are highly successful in their efforts.

New Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The principal attraction here is The Grovinis, who give a clever acrobatic display. Messrs. Reed and Wright, comedians and top-boot dancers, are enthusiastically received; and Messrs. Drum and Major, in their comedy act, have made a hit. Mr. R. C. Note, swell comique, is well received; and The Harts (comedians), Miss Daisy Devonport (comedienne), The Paolias (gymnasts), and the Animated Pictures score their usual success.

NORWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Frank Fenton's excellent company, in *If I Were King*, is here this week. Mr. Frank Fenton, in a most admirable manner, filled the part of François Villon; Mr. E. Bellenden Clarke acts exceedingly well as Louis XI.; Mr. Laurence Grove is much appreciated as Noel de Jolys; and Mr. Leonard Maxwell makes the most of the part of Thibaut; Mr. Herbert Edwards deserves mention as Toison d'Or. Miss Elsie Roberts charmingly acted the part of Katherine; and Miss Louise Vanssitar deserves every praise as Huguette.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Pitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Pitt.—An admirable programme is presented here. Miss Nellie Wallace makes her first appearance, and has an enthusiastic reception. Her songs are very taking. Mr. Harry Allister gives some clever impersonations; Miss Anita Wayman, the Scottish nightingale, continues her engagement; Miss Esme Gordon, comedienne and dancer, has an agreeable reception; M. Gintaro is an excellent juggler and top spinner; Abd-'el-Kader, lightning painter, is very entertaining; Mystery Gauze, as a female impersonator, is well received; Will Johnson, comedian, is a favourite; Daisy Martell is charming as a comedienne and dancer; Goggin and Davis are clever as comedy acrobats; and Brett and Orford, in *Two Love Birds*, are pleasing.

NOTTINGHAM. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—Mr. C. St. John Denton's company is presenting *Kitty Grey* this week, and the lively comedy, replete with new songs and dances, goes capitally. In the name-part Miss Hilda Guiver brings an attractive personality, good voice, and sparkling vivaciousness to bear on her representation; Miss Eily Hélène makes a bright and spirited exponent of Lady Binfield; while Sir John Binfield is skilfully played by Mr. Robert Selby; Mr. Robert White, junr., acts the King of Illyria with amusingly volatile suggestion, and Mr. L. W. Harris as Lord Plantagenet wins general favour by his drollery and clever dancing. Miss Hilda Scarisbrick plays with real earnestness as Saidie de Poulson, and Miss Emily Stevens satisfactorily impersonates Mrs. Bright. The band render a good account of themselves under the bâton of Mr. Albert Vernon.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—*The Still Alarm* proves a potent factor still for drawing good houses, and the company of Messrs. M. H. Glenville and Fred Osmond works assiduously and well. Mr. Glenville impersonates Jack Manley, realising fully this genial and outspoken character. In showing up the villainy of John Bird, Mr. Paul Lovett is strong and thoroughly effective. A charming embodiment of Elinore Fordham is given by Miss Mary Lovett, whose graceful and refined acting brings forth many expressions of approval; Miss Hettie Zillwood makes matters lively as Carrie Wilber of "the halls," and her young lover, Willie Manley, is capitally played by Mr. Tom Beasley; Mr. Fred Osmond keeps well within bounds as the drunken Doc Wilber, and Mr. Lewis Gordon gives a smart portrayal of an American fireman; Miss Mabel Veriton well elaborates the part of Mrs. Manley. In the fire station scene are introduced a beautiful greyhound and a couple of trained horses, and an effective quartet party discourse patriotic and other ballads.

King's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. W. Bull.—*The Ladder of Life* is attracting large audiences, who enjoy to the full the exciting situations of this military drama. Mr. Tyrone Power adequately fills the rôle of the retired General Gordon; Mr. Roy F. Gascoigne submits a capital interpretation of Colonel MacGregor; and Mr. Roy Milton as Lieut. Gordon acts with ease and assurance. Mr. Ronald Yorke invests the knavish character of Fergus Gordon with an easy nonchalance that excites the keenest repugnance, and Mr. Finch-Hatton renders him valuable help as a Russian spy. Miss Maude Yorke acts Olga Sobinsky with an energy and intensity that find much favour, and Miss Whitley gives the right touch of pathos as Meg Merrilees. The humour is capitally sustained by Mr. F. Morton Wright (Sergeant MacDougal), Mr. Tom Bowron (Breezy Bill), and Miss Hilda Young (Mary Jane). The Feros add to the interest by their acrobatic feats.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Bowmaker.—The Agoust Family of jugglers are past masters in their art, and the heartiest of plaudits follow them throughout their turn. The gymnastic performance of Alf Arnesen calls forth the utmost enthusiasm; a smart skit on the wonders of liquid air is provided by those excellent comedians, Walton and Lester; the dexterous dancing of Ida Heath, and her quick change of costumes is thoroughly enjoyed, and the marionette show of Professor Bernar is a source of wonder and amusement; Lukos Herford's dogs submit some skilful acrobatic feats, and Rumbo Austin's parody acrobatic troupe are exceedingly amusing; Sable Fern contributes a couple of songs in her dainty style; the breezy manner of Marie Collins is suitably rewarded, and James Bard adds his part to the programme.

NUNEATON.—Prince of Wales's Theatre, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr. George Dance's company is here this week with *The Girl from Kay's*. Miss Elsie Molloy makes a fascinating Winnie Harborough; Mr. George Blunt is an exceedingly funny Max Hoggenheimer; Mr. Henry Fitzgibbon, as Percy Fitzthistle, and Mr. Fred Payne, as Joseph (hotel porter), are responsible for a large amount of merriment.

OLDHAM.—Empire, Limited.—Manager, Mr. Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hulme.—On Monday, for the first time in Oldham, Mrs. Russ Whytal, the popular American actress, and her excellent company presented *The Cardinal*. Mr. Philip Cunningham's interpretation of the title-rôle was highly impressive; Mrs. Russ Whytal, as Filiberta, fully sustained her high reputation; Mr. Gerald Kay-Souper, as the Cardinal's brother, was excellent; Mr. George Ingleton, as Guido Baglioni, was very good; Miss Katherine Maude, as the Cardinal's mother was very effective; and Miss Freda Bramleigh was a capable Honoria; Mr. Douglas Gordon as Andrea Strozzi was quite successful.

Theatre Royal, Limited.—Manager, Mr. Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Knowles.—Exceptionally fine programmes continue to prevail at this popular house. Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco present their mysterious performance with their accustomed success; the Sisters G

PENTRE. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Eugene Hardie.—The return visit of Messrs. Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholls' company in *The Life that Kills* is being welcomed this week by large and appreciative audiences. Mr. Fred Moule, as Kendal Croat, gives a clever impersonation, and is well seconded by Miss Kathleen Cavanagh as Brenda Croat; Mr. Ernest G. Fare and Miss Marie Menzies, as Hector Rodney and Laurie Linden respectively, earn great praise for their admirable portrayal; Miss Lucy Murray and Mr. Alfred Burrows are responsible for much merriment as Johanna Dicks and Terence Malone respectively. *Hearts of Stone* was presented by the same company on Thursday.

PERTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Theatre-goers are having an exceptionally enjoyable week here with Mr. Edward Compton and his comedy company, which includes Miss Haidée Gunn. On Monday, *The School for Scandal* was staged with all the completeness which makes Mr. Compton and his company so deservedly popular. An enjoyable performance of *The Rivals* was given on Tuesday. *David Garrick* was billed for Wednesday and Friday, and *A Reformed Rake* for Thursday.

PORTH.—POOLE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr W. Bynorth.—Mr. George Kirk's and Miss Mary Neil's company opened here on Monday in the comedy drama entitled *Judy, or the Fatal Hand*. Mr. George Kirk gives a clever impersonation of Grip; Mr. Richard Ferris is seen to advantage, and gives a powerful rendering of the part of Duburg, the Viper; he is ably assisted by Miss Violet Langley; Mr. William Vane is decidedly good as Sterling, the banker; Miss Mary Neil deserves mention for the excellent manner in which she renders the parts of Alice, the victim, and Polly, the coster; Mr. Will Casey as Jem the coster is very humorous, as is also Mr. W. Roe as Ciddles, the showman. Miss Florrie Groves is well received, and plays with great success as Judy; Miss Annie Mitchell meets with approval as Becky; Mr. Henry Rayburne is well suited as Trovitch, the Russian. The play is picturesuely staged.

PORTSMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal and company are visiting here this week. On Monday, *The Housekeeper* was presented, Mrs. Kendal sustaining the part of Lady Audrey Whitby with that charming manner which has always distinguished her acting. Mr. Kendal, either as the disciplinarian or love-sick and bashful Colonel Trent, was admirable. Mr. Bassett Roe gave an excellent representation of Lord Runswick; Mr. Ernest Hendrie was capital as Lord Hickson. A fine character study was the Chippenham Berkeley of Mr. Metcalfe Wood. Mr. W. M. Rutherfurd was the exact embodiment of a discreet butler; Mr. R. Sheldrick as Robert Sledmore, and Mr. Herbert Harben as Pennington Green, were very good. Lady Robertson was acted with distinction by Mrs. A. B. Tapping; Mrs. Rillington was piquantly and pointedly played by Miss Elise Clarens; Miss Mary Jerrold was an ingenuous Cicely Blake; and Miss Lola Duncan made the most of Mrs. Pennington Green. *Still Waters Run Deep, The Elder Miss Blossom*, and a new piece, *The Bird at the Neck*, are included in the week's programme.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate —This week we have here the naval drama, entitled, *Why Woman Sins*, presented by Mr. Fred S. Jennings and Miss Cora Deane's company. Miss Gussie Everitt cleverly plays the part of Ida Valette, "a woman with a past." Lily de Vere, a music hall star, is well rendered by Miss Cora Deane.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—At the top of the bill this week is T. E. Dunville, the popular comedian; the Leonards, speciality artistes, are exceedingly good; the Sisters Pine cause great merriment; Burns and Bentley, comedians and dancers, have had a cordial reception; Tee and Tee give an eccentric musical turn; Dot Hardy, character comedienne, pleases; Walter Howard, comedian and banjoist; Rosie Bartlett, burlesque actress; together with Payne's up-to-date Bio-Photoscope, complete the programme.

PRESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. Bert Coote's company is fulfilling a popular return engagement here this week in *The Fatal Wedding*. Mr. Ernest Owttrim gives an effective impersonation of Howard Wilson; Robert Curtis has an excellent representative in Mr. Cecil A. Collins. As Toto, a French butler, Mr. J. Carl Lyle causes much amusement. Praise is due to Mr. Cyril Melton for his droll delineation of Peter Schwartz. Miss Theresa Osborne is pathetic in her portrayal of Mabel Wilson; Cora Williams is embodied with considerable dramatic ability by Miss Beatrice Whitney; Miss Carrie Fenton is a diverting Bridget; and Miss Gladys Rose Jones is seen to advantage as Jessie.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—There is a first-class vaudeville company occupying the boards here this week. Chas. Prinz heads the bill with his troupe of seventeen lions, over which he has perfect control; the Parez Troupe of musicians are clever; Joe Raymond supplies some good songs; Beatrice Dudley is a smart speciality dancer; Wys Troupe of pantomimists are a source of amusement in their absurdity, *Vivo;* Chas. Bradford is an appreciated comedian; Les Picturesque Poses consist of a series of artistic tableaux; the Elvins are an excellent turn in their sketches; Nellie Dunbar is a charming singer and dancer; Brenda Leslie is worthy of praise with her vocal pictures. The Bioscope complete the programme with an interesting series of pictures.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident-Manager, Mr. Clement Freeman.—An enjoyable programme here this week includes the Imperial Russian Troupe of singers and dancers; Chas. Serra, equilibrist; Ralston and Francis, in a nautical musical scena; Walter Curtis, society entertainer; Agnes Krembser, lady juggler; Johnson and Bert, in their act, entitled, *A Queer Customer;* Keith and Merson, eccentric acrobatic, singing and patter comedians; Moto, the motoring musician; Gladenbeck's Continental speciality act; and Carle and Carmanelli, musical comedians, with the "electric moulding wheel."

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas Boothman.—Messrs. Pardoe hold sway here in their up-to-date pantomime, *Cinderella*. The staging and scenic effects are particularly good. Miss Lottie Holland is an attractive Prince Charming; Miss Cissy Kedward is good as Cinderella; and Miss Katie More is a successful Dandini; Miss Violet Rivers and Miss Ivey Leafe are the ugly sisters, Eva and Maud. The exceptional ability of Mr. George Hyam is seen in the character of Scoot; and Mr. Wright and Mr. James Gordon ably assist as James and Henry. Miss May Burke, as King Rose Leaf, also deserves a word; and Mr. Tom Griffitt, who has a good voice, scores as Father Time. The marvellous Pardoes are successful; and Capita, with his living marionette, is up-to-date; the Drome Trio are smart dancers; and the Sisters Tyrell are clever sand and buck dancers.

RAMSGATE.—AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—Messrs. F. Moule and E. D. Nicholls' company is here in the comedy-drama, *The Grip of the Law*. As the "stuttering detective," Mr. Nicholls is capital, and the David Arkwright of Mr. E. Mayden is a really clever impersonation. A great deal of fun is got out of the rôle of Andy Blunt, as played by Mr. S. Roberts, and Miss A. Frank is eminently successful as the spouse of the worthy Andy, and Miss Olive Parker does well as Marion Arkwright.

RAWTENSTALL. — GRAND THEATRE. — Co-proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Ellis Miller.—Miss Daisy De Roy's *Dick Whittington* pantomime company opened here on Monday. As Alice Fitzwarren, Miss Daisy De Roy looked charming, and was most successful, acting and singing with her well-known ability. As Dick Whittington, Mdlle. Lucretia proved thoroughly capable, her dancing being very clever. Mr. Sydney T. Pease is very funny as Eliza, and adds considerably to the fun of the piece. Mr. Frank Royal and Mr. George Welch, as the Captain and Bo'sun of the Saucy Sally, are also extremely funny, and, together with Mr. J. C. Bland, as Idle Jack, keep the audience in roars. As Tommy, the Cat, Mr. Fred Bendo imparts considerable humour to his part, and also introduces a marvellous contortion act. The specialities include Rae and Rae, in their trapeze act; Harcourt Russel, in "Facial Portraiture"; and the Geisha Quartette of lady dancers.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor. —The Ben Greet company, under Mr. J. Bannister Howard's direction, is appearing this week in the popular comic opera, *La Poupée*. Mr. Algernon Lee is a capable representative of Launcelot; Mr. Joseph A. Birell plays and sings excellently as Father Maxime, the "Jovial Monk" song being, of course, vociferously encored; Mr. Edward Thirlby is exceedingly droll as Hilarius; Mr. Harry Bishop is good as Loremois; and Mr. Stanley White is effective as Baron Chanterelle. Miss Eva Ellis acts with great vivacity as Henri, and Miss Cissie Wade gives a charming interpretation of the part of Alesia. Mr. S. Anchor, as Balthazer, and Miss Alice McFarlane, as Madame Hilarius, also merit special mention.

ROCHDALE.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. O. C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Clucas.—*Lucky Durham* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Wm. F. Grant submits an earnest and impassioned portrayal of John Durham; Mr. Henry de Solla cleverly impersonates the weak and unstable Lord Mountfallon; Mr. Daniel McCarthy acts with becoming pride and dignity the part of Richard Vallerton; Mr. Paul Belmore gives a fine exposition of the spendthrift, Hon. Reginald Steighton; Miss Molly Pearson acts with charming effect the part of Helen Vallerton; Miss Jessie Winter is refreshing as The Hon. Margaret Steighton; Miss Louisa Gourlay enacts with true motherly feeling Mrs. Durham; and Miss Emily Levettez, as Lady Mountfallon, hits off the matchmaking society mamma to the life.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Lee; Business Manager, Mr. S. L. Lee.—The Revell Troupe, in a sketch, *Mischief*, create roars of laughter; Miss May Geraldine is not inaptly described as a "chic" comedienne; and the Hampson Bros., patter comedians; Kyoto, in original comedy act; E. J. Wilkes, comedian, and his dog Woof; J. H. Kavanagh, comedian; Vernon's bioscope; and Andreassen Brothers, novelty acrobats, are other attractions.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—An interesting and varied programme is submitted here this week. Selbon's Vaudeville Circus, with trained ponies, dogs, &c., submit a clever and amusing performance. Gus Balsiger, comedian and trick instrumentalists; W. H. Morgan, character vocalist; Marie Gibson, soprano vocalist; Daisy Morrell, burlesque artiste; Stylo, hoop manipulator; Beatrice Bonnie, comedienne; Ernie Myers, comedian; the Empire Bioscope, in *Elopement by Ambulance;* and the Tatters troupe complete the list.

ROTHERHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Manning.—After an absence of over seven years, Messrs. C. and F. Renad's company is here with *The Swiss Express*. Messrs. Charles and Frederick Renad, as James and John, the eccentric servants, enhance their high reputation; Mr. Wilford Bailey gives a capital rendition of the part of Dr. Gondimar Gull; and Mr. George Martin is very smart as Rob Rollingstone. Mr. Alec Wylie is funny as Dudley Green; Mr. George Power is successful as Rhino, the landlord of the Black Bear Inn; Mr. Cecil Barrett is amusing as the Gendarme; and Mr. Fred Strachan, as Mons. Va Partout, is also deserving of mention. Miss Nellie Fern is seen to advantage as Mrs. Septimus Squeeze; and Miss Iris Banfield gives a finished portrayal of the part of Virginia, the bride. Misses Rosie Chandler, May Cornish, Dolly Payne, and Hetty Coventry, as the Four Brighton Girls, are responsible for some good dances.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, The Rugby Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Parker-Royston.—This week, *At War with the World* is being presented by a company of capable artistes. Mr. George Lyttleton, jun., as Squire Redfern, is excellent in his rendering; Mr. George Lyttleton, as Tom Redfern, gives a capable and effective exposition; Mr. A. E. Johnstone is clever as Thornton Westmeare, an adventurer; and as Gregory Blotts, Mr. F. J. Lewis gives an able and humorous exhibition. Miss Nora Kingsley as Mrs. Leslie appeals strongly to the sympathy of the audience by clever and emotional acting; and Miss Daisy Humphrey, as Mabel Leslie; and Miss Lilian Beaumont, as Edna Maddox, are both clever and charming in their respective rôles.

RUNCORN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. H. W. Caddick.—Another variety combination is drawing good houses. It includes Miss Geraldine Montrose's sketch company in a well-played sketch, entitled *The Hindoo's Revenge;* Miss Lily Render, Irish-American comedienne; Mr. Bob Pearson, a clever vocal humorist; Tom Hayes, a taking juvenile comedian; Fisher and Neale, a couple of highly successful knockabouts, with good business; Russell Hatton, with a number of character sketches of undoubted merit; Young and Mack, patter comedians; Carlos Menard, violinist; Billy and Richardson, with stump oratory.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*The Major*, described as a musical absurdity, written and composed by Mr. T. C. McQuire (who suitably fills the title-rôle) kept a good audience on Monday in excellent humour. Miss Ada Wallace as Angelina Touchemup, cleverly sustains the part of the slavey; Mr. Alec Godfrey is a droll Jeremiah Stoney; Mr. Frank Hartley, as George Goodman; Miss Emma Poole, as Grace Gampney; and Miss M. McQuire, as Hilda Marston, contribute much to the success of the performance. The Sisters Valli give some acceptable specialities on various musical instruments; and some clever dancing is done by the National Troupe of lady dancers.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Frederick Yates. The well-known comedienne, Harriet Vernon (who heads an excellent bill this week) had a most cordial reception on Monday, when she gave some of her favourite songs in excellent style. Warden Reed and company in the laughable sketch, *Married or Photographed*, were also much enjoyed; Mr. Fred Land was very droll with his songs; the hat manipulation by Friscari was a clever piece of juggling. Other good turns included Sterling and Cashen, American speciality artistes and dancers; Harry Braham, descriptive vocalist; Leo Lesters, in funny miniature pantomime sports; Sisters Lonnen, duettists and dancers; Lilian Melville, soprano vocalist; and Concerto on the concertina.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting Manager, Mr. J. B. Taylor.—Excellent variety is included in the turns given this week. Woolford's circus, with wonderful performing ponies, dogs, and donkey, cause roars of laughter; J. W. Rickaby, as a policoman and a militiaman, is very amusing with his songs and patter; the Goldinis give an extraordinary carpet spinning, etc., exhibition; the American baritone, Post Mason is well received; Sam Shipley's comic imitations are appreciated; Smith and Johnson coloured vocalists, are successful; the Sisters Terry, comediennes and mimics; Lachie Thompson's Topweights (Tom and Neil), in a boxing, wrestling, and club swinging act; and Guy Ryder, vocalist and whistler, with the animated pictures fill the bill.

L. & N.W. PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. A. Higham; Manager, Mr. Sam Higham.—Mr. Harry Hanson, comedian; Mr. Joe Hunt, comedian (his second week); and Mr. Jack Murray, comedian, are among the artistes appearing here.

BRIDGE HOTEL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Tom Bradbury.—Mr. Fred Carter, baritone vocalist, is here again, and also included in the programme are such old favourites as Miss Rose Standing, comedienne and dancer; and Mr. Fred Redfern, tenor vocalist.

SCARBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietress, Mrs. Henry Mayhew. — The special Shrovetide attraction here is the engagement for six nights of Mr. Edward Marris's company, in *As Midnight Chimes*. Mr. Frank Petley plays well as Dave Stannard, a young fisherman; Mr. Herbert Belmore is excellent as the old fisherman, Ezra Gamble; much humour is caused by Mr. James Salter, as Tat Spavin; and Mr. Melville Bickford is seen to advantage as Luke Dezzard.

PEOPLE'S PALACE AND AQUARIUM.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—This week the attraction here is Messrs. Collins and Stevenson's company, in *Sindbad the Sailor*. Mr. George Case is very amusing as Mrs. Sinbad; Mr. Tom Cattle works hard as Tinbad; Mr. Billy Moore also puts in good work as Captain Scuttlem; Miss Annie G. Brevitt is an excellent Haidee; and Miss Gertie Rowan puts plenty of "go" into the part of Sindbad. Specialities are given by Percy Victor's trained dog minstrels; the Zaza Girls, acrobatic dancers; Eddie Clay, the tramp musician; Johnny and Edna, cake-walk artistes; and Mr. Dan Harley, acrobatic clog dancer.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. Edmund Tearle's company is paying a welcome return visit here this week with *Under The Red Robe, Merry Wives of Windsor, The Three Musketeers*, and *Jeanie Deans*. In the first-named piece Mr. Edmund Tearle gave a powerful rendering of Gil de Berault; Miss Kate Clinton presented an admirable Renee de Cocheforet; Henri de Cocheforet was well sustained by Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree; and Cardinal Richelieu was cleverly interpreted by Mr. J. T. Fairley. Mr. Dennis W. Cleugh as the Marquis de Pombal; Mr. A. W. Wynne as De Fargis, and Mr. William J. Miller as Captain Larolle were all capital in their respective rôles. Madame de Cocheforet received a good rehdering from Miss Esther Tearle.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—*Queen of the Night* is the title of the drama being presented here this week by Messrs. Stillwell and Teulon's company. Mr. James Stillwell makes an efficient Frank Cavendish. The rascally Philip Stoneleigh is ably portrayed by Mr. Chas. V. Sandford. Mr. Paul E. Teulon gives a characteristic sketch of the old Miser David. Mr. F. Thorpe-Tracey as Old Briskett, and Mr. Bert Atherton as Adolphus Briskett are highly amusing. The Queen of the Night (Paulina) is an arduous part most capably acted by Miss Vere Mosley. As Maude Miss Katherine Barnett does good work. Other parts are taken by Miss Marie Moore, Miss Becky Elliston, and Miss Irene Tracey. On Thursday and Friday nights *Trilby* was revived.

SHEERNESS.—THE COLISEUM.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Dorling; Manager, Mr. Chas. Melvin.—Mr. Arthur Gibbons' company opened here on Monday with *Beauty and the Beast*. Miss Linda Weston is quite successful as Beauty, her vocal talent being much appreciated. As Prince Charming Miss Marie Beaufort finds much favour; Miss Gertrude Wright, the Good Fairy, has a well-cultured voice. As Reginald Augustus and Sybil Irene, Messrs. Will Holland and Tom Banks are responsible for much genuine fun. Amongst the specialities is a sensational performance by Dartigan—Looping the Loop. The Four French Idols contribute some smart acrobatic dances.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. P. Reymond. —Heading the bill here are the Summersons, popular favourites, in the comedy act, *Just My Luck;* Liddon and Brinckman, in the dramatic sketch, *The Crime of Poverty*, are highly successful; and meritorious items are contributed by Mr. Fred Donald, eccentric comedian; Miss Marie Lester, coon impersonator; and Miss Bessie Norrie, burlesque actress. The programme concludes with the laughable farce, *His Grandmother*.

SHEFFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. F. W. Purcell; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. S. Carter.—After a last week which broke all records, Mr. Fred Karno's perfect pantomime, *Cinderella*, finished its triumphant run here on Saturday, amid a scene of wild enthusiasm. All the principals were recalled again and again, and the packed house seemed loth to part with those special favourites, Miss Winifred Hare, Miss Godwynne Earle, Miss Lillian Lea, Mr. Neil Kenyon, Mr. William Gourlay, and Messrs. Fletch and Palmer. On Monday King Pantomime and his glittering Court had departed, and the dramatic season started with the sensational drama by the late Mr. F. A. Scudamore, entitled *Because I Love You*, well played by Mr. Frank Stephens's company. Mr. Frank Stephens was thrilling as the freak; Mr. Matthew Bolton was excellent as Capt. Sterling, Mr. Howard Tracey submitted an interesting character study as Prof. Predate; Miss Madge North was a pretty and sympathetic Nelly Blyth; Miss Tressie Humphries made a handsome adventuress, and Miss Nell Ingram was a vivacious Kitty.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The ever-welcome comic opera, *La Poupée*, was again performed to a crowded house on Monday by Mr. C. P. Levilly's company. Miss Stella Gastelle was the incarnation of charming girlishness as Alesia, and she sang with her usual tunefulness and expression; Miss Madge Avery was a comely and delightful Mdme. Hilarious, and Miss May Bradbury was a graceful Henri. Mr. Eric Thorne was cordially welcomed, and he again kept the audience in roars by his droll mannerisms as the cabriolli-like doll-maker, Hilarious; Mr. Frederick Hobbes was a dignified Father Maxime; Mr. Gerald Clifford sang and acted well as Lancelot, and Mr. Robert Fairbanks made an amusing Baron Chanterelle. The chorus was admirable, and Mr. H. Rushworth conducted.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay. On Monday the new play of modern life by Arthur Shirley and Ben Landeck, entitled *A Great Sensation* gave great satisfaction. Miss Beatrice Isaacson, under whose direction the piece is presented, was a great success as the flower-girl, Eva Dale; Mr. Sydney M. Hallows made a smart young inventor as Jack Damer, and Mr. Alexander Isaacson was good as the millionaire, Bunko Bates.

EMPIRE PALACE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Manager, Mr. Alan W. Young.—The popular mimetic comedian, Mr. Syd May is delighting large audiences this week, and other successful artists are the Japanese Guards, who are naturally loudly applauded; Burns and Evans, in a comic act; Seely and West, Transatlantic entertainers; Ethel Ra Leslie, comedienne; La Toptia, mandolinist; J. P. Dane, comic; the Chamberlins, and the Lumars, novel acrobats.

GRAND PALACE. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Beagle. — Lavers and Lake, in a funny farce; the Esdaile Brothers; Richard White; Lord, Munay, and Lord; Dick and Dorothy; Harry Bekker, and Nellie Lewis are engaged at this comfortable and well-patronised music-hall.

SMETHWICK. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—There was a large attendance on Monday, to witness the production here of *A Trip to Rum-Fum*, which pays a return visit, after an absence of about three years. The show is capitally staged by Miss Cissie Moxon's company, under the management of Mr. Lynch. Miss Cissie Moxon gives a vivacious and clever study of the music hall girl, Florrie; Miss Stella West makes a charming Angelina Toft; Miss Rosie Stewart, as Peggy O'Hooligan, invests the part with many winsome characteristics; Mr. Fred Alberto is successful as Larry O'Hooligan, his singing and dancing being very much appreciated; Mr. Fred W. Graham creates much merriment as Cecil Toft; and Mr Gyp Lester, as Biddy, Mr. Harry Leander, as Ebenezer, Mr. T. Cook as Scrivener, and Mr. B. Rodgers, as Thady, all deserve praise. Specialities are introduced by the Saxon Troupe of International Dancers, and the Three Deveres in their musical and acrobatic acts.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA. — EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Marlow, sen.; Manager, Mr. W. Marlow, jun.—This week's attraction is provided by Mr. Leonard Mortimer and his No. 1 Dramatic company, which is appearing in a triple bill with *The Gay Deceiver, The Undesired*, and *The Britisher*, which are excellently produced. The problem play of passion, entitled *The Gay Deceiver*, was first produced, in which Mr. J. G. Leighton well impersonates Major Hambro, V.C.; Mr. Reginald Weighill as Hon. Bobbie Bore is good; Garcia Novis is cleverly taken by Mr. Ernest Wingfield; Miss Edith Lewis gives a capital portrayal of Genevieve; Miss Ida Clifford plays the character of Leonore in praiseworthy style, and Mr. Leonard Mortimer as Captain Dunstan Lyte merits considerable praise for his clever acting. The one-act drama, entitled *The Undesired*, is represented by Mr. Weldon Atherstone, who makes a good Sir Cautley Reece; Mr. Ernest Wingfield is well suited as Osmond Reece; Octavius Oosg finds an able exponent in Mr. Reginald Weighill; Miss Gracie Mortimer deserves mention as Little Winifred; Miss Edith Lewis is eminent as Sister Stephanie; Alethea Vyse is well impersonated by Miss Ida Clifford; and Mr. Leonard Mortimer is exceedingly clever as David Haydon. The realistic military romance, entitled *The Britisher*, is equally well received.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hemming.—A highly diverting entertainment is supplied here this week by the engagement of Mr. Cyril Maude's company in *Beauty and the Barge*. Foremost in the capital company engaged, is Mr. Blake Adams, whose representation of Captain James Barley is an excellent exhibition of comedy characterisation. Mr. Charles Goold renders excellent support as the mate; Miss May Fairclough is very successful in the part of Ethel Smedley; Mrs. Baldwin is played by Miss Mary Griffiths with piquant effect and skill; Mr. Walter Pemberton's representation of the irascible Major Smedley is all that can be desired; Mr. Horace Lane submits an acceptable portraiture of Lieutenant Seyton Boyne; and other good character sketches are in the hands of Mr. Fred Knight, as Herbert Manners; Mr. Charles Caffrey, as George Porter; Miss Mary Deverell, in the part of Lucy Dallas; and Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite, as Mrs. Porter. The piece is preceded each evening by a one-act play, entitled *That Brute Simmons*.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—Messrs. Charles Draycott and H. B. Peppin's company is occupying the boards in *The Best Must Win*. Mr. Charles Draycott, who vividly sustains the part of the Marquis de Marcel, alias the Panther, is immensely popular. Mr. Robert Watson affords a striking contrast by his embodiment of the heroic Paul Dumaresq. Miss Lilian Watson Loyde displays ability as the persecuted Denise Dumaresq. Sabretache is advantageously handled by Mr. Fred Aldworth. Miss Violet O. Spring sympathetically delineates the repentant Therese Dumaresq. The low comedy is contributed by Messrs. Henry W. Monte as Juan Minos, Frank G. Kent as the small-witted Jacques Courcel, and the Misses Maud Hetherington as Susette, the former's lover, and Kate Maynard, an adventuress.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—A versatile programme is being submitted, including as principal turn, Harry Tate and company. On Monday the clever comedian appeared in his diverting sketch, *Fishing*. Conway and Leland, the merry monopedes, repeat their decidedly quaint turn. Belle Davis, strongly supported by her "pick chick" actors, is well received. Lily Langtry is here again, and her vivacity captivates the house. Virto and Irene provide an enjoyable musical act. The Four Trees, charmingly costumed, dance and sing themselves into favour. Carlo and Maie, in a comedy wire act; Nance Trevor, ballad vocalist; and Geo. Antill, comedian, also appear.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Jos. Sweeney.—The premier position is held by the Three Rickards, smart acrobats; Maggie Rimmer scores heavily by her dainty dancing; George Macintosh is a clog dancer of more than average ability; Louie Hurmann is a charming serio; the Sisters Redfern, banjoists, vocalists, and dancers, are good; and Jack Foley, comedian, and Shaun Grenville, Irish comedian and dancer, are both acceptable. The Tivoli bioscope is the remaining successful turn.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—In *Greed of Gold*, local patrons are having a show to their tastes this week, and Mr. T. Morton Powell's company has been very favourably received. Mr. Walter M. Cameron displays soundness in his impersonation of Cully Snig; as the villain, Harry Hood, Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh is very successful; Mr. B. Fox puts in a lot of clever work as Tom Wolstead; Mr. W. Heilbron's interpretation of Arthur Errol, leaves nothing to be desired; and both Miss A. Verity, as Dora Hood; and Miss Grace St. John, as Mrs. Maxwell, are well placed; Miss Winnie Donovan is vivacious as Patty Mayfield; being admirably assisted by Mr. Joseph Macgrath, as Conn Creamer. Mr. Vere, the local manager, took his annual benefit on Wednesday.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE. —Proprietors, The St. Helens Theatre, Limited; General Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson and company, in *Revenge*, are proving a strong attraction here this week. The drama is magnificently mounted and dressed, and the company is one of all-round excellence. It includes, in addition Mr. Hill Mitchelson, Messrs. E. Wellesley Draper, Edwin Jenner, Arthur McCulloch, Fred Yarnold, Theo. Balfour, and Misses Frances White, Grace Aimers, Violet Carlyle, and Alice Barber.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Dainez Comedy Circus heads the bill here this week, and other excellent turns include:—Essman, juggler; Ellis and Watts, comedians; Silvanio, boy musician; Walter Adams, comedian; Ike Scott and Son, comedy duo; Weiskers' animated pictures, and Will Godwin in his scena, *Re-united*.

STOCKPORT. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—After an absence of eight years *A Royal Divorce* is paying a return visit. Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is responsible for the presentation. Miss Edith Cole gives a charming portrayal of the Empress; Mr. Frank Lister is seen to advantage in an able and effective impersonation of Napoleon; as Maria Louise, Mrs. Ethyle Murray acts with power and ability; and Miss Helen Richmond is most pleasing as Stephanie; General Augereau and Marshal Murat are satisfactorily impersonated by Mr. Alfred Grenville and Mr. Ernest J. Batley respectively. Mr. Dennis Bryan makes the character of Grimaud very amusing.

OHMY'S CIRCUS. — Lessees, Messrs. Davenport. —The Watson family of instrumentalists and duettists, who are the chief attraction here this week, provide a pleasing entertainment for the numerous patrons of this establishment. Will Souls, comedian, also commands a measure of success. Other excellent performers are Togo, juggler and balancer; and the Eltenos in their grotesque horizontal bar act. The performance concludes with a sketch presented by the members of the company, entitled *The Dispatch Bearer*.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs. Weldon Watts; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Mr. Philip F Knox and Miss Edith Grenfell's company, in the Russian military drama, *The Red Café*, is here this week. As Count Sergius Petrosky, Mr. Philip F. Knox plays with a good deal of force and feeling; Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson's Vladimir and Mr. Robert S. Entwistle's Petroff are excellent; Mr. William Ravenscroft's Alexander II. is done with dignity; De Plavre is realistic in the hands of Mr. Martin Henry; Ignatieff, by Mr. Milner Noble, and Gribos, by Mr. Ernest, are well acted; Miss Edith Grenfell's Zitka Marsoff is played sympathetically and well.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. Batty; Manager, Mr. W. Batty.—A good bill here is headed by Leo Dryden, whose high-class impersonations are very successful; Will Cornish gives his clever performance on the bells; Los Angelos are a couple of charming duettists; Casselli and James are clever on the banjoes; A. P. Boswell is a comical patterer, &c.; Vera Mayne sings taking songs; Marlo and Dunham Trio are smart on the bars, &c.; Lola Patey warbles in Tyrolean style; and Payne's Bioscope completes the programme.

STOKE.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. Miller.—Herr Fritz, in his mystery turn, is exceedingly clever, his illusions and conjuring being of a high order. The Violas contribute some clever items; the Brothers Zampah, one-legged performers, do some marvellous jumping; Royal is seen in a clever trapeze turn; Katie Lawrence, who heads the bill, is distinctly successful, her three songs being rendered artistically; Juan and McQue are clever in their patter and dancing; Walter Lester is a smart comedian; Chas. Vandyke and company appear in that really funny sketch, *Nicodemus*, which causes roars of laughter. The pictures are entertaining. Mr. Frank Egerton took his benefit on the 3rd ult., and a big house was the result.

STOURBRIDGE. — ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Messrs. Thompson and Hunter's pantomime company is appearing here with *Aladdin*. Miss Beatrice Varley, in the rôle of Aladdin, is distinctly clever, her singing being a good feature. Miss Emile Cameron undertakes the part of The Princess with dignity, and the Misses Edith and Emay Isabelle find favour as Nicey and Pekoe. Mr. Albert Williams as Widow Twankey, proves himself to be a comedian of high-class ability, and Mr. Charles Wood as Abanazar and Mr. Will Dale as the Emperor are most entertaining. Several specialities are introduced, the most notable being Goliath, who gives a marvellous exhibition of human strength. Mr. Ted Rodgers furnishes an enjoyable whistling solo; and the Vernon Geisha Girls give an exhibition of graceful acrobatic dancing.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE THEATRE. — Proprietors, The Sunderland Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; General-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mr. George Dance's company is appearing here this week in *The Orchid*. Mr. Bertie Wright is the life and soul of the production as Meakin. Mr. Arthur P. Hemsley represents Zaccary, the professional orchid-hunter, and executes a clever and intricate dance with much success. As the Minister of Commerce (Aubrey Chesterton), Mr. Ernest Darrell could scarcely be improved upon; Mr. Edmond Page is amusing as the Comte Raoul de Cassignat; and the same may be said of Mr. G. Davy Burnaby as the Hon. Guy Scrymgeor, and Mr. Edmond Hollick as Dr. Ronald Faussett. Miss Ethel Bryant introduces a great amount of vim into the rôle of Lady Violet, and her vocal efforts are worthy of special praise; Caroline Vokins is exceptionally well impersonated by Miss Madge Lucas; and the bright acting of Miss Sylvia de Lacy as Josephine Zaccary is equally noticeable, Miss Chrissie Ralland is seen to advantage as Thisbe, the Lady Secretary, and the other parts are in capable hands.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Sunderland Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE HAYMARKET.

On Saturday, March 4, the Story, in Three Scenes, By W. W. Jacobs, dramatised by Louis N. Parker, entitled

"THE MONKEY'S PAW."

Mr. White ..... Mr. Cyril Maude.
Mrs. White ..... Miss Bella Pateman.
Herbert ..... Mr. Wilfrid Forster.
Sergeant-Major Morris .. Mr. Edmund Maurice.
Mr. Sampson ..... Mr. Reginald Eyre.

The dramatic version, by Mr. Louis N. Parker, of Mr. W. W. Jacobs' weird story, *The Monkey's Paw*, was placed in the evening bill at the Haymarket on Saturday. The piece was originally produced on the occasion of the late Mr. John Billington's benefit at His Majesty's Theatre, on Oct. 6, 1903, and a French version of the play has had a successful run of 150 nights at a Parisian theatre. Presenting such a striking contrast to the merry farce, *Beauty and the Barge*, which forms the principal attraction in the bill, *The Monkey's Paw* puts the audience in just the right mood to welcome the pleasant trivialities of the longer piece; and to enjoy its genuine humour. The story of the monkey's paw certainly does not make for cheerfulness. At the opening, Mr. and Mrs. White, a weather-beaten old sailor and his wife, are entertaining Sergeant-Major Morris, who, over a glass of hot grog, tells of the wonders he has seen in India, from which country he has recently returned. From one of the fakirs he received, in return for some service rendered, a curious present—a shrivelled monkey's paw, which confers upon its owner the privilege of having three wishes granted. The old soldier, having had his glass liberally replenished, at length produces the fakir's gift, but is reluctant that his host should obtain possession of it, and throws it on the fire. Old White snatches the paw from the flames, and after his guest has departed he proceeds to experiment with his new possession by wishing for the sum of £200, the amount of the mortgage on his cottage. He does this at the suggestion of his son Herbert, a young fellow employed at some electrical works. The next day at breakfast-time the old couple are waiting in nervous expectation of the fulfilment of the wish. A grave gentleman, who represents the firm of electrical engineers, calls to announce the terrible news that young White has been accidentally killed by the machinery; and he leaves behind him an envelope containing £200. The old man's wish has been granted Then the distracted mother, seizing the paw, wishes that her boy may come back to life. There is a loud knocking heard at the cottage door, and the father, fearful of beholding the horrible sight that his imagination has conjured up, fervently utters the third wish—that his son may "be dead and at peace." The knocking ceases, and when the door is at length opened, there is nothing there. With a loud cry, the mother falls in a fainting fit, and the play ends.

Mr. Cyril Maude resumes his original part of Mr. White, and his very natural rendering of the old man deserves the warmest commendation. Miss Bella Pateman convincingly expresses the feelings of the bereaved mother; and Mr. Wilfred Forster repeats his capital embodiment of young White. Mr. Edmund Maurice is seen to great advantage in the part of the talkative Sergeant-Major Morris, and Mr. Reginald Eyre is good in the minor rôle of Mr. Sampson, the messenger from the works.

In *Beauty and the Barge*, which follows, Mr. Cyril Maude presents another extremely clever study of an elderly man whom the passing years have not robbed of his high spirits, and who retains a good deal of the activity and vigour of his younger days. Captain James Barley is a character it does one good to meet; and it could not have been placed in better hands. The gallant owner of "The Heart in Hand" is beyond question one of Mr. Cyril Maude's most successful impersonations. Mr. Edmund Maurice adds considerably to the enjoyment of the audience by his amusing portrayal of the irascible Major Smedley; and that excellent comedian, Mr. Lennox Pawle, is genuinely funny as Tom Codd, the mate of "The Heart in Hand." From Mr. Frederick Volpé comes a delightful sketch of the Major's stolid gardener, John Dibbs, and Mr. E. M. Robson is a brisk and comical representative of the little landlord of the Old Ship. Mr. Kenneth Douglas plays exceedingly well as Lieutenant Seton Boyne; Mr. H. Marsh Allen is a praiseworthy Herbert Manners, and Mr. Robert Bottomly, as Augustus, the third hand on board the barge, meets with deserved success. Miss Jessie Bateman supplies a charming example of girlish freshness and brightness in the part of Ethel Smedley, whose running away from home causes all the trouble, and Miss Rita Jolivet is a captivating Lucy Dallas; Miss Adela Measor does all that is possible with the small part of Mrs. Smedley; Miss Mary Brough gives admirably humorous treatment to the rôle of the middle-aged Mrs. Porter, the widow with matrimonial designs, and Mrs. Charles Calvert is very well placed as Mrs. Baldwin, the attractive landlady of the Old Ship.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, March 6, the Drama in Four Acts, by Frederick Melville, entitled.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."

Following the inauguration of the dramatic season last week with one of Mr. Walter Melville's dramas, this week is fittingly devoted to Mr. Frederick Melville's latest production. The drama, which it quite new to the Grand, attracted a large audience, the somewhat curious title of the play doubtless drawing many people into the theatre to make themselves acquainted with the unfortunate lady. Mr. Frederick Melville, who shares with his brother a predilection for making the feminine interest supreme in his plays, has managed to present a drama which in its main idea is pleasantly original. An excellent company is entrusted with the representation of the drama, the whole of whom work loyally for the general success. Miss Beatrice Homer in the title-rôle rose fully to the demands of the part. It is obvious that Miss Homer, in having to act through the first three acts of the play with her face completely covered, has to meet a difficulty of no ordinary kind, but she was conspicuously successful, and we have only to accord her unqualified praise. Miss Rosabel Dodd, as Rose Courtnay, played a repulsive rôle in a determined manner, and gained the usual complimentary reception from the "gods." Miss Nellie Jackson, as Aggie Brown, acted with vivacity and spirit in the comedy scenes, and was soon installed as a favourite with the audience. Very high commendation must be accorded Miss Margaret Watson as Morita, a piece of character acting of great merit and artistic finish. As for the gentlemen, Mr. Stanley Bedwell, as Jack Merriman, played the heroic part with distinct success; he has an excellent stage appearance, and a good delivery, Mr. Leyton Cancellor, as Hubert Gold, played the part in a particularly thorough manner, and did not spare himself in the least in portraying the unpleasant characteristics of the character. Mr. Charles Barrett was successful as Antonio, excellent alike in make-up and acting. Mr. Renaud Lockwood, as Redvers, acted the small part with all the necessary power, and is to be congratulated on a good performance. Mr. Fred De Vere, as Raggles, presented a singularly neat sketch of a hooligan. His facial play was remarkable, and the grim humour he infused into the part was quite in keeping. In addition he is entitled to praise for his excellent control of the stage. To Mr. Tubby Edlin the audience were once more indebted for a most humorous portrayal of the comedy part, Tubby Herrick. Mr. Edlin's humorous style and business and general high spirits provided a very welcome change from the more serious side of the play, and were thoroughly enjoyed and applauded. Mr. Frank Dennis, as Dr. Carr, played the part with the requisite professional air, and was always in the picture. Messrs. Potter, Edwards, and Newton aided Mr. Edlin in a humorous housepainting scene with excellent results, and the remainder of the company were quite adequate in their respective parts. The drama was mounted in a most complete manner, the scenery being of great merit, and the incidental music by Mr. Fish was effective.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, March 6, the Comedy Drama in Four Acts, by Langton McCormick, entitled

"HEARTS ADRIFT."

Hearts Adrift, the drama Mr. Langdon McCormick, originally produced at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, on the 20th ult., and which was fully noticed in our last issue, is being played at the Pavilion this week. Being evidently written to satisfy audiences which look for the introduction of the sensational element, it thoroughly achieves its purpose, and for this reason, therefore, it is unnecessary to look too closely into the consistency or probability of the story; suffice it to say the large audience on Monday expressed satisfaction at the various exciting incidents depicted. Mr. Julian Cross, who met with a flattering reception on his appearance, is excellent as the reformed Captain Teddy, playing the part with intensity and feeling; his acting is specially good in the scene where he pleads for forgiveness from his crippled boy. Mr. Percy Rhodes in the rôle of the villainous Edmund Gerue, acts powerfully and with realism, being ably seconded in his nefarious schemes by Mr. J. P. Dryden, who supplies a well defined character study of the unscrupulous inventor, Pidgeon. Mr. Cecil C. Klein, as Robert Darney, exhibits much sincereity and earnestness, while the solicitor, John Lane, is convincingly represented by Mr. Edwin Wilde. Mr. John Gerant renders Simon Green with sufficient humour, and the detective, Sam Redway, is emphasised with marked effect by Mr. Fred Baines. Mr. G. H. Permane creates a favourable impression as Jim Gregory; and Mr. William Gomer, as Sam Call; Mr. Joe Rodgers, as Officer True; and Mr. Bert Savadge, as Carrier, are good in their respective parts. Mr. Harry Pleon, jun. is to be heartily congratulated on his clever portraiture of Little Tim, and well deserves the applause he receives, and Miss Ada Perry is a satisfactory Mother Hagslow. Miss Celestine Bertram is natural and sympathetic as Rosie, while a telling exposition of the unprincipled Julia Lane is given by Miss Maude Tremayne; Miss Ella Dixon is an efficient Peggy MacGuire; and Miss Beatrix Bell is amusing as Energy Mugs. The scenery and mounting are all that could be desired.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, March 6, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, entitled

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."

So successful was *A Girl's Cross Roads* when last produced at this theatre, that the managers have been tempted to bring the play back to the scene of its former triumph. This shows considerable wisdom, and success must inevitably be the result, for the drama is one of absorbing interest, full of exciting situations, and with plenty of the comic element, which is made to stand out in bold contrast to the more serious and impressive portions of the drama. On Monday the play met with the excellent reception it deserved, and the powerful sermon preached during the unwinding of the story must have touched the hearts of all. Mr. Andrew Emm is cast for the part of John Meadows, the old farmer. Having seen so much of Mr. Emm's ability in humorous characters, we could scarcely imagine him in a part of this description, but he does every justice to the rôle, and plays the innocent and unsuspecting old countryman in a manner which reflects great credit upon him. Mr. Cecil du Gue acts with vigour as the hero, Jack Livingstone, and fills the part in a manner which is extremely satisfactory. As Toby Turvey, Mr. Harry Brayne is exceedingly well placed. He squeezes every atom of fun out of the character, and causes much merriment by his accomplished methods as a comedian. He receives substantial help from Miss Nellie Lauraine, who is a lively and energetic Tilley Vayne. Mr. Bensley Evans submits a fine study of the gentlemanly rogue, Cuthbert Lumley, and depicts the cruel and heartless nature of the man with ability. As Luke Ramsden, Mr. John Sargent thoroughly looks the despicable character he is supposed to represent. He acts well, and portrays the hard-hearted ruffian with due regard to the many peculiarities of the rôle. Mr. Cyril Vernon plays with skill as Dr. Weston, whilst Mr. Augustin Symonds is all that could be desired as the pickpocket Crofts. Miss V. St. Lawrence is an accomplished actress, and plays the part of the fallen and debased woman in a manner which is deserving of every praise. Miss Dido Drake ably portrays the innocent-minded young schoolmistress Constance Cornell, and delights everyone with her grace and charm of manner. A character totally different from this is that of Barbara Wade, a young woman who, cursed with a craving for drink, becomes in the end a complete wreck and a disgrace to her sex. This is an exceedingly difficult character to adequately portray, but Miss Nell Oliver successfully copes with every difficulty, and supplies a delineation worthy of warm praise. Some exceedingly pretty scenes reflect great credit upon Mr. George Tweddell and his assistants, and suitable incidental music has been composed by Mr. Edward Reeves.

THE BRITANNIA.

On Monday, March 6, the Drama, entitled

"THE LIFE THAT KILLS."

The Life that Kills, described as "a play of passions," occupies the boards here this week, and is being well received. Mr. East undoubtedly is thoroughly acquainted with his patrons, and crowded houses are to be seen at each performance. The "Brit." stock company presents the piece with telling effect. Miss Rose Ralph, who is seen as Laurie Linden, makes an ideal heroine, being ably assisted by Mr. Maurice Hoffman, as Hector Rodney. Mr. Chas. A. East is an admirable Kendal Croat, and Miss Judith Kyrle is equally successful as Brenda Croat. Mr. Harold West proves himself a capital actor as Hector Rodney's ne'er-do-well cousin, Valentine Telford. Special mention must be made of Miss Marie Wright, who works hard as Johanna Hicks; Jack Jollife has an able exponent in Mr. Willie Scott, his humour keeping the house alive; Mr. Tom Wallace makes himself a decided favourite as Samuel Flatfoote; Messrs. Chas. Longley and Chas. Groves, as the Rev. Theodore Rodney and Dr. Brackley respectively, and Miss Claire Ellis, as May Linden, are all worthy of note. The new series of animated pictures proves a good variety interlude.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, March 6, the Drama, by Frederick Melville, entitled

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."

Mr. F. Melville's sensational drama, *Her Forbidden Marriage*, is making an early return visit this week, and there can be no doubt that the thrilling incidents occurring throughout the strong plot prove to be a strong drawing card to the theatre-going public. All the artistes work with a will, and the result is a performance both creditable and meritorious. The part of the persecuted Lucy is charmingly played by Miss Isla Garnet Vayne, and her efforts met with warm appreciation from the audience. As George Madison, Mr. Horace Hunter works unflaggingly, and his delineation of the young engineer is artistic and refined. Mr. Clarence Hague makes a polished Charles Devereux, whose villainous methods reap their own reward in the course of time. Timothy Tuttutt is entrusted to the capable hands of Mr. Alfred Wellesley, and in his comical business he is cleverly assisted by Miss Marie Kildare, as Pattie Lovejoy. Mr. J. Stone is dignified and natural as Sir George Lancaster, and Mr. Edgar L. Hocking is excellent as Joe Lambkin. Mr. Gilbert Heron as the Rev. Mr. Dean is effective, and Mr. W. Browning is good as Dr. Fenwick. Miss Barbara Gott deserves commendation for her representation of the part of the Mother Superior, and in the character of Lady Lucretia Lancaster Miss Georgette Thierry gives a striking display of the callous nature of a woman of fashion. All the minor characters are well sustained, and the general mounting of the drama is in every way excellent.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday, March 6, the Musical Play, in Two Acts, by George Dance, composed by Ivan Caryll, entitled

"THE GAY PARISIENNE."

Quite an old friend is visiting the Alexandra this week, *The Gay Parisienne* being presented on Monday by Mr. Charles Macdona's company. Mr. Macdona himself appears as Major Fossdyke, of the "Battersea Butterfly Shooters," and succeeds in giving an amusing performance of the conventional irascible military man of the stage. Mr. Lionel Rignold's Ebenezer Honeycombe is a tower of strength to the production, and, whatever success is achieved, is due in no small measure to him. The title rôle is in the hands of Miss Isabella Dillon, who gives a bright and intelligent rendering of the fascinating Julie Bon Bon, and Mr. Arthur Powell is an agile and alert Pompier. Miss Gwennie Harcourt plays Ruth in a quaint and diverting manner, somewhat on the lines of the original exponent of the part, and Miss Ethel Dunbar is in every way a satisfactory Norah Honeycombe. Mr. Thomas Kennard is easy and natural as Tom Everleigh, and other parts are filled with success by Messrs. Ernest Marriott, Clarence Seaton, Rudolph Kloss, Bloomfield Jones, and J. Fitzjames; and Misses Eleanor McHardy and Mabel Wilkins. A finished performance of Mrs. Honeycombe is contributed by Miss Marie Daltra. The musical arrangements are in the hands of Mr. Henry Lawrence.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 6, the Comedy, by Brandon Thomas, entitled

"CHARLEY'S AUNT."

That perennial attraction, *Charley's Aunt*, is playing to excellent business this week at the Borough Theatre, due to a great extent to the fact that the piece is travelling under the direction of the author, thereby guaranteeing an irreproachable interpretation. Mr. Stanley Cooke plays irresistibly as Lord Fancourt Babberley, the masquerading Aunt from Brazil, "where the nuts come from," and his untiring efforts are rewarded with frequent applause. Mr. Brandon Thomas hits off exactly the brusque affability of Colonel Sir Francis Chesney, and Mr. Simon Ord plays appropriately as the insistently amorous Stephen Spettigue. Jack Chesney has a buoyant and fluent representative in Mr. Arthur Soames; Mr. Richard B. Mason makes an excellent Charley Wykeham; and the imperturbable scout Brasset is effectively played by Mr. Sydney Compton. Miss Violet Cooper looks very charming as Kitty Verdon, and Miss Geraldine Greville makes a captivating Amy Spettigue. Miss Lena MacNaughton is a handsome Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez, and Ela Delahay is daintily impersonated by Miss Dorrie Roberts. *Fourchette and Company*, a play in one act, by Brandon Thomas, which precedes, is enthusiastically received, the three characters being successfully undertaken by Mr. Henry Adnes, Miss Ruth Suffield, and Mr. C. B. Keston.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 6, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Lingford Carson, entitled

"THE DRAMA OF LIFE."

Much interest was evinced in this drama on its first visit to Stratford on Monday night, and its progress as the story unfolded was punctuated with hearty applause. While not laying claims to much originality in its general treatment, its underlying current of portraying the horrors of the drink evil exactly suits popular audiences, who watch with breathless interest the career of Harry Beech, whom troubles and wrongful accusation of murder have rendered a gambler and dipsomaniac. They rejoice exceedingly at Harry's startling resolve to change for the better, brought about by the naïve remark of his little son Robert, "When I'm a man, shall I play cards and drink like you?" and it can only be a matter for general satisfaction when finally villainy is thwarted; Harry's good name is cleared, and he is reunited to wife and child. Messrs. Carson and Granville's company is a well-balanced one, and the scenery and mounting very appropriate. Mr. Jerrold Ord plays with much force and earnestness as Harry Beech, possessing excellent declamatory powers, and appearing to especial advantage in his strong scene in the third act. Mr. John J. Hooker is careful not to overdo the part of the vile-natured Walter Beech, and his incisive methods are exceedingly effective. Mr. Owen Remonde capitally impersonates the good-natured Sir Dobson Wilde, and a clever character sketch of Jack Lawton comes from Mr. Bulmer Pitt. Mr. Walter Steele is very successful in impersonating the popular detective Richard Brenton, and the crafty Count de Foi is most commendably played by Mr. Edward Bikker. Mr. Leonard Thackeray does well as Dave Crane, and Mr. George Shaw makes a satisfactory William Harrison. Miss Cissy Bellamy acts with sympathy and charm as Sylvia Beech. Miss Muriel Inglis is a pleasant and becoming Lady Jane Wilde; Miss Nelly Daly is excellent as the disreputable-looking Betty Black; and Miss Marie Murray contributes a promising performance as Master Robert Beech.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, March 6, the Play entitled

"MONSIEUR BEAUCAIRE."

The company at the Fulham Theatre this week is that of Mr. Norman Macowan, in the successful play, *Monsieur Beaucaire*, and the large and appreciative audience who witnessed the performance on Monday night testified to the attractions of the piece. Mr. Macowan himself sustains the title-rôle, and his work is notably good. His fine person and his gracious manner, with the air of the high-born gentleman that he is so successful in assuming, make his presence on the stage a pleasure. His acting, too, is of no mean order; he makes one fully feel the humour of his own false pretences, as well as the tragedy of the moment when, to preserve his incognito, he has to run the risk of offending Lady Mary. Mr. Stuart Willson, as the Duke of Winteset, is another fine figure, and makes one feel a tinge of regret that so fine a gentleman should be a villain. Mr. Conybeare Gough acts lightly and gracefully as Mr. Rakell, and his light-hearted gaiety is in pleasing contrast to the glum looks of the disappointed suitors. He is particularly happy in the manner in which he suggests the innate sense of fair-play showing through his dislike of the supposed swindler. The part of Major Molyneaux, Beaucaire's loyal friend, is ably played by Mr. H. P. Owen. Mr. Cecil Warde contributes a good character study of Mr. Bicksett, a type with which Bath was no doubt tolerably familiar, and Mr. Wilfred Compton is an able exponent of Beau Nash, the autocratic M.C. who did so much to make the western town famous. Mr. Hans Schlesinger merits praise as François, Beaucaire's servant. Of the female parts, the leading one is taken by Miss Violet Sterne, whose acting was very fine throughout, in the love passages with Beaucaire, in her anger at being duped, and her confession of love in the last act. Miss Florence Lincoln, also, was sympathetic as Lucy Rellerton. Of the performance as a whole one can hardly speak too highly. The scenery and general mounting were effective, and the dresses were magnificent. No costumes can vie with those of the Georgian era in splendour, and a group of handsome actors and actresses in eighteenth century dress forms a stage picture that cannot be beaten.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 6, the Drama, by Sir Francis Burnand, entitled

"PROOF."

The well-known drama, *Proof*, which is being played at the Dalston Theatre this week by Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's company, is meeting with a most favourable reception. Mr. Maclaren takes the lion's share of the work as Pierre Lorance, and it is doing him the barest justice to say that he makes an ideal hero. He looks the part admirably, and enlists the sympathy of the audience with him all the time. Miss Lily C. Bandmann, who appears in the prologue as Madeleine and in the drama as Valentine, acts with energy, and is the recipient of much applause. Little Adrienne in the prologue is nicely played by Miss Gertrude Coates, and the Adrienne of the drama is Miss Gertrude Evans, whose appearance is distinctly in her favour, while her portrayal of the part is effective. Mr. Richard Fulton's Lazare (*alias* Count of Laval in the drama) is a creditable piece of work, which is well received. Mr. Ardene Linden's Chamboran provides the humorous element in the drama, and, as the friend of the hero, he is naturally popular. The autocratic Count D'Aubeterre has a vivid representative in Mr. Kingsford Pearce, whose acting is thoroughly good. Miss Wynne Stanley is the Duchess D'Aubeterre, Miss Nellie Bilbe is Julia, and Mrs. S. Hay is Madame Deprets. Another in the cast claiming attention is Mr. E. St. Claire Vayne, who, as Victor de Laugney, provides a striking sketch of an active young officer.

EALING THEATRE.

On Monday, March 6, the Play, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, entitled

"A DISGRACE TO HER SEX."

Mr. Walter Melville's popular company is with us this week in *A Disgrace to Her Sex*. Mr. Edward E. Ashby, as Jack Dames, acts in a forcible manner; Mr. Eugene Santley, who has an excellent delivery, is efficient in every way as David Carrington; Mr. Arthur Byron, with his drolleries, is responsible for much laughter in the part of Burnaby Mugg; and Miss Polly Marsh is very funny as Bella Mugg. Miss Elaine Vanburgh sustains the rôle of Mabel Valley with marked ability; Miss Nelie Lucas, as Mildred Carrington, is fascinating; and Miss Laura Hansen, an accomplished actress, impresses all with her histrionic ability in the chief rôle. Mr. David G. Noble is responsible for a fine piece of acting as Arnold Travers; Mr. Clinton Baddeley is satisfactory as Jules Delarnet; Miss Daisy Norman makes a capital landlady; and Miss Cecile Rene is a dainty Lucy Eliza Brown. Mr. Fred Elsworthy is all that can be desired as Paterson, and Mr. Henry P. Brodie makes a capable policeman. The mounting of the play deserves special mention.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, March 6, the Military Play, in Five Acts, by George Daventry, entitled

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."

All plays of a military character are always eagerly welcomed in Marylebone, and certainly this stirring piece of Mr. Daventry's proved no exception to the rule. The talented members of Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company met with recognition of the utmost cordiality. Mr. H. Ryeland-Leigh portrayed Lieutenant Manley in capital style, the easiness of his methods being most noticeable. Mr. H. G. Brandon made the most of Captain Manley, acting in a polished and finished manner, and Mr. W. S. Tindall, as Major Ingleby, was the true British officer to the life. The leader of the rebels, Nebu Singh, found an able exponent in Mr. Villiers Stanley, who played with much fervour; Mr. J. S. Shedden was impressive as Abul Khan; Mr. Ernest Keand was more than capable as Ra Goonga; Mr. G. Birch was meritorious as Ensign Blake; and Mr. John Hignett as the body-servant, Terry O'Brien, kept things going in lively fashion, with his frequent sallies of true Hibernian wit. The important rôle of the Brahmin Priestess Ghuz-nah was sustained by that experienced actress Miss Maud Digby in a most convincing way. She extracted every ounce possible out of her part. Miss Kate Bruce did exceedingly well as Mrs. Ingleby, and Miss Agnes Kingston, as Kate, was efficient in every way. The play was staged and mounted in most lavish fashion, the native Indian dresses being most costly and gorgeous.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 6, the Musical Play, entitled

"PEGGY MACHREE."

Mr. Charles E. Hamilton's company is this week presenting *Peggy Machree* to large and appreciative audiences. The rôle of Barry Trevor is taken by the popular tenor, Mr. Denis O'Sullivan, whose fine voice does ample justice to the many charming Irish melodies introduced. Miss Marie Dainton is fresh and dainty as the Lady Peggy O'Driscoll, otherwise Peggy Machree. Her acting, singing, and dancing are all so excellent that there is little to choose between them. Miss Annie Brophy excels as Moira, Lady Margaret's foster-mother, and has several good songs. The cow-girl Molly MacMahon is taken by Miss Florence Vie, her song of the lost cow being delightful. Miss McKay makes a pleasing Nora, and Miss Bertha Seaton and Miss Pattie Rusholme are both good respectively as Kathleen and Eileen. Miss Ida Lawrence introduces a pretty dance, this little lady being so light on her feet that she scarcely appears to touch the stage. Sir Lawrence Borthwick, Barry Trevor's chum, is amusingly played by Mr. Erskine Lang, and Mr. Marc MacDermott takes the rôle of Captain de la Cour, the villainous Frenchman. Mr. J. Graeme Campbell, as the Scotsman, Alex. MacDougall, makes a hit with his humorous song about the "Land o' Cakes"; and Michael the piper is very Irish in his rivalry for the hand of Moira. His song, "And that's how I lost my place," receives a rightly deserved encore. The other parts are well filled.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 6, the Musical Play, entitled

"THE GEISHA."

Time cannot diminish the popularity with which *The Geisha* is received by the playgoing public, and certainly the audience at the Brixton Theatre on Monday evening greeted the different items with all their usual heartiness, for encores were the rule, and there was not a single song or dance but which received a demand for more. Miss Violet Moors, as Mimosa San, played very well, and received encores for her tuneful singing of the "Jewel of Asia" and "The Life of a Geisha." Miss Florrie Saunders made a great success as Mollie Seymour; she was heartily applauded for her rendering of "Click Click" and "Chon Kina," and danced herself into the favour of her audience. Miss Violet Kenyon was well suited in her character of Juliette Diamente. Miss Aubrey Ashton was an excellent Lady Constance, and her guests, Ethel Hurst, Marie Worthington, and Mabel Grant, were smartly played by Miss Florence Lake, Miss Lucy Egerton, and Miss Marie Gilbert. Reginald Fairfax had a breezy representative in Mr. Arthur Cartwright, and he also had to twice respond for his admirable rendering of "Jack's the Boy for Work" and "How can I wait." The Wun-Hi of Mr. Edward Carlton was an excellent impersonation; his jokes and sallies caused many a hearty laugh during the evening, and he was well applauded for his agile dancing. Mr. Lionel Braham made a favourable impression by his majestic and amusing Marquis Imari. Mr. J. Hornby did well as the Captain of the Guard, and Mr. Harry Reynolds was successful as Takemine, the Governor's factotum. Mr. Bay Russell, Mr. F. P. Wilfred, and Mr. Scott Cullen gave a good account of themselves as the three officers of H.M.S. Turtle. All the minor parts were in capable hands, and an excellent and tuneful chorus and augmented orchestra rendered good service under the direction of Mr. Frank Barrett. The scenery and dresses were admired, and added to the success of the performance.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, March 6th, the Drama entitled

"SAPHO."

Sapho is the attraction this week, and has been enthusiastically received, the audiences frequently giving signs of their appreciation of the efforts of the members of Miss Olga Nethersole's well-selected company. An adequate interpretation of the play is given, and one and all are to be complimented on their skill. Miss Cecil Cromwell submits a carefully studied and entirely artistic representation of the title-rôle, exhibiting great dramatic power. Her portrayal of the many shades of character is very consistent and natural, and proves the ability of Miss Cromwell to be of high order. Mr. Arthur Royston, as Jean Gaussin, has won much and well-deserved applause for his powerful delineation of the part, and plays with earnestness, brilliancy and polish. Uncle Cesaire has an excellent exponent in Mr. A. T. Hendon. Messrs. Lytton and Mr. Frank Melrose appear with marked success in their respective parts of Dechelette and Caoudal; and Mr. Slaine Mills is particularly good as Flamant, giving a powerful reading of the part. Miss Winifred Pearson and Mr. Knox Monk are mirth provoking as the Hettemas, and on the humorous side Miss Rosa Sullivan also distinctly scores as Francine. Miss Irene Wakefield fully justifies her selection for the rôle of Joseph; and Irene is charmingly portrayed by Miss Wynter. Praise is due to Miss Isabel Derrie for her characteristic performance of Aunti Divonne, and the remaining members of the cast all sustain their parts capitally. The staging is excellent.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 6, the American Musical Comedy, entitled

"THE PRINCE OF PILSEN."

There can be no question that *The Prince of Pilsen* is destined for a long and prosperous career, if the extremely cordial reception of the comedy on Monday night can be counted as being significant of its successful future. We certainly see no reason against it, for it was clearly evidenced that the audience was thoroughly satisfied with the manner in which Mr. George Musgrove had catered for their enjoyment. Much of the music is melodious and ear-haunting. The dresses are absolutely gorgeous, and form feasts of colour upon which the eye gazes entranced. Mr. Edwin Adler sustains the part of Herr Wagner in an extremely laughable manner, and we can go so far as to say that no small proportion of the success is due to his efforts. The Prince of Pilsen is played by Mr. John M. Hay with excellent discretion, his handsome presence and talented singing meeting with much approbation. A pleasing singer, Mr. Villiers Arnold is entrusted with the character of Lieutenant Tom Wagner, and he scores a conspicuous success. Mr. Lawrence Wensley displays great ability as the Earl of Shrimpton, and Mr. Alfred Selby receives much favour for the agility displayed by him as Francois. Mr. D. O. Uglass makes a model Cook's courier, and acts well as Sergeant Brie. Miss Millicent Marsden acts and sings admirably as Mrs. Madison Crocker, winning distinct praise. Edith Adams is brightly and daintily interpreted by Miss Beatrice Lamotte, and Miss Nell Emerald as Sidonie gains appreciation by her sprightly dancing. Miss Ruby Verdi makes a fascinating Nell Wagner, and as the Bell boy, Jimmie, Miss Meg Hamylton looks saucy, and acts with vivacity. Messrs. Prendegast, Naylor, Hartford, Robbing, Simpson, Percival, Victor, and Gervaise sing with excellent judgment as the Heidelberg boys, but perhaps the most popular "turn" of the evening is the song of the American girl, with the different dances. All the young ladies taking part in this scena are greeted with loud and deserved applause, but the most prolonged ovation is reserved for the now popular "Gibson Girl," brilliantly presented by Mdlle. Christine Rayniski. The full chorus has been well trained and carefully selected, and the orchestra is skilfully directed by Mr. Leonard Hornsey. The scenery by W. B. Spong is exceedingly attractive.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, March 6, the Musical Comedy, "THE EARL AND THE GIRL."

Mr. William Greet's company has been here this week with *The Earl and the Girl*, and, to judge by the enthusiastic welcome accorded by an excellent house on Monday, this rollicking musical comedy is by way of being as great a favourite in the provinces as it has been in town. A cleverer impersonation of Jim Cheese, the dog-trainer, than that of Mr. William Stephens it is hard to imagine. The part seems to fit him like the proverbial glove. His power of facial expression is remarkable, and the comicality of his patter and business is irresistible. A natural and pleasing embodiment of Dick Wargrave comes from Mr. Percy Carr, who is successful with several songs, notably "The Cosy Corner Girl." Mr. William Walshe gives a realistic representation of A. Bunker Bliss, the American uncle of homicidal tendencies; Mr. Fred Hill is entirely adequate as the Hon. Crewe Boodle; and the English solicitor of Mr. J. C. Graves and the American solicitor of Mr. Will Hindson are cleverly differentiated. Miss Aimee Grey is a captivating Elphin Haye, acting nicely and singing delightfully, a greatly appreciated number being her rendering of "In Zanzibar." Daisy Fallowfield finds a vivacious exponent in Miss Florence Imeson, whose spirited song of "Freddy" brings down the house. As Liza Shoddham, Miss Dot Carey shows considerable skill in the delineation of character; and a capital representation of Mrs. Shimmering Black, a lady strong of mind as of hand, is submitted by Miss Gladys Fontaine. The success of the performance is materially contributed to by the tuneful singing of the handsomely dressed chorus.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.

On Monday, March 6, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Wilson Barrett, entitled

"THE SIGN OF THE CROSS."

Although this remarkable play has been presented to Kingston playgoers on several previous occasions, the play was received with unmistakable approval, and its remarkable story was followed with interest from the rise to the fall of the curtain. This was chiefly due to the excellent manner in which it was played by Mr. William Greet's company, which is engaged in its production. Mr. F. B. Woulfe gives a fine conception of Marcus Superbus, and Miss Evelyn D'Alroy makes a most acceptable appearance as Mercia. Miss Ivy Millais also scores a considerable success as Stephanus. Mr. Frank Wood makes a creditable Glabrio, Mr. A. Bernhardt gives a fine picture of the Emperor of Rome; and others who deserve and receive particular notice are Mr. Charles Aldred, as Tigellinus; Mr. J. Wetherall, as Lucinius; Miss Nellie Boaser, as Poppœa; Miss Alma Bolton, as Berenice; Miss Cissie Carlton, as Dacia; and Miss Gwladys Ventry, as Ancaria The singing of Miss Jessica Ford and the dancing of Miss Violet Holland are much admired. The play was admirably staged.

THE GERMAN THEATRE.

On Friday, March 3, the Play, in Five Acts, by Henrik Ibsen, entitled

"DIE WILDENTE."

Werle	BRUNO WIBURGER
Gregor Werle	G. F. SCHWIEGER
Der alte Ekdal	JOHANNES KORNER
Hjalmar Ekdal	RUDOLF LEYRER
Gina Ekdal	ROSA BERTENS
Hedwig	ROSE GRAWZ
Frau Sörby	ADELE MEYSEL
Relling	HANS STOCK
Molvig	KARL NEUMANN
Gröberg	KARL BERGER
Pettersen	ADOLF WALTHER
Jensen	F. STERN
Ein bleicher, fetter	H. MENDEL
Ein dünnhaariger	HEINZ PABST
Ein kurzsichtiger	PHIL. LESING

Devotees of Ibsen were greatly gratified at the Great Queen-street Theatre, on the 3rd inst., at the realisation of "the Master's" ideals attained by the talented company of German artists, and even those who worship afar off felt the influence of the dramatic power contained in the piece. The author of *The Wild Duck*, the story of which is familiar enough in this country, toys with a stupendous problem, and gives but a sorry solution of it. The "mission" of Gregor Werle, who thinks his duty is to disturb the muddy waters of Gina Ekdal's past by impressing upon her unsuspecting and contented husband the fact that their idolised child is not his, is not a comforting one, and a lamentable tragedy is reached when that child, cast off by her father, is moved to destroy a pet duck as a proof of her love for that parent, but takes her own life instead, to the discomfiture of the moralist and the reconciliation of the pair whose happiness he has marred. But the absorbing interest of the piece never fails, and the talented company of German artists gave a performance of complete excellence. Frau Rosa Bertens broadened by many artistic touches the rôle of Gina Ekdal, indicating the abject affection of the wife and pride in her offspring with equal vividness. She was the keen-witted, unlearned housewife to the life, and both expression and movement were constantly on the alert in the depiction of the part. Herr Rudolf Leyrer put his capabilities to excellent use in the part of the self-estimating Hjalmar. To him fall comic as well as tragic opportunities, and of both phases of the part he made the utmost use, his restless energy and passionate action being as striking as his drollery was effective. A frankly ingenuous Hedwig was supplied in Fraulein Rose Grawz, who excels particularly in the use of the eyes. Her affection for her father was tenderly portrayed, and the youthful actress proved herself essentially a precious possession of the German company. A telling assumption of old Ekdal was given by Herr Johannes Korner, whose make-up and facial expression were admirable items of a performance distinguished by skill of the first order. Herr Hans Stock was dryly eccentric as Relling, the doctor, many laughs being accorded him, Herr Karl Neumann also causing merriment in the rôle of the clergyman Molvig. Fr. Adele Meysel gave distinction to the character of Frau Sörby; Herr Bruno Wiburger was dignified and distinct as Werle, and his son, Gregor, had a sincere and earnest exponent in Herr G. F. Schwieger. Curtain calls were frequent throughout the evening, and the all-round excellent representation emphasised the regret that the stay of the talented company is so near the end.

On Thursday, March 9,
Hermann Endermann's Play,
"ES LEBE DAS LEBEN."

This piece can scarcely be said to be new to this country, as an English version of it was produced a few years ago. The story, however, is an interesting one, dealing as it does with political intrigue and the platonic attachment of a married woman for a man who is not her husband. Psychology plays no small part in Herr Endermann's piece, the English title of which is *The Joy of Living*. The representation of the drama met with unqualified approval at the hands of the audience, the majority of whom were, of course, Germans. Chief honours fell to Frau Rosa Bertens, for her powerful and impressive portrayal of the character of Beate. At times Frau Bertens struck such a high note in tragedy that her audience became spellbound by the intensity of her acting. Herr Hans Andresen gave an admirable and well finished performance of Graf Michael v. Kellinhausen, and Mr. Max Behrend submitted a clever study in the rôle of Meixner. The five acts were admirably staged and mounted.

"WHEN THE WIFE'S AWAY."

A Comedy-Farce, in Three Acts.
by Edward F. Parry and Frederick Mouillot,
Produced for the first time on any stage at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, on Monday, March 6.

Sir Charles Foden	MR. C. LEVESON LANE
Jack Barrington	MR. LAWRENCE GRANT
General Dunlop	MR. GUY LANE
Dr. Clayton	MR. HUGH ARDALE
Abraham Weinstein	MR. HENRY NELSON
Sidney Clifford Weinstein.	MR. F. H. DENTON
Vere de Bogyns	MR. E. H. KELLY
Professor Shale, F.G.S.	MR. EVERARD DIGBY
Pink	MR. EDWARD RIGBY
Nora	MISS BEATRIX DE BURGH
Mrs. Barrington	MRS. MOUILLOT
Miss Foden	MISS CAVENDISH
Miss Clarissa Dunlop	MISS EVELYN MAXWELL
Miss Selina Dunlop	MISS ROSALIND IVAN
Mrs. Fleming Smyth	MISS ELSIE CAREW
Mrs. Hake	MISS GERTRUDE LE SAUF
Sophonisba Hake	MISS LILIAN GRAHAM
Maria	MISS MABEL ROSS

This new comedy-farce, which was presented to a crowded audience on Monday night, proved a great success, and the authors, Mr. Edward F. Parry (Judge Parry, of Manchester) and Mr. Frederick Mouillot (our popular managing-director), are indeed to be congratulated on their excellent work. The dialogue is particularly smart throughout, and the comedy should have a successful run.

The action of the play takes place at an old family mansion, and its owner, Sir Charles Foden, who has fallen into genteel poverty, changes the house into Foden Wells Hydropathic Establishment; himself appearing as the managing-director. Into this pleasant venue come quite a miscellany of odd types of hydro patients, including a fiery General, who "lost" his regiment in a South African engagement; a lady passionately devoted to her parrot, an old Jew, and a dreamily declaiming actor. Above all, there is a very demon of a "Buttons"; and, again, a little girl of a pronounced *enfant terrible* order. Into it comes, too, as the admired and petted of all the woman folk one Jack Barrington, a young Irishman, endowed with quite exceptional powers of blarney. He responds with spirit to the attentions paid him by the fair sex; and a possible engagement is thought of by more than one fair maiden. But Barrington has omitted to mention the pertinent detail that he is married. So, when his wife, Kitty, arrives unexpectedly upon the scene with her belongings, there is a tense *denouement*, and the resulting complications are amusing. But Barrington makes a clean breast of it to Kitty, and induces her to pass as his sister-in-law. In the sequel there are some diverting incidents in this farce of intrigue. Barrington now draws in his reins to some extent. But not so Kitty. She occupies her time in coquetting with Sir Charles Foden, the managing-director of the hydro. Barrington is vastly perturbed by this, and gets a severe paying back in his own coin. The comedy-farce, fortified by motive and incident, works on merrily, and the close is a general clearing up, more or less, to the satisfaction of the various interests.

Mr. Lawrence Grant displayed much comedy in the character of Jack Barrington, the rollicking and good-natured Irishman. Mrs. Mouillot acted with artistic ability, and made a most effective Mrs. Barrington; Mr. C. Leveson Lane was particularly good in his study of Sir Charles Foden, and Mr. Guy Lane made a capital General Dunlop. Mr. Edward Rigby had ample scope of distinguishing himself cleverly in the amusing part of the Buttons, Pink. Miss Foden was ably represented by Miss Cavendish, and the Misses Clarissa and Selena Dunlop were well sustained by Miss Evelyn Maxwell and Miss Rosalind Ivan. The remaining parts were satisfactorily filled, and the comedy was effectively staged.

Heart of Gold, a one-act Russo-Japanese play, by Beatrix De Burgh and Lawrence Grant, recently produced in London, was also presented. Mrs. Mouillot gave a pleasing and effective portrayal of the Japanese character O Hana San, and Mr. Lawrence Grant acted well as Captain Dimitri Korsakoff. The new curtain-raiser was excellently staged.

"DR. JANET, OF HARLEY STREET."

Play, in Four Acts, adapted by S. Creagh Henry from Arabella Kenealy's Novel of the same name.
Produced at the Crystal Palace Theatre, on Monday, March 6.

Marquis de Richeville	MR. S. CREAGH HENRY
Dr. Paul Liveing	MR. HERBERT E. TERRY
Rev. Robert Heath	MR. OWEN HAMILTON
Alphonse	MR. JAMES GILDRED
Bagstock	MR WYN WEAVER
Dr. Janet Doyle	MISS LILLA WILDE
Mrs. Eve	MISS CONSTANCE OWEN
Phyllis	MISS JESSIE DANVERS
Martha	MISS M. DAVIES-WEBSTER
Nurse Hilda	MISS ROSINA MATILDAH
Mary Ann	MISS DAISY BAZLEY

The transference of *Dr. Janet, of Harley-street*, from the study to the stage has not proved wholly to its advantage. The plot, denuded of the graphic descriptive passages of the clever novelist, is meagre and not entirely convincing, and the undoubted interest which the story possesses is hindered by the pedantic disquisitions of the chief character. Dr. Janet Doyle may be clever at medicine and rich in the philosophy of life, but she enters the domain of egoism very frequently in the course of the play, and the substitution of wholesome dialogue for some of the morbid reflections on the evolution of mankind to which she gives utterance would be a distinct gain. The Minerva Hospital furnishes the scene for the operations of the lady doctor who gives the name to the play. She has a protégée in a young girl named Phyllis, who had been drawn into a marriage with a foreign nobleman named the Marquis de Richeville, but, learning of the infamous character borne by him, had left him at the church door and taken refuge with her friend, Dr. Janet, under whose care she takes up the study of medicine. Phyllis soon makes an impression on a young physician named Paul Liveing, who declares his love for her, only to learn the bitter truth that Phyllis is already married. She, in her innocence, would go on loving, confident that Paul alone possesses her affection; but Dr. Janet decides that the pair must part, a decision that is strengthened by the appearance of the Marquis, who demands that his wife shall return to him, and on her refusal strikes her in the face. A few months afterwards we find Paul and Phyllis happily married and settled in their Devonshire home, news having come of the demise of the Marquis abroad. That these tidings were false is proved by the appearance of the scoundrel, who interrupts a tête-à-tête of the lovers. The Marquis threatens proceedings in the Divorce Court, and an action for bigamy, and when Phyllis hands him the envelope containing the document giving news of his death, the Marquis produces only a blank sheet of paper. The scoundrel had himself sent the communication, using vanishing ink for his purpose, so that there is apparently nothing between Phyllis and penal servitude. The Marquis delays taking proceedings, hoping that Phyllis will return to him, and solacing himself with copious draughts of brandy. He is just beginning his second decanter of the fluid when Dr. Janet arrives to beg him to take an action for divorce, and thus release the young people. The lady appeals in vain, but the arguments of Paul Liveing, who forces his way into the room, are more powerful, for he has proofs of the existence of the Marquis's first wife. The news so upsets the nobleman that he has an attack of delirium tremens, and, getting a revolver, begins a wholesale massacre of the snakes, toads, and other vermin that his fancy creates, eventually including himself in the slaughter.

The author of the play, who essayed the rôle of the Marquis de Richeville, was far too youthful in appearance properly to suggest the old roué, and his foreign accent was scarcely ever reminiscent of any Continental tongue that is familiar to us; but he conveyed the effect of alcoholic irritation admirably, and there was a fierceness and energy in his depiction of the "d.t.'s" that told very well. Miss Lilla Wilde furnished the lady doctor with the pince-nez of her profession and also with the affected utterance to which bluestockings are popularly addicted, and which occasionally marred the distinctness of her lines, but the portrayal was a pleasing one, and in the closing scenes more especially gave evidence of the charm and feeling of which Miss Wilde is capable. Mr. Herbert E. Terry was a little too dispassionate throughout to give sufficient colour to the part of Paul Liveing. The bitterness of spirit of the disappointed doctor was adequately conveyed, but the fine speaking voice of the young actor was scarcely utilised to the best advantage, an improvement which would probably come with a better experience of the acoustics of the theatre. Miss Jessie Danvers rendered the difficult rôle of Phyllis with feeling and grace of expression—qualities which were apparent throughout. Miss M. Davies-Webster and Miss Constance Owen acquitted themselves of their few responsibilities as Martha and Mrs. Eve respectively with credit; Mr. Owen Hamilton invested with clerical dignity the part of the Rev. Robert Heath; and Mr. Wyn Weaver was irreproachable in his utterance in the part of the Marquis's manservant; perhaps, indeed, he was a little too gentlemanly. A little girl named Mary Ann was played with intelligence by Miss Daisy Bazley, who acts and talks intelligently.

AT the conclusion of the Grand, Islington, pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, Mr. George Mozart, on behalf of the company, presented Mr. Powell James, the stage manager, with a purse of gold. Mr. James was also the recipient of several other presents, including a silver cigarette case, matchbox, and pencil.

THE Metropole Theatre, Birmingham, will be offered for sale at auction by Mr. Charles F. Redfern, on Thursday next, at the Grand Hotel, in that town. The theatre, which has just been redecorated, is one of the largest and handsomest in the Midlands, and the following stage dimensions will show that it is capable of any production:—Wall to wall, 63ft.; footlights to back wall, 33ft.; stage to grid, 50ft.; fly-rail to fly-rail 36ft.; flies to stage, 20ft. There are eight dressing-rooms, a property-room, and six rooms and band-room under stage, while a new fire-proof curtain has recently been fitted. The theatre, the lease of which has seventy-nine years to run, at a ground rent of £222, will be offered as a going concern, including the fire-proofed scenery, fixed seating, and settees, together with electric and gas fittings.

ÆSCHYLUS AT NOTTING HILL.

On Saturday, March 4, at the Coronet Theatre, Production of
THE ORESTEAN TRILOGY OF ÆSCHYLUS.
"AGAMEMNON."

A Watchman	MR. P. D. OWEN
Clytemnestra	MRS. F. R. BENSON
A Herald	MR. PHILIP SANDERS
Agamemnon	MR. T. A. SHANNON
Cassandra	MISS GERTRUDE SCOTT
Ægisthus	MR. B. A. PITTAR

On Saturday Mr. F. R. Benson introduced to Londoners for the first time the famous Orestean trilogy of Æschylus, and gave them a glimpse of Greek tragedy by perhaps its greatest dramatic exponent. Last year, at the Stratford-on-Avon Shakespearean festival, this was included in the Bensonian répertoire, and found favour with large, enthusiastic, and erudite audiences. Judging by the crowded state of the Coronet Theatre at this and at the Shakespearean and other representations by Mr. Benson's company, there is still a large section of the playgoing public ever ready and willing to afford their patronage and support to classical and literary drama when well set forth and capably interpreted.

All praise is due to Mr. Benson for the lavish and sumptuous manner in which the tragedy is staged, and the elaborate and careful attention to every detail of dress, action and *mise-en-scène* calculated to bring home to the minds of the audience the conditions which prevailed in ancient days.

The scene opens with Agamemnon entering on his chariot, "bearing his blushing honours thick upon him," returned from the successful siege of Troy. The prophetess Cassandra, rides behind in his chariot, his share of the spoil. Enthusiastic plaudits rend the air, and none do him greater reverence than his spouse, Clytemnestra, who persuades her lord to walk on purple to his apartment, her bosom full of fearful plots for his undoing the while. Cassandra, the seeress, meantime sees visions of the dreadful happenings, and reads the fated future, and so steps into the palace to her doom. The scene ends with the tableau of Agamemnon and Cassandra lying murdered, and Clytemnestra and her guilty lover, Ægisthus, determining to reign in his stead. Miss Gertrude Scott is remarkably good as Cassandra, the captive prophetess, and acts with almost inspired fervour and realism in her involuntary dread vaticination, and she strikes a high note of tragic intensity. Mrs. F. R. Benson in this scene ably portrays the insinuating solicitude, hiding the cruel, treacherous, and relentless nature of Clytemnestra, thirsting for revenge for the sacrifice of her child, and eager to gratify her guilty love. Mr. T. A. Shannon acts with befitting dignity and grandeur as King Agamemnon, returned laurel-crowned from victory to be butchered "like an ox in a stall." Mr. B. A. Pittar is eminently satisfactory in the small part of Ægisthus, and Mr. P. D. Owen and Mr. Philip Sanders speak their lines well.

"THE LIBATION BEARERS."

Orestes	MR. F. R. BENSON
Electra	MISS MABEL MOORE
A Nurse	MISS VERA LESLIE
Clytemnestra	MRS. F. R. BENSON
Ægisthus	MR B. A. PITTAR
A Watchman	MR. P. D. OWEN
Pylades	MR. R. G. DAVIS

The second part of this tragedy shows "the libation bearers" sent by Clytemnestra to propitiate the gods by reason of her fearful dreams and sudden pangs of remorse. Orestes, returned, mingles his lamentations with theirs, and with Electra, his sister, swears to be avenged on his father's murderess and her paramour. This scene is notable for the elaborate rites and obsequies performed at the tomb of Agamemnon, and the choral effects in the weird descriptive music. Miss Cissie Saumarez (a sweet-voiced soprano soloist), together with Miss Sleddall (a rich, pure contralto soloist), bears the chief part in the interpretation of the grand but difficult music, and they, together with the rest of the choir, give unquestionable satisfaction. Like the former scene, this ends in a note of deepest tragedy, with the awful vengeance of Orestes, aided by his friend Pylades, and the horror of the matricide as he becomes aware of the torments that await him at the hands of the Furies.

Mr. F. R. Benson acts with deep feeling in the scene where he mourns his murdered father and mingles his tears with those of his sister Electra at his tomb, and later, when, seized with maniacal dread of the torments of the Furies, he gives an exceedingly powerful assumption of frenzied terror and remorse. Miss Mabel Moore is a very sweet and sympathetic figure as Electra. Mrs. Benson makes a brief but very telling appearance as Clytemnestra in this act, and her depiction of a stern and resolute woman, bowing to the decrees of fate, is strikingly and happily conceived. As a Nurse, Miss Vera Leslie is very good, and, indeed, all concerned in this scene act in the genuine vein of tragedy, and there is no jarring note.

"THE FURIES."

Apollo	MR. CYRIL KEIGHTLEY
Orestes	MR. F. R. BENSON
The Ghost of Clytemnestra	MRS. F. R. BENSON
Athena	MISS ROXY BARTON

In "The Furies," the last scene of all, that ends "this strange eventful history," we find Orestes, after much misery and adventure in foreign travel, clinging to the altar of Athena in the temple at Delphi, while slumbering Furies hem him in on all sides. He invokes Apollo and Minerva, and presently Apollo aids him to escape; Pallas Athene pronounces the avenger of his father's murder as not blood-guilty, and the Furies are appeased. In this act, Mr. Cyril Keightley is excellent as Apollo, and Miss Roxy Barton stands out in bold relief as the goddess Athena. Mrs. F. R. Benson earns deserved applause in her invocation to the tormenting spirits as the ghost of the murdered Queen, and Mr. F. R. Benson comes remarkably well through the ordeal of his trying part in the closing scenes as Orestes. Such well-known people as Mr. George Weir and Miss Leah Hanman will be noted among the Furies in minor rôles. The chorus is augmented by Mr. Vernon Drew's choir, under the direction of Mr. George Buchanan and Miss Cissie Saumarez. The music for the trilogy has been specially composed by Mr. Christopher Wilson, and the augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. George W. Collins. Mr. Edward Lytton, the popular acting-manager, states that there has been quite record business during Mr. Benson's season, and the advance booking is exceptionally good.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—In your notice of *Aladdin* at the Theatre Royal, Castleford, last week, you referred to me as J. Arnold. It should have been, yours faithfully, FRED. ARNOLD.

MR. GEORGE MUSGROVE'S company, with *The Prince of Pilsen*, will be seen next week at the Kennington Theatre. The company is an excellent one, and the entire production on a most elaborate scale, the dresses, scenery, and general effects being an exact replica of those at the Shaftesbury Theatre. A new "Gibson girl" will be seen in Mdlle. Christine Raynisky, a young Hungarian actress. Mr. F. R. Benson's successful season at the Coronet will come to a close next week. On Monday he will again present *The Comedy of Errors*; on Tuesday and Thursday, *Hamlet*; Wednesday, *The School for Scandal*; Friday, *Macbeth*; and on Saturday, *King Lear*. There will be afternoon performances on Wednesday and Saturday, when *King Lear* and *Hamlet* will be presented.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"TOM PITT, LE ROI DES PICKPOCKETS."
Spectacular Play, in Four Acts and Eighteen Tableaux,
by MM. V. de Cottens and V. Darlay,
Produced at the Chatelet, March 2.

Tom Pitt	M. MAX DEARLY
Cricri	M. POUGAUD
Lapoire	M. VIBERT
Seraphin	M. PAUL ARDOT
Lionel	M. MAIRE
Picrates	M. DANVERS
Pirouette	MDLLE. BERALDY
Edna	MDLLE. MYRAL
Arabella	MME. ROLLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, MARCH 9.—The management of the Chatelet have struck oil with their new spectacular play, which met with an excellent reception, and seems to be booked for a long run. But it must be said to the credit of this management that, although generally most niggardly, they have this time gone in for lavish expenditure, and mounted the work in a superb manner. M. Victor de Cottens, a great Anglo-maniac, insisted on everything being done on English lines, and he even constructed his play somewhat according to English traditions. The plot is but a pretext for the display of the eighteen tableaux; and it is not necessary to tell in detail the story of how Tom Pitt, the famous pickpocket, tries to secure the £20,000,000 dowry which a crazy old American wants to bestow upon his niece Edna. And we embark on a pleasant trip from Charing Cross Station, through Wales, across the ocean, until we reach a curious Republic in South America, where Tom is run to earth. Tom, in fact, would have expiated his misdeeds on the gallows had not the eccentric, but shrewd, President made him Chief of the Police. The piece is not only beautifully mounted, it is excellently acted by the inimitable Max Dearly; by Pogaud, an old favourite; and a host of pretty girls, among whom Mdlle. Béraldy, Mdlle. Myral; and a number of charming young ladies from your side of the Channel, whose capitally executed dances and amusing English songs were heartily applauded.

"L'ENFANT ROI."
Lyric Comedy, in Five Acts,
by Emile Zola, Music by A. Bruneau,
Produced at the Opera-Comique, March 3.

François	M. DUFRANNE
Auguste	M. JEAN PERIER
Taussaint	M. VIEUILLE
Gearget	MDLLE. MARIE THIERY
Madeleine	MDLLE. FRICHE
Pauline	MDLLE. TIPHAINE..
La Grand'mere	MDLLE. COCYTE

However great the merits of Zola's works, his prose is absolutely anti-lyric, and M. Bruneau undertook a giant's task in setting this libretto—all in prose—to music. Nor does the libretto come up in other respects to the author's high standard. It is wordy, bombastic; and all the beautiful effects are imparted by the composer. Yet the story is pretty. Francois, a young master-baker, has married Madeleine. They are intensely happy. Then in steps the traitor, in the person of Auguste, their foreman. Auguste has discovered that Madeleine goes once a week to the Tuileries, and enters a kiosque, where she remains closeted with somebody. Francois finds a treacherous slip of paper in his ledger, and, having followed his wife, surprises her with a youth of sixteen. Her lover? No, her son; the child she had before she knew Francois; when a scoundrel seduced and deserted her. Francois is quite willing to forgive her for having withheld the fact from him, on condition of her giving up her boy. Give up her son? Never. And they part, sad and miserable; whilst the bakery is slowly going to pieces. After a year Madeleine can stand it no longer, and one evening, to Francois's surprise, she enters, and takes her old seat behind the counter. Moreover, Georget, a good lad, upset at being the innocent cause of trouble between his mother and his stepfather, has accepted a berth in America, and comes to say good-bye. And Francois, deeply moved, tells the boy not to go. The music is remarkably characteristic, and admirably fits every personage. Following Wagner's method, M. Bruneau has different motives, which return unexpectedly, and import a special charm to the different situations. The orchestration is masterful. The interpretation was beyond praise. The part of Francois suited M. Dufranne to the ground, and Mdlle Friché earned golden laurels as Madeleine. A word of praise, too, for Mdlle. Thiéry, Mdlle. Tiphaine, and M. Jean Périer.

"LA BELLE MARSEILLAISE."
Play, in Four Acts and Five Tableaux,
by M. Pierre Berton,
Produced at the Ambigu, March 3.

Bonaparte	M. CASTILLAN
Tallemont	M. DIEUDONNE
Crisenoy	M. BRULE
Cambacéres	M. LIEZER
Règnier	M. MOREAU
Fouché	M. SYNES
Jeanne de Briantes	MDLLE. MAUD AMY
Joséphine	MME. BERYL
Hortense	MDLLE. PREYLE
Pauline	MDLLE. VALLIER

The Ambigu has broken with its traditions of bloodcurdling dramas, and it remains to be seen whether the frequenters of that theatre, who like to witness a few murders—with a ghost or two thrown in—will relish the somewhat tame fare placed before them. Jeanne de Briantes, the wife of the Marquis de Tallemont, and nicknamed "La Belle Marseillaise," keeps a restaurant, where her husband can conspire with ease and comfort against the life of Bonaparte, first Consul. The "infernal machine" of historical fame explodes, but, whilst Bonaparte escapes unhurt, the Marquis de Tallemont is reported killed. His wife, by order of the Consul, then marries M. de Crisenoy. Unfortunately, Tallemont is not killed. He suddenly returns to France, bent upon murdering Bonaparte, and, at the moment when the latter is crowned Emperor, a snuff-box with poisoned tobacco is to be slipped into his Imperial pocket. But Jeanne is not bloodthirsty, and saves the Emperor's life by substituting honest snuff for the deadly mixture. And, as the terrible Tallemont very opportunely is killed in a duel, Jeanne asks the Emperor to nominate Crisenoy, her second husband, General; which the Emperor does with much pleasure, as he owed the lady a turn. The piece was remarkably well acted by M. Dieudonné, as the three-faced Marquis; by M. Castellan, elegant and fascinating; by Mdlle. Amy; and by M. Castillan. The episodical rôles, too, were in safe hands.

"LES VENTRES DORES."
Play in Five Acts, by M. Emile Fabre,
produced at the Odeon, March 4.

Baron de Thau	M. GIMIER
Vernières	M. CANDE
Baron d'Urth	M. DORIVAL
Chauvelot	M. JANVIER
Brianne	M. COSTE
Princesse d'Holsbek	MDME. F. MALLET
Mme Vernières	MDLLE. SERGINE
Mme. Klobb	MDLLE. DE FEHL
Mme. Brianne	MDLLE. MIRAMAN
Mme. Michal	MDME. DEHAN

Balzac, in his *Mercadet*, was the first to introduce on the stage the crooked financier. Since then others have followed with more or less success, and the last production of this kind was M. Octave Mirbeau's strong play, *Les Affaires sont les Affaires*. In his piece, *Les Ventres Dorés*, M. Fabre, a most able playwright, committed the mistake of sacrificing too much to detail, with the result that his principal personages get hustled into the background, and the play itself slowly disappears. The plot is as follows:—Baron de Thau, a big financier, is chairman of the Nouvelle Afrique. But the company's affairs do not prosper, and at the board meeting it is proposed to "cook" the report to be submitted to the shareholders. Vernières, the only honest man among the crowd, protests against such a proceeding, and also against asking the Government to send troops to fire on the natives who have risen *en masse* on the company's territory. No heed is taken of Vernières' protest, and he dies in a fit of apoplexy, with a letter in his pocket wherein he offers to hand to the shareholders every penny he possesses. In the last act things have gone from bad to worse. Criminal proceedings are being taken against the company, despite the fact that the directors have produced Vernières' letter, and have tried to saddle him with the whole responsibility. At that critical moment Baron de Thau receives a visit from Baron d'Urth, his opponent and arch enemy, who cynically informs him that he will do everything in his power to wreck the whole show. Nothing daunted, de Thau replies that in that case he will produce a certain telegram sent by d'Urth which will bring the latter within the grasp of the law. D'Urth then rushes at his opponent; the two men have an unseemly struggle, but suddenly calm down. They have discovered that they can match one another, and, after a while they walk arm-in-arm up and down the room, and agree that henceforth they will be partners. There is really only one rôle in the piece, that of the Baron de Thau, magnificently played by M. Gimier, who, for the first time since he joined the Odeon, has taken charge of the *mise-en-scene*. M. Candé was intensely dramatic as the honest Vernières, and M. Janvier supplies a curious sketch of an old cashier, who has seen so many financial catastrophes as to have become absolutely callous. Mdme. Felicia Mallet, Mdlle. Sergine, and M. Dorival lent valuable aid.

"A FALSE WIFE."

A new Drama, in Four Acts, by F. Marriott-Watson, produced at the Assembly Rooms, Pontefract, on Thursday, March 2.

Sir Colin Mansfield	MR. GEORGE LANGHAM
Lieut. George Mansfield	MR. SCOTT LEIGHTON
Ben Rattler	MR. JAMES CHIPPENDALE
Archibald Browne Tee	MR. OWEN EDWIN
Jean Beraud	MR. FRANK STRICKLAND
Inspector Fulton	MR. HARRY DUNHAM
Zorak	MR. JOHN CECIL
William Marlow	MR. FRED LEVINE
Agnes Weyland	MISS ELSIE WATSON
Bessie Blazer	MISS MINNIE LESLIE
Sarah Bernstein	MISS JUDITH ANSELL
Lady Mansfield	MISS F. E. FLORENCE

Mr. F. Marriott-Watson is the author of several dramas which have been successfully produced; and in his latest play he has again shown a knowledge of what is required in productions which chiefly depend upon sensation for their attractive powers. In "A False Wife" some of the situations are familiar enough to the experienced playgoer, but to the credit of the author it should be said that he has also introduced fresh material of a decidedly novel and creepy character.

At the opening of the play we learn that Sir Colin Mansfield's ward, Agnes Weyland, inherits, when she comes of age, a sum of £50,000, bequeathed her by her late father. If she should die before her twenty-first birthday, the fortune is to go to Sir Colin himself or his wife, should he have joined the great majority. When we learn that Sir Colin's wife, Estelle, is an utterly depraved and unscrupulous woman, and that she has a paramour named Jean Beraud, we know just what to expect. The Frenchman occupies a position in the house as a servant, and by eavesdropping he learns the particulars concerning Agnes's fortune. Lady Mansfield and Beraud decide that both her husband and his ward shall be removed. She brutally strangles the old man, and the dead body is discovered by his son, George, a lieutenant in the Navy, who has been falsely accused of forging Sir Colin's name to a cheque, the real culprit being his wicked stepmother, Estelle. He is charged with being the murderer of his father, and arrested. He, however, escapes from prison by changing clothes with an obliging warder. The widowed Lady Mansfield endeavours to get rid of Agnes by means of slow poison, so as to obtain possession of the £50,000; and several attempts are made by the police to recapture George, but with the assistance of his faithful servant, Ben Rattler, he escapes every time. A novel and gruesome sensation is introduced in the fourth act, the opening scene of which is the Mad Wizard's Den. To this place George has come for refuge, and the Wizard promises to save him from arrest. Placing him in a coffin the man of mystery mutters an incantation; slowly the flesh seems to fall from George's bones, until, at last, there is nothing left but a grisly skeleton. The police arrive, the place is searched, but only the skeleton can be found, so they retire baffled. George is then miraculously restored to the human form and life. In the end Lady Mansfield, walking in her sleep, gives a vivid representation of the murder of her husband, and both she and here paramour and partner in crime are arrested. The woman, however, commits suicide by taking a dose of poison; and the Frenchman is duly punished.

The new drama was well played. Mr. Scott Leighton gave an excellent embodiment of George Mansfield, and Sir Colin had a capital representative in Mr. George Langham. Miss Florence E. Florence, as Lady Mansfield, otherwise Estelle de Lussan, acted throughout with force, and made the most of her opportunities, scoring specially in the impressive sleep-walking scene in the fourth act. As her ladyship's associate in crime, Jean Beraud, Mr. Frank Strickland achieved a distinct success. Miss Elsie Watson was a pleasing exponent of the heroine, Agnes Weyland. Mr. James Chippendale, as Ben Rattler, of H.M.S. Seamew, played well and soon became a general favourite wih the audience. Miss Minnie Leslie was sufficiently vivacious as Bessie Blazer, a smart maid servant, and Mr. Owen Edwin, as a police constable, also gave able assistance in the comedy scenes. Mr. Harry Dunham, as Inspector Fulton; Mr. John Cecil as the Mad Wizard, and Mr. Fred Levine, as a policeman, are also worthy of favourable mention. The scenery excited much admiration, Lady Mansfield's orchard, in the second act, with apple trees in full bloom, being a particularly pretty set. The incidental music was supplied by Mr. W. C. Pike.

LIFEBOAT AND PROFESSIONAL MATINEE.

Appended is the balance-sheet submitted by Mr. George M. Steinson, the hon. secretary of the Lifeboat and Professional Matinée, given at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, on the 23rd ult.:—

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
Cash at Doors	130	13	0
Tickets ditto	5	19	6
Tickets Not Used		10	0
Advertisement	1	0	0
Programmes and Flowers	15	0	9
	£153	3	3

EXPENSES.

	£	s.	d.
Printing	8	2	0
Postage	2	5	0
Advertising, Newspapers	4	1	0
Programmes	3	1	9
Theatre Staff	6	11	0
Orchestra	6	0	0
Artistes' Cab Hire	2	0	0
Artistes' Refreshments	1	10	0
Secretary's Expenses	5	0	0
	38	10	9
Balance Profit	114	12	6
	£153	3	3

Of the profits, the Lifeboat Saturday Fund has been awarded £57 6s., £28 13s. 3d. each going to the Actors' Benevolent Fund and the Music Hall Benevolent Fund.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Arthur Ellis, the Comptroller under the Lord Chamberlain's Department, has sent a circular letter to all the London managers, stating that the Lord Chamberlain has come to the conclusion that in some cases it may be possible for him to "elasticise" certain of the recently issued rules which govern theatres under his jurisdiction. The rules referred to are as follows:—"(7) All doors and barriers must open outwards, and the management must allow the public to leave by all exit and entrance doors, which must be thrown open for the use of the audience at the end of the performance. (8) Sufficient gangways, passages, and staircases, for the exit of the audience, must be provided and kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstructions, whether permanent or temporary, and the audience are not permitted either to sit or stand in such gangways."

Sir Arthur also "requests" from each manager a schedule illustrating the maximum number of persons who could be admitted at any one performance to his theatre, indicating in detail also the capacity for standing room. These particulars are to be endorsed on the original building plans of the theatres which are in the custody of the County Council. Sir Arthur also suggests that these particulars should be exhibited where they can be conveniently seen by the audience.

Regulation No. 7 is unaffected by the proposed amendment; and whether its inclusion is purely inadvertent, or the foreshadowing of a further change, we may leave it for the moment to take care of itself. Regulation No. 8 makes provision for the freeing of the gangways from obstruction, and forbids their use for the purpose of standing room. But a certain measure of discretion is retained by the managers in respect to standing room in other parts of the theatre, provided they do not infringe upon the statutory areas of the gangways proper. It is proposed to "elasticise" this regulation: (1) By imposing a limit to the number admitted to standing room. The said limit to be endorsed on the plans which the licence covers. (2) By exhibiting these particulars where they can be conveniently seen by the audience in each part of the theatre. In other words, the manager is to be deprived of the small margin of discretion which he now enjoys, and his auditorium is to be plastered with placards for the information of the audience.

Sir Arthur Ellis concludes with the statement that the Lord Chamberlain is sure the reader will not fail to recognise that, in taking this step, that official is in full sympathy with the managers of theatres; and he is also confident that on consideration they will see that his only wish is to remove what may involve them in unnecessary hardship.

Mr. Arthur Collins is with Mr. Hall Caine at St. Moritz, consulting the novelist about a certain great snowstorm which is to be one of the sensations in the forthcoming production of Mr. Caine's drama, *The Prodigal Son*, at Drury Lane Theatre in September. Another scene will show the "tables" at Monte Carlo. On one occasion the late Sir Augustus Harris had a notion of putting the gambling interior into a Drury Lane drama; and he went over to Nice to study it. But he and his companion—we believe it was Mr. Henry Pettitt—found that there was so much quietude and self-control in the way in which the money was won or lost, that they gave up the idea. The curses and the suicides which make gambling so dramatic in fiction are not in evidence at "Charley's Mount." Not that this would matter much to Mr. Hall Caine, whose description of the Derby in one of his novels is quite the funniest thing of its kind, and beats Ouida's immortal horse-race hollow.

"Leah Kleschner," the play by C. M. S. M'Lellan, in which Miss Lena Ashwell will shortly appear in London, was produced at the Manhattan Theatre, New York, on Dec. 12 last. The heroine is the daughter of a burglar. A dissolute young man named Berton endeavours to seduce her. But Leah has been saved from shipwreck by a member of the French Assembly named Paul Sylvaine, into whose house in the night she is sent to steal the family jewels. Leah and Sylvaine meet; and, instead of handing her over to the police, he tells her to go and burgle no more. But the dissolute young Berton secures the jewels; and there are escapes, complications, and exciting incidents. In the end, Leah, after assisting her father and his associates to evade the pursuit of the police, returns to her native place in Austria, where, in three years, Sylvaine finds her out, and marries her. Miss Lena Ashwell should be as fine in *Leah Kleschner* as she was in *Resurrection*.

Sir Squire Bancroft will read at the Royal Institution on Friday a paper entitled "Dramatic Thoughts; Retrospective—Anticipative." Sir Squire will read the same address to the students of Mr. Beerbohm Tree's Academy of Dramatic Art later on. The "retrospections" of Sir Squire should be specially interesting.

Mr. George Alexander might have been seen "under the gallery" on Wednesday night studying the House of Commons for the purposes of the Parliamentary scene in the play he is to produce. The interior of St. Stephen's, it will be remembered, was a leading feature of the drama, *The Price of Peace*, produced at Drury-lane in the autumn of 1900.

Mr. H. B. Irving finds in the character of Hamlet a certain element of the cruelty inherent in most weak natures, mingled with the affection and sweetness of the Prince's disposition. This, Mr. Irving thinks, is strongly shown not only by Hamlet's almost indifferent bearing on the discovery of his unintentional slaughter of Polonius, but also in certain passages which are usually omitted from the acting version.

The difficulty of correctly estimating this part of Hamlet's character arises from the impossibility of one person putting himself, in imagination, in another person's place. As Carlyle remarks, to fairly judge the "excesses" of the French Revolution, one must give due value to the passion of fear. It is surprising how stern a man grows when his own life is threatened, and how philosophically he can regard another man's imminent danger. Horatio expressed a certain compunction as to the fate of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern; but, then, he had not been dispatched to death, as Hamlet had by the remorseless King. The leaders of the Commonwealth beheaded Charles I., chiefly to secure their own safety; and we still hang murderers to lessen the chance of our being "taken off." We confess we cannot find in Hamlet anything more than the average "cruelty" of disposition.

It is satisfactory to be able to record the fact that the many letters which recently appeared in our columns with respect to how to assist the Actors' Benevolent Fund are bearing fruit. The ladies and gentlemen collecting at the theatres and in touring companies are exerting themselves with considerable success in the fund's interests. Miss Isabel Jay collected at Daly's Theatre £29 12s., Mr. F. Leyel collected at the Adelphi Theatre £25 9s. 6d., while Mr. Sidney Harcourt succeeded in collecting at the Duke of York's Theatre the sum of £37 9s. 6d.

Mr. Edward Terry, who celebrated his sixty-first birthday yesterday (Friday), made his first bow to an audience forty-two years ago. His London début was at the Surrey Theatre four years later. Mr. Terry has travelled extensively, and is part author of two successful plays, *The Churchwarden* and *Love in Idleness*.

Miss Tita Brand, who made such a success in *Everyman*, has taken the Shaftesbury Theatre, and will open there on April 10 with *Othello*, herself enacting Desdemona. Mr. Hubert Carter will be the Moor, and Mr. J. H. Barnes, Mr. George Trollope, Miss Lydia Busch, and Miss Charlotte Granville have already been engaged in support of the "star." *Othello* will be followed by a translation from the German, entitled *Renaissance*. Mr. B. A. Mayer, the general manager of the series of German plays at the Great Queen Street Theatre, has been appointed manager for Miss Brand

Miss Brand takes a keen interest in weaving, and has turned her belief in the durability and beauty of work accomplished with the handom into practical form. She has taken a large workroom near Victoria Station, and engaged five girls, who are busily employed with shuttle and thread, and, judging by the progress made in a comparatively short space of time, her artistic venture promises to meet with the success it deserves.

"The Darling of the Gods" was acted in America the other day, before an audience which stood throughout the performance. A new playhouse was opened in the Western city of Tacoma. Every "seat" in the house had been sold; but when the curtain went up there was not a seat to be seen, the freight car containing the several hundred chairs ordered by the manager having been delayed by a snowstorm. It was decided to explain the situation to the ticket-holders, and to offer to refund the money. Miss Blanche Bates, however, insisted on appearing, whether there were chairs in the house or not. The first man who presented himself at the door expressed his willingness to stand; and, with the exception of a few people advanced in years, the rest followed suit, and stood throughout the performance. Miss Bates made a speech, in which she expressed her pleasure at appearing before such an "upright" audience, and in a theatre where it was literally a case of "standing room only" before any of the doors were opened.

Mr. Clyde Fitch says it is absurd to state that he is flooding the market with comedies and dramas, and that he writes a play between meals. He follows a definite plan, which is to turn out two original plays each season—no more, no less. He adds that the idea of his giving up work and becoming a recluse is entirely mythical. But he intends to be more rigorous in living up to the rule of two plays a year. Whatever degree of success he has attained, Mr. Fitch attributes largely to the fact that he has never taken the advice so freely offered by his friends. "Everyone," he says, "is a dramatic critic nowadays. They can all tell you how you could write better if you only would. So many people, too, are writing plays. He keeps away from his cook, lest she should ask him to revise a third act for her, and he thinks his man-servant is a treasure because he has not expressed any intention of writing a comedy. Mr. Fitch has written twenty-three original plays, and made seven adaptations, besides collaborating with Mr. Leo Ditrichstein in three other plays. He is now engaged on a new piece for Miss Maxime Elliott, to be produced in the autumn, and is also dramatising Alfred Henry Lewis's novel, "Wolfville."

Mr. C. I. Coltson, the secretary of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, has received the following letter from Mr. H. E. Bellamy, the business manager for the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company:—"Sir,—Some time ago it was decided in this company to have a weekly subscription towards the Actors' Benevolent Fund. This arrangement has been in force for fourteen weeks, and I have much pleasure in sending you a cheque for £9 10s. 9d. I think that if more companies would take the trouble to organise a similar system, that you would find the fund greatly augmented. We are much indebted to Mr. C. H. Workman and Miss Bessel Adams (Mrs. C. H. Workman) for taking charge of the weekly collecting boxes."

Mr. Beerbohm Tree will revive *A Man's Shadow* at His Majesty's at a matinée on the 25th inst., and is negotiating with Mr. George Alexander for the rights of *Les Affairs sont les Affaires*, in an adaptation of which, by Mr. Sydney Grundy, Mr. Tree would play the hard-headed and hard-hearted financier, and Miss Tree would be the daughter, Germaine.

Mr. F. W. Purcell has provided a rich programme in the immediate future for his patrons at the elegant Marlborough Theatre. Mr. William Greet's chief touring company will be there next week with the original Lyric Theatre production of *The Earl and the Girl*. *The Geisha* and *A Greek Slave* will form the following week's attraction, and these in turn will be succeeded by Mr. and Mrs. Kendal.

Master Cyril Smith, to whose illness we have before alluded, is now well on the road to recovery; and there is every reason to believe that he will be able to rejoin Sir Henry Irving at Drury-lane early in May.

Mr. Henry Vibart, who is cast for Fleischer, in *The Thieves' Comedy*, at the Court Theatre, on Tuesday week, is an old Bensonian—he played thirty parts in seven months when he was with F. R. B.—formerly a member of Mr. Compton's company, and Mr. Mansfield's right-hand man for several seasons. Mr. Vibart has made some of his chief successes in Scotch parts, having passed his boyhood in Edinburgh, and thoroughly understanding the Scotch character and accent. His performance of the part of "the meenister" was one of the best character sketches in Mr. Barrie's *Wedding Guest*, four years ago, at the Garrick Theatre.

Miss Pattie Murray, who appeared in the *Mother Goose* pantomime at Manchester, has recently been declared the winner of a theatrical beauty competition, organised by the proprietors of a Manchester newspaper, who offered a valuable diamond and pink pearl bracelet for competition, the award being decided by public vote. Miss Murray has several sisters on the stage, and one of these won a valuable gold watch in a similar competition at Drury-lane Theatre during the run of last year's pantomime.

Miss Minnie Palmer will make a welcome return to London on Monday, when she begins at the Grand Theatre, Fulham, a tour with *My Sweetheart*, supported by a strong company. The charming soubrette will later on visit South Africa.

Miss Isa Bowman, who is playing the title-rôle in *Miss Mischief* on tour with great charm and effect, will shortly take up the principal part in the new Scotch production, *A Trip to the Highlands*, by Fred Locke, which is to be produced at the New Grand Theatre, Edinburgh, under the direction of Mr. Eade Montefiore.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree will give a performance of *Hamlet* next Monday afternoon at the Oxford Town Hall, under the auspices of a new local society called the Olympian Dramatic Club. Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. William Haviland, Mr. Lionel Brough, Miss B. Forbes Robertson, and Miss Frances Ivor will add distinction to the cast. Ordinary scenery will be dispensed with, and the play will be performed against a background of draperies. In the evening, after the performance, a dinner of the Olympian Dramatic Club will be held, at which Mr. Beerbohm Tree has promised to be present.

Mr. John Philip Sousa is an indefatigable worker, and last week he gave concerts in thirteen different towns. He has just finished reading the proofs of his new novel, which will be a book of four hundred pages, and he has already begun to weave melodies for the new opera he is to commence during the coming summer. One of his operas, *The Bride Elect*, will probably be produced in London this spring. "The March King" will return to town at Easter time, when he will celebrate his twenty-fifth anniversary as conductor of bands. Mrs. Sousa, who is accompanying her husband on the present tour, has recently published a song, the music being composed by Miss Estelle Liebling, soprano soloist of the Sousa Band. Miss Priscilla Sousa, the elder daughter, is also a composer, one of her little coon songs, "Me and my old banjo," having made a decided hit in America. Miss Helen Sousa, the youngest member of the family, who is still at school, is likewise gifted with musical ability.

Mr. Frank Curzon will on Monday transfer *Mr. Hopkinson* to Wyndham's Theatre, where the success achieved at the Avenue is likely to be continued for many weeks.

Mr. Ernest Percy, who has been in St. Thomas's Hospital since Jan. 2 with a compound fracture of the leg, has so far recovered that he was discharged from the hospital on Saturday, and has gone to complete his recovery at Harlington, near Uxbridge.

Mr. Claude Meynell, who has been representing Mr. Tree in Australia and New Zealand for the past two years, is on the way home, and is expected to arrive about the end of the month. Mr. Meynell, whilst in England, will represent several Australian managers who are on the look out for novelties.

Miss Grete Hahn, a member of *The Thieves' Comedy* company at the Court, owed her introduction to the stage to a girlish success at an elocution competition, at which Mr. Martin Harvey happened to be judge. When he subsequently produced *A Cigarette Maker's Romance*, she asked for an engagement, and was cast for the pretty little part of Anna. She had formerly, however, appeared as the Scotch boy, Micah Dow, in *The Little Minister*, on tour, and met with the following amusing experience:—A certain landlady in a small town treated her with particular kindness and consideration, and when Miss Hahn thanked her, on leaving, she received this candid explanation of the reason of her attentions: "I always try to be nice to theatricals," said the landlady, "for I've got boys and girls of my own, miss, and you never know what they may come to!"

The members of Mr. J. Bannister Howard's *Floradora* company had a narrow escape on the railway on the 27th ult., when, on entering the tunnel leading to Devonport Station, the train conveying the company collided with some goods waggons, severely injuring the driver of the latter. Fortunately, with the exception of a shaking, the members of the company escaped accident, and the evening's performance was gone through with the usual swing.

Messrs. Hans Andresen and Max Behrend will be accorded a benefit performance at the Royalty Theatre on Monday, March 20, on which occasion they will sustain the principal parts in *Zwei Wappen*, a farcical comedy by Blumenthal and Kadelburg. This will be followed by *Abu Said*, a one-act play, in which Mr. Max Behrend will make his last appearance in London as a director of the German company, having been appointed director of the Municipal Theatre, in Mayence. This occasion will mark his farewell to the London public, and both German and English supporters will no doubt assemble in force.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sugden wish it to be known that the American *Du Barri* play, with which they commence their autumn tour, has nothing in common with the adaptation of M. J. Richepin's play to be produced at the Savoy Theatre next Saturday.

Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow will on Monday next start a two months' season of the suburban theatres, beginning with the Borough, Stratford. *In the King's Name*, a romantic costume play, dealing with "Knights of the road," and *At Cripple Creek*, both new to London, together with the evergreen *Under Two Flags*, will constitute the programmes.

Their Majesties the King and Queen and his Royal Highness Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria witnessed the performance of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* at the New Theatre on Monday evening.

Mr. Fred Mouillot's principal *My Lady Molly* company met with an exciting adventure last Sunday, while travelling from Walsall to New Cross. Soon after leaving Nuneaton, the truck containing the scenery and costumes caught fire, and nearly the whole of the production was destroyed. Mr. Curline Baldry, the manager, and the members of the company, after over two hours' hard work, succeeded in saving a small quantity of the wardrobe. Mr. Leslie Malton, Mr. Mouillot's general manager, happened to be on the train, and immediately upon arrival in London arranged for a complete duplicate set of scenery and properties, thus enabling the company to open at the Broadway Theatre on Monday night in the ordinary course.

"The Gipsy Girl," a new and original comedy-opera, written and composed by Claude Arundale, with lyrics by Follett Thorpe, will shortly make a tour of the chief provincial towns, under the direction of Mr. Fredk. Mouillot. The principal parts will be played by Miss Sybil Arundale and Miss Grace Arundale, who will be supported by a first-class company.

Owing to the illness of Mr. Harcourt Williams, Mr. Templer Powell is now playing Romeo at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester.—Messrs. E. Hill-Mitchelson and Harris Fineberg are arranging for stock seasons this summer at the Star and Rotunda Theatres, Liverpool.

The Prince and Princess of Wales witnessed the performance of *Mollentrave on Women* at the St. James's Theatre on Saturday evening.

Miss Ellis Jeffreys won an emphatic success in New York on Monday, when *The Prince Consort* was produced at the New Amsterdam Theatre there.

The Theatre Royal, Bristol, was packed on Saturday evening at the last performance of the successful pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*. All the principals, especially Miss Ethel Campbell and Miss Margery Moore, were greeted very heartily on making their appearance, and the choruses of the favourite songs were taken up lustily. Mr. Ernest Carpenter, the managing-director of the theatre, made his customary speech: "Ladies and gentlemen, I have much pleasure in thanking you for the generous support which has made *Robinson Crusoe* the most successful pantomime presented during my eleven years in Bristol. My thanks are especially due to the ladies and gentlemen of the company, who have all worked so hard and conscientiously. Next year my pantomime will be *Goody Two Shoes*, and may I ask for a continuance of the support accorded me during the run of *Robinson Crusoe*—a run which might have been prolonged for several weeks had it not been for contracts with other managers. I have much pleasure in introducing to you Mr. Trueman Towers, my stage-manager, who has done so much for the success of the production, and in presenting him with a dressing-case, subscribed for by the artistes and staff, I am also very pleased to say that Mr. Towers will again stage-manage next year. I also have much pleasure in making a presentation to Mr. Edwin Jacobs, the musical director of the theatre, and to congratulate him upon the success of his musical arrangements for the pantomime." Mr. Carpenter was much applauded at the conclusion of his speech, and the audience heartily joined in "Auld Lang Syne."

Miss Vera Schlesinger has just terminated a thirteen weeks' successful engagement in Mr. Eade Montefiore's *Cinderella* company at the Queen's Theatre, Gateshead, her excellent singing being greatly appreciated throughout.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley, the proprietor of the Royal Opera House, and sole lessee of the Theatre Royal, Leicester, who contemplates taking a sea voyage by way of a holiday, has appointed Mr. George M. Slater as his general-manager at the above theatres. This appointment will in no way interfere with the gallant Colonel's present acting-managers, Mr. C. D. Leigh still remaining at the Royal Opera House, and Mr. J. C. Candler at the Theatre Royal. Mr. Slater is not new to Leicester, having produced two capital pantomimes for Colonel Winstanley, and for some time was acting-manager at the Royal Opera House, being followed in that position by Mr. C. D. Leigh, who continues to make hosts of friends there. Mr. J. C. Candler will be remembered by most of the touring companies, having been at the Royal Opera House for some fifteen years before taking the reins of acting management at the "Old Royal." Mr. Slater will now book the attractions for both theatres for his chief.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company, with the Garrick Theatre success, *The Walls of Jericho*, starts its provincial tour on Monday next under the direction of Messrs. Silvanus Dauncey and M. V. Leveaux. Mr. Wilfred Lawson Butt (a brother of Miss Clara Butt) will play the part of Jack Frobisher, and Miss Dorothy Thomas that of Lady Alethea. Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh will personally visit Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, and Dublin with their own company later on.

Mr. George Edwardes is actively engaged in the direction of rehearsals of *Two Little Girls*, the adaptation by Mr. Henry Hamilton of M. Messager's comic opera, *Les P'tites Michus*, which is to be the next production at Daly's Theatre. Miss Adrienne Augarde is returning from America to take up a leading part, and Mr. Robert Evett and Mr. Louis Bradfield will be seen in characters that are sure to give ample scope for the exercise of their talents. In the rôle of a fiery French officer Mr. George Graves will be fitted to a nicety, and Miss Kate Bishop will also form one of the pillars of the play. Mr. Edwardes has in contemplation a successor to *The Orchid* at the Gaiety, though the continued prosperity of that charming piece seems to forbid even a hint at its removal.

Madame Helen Townshend's twelve-year-old pupil, Hanid Alexander, who appeared with success in the Royal, Newcastle, pantomime this year, has been retained for three years by Messrs. Moss and Thornton. Another of Madame Townshend's pupils, Miss Elsie Molloy, is engaged by Mr. George Dance for the title-rôle in *The Girl from Kay's*.

Mr. Fred Sargent, who only recently returned from South Africa, makes his first appearance in London as Romeo next week at the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington.

"Pilgrim's Way," a musical allegory by D. Elliot, will be produced at the Court Theatre on Monday, March 27, with Madame Louise Dale, Miss Gleeson-White, Miss Phyllis Lett, Miss Janet Duff, Miss De Dreux, and Mr. Hamilton Earle in the cast.

At Marlborough-street Police-court on Wednesday Mr. Horace Watson, manager of the Haymarket Theatre, applied to Mr. Denman for a licence to permit Iris Hawkins, a pretty little girl, twelve years of age, to take the part of Mickey in *Everybody's Secret*, to be produced at that theatre on Tuesday. Mickey, it was stated, was an important character in the play. Sub-divisional-inspector Smith having mentioned that Iris had a private governess, and that the usual inquiries had been made with satisfactory results, the licence was granted.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held last Tuesday. The hon. solicitors were requested to advise a member as to his claim against a manager for breach of contract, and, if necessary, to write on his behalf. The secretary referred to a letter from a member containing the following paragraph:—"I should like to express my most sincere thanks for legal advice very kindly given me by Mr. Mote." The secretary reported that Mr. Will Dennis had accepted an appointment on the Council to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Bassett Roe. The question of the formation of the committee of five to consider the "National Theatre Scheme" was under discussion, and the secretary received instructions in connection therewith. A former member was reinstated.

Gabriele D'Annunzio, the second son of the well-known dramatist, has adopted the profession of an actor. The young aspirant to fame will make his first appearance at Livorno, in the part of Simonetto, in his father's new tragedy, *La Piccolo Soko Il Moggio*.

Miss Henrietta Watson, Miss Hilda Rivers, Mr. Dawson Millward, Mr. Graham Browne, Mr. Lennox Pawle, and Mr. Loring Fernie are in the company which will perform Mr. H. C. M. Hardinge's three-act comedy, *The Little More*, and his Spanish episode, *The Dancer*, when they are produced at the Court Theatre on Monday week at a matinée in aid of the Distressed Gentlefolks' Aid Association.

Mr. Frederick Harrison and Mr. Cyril Maude's patrons—early and otherwise—at the Haymarket Theatre will be pleased to learn that, to precede *Everybody's Secret* there on Tuesday, the management have secured that thrilling and remarkable little piece, *A Case of Arson*, which should not be missed on any account. The site of Mr. Cyril Maude's new theatre, "The Playhouse," is certainly not "Everybody's Secret," being, for the present, locked in Mr. Maude's breast.

Miss Constance Collier will take out on tour at Easter a new play by the Vicar of Gorleston called *Lord Danby's Love Affair*, herself sustaining the leading character.

"Die Wildente" (the Wild Duck) will, by special request, be given by the German company in place of *Der Strom* at the Great Queen-street Theatre matinée to-day. Frau Rosa Bertens will repeat her fine embodiment of Gina Ekdal, and in the evening will appear for the last time this season, *Es Lebe das Leben* being the play selected. *Eine Palast Revolution* and *Zwei Wappen*, two well-known German farces, will be produced during the closing week of the season, the former being given on Monday and all the week, including the Saturday matinée, with the exception of Friday, when *Zwei Wappen* will be played, with Messrs. Andresen and Behrend in the principal parts.

The Princess of Wales was present on Tuesday afternoon at the production of *Agatha* at His Majesty's Theatre, in aid of the Princess Mary Village Homes.

Mrs. Spooner, an American manageress, intends to establish a theatre with a regular stock company, in the heart of New York, similar to the one which she has successfully conducted in Brooklyn. It will be situated near the new terminus of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and will draw a large share of its patronage from New Jersey and Long Island. The settled suburbanites believe in stock companies, and leave it to the city folk to run after new "stars." Mrs. Spooner's two daughters, Miss Edna May and Miss Cecil Spooner are great favourites with the local public, and her policy of presenting standard plays at popular prices has proved very successful. Mrs. Spooner gives "bargain matinées" at her theatre; and the members of her company serve tea on the stage to the ladies who have attended the performance, and who wish to go behind the scenes when it is over. There is also a nursery, with swings and toys, and attendants to take care of the children while their mothers are enjoying the entertainment.

Miss Mary Moore, being unable to appear during the first week of Sir Charles Wyndham's visit to Boston, owing to loss of voice, her part of Ada in *David Garrick* was played by Miss Lilias Waldegrave.

Mr. Thomas Thorne will appear at the Brixton Theatre, on Monday week, as Perkyn Middlewick, in Byron's perennial *Our Boys*, under the direction of Mr. Russell Rosse. Mr. Thorne and Mr. Rosse begin on Monday next their seventh year of business association.

In the cast of *The Thieves' Comedy*, a translation from Hauptmann, which will be produced at the Court Theatre on the 21st inst., are included Miss Sidney Fairbrother, Miss Rosina Filippi, Miss Agnes Thomas, Miss Greta Hahn, Mr. Henry Vibart, Mr. Rudge Harding, Mr. James Hearn, Mr. Edmund Gwenn, Mr. Norman Page, Mr. Harry Dodd, and Mr. William Farren, jun.

Mr. Frank Vernon, who produced Miss Viola Allen's revival of *A Winter's Tale* in America last autumn, will shortly return to England for a few weeks' holiday.

In the Court of Bankruptcy on Thursday the first meeting of creditors was held in the case of Francis William Ross, professionally known as Frank Adair, who recently filed his petition. The debtor was formerly a lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion Welsh Regiment, but retired in 1887, and joined a theatrical company. Ten years later he joined two others, for the purpose of taking on tour a piece called *Boys Together*, in connection with which he lost £800. In 1899 he started as an actor-manager, taking on tour a play called *The Favourite*. He was at first successful, but afterwards incurred a loss of £700 on the play. In 1894 he received £4,000 under the will of his father, and invested it in stocks and shares. Subsequently, in order to meet expenses incurred in litigation, he was obliged to realise his investments, at a loss of about £2,000. He attributed his present position to such loss, and also to loss on theatrical speculations. The liabilities were returned at £1,309, and there appeared to be no available assets. The case was left in the hands of the Official Receiver.

Mr. Percy Tyler is concluding a three years' engagement as the tramp and stage-manager with Mr. Gordon Starkey's *Message from Mars* company.

Miss Beatrice Lamotte, the young Canadian prima donna, who played the title-part in Mr. George Musgrove's *Belle of New York* company with distinction for over three years, and has been successful in her new part of Edith Adams, a Vassar Girl, in Mr. Musgrove's *Prince of Pilsen* company, received her musical training at the hands of Signor Mancinninni, the famous maestro, of Milan, in the celebrated La Scala Opera House of which city she made her début. Like most fair daughters of the Dominion, she can wield a salmon rod with a skill and deftness that the average male disciple of Isaak Walton may envy.

Sir Squire Bancroft was the principal witness in the case heard at Bow-street Police-court on Wednesday, when Mrs. Clement Scott was summoned to show cause why she should not deliver up to the trustees of the Neilson Fund certain books, documents, &c., relating to its administration. The trustees were originally Sir Henry Irving, Mr. Clement Scott, and Mr. Toole, and on the death of Mr. Scott the surviving trustees appointed Sir Squire Bancroft to succeed him. Mrs. Scott was asked to forward all books and papers relating to the fund which her husband had left behind, but only one cheque-book and one pass-book were given up. There were a cash-book and many letters and documents which the trustees were anxious to secure, but, as every means had failed, they felt bound to take these steps.

Sir Squire said he had the most profound confidence in Sir Henry Irving and Messrs. Lewis and Lewis, and as junior trustee he acted as they suggested in the matter. He would like to add his regret, as Mrs. Scott was a friend of his. But if she refused to give up papers relating to a trust, that, in his opinion, was absolute proof that she was not in a position to become a trustee. If there were no papers, there ought to be. In reply to the magistrate, Mrs. Scott said she was perfectly willing to give up whatever there was in existence relating to this fund, but it would take a long time to go through all the papers, as they were scattered. On this understanding the summons was adjourned.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"ELGA,"

Play, by Gerhard Hauptmann, produced at the Lessing, March 4.

Ein Ritter	HERR MARR
Diener	HERR FUCHS
Ein Mönch	HERR RITTNER
Count Starschenski	HERR RITTNER
Marina	FRAULEIN ALBRECHT
Elga	FRAULEIN TRIESCH
Klein-Elga	FRAULEIN HEINRICH
Amme	FRAULEIN PEPPLER
Dimitri	HERR IWALD
Grischka	HERR STIELER
Oginski	HERR NEUSS
Timoska	HERR REICHER
Dortka	FRAULEIN SCHIFF
Erster Diener	HERR NEUMANN
Zweiter Diener	HERR BOROWSKI

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, MARCH 9.—It is as well to state at once that Herr Hauptmann has not had since the production of *Die Versunkene Glocke* such a triumph as he enjoyed on Saturday evening. Again and again the curtain was raised for the famous dramatist to come forward and receive the enthusiastic plaudits of the crowded house, the audience only desisting from applause on the iron curtain being let down. The storm was all the more tumultuous because it was limited to the conclusion of the piece, which consists of seven unbroken scenes. That the customary lengthy entr'acte was omitted and the fact scarcely noticed speaks much for the fascination of the play. Herr Hauptmann wrote *Elga* in three days, adapting it from the story of Grillparzer's "Das Kloster bei Sendomir," which is founded—the latter tells us—upon fact. The story is as follows: Two knights are sent by the German Kaiser on a mission to the Polish Court, at the time when Poland was reigned over by King Johann Sobiesky in the seventeenth century. Overtaken by night, the men seek shelter in a monastery, and put a number of questions to the good monk who lights their fire. He tells them, reluctantly, the history of the monastery. Count Starschenski, the founder, had married a girl of the people, who had implored him to save her and her father from the consequences of conspiracy. He had fallen in love with her beauty, and he gave her and her rapacious brothers generously of his wealth. Elga requited him ill; after some years of wedded life her husband discovered her infamy with her cousin, Oginski, and their meetings in a solitary tower. He stabbed the faithless wife on the spot, and her paramour escaped through the window. The Count repented the deed, sold his estates, and built on the spot the monastery, in which he afterwards became the lowliest of the brotherhood. The knights find out by chance that the monk who tells them the story is Starschenski himself. Thus Grillparzer; Hauptmann has altered the original to suit himself, and makes the action pass in a dream, which he calls "Nocturnus." The knight and his servant are on their way to the King, and rest at the monastery, but the monk does not supply any particular information; the story of Starschenski is the knight's vision. We see Elga as a beautiful woman-demon, faithless and sensual; we see all the story of her baseness unrolled before our eyes. One scene is particularly drastic, and taken almost literally from the original; it is that where Elga's child drops her mother's jewel basket, and from it falls the picture of Oginski. The Count sees it, and sees, too, the striking resemblance it bears to the features of his and Elga's child. The end is Hauptmann's own. He causes Starschenski to take a terrible vengeance upon his wife's lover. Oginski is invited to the castle as a guest, and Starschenski tells him upon his retiring that he will sleep no more; he is chained, led away to the tower, and strangled. The Count then takes his wife to the place, and shows her the body of her lover, across which she throws herself, covering her husband with words of passionate reproach and hatred. It seems to me the conclusion of the original is worthier and certainly more dramatic; in the play infamy triumphs and Elga gains the moral victory. At this juncture the knight is awakened by his servant, and he knows not if he has dreamed or seen the ghosts of a terrible past. For some time he cannot shake off the effect of what he has witnessed, but finally, with joy and gratitude in his heart—for he has left a loving wife and child at home—he rides out "into the living world." The play was staged in a masterly manner, the visionary character of the persons acting being most skilfully kept up. The scenes are cleverly connected, during the change of scenery, by the chanting of the monks. No praise could be too high for Fräulein Triesch's impersonation of the name-part, and Herr Rittner—if a trifle too loud—was excellent as Starschenski. Herr Reicher gave a very sympathetic rendering of the old custodian of the castle; the remainder of the characters were also admirably sustained. *Elga* will certainly hold the boards of the Lessing for a long time. The beauty of its language appeals to all hearers, while everything has been done to strike and impress the eye. It is a play that should be successful in any country—in any tongue.

IBSEN'S play, *Der Volksfeind*, has been revived at the Lessing, with a splendid cast. This—considered by many to be Ibsen's masterpiece—was at its initial production in 1885 attacked on all sides, but it gradually fought its way through adverse criticisms, and enjoys to-day a high place among plays with a moral. The management of the Deutsches Theatre (now at the Lessing) was the first here to recognise the fine qualities of the *Volksfeind*, and there is no other company I know of who can so well interpret them. Herr Bassermann, as Dr. Stockmann, and Fräulein Lehmann, as Stockmann's wife, as well as Herr Sauer, in the part of the town autocrat, gave inimitable renderings, fully meriting the enthusiastic applause that was awarded them. There is little doubt but the play will be in the Lessing bill for some time to come.

AT the Royal Opera, a very excellent performance of *Mignon* was given on Sunday evening. This delightful little opera is done here far too seldom, and the house was crowded to the last place. Fräulein Destinn and Fräulein Kauffmann (as Mignon and Philine), Herren Jörn, Hoffmann, and Nebe, sang and acted as well as anyone could desire; Herr von Strauss conducted, and applause was by no means lacking. On Saturday, under the conductorship of Dr. Richard Strauss, *Die Meistersinger* was performed with a first-rate cast. *Der Roland von Berlin*—now almost played out—was given on Monday with Herr Bertram (for the first time) in the rôle of Rathenow.

MR. and MRS. AUGUSTIN DUNCAN gave a second Shakespeare evening last Wednesday, but this time under more favourable circumstances—in the theatre of the Royal High School—and consequently the success was far greater than it was in the Künstlerhaus Hall. The programme again comprised the Balcony scene, and it would be difficult to say who was better—Mrs. Duncan, as Juliet, or her husband, as Romeo. Four scenes from *Macbeth* afforded both admirable opportunity for the display of their individual talents; the Lady Macbeth of Mrs. Duncan, in particular, has been much praised by the critics. Mr. Duncan gave scenes from *Henry the Fifth* and several monologues with much success, and the evening was a thoroughly enjoyable one. The hall was filled with a most appreciative audience, consisting chiefly of English and Americans; English-speaking Germans were also numerous.

ONE of Germany's most popular comedians, Herr Karl Pander, has just died at Hamburg. Herr Pander played the rôle which made him famous, both here and in America, over 1,000 times; it was that of the lottery-collector and chiropodist, Hirsch, in a very old comedy, by Mels, entitled *Heinrich Heine's Junge Leiden*. This rôle was a host in itself, and nobody ever acted it with such a fund of exquisite humour as the deceased.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MR. F. DUDMAN BROMWICH.

MR. F. DUDMAN BROMWICH confesses to a most uninteresting, everyday career on the stage—with no hairbreadth escapes, exciting adventures, or extraordinary happenings. Nothing but useful and steady experience; playing parts of all descriptions, in plays of all kinds, from pantomime to melodramatic sketches, and burlesque to high-class comedy. In fact, such variety of parts that not even a school of acting could rival! Mr Bromwich has a high opinion, and rather a novel one, of the much-maligned "sketch" as a factor in the education of an actor. He thinks that if one can successfully pass the trying ordeal of being hurriedly put on, with lights full up "in front," clinking of glasses, loud noises from the bar, and frequently most inadequate and unsuitable scenery, one is afterwards prepared for anything! On leaving school, Mr Bromwich went, by his parents' desire, into a builder's office, but the spirit of restlessness was in him, and he could stick to nothing for more than a few months together, so quickly grew tired of this, and tried in turn to set his mind on a future career as a shipbroker, a notary, a solicitor, and finally newspaper manager. However, nothing would do but the stage, and this he adopted, in spite of strong opposition. He had, meanwhile, been obtaining much experience as an amateur, afterwards playing some excellent parts in the "clubs" with a

Photo. by Collins.

MR. F. DUDMAN BROMWICH.

gentleman known as Basil North, an excellent actor, connected with the regular stage. After a considerable time thus spent "learning his business," he went on a tour of the "smalls," which brought him to the year 1893, when he was engaged for a tour of *Bonnie Boy Blue*. During this engagement he first met the lady who afterwards became his wife—Miss Katie Neville—who was playing the title-rôle Mr George Stone re-engaged him for the Squire, in the same piece, and at the conclusion of this engagement he produced the burlesque for Mr Fred Smith (of Pepper's Ghost fame) to take through Ireland, during which tour Mr Bromwich this time played Lawyer Copell. He also produced *Randolph the Reckless*, and played the Baron on an English tour. After this came a tour with Messrs Spry and Monti, in *A Man's Ambition*, playing the light comedy part and doing the business management, followed by a special engagement with a farcical comedy entitled *Margate*, produced at Terry's Theatre. Then came a tour with Victor Stevens's *A Village Venus*, playing a small part and doing the stage-management, followed by *An Actor's Frolic*, which Mr Bromwich produced. During the first week of tour, however, he was taken seriously ill. On his recovery followed engagements as Dr Oliver, *My Sweetheart*; John Mildmay, *Still Waters Run Deep*; Frank, *A Glimpse of Paradise*; Blueskin, *Jack Sheppard*; Emperor, *Aladdin*. Christmas, 1895, saw him at the Theatre Royal, Kilburn, as the Savage King and stage-manager, in the pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe*, which had a run there of six weeks. In the original production of *The Wearin' o' the Green* Mr Bromwich played Sir

Photo. by Treble.

MISS L. VERRIER.

George, afterwards taking up the juvenile part, which he played for a considerable time. Then he was engaged by Mr Hill Mitchelson for Jack Malden (lead), in *Death or Glory Boys*. On the production of *Rogues and Vagabonds*, he was the original in the juvenile part, which he acted for nearly eighteen months, leaving to play the lead in a tour of *The New Woman*, with Miss Maud Fergusson. He also played the part of Mr Brabazon, in *Sowing the Wind*, when it was produced by that lady. Then came a tour with Mr Fred Kirke, Mr Bromwich playing heavy lead in *In Old Madrid* and *Our Sailor Lad*. The Christmas of 1899 he played the Wolf in Messrs Eglington and Little's pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*, his wife playing principal boy. At the conclusion of the pantomime he produced his well-known sketch, *In Old Madrid*, founded on Mr Kirke's excellent drama, which he has played off and on in London for nearly four years. During this time Mr Bromwich has played a variety of parts in sketches, both of his own and with Mr Leonard Mortimer and Mr Adderley Howard. He has also played special engagements as Gerald Casenore, *The New Woman*; Brabazon, *Sowing the Wind*; tour as lead in *Ups and Downs of Life*; also as the Parson, with his own company, in *The Prodigal Parson*, &c. On the production of *A Great Sensation*, at the Pavilion Theatre, Mile End, he created the part of Robin Dale. Last autumn he was engaged by Mr Chas. Hartley for Simeon Strong, in *The Idler*; also playing Lord Darlington, in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, Gardiner, in *Captain Swift*, and Gerald Arbuthnot, in *A Woman of No Importance*. His latest parts have been Lieut. Kingstone, in *A London Actress*, Standard Theatre production, and Squire Thornhill, in *Olivia Primrose*, an adaptation of *The Vicar of Wakefield*

MR. STANLEY LATHBURY.

MR. STANLEY LATHBURY commenced his theatrical career early in 1895 with Miss Sarah Thorne at Margate. At the end of three months Miss Thorne offered him an engagement, which lasted nearly two years, to play such parts as Polonius, Max Harkaway, Joseph Chandler, Father Tom, James Dalton, Justice Hare, Jasper Plum, Jonathan Wild, Doggrass, the Duke, in *The Merchant of Venice*; Duncan, Luke Cranborne, in *Woodbarrow Farm*, &c., the total number of parts played by him during this engagement coming well over the century. In 1897 Mr. Lathbury left Miss Thorne to play Professor Goodwillie, in *The Professor's Love Story*, and Sergeant Tanner, in *Miss Brown*, under Mr. Payne Seddon's management. Then followed an engagement with Mr. Auguste Van Biene to play Dickson (the old landlord), in *The Broken Melody*. On Nov. 5, 1897, he went to the Haymarket to understudy Mr. Mark Kinghorne as Snecky, in *The Little Minister*. On Feb. 18 he rejoined Mr. Van Biene to play at various times Dickson, the Hon. Dick Spinnaker, Beaujour, and Dr. M'Grath, in *The Broken Melody*. At the conclusion of the tour he returned to the Haymarket to understudy and play on several occasions Andrew Mealmaker. When *The Manœuvres of Jane* was produced, Mr. Lathbury appeared as Mr. Pausey for the greater part of the run. Then followed the first tour of Mr. Cyril Maude with his original company in *The Little Minister*, Mr. Lathbury appearing as Andrew Mealmaker. Towards the close of this year (1899) he joined Mr. Tom Thorne to play Gregory, in *The Guv'nor*, an engagement to appear as Silva Tosh, in *The Little Minister*, coming immediately afterwards. Next followed some special engagements, Mr. Lathbury playing, amongst other parts, Charles VI. of France, in *Henry V.*; Jacob Schwartz, in *A Bunch of Violets*; Sims, in *An American Citizen*; Brabantio, Polonius, and First Grave Digger, Old Gobbo, and the Duke, in *The Merchant of Venice*, with Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw. Mr. Robert Courtneidge witnessed one of these performances, and a contract immediately followed for Thisbe, in the splendid production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, at the Prince's, Manchester. A special engagement at Margate to play Scrooge, in *A Christmas Carol*, and the creation of Judge Jeffreys, in *Lorna Doone*, intervened before the spring tour of *A Cigarette-Maker's Romance*, when

Photo by Brookes.

MR. STANLEY LATHBURY.

Mr. Lathbury appeared as Christian. On July 11 of this year (1902) he joined Mr. Penley's company to play Spettigue, in *Charley's Aunt*, but was obliged to relinquish this part to return to Manchester for William and to understudy Touchstone, in Mr. Courtneidge's production of *As You Like It*. This engagement led to a year in Australia with Mr. George Musgrove's Shakespearean company, such parts as Thisbe, Le Beau, Corin, and William and Fabian, in *Twelfth Night*, falling to Mr. Lathbury's share. The portrait by Warwick Brookes, of Manchester, shows Mr. Lathbury as William, in *As You Like It*.

MISS LUCIE VERRIER.

MISS LUCIE VERRIER was fired with the desire to join the profession by the example of her sister, Miss Flossie Wilkinson, both from their childhood's days being very keen on all things theatrical. Some seven years ago, after studying with Miss Dolores Drummond, Miss Verrier joined a company, for the first part of her career playing in dramas. After that she got into comedy, which she much preferred, playing, amongst other pieces, in *Charley's Aunt*, *Niobe*, *Our Boys*, *My Soldier Boy*, *A Man with a Past*, *A Bad Lot*, *Pettifer's Baby*, and more recently she has been playing in Messrs Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell's company in *Quality Street*. She has been with Mr Harry Paulton in seven or eight engagements.

MR. STUART LOMATH.

MR. LOMATH was originally intended for a commercial career, but the theatre was ever more attractive to him, and, having gained considerable success as a reciter, he determined to follow the stage as a profession. His first engagement, twelve years ago, was to play General Delarouche in *Paul Kauvar*, on tour; and for the next twelve months he took anything and everything that came to hand. Then came a long tour with The Bentley Repertoire Co., followed by a stock season with Mr. J. F. Preston, gaining valuable experience, as the bill was changed twice a week, and consisted of both costume and modern drama. He was then engaged by Messrs. Erskine and Macdona to play character parts and stage-manage their repertoire of comedies. On the nights that *Walker, London*, was played, Mr. Lomath showed his versatility by depicting a cockney part in the play, and a Scotch character part in the curtain-raiser. His next engagement was to play Caroz, a Mexican heavy part, in *The Enemy's Camp*; and, after some varied experience, he was engaged to play the Terriss part in the Adelphi drama, *The Fatal Card*, on tour. Shortly afterwards he acted Dunstan Leech—heavy lead—in *The Span of Life*, under Mr. W. Calder's management. Next he went to Mr. J. A. Atkin to play Lorenz de Ribas in *The Grip of Iron*. This was followed by a long tour in another Terriss part, viz., Major Villiers, in *Boys Together*. Then he came back once more to his first love, *Paul Kauvar*, but this time for the title-rôle. A tour with Mr. J. F. Elliston followed. For the next three years he remained in London, alternately writing and producing sketches, and fulfilling special engagements at the Lyric, Hammersmith, Shakespeare, Clapham, where, among other parts, he supported Mr. Charles Warner as Gouget in his famous drama, *Drink*. Shortly afterwards he played The Cardinal in *The Three Musketeers*. He also undertook leading business at the Elephant, Surrey, Standard, &c. One of his favourite impersonations is a dude detective in a little play of his own writing, called *That Beautiful Devil*, which had a successful run in some of the principal London halls. He again joined Mr. J. F. Elliston for heavy lead in a tour of *Little Jim*; after which he was engaged by Mr. Richard Waldon for heavy lead in a stock season at the Princess's Theatre, Glasgow. Then came Mr. Lomath's first engagement in pantomime, playing The Ogre—a strongly dramatic part—in *Puss in Boots*, at the Prince of Wales's, Liverpool. He was next engaged to star as Ben Kershaw in *A Snug Little Kingdom*, the part created by Charles Warner at the Royalty Theatre,

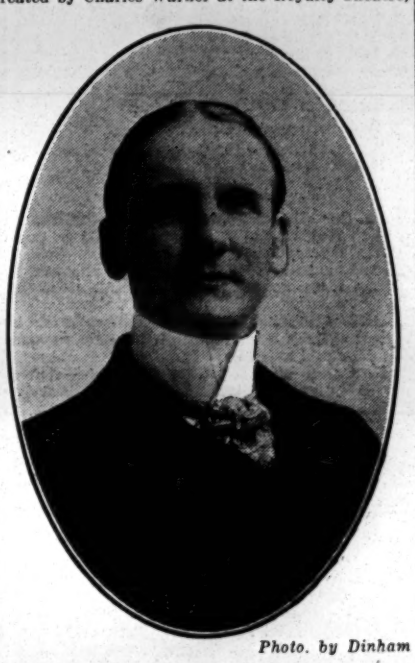


Photo. by Dinham

MR. STUART LOMATH.

London. In this character Mr. Lomath received most flattering encomiums from both press and public. It is played in the broadest Yorkshire dialect; but, with the assistance of his wife, who is a native of Huddersfield, he mastered it so thoroughly that he has been frequently called upon to decide whether or not he really belongs to "the county of broad acres."

MISS GLADYS MAKEHAM.

MISS GLADYS MAKEHAM is thirteen years old, and the daughter of a doctor. At eight years of age she was specially engaged by Mr. F. R. Benson, the well-known Shakespearean actor, to play the part of the Indian Boy in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Lyceum Theatre, and during his season there she played other parts. A short time after Mr. Benson opened at the Comedy Theatre, and there again he specially engaged her to play Young Marcus in *Coriolanus*. She was with him all the time he was there, and then he started a suburban tour, which he engaged her for, and she was with him till he finished. The young actress loves Shakespeare, and hopes some day to play Portia. Her next engagement was with Mr. Louis Calvert, at the Prince of Wales's Theatre. He specially engaged her to play Kate in *Katawampus*. Since then she has been with Mr. Arthur Bourchier, of the Garrick Theatre, playing and understudying in *The Water Babes* two years running, and in *The Cricket on the Hearth*. She also played in *The Fairy's Dilemma* at the Garrick, having a speaking part, and understudying one of the principal ladies. She has just finished her

Photo by Hana.

MISS GLADYS MAKEHAM.

fifth engagement with Mr. Bourchier, having played the part of the Black Bride in *Little Black Sambo* with much success. Miss Makeham has done a great deal of concert work, has passed three musical examinations, and is preparing for the Royal Academy of Music. One of the most striking merits of Miss Makeham's acting is its admirable naturalness. The above portrait represents her in a character in *The Water Babes*.

THE New Theatre Royal, Glossop, which has been erected on the market ground by Mr. Sydney Spenser, of Nottingham, was opened on Monday night by Mr. W. H. Kirby's No. 1 company in *The New Mephisto*. The musical comedy was well staged, and frequent recalls were made by an audience, which taxed the large accommodation of the house. At the outset Mr. Spenser read congratulatory telegrams for his success from Sir Henry Irving and others. The theatre is fitted throughout with electric light.

HENRY IRVING AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

Sir Henry Irving, who has received from the Queen a gracious expression of her concern at his illness, and good wishes for his recovery, is making rapid progress, and, on Wednesday afternoon, with the assent of his medical attendant, Dr. Lloyd-Davies, he was able to take a drive round the outskirts of Wolverhampton. He was accompanied in the brougham by his manager, Mr. Loveday; and the route taken included the pretty rural villages of Tettenhall, Wightwick, and Compton.

On his return to the Star and Garter Hotel, Sir Henry was waited upon by the Mayor (Councillor Berrington), accompanied by the Town Clerk (Mr. Horatio Brevitt), for the purpose of handing to the distinguished actor a silver casket, containing the illuminated address of welcome, subscribed for by numerous ladies and gentlemen in the town. The address was to have been presented to Sir Henry at a public assemblage in the Town Hall, on Tuesday, the 21st ult., but the ceremony, unfortunately, had to be postponed owing to the actor's unexpected breakdown. The address was as follows:—

TO SIR HENRY IRVING, KT., D.LITT. CAMBRIDGE AND DUBLIN, LL.D. GLASGOW.

Sir,—The lovers and patrons of the drama in this town feel that they cannot allow your last official visit amongst them to pass without first offering you a hearty welcome, and next in bidding you an affectionate farewell upon your contemplated retirement from the profession which you have so long adorned.

Wolverhampton is greatly indebted to you for two previous visits—the first being the occasion when, in February, 1890, as President of its Literary and Scientific Society, you delivered an address which, as an intellectual treat, will never be forgotten.

Your second appearance was at the Grand Theatre in March, 1903, when the applause which greeted your performances testified to the pleasure afforded to those present.

The stage, formerly the subject of severe criticism and reproach, has now, mainly through your true conception of its needs, become elevated and purified in its tone, attractive in its character, refined and instructive in its scenic illustrations, successful in cultivation of character-acting, and powerful as a necessary and permanent institution in our social life.

Your laudable efforts to revive Shakespearean drama, in which you have so truly interpreted our greatest poet's thoughts and ideas, and so perfectly spoken his words, have increased the popularity of the stage, and proved a means of mental improvement and moral teaching.

Our late beloved Queen and the Universities of Cambridge, Dublin, and Glasgow, in the honours which they so graciously conferred upon you, were not unmindful of the just recognition due to your labours.

In wishing you good-bye, after your arduous services of nearly fifty years, your friends and admirers in this borough ask your acceptance of this address and accompanying casket, as a token of their high appreciation of the great talent, industry, and ability which you have displayed in promoting dramatic art.

When the curtain falls at the close of your eventful public career, may your feelings be gladdened, strengthened, and sustained by pleasing and happy recollections of a life well spent in providing pure and ideal enjoyment for your fellow-countrymen.

Signed on behalf of the Executive Committee,

R. E. W. BERRINGTON,
(Mayor), Chairman.

HORATIO BREVITT,
Town Clerk and Hon. Secretary.

Engrossed on vellum, the address takes the form of a scroll mounted on an ebony roller, with silver capped ends and silver clip. The borough arms, richly illuminated, occupy a central position at the top of the address, and Sir Henry's monogram is set underneath a knight's helmet. An effective decoration represents Comedy and Tragedy.

The address is enclosed in a handsome silver casket, oxydised and enamelled, coffer shape, specially designed for the occasion. The casket is lined with rich purple velvet, and bears on the lid this inscription:

"Presented with an address to Sir Henry Irving, Kt., D.Litt., LL.D., by his friends and admirers in Wolverhampton, on the occasion of his farewell visit, 21st February, 1905."

The casket is enclosed in a handsome morocco case.

Sir Henry Irving, in receiving the address, desired the Mayor to express to the numerous subscribers to it, in his name, his high appreciation of the kindly welcome that was extended towards him by all classes of residents on this, his third, visit to the borough, and the many expressions of sympathy he had received during his unfortunate illness.

Sir Henry has signed an agreement with Mr. Charles Frohman to begin an American tour in October. He will play in the United States for twenty weeks, and this will be his farewell visit to the United States.

Hearing that he has been taxed with preaching an impracticable doctrine—viz., the organisation of the theatre by the municipality, Sir Henry has explained his real views. Some critics, he stated this week, had insinuated that he wanted to hand over the whole control of local affairs to the members of the theatrical profession, and especially to make sure that actors were elected as mayors. He had never contemplated such a serious revolution, although he could mention actors who, if elected to the office of chief magistrates, would turn out to be grave and methodical men of business. He was no extremist; it never occurred to him to propose anything more alarming than the administration of the theatre as a branch of local government, just as they administered the water supply and other needs of a great and growing city. But it was a dream. He saw no prospect of inducing people to believe that the civic authorities might charge themselves with the supply of rational entertainment, as they charged themselves with the supply of wholesome water, although the one necessity was nearly as great as the other.

COMIC OPERA COMPETITIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—As the delay in announcing the award in the libretto competition organised by Messrs. Chappell and Co.—now nearly twelve months ago—has elicited some correspondence in the daily press, and is also arousing the interest of the general public, may I, as a competitor, ask for a line in your popular paper to draw attention to this matter? The judges have had more than six months, and this length of time has surely been enough for a decision to be arrived at, especially as we were promised by a circular issued on Dec. 16 last that an award would be made early in January. Hearing nothing further, some of us would be glad of an explanation.—Yours faithfully,

THE SCOTCH APOLLO
(VICTOR VERITY).

115A, Seymour-place, Bryanston-square, Mar. 6.

MISS MINNIE PALMER, after a long absence abroad, will once again delight London playgoers by her appearance next Monday evening at Fulham Theatre in her original part in *My Sweetheart*. Mr. R. H. Howard, a tenor with a cultivated voice, will be the Tony.

A SAD CASE.

MR. PERCY ELLIS.

In a letter which we have received from Mr. A. F. Henderson, general-manager for Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Henderson requests us to open our columns to an appeal on behalf of Mr. Percy Ellis, the late assistant-manager of the New Theatre, St. Martin's-lane, and, after having enquired into Mr. Ellis's circumstances, and having assured ourselves that his is a genuine case of distress, we have much pleasure in acceding to Mr. Henderson's charitable wishes.

Mr. Ellis is in an advanced stage of consumption, and, having been unable to follow any employment for nearly twelve months, his finances are completely exhausted, and he is in actual want.

All subscriptions for the above deserving appeal will be duly acknowledged in these columns. They may be forwarded to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, Hon. Treasurer to the Fund, care of *The Era* office, or direct to Mr. A. F. Henderson, New Theatre, St. Martin's-lane.

Amount already acknowledged, £41 14s. 6d.

	£	s.	d.
F. S.	5	5	0
Stage Staff, New Theatre	2	9	6
W. Purvis	1	1	0
E. R. S.	1	1	0
Nemo	0	15	6
Mr. Peacock	0	10	6
Miss Marie Housley	0	10	0
E. P.	0	10	0
W. E. Rose	0	10	0
Mrs. and Miss Fisher	0	5	0
Mr. Stammers	0	2	0
Total to date	£54	14	0

IRISH AUDIENCES.

A little-read and seldom-quoted, but very interesting, old book is Sir Jonah Barrington's "Personal Sketches of his Own Times." In a chapter on "Theatrical Recollections," he gives a quaint account of the audiences at the old Dublin playhouses. From my youth, says Sir Jonah, I was attached to theatrical representations, and have still a clear recollection of many of the eminent performers of my early days. My grandmother, with whom I resided for many years, had silver tickets of admission to Crow-street Theatre, whither I was very frequently sent.

The playhouses in Dublin were then lighted with tallow candles, stuck into tin circles hanging from the middle of the stage, which were every now and then snuffed by some performer; and two soldiers, with fixed bayonets, always stood like statues on each side of the stage, close to the boxes, to keep the audience in order. The galleries were very noisy and very droll. The ladies and gentlemen in the boxes always went dressed out nearly as for court; the strictest etiquette and decorum were preserved in that circle; whilst the pit, as being full of critics and wise men, was particularly respected, except when the young gentlemen of the University occasionally forced themselves in to revenge some insult, real or imagined, to a member of their body; on which occasions all the ladies, well-dressed men, and peaceable people generally, decamped forthwith; and the young gentlemen as generally proceeded to beat or turn out the residue of the audience, and to break everything that came within their reach. These exploits were by no means uncommon; and the number and rank of the young culprits were so great, that the college would have been nearly depopulated, and many of the great families in Ireland enraged beyond measure, had the students been expelled or even rusticated.

I remember seeing old Mr. Sheridan perform the part of Cato at one of the Dublin theatres. I do not recollect which; but I well recollect his dress, which consisted of bright armour under a fine laced scarlet cloak, and surmounted by a huge, white, bushy, well-powdered wig, over which was stuck his helmet. I wondered much how he could kill himself without stripping off the armour before he performed that operation! I also recollect him particularly playing Alexander the Great, and throwing the javelin at Clytus, whom happening to miss, he hit the cup-bearer, then played by one of the hack performers, a Mr. Jemmy Fotterel. Jemmy very naturally supposed that he was hit designedly, and that it was some new light of the great Mr. Sheridan to slay the cup-bearer in preference to his friend Clytus, and that therefore he ought to tumble down and make a painful end, according to dramatic custom. Immediately, therefore, on being struck he reeled, and fell very naturally, considering it was his first death; but being determined on this unexpected opportunity to make an impression upon the audience, he began to roll about, kick, and flap the stage with his hands; falling next into strong convulsions, exhibiting every symptom of torture, and at length expiring with a groan so loud and so long that it paralysed even the people in the galleries, whilst the ladies, believing he was really killed, cried aloud.

Though then very young, I was myself so terrified in the pit that I never shall forget it. However, Jemmy Fotterel was, in the end, more applauded than any Clytus had ever been.

The actresses both of tragedy and genteel comedy formerly wore large hoops, and whenever they made a speech walked across the stage and changed sides with the performer who was to speak next, thus veering backwards and forwards, like a shuttlecock, during the entire performance.

I recollect Mr. Barry, who was really a remarkably handsome man, and his lady (formerly Mrs. Dancer); also Mr. Digges, who used to play the Ghost in *Hamlet*. One night in doubling that part with Polonius, Digges forgot, on appearing as the Ghost, previously to rub off the bright red paint with which his face had been daubed for the other character. A spirit with a large red nose and vermilioned cheeks was extremely novel, and much applauded. There was also a famous actor who used to play the Cock that crew to call off the Ghost when Hamlet had done with him. This performer did his part so well that everybody used to say he was the best Cock that ever had been heard at Smock-alley, and six or eight other gentry of the dunghill species were generally brought behind the scenes, who, on hearing him, mistook him for a brother cock, and set up their pipes all together. And thus, by the infinity of crowing at the same moment, the hour was the better marked, and the Ghost glided back to the other world in the midst of a perfect chorus of cocks, to the no small admiration of the audience.

Kean's Shylock and Sir Giles Overreach seemed to me neither more nor less than actual identification of those portraitures; so much so, in fact, that I told him myself, after seeing him perform the first-mentioned part, that I could have found in my heart to knock his brains out the moment he had finished his performance. Two errors, however, that great actor had in a remarkable degree: some of his pauses were so long that he appeared to have forgotten himself; and he patted his breast so often that it really reminded one of a nurse patting her infant to keep it from squalling.

There was a first edition of Liston as to drollery, on the Dublin stage, usually called 'Old Sparkes.' He was very tall, and of a very large size, with heavy-hanging jaws, gouty ankles, big paunch, and sluggish motion; but his comic face and natural drollery were irresistible. He was a most excellent actor in everything he could personate: his grotesque figure, however, rendered these parts but few. Peachum, in the *Beggar's Opera*, Caliban (with his own additions), in *The Tempest*, and all bulky, droll, low characters, he did to the greatest perfection. At one time, when the audiences of Smock-alley were beginning to flag, Old Sparkes told Ryder if he would bring out the after-piece of *The Padlock*, and permit him to manage it, he would ensure him a succession of good nights. Ryder gave him his way, and the bills announced a first appearance in the part of Leonora: the *débutante* was reported to be a Spanish lady. The public curiosity was excited, and youth, beauty, and tremulous modesty were all anticipated; the house overflowed; impatience was unbounded; the play ended in confusion, and the overture of *The Padlock* was received with rapture. Leonora at length appeared; the clapping was like thunder, to give courage to the *débutante*, who had a handsome face, and was very beautifully dressed as a Spanish Donna, which it was supposed she really was. Her gigantic size, it is true, rather astonished the audience. However, they willingly took for granted that the Spaniards were an immense people, and it was observed that England must have had a great escape of the Spanish Armada, if the men were proportionately gigantic to the ladies. Her voice, too, was rather of the hoarsest, but that was accounted for by the sudden change of climate. At last Leonora began her song of 'Sweet Robin'—

'Say, little foolish fluttering thing,
Whither, ah! whither would you wing?'

and at the same moment Leonora's mask falling off, Old Sparkes stood confessed, with an immense gander which he brought from under his cloak, and which he had trained to stand on his hand and screech to his voice, and in chorus with himself. The whim took: the roar of laughter was quite inconceivable: he had also got Mungo played by a real black: and the whole was so extravagantly ludicrous, and so entirely to the taste of the Irish galleries at that time, that his 'Sweet Robin' was encored, and the frequent repetition of the piece replenished poor Ryder's treasury for the residue of the season.

NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

London.

Feb. 2. *Rose Bernd*, play, in five acts, by Gerhart Hauptmann (German season) — Great Queen-street Theatre.
,, 9. *The Lady of Leeds*, farcical romance, in three acts, by Robert Marshall—Wyndham's.
,, 11. *The Diplomatists*, farce, in two acts, by Sydney Grundy (adapted from *La Poudre aux Yeux*)—Royalty.
,, 11. *A Case of Arson*, play, from the Dutch of Herman Heyermans, by Howard Peacey—Royalty.
,, 11. *Heart of Gold*, Russo-Japanese romance, in one act, by Beatrix de Burgh—Coronet.
,, 13. *The Borrowed Uncle*, comedietta, by Tom Gallon and Leon M. Lion—Borough, Stratford.
,, 13. *The Poor Must Live*, drama, in a prologue and four acts, by David Muskerry (originally produced at Queen's Theatre, Longton, Jan. 23, 1905)—Greenwich Theatre.
,, 13. *The Designers*, farcical comedy, in three acts, by Fritz Dorn—Brixton Theatre.
,, 13. *The Happiest Day of His Life*, play, in one act, by W. F. Downing—Brixton Theatre.
,, 13. *Mollentrave on Women*, comedy, in three acts, by Alfred Sutro—St. James's.
,, 14. *The Water Cure*, farcical trifle, by Lawrence Sterner (originally produced at the Brixton Theatre, March 14, 1904)—Comedy.
,, 15. *Maskerade*, play, in four acts, by Ludwig Fulda (German season)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
,, 16. *The Open Window*, play, in one act, by Ford Lynton—St. George's Hall.
,, 21. *Dear Lady Mary*, comedy-drama, in four acts, by Lady Violet Greville—Bijou Theatre, Bayswater.
,, 21. *Mr. Hopkinson*, farce, in three acts, by R. C. Carton—Avenue.
,, 22. *Mein Leopold*, volksstück, in three acts by Adolf L'Arronge, with incidental musical numbers (German season)—Great Queen-street Theatre.
,, 22. *The Admiral's Lady*, romantic comedy, in a prologue and three acts, by Arthur Shirley—Brixton Theatre.
,, 25. *Miss Jack*, comedy, in three acts (originally produced at the St. James's Theatre, Manchester, Dec. 14, 1904) — Brixton Theatre.
,, 25. *The Lonely Millionaires*, comedy, in three acts, by Mrs. Henry de la Pasture—Court.
,, 27. *Hearts Adrift*, drama, in five acts, by Langdon McCormick—Grand Theatre, Fulham.
,, 23. *In the Hospital*, by Arthur Schnitzler, translated by Christopher Horne—Royalty.
,, 28. *How He Lied to Her Husband*, skit, by Bernard Shaw—Royalty.

Revival.

Feb. 14. *Our Flat*, farcical comedy, in three acts, by Mrs. Musgrave—Comedy.
,, 23. *A Pot of Broth*, by W. B. Yeats—Royalty.

Provinces.

Feb. 2. *The Princess and the Philosopher*, musical comedy, in two acts, by Charles M. Heslop, with music by Miss Mabel Goyder—Assembly Room, Agricultural Hall, Norwich.
,, 3. *The Cap-Maker's Daughter*, romantic play, in one act, by Herbert T. Rainger (produced by amateurs)—Victoria Rooms, Cheltenham.
,, 4. *Maisie*, play, in four acts, by Frederick Davenporte and Joseph W. Boyling—Grand Theatre, Southampton.
,, 4. *The Well of the Saints*, play, in three acts, by J. M. Synge—Abbey Theatre, Dublin.
,, 6. *The Designers*, farcical comedy in three acts by Fritz Zorn—Opera House, Torquay.
,, 13. *The Blanchard Diamonds*, play, by Messrs. C. Harvard Pierson and R. P. Oglesby—Grand Theatre, Hull.
,, 20. *The 'Varsity Belle*, farce, by Fred Jarman, with music by Edward Jones, and lyrics by George Porrington—Theatre Royal, Dover.
,, 20. *Hearts Adrift*, comedy-drama, in four acts, by Langdon McCormick—Grand Theatre, Birmingham.
,, 24. *Over the Hills to the Poorhouse*, play, in one act, by A. Romaine Callender—Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.
,, 27. *At Evensong*, play, in one act, by Fewlass Llewellyn.—Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.
,, 27. *Mr. Smith*, comedy-drama, in three acts, by Walter Reynolds—Theatre Royal, Nottingham.

Paris.

Feb. 3. *L'Amourette*, comedy, in three acts, by Pierre Veber—Antoine.
,, 3. *Les Manigances*, comedy, in one act, by Alfred Athis—Antoine.
,, 3. *Les Experts*, comedy, in one act, by Benieres—Antoine.
,, 5. *Thérèse Raquin*, in three acts, by Zola—revived at the Odéon.
,, 13. *Les Dragons de l'imperatrice*, opera-comique, in three acts, by Georges Duval and A. Vanloo, music by André Messager—Variétés.
,, 15. *La Retraite*, comedy, in four acts, by A. Beyerlein, French translation by Ramon a Valentin—Vaudeville.
,, 22. *Les Avariés*, play, in three acts, by Brieux—Antoine.
,, 29. *Dionyso*, dramatic play, in four acts, by J. Gasquet—L'Œuvre.

"Run to Earth; or, Justice at Last," a drama, in a prologue and three acts, by James Stevenson, jun., was produced for copyright purposes at the Theatre Royal, Croydon, on Wednesday.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

Newson-Smith.—March 2, at Stanwell Moor, Middlesex, the wife of H. Newson-Smith, of a son.
Owen.—March 8, Mrs. Tom Owen, a daughter. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

Cuthbert—Jenkins.—On March 4, at St. George's, Hanover-square, Alfred Cuthbert to Anna, widow of the late Dr. Jenkins, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Hulme—Kedwards.—March 9, Mr. Tom Hulme, comedian, to Miss Elsie Kedwards, at Chorley, by Registrar. Touring with Marvellous Pardoes, *Cinderella*, title-rôle and Baron.

DEATHS.

Beresford.—On the 4th, at The Kelpies, Silverhill, St. Leonards, Hugh, dearly beloved brother of Alice, Cooke, and Frank Beresford, aged 21.
Livesey.—On the 4th inst., at Dumfries, after three days' illness, of pneumonia an dpleurisy, Gustavus Carter Livesey, aged 34. If it be not now, yet it will come. The readiness is all.
Scott.—March 6, at 18, Springfield, Liverpool, Ellen Jane Scott, beloved wife of William Scott, and beloved mother of Lydia Dudley, aged sixty-five. Deeply mourned by sorrowing family and friends.
White.—Feb. 27, George White, comedian, aged 54.

In Memoriam.

Bolzani.—In memory of dear Nora, who died March 16, 1895. The beloved sister of Cossie Noel and Christina Coyle. Never forgotten.
Cavanah.—In memory of Thomas Cavanah, of Manchester, who died March 7, 1900.
Keith.—In loving memory of our dear father, Charles Henry Keith (late circus proprietor), who died March 16, 1895. Gone, but never forgotten by his loving children.

FREDERICK MOUILLOT'S AND ROBERT ARTHUR'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE DIVIDING RULE.

In the following advertisements, which appeared in the last issue of *The Era*, the dividing rule was misplaced, thus taking into Mr. Robert Arthur's advertisement some of the information belonging to Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's advertisement. The two lines incorrectly taken into Mr. Robert Arthur's announcement were:

Grand Theatre, Southampton,
Vacant, April 17 (5 nights).

Mr. Mouillot, as is well known, is the lessee of the Grand Theatre, Southampton, and the only person to be applied to for the booking of dates at that theatre. The correct forms of the two advertisements should have been:

WANTED, First-class Attractions,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS, S.E.
April 3 Vacant.
GRAND THEATRE, MARGATE,
Vacant May 1, 8, 22, 29.
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH,
Vacant, April 17 (5 nights).
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Vacant April 17 (5 nights).
F. Mouillot, 4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-st., W.C.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for
April 3, 10, 17.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-street, S.W.

We apologise to both Mr. Fredk. Mouillot and Mr. Robert Arthur for any annoyance and inconvenience which this regrettable printer's error may have occasioned.

THE SCENIC ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION.

The Exhibition Invitation Sub-Committee (No. 3) of the Scenic Artists' Association held their first meeting at the offices, 5, Robert Street, Adelphi, on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Walter Hann presided, and there were also present Sir Philip Burne-Jones, Bart. (vice-president), Messrs. R. H. Halley, George Tweddell, and H. Woolls, and Mr. H. Lawrence Harris, secretary. The sub-committee drafted the following circular, and instructed the secretary to send a copy to each member of the Association at his earliest convenience:—

Dear Sir,—I most urgently and earnestly beg that you will kindly advise me by return of post, on the enclosed stamped addressed postcard, fullest particulars of the models, sketches, &c., you propose to send to the Exhibition at the Grafton Galleries next month. The committee think that if a strenuous and sustained effort be made on the part of every member of the Association to assist the committee in each of the directions indicated at foot, success will crown the Exhibition. Not only is it hoped that it will be possible to return the guarantors the money advanced, but also to add to the funds of the Exhibition a sum sufficient to obviate the necessity of increasing this year the subscription.

Your help is asked: (*a*) By sending models (especially wanted), sketches, drawings, paintings, &c. (*b*) By recommending your friends to advertise in the catalogue, specimens of which (with rates and particulars of spaces vacant) can be had of Messrs. Charles Pool and Co., 92, Fleet Street, E.C.

Trusting to receive an assurance of your kind co-operation, I am, yours faithfully,

Walter Hann, Chairman.

The Exhibition Selection Sub-Committee (No. 1) held their first meeting at the offices on Tuesday. There were present Mr. Walter Hann (in the chair), Messrs. Edmund G. Banks, Richard Douglass, William Harford, Harry Potts, and H. Woolls, and Mr. H. Lawrence Harris (secretary). Letters were read from Mr. Hawes Craven (President) and Mr. William Telbin. The sub-committee, having carefully considered some 20 offers of loans of works by famous deceased scene painters, selected 80 pictures for the Exhibition, and instructed the secretary to make the necessary arrangements for the collection of the pictures, and also insure the same against fire while at the Grafton Galleries. Letters were read from 25 members promising to lend models, oil paintings, water colours, distemper sketches, photographs, &c.

The daily afternoon concerts of the Scenic Artists' Association at their exhibition in the Grafton Galleries, Bond-street, next April, promise to be exceptionally interesting. The programme each afternoon will be limited to only a few numbers, but the items will be of the highest class. The Entertainment Sub-committee have already obtained promises from Mr. George Alexander to recite, and from Mr. Lionel Brough to tell a few short stories. Miss Madge Crichton, Madame Zippora Monteith, Miss Elsie Edeson, Messrs. Reginald Groome, Frank Boor, and Mervyne Dene, will sing. Miss Lottie Venne, Miss Rose Yule, Miss Nellie Brooke, and Mr. George W. Cockburn have promised recitations, and Mr. E. Story Gofton two recitations, with organ accompaniment. Mr. Dion Boucicault and Miss Irene Vanbrugh have also promised their services, and the solo instrumentalists include Mr. Percy Colson (violin), Mr. Chevreau (violin), Miss Pattie Upton (violin), Mr. W. H. Barrett (flute), Mr. Henri Deroutte (violoncello), Mdlle. Chevreau (harp).

The secretary of the Scenic Artists' Association has had offers from Mr. R. C. Rogers to lend a very valuable oil painting by the late Sebastian Estelos; from Mr. Frederick Smallfield a charcoal sketch by the late Matt. Morgan, entitled "The Two Dogs"; from Mr. Evelyn Clyde a very fine specimen of Mr. Hawes Craven's black and white work, "The Interior of Westminster Abbey"; from Mr. E. Story Gofton "King Lear" (Greuze), two water-colours by Clarkson Stanfield, and a bound book of Covent Garden scenes during Macready's season.

We understand that Mr. Claude Harris, who made his first London appearance at Terry's Theatre last Thursday afternoon, as Salanio in the *Merchant of Venice*, is the second son of Mr. H. Lawrence Harris, the secretary of the Scenic Artists' Association.

THE END OF "GOOSY GANDER."

This successful pantomime, invented and written by Mr. Fred Locke, finished gamely last Saturday night, at the Princess's Theatre, Glasgow, after running into its thirteenth week. There was a crowded, but orderly last-night audience, and the enthusiasm was unbounded, encores were demanded, and beautiful floral and other offerings were numerous. In the palace scene, Mr. Waldron (the proprietor) and Mr. Locke were called for and heartily cheered. Mr. Waldron spoke a few words of thanks, after which the vast audience, upstanding, joined with the company in singing lustily "Auld Lang Syne."

On the previous evening Mr. Waldron had a bumper benefit, and at the close of the performance spoke as follows, his remarks being punctuated by loud cheers:—"Ladies and Gentlemen,—It has been a proud and distinctive privilege to me to appear before you annually as I do to-night in the character of a grateful servant, whose gratitude fails to find language sufficiently adequate to express the deep sense of obligation under which he labours. We have all been very happy and merry here for the past three months, because you have so heartily appreciated our efforts towards your merriment. There is always a pang of regret when the end of these scenes of mirth and gaiety approaches, but I would like to say, thanks to your generous support, that this pantomime has proved one of the most successful the Princess's has ever had. Of course one of the main factors in this has been the company. The admirable way in which all have worked together has undoubtedly contributed to the success, and I think you will agree with me that for the loyal, earnest, and painstaking way in which they have acted, my warmest thanks are due to the ladies and gentlemen on the stage here to-night. I also thank Mr. Locke, the author. I may say that this is his semi-jubilee in pantomime work for the Princess's, this being the 25th year he has been guilty of such infliction, which I think he will go on inflicting for some years to come, to your pleasure and delight. I also thank those unseen workers behind the stage and my lieutenants in front, for all must help in one consolidation to achieve that which we all strive for—viz., success. And now, ladies and gentlemen, in thanking you all very, very sincerely for your kindness, your indulgence, and your generosity, let me wish good luck may follow those on the stage, and that prosperity may shine upon you, and that for some years yet I may produce pantomimes, and still remain your most obedient and very grateful servant."

Mrs. Christie, wife of Mr. John Christie, acting-manager of the Hackney Empire, has just been presented with a handsome gold bracelet by members of the female staff and a few of the male assistants. The presentation, which was made on Mrs. Christie's birthday, was to have taken place on New Year's Day, but at that time she experienced a bereavement by the death of her father, Mr. Newman, who was well known to Hackney Empire employees.

Miss Berthe Palliser has been secured by the management of the Hackney Empire for next week's programme. At the Apollo Theatre she was Miss Ada Reeve's understudy, and when the last-named lady fell ill she took the leading rôle in *Kitty Grey* with the greatest success. Miss Palliser has also played with the Carl Rosa Opera Company, and in *Faust* on one occasion was the recipient of no less than seven bouquets—one from a most illustrious person. Later Miss Palliser gained golden opinions by her interpretation of the part of Zelie Rumbert, in *The Orchid*. At the opening of the Coliseum, Mr. Oswald Stoll engaged her to appear in the charming character of "The River Girl," which had an uninterrupted run of eight weeks—rather a record for a scena at any one variety house. On making her bow to Hackney audiences, Miss Palliser will sing a new song, "Come in and shut the door," which may be described as a song with a plot.

The Prince and Princess of Wales paid a special visit to the London Hippodrome on Monday night to see the giant Machnow, the largest man in the world.

At the Chelsea Palace, under distinguished patronage, a grand matinée will take place on Tuesday, March 28, in aid of the Horse Ambulance Fund, established by Our Dumb Friends' League, a society for the encouragement of kindness to animals. The Palace has been kindly lent for the occasion by the directors, and amongst the many artistes who have generously promised their services are: Mr. Rutland Barrington, Mr. Louis Bradfield, Mr. Charles Capper, Mr. G. H. Chirgwin, Mr. Earle Douglas, Mr. George Grossmith, jun., Mr. Leo Mars, Miss Louie Pounds, Miss Marie Studholme, Miss Florence Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Sothern, and "The Serenaders" (masked singers). Amongst those who are selling programmes will be Miss Phyllis Broughton, Miss Kitty Davis, Miss Granville, Miss Annie Hughes, Miss Grace Lane, Miss Ruby Ray, and Miss Marion Stayton. Through the generosity of several ladies, a large number of the cheaper tickets have been purchased for the benefit of various charitable institutions in the district, and there will be about 150 of the Chelsea pensioners present, as well as boys from the Duke of York's Royal Military School.

Mr. W. Edwards Sprange, the author of *The New Barmaid* and other successful musical comedies, has just written, in collaboration with Mr. H. Leslie Bell, a new romantic idyl, entitled *By Order of the Court*, which will be played shortly in London by the Bell-Pearl company.

Their Majesties, attended by their suites, honoured the Palace Theatre with their presence on Thursday evening, and witnessed the performance of *The Knights of the Road* (which on this occasion was conducted by Sir A. C. Mackenzie), as well as the other items on the programme.

Presentation.—La Petite Bella, Marie Walford, and Nan Henri, of Dr. Walford Bodie's company, have been presented by Messrs. Livingstone and Hoffman, the well-known professional furriers, Manchester, with costly gold-mounted tiger's claw brooches. Miss Bella also received a present of a handsome fur-lined coat.

Miss Fatmah Diard, the well-known American operatic prima-donna, is about to exploit on the music hall stage of a well-known West End house two new song-scenas, specially written and composed for her by Messrs. John P. Harrington and George Le Brunn, and respectively entitled *The Modern Portia* and *Roses Round the Window*.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. *The Era* is posted on Saturday in time to reach London Subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery, and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London Post. Address, the Publisher 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

ON THE ROAD, MARCH 13.

Amorelle.—Queen's Theatre, Keighley.
Armadale Repertoire.—Queen's Theatre, Swindon.
As Midnight Chimes.—O. H., Harrogate.
At War with the World.—Opera House, Porth.
Austin, Miss Mary.—Theatre Royal, Blackpool.

Babes in the Wood (Jordison).—Bradford.
Bandmann-Palmer.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Beautiful Avenger.—Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.
Beauty and the Barge.—Theatre Royal, Hanley.
Belle of New York.—Theatre Royal, South Shields.
Benson, Mr. F. R. (A).—Coronet Theatre, W.
Benson, Mr. F. R. (B).—Dumfries.
Best Must Win.—T. R., Consett.
Biggest Scamp on Earth.—Alexandra Theatre, Hull.
Blanchard Diamonds.—Empire Theatre, Oldham.
Bound to Win.—Victoria Theatre, Burnley.
Bulmer, Mr.—Theatre Royal, Coatbridge.

Cardinal.—Theatre Royal, Plymouth.
Chinese Honeymoon (M).—Dundee.
Chinese Honeymoon (Macdona) (S).—Gloucester.
Christian.—Opera House, Torquay.
Cingalee.—Woolwich.
Compton Comedy Co.—King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy.
Convict's Daughter.—North Shields.
Country Girl (Dance) (M.).—Stockport.
Country Girl (Dance) (S.).—West Bromwich.
Country Girl (Dance) (N.).—Peckham.
Country Girl (Macdona) (S.).—Peterboro'.
Country Mouse (N.).—Opera House, Coventry.
Cousin Kate.—Opera House, Perth.

Dandy Doctor.—Dalston Theatre, N.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Chesterfield.
Defending His Honour.—T. R., Darlington.
Designers.—County Theatre, Bedford.
D'Oyly Carte.—Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.
Duchess of Dantzic (Dance).—Hartlepool.
Duchess of Dantzic (Edwardes).—Liverpool.
Duke of Killicrankie (Lovel).—Southport.
Duke of Killicrankie (Frohman).—Coronet T., W.

Earl and the Girl.—T. R., Huddersfield.
Earl and the Girl.—Marlborough Theatre, N.

Face at the Window.—T. R., Whitehaven.
Facing the Music.—Seacombe.
Fatal Wedding (M).—Theatre Royal, Attercliffe.
Fatal Wedding.—St. J. T., Manchester.
Fatal Wedding (S.).—Met. Theatre, Birmingham.
Florodora (Callan).—Grand Theatre, Derby.
Florodora (Davis).—Royalty Theatre, Barrow.
Frivolity.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.

Garden of Lies.—Theatre Royal, Hull.
Gay Parisienne.—Birmingham.
Geisha and Greek Slave.—Hammersmith.
Gipsy Jack,.—Pontypridd.
Girl from Bond Street.—Coliseum T., Oldham.
Girl from Kay's (N.).—Belfast.
Girl from Kay's (Dance) (S.).—H. M. T., Walsall.
Golden Ladder.—Opera House, Blackpool.
Go-Won-Go Mohawk.—Burton-on-Trent.
Grip of Iron.—Albert Theatre, Brighouse.
Harvey, Martin.—T. R., Birmingham.
Heart of a Hero.—Spennymoor.
Her Fatal Past.—Terriss T., Rotherhithe.
Hot Night.—Grand T., Blackpool.

I Defy the World.—King's Theatre, Nottingham.
Indian Mutiny.—Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—T. R., Nottingham.
King's Pardon.—Opera House, Doncaster.

Ladder of Life.—Opera House, Middlesboro'.
Lady of Ostend.—Pier Pav., Eastbourne.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Burnham.
La Poupee.—Grand Theatre, Leeds.
La Poupee (Howard).—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
Laughter-Land.—West London Theatre, W.
Lights o' London.—Coliseum T., Oldham.
Little Mary.—Opera House, Harrogate.
London Actress.—Theatre Royal, Bristol.
London Fireman.—Theatre Royal, Bilston.
Lost in Sin.—Alhambra T., Stourbridge.
Lucky Durham.—Grand Theatre, Halifax.

Manxman.—Court Theatre, Bacup.
Marriage of Vengeance.—Theatre Royal,, Stratford.
Merely Mary Ann.—Theatre Royal, Brighton.
Merely Mary Ann (Bright).—T. T., Newcastle.
Message from Mars.— T. R., Merthyr Tydvil.
Midnight Mail.—Theatre Royal, Ashton.
Mockery of Marriage.—Atheneum, Lancaster.
Monsieur Beaucaire.—County Theatre, Reading.
Moody-Manners (A).—Edinburgh.
Moody Manners (B).—Theatre Royal, Lincoln.
Moody-Manners (C).—Cleckheaton.
My Sweetheart.—Fulham Theatre, S.W.
Napoleon the Great.—Muncaster Theatre, Bootle.
New Mephisto.—Court Theatre, Warrington.
Norman V. Norman.—Theatre Royal, York.

Orchid (Edwardes).—King's Theatre, Glasgow.
Orchid (Dance).—Preston.

Peggy Machree.—Oxford.
Prince of Pilsen.—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
Prince of Rogues.—Macclesfield.
Proof.—Theatre Royal, Leicester.

Red Riding Hood (Eland's).—O. H., Radcliffe
Revenge.—Theatre Royal, Barnsley.
Royal Divorce.—Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.
Royal Revenge (Clyndes).—Kilmarnock.

Sapho (Annie Bell).—Grand Theatre, Swansea.
Saturday to Monday.—Chatham.
Scarlet Woman.—Theatre Royal, Exeter.
School Girl (Macdona).—Edinburgh.
Sergeant Brue.—Theatre Royal, Bath.
Sherlock Holmes.—Grand Theatre, Glasgow.
Sign of the Cross.—Theatre Royal, Cardiff.
Silver King.—Lyceum Theatre, Crewe.
Sinbad the Sailor (Levaine).—Castleford.
Sin of Her Childhood.—P. T., Preston.
Sins of a City.—Opera House, Dudley.
Slaves of Passion.—Amphi., Ramsgate.
Sledge-Hammer.—Osborne Theatre, Manchester.
Sorrows of Satan (Somerset).—
Standing Repertoire Co.—E. T., Southend.
Still Alarm.—Queen's Theatre, Leeds.
Sunday.—Theatre Royal, Rochdale.
Swiss Express.—Opera House, Wakefield.

Three Little Maids (Macdona) (S.)—Cheltenham.
Three Little Maids (Macdona) (N.).—Southampton.
Tommy Atkins.—Elephant and Castle Theatre, S.E.
Traitor.—Theatre Royal, Smethwick.
Traitor Prince.—Junc. T., Manchester.
Trip to Chinatown.—Court T., Wigan.
Two Little Sailor Boys.—O. H., St. Helens.

Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—Leigh.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Tully).—Ton-y-Pandy.
Under Two Flags.—T. R., Sheffield.

Veronique.—Bristol.
Victim of Villainy.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Village Blacksmith.—Theatre Royal, Aston.

Warner, Grace.—Rugby.
Way of the World.—Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.
When a Woman's Hates.—Alex. T., Sheffield.
Woman's Devotion.—Theatre Royal, Bury.
Wrecker of Men.—Middleton.
10.30 Down Express.—Abertillery.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(*Continued from page 11.*)

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Carey; Manager, Mr. F. Edgar Manaton.—Mr. Harold V. Neilson and company are appearing this week in Pinero's *Money Spinner* and Haddon Chambers's *Tyranny of Tears*, the latter being the week-end attraction. In the former piece Mr. Neilson has given an admirable study of the part of Lord Kengussie, and has been well supported by Mr. John Detliv, Mr. Lemmon Warde, and Mr. J. F. Fox; while of the ladies, Miss Madge Flynn, Miss Beatrice Marsdene, and Miss Helen Phillips all contribute materially to the success of the production.

WALTHAMSTOW. — PALACE. — Managing-Director, Mr. G. Adney Payne; Manager, Mr. Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—An interesting programme this week includes Mr. George Leyton, who is heard to great effect in his song, "The Prodigal Son," while in the scena, "Britannia's Babes," looking resplendent in the uniform of a naval officer, he is assisted by a troupe of well-trained youngsters. Miss Bessie Lind is a pretty and engaging singer and dancer; Cline and Clarke, who may be described as quite old favourites here, are received with a storm of applause. One of the big successes of the evening is achieved by Mr. Harry Carsdale, whose imitations of the various denizens of a farmyard are marvellously true to nature. Virginia and her Piccaninnies, in "Coon Town Society," are much in favour, the quaint antics, grimaces, and dancing of the little darkies being clever and amusing. Mr. Henry A. Moore, with a handsome stage presence and powerful voice, proves his mimetic versatility in imitations of such widely-opposed artists as the late Wilson Barrett as Claudian and the late Herbert Campbell in one of his comic songs. The strong line on the bill, however, is undoubtedly the production by Mr. John Lawson and his company of the episode of domestic martyrdom, *A Bride for a Living*. In this strange mixture of cockney farce and grim tragedy Miss Cissie Louie Lawson scores all along the line as the slangy, extravagant, finery-loving and loveless wife. Mr. Lawson has a part after his own heart in the hoodwinked husband, and his tirades against certain social abuses of the day rouse the house to enthusiasm. The other three characters in the episode are all skilfully played.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter.—The popular musical comedy, *The New Barmaid*, is here this week. Mr. J. B. Montague, as Bertie White, scores a big success, and his singing, patter and mannerisms, are such as to evoke much mirth; Mr. Alexander Loftus is also excellent as William White, and his portrayal of the millionaire is natural to a degree; Mr. Leslie Austin as Captain Lovebury is well placed and his rich tenor voice is heard to advantage in several numbers; Colonel Claymore has an able representative in Mr. Arthur Rodney; and Mr. Frank Melroyd, besides giving a capital interpretation of Mons. Bonsor, submits several capital dances, which win approval; Mr. Norman Bowyer is good as Braddy. Miss Violet Osmund, as Dora Heather, is full of life and energy, and scores as vocalist and dancer; Miss Nance O'Neil is smart as the New Barmaid, whilst the older barmaid has a faithful representative in Miss Julia Blanche; Miss Jean Gilmour is a dignified Lady Moulton. There are several specialities well introduced, the staging is effective, and the chorus, under the introduction of Mr. Otto Cantor, is well balanced.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements Mr. F. Willmot.—Griff, the original jocular juggler, is proving a great draw here this week; Frank Cass is a capital character vocalist; and Robins and Collins are smart sketch artistes. Fred Horsfall is a clever mimic, and the Houston Brothers are acceptable patter comedians. A charming comedienne is Lizzie Vandean, and Harry Laybourne establishes himself as a favourite with his society entertainment. The Royal Bioscope shows some amusing pictures.

WEDNESBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—Mr. Bert Coote's No. 1 Company, in *The Fatal Wedding*, is proving a big attraction here this week. Mr. Lomath, in the rôle of Howard Wilson, gives an interesting portrayal. A clever rendering of Robert Curtis is effected by Mr. Langford Reed; and as Toto Mr. W. E. Chard is exceptionally good. A well-played part is that of Peter Schwartz, ably presented by Mr. T. W. Ford; Miss Eva Moss is warmly appreciated in her embodiment of Mabel Wilson; Miss Doris Gilham is admirably suited to the part of Cora Williams; the comedy part of Bridget is in the capable keeping of Miss Maud Locker; and Jessie, "the little mother," is charmingly and cleverly enacted by Miss Emmie Thomas.

WELLINGBOROUGH.—CORN EXCHANGE.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company was here the first three days of the week giving a good rendering of *A Soldier and a Man*. Miss B'Eare Doyle was to the front with a capital impersonation of Rose Melbury, and Mr. Alderson played the part of Harold Sinclair in good style. An excellent Jim Farrow was presented by Mr. H. F. Wright; Miss Daisy England deserves mention for an able portrayal, and Miss Hilda Leslie's sprightly performance as "Sergeant" Jane Wicks was much appreciated.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. P. Moore. The marvellous Craggs and a company of comedians are paying us a welcome return visit this week in their musical absurdity, *Laughter Land*. Mr. Henry B. Lewis, as Professor Sylvanus Wood; and Mr. John Hitchins, as Dick Marlow, are both good in their respective portrayals; Mr. Victor Raymond scores as Archie; Sir Vincent Marlow is well played by Mr. G. Westacott; Miss Amy Hastings, as Clarice; and Miss Louise Millward, as Clothilda, deserve mention; and the Billy of Mr. Cremorne Cragg is the life and soul of the play; he keeps the house in one continual roar of laughter, and is fully deserving of all the applause he gets. The Craggs are as good as ever in their marvellous acrobatic turn, and the play is well staged and dressed.

WEST HARTLEPOOL. — GRAND THEATRE. — General Manager (for Mrs. Weldon Watts), Mr. Sidney Bacon; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred Conneaux.—With the freshness of its youth, Mr. Ben Greet's *Belle of New York* company is again visiting here, and is being accorded a hearty welcome by well filled houses. Mr. Harold Wardroper is capitally suited in the character of Harry Bronson; and Miss Mora is all that could be possibly desired as the dainty and winsome Violet Grey; Mr. Harry A. Meymott is successfully humorous as Ichabod Bronson; Mr. Walter Emro endows the rôle of the polite lunatic with some good fun; and others in the cast who are successful in their respective rôles are, Mr. Maurice Holmes, as Blinky Bill; Mr. Lionel Yeoman and Mr. R. L. Cody, as the twins; Miss Ada Ellison, as Fifi; Miss Louie Codman, as Cora; and Miss Florence Hersee, as Kissie Fitzgarter.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—An amusing sketch by Nannie Goldman, William Holmes and company, entitled *The Little Charwoman*, is the means of introducing Miss Goldman in several guises, which she carries out with every success; The Sisters Petram, with a well-equipped miniature stage and figures, give a smartly-worked fantoches performance. The splendid electrically illuminated gymnastic exhibition of Les Uniques is a great attraction; Grell and Grey are amusing in an original absurdity; L. B. Athol's scena, *Dreaming*, is effectively sung; Charles Dixon is deservedly encored; and Kate Lynd, comedienne; and Evelyn Taylor, male impersonator, complete the bill.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. M. H. Linden.—Messrs. Haddon and Loader's company appeared here the first three nights in *The Greatest Scoundrel Living*, and in *The King of Thieves* the remainder of the week.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Resident-Manager, Mr. D. Williams.—Miss Winifred Chaloner's company is paying a visit here this week with *A Woman's Revenge* and *The God of Night*.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE. — Managing Director, Mr. John Worswick.—By arrangement with Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry, Mr. Louis Calvert and his principal London company have presented the successful play, *Sunday*, from the Comedy Theatre, to most appreciative audiences. The title-part is enacted by Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay in a particularly natural, graceful, and, at the same time, forceful manner. Col. Brinthorpe has an able exponent in Mr. J. Edw. Pearce; and the other male characters are also admirably represented. Miss Eliz. Watson, as Mrs. Naresby, and Miss Helen Macgregor, as a nun, play their parts well.

GRAND HIPPODROME. — Managing - Director, Mr. John Worswick.—Minnie Cunningham is a neat and refined mimic and comedienne, and David Poole an exceedingly smart ventriloquist. Leo Tell is an excellent imitator of the sounds of musical instruments and animals, and Addie Dorina gives a capital quick-change performance. Morris and Morris are comic trapeze artistes, and James H. McCann gives an excellent exhibition of roller-skate dancing. The Reed Oetzmann Troupe, in a pantomime sketch; the Three Henriques, eccentric acrobats; the Sisters Russell, exponents of burlesque and low comedy; and Tony Iveson, comedian, provide the remainder of a good programme.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Manager, Mr. W. Birchall.—The Sisters Linn, character duettists and coon vocalists, and the Brothers Lloddge, acrobats, remain a week longer; and Denby and Dent, in a comedy act, pay a return visit. Miss Ivy Lennard, comedienne; Mr. W. Burns, singing collier; Syd. Herman, actor-vocalist; and Bert Andrews, comedian and dancer, also give capital turns.

WINDSOR. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Licensee, Mr. Fred L. Connynghame; General Business-Manager, Mr. Worton David; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Nash.—*At Twelve Midnight* and *On Circumstantial Evidence* have been presented here this week by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clifford's capable company. *At Twelve Midnight* was played during the first half of the week. Mr. Charles Clifford presented a well-conceived and skilfully rendered depiction of Sir Robert Dare. Mr. E. T. Birdsley was realistic as the Earwig; Mr. T. Dyson impersonates Dene satisfactorily; and Mr. E. Morton acted well as David Kingston. Mr. Leonard Williams gave a capital embodiment of Dick Holland. Mr. Harry Cooke, in the rôle of Sammy Bimbo, was mirth provoking, and Miss M. Tremere, as Sally Wiggins, was decidedly amusing.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival. —A visit from the Carl Rosa Opera Company is always an important event in local theatricals. On Monday *Don Giovanni* was presented. The principal parts were taken by Herr Charles Victor, Mr. Edward Davies, Mr. Arthur Winckworth, and Madame Sobrino. On Tuesday, *Lohengrin* was performed. Herr Julius Walther sang in splendid style in the title part, and Madame Sobrino gave a very fine rendering of the character of Elsa. Herr Charles Victor did admirably as Telramund; Mr. Arthur Winckworth was heard to great advantage as Henry the Fowler; and Mr. Frank Arthur deserves praise for his clear and excellent enunciation as the Herald. Madame Augusta Renard gave a powerful and dramatic rendering in the part of Ortrud. The chorus was powerful, and very efficient. *Carmen*, *Maritana*, *Tristan and Isolda*, *Tannhäuser*, and *Faust* are included in the programme for the week.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—A special attraction is provided here in Marie Lloyd, who is proving a popular draw. She is heard to great advantage in "The Coster's Wedding," and various other of her latest successes. The programme also includes Ford and Hanson, the American musical millionaires; Herbert La Martine, vocalist, dancer, and bâton-swinger; Cora Grey, burlesque actress; Steely and Dowton, comedians; Walter Emerson, eccentric comedian; Harry Coates, the singing navvy; Dan Conroy, comedian; and the Bioscope.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Fred Le Wards.—A return visit of *A Chinese Honeymoon* (Mr. Chas. Macdona's company) provides the musical and dramatic fare this week. Miss Florence Hallam was a fascinating Princess, whose singing was particularly well liked. In striking contrast to her dignfied rôle were the humorous acting and "business" of Miss Ettie Cinders, as Fi-fi, and Mr. Sidney Burt (Mr. Pineapple), while Miss Alicia Norton (Mrs. Pineapple), and the bridesmaids (Misses Daisy Dale and Marie Ford) were sufficiently vivacious. Mr. Steane Louch was imposing as the Emperor, and sang finely, and Miss Dulcie Garland, as the Official Mother-in-Law, was excellent. Mr. Louis Ashmeade was the Lord Chancellor, and Mr. A. Foote the lover.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—This week Miss Lily Turner, a popular favourite, is paying a welcome return visit; the Evalos, comedy jugglers and gymnastic artistes, give a pleasing turn; Les Prinellas, vocal speciality artistes, make a hit with a comedy scena, entitled *A Country Flirtation*; and Mr. E., extempore artiste, and J. H. Bowman, comedian and dancer, also contribute to the bill.

YORK. — THEATRE ROYAL — Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. H. Barrow.—Mr. George Dance's *The Duchess of Dantzic* company, is paying a return visit here with the greatest possible success. Miss Rita Presano is, if possible, even more successful than ever. Sans Gêne seems to be a part particularly suited to her style, and her singing is admirable. Mr. Colin Mackay repeats his unctuous and whimsical rendering of Papillon, causing much merriment; Miss Ada Coverick is both graceful and fascinating as Renée, singing with much taste; and Mr. Thomas C. Maxwell, as Bethune, finds ample scope for the display of his undoubted vocal powers. As Lefebvre, Mr. Mackesay Cullin works hard, and with the utmost success.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sydney Brooke.—Peggy Pryde, who heads the bill here this week, is being warmly received, and her clever entertainment is heartily relished and applauded. Donaldson Brothers and Ardell, in their speciality business, are undoubtedly clever, and their performances are heartily received. After a long absence the Waldrons find great favour; Frank Coyle is an excellent comedian; and George and Edwards, Fredo, Dan Kennedy, and Violet Wilton, complete the bill.

MR. BRANDON THOMAS'S excellent company will present the evergreen farce, *Charley's Aunt*, at the Camden Theatre, next week.

MR. GEORGE DANCE'S principal company will be seen in the charming musical play, *A Country Girl*, at the Crown Theatre, Peckham, next week.

THE old boys of the Mercers' School had a very enjoyable time on Tuesday evening, at the hall of the company, which stands on the site of Barnard's Inn. A smoking concert drew a large crowd of the *alumni*, who were cleverly entertained by, among others, Mr. Sivey Levey, Mr. Elliston Webb, Signor Corelli, and Mr. Robert Dennant.

The annual benefit to Mr. Charles Bush, the courteous and popular acting manager of the Leeds Queen's Theatre, duly came off on Thursday evening, when a crowded and enthusiastic house witnessed the pantomime *Goody Two Shoes* in its entirety. Extra turns came from the local theatres and halls, and prolonged the entertainment to a late hour. The obliging and energetic methods of Mr. Bush have won for him a large circle of friends in the city, and many and hearty were the congratulations showered on him.

MRS. GORDON, of the Prince of Wales's, Southampton, is relinquishing the management of the theatre through expiration of the lease, and a committee has been formed with the view of making some recognition of her services in the cause of dramatic art in the town. Councillor C. G. Thomas, J.P., of Weston House, Southampton, is treasurer, and in conjunction with Mr. A. Emm, the secretary, will be pleased to receive contributions.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMPOSER.—*We should advise you either to alter the title or else write to the gentleman you mention. Explain the circumstances, and ask him if he has any objection to your use of the title.*

A. A. C.—*(1). Yes. (2). No.*

MARS.—*Your question should be addressed to Mr. Thomas Coates, the Press representative at the Coliseum.*

JAS. MAVALL.—*The sketch was produced at the beginning of September, 1899, and it was played until the following November 18.*

E. MAYER. — Gentleman Joe, *the words and lyrics by Basil Hood, and music by Walter Slaughter, was produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on March 2, 1895, with Mr. Arthur Roberts in the title rôle. The piece was produced under the direction of Mr. Hugh Moss.*

ARGUS.—*(1).* One Summer's Day *was produced September 16, 1897, and ran until February 26, 1898. (2). We have not been able to discover the date of its production.*

B. W. T.—*The drama mentioned was adapted by Arthur Shirley and William Muskerry from the novel by Harrison Ainsworth, entitled "Old London."*

K. J.—Where's the Cat? *was produced at the Criterion Theatre on November 20, 1880.* Les Manteaux Noirs, *Avenue, June 3, 1882.*

ALBERT.—*(1). At Drury Lane Theatre (2). The late Sir Augustus Harris.*

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars admitted to this List.

Adeler, Mr. Edwin
Anderson, Mr. Harry
Angelo, Mr.
Armitage, Mr. Harry
Arnold, Mr. Chas.
Arthur, Miss E.
Asche, Mr. J. A.
Asche, Mr. J. F.
Ashdown, Mr. Percy
Ashley-Page, Mr.
Atkinson, Mr. Harry
Barber, Mr. W. H.
Barham, Mr. George
Baron, Mr. Chas.
Baroni and Kemp
Barton, Mrs. J.
Bayliss, Mr. W. J.
Beaumont, Mr. Harry
Bell, Mr Arnold
Belling, Mr. Tim
Bell, Mrs. A.
Benet, Mr. H.
Benn, Mr. Leo
Bentley, Mr. R. W.
Bernard and Weston,
Berte, Mr. C.
Birks, Mr. T.
Bradford, Mr. Chas.
Brown, Mr. Frank
Brown, Mr. T.
Butler, Mr. Pearce
Byron, Mr. Geo.
Cabant's Dogs
Cady, Mr.
Carman, Mr. Harry
Carter, Mr. H.
Cawse, Mr C. R. D.
Charlton, Miss N.
Charman, Mr. Jack
Cherry, Mr. Fred
Chevalier, Miss May
Chippendale, Mr. James
Clayton, Mr. Tom
Cleugh, Mr. Dennis
Coleridge, Mr. W. L.
Compton, Miss
Connor, Mr. Fred J.
Coutts, Mr. Wm.
Cove, Mr. H. G.
Crawford, Mr. Tom
Cressy, Miss N.
Cunningham, Mr. C.
Cutler, Miss Kate
Dagmar, Miss Vivianne
Dallas, Mr. H. J.
Dare, Miss Phyllis
De Frece, Mr. Walter
Denham, Miss Millie
Denton, Mrs. H.
Donaldson Bros.
Dorrett, Miss Lilian
Dredge, Mr. R.
Driscoll, Mrs.
Dudley, Miss Gipsy
Egochaga, Mr. A.
Elder, Miss Nellie
Ellicott, Miss Violet
Elmo, Mr. Jack
Elster, Miss Marie
Emery, Mr. Fred
Elton, Mr. Fred
Ely, Sisters
Esmond, Mr. H. V.
Everade, Mr Walter
Fancourt, Mr. Tom
Fawn, Mr. James
Finney, Miss Marie
Fisher, Mr. Harry
Fitzgerald, Miss B.
Fletcher, Miss Nellie
Florenz Troupe
Ford, Mr. Ben
Fordham, Mr. Fred
Fracey, Mr. Thorpe
Gallagher and Held
Gilbey, Mr. T. E.
Ginnett, Mr. Fred
Glasson, Mr. W. H.
Glenroy, Miss Anna
Granville, Miss C.
Greenwood, Mr. John
Gweney, Mr. Gerald
Hanbury, Miss Dolly
Handy, Mrs. A. W.
Hansa, Mr. J.
Harcourt, Miss Dolly
Hardeen, Mr. Theo.
Hare, Mr. Henry
Hare, Miss W.
Harlowe, Miss B.
Harold, Miss Lilly
Harrington, Mr. Geo.
Hartley, Miss Ray
Harvey, Miss Kate
Hawtrey, Mr. Leslie
Herman, Dr. Carl
Hilton, Mr. F. R.
Hinton, Mr. Howard
Hirst, Mr. J.
Hobart, Prof.
Hobson, Miss Maud
Homewood, Mr. Talbot
Horton, Mr. W.
Houdini, Mr. Harry
Howard, Miss P.
Howard and Harris
Hughes, Miss Amy
Hutton, Mr. R.
Ingleclew, Mr.
Iveson, Miss Cissy
Joel, Miss Elsa
Johnston, Musical
Johnson, Mr. Kid
Jones, Mr Arthur C.
Jullion, Mr. C.
Kidd, Mr. Henry W.
Klein, Miss Anna
Krembly, Miss A.
La Belle, Mr. Alec.
Lauder, Mr. Harry
Leeson, Mr. M. F.
Le Fre, Mr. Albert
Leo, Mr. Frank
Lewis, Miss M. J.
Lingard, Mr. Horace
Lloyd, Mrs. Tom
Loftus, Miss F.
Loftus, Mr. Alexander
Lomas, Mr. Jack
Lorenzo, Signor
Lowther, Mr. Henry
Lyan, Mr. Harry
Lynde, Miss Jennie
McCarthy, Miss Lillah
Marslana, Miss Maude
Mathews, Mr. E. C.
McKane, Mr. M.
Melmotte, Madam Violet
Meyer, Mr. S.
Michel and Polo
Money, Mrs. Amy
Money, Dr. Angel
Moore, Mr. Billy
Moreau, Miss M.
Murphy, Mr. N. J.
Nolan, Mr. Hugh
Nolan, Mr. John
Norman, Mr. Chas.
Osborne, Mr. John
Ottawa Trio, The
Penrose, Mr. Cawse
Phillips, Miss Jessie
Powell, Mr. A.
Preston, Mr. J. F.
Pringle, Mr. Wm.
Prinz, Mr. Chas
Randall, Mr. Douglas
Raneleigh, Mme.
Ranley, Madame
Ray, Mr. Arthur T.
Rayner, Mr. Walter
Reed, Mr. Wilton
Reeves, Mr. George
Rhodes, Mr. W.
Rickards, the Three
Rignold, Miss Bessie
Ringling, Mr. J.
Ritter, Mr. T.
Rose, Mr. Ike
Roxborough, Mr. Picton
Saker, Miss May
Sami, Miss E.
Saunderson, Mr. G.
Scarth, Mr F.
Scott, Miss V.
Seaton, Dr. R. G
Sedger, Mr. Horace
Seeley and West
Selwyn, Mr. Leo
Shrapnell, Mr. L.
Sitherland, Mr. Harry
Sleath, Mr Herbert
Smythson, Mr. Geo.
Stanley, Miss Alma
Starr, Mr. H.
Stellio, Mr. J.
Sterling, Mr Max
Stoneham, Miss M.
Stuart, Mr. Barney
Summers, Mr. Wilson
Sutcliffe, Mr. A.
Sutton, Mr. J. E.
Sydenham, Mr. G.
Taylor, Mr. J. Milne
Thomas, Mr. Towyn
Thorne, Mr. Fred
Thornton, Mr.
Tokio Troupe
Toole, Mr. W.
Travers, Mr. Hyram
Upton, Mr. W. A.
Vanbrugh, Miss Irene
Vere, Ede
Vere, Mr. Percy
Vint, Mrs. L.
Vyner, Miss C.
Waite, Mr. Ted
Walker, Mr. W.
Walsh, Miss M.
Ward, Mr. Cecil
Watkins, Mr. Bert D.
White, Mr. C. H.
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Miss Cecilia Fowler's Ladies' Athletic Team.—Miss Cecilia Fowler (captain), goal; Miss Lilla Carter and Miss Ivy Bowman, backs; Miss Nellie Bailey, Miss Gertrude Thomas, and Miss Lillie Belding, half-backs; Miss Trixie Maynard, Miss Katie Elvin, Miss Amy Bernard, Miss Bertha Godfrey, and Miss Minnie Leonard, forwards.

Cotham and Redland Ladies' Athletic Team.—Miss May Fisher, goal; Miss Rosie Davis and Miss Alice Gibbs, backs; Miss Lucy Norris, Miss Lillie Coles, and Miss Edith Lawrence, half-backs; Miss Florrie Hooper, Miss Winnie Bradley (captain), Miss Alice Mitchell, Miss Nellie Lawrence, and Miss Maudie Burgess, forwards.

Referee.—Miss Edie Francis (of Miss Cecilia Fowler's team). Result:—Miss Cecilia Fowler's Ladies' Athletic Team, two goals; Cotham and Redland Ladies' Athletic Team, three goals. Misses Lillie Belding, Bertha Godfrey, Winifred Bradley (two), and Lucy Norris scored for their respective sides.

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By A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (London), Solicitor.

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"A B C D" (James Hargreaves)	Sung by Wilkie Bard
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"All the little Ja-pansy faces" (Harry Castling)	Mark Sheridan
"All the Girls are Lov-er-ly-ov-er-ly" (Harrington and Thurban)	R. G. Knowles
"Anywhere there will do" (Murray and Everard)	Frank Seeley
"A Warning to Single Men" (Bateman and Pether)	Arthur Reece
"Baby Mine" (Browne and Friedman)	MissClarisseHeney
"Boys of the Chelsea School" (Carter and Weston)	George Leyton
"'Come in!' said Widdy Malone" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Michael Nolan
"Conversations" (F. and W. Redmond)	Ambrose Thorne
"Delusions" (Phil Ray)	Phil Ray
"Doan' Cry, Little Coloured Coon" (S. F. Harrison and Neat)	Miss H. Vernon
"Don't Stand There —!" (Lawrance and Gifford)	Walter Stanley
"Farewell, my little Yo San" (Mills and B. Scott)	Tom Costello
"Frozen Meat" (T. W. Connor)	Alf Gibson
"Girls wouldn't be wanted at all" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	W. J. Churchill
"Have you seen my girl?" (Mills and Scott)	Walter Munroe
"He Kissed I Once" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Marie Loftus
"Here comes the foreigner!" (Barnes and Weston)	H. Bedford
"I would! I would!" (Stanhope and Cunliffe)	W. Cunliffe
"I want to be a Soldier" Gifford and Lawrance)	Hamilton Hill.
"I did enjoy myself last night" (Lawrence and M. Scott)	Will Johnson
"I don't mind if it amuses you!" (Leigh and Pether)	Ben Albert
"If all the stars were mine" (Smith and Stromberg)	Miss Lilian Doreen
"I'm Afraid—and Why?" (Wincott, Leighton, and Mayo)	Sam Mayo
"I'm a girl of Tennessee" (Eden and Byng)	Miss Lil Hawthorne
"I'm coming home to you" (Herbert Darnley)	Miss D. L. Clark
"I'm going to sea [see]" (Leamore and Collins)	Tom Leamore
"I'm round there to-night!" (Wincott and Leighton)	Dan Crawley
"Isn't that like a Man?" (Paul Mill)	Paul Mill
"It's all right in the summer time" (Murray & Everard)	Miss Vesta Victoria
"It's the Poor that help the Poor" (Mills and Castling)	Miss F. Gallimore
"I've been a Naughty Boy all Day" (Carter and Weston)	Miss G. Leonard
"Jolly Jarge" (Mills and Arthurs)	George Bastow
"Julia" (Robson and Hyde)	Miss Gladys Mavius
"Just a Girl" (Elton and Harrison)	Miss Minnie Cunningham
"Little Jap Horner" (F. V. St. Clair)	F. V. St. Clair
"Ma Havannah Queen" (Gifford and Lawrance)	G. H. Elliott
"Ma Dusky Rose" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Florrie Robins
"Maude! Maude!" (Barnes and Collins)	Miss Lottie Lennox
"My Little Black Pearl" (Leslie Stuart)	Eugene Stratton
"My Paleface Queen" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Amy Clevere
"My Fiddle is My Sweetheart" (Harry Hunter)	G. H. Chirgwin
"My Japanesy Girl" (Delmar and Parry)	Hal Forde
"My Lily of the Valley" (Frank Leo)	Miss Sadie Fern
"Oh, Nancy Lee" (T. W. Connor)	Miss Millie Hylton
"One Little Cottage all Our Own" (J. F. Lambe)	Miss Dolly Harmer
"Revenges" (Dunlop and Pether) [Above also sung by Whit Cunliffe].	Wallis Arthur
"She must have known!" (David and Scott)	J. E. Coyle
She said, 'Baa! Baa! Baa!'" (Harrington and H. Allen)	Miss Florrie Forde
"She taught him a thing or two, too" (Leigh and Le Brunn)	Miss E. Douglas
"Sit on 'em and keep 'em warm" (Wincott & Leighton)	Harry Champion
"Take this message to my sweetheart" (Mills and Castling)	Miss Marie Kendall
"That's him! That's him! That's him!" (Mills and Scott)	Harry Freeman
"The Boarding House Keeper" (Dickson and Randall)	Harry Randall.
"The Angel of My Dreams" (Leigh and Pether)	Miss Millie Lindon
"The Gambling Man" (Jerome and Schwartz)	Miss Carlotta Levey
"The New Insurance" (Arthurs and Lyle)	Ernest Shand
"The New Perjarma 'At" (T. W. Connor)	Gus Elen
"The Playground in the Sky" (Bateman and Pether)	Milner Veiren
"There goes my Soldier-Boy!" (Leigh and Savage)	Everybody.
"There was something on his mind" (Leigh and Le Brunn)	Miss Marie Lloyd
"The Saftest o' the Family" (Lauder and Beaton)	Harry Lauder
"The Seaside Sultan" (C. W. Murphy)	Miss Vesta Tilley
"The Statue in Trafalgar Square" (Arthurs and Lyle)	George Lashwood
"The Truth or a Lie?" (Barnes and Weston)	George D'Albert
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TO OUR READERS.

We beg to call attention to the fact that, on and after MONDAY next, March 13, 1905, the Editorial and Advertisement Offices of "THE ERA" will be at THE ERA Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., two doors off Wellington-street.

THE ERA

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1905.

THE ART OF ACTING.

An article which recently appeared in the *Times* in consideration of the excellent essay by MR. BEERBOHM TREE on "The Art of Acting" which we quoted from last week, is so characteristic of a certain critical attitude of mind as to deserve discussion. Mr. TREE'S remarks, as might have been expected, were absolutely practical. He had no theory to demonstrate; he simply stated what in his opinion were the "attributes" required by a would-be successful actor. The general tenour of Mr. TREE'S statements was in the direction that the actor should not be too deeply informed. He did not regard a University education as being advantageous to the aspirant, and thought that a "bowing acquaintance" with the European languages was all that was necessary for him. "The actor," Mr. TREE went so far as to say, "must have an original observation. If he sees everything in that conventional outlook which a too rigid regard for what is called 'good form' is apt to generate, it is impossible for him to give an original point of view to his impersonation; and acting must be individual in its conception and representation."

The writer in the *Times* is much exercised by this pronouncement on the part of one of our foremost actor-managers; and he proceeds to argue—or, rather, to insidiously suggest—that the actor, as regards life, is, so to speak, "out of it." Incidentally, the essayist betrays his idea of what constitutes education. "Education," says he, "as generally understood, means a thorough knowledge of a few subjects. Education, as generally understood, tends to the repression of emotion. Further, education involves continuous and hard reading." And he adds, in conclusion:—

Our inquiry has wandered rather far from Mr. Tree's remarks on "How to Act." We return to them for one moment to point out that they have a reverse side. They virtually admit that the actor is not as other men, and cannot be. Many actors are peculiarly, and we think rather absurdly, sensitive on this point. They even go so far as to contend that the actor's profession does not stamp him. If that were so he would be the one solitary exception to the general rule that the dyer's hand is subdued to what it works in. We have never heard that those useful domestics whose duties involve constant genuflexion object to being warned against "housemaid's knee," or that "clergyman's sore throat" is a tabooed topic in country parsonages; but it has often been made known to us that we must never talk of "the histrionic temperament," still less of *cabotinage*. And yet here is Mr. Tree telling us that the good actor is condemned to be a smatterer, to read as little as possible, and to be excluded from a University training. In other words, the peculiar qualifications for life inside the playhouse are what are generally held to be disqualifications for life outside it. This statement from so high an authority "*donne furieusement à penser.*"

The weak point of the writer's argument lies in his entirely imaginary idea of men "generally." The educated individual whom he describes—the person who has passed his time in hard reading, who knows a few subjects—say, Greek and Mathematics—thoroughly, and has completely achieved "the suppression of emotion," is simply the common or garden Prig. While we concur with Mr. TREE in thinking that a University education is not absolutely necessary to an actor, we are inclined to imagine that it does not do him any harm. The natural objection of young Englishmen of any class to "book-learning," and their instinctive devotion to sport and athletics, are usually sufficient antidotes to what is erroneously called Education. At our seats of learning, the "hard readers" are in the minority; and something very like the Greek ideal of Education is attained. We are too apt to attribute the conceit and weak reverence for "form" which are the natural attributes of youth to the influence upon young men of a University career. And any system which keeps growing lads out of mischief during a critical period, gives them every facility for athletics, and maintains a certain standard of manners, is something to be admired. And then there is the question of physique, so important to an actor. Of course, no amount of Latin and Greek will make a GARRICK of a born "stick"; but, on the other hand, as we must have mediocrities to fill middling parts, it is better to have them well-grown, with easy deportment, and a refined pronunciation of English. As for the high histrionic gift, there is probably the same average amount of it in one class as in another.

The men of account, the leaders of the world, have been just the opposite of the Educated Man as idealised by the *Times* essayist. The *Times* itself is a survival of a remarkable individual named DELANE. He was really, and not nominally, "educated." In most biographies of men of importance it is noticeable that they either were imperfectly educated—according to the Oxford view of what constitutes education—or that they were lazy and idle scholars. It would indeed be amusing to observe the Educated Man, as depicted in the *Times* article, in the position of a modern leading actor for only one day. So far from the actor-manager being not as other men, he is obliged to be very much as other men, the only difference being an excess in the degree of his intense humanity. From morning till evening he is immersed in "affairs." Telephones ring him up, secretaries pester him with letters that must be attended to, he has to give decisions in a hundred minor cases which he, and he alone, can judge. He is the centre of a vortex in which whirl countesses and costumiers, dramatists and dressers, archæologists and ambassadors, writers of "appreciations" and writers of begging-letters, interviewers waiting for a word or two and actors seeking engagements, invitations to dinner and supplications for speeches, weak-minded wanderers who want to adopt the stage as a profession, carpenters, carping critics, photographers, financiers, fencing masters, fiddlers, philosophers, philanthropists, philanderers, and false prophets. In the intervals of performances, in the harness of his profession, with the grease-paint on his cheeks, and the "words" upon his lips, he has to keep the pack of persecutors at bay by sheer energy and ability. The writer of the article in the *Times* may consider that this is not "life." We admit that it is not life as it looks to a college don or to a clerk in Somerset House. But it is the life which, in a more moderate degree, has to be led by every man who girds up his loins and goes down into the battle. So far from the Perfect Prig being qualified to lead the "life" in question, he is notoriously handicapped by his preparation. The actor, like other artists, is certainly "stamped" by the possession of the artistic temperament, just as all the strenuous and nervous callings are stamped. But to say that the peculiar qualifications for life inside the playhouse are what are generally held to be disqualifications for life outside it is not only to "beg the question," but to beg it most unskilfully. But that is what comes of "thinking furiously," and shutting one's eyes and ears to actualities.

MISS VIOLET FULTON, who played successfully in the provinces last year as Zaza, has gained favour at the Théâtre des Capucines, Paris, with Madame Jeanne Granier, in *La Bonne Intention*. Miss Fulton will shortly take up the lead at the Capucines in a new play now being written by M. Féraudy of the Comédie Française.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER'S programme for his matinée for the London unemployed at the St. James's Theatre on the 23rd inst. is a particularly attractive one, including as it does a revival of *'Op o' My Thumb*, with Miss Hilda Trevelyan in her original part; a scene from *The Taming of the Shrew*, played by the Adelphi company; the third act of *The Freedom of Suzanne*, with Miss Marie Tempest; *The Ballad Monger*, with Mr. Beerbohm Tree as Gringoire; Mr. Cyril Maude and Miss Winifred Emery, in the Quarrel scene from *The School for Scandal;* Mr. Arthur Bourchier, in *Dr. Johnson*, supported by Mr. A. E. George, Mr. H. B. Warner, and Miss Elfrida Clement; and Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Eric Lewis, and Mr. Vivian Reynolds in an adaptation by Max Hecht from the French of Octave Mirbeau. Recitations and songs will be given by Miss Lena Ashwell, Mr. Lewis Waller, Miss Evelyn Millard, Mr. George Grossmith, jun., Miss Marie Studholme, Mr. Hayden Coffin, Mr. Rutland Barrington, and Miss Connie Ediss; and Lady Bancroft will announce the amount earned by the matinée.

MR. FRED C. SUTCLIFFE, the manager of the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, has sent a cheque for £28 13s. 3d. to the Actors' Benevolent Fund from the proceeds of a matinée given at that theatre. the balance-sheet of which appears in another column.

"AGATHA."

A Play, in Three Acts, by Mrs. Humphry Ward and Louis N. Parker,
Produced at a matinée at His Majesty's Theatre, on Tuesday, March 7.

Agatha Fancourt	Miss VIOLA TREE.
Lady Fancourt	Miss LILLAH MCCARTHY
Madge Meyrick	Miss HENRIETTA WATSON
Mrs. Bob Meyrick	Miss ALICE CRAWFORD
Davies	Miss EVELYN BEAUMONT
Colonel Ford	Mr DAWSON MILWARD
Ralph Abington	Mr. HENRY NEVILLE
Sir Richard Fancourt..	Mr. HERBERT WARING
Maurice Fancourt	Mr. CHARLES MAUDE
Frank Meyrick	Mr. ROB HARWOOD
Teddy Meyrick	Mr. JULIAN L'ESTRANGE
Batson	Mr. E. C. BUFFUM

When highly intellectual novelists write for the stage they often "overdo it." They are so convinced that a theatrical audience will not "stand" anything really deep or thoughtful that they go to the other extreme and employ the stalest situations and the most conventional motives. They "play for safety," and take no risks. The situations in *Agatha*, which was produced at His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday at a matinée in aid of the Princess Mary's Village Homes, are familiar to practised playgoers. The dialogue is much better written than the dialogue in pieces of this class usually is; but neither the plot nor the personages are "new."

The heroine, the daughter of Sir Richard and Lady Fancourt, has parents who cause her much uneasiness. Sir Richard has run through his property, and is looking out for a rich husband for his daughter, who may set him on his legs again; and Lady Fancourt, in the past, has "gone wrong" with a certain Ralph Abington, the innocent and unfortunate Agatha being the result. The wealthy suitor appears in the person of one Colonel Ford; and, as the girl greatly approves of him, all seems likely to turn out well. But Fancourt, in a tipsy mood, lets out to his daughter the secret of her illegitimacy, and threatens that if Agatha does not marry Ford, he—Fancourt—will expose her mother's shame. There has been a "tiff" between the lovers on a question of propriety; but Ford returns to the charge, and renews his suit. Then comes the "big scene" of the piece. Agatha tries to carry out her father's instructions, and accepts Ford; but she finds that she cannot go through with the business; and, while confessing that she loves the Colonel, she tells him that she can never be his wife. In the last act things are set straight so far as they can be; and—it is hardly necessary to state—Ford and Agatha are united.

Agatha certainly served the purpose for which it was produced, *i.e.*, of furnishing Miss Viola Tree with another stepping-stone on her upward career. It is quite possible that a less conventional drama would not have answered that purpose as well. We must be commonplace before we can be original, and practise before we can trust ourselves with a free hand; and the rôle of the young lady in Mrs. Humphry Ward and Mr. Louis N. Parker's play is just what is required to tempt and assist the young idea to shoot. It is neither subtle enough to puzzle an aspirant, nor strong enough to overload her; while it is theatrically and emotionally effective. Above all, it is simple and straightforward; all it wants is the dramatic instinct and a pleasing and suitable personality. Miss Tree has, of course, still much to learn in the way of stage expedient and technique; but in the part of Agatha her good qualities had full scope. There was a convincing reality about her impersonation of the young and inexperienced girl, who suddenly realises all the base and sordid possibilities of life, and has to make the best fight she can of it, with all the shortcomings of youth and inexperience against her. Had Miss Tree been an older and more "stagey" artist, the pathos of the position would have seemed far less keen. She gave us, to the full, the ingenuousness of Agatha, and looked the part as only an actress of her age could have done. Seldom has helplessness appealed more poignantly to an audience. Not that Miss Tree's Agatha gave one the idea of feebleness. On the contrary, there was plenty of courage and spirit in her impersonation. In the scene at the end of the second act, in which Agatha is torn by successive emotions, Miss Tree exhibited an amount of dramatic power and a truth and depth of expression which promised rare proficiency in the future, and touched the audience very deeply. There can be no doubt of her possessing all the essential gifts which go to make an actress.

It was in this same second act that the best chance was afforded to Miss Lillah McCarthy, as Lady Fancourt, of exhibiting her striking ability as an emotional artist. In the scene between the mother and the daughter, Miss McCarthy's acting was very telling and true; and she developed the possibilities of the situation with genuine earnestness and power, chastened by grace of attitude and movement, and embellished by the use of an admirably modulated voice. Most fortunate on the male side of the cast was Mr. Dawson Milward, who infused into his embodiment of Colonel Ford a touch of airy activity which gave it an agreeable flavour. Mr. Milward's wooing was warm and eloquent; and he made the Colonel a very gallant and generous gentleman. Mr. Herbert Waring gave a graphic depiction of the dissolute and selfish Sir Richard Fancourt; and Mr. Henry Neville, who had few chances as Ralph Abington, made the most of a poor part by his thoroughly trained skill and experienced treatment. Slight but clever character sketches of a band of Bohemians of the name of Meyrick were supplied by Miss Henrietta Watson, always crisp and brilliant; Miss Alice Crawford, who was quite commendable as Mrs. Bob Meyrick; by that sound and original artist, Mr. Robb Harwood, whose Frank Meyrick did him great credit; and by Mr. Julian L'Estrange, who deserved praise for his performance as Teddy Meyrick. There was a good house to witness *Agatha*, and £1,600 were earned for the Village Homes.

COVENT GARDEN BALL.

It was intended that the Shrove Tuesday ball at the Covent Garden Opera House should be the last of what has been an extremely successful season, but the attendance was so great that Mr. Frank Rendle and Mr. Neil Forsyth have arranged for an extra one to be given on the 31st inst., the eve of Boat Race day. The ball, which was brought to a conclusion in the early hours of this morning, was the twelfth of the season, and the third given within three weeks. Mr. Dan Godfrey, as usual, conducted the excellent band. There was a large number of fancy costumes, and in many electric light was skilfully arranged. About two o'clock the march past began, and the judges awarded the prizes, which included a boudoir suite of furniture and two bureaux. Among the conspicuous dresses were "The House that Jack Built," in which the Maiden all Forlorn occupied a prominent place, "Summer Showers," and "A Few Songs," the latter furnished with painted panels representing some of the latest popular ballads. "Queen Bee," a pretty dress of yellow satin, of bee-shaped design, with wings and paintings of bee-hives, carried off first prize. "Girls of all Nations," a dress of white pleated chiffon, with bunches of oxeye daisies on the skirt, bodice, and hat, secured the second prize; and "Red Indian," a man's costume, obtained the third, the fourth and fifth being awarded to "The Flowers that Bloom in the Spring" and "Just off for a Spin." "A Mission of Mercy" was the winner of the sixth award. Among other striking costumes were "In Olden Days," "Golden Knight," "Cornfields," "An Arab," and "A Diver."

"MR. SMITH."

Comedy Drama, in Three Acts,
By Walter Reynolds,
Played, for the first time in London, at the Camden Theatre, on Monday, March 6.

Mr. Earle Godwyn Smith	MR. HAMILTON STEWART
The Earl of Oxted	MR. HENRY LATIMER
The Duke of Angleland..	MR. E. LUMSDEN HARE
The Hon. Dudley Dysart	MR. ARTHUR BURNE
Jack Berkeley	MR. SYDNEY BLOW
Herr Deidrich Anheuser	MR. E. DAGNALL
The Duchess of Angleland	MISS AGNES KNIGHTS
Lady Mary Hildergate ..	MISS OLIVE TEMPLE
Ruth Anheuser.....	MISS PHYLLIS RELPH
Mrs. Smith	MISS HENRIETTA COWEN
Benson	MISS LINDA YLDERSON

On a certain occasion, when *H.M.S. Pinafore* was being played at a seaport town, the jolly tars who chiefly composed the audience absolutely refused to see anything funny in the story. They took the heroics of Ralph Rackstraw quite seriously, execrated Dick Deadeye, and were delighted with the discovery which, in Mr. Gilbert's famous libretto, puts everything straight. As long as *Mr. Smith* is played to a congenial "house," it is probable that the real merit of the work as a comedy-drama will not be impaired by the instability of its foundation; but we are afraid that a cynical West-End audience would consider the conclusion of the second act decidedly Gilbertian. Smith, a name to be ashamed of? How about Assheton Smith, and Greville Smith, and the founder of Ladysmith? Dod, Kelly, and Burke positively teem with titled and distinguished Smiths. The idea of a "reduced" aristocratic family objecting to a rich and refined suitor because his name is Smith, and he is a civil engineer, is absurd. There may be such extraordinary people; but they are curiosities, only fit for the local museums.

With this deduction, *Mr. Smith* is an effective play, and is well suited to tickle the palate of a popular audience. The personages—with the exception of the hero, who is endowed with a superiority and native grandeur almost beyond the reach of any actor to suggest—are natural and human; and the story is interesting, touching, and well told. The Duchess of Angleland, a doting mother, is in difficulties. Her only son, the Duke, is deeply in debt; and the Duchess is selling off farms and stock to meet his liabilities. Strangely enough—but what will not money do nowadays?—the Duchess has sent her daughter, Lady Mary, on a tour with a certain Milwaukee millionaire named Anheuser and his daughter. In the course of her travels, Lady Mary meets an eminent engineer, named Earle Godwyn Smith; and they fall in love. The rest of the Angleland family then commence to object to Smith in different degrees of energy. The Duchess is half-won by his noble bearing, and his fine flow of language; but the young Duke is positively rude to him; and the old Earl, an amateur engineer, writes to the Duchess strongly reprehending the proposed engagement. Smith's mother, a prosperous hay and corn dealeress, of homely manners and defective education, calls on the Duchess about the purchase of some stock, and emphasises the engineer's lowly origin. Then the Duchess has a bright idea. Why should not Smith change his name? "Never," says the engineer, "Smith I was born, Smith I will remain," &c., &c. He attains his purpose by other means. The Duke of Angleland has altered the amount of a cheque given to him by his friend, Jack Berkeley, from £1000 to £2000, and has cashed it; and Berkeley, on finding out the fraud, is anxious to prosecute. Smith, however, persuades him to wait, and buys the compromising cheque for £1,000. Later on, Berkeley discovers that Angleland has seduced his—Berkeley's—sweetheart; and in revenge accuses him, before his family, of the forgery. Smith then hands the Duke the cheque, which he immediately destroys; but the knowledge of the seduction of the sweetheart breaks off a rich marriage which the Duke had nearly "arranged" with the millionaire's daughter, Ruth Anheuser. As for the engineering Earl, he is completely vanquished by Smith's influence in high quarters, which ensures the Earl's plans for some Irish land improvements being adopted. So strong does Smith become, in the end, that he insists on his mother coming to live with him and Lady Mary after their marriage. This, we think, is a mistake. The old lady was "in the right of it." Even grammatically correct mothers-in-law are best beloved at a distance.

Mr. Smith was remarkably well acted, the part of the overpowering engineer having a very suitable exponent in Mr. Hamilton Stewart. Mr. Stewart is very tall, handsome, and solid. He has an aristocratic appearance, and a vast amount of significant repose. From the first, it was impossible not to feel confidence in this Mr. Smith. He was eminently superior, and yet readily expressive when expression was required. In Mr. Hamilton Stewart the right man had certainly been secured for the rôle; and to his more than adequate interpretation much of the success of the piece at the Camden on Monday, after its trial trip at Nottingham last week, was due. Miss Agnes Knights was a quite possible Duchess of Angleland, the suggestion of the middle-aged lady who "had been a beauty once" being appropriately indicated, and the mixture of family pride and natural good nature being very tactfully made. A very pretty and artless Lady Mary Hildergate was Miss Olive Temple, whose arch, gay, and impulsive acting made her performance of the part both winning and effective. Miss Phyllis Relph was just the business-like but good-natured and genuine American girl indicated by the text, and did not overdo the American twang—for which much thanks. Miss Henrietta Cowen hit off neatly the plebeian peculiarities of Mrs. Smith; and Miss Linda Ylderson made a neat and nice serving-maid. Mr. E. Dagnall's impersonation of the Milwaukee millionaire was in every way irreproachable; and in appearance, manner, and accent he developed to the utmost the possibilities of the part. A duly fervid and earnest embodiment of Jack Berkeley was contributed by Mr. Sydney Blow, whose style and enunciation were excellent; and Mr. Arthur Burne was easy and efficient as the Hon. Dudley Dysart. Mr. E. Lumsden Hare, as the Duke of Angleland, was as aristocratic in style and objectionable in substance as could be desired. In make-up and manner, Mr. Hare emphasised the self-indulgent, unprincipled, and sulky character of the Duke, without caricaturing the villainy of the personage. The excitable Earl of Oxted had a sympathetic exponent in Mr. Henry Latimer, whose active energy proved very valuable for purposes of contrast. The piece was well mounted, and was dressed with creditable care; and its reception at the Camden on Monday was enthusiastic. *Mr. Smith* is likely to give great satisfaction when presented to a slightly unsophisticated class of playgoer.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Will be of great service.—CHARLES WYNDHAM.

Very useful.—*Sporting Life*.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News*.

Mr. A. A. Strong has compiled an exceedingly useful volume dealing carefully, intelligently, and fully with the law bearing upon things theatrical. As a book of reference this excellent digest will be found invaluable.—*The Era*.

"THE MERCHANT" AT TERRY'S.

A version of *The Merchant of Venice*, "arranged and abridged to suit limited stage capacity," was performed at Terry's Theatre on Thursday afternoon under the direction of Mr. J. H. Barnes. The object of the revival was not immediately evident; but the point was cheerfully waived by the audience, who obviously enjoyed the very careful and creditable performance of the play. Mr. Barnes's Antonio was an excellent example of sound, ripe, sympathetic acting; and his delivery of the merchant's touching farewell to his friend in the trial scene, with its effective "break" in the voice at the conclusion, was a model for young elocutionists. Mr. Henry Ainley's Bassanio certainly did not err on the side of over-animation; indeed, we always imagined the extravagant but straightforward heiress-hunter as a more dashing and demonstrative personage than he was made by Mr. Ainley, whose picturesque personality and refined diction were, however, very commendable. His repose and restraint were remarkable; and his Bassanio was what in hackneyed phrase is defined as a "perfect gentleman." Miss Constance Stuart's Portia was graced by the delicate distinctness which is often charmingly allied with the "least possible" suggestion of a Scotch accent; and the archness and spirit of her delivery were admirable. In the triumph of the trial she was, perhaps, a little too much of the exultant partisan and hardly enough of the judge pronouncing sentence; but her performance had many agreeable qualities, and was undoubtedly intelligent. Mr. Loring Fernie hit off the characteristics of Gratiano capitally. He was exuberant without exaggeration, and his elocution was so good, that we were sorry that several of Gratiano's best speeches had been "cut." Mr. C. Harris and Mr. W. Pigot played Salanio and Salarino satisfactorily; Mr. Twyford gave an acceptable embodiment of Lorenzo; and the really difficult rôle of Launcelot Gobbo was sustained with tact, decision, and humour by Mr. John Willes. Mr. Norman Forbes's Shylock was a strong, careful, and artistic impersonation. Mr. Forbes made every line tell definitely and decidedly, and his impersonation had much dignity, intensity, and power. The senility of Old Gobbo was indicated by Mr. Hawley Francks with realistic but inoffensive elaboration, his make-up being excellent; and the rôle of Tubal had a conscientious exponent in Mr. C. Medwin, Mr. F. Castlemain being entirely efficient as Balthazar. Miss Mariette Hyde was bright and clear as Nerissa, and Miss Madge Fabian made a pretty Jessica, and played the part with pleasing sincerity, expressive inflexion, and praiseworthy appreciation of her lines. The management for the afternoon could not be accused of over-loading the play with mounting; but the immortal interest of the drama, and the very respectable all-round interpretation which it received, won a favourable verdict from the matinée audience.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Cora Stuart—Saturday, March 11.
Gertrude Le Sage—Saturday, March 11.
Ernest St. John—Saturday, March 11.
Colin Hazlewood—Saturday, March 11.
Frank E. Burdette—Saturday, March 11.
Arthur Patmore—Saturday, March 11.
Arthur Forrest—Saturday, March 11.
John L. Toole—Sunday, March 12.
August Manns—Sunday, March 12.
Edith Rosenthal—Sunday, March 12.
Harry A. Gribben—Sunday, March 12.
F. Wybert Clive—Sunday, March 12.
Charles Waterfield—Monday, March 13.
Alexandra Dagmar—Monday, March 13.
Annie Saker—Monday, March 13.
Lillian Thornton—Tuesday, March 14.
Mrs. Kendal—Wednesday, March 15.
Leslie Stuart—Wednesday, March 15.
Lily English—Wednesday, March 15.
Harry Paulton—Thursday, March 16.
Edith Blande—Thursday, March 16.
Phyllis Broughton—Friday, March 17.
Mabel Engelhardt—Friday, March 17.
Arthur Forrest—Saturday, March 11.
Edwin Boyde—Monday, March 13.
George Aytoun—Tuesday, March 14.
R. D. Lincoln—Wednesday, March 15.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The third concert in connection with the Patron's Fund, founded by Mr. S. Edward Palmer, was given at the Royal College on Thursday last, when the orchestra of eighty-one players comprised forty-four from the Royal College, the remainder being from the London Symphony and other orchestras. The first item was a serenade by William H. Bell, a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, in four movements, suggested by the famous *Epithalamion* of Spencer. The opening movement for wood and strings is followed by an andante and a brisk intermezzo, the finale allegro vivace having much animation, the employment of the wood and wind displaying admirable skill and undoubted promise for the future. The piece composed by Mr. T. F. Dunhills, who was trained at the Royal College, was a Manx Fantasia, with a violin solo, played by Mr. Haydn Wood, who greatly distinguished himself, and met with a rapturous reception. The composer has aimed at introducing Manx melodies, some of them dreamy, vague, and melancholy, but less characteristic of national feeling than Irish or Scotch airs would have been. But of the workmanship, from a musical point of view, we can speak in high praise, and, in fact, Mr. Dunhills has already obtained a good position among native musicions. "Songs from Heine" came next, by G. Molyneux Palmer, also a pupil of the Royal College. Here the composer has happily caught the quaintness of Heine, and in the poem, "Golden stars across the heavens," the musician has with great skill worked up the picturesque effects suggested by the verses. The concert piece for organ and orchestra by Benjamin Dale, of the Royal Academy, himself an excellent organist, showed remarkable boldness of design and ability in blending the organ and orchestra, the result being a magnificent volume of tone, ending with a climax of immense vigour, exciting great enthusiasm. The work of Mr. Gardiner, who had been trained privately, was a suite in A major, in four movements, all well constructed, and showing great command of the orchestra. Some of the composers conducted their own music, others were directed by Sir Charles Stanford with his customary ability. The audience was enormous, and the students in their respective efforts were warmly greeted.

AN interesting presentation was made last week to Mr. Fred L. Arthur, business manager of the Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, on his leaving to tour with one of Messrs. Carson and Granville's companies. During his managership at the Queen's Mr. Arthur made many friends who regret his departure, and to show their appreciation of him they, along with the staff of the theatre, entertained him to supper at the Goat Hotel, where he was presented with an illuminated address, a gold chain and pendant, and a purse of gold.

"ALICE, WHERE ART THOU?" a romantic drama, by Louie Neville-Banwell, was produced for copyright purposes, at the Opera House, Weymouth, on the 2nd inst.

MUSIC HALL GOSSIP.

Captain Jessel, whose Public Entertainment Bill stood for second reading in the House of Commons on Monday night, has postponed the measure for a fortnight, in order to give the representatives of the theatres and music-halls an opportunity of conferring together and effecting a compromise on the question of music-hall sketches.

The London Entertainments Protection Association, in a circular issued to members of Parliament, inviting support for the Sketch Bill, submit that the recent judgments clearly show that the vexatious prosecutions are not favoured by the authorities. One peculiarity of the Bill is that no provision is made for censorship, which is insisted upon as a preliminary condition to the production of pieces in the theatres.

Mr. Bransby Williams, the well-known impersonator of Dickens's characters, made his first appearance at the Empire on Monday, in a new monologue, from the pen of Miss Beatrix de Burgh, entitled *The Last of His Race*. The young actor impersonates a reckless spendthrift, named Faversham, who has gambled away his inheritance.

The period is the eighteenth century, and Faversham, like another Charles Surface, is surrounded by the portraits of his ancestors, each of whom, in turn, he apostrophises before he elects to die by his own hand. He kisses the miniature of his betrothed, and is devotional in his utterances to his mother's portrait; but another picture rouses his ire, and he runs his sword through it. Behold an avalanche of gold! The incident is providential, and now there is nothing to prevent young Faversham becoming a highly-respected aristocrat, with hopes and ambitions consonant with his exalted station. Mr. Williams makes a gallant figure of Faversham, and is strongly dramatic in an impersonation that suits him admirably.

Miss Beatrix de Burgh, the authoress of *The Last of His Race*, has written several dramatic pieces, and is part authoress of *Heart of Gold*, a Russo-Japanese romance. She also writes stories. As an actress, she appeared in the original cast of *Paolo and Francesca* at the St. James's, and played on tour Miss Granville's part in *Billy's Little Love Affair*.

At the London Pavilion, a matinée will be given on May 8 next, in aid of a special fund for an endowment cot to be placed in the Belgrave Hospital for Children, Clapham-road, in memory of the late Mr. Dan Leno. The cost of the cot will be about £1,000. Mr. Leno was a vice-president of the hospital, and always greatly interested himself in its welfare. The institution itself, which is the only children's hospital in the neighbourhood, a poor and thickly populated one, is much in need of assistance.

An action against Mr. Whit Cunliffe was brought by the London Pavilion Company on Tuesday in Mr. Justice Farwell's Court. In September, 1903, Mr. Cunliffe entered into an agreement with the manager of the plaintiff company to commence an engagement at their music hall on April 4, 1904, for four weeks, at a weekly salary of £8 per week. He also agreed not to appear at any other music hall within a mile of the plaintiffs' establishment whilst he was appearing at the Pavilion. There was also an option given to the plaintiffs, and when they communicated with the defendant and told him at what dates they would require him to appear at their establishment, he replied that he could not do so, as he had entered into a contract to perform at the Tivoli and Oxford. After some discussion, it was stated that the parties had come to an amicable settlement.

Mr. Horace Goldin, the illusionist, tells a good little story of the earliest of his early days on the stage. He was engaged by the manager of a New York pleasure resort to give an hour's entertainment at the exorbitant salary of a dollar a day. At the end of the first week, to the young conjuror's great surprise, he was told that his services would no longer be required. Having been very successful, he naturally pressed the manager for the reason for such a sudden dismissal. "Don't you find my performance interests the audiences?" he asked. "That's the trouble," was the frank reply. "You interest 'em so much that they don't stroll away to buy drinks."

Mr. Rutland Barrington, who shares with Mr. George Grossmith, Mr. Richard Temple, and Miss Rosina Brandram the honour of being among the old brigade of Savoyards, will have no part in Mr. George Edwardes's new production at Daly's and his services have been immediately secured by Mr. Oswald Stoll for the Coliseum. Mr. Barrington will be a great acquisition to the unique place of amusement in St. Martin's-lane.

Mr. Joe Elvin will produce at the Camberwell Palace on Monday next an entirely new and original comedy sketch, entitled *Out All Night*, from the pen of Mr. Wal Pink, the music being by George Le Brunn. For the above, a special novel scene has been painted by Syd Cook.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lawson very kindly lent the scenery and dresses for the performance of an operetta by the St. Barnabas' Girls' Club at the Avondale Hall, Clapham, and the valuable aid given by the amiable and popular club is very highly appreciated by the Rev. F. G. Sandworth and others interested in the welfare of the club.

Mr. Morney Cash has a new dialect act as a Lancashire lad, and he has become as popular at the Lyceum this week as the lady known on the theatrical stage many years since as the Lancashire lass. Messrs. C. W. Murphy and Dan Lipton, who are responsible for his songs, have written for him a very popular number known by the short and expressive title, "Bed," and this he purposes introducing into his act next week.

At the Surrey on Monday evening next will be produced by Mr. Edward Ranier a sensational dramatic sketch entitled *Siberia*, founded on the story of the spectacle of the same name which was so popular at the London Hippodrome a short time since. It will be produced on a very lavish scale, and there will be six principal characters and twenty-five supers, also five trained horses.

Mr. H. J. Kibbey writes, in view of the fact that Mr. Stratton Mills and Miss Alice Lethbridge are working a sketch in which the gentleman poses as "The Call Boy," that he has for some time performed an act entitled *The Call Boy*. He registered the title some years ago, and it is an infringement for anyone else to make use of it.

Vasco, the "mad musician," who is appearing with great success at the London Hippodrome, recently had the honour of appearing before the King and Queen and the Prince and Princess of Wales, who were highly complimentary in their appreciation of his remarkable performance.

Mr. Walter Forder's latest dramatic sketch, entitled *The Light of Dawn*, was produced for the first time at the Battersea Empire, on Wednesday, March 2nd. The period of the story is early Georgian, and centres itself around the follies of a gambler. Miss Emily Hughes gave a sympathetic rendering of Lady Tyrringham; and Mr. Frank Harding and Mr. Cecil Wallis found full scope for their talents as Captain Fane and Sir Charles Tyrringham respectively. The sketch was greeted with much appreciation.

Mrs. Thomas Barrasford, on Wednesday, entertained to lunch, at the Royal York Hotel, Brighton, a large party, including the Mayor and Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. Blaker), Mr. W. B. Gentle (Chief Constable), Mrs. T. P. O'Connor, and other ladies and gentlemen, to meet Smaun Sing Hpoo, the smallest midget in the world. During luncheon he created much amusement. Perched in his high chair, he joined in the conversation quite freely. He also indulged in a cigarette. Before leaving he was photographed together with Mrs. Barrasford and her little son. It may be of interest to note that Mrs. Barrasford was the first lady to give a public luncheon to the late lamented "Esau," the human ape. This fashion of entertaining afterwards became the craze of the ladies in both London and Paris.

The Bristol Licensed Trade second annual carnival and sports to alleviate the debt of the Royal Infirmary were held on Wednesday on the Bristol Rovers' ground, Eastville. The Management Committee, of which Mr. H. Smith was chairman, were loyally assisted by Messrs. J. M. Chute, of the Prince's Theatre; Ernest Carpenter, of the Theatre Royal; and Horace Livermore, of the People's Palace. Their companies, too, volunteered their services, and very heartily entered into the spirit of the affair. One feature of the procession was a stage coach having members of the Palace company arrayed in Court costumes. Miss Lil Hawthorne and Miss Zena Dare drove in separate carriages. Miss Ethel Campbell (Robinson Crusoe) was busily engaged with a net in angling for gold.

There were 4,000 people on the Rovers' ground to welcome the entertainers. The programme at the very start was enlivened by some funny business by a couple of policemen arresting, after a chase, the "Nurse" and the "Queen" of the Prince's pantomime. The Pink Pearl Band paraded the ground, playing merry tunes. An exciting event was the 50 yards ladies' race for the principals of both theatres. The first prize was £5 5s., the second £3 3s., and the third £1 1s. In the first heat Miss Ethel Campbell fell. It was won by Miss Maud Darling, Miss Margery Moore being second, and Miss Anita Primrose third. The second heat winners were Miss Gladys Munroe, Miss Ivy Temblett, and Miss Rosie Commolly. The other heat winners were Miss Minnie Love, Miss Flo Edwin, Miss Mina Odell, and Miss Ruby Dale. The final produced a good deal of excitement, and the ladies ran with great gusto and earnestness. Miss Rosie Commolly won, Miss Gladys Munroe being second, and Miss Mina Odell third. Mr. Albert Le Fre, Mr. W. H. Rawlins, Mr. Lionel Victor, Mr. Bob King, Mr. Sydney Rowlands, and Messrs. Karr and Kooney ably assisted in the fun-making.

At the People's Palace, Bristol, a special matinée performance was given on March 2 in aid of the Bristol Marine Ambulance Corps. It was a decided success, both from the point of view of the Marine Ambulance Corps and the audience. The house was packed, and a substantial sum will be handed to the corps as the result of the performance. From the Prince's Theatre came Miss Zena Dare and the Tiller Troupe of dancers. Mr. Ernest F. Laws and Messrs. Karr and Kooney, from the Theatre Royal, contributed items that were heartily applauded. Miss Margaret Ruby, the principal boy at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, in addition to giving a turn by herself, was associated with Mr. Ernest Laws in a clever little musical sketch, entitled *Cora's Visitors*. These turns were all in addition to the usual artistes, who included Mr. Harry Lauder, the well-known Scotch comedian, and Miss Maggie Duggan. In the course of the afternoon bouquets were handed to Miss Zena Dare, Miss Maggie Duggan, and the Tiller Troupe.

Mr. Horace Livermore, after expressing the pleasure it gave him to be present, said he believed Bristol was the only city in the kingdom that had such a fine body as the Marine Ambulance Corps at its command. Lieut. Washer, upon whom the work of arranging the performance had devolved, heartily thanked Mr. Livermore on behalf of the corps. Thanks were also due to Mr. Chute, of the Prince's Theatre, Mr. Carpenter, of the Theatre Royal, the artistes, and the staff of the People's Palace. He must not forget to mention the kindness he had received from all who were interested in their work.

In an interval during the performance at the People's Palace, Bristol, on Saturday evening, Captain Tresize formally presented to Mr. Horace Livermore, on behalf of the Bristol Marine Ambulance Corps, a framed illuminated certificate of hon. membership of the society. Mr. Livermore has been instrumental in augmenting the funds of that society by special performances at the People's Palace, and it was in recognition of his generosity in doing so that it was decided to make him an hon. member (the first) of the organisation. Mr. Livermore feelingly acknowledged the presentation.

The King's Theatre of Varieties, Roscommon-street, Liverpool, which was closed some weeks ago, has been reopened under new management. The former name of Roscommon has been reverted to.

Mr. Cliff Ryland, who has learnt the value of being quite "himself" on the variety stage, has just finished a three months' London season, and starts on the Barrasford tour on Monday, returning to London in July. Mr. Cliff Ryland, jun., is working with his father now, and already displays much hereditary ability.

Great Scott, the ladder equilibrist, sails for America on March 15 per s.s. Baltic, under contract with Keith and Proctor's for a lengthy tour. On his return to this country, he will play the Barrasford tour.

Mr. Ted Cowan starts a seven weeks' run on the Moss tour on Monday. Weather permitting, he will do all his journeys on his 3½ horse-power Rex motor cycle. He will commence his first journey from London to Sheffield on Sunday, and will be accompanied as far as Leicester by Mr. Sam Mayo and Mr. Tom Pacey, who will travel on Mr. Pacey's new 24 horse-power Mercedes car.

Miss Ada Twibell finishes to-night a most successful pantomime engagement as principal boy in Eade Montefiore's grand pantomime *Cinderella*, which has had a run of thirteen weeks in Edinburgh and Newcastle. Miss Twibell will start on the Barrasford tour on Monday at the Pavilion, Newcastle.

The Three Sisters Grosvenor, operatic vocalists, finish a very successful pantomime tour of thirteen weeks on March 25, when they return to the London halls until the end of June. They have been re-engaged by Messrs. Griffin and Drake for their next year's production.

Oakdene, the speciality ventriloquist, is nothing if not original, and his new act marks an entirely fresh departure in the polyphonic art. It is entitled "Fun in a Studio," and has a gorgeous electrical setting. Oakdene has been secured by Mr. W. H. Broadhead for two years at each of his halls. When are we to see him in London?

The Misses Dolly and Madge McCalla who have been playing the babes in the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, have been attacked by measles, and have, in consequence, been obliged to cancel all their north country engagements. They will open in London on March 27.

Mr. Arthur Yates has severed his connection with the Tivoli; and Mr. Joseph Wilson, of the Avenue Theatre, becomes manager of the popular Strand house on Monday next, having been released from his engagement by Mr. Frank Curzon. Mr. Wilson will be remembered as the successful impersonator of the sailor man in *The French Maid*, at Terry's and the Vaudeville, back in the 'nineties; and he has also fulfilled engagements at the Tivoli, Oxford, and other prominent halls, where he made a feature of the song, "The portrait next my heart."

The friends of Mr. Fred Reeves, the popular agent, will be very sorry to hear that he has been suffering since Monday last from inflammation of the appendix. His medical advisers fear the development of appendicitis, and are using every endeavour to prevent it.

That enthusiastic fisherman, Mr. Ernest Shand, has been having some excellent sport during the last fortnight in the River Tay. He has killed no less than ten salmon, weighing 17, 21½, 13½, 10, 17, 22, 22, 16½, 13, and 24 lbs., the last a fine clean run fish. Three of the beauties were caught in an hour and a half. Mr. Shand also landed about a dozen kelts.

Mr. G. H. Chirgwin has been entertaining audiences at Cardiff, Swansea, and Newport, and, with that gallantry for which he has always been famous, has sung special verses anent the Swansea girls. He now returns to the Palace and other halls for two months.

The revival of *The Little Stowaway*, which will be given at the Canterbury shortly, reminds the music hall frequenter of the production of the sketch, which is written by Mr. Fred Bowyer, at the Paragon on July 1, 1889, with the lamented Jenny Hill as "the litle hero," created by Arthur Matthison's verses. The piece, which was the cause of quite a sketch controversy among the members of the first London County Council, has now been acquired by Miss Ethel Arden and Mr. George Abel. Their choice for the impersonator of the gallant waif has fallen on Miss Nellie Bowman, one of the celebrated Sisters Bowman, who made her first appearance at the age of eight years as the heroine in *Editha's Burglar*. *The Little Stowaway*, since its first production, has been revived at the Paragon, Canterbury, and Oxford.

Sir A. Mackenzie's operetta, *The Knights of the Road*, so successfully produced at the Palace Theatre, has been secured by Germany, and a touring company will start early in April to exploit it in the Fatherland.

The pictures at the Palace include a panoramic view of the Channel Fleet and a series of excellent films, among others being the King Edward VII., the most powerful ship in the British Navy, and the Kaiser opening the new Protestant Cathedral. There is also a remarkable set of comic episodes arising out of an obstinate man's disregard of a popular superstition.

Mr. Horace Goldin, who is continuing a most successful engagement at the Palace, appeared last week at the Duchess of Marlborough's party, and entertained thereat their Majesties the King and Queen. Mr. Goldin, for this occasion only, made an exception to his usual rule, and appeared at more than one place nightly.

Miss Georgina Leonard returns to town on Monday after an absence of three months, and opens at the Holloway Empire with new songs, written and composed by P. V. Weston, F. J. Barnes, A. E. Lawrence, and Fred Lincoln. Miss Leonard, who has been playing most successfully the principal boy's part in Dottridge and Longden's pantomime, *Goody Two Shoes*, has been offered a leading rôle in one of Mr. George Edwardes's new productions at Daly's.

Miss "Del" Levey, skilled in fence, has been meeting man—proud man—with the foils. Sergeant Sherret, of Greenock, found her a very tough opponent, and the fine play of the rapier was highly appreciated by a number of experts at the local Empire. She has fenced three matches altogether, and is none the worse for a cut and several bruises. She regards foil play as a fine preservative and strengthener of the voice.

Miss Millie Hylton finishes a three months' engagement at the London Coliseum on Saturday, and opens at the Palace, Camberwell, and Granville, Walham Green, on Monday, with new songs by Harrington and Le Brunn and J. W. Tate.

Miss Frankie Bailey and company, including Miss Mabel Lynn, Bena Hoffman, Mae Sherwood, Violet Handy, and Florence Averell, all of Weber and Fields, New York, arrived in London on Thursday per s.s. Manitou. They will shortly make their appearance in the principal London halls. Miss Bailey is located at the Hotel Russell.

Miss Harriett Vernon respectfully desires managers to refrain from using her name for billing or advertising any person without her written authority.

Miss Carlotta Levey commences a long and exclusive engagement at the Coliseum in July. She is producing this week at the Empire, Bristol, Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's latest publication, entitled "A little boy called Taps."

Shean, Fox, and Shean, in an American act, new to England, have opened at the Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow, and owing to their success have been retained for two weeks longer, which is a splendid recommendation for them.—Ray and Calden opened at the Standard, Pimlico, with their new act on Monday, and were immediately re-engaged.

In consequence of the instantaneous hit of Miss Amy Clevere's tuneful song-scena entitled *My Paleface Queen*, at the Tivoli, Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter have accepted the lyric for immediate publication. It is from the joint pens of Messrs. John P. Harrington and George Le Brunn.

The 396th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Music Hall Artistes' Railway Association was held on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Joe O'Gorman, chairman of the committee, presiding. There were also present Messrs. Harry Freeman, Albert Voyce, Bob Hutt, George Gray, Charles Pastor, Cliff Ryland, Phil Ray, J. Burnell, Paul Martinetti, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). Mr. Douglas White's resignation as hon. treasurer to the association was accepted, and the following resolution was carried unanimously:—"That the committee, not wishing to put the general body of members to any further expense—as a general meeting means an expenditure of several pounds out of the funds of the Association, which can be saved—has appointed as hon. treasurer *pro tem.*, until the next annual general meeting, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, of *The Era*." It was decided to cancel the present arrangement of vouchers being issued on Saturdays at different times, and to make one uniform time in every town, viz., 12.30 (noon). It was agreed to send a letter to *The Sun* newspaper repudiating the insinuations contained in a paragraph referring to the association. On the proposition of Mr. Charles Pastor, seconded by Mr. George Gray, it was decided that an independent accountant be called in to put the books in order prior to their being taken over by the new hon. treasurer *pro tem.*, and Mr. McCarthy was elected as the said accountant. The secretary reported that 44 new members had joined during the past week, making a total number enrolled since the commencement of 11,418.

Mr. Edward Lewis made his début on the music hall stage on Monday at the Empire, Liverpool, and made an instantaneous success. He has been secured by Mr. Oswald Stoll for three months at the London Coliseum. His business is in the hands of Alfred Saker and Co.

The secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received the sum of £14 6s. 8d. from Mr. G. M. Steinson, being the part proceeds of a matinée held at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, on Feb. 23. The president and committee beg to thank Mr. Steinson and the ladies and gentlemen who so kindly assisted on the occasion.

Mr. Harry Tate was never blessed with a finer audience than he had last Friday, when he appeared before the King in his well-known sketch, *Motoring*. His Majesty, who is himself an enthusiastic motorist, laughed heartily at the troubles of the gentleman who starts out with the idea of compassing eighty miles an hour.

Cyclo is one of the few comedians on the wheel. In the guise of a dilapidated swell, he plays the josser cyclist to perfection, showing subsequently, however, that no position or no method of locomotion is too difficult for him. He rides on the lamp bracket, he lies down on the saddle, he rides with the front wheel in the air, he steeplechases over hats, he makes his machine absolutely buck-jump with him, and still he is coolly and to all appearances comfortable there. He is being rapidly booked up by Messrs. Pacey and Reeves.

Miss Geraldine Montrose, so well-known through the medium of her "creepy" sketch *The Snake*, will shortly produce a new and original petite comedietta, with music, expressly written for her by Messrs. John P. Harrington and George Le Brunn, and entitled *Hoaxing a Husband*, in which she will be supported by a well-known West End leading man.

In consequence of the great success of Madame Alice Esty, the operatic prima donna, at the Coliseum, Mr. Oswald Stoll has extended her engagement, and on Monday she will, by special permission, appear as Santuzza in a scene from Mascagni's famous opera, *Cavalleria Rusticana*. Madame Esty was in the original cast when *Cavalleria* was performed for the first time in English in this country at the Court Theatre, Liverpool, and since then has sung the rôle of Santuzza nearly 300 times. At the Coliseum Madame Esty will be supported by the auditorium choir and stage chorus of nearly 100 voices, and the grand orchestra, conducted by Walter Slaughter. The scene will be staged with special new scenery.

Miss Madge Lessing will also appear in two entirely new numbers, the first, a stirring military scena, entitled *A Little Boy called Taps*, Miss Lessing enacting the part of Bugler Taps, of the C.I.V.'s. She will be supported by the fifes and drums of a military band. Miss Lessing's second number is a grand floral scena, entitled *Rosa Anna*, written and composed by Melville Ellis. The colour scheme in this scene will be most artistic, and Miss Lessing will be supported by the sixteen special Coliseum dancers.

In addition to her Japanese song-scena, Miss Winifred Hare will appear in *An Incident in the Days of Sweet Nell*, and will sing "Banish Sorrow." The Meister Glee Singers have also been engaged by Mr. Stoll, and there will be eleven other new numbers added to the programme.

Mr. Bob Hutt, a comedian with an excellent sense of humour, is exploiting a farcical scena, entitled *Mixed Bathing*. This has been a great success at the Battersea Empire. Mr. Hutt has a most fascinating partner, Miss Kate Parry.

There will be a meeting of the Haverstock Trotting Club at Wembley Park on Monday, and racing will commence at two o'clock. The track is in excellent order, and Mr. George Fuller and others of the stewards will welcome a crowd of their friends in and out of the profession.

Miss Amy Clevere's latest morceau, "My Paleface Queen," from the joint pens of Messrs. Harrington and Le Brunn, is in the press, having been secured by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.

Latest additions to Mr. David Day's already lengthy catalogue of "Sixpenny Pops" include "My Little Laplander" and Frank Coyne's chorus song, "What the use of a pair of kilts if you're a window cleaner?" the latter being No. 145 of the series.

Mr. Al. Laurence, one of the quaintest of American comedians, who is a success in both hemispheres, is sailing again for the land of dollars on Wednesday next. He has been appointed special and exclusive representative for Messrs. Barnard and Dietrich, of 7, Clayton-square, Liverpool for the United States. He has a permanent office in Ohio, and is also travelling all over the country. Mr. Dietrich has just returned from the Continent, and is booking English artistes for the new World's Exhibition in Holland, which opens in April next.

Much regret will be felt at the departure of Marceline, the Hippodrome's famous jester. During his five and a half years' stay at that popular place of amusement he has become the idol of the children. In fact, he has been looked upon as a keystone to the success of the entertainment ever since its foundation. Marceline is leaving of his own free will in order to take a trip to America and benefit by the sea voyage. In the course of conversation with our special representative, he stated that "While not feeling in any way incapacitated from performing my duties as an 'agouste,' the demands of the public have been so exacting, that I feel I must have a change of scene and some invigorating ozone. I have accepted an engagement with Messrs. Thompson and Dundy to open at the New York Hippodrome on March 20th at a salary which, in proportion, is larger than that ever received by any performer in my own particular sphere. During my stay at the London Hippodrome I have been the recipient of compliments from His Majesty the King, H.M. the Queen, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Fife, the Shah of Persia, and other notabilities. In fact, although I say it myself, I do not think that any performer could have been treated with so much kindness. I cannot speak too highly of the splendid way in which Mr. H. E. Moss, Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, and Mr. Frank Parker have treated me during my delightful stay. Perhaps it would interest you to know that in 23 years I have only held five engagements."

Marceline was the recipient of some splendid souvenirs of his stay at the London Hippodrome yesterday (Friday). These included some magnificent silver ware, subscribed for by the official staff, the artists, and employees of the Hippodrome and some influential admirers. Mr. Frank Parker, in making the presentation, said, "While everybody was sorry to say 'Au revoir' to Marceline, he was delighted to think at the same time that he was held in such great esteem, and he hoped that the souvenirs would be accepted as heartily as they were tendered. It was always a delight to him and to those around him to give credit where credit was due." Marceline, in reply, was so overcome that he could say scarcely anything, but he managed eventually to express himself in a touching sentence or two. Marceline sails to-day (Saturday) per ss. St. Louis from Southampton, en route for New York.

A CHAT WITH WALKER AND MAY.

(by our own commissioner.)

One's sympathies always go out to a man who is making a brave struggle under a terrible affliction. Mr. Charles W. Walker, the coloured comedian, is totally blind—the result, it is believed, of a four years' stay in a climate much hotter than that to which he had been accustomed. The early stages of the trouble made themselves apparent when he was performing at the Melbourne Opera House, and in order to obtain expert advice, he sailed for England some eighteen months ago. Shortly after he boarded the ss. Suevic he completely lost the power of sight, but on arriving in London a specialist afforded him some consolation by holding out the hope that he might, after a lapse of two or three years, regain the faculty of seeing.

Mr. Walker, however, did not allow himself to become submerged in the Slough of Despond, and, fortunately for him, with the passing away of one sense there came a quickening of the others. He appeared for one week at the Oxford in September, 1903, presenting his usual business, that being the first time he went on the stage absolutely blind. He is still blind, and laughing scornfully in the face of Fate, he sticks to his guns.

BLINDNESS STRENGTHENS INSTINCT.

"Do you still feel that old instinctive grip upon your audience—an audience whom you cannot now see?"

The reply came readily enough, "Yes, and do you know, that 'grip,' as you call it, has become intensified. The magnetic current of mutual recognition which draws the artist to the audience seems to have become stronger and better defined than in the old days, when a glance revealed a smiling and an interested 'house.'"

"How can I dance in the way I do without getting too far out of position on the stage?" he went on, in answer to another query. "Well, at first, I certainly was very nervous, but my wife arranged a series of signalling touches, and we got on so well that in some of the theatres the people never knew I was blind. I can generally find my way to the wings, but I had a funny experience at Sunderland, a little while back. At the rehearsal the stage-manager was not aware of my condition, but being informed at the Monday evening's performance that I could not see, he very considerately pulled away the wings, so that I should have a free passage. What was the result? I was feeling all over the walls, trying to find the wings! Of course, I study everything before I go on the stage, and I talk much louder than I did before. I go to the theatre every morning from eight o'clock until eleven, in order to get accustomed to the depth and width of the stage, and perhaps it is hardly necessary to tell you that I know precisely where every instrument in the orchestra is situated."

Mr. Walker made a start in the profession when quite a youngster. He was about nine years of age at the time, and appeared at concerts in his native town of Riverside, in America. He has toured all over the States with coon dances and songs, and he tells us that he was the first coloured man to produce the cake-walk. That was sixteen years ago, and since then he has been presented with many prizes for dancing. Mr. Harry Rickards engaged Mr. Walker for Australia to perform as a dancing and singing turn, and to introduce speciality acts and sketches It was in Australia, where Mr. Walker travelled during a period of four years and seven months, that his eyesight troubles began. He has more recently toured the English provinces, and started on Monday on the Stoll circuit. His turn consists of trick and eccentric dancing and singing, his numbers, entitled "Back to the Woods" and "Hot Stuff," proving specially popular. His wife, Miss Ida May, also has a lively ditty in "Mrs. Johnson, don't get gay."

But the lady is well enough content to stand by her husband, and give him whatever assistance he requires. In her quaint American way, she says in reply to our query, "Oh, just throw me in for a good measure. I'm just looking after the boss."

THE ENGLISH AND THE AMERICAN.

"Generally speaking," continues Mr. Walker, "the English audience shows more appreciation than the American. The 'gods' in the States, however, are far more noisy, but they are seated so high up in the house that their rowdyism does not cause any great disturbance. The occupants of the stalls seem to be drawn from a similar class to those you get in your stalls here. I must say that I like the English music halls better than the American. An artist gets more money in the States, but then, he has to do three or four times as much work as he would be called upon to do in this country, so that if a comparative analysis were drawn, it would be found that the English manager paid at a higher rate for his talent. Of course, if you had a continuous show, as we have in America, a re-arrangement of salaries would become necessary, and while the performers might receive a little more money, they would undoubtedly have to work infinitely harder."

"I am a great admirer of the British orchestra," he went on. "In America the orchestras consist of from eight to twelve instruments, rarely more than the latter number. The Americans, however, make up in quality what they lack in quantity, for their bands are only manned by good musicians, who are, by the way, mostly of German nationality. At the same time, the English orchestra is a much more thorough concern, both for the number and the nature of the instruments."

Mr. Walker tells an amusing story of a period when he was out of an engagement, and entirely out of funds. "One day I was in St. Louis, desperately hungry—hadn't had a bean. I determined I must do something. Fortunately, I struck a theatre at which a dancing competition for amateurs was to be held the same evening, the prize being five dollars. I was then a professional dancer, and I at once saw it would be necessary to give a wrong name. Of course, the amateurs hadn't a look-in, and the applause of the audience decided in my favour. I happened to overhear a few remarks made to the manager by someone who had found out that I was anything but an amateur, and that therefore I had no right to take part in the contest. Well, the manager called to me from the wings, 'Get off the stage!' I began to have fears as to the five dollars, so I walked up to the footlights, and addressed the audience. 'Ladies and gentlemen,' I said, 'I want them to give me the money on the stage, and I'm not going off till I get it.' The audience cheered, and the manager had to come forward and hand me the cash. Then, carefully avoiding the wings, I stepped over the orchestra, and made my escape through the audience."

Miss Lil Hawthorne, the very popular Prince Florizel in the Bristol pantomime, *Sleeping Beauty*, on Tuesday in last week gave a tea to the children and chorus on the stage of the Prince's Theatre. Tables were arranged on three sides of the stage, amid the splendour of one of the Palace scenes. Miss Hawthorne was a graceful hostess, and the party was a right merry one.

The Two Bees, who are prosecuting a successful tour in Scotland, relate a funny anecdote concerning their professional name. During their engagement at the Palace, Dundee, a tall, gawky Scotchman, evidently from the country, came to the box office just about half-time, and asked in very broad Doric: "What time daes the Twa Bunnies go on the nicht?" "Bunny," it should be explained, is not the word in Scotland for "rabbit," but is the term applied by the country people to bumble bee. The remark has spread all over the town, and has created much amusement. The Two Bees return to town at Easter.

THE LONDON MUSIC HALLS.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

Mr. Somers Bellamy has succeeded Mr. Spearman as acting-manager at this hall, and will doubtless quickly make himself popular with its numerous patrons. There is a capital programme this week, including Mr. Alec Hurley and company in the extremely realistic sketch, entitled *The Friendly Lead*. The scene is the bar parlour of a public-house, where a motley crowd are assembled, the object of the gathering being to benefit a neighbour who has met with misfortune, and is very much in need of a little timely assistance. On this occasion, at least, beer and benevolence go hand in hand, and the pots of "four-half" which ornament the table may be regarded as potential aids in encouraging the flow of that stream of charity which presently takes substantial form in a collection of over seventeen shillings for the unfortunate neighbour. This result is proudly announced by the president of the assembly, and, amid the applause of the generous subscribers, the money is duly handed over to the man who is so urgently in need of it. But we must not forget that the proceedings are enlivened by harmony. Mr. Alec Hurley, who excellently embodies the chairman, with "'is 'ammer in 'is 'and," also sings a couple of songs in capital style. A flower girl, after escaping the unwelcome attentions of a dude, sings a plaintive ditty, which is greeted with much applause; and another member of the jovial company also obliges. In a member of the party, seated next the chairman, we recognised the one-time popular music hall comedian, Mr. Victor Liston, and we wondered whether the veteran would be called upon for his favourite ditty, "Encore." *The Friendly Lead* is meeting with a most flattering reception in the northern hall; and Mr. Alec Hurley, as the leader of the merry crowd, is accorded a special compliment at the close by being recalled several times. Nobody questions Mr. Mark Melford's ability as a comedian, or his power of making an audience laugh by the exercise of genuine humour, and in the sketch, *He's got 'em on*, his performance causes the heartiest merriment. As the much-perturbed gentleman in search of a missing garment containing bank notes to the value of £500, Mr. Melford is comical in the extreme, and he is well supported by the members of his company. Mingled amusement and curiosity are excited by the performance of Miss Annie Abbott, who is known to fame as the "Little Georgia Magnet." She exercises a mysterious force that is entirely independent of muscle, and strong men fail to lift her from the ground when she determines that they shall not. It is not easy to explain away Miss Abbott's feats, and the audience are evidently considerably puzzled, as, indeed, it is intended that they should be. Mr. Alf. Chester appears in the character of a policeman, and makes a decided hit with his song, "I wonder if the sergeant knows." Another smart comedian is seen in Mr. Tom Fancourt, who, gaily dressed as a middle-aged lady, comes on to sing, "Look what I've bought at the sale," which ditty is liberally embellished with smart patter. Mr. Athas and Miss Lizzie Collins, in their comedy and song and dance business, meet with their usual success; and the Blind Collier Boy plays a popular selection of music on the concertina with pleasing results. Tony and Flo Vernon are a comedy couple who win a warm welcome, and Miss Maud Mortimer, a comely serio, scores with "You can't keep the sun from shining." Mr. Nat Clifford is a quaint comedian, who gives imitations on the violin and tells funny stories; and other good turns are Miss Gracie Lawn, with a neat song and dance, and Kurtz, Mexican juggler. The orchestra is under the able leadership of Mr. A. Petersen.

CAMBERWELL PALACE.

New light has been shed on the career of Jack Sheppard at the Camberwell Palace, where Miss Rose Hamilton presented for the first time on Monday a scena, entitled *Jack*, in which the redoubtable housebreaker figures as the gayest of gallants. He makes his appearance in his humble garret, shackled in chains, having just escaped from gaol. He soon rids himself of his irons, and joyously trills a song, with the refrain, "Jack's the boy for sport," which also contains the prophecy that his name will occupy a prominent position on the scroll of fame. A lively dance is indulged in when Jack recalls the merry times he spent with Blueskin, with Edgeworth Bess, and other "pals." In the midst of the revels he catches sight of his mother's picture on the wall, and memories of happier days are recalled. Then in fancy he is back in the convict cell, picking the bars of his prison window, and employing all his ingenuity, until he once more regains his freedom, and again breaks forth into song. Miss Hamilton is the light-hearted youth to the life, and spares no pains in the graphic description of Jack's dash for liberty. The way in which the clever actress works up the interest of the scena is only possible in a performer of experience and ability, and she was well deserving of the many recalls which were the result. Miss Millie Lindon has been absent from the bill during the week, but her place has been filled by Mr. Johnny Fuller, whose appearance as a tabby cat is a masterpiece of make-up. He takes to the wire with all the surety of the species, besides executing a number of nimble tricks on terra firma, his culminating feat being a somersault over a half-dozen chairs. Mdlle. Du Roche displays the possession of a powerful and cultivated soprano in her singing of "The Promise of May," and later thrills the audience with a fine rendering of "Marguerite," which, it may truly be said, was greeted with thunders of applause. Banjo, mandolin, and drum are among the instruments with which the Thurbanis, a trio of young ladies attractively attired, discourse sweet music, one of the fair performers also giving a solo on the ocarina. Mr. Phil Ray can confidently rely on his amusing "patter," his droll abbreviations, and his quaint song, "She was only seventeen," to raise a flood of laughter which nothing seems to stem. His vagaries of speech and odd facial expression are unlimited, and nothing that he says or does is without an appreciative roar of laughter. Various are the subjects which Mr. George Newburn selects for mimicry, and his skill in reproducing the voices and mannerisms of Mr. Gus Elen, Mr. Harry Ford, Mr. Harry Randall, Mr. George Lashwood, and Mr. Harry Lauder wins appreciative applause from an audience whose unwillingness to part with him is evident. Verno and Voyce combine melodiously in their duet of "Master and Man," Mr. Albert Voyce's recitation of "Capital and Labour" being also received with cheers. A pretty and pathetic little sketch is presented by Mr. Neville Jolly and Miss Beatrice Neilson, the latter of whom sings sweetly as a flower girl calling her wares. She has a devoted lover in Dick, the newspaper boy, who asks her to marry as soon as his prospects improve. A letter comes announcing that the girl is found to be a nobleman's daughter, and Dick sorrowfully bids her good-bye, but she prevails upon him to go with her and share her good fortune, a felicitous ending being supplied in a duet on "Home is where the heart is." Both artistes have musical voices, which show to advantage in solo, and blend melodiously in duet, and the applause that greets them is very cordial. Mr. W. J. Churchill is among the comedians of the bill, and the laughter he arouses in his songs, "If it wasn't for the men" and "If I was only single," to which he adds a lengthy series of funny sayings, is constant. Another comedian who moves his hearers to mirth is Mr. J. G. Taylor, who displays original methods in "It's not in the papers" and "Why?" The Pueblo Brothers are darkie dancers who import a large amount of merriment into their skilful stepping; and Mr. Jesse Sparrow's fine programme, which includes Miss Lily Simmonds, Daley and Collins, Mr. George Bohee, Miss Rosie Cass, the Ferrari Duo, and the animated pictures, is completed by the classical cockney Mr. Joe Elvin, who, in the sketch, *The Wrong House*, is as irresistible as ever.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

Those who are in their seats when the entertainment begins have the pleasure of listening to a well-chosen overture excellently played by the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Walter Johnson. The selection this week is from *My Lady Molly*. The leading attractions of a capital bill of fare include Miss Kate Carney and company in *The Mouth Organ Brigade*, which maintains its position as one of the most popular musical sketches of the day. And it has been found so attractive in its original form that there have been very few alterations or additions since its production some months ago. The Bank Holiday crowd who foregather at "The Welsh Harp" are as merry and as melodious as ever, and, led by the gaily-costumed lady who arrives on the scene in a smart horse and trap, they pass the time right joyously. Miss Carney sings with her usual success, and in the scene with the dude makes the best use of her opportunities. The chorus song concerning "Sousa's Band" has to be repeated several times, the melody being of the catchy kind. Mr. Freddy Malcolm is a brisk representative of the coster lady's sweetheart, and his skill as a silver bâton manipulator deserves recognition. The comedian who appears as the dude presents an amusing picture of a brainless young man, and the little fellow who undertakes the double rôle of a child and a diminutive policeman also causes considerable diversion. It should be added that previous to the sketch Miss Kate Carney scores with a ditty specially directed to unmarried young men who seem reluctant to taste the joys of matrimony. The musical performance given by the artiste known as Orpheus is greatly appreciated. He musically illustrates a journey by road in the old coaching days, when the post horn of the coach attendant was "heard on the hill," and down dale, too, for the matter of that. Orpheus makes use of several instruments, more particularly the posthorn, and in the descriptive music has the able assistance of the orchestra. Thus we have the start, the arrival at the destination, the merry dance which follows, and the return journey, all of which have their distinctive melodies. Orpheus meets with deserved success, and the same remark applies to the Krugers. Fun and music are happily mingled in their entertaining act. One of their ingenious contrivances is a musical staircase, which emits melodies when skilfully worked by the feet. Hermann Melot is a conjurer who has been here before, and whose knowledge of the English language is not nearly so extensive as his acquaintance with the art of the magician. The bowler hat of a member of the audience is borrowed, and from within its recesses are produced a quantity of flowers and cigars, which are distributed amongst the audience. Even live pigeons come from the magic hat, and fly gently to the outstretched hand of the lady assistant. Melot is a first-class conjurer, and well merits the flattering reception accorded him. The Tourbillon Troupe excel as acrobatic cyclists; and Miss Esta Stella is a dainty coon singer and dancer. The Two Graces, a pair of attractive girls, give a song and dance, which wins approval and appreciative applause. Manning's entertainers, in their act, called "Outside the steam room of a Turkish bath," meet with much success, the farcical element adding to the attractions of a smart acrobatic show. Mr. Manning is a genuine comedian, and the younger members of his combination are expert acrobats. The old gentleman, who, after a prolonged stay in the hot bath room, emerges reduced to about a third of his original size, causes much merriment. Miss Dora Martini's gymnastic performance is watched with interest and admiration. With both feet fastened by straps to the pole of the trapeze, she revolves many times, and finally, after giving undoubted evidence of her skill and daring as a gymnast, the young lady makes a slow and graceful descent by the rope to the stage. Amongst the films shown on the bioscope are a series of amusing pictures illustrating some of the inconveniences attendant upon living in the suburbs. In the management of this favourite pleasure resort, Mr. John Christie has the able assistance of Mr. Kennedy Johnson.

THE METROPOLITAN.

Mr. Jack Edgar, the popular manager here, who exercises a constant supervision over the programmes, tries to realise in his schemes of entertainment the force of Milton's line, "Laughter holding both its sides," by presenting a strong contingent of comedians. At the head is to be found Mr. Arthur Roberts, in the favourite sketch, *Where's the Count?* written by himself. In the character of the cabby, Joe Muggins, Arthur revives reminiscences of a famous impersonation which brought him some years ago much popularity at the theatres. He was in fine form on the evening of our visit, especially as the inspector of police, in which he delivers a particularly comic speech—not more so, however, than his mixed dialects as the Russian Count. Miss Ruby Celeste, as a smart maid, partners him in a comic duet, and the jollity and hilarity of the *olla podrida*, as the interlude is called, are increased by Mr. Roberts's rendering of the song, "Topsy Turvy," in which he has a chance of displaying his wonderfully finished pantomime imitation of a lady disrobing preparatory to a dip in the briny.

Released from Drury-lane pantomime, Mr. Tom Woottwell finds a very warm welcome at the hands of the Paddington folk, who discovered the real comicality of his methods years before he became a fashionable comedian. He is a chartered libertine in the matter of jest, as one casily discovers on listening to his humorous coon parody, "The coon that shoots the moon," with an accompanying dance that is exceedingly clever. Another comedian who has been securing hosts of admirers in pantomime is Mr. Ben Albert, who not long since completed a successful engagement at the Shakespeare, Clapham, as Idle Jack. Mr. Albert's unexaggerated style and fine comic singing voice are well employed in "All I want" and "A little bit here and there." Doody and Wright, Australian comiques, should be highly gratified with their reception. They score with some humorous patter between an inquisitive miss with a thirst for knowledge and a professor. The gentleman of the pair has a talent for parody, which he displays in imitations of Sarah Bernhardt doing the cake walk, and Sir Henry Irving as a buck dancer. In an early appearance in burlesque we believe Sir Henry showed himself to be an excellent dancer. The Three Laurels give a marvellous acrobatic display on and off the ping-pong table. The wonderful somersaulting on to each other's shoulders and to catch show great strength of arm and expertness. The comedian of the trio is quietly effective, and a neat juggler, as well as a good acrobat.

Mr. Cliff Ryland, who elects to be "himself," has some funny anecdotes and a droll song, "Feet"; and Mr. Herbert Shelley's fine voice, appearance, and excellent histrionic abilities are noted with pleasure in a capital song, in which he tells a stirring tale of a girl taking the place of her lover on a horse's back, and other descriptive business, which bring down the house. The Sivronis, burlesque artistes, give a medley of operatic airs, amid much welcome fooling; Mr. Ernest Rees scores a laughing success in "On a cold and frosty morning"; and the Sisters Bosanquet have a duet, in which the blue-blooded young lady and the *parvenu* are cleverly contrasted. Mr. Bob Hutt, who appears early in the evening, shows a droll facility for parody, and in comic song and step gets at the heart of things, scoring a success that must be very gratifying. Mr. Tom Leamore also revels in parody, and his dancing is as whimsical as it can be. Mr. Bransby Williams is weirdly powerful as "Fagin, the Jew," and an excellent wind-up to an excellent programme is found in Mr. Paul Martinetti's American pantomime company's performance of *My Wife*. Students of the drama, after seeing Mr. Oscar Asche's performance of Petruchio at the Adelphi, might contrast it with Mr. Paul Martinetti's modern tamer of the shrew at the Metropolitan. Miss Maud Mortimer, who has won great popularity here, is renewing very pleasant impressions by her artistic work; the Great Northern Troupe delight everyone by their dancing; and the Tally-Ho Trio are responsible for a combination of harmony and comedy.

GRAND, CLAPHAM.

Liberal provision for merriment is made by Mr. H. Ketteman in this week's bill at the handsome hall at Clapham Junction, a prominent part in the stimulation of mirth being taken by a new sketch called *Larks in the Park*, presented by Miss Gertrude Glenn and company. A similiarity exists to another scena formerly presented by this combination, but so well has it been elaborated, so much life and comic incident imported into it, that nothing is recognisable except two of the best situations. The scene is laid in the Promenade at Hyde Park, where a trio of nursemaids are joined by three gallant horseguards, who sing a chorus, and with numberless tricks provoke the frequent smile. Strange scenes occur in the park, for the vagaries of a tramp are followed by a quarrel between an old married couple, who later defy a comic policeman. The arrival of a couple of college youths adds to the diversions, and afterwards "the art of making love" is illustrated in song and action by a double quartet of soldiers and gaily dressed belles. Later a change comes o'er the scene, and the whole company parade and join in a chorus concerning "The very latest fashion in the Army," executing a series of manœuvres, in which the elegant uniforms of the men and the smart dresses of the ladies make a brilliant array. The sorgs are exceedingly tuneful, and vigorously sung, and the piece throughout affords unlimited entertainment. Miss Gertrude Glenn leads the revels on behalf of the ladies, and the Bros. Passmore are untiring in their comic efforts. Mr. Barney Stuart gives distinction to the programme with his impersonation of the Lord Bishop in the trial scene from "The Deemster," and it is a proof of his elocutionary abilities that silence reigns throughout his delivery of the fine lines which Hall Caine has written. Impersonation is also brought to perfection by Mr. R. H. Douglass, whose appearances as a private detective include those of a curate, a seaside "swell," and an old miser. Many witty sayings embellish the rôles, and roars of laughter follow the clever comedian's efforts. Mr. Gilbert Girard is always heard with pleasure in his vocal gymnastics. His production of two distinct sounds at one time is nothing less than marvellous, while his cat catastrophes and dog fights, his chicken slaughter, and rooster baiting add to the wonder, and gain him undeniable recalls. "Capital and Labour" supplies Verno and Voyce with a subject on which they worthily employ their talent, and at the same time furnishes a happy solution of the problem that exists between master and man. Mr. Voyce's subsequent recitation is also admirably conceived, and gains many marks of approval. The Three Sisters Chester awake great enthusiasm by the energy they import into their dancing while playing melodiously on the mandoline or banjo, and singing vivaciously. They take the turn right out of the "sister" groove, and give a show the piquancy of which appeals to all admirers of skill and artistic effort. The pretty performance of the Mayvilles gains the customary appreciation, their Scotch and Irish ditties, with the odd dancing of the puppets, being greatly admired. Miss Childie Stuart contributes valuably to the bill, which is further strengthened by the novel comedy act supplied by Farley, Rennie, and Farley in *Fun at a Railway Station*; laughter also lying in wait for the sketch, *Rejected Remounts*, in which Mr. Claude Ginnett, jun., as the retired fishmonger, displays a comic appreciation and a wonderful agility on horseback. Mr. Claude Ginnett is an excellent Sam Sly, and the horses give evidence of careful training, excitement being general throughout. The orchestra is well controlled by Mr. James Sale.

THE GRANVILLE.

At the Granville this week Mr. Jesse Sparrow and his able acting-manager, Mr. Ernest Bridgen, are looking well after the enjoyment and amusement of their patrons, and visitors to the Walham Green palace of varieties have ample and excellent fare provided for them. Will Evans, in his laughable song, "She was such a gentle maiden," and his novel pantomime sketch, *Robinson Crusoe*, makes the audience rock with laughter at his inimitable drollery and "patter." This is a comedian who can always keep his audience on the "go," and his method is sure and unfailing in the provision of mirth and merriment. Miss Millie Lindon is a bright and agreeable comedienne, with a *soupçon* of serious intent. In her songs, "The angel of my dreams," and her little love ballad, "So Tibby took the last sardine," she wins all hearts, and a determined encore caused her to reappear and give a song and dance (with the assistance of a colleague) in "Mimosa, the flower of Japan." Mr. Fred Earle is a quaint comedian, and his laughable absurdity, "Seaweed," tickles the fancy of the audience immensely. Miss Constance Moxon, the capital burlesque artiste and male impersonator, is well to the fore with her ditty, "If you don't know, you won't be any the wiser," in which she hints that she could tell us many things that would make us laugh, but refrains from taking us entirely into her confidence. She also gives her well-known and deservedly popular bluecoat schoolboy "Whistling song" with great effect. Verno and Voyce, in song and recitation as "Master and man," give us their views on capital and labour, capitally expressed, and without any undue striving after effect. Miss Alma Gray is a capital Australian dancing girl, and her calisthenic exercise wins well deserved applause. Mr. Fred Spencer, the "expressionist," causes loud cacchination in his song and tripping dance, "I want a husband." The animated pictures by the Edisonograph are quite a feature, and "His master's voice," "A ride on an express train,' "The bewitched lover," and especially "The lost child" are viewed with intense interest by all assembled. The new romantic episode, *A City of Shadows*, an incident of the French Revolution, shows how an old nurse, Madame Brenan, is sheltering two aristocrats, the Marquis Eugene Montimer and his wife, Adele, and after his appearance at the bureau they are to escape across the frontier that very night and take ship for England. The old nurse had a young and lovely daughter, who learned too late that men betray, and this has filled the old nurse's bosom full of vengeance and hatred of the nobility, with the above exceptions. Elise, nicknamed "The spirit of the guillotine," who is none other than the old nurse's wronged child, has tracked the Marquis down, and is about to deliver him and his wife up to the tender mercies of the mob and the "little barber"—for she recognises in him her betrayer—when she learns by means of a crucifix which Adele possesses that she is the girl who saved her from infanticide, and she allows them to escape. Mr. W. Glenny acts with manliness as the Marquis; Miss Millie Luckstone is full of nervous force as Adele; and Miss Esther Phillips throws herself heart and soul into her work as Elise, "the spirit of the guillotine." Mrs. Calhaem does good work as Madame Brenan. Mr. R. H. Douglas, who is dubbed "the society entertainer," gives good samples of his fun-making in the speeches of a lawyer for the plaintiff in a breach of promise case, a curate opening a bazaar, and a temperance advocate. Sam Redfern, "the black doctor," as usual cures all ills of melancholy and moodiness with his well-known prescription of two minutes' droll "patter," mixed with three minutes of topical and medley musical effort. Miss Blanche Marion, Mr. Harry May Hemsley, Frank and Free, the Scottish Meisters, the American Comedy Four, and Rezene and Robini also contribute to the entertainment.

HAMMERSMITH PALACE.

The catering of Mr. J. C. Coe for the riverside borough is liberal and comprehensive, and it is evident that for him the word "variety" has a wide meaning; for we have Creole artistes, naval experts, a lazy slavey, and a fat girl, not to mention famous comedians, low comedy artistes, and a comic sketch. Miss Lucie, whose "little father" is the Czar, is of enormous proportions. Up to the age of three, so we are told, she was of normal size, but from that age she increased steadily in weight, so that at five years of age she weighed 100lb. She is the sixth child, and her parents and brothers and sisters are quite normal in weight and figure. The gentleman who introduces the bouncing beauty makes some remarks that are not altogether devoid of humour, and the advent on to the stage of Lucie's mother, an ordinary sized, comfortable looking party, is regarded by the audience as quite a comic incident. The most effective bit of comedy in the whole bill is Mr. Arthur Rigby's scena, *March of the Married Men*. There is something irresistibly droll to the cockney mind in the experiences of the toiler handicapped by the cares of a wife and family. The subject always appeals successfully to the *plebs*. The verses funniiy describe the first pilgrimage of the married man in the morning to work, and the livelier return home of the worker—slightly inebriated—from club or pub, is then amusingly detailed by Mr. Rigby. Then there is the night promenade of the hapless father with his first-born, and as a number of dejected-looking males in long nightgowns cross the stage, the ladies of Hammersmith and the regions beyond positively shriek with laughter. Mr. Rigby's success is great, and it is well deserved. A star of the first magnitude is Mr. Phil Ray, whose quaint patter, with its many humorous abbreviations, is about as funny as it can be. Mr. Ray revels also in parody, and his skit on a popular poet is one of the most diverting pieces to be heard on the variety stage. An artiste of considerable vivacity and charm is Miss Lottie Siegenberg, whose "lazy slavey" is a capital contribution, with touches of genuine inspiration; and no more delightful dancer could be desired than Miss Edie King, who has a pretty coon selection and another number that enables her to demonstrate her cosmopolitan tastes as a votary of Terpsichore. Lanton and Lane are responsible for some effective "cross-talk" as an eccentric sailor and a naval officer; Rita and Roma, who combine melody with leg-mania and acrobatic dancing, are highly popular; Mr. Harry Vardon, juvenile ventriloquist, has a well-worked head of Chirgwin, whom he cleverly imitates in his well-known number, "The blind boy"; and Mr. Dan Filmer, comedian, is responsible for a neat dance. Mr. Thomas E. Finglass is an interesting impersonator of the coon lover of the canebrake, and a capital dancer; Miss Florence Yeaman is a vivacious comedienne, with a wonderful whistle; there is plenty of laughter for the humorous business of Miss Lily Marney, low comedy artiste; and the Phillipi Brothers, the Pueblo Brothers, and Mr. Fred Southern and company, in the sketch, *His Lordship's Birthday*, are other attractions in Mr. Lewis Vincent's well-arranged programme.

THE FORESTERS'.

Singularly appropriate, coming as it does at a time when Russia is sorely disturbed by internal as well as external complications, is Mr. George M. Marriott's exciting sketch which bears the significant title of *The Nihilists; or, Sworn to Kill*. The story told is not an uninteresting one, and into it have been woven several of the incidents and several of the sayings which have helped to fill up an appalling page of history in the land of the Muscovite during the past few weeks. Mr. George M. Marriott, the author, makes his Nihilist a creature whose character is not a pleasant one to become associated with. His Nicholas Petrovitch is a schemer who allows no sense of honour or decency to interfere with his ghastly plans, and in his portrayal Mr. Marriott effectively brings before our eyes a villain of unmitigated wickedness. Mr. Otto Minster gives a manly impersonation of the hero, Michael Tolstoi, and Miss Edith Finlay provides a fine exhibition of dramatic fervour in the rôle of Vera Tolstoi. Mr. Walter Rousby and Miss Nellie May, in the comedy parts, afford relief from the more serious situations, and Mr. W. H. Porter, as the aristocratic Count Orloff, submits a good study of a much-hated Russian noble. The little piece is well staged. Coming to the other items on the programme, Mr. George Brooks makes a wonderful impression in his songs. Attired as a middle-aged female, he has a few diatribes to utter against the "new time girl," while calling attention to the superiority of the "old time girl." He next turns up in sailor costume, the burden of his lay this time being "There's another one out of work." Then, in response to an encore, we get "Dinky Doo," in the chorus of which the audience heartily join. Miss Dora Lyric creates considerable amusement with her ditty, "He did his duty like a soldier and a man," and a charming rendering is given of a song sympathetically describing the ill-treatment meted out to a poor girl by some of her sisters in better circumstances. The Franko Midgets, who claim to be the smallest conjurers in the world, provide a smart exhibition of sleight-of-hand tricks, and the Warlocks are responsible for a clever vaudeville act, *Provoking*, in which diverting patter and speciality dances form an agreeable combination. A commendable entertainment is that of Spry and Monti, their neatly phrased quips and cranks causing a good deal of merriment, while they excite admiration by their terpsichorean efforts. Mr. Lade Henderson sings in sympathetic strain about "Two hearts that beat as one," and after a change of costume he rouses the audience by a stirring refrain concerning the Japanese troops. As a vocalist, Mr. Henderson is extremely versatile, and he knows how to bring out the essential points in a song. Wit and humour is indulged in by Messrs. Bernard and Weston, the "cross-talk comedians," as they style themselves. The description is a particularly suitable one, for the repartee which passes between the two gentlemen smacks of Irish waywardness, and is intensely funny. Miss Lilly Leoville, the little leg mania artiste, proves herself a first-rate danseuse, her movements being gracefully executed. Miss Lizzie Daniels, light comedy soubrette, and the Bohemian Twins also acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the house.

"OUT ALL NIGHT."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I notice in the Music Hall Gossip in this week's issue of your paper that Mr. Joe Elvin will produce a sketch, entitled *Out All Night*, at Camberwell. My farce-comedy, with the same title, I produced at the Empire, Bristol, in 1899, and it has been played all over England and at many London halls, so I really think I have a prior claim to the title.—Yours faithfully,

HARRY G. NELSON
(Of Nelson and Thomas, *On the Ra Ta*).

315, Argyle-street, Glasgow, March 4.

COUNTY COUNCIL AND AMUSEMENTS.

(SPECIALLY REPORTED FOR "THE ERA.")

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens.

NEW THEATRE DESIGN.

The Improvements Committee reported as follows:—By an agreement between the Council and the Duke of Bedford, scheduled to the London County Council (Improvements) Act, 1899, it is provided that the elevations of any buildings to be erected on the site of the northern side of Aldwych to be conveyed to the Duke of Bedford shall be previously submitted to the Council for its approval, but that such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. In accordance with this agreement, plans of the proposed elevation of the block of buildings, consisting of the Waldorf Hotel with a theatre at either end to be erected in Aldwych between Catherine-street and Drury-lane, were approved by the Council on 3rd November, 1903. Amended plans to the theatre to be erected at the junction of Aldwych and Drury-lane have now been received; these plans show a slight deviation, as regards the elevation, from the approved plans, in order to introduce greater harmony into the architectual treatment of the property between Catherine-street and Drury-lane. The front elevation of the theatre is to be of stone or red brick and stone, or cement. We consider that the suggested deviation from the approved elevation may be sanctioned, subject to the whole of the Aldwych frontage of the premises being constructed in Portland stone. The Committee recommended that the design presented to the Theatres and Music Halls Committee on 22nd February, for the elevation of the theatre to be erected on land belonging to the Duke of Bedford, at the junction of Aldwych and Drury-lane, be approved, subject to the Aldwych elevation of the premises being constructed in Portland stone.—Agreed to.

THE IMPERIAL THEATRE.

The Building Act Committee recommended that the Council, in the exercise of its powers under sections 22 and 73 of the London Building Act, 1894, do consent to the erection of two iron and glass shelters at the Imperial Theatre, to abut upon Tothill-street and Dartmouth-street, Westminster, as shown on the plans dated 15th and 22nd February, 1905, submitted in connection with the application of Messrs. E. Keeling, Teale and Co., Limited, on behalf of Mr. L. Waller, such consent being subject to certain stated conditions—that the shelters be commenced within six months and completed within eighteen months from the 7th day of March, 1905; that before the commencement of the erection of the shelters the existing lamp posts in front of the principal entrance to the theatre be taken down and removed; that the shelters be constructed, supported and fixed, and the whole of the work executed to the satisfaction of the district surveyor.—Approved.

ILLUSTRIOUS NAMES.

The Rivers Committee reported that they had carefully considered the question of the names which should be given to the Council's steamboats, and have endeavoured as far as possible to select the names of distinguished persons more particularly connected with the Thames, either by reason of their having been born and having lived on the banks of the Thames, or by reason of their work in connection therewith. A list of thirty names was submitted, including FitzAilwin—Henry FitzAilwin, the first Mayor of London; Whittington—Richard Whittington, Mayor of London; Shakespeare—whose theatres on the bank side have helped to make his works immortal; Marlowe—Christopher Marlowe, the dramatist, who was killed at Deptford; Alleyn—Edward Alleyn, the actor and founder of Dulwich College, who acted in the theatres on the bankside at Southwark; Ben Jonson—the dramatist and poet, whose plays were acted on the bankside theatres in Southwark; Purcell—Henry Purcell, the musical composer, who was born at Westminster. The committee also proposed that a tablet shall be placed in the cabin of each boat, giving a short historical note of the person after whom the boat is named.

Mr. Edward Collins moved as an amendment that the steamers be named after the more prominent of the Progressive majority of the Council. He read out his list, beginning with "Benn" and ending with "Radford," amid much laughter, but the proposal was not taken seriously. The names suggested by the committee were approved, except that, on the proposal of Mr. Radford, Charles Lamb was substituted for Baynard, the owner of the castle which at one time stood near Blackfriars.

Lord Monkswell moved that the name of Walter Besant be substituted for that of Purcell, the musical composer, but it was pointed out that in all probability there would be other steamers built, and Lord Monkswell, amid laughter, expressed himself as willing that "Besant should wait for the next boat."

THANKS TO THE CHAIRMAN.

This being the last meeting of Mr. J. Williams Benn's year of office a resolution thanking him for his services in the chair was proposed by Mr. W. B. Yates, the chairman of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee, who said he had carried out the traditions of the chairmanship and dignified the office.

Mr. Sydney Low, who seconded, made reference to Mr. Benn's abilities both as an artist and author.

Mr. Benn duly acknowledged the compliment.

PROPOSED MUNICIPAL OPERA HOUSE.

Mr. Verney had on the agenda the following notice of motion (to be seconded by Mr. Dickinson), but it had not been reached when the Council adjourned:—That in view of the decision of the Council of 14th February, 1905 (p. 426), against the scheme for utilising the island site in Aldwych for a place of amusement, and of the resolution of the Council of 16th May, 1899, in favour of granting a site for a municipal opera-house, it be referred to the Theatres and Music Halls Committee to consider and report upon the whole subject of the Council providing for the benefit of the public a hall for music, dramatic representation and recreation, including particulars as to the probable success, financial and otherwise, of such an undertaking, and the general conditions under which it should be managed, and empowering the committee to seek such assistance for their inquiry as may be placed at their disposal by eminent members in the profession.

THE smart variety entertainment with which the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough entertained the King and Queen and a small but distinguished company, at their beautiful new residence in Curzon-street recently, was contributed by Miss Gertie Miller, from the Gaiety Theatre; Mr. Horace Goldin, from the Palace Theatre; Mr. Norman French, from the Lyceum Theatre; and Mr. Harry Tate, in his motor-car sketch. The entertainment, which lasted about an hour, was arranged and managed by Ashton's Royal Agency, of Bond-street.

IMMEDIATELY Marceline, the Hippodrome's famous clown, signified his intention of taking a sea voyage, Mr. F. Percival Hyatt seized the opportunity and persuaded him to accept a short engagement on his arrival in New York with Mr. Frederick Thompson and Mr. Dundy, at the New York Hippodrome. This is characteristic of the astuteness of Mr. Hyatt. By the way, Mr. Hyatt has been Paul Cinquevalli's agent for many years, and Cinquevalli opens at the London Hippodrome on Monday next.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

The Lichfield Shrovetide Fair was in the hands of P. Collins, Limited, who filled the Market Square to repletion. Their chief attraction was an entirely new cinematograph exhibition—certainly the very best ever seen in this district. Their No. 1 Cockerels and a variety of smaller craft made up a scene of much brilliancy and pleasure. The firm hold their ground under an agreement with the City Council, a fact which testifies to the excellent manner in which it conducts its business.

Berwick-on-Tweed March Hirings Fair on Saturday had William Murphy's Golden Venice, Tom Day's Galloping Horses, Newsome's High-fliers, Miller's Border Theatre of Varieties, Harris, with their Palace of Magic, Broughton's Troupe of Strong Men and Women, Lavin's Assault-at-Arms, McIntosh, with games, Sheeran's shooting saloons, Carter's football games. The weather was remarkably fine, and good business was done.

Many showmen at this time of the year are mapping out their early summer rounds. When the great Whitsun Fairs begin it is not a question of where to go; the difficulty is to decide between the many advantages, a full plethora of fixtures, East, West, North, and South.

Between now and then is where the expert knowledge of the well-travelled showman comes in. There are many small rounds which it will be well to consider, lasting up to Whitsuntide. The round organised by P. Collins, Limited, of Walsall, covers almost entirely the great Midlands, commencing with the important Shrovetide fixtures advertised in our column last week—a continuous run of good places, and linking on with their well-known midsummer and autumn list of fairs.

Showmen thinking of taking this round, cannot do better than write to the company, Gondola Works, Walsall. Their spring fairs include Longton Darlaston, West Bromwich, Smethwick, Oldbury, Dudley, Quarry Bank, Netherton, Stourbridge, Birmingham, Wolverhampton.

John Collins, of Liverpool, advertises an excellent round in our columns, which has already commenced at that important Manchester suburb, Beswick, and includes the Gorton, Hyde Road, and the Queen's Road big Easter revival of Knott Mill Fair, the best of the Manchester round.

In the Liverpool district, the same lessee controls Walton-on-the-Hill, Shore Fields, and others to follow. Showmen had better make a note of the fact that John Collins has the Corporation ground at Wolverhampton for Easter and Whitsun.

Next in order of importance is the well-known round of John Whiting, Manchester, also linked with his old established round of Lancashire and Cheshire Wakes, beginning at Cheetham Hill, from thence to Charlestown, Eccles, Stretford, and Ordsall Lane; then on to Knutsford, Congleton, Rochdale, Kirkburton, Altrincham, Levenshulme, Longsight, Hollinwood, and Gorton Brook, with others to follow.

Amongst the important Easter fixtures those of Collins, Limited, Birkenhead, and H. J. Wallis's fair on the Seaforth Sands. William Holmes, of the Trafford-road Fair Ground, Salford and Mr. E. Holland also advertise capital pre-Easter Fairs. For other fixtures see our advertising columns week by week.

On the great Yorkshire round, business does not begin until the Easter holidays. There are a few places that the Yorkshire people make into fairs in order to be really ready for business at Easter. Brighouse on the 8th of April, Pickering and Pontefract on the 15th, Beverley and Guisborough on the 20th Darlington, North Shields, Todmorden, Huddersfield, and Littleboro'. These, with Rothwell, Jarrow-on-Tyne, Middlesbro', Newcastle, South Shields, Barnoldswick, Barnard Castle, and Padiham, give great choice of fixture for the great Easter holidays of Yorkshire and the North.

For far North and Scotland, we connect the following run:— Addington March 11th; Galashiels and Dumfries on the 15th; Dunfermline on the 3rd of April; Govan, Lanark, and Selkirk on the 4th Levan on the 15th, Arbroath on the 17th, Edinburgh and Glasgow for Easter week, and Bridge of Allan and Cupar Fife on April 29th.

As we have before advised our readers with regard to Wales and the West of England to join Messrs. Studt's or the Hancock's, we do no more than outline possible runs in the far-away parts. Beginning with March 15th, the Welsh fixtures are Penmorfa Corwen on the 17th, Cowbridge and Rhayader on the 18th, Llangyllion, Maes-y-cwmmer, Menai Bridge, Pontypool, and Tredegar on the 1st of April, Newtown on the 8th, Carmarthen on the 15th, Aberdare on the 16th, Llanelly on the 20th, and Merthyr Tydvil, Mold, Newport, Pontypridd, and other places for Easter.

Going down West, we have Leigh (Dorset) on the 25th of March, Gloucester on the 1st of April, Dawlish and Plymouth on the 3rd, Exeter on the 24th, with Malvern, Cheltenham, Portsmouth, Torquay, Exmouth, all for the Easter holidays.

On the Sounthern round we have all the great London suburban fairs, Wanstead Flats, Hampstead Heath, Forest Gate, Sydenham, &c., &c., followed by such places as Folkestone, Hitchin, and Newmarket.

The fairs in the South immediately before Easter, Bedford on the 15th, Luton on the 17th, Newbury on the 20th, and East Grinstead on the 21st. We shall give, nearer the time, a complete list of the great Easter Fairs, our present object being only to indicate connecting links of business fixtures up to the time for determining which of the great summer rounds may be found most advantageous to our readers.

This week will see the publication of the new and enlarged edition of the "Showmen's Year Book." The new features of this necessary business manual will very largely add to its already much appreciated usefulness. All the proved utilities of former editions remain; the additional matter includes a full statement of the showman's position and work in the national well-being. The history of shows and showmen, as chronicled by the Rev. T. Horne, in various articles in *The Era*, has been usefully condensed, so that it forms a thoroughly reliable *vade mecum* of the case for the showman in the economy of the State.

The special article on the incidence of bye-laws, touching the business of amusement caterers, has been brought up to date, so that it may be seen at a glance by consulting its tables of reference the conditions under which showmen are permitted to pursue their avocation in life.

The alphabetical list of fairs has been most carefully revised, and places of no business moment excluded, and the new fairs created by showman enterprise added to the list, making the nearest possible approach to a reliable list of fair dates. This work is the result of the unique sources of information available to the Editor.

The extremely useful special local lists for Manchester and Lancashire, Leeds and Yorkshire, the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire rounds, have been subjected to careful revision, elimination of useless dates, and the addition of numerous new fixtures. The permanent features, such as the names of the executive officers, working committees, honorary members, local chaplains and agents, list of members, constitution, annual report, &c., still remain for reference purposes.

A very pleasing new feature is the series of portraits of prominent showmen and friends of the Guild. Amongst others will be found portraits of the President, Lord George Sanger, the late James Dean, Messrs. F. H. Pedgrift, Tom Norman, and the Reverend T. Horne, Editor of the "Year Book," and Hon. Chaplain of the Showman's Guild.

The important fixtures of Accrington and St. Helens, advertised in our columns this week, deserve attention from showmen. Mr. Mitchell, the lessee, also controls a number of excellent fixtures in Lancashire and Cheshire.

The meeting of the British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union at Bury Fair last week was well attended, and the business done of a successful nature.

Lichfield Shrovetide Fair opened on Saturday, February 18th, and closed Tuesday, 21st, the important event at this fair being the inauguration of Messrs. P. Collins', Limited, grand new electric exhibition. Two large engines are required to provide the light, and their new organ is ornamented with 1,500 incandescent lamps which change colours alternately. Mr. Beamont, for Messrs. L. Gaumont and Co., supplied the necessaries, and operated at the initial performance without rehearsal. The opening fair has been a huge success.

At Carter's Permanent Waxworks and Wonderland, in Castle-place, Belfast, the following artistes are performing to large and enthusiastic audiences:—Miss Silvia Vigor, the Mexican armless queen; U. C. Ugo, necromancer and illusionist; Prof. Dempster, Scotch stump orator; Prof. Buckley, phrenologist and expert character reader; Frisco, tattoo artist; and Grapho, lightning sketch artist.

The excellent concern of Wm. Haggor and Sons, the Royal Bioscope Theatre, gave a benefit performance at Aberavon recently, for the Railway Men's Orphanage Funds. The Mayor and Town Councillors attended; and great enthusiasm was exhibited. The result was a substantial sum earned for the benefit of the charity.

It was largely owing to the enterprise of Mr. Edwin, of the showmen's Manchester headquarters, that the performance took shape and form. Colonel Clarke, of Cinematograph Theatre fame, recently placed his magnificent show at the disposal of the local committee of the Van Dwellers' Association. The whole of Col. Clarke's variety company entered heart and soul in the scheme, and an excellent entertainment was supplied. Councillors Robey Foy, G. H. Jones, Whittle, and Lees, of the Salford Corporation, gave their patronage. £1 10s. has been handed over to the Guild Funds.

Captain H. Lyons, the well-known rifle and revolver expert, in conjunction with his talented wife (Miss Danvers), after a long and successful tour, are entering on a new venture, and contemplate running the Klondyke Circus during the summer months through the cities and towns of Ireland. Captain Lyons has a wide experience, having travelled through America and the Continent, where his performances have met with hearty approval. He is reckoned one of the best rifle shots in the business, and no doubt the Hibernians, when he visits the Emerald Isle, will fully appreciate his abilities. He has engaged a first-class company of circus and music hall artistes to support him.

Ashington's Cinematograph and Marionette Theatre opened last Tuesday for a short season with a round of dramas, farces, and pantomimes, the entertainment concluding each evening with animated pictures.

"THE FIGHTING PARSON."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Referring to Messrs. Wilkinson and Co.'s letter published in your last issue, the name of their client, Mr. Davis, was eliminated wherever the true circumstances became known. We adhere to everything stated in our letter of the 25th ult. As to the summing up referred to, we quoted from the shorthand notes taken of the case. It is perfectly true that the Judge took no notes; had he done so the appeal would have been heard, and the High Court would then have been able to give its opinion as to whether "chatting the matter over" could in common reason be looked upon as practical collaboration.

We do not wish to prolong a discussion which can have no good results; but we must point out that the sole rights of representation are vested in our client, Mr. George Gray, and cannot be disposed of by anyone but him in this or any other country.

Yours faithfully,
MORRIS and RICKARDS.

Mitre-court-chambers, Temple, E.C., Mar. 10.

THE MUSIC HALL BENEVOLENT FUND.

MR. JOSEPH LYONS' CHRISTMAS APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION.

Donations already announced, £203 18s.

	£	s.	d.
G. A. Payne	10	10	0
Walter Stanton	1	1	0
Musical Silvo	0	5	0

Collected by Harry Randall, Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

Harry Randall	2	2	0
Tom Hearn	1	1	0
Tom Woottwell	1	1	0
Queenie Leighton	1	1	0
Fred Eastman	0	10	6
Hugh J. Ward	0	10	6
T. G. Hales	0	10	6
Queen and Le Brun	0	5	0
Walter Gasco	0	5	0
Harry Kirk	0	2	6

The President has collected among his private friends about £300 in addition to the above.

The President wishes it to be known that the funds have almost given out, and that immediate help is required.

The Secretary will be obliged if the ladies and gentlemen having collecting sheets will now forward them to the office.

Secretary, HORACE MARRIOTT.

Offices, 18, Adam-street, Strand.

Mr. Hugh Beresford, brother of J. Cooke Beresford, died, we regret to state, on March 4, of consumption, after an illness of two years.

"A Colonel's Heroic Son," a musical drama, in five acts, by T. W. Taylor, was produced for copyright purposes at Her Majesty's Opera House, Blackpool, on Wednesday.

Mr. Herbert Knight, the humorist at the piano, will give his third annual Bohemian concert at Frascati's, on Wednesday next. He will be assisted by Mr. Fred Reynolds and a host of well-known artistes.

Mr. Frank Harwood, whose highly polished and dramatic singing and acting in the *Looking Glass* scena, has attracted universal praise and attention, is a Birmingham man who is yet on the right side of thirty, but whose experience, begotten on the boards of the legitimate. He reminds one of the older school of actor-vocalists, and should go far, and fare well.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

The following particulars of the conditions of employment in the theatres and music halls in Chicago have been supplied by Mr. L. M. Hart, secretary of the American Alliance of Stage Employees:—

"In regard to our contracts or agreements with our managers here, we hold none—our word is our bond, and so is theirs; and it has never been broken. . . . Our schedule is as follows:—

Travelling carpenters, $35 per week.
" Assistant Carpenters, $25 per week.
" Property men, $30 per week.
" Electricians, $30 per week.
Home Carpenters, $25 and $30 per week.
" Assistant carpenters, $20 per week.
" Property men, $25 and $20 per week.
" Electricians, $25 and $20 per week.

Chicago theatres give Sunday shows, and quite a number of theatres have fourteen a week. In all theatres giving fourteen performances, stage hands and flymen receive $18 per week. This includes putting on the show Sunday a.m., and taking out the show on Saturday night.

"The rates of pay at all other theatres, with less than fourteen shows a week, and regardless of the prices of admission, are:—Stage hands and flymen, $1.50 a performance, 37½ cents an hour for putting on and taking out a show, giving one half-hour free on Saturday night after fall of final curtain. Rehearsals, $1.50 for first four hours, 50 cents each additional hour. Eight hours to constitute a day's work, from 8 a.m. to 12 m., 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. for week days. Day work on week days, $2 per day; Sundays, holidays, and all time outside the above hours to be paid at the rate of time and one-half. All heads of departments to conform to the above hours, except in putting on and taking out shows, this work included in weekly schedule of work. If alterations are to be made, or a new production presented, the heads of departments, if called upon to work between 12 m. and 1 p.m., 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., or 12 midnight to 8 a.m., shall receive double time at rate of 50 cents an hour single time. The men to report for work at 1.30 p.m. matinées, and 7.30 nights, and to remain until last scene is struck; all other work extra time. A fortnight's notice to be given on either side, unless an employee shall commit such breach of discipline or prove incompetent, when instant dismissal is sanctioned. Light operators shall receive $1 per night, and $1.50 per matinée, and 50 cents an hour for day or extra work, and $1.50 for each rehearsal of four hours.

"Thirty days' notice shall be given by either party to either lower or raise this present schedule of wages, the men to remain at work under the present rate until a final decision has been rendered, and then two weeks' notice shall be given before the manager shall lock the men out, or the employees shall quit. The present schedule of wages, &c., is indefinite.

"We have only one section as regards the regulations of work, and that is: No man shall be permitted to hold two positions in our jurisdiction, nor shall any man be employed in any two departments in any production. This is strictly adhered to.

"We have theatres charging 10, 20, and 30 cents admission, who give ten performances a week, and pay $1.50 a show, the same as the theatres where 50 cents to $2 admission is charged. The same applies to our four muisc halls, where $18 a week is paid for stage-hands, the same as our two show a day cheap drama theatres, and the heads of departments receive the same wages as those of the other theatres."

The members of the Glasgow Branch of the National Association of Theatrical Employees are desirous of establishing a social institute and benevolent fund for the benefit of stage employees. Such an institute would confer many benefits upon the working staff connected with the theatres and music halls in Glasgow and with the touring companies visiting the town. The institute would provide means of recreation for members out of employment, and, by use of the telephone, managers could obtain reliable and competent men, when wanted, at almost a moment's notice. It has been decided to hold a grand prize drawing to help in providing the necessary funds to establish the institute, and any contribution to the list of prizes or to the Institute Fund would be gratefully acknowledged by W. H. G. Hatch, the master carpenter at the Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

The Heads of Departments Annual General meeting was held on Tuesday last, when the report and financial statement was submitted and adopted. It was decided that ballot papers be issued for the election of officers and committee. The following were nominated for the National Committee: President, Mr. James Cullen, master carpenter, St. James's Theatre; vice-president, Mr. G. H. Dyball, Tivoli Music Hall; trustees, Messrs. W. Barbour, electrician, St. James's Theatre, and C. Porter, master carpenter, Waldorf Theatre; committee, Mr. H. J. Powell, property master, Prince of Wales's Theatre, and Mr. W. Pullinger, master carpenter, Garrick Theatre.

The nominations for office in the Heads of Departments Association are:—President, Mr. James Cullen; vice-president, Mr. E. C. Farmer, Empire; treasurer, Mr. G. H. Dyball; honorary secretaries, Messrs. Wm. Barbour and Wm. Johnson; trustees, Messrs. R. Affleck, master carpenter, Covent Garden, Mr. F. Fox, master carpenter, the Alhambra, and Mr. C. King, property master, the Garrick Theatre; committee, Messrs. C. Porter, G. P. Applebee, electrician, the Gaiety Theatre, Mr. R. L. Chantrell, property master, the Avenue Theatre, Mr. Wm. Pullinger, and Mr. W. W. Wilton, property master, the Vaudeville Theatre; auditors, Messrs. A. Earnshaw, electrician, the Paragon Theatre, and P. Sheridan, electrician, the Crown Theatre, Peckham. It was announced that Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree had consented to be the chairman of the third annual dinner of the Association which will be given in the Victoria Hall, Hotel Cecil, on the first Sunday in April. Tickets may be obtained from members of the Association.

The following is a summary of the accounts:

Gross Income.

	£	s.	d.
Entrance fees	5	0	0
Contributions	46	7	0
Hon. Members' contributions	8	8	0
Donations	2	12	6
Levies	3	10	0
Annual dinner receipts	35	12	0
Share of Royal Opera House Concert balance	12	16	0
	£114	5	6
Balance from 1903	119	7	5½
	£233	12	11½

Payments.

	£	s.	d.
Funeral benefit	20	0	0
Benevolent grants	5	0	0
Annual dinner account	47	2	6
Loss on Good Friday Concert	4	0	4
General expenses	49	10	9
	£125	13	7
Balance, Dec. 31st, 1903	107	19	4½
	£233	12	11½

The committee appointed to arrange the concert to be given on Good Friday, met on Thursday. Those present were Messrs. Dyball (chairman), Barbour, Thomas, Palmer, Jones, Thorogood, and the hon. secretary, Wm. Johnson. It was reported that the Grand Hall in the Hotel Cecil had been engaged in accordance with the instructions of the committee. Tickets will be issued in the course of a few days. The programme is being arranged.

Mr. C. Porter has been engaged as master carpenter for the Waldorf Theatre. It is stated that Mr. Digby will be responsible for the electric light department.

A part of the scenery for a new play at the St. James's Theatre is being made by Mr. Cullen, the master carpenter of that theatre. Two scenes will be made by Messrs. Morris and Squires.

At a meeting of the committee of the No. 1 branch, N.U.T.S.E., held on Wednesday evening, two applications for grants from the benevolent fund were considered. One was granted and the other allowed subject to the inquiries to be made being satisfactory. A number of applications for membership were considered. In one case the applicant was reported as having done "the double," which, in theatrical parlance, means booking in at two theatres for the same matinée. This trick is sometimes accomplished when the theatres are close together, and the changes of scene enable the man to run from one house to the other. It is, however, a serious offence in the eyes of stage employees, and the application was referred back. Two other members were called before the committee to answer complaints as to the manner in which they had left their employment.

The societies represented on the Concert Committee are asked to obtain instructions from their society authorising them to act as the Sports Committee for the preliminary arrangements.

A well attended meeting of employees was held in Glasgow last Sunday. It appears that the local branch have issued their appeal for assistance to form an institute and benevolent fund broadcast. Some London managers have received a letter on the subject. This is to be regretted. These appeals should be confined to the locality they are intended to benefit, and, in any case, the London managers probably receive as many applications of this nature from the London employees as they can reasonably be expected to grant.

BRANSBY WILLIAMS IN NEW CHARACTER.

Mr. Bransby Williams commenced an exclusive West-end engagement at the Empire, on Monday, in a new character-sketch, entitled *The Last of his Race*, which vividly tells the tragic story of a dissolute baronet, one Sir Richard Faversham. As the curtain rises we are shown an apartment in the baronial hall. Cards are strewn carelessly on tables and on the floor, and there are other evidences of a revelry which apparently has not long finished its course. A man in the picturesque costume of the middle of the 18th century is seated on a chair, his head in his hands. The silence is broken by the deep-toned clanging of a bell, which awakens the man from his reverie with its message of "5 o'clock." He rises and looks around him. Despair is written in deep lines on his face, and as he realises once again that he has gambled his estate away, he gazes appealingly at the portraits of his ancestors, and reproaches himself with the words, "Stripped of the lands you won for him by sword and brain."

He has determined to commit suicide, and, picking up a dagger, he is about to use it on his own person when a thought occurs to him. Before he leaves the world he will drink to the health of the ancestors whom he will shortly join. As one by one he speaks to the portraits, he comments on the virtues or failings of each. Last of all he turns to his mother's picture, and gives expression to the lament that he might have been a better man, and that things might have been different with him if she had not died so early. Then, as he prepares to plunge the weapon into his breast, the eyes in the picture seem to him to move. Can it be a message of hope? No! there is no hope for him. Savagely he turns round to the portrait of an ancestor who had left behind none too sweet a reputation. But he had left behind something else—a considerable sum of money the hiding place of which had never been discovered. In a moment of anguish Faversham runs his sword through the picture, and through the aperture so rudely made there rushes an avalanche of golden coins, sufficient to redeem the gambler's bankrupt estate.

The story is an interesting one from start to finish, and it is, moreover, well written. Mr. Bransby Williams, in the character of the gambler, whose losses have driven him to seek a desperate way of abandoning life, reaches a high note in dramatic delivery, and is convincing and earnest throughout.

BIRMINGHAM CHARITY SPORTS.

The Birmingham Charity Sports took place on the 28th ult., when, despite the unpropitious weather, so much success attended the energetic efforts of its promoters, that the institutions concerned are bound to benefit most substantially, all praise being due to Mr. Lester Collingwood, the chairman, and his experienced colleagues. Several striking symbolical tableaux attracted attention at the Villa ground, one of them representing Britannia seated on a throne, with Colonial sons at her feet. Another, from the Alexandra, was a very creditable reproduction of one of the old "wooden walls" of the Navy. At Villa Park the Police Band played selections, and the programme of amusements included events for artistes and others, whilst the race amongst Villa players yielded the following results:—

Sack Race.—C. Hill (Empire), 1; A. Stanley (Royal), 2; J. Cooper (Metropole), 3. 120 Yards Artistes' Costume Race.—T. Cowan (Bordesley), 1; F. Harris (Empire), 2; T. Wyatt (Hamilton's), 3. 120 Yards Villa Players' Race.—There were two heats—Final: Clarke, 4yds., 1; Harris, 8yds., 2; Drennan, 6yds., 3. Time, 13 2-5sec. Call Boys' Race.—J. Ford (Hippodrome), 1; W. Harris (Gaiety), 2; F. Doughty (Metropole), 3. Ladies' Football Race.—Miss A. Rose (Grand), 1; Miss M. Valerie (Alexandra), 2; Miss D. Earsley (Alexandra), 3. Managers' Race.—A. Bushell (Gaiety), 14yds., 1; E. Foster (Bordesley), 2; J. Hindle-Taylor (Metropole), 10yds., 3. The football match between Aston Villa and twenty-four theatricals created much merriment. The referee, Mr. J. Adams, ruled the game in the right spirit, and the theatricals, of course, won.

THE WOMACK FUND.

Mr. George Womack, the stage-manager of the Oxford, whose precarious health prevents him following his occupation, is about to undergo for about eight months a course of treatment for consumption at Bournemouth. A Fund is being raised on his behalf, and any subscriptions will be gratefully acknowledged by Mr. Albert Gilmer, the hon. secretary, or Mr. C. Blyth-Pratt, the hon. treasurer at the Oxford.

Fourth Subscription List.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Mr. Wal Pink	2	2	0	H. E. P.	0	5	0
Mr. Henri Gros	1	1	0	Mr. Mark Sheridan	0	5	0
Mr. M. Abrahams	0	10	6				
Bros. Egbert	0	10	0	Mr. H. Goldin	0	2	6
The Drummonds	0	8	0	L. S.	0	2	6
Anonymous	0	6	0	N. T.	0	2	6
Mr. Alfred Butt	0	5	0	W. D.	0	2	6
Mr. J. Dixon	0	5	0	Nell	0	2	6
Mr. Gus le Clerq	0	5	0	G. W.	0	2	6

"THE ERA" SHILLING FUND FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

Already Announced, 3092½.

SUMS SINCE RECEIVED.

	Shillings.
John Hyman	105
Dr. Walford Bodie	100
Walter Stanton	21
Syd May	10½
Florence Schuberth	10
Two Bostons	5

Collected by Mr Walter Norman, £1 1s. 6d.

	s.		s.
Mr. H. M. Marby	5	W. C. W., C. B. M., W. B., F. O. S.	1
Poems Sold, "Days of Old"	4	F. N. B.	1
Walter Norman	2½	Mr. Hewitt	1
A. W. Cox	1	Bob	1
J. Baston	1	Walter Norman, jun.	1
Sid Russell	1	A. B.	½
Spot	1	Frank Weston	½

Collected by Mr Harry Conlin, £1 3s. 6d.

Harry Conlin	3	Tom Collins	1
Rosie Coleman	3	Walter Watson	1
Francis Earle	3	Harry Nelson	1
Florence Burdett	2½	Fred Earle	1
Freddie French	2	Leslie Stiles	1
H. B. Skinner	2	James Miller	1
Sammy Shields	1	Two Weirs	1

Collected by Phillips and Terry, 4s.

W. E. Phillips	1	Fred Cary	1
Ada Terry	1	Charley Deane	1

Collected by Mr Albert Le Fre, £2 15s.

J. M. Chute	21	Fred Conquest	5
Lil Hawthorne	10½	Albert Le Fre	5
W. H. Rawlings	5	Lionel Victor	2
George Miller	2½	George Chapman	2
Drew and Alder	2		

Collected by Miss Tots Davis, £2 8s.

Tom Payne	2½	Pat Doherty	5
Geo. Mozart	2½	Fred Conquest, jun.	2½
Tom Craven	2½	G. D.	2½
Mrs. Davey	2	W. Stafford	2½
Pauline Rivers	2	J. W. Prygin	2
S. Seaforth	1	C. D.	1
Ivy Dawn	1	Mrs. Lambert	1
Margaret Wilson	1	C. L.	1
N. Devereux	1	G. Conquest	1
Powell James	1	A. H. Clapp	1
J. Collinson	1	W. G. Payne	1
Jessie Eplett	1	H. Solomons	1
Dick and Dorothy	1	G. Elliston	1
Rosenthal	1	Fred Conquest	1
Julia Kent	1	J. F. P.	1
Ernest Conquest	1	G. Prygin	1

Collected by Mr Frank Coyne, £1 4s.

Frank Coyne	10	Joe Lawrence	1
The Katos	2	Gus Harris	1
Fox and Fox	2	Walter Stockwell	1
Demi and Semi	2	George Able	1
Montague Biggs	1	W. Liddiard	1
W. L. Murry	1	Sid Bandon	1

Collected by Mr. Charlie Craston, 5s.

Charlie Craston	2	Cee Mee	1
Maggie Rimmer	1	Edgar Stebbings	1

Collected by the Steinway Glee Singers, 8s.

Percy Oakley	2	Nellie Emerald	1
R. H. Howard	2	L. A.	1
Beatrice Willey	1	S. J.	1

Collected by Mr Horace Sheldon (Bentley's Agency), 13s.

A Well-Wisher	1	Harry Bernard	2
A Friend	1	Mutograph	1
A Mug	1	Gilbert Girard	1
H. Goodson	1	Mdlle. Thelma	1
A Friend	1	K. C. D.	1
E. B. C.	1	M. A. B.	1

Collected by the Danbys, £1 8s. 6d.

The Danbys	5	Peter Thompson	5
Kioto	5	Sisters Grahame	2½
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Will the Collectors for Mr Thomas Barrasford's appeal for the Music Hall Home Fund kindly send in their lists to *The Era* Office to the hon. treasurer, Mr F. H. Pedgrift. They will be duly announced in our next issue. Those artistes who desire a collecting card please apply to Mr J. T. Fruin, secretary, 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E.

The steamship *Michigan*, of the Atlantic Transport Line, arrived at Dunkirk on the 2nd inst., with the first section of "Buffalo Bill's" Wild West, consisting of 29 railway carriages, 100 men, 250 horses, and 40 wagons. A second contingent of men, horses, and material will be followed about the 25th inst. by Colonel Cody, with soldiers, roughriders, and Indians from New York. The Wild West is making a three years' tour in Europe, and will open the series of entertainments on the Champ de Mars, Paris, on April 1.

Brown's Bronchial Troches.—All suffering from irritation of the throat and hoarseness will be agreeably surprised at the almost immediate relief afforded by the use of Brown's Bronchial Troches. People troubled with a hacking cough, slight cold, or bronchial affections cannot try them too soon, as similar troubles, if allowed to progress, result in serious pulmonary and asthmatic affections. See that the words "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are on the Government stamp around each box. Sold by Chemists everywhere, 1s. 1½d. per Box.—[Advt.]

Notice of Removal to more Commodious and Convenient Offices.

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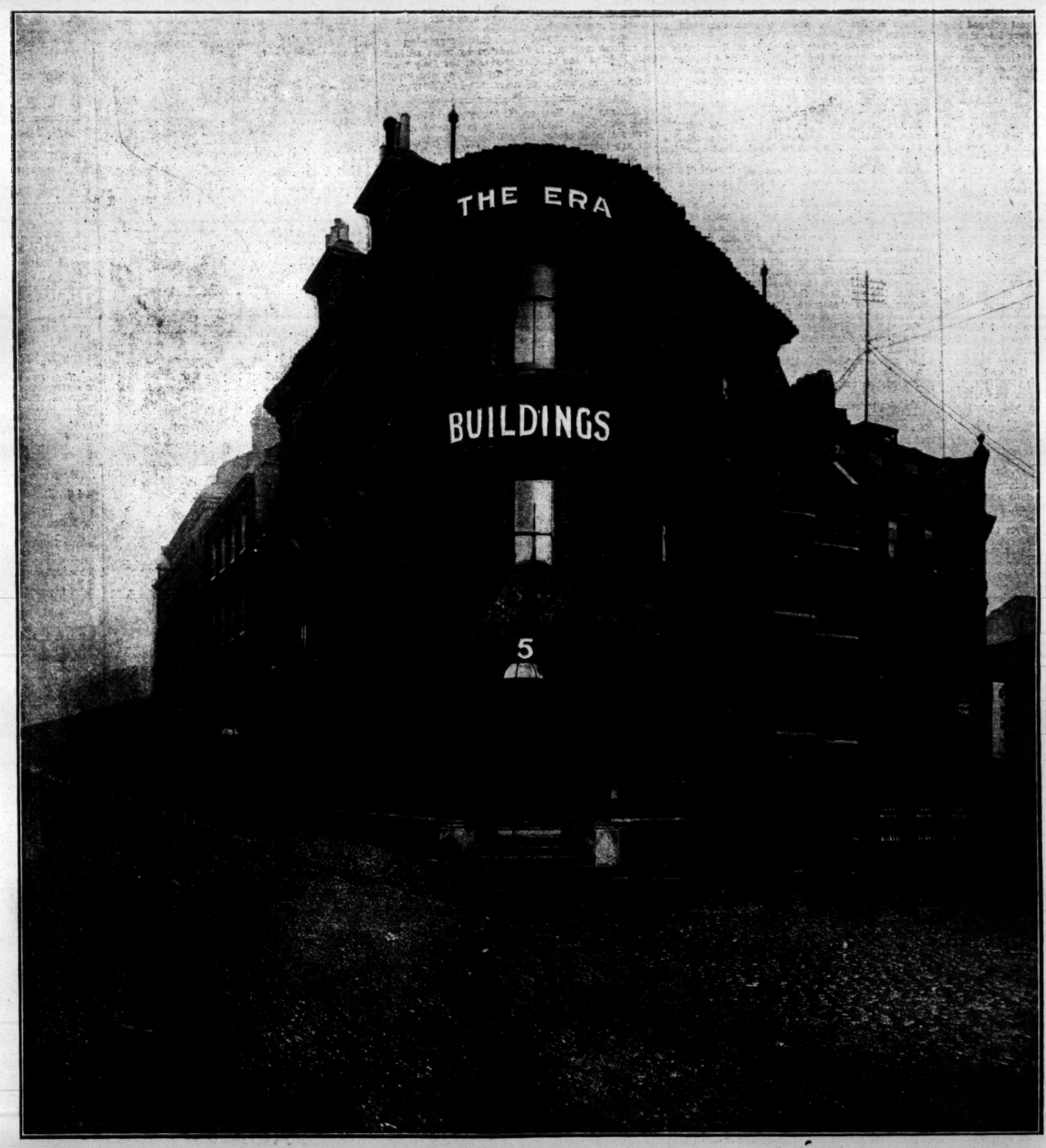

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"THE ERA" BUILDINGS. THE NEW EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISEMENT OFFICES OF "THE ERA," 5, TAVISTOCK STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

Members of the Theatrical, Music Hall, and Allied Professions who are travelling about are cordially invited to use the new address of "The Era" as their permanent London address. Letters received at "The Era" Buildings, Tavistock Street, Strand, W.C., will be immediately re-addressed according to instructions. American and Foreign Artistes are welcome at the new Offices.

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STORIES OF SHOWMAN LIFE.

(COPYRIGHT.)

By the Rev. T. Horne.

"TOSCO, THE TROUBADOR."

(TOLD BY THE RINGMASTER.)

"Yes, sir, circus life has a very romantic side. The oft-repeated tale of the jester full of quips and jokes 'setting the whole house in a roar' and yet with sorrow bitter and awful at his heart, has passed into a truism too commonplace for reflection. Of course, I have seen in full fifty years of the sawdust arena many tragedies and many comedies, but on the whole I am able to say that the good has exceeded the bad. The tragedies have been vastly outnumbered by the comedies, and both comedy and tragedy have been sweetened and graced by things in themselves ordinary and commonplace, yet full of the sweet odours of true life—chum and faithful friend, husband, wife, son, daughter, all the highest and noblest relations of life, blessed and being a continual blessing.

"The story I will tell you, sir, is a real tragedy, with desperate deed, and written large in the chronicles of circus romance. It was as far back as 1869, towards the end of the second French Empire. I was ringmaster at the Cirque Imperiale, Paris. Wallett, the jester, and I had a big hit—I remember it well—with *The Riggs of Mr. Briggs*, the clown and the ringmaster. I fix the time by that success. All Paris came to hear us. I believe half the fun was because we pattered such vile French. However, that's by the way.

"It was there I came across for the third time in my many wanderings 'Tosco, the Troubador,' far and far away the strangest being I ever met. Sometimes he was billed as 'The Wandering Clown,' or 'Tosco, the Tramp,' and not without good reason. Some demon of unrest had driven him east, west, north, and south. No city or town where a circus was found but received a flying visit from 'Tosco, the Troubador.' All lands to him were alike. From Paris to London, London to Hong Kong, thence to 'Frisco or New York, New York, Berlin, Vienna, Buda Pesth, or St. Petersburg, then back again in England at Manchester or Liverpool, Glasgow or Dublin. He was master of all languages, and full of music, although his special line was not instrumental music. He was an 'Improvistore.' His main gags were impromptus, some, of course, on events of the moment. When at his business he was all life and energy; nay, his work was done with such impetuosity of mental and physical vigour that at times his audience could not keep up with him.

"His private life was a profound mystery. Evidently a man of some private means, he hardly ever worked but when necessity drove him. He had been known to pay a large sum to break his engagement when the spirit of unrest gripped him. The desire to move on and to venture into strange parts of the world obtained for him a unique character. Wallett was near the truth when he called Tosco 'The New Melchisedec' or the 'Unknown Quantity,' 'never meaning,' added the prince of jesters, 'a negligible quantity.' Once and only once, was a clue to his nationality obtained, and that was a slip of the tongue that Tosco took infinite pains to retrieve; but no, it stuck. He was a Corsican. Few indeed are the men of Corsica known to be associated with circus life.

"It was, as I have said, a good season with us at the Cirque Imperiale. Tosco's turn was, as usual, a big success. His witty sallies in good rhyme and excellent French, his eccentric make up as a medieval Troubador, his fine, well-trained tenor voice, and his lightning-like rapidity of business, carried the excitable French people away, and the applause was frequent and great.

"I was in the centre of the ring, ready for the cues with him, when suddenly a disturbance arose in the two front seats. Two men were quarrelling fast and furiously. At last, one of the two evidently a workman, shouted out in terror, 'You coward, put back your knife.'

"At the sound of the voice Tosco stood for one brief second or two like a man paralysed, or seized with a cataleptic fit; then, with a leap that cleared the ring, he was in between the two men fighting.

"The whole audience rose and the excitement was intense. The people in the near vicinity to the three men now struggling, for Tosco was rolling over and over with one of them and grasping his antagonist by the throat.

"Suddenly the struggle ceased, Tosco and one of the men stood up, the third man was prone on the seats with a knife embedded in his breast. A shout of horror rang through the building. By this time the police had reached the fatal spot, and, at once concluding that the man who had quarrelled first was the murderer, were proceeding to apprehend him, when Tosco, calm and collected, exclaimed 'No, not that man, I it was who killed him; I am sorry that he had not a dozen lives to satisfy my vengeance.'

"Then looking down into the face of the dead, he added, 'So, Oscar, at last, at last, we meet, and as I vowed ten years ago, it is death.' 'Gentlemen,' he turned to the officers and said, 'I am now at your service.' 'Tosco, the Tramp' has finished his wanderings. The vendetta is achieved.

"It needed no word from the management to empty the house. As the police bore him away the crowd with one consent left the circus, and crowded to the cafés to discuss the tragedy. Paris, from end to end, could think of nothing, talk of nothing but Tosco and the vendetta at the circus.

"The next morning, to the utter surprise of expectant Paris, the mystery was out. All that Paris loves to have drawn out, by its peculiar system of magisterial interrogation of criminals, was in the papers; they all had it. Tosco had had the present contingency in his mind for years, and the material was all ready for the press.

"The story, as told by Tosco, 'The Tramp Troubador,' read as follows:—'I, Gabriel Toscoomi, glory in the death at mine own hands of the enemy of my people, Oscar Laroche, a very Judas. Ten years ago, after a wanderer's life in Eastern lands, I returned to my home in Corsica to find all that I had loved—mother, brother, and sister—vilely done to death. Their murderer, it was incontestably proved, was Laroche, the husband of my sweet-souled sister, Unicea. His command of subtle poisons was complete. As a practising doctor he had the lives of scores of people at his mercy. First, my brother—of course his death provoked no suspicion; then my mother, one of God's ministering saints, was poisoned; and when he needed more money to glut his secret passion my dear sister was offered a victim.

"'All the while these dread deeds were being compassed by this inhuman wretch I was being deluded, by pitiful tales of struggle and poverty, to work with untiring zeal to send money home to their assistance. It was the money thus drained from me that kept the heavy insurance premiums going. Oh! horrible craft of insatiate greed.

"'As I said, I came back to Corsica to find all the world—my world—horror-stricken with the revelation of Laroche's crime. Everywhere I met with the profoundest sympathy. The cleverest detectives of Europe combined to find the prisoner. All their investigations ended only in adding more names to the death roll of his victims. Here was a villain whose continued existence was a menace to society. As a Corsican, as a loyal son and brother to the blessed dead, I could not sit still whilst the sure hand of justice was trying to grip Laroche. I became myself the travelling intelligence officer of the Associated Criminal Detection Bureaux of Europe.

"'Twenty times and more I thought I had tracked him, yet somehow he managed to escape, such was his protean skill in disguise and alias. We could only suspect his presence by the trail of death—all by poison, and all to satisfy his lust of wealth. Six times we came upon him so quickly that only by precipitate flight, leaving all behind him, did he escape. Upon three occasions considerable hoards of his ill-gotten money were found, yet he always escaped. I have tracked him from one end of the world to the other, only to be again and again defeated.

"'Well, you may imagine the thrill of surprise that roused my whole being into action when I heard the voice of Oscar Laroche in high dispute. Here was my life's quest at an end. Here, where I never expected to find him; within my reach and power his voice revealed him. I doubt not that he was utterly astounded when he found that the Avenger at last was at his side. His eyes showed me the unspeakable terror of his craven soul. Ah! it was soon over; the exquisite joy of that one moment, that for years I had longed for, to have him in my power, his miserable life at my mercy.

"'Oh, yes, you may wish to call it madness; but, no! I was absolutely sane and clear in my mind. Not one moment did I doubt the righteousness of my vengeance; the call of the vendetta, "Blood for blood." I knew what I was doing; the supreme joy of that one moment of satisfaction repaid me for a life of work and toil and struggle. I felt in that one thrust of the knife that at last I truly lived.

"'No, I want no trial, no specious pleas of extenuating circumstances. If your human laws demand a life for a life, I shall rejoice once more that I have paid the full price and penalty for an act I would repeat again to-morrow, were mine enemy alive again.'

"So the tale of the Corsican vendetta was more than the usual nine days' wonder. What became of him ultimately was never told by the powers that be. No Parisian jury would convict him. *The Code Napoleon*, with all its wonderful means of escape for those who know how to use its complex machinery, was never put to better use than in finding a way out of the legal tangle that for a time enmeshed 'Tosco the Troubador,' but a way was found at last.

"Ostensibly sent to a convict colony in the Pacific Ocean, his departure from Marseilles only known to a privileged few, I was one of that select company permitted by the authorities to say good-bye to him. We all met on board the outward-bound steamer for the West, and there, with many a hearty hand-grip, we bade God-speed to 'Tosco the Troubador.'"

MUMMING PLAYS.

This winter has witnessed in West Dorsetshire a revival of the old mock-play, known as the "Mumming Play," the scene of its revival being the village of Bradpole, which adjoins the town of Bridport.

This old-world drama, which is most probably a survival of one of the "miracle" or "mystery" plays of the Middle Ages, was formerly acted regularly at Christmas time by the village youths and adults in many country parishes in Wessex, and, indeed, with certain variations, in other parts of England as well.

In the days when there were no village reading-rooms, technical classes, nor continuation schools, many a long winter evening was whiled away by young fellows in rural districts in learning, practising, and performing this play, the words of which were orally transmitted from generation to generation.

The performances, which were given in a very primitive style, took place in the halls of the manor-houses, the kitchens of the farms, the large rooms of the inns, or in any suitable places to which the "mummers" were invited, or in which they were permitted to appear, refreshments being provided, or gifts of money made, to the performers at the close of their entertainments.

About the middle of the last century, however, the practice of "mumming" greatly declined in the West of England, the few performances which continued to be given being but feeble survivals of the original, the custumes having degenerated into caps and other decorations of tinsel and coloured paper, and the players getting less in number and less efficient in their art, until the custom practically died out, some five-and-twenty or thirty years ago.

This degeneracy and subsequent abolition of "mumming" were, doubtless, largely due to the altered social and educational conditions which have prevailed even in the smallest villages in the present generation, and such a discontinuance is not to be wondered at, although it is perhaps somewhat to be regretted. Feeling that from an antiquarian and historic point of view it would be a great pity for this interesting relic of by-gone times to pass into oblivion, a few residents in West Dorset have recently encouraged a party of youths in Bradpole to revive the quaint old play, while there were still some people living who recollected it. Fortunately an inhabitant of an adjoining village, who was one of a party of "mummers" about thirty years ago, remembered the whole of the words and the traditional mode of acting. A gentleman, too, who lived in one of the old manor-houses of Dorset about the same period, and who is very fond of antiquarian research, took the pains to acquire from a party of "mummers" who played before him and his family, the words of the old drama, and by committing them to writing, preserved them. It is mainly from these sources that the play has again been put on the stage (if, indeed, such an expression can be used where there is neither stage nor scenery), and has been acted with much success at the "Forster Institute," at Bradpole, and at various private residences in the neighbourhood. The actors are simply village youths, with no instruction in the dramatic art beyond what has been imparted to them by this "mummer" of thirty years ago, but they have learned their parts well, and they enter heartily into the spirit of the play. The characters, eleven in number, consist of Father Christmas, his wife Bet, alias Dame Dorothy; Anthony, King of Egypt; St. George, St. Patrick, General Valentine, Colonel Spring, Captain Bluster, Room, a doctor named Martin Dennis, and a servant-man.

The costumes used by this company are effective, though perhaps they display a little anachronism. The military uniforms, for instance, are those of a very recent date, and the "get-up" of the doctor consists of the unromantic frock coat and silk hat of to-day. The actors, however, appear to be quite at home among their surroundings, and in speaking their parts the Dorset dialect is strongly in evidence.

At the "Forster Institute," where the writer saw the play, the performers simply assemled in a porch or ante-room of the building, and entered the hall as their parts came on; in some cases where such an arrangement is not practicable, we are informed they all strand in a group at the back of the room, and step forward as required.

The drama begins with the entrance of the old hump-backed Father Christmas, who speaks a quaint little prologue of self-introduction, and concludes it by inviting a gentleman, named Room, to enter. Mr. Room makes his appearance, and after wishing the audience a merry Christmas, announces the presence of the King of Egypt, St. Patrick, and the noble Doctor, and at the words:—

So now let the Egyptian king straightway appear,
that potentate enters, and after having extolled his own mighty acts, brings St. George to the front with these words:—

"No other champion here could me exceed,
Except Saint George, my only son-in-law indeed,
So walk in, St. George."

The patron Saint of England enters, and is shortly followed by Saint Patrick,

"A charming Irish youth,
Who can fight, sing, or dance, or love a girl with truth."

After an interchange of salutations between the two "saints," the patron of England announces to his brother of Ireland that he is expecting four bold warriors, whose challenges to single combat he had accepted. Captain Bluster, the Gracious King, General Valentine, and Colonel Spring then, in succession, present themselves for the ordeal, and Saint Patrick, anxious to befriend his English brother, challenges the first-comer with the words:

"Thee and I the battle try,"

to which the Captain responds:

"If thou livest I will die."

The fight commences, and soon the Captain falls lifeless at the feet of the Irish Saint. Saint George then expresses a desire to engage the other three combatants himself, and he soon gets the opportunity of doing so, in each instance gaining an easy victory over his adversary.

After a dialogue between the two victors, in which the English Saint expresses a wish that some doctor could be found who could restore to life the four prostrate forms lying before them, Saint Patrick introduces a next-door neighbour of his, an Irish doctor named Martin Dennis, who possesses marvellous powers. This skilful practitioner appears and undertakes for a fee of one hundred pounds to bring back the fallen warriors to life with his "Jerusalem balsam." The little bottle containing the precious fluid is held near the faces of the defunct swordsmen, when, heigh! presto! each man springs up in a most lively manner, and marches off brandishing his weapon. A scene of quite a different nature then ensues. Old Bet, alias Dame Dorothy, arrives and introduces herself as "a handsome young woman, rather fat, but not very tall," and whilst she is thus praising herself, her husband, the hump-backed Father Christmas, comes home from hunting. He says he has "catched" a hare, and wishes to have it fried for supper. The old lady refuses to cook it in that way, but offers to roast it. Father Christmas adheres to his determination to have it fried, and Dame Dorothy persists in her refusal, until, words getting more and more vehement, they begin fighting with their woden crutches, and eventually the dame receives such a blow from her offended sire that she falls lifeless to the ground. This consummation seems to be much more serious than the old man had expected or desired, and he loudly bewails his loss. He is, however, greatly relieved by the entrance of Doctor Martin Dennis, who offers, in consideration of a large fee, to set the dame on her legs again. The offer is accepted, the remedy applied, and the husband is delighted beyond measure to find his wife once more taking her place by his side, and embracing him in a spirit of sweet reconciliation. An effective finale is produced by the aged couple standing in the centre of the apartment, and all the other characters in single file marching round them a number of times, singing a gay chorus.

The original play of which this "mumming" is a curious survival, is considered by some authorities to have been commemorative of the Holy Wars, and the revival of it as a harmless country winter pastime has created much interest in West Dorset.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lucas opened on Monday evening at the Canterbury in a most attractive series of scenes from Dickens' novels. First we are introduced to Fagin and Nancy, who are having an altercation in Bill Sykes's room, the subject of the trouble being the youthful Oliver Twist. Mr. Lucas gives a fine characterisation of a doddering old Jew in the part of Fagin, and he makes his Bill Sykes as disagreeable a bully as that worthy must have been as he existed in the imagination of the great author. Mrs. Lucas exhibits strong dramatic instinct in her portrayal of Nancy, and when, a little later, she appears as the dying Jo, she arouses sympathy and admiration for the clever and pathetic picture she presents. In the "Bleak House" scene Mr. Lucas is the doctor.

As a concluding item, Mr. Lucas gave an admirable representation of the somewhat knavish, though harmless, Uriah Heep. Mr. Lucas's rendition is excellent in this rôle, which is brought before our eyes with remarkable fidelity. His "most 'umble person living" is a brilliant character study. Mr. and Mrs. Lucas certainly exhibit rare elocutionary and acting powers, and they carry a couple of good scenes. They are booked for three years on the Moss and Stoll tour, this contract being the result of a two nights' trial show at Dublin. When they were appearing in Manchester a fortnight ago the Dickens Society presented them with a fine bouquet.

Mr. Frank Brown, the popular circus impressario of South America, was announced to leave Buenos Ayres on the 10th inst (yesterday) for England, in order to bring back his first company on May 5. Through Mr. H. B. Marinelli's agency, Mr. Brown has booked a large number of English artistes.

Dr. Walford Bodie, the famous exponent of bloodless surgery and medical electricity, finished last Saturday at the Tivoli, Leeds, a phenomenally successful two weeks' engagement with his own company, the huge building being packed to suffocation nightly at early door prices. Although the prices are only 2d., 4d., and 6d., over £1,450 was taken in the two weeks, which is a record for the building. The scene on Saturday night at the conclusion of Dr. Bodie's performance baffles description; the stage was crowded with grateful patients and their friends, who had come to thank the Doctor for his marvellous cures. He was publicly presented with several handsome presents, testimonials, and illuminated addresses. He opened on Monday at the Alhambra, Hull, and has been playing nightly to overflow houses.

Mr. H. B. Marinelli, the well-known agent, has moved his offices from Long Acre to 29a, Charing Cross-road.—Mr. Somers Bellamy has succeeded Mr. Will Spearman as manager of the Islington Empire.—Mr. W. F. Frame, a Glesca laddie, will reappear in the famous city on the Clyde on the 25th inst.

The secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received from the Metropole Theatre of Varieties the sum of £1 13s. 9d., result of Pence Box Collection during the last month. The president and committee thank the management for the kind efforts on behalf of the fund.

While rehearsing a new "turn" at Luna Park, Coney Island, New York, Mdlle. Antonio, a music-hall acrobat, jumped 150ft. from a tower into a net, which broke under the strain, the performer sustaining a fractured leg.

Mr. Barney Armstrong deputised on Thursday at the Canterbury in place of Miss Vesta Victoria, who was indisposed. His success was instantaneous. Mr. Fred Miller complimented Barney on his funny business.

Mr. Harry Scott (son of Mr. George Scott, the popular manager of the Alhambra), has been specially engaged to support Miss Ethel Arden and Mr. George Abel in their forthcoming production of the popular *Three of a Kind* at the Tivoli. The piece reminds one strongly of the amusing farce, *Tom, Dick, and Harry*.

At the Hackney Empire, on Thursday next, a matinée in aid of the Children's Hospital, Hackney-road, will be given under the direction of Mr. L. G. Stewart. The beautiful theatre of varieties has been very kindly lent by Mr. Oswald Stoll, who takes a great interest in the welfare of the noble institution, which is much crippled for want of funds.

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VACANT

MAY 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd,

FOR

Musical Comedy or Good Drama.

NOTE.—"ROB ROY" is postponed, as another Management had already made arrangements for a Production, and the Grand Theatre Company, as newcomers, have withdrawn.

THE GRAND, EDINBURGH. Opened on December 11th last (Saturday) to £142 11s. 9d.

THE GRAND, EDINBURGH. First Pantomime, "CINDERELLA," played in six weeks to £2,918.

THE GRAND, EDINBURGH. Second Pantomime, 'RED RIDING HOOD,' played to over £1,000.

THE GRAND, EDINBURGH. Played to £560 on the fortnight with "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."

THE GRAND, EDINBURGH. Third Pantomime, "DICK WHITTINGTON," played to nearly £400 last week. Saturday's return being £131.

THE GRAND, EDINBURGH. March 6 / March 13 — John Tiller's "Dick Whittington."

THE GRAND, EDINBURGH. March 20, "THE BELLS OF HASLEMERE." March 27, "IN OLD KENTUCKY."

APRIL 3rd,

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With Music by Mrs. Maitland Malcom, W. Scott Phipp, and E. T. de Banzie.

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Only vacant dates May 29th, June 5th, 12th.

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1904-5, **CINDERELLA:** Edinburgh, six weeks, £2,918. Newcastle, five weeks, £2,054. 1905-6, A few vacant dates North.

1905-6, **ALADDIN.** This Edinburgh production can be transferred in February.

1905-6, **BABES and ROBIN HOOD.** Vacant January 29, February 5.

The Grand, Edinburgh.

VACANT

MAY 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd.

Address *re* Dates and Engagements to—
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The leading Theatres in
JOHANNESBURG,
PRETORIA,
CAPETOWN,
DURBAN.

George Edwardes' Gaiety Co. will sail for South Africa per s.s. *Briton* March 11th.

Companies now Touring:—
The Wheeler-Edwardes Company,
Wheeler's Répertoire Company,
and
The Moody-Manners Opera Company.

London Representative,
J. A. E. Malone, Daly's Theatre.

AFRICA.—LEONARD RAYNE
is now in England on Business
relating to his Enterprises in South Africa.

Business-Manager in South Africa,
Grant Fallowes.
London Representative,
George Rayne.
Portugal House, Portugal-street, W.C.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

ALDERSHOT, THEATRE ROYAL.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes.
Vacant June 12 (?), July 17, 24, onwards.
Address, C. Sounes, Woodlawn, Blackheath, London.
Telephone 85 Woolwich.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis.
The handsomest and most complete Theatre in the Provinces; Holding Capacity over £300.
Only vacant Spring Date, May 29.
Vacant Dates August 7 (Bank Holiday), 14, 21, Sept. 11. For terms and dates, apply to Mr. Tom B. Davis, Lyric Theatre, London, W.

BLACKPOOL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.
Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.
The Press says:—The Grand is the prettiest theatre in the world.
Everybody is charmed with this magnificent temple of the drama.
Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree says:—There is no theatre in either London or the provinces better appointed or better managed.
Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree says:—It is the most perfect theatre in England.
Mr. Wilson Barrett said it was the most perfect theatre he ever performed in.
Congratulations and Compliments on every hand from both Public and Professions.
Every Comfort and Convenience provided for the Patrons of this lovely Theatre.
Each portion of the Theatre is provided with separate Refreshment Rooms.
The Theatre is Thoroughly Warmed and Ventilated on the most Modern Principle.
Electric Light, own Installation.
Matcham's Masterpiece is a Model Theatre.
Financial and Artistic Success.
Acknowledged by Everyone to be "the" Theatre.
Second to None in the Kingdom.
Every Comfort and Convenience for the Artists.
The most Comfortable and Perfect Dressing-rooms of any Theatre in England.
Only First-class Companies. Holds at Ordinary Prices over £300. Open all the Year Round.
Holds at the same Prices £100 more than any Theatre in the Town.

BLACKPOOL COLOSSEUM.—SEASON 1905.
Situate at the junction of the Blackpool and Lytham Tramways, on the Marine Parade, opposite the Manchester Hotel, in the heart of Blackpool.
The Building (which is 127ft. in diameter, 41ft. high to the eaves, and 83ft. to the Lantern) is Lighted by Electricity, and as a place for Animal Entertainments is unique, it being the only building in Blackpool that, in consequence of its being free from pillars and other obstructions, affords the necessary height and space for Diavolo's performance of "Looping the Loop."
The Walls are covered with the World-renowned picture "Niagara" painted by the great artist Phillipoteau.
For the last eight or ten years Blackpool has been extending around and for miles south of the Colosseum in a marvellously rapid manner. Thousands of houses have been built and are occupied, and there has not been any place of Public Entertainment provided for the Masses of the People south of the Tower.
The Colosseum provides a long-felt want in this New and Populous Neighbourhood.
The Authorities estimate that about Four Million Persons visited Blackpool last Season.
The great Popularity of the Colosseum is shown by the fact that, although only partially occupied during a part of a Blackpool Season, upwards of 100,000 paid for Admission during the remaining part of the season.
Offers for the 1905 Season on Sharing Terms should be made to the Undersigned, who will furnish any further information.
Blane and Riding,
30, Birley-street; or,
Garlick and Sykes,
22, Birley-street, Blackpool

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.
The PRINCIPAL THEATRE.
Holds MORE MONEY at ORDINARY PRICES, and has better average Business throughout the Year than any Theatre in the Town.
The most Comfortable, Elegant, and Best Equipped Theatre. Large and Well Electric-Lighted Stage and First-class Orchestra.
All Visitors to the Theatre have Free Admission to the Winter Gardens, Floral Hall, Empress Ballroom, and Pavilion Entertainments, thus Companies visiting Her Majesty's Opera House have this additional attraction, which no other Theatre can offer. Only best No. 1 Companies booked.
For Dates address, Jno. R. Huddlestone, Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

BROMYARD, HEREFORDSHIRE.—THE PUBLIC HALL.
Lessee, E. T. Cuff, Falcon Hotel.
The above Hall is now Available for Concerts, Theatrical, Variety Entertainments of all Kinds.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE (Ltd.).
Man. Director, Mr. W. B. REDFERN, J.P., D.L.
A theatre among the most beautiful in England.—Sunday Times.
Vacant Dates (in Term Time, no Dramas), May 29 to June 7.
Silence polite negative. Address as above.

CHELTENHAM. — THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Gen. Man., H. OSWALD REDFORD. The Popular County Theatre. Visited by the Best Artistes and their Companies all the year round.
A few good Autumn dates left.
Re Dates as above,
Silence in all cases a polite negative.

CHELTENHAM.—VICTORIA ROOMS (late Corn Exchange), HIGH-ST. Lessee and Man., EDWARD B. SHENTON (late Lessee of the Old T R. and Assembly Rooms). Available for Entertainments, Concerts, Lectures, &c. Share or Rental. Seat 1,000 persons. Full dramatic Licence.

COATBRIDGE, THEATRE ROYAL.
Proprietrix, Mrs. MARY WATSON.
Manager, Mr. C. B. FOUNTAINE.
One of the most successful and up-to-date Theatres in Scotland.
Lighted throughout by Electricity.
Communications re dates to Manager.

COLCHESTER, THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. CHARLES MACDONA.
Vacant Dates, April 17 (four nights), May 1, 8, and onwards. Apply to
CHARLES MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-av., London, W.

DUBLIN.-QUEEN'S ROYAL THEATRE
Sole Proprietor and Patentee, Mr. ELLIS JONES.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. WHITBREAD.

Address, Mr. J. W. WHITBREAD.
Will Mr. Howard Hinton please send address.
Silence in all cases a respectful negative.

EAST DEREHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. For Vacant dates apply to
B. H. VORES,
27, Church-street, East Dereham.
Lease to be disposed of.

GLASGOW.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LIMITED. — The Most Popular Playhouse in the City. This week's attraction, Macbeth's School of Music, in "Falka." Glasgow's leading amateurs. Address all Communications to R. C. BUCHANAN, Man. Dir.

GREENOCK, THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, THE EXECUTORS of the late ALEXANDER WRIGHT; Mans., A. B. WRIGHT and J. J. WRIGHT.—Now Booking Autumn, 1905, and onwards. First-class Companies only. Silence a polite negative.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.
The new Theatre to be opened in August, 1905. Now Booking only No. 1 Attractions. All communications re dates to R. C. BUCHANAN, G. T., GLASGOW.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.
Proprietors, PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE CO., GT. GRIMSBY, LIMITED.
Managing-Director, JOSEPH H. CURRY.
Now Booking 1905.
Telegraphic address, "Curry, Grimsby."

HANLEY, THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Please note:
The Staffordshire Potteries for all Dramatic Purposes
must be considered as one Large Town.
Hanley has undoubtedly the Largest Theatre and Stage in Staffordshire.
Lighted by Electricity.
Accommodation for 3,700 People.
Electric Trams and Trains after Performance to ends of the District, Longton, Stoke, Burslem, and Tunstall.
Vacant for First-Class Companies only, April 3, 10, May 1, and onwards.

First-class Pantomime Required for Christmas, 1905.
CHAS. E. ELPHINSTONE, Managing-Director.

ILKESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.
Vacant March 27, (through Breach of Contract), April 10, and May 1, onwards.
Silence a courteous negative.

JARROW. — THEATRE ROYAL.

BARROW.—ROYALTY T. and OPERA HOUSE.
CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
Vacant Dates:—Jarrow, June 26 and July 3 and 10. Barrow, Easter, May 29, June 19, onwards. The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions. Consett, April 3 and 17, on, Re Dates, HUGH ROBERTSON, T.R., Jarrow.

KIDDERMINSTER.—OPERA HOUSE.
A Beautiful Theatre and pronounced success.
High-class Companies only entertained.
Vacant, March 13.
All communications, J. P. MOORE, West Bromwich.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.
Sole Proprietor and Manager, Lieut.-Col. J. A. WINSTANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, Sole Lessee and Manager, Lieut.-Col. J. A. WINSTANLEY.
Re Dates Autumn, 1905, and Spring, 1906, for both Theatres, Address, GEO. M. SLATER, General Manager for Lieut.-Col. J. A. Winstanley, Royal Opera House, Leicester. National Telephone, 1,156.

LIVERPOOL. — SHAKESPEARE THEATRE. Manager and Secretary, Mr. JOHN GAFFNEY.—All communications re Dates should in Future be Addressed to F. W. WYNDHAM, Esq., Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

MORECAMBE, ROYALTY THEATRE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
General Manager, CHAS. M. JULIAN.
Vacant June 19, 26; July 17;
August 28 (three nights), Sept. 11 and on.
First-class Attractions only.
Address, Chas. M. Julian.

NORWICH, THEATRE ROYAL.—Enlarged, Redecorated, Lighted throughout by Electricity. Upholstered by Dean and Co.
Weekly Matinées for County Visitors.
Now Booking 1905.
Address, FRED MORGAN, as above.

NOTTINGHAM.—GRAND THEATRE.
Manager, CHARLES T. COOKE. Vacant April 19, May 15, June 5, 26, and August Bank Holiday week. First-class Attractions only.
Silence a Courteous Negative.

OLDHAM, EMPIRE THEATRE,
The Premier Theatre. Holding Capacity £200.
Vacant for Principal Attractions Only.
May 29, several in June and July.
Can Entertain First-class Pantomimes, Christmas onwards. Brilliant Productions Only.
All Communications to ERNEST DOTTRIDGE.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managers of First-class Companies are invited to apply for Dates to
Mr. THOMAS LUCAS, J.P.,
Managing-Director.
Silence a polite negative.

PLYMOUTH.—GRAND THEATRE.—Centrally situated in the midst of over 200,000 Inhabitants. The Most Popular Theatre in Plymouth. Playing to Record Business, and now in the Flood Tide of Success. First-class Attractions only.
For Dates, apply, Mr. C. F. WILLIAMS,
Grand Theatre, Plymouth.

PORTSMOUTH, NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. BOUGHTON.
Open throughout the Year.
First-class Companies. Weekly Matinées.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Enormous Success under Jas. Kiernan's Management.
Takings last week over £600.
Fast Booking for the Fall of this Year.
First-class Attractions write in to
JAMES KIERNAN, Proprietor and Manager.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

SOUTHEND - ON - SEA. — EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, W. MARLOW.
The Prettiest and most Popular Place of Amusement on the South-east Coast.
All the principal Attractions Booked.
First-class Companies Required for March 20.
Managers please address all communications to W. MARLOW, jun., Manager, as above.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—PIER PAVILION.—Under New Management. Redecorated. Extra Dressing-rooms added. Electric Light, &c. Now Booking 1905. First-class Companies, Artistes, Bands, &c., communicate MANAGER.

SOUTHPORT. — PALACE OF VARIETIES.
Lessees and Managers, MURRAY KING and CLARK.

Will Close to-day, Saturday, March 11, when all Contracts will be Cancelled.

SWANSEA. — GRAND THEATRE.
Lessees and Managers, BROOKS & WOODBRIDGE.
Resident Partner, E. OSWALD BROOKS.
Immense Success under New, Up-to-Date Management.
None but Best Companies entertained.
Now Booking Spring, 1906.
Few Autumn Dates being Held for Best Attractions Only.
Open throughout the Year. Good Summer Season. Vacant May 29, June 12, 19, July 24, Aug. 21, Sept. 25.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS OPERA HOUSE
Lessee, CHARLES CAREY.
Vacant March 27 (week), May 1 (3 nights), May 15 and 22, June 5 (weeks), July 10 and 17 (cricket weeks).

WAKEFIELD OPERA HOUSE. Vacant March 27, share or certainty, and onwards, with exceptions. Silence in all cases a polite negative for date quoted.
SHERWOOD and Co.,
OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, THE WALSALL THEATRES Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, W. H. WESTWOOD.—Holds £180. Circle, 3s.; Stalls, 2s.; Family Circle, 2s.; Pit Stalls, 1s. 6d.; Pit, 1s. Amphitheatre, 9d.; Gallery, 6d. First Vacant Dates, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; June 5 and 12.

WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE (Essex). KING'S THEATRE.
Capital Theatre in High-street.
Seats 600 people.
To Let for Easter, Whitsuntide, and the Summer Season. For Terms, apply,
Mr. H. PADFIELD,
Portobello Hotel, Walton-on-Naze.

WEST BROMWICH, THEATRE ROYAL.—Open All the Year Round.
Cosy, Popular, and Prosperous Theatre.
Success assured by energetic personal management.
All communications to J. P. MOORE, on the Spot.

SALE OF

THE METROPOLE THEATRE,

SNOW-HILL, BIRMINGHAM,

on

THURSDAY, MARCH 16TH, 1905

(commencing punctually at 2.30 p.m.).

CHARLES F. REDFERN

is Instructed by the Trustees of Andrew Melville Esq., deceased, and Mrs. Alice Jane Melville, deceased,

TO SELL THE ABOVE THEATRE

BY AUCTION

at the

GRAND HOTEL, COLMORE-ROW, BIRMINGHAM.

This Important and Well-Built Property, executed in Red Brick and Stone, occupies a very Central Position in the City of Birmingham. It is within about three minutes' walk of SNOW HILL STATION and COLMORE-ROW, and six minutes' of NEW-STREET STATION. A fine service of cable trams also pass the door until 11.30 p.m.

THE PREMISES COMPRISE:—

HANDSOME and LOFTY GRAND ENTRANCE HALL, with two wide Staircases, to Circle, and two Pay Offices; VERY LARGE PIT, THREE ROWS OF STALLS, GRAND CIRCLE, COMMODIOUS GALLERY, numerous Refreshment Bars, Ladies' and Gentlemen's Lavatories.

THE STAGE is commodious, and the following dimensions will show that it is capable of any production:—Wall to wall, 63ft.; footlights to back wall, 33ft.; stage to grid, 50ft.; fly-rail to fly-rail 36ft.; flies to stage, 20ft.

There are eight DRESSING-ROOMS, Property-room, and two w.c.'s at rear of stage, and six rooms and band-room under stage. New Fire-proof Curtain has been put in at a cost of £178.

DECORATIONS.

The Theatre has just been redecorated, and is thoroughly up to date.

This is one of the Largest and Handsomest Theatre in the Midlands, and will be offered as a going concern, including the fire-proofed Scenery, Fixed Seatings, Settees, Electric and Gas Fittings, &c.

Leasehold for Seventy-nine Years from 29th September last; Ground Rent, £222 13s. 6d. per annum.

May be viewed from 11.0 a.m. to 4.0 p.m., and 8 p.m. to 10·30 p.m.

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For Excellent Residences, either Investment or Occupation Collection of Rents, Management of Estates, Surveys, Valuations, Mortgages, &c., apply Messrs. CRABB and SON, Surveyors, Estate Agents, and Valuers, 100, Brixton-hill, S.W. (close Waterlane). Tele., 643 Brixton. Manager, Mr. WALTER INGE. Note.—Messrs. Crabb and Son have the honour of being Estate Agents to the Elite of the Profession.

ORDER OF COSMOPOLITES.
Owing to the indisposition of the Grand Secretary, the Annual General Meeting is postponed until April 4, '05, at 12 noon, at the Registered Offices, 102, Irlam-road, Bootle, and members in arrears are requested to note Rule 17, and the Grand Lodge will be glad to consider any application for re-instatement.
By Order,
ALBERT E. WILSON, G.K.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTES, ARTISTES WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

THREE LINES, ONE SHILLING.
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For the convenience of Advertisers, Replies to Advertisements are received. They can remain until called for, or be forwarded by Post, FREE OF CHARGE.

NO STAMPS.

Advertisers and Subscribers are politely requested to forward Cheques or Postal Orders in payment of their Advertisements and Subscriptions crossed "Lloyd's Bank, Ltd." Remittances should be made payable to the Proprietor, "The Era," and addressed,

THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

COMPANIES WANTED.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, Companies for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
May 15, June 12, 19, July 10, 17, 24, Aug. 14, 21, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
April 3, 10, May 1, June 5, 12, 26, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
April 24, May 22, June 5, 12, 19, 26, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
April 17, May 8, 15, 29, June 5, 12, Aug. 7, 14, 21, on.
CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
Vacant, May 8, 29, June 5, 12, 19.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
Vacant,
April 24, May 22, June 12, 19, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Vacant,
March 27, April 10, 17, 24, May 4, 22, 29, June 5, 12.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for Theatre Royal, Leamington,
March 27, April 10 and 17, three or six nights each; also Easter vacant at Chester, Northampton, and Leamington.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for STANDARD THEATRE,
Vacant, May 1, 15, June 5.
TERRISS THEATRE,
April 17, May 1, 22.
METROPOLE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM,
Important Attractions for May 1, 8, 29, June 5.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

WANTED, First-class Companies, GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE,
April 10, 24, May 15.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
April 17, all May.
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON,
March 27, Wire, April 3, May 8, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL,
May 8, 29, on.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Vacant March 27, April 10, 17, 24, Aug. 7, onwards, with exceptions.
Fast Booking Autumn.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Vacant March 16, 30, April 6, 13, May 4, onwards, with exceptions.
Address, E. GRAHAM-FALCON,
County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Companies, March 27 and April 10, Luton; April 17, Bedford. E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, for Bedford and Canterbury, on Sharing Terms, First-class Sacred Concert Party or Band, for Good Friday, Two Performances. E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, for Corn Exchange, Bedford, Easter Monday only, on Sharing Terms, Minstrel Troupe or other First-class Entertainment.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Good Drama, Vacant Dates, May 29, June 5-12. The Theatre has just been thoroughly Renovated, a Scene Dock added, and a Full Electric Plant (3 Colours) installed. HERBERT VERE.

QUEEN'S THEATRE,
KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 8, 22,
June 5 and 12,
Share or Certainty,
Apply,
L. CARSON.

May 1, 29,, June 5, 12.
May 1, 29,, June 5, 12.
May 1, 29,, June 5, 12.
May 1, 29,, June 5, 12.
WANTED, High-class Attractions for Above Dates at the
AVENUE OPERA HOUSE,
SUNDERLAND.
Apply, C. E. MACHIN.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.
WANTED, Companies.—The Directors are prepared to Lease the above Magnificent Theatre for a Summer Season of from Two to Three Months, at a Fixed Weekly Rental, with the Use of all Scenery, Properties, and Appointments. Population of Leith, 80,000; whilst its close proximity to Edinburgh enables any special attraction to draw from the capital. Applications to Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN, Managing Director, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies (Musical Preferred), March 20, 21, 22 (Three Nights), 23, 24, 25 (Three Nights), April 6, 7, 8 (Three Nights).
Apply, W. PEACOCK.

COURT THEATRE, GALWAY.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 20, April 24 (Easter), May 8, 29, and onwards, with exceptions. Now Booking Autumn.
For Tours, &c., please address,
P. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Proprietor.

GRAND THEATRE, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Companies for April 10, May 1, 15, 22, 29, June 5.
Silence in all cases a polite negative.
Apply, Mr. C. F. WILLIAMS,
T. R., Plymouth.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, First-class Companies for April 17, June 5, 19, 26.
Silence a polite negative in all cases.
Apply, Mr. C. F. WILLIAMS,
Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Strong Attraction, March 20, 27, April 10, onwards. Wire for March 20.
Wire, DAVID WILLIAMS.

WANTED, Good Company, March 16 (Open Last Three Nights week only). Wire,
MANAGER, Victoria Theatre, Mansfield.

WANTED, First-class Drama, or Good Musical Attraction, April 24.
Address, SAWYER AND WOODRUFF.

WANTED, Powerful Attractions, April 3 and May 22.
MAURICE CLEMENT, Opera House, Dudley.

WANTED, Companies, April 3, 17, May 1, 22, 29, Opera House, Southport.
Manager, ALFRED HEMMING.

COMPANIES WANTED.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
Managing Director, Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN.
The Leading Northern Theatre Tour.
Capital, £155,000.
WANTED, Wanted, Companies,
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
NEW CENTURY THEATRE, MOTHERWELL
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, AYR.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, LEITH.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.
GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, FALKIRK.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, GREENOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KIRKCALDY.

The Bookings include all the Principal Drama, Musical, and Comedy Attractions.
Important.
Managers doing business with us at New Gaiety Theatre, Leith, please note that Stockbridge is barred. The Tivoli, re-christened "The Grand," is in Stockbridge.

Address all communications to
R. C. BUCHANAN,
General Office, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.
Telegraphic address, "Bookings, Glasgow."

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions for
QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
April 24, May 8, 15, 22, 29.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
May 15, 29, June 5, 12.
STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA,
April 24, May 8, 15, 22, 29.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

THEATRE ROYAL, PRESTON.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for May 8, 29, and June 5.
Open to arrange for Production of really good Pantomime next Christmas.
Address communications to
STEPHEN PRITT,
Silence a polite negative.

THEATRE ROYAL, RUGBY.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, March 20, April 10 (3 nights), May, onward (including Whit). A. F. CROSS, P.O.W., Nuneaton.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.
April 3 Vacant.
WANTED, First-Class Company.
Apply to FRED. FREDERICKS, Borough Theatre.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, High-Class Attractions, May 1, 22, 29, June 5, and Whit Week.
Address, HARRY YORKE.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for June 5 and 12, Aug. 7, on.
Address, FRANK KING.

THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions for weeks of March 27 and May 1.
Wire, to-day, KELLY, Theatre Royal, Stockport; next week, Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.

WANTED, First-class Dramatic or Musical Play, Sittingbourne, April 22, 24, 25; Guildford, 26, 27, 28, 29; or Big Picture Show could Open Good Friday (Sacred). BOWES, Hall, Camberley.

DUMFRIES and DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Dumfries, April 10, and on; Dunfermline, April 24, and on. Address, W. E. POTTS, Theatre Royal, Dunfermline.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-Class Companies, for March 27, April 17, May 1. E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, King's Theatre, Cardiff, April 3, June 5, all July, best dramas, must be new to Cardiff.

WANTED, Good Company, March 20, Musical or Pantomime Preferred. MATT. HALL, Wedgwood Theatre, Burslem.

FOLKESTONE.
PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.
WANTED, High-Class Companies,
April 3,
June 5, 19,
July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,
October 23, on, with exceptions
Silence polite negative.
H. W. ROWLAND, Manager.

OLYMPIA THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Proprietor, Mr. RICHARD THORNTON.
WANTED, Powerful Drama, for March 27, April 10. Wire or write, RICHARD THORNTON, Empire Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, First-Class Attraction, for April 17.
Apply,
Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

P.O.W., NUNEATON.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, May 1, 15, June 5, 12, 19, August, and September,
A. F. CROSS.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for BOURNEMOUTH, April 17 (Five Nights), April 24 (?), Musical;
MARGATE, May 1, 8, 22, and 29;
SOUTHAMPTON, PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, Wanted, First-class Dramatic Attractions, from April 24, on.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT, 4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.
Telegrams, "Lutanist, London."

THEATRE ROYAL, RYDE.
WANTED, Good Company, for Three Nights (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday), for this Month. The Theatre will not be Opened but for this Engagement, thus ensuring Good Business.
J. BANNISTER HOWARD, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

LYCEUM THEATRE, STAFFORD.
WANTED, Companies, Drama, Musical, or good Variety. Vacant March 27 (6 nights), and on, including Easter and Whit.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Important Attractions, March 20, Easter possibly Vacant.
Wire,
FRED GRANVILLE.

THEATRE ROYAL,
COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, March 27 and April 24. Address, GERALD HARDING.

THEATRE ROYAL, PETERBORO'.
THEATRE ROYAL, GRANTHAM.
WANTED, First-class Companies, first three nights Peterboro', last three Grantham, March 20, 27, April 17, May 15, on.

Write, EDWARD MARRIS, Dalston Theatre.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, April 17 (5 nights), May 22, 29, and June 12.
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

WANTED, Immediately, 20th, and onwards, Pantomimes, and Big Combinations, Comic Operas, Comedies, &c. MANAGER, Hippo., Castleford.

WANTED, Attractions, for Theatre Royal, Windsor, April 6 (3 Nights), 10 (6 Nights), 17 (3 Nights), and on. FRED L. CONNYNGHAME.

STANLEY, DURHAM, ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, April 3 (through obliging Mr. Sante).
Address, MARK H. LINDON.

ROYALTY THEATRE, LLANELLY.
Booked in Conjunction with the
NEW GRAND THEATRE, ABERAVON.
WANTED, Companies, March 16 (Three Nights), March 20 and 27, also later.
Wire,
TULLY, Theatre, Llanelly.

SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE, RAMSGATE.
Open all the year round.
Entirely decorated.
WANTED, First-Class Company, March 27, only vacant date till Autumn.
Address, HENRY BOWMAN, Manager.

WANTED, Strong Attractions (Musical Preferred) for March 27, April 11 (?), and on.
WILLIAMS, Gaiety Theatre, Dundee.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies.

EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
Vacant,
May 8, 15, July 3, 10, 17.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY, KENT.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY, KENT.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY, KENT.
Vacant,
March 27 (3 nights), April 17, May 1, 8, 22.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant,
May 22, June 12, 19, 26, July 3.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant,
March 20, April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant,
March 27, June 19, July 31.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant,
May 8, June 5, 12, 19, 26.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant,
March 13, April 3 (3 nights), 10 (3 or 6 nights,.

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
Vacant,
March 13 (3 or 6 nights), 20 (3 or 6 nights),
April 10 (3 or 6 nights).

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant,
March 27, April 3 (3 nights), May 8, 15.

KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
Vacant,
March 20 (3 nights), 30 (3 nights), April 17, 24.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant,
April 6 (3 nights), 24, May 8, 22.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant,
March 23 (3 nights), 27 (3 nights), April 3.

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
To be Let for Non-Dramatic Performances.

All communications,
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Manor House, Hayes, Middlesex.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 1, 8, June 12 (Whit Week), and on, with exceptions.
Address, T. A. EDWARDES.

NEW THEATRE, LOUGHBOROUGH.
WANTED, Companies, May 15 and June 5. Now Booking Autumn.
GEO. ROBERTSON,
Loughborough.

HOWARD and WYNDHAM, LTD.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for April 17th, Glasgow.
Address, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, SEAHAM HARBOUR.
Wire. Wire. Wire. March 20. March 20.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, through Obliging Manager,
March 20, also
April 17, May 15, 22, and Aug 7.
A. C. HARRISON.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for April 3, 10, 17; Required, Big Musical Attraction, for Easter Week, April 24.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for May 15. and 22. Applications, with full particulars, to JNO. R. HUDDLESTONE, Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

WANTED, Big Attractions, April 3 (?), 10, 17 (24, the Big Holiday), Opera House, Radcliffe; also April 17, 24, May 1, Chorley. Address, SANTE, Opera House, Radcliffe.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for Two Nights. Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

PIER PAVILION, HERNE BAY.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Stock Scenery, Electric Light. HORACE BANKS, Manager, 366, Clapham-road, London, S.W.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinematograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

WANTED, for Easter Week, First-class Company of Society Entertainers.
Apply, MANAGER, Palace, Rhyl.

TOWN HALL, WHITLAND, SOUTH WALES.
WANTED, Known, Vacant Dates now being Booked for Dramatic and Variety Companies, &c. Good opportunity and every convenience. Situate Junction, Pembroke, Tenby, Milford, and Cardigan Railways. Apply PROPRIETOR, Whitland.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, April 17, May 1, 8, June 5.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 7, Oct. 16, 23, Nov. 6.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A DISGRACE TO HER SEX."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, May 1, 8, 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Aug. 14.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, March 27, May 22, Aug. 7.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 24, and on, with exceptions.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 10, 17, June 5, Aug. 14, 21.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Standard Theatre, London, E.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates for
"HONOUR THY FATHER."
April 10, 17, 24, June 12.
Morton Powell,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates for
"A WOMAN'S DEVOTION."
March 27, June 12, Aug. 7.
Morton Powell,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates for
"GREED OF GOLD,"
July 3, Aug. 7, 14, 21.
Morton Powell,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, April 17, May 1 (?), Manchester District Preferred, August 7, 14, Sept. 18, on, with exceptions.
Tom H. Taylor, Standard Theatre, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, week of May 29,
Week of May 29,
(to precede Theatre Royal, Manchester, and New T. Royal, Birmingham),
for this Powerful Attraction.
Wire, to-day, Kelly, Theatre Royal, Stockport; next week, Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, July, Autumn, Now Booking 1906. The Most Perfect Production of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" seen in this Country. Charles Harrington, Theatre Royal, Leigh.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S TOUR,
"THE WEARING O' THE GREEN."
No Vacant Dates until Nov. 20.
WANTED, Big Theatres only, then and on.
Princess' Theatre, Glasgow,
Six Nights, March 13.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER'S COMPANY
in
"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."
WANTED, Leading Theatres for
April 24 (Easter),
May 1.
Address,
Mr. Silvanus Dauncey, 22, Charing Cross, S.W.

"WHAT BECAME OF MRS. RACKET?"
"MY SWEETHEART."
WANTED, April 17, May 22, onwards, with exceptions.
Stone, to-day, Opera House, Workington; next week, Theatre Royal, Blyth.

Lyttleton's "AT WAR WITH THE WORLD."
WANTED, April 3, 10, 17, Easter, onwards, with exceptions.
Everything Reliable. Printing Always Ready.
Geo. Lyttleton, T. R., Rugby; next, O. H., Porth.

"THE GUILTY MAN."
"THE GUILTY MAN."
"THE GUILTY MAN."
WANTED, April 17, May 15, 22. Thanks Walter Melville, for offer Terriss, Rotherhithe. James Hare, 68, Sayer-st., New Kent-rd., S.E.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Big Theatres, May 15 and 22, to follow Stockport
and
Ashton-under-Lyne;
also Sept. 18 and 25.
Address, Chas. M. Julian, King's, Nottingham.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, Theatre, March 27.
Fredk. Melville, Standard Theatre, E.

DAVID JAMES and COMPANY.
WANTED, for "Pair of Spectacles" or Répertory, April 3 (follow Newcastle) and Easter.
Russell Rosse, 10, King-street, W.C.

THOMAS THORNE and COMPANY.
WANTED, for "Our Boys," or Répertory March 27 (follow Brixton) and Easter.
Russell Rosse, 10, King-street, W.C.

WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
MR. ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN,"
Vacant June 19 (between Jersey and London), July 17, August 7, and few later; best Theatres only; fourth year of Tour, and Success continued. New plant of Printing and Special Effects. A Beautiful Production.
To-day, O.H., Blackpool; C.T., Bacup, March 13.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, March 27, April 3. Wire to-day, Theatre Royal, Bristol.
Letters, Junction Theatre, Manchester.

"THE DAYS OF CROMWELL."
An elaborate revival.
WANTED, July 31, Aug. 7, 14, on,
Beaudyn and Livesey,
Junction Theatre, Manchester.

"IN THE SHADOW OF NIGHT."
Easter Week.
WANTED, Theatre, between Clapham and Wakefield, Share or Certainty.
A Perfect Holiday Attraction.
Enormous Printing Plant.
First-rate Company. Entire Scenic Effects Carried.
James Willard, to-day, T. R., Bolton; Mon. Ashton.

The Melodramatic Masterpiece.
The Melodramatic Masterpiece.

"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
WANTED, April 3 (3 nights) (Scotland), May 1, 8 (South),
Autumn.
Robert Peer's,
Century Theatre,
Motherwell.

"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH,"
by F. A. Scudamore.
Miss Frances Delaval, and Splendid Company.
WANTED, May 8, 22, 29, June 12, Aug. 7, 21.
Wire, To-day T. R., Grantham; Next Week, Alexandra, Hull (Return Visit).

"SILVER KING" CO.
WANTED, Dates, May 29,
Nov. 13, 20, Dec. 4, 11.
Address, Polini,
93, Penge-road, Anerley, London.

"THE GRIP OF IRON,"
In Consequence of the Success of the Present Tour, it will be Extended from Easter to Whit Week.
WANTED, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5 and 12, must be Suburban Theatres, or near London.
George Denham, This, Queen's, Farnworth; Next, Albert, Brighouse.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, April 3 (Scotland or N. of England).
Fred Bulmer, T. Royal, Coatbridge, N.B.

"THE SLEDGE-HAMMER," by Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Theatres. First Vacancy Sept. 4.
W. V. Garrod, Osborne T., Manchester.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant May 8, 15, 22, June 5, 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24, Aug. 21, and Sept. 18. Address, J. W. Cordiner,
March 13, Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.

"BETRAYED; or, What Men call Love."
WANTED, May 1, June 5 and 12. Refer Lester Collingwood, Esq.
Cecil Du Guz, 11, Cunningham-place, Maida Vale.

WANTED, for "Life that Kills," May 1, 29, June 5 and 12. Sept. 11, and on.
"Grip of Law," June 12, 19, 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24.
"Bigamy," May 1, and few Spring and Autumn.
Fred Moule, Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

MR. BERT COOTE'S COMPANIES.
"THE FATAL WEDDING."
WANTED, Easter Week, April 24,
July 31—Aug. 7.
Address, Cecil Barth, General Manager,
150, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, for the unique Success and the Greatest of all Moral Dramas, "Her Fatal Past." City and Big Town Theatres, May 8, October 23, November 6, 20, 27, also Christmas. All Lancashire big or small towns certain of a big week with this woman's play. Address, T. E. Ward, Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe.

THEATRES WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
"A MODERN ADVENTURESS,"
Aug. 7, 28, and onwards.
Apply,
L. Carson, Keighley.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
"HEART OF A HERO,"
Sept. 25, and onwards.
Apply,
L. Carson, Keighley.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
"DRAMA OF LIFE,"
Aug. 7 and Oct. 16.
Apply,
L. Carson, Keighley.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
WANTED, April 24, for this Remarkable Attraction, onwards, with Exceptions. Spring, Summer, Autumn Dates are now being Booked.
J. H. Clynes, King's Theatre, Kilmarnock.

"A LONDON ACTRESS" CO.
WANTED, April 3 and 10, for
Miss Emma Litchfield's Success,
A LONDON ACTRESS.
A LONDON ACTRESS.
Vacant April 3, 10, and 24, also May 1.
Now in Third Year of Prosperous Tour.
Refer Harris Fineberg, Esq., M. Montgomery, Esq., Lester Collingwood, Esq., Dan Barnard, Esq., W. W. Kelly, Esq., A. C. Mitchell, Esq., &c.
Address,
Stuart Cleveland, Theatre Royal, Bristol (Return).

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for
the Great Play,
"DIVORCED,"
Produced at the
IMPERIAL THEATRE, LONDON.
It is of "The Silver King" class of drama, and should attain to the same degree of popularity.—St. Paul's.
Vacant, Easter Week,
May 8, 22, 29.
Business Manager, Malcolm Graeme.
Advance Manager, Ernest F. Wallace.
Address,
Reginald P. Rutter,
84, Barkham-terrace, London, S.E.

A stirring drama, of the true Drury-lane stamp.—London Daily Express.

WANTED, May 22, 29, and June 5, only
Vacant Spring Dates,
for
"HEARTS ADRIFT."
Bertram, Prince's, Portsmouth.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 7, on, with Exceptions.
Fred Bulmer, Theatre Royal, Coatbridge.

WANTED, Easter Week, May 29, also Whit,
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
Now in its Second Year of Tour.
Eugene Bertram, T. R., Birmingham.

MISS NETTIE WARE'S TOURS,
"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL."
WANTED, Autumn Dates for this Successful Drama, Excellent Cast.
Address, John B. Shinton,
Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.

WANTED, March 27, (follow Scarbro'), Big Theatres, Easter, on, for "No Escape" or "Money Makes." Wire, Davies, Theatre, Newcastle, Staffs; Monday, Aquarium, Scarbro'.

"THE LIFE OF A SHOWMAN.."
WANTED, Theatres for this Great Novelty. Managers in Doubt, Come and See for Yourselves. Vacant May 1, also Whit Week and Autumn.
Address, Sante, this, Crewe; next, Castleford.

"THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE."
Max Goldberg's Triumph.
DAN F. ROE and F. B. WOULFE'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Easter week, May 1, and June 5 (?), now booking Autumn; enormous success this week at Prince's Theatre, Bradford. Refer Francis Laidler, Esq. Bookings include most of the principal Dramatic Theatres.
Re dates, Roe and Woulfe,
Theatre Royal, Stockton-on-Tees.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
Shakespearean and Classical Répertoire, including "Under the Red Robe" and "The Three Musketeers."
WANTED, April 3, 10, 17, May 1, 8, 22, 29.
Address, Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."
WANTED, April 24, June 12,
April 24, June 12.
Admitted by Press and Public to be the most Popular Version on the Stage. Record Business, Palace, Newcastle, Refer Mr. Rowe; Record Business, T. R., Coatbridge, Refer Mr. Fountaine; Record Business, T. R., Blyth, Refer. Mr. Good; Record Business, Q. T., Liverpool, Refer Mr. Granville; Record Business, G. T., Nottingham, Refer Mr. Cooke. Receipts for above Five Weeks over £1,800. Wire for April 24, June 12, Wire,
James Bell, Grand Theatre, Swansea.

MISS OSWALD'S "EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, April 17, May 8 and 15, for this Splendidly Advertised Musical Version, First class Company of Known Artists. Herbert Barrs. P. O. W. Theatre, Nuneaton.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY,
"WHAT A WOMAN DID."
70th week of Continuous Successful Tour.
First-class Company of recognised Artistes, including Miss Dora Price as The Woman.
Managers in London district are cordially invited to witness show at Ealing Theatre next week; Matinée on Saturday, at 2.30.
WANTED, April 10 (follow Alex., Birmingham), April 17 (must be large town), May 1, 8, Whit Week, and onwards, with exceptions.
William A. Armour,
To-day, King's, Sutton-in-Ashfield; next, Ealing T., W.

Miss CONSTANCE COLLIER and LONDON CO. in the Vicar of Gorleston's New Play,
"LORD DANBY'S AFFAIR."
WANTED, First-class Theatre for Easter Week.
Apply, Baring Bros., Cheltenham.

"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this most successful attraction, good theatre, Aug 7.
Fred. Granville,
Queen's Theatre,
Liverpool.

"MISS MISCHIEF."
WANTED, March 27, through transfer between Theatre Royal, Hanley, and Theatre Royal, Glasgow; also April 10 (North), and 24, for
"MISS MISCHIEF,"
an Acknowledged Success,
now in the Twentieth Week of Tour.
All communications to
Godfrey Lamplugh,
To-day, Theatre Royal, Hull.
Next week, Theatre Royal, Norwich.

WANTED, Good Theatres, March 20 (Three nights); March 27 (6), for "My Sweetheart" (special cast), or Repértoire, including "Sorrows of Satan," "Jane Shore," "Under Two Flags," &c. Wire, Hill and Ayrton, O. T., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

"THE TRAITOR."
Messrs. Mitchelson and Fineberg's Magnificent Production.
WANTED, Sept. 4, 18, Oct. 9 and 16.
E. Hill-Mitchelson, Theatre Royal, Barnsley.

"QUEEN OF THE NIGHT."
WANTED, Vacant, May 15 and 22, South or Midlands, June 12, North. James Stillwell, Miners' Theatre, Ashington.

"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
WANTED, April 24, April 24. Wire, Wilson, T. R., Gloucester. See Companies Page.

WANTED, Theatre, Easter Week, for "Little Red Riding Hood." Address, G. Brydon-Phillips Chantrey, 120, Chevening-rd., Brondesbury Park, W.

WANTED, Theatre, Christmas Season, for Pantomime. For Particulars, address, G. Brydon-Phillips Chantrey, 120, Chevening-road, Brondesbury Park, N.W.

THEATRES WANTED.

Miss WINIFRED MAUDE and COMPANY,
"THE SINS OF A CITY."
By Nita Rae.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
March 20 (?), 27 (?), April 3.
Thirty-third Week of Present Tour.
Printing, Twenty Varieties.
Special Scenery by Francis H. Bull, London.
First-class Company. Refer any Manager visited.
Thanks Fred. Fredericks, Esq., contract Stratford (third visit); G. E. Mudd, Esq., contract, Nelson (return).
General Manager, Mr. Victor Du Cane.
March 13, Opera House, Dudley (return).

WANTED, April 3, 10, and Easter, the New "Fun on the Bristol. Address,
Love and Llewellyn, Town Hall, Leslie, N.B.

WANTED, for
"THE CENTURY PLAYERS,"
Under the Direction of
Mr. Leigh Lovel,
Suitable Theatre, for Season;
also can Arrange for Pastorals.
Address, Opera House, Southport.

WANTED, Managers to Book I.D.K. Minstrels, Proved Money-making Engagement, Better than Musical Comedy. Effective printing. Share or Certainty. Mr. J. Herbert Jay, 10 and 11, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly.

WANTED, Known, any Manager Disappointed at the Last Minute, Cannot do Better than Wire or Ring Up, Harry Burns's Agency, Empress Theatre of Varieties, Hartlepool. Telephone, 0231. Telegrams, "Burns, Empress." Also at London, 87, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.; Manchester, 344, Bury New-road. Can Place You Variety Programme at a Minute's Notice.

PETER ELAND'S "RED RIDING HOOD."
WANTED, April 3, between Lincoln and Bradford, for this Enormous Success, Owing to Continuation of Tour. Wire to-day, Hook, C. T., Bacup; Next, O. H., Radcliffe.

LIZZIE BOONE and FRED. HAMMOND'S TOUR, "MY SWEETHEART."
WANTED, April 3, to follow Opera House, Blackpool, also 10, 17, and 24 (Easter), for this ever popular attraction. Address, till Monday, 53, Mall-road, Hammersmith; then T.R., Darwen.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, April 10 (only vacant date this year), powerful company, all scenery carried, Racehorses toured and paraded each day in colours. F. G. Kimberley, Royal, Darlington; next, Vic., Burnley (return).

"HOME, SWEET HOME."
WANTED, Theatres, Easter, to follow Queen's, Liverpool, May 1, and a few autumn dates.
Frank Lindo,
Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

"SAILORS OF THE KING."
WANTED, Theatres, September 4, to follow Cardiff, Swansea, Bristol, West London; October 9, 23, to follow Leicester; November 13, to follow Yarmouth.
Charles Harrington, Theatre Royal, Leigh.

"ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE."
WANTED, May 1 (between Wednesbury and Brighouse), May 29, June 5, 12, 19 (precede Croydon (return) and West London Theatre), July 10, 17, 24, August 7, 14, onwards, with exceptions.
C. Clifford, Empire, Oxford.

WANTED, April 3, 10, and Easter, the New "Fun on the Bristol,"
to follow T.R., Liverpool.
Wire, Love and Llewellyn,
Sat., Kilsyth, N.B.

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
WANTED, April 10 (?) and 17.
London or South.
H. Hollister, Colosseum Theatre, Oldham.

ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, for Autumn Tours of Musical Comedies, Ladies, for Principal Parts, all must be young and pretty, and able to sing; also Solo Dancers, Character and Light Comedians, Stage-Managers, and Baritone Vocalists, latter must be young and of good appearance; also Chorus Ladies, must be young and pretty. Appointment by application to C. St. John Denton, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

Musical Comedy.
WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen, with Good Voices, for Tour of new Musical Comedy. Tuition and Salary. Moderate premium required. Immediate application, with particulars, to (imprimis) Conductor, 3, Connaught-mansions, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, Artistes for Musical Comedy, Town and Tour. Must be Young, of Good Appearance, and Good Voice. Send full particulars to Kelson Trueman, Regent House, 233A, Regent-st, W.

"THE LITTLE STOWAWAY."
WANTED, First Tenor, Second Tenor, Baritone, and Bass Chorisfers, to form Quartette of the above; also Several Ladies, with Good Appearance, to walk on. Apply, George Abel, Canterbury Music Hall, Westminster Bridge Road. Tuesday morning, at 11.30 a.m.

WANTED, Lady and Gentleman, for Leads; also a Low Comedian. A Good Box or Handcuff Trick write in. Arnett, Portable Theatre, North-lane, Faversham, Kent.

WANTED, Known, Splendid Opportunity for Lady who has had slight experience in Dramatic Work, play Star part, on Tour; must be young, tall, dress well. Salary to begin. For particulars, address, Box 1,313, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Next, Ladies, for "Jeanie Deans," Title-rôle and Madge. Wire, Clyde, Post Office, Saltcoats.

WANTED, Juvenile Actor, for Geoffrey, "Sorrows of Satan," special 3 nights; rehearse Monday next; open Thursday, near Manchester. One who has played part preferred. Wire lowest terms, &c. Osmond, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley.

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WANTED, at once, Two Smart Amateurs, Lady and Gent.) for Music Hall Sketch, must be Young and Good Appearance.
Apply personally, to-day or Monday, 2 till 4, T. Hall, Equestrian Hotel, Blackfriars-road, S.E.

WANTED, Lady and Gent., Amateurs, for Long Tour; no Premium; no Salary for First Two Months. Bell, P. O., Hailsham, Sussex.

WANTED, several Ladies and Gentlemen, to walk on in London Theatre; must give services. Address, Howard Ashley, Theatre Royal, York.

WANTED, Artistes, Refined, week-nights, Sundays. Editor of "Amusement," 7, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street. Commissioned to select for popular series.

WANTED, Amateur, Lady or Gentleman, for Dramatic Tour, Excellent Opportunity for Tuition, Premium Required, Salary Paid from Commencement. Mildred Vaughan, 36, Kenninghall-rd, Clapton, London, N.E.

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WANTED, Dramatic Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with The Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ada Brandon, Solo Harpist, Accepts Engts., Concerts, Entertainments, Splendid Erard Harp, Brilliant Selections, Handsome Costumes. Writtle, Chelmsford.

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WANTED, Engagement, Immediately, by Soubrette, in Drama, Variety, &c., Refined, Rep., Suit Concert Party. Ewart, 229, Brunswick-st., Oxford-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Tenor Vocalist, Disengaged Easter; can also accept Summer Engagement, Opera, Oratorio, Classical Songs. Tenor, Box 1292, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagements, by George S. Adam, Tenor, Scotland's Favourite Vocalist, at Liberty from June 5, onwards, Tour or Otherwise. All communications, 10, Blyth-place, Dundee.

WANTED, Known, Arthur Randal, Open for Light Comedy or Char. Excellent Refs. At Lib. 20th inst. New Mephisto Co., Court T., Warrington.

WANTED, by Ladies' Quartette or Trio, now Playing Café Engagements; Summer Booking. Moderate Terms. Good Refs. Box 1,303, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Mr. Oldbury Brough, Humorous and Musical Entertainer, is at Liberty for Tour or Summer Season Engagement, Sketches, Songs, Monologues, and Stories in Great Variety and Number. Address for Full Particulars, 48, Fulham-par-gardens, S.W.

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WANTED, by Young Man, Aged 20, Son of a Well-known Retired Musical Entertainer, to Join Organised Troupe, Good Singing Voice (Baritone), Brilliant Cornet Soloist, Trumpeter, Mandolinist, Novelty Double Drummer, Good Appearance, and Stage Experience, or would Join a Really Good Comedian, with Original Ideas, no Amateurs. Add., Holland Lindsay, 55, Cowcaddens, Glasgow.

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Write, with Photographs and full Particulars, immediately, to
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WANTED, a Principal Pantomime Comedian, for Next Season.
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WANTED, Contracts for High-class Scenery, at Lowest Prices. W. B. Robinson,
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WANTED, immediate Offers, Town or Country, Own Plant. R. Jones, Scenic Artist, 64, Leighton-gardens, Kensal Rise, W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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WANTED, Man and Wife, to Take Part in Stage Illusion, Actors or Vocalist not required. Address, Gus Garrick, Pier, Southport.

WANTED, Known, Mr. A. W. Deer, of the Empire, Balham, having Arranged Terms Satisfactorily with Mr. Walter Gibbons re Closing the above as a Music Hall, would be pleased to entertain any Offer as to Management, &c. In addition to Music Hall Licence, he has also held a Licensed Victualler's Licence for about sixteen years. Address as above.

WANTED, Known, Young Man,
Well Educated,
Wants
Situation
as
Assistant Stage-Manager
at well-known
Town or Provincial Theatre
or
Music Hall.
Small Premium given.
Address,
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WANTED, Known, Herbert Raymond, Liberty Monday, Business Manager or Advance, Permanent or Tour; concluding Pantomime (Management). Thanks to Miss Gertrude Gray and Cecil Clayton for present. Tours Booked and Arranged. Wire or write, 50, Belgrave-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Known, £5 Bonus Given to anyone Securing for Smart, Well-educated Gentleman, Position as Acting-Manager or Assistant Acting-Manager, in Good Theatre or Music Hall. Address, Frank H. Dale, 26, Richmond-rd., Bayswater.

WANTED, by Herbert Stanley (late Manager for Messrs. Moore and Burgess, Miss Ada Blanche, "The Southern Belle," late Acting-Manager H. M. Theatre, Carlisle, &c., &c.), Berth as Resident Business or Acting-Manager, at Good Theatre or Hall, Thorough Practical Experience both Sides of the Curtain, London and Provincial. Address, 44, Longridge-road, Earl's Court, S.W.

WANTED, Management of Theatre Bars, or as Thorough Bar-Cellarman, by Smart Man, aged 27, Tall. Excellent References. Distance no Object. Address to M., 13 Queen Margaret's-grove, Mildmay Park, N.

WANTED, by thoroughly Experienced Man, Management of any Class of Entertainment, Pier, Music Hall, Hippodrome, &c., or Advance. Free March 20.
Harry Dale,
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WANTED, Known, Eustace H. Jay, Seventh Year, Resident General-Manager, National Palace of Varieties, Croydon, wishes to thank proprietors and managers for kind enquiries.

WANTED, shortly, Engagement as Circus Agent or Manager, or Assistant Hippodrome Manager, Experienced, Sober, Reliable, Energetic Worker. Address, Charles Reed, Ethelburgha, Leigh-road, Leigh, Essex.

WANTED, Known, well-known Manager is now at Liberty to accept position as Entertainment Manager at Holiday Resort. Would undertake to produce High-class Stock Season at Pier Pavilion, Kursaal, &c. Over Four Years' Practical Experience in Management. Would invest if required. Box 1,314, "The Era."

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MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Engagement, by E. Walpole, Advance Agent, Just Concluded Panto. Tour, Experienced. References. 253, Vauxhall Bridge-rd.

WANTED, by Electrician, a Good Place; Good and Steady in Business; speak German.
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WANTED, Known, William Smith, Master Carpenter and Assistant Stage Manager, 12th Week Collins and Stephenson's "Sinbad," Liberty March 20. T. R., Glossop.

WANTED, Situation, by High Window Lithographer, late Buffalo Bill's, just concluded Macefield's Circus. Griffiths, 8, Dunstall-rd., Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Tall Experienced Young Man (26), Any Capacity, late Mr. Mouillot's Co. Halle, 148, Gipsy-hill, Up. Norwood.

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WANTED, good Solo Cornet, to open Monday next, 13, must be thoroughly experienced in Variety Business; permanent engagement to a good Performer. Recent references to
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WANTED, to Play on Boscombe Pier and in the Public Pleasure Gardens, for 16½ Weeks, from the Beginning of June, 4½ Hours Daily (3 Performances), First-class Solo Cornet. Apply, with Terms and References, to Mr. Dan Godfrey, Musical Director, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Good Cornet, Clarionet, and Euphonium, to Join a Permanent Depôt Band, Age for Civilians not to Exceed 25 Years, Ex-Army Men 30 Years, Pensioners 45 Years. Apply, Bandmaster, Depôt, Middlesex Regt., Hounslow.

WANTED, for Tenting Season, Open Monday, March 13, Solo Cornet, must be Good. Terms, 35s. Wire, Bandmaster, 52, Cloudesley-rd., Islington.

WANTED, Cornet or Second Violin Engagement, by George Steel, c/o McKim, 167, Graeme-street, Gallowgate, Glasgow.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Solo Cornet, must be First-class. Terms and Latest References to
Alfred Bye, Musical Director.

WANTED, at Once, Good Cornet, for Professional Town Band, Terms, Shares. Secretary, 95, Stow-hill, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, a First-Class Cornet.
Address, R. G. Elder,
Theatre Royal, Stockton-on-Tees.

WANTED, at Once, Good Clarionet, Permanent, Staff, P.W.O., Norfolk Artillery, Extra Pay about £40, Ex-soldier wishing to Complete Service for Pension Preferred. Apply, Stating Age, Testimonials, Character, with Stamped Envelope, to Mr. E. Holland, 18, Nelson-rd. South, Great Yarmouth.

EMPIRE THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, Principal Clarionet, must be First-class Instrumentalist.
Apply, with References and Lowest Terms, to
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WANTED, Trombone, March 20, week (9 shows), Panto. Address, Musical Director, The Pier, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Euphonium, Cornets, Horns, Basses, Clarionets, Flute, &c., Council Military Band, June 26, Ten Weeks. Terms, Refs., Bellerby, Bandmaster, Ilkley.

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WANTED, Experienced 'Cello, Please apply, stating music-hall references and salary required, to Oswald Stoll, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, a First-class 'Cello Player, for Tivoli, Leeds, to Open Immediately. Lowest Terms, References, Workman, Musical Director.

WANTED, First-Class Pianist,
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Must be used to
Variety Business.
Write lowest terms to
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OPERA HOUSE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.
WANTED, Good Pianist, to Combine Violin, 'Cello, or Flute,
to Open Immediately.
Lowest Terms for Permanency, apply Manager.

WANTED, Pianist, accustomed to Variety Business. Apply by letter; mark envelopes "Piano." Address, Signor Pepi, Tivoli T., Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, at once, Pianist, must be sight reader, to travel with Auction Mart. Apply, Williams, Auction Mart, Blaenavon, Mon.

WANTED, Good Orchestral Pianist, Open March 20, Crewe, for Tour. References, Age, T. Bateson, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy, S.W.

WANTED, Good Double Drummer, 30s. Weekly, near Bristol Preferred. Send References, &c., Miss Kildare, Waveney, Paignton.

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WANTED, at Once, all Instruments, for Permanent Orchestra, Season Five Months, Commencing Week before Easter, Uniform Provided, only Steady and Experienced Players need apply, Two Performances Daily, no Sunday Duties. State Age, and Terms Desired. Apply to A. Gray, Musical Director, 81, Smedley-road, Cheetham, Manchester.

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WANTED, by Solo Violinist, Experienced Leader, Immediate Situation; also for very Good 'Cellist. Address, Box 1,289, "The Era."

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WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Violinist, Experienced all Lines, Steady and Reliable. State Terms. In or near London preferred. Address, 36, Coin-street, Waterloo, S.E.

WANTED, by Experienced Cornet, Re-engagement. At Liberty to Join at Once. Refs. Address, H. B. METCALFE, 39, Whitehouse-street, Walsall.

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WANTED, Engagement, as Solo Cornet or ripieno, permanent or seaside, good transposer and player. Address, SIDNEY P. WILLIAMS, 10, Hathaway-street, Maryhill, Glasgow.

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WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement, or Deputising. Apply, BASSIST, 1, Honeybrook-road, Clapham-park, S.W.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement, Ladies' Orchestra not objected to.
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WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Re-engagement, thoroughly Experienced, Reliable. Can open Monday. Address, FLAUTIST, 78, Norfolk-street, Rotherham.

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagement, Any Business, Variety or Quadrille.
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MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Pianiste, Young Lady, Soloist, Sight-reader, Accompanist. Address, T. LINDSAY, Waverley Hotel, Melrose, Scotland.

WANTED, Pianist, March 20, Tour, used to Variety, Terms must be Reasonable. LE WIST, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, by Double Drums, all Effects, Engagement, 20 Years Army Band, Music Hall, Theatre, &c. M. B., 55, Parma-cres., Lavender-hill.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, Re-engagement, any Business. Good References. W. H. WHITTAKER, c/o HARRIS, Ginhouse Farm, Rotherham.

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WANTED, Known, to Directors, Managers, Committees, &c., that the Famous Old
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WANTED, Engagements by this Fine Band (24 Performers or Less). Available for Concerts, &c., at a Distinctly Low Fee, Subject to Sanction of Officer Commanding. Disengaged for Easter.
Applications must be received by March 25.
Specially Advantageous Arrangements for Four Days,
Can give Eight or More Performances.
25th only vacant date March;
Sat. next (11th), Alexandra Palace.
Particulars upon Application,
Headquarters, Pond-st., Hampstead, London, N.W.

WANTED, Known, the "Arpád Bela" Hungarian Band, from the Coliseum, London, at Liberty for Receptions and First-class Hotel Engagements. Combination from Four in number upwards to Suit any Requirements. First-class Offers only invited. Apply, Conductor, Herr ANTHONY KORSCHIK, c/o Kraft's, Trafalgar House, 9, Gt. Newport-st, St.. Martin's-lane, London, W.C.

WANTED, Known, the Original Blue Austrian Band open to Good Offers.
CONDUCTOR, 53, Philpot-street, Stepney, London.

WANTED, by the Loyal Westminster Band (Thirty-one Prof. Musicians), Engagements.
Conductor, O. H. CARTER, 32, Tenison-street, S.E.

WANTED, by Well-known Band, Engagement at end of London Season, for Large High-class Seaside Hotel, or Pavilion; Handsome Uniforms. Solo Instrumentalists. Apply, MUSICAL DIRECTOR, 22, Crewdson-rd, London, S.W.

WANTED, by Rosabel Ladies' Orchestra, Conductress Miss Rose Telfer, Summer Season Engagement. Excellent Répertoire.
MUSICAL DIRECTOR, 10, German-place, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagements for Hebburn Champion Band, Holders of the 1000 Guineas Trophy (on view), Good Friday, Sat., and Sunday. Write, LINDON TRAVERS, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

THEATRE ROYAL, NOTTINGHAM.
WANTED, Known, the following members of the above orchestra are open to receive individual or combined Engagements, viz., Violins (Leader, First, Second), Viola, 'Cello, Bass, Cornet, Trombone, and Euphonium, Drums.

WANTED, by Red Stour Orchestra (10 to 15 professional performers), Seaside Engagement, for month or thereabouts, commencing August Bank Holiday.
Apply,
EDGE and WOODALL, Stourbridge.

WANTED, Engagements by the Kensington Excelsior String Orchestra, from 5 to 15 Performers. Hotels, Garden Parties, Seaside, &c. Conductor, 8, Kingwood-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice. Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. WILLIAMS, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester;" Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. JESSON, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London;" 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. LEES, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTED.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS, BOLTON.
WANTED, at Once, and Future Dates, Grand Sensation, New Novelties, Big Stars, and Useful Circus Performers, in all Lines, anything and everything that can be done in a Circus Ring; a Big Act Required for March 20, Share or Salary. Note.—All Engaged at this Circus will have the Offer of Season at a Seaside Resort. Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's Circus, Bolton.

TUDOR'S HIPPODROME,
BLYTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.
WANTED, for these Dates only, April 17 and 24, Big Novelty Acts.
Address, as above.

TRANSFIELD'S HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS.
WANTED, for the opening of the above, March 20, 1905, at Dartford, Kent, Artistes in all Branches of the Equestrian and Variety Profession. Quote lowest terms and full particulars, T. G. TRANSFIELD, Hippodrome, New Brompton.

WANTED, for New Electric Circus, Riders and Talent, in all Lines, Ring and Stage; also Rough Riders, &c., for Wild West Scene, New to Ireland. Lowest Terms, HARRY LYONS, Klondyke Circus, Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo.

BOSCO'S TENTING CIRCUS.
WANTED, Artistes of every Description, commencing Easter Monday, for six months' tour, Riders, Clowns, Comedians, Acrobats, Aerial Acts, Animal Shows, Sensational and Novelty Shows; useful families doing more than one act, write. Full particulars, with lowest terms for long tour, Bosco, Hippodrome, Belfast.

WANTED, for Tenting Season, for Touring Ireland, useful People, Ground, and Aerial Acts new to Ireland, also Grooms, Tentmen. Glad to hear from old friends. DUFFY'S CIRCUS, Seaford-street, Belfast.

WANTED, for Lloyd's Circus, Talent of all Kinds, Sensational Novelties, Bare-back Riders, Tumbling and Singing Clowns, a Family that can do Two or Three Acts, Musicians, Leader, Tent Master, Double Drummer, and an Agent, for No. 2. Direct, Post Office, Waterford.

WANTED, Circus Acts, Big Specialities, for England and Abroad. Terms, &c., EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, for Mr. John Leopold's "NEW FRIVOLITY" COMPANY,
a Good Tumbler.
Also Top Mount.
Apply, JOHN ELLERY, H. M. T., Aberdeen.

WANTED, a Young Man, not more than 5ft., must Tumble, and Be Funny especially. Write, with all Details, Box 1,298, "The Era."

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTED.

WANTED, Young Lady or Girl, with little Knowledge of Gymnastics, for Well-known Troupe. None but Strong and Well-built need apply. Particulars to
JANSEN,
Royal Theatre, Warrington.

WANTED, Girl about 16 years of age, height not over 5ft., with Slight Knowledge of Tumbling and Bending for Long and Good Engagement in well-known family.
Apply, Box 1,293, "The Era."

WANTED, a Smart Young Tumbler, Amateurs Save Stamps, Good Salaries Paid to Suitable Person. All Communications, ACROBAT, 60, Hurst-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Juggler, Young Man to Assist, must be Good Comedian. Apply, with Particulars, to Box 1,302, "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

John Scott's Royal British Circus, on Tour.
General Manager, GEO. SCOTT.

WANTED, Known, Address all Communications to Perm. Ad., 22, Berkeley-pl., Clifton, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's, Acknowledged by Public and Press Best Existing Lion Show, Vacant March 20, for London only, May 15, 29, and June 12.
Communications, week March 13,
The Euston Theatre of Varieties, London, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Gingero, with his Marvellous Troupe of Performing Bulls, Goats, Sheep, and Dogs, the only Act of its kind in England to-day, Open for Fêtes and Galas. At Liberty March 27. Address, GINGERO, Circus, Hull.

OHMY'S CIRCUS, BOLTON.
WANTED, Known, Claude Ohmy and Sisters are at Liberty for the Summer Season with a number of First-class Acts, including the Three Sisters Deering, the Finest Equestrienne Act now before the Public, for Home or Abroad. Address, CLAUDE OHMY, Ohmy's Circus, Bolton.

WANTED, all in want of a Novelty, to Book Fossett's Phenomenal Lightning Animal Act, Performing Mule, Talking Mule, Flying Dogs, Riding Dogs, Running Dogs, Tumbling Dogs, Comedy Dogs, in a New and Up-to-Date Sporting Act, "The Derby." For terms, address, FIONI, or c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known.—Of the comicalities of the show, well, all we can say is that even the most sedate person would give way to mirth at the eccentricities of Handy Andy, who is just as silly-looking as one would imagine his Irish namesake to be.—Cambridge Express. Handy Andy (F. Anderson), Talking, Tumbling, and Knockabout Clown, Entrées, &c, Liberty Monday. Wire, Circus, Cambridge. Permanent, 41, Lavan-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Bros. Austin, Double, Single, Talking, Tumbling Clowns and Agoustes; Pyramid of Chairs, Foot Equilibrists; Finish to-night, month's comfortable engagement with Anthony Powell's, Hippodrome, Cambridge; Monday next return to Lord George Sanger's Great Circus, on Tour. Permanent Address, 104, Park-road, Northampton.

WANTED, Comical Walker, Talking Clown, with Good Entrées, Vacant Monday; also for Tenting. Wire or Write, Palace, Swansea.

WANTED, Known, Two Dominoes, Clown and Donkey, a Comic Act, Away From all Other Animal Acts. Monday, Circus, Hull. Liberty, Easter.

WANTED, by Les Uniques (Two Ladies, Two Gentlemen), March 13 and 27. Original Gymnastic Pot-pourri on two illuminated perpendicular ladders. Address, Palace, W. Hartlepool.

WANTED, March 20, by Alec Aubrey, renowned Silver Chain Gymnast. Tivoli, Dublin; Monday (Fourth Return), Gaiety, Oldham.

WANTED, Known, the Three Leonards, Triple Bars, Acrobatic, Hand-balancing Chair Act, Clown's Entrées. Lib. 7, Melville-st., Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, Onda and Leon, the only Conversational Triple Bar Act, Vacant March 20. Address, Pier, Southport.

WANTED, Known, Harland and Rollison, in their Novel Musical Act, Empire, South Shields. Free March 20 and 27.

WANTED, Known, Miss Bennetta Bancear, Liberty March 13, and on, Single Trapeze and Bender combined. Address, Circus, Stockport.

WANTED, Tenting, The Darwins, Monkey and Tramp Trapezists, Vandetta Bros., Acrobats, Two Acts, Lithos. 49, St. Paul's-rd., Moseley, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday next, Bros. Lloddge, Silver Chain Acrobats. Empire, Wigan; after Sat., 55, King Cross-street, Halifax.

WANTED, Known, Joe Pauletti, Acrobatic Cycling Staircase Performer, will introduce shortly a First-class Eccentric Bicycle Act, intro ducing Staircase, Pedestals, and Tables, for Tricks. Free June for Continental offers or Galas. T. R., Farnworth.

WANTED, by Houpla and Hecla, equilibrists and acrobats, March 13 and 20. Wire, Circus, Bolton; after Sat., Thorne, Doncaster.

WANTED, Known, Don Pedro, the Great and most Daring High-Rope Performer, Open for Fêtes and Galas. Apply, 121, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea; or, Mr. T. Wood, Easton, Bristol.

WANTED, by Attilla, Oscardo and Albert, Famous Gladiatorial Act, Open March 13, 20, 27. Wire, 195, Boaler-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Goliath, the Boy Hercules, May and June Dates. Great Sack of Flour Competition. This, Alhambra, Stourbridge; next, Royal, Batley.

WANTED, by Two Brothers, of Smart Appearance, Situation, to look after Thoroughbreds or Performing Horses, Experienced. Write, LEWIS BROTHERS, 73, Romilly-crescent, Cardiff.

WANTED, by Three Brothers, Job in Travelling Circus or Menagerie, with Horses or Ponies, Experienced, and not Afraid to Work. Write, JOHN REILLY, JUN., Bridge-st., Cootehill, Co. Cavan.

WANTED, Engagement as Saddler, well up in Collars, Travelled with John Sanger.
F. GATES, c/o Mrs. NUNN, Poole Valley, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagements, Balloon Ascents, Parachute Descents, Airship Flights, &c. SPENCER BROS., LTD., 45B, Aberdeen-pk., Highbury.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

ABERDEEN and DUNDEE.
PALACE VARIETY THEATRES.
Booked in Conjunction with
Plymouth, Bristol, and Sunderland.
WANTED, Artistes Engaged to forward Bill Matter Two Clear Weeks in advance.
Always Vacancies for Star Turns.
ERNEST SHELDON, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Star Variety Artistes, Big Specialities,
March 20, onwards. Terms, Bookings,
EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, for Royal Albert Hall, Jarrow, Variety Artistes, March 20 and 27. THOMPSON, 72, High-st., Wallsend-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Variety Artistes all Lines, March 20, twice nightly. GEO. S. KING, Theatre Metropole, Hoyland, near Barnsley.

WANTED, for Galas, Easter, Whitsun, June 19, Week, and Gala Season, Artistes, in every Line. Terms, Lithos., WOOD, Caterer, Easton, Bristol.

T. A. Edwardes' Variety Establishments.
WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, Comediennes, Comedians, Good Specialities, Sisters, or anything with Drawing Powers.
Immediate and Future Dates.
T. A. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Artistes, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, March 20 and 27. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote Lowest; Hall small.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, for the Coventry Hippodrome Variety Artistes
of every Description,
the absolute Cream of the Profession,
Big Stars Specialities,
Novelties,
and Great Attractions,
with Drawing Power.
Apply, stating Lowest Terms,
to
T. M. SYLVESTER, as above.

WANTED, for the Maidstone Hippodrome, Opening March 20,
Artistes of every Description
in the Variety Profession,
Big Serios, Comedians,
Good Comedy Knockabout Acts,
any big Novelty
that will draw
and Please the Public.
Good Musical Conductor
to supply an Orchestra of
Twelve Performers.
Good Window Biller,
used to Fly Posting,
and useful Stage Hands.
Apply, Stating Lowest Terms,
T. M. SYLVESTER,
Hippodrome,
Coventry.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, immediate and future Dates. Nothing too big. Artistes Booked this week include: Henry Herne and Co., Daisy Silcott, Charlie Gardener, the Zampas, Harry Pleon, the Freans, Fred Kelsey, Carlotta De Yonson and Co., Stirtevant Swift, Charles Paver, Fred Keeton, Pattie Yole, Flo Varley, Blanch Holt, Nelson and Thomas, Harry Glynn and Co., the Pates, Deller and Oxford, Harry Bent, Tom Fancourt, Brownson and Ellis Co., Carlotta Lunn, Rans and Mason, Brian and Lawrence, Sydney Mason and Co., Tom E. Cliffe, the Summersons, Chas. Lloyd, Dale and Vale, Winonia, Nellie Navette, Leighton and Mona, Sisters Desmond, J. Wright, Aitken and Co., Fred Southern and Co., the Fentons, including Cissie Kent, &c. Telephone, 15 Brixton. 1A, Loughborough-rd, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Immediate and Future Dates. Lessee and Manager,
WM. MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

Keighley Friendly Society's Fête and Gala, to be Held June 17, 1905.
WANTED,— First-class Artistes, Aeronauts, Pyrotechnists, are Invited to Tender for the above.
Tenders must be in on or before March 13, to
J. W. CLAYTON,
92, Marlborough-street, Keighley.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, from now on.
Apply,
Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, High-class Concert Artistes; must be Refined, or Useless. Write with Full Particulars, MANAGER, Pavilion, Kingstown, Ireland.

WANTED, Al Fresco Artistes, all Lines, Long Season, Young and Refined, Large Répertoire. Ladies Send Photos. ALF. LIVERICK, Town Hall, Methil, Fife.

WANTED, for Immediate and Future Dates, Star Artistes only, for Best Establishments, London and Provinces.
GEO. AYTOUN, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E. Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone, 1,949 Hop.
N.B.—No one has Authority to Collect Commission for me.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager,
H. L. SKIVINGTON.
WANTED, Comedy Star Artistes, for Immediate Dates. Nothing too Big.

BRITANNIA MUSIC HALL, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Artistes, in all Lines, Good Combinations Wanted, to Wire in for April 13, and on.
W. H. Smart send Address.

WANTED, Artistes, Big Specialities, on Shares or Salary, for March 20, 27, also April.
HUGH DEMPSEY, Grand Theatre, Maidenhead.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, nothing too big, for England and the Cnotinent. Send full list of bookingsl lowest terms, Lithos, Photos, &c., to
BARNARD and DEETRICH, Continental Hustlers, 7, Clayton-square, Liverpool.

Saphrini's Agency, 5, King-street, Glasgow.
WANTED, Artistes all Lines, for Scotland and North of England, I can always fix good turns three or four weeks. This week's bookings include Chas. Beanland, Bros. Brooks, Sisters Brand, T. W. Barrett, Billy Ross and Co., The Rushforths, King Leo, Chant and Chant, Cambo, Sisters Volbeque, Ryder Davis, Eva Ward, Curtis D'Alton, Sam Thomson, De Gruchy's Bioscope, Poole and Poole, R. C. McGill, Alec Aubrey, Mdlle, De Vena.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, for Al Fresco, commencing June, Tenor and Baritone. Also Pianist. Four Months' Engagement to Suitable People. Terms must be Low. Will Jimmie Forrester write?
Box 1,315, "The Era."

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
WANTED, Artistes in all Lines. Rehearsal Monday, March 13, at 2.0 o'clock, for The Goldinis, Charles Woodward, Lil Gorman, Agnese and Arthur Lynch, Vernon's Bioscope, Reed and Lerne, Mike Cray, Willetti Bros. Letters, S. L. LEE.

WANTED, Artistes, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Mar. 27, April 10 and 24. Good living freak wanted April 3. Lowest terms. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin.

EMPRESS THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
HARTLEPOOL.
Proprietors, Councillor EVERTON and CRAGG.
General Manager, HARRY BURNS.
All Communications must be Addressed to Burns' Agency only.
WANTED, Known, Call, Monday, March 13, Eight Julians, Emie Myers, Lily Lonsdale, Burns' Bioscope, Frank Coyle, The Fordyces, Vera Mayne, Brewster Troupe, and Paul Hesse Trio. Signed, H. BURNS, General Manager.
Telegrams, "Burns, Empress." Telephone, 0.231.

TIVOLI MUSIC HALL, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Proprietors, Councillor HALL and SWEENEY.
Business Manager, HARRY BURNS.
WANTED, Known, all Communications must be Addressed to Harry Burns only, Burns' Agency, Empress, Hartlepool.
Telegrams, "Burns." Telephone, 0231.
Open Weekly with the Highest Class of Talent Obtainable. Bill Matter 14 Clear Days prior to Opening, as per Clause 6.
Signed, H. BURNS, Business Manager.

WANTED, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, Late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c.
Letters,
Next Week,
1, Fairbourne-road, Levenshulme, Manchester.

THE HIPPODROME, WAKEFIELD.
Proprietors, THE WAKEFIELD HIPPODROME CO.
Secretary, Mr. WALTER EMMETT.
WANTED, Stars and Novelties, in all Lines (Gymnasts and Acrobatic Excepted), to write in for May, onwards. All Communications to be Addressed to GEO. S. DOUGLASS, General Manager.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and Particulars to BROOKS, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Immediate and Future Dates, Stars of every Description, Top and Bottoms, Big Artistes wanted for Regent, Salford.
All must be of the best.
Send lithos, full bookings, terms.
Yates' Agency,
3, Oxford-grove, Manchester, S.W.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, and Specialities, March 13 and 20, onwards.
State Lowest Terms, Bookings, &c.,
I can place you.
Jess Verno's Agency, 61, West Derby-st., Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone 2076 Royal Representative, Jesse Burton, Esq.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession.
Acts New in Dublin for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland.
Direct
or through Agents.
All Communications to
Will Sley,
41, Oxford-street,
Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09,144.

WANTED, for Benefit Performance, March 17, 18, or Saturday only, Big Variety Star, Handcuff and Box Trick Exposure, or other attractive novelty. Lowest terms. ELPHINSTONE, Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, High-Class Stars and Novel Acts, for March 20, onward. Those on my book keep me posted.
Send list of bookings and vacancies to
Mr. FRED NEIMAN,
Variety Agent, Empire, Edinboro'.

WANTED, March 20, 27, April 3,
Stars, in all Lines.
Stars, in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for
March and April,
and all Dates through Summer of 1905,
Star Turns, Tops of Bills,
all the Finest and Biggest Acts Required,
Price no object, for
Manchester,
Salford,
Ashton,
Bury,
Preston,
Liverpool,
Oldham,
Rochdale,
Blackpool,
Morecambe,
Barrow,
Glasgow,
Dundee,
Aberdeen,
Belfast,
Dublin,
Newcastle,
Hull,
Leeds,
Brighton,
Bristol,
Birmingham,
Bolton,
Middlesbrough, &c.
New and Novel Acts can have Six Months' Solid Engagements. Send immediately. Terms, Photos, Lithos., &c., to
Will Sley, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09,144 Manchester.

WANTED.—Lady Stars, Comedians, and the Best of Specialities, only Tops and Bottoms of Bills, can be Placed at Once, March 20, on. Lowest, and all Bookings, First Letter, to W. FORD, Hippodrome, Stoke.

WANTED, a few Good Turns, for May 8, 15, 22, June 12, August 7, and forward dates, preference given to those who have not appeared in Dewsbury before. Comedians must be funny and not vulgar.
Artistes who object to rehearse music and words of songs and dialogue properly, please don't write.
Address, Hippodrome and Circus Varieties, Foundry-street, Dewsbury. General-Manager, GEO. WELDON.

GEO ZALVA'S AGENCY
THE HIPPODROME,
SCARBOROUGH.
Telephone, 288.
Telegrams, "Zalva, Scarborough."
WANTED, Wanted the Best Talent in the World
to Communicate.
Good Equestrians
Wanted,
Wanted,
for Easter Week.
GEO. ZALVA,
Hippodrome,
Scarborough.

WANTED, Talent, all Lines, for all the Seaside Establishments of Note.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams,
"Fioni, Liverpool."
Telephone,
1686, Royal.

WANTED, Talent, all Lines,
For All the Principal Galas.
Again Appointed Caterer to the
Great Peel Park Gala,
Making the Third Year in Succession.
Lithos and Lowest Terms
to the Leading Fête and Gala Caterer,
JAMES FIONI,
21, Norton-street,
Liverpool.

THE GLASGOW SYNDICATE HALLS.
TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S VARIETY THEATRES, GLASGOW.
One Performance Nightly at Both Houses.
WANTED, First-class Funny Acts of all Kinds, Good Singing Turns, Sensational Novelties, and Brilliant Stars for Tops. Future Bookings will be made for One Week Only at a time, and none but those Turns capable of Working both Theatres the same night can be entertained.
Bill Matter Two Weeks in advance is imperative.
S. KING ALEXANDER, General Manager,
Head Office, Tivoli Palace Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Big Acts, Novelties, Sensations, for Fetes, Galas, June 12, onwards. State Terms.
EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester

WANTED, Funny Acts, New to Hoyland, April 3, Combination Terms. Thanks replies, cannot answer all PHILLIPS, 50, Sagar-ter., Fleetwood.

WANTED, good Speciality for Eastbourne, April 24, must be new to the town; can place good Specialities for immediate dates.
Enclose Lithos., &c.,
to Day's Variety Agency,
Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand.
Telephone 6915 Gerrard; "Terpsichore, London."

WANTED, the Biggest Drawing Numbers in the Profession for Immediate Dates, Onwards. Those Big Artistes Getting Barred all over the Country Write or Wire Immediately, Can Fix you Towns Barred by no one. Kindly Remember Send Absolute Lowest. First Instance, or no Notice Taken of Application.
Artistes Required to Send Full List of Bookings, and Those Already on Books Please Forward their Permanent Addresses, and Keep Us Posted Weekly.
HARRY BURNS's Agency.
Empress Theatre of Varieties, Hartlepool.
Telephone, 0231. Telegrams, Burns, "Empress." Manager, C. FERRIER. Secretary, F. H. CORNFORTH. Touring Representatives, LEO FRITZ, L. HOCHSCHILD; also at London and Manchester.
Great Wieland, J. P. Carroll, Manningoes, Mamello and Mamitz Troupe, Massona, and Four Vindobonos—Wire Addresses.

WANTED, Refined Entertainment. Strolling Players, Easter Week. Terms, Particulars, EDGAR STEBBINGS, Agent, 23, Egerton-st., M'chester.

WANTED, for Empire, Shildon, March 20 and 27, Variety Combination, or Ent. Good Shows do Good Business. Address, T. M. PAUL.

WANTED, March 20, near Barnsley, Big Variety Combination, of not less than Nine Turns, Twice Nightly System; Printing required; 60 six sheets and 400 D.C. letterpress.
Address, GEO. S. KING, T. Metropole, Hoyland.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Variety Numbers,
Tops,
Tops.
Tops,
Tops,
Tops,
Tops,
Tops,
Tops,
Tops,
Tops,
Sketches, Sketches, Sketches,
For London,
Representing the Best Establishments and the Best Numbers Required.
Lincoln and National.
Pleased to hear from clients who have the winner.
Best Prices; doubles, or 1, 2, 3, only.
Will lay anything from a racehorse to a caterpillar.
Richard Cass's Agency,167, Hazelbank-rd., Catford.

HIPPODROME. TON-Y-PANDY.
Owners,
Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth.
WANTED, for Easter Week,
Anything
with Good Drawing Powers
(non-Dramatic).
Share or Certainty.
Variety Artistes, write in,
Sam Duckworth.

WANTED, Ladies, who can Dance Well, for Spectacular Show, Good Figures. State if able to Ride Horse, or willing to Learn.
Apply, with Lowest Terms, to
Box 1,319, "The Era."

WANTED, High-class Illusion, or Similar Attraction, Good Conjurer might Suit. Terms and Particulars to Manager, Trades Exhibition, Newton Abbot.

WANTED, March 20, on, Sisters, Serios, and other Acts, including Good Animated Photos.; Gas provided. Gannon, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Pair of Sisters, Serios, and Artistes in all Lines, for March 13, and onward. Wire, Dock Watson, Theatre Royal, Crook.

Note.—Yu all know me, Drew Bayley, Agent.
WANTED, the Best Comic Singers Money Can Buy; also Big Swiss Choir; Big Money to Good People. You will do well to keep me posted.
109, Eglinton-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Smart Young Comedian and Expert Dancer, with Good Répertoire, for First-class Al Fresco, Commencing Whitsun. State Salary and all particulars, Harry Reynolds, 104, Great Dover-street, London, S.E.

WANTED, Big Star Comedian or Comedienne, Town near Manchester, Easter Week. Terms, &c., Stebbings, 23, Egerton-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Young Man, to do Good Strength Tricks on Rings, must be Well Developed. Box 1301, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Lady, to join Gentleman starting New Show. Good Voice Essential, Own Wardrobe. Small capacity necessary. Particulars, Will Bryce, 25 Silverwell-street, Bolton.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, March 13, 20, and 27, by the Little Star, Baby Lloyd, and Nellie Vann, Serio. Wire, Hippodrome Newport, I.W.

WANTED, Known, Grosvenor Sisters (Three), Operatic Vocalists, Re-engaged by Messrs. Griffin and Drake for Panto., '05-'06.

WANTED.—Picitt, the Muscular Master of Manacles,
Handcuff Marvel, without Faked Fetters or Trick Boxes; an Act Entirely Different to Any Other, and the Only Act in this Line that has Not been Copied or Exposed. Now making a Tour through Scotland of Eighteen Weeks, visiting every town of any importance, and including the Orkney and Shetland Islands. I have only a few Summer Dates open, no other Vacancies. Booked Solid 1906, nearly all Returns from Managers of Leading Halls, Piers, and Circuses, who have discovered what a Real Handcuff Performer is. No Tricks., No Conjurers' Methods. Searched from Head to Feet.
Communications to Town Hall, Rothes, N.B.
First Vacant Date, April 10. Splendid Lithos.

WANTED, March 27, on, by Alex. Gay, the Marvellous Bricklayer Conjuror, introducing his Great Original Box Mystery, the Greatest Mystery on Earth, Done Twice in Full View of Audience in less than Ten Seconds, £5 Given to anyone who can Discover the Mystery. Box is on View outside the Theatre all day. Visited by Thousands Daily, Blocking all Traffic. Notice to Managers who have had the old shown-up Box Trick. Owing to Extraordinary Success at the Central Palace, South Shields, I was Booked for Newcastle at Double Salary, by Richard Thornton, Esq. Send for Terms, &c., 9, Elizabeth-street, Cullercoats.

WANTED, Known, Loudoun Cameron, the Celebrated Conjuror, Away from all Others, Big Show, Vacant March 27, April 3, 10. March 13, Lyric, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Leslie H. Murray, Magician and Card Manipulator Monday next, and March 20. Wire, 106, Rusholme-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Alfred Poynton, the Great Facial Mimic, Superb Costumes, Vacant March 20, on, with exceptions. Sure Success.
Mr. Poynton's portraits of celebrities, military, political, and otherwise, are as graphic as can be.—Vide Brighton Standard. Wire or write, Stafford House, 50, Eversfield-place, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

WANTED, Monday next, by Jimmy Shields. Wire, Tivoli, Barrow.
After Sat., 167, St. Mary's-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, March 13, by Eugene Brant, Funny Versatile Comedian and Vocalist. Address, Royal Electrograph, Ystalyfera, S. Wales.

WANTED, Known, Comedian (Young), having met with Great Success as an Amateur, desires One Week's Engagement with a Concert Party, at Seaside Resort. Business Reasons make it impossible to Accept more than 3 or 4 Engts. Particulars, A. A., 53, Colwick-road, Nottingham.

WANTED, by Albert Morrow's "Devil of a Kettle," March 20 and 27, the King of all Kettle Acts. Theatre Royal, Blyth.

WANTED, Known, Lady Impersonator Requires Engagement with Touring Company, Up-to-date Songs. Address, Box 1,297, "The Era."

WANTED, by Vosper, the Master Facial Mimic, Monday next, also March 20. Address, Vosper, Awsworth, Notts.

WANTED, Monday Next, Robb Gilmore, the Talented Grotesque Comedian, in his Clever Comedy Act. Wire, Alexandra Hall, Blyth.

WANTED, March 20, also April 3, by Fred Casburn, Quaint Comedian, in a Dress Suit. Next, Tivoli, Glasgow. Wire, F. Casburn.

WANTED, March 20, 27, by Bob Pearson, the Well-known Vocal Comedy Humorist, and Lily Pender, the Great Speciality Comedienne, Two Big, Refined Numbers. Wire, Pier Pavilion, Southport.

WANTED, Known, Sidney Dolf, the Vocal Trickster, requires Good Agent and Immediate Bookings for this Great Novelty. Can be seen every evening at Standard, Pimlico.

WANTED, Engagement, by Harry Peacock, Baritone, Soloist, Part Singer; also at Liberty for summer season. Permanent address, Town Hall Hotel, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, the Two Plants (Rose and Thistle), in Novel Comic Vocal and Musical Act, "The Stage-struck Domestics," invite Offers for Halls or Tour. At Lib. 20th inst. Both do Singles. Also Offers for Al Fresco. Last Four Seasons, Happy Valley Minstrels, Llandudno. Perm., Witton Park, Co. Durham.

WANTED, Monday, also March 20, Walter Gurney, Comedian; Lily Mason, Serio. Wire, 37, Berwick-street, All Saints, Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, by the Pattinsons (Belle and Andrew), March 13, 20, and 27. Celebrated Musical and Vocal Entertainers. Appeared before Royalty. Huge Success at Tivoli and Queen's, Glas. "The Era" says: The musical and vocal entertainment provided by the Pattinsons was first-class, an act that is far above the average, introducing piano-playing, high-class trick, and imitations, singing (evening dress and full Highland costume), double xylophone playing, and
the Greatest International Novelty Piano-Playing
the Greatest International Novelty Piano-Playing
in the World (Patent protected).
Academy of Music, 24, Paterson-st., S.S., Glasgow.

WANTED, Monday next, also 20, one or both, Arthur Richards, Comedian; Renee Walon, Comedienne, Dancer. 29, Myatt-rd., Brixton, Lon.

WANTED, March 13, by Belford and Miss Mars, Comedy Vocalists, and Duologue Artistes. Wire, 5, Catherine-street, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Known, Stern and Stern were Engaged (not by Ourselves) by the Late Joe Perry, Esq., for Season 1905, the only Comedians the Last Three Seasons Taking Repeated Encores. We have Broken the following Engagements, to oblige the Late Mr. Perry—the Oxford, Canterbury, Paragon, Euston, Empire, Islington, Clapham, &c. We thank the Council and Friends for Kind Letters. Finish To-night, Success (Returns), Palace, Croydon, Collins's, the London and Chelsea Palace Monday, 5th, Return, Parthenon, Liverpool. Vacant, May 15.

WANTED, Known, the St. Johns, Most Successful Musicians, Patterers, and Dancers. Vacant April 10 and 17. 49, Oxford-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, March 20, and onward, The Two Carrs, the Musical Comedy Couple, in Scena, "My Beat of Love." Also Jack Rae, Comedian. Single, Double, or Triple Turns. Now Booking Piers and Frescos for Summer. Mar. 13, P., Greenwich.

WANTED, March 20, 27, also al-fresco. Thanks for Offers; must be First-class. Carl and Carr, Refined Comedians, Theatre Neath, S.W.

WANTED, by Tell and Tell, Comedians and Acrobats, March 20, 27, to follow Cork.
Wire, Palace, Cork.

WANTED, May and July Dates, by Dale and D'Argan, Acrobatic Conjurers, in a Refined Comedy Act. Theatre Royal, Batley.

WANTED, Known, Rex and Ford, Two Acts, Eccentric Patter, Comedians; also Musical Act, Lib. Mon. 47, Talbot-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, March 13 and 20, by Pulo, Juggler, also Carl Osmond, Comedy Tramp, Lily Martell, Comedienne and Dancer. Pulo, 153, Lake-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Revell Troupe, Vacant Monday Next, through Hall Closing, Big Act, Success Everywhere. Wire to Hippo., Rochdale. March 20, Palace, Cork.

WANTED, Several Immediate Dates, by Stavordale Quintette, Three Ladies, Two Gents., in their Wonderful Imitation of Voices on Banjoes and Harp. 11, Cheriton-square, Balham. Tels., "Stavordale, London."

WANTED, Engagements, the Allen Family (Five Ladies), in their Unique Variety Entertainment, Vocal and Instrumental Music, Constant Change of Costume. Can also form Small Orchestra, or be engaged separately. For Particulars, address, 23, Marlborough-hill, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Hulbert, Ventriloquist; and De Lil, Illusionist, vacant April 17, May 1, 15. Monday, O. H., York.

WANTED, Known, Lieut. Albini's Mysterious Lady in Black, the Talk of Bath, Thanks to the Headline in the London Daily Mail and the Energetic Manager, Mr. Trussell.

WANTED, Known, to Rely on Exposure is always Risky; to Engage a Practical High-class Showman is a Certainty. The Famous Box Trick was Introduced, after a Two Years' Run, at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, by Prof. Searle and Lieut. Albini, about Twenty-six Years ago, at the Opera Theatre, Crystal Palace; it also had a Sensational Run Later, of Five Months, at the Oxford, by Albini, with an Offer of another Three Months, which was Refused. How many Nights did it Run Exposed at the same place? The Paying Public has no Taste for Exposing Tricks. Any Live Manager Knows this. They Flock to see the Act which Mystifies and Entertains them again and again. The Secret out, the few tell their Friends, who stay away, and laugh at home. I am Prepared to Play any Week with the Would-be Exposer, with my Famous Box Trick, in the same Programme, and I feel Confident the Manager will try and Retain me, and ask him to finish. Mine is an Act, not a Floundering, Slow, mixed-up Muddle of the Showman's Art.

WANTED, March 13 and 20, for Matt Wilkinson's Screaming Comedy Act, "The Registry Office." Wire, Barnard's, Woolwich.

WANTED, April 3, 10, and Easter, for Screaming Sketch, "Fun on the Bristol," to follow T. R., Liverpool. Ad., Maurice Love, Town Hall Leslie, N.B.

WANTED, Known, Billy Ross and Co., Liberty Monday next, Greatest Comedy Act on the Stage. This, Grand T., Doncaster. Wire for Big Draw.

WANTED, June 19, 26, July 3, and 10, Kitty Woodford's Canine Circus and Orchestra, a Good, Smart, and Up-to-Date Turn, Open for Halls, Galas, and Piers.
Monday, Temperance Hall, Merthyr.

WANTED, Known, Spangeletti's Stage Circus, Liberty March 20, Performing Pony, Diving and Jumping Dogs, Riding Machine, Revolving Table. Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow; Empire, Paisley, Greenock. Next, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, March 20, onwards, Dahomey Amazon Women Warriors. Managers say excellent show. Wire, Managing-Director, Northern Star Agency, Kendal.

WANTED, Few Immediate Dates.
Chard's Dog Circus,
Palace, Cork.

WANTED, Engagement, by Operator, Lime or Electric, 10 Years' Experience; Abstainer. At Liberty Monday. Travers, 80, Chesilton-road, Fulham, S.W.

WANTFD, by Expert Lanternist,
Engagement in London only,
with or without Apparatus, Slides, &c.
Lanternist, 38, Marchmont-street, W.C.

WANTED, Managers, Touring or Residential, Requiring a Reliable First-class Cinématograph Show, to Engage the Original Edison-Paul Animated Pictures, the First in the Field, all the Latest and Best Subjects, Complete Entertainment, or Turn, Change Weekly, Thousands of Feet of Films, to Sell, or Hire.
T. M. Paul,
Empire Theatre, Shildon, Durham.
Telegrams "Paul, Shildon."

WANTED, Dates for Bioscope Pictures, also Troupe of Dogs. The Marvellous High-leaping Dog. A Splendid Show for Galas. Le Clair, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Engagements for Up-to-Date Pictures. Reduced Prices. The Walturdaw Company, Limited, 3, Dean-street, Holborn, London.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Handsellers to know Simons is the Man for
Cheap Second-hand Watches and Jewellery.
Send £5 for Special Parcel.
117, Houndsditch, London.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Others to Know
Simons' is the Cheapest Place for
Clocks, Bronzes, Field Glasses, and Cheap Jewellery.
Best-class French Paste Stocked for the Profession. 117, Houndsditch.

Fire. Fire. Fire.
WANTED, Known.—Have you Insured with Mr. Pope, the Showman's Fire Insurance Man? If not, hurry up, before you have a Fire.
Send Post-card To-day to
F. F. Pope, Abingdon-on-Thames,
who will call on you anywhere.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

Tom Taylor and Sons, Launch and Boat Builders, Staines, Middlesex.

WANTED, Known, Contracts Taken for Running and Supplying Launches (Steam, Electric, and Oil Motor); also Boats of Every Description on Lakes or Artificial Water. Lakes and Artificial Water Rented for Working Electric Launches and Boats of all descriptions at Cheap Fares. Builders and Workers of Electric Launches at Earl's Court, Crystal Palace, Glasgow Exhibition, and Cork Exhibition.

WANTED, Showmen to Know, that Leete's Colours and Varnishes are the Best. Vermilionettes, Permanent Reds, Carmines, Carriage and Copal Varnishes, Gold Leaf, Brushes, &c., and every Requisite for Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Carriage Paid on all Orders £2. Write for price list, or call, Leete's Colour Works, 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Showmen to Know, Greeves and Co. still Selling Silvermine Butterscotch, with Fortunes, 3s. gross. 104, Belgrave-gate, Leicester.

WANTED, Shooting Gallery proprietors to send us guns to be cleaned, oiled, and repaired for the coming season. Ammunition, rifles, card targets, glass bottles, and globes,
at Lowest Prices,
with Prompt Delivery.
Buck and Paterson (Ltd.),
66, Union-street,
Borough, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, to Roundabout Proprietors, and Amusement Caterers, Amyes' New Patent Revolving and Oscillating Steam Roundabout, has been thoroughly Tested, and Proved a Great Success; it Holds over 100 People, Packs on Three Loads, and will Suit Fair Business or Seaside Resorts. Price according to Decorations.
Apply to E. Amyes,
27, Cross-lane, Salford; or to the Makers,
The Howcroft Carriage and Engineering Co.,
West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen, Fair-keepers, &c., Don't Fail to See our New List, everything for the Fair, Cheapest House for all Shooting Saloon Requirements, Rifles, Ammunition, &c.; Guns Repaired on the Premises; Our New Throwing Game, Bombardment of Port Arthur, Sure Hit, &c. Stacey and Co., Settles-street, London, E.

Menageries of Wild Animals
and other Gala Attractions.
WANTED, for all Summer,
at Shotley Bridge
Zoological Gardens.
Address, Harris,
Naturalist,
Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, to Open Monday, for High-class Exhibition Rooms, Lady Phrenologist, Lady Wrestlers, Strong Man, Fat Lady, or any thorough Good Show. Can have Three Weeks here, and Two at Portsmouth. Window Spaces to Let, for Stalls; also Space for Automatics, and all kinds of Games, Amusements. Apply, Cheapside Corner, Oxford-street, Reading.

WANTED, Attractions, Entertainments, Novelties, and First-class Side Shows, of all Descriptions, for the Coming Season, on Sharing Terms, at the Olympia, Foreshore Promenade, Scarborough, the Queen of Watering Places; also Stalls and Booths to Let. Send full Particulars to Sec., Exhibition Bureau, 19, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Novelties for the Best Shop in Chatham, next door to Gaiety. R. J. Lovegrove, 51, High-street.

WANTED, Novelties, Shows, Attractions, open at once, shop business, best position. Proprietor, 36, Union-st., Dowlais, Wales.

WANTED, Quick-showing Freaks and Novelties, with Flash, Monday and onwards, Share or Certainty. F. Mordaunt, 181, Overgate, Dundee.

WANTED, First-class Side Shows, Novelty Stalls, and Phrenologist, Marionettes, Cinématograph, &c., for Series of Exhibitions, Pier Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea, Commencing March 22.

WANTED, two or three Side Shows, Exhibition, Middlesbro' Town Hall, March 20 to 31; Marionettes, Magic Kettle, Cinématograph, or anything good liberally dealt with; also wanted to buy, good distorting mirrors. Green, Armoury, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Paraders for First-class Travelling Exhibition. E. Lawrence, Fair, Longton, Staffs; Shewsbury, remainder of week.

WANTED, Several Good Men, used to Roundabouts and Switchback, also Centre Engine-driver for Switchback. Will the driver that wrote from Wales write in at once? No other than Sober Men need apply. Can join at once. Yearly Situation to steady men. W. C. and S. Hancock, Proprietors, Winter Gardens, Plymouth. Manager, W. Brewer.

WANTED, Known, Carl Harmon's Royal Punch & Judy & Marionettes, also Bioscope, open for Engagements. 101a, Penwith-rd., Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Monday next, by Glennie's Marionettes, up-to-date, lightning show. 64, Addison-road, Shields-road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, Dolly Vigor, Armless Lady, has given great satisfaction during her engagement at Carter's Wonderland, Belfast, and I can highly recommend her as a refined and pleasing novelty. (Signed), J. M. Carlan, Manager.

WANTED, Known, Silvia Vigor (Dolly), the Armless Queen, Big Success, Carter's Wonderland. Liberty Monday, 13th. Splendid Window Flash. Wire, Carter's, Belfast.

WANTED, Caterers, to Join Me, Exploiting Unique Idea re Side Show, Equal Amount. V. Videon, care of 120, Drayton-road, Landport.

WANTED, all travellers to know I have ground to let for Shows, Steam Swings, Stalls, Galleys, Shooters, and in fact everything in the business, large and small, for Charlestown (Manchester), Friday next, March 17; also every week to follow, including Ordsall, Lanc., Great Easter Fair (shows only wanted). Apply, John Whiting, Stretford; or Albert Jones, Fair Ground, Cheetham Hill, or Oxford-chambers, Manchester.

To Exhibition Organisers and Showmen.
WANTED, to Let, Exhibition Buildings and Grounds, Complete Installation, adjoining Trent Bridge, Nottingham. For further Particulars, Apply, Sec., Exhibition Bureau, 19, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

BLACKPOOL SANDS.
WANTED, to Let, Ground, for Summer Season, at South Shore, Blackpool, Finest Position. Roundabouts, Swings, Cinematographs, Distorting Mirrors, Waxworks, Working Model Exhibitions, Stalls, &c. The Permanent Attractions on the Ground include the Maxim Flying Machine.
Secretary, 9, Windsor-av., South Shore, Blackpool.

CHEPSTOW PLEASURE FAIR.
WANTED, Known, the Chepstow Urban District Council invite Tenders
for the Tolls of the Chepstow Pleasure Fair,
to be held from June 21 to June 24,
both Dates Inclusive,
in the Meads close to the Town.
Purchase-money payable in Advance
before May 13 next.
Tenders to be sent to me, marked
"Tender for Fair Tolls,"
on or before Saturday, March 18, 1905.
F. Evans,
Urban District Council Offices.
Chepstow, Feb. 20, 1905.

WANTED, to Let, for Circus or Other Shows, the Iona-street Carnival Grounds, Edinburgh, Centre of City, Car Terminus. Stage and Pay-gates. Apply, Stott, Manager.

WANTED, Everybody, to Know, that Accrington Spring Fair will Commence on Thursday, April 13, to April 18, 1905; St. Helen's Fair, May 5 to 16, 1905.
Applications, Wm. Mitchell, Heywood.

WANTED, to Let, on Rent, Share, or Hire, Small Building, Castle Front, size 15ft. by 22ft., Lights Found, Suitable for Novelties or Side Shows of any Description. Manager, Showland, Lillie-road, Fulham, S.W. Must have paintings, &c.

WANTED, to Let, Good Show Shop, One Night alone more than Pays Expenses; Rent under £2, windows let at £1; 20 Automatic Machines can Remain at £1 Rental per Month. Apply,
Pullman, 110a, King-street, Hammersmith.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Roundabout Proprietors,
Showmen,
and Others,
to know that
the Business of
P. Collins, Limited,
of
Gondola Works,
Walsall,
has not been sold,
or
changed hands in any way,
but will be carried on as usual
by the same Company, and
under the present Management.
We hold all our usual Fairgrounds
on long Leases,
so don't be misled by others offering
Grounds in same Towns.
At present we have Ground to let at the following Towns:—
Black Country Round:
Quarry Bank, Cradley Heath, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill, Darlaston, West Bromwich, Smethwick, Oldbury, Dudley, Netherton.
Easter Fairs.
Coventry,
Newcastle, Staffs,
Wolverhampton,
and
Borough Road, Birkenhead,
Commencing April 15, for Two Weeks.
This is the best situated and most successful Fairground
in the Liverpool District.
Whitsuntide Fairs at
Wolverhampton, Market Place,
Birmingham,
Birkenhead.
Three good continuous Rounds of Fairs,
Open All the Year Round.
Reasonable Rents.
A Good Chance for Good Tenants.
The following and other Grounds
To Let
All the Year Round
to
Menageries, Circus, and other Large Shows:
Birkenhead, Longton, Darlaston, Dudley,
West Bromwich, Nuneaton, Smethwick,
and numerous others.
All Applications to be made in writing to
P. Collins, Limited,
Gondola Works,
Walsall.
Telegraphic Address, "Gondola, Walsall."
Telephone, No. 80 Walsall.

WANTED, all Travellers to Know I Have Ground to Let for Roundabouts, Shows, Stalls, and other Fair Ground Games at the following Spring and Easter Fairs:—
Hyde-road Spring Fair,
Gorton Spring Fair,
Beswick Spring Fair,
Walton-on-the-Hill Liverpool Spring Fair;
Shore Fields, Liverpool, Easter Fair;
Queen's-road, Manchester, Great Easter Fair;
also at Wolverhampton, for the Easter and Whitsuntide Fairs, held on the Corporation Ground, and same Ground as Collins's, Limited, held their last Christmas Fair on.
Note.—This is the Best Easter and Whitsuntide Fair in the Black Country.
Rent Reasonable, and Nobody Barred.

All applications to be made, John Collins,
World's Fair, Scotland-road, Liverpool;
or, 20, Rufford-road, Liverpool.
Wanted, to Sell cheap, and all in good order, One Set of Tandem Bicycles made by Savage, of King's Lynn, to carry Twenty-four People. Fitted with Carved Rounding Boards, Carved Droppers, Top Centre, and Pay Box. All complete, with Lamps, Tilts, Rounding Cloths, and One Waggon to carry same.
Apply,
John Collins,
World's Fair, Scotland-road, Liverpool;
or, 20, Rufford-road,
Liverpool.

WANTED, to Let, Ground, Easter, Whit, and August Bank Holiday, for Circus, Switchback; also Novelties for Fêtes. Manager, Bowes-park, Sittingbourne.

WANTED, Known, all Parties requiring Ground for the Annual Easter Fair in the Old Fair Field, Okehampton-road, Exeter. Apply, W. C. and S. Hancock, Winter Gardens, Plymouth.

WANTED, to Let, large Shop, plate glass window, best position in Dublin, suit Auctioneer, or would let to respectable Showman. Terms, £12 per month, payable in advance, gas included. Apply, Manager, Gem Photo Company, 9, Mary-street, Dublin.

"JAPAN" IN AYR.
Grand Scenic Trades Exhibition Drill Hall, Ayr, March 15 to 27. Admission Free.
WANTED, Known, One or Two Stalls to Let, Engraving, Fancy, &c., &c., the Twenty-fifth Town, without a Break. Apply, Manager, as above.

Exceptional Bargains.
WANTED, all Showmen to Know that we have for Sale Several Second-hand Gavioliphones (Eighty-seven Keys), Playing by Paper Music; in Good Condition;
also a Quantity of
Brass Trumpet Organs, with or without Drums;
and, having to make room for New Stock,
we have decided to Sell these Organs at an Enormous Reduction,
and no Reasonable Offer Refused.
Chiappa and Sons, Limited, 6, Little Bath-street, Clerkenwell, London;
also at
17, Milton-street, Lower Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, All Kinds, ½d. to 1d. slot. Guaranteed cheaper than elsewhere. 5, Denning-road, Hampstead-heath.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, Love-letter, Husbands, Babies, Black List, Licences, &c. Meurice, 20, Bidborough-st., W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Slot Machines of all kinds, best and cheapest in the trade. Wormald, 123, Blythe-road, West Kensington.

WANTED, to Sell, Penny Slot Machines, Largest, Best, all Kinds and Prices. List Free. Mason, 17, Settles-street, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Latest Novelties in Automatics, for Showmen and Others for Coming Season, Photo, Fortune, Love Letters, and Every Kind of Cards for Machines. Cheapest and Best. Haydon, Church-street, Islington.

WANTED, to Sell, Two Good Living Waggons, 12ft. Long, 6ft. 6in. Wide, 6ft. 6in. High Inside, will Form Good Front for Travelling Show, Good Condition, one well fitted up.
Walker,
Roundabout Maker, Tewkesbury.

WANTED, to Sell, Two Good Living Waggons, 12ft. Long, 6ft. 6in. Wide, 6ft. 6in. High Inside, will Form Good Front for Travelling Show, Good Condition, one well fitted up.
Walker,
Roundabout Maker, Tewkesbury.

WANTED, to Sell, Cheap, Two Road Living Vans, one Newly Painted; also 4-wheeled Arched Truck, and 4-wheeled Grocer's Van. A. Thomas, Holmfield, Halifax.

WANTED, to Sell, a Set of Auction Vans, in Four Loads, Tent, and all Complete. To be Sold Cheap for Cash, or on the Hire System Purchase. Apply,
Box 1304, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Shuttered Booth, 24ft. by 30ft. To insure quick sale, sacrifice £8. Dama, 9, Stamp Office-place, Wakefield.

WANTED, to Sell, Distorting Mirrors, set of 12. 6ft. by 3ft., massive ebonised frames, and travelling cases. Cost £240. Box 1,238. "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Two Good Gondola Boats for Sale. Splendid Condition. Hold Ten Comfortably. Best Offer to Manager, Palace, Rhyl.

WANTED, to Sell, Circus Tents, Roundabout Covers, Baize Linings for Cinématograph Booths, Flags, &c., New and Second-hand buy from the absolute makers. Experienced men sent to take measurement for estimate. Many bargains just now. John Engington and Co., 108, Old Kent-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, to Circuses, &c., to be Sold. Cheap, Huge Canopy Tent, capable of Covering 5,000 People, seated. Former Applicants write again. Letters Delayed. Box 1,307, "The Era."

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, to Sell, Set of Gem Swings, also First-class Stage Waggon, Trap in Centre, &c. T. Grantham, 10, Crossland-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, to Sell, a First-class Rail Living Waggon, Fitted Up in Latest Style, 17ft. Long. Reason for Selling, Leaving Road.
Apply,
Mrs. Jewell,
Market Ground, Bury, Lancs.

WANTED, to Sell, Weighing Chair (Avery's), £7; Punching Machine, 30s.; Lifting Machine, 30s.; Weighing and Height, 30s. Stacey, Settles-st., London, E.

WANTED, Camera Obscura (or Parts). Particulars and Prices,
Stacey, Settles-street, London.

WANTED, Known, Large Barrel Organ for Sale, Cheap; also Large Reed Organ, Suitable for Inside Show; and Fancy Piano Organ, for Shop Business. Travellers requiring Repairs on Easy Terms, Write, Wm. Holmes, 18, Radnor-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, 6 h.p. Compound Road Loco., on Springs, by Foden and Son, price £250; 6 h.p. traction, by MacLaren, 2 speeds, water-lift, &c., in Good Condition, £100. George Baker, Hippodrome, Newport, I.W.

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"Butterflies in Fairyland," Cinquevalli, Jean Clermont, Cottrell Powells, Vasco, Alexandra and Bertie, Leonard and Francois, Cole De Losse, Chang Ling Soo, Devons Sisters, Trapnells, Claire Beasy, O'Brien Brothers, Walthour and Kreamer, the Giant Machnow, Mme. Chiquita.

EMPIRE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2, for
Harry Tate, Grell and Grey, Josh Dixon, Sisters Klos, Five Julians, Zertho, Jake Friedman, Five Delevines, Virto and Irene, Collins and Hart.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2, for
Tilly Bebe, Ted Cowan, Harry Martell, Prince Kokin, Collins and Rice, W. F. Frame, Zaro and Arno, Five Olracs, Frazer and Mac, Mendel.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 2, for
Bioscope,
Wilkie Bard, Nellie Stratton, Seeley and West, Arthur Melrose, Rossow's Midgets, Daisy Ray, Akimoto Troupe, J. P. Dane, Syd May.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2, for
Harry Lauder, Nellie Vanderbilt, G. W. Foster, Delmore and Wilson, Wotpert Trio, Victor Travers, Jackson Family, Two Bostons, Richard List, Paul Courtenay and Co., Japanese Guards.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 1.30, for
"Saturday to Monday," Walter Stanley, George Antill, Carlo and Maie, Lily Langtry, Conway and Leland, Fred Neiman, Bros. Obo, James Fawn, Belle Davis.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 2.30, for
Malcolm Scott, Florrie St. Clair, Harry Clifford, Morton and Elliott, T. C. Callaghan, Staley's Transformation, Palles and Cussick, Albert and Edmunds Troupe, Albert Whelan, Leslie Bros.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2, for
"Mumming Birds," Flo Challis, Rich and Rich, Harry Lawson, Rose Archer, Fred E. Terry, Three Sisters Hayden, Elsie Robey, Great Lumars.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2, for
Leon Morris's Ponies, Ethel Ra Leslie, Kitts and Windrum, La Tostia, Astley Troupe, Four MacGoverns, Chris Richards, Chamberlins, Alexandre and Hughes.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal at 2, for
Ernest Shand, Tom Costello, Jenny Belmore, James Stewart, Gipsy Woolf, Paul Mill, Driscoll and Beattie, The Howards, Burns and Evans, Meredith Sisters.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.

Rehearsal at 1, for
Verno and Voyce, Harry Nation, Roze and Calvert, Gwennie Hasto, Bioscope, Myra Stanfield, Four Trees, H. F. Wilson, Drew and Alders.

EMPIRE PALACE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1, for
Agoust Family, Sisters Chester, Jack Camp, Lios Alfa Sisters, Lily Tiso, Sinon and Paris, Max Trevally-Harley Trio, Berthe Palliser, Chas. Somers, Tom Edwards.

NEW EMPIRE PALACE, SHEPHERD'S-BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1, for
Paul Spadoni, Sisters Macarte, Jas. and Marie Finney, The Katos, Chas. Pastor, Ferry Corwey, Clark and Hamilton, Emmy's Dogs, Bros. Luck.

EMPIRE THEATRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3, for
Vesta Tilley, Frank Seeley, Onliaw Trio, Pawell Co., Flo D'Orville The Allisons, Grant and Allen, Percy Henri, Harry Wenburn, Ergotti and King Luis.

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EMPIRE THEATRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 3, for
Prof. Selkirk's Spectacle, Johnny Gilmore, Bros. Webb, Unthan, Pat Carey, Paul Sandor, Walker and May, Signorina Verera, Ludwig Amann.

PALACE THEATRE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30, for
James Bard, Ida Heath, Rumbo Austin, Marie Collins, Clown Herford, Alf Arnesen, Sable Fern, Walton and Lester, Bernar's Fantoches, Berzac.

EMPIRE THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 3, for
Five M.Is, Ryder Slone, Basalari, Norman Leonard Trio, Kieffer Co., Conn and Conrad, Frank Leslie, Hale and Francis, Nellie Lomas, Cruikshank.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY, LONDON, N.

Rehearsal at 1, for
Kate Carney and Co., Manning's Entertainers, Georgina Leonard, Orpheus, Two Graces, Krugers, Mdlle. Dora Martini, Esta Stella, Mountford and Walsh, Tourbillon Troupe.

EMPIRE, NEW-CROSS, LONDON, S.E.

Rehearsal at 1, for
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EMPIRE, STRATFORD, LONDON, E.

Rehearsal at 1, for
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ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 2, for
Tiller's "Ohio," F. V. St. Clair, Ross and Grayson, Lily Burnand, Ambrose Thorne, Okito Troupe, Bioscope, Edie Rivers, Achmed Ibrahim Troupe, Vandyke Troupe, Boy Glen.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME,

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Second and Fourth Performances.
"The Derby;" J. C. Piddock, in "Miss Extravaganza;" Miss Madge Lessing; Keno, Welch, and Montrose, Barton and Ashley, Miss Winifred Hare, Terry and Lambert, Duncan's Collies, Bella and Bijou, Marlo and Dunham Trio, Illustrated Song, Madame Alice Esty.

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IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the Stage Department, Above Address, Two Weeks Previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned.

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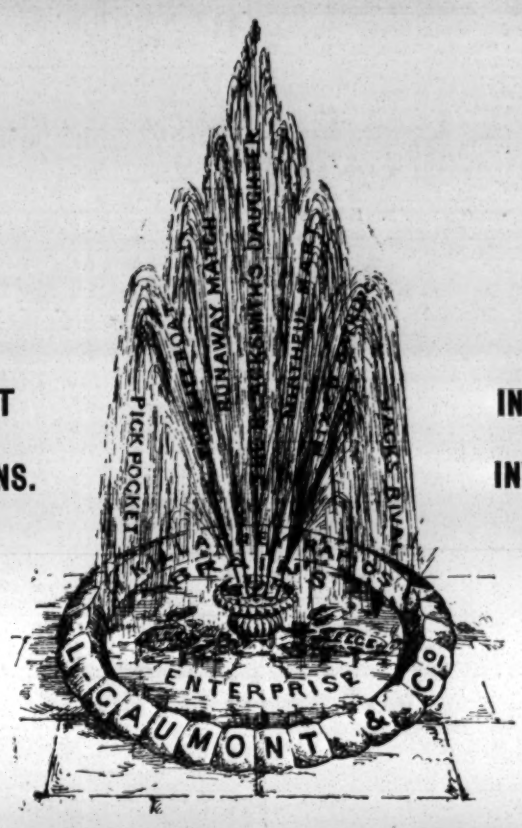

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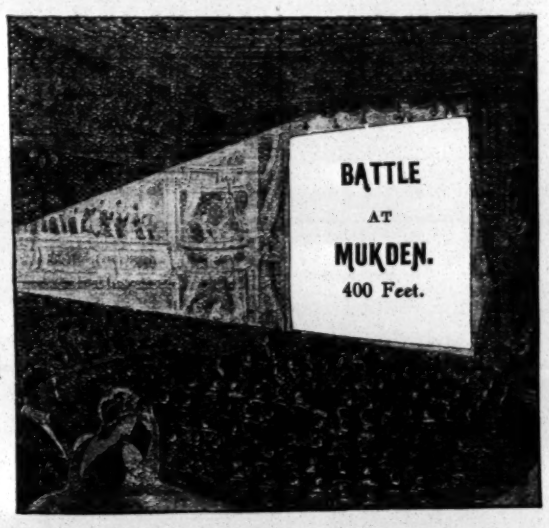

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CLARIBELL, FLORRIE, the Five-feet of Versatility, Exceptional Success, Pavilion, Altrincham; next, E., Hull.

CLEVELANDS, THE FIVE, Poole's Myriorama, Merthyr.

CLIFFE, TOM E., Versatile Comedian and Speciality Dancer. Palace, Lancaster; next, Hip., Dewsbury. Pacey and Reeves.

CLYO, HARRY, and ROSE ROCHELLE, Now playing Scotch Concerts. All coms., c/o Haldane, 110, New City-rd., Glasgow.

COBORN, CHARLES, Palace, Cork. Success of Welsh Songs in Aberdare.

COLEMAN, ROSIE, and HARRY CONLIN. 18, Walcot-gardens, Kennington-road.

COLLINS, GEO., Quaint Star Comedian. Vacant Panto., 1905-6. Dame. March 13, Broadhead's, Manchester, Two Weeks.

COMELY, MABEL, Comedienne, March 13, Theatre, Neath.

COMPTON, GRACEFUL GRACE, Invites Offers Christmas, Pincipal Boy. 13th Week Kiddie's "Bo-Peep." Grand, Stalybridge.

COOKE, STEVE, Burlesque Comedian. Vacant Mar. 13, through misunderstanding. 175, Essex-road, Islington, N.

COWPER, VERNON, Disengaged (Humorous and Descriptive). Address, 258, Kennington-park-road, S.E.

CRAIG, ROZE, and CRAIG, A Trio of the World's Leading Athletes. Hippodrome, Wakefield.

CRANKS, ORIGINAL, Sensational Comedy Cyclists. Next week, Palace, Belfast (return). New Act shortly. Agent, Stebbings.

CRESSER, MISS ADA, Staley's Transformation Company. Empire, Glasgow.

CRESSWELL, BERNARD, Character Sketches from Dickens. This, Strand; next week, Assembly Rooms, Bath.

CREW, J. H., and MAUD MARLOW, Middle of Bill, and a Hit, Palace, Glasgow. Monday, Barrasford's Hippodrome, Glasgow.

CRIS, Ventriloquist. All Coms., Forth House, Well-street, Tyldesley.

CRISP, FRANZ A., Vocal Actor and Light Comedian. Few immediate Dates open. Next, P., Bristol. Perm., 1, Solon-road, Brixton.

CROWN TRIO (E. Scofield, L. Davidson, W. Davidson, Speciality Vocalist). This, Gatti's, 10.5; next, Gatti's, 9.30. Great Success.

CROWSON, WILL, CISSIE CONYERS, Next, Hippodrome, Carlisle.

CULLANE, FRED, TRIO, in "The Lady's School." Bottom of Bill, Metropole, Gateshead. Successs Everywhere.

CULLEN, LITTLE DOLLY, and ELSIE JORDISON. The pretty and clever "Babes," Tremendous Suc., Tiv. and Q., Glasgow.

CULLEN and CARTHY, Continued enormous hit, "Robbers," Grand Theatre, Derby. Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

CURRAN, FRED, Celebrated Parody Singer, Repeating former Successes, Bristol. Monday, Stoke. Geo. Foster.

CURRY, PERCY, Finishes to-night a most comfortable 13 weeks' Panto. with Eade Montefiore, Esq. Monday next, Tower, Blackpool.

CYCLO, Millionaire Bicyclist, Big Success, Empire, Dublin; next, Empire, Richmond. Agents, Pacey and Reeves, 186, Brixton-rd.

DAGMARS, THREE (Tom, Dick, and Harry). Big Success this week at the Queen's, Poplar. At Liberty, Mar. 13 and 20. E., Stratford.

DAINTON GIRLS, THE, Gipsy and Character Duettists. Big success Parthenon, Liverpool. Next week, Empire, York.

DALE and D'ARGAN, Acrobatic Conjurors. Thanks W. B. Broadhead for transferring dates. Mar. 13, Theatre Royal, Batley.

DALE and VALE, Speciality Dancers. Extraordinary this week. Tremendous Suc., Tiv. and Q., Glasgow

DALTON'S AGENCY. Curtis Leo Wire address. 5, Matlock-avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester.

DANBYS, THE, Finish to-night a successful 11 weeks Panto. Mon., Livermore's Palace, Bristol.

DANDOE, ARTHUR, "Belle of the Orient," Lyric T., Liverpool. Re-engaged by Howard and Wyndham for panto., 1905-6.

DANIELS, THE TWO, the New York Coppers, Palace, Northampton. Lib for Panto. 63, Sherbourne-road, Birmingham.

DARE'S MINSTRELS, Premier "Al Fresco" Organisation, 12th Douglas Season com. Whit Monday. Artistes com., C/o "Era."

DAUNTON-SHAW TROUPE, Australian Cyclists, Monarchs of the Wheel. Address, Hippodrome, Paris.

DAVENPORTS, THE, Marvellous Silent Magicians and Illusionists. Boscombe; next, Tivoli, Manchester. Vacant May 1.

DAVIS, ALF, Comedian and Actor Vocalist. March 13, Albert, Canning Town.

DAY'S, HARRY, VARIETY AGENCY, Effingham House, Arundel-st., Strand, W.C. Tel., 6,915, Ger. Tele., "Terpsichore, London."

DAY'S VARIETY AGENCY, 116, Loughborough-rd., Brixton, London, S.W. Always Vacancies for Big Stars. Tel., 712, Brixton.

DEDIO, Empire, Johannesburg. South Africa.

DE HENAU and MDLLE. ALADINA, Extraordinarily Rapid Painter with his Toes, Wonderful Cockatoos. Hippodrome, Liverpool.

DELAMERE TRIO, The Original Comedy Equilibrists. Communications, 37, Alfred-street, Preston.

DELEVINES, FIVE, Comedy Act, "Flirtation." Empire, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

DELOINES, THE, Duettists and Expert Dancers. This, Theatre, Aldershot; next, Empire, Dover.

DEMI and SEMI, Instrumentalists, Patter, and Dancing. Westerminster, Liverpool. Lib., Mar. 22, and summer.

DENHAM, TEDDY, This Week, Palace, Bow; Next Week, Foresters'.

DE ROSE, MDLLE. J. H. HAWTREY The Lady Foli. Actor Vocalist. Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne.

DE VOYE, JAMES, and BILL, his Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Lyceum, London.

DICK and DOROTHY, Speciality Artists. This Week, Grand Theatre, Sheffield. Next Week, Pavilion, Leicester.

DIXON, CHARLEY, KATE LYND, Very successful, Palace, West Hartlepool. Monday, Palace, Sunderland.

DOLF, SIDNEY, DOLF, The Vocal Trickster, concluding Enormous Success, Palace, Aberdare.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, Singing Boxmakers, Starring, Palace Bristol. West Hartlepool Palace. Vacant May 8 and 15.

DOMINOS, TWO (Clown and Donkey), Not a Common Donkey. Hengler's Circus, Hull.

DOODY and WRIGHT, March 13, Empire, Portsmouth.

DORMER, DAISY, 13, Hippodrome, Ipswich. Booked at Palace, Oxford, Tivoli, &c. Claxton.

DORRETTA, LITTLE, a Charming and Graceful Acrobatic Song and Dance Artiste. Touring with C. W. Poole's Royal Myriorama.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH, The Dainty Singing Maiden, Brill and Graydon Tour.

DOVE, MISS ETHEL, This Week, London, Shoreditch. Next Week, Empire, Battersea.

DOVER, CLIFFE, Up-to-date Comedian, with Good Songs. Monday, Palace, Swansea.

DOVER, LILY, Comedienne and Speciality Dancer. Mon., Swansea. "Mother's begged me back to the quartette again."

DRYDEN, CISSIE, Vocal Character Actress. Communications to Fred Higham, York-rd., London.

DUCKETT, BERTHA, Charming Young Vocalist and Graceful Dancer. All com., 11, Arnold-street, Liverpool.

DUNCAN, Club Manipulator and Juggler; OSWALD, Staircase Performer, Hand Jumper, &c. Monday, Pavilion, Southport.

DUNCAN and MORTON, Refined Comedians. Next, Hippo., Ton-y-pandy. Lib., Mar. 20.

DUNMORE, TOM, The Essence of Quaintness. Agent, E. De Vere, Esq.

DUNNING and KAHN and KAHN, Finish 3 months' Stoll tour; return 1905-6-7-8. Monday, Palace, Northampton.

DURHAM'S FRED, Variety Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 1a, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

DU ROCHE, MDLLE., Palace, Camberwell. Next week, March 13, Gatti's, Westminster Bridge-road.

EILEEN and MAYNIE, Sisters, Musical Dancing Dots. Town Hall, Eastbourne. Summer Dates Open.

ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast, also LA BELLE TOSCA, Two or Three Acts. Vacant, Mar. 27, and April. Mon., Theatre R., Warrington.

ELLA'S, MISS best existing Lion Show. March 13, The Euston.

ELLERTON, ALF, Songs, &c., Latest for Dunville, Leamore, Albert, Leonards, Mayne, &c. 19, Pulross-road, Brixton.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Address, Empire Theatre, Rochdale.

ELLIS, MISS AMY B., March 13, Oxford and Grand, Clapham.

ELLIS and WATTS, Comedians (The Goods). Big Hit, Hippo., St. Helens. Monday, Haymarket, Liverpool.

ELMO, NINA, Comedienne. Standard, Pimlico. Agents, Day's Agency.

ELVY, ARTHUR, Character Comedian. "The greatest truths are the simplest; so are the greatest men." London Season.

ERICK, FRED, Comedian, On Tour, at Lib. Whit Week on. First-class Al Fresco. Coms., 428, Liverpool-street, Seedley, Manchester.

ERNESTINE TROUPE of Speciality and Acrobatic Dancers and Vocalists. Casino, Kursaal, Lyons, France.

ESCALADERS, THREE, Hand Balancers and Double Ladder Experts. Com., 15, Harford-street, St. James's, Bristol.

ESDALE BROS., Refined Comedy Artists. Vacant, April 3. This, Grand, Sheffield; next, Palace, Bradford.

FANNING'S FANTOCHES, On Tour with C. W. Poole's No. 1 Myriorama. Address, Assembly Rooms, Taunton.

FARRIMOND, PERCY, The Great Lancashire Singing Collier. This, Oxford, Middlesbrough. All coms., direct.

FIELDING, ANNIE, and BERT HULL, "An Officer's Flirtation," This, Alhambra, Brighton; next, P., Southampton.

FIELDS and ACRES, Comedy Park Keepers. Keepers of Novelty in the Park of Originality. Perm., 115, Hope-street, Salford.

FINDEN, MR. and MRS., The London, Shoreditch. Agent, Geo. Barclay.

FIONI'S, JAMES, AGENCY, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." 'Phone, 1,686 Royal.

FITZROYS, Society Gymnasts. Lib. March 27, April 13. 95, Brixton-road, London.

FLORADORA GIRLS, Enormous Success. "Rival Sweethearts," Duchess, Balham. Monday, Grand, Bolton. Liberty Panto.

FLORIZELL, Original, FLORIZELL, Head of them all in her Novel Contortionist Gymnastic Number. Address, Hippo., Liverpool.

FONTAINBLEAU, ALICE, and Troupe of Trick and Leaping Dogs; also Rolling Globe Act. Marquis of Granby Hotel, Lincoln.

FORD and HANSON, American Musical Millionaires. Hippodrome, Stoke, or Midland Hotel, Hull.

FORREST'S, EDGAR, Comedy Company; Monday, Bijou, Empire, Hull; Vacant March 20 and 27. Wire as above.

FORTUNE and GRANVILLE, Savoy House, 115, Strand, London, W.C. Telegrams, "Waggishly." 'Phone, 1,309, Gerrard.

FOX, G. D., Conductor, Composer, and Arranger. 134, Queen's Park-road, Brighton.

FOY, MISS LILY, Comedienne. Grand, Bolton. Big Success of New Songs by Carl Howard.

FRANCISCO, Juggler, and MAY MOODIE. Piccolo Soloist, Gatti's. Next, E., Portsmouth; 20, Hippo., Hastings. Vac. Mar. 27.

FREANS, THE, (WILL and PETER), Portrayors of Pure Irish Comedy. Next week, Queen's, Poplar.

FREDRICKS, CARL, and YA PYN KETO FAMILY, thanks H. Barrs, Esq., for Comfortable Tour. Winter Gardens, Cheltenham.

FREELAND, Public Hall, Carlisle. To be forwarded. Got to have it.

FRENCH'S, GEORGE, TROUPE, and the SNOW FAMILY, on Tour. For Vacant Dates, address, 14, Second-av., Queen's-pk., Ldn., W.

FRIDKIN'S, BORIS, COSSACK TROUPE, Operatic Singers, and Acrobatic Dancers. March 13, Oxford. Middlesbro'.

GANNON, NELLIE, Never Mind About Success. Re-engaged, That's Good Enough. HARRY WRIGHT, do. 28, Wellington-st., Strand.

GARRICK, MR. GUS, commencing Three Months' Provincial Tour Monday, Pavilion, Southport.

GATTY, MR. W. H., Demon King, J. Gar. Kiddie's "Bo-Peep." This, H. M., Walsall; next, Stalybridge. At Lib. 20th. Comedy.

GELDER, VAN, and LI-LI, Humorous Magicians. At Liberty, March 20, 27. Address, Pavilion, Leicester.

GEORGE, WALTER, Musical Sketches, London Pavilion, Nightly. Address, 36, Marquess-road, Canonbury.

GERALDOS, THE JUGGLING, Topping the Bill this Week, Hippodrome, Grimsby. Next Week, Palace, Blackpool.

GERTRELLA, Dancer-Gymnast. New Act, "In Cupid's Garden." Continental Tour.

GIBSON QUINTON, "Q.G." All communications to permanent address, Tivoli House, Scarborough.

GILLIN, Unique Ventriloquial Humorist, "Me Hat's Off." Hip., Dewsbury. Mon., Park P., Liverpool.

GOLD, HARRY, at Liberty. "Gold," Animated Song Sheet, "Gold." 2, Jessamine-villas, Percy-road, Ramsgate.

GOLDING, R. J., Ventriloquial Jokist and Romano Conjuror. At Liberty Easter. Add., 10, Vine-street, Aldershot.

GOLIATH, "The Boy who lifts Six Men and Piano. This, Alhambra, Stourbridge; next, Royal, Batley.

GRAHAM, ERIC, MILLIE HARRIS. Parthenon, Liverpool. Mar. 13, Westminster, Liverpool.

GRAHAM, IVY, Comedienne, Always a Success. Vacant, 20th. Address, this week, Care of Land, 13, Sauchiehall-street, Glasgow.

GRANADAS, LOS, Electrifying Bounders, Palace Theatre, Southampton.

GRANT, JAMES, March 13, Empire, Greenock.

GRAY, MR. GEORGE. "The Fighting Parson." Address, care of "The Era" Office.

GROSVENOR SISTERS (THREE), Operatic Vocalists, "Dick Whittington" Panto., booked by E. Warner. T. R., Mexboro'.

GROVES, J. W., Dame, Kiddie's "Bo Peep." Easter Panto, settled, Belfast. This, Her Majesty's, Walsall; next, Stalybridge.

GROVINIS, Central Palace, North Shields.

HAIG and NOVEL, Big Success, No Bluff. Middlesex 9 o'clock, and Bedford 8 and 10 o'clock. Nightly. The Palace. April 3.

HALL, CLIFTON, Versatile Comedian, The Man with a Voice. All coms, 156, Gaythorpe-st., Moss Side, Manchester.

HALL, HARRY, the New Vocal Comedian. The Man that can Sing. Commences Business March 20. Sole Agent, Verno.

HANDEL and LEE, Comedy Instrumentalists. Big Hit, R. Albert Hall, Jarrow. Perm., 48, Well-close View, Leeds.

HANNAWAY, BROS., Comedians and Dancers. Monday, return Tivoli, Manchester. Booked by Stebbings.

HARCOURT, FRED, March 13, Grand Theatre, Stockton.

HARDY, the American Blondin, "King of the High Rope." Address, Niagara Villa, Doggett-rd., Catford, S.E.

HARLAND and ROLLISON. A Musical Act. Empire, South Shields. Vacant, March 20 and 27.

HARMONY FOUR, THE (T. C. Bergeron, F. M. Barrett, Edw. Hughes, Alex. Ferguson). Address, Lyceum, London.

HARRIS and WORTH, "The Assassins of Sorrow." Big Success, Chatham. Monday, Pavilion, Glasgow.

HART and CO. Dramatic and Variety Agents. 7, Lancaster-house, Ardville-rd., Brixton, S.W. Tele., 116, Brixton.

HARTLEY, FRANK, the Smartest Boy Juggler before the Public. This Week, Palace, Lancaster; Next Week, Hippo., Wigan.

HAYDEE'S, MDLLE., Electric Mannikin Theatre. March 13, Hippodrome, Birmingham.

HEARNE, VIC, Gatti's, 7.30; Standard, 8.30. Recalled nightly. Address, 25, Ingrave-street, Battersea.

HEATON, PROF. TED, and SACHA, Greatest Swimming Act Before the Public. Perm., 24, Alton-road, Newsham Park, Liverpool.

HENDERSON, FAMOUS, Blind Musical Genius, and the greatest Concertina Soloist extant. Monday, P., West Hartlepool.

HENDERSON, LADE, Versatile Vocalist, Big Success, Foresters'. Next, Sadler's Wells.

HENDERSON and STANLEY QUARTETTE, Eccentric and Acrobatic Mus. Act, at Liberty. 50, Shepherd-street, Bury, Lancs.

MR. J. T. MACMILLAN.
Address,
1, Rochdale-place, Mount Florida, Glasgow.

MR. H. F. MALTBY.
Prince Mazaroff, "Slaves of Passion." Mar. 20. Worthing (3); Maidenhead (3). Lib. Easter.

MR. FREDERICK MANTELL,
Lord Percy Fitz-Sherry and Stage Manager, "Miss Mischief" Co. Royal, Norwich. Dis. Shortly.

MR. MAITLAND MARLER,
at Liberty.
Address, 333, King-street, Hammersmith, W.

MR. PERCY MARSHALL,
Carbury, "Lady of Ostend," &c.
March 20, Grand, Birmingham.

MR. ALFRED MARTIN,
Advance Manager, Compton Comedy Co., March 21, Kilmarnock and Ayr.

MR. HERBERT MAULE,
Returned from South Africa. Offers invited. Add., 10, King-street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.

MR. WALTER MAXWELL.
Address,
March 20, Theatre Royal, Belfast.

MR. ALEC MAYHEW,
Juveniles, Heavies, Character. Offers invited. C/o Post Office, Wellington, Somerset.

MR. QUINTON McPHERSON,
as Sid Prince, "Sherlock Holmes," with Mr. W. Gillette. Empire Theatre, New York.

MR. CHARLES MEDWIN,
at Liberty for Autumn.
Address, Savoy Theatre.

MR. and MRS. HUGH METCALFE.
Mrs. Metcalfe, 68, Royal Hill, Greenwich; Mr. Metcalfe, Theatre Royal, Bath.

MR. GEORGE MILLER,
Disengaged.
Address, 409, Edgware-road, W.

MR. HUGH MONTGOMERY, MARIE HARCOURT, Napoleon and Marcel, in "Napoleon the Great." Opera House, Southport.

MR. & MRS. G. MORETON-WILLIAMS
(Miss Marie McAulay), G. M.-W., Heavy Lead, "The Convict's Daughter" Co., Jarrow.

MR. F. MORLAND.
Address,
11, Bernard-street, Russell-square, W.C.

MR. and MRS. TOM MOWBRAY
(Miss Edith Ife), Disengaged.
133, Lavender-sweep, S.W.

MR. and MRS. ERNEST MUNRO
(Miss MARIE JONES). M. J., Disengaged.
Address, care of E. M., O. H., Bury.

MR. SINCLAIR NEILL
Disengaged. Juvenile Lead.
Crown Chambers, 64, Royal-avenue, Belfast.

MR. CHAS. NINIAN, Character,
MARA COLLINGS (Mrs. C. N.), Heavies.
Dis. Joint or Single. Wire 8, Lozells-st., Birmingham.

MR. ALFRED NORTHWAY,
"The Sledge-Hammer" Tour.
Junction Theatre, Manchester.

MR. PERCY OAKLEY,
Principal Tenor. Disengaged. Offers invited.
29, De Laune-street, Kennington, S.E.

MR. & MRS. DRELINCOURT ODLUM
(Dorothy Carington), Disengaged.
113, Stamford-street, Blackfriars, S.E.

MR. GUS OXLEY,
Cupid, "Three Little Maids" Co.
Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

MR. and MRS. ROBSON PAIGE
(Mabel Syringa).
Address, 10, Ospringe-road, N.W.

MR. WILFRED E. PAYNE,
Disengaged shortly for Leading Business.
Grand Theatre, Croydon.

MR. and MRS. KINGSFORD PEARCE
(Miss Wynne Hanley). Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's Co., Opera House, St. Helens.

MR. ASHTON PEARSE,
Adelphi Theatre.
Perm. address, 65, Redcliffe-rd., South Kensington.

MR. HERBERT PEARSON,
Leading (Juvenile or Heavy) Business.
Disengaged. 13, Haselrigge-road, Clapham, S.W.

MR. and MRS. FRED W. PERMAIN
(Miss Florence Le Clercq), Address A. A.; or, Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney, Australia.

MR. W. H. PERRETTE, Disengaged
March 27, Leading Character or Heavy Business. 158, Cambridge-street, London, S.W.

MR. and MRS. FRANK E. PETLEY
Dis. Easter. Lead, "As Midnight Chimes" Co. Mar. 20, Theatre Royal, Rochdale.

MR. W. SCOTT PHIPP,
General Manager, Author, Composer, Producer. At Liberty. Care of "The Era."

MR. FELIX PITT,
"The Garden of Lies."
Prince of Wales's Theatre, Grimsby.

MR. DONALD PRICE-EVANS,
Miss Ada Reeve's Co. Tyne, Newcastle.
Miss MARCELLA HUDSON (Mrs. D. P. E.) Dis.

MR. ALBERT E. RAYNOR, Sir Henry Curwen, "Breed of the Treshams," with Mr. Martin Harvey. March 20, King's T., Glasgow.

MR. ARTHUR LAW RAYNOR,
Bus. Man. Mr. Bert Coote's "The Fatal Wedding" Co. Third Year. Queen's, Farnworth.

MR. and MRS. GWYN RICHARDSON
(Miss G. Harlington), Messrs. Arthur and Frank Bertram's Co. Grand, Nottingham.

MR. W. E. RICHARDSON,
Disengaged.
Address, 133, Lavender-sweep, Lavender-hill, S.W.

MR. ARTHUR RICKETTS,
Principal Comedian. Disengaged, Musical Comedy. 10, King-street, Covent-garden, W.C.

MR. EDWARD RIGBY,
Disengaged.
11, Chepstow-villas, Bayswater, W.

MR. HARRY H. RIGNOLD,
"The Rogues of the Turf" Company.
March 20, Grand, Derby.

MR. WALTER L. RIGNOLD, Specially
Engaged by Messrs. Clift and Forster for Wilkins, in "The Officers' Mess," New Production.

MR. LEONARD ROBSON,
Starring Engagement, Stephen Merrick, "The Lightning's Flash." Lyceum T., Govan.

MR. WEEDON ROSS, Character or
Comedy Bus. Disengaged. Offers invited. "Armadale," King's Gate-avenue, Broadstairs.

MR. G. STAPELTON ROCHE,
Light Com., &c., Dis. for a Few Weeks.
Address, 32, Kelvedon-road, Fulham, S.W.

MR. STANLEY ROGERS.
Address all communications,
124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

MR. REGINALD P. RUTTER,
the Great Play,
"Divorced."

MR. STEPHEN E. SCANLAN,
Arrangements Complete.
Queen's Theatre, Swindon.

MR. ARCHIE SELWYN,
"The New Clown" Co.
March 20, Theatre Royal, Colchester.

MR. JULES SHAW,
Engaged by Miss Tita Brand for Gratiano, in "Othello." Shaftesbury Theatre.

MR. MICHAEL SHERBROOKE
and MISS ALICE ARDEN (Mrs. S.), Disengaged. 34, Margaretta-terrace, Chelsea, S.W.

MR. FRANK SHERLOCK,
Bingle, "The Girl from Japan."
Theatre Royal, Bournemouth.

MR. WILFRED E. SHINE,
Disengaged.
Address, Royal Court Theatre.

MR. EDWARD SIDNEY,
Disengaged, Comedy and Character. T. R., Sheffield; after, 112, Olney-st., Walworth-rd, S.E.

MR. THOMAS SIDNEY is at Liberty,
as Producer, Stage Manager, Special Parts.
Permanent Address, 35, Fortess-road, N.W.

MR. JOHN B. SHINTON,
Lead, "When Woman Hates." See "Touring Companies." Mar. 20, T. R., Middlesboro'.

MR. GEORGE SHIRLEY,
Disengaged, Acting-Management.
65A, Long-acre, London, W.C.

MR. IVAN F. SIMPSON,
with Mr. Willard in America.
Address, c/o Low's Exchange, 1,123, Broadway, N.Y.

MR. FRED SINCLAIR,
This, Broadhead's Hipp., Manchester.
Next Week, Queen's Park Hipp., Manchester.

MR. JAMES SKEA,
Character Actor, Dialects, Sing, Disengaged.
Care of Hansen, 6, Union-place, Edinburgh.

MR. WALLE SPINNER,
Business Manager for "The King's Pardon" Co. O. H., Doncaster; next, T. R., Rotherham.

MR. A. GIFFORD STACEY
at Liberty Early in March.
Address, Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. GORDON STARKEY,
Address,
Care of "The Era" Office.

MR. W. S. STEVENSON and MISS EVELYN ROBSON, at Lib. To-day, Lyceum, Newport, Mon. After, 82, Clapham-rd, S.W.

MR. JAMES STILLWELL,
Touring, "Queen of the Night," and "Trilby." Address, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

MR. GEORGE STONE,
Resident-Manager (Eleventh Year),
Royalty T. and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness.

MR. WALLACE STRANACK,
Dis., Apr. 3. Business or Stage Management.
March 20, Grand Theatre, Rawtenstall.

MR. AUGUSTIN SYMONDS
Dis., Comedy Char., Man; KATE PARRY, Juv., Light Com. 25, Kathleen-rd., Clapham, S.W.

MR. ALGERNON SYMS
Disengaged. Leading Business. Disengaged.
Permanent address, 3, Springdale-road, London, N.

MR. TAPPING
Disengaged. Parts and Stage-management.
28, Leyland-road, Lee, S.E.

MR. and MRS. J. MILNE TAYLOR
"The Golden Ladder" Co. Disengaged May 1.
Address, Empire Theatre, Oldham.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD THANE
New Comedy Drama to Let. Short cast.
9, Muston-road, Upper Clapton, N.E.

MR. FOWLER THATCHER, Disengaged, Character, Comedy, Ecc. Parts, &c.
35, Bridge-av., Hammersmith.

MR. L. CORY THOMAS,
"Lady of Ostend" Co.
March 20, Grand Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. and MRS. E. W. THOMAS,
(Miss Agnes Knights), at Liberty. 138, Elmhurst Mansions, Clapham, or A.A.

MR. RAYMOND THOMAS,
Dis. April 4. Heavy Lead or Character.
Address, 10, King-street, Covent-garden, W.C.

MR. WYLIE A. THOMPSON,
Light Comedy, Dudes, &c. Disengaged.
Bridgen, Bexley, Kent.

MR. CHARLES THORBURN, General Manager, Geo. Musgrove's "Prince of Pilsen" Co. Coronet Theatre, W.

MR. WALTER THORNTON,
Address,
35, St. John's Park, Upper Holloway, N.

MR. GEORGE TRAILL
Disengaged. Character Bus., Comedy, or Old Men. Ad., 17, Manchester-st., Gray's Inn-rd., W.C.

MR. TRUEMAN TOWERS.
Disengaged for Stage or General Management. 2, Somerford-grove, Stoke Newington, N.W.

MR. J. HENRY TWYFORD,
Special Matinée, March 20, Court Theatre.
Address, 1, Holland-villas-road, W.

MR. PERCY TYLER, Disengaged.
Tramp, Stage-Manager, in "Message from Mars." Meadow Side, Staines.

MR. A. W. TYRER,
Horace Holmcroft, "New Magdalen" Co.
Disengaged March 27. E. T., Southend.

MR. FREDERICK TYRRELL,
Rev. Elihu Garside, "Winnie Brooke, Widow,"
March 20, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.

MR. GEORGE UNWIN, Engaged by
Mr. Charles Steuart for "Our Flat,"
March 27, Theatre Royal, Manchester.

MR. and MRS. LANCELOT USHER
(Amy Ellam). L. U., "The Blanchard Diamonds." A. E., "A Life's Revenge." G., Burnley.

MR. and MRS. CHAS. B. VAUGHAN,
Miss M. Lewes, Lead, "The Garden of Lies."
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MR. PERCY H. VERNON, Captain
Larolle, "Under the Red Robe"; Alderman Westham, "Garrick," Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

MR. FREDERICK VICTOR,
David Rossi, "The Eternal City."
Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham.

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GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The concert given in the theatre of the Guildhall School of Music on Wednesday evening had many points of excellence, several of the vocal items being unusually good. One of the best was the duet from Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet*, the English translation being "O Shrine of Beauty." Miss Gretta Dawson and Mr. Bernard Turner sang the duet uncommonly well, the gentleman deserving great praise for his sympathetic rendering of the tenor part, and the representative of Juliet gained much approval. In the famous air from *Samson and Delilah*, by Saint-Saëns, Miss Mabel Stevens gave the English version, "Softly awakes my heart," which does not adequately express the passion and sentiment of the exquisite original. So if Miss Mabel Stevens did not quite realise the effect of the French air, let us blame the translation rather than the vocalist. Mr. Alexander C. Comfort gave a satisfactory rendering of Clay's ballad, "The Sands of Dee." Miss Elsie Lester sang a new rendering of "As the hart pants," by Miss Allitsen, with the title "Like as the hart desireth," the lines of which have already been set by two great composers. But no fault could be found with Miss Lester. Miss Dora Read was very successful in "Because," by Guy D'Hardelot. Her voice is pure, and of charming quality. In two songs of the same composer Miss Edith H. Dunton gained credit. Mrs. Arthur Jones displayed great skill as a harpist, and won cordial applause. Miss Elsie L. Curtis played brilliantly in the Andante and Rondo from De Beriot's Ninth Concerto. So gifted a writer for the violin should not be entirely forgotten. Schumann's "Grillon" furnished Master John Hope with a pleasing pianoforte solo, to which he did ample justice. Miss Emily B. Foss won laurels in Chopin's Polonaise in C sharp minor, and it is not everybody's good fortune to succeed in the music of this composer. The more exacting "Variations Sérieuses" of Mendelssohn were effectively played by Mr. Arthur L'Estrange, and Miss Sutherland gave a study of Liszt and a Scherzo of Godard with considerable ability. Miss Nellie Lake recited two pieces cleverly. One of them, "Lost and Found," by Hamilton Aidé, is an imitation of the eccentric German author Hoffman. The original is a story of a miner who had been lost by his sweetheart in youth, and when an old woman his body is recovered by her from the mine. Miss Lake recited this tragic story cleverly. Miss Kate Ward accompanied with her usual skill.

ROYAL COLLEGE CONCERT.

Composition is a feature of the Royal College studies, and the concert of Thursday last included the first performance of a quartet for pianoforte and strings by a student, Mr. James Friskin, of a very promising character. Mr. Friskin's name is new to us, but both in his playing and his musical ideas it is evident that he has been well grounded in his art. Mr. Friskin was assisted in his quartet by Vera Warwick Evans, Frank Bridge, and Ivor James. Mr. Friskin might have made a little more of the pianoforte part, but he has the gift of melody in a marked degree, and in the *adagio* this was especially noticeable. The Scherzo was bright, if not particularly original. The finale was the least interesting. The solo instrument would bear some revision, or even expansion. The composer so pleased the audience that he was four times recalled to the platform. Two solos of Saint-Saëns were performed by Charles Warwick Evans with remarkable expression and equally satisfactory tone. The vocal items included "Devotion," by Richard Strauss, sung by Mr. John S. Appleby; and Miss Gladys Haig was very successful in Schumann's "Aufräge." Miss Christian Keay sang airs by Brahms and Schumann with much taste, and was warmly applauded. A sonata for violin and pianoforte by César Franck, a composer being just now eagerly pushed forward, although he died long before his genius became matured, was cleverly played by Mr. Arthur Armstrong-Dash and Miss Winifred Gardiner, both executants gaining great credit from an audience not so large as usual, owing, no doubt, to the miserable weather. The concert concluded with a quintet for pianoforte and strings, by Anton Dvorák. The executants set down for the quintet were Helen Boyd, Herbert Kinze, William Armstrong, Frank Bridge, and Charles Warwick Evans.

AT the Opera House, Workington, on Monday night, there was a large and appreciative house to witness *An Abandoned Woman*, by Mr. H. Foxwell's company. Miss Edith Blande proved a great attraction in the part of Ninon; she was intensely dramatic. Mr. H. Hilla was a manly hero, and Mr. C. Vivian as the villain was excellent. Mr. G. Delaforce was humorous and happy as Paddy, and was well partnered by Miss Alice Ramsdale in the part of Sally. Mr. H. Foxwell created interest as Robert Saunders, his acting being efficient; Mr. H. Forbes was good as Sammy; Miss Sheila Walsh was sympathetic as the heroine.

"IN HOLY RUSSIA," a drama in four acts, by Lilian Clare Cassidi, was produced for copyright purposes, at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, on Wednesday.

MISS FANNY DANGO, who has been playing principal girl in the pantomime at the Court Theatre, Liverpool, collected the large sum of £131 towards the recent Liverpool Theatrical Gala, and the committee, feeling that such excellent work deserved some recognition, have presented her with a set of silver trays.

A DRAMATIC recital was given at Tolmer's Institute, N.W., on Thursday evening, by Mr. Stanley Leverton, assisted by Miss Barbara Allison and Miss Rosie Stevens. Mr. Leverton was heard to most advantage in "The Tell-tale Heart," by Edgar Allan Poe, in which he showed dramatic power. Miss Barbara Allison recited Kipling's "Ballad of East and West" effectively, and played naturally. An amusing little farce, entitled *The House Next Door*, by Austin by Austin, in which parts were also taken by Mr. Leverton and Miss Rosie Stevens, who made an excellent slavey. Miss Stevens also entertained with a Japanese recital.

MR. AL. LAWRENCE, who has booked already by cable several genuine novelty acts for the United States, at Keith and Proctor's Circuit, through Messrs. Barnard and Deetrich, 7, Clayton-square, Liverpool, of whom he is the sole and exclusive representative for America, sailed on the *Baltic* for New York, on Wednesday afternoon, from Liverpool. Mr. Al. Lawrence is also a representative in Europe of Chas. H. Waldron, the manager of the Palace Theatre, Boston, and influential director of the Burlesque Wheel Co., of America.

MR. HARRY HAMPSON, of the Hampson Brothers, is lying seriously ill at his residence in Newcastle. He was compelled to give up his engagement last Thursday, at Rochdale, and many thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Lee, proprietors of the circus, for their many kindnesses.

"MR. HOPKINSON," which was so favourably received on its production at the Avenue Theatre, on the 21st ult., is now doing well at Wyndham's, to which theatre it has been removed.

MR. ALF. GIBSON concludes to-night a very successful run at the Lyceum. He commences a long provincial tour on Monday, at the Hippodrome, Norwich.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—New Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews.—*When London Sleeps* is the attraction here, presented by Mr. E. Finch-Hatton's excellent company Mr. Walter H. Wilson, as Captain Rodney, is a typical stage villain; Mr. Albert Wray is well suited in the part of David Eagleheart; Mr. Edward Vivian is successful as Furnaby Fuller; Mr. Paul Graydon is a first-rate Bob Jones; Mr. D'Arcy Kelway is responsible for much laughter as Sammy Blythe; Mr. Charles Digby is amusing as the Hon. Bertie Broomhead; Stephano Mordicano is well portrayed by Mr. Otto Gottschalk; Mr. Samuel Reuturn is good as Winkles; Miss Mabel Cluer gives a charming embodiment of Queenie Carruthers; Miss Hilda Clyde is a sufficiently bold and crafty Hilda Carrode; Miss Evelyn Clare, as Maudie de Friere is good; Miss Nellie Birchenough is a capital Mrs. Jones; Miss Lily Weldon arouses the sympathy of the audience as Leila; Miss Marah Kelway is a vivacious Adele; Miss Kate Turner, as Adeline Verne, and Miss Olga Noyald, as Phyllis Kenyon, complete the cast.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Will Gregory.—The programme here includes The Steens, American mystifiers, who score a success; Harry Seaton is well received; The Bransbys, with their excellent songs, are a strong attraction; The Three Royal Temples, Glee Singers, are applauded; Sam Redfern, with some new songs and exceedingly smart patter, brings down the house; Messrs. Ryde and Beeman, acrobatic grotesques, are received with hearty laughter and applause; the Two Japanese Princesses, equilibrists and contortionists, give a daring turn; Jess Thorne, a sprightly comedienne, scores; the Carls, in their speciality act, *Fun in a Café*, introduce a trampoline table, and play to the accompaniment of hearty laughter.

ABERDEEN.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah.—Mr. John Leopold's company is here this week with the amusing farcical piece, *The New Frivolity*. The parts of Oliver Buckwheat, Madame Cobweb, and Jules Vermiglio are humorously represented by Mr. Herbert Lewis, Miss Ruby Wyndham, and Mr. Wilfred Vaughan respectively. Miss Amy Hall and Mr. John Leopold score with their singing; and the company includes several other members of the Leopold family, and the clever and resourceful comedian, Mr. Barry Lupino.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. Ernest Sheldon.—Miss Peggy Pryde's songs are received with tumultuous applause; and another notable turn is given by Park's Eton Boys, who sing very beautifully. Rice, Rose, Davis, and the Half are as popular as on their former visits; and the John Alexander Company appear in an extremely funny sketch, *Our Lodger*. Among other artistes who appear with success are Barney Vox, an excellent ventriloquist; Mr. Willie Benn, an accomplished instrumentalist; and the Victorias and Miss Annie Langley, sprightly vocalists and dancers. Mr. Sheldon, the popular managing-director, took his annual benefit on Wednesday. The programme was quite remarkable for its length and attractiveness, and the house was crowded in every part.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Messrs. Preston and Doherty's company opened here on Monday with *The Rich and Poor of London*. Mr. Sidney C. Cranston gives an excellent rendering of Gussy Lamb; Matthew Grabham is a good performance by Mr. Jack Sidney; Mr. Sidney Dench must be complimented on his performance of Spider Jack. May Braithwaite is a very artistic performance by Miss Dora Dence; and Ruby Redgreave is well played by Miss Marie Ramez.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Wilmott, Potter, Vandy, and Weisker.—A very attractive bill is provided here this week. Miss Alma Obrey must be complimented on her performance; Bob Baxter is also very amusing; H. O. Borie is a smart comedy juggler; the Bros. Harrison are clever comedians and dancers; the Falcons are amusing; Coram is a good ventriloquist; Sheila Deans renders her numbers well; and Ike Scott keeps the house in good humour. The Hippodrome pictures are also an attraction.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Saunes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—*The Two Hussars*—a well-known military drama of the sensational type—is being presented here this week, in an able manner, by Messrs. Fred Webb and Wilson Benge's company, the piece being well staged, and the scenery used of an appropriate description. Those responsible for the chief rôles are Messrs. Wilson Benge, Fred J. Webb, Louis Nanton, Jas. Stuart, G. Paradise, Misses Sadie Smith, Lallah Price; whilst others taking part are Messrs. Fred Chapman, C. Walters, R. Charles, Jas. Dalton, C. Fynes, and S. James.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—*The Midnight Mail*, a drama of a stirring character, by Arthur Shirley, is being staged here by Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company. The chief characters are entrusted to capable exponents, prominent amongst them being Messrs. George Harvard, as the engineer; Mr. Fred G. Evison, who plays a drunken sot with a vein of humour, which the audience find very diverting. The suffering heroine is sympathetically portrayed by Miss Ada Oakley, and the other ladies of the cast who do effective work are Misses Amy Corallie, Mildred Carr, Jennie Watson, Dolly Gilroy and Leslie Vere.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Among the "bright particular stars" here for the week are the Swift Trio, with a most amusing bicycle entertainment. A daring performance is given by D'Artigan, called looping the loop. Agnes Krembser is a clever lady juggler. Madame De Rose has a phenomenal voice; and George Prince, the crazy comedian; Keith and Merson, eccentric acrobatic singing and patter comedians; the great comedy speciality of Balsamos; the novel act, entitled *A Queer Customer*, by Johnson and Bert; Little Renee, in her latest success, "An Urchin's Story"; Nellie Graham, comedienne and speciality dancer; and J. H. Hawtrey, actor-vocalist, also contribute.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Seaton.—A welcome return visit is being paid here by Mr. Bert Coote's No. 1 company with *The Fatal Wedding*. Mr. Stuart Lomath gives a fine portrayal of Howard Wilson, playing with commendable care and finish; Mr. Pascoe Bioletti submits a finished performance as the villainous Robert Curtis; Mr. W. E. Chewd, as Toto is very good, and, with Miss Maud Locker, as Bridget, wins hearty applause for well-timed comedy. Miss Eva Moss, as Mabel Wilson, gives a consistent and sympathetic interpretation of the part; Miss Doris Gilham, as the scheming Cora Williams, does well; little Emmie Thomas, as Jessie, the little mother, is deserving of the highest praise. Other parts are well played by Mr. T. W. Ford, as Peter Schwartz; Mr. Jack Waring, as Policeman O'Reilly; and Mr. Richard F. Symons, as the Rev. Dr. Lanceford. The children's scene, with its songs, duets, etc., given by clever juvenile exponents, is received with great enthusiasm.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Gibbon.—The management here has provided a strong and varied bill this week, and includes a special engagement of the Pender Troupe of pantomimists, in a laughable absurdity, entitled *Hands Up*; Harry Morris, mimic, and character comedian; Wilfred, Canadian contortionist; the clever Continental Stilt Walkers; Vernando, ventriloquist; Ella Bourne; Mueller and Coyne, American comedy duo; and an interesting series of pictures by the Palace Bioscope.

AYR.—Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—For the present week the Gaiety has been taken by the Ayr Amateur Opera Company, which is presenting *The Mikado*. The company has been schooled for some time by Mr. Herbert Marchmont, who appeared in the original production of *The Mikado* at the Savoy. The musical conductor is Mr. Henry Graves, organist.

Town Hall.—Prince Bendon's specially selected company appeared in the Town Hall on Saturday evening, and drew a large audience. The great feature of the entertainment was the cinematograph films of *The Passion Play*, and the vocal scores were filled in by Miss Myra Norman, contralto; Miss Marie Nilson, soprano; Mr. P. A. Hope, bass; and Mr. P. S. Richardson, tenor. Prince Bendon was a host in himself in his well-known ventriloquial entertainment.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company are here this week with *The Manxman*. The important part of Pete gives Mr. Cross many excellent opportunities of displaying his abilities as an actor. Cæsar Cregeen is carefully portrayed by Mr. Henry Heller; Mr. William Burchill submits a capable impersonation of Philip Christian; and Ross Christian is successfully presented by Mr. Edward McLean. Miss Minnie Watersford displays considerable emotional power in her earnest embodiment or the erring Kate, and Miss Nancy Mitchell wins approval by her performance as Nancy. Miss Leslie Adair as Miss Christian, Mr. Edward Cartell as Monty, and Mr. Harold Wadeley as Prof. Mawley, give efficient help.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Tom B. Davis's company, in *Florodora*, is paying a return visit here. Mr. Dalby Cooper, an irresistibly funny Anthony Tweedlepunch, keeps the audience in roars of laughter. He is ably assisted by Miss Leonora Grieve, whose graceful acting and charming singing as Dolores are much admired. Miss Rene Steadman is an entertaining Lady Holyrood; Mr. T. Ellis-Buxton, a versatile and amusing Cyrus W. Gilfain; and Mr. Cyril Dance sings and acts capitally as Frank Abercoed.

Tivoli Theatre of Varieties.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi.—Miss Daisy James has had a great reception here; and the McConnell Trio give an artistic vocal entertainment. *The Dummy*, a screaming absurdity, by the Gregson Comedy Trio, creates roars of laughter; Kyoto is capital in his juggling, conjuring, and legmania business; the Sisters Caselli dance charmingly; and Miss May Geraldine, comedienne, and Miss Eily Adair, comedienne and dancer, add considerably to the evening's entertainment.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—A singularly attractive engagement is being fulfilled this week by the appearance of Mr. Frank Curzon's company in the musical comedy, *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Victor Widdicombe fairly revels in the part of Sergeant Brue, his broad humour and pompous bearing creating endless hilarity. A particularly hearty reception has been accorded that great local favourite, Mr. T. A. Shale, in his new rôle of Crookie Scrubbs, a character creation that is full of clever points. Mr. E. Percy Rogers puts plenty of energy into his impersonation of Michael Brue, and sings with success Miss Millie Lindon's popular song, "Mother Eve," assisted by full chorus. Gerald Treherne is well enacted by Mr. Arthur Stroud, a young vocalist with an agreeable baritone voice. Mr. Cecil Burt makes a capital Mr. Crank. Miss Violet Dene, as Lady Bickenhall, displays vivacity and cleverness. Miss Constance Lait lends much distinction to her portrayal of Aurora Brue; Miss Eliza Earle is a chic Daisy; and Miss Lily Maxwell a taking Mabel.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. W. Trussell.—The management is scoring heavily this week with a strong bill, that includes Miss Bryant, with her highly trained lions and hounds. The Abd'el Kader Trio's rapidity as painters is marvellous. Dandy George and his canine pet Rosie, present a delightful turn. Lola Patey, with a good style, is quite successful; that smart young conjurer, Henri Bekker, improves upon each visit; Nellie Lewis, burlesque actress, secures many admirers; Bishop and Vale, comedians, return to win further laurels; as do Hart and Rudd, comedians, patterers, and dancers.

Assembly Rooms.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Howes.—The "Charles W. Poole's" latest myriorama commenced its annual Lenten visit here on Monday. The Russian-Japan war pictures naturally receive much attention, and the Biograph films likewise come in for commendation. The variety turns include those clever bar performers, the Almo Trio; the Rochester family of musicians and dancers; the Avondale Quartet; the gymnastic feats of Mons. Henri; the Four Burgatiles in a musical interlude; and Allan Hanbury, comedian and cicerone. The orchestra is efficient under Mr. A. G. Morrell's direction.

BATLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. M. Hurst.—Mr. John A. Thompson's pantomime, *Aladdin*, is the attraction here this week. The company is a good all-round one. Miss Beatrice Varley makes a capital Aladdin; Miss Emilie Cameron is a charming Princess; Mr. Will Dale is much in evidence as Emperor; and the Vizier is in the safe keeping of Mr. Will D'Argan; Chin Chin is capitally undertaken by Mr. Ted Rogers; Mr. Albert Williams creates uproarious laughter as Widow Twankey; and Mr. Charles Wood deserves praise as Abanazar. Some clever specialities were given by the Verona Geisha Girls; Goliath, Herculean expert; the Sisters Isabelle, Mr. Ernest Bactolori, siffleur and instrumentalist; Dale and D'Argan, jugglers and tumblers; and Mr. Chas. Wood with his entertainment, *Twenty Faces under One Hat*.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Miss Ina Rozant presented *The Designers*, a farcical comedy by Fritz Zorn, at the County Theatre on Monday. Mr. W. Hargreaves gave a good interpretation of John Huggins, and Mr. E. O'Grady was well suited to the part of Mr. Currie; Wilfred Fry found a satisfactory exponent in Mr. William Luff; the humour was well sustained by Mr. Arthur Dennis as Percy Loraine, Mr. Frank Lester as Taddlebury, and Mr. G. Edwards as Dick. Miss Dorothy Sidney made a charming Mabel, and Miss Ina Rozant was successful as Rachel Huggins.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James. McCann.—We are favoured this week with a visit from Mr. George Dance's company with *The Girl from Kay's*. There is a competent cast, chief honours being due to the clever comedian Mr. H. C. Barry, who presents an exceedingly droll impersonation of Max Hoggenheimer. Miss Nancy Hervyn plays the title-rôle, and her capital vocalism and smart dancing completely captivate everybody. As Hon. Percy Fitzthistle, Mr. Leslie Roy Cathie is decidedly amusing, and the same remark applies to Mr. Fred Rolph's impersonation of Joseph. Mr. Garnet Wilson plays the part of Harry Gordon with unflagging spirit; and the rôle of Norah Chalmers is charmingly undertaken by Miss Rita Leonhardt, her bright impersonation winning all hearts. Miss Dorothy Firmin is a smart Ellen; as Nancy Lowly, Miss Beatrice Poole is admirable; and Miss Mabel Champion ably impersonates Mrs. Chalmers. Most satisfactory impersonations of Mr. Chalmers and Uncle Theodore are submitted by Mr. Cameron Carr and Mr. Samuel Lysons.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. John P. Beardmore.—The George Bonhair Gregory Troupe head the bill here, and their remarkably clever acrobatic feats have been accorded an enthusiastic reception; the Vivians appear to great advantage in their musical travesty entitled *Life's Reverie*, which has been received with much pleasure. Mr. Alex Lukos, descriptive vocalist, appears in several character studies with great effect; the Cranks are exceedingly smart trick and comedy cyclists; and Miss Nancy St. John is an accomplished comedienne and dancer. A good reception has been accorded the Zampas duettists and speciality dancers; and also appearing are Mr. Charles Gardener and Mr. Bert Byrne, comedians.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Limited.—General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Brock.—The Boisset Troupe head the bill and stage with unbounded success, their capital sketch, *The Bricklayers*, which has created roars of uncontrollable laughter. The fine baritone voice of Mr. Ian Colquhoun has been heard with pleasure in several songs; and an unmistakable hit has been made by Mr. Hugh Stanton's company in *Bargain Mad*. The Borellis appear to great advantage in their musical tit-bits, being loudly recalled; and the clever international dances executed by Clark and Argyle have been enthusiastically received. Miss Helen Martin is a cultured ballad vocalist; and others appearing are Miss Lulu Gould, a charming comedienne; and Mr. Mark Leslie, coon artiste.

New Alhambra Theatre of Varieties.—General Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The chief attraction at this popular hall is provided by the Bros. Vermane, who have been most successful with their eccentric acrobatic act. The novel ventriloquial act introduced by Oakdene affords much satisfaction; and a good reception has been extended to the San Remo Girls, talented vocalists and smart dancers. Narrow Bros. create much amusement with their knockabout cycling act; and Musical Silvo (inventor of the Silvo Chimes) appears in his unique musical performance. A feature of the bill is the entertainment provided by Weisker Bro.'s Bioscope, the series of new pictures exhibited this week being most attractive. The catchy chorus songs of Miss Carlotta Mayson charm all; and also appearing are Maudie Ford, comedienne; and Mr. Harry Nelson, comedian, who made a big hit on Monday.

BILSTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Manageress, Miss Grace Battersby.—A good company is playing *The London Fireman*, and both Mr. J. Forbes Knowles and Miss Nellie Shirley, as the hero and heroine of the drama (Hal and Ida Curtis), distinguish themselves by clever acting. In the heavy rôle of Viscount Fleming, Mr. Robert Grey does effective service; and a very good exposition of the Countess Fleming comes from Miss Violet Temple. Much hilarity is caused by the antics of Mr. Charles Preece as Nixey Stinger, and Miss Nellie Garside as Polly Bramble.

BIRKENHEAD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Miss Beatrice Isaacson's company opened on Monday in a drama, entitled *A Great Sensation*. Miss Isaacson displays great power and ability as Eva Dale; Mr. Sydney N. Hallows gives a manly and effective interpretation of Jack Damer; and Bunko Bates is admirably acted by Mr. Alexander L. Isaacson; Miss Madge Devereux does all possible with the rather uphill part of Sidonie; Mr. Charles Gallier ably depicts the villain of the piece, Harry Escombe, in vivid colours; Mr. William Ames is a good Wiley Jones. The humour of the piece is well sustained by Mr. Sidney Martin and Miss Marion Mayne.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. T. E. Dunville, the popular eccentric comedian, is again scoring heavily here, as is also Miss Florrie Gallimore, a charming and accomplished comedienne, who is always most favourably received at this hall. Mr. Joe O'Gorman, a capital Irish humorist, is a leading attraction; the Levinos are entertaining in an amusing sketch; and Miss Hanid Alexander has made a hit in the well-sustained scena, *Home from School*; Mr. Harry Zetter, a good comedian and grotesque dancer; Miss Mamie Iris, a pleasing serio and sand dancer; and Miss Frances Haskoll with some admirable illustrated songs, are also appearing with success. The bioscope is an interesting feature.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—The first dramatic season of the new Theatre Royal was inaugurated on Monday by Mr. Martin Harvey, who imparted desirable eclat to this epoch-marking occasion, and who was undoubtedly happy in the distinction. Mr. Harvey as that most "noble rogue," the Rat, otherwise Lieut. Beresby, was recalled again and again for his truly admirable performance, while at the end nothing but a speech would suffice. Mr. Chas. J. Cameron realised the stern, unbending Viscount Dorsington; Mr. Chas. Glenney depicted the craven nature of Col. Hungerford to the minutest detail; Mr. Percy Anstey was successful as Cornet Tresham; and Miss Coleridge acted with much tenderness as Margaret. Messrs. A. E. Raynor, Fred Wright, senior, Reene Denbigh, and Miss N. De Silva, who scored as the devoted Batty, were also appreciated by the large audience present.

Prince of Wales's Theatre, Limited.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Limited; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—Messrs. Lawrence Grant's and Malcolm Barrington's company opened the spring season here with *Joseph Entangled*, which receives a capital interpretation. Mrs. Mouillot essays the rôle of Lady Verona Mayne with unqualified success, her impersonation being womanly, subtle, and tactful; Mr. Lawrence Grant, as Sir Joseph, gives a convincing ring to the text; and Mr. Hugh Ardale, as Mayne; Mr. Everard Digby, as the Professor; Mr. C. Leveson Lane, as Pyecroft; Mr. Guy Lane, as Knapman; Miss Claire Cavendish, as Mrs. Knapman; Mr. F. H. Denton, as Harry Tavender; Miss Evelyn Maxwell, as Mrs. Harry Tavender; and Mr. Arthur Bell, as Tanmere, all rise to their responsibilities, and deserve the highest praise. *Heart of Gold* follows the comedy, and this also affords fine scope for Mr. Lawrence Grant, Mrs. Mouillot, and Mr. Hugh Ardale, &c.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's company has proved an excellent draw, and *The Gay Parisienne*, which they represent in the brightest and best possible manner, is applauded by all hands. Mr. Lionel Rignold is fortunately available for his original part of Ebenezer Honeycombe, which indicrous picture of the unco' guid he invests with all its pristine humour; Miss Isabelle Dillon, as the volatile French girl, Bon-Bon, is dainty and captivating; Miss Marie Daltra acts well as Mrs. Honeycombe; Mr. Arthur Powell, as M. Pompier, is well suited; Mr. Rudolph Klos displays much ability as the fiery Fossdyke; Miss Gwennie Harcourt adds to the mirth as Ruth; Miss Ethel Dunbar is graceful as Norah; Mr. Thomas Kennard is popular as Everleigh; and the Imperial Glee Singers discourse in several delightful numbers.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*Dick Whittington* finishes its successful three months' course to-night, for which occasion every seat that it was possible to book has been secured long ago; thus another merry and memorable "last night" promises itself. On Monday a matinée was given here in aid of charity, when the popular and clever Miss Minnie Jeffs, and others, appeared, a sum of over forty pounds being realised, which, it being Mr. Collingwood's motto that "Charity begins at home," is to be shared by the Actors' Benevolent Fund, and the Music Hall Artistes' Home, as well as among the local hospitals.

Metropole Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Walter Melville; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—A most potent and irresistible attraction appears here in Mr. Bert Coote's *Fatal Wedding* company. Mr. Ernest Owttrim plays Howard Wilson in a manly and popular style; Miss Theresa Osborne is much lauded as the wife, Mabel; Miss Beatrice Whitney compels respect, if not sympathy, as Cora Williams; and Miss Gladys Rose Jones, as the Little Mother, is appreciated by all; Mr. Cecil A. Collins acts the part of "the man about town," Robert Curtis, as if to the manner grown; and the comic rôles by Mr. J. Carl Lyle, as Toto; Mr. C. Melton, as Schwartz; and Miss Carrie Fenton, as Bridget, are most successful. The scenery is also a notable feature in this play.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Owner and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben Sydney.—Mr. Howell Webb's company has met with much success here with the sensational and musical comedy-drama, *The Convent Bell*. The emotional parts are all well sustained, and Mr Stanley Carlton, who, in addition to his clever portrayal of Philip Vautier, sings several successfull songs; Miss Ruby Maude, who acts most charmingly as Marguerite; Miss Emily Huby, as Christine Valgrave; and Mr. Oliver Birrell, in his cleverly assumed rôle of the villain, Henri Cassella, have commanded much applause. The comedy has stood out in bold relief, Mr. Howell Webb, as Pickle Podds; Mr. Teddy Miles, as Jean; and Miss Florrie Mandeville, as Susette, have, with song and jest, scored heavily.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; Manager, Mr. Dan Barnard.—Messrs Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is the attraction here, in *The Village Blacksmith*, which it transpires is the clever work of an Aston man, Mr. G. Carlton Wallace, to wit. The play gives unbounded satisfaction, being brimful of interest, and thrilling situations which are cleverly contrived. Mr. Sam Livesey appears in the title-rôle, and proves an excellent hero; Miss Laura Walker, as the blacksmith's wife, Kate, has many good and charming features; Mr. Joseph Carter acts the villain athlete, Captain Leo, with capital emphasis; and Messrs. Geo. Campbell, and T. E. Marshall, together with Mrs. T. C. Livesey and Miss Maggie Edwards, sustain the comic interest.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Mr. Wilkie Bard is attracting packed houses here, and is loudly encored for his amusing songs and patter. Syd May, in his clever mimicry of popular artistes, comes in for a large share of applause; Nellie Stratton delights with her singing; the Akimotos are expert jugglers and equilibrists; and the Rossow Midgets are exceedingly smart boxers and acrobats. Seeley and West, Arthur Melrose, Daisy Ray, J. P. Dane, and a series of pictures are also included in the bill.

Gaiety Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—An exceedingly bright programme is attracting large audiences this week. *The Belle of the Orient*, a condensed musical comedy, is paying a return visit; the Sisters Gasch are decidedly clever in their acrobatic display; Sydney James, in his ventriloquial entertainment, is good; Astarte has a novel and mysterious exhibition; and the Antartos, May Henderson, Woodhouse and Wells, and the Ashers add to the success.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Kelly and Gillette, in their billiard table speciality, are both clever and amusing; Carlotta Levey is a capital vocalist. The long bill also includes the Musical Johnsons, Jules Keller, Harry Conlin, Robertus and Wilfredo, Mdlle. Haydee, Juno Salmo, the Golden Mephisto, and a series of animated pictures.

Bordesley Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. George Foster.—The operatic sketch, *Jack Sheppard*, is being presented this week by Messrs. Verno and Voyce; Roze and Calvert, in their burlesque of *Captain Kettle*, are most amusing; Drew and Alders are loudly applauded for their eccentric knockabout act; some smart dances are presented by the Four Trees; Dainty Gwennie Hasto and Myra Stansfield are particularly successful with their catchy songs; and H. F. Wilson and Harry Nation add to the mirth of the programme.

BLACKBURN.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Business-Manager, Mr. Reginald Yorke.—Mr. Walter Melville's company in the drama, *A Disgrace to her Sex*, is appearing this week. Miss Laura Hansen sustains the character of the lady so invidiously distinguished with great ability; Mabel Valleys, the illegal child, and Mildred Carrington, the legal child, are well represented by Miss Elaine Vanbrugh and Miss Nellie Lucas; Mr. Clinton Baddely is also very good as Jules Delarnet; Mr. Arthur Byron keeps the audience well amused as Barnaby Mugg; and he is ably supported by Miss Polly Marsh, as Bella.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—*When a Man Hates* is being performed here, under the triple management of Miss Olga Audre, Mr. Travis Greene, and Mr. Arthur Hinton. Miss Leila Zilwood appears to advantage as Olga Gwynne; Mr. Arthur Hinton, as Pietro Danelli, also displays great ability; Mr. Sydney Benson, as Peter Pimple, proves himself an excellent comedian. Good work is also done by Mr. Gerald Byrne, as the half-witted Paul; and Mr. Frank Brunell, as Detective Smart. A word of praise is also due to Nana Flensburg, as Dolly Dimple; and Miss Marion Forrester, as Letty, the White Angel.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. W. Murray.—Another excellent company is drawing crowded houses. Ameen Abou Hamad and his Arabian troupe give a marvellous exhibition of acrobatic agility. Aga, the suspended, is also an illusion much appreciated. Johnny Holland and Co. are filling a second week's engagement with their amusing sketch, *New Milk for Breakfast*. Other good turns are: Charles Chard, comedian; Donaldson Bros. and Ardel; Annie Casey, Evelyn Taylor, and the Foros, equilibrists.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—*The Golden Ladder*, played by Miss Mary Austin and E. Vivian Edmonds' company, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Harry Cullenford essays the rôle of the Rev. Frank Thornhill with marked success, and Mr. John McElroy gives a satisfactory delineation of Samuel Peckaby. Michael Severn finds a suitable exponent in Mr. J. Milne Taylor; Mr. Graham Winsford is well placed as M. Peranza; Miss Conyers Radcliffe makes a charming Lilian Grant; Miss Nellie Graham is amusing as Mrs. Peckaby; and Little Vera is a pretty and clever Vera.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Milton Rays' company is here this week in *A Hot Night*, in which Mr. Arthur Milton and Miss Madge Duval, assisted by the Eldorado Quartette of Dancers and other artists, give a very amusing performance.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The star item here this week is A. Ba-Be's pretty act, entitled *The Picture Postcard Album*. Other contributors are Helen Charles, vocalist; the Geraldos, jugglers; Percy Curry, comedian; Mdlle. Nadji, balancer; Les Papillons, dancers; Mabel Le Blanche, vocalist; and the Labakans, acrobats.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. E. Good.—Mr. Charles R. Stone's company has occupied the stage here, with the exception of Tuesday, in the musical comedy, *What Became of Mrs. Racket*. In addition to this Mr. Albert Morron introduces his magic kettle and other mysteries.

Alexander Hall.—Bob Anderson and his clever combination are still in possession, the new arrivals being J. G. Heffron, comedian; and the Sisters Redfern, banjoists, vocalists, and dancers.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is this week presenting the original drama, *The Female Swindler*. Miss Constance Elgin cleverly sustains the part of Lu Valroy, otherwise Miss Darwen; Mr. Jerrold Heather is equal to the rôle of Jack Coulson, criminal investigator; Mr. Luke Forster displays some clever comedy acting, appearing in no fewer than four characters; Miss Florrie Kelsey (as May Andrews) and Miss Evelyn Marrable (as Mary Ann Mee) are good in their respective parts. Other characters are in able hands.

Grand Theatre, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—There is another good company appearing here, comprising the Bros. Egbert, "the Happy Dustmen," who appear in an amusing sketch; Smith and Johnson, coloured duettists; George Reeves, eccentric character comedian; Valoni, novelty juggler, with his wonderfully trained pigeons; Miss Fredrica's terriers and pony; Stylo, hoop manipulator; Miss Lily Foy, comedienne; Gus Hindell, comedian; Miss Beatrice Bonnie, comedienne; the Floradora Girls, vocalists and dancers; the Breton Troupe, in their pantomime sketch, entitled *The Tramp's Picnic*; and the Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE.—Royal Muncaster Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. Albert Wilson.—*Napoleon the Great* is being presented here this week. Mr. Hugh Montgomery gives a fine study of Napoleon, and his clever impersonation is well appreciated. Mr. Frank M. Thorne is a powerful Pierre Pomponnet; and Mr. Phil Harper as Colonel Meuron is well suited. Miss Chrissie Dunbar is an attractive Marie Walewska.

BOSCOMBE.—Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Mouillot and De Frece; General Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—This week the Trentanovi Sisters are here in their clever trapeze act, and Felix de Marce is also earning golden opinions with his admirably trained troupe of ponies, baboons, and dogs. Henry Troy, a tenor vocalist, is also much appreciated, as are the capital turns of Will Cornish, in his musical bells act *The Silver Chimes*; Prince Kuroki, the Japanese magician, and the musical clowns, Francis and Melli. Another great success is Joe Mac, vocalist and dancer; while Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope is provided with a new series of excellent films.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The final performance of the successful pantomime, *Cinders*, was witnessed by a crowded audience on Saturday evening last. The proceedings were of the usual noisy order, but good humour prevailed, and floral offerings and presents were showered upon the principals. Mr. Hart made his customary speech, and the curtain was lowered amidst great enthusiasm. On Monday the Carl Rosa Opera company commenced a short season with *Faust*, which was finely staged. Mr. E. C. Hedmont gave a fine performance of the title-rôle, and his rich voice was heard to advantage. Miss Lizzie Burgess greatly charmed the audience with her vocalism and pathos as Marguerite. Mr. Arthur Winckworth's Mephistopheles was a finely conceived effort; Mr. Lewys-James made a vigorous Valentine; as Siebel, Miss Anna Hope sang with effect; and Miss Douglas Wilson's Martha, and Mr. Frank Arthur's Wagner, were able efforts. The largely augmented orchestra was skilfully conducted by Mr. Walter Van Noorden. *Tannhauser* was presented on Tuesday. *Don Giovanni*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *Rigoletto*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, and *Maritana*, are billed for representation during the week.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Mr. H. A. Jordison's successful *Babes in the Wood*, was presented in its entirety to a large and highly pleased audience on Monday, and the performance went with a merry swing from start to finish. There is much to admire in the way of scenery, costumes, music and specialities, and in the latter Mr. George Chanti provides a novelty; his changes of character and costume being accomplished with remarkable rapidity. Miss Dolly Cullen and Miss Elsie Jordison are very dainty and particularly precocious Babes, and Miss Madge Daley's appearance and deportment well fit her for the character of Robin Hood. Maid Marion is played in winsome style by Miss Ada Martine. The Baron is capitally played by Mr. Edward Avon, a clever contortionist; Mr. Rowland Hill's Dame Peggie is a most diverting effort; Cullen and Carthy are a pair of funny Rogues; and others who are prominent in the capital cast are Miss Bella Brookland, Miss Ethel Brookland, Miss Edie Duncker, and Mr. W. Francis Greene.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. J. Kelly.—In Fred Karno's *Mumming Birds* we have a diverting musical burlesque on the modern music hall. Flo Challis, comedienne, in bright style contributes good songs; Rich and Rich are capital comedians; and Harry Lawson is a good eccentric. Rose Archer's mimicry of celebrities is clever. In their vocal character sketches and choruses the Sisters Hayden are popular; Fred Terry's comic songs are acceptable; Elsie Roby, comedienne, in a mono sketch, *The Slavey's At Home*, displays ability as a pianist, vocalist, and dancer; and the Great Lumars contribute a novel acrobatic act, to which is added an effective electric display.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. E. Berry.—Harry Allister is giving a series of clever character impersonations here, and there is capital comedy in the turn by the Esdale Brothers. Lily Flexmore is a smart dancer; Professor Thornbury is distinctly clever as a lightning chromographist and ventriloquist; some wonderful instruments are utilised by the Four Maisanos in their musical entertainment; Charles Ridgewell gives an acceptable character comedy turn; Ethel May contributes successfully as a comedienne; an excellent vocal turn is furnished by Gus Daniels, and there are some enjoyable items, both instrumental and vocal, in the doings of Alice Raymond and John Kurkamp.

St. George's Hall.—Manager, Mr. S. H. Carter.—The New Century company is exhibiting a

well; Thomas E. Finglas has some good Negro songs, and is assisted by a charming lady in Japanese costume, who dances gracefully; the Hartley Wonders do a smart jumping act; Ernesto juggles effectively; Edith St. Clare, comedienne, is applauded for her songs; and the Brothers Lavelle are successful as comedy acrobats. The performance concludes with animated pictures.

PALACE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Secretary, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—The Black Troubadour Quartette of vocalists sing well, and obtain much applause; Albert Wyndham and company present a good exposition of scenes from Shakespeare's *King John*; Urquhart introduces a good act as a foot equilibrist; Nellie Lovell is always popular here as a male impersonator; Rozene and Robini amuse with their speciality, *The Jap and the Russian*; Lottie Albert is a pleasing comedienne; Fred Karno and company have a good absurdity, *The Travellers' Rest*; the Danbys score as eccentric comedians; Frank Crisp, comedian, amuses; and the Three Darrels have a pleasing and refined musical act. The performance concludes with animated pictures.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LTD. — Managing Director and Licensee, Mr. James W. Haworth; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. B. Astin.—Mr. Walter Melville's combination, in *A Girl's Cross Roads*, written by Walter Melville, which is the attraction here. Miss Hilda Beverley as Barbara Wade made a great impression, and added to her reputation. Vice was well presented by Miss Kate Walford as Nellie Meadows; and Mr. P. Barry-Lewers as Cuthbert Lumley. Constance Cornell and Jack Livingstone, the heroine and hero, are pleasingly played by Miss May Straker and Mr. C. A. Melton. Old Farmer Meadows is an excellent study by Mr. Chas. Franmore. Mr. Fred Ingram as Toby Turvey, and Miss Gladys Newcombe as Tilly Vane, are responsible for much comic relief. The staging is excellent.

BURNLEY.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Culeen; General-Manager, Mr. Jas. E. Culeen.—Messrs. Scudamore and Richmond's company on Monday presented *The Beautiful Avenger* to a large and appreciative audience. Miss Nannie Meade's impersonation of Vashti Volta, the avenger, and Victor Stanhope, the explorer, commands admiration; Mr. Algernon Syms plays the part of Cyrus Telford with inexhaustible vigour; the villainous rôle of Zadoc Foxbane is admirably sustained by Mr. Edwin Walton; and Mr. Charles Dolls is a conspicuous success as Herman. Miss Cissie Podmore makes a noteworthy Edna Volta, and Miss Lilian Hawkins puts plenty of life and humour into the part of Arabella Binks.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Go-Won-Go-Mohawk and her company are here for the week in the drama, *Wep-Ton-No-Mah*, a most exciting play depicting Indian life. In the title-rôle a most dignified and realistic impersonation is given by the celebrated Indian actress; Mr. C. H. Charles is a decided success as Colonel Stockton; Mr. Geo. Courtney, as Manuel Lopes, is a desperado of the deepest dye, and in conjunction with Mr. Isaac Shawcross (Captain Franklin), scores heavily. Mr. Guy D. Hackney, Mr. Dan Ryan, and Miss Jessie Hart, are responsible for some genuine fun, and appear with success in the variety scene; Mr. Theo. Alker is good as the Indian Chief; and a pleasing performance is that of Miss Minnie Goepel as Nellie Stockton.

BURY (LANCS).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mrs. Morton Powell's company in *A Woman's Devotion*, is playing here this week. Mrs. Morton Powell gives an admirable portrayal of Gilbert Le Grand, and Miss Ethel Tinsley is effective in the part of Cora Eversleigh. Miss Maud Hastings gives a good performance of Maisie Loyale; Mr. George Gaisford plays well as Richard Chesney; Mr. F. Hodson and Mr. Bob Anderson are humorous as Bob Savage and Reginald Montmerancy.

OLYMPIA CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The Selbinis, clever acrobats and cyclists, are at the head of the bill. Other turns include the O'Malleys, comedians; Miss Leola, juggler; Les Voces, two good vocalists; King and Delane, in a comedy, entitled *At the Club*; and the Four Jumels, musicians.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead; Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—A good programme includes Bert Williams, ventriloquist; Wragg and Wragg, athletes; Miss Ella Dean, vocalist; Barney Noble, comedian, and Henry Carlton and Co., in an absurdity entitled *One Night Only*.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. Lewis Waller's company, under the direction of Mr. Peter Davey, commenced an engagement here on Monday with *Miss Elizabeth's Prisoner*. Captain Harry Peyton was presented by Mr. Norman Partridge in an ideal way, whether as the dashing officer or as the lover. Miss Essex Dane soon gained the sympathies of the audience, and gave a finished rendering of Miss Elizabeth; Miss Leonora Braham as Mistress Sarah Williams was also admirable. Mr. Elliott Ball played the unthankful part of the cowardly Major John Coldon uncommonly well; and Mr. J. Harold Carson was sufficiently humorous as Mr. Valentine.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford. Mr. William Greet's company is presenting *The Sign of the Cross* here this week, and the famous piece has been as successful as ever in drawing large and enthusiastic audiences. As Mercia, Miss Evelyn D'Alroy quickly wins the sympathy of her hearers; Mr. F. B. Woulfe, as Marcus Superbus, brings out all the strong points of that difficult rôle to the best effect; Mr. Bernhardt Turner is clever in his interpretation of Nero; and Mr. Chas. Aldred is a decided success as Tigellinus. Miss Nellie Bonser submits an excellent portrayal of Poppæa; Miss Alma Bolton is praiseworthy as Berenice; and Miss Ivy Millais, as Stephanus, shows unusual ability. Mr. Frederick Wood, Glabrio; Mr. J. Wetherall, Licinius; Mr. Harry Jones, Philodemus; and Miss Cissie Carlton, Darcie, are all very successful indeed.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Bateman; Business Manager, Mr. Robert Sawin.—Messrs. Fred Moule and Alfred Denville's company is appearing at the Westgate-street House in the new drama *Bigamy*. As Diana de Courcelle, exceptionally hard work falls on Miss Grace Lester, who, however, acquits herself creditably. A pathetic delineation of Lionel Craven is given by Mr. Kenneth Smith; Mr. Chas. Burdon submits a manly interpretation of Frank Merrivale; and an excellent Edgar Craven is found in Mr. Henry Handon. Miss Cynthia Mathews renders a pleasing portrayal of Sylvia Dresdon, while as her father, Sir Charles Dresdon, Mr. Monson Thorpe is well placed. Comedy is in the exceptionally capable hands of Miss Lydia Mannington as Dido; Miss Edith Fleetwood, as Esmeralda Grapes; Mr. Alfred Denville, as Rufus Cherrybull; and Mr. Francis Serle, as Polyphemus Voltaire.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—Owing to a throat trouble, Miss Vesta Tilley has been unable to appear at the Empire this week, and her hosts of admirers who were looking forward to her visit have been keenly disappointed. Her place has been taken by the ever-ready bioscope with excellent views of last Saturday's International match, Wales v. Ireland. The programme, however, is still very strong. Percy Honri is as entertaining with his concertina as ever; Julius Powell's pantomime sketch, *A Quiet Room to Let*, has not lost any of its popularity; Mr. Frank Seeley, a droll comedian, wins great applause; the Onllow Trio prove to be wonder workers with wire and equipoise; and the Ergotti and King Luis Troupe are undoubtedly a fine company of acrobats. Other clever turns are given by the Allisons, a duo of capable singers and dancers; Harry Wenburn, an eccentric singer of funny ditties; Grant and Allen, in their latest whimsicalities; and Flo D'Orville, the versatile artiste.

CARLISLE. — ALGIE'S HIPPODROME. — Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Veitch; Manager, Mr. C. Algie.—The Ando Japanese Troupe of jugglers, acrobats and rope walkers top the bill this week, and give a wonderfully clever performance. Mdme. Collard provides a sensational novelty with her troupe of trained dogs. Le Warren's ventriloquial act has several novel features; a comical singer of comical ditties is Mr. Ted Waite; a smart bone solo is contributed by Mr. Will Crowson; Miss Sadie Dana successfully impersonates coon characters; and the Hippodrome Pictures grow in popularity every week.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business Manager, Mr. Henry Masterman.—Very attractive is the visit of Mr. George Testo Sante and company in the sensational drama, *The Life of a Showman*. Mr. Sante plays the character of Brian Leader, a circus acrobat, in able fashion, his exhibition of strength and endurance in act two winning much admiration. The villainous Hendrick Marasis is capitally undertaken by Mr. Sam Arthur. As Sir Noel Hartland, and afterwards as Stickers, a billposter, Mr. Charles Osborne presents excellent portraits. The part of the Rev. Cyril Arliss in the hands of Mr. Edward Warden, is skilfully portrayed; Miss Amy McNeill acts with force and vigour, and is highly successful as Agatha Winter; Lena is feelingly portrayed by Miss Thorne Hallam. As Angelina Mutton Miss Alice Granville is exceedingly droll, her make-up causing roars of laughter. A skilful sketch of Ned Chuckers is given by Mr. Fred Vaughan, and Mr. Allen Charles as Tommy Allthere, in conjunction with Mr. Johnny Clegg as Ben Tictac, are responsible for much of the humour of the piece.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. George G. Ridley.—Delighted audiences are this week witnessing *Saturday to Monday*, which is being performed by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. Mr. Stuart Champion is highly successful as Lord Culvert, Miss Moyra Creegan a delightful representative of Mrs. Wendover, Mr. Dallas Welford's Stanley Pidding is a clever character sketch, and other parts are well filled as follows:—Probyn Dyke, Mr. Jack Hampton; the Rev. Lemuel Toop, Mr. Edwin Ling; Lady Diana, Miss Adeline Lester; Angia, Miss Kitty Doyle; Miss Toop, Miss Josephine Rae; Miss Street, Miss Ida Laurie; and Thompson, Miss Olive Loftus Leyton. The comedy is preceded each evening by Frederick Fenn's *Judged by Appearances*.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Howard and Collinson are causing plenty of fun in *The Porter and the Parcel*; the American couple, Hayman and Franklin, score with their scena, *A Matrimonial Agency; A Hot Time for One* is the title of a boisterous act contributed by the Five Bon-Bons; Bernard and Weston are still big favourites here; while others appearing are the Sisters Albert, vocalists and dancers; Daisy Martell, comedienne and dancer; Laffan B. Jolly, the laughing comedian; pictures, projected by Lacey's Erascope; and Will Johnson, comedian.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank J. Donne.—Apollo tops the bill here, and is astonishing the natives with his skill in feats of strength. The variety items include the Moxons, foot equilibrists; Florence Schuberth, burlesque artist; Starr and Leslie, in their song, patter, and Indian club display; the Pueblo Brothers, singers and dancers; Andy Burn, comedian and dancer; the Sisters Warner, duettists and acrobatic dancers; and the Edisonograph.

CHESTERFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mrs. Henry Swinerd's company, under the direction of Mr. J. W. Cordiner, is appearing here in *Dare Devil Dorothy*. Dorothy Monrose is well played by Miss Marjorie Cecil, her songs being greatly admired; Miss Kathleen Garnon is well placed as Ruth; Mr. Cecil W. Parke gives a fine performance of Captain George Fielding; the villain, Captain Edward Dudley, finds a good exponent in Mr. Henry C. Ward; Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith, and Mr. Arthur Verne as Silas Crump, are excellent dancers; Mr. Wilfred Carr makes a capital Featherstone Haugh; and the Sisters Mabel and Lillie Blake execute some clever dancing.

CHORLEY.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé: Secretary, Mr. J. Clay.—Miss Daisy de Roy's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, opened here on Monday. Miss De Roy charmingly undertakes Alice; Mdlle. Lucretia is a capital Dick; and the comedians, who are particularly smart, include Mr. Frank Dalens as Captain Shipwreck, Mr. Geo. Welch as Bosun, Mr. J. C. Bland as Jack, Mr. Sydney T. Pease as Eliza, and Mr. James Barrasford as the Alderman. Mr. Fred Bendo capitally undertakes the Cat, and does a clever contortion act. Rae and Rae are also included in the specialities, and give a particularly smart trapeze act. Mr. Harcourt Russell is successful in facial "Portraiture," and the Geisha Quartette are particularly graceful and clever dancers. Mr. Fred Eplett is in charge of the orchestra.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Wilson.—The attraction here this week is *The Bells of Haslemere*, ably presented by Mr. Charles A. Chandler's company. The Squire of Haslemere is well embodied by Mr. Leonard Yorke; as John Silkstones, the unscrupulous villain, Mr. Montague Turner supplies a carefully studied impersonation; Mr. Charles S. Chandler is a capital Captain Vere, his acting in the third act being especially fine. Miss Harrietta Pollini is all that can be desired as Evelyn Brookfield; Mr. Douglas Hamilton is good as Matthew Brookfield; Miss Mary Hardacre acts well as the much wronged Mary Northcote; Miss Florence Chandler is a fair Norah Desmond; Miss Stafford Smith is a sprightly Dorothy Tremble; and Mr. Charles Cecil is highly entertaining as Reuben Armstrong.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs. Mary Watson; Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—The attraction here this week is provided by Mr. Fred Bulmer's company in *Sentenced for Life*, and the artistes were well received on the opening night. Mr. Edward E. Louis is rewarded with applause for his able rendering of Lieut. Roy Stillwell. An impersonation of decided cleverness is that furnished by Mr. Ernest Vaughan as Capt. Paul Derrick. Praise is due to Mr. W. Berkeley Hawthorn for his capital performance as Sir Wallace Stillwell; and Mr. T. C. Glenville and Mr. Tom Gilmore are equally successful as Bill Sharkey and Toby the Tadpole respectively. Miss Madge Douglas makes the most of her opportunities as Adele Gray; and Miss Gladys Hawthorn as Kate Rennel and Miss Mary Dalby also render valuable support.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—*In Dark Siberia* is here for six nights. Mr. W. T. Riley adapts himself to the chief part in a striking manner; Miss Carlotta Anson is a creditable Princess Natalie; and there is distinct merit in the acting of Miss Cecilia Ransome as Paul Gregorovitch, the Hebrew lad, who is the object of a display of anti-Semitism. Mr. Louis Weston, as Sergeant Petrovitch, relieves the piece with his humour. The villainy is capably presented by Mr. Wilson Howard as Major Waroff.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Messrs. Draycott and Peppin's company is fulfilling an engagement here this week, opening on Monday, in the drama, *The Best Must Win*. Mr. Chas. Draycott ably sustains the part of Gaston, Marquis de Marcie, alias the Panther, and as Paul Dumaresq Mr. Robert Watson is a manly hero Mr. Fred. Aldworth does full justice to the part of Sabritache, an old blind soldier; whilst his daugter, Denise, Miss Lilian Watson Lloyde is highly commendable; Miss Violet Ospringe leaves nothing to be desired in the rôle of Therese Dumaresq; and as Lucille Miss Kate Maynard does well. The comedy element, of which there is not much, is well filled by Mr. Frank G. Kent, as Jacques, and Miss Maud Hetherington as Suzette. *The Stolen Birthright* was given on Wednesday and Thursday, and *East Lynne* on Friday.

CORK.—PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The star turn here this week is Mr. Charles Coborn, who appears in a number of new songs. As an encore on Monday he gave "Four Little Fingers and a Thumb." Lilian Travellie, an American soubrette, contributes some pretty songs; Andrew Moloney gives an interesting turn in Dickens' characters; Johnny Chippendale's songs and dances are most diverting; the Itrams, lady, gentleman, and child, give a sensational acrobatic exhibition; the Wartenberg Bros. have a novel juggling scene; Sam Dalton is a good grotesque; and Tell and Tell are excellent comedians.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Bennett.—The comedy, entitled *A Country Mouse*, is attracting considerable attention at this house of amusement. The company is under the direction of Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchinson. The part of the Hon. Archibald Vyse is safely entrusted to Mr. Percy Hutchinson, while as the Staid John Bowlby, M.P., Mr. Charles Harley is very satisfactory; Mr. F. G. Thurstans capably acquits himself as the Duke of St. Kitts; Mr. Edward Bonfield makes a very good Lord Robert Wykeham. Angela, the country mouse, is charmingly represented by Miss Violet M. Harley. Miss Dorothy Cacey is capital as Violet Aynsley; the same remark applies to Miss Violet Ley as Lady Sylvia Bowlby.

THE HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—Chief amongst the attractions here is the special engagement of Miss Marie Lloyd, who quite upheld her reputation and was repeatedly recalled. The Morton Trio possess well-balanced voices; Rosell proves to be a clever trapeze artist; Miss Ella Lane is a good serio and dancer; and Fred Loyle and Co., in a sketch, entitled *The Blind Spinster*, prove attractive. An excellent set of animated pictures are also being shown.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor.—Messrs. Polini and Melford's company is appearing here this week with *The Silver King*. Mr. Herbert Ford, in the character of Wilfred Denver, gives due emphasis to the emotion of the part; Nellie Denver is played by Miss Lilian Bethel in an affecting manner; Mr. E. J. George displays his well-known art in his original character of Daniel Jaikes; Mr. Charles Levey gives the subtlety necessary to the part of the Spider; Cissy Denver is sweetly played by Miss Amy Manfree; Olive Skinner is efficiently sustained by Miss Phyllis Dailley; the character of Elijah Coombe is humorously depicted by Mr. Arthur Rooke; and Baxter, the detective, is cleverly portrayed by Mr. A. E. Palmer.

CROOK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Wallace Davidson.—This week the management are trying, as an experiment, two houses a night, with Mr. Dock Watson's variety company, which includes Gentleman Bobby Dobbs, boxer, and two pitmen boxers (Sharp and Simpson); Flora Hayes, song and dance artiste; J. C. Whitman, comedian; Captain Hutchinson and merry family; the Sisters Seymour, Clara Adams, and Doyle and Gibson.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Lawrence.—Croydon playgoers are grateful to Mr. Lambert for giving them a rich dramatic treat in the production of *The Walls of Jericho* this week. The company has been well selected, and the acting and mounting reflect credit on all concerned. Miss Dorothy Thomas shows great histrionic abilities, and her impersonation of Lady Alethea reaches a high level of excellence; whilst Miss Estelle Winwood gives a portrayal of Lady Lucy Derenham which wins for her genuine approval. Mr. Lawson Butt has cleverly studied the part of Jack Frobisher, and deserves all praise for his successful efforts; Mr. Alfred S. Baber hits off to a nicety the rôle of Hankey Bannister, and comes in for a large measure of applause; and other characters are acted with judgment and tact by Misses M. Ravenscroft, Mary Weigall, May Brooke, Eva Titheredge, and Messrs. Cecil Brooking, W. L. Owen, H. Kendell, W. Cadogan, and Morris Harvey. The orchestra here is conducted with skill by Mr. Leonard Gautier; and Mr. Reginald Lawrence is an affable acting-manager.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James.—*Rich and Poor of London* is being staged here this week. Mr. Douglas Vigors gives a fine, bold rendering of Dr. Leonard Morton; Mr. J. J. Bartlett is satisfactory as Mark Stanley; Mr. Edwin Coates acts and sings capitally as Gussy Lamb; Mr. Edward Boddy submits a neat sketch of Daniel Drake; and Messrs. Fowler Thatcher and Alf. Lester are commendable as Matthew Grabbam and Spider Jack. Miss Daisy Scudamore is much liked as May Braithwaite; Miss Florence Dalton is clever as Ruby Redgrave; Miss Blanche Stanley renders sterling services as Auntie Scrimp; and Miss Lucy Beaumont is a lively Polly Philpot.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.—Resident General Manager, Mr. Eustace H. Jay.—The amusements here are giving much pleasure. Mdlle. Violi, instrumentalist, is very good; Minnie Mace, comedienne and dancer, is admirable; the Bale troupe of cyclists are smart; Hal Forde is an excellent comedian; Walter Emerson, comedian, makes a big hit with his song, "Another One Off to America"; Will Musgrave, comedian, is much liked; and interesting turns are given by Ida Royston, comedienne; Katie Marsh, pot-pourri artiste; Leslie Reed, vocalist; Tom Bass, comedian and patterer; Atroy, juggler and hoop roller; Ethel Yorke, comedienne; Cissie Dryden, in naval scena, *Sailors of the Empire*; the Three Stars, dancers; Edgar Granville, comedian; and Violet Choice, comedienne and dancer.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manageress, Mrs. T. W. S. Jennings.—Messrs. Carson and Granville's company is here this week with *Defending His Honour*. Mr. John Davidson plays with force and earnestness as Douglas Bryce; Mr. Godfrey Tearle gives a capital performance as Stephen Graid; Mr. Harry Rutland is well suited in the part of George Duncan; Mr. Terry Davis is successful as Richard Verison; Mr. Kenneth Black, jun., works hard as Dick Verison; Jack Damish has an able exponent in Mr. J. Russell Bogue; a clever character sketch of David Beller comes from Mr. Thompson Carruthers; Miss May Smart is good as Harry Bryce; and Miss F. Melrose Millett, who is seen as Ethel Bryce, gives an effective representation.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. E L. Ormsby.—We are being favoured this week with a visit from Mr. F. S. Gilbert and his English Opera company. An excellent performance of *Maritana* was given on Monday night. Miss Marie D'Alcourt, in the title-rôle, sang with taste and expression, achieving an undoubted success. Mr. F. S. Gilbert, who met with a hearty reception, sang exceptionally well as Don Cæsar; Mr. Frank Halpin was heard to advantage as the King of Spain; Mr. Karl Mora was effective as Don José; and Mr. Stuart Bolton amusing as the Marquis; Miss Sara Marchani was pleasing as Lazarillo; and Mr. Kate White made a good Marchioness. On Tuesday evening *Il Trovatore* was given, preceded by a short piece of Suppe's *Lovely Galatea*. Miss Marie D'Alcourt was again successful as Lenora, and Mr. F. S. Gilbert, as Manrico, merited the reception he obtained. The chorus on both nights was capital. The programme for the remainder of the week includes *Faust*, *The Bohemian Girl*, and the *Daughter of the Regiment*.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—*Florodora* is once more delighting local audiences, its exponents being Messrs. J. H. Callan and Wentworth Croke's company. Mr. William Everard plays Lord Abercoed with distinction, and as Dolores Miss Violet Leslie acquits herself admirably, the songs of both being warmly applauded. The part of Cyrus Gilfain is capably assumed by Mr. C. Young Fixott; while Tweedlepunch is divertingly depicted by Mr. Arthur Lenville. Lady Holyrood has a vivacious exponent in Miss Cissy Sephton, whose singing and dancing add much to the charm of the production. Mr. Frank Grans as Captain Donegal, Mr. W. W. Rousell as Leandro, and Miss May Yates as Angela Gilfain, all richly merit special mention. There is an excellent chorus, and the comedy is admirably staged. The orchestra has been augmented, and is under the direction of Mr. K. E. Irving.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The head of an excellent bill here this week is the Boganny Troupe, whose sketch, *The Lunatic Bakers*, is decidedly clever, and causes much hearty amusement; the Bros. Lang are paying a return visit, and their diverting boxing act is as popular as ever. Little Dando, another local favourite, is accorded a hearty welcome; Herr Fritz, a clever magician and illusionist, gives a wonderful exhibition; and Miss Bouvrie Pleydell sings and dances in pleasing style, and scores a complete success. Rae and Lea appear in a praiseworthy comedy ring act; and the Three American Idols merit mention for their singing and dancing. De Voy, Hurst, and Frederick's funny sketch, *Black Justice*, is heartily appreciated.

DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Resident Manager, Mr. J. Herbert Asquith.—The appearance here of *A Royal Divorce*, under the general supervision of Mr. W. W. Kelly, is giving universal satisfaction. Miss Edith Coles as Josephine again essays this trying rôle in excellent style; Mr. Frank Lister is a new Napoleon, but his rendering of the part requires special mention; Mr. H. Gray Dolby portrays the facetious Talleyrand in his accustomed good way; and Mr. Trevor Lowe is altogether satisfactory as De Beaumont. Mr. Alfred Grenville as Augereau is well placed; while praise must be given to Mr. Dennis Bryan for his portrayal of Grimaud. Miss Maggie Sardiff plays the little King very well, and the performance of Miss Ethel Murray as Marie Louise is acceptable. Friday evening was set apart for a complimentary benefit, and special attractions were announced, the whole being under the auspices of the Mayor (Major Chaley Fox, J.P.).

HIPPODROME AND VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. Weldon.—Interesting and laughable turns are in much demand here. They include Miss Della Doree, who has a very refined style, and her songs are well selected; the Two Neroes, in a legmania act, are much appreciated; Tom E. Cliffe, comedian and dancer, is good; Hyam Long, musical comedian, repeats his former triumphs; Lynn, the singing newsboy, is heard to much advantage; and Carle and Carmanelli do well. The Jetneys, coloured comedians, find much favour. The Bioscope still continues to meet with hearty approval, no doubt owing to the constant supply of new films.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*The King's Pardon* appeals to Yorkshire people because it is founded upon facts in the life of Spence Broughton, who was hanged in chains on Attercliffe Common, near Doncaster, in 1792. Mr. Charles Stirling gives a vigorous impersonation of Noel Blake; Mr. Charles Whitlock is a manly Clifford Yorke; Major Melville in Mr. George Thorpe's hands is absolutely safe; Mr. George Willis, as Spence Broughton, is pleasing; Mr. Horace Butler, as Simon Leigh, butler at the Grange, is well placed; and as Amos Neal, a lawyer, Mr. Jack Haines gives a lively embodiment. Miss Pollie Denville has every reason to be pleased with the interest she creates; Miss Violet B. Clarke is pretty, and as Marjorie Yorke is popular; and Miss Georgina V. France, in the rôle of Clifford's wife, is unquestionably clever.

DOUGLAS.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Sugden; General-Manager, Mr. Roberto-Lena.—The audiences at this playhouse have been large and appreciative. The revival of that thrilling, sensational drama, *The Face at the Window*, has proved most popular. Mr. Priestley's performance of La Loup, alias the Chevalier del Gado, was emphatic and impressive; Mr. Ernest Percival was interesting and romantic as Lucien; Mr. George Ogden amusing as Peter Pottlebury; and Mr. Frank Fox effective as Monsieur de Brisson. The detective of Mr. Roberto-Lena was well balanced and convincing. Miss Gertrude Lovel, a charming comedienne, was entertaining and effective as Babette; Miss Lena Lewis as Marie de Brisson showed that she possesses power, pathos, passion, and can use those gifts to advantage. The staging of Mr. Ernest Percival was excellent. On Friday evening a grand complimentary benefit was tendered Mr. Roberto-Lena, and a special programme was presented.

DOVER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—A capital entertainment is being provided this week by Messrs. Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholls' company in *The Grip of the Law* and *Called Back*. Miss May Grayse as Rose Hocaday is a winsome and sympathetic heroine, and acts with natural charm and unforced pathos. Miss Olive Parker shows marked ability in the rôle of Marion Arkwright, and Miss Ada Lucelle, by reason of her clever acting, gives prominence to the small part of Mrs. Raddicombe. Miss Ada Frank, a dainty comedienne, portrays the part of Beulah Bliss in a bright and pleasing manner, and, with Mr. Sam Roberts as Andy Blunt, is responsible for most of the fun of the play. Mr. Edwin Maydew plays with praiseworthy zeal and marked success the rôle of the hero, Dave Arkwright; and Mr. Courtney Robinson is excellent as the bluff old farmer, Jacob Hockaday. Mr. Herbert Evelyn gives an effective character study of Noel o' the Night, and his passionate speeches are well declaimed. Sergt. Frank Paul is impersonated by Mr. William Matthews, and this gentleman is to be commended for a thoroughly well-studied and artistic performances; Mr. E. D. Nicholls creates merriment by his portrayal of Zeph Sorrel, the stuttering detective; Mr. James Hill is dignified and impressive as Sir Digby Dunstan, and the same may be said of Mr. W. Gorrick as Inspector Martin. Mr. Hal Lowe is clever as Gabriel Pilgrim; and Mr. Stevenson, as Ezra Brown, is equally good. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the drama, *Called Back*, was presented.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Michael Gunn, Limited; General Manager, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. Lilford Arthur's company opened here on Monday with the farcical comedy, *A Prodigal Father*. The rôle of Catesby Duff as played by Mr. Mallalieu is a remarkably clever and humorous performance, and Miss Ruby Chester is seen to advantage as Dolly Bonde. Stanley Jones is in the capable hands of Mr. Charles Collette, and as Birdikins Miss Irene Ross is admirable. The part of Tom Breeze has an able exponent in Major David Sellar, and Miss Rosamund Bury is all that could be desired as Kate Jones. Percy Jones is capitally played by Mr. Edmund Beresford, and as Beadle Miss Mabel Luxmore is excellent. Mr. Ernest Wintour is good as Smith. A one-act comedietta, *By Mutual Consent*, precedes.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company commenced a four weeks' engagement here on Monday night, when *The Shop Girl* was the attraction. In the character of Miggles, Mr. Fred Lynne gave an admirable performance of the part, and caused no end of amusement, and the Septimus Hooley of Mr. Alfred C. Sandoe was undoubtedly a capital and humorous performance. Miss Ethel Netherton, who appeared in the rôle of Bessie Brent, was most pleasing and effective, and danced and sang her songs with effect. Miss Beatrice Edwards (who is well-known here) made a fascinating Lady Dodo Singleton, and her vocalism was heartily enjoyed. Miss Marie Shields gave an amusing portrayal of Ada Smith, Mr. Leslie Gaze acted excellently as Charles Appleby, and Mr. H. G. Hunt successfully presented Brown, of Colorado. Mr. Howard Cridland was good as Bertie Boyd, and the other parts were admirably filled. The choruses and orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. D. J. Damont, did their work excellently.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur S. Figgis.—The Four Welshmen are the principal turn here this week, their harmonious rendering of popular songs being warmly encored. Harry Grey, who remained over from last week, sang "Just tell them that you saw me," with great success; and Fred Lincoln's abilities as an eccentric comedian were highly enjoyed. The Proveanie Troupe do a neat and novel cyclist performance; the Sisters St. Julian excelled as duettists and dancers, and the vocal renderings of George Adams were particularly good. Albert Le Fre gave a good display of dancing, and Rackett and Hazard's musical turn was enjoyed. Milner Verren, tenor vocalist, and Martin and Quigg, comedy artistes, together with the Empire pictures, were also good, and received due recognition.

TIVOLI THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The Six Brothers Luck are here this week with the laughable sketch, *The Hermit*, which is well received. Will Dalton, character comedian, meets with considerable success, as does also Major Moss and Son, vocal scena artistes. The turn of La Belle Lily and M. Albert, trapeze performer and clown, merit applause, and Maude Clifton is a pleasing comedienne. The Wambas are capital musical artistes, and the songs sung by Percy Hannan, boy baritone, are appreciated. Shang Hia, Chinese conjuror, does some good tricks of legerdemain. Ethel Loftus, comedienne and mimic, scores; and Bert Lytton, comedian, is a favourite.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The company engaged here includes:—France Kimball, vocalist and instrumentalist; Prof. Anderson, ventriloquist; P. J. Leopold, comedian; C. H. Nelson, comedian and dancer; Harry Scott, pianist and vocalist; Fergus Volanti, comedian, whistler, and mimic; Madam Hypa, clairvoyant; Eugene, palmist; and Lucy Moore, the American giantess.

SAMUELS' EXHIBITION PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. S. Samuels. The following artistes are appearing here:—Ida Campbell, serio; Tilly Wood, male impersonator; J. H. Walsh, Irish comedian and dancer; Eily O'Mara, serio; the Singing Trunk, ballad vocalist; and George Harcourt, tenor.

DUMFRIES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. F. R. Benson's North Shakespearean company is here this week. *The Merchant of Venice* was given on Monday. Mr. Henry Herbert acted with great power as Shylock; Mr. Owen Chambers was well placed as Antonio; Mr. T. A. Shannon, as Bassanio, was all that could be desired; Mr. Alex Begbie, as Lorenzo, was very successful; Miss Gladys Vanderzee gave a fine rendering as Portia; and Miss C. Laws a finished impersonation of Jessica. The other plays for the week include *As You Like It*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, and *Hamlet*.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; General-Manager, Mr. Sandon Perkins.—*A Chinese Honeymoon* pays a welcome return visit, and has lost none of its freshness and charm. Miss Vera Vere gives an excellent performance as Fi-Fi; Miss Nellie Wigley as Soo-Soo gives a capital rendering of the song "Egypt"; Miss Jose Collins as the jealous bride sang and acted well; and Miss Alice Drammond as the mother-in-law was all that could be desired. Mr. Philip Haydon as the Emperor has a capital voice and a handsome stage presence; Mr. Percy Yorke as Tom Hatherley created a favourable impression; and Mr. Leonard May made a capital Lord High Admiral.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—*The Lightning's Flash* pays a return visit here. Mr. Leonard Robson undertakes the rôle of Stephen Merrick with conspicuous success; Mr. Sydney Hearns makes a capital Gordon Garville; and Mr. Will Harradine enacts the part of Jim Bargiss with success. Mr. Harry Vernon, an old favourite, and Miss Blanche Vernon, fill in the comedy work with much acceptance; Miss F. Russell makes a sympathetic Kate Merrick; and Miss Eva Reid is a clever Zulu.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Will Parker; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Alf. Ross.—Miss Effie White pays a return visit here, and charms everyone with her artistic kaleidoscope dances; Mr. Jack Lorimer remains for another week, and still further enhances his reputation; the Five Warwicks go through an amazing trick cycling act, and A. P. Foswell contributes a smart juggling ex

S. Anchor does well as Balthazar. A strong, tuneful chorus, under the bâton of Mr. H. H. Shaw, and excellent scenery, complete the very satisfactory production.

The Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—At the top of the capital variety bill here is Mr. Sam Mayo, who sings his clever songs in a quaint and novel style; Miss Alice Lorette and her wonderfully trained dog appear in very pretty and appealing tableaux; Messrs. Onda and Artell display much daring, strength, and smartness in their trapeze act; Mr. Charles Ulrick is a past-master in the art of foot-balancing; Miss Gracie Taylor is a pretty comedienne; Mdlle. Yetta is a graceful and accomplished wire artiste; Miss Ivy Dawn scores as a ballad vocalist; and a new series of Hippodrome pictures amuses the audience.

Town Hall.—Manager, Mr. W. Kennard.—Mr. Ralph Pringle's North American Animated Photo. company is appearing here during the week. The photographs and animated pictures are very numerous and interesting, and are brought well up to date.

EBBW VALE. — King's Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Knight.—During the week Mr. Fred Karno's company, in the musical farce, *His Majesty's Guests*, has provided a most amusing performance. Mr. R. H. Kitchen, a popular and clever comedian, took the part of Fritz; while Sergeant Lightning was now entrusted to Mr. George Hestor, and he furnished the audience with a remarkably fine performance. Mr. Charles Usher, as Mr. Miffin, was exceedingly comical; Bunker was well portrayed by Mr. Harry Taylor; Miss Hetty Gale, as Dolly, and Miss Blanche La Rose, as Miss Manley, scored in their respective parts.

ECCLES.—Lyceum Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Potasch and Wardle; Manager, Mr. P. Potasch; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. Ryan-Smith.—Local playgoers are having a musical treat this week in the visit of the Moody-Manners Opera company, who opened on Monday in *Tannhäuser*. Mr. Edward Arthur essayed the title-rôle, and sang the difficult music extremely well. Miss Enriqueta Crichton played the part of Elizabeth, and sang and acted with artistic ability. Mr. Walter Barrett was good as Wolfram and Mr. T. H. Wood made a capable Landgrave. Miss Gertrude Booth scored in the part of Venus. The week's programme includes *Traviata*, *Faust*, *Maritana*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, and *The Bohemian Girl*.

EDINBURGH. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Limited; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Hollister.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company in *The School Girl*, which proved such a big attraction on its first visit to Edinburgh as a Christmas entertainment, appeared at this theatre on Monday. Mr. Herbert Darnley was the life and soul of the piece as Sir Ormsby St. Leger, his gaiety keeping the house thoroughly amused. As General Marchmont Mr. Charles Adeson provided a capital study of the red-nosed old roué, and Tabby Bedford was impersonated with the necessary guileless simplicity by Mr. Alfred Leslie. Mr. Cecil Kingsley was earnest and unaffected as Edgar Verney; the Overend of Mr. Charles W. Anson, and the Corner of Mr. Frank Sutton were both good performances. As Lilian Leigh, Miss Nellie Hodson was full of brightness; Miss Kate Forster rendered the music of the Mother Superior tastefully, also making a handsome figure as Mrs. Marchmont; Miss Jenny Bonney was a charming Cicely Marchmont; and Miss Bessie Maddox, as Mamie Rockfeller, scored in her "Little Canoe" song.

Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Limited; General-Manager, Mr. G. T. Minshull.—A visit from the Moody Manners Opera company is always an attraction here, and on Monday *Tannhauser* drew a large and appreciative audience. Mr. Joseph O'Mara once more appeared in the title-rôle, his performance being marked by artistic restraint and dramatic power throughout. His clear resonant voice was admirably suited to the fine declamatory music, and he was loudly recalled after each act. Mr. Charles Magrath's Landgrave was a dignified performance, and Mr. William Dever as Wolfram sang with expression and feeling. Mr. N. Davidson gave Walther's music with much effect; Mr. F. H. Erle was a satisfactory Biterolf; Madame De Vere made a welcome appearance as Elizabeth, singing and acting with great charm and grace. Miss Toni Seiter sang with power as Venus, and Miss D. Eshelby appeared as the shepherd. The chorus and ensemble were again a feature of the production, and the enlarged orchestra, under the efficient direction of Herr Richard Eckhold, gave a beautiful rendering of the music. On Tuesday *Carmen* was presented *Lohengrin* was given on Wednesday, *Tristan and Isolde* on Thursday, *La Favorita* on Friday, and the *Bohemian Girl* is down for to-night.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—The closing week of "the successful Tilleresque," *Dick Whittington*, has drawn crowds to this popular place of amusement, and the prosperity of the run of pantomime so ably engineered by Mr. Eade Montefiore has continued to the end. This week Miss May Murray is appearing as Alice with complete success. Miss Gracie Grahame, Mr. Bob Selvidge, and Mr. Dan Thomas are still prime favourites.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—*Saturday to Monday* always provides a constant supply of mirth. As John Willie Jaggs, Mr. Kitchen is the embodiment of fun, and the pace never slackens when he is on the stage. Miss Lily Langtry can always be relied on to keep things lively, and her songs have gone with a rattle. Belle Davis and her pick-chick actors provide a good turn; Conway and Leland, the monopedes, have once more hopped into favour; Walter Stanley's songs have been sung with great gusto; and a warm welcome has greeted the tried and trusty comedian, Mr. James Fawn. Other turns are: The Brothers Obo, smart patter duettists; Fred Neiman, ventriloquist; George Antill, comedian; and Carlo and Maie, comedy acrobats.

Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Tom Ellis.—*The Black Mask*, given here this week, has provided plenty of sensation. Mr. George Hunter appears as Henri Le Noir, captain of "The Black Mask;" Mr J. Clifford Wright as Walter Blackmore, the hero, and Miss Georgina Thomas as Nellie. Mr. Fred Cherry and Miss Kitty Thomas introduce some bright comedy relief.

EXETER. — Theatre Royal.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Pollard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—*The Scarlet Woman* is being represented here by Miss Rosalind Scott-Watson's company. The four-act drama has many amusing as well as realistic scenes, and the laughable portions of it are sustained with much ability by Mr. Tod Squires as Samuel Hopkins, Miss Ruby Hamilton-Belasco as Charlotte Simpkins, and Miss Lily Marshall as Fanchette. Miss Rosalind Scott-Watson herself impersonates the character of Marie Brandon (the scarlet woman), and portrays the rôle with great artistic ability. Mr. Reginald Fox, as Richard Marchant, the confiding and deceived husband, gives a dignified rendering; Mr. Harry E. Robinson, as Will Raymond, alias Oscar Brandon, well merits the opprobrium he so "honestly" earns. A special word of praise is due to little Miss Bertha Adams, who gives a realistic rendering of the poor little outcast Jeanne. Mr. Basil Hillier also does well as Phillip Gordon.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—The Compton Comedy Co. provided the entertainment for the first three nights of the week at this theatre. The piece produced on Monday was the perennially-attractive *Davy Garrick*, and in the title-rôle Mr. Compton acquitted himself with rare distinction. His interpretation of the character was excellent. He was ably supported by Miss Haidee Gunn as Violet; her charming presence and finished acting were much admired. The other major parts were entrusted to Miss Mackenzie (a daughter of Mr. Compton), Miss Marie Hassell, and Messrs. Henry Crocker, A. B. Imeson, G. W. Johnston, Chas. R. Stone, and Arnold Lucy. *Tom Noddy's Secret* made a pleasing curtain-raiser. On Tuesday, *The School for Scandal* was witnessed by a large audience, and on the Wednesday, when Mr. Compton took his benefit, there was a big house. The new fantastic play, entitled *To-morrow*, was given that evening for the first time in Falkirk, and produced a very favourable impression. On Thursday evening, Messrs. Haddon and Loader's No. 1 company began a three nights' engagement in the sensational drama, *The Greatest Scoundrel Living*.

FARNWORTH.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell.—Miss Lena Stanton's company is here this week, in the musical comedy, *The Belle of Bangalore*, a go-as-you-please musical play, in which a large number of music hall turns are successfully introduced. The part of Princess Koko is played in a fascinating manner by Miss Stanton, who acts and sings throughout with verve and animation. Mr. Bruce Green is a capital representative of Rajah Roo, and helps to keep the ball of fun rolling merrily. Mr. G. James, as Rum Omyo, is another fun maker who is very successful in his comic endeavours. The part of "It" (a mystery) is played in excellent style by Little Keeno, who is styled, "The young Dan Leno," and his efforts meet with success. Other parts are played by Miss Marie Gerrard, as Small Sing; and Miss May Clark, as Sighno. There are several specialities introduced, and the play is excellently mounted.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Miss Lilian Dundas and company, in *The New Magdalen*, were here the first three nights of the week. Miss Lilian Dundas as Mercy Merrick played with rare power and feeling; Miss Ethel Caryllon was a capital exponent of Grace Rosebery; Mrs. Walter Bentley gave a pleasing rendering of Lady Janet Roy; Mr. A. W. Tyrer acted exceedingly well as Horace Holmcroft; Mr. Sidney Young deserves mention as Ignatius Wetzel; Mr. A. Mansfield and Mr. E. Barrington Foote were both good in their respective parts of Captain Arville and Surgeon Surville; Mr. Vivian was excellent as Detective Chisholm, and Mr. Henry Dundas gave a well-studied representation of Julian Gray. The Ben Greet company, in *La Poupée*, was the attraction on Thursday and Friday.

GAINSBOROUGH.—King's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Cromo. — This week the above theatre has been opened as a variety house on the two houses a night principle. A strong company has been engaged, consisting of the three Sisters Adrienne, who contribuated a smart turn; Bondoni, a clever musical expert; Miss Kitty Rayner, who gives some charming items; Mr. Will Sanders, a clever dancer; La Belle Sylvia, a juvenile club manipulator; and Mr. Albert Frecar and Ethel Mohr.

GATESHEAD. — Queen's Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Smith.—Mr. Harry Starr and company in *Otto the Outcast*, *Napoleon the Man*, and *Schwenk the Dreamer* have attracted crowded audiences to this theatre during the week. The two latter productions were played on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings. As Otto the Outcast, Mr. Harry Starr scored a distinct success; Mr. Richard Harris made a first-rate Roderique D'Estalier; Mr. Wm. Miller was seen to advantage in the character of Daddy Bruneau; and Mr. Max Coutts as a capable Marquis Marcel de Laporte. Miss Queenie Fraser Brunner displayed much talent in the character of Lara, a flower girl; Miss Edma Lester scored a distinct success in the rôle of Susette; and Miss Rita Rosslyn was a first-rate Corrinne Jarbeau. In *Schwenk the Dreamer*, Miss Ethel Danbury acted feelingly as Greta von Clump.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting Manager, Mr. T. France.—The comic conjurer, Imro Fox, supplies the chief turn here in an entertaining bill. The Waldrons, burlesque adepts, provide an acceptable entertainment; Ara, Zebra, and Vora are a trio of acrobats who give a good sketch, entitled *Indian Pastimes*; Chas. F. Best is responsible for a quaint show in "Mac Bunker the Mountebank"; and Sadie Simpson provides a good turn as a coon and dancer. Primavesi is an entertaining juggler, and the rest of the bill is made up by Fred Cane, vocal comedian; Cribb and Cribb, comedians; and Geo. Trusty, vocal comedian.

GLASGOW. — Theatre Royal, Limited. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—The Orpheus Club are this week, in the cause of charity, giving six performances of Gilbert and Sullivan's popular opera, *Princess Ida*, which is produced in a manner that would do credit to professional combinations.

Royalty, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—A return visit is being paid this week by Miss Ada Reeve and her company in *Winnie Brooke, Widow*. Miss Reeve again captivates the audience with her dainty and amusing impersonation of the widow, her songs, too, are given with excellent effect, and find great favour with the house. Mr. Charles Weir takes the part of Dudley Mayne, and his gentlemanly bearing is admirably suited to the character, while the spirited acting and expressive singing of Mr. Edgar Stevens make the part of Reginald Frampton notable; the Montague Brent of Mr. Harry Halley is a happy effort; and the Rev. Elihu Garside and his wife are a highly amusing couple as depicted by Mr. Frederick Tyrrell and Miss Alice Lawrence. Mr. L. Ashton-Terry extracts a deal of fun from the part of Julian Croft, and capital character sketches are submitted by Mr. Ulick Burke as Toby and Mr. Donald Brice-Evans as Hercules. The Honoria of Miss Drusilla Wills has many effective touches; and Gracie and Nora are bright and engaging girls as played by Miss Mabel Murray, and Miss Ruth Hazelwood respectively; the Hannah of Mrs. Charles Maltby being also good. The play is produced by Mr. Wilfred Cotton, and has the advantage of a full chorus and orchestra under the direction of Mr. J. A. Robertson.

King's Theatre, Limited. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—*The Orchid*, played by Mr. George Edwardes's company, is here this week. Miss Rita Everard makes a charming Lady Violet; Miss Gertrude Gilliam is equally so as Josephine; Thisbe, by Miss Amy Payne, being likewise successful. Miss Irene Verona, delightful as ever, takes the part of Caroline; Miss Ethel Griffies as Zelie, and Miss Katie Leechman as the Countess are both of much value to the cast. Mr. George Gregory is once more the irresistible Meakin, and the Guy Scrimgeour, the doctor, the Zaccary, and the Count of Messrs. Chas. Brown, Donald Hall, E. W. Coleman, and Clifford Seyler, are altogether most successful. Mr. A. S. Clunes made a capital substitute on Monday evening for Mr. Ellis Ogilvie (indisposed), as Mr. Chesterton.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company is here this week with *The Colleen Bawn*, in which Mr. Mackey sustains the part of Myles-na-Copalleen with all his usual drollery; while Mrs. Mackey gives an excellent representation of Anne Chute. Mr. Charles Horner supplies a vigorous rendering of Hardress Cregan, and Mr. John S. Chamberlain is effective as Danny Mann. The title-rôle is charmingly played by Miss Lalla Stanhope; while the rascally Squire Corrigan, in the hands of Mr. Haughton Macaulay, brings upon himself the execrations of the gallery. Mr. H. Sainsbury makes a fine paternal Father Tom; and Miss Adele Liddon a dignified and matronly Mrs. Cregan. Miss Mona Russell as Ducie Blennerhasset; Mr. Henry Danson as Kyrle Daly; Mr. Harry Mason as Bertie O'Moore; Mr. George Edwards as Hyland Creagh, and Mr. John Dawson as an attendant, complete an effective cast. The play is enlivened with some good songs. *His Last Legs* is given as an afterpiece, in which Mr. Mackey takes the part of Felix O'Calligan.

Grand, Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Mascard.—Mr. Charles Frohman's company is appearing here this week in the well-known play *Sherlock Holmes*. As the cool, self-possessed detective, Mr. H. A. Saintsbury is the soul of the piece, his admirable conception of his subject hugely delighting the audiences. The Madge Larrabee of Miss Maud Linden is a capital bit of acting, and Mr. Leslie Carter deserves commendation for his study of James Larrabee. As Professor Moriarty, Mr. W. F. Stirling is in every way suited; and Mr. Lawrence Leyton is an ideal Dr. Watson. The pathos of the piece is introduced by Miss Vera Longden, who, as Alice Faulkner, acts with great effect. Miss Lilian Locke as Therese, and Miss Ethel St. Leger as Mrs. Smedley, sustain their parts with success. Mr. Pelham Rayner as Sydney Prince; Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood as John Forman; Mr. Milo M. Loomis as Parsons, and Mr. Walter Hicks as Billy, are happy selections.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Dunbar.—Mr. Frank Lindo and company are presenting *Home Sweet Home* here this week. Mr. Frank Lindo as the hero, Stephen Armitage, is seen to capital advantage; and Miss Marion Wakeford as Joan, acts with much pathos. Mr. Wilson Coleman as Lucas Lyle is a much detested villain; Mr. George Jervis displays ability as David Armitage; and Mr. George Overs is well suited as Dick Redmayne; while the Duke of Ancaster is ably presented by Captain Gerald Gambier; the Hon. Percy receives good treatment in the hands of Mr. Sidney Bryant. As Sybil Fay, Miss Gertrude Bingham is very effective; Miss Madge Bingham impersonates Dora with success. Mr. Jack Lennard does well as Solomon Heary, and Mr. Ernest E. Owens scores as Lord Silvermere.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Gus C. Livesey's company is here with the new sensational drama, *The Crimson Club*. Owing to the sudden death of Mr. Livesey last week, several changes have been made in the cast. Mr. Bert H. Pearson now takes the part of Richard Fenton, and gives a clever performance. Mr. Lionel Thomson makes a callous and vindictive Sir Philip Garside, the evil genius of the play. A well acted part is the Hon. Herbert Selby of Mr. E. Calham Burke. Mr. Jerold E. Reed, acting-manager of the company, ably fills the breach caused by the transfer of parts, and cleverly doubles the parts of Silas Craddock and Richard Steele. Mr. Percy Shaw, as the impecunious Reginald Adolphus Garside, gives an extremely good impersonation of a hard-up swell, and as a singer and a "sifleur," is a big favourite. Miss Elsie Mesnerd is a sympathetic heroine as Muriel Lockwood; Miss Frances Waring is well placed as the designing woman of the world, Julia Marsden. Miss Lily Day gives able effect to the part of the wronged girl, Esther Craddock. Miss Connie Arden as the eccentric wife of the hard-up Garside, ably contributes to the comedy scenes. The play is well staged.

Empire, Limited.—District-Manager, Mr. S Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Aldin.—A company of all-round excellence is appearing here this week, the chief attraction being the engagement of Malcolm Scott, comedian and patterer, who has had a flattering reception. Staley's Transformation Company, including Miss Ada, are retained another week. The Bros. Leslie give a pleasing musical performance, and Palles and Cussick maintain their reputation. Albert Whelan, comedian, gives clever impersonations of Chirgwin, Stratton, and Harry Lauder. Albert and Edmunds' Company provides a comical sketch, entitled *A Trip to Boulogne*; and Morton and Elliott, speciality artistes, are first class. The other members of the company include Florrie St. Clair, dancer; T. C. Callaghan, comedian; and Harry Clifford, comedian.

Tivoli and Queen's, Limited.—General Manager, Mr. S. King Alexander; Acting-Managers, Messrs. P. Mackay Findlay and T. J. Colquhoun.—Lily Morris and Messrs. Regan and Ryan, after their respective successes at the Princess's during the pantomime, are drawing crowds to these halls, and proving big favourites. Mahatma provides one of the best thought-reading and telepathy displays we have seen here. Robert Robertson and Florence Lambeth make a big hit with the clever sketch *Scotch Folks Wooing*. Louis Hardt shows wonderful muscular development for a young man, and accomplishes some marvellous feats of strength; Dale and Vale are extremely neat dancers; Booker and Narbis give a lively American variety sketch; Ivy Graham, Fred Casburn, Bros. Teviotdale, smart gymnasts and strong men; R. Y. Macdonald, George Foyle, Sheila Barrett, Bert Bruce, and Bendon's Bioscope complete a first-rate bill.

Palace.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rich. Waldon and Thos. Barrasford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. M'Kelvie.—The principal item in the programme here is that of the Three Rainats in a flying trapeze act. Cliff Ryland, comedian and story-teller, is also favourably received. In addition, the company includes several attractive turns, such as Texas Hattie, tight rope artiste; Two Erolls in an equilibristic act; La Belle Wilma, artist in sand and smoke; Maud Vera, descriptive serio; the Villions Troupe, acrobats and cyclists; Miss Russell, comedienne and dancer; and the Animatograph with a series of up-to-date pictures.

Britannia.—Lessee, Mr. Jas. Anderson; Manager, Mr. Harry Hemfrey.—The old Glasgow favourite, Mr. N. C. Bostock, goes well here this week in a budget of songs. Mr. Hemfrey dons the entertainer's mantle in a sketch, entitled *Prince and Tinker*, with a capable party, and variety is added by the illusions of Dr. Oliver, very clever and entertaining, which include a "magic kettle" display, and the singing mannikins by Jaco. Ballads are tastefully sung by Miss Nellie Elliene, and as patterers, singers, and dancers, the Bros. Allison come in for considerable applause. The Scotch comic songs by Johnnie Walker take well, and a first-rate turn is that of Rose Montague, vocalist and dancer; Harry Williams, vocal comedian, also scores. The Sprangelettis circus business is most interesting, and evinces good training.

Harmonic Concerts.—Musical Secretary, Mr. William Biggam.—J. A. Wilson's negro entertainment is as good as ever; Clyo and Rochelle are clever in song and dance; Hubner's Animatograph in a series of pictures, is much enjoyed. Nelson and Thomas, in their comedy sketch *On the Ra-Ta*, are responsible for much merriment; Mackinnon Family, instrumentalists and dancers; George Rae, Scotch comedian; Rene Best, comedienne; W. W. Kinniburgh, baritone; Jack Henri, comedian; and Bessie Matheson, soprano, all provide attractive turns.

GLOUCESTER. — Theatre Royal. — Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. W H. Weller.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's company in *A Chinese Honeymoon*, has received a cordial welcome. Miss Florence Hallam is a captivating Soo-Soo; and Mr. Sydney Bart has a part that suits him excellently; Mr. Steane Lough possesses a capital voice, and is heard to advantage as the Emperor; Mr. Louis Ashmeade plays cleverly as Chippie Chop; Miss Ettie Cinders proves fully equal to the rôle of Fi Fi, and is responsible for a good deal of merriment; Tom Hatherton has a smart representative in Mr. Arthur Foote; and Miss Alicia Norton is successful as Mrs. Pineapple; Mr. Maxwell Stewart is good as High Ling; and a vivacious embodiment of the bridesmaids are given by Misses Daisy Dale and Marie Ford. Miss Dulcie Garland is entitled to praise as Mrs. Brown, as is Miss Haidee Heath as Mi-Mi; Mr. W. Ross is noticeable as Coolie; and Soo Soo's Maids of Honour are neatly enacted by Miss Love and Miss Jean Templeton.

GOOLE.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John E. Tomlinson.—An excellent programme is provided this week by Mr. Harry Firth's Bioscope and variety company. The variety company is a strong one. Miss Clarice Mignon contributes a capital musical turn; Miss Maudie Kendal is a smart dancer; Miss Madge Osmond, Miss Ethel Mohr, and Miss May Vincent are also worthy of special mention. A capital ventriloquial turn is given by Lieutenant Charles Valvo; Mr. Tom Leamore is a funny comedian; and Professor Fred Earle a clever conjuror. Mr. Ernest Wilson, actor-vocalist, also meets with a hearty reception.

GREAT GRIMSBY. — Prince of Wales's Theatre. Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Tolfree.—The drama, *The World's Desire*, has appeared here this week. The author, Barry Williams, has departed from his usual line, and instead of a costume play has constructed a modern melodrama of the semi-sensational type. Mr. and Mrs. W. Giffard's company is responsible for its representation. Mr. Giffard has much hard work in portraying the characters of Robert and Henry Selkirk, but accomplishes good work in each. Mrs. Giffard infuses a combination of tragedy and the reckless spirit of the woman of the world into her interpretation of Dora Mutley. Mr. Clifford Rean satisfactorily depicts the rascality of the Hon. Ellis Tridley, and as his misguided partner, Nathaniel Mutley, Mr. J. O. Dupone fulfils all requirements. Miss Ella Seton is good as Helen Berkshaw, and Miss Graham Edwies causes much amusement as Justerina.

New Palace Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. Stewart Cecil.—The electric review, "In Paris," has proved as novel as it is entertaining. Mr. J. W. Rowley, an old Grimsby favourite, has proved as popular as ever. The vocal duets of Russell and Roper have been much appreciated, whilst the same may be said of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Bronte, who are responsible for a bright comedy sketch. Clever equilibristic work has been accomplished by Moretti and Alice, and the rope walking feats of Geo. Linton gain considerable applause. Artistic modelling in clay is the speciality presented by Bicknelle, and Ida Ross, comedienne, and Star and Gerome, vocalists and dancers, complete a capital programme.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Arnold, jun.—The Tyrolean songs and dances of the Sarnthaler Troupe have caused much favourable comment. Smart patter and songs have been contributed by the Bros. Ralston, and their song speciality, "Blind Leading Blind," is a rather original idea. Robert Gilbert's dogs and cats give evidence of careful and patient training. May Fellowfield has charmingly rendered up-to-date American songs; Arthur has shown exceptional ability as a mimic; Vincent's exhibition of tumbling is quite unique; Herbert Rule has proved a quaint comedian, and the Bioscope pictures are interesting.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—Royal Aquarium.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. C. Watson Mill and company are here this week with the successful melodrama, *A Wrecker of Men*. The author of the play, Mr. C. Watson Mill, enacts in vigorous fashion the rôle of the burglar, Jim Murley; Mr. George Harvey plays well as Railton; Pharosaphus is capitally represented by Mr. Charles Yorke; Mr. Percy Horton is effective as Guise Strange; Mr. J. W. Ryder as Karnaphus and Ezekiel Isaccs gives an exceedingly clever interpretation; Mr. Frank Oliver is very successful as the Hon. Reggie Verincourt; Mr. Gilson Brooke is earnest and manly as Eric Melville; Miss Rosalind Tate is excellent as Risca Mallison; Miss Victoria May is sympathetic as Doris Melville; and Miss Gracie Garside is admirable as Vavasole Slopper.

GREENOCK.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The Executors of the late Mr. Alex. Wright; Managers, Messrs. A. B. Wright and J. J. Wright.—Miss Mary Austin's company is playing *The Cotton Spinner* here this week. Mr. John S. Haydon as John Prescott acts throughout with great power; Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds fills the rôle of Arthur Northbury with ability; and the part of Lord Northbury is excellently played by Mr. Edwin L. Fisher. Mr. Ernest C. Edwards is amusing as Major Stratton, and Mr. Frank Eaglesfield is a capable exponent of Foster Cunningham. Miss Mary Austin acts with charming grace and naturalness the part of Mary Prescott; Miss Mag Grimshaw ably impersonates Constance Harrington; and Miss Bella Power is amusing as Lady Needy.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—The bill here is headed by the Two Bees, who give their *Hiawatha* scena, which is appreciated; King Leo, ventriloquist, is very clever; the Du Gros Trio give an amusing gymnastic act; James Grant, comedian and dancer, is applauded; the Rushforths, with illustrated songs, do an excellent turn; and the Smythsons are seen in an amusing sketch, *The Lie Alarm*.

HALIFAX.—Grand Theatre.—General Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—*Lucky Durham* is proving a great attraction this week. The company producing it is to be complimented on the undoubted success achieved. The title-rôle is admirably played by Mr. William F. Grant, whose conception of the part, and the execution of it, are worthy of commendation. Mr. Henry de Solla gives a clear, clean, crisp performance as Lord Mountfallon; Mr. Daniel McCarthy is a worthy representative of Mr. Vallerton; Mr. Paul Belmore plays his part with consummate skill. It is a part that might easily become ridiculous, but it is presented with a nice appreciation of the character—that of the Hon. Reginald Steighton. Miss Molly Pearson gives a bright, cheerful and attractive portraiture of Helen Vallerton; Miss Jessie Winter, in a small part, is very successful; and Misses Louisa Gourlay, Emily Levettez, Gertrude Robins, and Frances Irving, are contributors to the general success.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr Frank Macnaghten.—The Four Darktown entertainers are well received here this week. Their work is smartly and well performed. Belrose and De Velin, duettists, sing well. A sketch, entitled *A Bit of String*, is smartly performed by B. Harris and Lilly Pearl; Mdlle. Olga is a graceful and clever trapezist; Yandinoff is a rapid painter in oils; and the Lannons, duettists and dancers; D. W. Watson, post horn soloist; and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Knox, are also in the bill.

HANLEY.—Royal, Limited. — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Howard. *Beauty and the Barge* is the attraction here this week, and Mr. Cyril Maude's company is one of excellence. Mr. Blake Adams, as Captain James Barley, acts cleverly; Lieut. Boyne finds a capital exponent in Mr. Horace Lane, who plays the young naval officer admirably; Mr. Percy Knight, as Herbert Manners, is well placed, and makes the most of his part; Major Smedley, the retired officer, finds a suitable representative in Mr. Walter Pemberton; Mr. Chas. Goold contributes a fine piece of character acting as Tom Codd; Mr. Fred Knight, as Dibbs, the gardener, is good; and Mr. Chas. Caffrey is well placed as the landlord of the Old Ship Inn; Mr. Forrester Harvey, as Augustus, is deserving of much praise for this impersonation; Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite, as Mrs. Porter, cleverly depicts the landlady; Miss Mary Griffiths, as Mrs. Baldwin, is also an admirable portra[illegible]; Miss May Stalman and Miss Mary Deverell [illegible]seen to advantage in their respective parts a[illegible]rs. Smedley and Lucy; Miss May Fairclough, as Ethel Smedley, is charming, and acts with much grace. *Beauty and the Barge* is preceded by a smart curtain-raiser, *That Brute Simmons*, which is well acted

Grand.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. James Wynes.—At the head of a good bill is Mr. A. C. Lilly and company in that military episode, *Drummed Out*, which is well acted, and proves most interesting. Another highly successful turn is provided by Miss Nellie Wallace, whose songs, patter, and mannerisms are exceedingly funny; Farley, Rennie, and Farley are seen in a capital sketch, *Fun in a Railway Station*, in which is introduced tumbling, singing, dancing, etc.; Madame Alice Simmons has a fine voice, which is heard to much advantage in several good songs; Miss Marie Reeve is a charming comedienne; Sibb and Sibb return in their clever double trapeze performance. The Grand pictures are always up-to-date.

Empire, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—J. W. Hall heads the bill this week, and, as usual, is highly successful; Cissie Curlett, mimetic vocalist, is successful; Captain Slingseby, as a ventriloquist, has but few rivals, his performance proving most entertaining; the Clayton Twins are seen in the funny sketch, *Pepper and Salt*; Fred Hallam is a good comedian; Beattie Kent is a pleasing commedienne; Tray and Rich are an entertaining couple in their black and white comedy business; and the Solar Duo, instrumentalists and vocalists are excellent. The Empire pictures are good.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cyril Fielding Smith.—Messrs. Addison Bright and Walter Maxwell's company presented J. M. Barrie's play, *Little Mary*, here on Monday and two following nights. The Earl of Carlton and Mcira Loney were cleverly interpreted by Mr. Geo. Mudie and Miss Ethel Dare respectively; Miss Elspeth acted with admirable fervour; and Mr. Geo. A. Brandram was good as the specialist. The play was preceded by *The Monkey's Paw*. *As Midnight Chimes* was billed for Thursday.

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Craggs; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—The programme this week includes the Eight Yiulians, a clever troupe of Risley acrobats. The Brewster Troupe of lady vocalists and speciality dancers go through a lance and sword exercise in a style that meets with much appreciation; their combination banjo playing and dancing are also well done. Lily Lonsdale, soprano; Ernie Meyers, patter comedian; the Fordyce Nippers, two precocious youngsters; the Paul Hesse Trio of clever wire walking acrobats; Frank Coyle, who does as well as ever; and Vera Mayne, burlesque actress, are all on the list; and an extra turn, cleverly done, is given by the Zemblah Brothers, acrobats.

HASTINGS. — Gaiety Theatre. — Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Gaze.—On Monday Mr. Fredk. E. Philpott's company, in the new musical comedy, *The Girl from Japan*, gave its first performance in Hastings, affording much pleasure to a well-filled house. Miss Rita Tomkins played the title-rôle with much vivacity; the incongruous Bingle was very amusingly played by Mr. Frank Sherlock; Mr. George Hudson was well placed as Lord Allenbury, and his involuntary impersonator, the Rev. John Smith, played by Mr. H. Carlyle Pritchard, was an effective contrast of temperament. Mr. Charles Lupton, as Sir Mulberry, was sufficiently frivolous, and Mr. Percy Baverstock was forceful as the scheming adventurer, the pseudo General Baugh. Mr. Colet Dare, the author, was entertaining as Horatio Binks. Miss Florence Nelson as Lady Flippington, and Miss Effie Rydon as the Countess de la Rue, were effective respectively. A pas seul by Miss Jean van Dalle was markedly pleasing, and speciality dances by the Sisters Violet and Lillie English won considerable favour. Encores were numerous, the songs of Miss Rita Tomkins (Polly) and Mr. George Hudson (Lord Allenbury) winning much applause. The piece is staged and dressed well.

Pier Pavilion. — Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter. — Under the direction of Mr. Francis Everard, Mr. Herbert Fuller's play, entitled *A Triple Vengeance*, is holding the boards here. Mr. F. C. Wybert, in the part of Harry Gilbert, displays good dramatic ability; little Miss Florrie Sorsby, as Reggie, is bright and clever; the English Rose, Rita Lingham, is charmingly represented by Miss Gwendoline Hastings; villainy is played in a very natural manner by Mr. E. Gibbon, as Jim Darkey; Miss Edith Mitchell is an ideal representative of Clarissa Beringer.

Hippodrome Palace of Varieties. — General-Manager, Mr. Harold Penny.—Mr. Alf. Aubyn, a coloured comedian opens a very good programme this week; Miss Louie Dacre is an attractive comedienne and dancer; an eccentric comedy act is given by Messrs. Vasey and Ramsey; Mr. Harry Seymour cleverly imitates the characteristics of various artistes; a skilful ventriloquial sketch is presented by Mr. Horace White; a revolving ladder act by the Rigoletto Brothers is original and exciting; the Sisters Hall are excellent vocalists; and Griff, assisted by Alpha, highly amuses the audience.

HOYLAND.—Metropole Theatre.—Owner, Mr. Arthur Carton; Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—Mr. Frank Stevens' company is here this week in the exciting play, *Because I Love You*, which met with a cordial reception on Monday night. The plot is interesting, and the company employed do justice to their respective rôles. Nemo, the Vulture, a part vastly different from the general run of characters, is creditably performed by Mr. Frank Stephens; Mr. Matthew Bolton is a manly and impressive Captain Sterling, and Mr. H. W. Hatchman contributes a capital performance as Christopher Chados. The rôle of Professor Predate has a good exponent in Mr. H. L. Tracey; whilst Mr. H. A. Stephens does all that is possible with the part of Eddie Puplett. Mr. H. Buckley is an amusing Nebuchadnezzar Moke, and is greatly assisted by Miss Nell Ingram, who makes a lively Cleopatra Cotton. The comic element is left entirely in their hands, and hearty laughter at intervals during the evening is the result. Miss Madge North gives a natural and unforced reading as Norinda Chandos, and must be congratulated on her very agreeable performance; Miss Agnes Stinton is satisfactory as Mrs. Puplett, and Miss Trissie Hum

orthodox villain. Miss Elsie Roberts and Miss Louise Vansittat personated the two chief ladies' parts in a manner that proved they were accomplished actresses, and the rest of the characters in a strong cast found adequate representatives.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. F. Barrett.—The new turns at this place of entertainment include Dainty Daisy Dormer, an accomplished comedienne and dancer; Will McIvor, tenor; C. Rutland and Bob Eagle, comedians; Kitty Laurel, dancer; Florence Gwyne, as the stage-struck slavey; and the Casino Girls, in a clever instrumental performance.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is here this week with the interesting drama, entitled *Honour Thy Father*.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. W Thompson; Manager, Mr. William Childs.—This week's company includes Ernest and Hilda Dillon, in a first-class aerial act; Miss Connie Barry, serio; Chant and Chant, comedy vocalists and patterers; Toga, the marvellous Japanese juggler; Herr E. Blumenfeld, with his troupe of performing dogs; Jas. Lowery the singing furnace man; Bros. Kirby, in a refined musical performance; Miss Edie Charnley, comedienne and dancer; and the Eltenos, triple bar performers.

KEIGHLEY. — QUEEN'S THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Barnes.—*Amorelle*, seen here for the first time, received a hearty welcome on Monday. Mr. Levilly's company is excellent. Miss Empsie Bowman does full justice to the melodies allotted to her, and makes a dainty and petite Amorelle. Mr. Leon Simkin, as Dr. Crow gives a genuinely funny performance, and is highly appreciated. An undoubted triumph is achieved by Miss Ada Grey as Lesbia; her singing is delightful. Jules is in the capable hands of Mr. Arthur Cozens; and Francois is ably played by Mr. Edward Granby. Mr. Arthur Elwyn's Count is satisfactory. The orchestra is under the direction of Mr. W. H. Davin.

KIDDERMINSTER. — NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon, jun.—This week we have a return visit from Mr. Harold V. Neilson and company. On Monday and Tuesday *The Money Spinner* was played, while on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday the comedy *The Tyranny of Tears* was the attraction. In the first-named play Mr. Harold V. Neilson as Lord Kingussie gave an excellent representation, a remark which is equally applicable to Mr. John Detlive as Baron Croodle. Mr. W. Lemmon Ward and Mr. J. F. Fox, as Harold Boycott and Jules Faubert, were respectively good. Miss Helen Phillips ably portrayed the character of Margot, and Miss Amy Sangster was effective as Millicent Boycott; Dorinda Croodle was well sustained by Miss Beatrice Marsdene.

KILMARNOCK.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Hales.—This week we have here *A Royal Revenge*, presented by Mr. J. H. Clyndes, and a powerful company. As Estevan Alvarez, Mr. Clyndes is a great success; and good work is done by Mr. Jas. Willoughby, as Nicholas Vargas, and Mr. Chas. Jordan, as Manual Mondega. Miss Bessie Elma gives a capital impersonation of the part of Inez Alvarez; and Miss Evelyn Shannon is good as Cora Casilda.

KIRKCALDY.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Rex Sudgen.—Messrs. Haddon and Louder's company appeared in the *Greatest Scoundrel Living* on Monday night. Mr. Jack Haddon, as the Greatest Scoundrel, gives a fine artistic rendering of the part. Frank Fielding is admirably played by Mr. Norman A. Overton, and Mr. C. Anival is successful as Jasper Moulton. Tom Masters is smartly and effectively played by Mr. JackLenoll, and Mr. Fred Harning is successful as Sam Grubb. Miss Violet Lytton plays Rose Moulton with feeling, and Miss Marie Rayner gives a good rendering of Mabel Cross. Miss Effie Macintosh is brisk as Bessie Bright, and Mr. S. Herbert scores as Philip Astrea. On Thursday Mr. Edward Compton and company opened for three nights.

LANCASTER. —ATHENÆUM. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Hy. Wilkinson. — This week Mr George Mitchell and Mr. John Belton's company is appearing in *The Conscript* and *The Unknown*. The former piece was presented on Monday, Mr. Mitchell appeared to advantage in the title-rôle, Karl Truevitch; Mr. Howell Travis was successful as Ivan Manloff; and the same may be said of Mr. John Belton as Dor Doggervitch. There is a vein of humour in the piece, and this was supplied in an excellent manner by Mr. Harry Tilbury and Miss Belle Tilbury, as Tretch Trotoff and Wanda respectively. The staging was most effective.

PALACE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. W. J. Fergusson and John Porter.—Carl Mysto, who heads the bill this week, fairly baffles his audience; Grey and Welford, comedy boxers, receive an ovation; and David Poole, ventriloquist, is a great favourite. The Sisters Bartholomew, duettists, are paying a return visit, and others who contribute to a capital programme include Toto, lightning cartoonist; Blanche Mildred, comedienne; Minnie D'Aubyn, coon vocalist; and Walter Payne's Animated Pictures.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—At the beginning of the week Mr. Ben Greet's competent company in *The Eternal City* occupied the boards. The three outstanding parts were all played in an artistic manner, that of Baron Bonelli being sustained by Mr. D. Lewin Mannering; Miss Helen Kaye gave a powerful portrayal of Donna Roma; and Mr. T. A. Shannon's Rossi was a successful study. The Pope received a dignified representation at the hands of Mr. Leonard Gray, and the other rôles were in good hands. For Thursday and following nights *Peggy Machree* was billed.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—*La Poupée* is still a profitable attraction, to judge by the full house which gathered for its opening here on Monday. Mr. Eric Thorne is again the inimitable Hilarius, and spontaneous laughter and merriment greet his every appearance; Miss Stella Gastelle is still associated with the piece as Alesia, and her portrayal has lost none of its charm and grace; the part of Launcelot, too, in the hands of another favourite, Mr. Gerald Clifford, is all that can be desired. The Baron Chanterelle and the peppery Loremois are cleverly played by Mr. Robert Fairbanks and Mr. Fred Seymour; and in the rôle of Father Maxime the fine singing of Mr. Frederick Hobbs is most enjoyable. A correct and careful study of Madame Hilarius goes to the credit of Miss Madge Avery, and excellent service is rendered by Miss May Bradbury.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—*In the Ranks* holds the boards here, and Messrs. Carlton and Armitage's company has played it to good houses throughout the week. Ned Drayton is presented with power by Mr. Edward Lloyd, and equally effective is Mr. Herbert Cecil's assumption of the villainous Gideon Blake. A charming effort is that of Miss Edith Blair-Staples as Ruth Herrick.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—*The Still Alarm* is being presented here by Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company. Jack Manley is depicted with power by Mr. Matthew H. Glenville, and a fine example of the stage villain is furnished by Mr. Paul Lovett. Miss Mary Lovett is responsible for a charming portrayal of Elinore Fordham.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. Mooney.—Ernest Shand is the bright particular star at this popular place of entertainment, and with new songs and racy patter he keeps his audiences thoroughly well amused. At the bottom of the bill figures Tom Costello, always a huge success here. Gipsy Woolf and her Piccaninnies are seen in a new vocal scena; Ralph and Nellie Howard please all with a capital musical turn; and James Stewart, the tramp, at the piano, does the usual funny business. Excessively humorous is the sketch, *Two Old Rogues*, by Driscoll and Beattie; and Burns and Evans create much fun also in a comic sketch; Paul Mill is a comedian with a distinctive and clever style; the Sisters Meredith have an artistic vocal turn; and Jenny Belmore, comedienne, completes a varied and attractive programme.

TIVOLI. — Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Managers, Messrs. Edgar O. Waller and Chas. Weldon.—A clever and entertaining sketch by May Edouin and Fred Edwards, entitled *A Bachelor's Dream*, is the outstanding feature of this week's bill, and the presentation is thoroughly enjoyed. Harry and Fanny Dent are responsible for a smart vocal and comedy turn; the Sutcliffe Troupe do a Scottish song and dance speciality; and of comedians are well catered for by Frank Coyne, a huge success, as usual. Acrobatic exhibitions are again a feature, those of the Bros. Baldwin and the Clarus Bros. being specially good. Pollo Jerome is a lady gymnast of considerable ability, Bertha Pertina a phenomenal dancer, and Carrie Joy (comedienne) also makes a successful appearance.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—The Leopolds head the bill here with a fine acrobatic act; Billy Farrell, the popular comedian, is having a successful time with numerous new items; and more expert acrobatics are presented by the Three Brothers Huxter. Fred Poplar is a favourite comedian, and the Corty Bros. submit a diverting comedy sketch. Other popular contributors are Kitty Wager (comedienne), the Paragon Trio of vocalists, and Lily Sharplin (vocalist and mimic).

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. M. Slater; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. D. Leigh.—A most attractive engagement is being filled here this week by a first visit of Mr. Frank Curzon's company, who presented before a large and appreciative audience on Monday the musical comedy, *Sergeant Brue*. The various artists in a talented company acquit themselves admirably, and the pretty scenery and dresses are also adjuncts that greatly please the eye. In the name-part, Mr. Edward Kipling keeps the house in continual merriment; and Mr. George Barrett as Crookie Scrubbs, makes a big hit. Mr. Charles Hanbury is in every way a success as Michael Brue; Mr. Campbell Bishop creates a good impression as the Magistrate, Mr. Crank; and Mr. Paddy Duprez, as Inspector Gorringe, and Mr. Thomas Holding, as Gerald Treherne, are also responsible for clever portrayals. Miss Hebe Bliss acts and sings charmingly as Lady Bickenhall; and Miss Hilda Antony imparts a freshness and vivacity to the rôle of Aurora Brue which win for her the greatest admiration. A word of commendation should also be awarded to the work of the chorus and augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Ernest Herman.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; General Manager, Mr. Geo. M. Slater; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. C. Candler.—The attraction here this week is Mr. and Mrs. W. Maclaren's company, in the romantic drama, *Proof*. The costumes are especially good, and the mounting of the play, combined with an excellent company, leaves nothing to be desired. Mr. William Maclaren scores a conspicuous success as Pierre Lorance; and Miss Lily C. Bandmann is also seen to great advantage as Valentine; Mr. Richard Fulton renders a good account of himself in the dual part of Lazare, alias the Count de Laval; Mr. Ardene Linden is to be highly complimented on his assumption of the part of Chamboran; Mr. Kingsford Pearce scores as the Duke D'Aubeterre; Miss Gertrude Evans makes an excellent Adrienne; and as Little Adrienne, Miss Gertrude Coates is capital; Mr. E. St. Claire Vayne, as Hector de Laugney; Miss Wynne Hanley, as the Duchess D'Aubeterre; Mrs. S. Hay, as Madame Deprets; and Miss Nellie Bilbe, as Julie, should also be singled out for performances of much merit.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Vidal.—The great attraction in this week's excellent bill of fare is Cliff Berzac's St. Leger, which arouses the greatest excitement. The race takes place on a travelling track, the panoramic scenery adding greatly to the vividness of the production. During the week an amateur walking competition takes place on the track. Walton and Lester, aptly described as the world's worst wizards, are scoring a success; Professor Bernar's miniature theatre and marionettes, provides a most enjoyable turn, the puppets being cleverly worked; Ida Heath, the well-known quick change dancer, is cordially received; Sable Fern, a dainty and popular artiste, is here again on a successful return visit; Marie Collins sings her songs in a style that meets with well-deserved appreciation; Alf Arnesen is responsible for a first-class gymnastic show, which is very popular; Lukos Herford introduces his cleverly-trained dogs, who go through a performance that reflects great credit on their trainer; Rumbo Austin creates the utmost merriment with his troupe of parody acrobats; James Bard, the wonder in white or black, gives a clever show on the wire.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—A good programme here is topped by the famous cowboy hypnotist, Ahrensmeyer, whose remarkable show causes the greatest sensation. Jack Pleasants, eccentric comedian, is scoring a big success; Janet H. Reynolds is a vocalist of great ability; Billy Williams, Australian comedian, is popular; Harry Calvo, vocal mimic, is repeating his usual success here; Nellie and Nora give an enjoyable musical turn; Nat Watkins, the peculiar comedian, is good; Dick and Dorothy, young speciality artistes, are conspicuous for some clever dancing.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Dewhurst; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Dewhurst.—Mr. Charles Harrington and company are paying a welcome return visit with *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Mr. J. Carr gives a forcibly effective rendering of Uncle Tom; Mr. Charles Harrington appears with much success as Phineas Fletcher; Mr. Guy P. Ellis ably portrays the character of George Harris; Mr. J. H. Rogers, as Legree, presents the villainous slave owner in a very forcible manner; Mr. Walter Langford causes much amusement as Marks, a lawyer. Miss Zerlina Zerbina plays with much force as Cassy; Miss Hettie Johnson makes a sympathetic Eliza Harris; Miss Sylvia Stella is extremely successful as Topsy, her singing and dancing being appreciated; Little Minnie makes a satisfactory Eva. The plantation scenes are good, some effective singing and dancing being introduced by a company of real negroes.

LICHFIELD.—ST. JAMES'S HALL.—On Monday Mr. Ben Greet's company, under the management of Mr. J. Bannister Howard, appeared here in *Florodora*. Mr. Gus Danby proved a most humorous Tweedlepunch; Mr. Edward Chester made a characteristic Cyrus W. Gilfain; Mr. Edward Cropland a satisfactory Frank Abercoed, and Mr. Charles Stevenson an excellent Captain Donegal. The Dolores of Miss Daisy Lake was a fascinating performance. Miss Louie Danby was the Angela Gilfain, and Miss Fanny M. Newman Lady Holyrood.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—A welcome return visit of Mr. George Edwardes's company with *The Duchess of Dantzic* has during the week attracted large audiences here. Sans Gene is in the hands of Miss Amy Augarde, who is rapturously applauded for her delightful impersonation. To Mr. Matthew Brodie praise is due for his finished and impressive Napoleon; a gallant and manly Lefebvre is presented by Mr. Herbert Clayton. The Bethune of Mr. Leonard Mackay proves very acceptable, both his singing and acting earning for him cordial recognition. Miss Edith Fink submits a charming Renee.

ROTUNDA THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery, jun.—Good business has been done at the popular north-end house during the week with *The Poor Must Live*, presented by Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company. Mr. Geoffrey Fulton was a typical villain; Miss Olive Fulton played Olga D'Eyncourt, a leader of the people, with dramatic effect; Mr. Herbert Clifton, as Dick Sully, and Mr. Dick Thomas, as Hooker Holdsnitch, were responsible for much of the humour; Miss Pattie Elliott was a vivacious lavender girl, and sang sweetly; and the other members of the company filled their respective parts with credit. The scenery was very appropriate.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—A highly-interesting and popular programme is drawing packed houses nightly. Hettie King, who has made herself a great favourite in Liverpool, is loudly applauded; Rosaire and Doreto are original in their comedy acrobatic act; as a ventriloquist, Ed. F. Reynard would be hard to beat; Louden Cameron is a conjurer of no mean order; Edie Endin makes a hit with her songs and dancing; and Walter Adams is laughable; as also is Dan Conroy. Edie Gray and her White Coons sing very well; the Carnia Sisters are clever musicians; and Dainez' Comedy Circus creates much amusement.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. H. Fineberg; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Simmons.—*A Soldier and a Man* is being presented by Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's London company. The character of Harold Sinclair was in the capable hands of Mr. Alderson, who played with much dramatic force; Miss B'Eare Doyle presented a Rose Melbury full of charm and tenderness; and commendable work was done by Messrs. Paul Beckett, Harry F. Wright, W. A. Norman, F. J. Waller, and H. K. Aylin. The military uniforms and scenery were particularly striking.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Granville; Manager, Mr. Fred Granville; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Mundill.—*A Day in Paddy's Market* is very familiar to Liverpool playgoers, and the comedy has much that is amusing. Mr. Will Hebden is the principal artiste, and creates much laughter with his several types of familiar street characters. He is supported by a goodly array of artistes, and the scenery is appropriate.

EMPIRE, LIMITED.—District-Manager, Mr. T. A. Cook; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Stratton.—Mr. Harry Lauder is at the head of the bill here this week, and delights everyone with his funny songs and quaint sayings. The wrestling bears of Richard List go through a remarkable performance; the Jackson family put in a second week with their excellent musical entertainment; the Paul Courtney Combination presents a laughable sketch, entitled *The Doctor*; as acrobats, the Wotpert Trio are above the average; the Japanese Guards, a troupe of young ladies, give a smart display of drill; and others in the list are Nellie Vanderbilt, comedienne and dancer; the Two Bostons, comedians; G. W. Foster, comedian; Victor Travers, eccentric coon; and Delmore and Wilson, character comedians.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—A long list of good things is presented here this week. At the head are the Holloway Trio, who go through a surprisingly clever acrobatic wire act. The Harmony Four keep their audience in a good humour with a neat musical comedy; Miss Ethel Cunningham and company have a smart sketch, entitled *The King's Hat*; Linda a graceful descriptive dancer, surprises the audience with a quick transformation; V. J. Dehenau, by means of his feet, paints with marvellous effect; Iben Obed is an accomplished equilibrist; as a dainty juvenile vocalist, Miss Molly Doon is acceptable; Mdlle. Aladina has a troupe of well-trained cockatoos; and others on the programme are George Barrow, comedian; Mdlle. Kloet, "artiste modèle"; and Ella Rose, soprano.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. O'Toole.—The stage here is this week held by Percy Boucher and company in their sketch, *The Mystery of the Mersey, or the Unknown*. Variety turns are given by James Stephens, comedian; and Lucie Victor, dancer; and an attractive item is Hughes's electrograph, which shows the "Rise and Fall of Napoleon."

NEW PARTHENON.—Proprietor, Mr. Edwin W. Smith.—A good all-round programme is given here this week. Foremost are the accomplished Sisters Aindow, in a neat musical speciality; Stern and Stern are a couple of smart comedians; John Arthur and Jane Ashby are applauded for their comical trifle, "Fantacies of the Phiz"; Tom E. O'Neil is a quaint comedian; Lilian Rigby sings and dances pleasantly; and Arthur Stacey is an accomplished dancer and eccentric comedian. The bioscope continues to prove an attractive feature.

PADDINGTON PALACE, LIMITED.—General-Manager, Mr. J. Kiernan-Gillin, a ventriloquist of high merit, is at the top of the bill here this week. His turn is somewhat unique, and he introduces a deal of humour into his work. Kydd and Kydd, a couple of funny patter comedians, are very acceptable; Mannering and Anderson have a laughable sketch, entitled *The Other Charlie*; Wright and Aitken, assisted by Miss Belle Adams, present an amusing duologue, *The Lady Sport*; Chris. Masters's songs go with a swing; Joe Cookson gives a good turn as a vocal and speciality ventriloquist; and Frank Tyrell is a comedian and dancer.

WESTMINSTER.—Proprietor, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Much laughter has this week been heard within the walls of Mr. Montgomery's popular place. Will Onda's company being at the head of the bill with the pantomimical absurdity, *A Quiet Night*. Then again, another excellent turn is that given by Eno, an accomplished mimic, with his capital impersonations of principal music-hall stars; Eric Graham is a humorous coster comedian; Demi and Semi give a smart instrumental patter and dancing act; Millie Harris sings sweetly; Louis Murray is a popular actor vocalist; and the Ross Clyde Comedy, whose sketch, *I Must Have It*, created uproarious laughter.

PARK PALACE.—Director, Mr. James Kiernan.—The principal feature of the bill here this week is the performance given by the Vyponds (Fred and Maude), whose sketches, *The Honeymoon* and *The New Servant*, have caused much laughter. A capital turn is that of the Dagonets, whose American banjo song and dance has proved very acceptable; George Edney scores as a character comedian; the Radium Girls are neat vocalists and speciality dancers; Arthur Aiston shows himself a clever comedian and dancer; Fox and Melville are a pair of accomplished song illustrators; and Mayzy Osmunde sings several charming pieces.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John Tully.—Opera affords delight to the patrons here this week, Mr. Hilton St. Just's company performing *Maritana*, *Bohemian Girl*, *Faust*, *Lily of Killarney*, and the beautiful opera comique by Flotow entitled *Martha*, or *A Story of Richmond Fair*. In the first-named opera Miss Louise Van Dalle does exceedingly well as Maritana; Mr. St. Just is successful as Don Cæsar; as Don José, Mr. Frank Land does good work; Mr. Kneale Campbell scores as Marquis de Montifiore; Mr. Fraz Crisp as the King of Spain, Mr. Jas. Hicks as Captain of the Guard, and Mr. William Hill as Alcade are all very good, and so are Misses Fanny Emerson and Beatrice Torrance as Lazarillo and the Marchioness. As Arline in *The Bohemian Girl* Miss Elsie Lynham is a charming and clever vocalist and actress; Miss Maud de Vere is a smart principal dancer. There is a very good chorus, and the theatre band, under Mr. W. A. Tatten, is augmented, Mr. Albert May being the musical director.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. S. Meakin.—Mr. Jasper Redfern's cinematograph and vaudeville company are here this week. The pictures are up-to-date, and the company includes the wonderful American wizard, Mersano, whose sleight-of-hand business is simply marvellous. Some very good instrumental music and singing make up a bright performance.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Secretary, Mr. Charles E. Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Louis Beaufort.—Patrons of the drama are this week enjoying that famous play, *Two Little Vagabonds*, which is presented by Messrs. Clift and Foster's capable company. Miss Elena Lonsdale is seen to advantage as Marion Thornton; and Mr. Cyril W. Mackay as Captain Darville, Mr. Ernest Shiel-Porter as George Thornton, and Mr. Charles Brandon as Bill Mullins, all deserve special mention. As Dick and Wally, the two little vagabonds, the Misses Frances Ferina and Eva Lumley give a good account of themselves. Excellent support is given by the remaining members of the company. The scenery and staging are good.

LUTON.—GRAND.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Resident-Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—*A Noble Brother* is here this week, and this drama receives an excellent interpretation at the hands of a capable company, brought together by Mr. Charles Carte. Mr. Carte's performance, as Jerry, the tramp, is one of exceeding ability; and Miss Doris Brookes, as Nona Leigh, is worthy of all praise. The orchestra renders able service under the bâton of Mr. J. H. Kisten.

MACCLESFIELD. — ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. Ian Maclaren and company are appearing here in the highly sensational drama *A Prince of Rogues*. The part of Frank Farrell is in the hands of Mr. Leonard Clarke, and a manly and effective impersonation is given. Miss Ruby Maclaren submits a convincing study of Winifred Harwood, her manner and appearance being well suited to the rôle; as the scheming Geoffrey Flint Mr. Ian Maclaren is very realistic. Mr. Henry Howard does well as Richard Harwood; Miss Dorothy Mackenzie as Rita Congreave plays her part with unaffected grace. Mr. Henry Wilson as Stephen Leyton gives a clever portrayal. The comedy element is kept well to the front, Mr. Francis Hope instals himself as first favourite as Gilbert Kenny; Mr. James F. Firth as Josh Buggins is highly amusing; Miss Kythe Mackenzie as Polly Dibbs acts well, and her songs are favourably received.

MANCHESTER.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oscar Barrett; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—A packed house witnessed the performance here of *The Cingalee* on Monday by Mr. George Edwardes's principal company, when a brilliant rendering was given of this charming musical comedy. The piece is embellished by new songs, new dresses, and new dances, and the singing and acting reach a high standard of excellence. Mr. E. Statham Staples is really funny as Chambhuddy Ram, and creates endless laughter with his "inverted" or "mixed" quotations and sayings. Mr. Reginald Kenneth is decidedly pleasing as Harry Vereker, and a great success is made by Mr. Harold Thorley as Bobby Warren, his singing being particularly fine. Mr. Colin Coop as Boobhamba, and Mr. W. J. Manning as Sir Peter Loftus, both acquit themselves admirably. Of the ladies, Miss Florence Smithson is entirely pleasing as Nanoya, Miss Lily Elsie figures well as Lady Patricia, and the four tea girls are charmingly presented by the Misses Clare Marsden, Claire Pridelle, Kathleen Severn, and Doris Lester; while as Peggy Sabine Miss Eva Sandford scores a very notable success, playing with fine spirit, singing delightfully, dancing gracefully, and altogether proving herself a highly talented comedienne. The solo dances of Miss May Gould are beautifully executed, and the Devil dances by the Rubies and Mr. Willie Warde, jun., are very effective.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Oscar Barrett; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—An attractive répertoire, consisting of *Othello*, *Under the Red Robe*, *Macbeth*, *The Three Musketeers*, and *Hamlet*, is presented here this week by Mr. Edmund Tearle, supported by Miss Kate Clinton and a well selected company. Mr. Tearle played the title-rôle in the first-named play on Monday with capital effect, and was well assisted by Miss Esther Tearle as Desdemona and Mr. William J. Miller as Iago, the general rendering of the tragedy being highly satisfactory, and a credit to the entire cast. The arrangement of the plays is nicely varied, and each one is staged with impressive and picturesque completeness in details. Beside the capable artistes mentioned, able and varied interpretations of character are given by Mr. J. V. Fairley, Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree, Mr. Thomas W. Benson, Mr. Frederick Kelsie, Miss Mary Campbell, and others.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. W. H. Broadhead; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The late Wilson Barrett's domestic comedy-drama, *The Sledge Hammer*, was given here on Monday by a capital company, under the direction of Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod. Although considerably relieved by a humorous element, the story is a grimly powerful one, made particularly effective by the fine acting of Mr. W. V. Garrod as the hero, Mr. Alfred Northway as the villain, and Miss Bertha Kingston as the heroine. Other good parts are in the practised hands of Mr. Chas. Herberte, Mr. Lawrence Konrad, Miss Fanny Thorne, and Miss Ellaline Thorne; while Mr. Frank Litchfield and Mr. Frank Dallas are excellent in comic rôles. The staging is good.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—An excellent programme here this week comprises Max Sterling, in a smart Japanese act; the New York Comedy Four, entertaining vocalists; the Gladenbecks, in a speciality act; Arthur Gilbert, a cheerful comedian; Post Mason, refined baritone; Beattie Worth, comedienne; Walter Curtis, society entertainer; Fred Rose, vocalist; Jack and Evelyn, entertainers; and Sam Shipley, eccentric comedian.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey present here this week an attractive Oriental drama, *A Traitor Prince*. Interesting from start to finish, and staged elaborately, the story is unfolded with excellent effect by a well-graced and talented company. Mr. G. M. Montanini is seen in the title-rôle, and other essential parts are forcibly rendered by Mr. Alex. Temple and Miss Lilian Rosebery; while Mr. E. Carter Livesey, Mr. Austen Mortimer, Miss Cissie Cleveland, and Miss Jane Massey, among others, contribute plenty of comedy relief.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Potasch.—Mr. Bert Coote's company in *The Fatal Wedding*, is the attraction here this week, and a good house witnessed the play on Monday night. All the parts are in capable hands, Miss Gertrude Harrison figuring boldly as the adventuress, and Mr. S. Herbert-Humber being seen to great advantage as the hero. Miss Marjorie Lawrence does well as Jessie, the "little mother," Mr. Oliver Rogers is effective as the villainous Curtis, Miss Nona Hoffe gives a sympathetic rendering of the wife, and humour is provided by Mr. Tom Macfarlane, Mr. Charles Kenny, and Miss Harriet Clifton. The scenery and general effects are good.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The programme is full of good things here this week. The Bristons, exceptionally smart acrobats and trick cyclists, head the bill, and meet with a warm reception. Sinclair and Whiteford are highly successful with their mirth-provoking sketch, entitled *Getting Even*; and Larry Lewis, with his quaint style, proves himself a capital comedian. The Three Gardeners are clever and amusing in a musical absurdity *The Rat Catcher*; and the Leotard Brothers contribute a most entertaining item, including hand balancing and expert hat throwing. H. A. Kisbey, the "call boy," is decidedly pleasing; George Collins is a comedian of ability; and Shingleton, the singing collier, is well received. Other enjoyable items are the charming Sisters Hayward in a high-class speciality; Harlens, "the man with the hat;" and the Hippodrome pictures.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The Wallonells give a clever comedy bar act here this week, and are well received. The favourite comedian, J. W. Rickaby, is well to the fore in a number of amusing songs. Rem Lang presents an entertaining burlesque sleight-of-hand performance; the Four Magnets sing well and dance gracefully; Dawson Dewick phases with his patter and good singing; and the Sisters Terry are clever versatile comediennes. The Weimars offer a droll turn called *Sloper on the Wire*, which ends with trumpet and bugle calls, and a song by Trumpeter C. Duly. Good turns also are Oliver Conroy, eccentric comedian; Charles Ashdowne, comedian and dancer; and Saxo, who plays the corner and the saxophone very ably.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Alexandra Dagmar is here this week in new songs, and is highly successful in her burlesque scena *The Duchess of Dantzic*. Another excellent turn is Julia Kent and Alec Keith in their amusing sketch, *The Waiter and the Barmaid*, the house being kept in continual roars of laughter the whole time they occupy the stage. The Davenports are clever conjurers and card manipulators; and Otto and Olga are delightful comedy vocal instrumentalists. Fred Herbert is a capital topical vocalist; Maude Beaumont is a pleasing burlesque artiste; and Tom Drum and Kitty Major have some good patter, do some sand dancing, and swing the bâton. Other good turns are Ada Whitton, male impersonator; Marcus Boyle, comedian; and the Brothers Hannaway, comedians and dancers.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Collins.—A big spectacular and vocal sketch, John Tiller's *Ohio*, in which the many characters employed figure in the various phases of a coon's holiday, is at the head of the bill here this week. Another highly successful and sensational turn is furnished by the ten acrobatic Arabs of the Achmed Ibrahim troupe. Beside these remarkable items, we have Ross and Grayson, a most amusing comedy duo; the Vandyke troupe of pantomimic sketch artists; Boy Glen, a smart young raconteur; Edie Rivers, vocalist and expert dancer; Okito, Chinese magician; Ambrose Thorne, refined vocal comedian; and some fine pictures on the Bioscope.

PALACE.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. P. Watson; Assistant-Secretary, Mr. J. Hewitt.—The Gothams top the bill here this week, and present their latest musical exhilarator, *The Midnight Belle*, which is full of capital songs and amusing business. Edwin Boyde sings three songs in his droll style, and is loudly applauded. The Sisters Govell, vocal comediennes, are, as usual, full of charm; and Daisy Mayer, "the Yankee Girl," sings coon songs and does some smart sand dancing. Lillian is a charming and clever trick cyclist; McPhee and Hill go through a remarkable horizontal bar and casting act; and Kathleen Gray is a pleasing burlesque artist. Other entertaining items are Charles Lillburn, comedian; Hettie Chattell, character burlesque actress; Harry Carmen, comedian; and the Palace Pictures.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—The attraction here this week is the one and only Eugene Stratton in his latest successes, "My Little Black Pearl" and "The Coon Drum-Major." On Tuesday evening he also sang with telling and artistic effect, "I May be Crazy," and was enthusiastically applauded. A remarkably clever and elaborate item is *Venetia*, the original act of the well-known Kellinos, whose performance is of a high order from start to finish. Another clever turn, also well received, is that of Les Brunins, the modern billiard experts. Baker and Balfe contribute several pleasing selections on the xylophone; Cora Caselli sings a dramatic Spanish song with characteristic dance in excellent style; and Arthur Gill amuses with his smart patter and capital vocal imitations. Alma Grey is an expert dancer; Burg, Hand, and Wise introduce much clever and eccentric business in their amusing speciality *Ye Browne Cow Inn*; the Bioscope shows a novel in seven tableaux, entitled "The Blacksmith's Daughter;" and the Hippodrome choir sing "Nobody Cares for Me" effectively.

MERTHYR TYDFIL. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Smithson; Assistant Manager, Mr. Albert J. Lewis.—Mr. F. Monillot's company is appearing here this week in a welcome return visit of *A Message from Mars*. Mr. F. Rawson Buckley's impersonation of Horace Parker is artistic; Mr. W. H. Brougham's handling of the Messenger is excellent; Mr. Bruce Lindley as the Tramp is effective and appealing; Mr. Frank G. Dunn is an earnest and natural Arthur Dicey; and Miss May Saker is both pleasing and interesting as Minnie Templar. Miss Parker and Mrs. Clarence have suitable representatives in Miss Flora Hastings and Miss Joan Meredith.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—This week we have Mr. Chas. W. Poole's Myriorama paying their annual visit. A strong variety combination is engaged, which includes Miss Daisy Graham's collection of trained birds; Little Doretta, acrobatic song and dance artist; Harry Stewart, protean change artist; Florry and Lily Zetina, acrobatic dancers; the Clevelands, lady and gentleman acrobats; Leonard and Mac, eccentrics; Kitty Woodford's canine circus; and William Stewart, guide and vocalist.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Messrs. Griffin and Drake provide the attraction here this week with their pantomime, *Dick Whittington*. Miss Lily Jackson fills the title-rôle in good style; a capital Alice is found in Miss Emmie

is appreciated; and the Two Butterflies, clever juvenile gymnasts, come in for rounds of applause. Will H. Fox, "Paddywhisk," is as popular as ever; Nina Martino (La Grande Chanteuse) is deservedly popular; and Ryan and Hall, in an acrobatic act, are accorded warm recognition. The Three Fortunes, in a novelty comedy act, are entertaining; Swan and Bambard, America's Premier Knockabouts, keep the house in roars; and the Bioscope, showing some interesting suburbanite and other films, complete the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—*Rogues of the Turf* has received a warm welcome here this week. Mr. John F. Preston, as Joe Flaxman, gains great applause for his able performance of the old trainer. Captain Dudley Clifton and Moses Solomons are ably represented by Mr. Hamilton Deane and Mr. H. H. Rignold; Mr. Hardy Macro is an efficient Sir Gerald Heathcote; Mr. Ernest R. Allen plays well as Arthur Somerton; Mr. Chas. Jackson as Mr. Peter Dawson is a typical family lawyer; Mr. Alfred Wade scores as the fashionable jockey, Steve Burton; Mr. A. Hartley as Jem Strongarm, Mr. A. Hamilton as Rogers, Mr. Stanley May as Dr. Maitland, and Mr. A. Newman as Williams, all give effective assistance. Mr. Harry Benson, as Sam Flaxman, furnishes plenty of fun, with the able assistance of Miss Mabelle F. Barlow as Phillis Warzell. Miss Maude Stewart Drewry, as Nellie Flaxman, gives a pleasing rendering of the trainer's daughter; and Miss Hilda Shirley submits a rendering of the villainous Lady Heathcote that has the merit of not being overdone.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Robert Barton.—The programme presented this week includes the Three Schaffers, the clever equilibrists; Miss Florence Watson, Irish soprano; Mdlle. Alençon, lady magician; Stevens and Stevens (Ernest and Lily), in a mixture of dancing, singing, and acrobatism; Kahn and Kahn, necromancers; Frank Boyce, comedian; Professor Dunning, ventriloquist; Charles Osborne, comedian; and Charlie Deane, comedian.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee. — Mr. Frank Bertram's company, with *The Convict's Daughter*, is the attraction here this week. As Michael Graham, Mr. J. W. Wilkinson deserves great praise for his admirable representation of the character, and Mr. G. Moreton-Williams appears with distinction as Jasper Thorn. Mr. J. K. Walton gives a capital impersonation of Frederick Neville; Mr. Adrian Lovett presents a clever rendering of Harold Trevalyen; and Mr. Alfred Terris causes hearty laughter as Patrick O'Laragan. Miss Nellie Clyde displays much ability as Edith; Miss Grace Harlington does well as Betty Hyne; and Miss Maud Osmond makes the most of Marion Thorn.

NEW CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—The Fred Cullane Trio, in their vocal comedy act, *The Ladies' School*, top the bill here, and are received with much favour. The Franklin troupe of Russian vocalists and dancers are very entertaining; and Messrs. Gaertner and Weston, Continental grotesques, are amusing. Mr. T. B. Talbot, dialect comedian, gets a good reception; and Miss Carrie Leslie, vocalist; the Two Hanlons, musicians; Messrs. Gold and Sterling, musical comedy artistes; and the Bio-photoscope also meet with much favour.

NORTHWICH. — CENTRAL THEATRE. — Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Manager, Mr. Percy Webb.—On Wednesday night last Mr. Percy Webb took his first annual benefit, when a large audience assembled to testify their appreciation of the beneficiaire. The Northwich Amateur Dramatic Society (including their orchestra), and Mr. J. Foulkes, of Chester and North Wales Concerts, were responsible for the evening's entertainment. At the close of the performance Mr. Webb came forward and thanked the proprietress for her continued kindness, the several artistes for their help, and the audience for their patronage.

NORWICH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Godfrey Lamplugh's company in the musical comedy, *Miss Mischief*, opened here on Monday. Mr. P. E. Conover, as Private Harris, created much fun. Mr. Cecil Curtis was in excellent voice, and sang well as Capt. Jack Bethune. Mr. Frederic Mantell was good as Lord Percy FitzSherry; whilst Mr. Arthur Jenner as Admiral Sir H. Bethune, Mr. Beresford Lovell as Hiram Q. Pegg, Mr. H. Ellesmere as Count von Hemmelblau, and Mr. R. P. Plows as Jules, ably filled their respective parts. Miss Isa Bowman was charming in her acting, singing, and dancing, and was several times recalled. Miss Cissie Francis became a favourite as Mary Anne Smith; whilst Miss Roza Richenberg as Graf von Gruber, Miss Ida Campiona as Frau Schmults, Miss Eileen Guilbert as Lady Orrery, and Miss Madge Brander as Furst von Ahrensheimer, gracefully filled their respective rôles. The chorus and band were most ably led by Mr. Spencer Dickenson, and the scenery and dresses were admirable.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. F. W. Fitt.—Staig's original motor sensation, "Looping the Aërial Circle," heads the bill, and creates a great sensation. Sadie Seymour, comedienne, a favourite here, was billed to appear, but disappointed, owing to indisposition. Hazel Burt appeared, and her singing was much appreciated. The Bros. Zampah, one-legged marvels, did some extraordinary jumping; Charles Coverdale is an amusing comedian; George Dardini, assisted by his black satellite, is an amusing juggler. Billy Hobbs scores as a coon comedian and dancer; Bromley and Fontein are entertaining as operatic humourists; whilst Rivington and Gordyn are very good in their comedy duologue, "He, She, and It." The Four Cliftons are marvellously clever in their herculean feats; and the Bioscope exhibits some amusing pictures.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—The visits of Mr. and Mrs. Kendal with a répertoire of plays gives a greatly appreciated opportunity of again witnessing these gifted artistes and their capable company. On Monday *The Elder Miss Blossom* was presented, and on Tuesday they were seen for the first time here in *The Housekeeper*. This delightful play was received with the utmost enthusiasm, and the curtain was raised again and again in response to repeated recalls. In the part of Colonel Trent, Mr. Kendal has a rôle that fits him perfectly, and his embodiment was a triumph from first to last. Mrs. Kendal's performance of Lady Audrey was, as might be expected, a perfect piece of stage work. Mr. Bassett Roe played Lord Runswick with a sincerity that gained warm approval; Mr. Ernest Hendrie was perfectly natural as Hickson; and the Subaltern had a tactful exponent in Mr. R. Sheldrick. Miss Elsie Clarens gave a quaint sketch of the designing widow, Mrs. Rillington; and Mrs. A. B. Tapping supplied a capital impersonation of the good-natured Lady Robertson.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—*A Victim of Villainy* is a stirring drama, and the audience of Monday received it with loud acclamations. Mr. Walter Howe, the author of the play, gives a fine delineation of his hero, Frank Manton, whose clever invention of a submarine forms the groundwork for all the villainous schemes and plotting of Stephen Cavanagh, a part played with great force by Mr. C. E. Wilton. Miss Rosa Lehmann invests Mary Manton with becoming grace and pathetic tenderness. A spirited rendering of Alice Cavanagh is given by Miss Muriel Dean; and Miss Adela Harvey makes a pleasant and winsome Norah Maloney. The bibulous character of Maria Blobbsy receives full justice from Miss Blanche Nicholls, and a fund of good amusement is provided by Miss Marjorie Carroll (Vera Diamond), Mr. Chris. Mason (Tommy Leckey), and Mr. George Mallin (Patrick Maloney.)

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. W. Bull. A canital company has been organised by Mr. Julian Malvern, under the direction of Mr. C. M. Malvern, to present the interesting drama, *I Defy the World*. Mr. Roy Fortescue brings his wide experience to bear on the part of Leon Darville, whose many troubles are shown with earnestness and feeling. The sinister character of Count de Beaulion has a strong exponent in Mr. Richard Vane; Mr. Alfred Donning is a capable interpreter of the staid old soldier, General Delaporte; Mr. Charles Conway adds his share to the nefarious designs of the Count; and Mr. H. Creagh Hunt satisfactorily impersonates André. Miss Maud Malvern puts all she knows into the part of Blanche Darville, a faithless wife; and Miss Trixie St. Albans acts with tender devotion as Pauline Delaporte. The humorous element is capitally sustained by Miss Lillah Shelton and Messrs. Chas. M. Julian and Harry Emerson.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker.—The quaint sayings and humorous songs of Cruikshank's are always a source of pleasure to patrons here, and his appearance this week has been most welcome. Hale and Frances are marvellous manipulators of the hoops, and the clever balancing feat of Francis on a large globe evoked a storm of applause. The Norman and Leonard Trio provide a musical treat, their performance on harp and violin being exceptionally clever. Another musical item is that of the Five M.I's, a quintette of vocalists, whose songs and glees arouse the utmost enthusiasm. A skilful and interesting acrobatic turn is given by the Three Donals; Miss Nellie Lomas, a young Nottingham artiste, adds to her former successes with the song, "Farewell, my little Yo San"; and Basalari, of double voice fame, wins golden opinions. Ryder Slone's latest scena, *Are 'Yer Asleep*, is given with his usual success. Frank Leslie, descriptive vocalist, and the Kieffer Company, in a pantomimic sketch, close an excellent programme.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. J. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Miss Dorothy Oswald's company, with the musical version of *East Lynne*, is drawing good houses. Mr. Herbert Barrs gives a careful study of Archibald Carlyle, and as Lady Isabel Miss Dorothy Oswald is exceptionally impressive. Mr. Arthur E. Pringle is well suited in the cynical part of Francis Levison. Miss Tilly Stewart sings and acts well in the part of Barbara; Miss Maggie Stewart as Joyce is a favourite, and gives her songs and dances in good style. Others deserving mention are Mr. George Beel, Mr. Geo. Harvie, and Miss Norah Caronne.

PUBLIC HALL.—Professor Wood is here for six nights, and is attracting good audiences with his musical and pictorial entertainments.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hulme.—*The Blanchard Diamonds* is being played here by Mr. John Hart's company. Mr. Albert Ward as Nat Stearn, acts his part with a manliness that is cordially appreciated; Mr. Benson North, as Richard Croal, gives a clever interpretation of the villain; Mr. Walter Russell is pleasing as the old Baronet; Mr. Edmund F. Kennedy, as Erie Blanchard, is commendable; Mr. Edward Rochelle, as Joe Tregellis, supplies an excellent portrayal of the fisherman; Miss Maud Hildyard, as Ruth Tregellis, contributes a powerful performance; as May Sherringham Miss May Congdon is successful; Miss Julia Kennard, as Lady Blanchard, is effective; Mr. Joe Rowland as Farmer Gummidge; Mr. Jos. Hudson as Jerry Bickerdyke; Miss Nellie Dallas as Phœbe, and Mrs. Richard Edgar as Mrs. Gossett, are admirable in their respective parts.

ROYAL, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. Ernest Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Knowles.—Another excellent programme is submitted here. Miss Lillie Soutter, comedienne, is delightfully entertaining; Jack Lane, the Yorkshire rustic, is clever; Maxwell and Frances, comedy artistes, are successful; Tom Stuart, character actor, is well received; Sanford and Lyons, comedians, are warmly appreciated; Baroni and Kemp, Protean artistes, are cordially received; Walter Munroe, Irish comedian, is warmly greeted; Dezmonti and Mora score in their triple bar act; and Florence Esdaile is a charming operatic vocalist.

GAIETY, LIMITED.—Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—A popular programme is presented here this week, including the Four M.P.'s., who are well received in their musical speciality, entitled *Officers at Play*. Angeline gives a capital juggling performance; Alec. Aubrey is well received for his silver ring performance; Frank Zara, American comedian, scores; Mdlle. De Vena gives a capital performance of club juggling; Miss Daisy Palmer, serio and dancer, is smart; Miss Katie Epieta, comedienne and dancer, is excellent; and the Bioscope continues to be successful.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—We are having a delightful treat here this week in the visit of Mr. Charles E. Hamilton's company in *Peggy Machree*. Miss Marie Dainton, in the title-rôle, plays with a fascination and a roguish humour that simply bewitch her audience. Mr. Denis O'Sullivan scores a complete success as the light-hearted Barry Trevor; Miss Dorothy Garden makes a charming Emily; Miss Jenny Dawson is altogether perfect as the Aunt, and Miss Florence Vie does well as Moira. Mr. Graeme Campbell hits off the dour Scotch major domo to the life; Mr. E. Lang gives a successful study of Laurence Borthwick; and Mr. Dan Fitzgerald makes a most interesting and effective Michael. Miss Ida Lawrence contributes some pretty dances.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Albany Ward; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. G. P. Wells.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clifford's company is fulfilling an engagement here with *At Twelve Midnight*. Mr. Charles Clifford presents a good character study of the villain, Sir Robert Dare, whose accomplice, the Earwig, finds a capable exponent in Mr. E. T. Birdsley. Mr. Leonard Williams is manly as Dick Holland, and Mr. E. Morton is seen to advantage as Lieut. David Kingston. Mr. Harry Cooke is lively as Sammy Bimbo; Mr. T. Dyson makes the most of Miser Dene; Miss Maud Camfield is a sympathetic Hazel Dene; Miss M. Tremere a vivacious Sally Wigans, and Miss F. French a stately and convincing Gertrude.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—For the first three nights of the week Mr. W. H. Powell's company occupied the boards with *There and Back*. Mr. Edwin Ramsdale was irresistibly funny as Henry Lewson; Mr. Victor Hill's William Waring was a capital portrayal; Mr Wilson Roberts was admirable as Jack McRae; and a fine embodiment of Guy Grinding was submitted by Mr. Frank Wheatcroft. Miss Gwendoline Burney impersonated Mrs. Lewson charmingly; as Mrs. Waring Miss Blanka Stewart was exceedingly smart; and Miss Ada Broughton gave a captivating presentmentof Marion Antoinette Smith. For the remainder of the week Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's *Cousin Kate* company was billed.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—Here this week are Tom Bassett, Shakespearean tragedian; Sheen, Fox, and Sheen, comedians, comedy boxers, and knockabouts; Vance Bros., comedy instrumentalists; Sisters Brand, comediennes and dancers; Tom Packer, comedian; Brothers Brooks, in a comedy act; and the Boston Twins, comedians and knockabouts. The Empire cinematograph gives new pictures.

PENTRE. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Eugene Hardie.—Mr. John H. Tomkinson's musical combination, *The Royal Gipsy Children*, is paying a welcome visit this week. The choruses, duets, solos, are smart, and the various dances are cleverly executed. The variety programme consists of Elsie Rubina; the Florida Troupe of cake walk dancers; Fred. McLean, the popular character comedian; the Musical Keiths, the clever manipulators of various instruments; Miss Evie Lynn, the charming skirt dancer; and the Lizzette Troupe of acrobats and tumblers. The Girls' Orchestra contributes largely to the success of a refined entertainment.

PERTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Miss Emma Hutchinson's and Mr. Percy Hutchinson's principal company was engaged here the first half of the week in the comedy, *Cousin Kate*. Miss Edith Walker acts the part of Kate Curtis with force and vivacity; and Mr. Walter Ringham is equally characteristic in the rôle of Heath Desmond; Mr. Donald MacLean scores as the Rev. James Bartlett; Master Vyvian Thomas proves a self-important Bobby Spencer; Miss Nina Cressy hits off Mrs. Spencer with admirable taste; Miss Hilda Honiss is well placed in Amy Spencer; and Miss Betty Spencer also scores. *A Case for Eviction* is given as a curtain raiser, in which Mr. Donald MacLean and Misses Betty Castle and Hilda Honiss, as Frank, a young doctor, Dora, his wife, and Mary, a servant, respectively, ably take part. Mr. W. H. Powell's company in Charles Hawtrey's latest success, *There and Back*, was booked for the latter half of the week.

PETERBOROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—*A Country Girl* is being attractively presented here this week by Mr. Charles Macdona's company. Miss Anna Robertson cleverly assumes the broad countrified manner of Nan, and also sings in good style; Miss Daisy Davis distinguishes herself as Marjorie; Miss Lucie Lever scores as the Princess; and Miss Sadie Neville meets with approval for her bright and lively performance as Madame Sophie. Barry is acted with irrepressible buoyancy and humour by Mr. Richard Telford; Mr. Bernard Vaughan is good as the Rajah; Mr. Geoffrey Chaloner is well represented by Mr. Herbert Standing, jun.; and Mr. W. O. Billington as Sir Joseph Brity and Mr. M. Ravin as Lord Ancheeter, also appear to advantage.

PLYMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*The Cardinal* is being staged here this week by Mrs. Russ Whytal's company. To Mr. Philip Cunningham falls the important task of representing the Cardinal, and it is a most impressive study, abounding in good qualities; Mrs. Russ Whytal is admirable as Filiberta, acting with much intelligence and power; Mr. Gerald Kay-Souter is an ideal Guiliano de Medici, and as Chigi Mr. Oscar Adye is a success. Mr. Douglas Gordon achieves good results as Strozzi, whilst Mr. George Ingleton is a dignified magistrate. Miss Katherine Maude's artistic impersonation of the Cardinal's mother elicits warm admiration.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is appearing here this week in *Her Forbidden Marriage*, which is proving a strong attraction. Miss Isla Garnet Vayne acts with much grace and charm the part of Lucy, Miss Barbara Gott's impersonation of the Mother Superior is striking, and Miss Georgette Thierry's portrayal of Lady Lancaster is a clever study. An artistic and skilful presentation of George Madison is forthcoming from Mr. Horace Hunter, whilst Mr. Clarence Hague plays in commendable fashion the character of the villain. Mr. Alfred Wellesley and Miss Marie Kildare provide a feast of fun, and other parts are well sustained by Mr. J. Stone, Mr. Edgar L. Hocking, Mr. G. Heron, and Mr. W. Browning.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton.—A very interesting play, which naturally nowadays attracts the play-going public, is Mr. Walter Howard's play, *Under the Russian Flag*, now being performed here by Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company. Conspicuous in a strong cast are Mr. Alfred Paumier and Miss Annie Saker, who fill important rôles with conspicuous success, both reaching a high standard of excellence in the emotional scenes. Others deserving of praise are Miss Ivy Chandos, Miss Queenie Nigel; Messrs. H. Roberts, W. S. Hardy, F. H. Constable, E. Lever, W. Parkin, R. C. Haws, H. Garner, and E. Lambert.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Manager, Mr. J. Field.—A capital show is attracting fine houses here this week. The star turn, and certainly the most sensational, is that provided by the Tom Davis Trio, whose daring cycle feats are both clever and wonderful. Skilful displays on the tight wire, acrobatic exhibitions, and musical items are included in the show provided by the Five Whiteleys; Mr. Harry Bedford's funny songs and patter are well received, and Miss Belle Braham's vocalism is also much appreciated. Forest and King dance and tumble very smartly indeed; Mr. Nelson Hardy's ventriloquial sketch is entertaining, and sprightly dancing and singing are provided by the Sisters Clive.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Business-Manager, Mr. Rex. Dooley.—On Monday, and two following days, Mr. Bedford staged *Mafeking* at this theatre. Colonel Playden Howell was admirably portrayed by Mr. Henry Bedford; Mr. Sid Bedford put any amount of go into the character of Tommy Atkins; Mr. Alec Alexander was a typical captain; Lieutenant Cecil Rayne was in the able hands of Mr. T. Edward Evans; Mr. G. W. Hewetson scored as Pat; Mr. Leonard Page was a decided success as Sandy McPherson; John Jones was capably portrayed by Mr. T. R. Walters; Mis Bessie Bedford is worthy of high praise as Alice Leigh; Miss Gertrude Gilbert was an admirable Lady Muriel Denbigh; Miss Maud Steeple was a great success as Sister Ursula; and Annette was excellently portrayed by Miss Jennie Risley.

PORTSMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Messrs. Charles Frohman and Arthur Chudleigh's company is here, presenting the agreeable farcical romance, *The Duke of Killicrankie*. Mr. Scott Craven in the title-rôle gives a clever interpretation; Mr. Arthur Grenville is a most amusing and humorous Pitt Welby, M.P. Lady Henrietta Addison is played in a winning and natural manner by Miss Doris Templeton; Miss Aida Jenoure as Mrs. Mulhollard does full justice to the part; and Miss Margaret Damer is a dignified Countess of Pangbourne. The chief piece is proceeded by *Barbara*, with Miss Margaret Damer in the name-part.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—The sensational melodrama, *Hearts Adrift*, is being successfully presented here this week by Mr. Arthur Bertram's company. Mr. Julian cross plays with intense earnestness the part of Captain Teddy, a man with a past; Edmund Gerne, promoter and inventor, is admirably acted by Mr. Percy Rhodes; Pidgeon, in the hands of Mr. J. P. Dryden, leaves nothing to be desired; Little Tim is cleverly rendered by Harry Pleon, jun. Miss Celestine Bertram interprets Rosie very naturally; Miss Ella Dixon as Peggy McGuire, Miss Beatrix Bell as Energy Mugs, and Miss Maud Chery as Mother Hagslow are all satisfactory.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—A most attractive programme is provided at this hall for the week. Carrie Laurie and her Juveniles, in the *Kindergarten*, meet with a flattering reception; May Moodie, piccolo soloist, is a popular and pleasing item; Fred. Albini, prestidigitateur, presents his mysterious Lady in Black, a most diverting turn; Doody and Wright, the Australian comiques, create roars of merriment by their business; Fred Spencer, pantomime dame, is good; Francisco, equilibrist, with some new tricks, is clever; Spring, Spring, and Rosie Carlo, champion acrobatic barrel jumpers, give a capital display of balancing and jumping; and Lanton and Lane, speciality artistes, Alec Kennedy, actor vocalist, and Amy Clack, Indian songstress, also appear.

PRESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. George Dance's principal company, in *The Orchid*, provides a welcome attraction here this week. Miss Ethel Bryant is a dainty Lady Violet Anstruther. In the rôle of Caroline Vokins Miss Madge Lucas gives a clever and amusing impersonation. Miss Elsa Werner as Zelie Rumbert, Miss Chrissie Ralland as Thisbe, and Miss Ida Chichester as Countess Anstruther are good in their respective parts; and a pleasing embodiment of Josephine Zaccary is submitted by Miss Sylvia de Lacy. Mr. G. Davy Burnaby infuses the necessary sangfroid into his delineation of Guy Scrymgeour; Dr. Fausset has an excellent representative in Mr. Edmund Hollick; Mr. Ernest Darrell acquits himself well as Mr. Aubrey Chesterton; Mr. Edmund Page is a praiseworthy Count Cassignat; and Mr. Bertie Wright supplies a large share of the fun as Meakin.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's No. 1 company is appearing here in *The Sin of Her Childhood*. The Rev. Alan Grey is ably played by Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves. The villainy of Stephen Haysel is well portrayed by Mr. Austen Milroy. Mr. J. A. Campbell admirably sustains the part of Captain John Thornton. Miss Jennie Hicks is worthy of praise as Maria Haysel. Miss M. Fulton in the rôle of Mary Haysel plays he part excellently. Little Edith makes a good Erick Dugdale. Little Dot Moss, as Hannah Spry, receives deserved applause with his songs and dances. Mr. Fred Elvin, as Barney O'Reilly, and Miss Nellie Freeland as Eliza Muggins render valuable assistance.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident-Manager, Mr. Clement Freeman.—A very enjoyable programme is provided here this week. Miss Madge Grey heads the bill, and is well appreciated as a dialect comedienne. Lachie Thompson's Topweights (Tom and Neil) deserve praise for their boxing, wrestling, and club swinging. Miss Ema Don and her black and white quartette of vocalists, bring the house down with a series of songs. Mr. Guy Ryder, the whistling comedian, is a clever turn. Clown Barker and his troupe of well-trained animals go through a good performance. Geoffreys and Benson provide a mirth-provoking sketch, entitled *A Little Bit of Bacon*. Mr. Harry Maxam is worthy of mention. Mr. Tom Skeers, vocalist, and Amstel and Luie, comedy artistes and dancers, complete the programme.

RAMSGATE.—AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—The Russian play, *Slaves of Passion*, has been presented here this week by Mr. Vivian Grantham's company. Mr. V. W. Carlyle gives a capital performance as Ivan Dronski, the sculptor, and the same remark applies to the Paul du Beaupre of Mr. Alfred H. Majilton and the Sir John Hawthorne of Mr. Vivian Grantham. The villainous element is efficiently represented by Mr. H. F. Maltby as Prince Mazaroff, and Mr. Tommy Nelson does capitally as Harry Dunn. As the French adventuress, Leoni Devigne, Miss Joan Pereira acts with power; Miss Kate Hallam is quite at home in the rôle of Princess Sonia de Mazaroff, as is Miss Maude Henderson in the part of the Baroness Valinski. Lisette is played in excellent fashion by Miss Maude Merrick. As for the leading lady's part, Zara Dronski, that is impersonated in a truly artistic style by Miss Constance Medwyn.

RAWTENSTALL. — GRAND THEATRE.—Co-Proprietors and Lessees, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Ellis Miller.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company opened here on Monday with a successful performance of *Greed of Gold*, the play being received with marked appreciation. Miss Agnes Verity gave a fine rendering; as also did Miss Hettie Woods as Cecil her son. As Harry Hood, Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh made an excellent villain. Mr. W. Heilbronn as Arthur Errol gave a fine manly impersonation; as also did Mr. T. S. Warry as Brightson, K.C. Mr. Walter M. Cameron as Cull Snig was excellent, and the comic element was well sustained by Mr. Joseph Macgoath and Miss Winnie Donovan as Con Creamer and Patty Mayfield. The chief interest was, however, centred in Mr. B. Fox as Tom Wolstead, the dumb man, whose pantomimic rendering of his part was exceedingly good.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett; Secretary, Mr. Reginald Taylor.—Mr. Norman Macowan's company is providing a special attraction this week in *Monsieur Beaucaire*. Mr. Norman Macowan gives a fine impersonation of the title-rôle. Mr. F. Stuart Willson as the Duke of Winterset, Mr. H. P. Owen as Major Molyneaux, Mr. P. Ramsey Forman as Captain Badger, Mr. Wilfrid Compton as Beau Nash, Mr. Edgar Kent as Mr. Bantison, and Mr. Hans Schlesinger as the Marquis of Mirepoix are all worthy of special mention. Miss Violet Sterne acts very effectively as Lady Mary Carlisle.

ROCHDALE.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—An excellent performance of the charming play, *Sunday*, was given on Monday. The title-rôle was delightfully acted by Miss Jean Sterling MacKinlay, Colonel Brinthorpe was powerfully impersonated by Mr. J. Edward Pearce, Mr. Ernest A. Douglas made a capital Tom Oxley, and the four boys were well portrayed by Mr. F. Powell as Towzer, Mr. John H. Manley as Davy, Mr. T. Norman Walter as Lively, and Mr. Whitford Kane as Jacky. Mrs. Elizabeth Watson submitted a clever portrayal of Mrs. Naresby.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—A most attractive programme is submitted here this week. The Goldinis, acrobatic carpet spinners, introduce a novel and clever act; Mike Cray is an irresistibly funny comic juggler; Lil Gorman, vocalist; Willette Bros., comedy pair; Reed and Lerne, novelty comedians; Agnese and Arthur Lynch in American picture songs; Charles Woodward, actor vocalist, and Vernon's Bioscope are other attractions.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Packed houses have been the rule here every night. The Seven Savonas, musical marvels, give an astonishing and marvellous display of music and effects, the "storm scene" from *William Tell* being admirably performed. They also appear as the Cycling Elliotts in a clever exhibition of cycling. Other turns are successfully given by Patty Yole, comedienne; Fred Horsfall, mimic and humorist; Cassie Walmer, the dusky Princess, a great favourite here; Victor Newman, actor mimic; Ralston and Frances, in musical scena, and the Empire Bioscope.

ROTHERHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Manning.—Mr. John Wainwright and company are here this week with the ever-green drama, *It's Never Too Late to Mend*. Mr. John Wainwright delights the house as Tom Robinson, and Mr. Wilfred Graham is a manly George Fielding; Mr. Charles F. Johnson as Rev. Francis Eden is a typical muscular Christian, and Mr. Henry Lee scores as Peter Crawley; Mr. Edwin Davis is seen to advantage as Isaac Levi, and Mr. Charles Carlton is deserving of mention as William Fielding; Mr. W. R. Weldon is a bluff Mr. Merton, and Mr. Fred Owen is amusing as Jackey. Miss M. Ashton is pleasing as Mary, and Miss Minnie Wilton gives capital portrayal of Josephs. Miss Kate Randolph as Susan Merton submits a realistic rendition of a sympathetic rôle.

RUNCORN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. H. W. Caddick.—*The Gipsy's Oath* and *East Lynne* are being played here this week, under the direction of Mr. Wilfrid Protheroe. The company works hard, and was rewarded by a packed house on Monday night. Both pieces were well put on. Mr. Wilfred Protheroe, Mr. Holland Day, and Mr. G. Newall especially met with favour, as did also Miss Marie Stoddart and Miss Eva Warren, and Miss Hilda Merrilees was admirable as Barbara, her reading being far above the usual. The minor parts and the comedy scenes met with entire satisfaction.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy evidently seems to be a great favourite here, as his appearance in the title-rôle of *Dan the Rake* was fully welcomed by a large audience on Monday. He and Miss Lilian Clare, as Madge, kept the house in roars with their Irish drolleries. Miss Ada Roscoe did full justice to the character of Mrs. Donelly; Mr. Frank Copeland as Lieut. Charles Kavanagh, and Miss Florence Halton as Helen, were successful. The traitorous Captain Tom Cooper was well placed in the hands of Mr. Frederick Biron; and Mr. Frank Orchard worked well as Colonel Flamer.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Frederick Yates.—A good bill is this week headed by Martin Conway, an amusing comedian, who is a favourite in this locality. A clever comedy sketch, *Turning the Tables*, is contributed by Brady and Johnson. A good strong show is given by the Three Seebornes, equilibrists; Oakley and James have an amusing sketch, introducing singing, juggling, and acrobatic feats; some clever concertina work is done by Concerto; and other good turns include George Helm and Emmie Cozens, in *The Doctor and the Patient;* Rosie Newport, serio; and Davie McNeil, versatile vocalist.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. J. B. Taylor.—There is much variety in the entertainment provided this week. A pleasing act, entitled *The Magic Album*, represents picture postcards; Wee Mona, a clever artiste, is exceptionally good; Marie Winsome, male impersonator, scores heavily; the novel musical act of Clown Charlton is highly appreciated; Lavers and Lake's comedy company is seen to advantage in the screaming absurdity, *The Spectre of Mildew Chase;* and other acceptable turns include the Three Clarions, comedy artistes and expert dancers; J. Wilson, bones and glass soloist; Sisters Neilson, duettists and expert dancers; and Frank Dunlop, comedian and story teller.

L. AND N.W. PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. A. Higham; Manager, Mr. Sam Higham.—Among the artistes here this week are Mr. Charley Murray, Irish comedian; Mr. Joe Hunt, comedian; and Miss Lizzie Round, serio and male impersonator.

BRIDGE HOTEL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Tom Bradbury.—Mr. Sam Ridgway, comedian, heads the bill this week, and an enjoyable entertainment includes Mr. Harry Hanson, comedian, and Mr. Tom Gaffney, tenor vocalist.

SCARBOROUGH. — PEOPLE'S PALACE AND AQUARIUM.—Managing-Dirtector, Mr. W. Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—The programme this week consists of a variety entertainment. Le Wist's vaudeville company affords much amusement; Henry Reno proves a smart conjurer; Nellie Stuart, serio and dancer, evokes a good reception; Witty Will Pearce is a good comedian; the Five Rhynes, musical comedians and dancers, are fully appreciated; Betts' performing fox terriers do some clever tricks; and Fred Lawrence, American versatile artiste, and the Herbal Queen help to make the entertainment most enjoyable. Bioscope views are also exhibited.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kierman.—Messrs. Gerald Alexander and Galway Herbert's company is here this week in *Facing the Music*. Mr. Ernest Cossart is screamingly funny as John Smith; Mr. George Percy is equally successful as the Rev. John Smith, and Mr. Charles Fancourt, as Dick Desmond, and Mr. Gerald Alexander, as Colonel Duncan Smith, are quite successful in their respective rôles. Miss Katherine Parry is excellent as Mabel, and Miss Eve Erskine does well as Nora; Miss Dolly Beaufey gives an excellent rendering of Miss Fotheringay, and Miss Rose Carew is satisfactory as Mrs. Ponting. The piece is preceded each evening by *My Lady Help*

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—A week of pantomime has again been arranged for the patrons of this house, and on Monday *The Babes in the Wood* was presented by Madame Willoughby's company. The artistes of outstanding merit are Miss Pattie Fairley, a dashing Robin Hood, Miss Eva Frere, a pleasing Maid Marion, Misses Violet and Daisy Mottley, charming Babes; Miss Violet Robson, a fairy queen with a capital voice; Mr. Gilbert Payne, a ruffian with a fund of humour; Mr. Alf. Foy, a capable dame; and Mr. Geo. Bankes, an admirable Uncle; whilst the minor parts are carefully played. Pretty dresses and effective scenery are

undeniable success; the McKays patter smartly, and wind up a clever turn with a lightning sketch; Lydia Dreams wins golden opinions for his clever sketch, *The Last Call*; Los Granadas excel as gymnasts and acrobats; and the Olive Trio, comediennes and dancers, prosper well. Others who contribute to the success of the programme are Rosie Bartlett; Chris Baker, and Fielding and Hull.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA. — EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Marlow, sen.; Manager, W. Marlow, jun.—Mr. Percy D. Standing's company commenced a three nights' engagement on Monday with *The New Boy*. Mr. Percy D. Standing ably acquits himself as Felix Roach; Mr. William Allison, as Archibald Rennick, or "the new boy," displays considerable talent; Mr. C. W. Standing is well suited as Dr. Candy, LL.D.; Mr. R. J. Danson makes an amusing Theodore de Brizac; Mrs. Rennick finds an able exponent in Miss Phyllis Manners; and Miss Joan Ellis is a most captivating and characteristic Nancy Roach. The one-act play, entitled *At Evensong*, precedes. *His Excellency the Governor* was presented on Thursday.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—General-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hemming.—Mr. Leigh Lovel's company is this week presenting for the first time here Captain Marshall's farcical romance. *The Duke of Killicrankie*, which was much appreciated. Miss Octavia Kenmore played the rôle of Lady Henrietta Addison with artistic charm, and with a fine appreciation of the requirements of the part; Mr. Leigh Lovel submitted a successful interpretation of Henry Pitt Welby; Mr. Herbert J. Bentley gave a highly creditable representation of the Duke; and the minor parts were all well sustained.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. J. and F. Coulson.—*The Belle of New York* is paying a third visit here this week. The Ben Greet company includes Mr. Harry A. Meymott, an immensely droll Ichabod Bronson; Mr. Harold Wardroper, who successfully portrays Harry Bronson, lending excellent assistance to the Fifi, this latter part having an admirable and talented exponent in Miss Ada Elliston. Miss Mora Hersee, in the title-rôle, possesses a sweet voice. The idioscyncrasies of Karl Von Pumpernick are made sufficiently palpable by Mr. Walter Emro; Blinky Bill has a painstaking representative in Mr. Morrice Holmes; and Miss Florence Hersee is a bright Mamie Clancy. Miss Louie Codman is an acceptable Cora Angelique; and Mr. Colin M. Johnston handles well the part of Doc Snifkins, being capably supported by Mr. Bert Danson, a ludicrous Mugg; and Messrs. Lionel Yeoman and R. L. Cody as the Portuguese twins respectively. Miss Nellie Barnwell tastefully renders the coon song, "Ma Starlight Queen." The chorus and full orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. Ernest Hartmann, are praiseworthy.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—The vocalisation of the James Strolling Players affords enjoyment; Harland and Rollison, in a clever musical act, are thoroughly entitled to the good position they occupy in the bill; W. J. Ashcroft, the original solid man, figures advantageously in a sketch, entitled *Jane Ann O'Hoolahan*; the Knick-Knacks, in love duets and tricky dances, are pleasing; Harry Morgan, a negro comedian and dancer, is conspicuous; Geo. Ridgewell possesses a rich baritone voice, which is skilfully used; and the remaining items are Flora Leonard, a good ballad vocalist; Katie Butler, comedienne; Sisters Morgan, duettists and dancers; and the American Bioscope.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors and Managers, Councillor J. K. Hall and Mr. Jos. Sweeney.—Maggie Rimmer, who appeared so successfully here last week, is retained, her dainty dancing and singing being again the feature of the programme. The Novells hold the premier position, and their smart acrobatic and tumbling performance merits loud applause. Good gymnasts are the Three Dorians, and Lily Turner is a fascinating serio and descriptive vocalist. Others turns are ably submitted by Chas. Craston, Bennett and Martell, T. B. Fayme, and the Tivoli Bioscope.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—Messrs. Carson and Granville's company is appearing in a return visit of *The Heart of a Hero*. Mr. Fred A. Goddard displays genuinely artistic abilities in the arduous rôle of Jem Resdale, whilst as a foil, Mr. Chas. E. Johnson's callous and malignant demeanour as Wilfred Marl was certainly a success. Miss Cissie St. Elmo gave a sound impersonation of Nell Resdale, and nothing could be more appropriate than Miss Lily Langley's finished portrayal of May Ryder. As Jack Collinson Mr. G. Sutherland did some good work; as Mark Marl Mr. A. B. Mackay was successful; and Mr. Eric Forth displayed skill and discrimination as Dave Pritchard. Laughable comedy was supplied by Mr. Hugh Brady as Timothy Heighno; and Miss Ida Mackay assisted very cleverly and vivaciously as Susie Slacke. In the rôle of Mrs. Ryder Miss Beatrice Hudson was seen to advantage.

STAINES.—TOWN HALL.—Inez Howard's company (under the direction of Henry Chattel), in *The 10.30 Down Express*, visited Staines on Tuesday. The well-known sensational drama was well played by a capable company, and the striking scene from which the piece takes its name was very effectively worked. Miss Eva Trevenna was excellent as Bessie Leigh, the heroine, and Mr. Wilson Summers as Lieut. O'Malley gave a manly representation of the part. Mr. George Arthur made a sufficiently sinister villain. The disowned wife, Olive Coombes, was capitally played by Miss Nora Evelyn, whose make-up was striking. As Sam Wagstaffe, A.B., Mr. Harry Howe has a rich comedy part, of which he makes the most, and, supported by Miss Lillian Ramsdale as Peggy Potts, and Mr. J. O. Depone as Bletherby Bags, keeps the house amused.

STALYBRIDGE.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Leighton Rooke.—Mr. J. Gar. Kiddie, and his *Little Bo-Peep* pantomime company, are paying a visit here. Miss Lizzie Payne is happy in the title-rôle; Miss Nora Beverley has a fine presence, and sings melodiously as the Fairy Moonbeam; Mr. Kiddie causes much amusement as Tommy Long; and Mr. J. W. Groves, as Granny Brown is capital. The specialities comprise grand tableaux of living statuary, ballet of white china, the Milsted Quartette, the Solon Trio, the Hammersley Ballet Troupe of lady dancers.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—This week we are again favoured with a visit from Mr. W. H. Hallatt and company with a visit from Mr. *Two Little Sailor Boys*. The company is an excellent one, including, as it does, Messrs. W. H. Hallatt (Tom Yorke), W. H. Sams (Noel Tregarthen), Oscar Power (Jack Jolly), Tom E. Sinclair (Ben Baxter), Ambrose Horton (Royston), Miss May Grey and Miss Ethel F. Greene (the two Sailor Boys), and Misses Blanche Steele (Lola Yorke) and Mabel Scudamore (Mildred Grey). The mounting of the play is exceptionally good.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. T. Barrasford, W. Sley, and F. Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—The leading position here is filled by Fred Karno's troupe of comedians in the musical travesty, *Mumming Birds*, which is provocative of much mirth. Others appearing are the Kimberley Boys, popular comedians; Robins and Collier, eccentrics; Viviana, "the dancing girl;" Frank Cass, Bert Woodward, comedy cyclist; Houston Brothers, comedians and dancers, and Weisker's Bioscope.

ST. LEONARDS.—PIER PAVILION.—Pier-Master and Entertainment Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Mr. Langhorne Burton's company is appearing here in the popular play, *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace*. The piece is well-played. Captain Mowbray is cleverly embodied by Mr. Langhorne Burton; Miss Frances Davie is dainty and charming as Mrs. Gorringe; and in the character of Lieut. David Cairne, Mr. Langdon Bruce quite excels; the Isabel Kirke of Miss Kathleen Russell is a performance of conspicuous ability; Mrs. Jardine is well-played by Miss Viola March; and the old Colonel is naturally personified by Mr. Causland Stewart; Mr. Brember Wills makes a good detective; and Miss Haidee Hemsley does full justice to the part of Vicky.

STOCKPORT. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—*A Country Girl* has been a decided attraction here this week, the performances of Mr. Geo. Dance's company being much admired. Mr. Johnny Osborne is exceedingly mirth-provoking as Barry, and as Geoffrey Challinor, Mr. Cyril Thompson sings and acts with successful results. Miss Maud Harvey as Marjory sings pleasingly, and Miss May Glen is in every way delightful in the character of Nan. Miss Addie Lennard as Madame Sophy, and Miss Nina Carlton as Princess Melaneh, are both highly satisfactory in their respective parts.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietress, Mrs. Weldon Watts; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—The new drama, by Max Goldberg, *The Voice of the People*, is given here by Dan F. Roe and F. B. Woulfe's company. As Barry Phelps Mr. Jos. Monkhouse acts with much dry humour, and his apt quotations keep the house merry; Mr. James Duncan's Rev. Walter Meredith is both clever and vigorous; Mr. Dan F. Roe's Adolphus Green is funny, and Mr. Henry Rutland's Morris Morris life-like. Steve Morris is well played by Mr. W. Howard Barlow; Mr. Tom Fuller's Jem Butterworth is capable, and the same may be said of Mr. Alfred Wade's Captain Goodman. As Maggie Miggs Miss Annie Thomas is funny; Miss Violet Lawson's Mary Maynard is good; and Miss Gertrude Bonser's Liz is a neat conception of the part.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Batty; Manager, Mr. W. Batty.—The chief attraction here is Tom Graves and his cycling sensation. Other clever turns include Fred Harcourt, in his clever conjuring; Lilian Warren, in illustrated songs; Kit Keen, comic; Bertha Winder, an uncommon dancer; Fields and Lewis, in burlesque; Percy Farrimond, the singing collier; the wonderful illusion, "Lilith," and new films by Payne's Bioscope.

STOKE.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—The premier position this week is held by Mons. Hagedorn, in a delightful scenic exhibition. The effects obtained are really beautiful, and the turn is received with much enthusiasm. Casselli and James are clever banjoists, their playing being of a high standard; the Wynford Brothers give a smart exhibition of barrel jumping, &c.; Hicks' Six Clerks sing and dance admirably and are assisted by Little Peter; Ford and Hanson, in their musical turn, are excellent; Dot Stanley sings and dances well; Fred Curran, a singer of parodies, is well received; and Happy Attwood is a comedian of merit.

STOURBRIDGE. — ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—On Monday Mr. Henry Furnival's company opened for a week's engagement with *Lost in Paris*. The leading rôles of the Two Orphans were undertaken with marked ability by Misses Kate Willoughby and Louisa Peach. Miss Pattie Hastings gave an admirable rendition of the part of La Frochard, and Miss Alice Oliver undertook, in a dignified and pleasing manner, the part of the Countess. The principal male characters were in very able hands. Mr. W. J. Butler did well as the Count de Liniere. Mr. Edward Valentine was good as Jacques, and Mr. Henry Furnival was a satisfactory Pierre.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE THEATRE. — Proprietors, The Sunderland Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; General-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and John Walter's successful juvenile pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, is appearing here. Miss Molly Rafferty wins all hearts by her conception of the title-rôle; Miss Lottie Harper is a dashing Boy Blue; and as Little Miss Muffet Miss May Gibson is excellent, her vocal efforts being heartily appreciated. Miss Flo Le Roy is a charming Robin Hood, and the same may be said of Miss Isa Gibson as Marjorie Daw. Mr. Paddy Mills, as Sunny Jim, is responsible for most of the fun, and receives valuable assistance from Mr. Fred Ellis in the rôle of Dame Trot. Messrs. Dan Dougherty and George Swinhoe prove themselves clever knockabouts; and the Sisters Allen and the Margueritta Quartette contribute some charmingly executed dances.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Sunderland Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; General-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—*A Wife's Triumph* is the attraction here this week. Frank Wilton is in the able hands of Mr. G. C. Doughty; and Mr. W. H. Garbois plays with considerable power as Ellis Jordon. Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's portrayal of Robert Dewhurst is a finished performance; Mr. Edwin Keene is amusing as Ben Bradford; Miss Ada Abbott, as Bessie Dewhurst, proves herself an actress of no mean order; and Miss Isabel Singleton is a pleasing Alice Wilton. Miss Elsie Jones is a bright Little Frank, and the remaining parts are all capably filled.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Livermore Bros.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George V. Wybrow.—Margaret Ashton, who is paying a visit here this week, had a flattering reception on Monday; Goggin and Davis, in their acrobatic act, are most amusing; Wal Pink and company score in their sketch, *Peggy*; Terry and Bentley present a capital comedy farce, *The Hunt*; and the Moyondos, speciality artistes, Charles Dixon, eccentric singer, Juan and McQue, comedians, and Kate Lynd, comedienne, also contribute excellent turns. There is also an up-to-date show of animated pictures.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND THEATRE, Singleton Street.—Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Oswald Brooks and J. W. Woodbridge; Resident Partner, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks.—*Sapho* has been the attraction during the week, presented by Miss Annie Bell and company. Fanny Legrand was very capably played by Miss Annie Bell, who won hearty applause for her capital work; Mr. Frederick Ross gave an admirable impersonation of Jean Causin, and shared the applause with Miss Bell. Able support was rendered by Mr. H. W. Curnock, as Paul Dechelette; Mr. Archie Helsby, as Eugene Flamant; and praise is due to little Lottie Ray, a clever child actress.

THE NEW STAR, Wind Street.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell; Acting-Manager, Mr William Coutts. The attraction here this week has been *Judy, or the Fatal Hand*, played by Mr. Geo. Kirk and Miss Mary Neil and company.

THE NEW EMPIRE, Oxford Street.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Mitchell.—The programme here this week includes Ludwig Amann, a clever impersonator of notabilities; Chas. Walker and Ida May, coloured singers and clever eccentric dancers; the Brothers Webb, musical Grimaldis; Unthan, the armless wonder; Signorina Verera, charming Italian chanteuse; the American bioscope; Pat Carey, refined Irish comedian; Johnny Gilmore, a quaint comedian; Paul Sandor, in his clever circus entertainment; and Selkirk's naval juvenile spectacle, *The Handy Man*, performed by 100 children.

THE PALACE, High Street.—Lessees, the Swansea Varieties, Limited.—Manager, Mr. W. D. Roberts.—The company here includes Harry Bent, humorist and mimic; Mdlle. Rosella, gymnast; D. J. Pedley, eccentric comedian and dancer; Cliffe Dover, comedian; Les Allesors, comedy gymnasts; Carlotta Lunn, comedienne; Marie Joyce, comedienne; and Martino, in *A Nest of Vipers*.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Responsible-Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners; Musical-Director, Mr. F. H. Lucas.—A large and appreciative audience welcomed a return visit of Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale's Répertoire company to this playhouse on Monday, when *The Sleigh Bells* was neatly staged. The keenest interest was centred in Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale's remarkably clever and powerful embodiment of Mathias; Mr. Fred Emery played Christian with commendable judgment, and Mr. W. F. Clitherow undertook Father Herman very effectively. Miss Violet Wilson was pleasingly natural as Annette; and Miss Marie Florence did well as Madame Mathias. The comedietta, *A Kiss in the Dark*, was the curtain-raiser. On Tuesday *The Vicar of Wakefield* was staged; and *David Garrick* and *The Lady of Lyons* are also in the répertoire.

TAMWORTH.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Manager, Mr. F. Hughes.—On Tuesday Mr. Ben Grett's *Florodora* company appeared here on a return visit, under the direction of Mr. J. Bannister Howard. Mr. Gus Danby was highly amusing as Tweedlepunch; Mr. Edward Chester made an excellent Gilfain; Mr. Edward Crossland sang and acted well as Frank Abercoed; whilst Mr. Chas. Stevenson, as Capt. Donegal, received a trinle encore for his song, "I Want to be a Military Man." Miss Fanny M. Newman acted with much chic and abandon as Lady Holyrood; Miss Daisy Lake was a charming Dolores; and Miss Louie Danby was successful as Angela Gilfain.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Counsell.—An old favourite attraction, Mr. John Tully's company, in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, occupies the boards here. Uncle Tom is admirably undertaken by Mr. W. Tayler; Phineas Fletcher finds an able exponent in Mr. Jno. Tully; Mr. F. G. Kay shines as Simon Legree, and is ably supported by Mr. E. K. Taylor as Dan Haley. Miss Kitty Wood is decidedly a quaint Topsy. In Act 4 several pleasing specialities are introduced.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Messrs. C. and F. Renad's company is paying another visit here with *The Swiss Express*. The Brothers Renad again distinguish themselves in their clever rendering of the parts of the eccentric servants, James and John; Mr. Wilford Bailey acts well as Dr. Gull; and Mr. George Martin gives an admirable embodiment of Rob Rollingstone; Mr. Alec Wylie is amusing as Dudley Green; and the character of the landlord, Rhino, is well filled by Mr. George Power. Miss Nellie Fern makes an effective Mrs. Septimus Squeeze; Miss Iris Banfield is charming as Virginia; the Four Brighton Girls execute some smart speciality turns and dances.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. Douglas.—Miss Lily Marney, characteristic comedienne, heads the bill this week, and wins well-deserved applause; Miss Addie Dorina gives a clever protean entertainment, assisted by Mr. Gilbert Fernie; Craig, Rose, and Craig are smart athletes; Curtis and Vanity, comedy duo, are enthusiastically received; Mr. Julian Mack, comedian, makes a hit; Mr. Fred Dunstone, comedian, does well. Other turns are Miss Beatie Foster, descriptive vocalist; Ray and Miles, in an interesting turn; and Mr. Wallace Whitney, eccentric comedian.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. George Dance's company is here this week in the musical play, *The Girl from Kay's*. Miss Elsie Molloy, with much animation and brightness, fills the part of Winnie Harborough; Miss Emily Taylor charmingly portrays Norah Chambers; and Miss Mabel Dent's dancing, in the character of Ellen, is very graceful. Mr. Jack Durant is very humorous as Harry Gordon; Mr. George Blunt is exceedingly funny as Max Hoggenheimer; Percy Fitzthistle is admirably represented by Mr. Henry FitzGibbon; Mr. Clinton Meynolds does well as Theodore Quench, K.C.; and Mr. H. Pauncefort as Mr. Chambers; and Mr. Fred Payne as the magnificent hall porter, Joseph help with their capital impersonations to keep the fun going.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. F. Marriott-Watson's company is occupying the boards here this week in *A False Wife*. Mr. George Langham gives a capital impersonation of Sir Colin Mansfield; Mr. Scott Leighton is exceedingly good as Lieutenant George Mansfield; Mr. John Cecil is most comical as Zorak; and Miss Florence E. Florence in the title-rôle displays considerable power.

WALTHAMSTOW. — PALACE. — Managing-Director Mr. G. Adney Payne; Manager, Mr. Arthur J. Barclay; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—Miss Grace Merton, the "street singer," has made herself a popular favourite here; Slippere, the blind pianist, continues to display his wonderful control over the Brinsmead; the New York Trio are young ladies whose acrobatic dancing seems much in favour; and a pretty turn is that of The Fitzroys (Fred and Lilian), society gymnasts, whose performances is marked by grace and dexterity. Martine and Son give their illustrations of American songs with much success; a very laughable performance is that of Zarmo, juggling comedian; Coco, the human baboon, plays with an amount of reserve force that many more "legitimate" actors might envy. Mr. Austin Rudd contributes two capital songs in his well-known manner; and *Sally in Our Alley* is played by Mr. John Lawson and his talented company in powerful fashion. For the latter half of the week, the ever-popular *Humanity* occupies the place of honour.

KING'S THEATRE.—The interesting Russian drama *At the Foot of the Altar*, written by Mr. Frederick Jarman, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Sanderson Moffat, a fine-built representative of the wicked Captain Nevski, acts with considerable power; Mr. Percy Maitland, as the persecuted Paul Orloff, plays with a force and vigour that are never boisterous. A favourite with the audience is the Ivan Gualonski of Mr. Bernard Dunstan, whose brightness is quite infectious. The Grand Duke Victor of Orenberg, and the Czar Alexander are capitally "doubled" by Mr. John Paley; and Mr. George Burt is excellent as Major Peterson. Miss Phyllis Hamilton as Princess Natalie has a part that suits her admirably.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter.—Mr. W. H. Kirby's company in *The New Mephisto* is reappearing here this week under the direction of Messrs. Paul Kaye and Clarence Lindon. Mr. Albert Weston, an old favourite here, enhances his reputation by his versatility. Miss Nellie Burdette, as Dolly, acts and sings with grace and charm, and strikingly amusing are the portrayals of Dick Pilgrim by Mr. Willie H. Vernon, and Becky Pilgrim by Miss Marion Armitage. Mr. Clarence Lindon scores as Captain Meredith, and Mr. Hubert St. John and Mr. Arthur Randal as Lord Hummingtop and Major Bantam respectively. The three jolly widows have able representatives in the Misses Dorothy Cecil, Leah Howard and Lilian Gregory. The Thalian Glee Singers are heard to advantage.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements Mr. F. Willmot.—Tom Lloyd, a really smart comedian, heads the bill here this week and has served well. Gus Harris, the Hebrew character vocalist, again makes many friends, and Will Hall is one of the most accomplished mimics that has been seen here for some time. Rose Waller is a charming comedienne, and Watts and Dean are entertaining coloured vocalists and dancers. La Belle Tosca goes through a graceful performance on a tight wire, and the Jansons supply a novel gymnastic act. Vanda submits a clever act on the rolling globe; and the Royal Bioscope, manipulated by Mr. J. L. Weisker, shows several amusing pictures.

WEDNESBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. J. Cranston.—This week Mr. Charles H. Phelps' specially selected company is here in the new musical comedy drama, entitled, *One Woman's Wickedness*. Mr. Lawrence Brien, as Philip Beaufort, and Mr. Hubert Humphreys as Paul Roque, do excellent work in their respective parts. The important rôle of Jem Craggs, an escaped convict, is in the capable hands of Mr. Chas H. Phelps; Mr. Carlton Harget makes the most of the part of Lord Fossett; the comedy part of Lord Algernon Fitznoodle is admirably portrayed by Mr. George Byrne; as Lillian Craggs Miss Amy Dalby is well worthy of special mention; Miss Ethel Asbury gives a highly capable interpretation of Jenny Jiggles; and excellent work is done by Miss Frances Jessop in the part of Marienne Beaufort and Miss Florence Lloyd as Janet Raymond

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. P. Moore.—Mr. George Dance's company in *A Country Girl* is paying a first visit here. Mr. Harry Buss as Barry enters thoroughly into the rollicking fun of the part; Mr. Percy Davidson acquits himself well in the part of Geoffrey Chaloner; Mr. G. J. Williams scores a distinct success as Sir Joseph Verity; Mr. Cliff Davis is good as the Rajah of Bhong; the same may be said of Mr. W. Haywood's Lord Anchester; the rôle of Douglas Verity is ably undertaken by Mr. Ernest Plumpton, who also distinguishes himself as an excellent stage manager; Mr. Henry G. Shaw gives a clever piece of character acting in the part of Granfer Mummery; Miss Ada Watson delights the house with her Princess Melaneh; Marjory Joy has an accomplished exponent in Miss Pauline Hague; Miss Daisy Gay's Nan is a sterling performance; and Miss Veronica Brady does full justice to the part of Madame Sophie.

WEST HARTLEPOOL. — GRAND. — General-Manager (for Mrs. Weldon Watts), Mr. Sidney Bacon; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred Conneaux.—That a visit from Mr. George Dance's company is always welcome here goes without saying. *The Duchess of Dantzic* was played on Monday evening to a well-filled house. Miss Rita Presano, in the title-rôle, endows the part with admirable naturalness, and her musical abilities are such as to find great favour with the audience. Mr. Thomas C. Maxwell, as Phillippe, obtains a flattering reception for his rendering of the song in the first act; throughout the play his assumption of the character is excellent. Mr. Mackesay Cullen submits a good interpretation of the rôle of François Lefebvre; as Napoleon, Mr. Frederick Moyes is excellently suited. Humour is well represented by Mr. Colin Mackay, as Papillon, and Miss Alice Coverick is daintily attractive as Renee.

PALACE. — Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—The bill here is headed by Walton and Miss Ella's canine speciality; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, the singing cardboard box makers, have appeared here before, as also has Martin Henderson, the gifted blind musician, both of which turns have had a good reception. The speciality dancing of Susie and Protti is provocative of hearty applause; Ella and Rose contribute an amusing dancing act, *Lost, A Husband*; the excellent juggling feats of Larola are made intensely funny by his droll method of performing them. Harry Cotton, comedian; Sinclair and Parr, in a sketch; and Rose Cabani, comedienne and dancer, are also on the list.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Miss Ada Wallis and her company are here this week with the musical comedy, *The Major*. The author of the piece, Mr. T. C. McGuire, is really funny as Major Barney O'Neil; and as George Goodman Mr. Frank Hartley is very good. Mr. Alec. Godfrey does well as Jeremiah Stoney; and as Ezekiah Stoney Mr. G. Whitey does equally well, being ably assisted by Miss J. Hughes as Mrs. Emma Gampney. Miss Ada Wallis is excellent as Angelina Touchemup, creating much merriment in her delineation of the part. The specialities introduced, including the Sisters Valli, instrumentalists; and the Sisters Verne, skipping-rope and top-boot dancers, are well received.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Williams. — Miss Marie Dagmar and company are paying a visit here this week with the sensational drama, entitled, *A Life's Revenge*, in which Miss Dagmar finds full scope as an actress in the part of the Princess Ivyala; whilst the remaining characters are ably sustained by the other members of a well-balanced company.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company is engaged here in the sensational drama, *The Face at the Window*. Mr. Augustine Knight is effective as Lucio Delgado, and as the detective Gouffet Mr. T. W. Dunscombe is excellent. Mr. A. Warne is good as Lucien Cortier; and the character of Le Blanc is well enacted by Mr. Gilbert Hall. Comedy is well represented by Mr. C. Alan Hineson as Peter and Miss Gwynne Warren as Babette, and the part of Marie de Brisson has a charming exponent in Miss Marie Barrett.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE. — Managing Director, Mr. John Worswick.—Mr. Leslie Norman's company, in the musical comedy, *A Trip to Chinatown*, has drawn appreciative audiences during the week. The part of Welland Strong is ably sustained by Mr. Charles Sequin; and Miss Harriet Fawn, as Mrs. Guyer, acts, sings, and dances admirably; Miss Daisy Revett, as Flirt, also sings and dances charmingly; and Mr. Jerrold Manville, as Ben Gay, ably represents the character.

GRAND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company; Managing-Director, Mr. J. Worswick.—Dida is the subject of a tank illusion; that is, she is made to mysteriously appear in a tank of water, and the performance evokes considerable speculation. The Baboon Crais' Prodigies, including a young baboon in cycling the loop, are interesting; and Frank Hartley, the boy juggler, is exceedingly clever; Fred Cary, eccentric comedian, delights the audience with his songs and original patter; and Sally Williams, a soprano vocalist, hailing from Wigan, possesses a fine voice and sings with good expression; Lavan, contortionist; Cecile de Paso, lady clay modeller; Gus Balsiger, comedian and trick instrumentalist; Jay Laurier, in his comedy sketch; and Stanley and Vandyke, in a comedy act, form the complement of a good programme.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Manager, Mr. W. Birchall.—Syd Herman is here a week longer; and the Two Dawsons give a laughable sketch, entitled *Denby and Dent*. Miss Lilian Neville, soprano vocalist; Walter Gurney, comedian and speciality artist; Lily Mason, comedienne; and Mons. Lawrence, conjurer, complete a popular list of artistes.

WINDSOR. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Licensee, Mr. Fred L. Connynghame; General Business-Manager, Mr. Worton David; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Nash.—*Why Woman Sins*, the well-known naval drama, is being presented here by Mr. Fred S. Jennings and Miss Florence Harles's company, under the direction of Mr. Arthur Herbert. The rôle of Capt. Carlton, R.N., the villain, is powerfully played by Mr. Edward Beecher; Mr. Jackson Hayes skilfully and in manly style impersonates Lieut. Harry Maxwell, R.N., the hero; Mr. Cecil Churton makes the most of the somewhat feeble Cecil Spencer; while Mr. J. E. Savery is sufficiently good as Jim Rainbird; Mr. Forbes Harrison, as Orlando Whiffles; Mr. Harvey White, as Sam Spavins; and Mr. F. Rilings, as Bobby Beans, provide excellent humour. The Waif, Jack Smith, of Miss O'Sullivan, is a touching and well-rendered character; Ida Valette, the woman with a past, is vigorously and realistically played by Miss Gussie Everitt; Miss Edith Savery presents a pleasing conception of Nell Desmond, the much persecuted heroine; Miss Marie West is excellent as Nancy Nibble; and Miss Dorothy Greaves is pert, lively, and smart as Lily de Vere, a music hall star.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—*The Sorrows of Satan*, which is presented by Mr. C. W. Somerset, is this week's attraction. Mr. Somerset himself impersonates Prince Lucio in an admirable manner; Mr. Talbot Homewood capably sustains the part of Paul Carruthers; Mr. Richard Norton is an efficient Grafton Lyle; and Mr. Keith Fraser is a capital Lord John W. Burrows. Miss Agnes Russell is excellent in the part of Margaret Foster; Miss Leah Marlborough is effective as Lady Delia Dragnette; Miss Laura Clement is praiseworthy as the Countess Dragnette; Miss Geraldine Somerset is smart as the Hon. Ethel Cholmondeley; Miss J. Burnside proves efficient as Mother Wurrell; and Miss Daisy O'Neill is a charming little Mary. The scenic effects are good.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—The various attractions at this establishment include Charles Baron's burlesque menagerie; the Lindon Vaudeville Company, in their vocal scene, *Monks at Play*; Morris and Morris, eccentrics, in *Fun on a Broom Handle*; Lozelle, gymnast; the Lorrisons, comedians; Fine and Hurley, comedians; Veno, Walter Clyde, and the Bioscope.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—*His Majesty's Guests* is on a return visit this week, and Mr. Fred Karno's company has experienced a popular reception, their capable acting and the boisterous fun of the piece being much appreciated. Mr. Frank Morton as Lord Easem, and Mr. Harry Roxbury as the police-sergeant and shop-walker, won much applause, as also did Miss Edith Oger (Dolly) for her singing. Miss Leonora Castelle as Lady Easem, and Miss Amy Rogerson as Manley, were capital; and some clever business was shared by Mr. Harry Howe (Selina) and Mr. Fred Whittaker (Bunker). Mr. Chas. Usher's character sketch was good, and Mr. R. Wise (Jonah) and Mr. M. Johnson (the German) were well suited.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—This week the chief attractions here have been the Three Musical Japs, in their refined and picturesque instrumental pot pourri; Lee and Arden, comedy dialogue artists, in their musical sketch *The Lady and the Watchman*; and Mr. Dan Noble, a popular comedian and vocalist. Miss Violet Anton, comedienne and dancer; Miss Marie Yorke, chic comedienne; and Mr. Fred C. Brookes, comedian and stump speech orator, also take part in a well-arranged programme.

YORK. — THEATRE ROYAL — Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. H. Barrow.—On Monday *Under the Red Robe* was given for the first time here by Mr. Norman V. Norman and company. Mr. Norman as Gil de Berault got through a tremendous amount of work triumphantly; Miss Beatrice Wilson gave an extremely sympathetic rendering of Renée de Cocheforet, acting with refreshing ease and grace; Mr. Robert Hilton made a picturesque and interesting Richelieu, and Mr. Herbert Morgan was manly and vigorous as Henri de Cocheforet.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke. Variety again holds sway here, the principal turn being Franco Piper, whose wonderful manipulation of banjos is greatly enjoyed; the electric wonders, the Marconis, astonish all, and the Imperial Boys' Orchestra provide a musical treat greatly enjoyed. Ormonde, Penstone and Tsaon Nigo in their conjuring act are a great success, and as a ventriloquist Professor Hulbert has few equals. De Lil in his speciality is very clever; Eva Ward sings sweetly, and Mark Anthony and Ryder Davis are comedians of recognised ability, whose achievements meet with hearty applause.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

SYDNEY, FEB. 7.—The Lyceum Theatre, purchased by Mr. George Musgrove for £25,000, will undergo important alterations after the conclusion of the present season. The last bill is *Old Heidelberg*, admirably staged and capitally acted. Miss Nellie Stewart's Kathie is very captivating, Mr. Harcourt Beatty, too, is good as the Prince, and Mr. Dudley Clinton's Dr. Zuttner deserves mention; Mrs. Maesmore Morris is doing well; Mr. James Lindsay is a forceful valet Lutz; and Mr. Malcolm Dunn makes the students' leader, Graf von Asherberg, a manly personage. The stage-manager, Mr. Harry Parker, in addition, plays Kellermann most humorously; and the winsome Miss Amy Singleton adds to the completeness of the cast.

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN still hold the stage at Her Majesty's Theatre, where *The Pirates of Penzance* is doing good business. The next revival will be *Iolanthe*, on the 11th, when Miss Vinia De Loike will undertake the name part. Miss Dolly Castles and Mr. Charles Kenningham are also in the cast.

MR. BLAND HOLT sees no reason for changing his bill at the Royal, for *The Best of Friends* is drawing well.

THE TIVOLI audience gave a hearty welcome "home" to Fred Millis,

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, March 13,
"THE COMEDY OF ERRORS."

Mr. F. R. Benson's season at the Coronet comes to a close this week, after an eminently successful stay. On Monday *The Comedy of Errors* was presented, and roars of laughter accompanied the exposition of Shakespeare's comedy. The piece was excellently mounted and staged, and the Greek costumes proved admirably effective and becoming to the ladies engaged in the production. Mr. Benson has a pretty wit, and with many a quaint conceit and original device does he embellish this droll *imbroglio*, but all his acts and antics are well within the limits of becoming mirth. Nothing could be more ludicrous and laughable than the "confusion worse confounded" of act iii., scene 2, in the street in Ephesus; throughout uncontrollable mirth shook the audience. In manner and make-up the twins, both masters and men, were wonderfully alike, and only the voices served to differentiate between them. Mr. F. R. Benson realises to the full the the audience. In manner and make-up the twins, both masters and men, were wonderfully alike, and only the voices served to differentiate between them. Mr. F. R. Benson realises to the full the opportunities for ripe fun and mirth-moving characterisation in the part of the perplexed and affrighted Antipholus of Syracuse. Mr. Percy D. Owen, as his twin brother Antipholus of Ephesus, acts with appropriate vigour and impetuosity under the indignities that are put upon him. Mr. Arthur Whitby gives a thoroughly droll, artistic, and able embodiment as Dromio of Ephesus, and Mr. George R. Weir contributes a sound and humorous exposition of the character of his twin brother of Syracuse. Miss Gertrude Scott, as the jealous and shrewish wife Adriana is entirely admirable, and speaks her lines with point and passion. Miss Mabel Moore is very sweet and gracious as Luciana, and "Lesbia hath a beaming eye" and a most prepossessing appearance in the person of Miss Roxy Barton. Mr. Clarence Derwent acts with appropriate dignity as Solinus, Duke of Ephesus; Mr. B. A. Pittar is good as Ægeon, a merchant of Syracuse; whilst Miss Elinor Aicken as the Abbess, Mr. Philip Saunders as Angelo, the goldsmith, and Miss Leah Hanman as Luce, among others, do good work.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, March 13, the Romantic Comedy, by Arthur Shirley, entitled
"THE ADMIRAL'S LADY."

In place of *Zaza*, a performance of Mr. Arthur Shirley's romantic comedy, *The Admiral's Lady*, was given by Mrs. Lewis Waller and company at the Pavilion on Monday evening, and was received with every sign of approval by an enthusiastic house. Mrs. Lewis Waller achieved a notable success as Lady Rumbelow, entering so thoroughly into the character, and investing it with such admirable comedy, as well as the requisite pathos, that the impersonation stands out as one of rare skill and charm. Mr. H. Gomer May submits an excellent portrayal of Admiral Rumbelow, while a capital exposition of the unthankful part of Captain Braddon is rendered by Mr. Eric Mayne. Miss Minnie Rayner is singularly spirited as the maid, Betty, and acts with a freshness that is delightful. Miss Alice Langley plays most engagingly as Isabel, and Miss Ethel Warwick depicts the Marquise da Villaflor with the necessary dignity and hauteur. Mr. Edmund Waller is a manly Harry Rumbelow, his performance being marked with artistic finish. As the Marquis da Villaflor, Mr. Edgar J. Coyne displays undoubted ability, and presents a careful study, and Mr. Strickland, as the Major-domo Ildefonso, introduces much genuine humour into the part. A capable exponent of Peter Simpson is found in Mr. J. Henessey, and Mr. Frederick Jacques is acceptable as Joskin. The comedy is beautifully staged, while the uniforms are handsome and the dresses charming. *Zaza* was played on Tuesday and Wednesday, when Mrs. Lewis Waller repeated her previous triumphs in the title-rôle.

THE BRITANNIA.

On Monday, March 13, the Drama, entitled
"SIBERIA."

A strong attraction is supplied here this week in the popular drama *Siberia* Miss Rose Ralph must be complimented on her delineation of the character of Sara. As her sister Marie, Miss Edie King leaves little to be desired, proving herself an actress of high merit; Mr. Maurice Hoffman faithfully portrays Nicholai, and Mr. Chas. A. East's Jarakoff is a true example of Russian barbarity. With Miss Marie Wright as Vera and Mr. Willie Scott as Trolsky, the horse is kept in a state of excitement, both making themselves great favourites. Mr. H. Barrington does good work in the dual rôles of the Governor-General and Count Stanslau, and Miss Florence Lovell is an admirable Theodora. As the Priest, Mr. J. Booth is seen to advantage. Other parts are equally well filled. The scenery and dresses are excellent.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, March 13, the Drama, entitled
"THE COLLEEN BAWN."

A highly interested audience assembled at this theatre on Monday night, and hugely enjoyed an excellent representation of this celebrated drama. Mr. Ernest E. Norris undertook the part of Hardress Cregan, and his acting was skilful and natural throughout. As Myles-na-Coppaleen, Mr. Howard Templeton gave an interesting representation of the rollicking dare-devil Irishman. Mr. Paige Lawrence is to be congratulated on his powerful portraiture of Kyrle Daly, and Mr. Clifford Bowen acted capably as Father Tom. Mr. Edwin Bennett, as Mr. Corrigan, scored a success, and Danny Mann was cleverly depicted by Mr. Henry Herne. The character of the Colleen Bawn was charmingly sustained by Mrs. Bennett, and her acting was, as it always is, characterised by that sympathetic touch that at once displays the true artiste. Miss Judith Kyrle looked fascinating as Ann Chute, and played the part in a vivacious manner. Miss Emily Dowton was good as Mrs. Cregan, and Miss Edie Martin was effective as Sheelah. The play was excellently staged, and the elaborate water tank scene, in which Mrs. Bennett, Mr. Howard Templeton, and Mr. Henry Herne all took active parts, received a great ovation. Special music had been composed by the clever *chef d'orchestre*, Mr. J. Nurnberger, under whose skilful bâton the band rendered every justice to the several selections introduced. Several Irish songs were well sung by the Shamrock Quartette.

THE ALEXANDRA.

On Tuesday, March 14, Shakespeare's
"OTHELLO."

Mr. F. W. Purcell, after a run of musical plays, is presenting this week a welcome change of programme in the shape of a visit for the first time to this theatre of the celebrated Osmond Tearle Shakespearean Répertoire Co. The plays set down for representation during the week have been *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *The Lady of Lyons*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *As You Like It*, and *Macbeth*. The company has the advantage of possessing as its leading man that sound and experienced actor, Mr. Walter Bentley, who on Tuesday held the attention of the audience in every scene in which he was concerned by his powerful and masterly performance of the jealous Moor. Mr. Bentley received excellent assistance from the company supporting him, notably so in the case of Mr. John Burton, whose Iago was a well-thought out and artistic piece of work. An admirable Cassio was found in Mr. Fred Sargent, who was seen to great advantage in the drunken scene, which he played with great tact and judgment. Miss Lillian Herries, as Desdemona, fully brought out all the sweet and womanly attributes of the character. The remaining parts were satisfactorily filled by Messrs. Cyril Este, William Lowe, Vivian Gilbert, Charles Kingsley, L. Evans, and E. Beverley, and Misses Phyllis French and Fanny Chamberlain.

THE GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, March 13, the Musical Comedy, in Three Acts, entitled
"MY SWEETHEART."

Miss Minnie Palmer and company are playing at Fulham this week in *My Sweetheart*, with Miss Palmer as Tina, her original part. The play appears to have been brought up to date somewhat—at least as regards topical allusions and some of the interpolated songs. It is now so well known that comment or description is unnecessary; it still has a fine air of idyllic simplicity, and was received on Monday with all its accustomed favour. Miss Palmer is bright and vivacious as ever; her songs, her dances, and all her quaint attitudes and sayings bring down the house. Naturally, as she has so made the part her own, the action of the piece largely revolves round her, but her company is well selected, and supports her admirably. Mr. Robert Howard takes the part of Tony, and both acts and sings excellently. Mr. F. Jerrard gives a quiet and sympathetic rendering of the Wyndhamesque part of Dr. Oliver, the man who puts things right for everybody else. Mr. H. Pollock is an imperturbable villain, and Mr. Hann gives an amusing study of the typical Yankee-Dutch farmer. Mr. F. W. Leonard makes a weird figure as Joe Shotwell, the broken-down sport, husband of the adventuress, Mrs. Fleeter, and Mr. Alfred Ibberson ambles to and fro as the amorous buffoon, Dudley Harcourt, and provokes roars of laughter at every appearance. Miss M. Sylvester plays the adventuress, Mrs. Fleeter, and is so quiet in manner and charming in appearance as to make one almost forget her heartless stage behaviour. Miss Amy Fanchette is a capital representative of the farmer's wife, Mrs. Hatzell, and the small part of Peek-a-Boo was satisfactorily filled by Miss A. Florence.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, March 13, for the First Time in London, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Hal Reid, entitled
"AT CRIPPLE CREEK."

Joe Mayfield	Mr. Mark Blow
Martin Mason	Mr. F. Vernon Travers
Manuel Alvarez	Mr. C. Douglas Carlile
Wahketah the Eagle	Mr. R. Harley-West
Ben White	Mr. Albert Rogers
Reggie Harwood	Mr. Will Hook
Rev. Dr. Wilson	Mr. Charles Watson
Davy	Mr. Tom Sharp
Puncher	Mr. Alfred Cooper
Sloggings	Mr. George Thorne
Maggie Mason	Miss Daisy Carlton
Belle Gordon	Miss Hope Maine
Little Tatto	Little May Douglas
Sarah Lively	Miss Leslie Wynne
Ann Marbury	Miss Marie Houseley

The pistol is in possession of the elegant Borough Theatre at Stratford, where this week has witnessed the first performance in London of the American drama, *At Cripple Creek*. Originally produced in this country at the Theatre Royal, Dover, on Jan. 5, the piece made an immediate hit, the incidents being freshly conceived and carried out with a direct appeal to the sympathies. There is an original vein of comedy, unlimited in its supply, to which no objection is possible, and the attitude of the large audience on Monday was throughout one of extreme satisfaction. Cripple Creek, the place where the action begins, is asserted to be the healthiest spot in Western America, but there is a danger of its forfeiting its reputation, considering the frequency with which the ready revolver is produced. The firearm appears first in Martin Mason's dance hall, and is wielded by Maggie, Joe's reputed daughter, who resents her father's efforts to chastise her for shooting a bear that was about to kill Tatto, the adopted child of a young miner named Joe Mayfield, whose leanings to righteousness have earned him the sobriquet of "The Parson." Mason is an unmitigated scoundrel. Having already ruined a girl named Ann Marbury, he is at the rising of the curtain in negotiation with Belle Gordon, a young lady from New York, whom he had enticed by an artfully-worded advertisement for a teacher. When Belle on her arrival finds out the character of the place, and would depart, she is prevented by Mason and his accomplice, Manuel Alvarez, a Mexican desperado. A little "swell" from Boston interposes in her behalf, and fights a round with Alvarez, in which the Mexican is knocked out, but in spite of that Belle is still detained until the arrival of Joe Mayfield. Joe offers Belle safety and shelter in his cabin, and is about to depart with Tatto and Maggie Mason, but Martin demands the surrender both of Maggie and Tatto, whom he claims to be his daughter's child. Joe refuses to part with either, and Mason decides to put them up at auction, when, after a lively conflict, the Mexican outbids Ann Marbury; but Joe Mayfield, not so easily daunted, organises his forces, and his little party cover the villainous group with their revolvers and make their escape.

Joe keeps his promise to protect the ladies, and in the second act they are seen in residence at his cabin among the rocks. In the intervals of digging and taking lessons from Belle Gordon, Joe has found time to fall in love with that attractive young lady, while the youthful Maggie Mason has begun a desperate flirtation with the Boston Boy. But a plot is on foot to kidnap Tatto, and Mason and the Mexican soon arrive with that object. Mason has another project in view, and that is to get possession of Joe Mayfield's mine, which has hitherto proved barren, but which Mason knows to contain a rich vein of gold. He offers to relinquish Tatto if Joe will surrender the mine to him, but Ann Marbury warns Joe not to give it up. Meanwhile, the Mexican has got possession of the child, and appears with it at the edge of a precipice far above their heads. Mason declares the Mexican will drop the child to the bottom unless Joe signs the paper, and on the latter's refusal to do so Manuel hurls the girl to destruction, but an Indian devoted to Joe swings out on a hanging branch, and catches the child in her descent.

The depredations of the villains are elaborated in the third act, which takes place in the interior of the Last Dollar Mine, as Joe's claim has been called. It is Mason's intention to blow up the mine with dynamite, the explosive also to serve the purpose of killing Ann Marbury, and Belle Gordon, who is tied with ropes to the wall. Here again the Indian is of use, for, though bound and gagged by Mason and Manuel, he manages to cut the cords and release Belle and Ann, who possess themselves of the scoundrels' pistols, while, with the arrival of Joe and the Boston Boy, the tables are completely turned.

By some intuitive means both Martin Mason and Alvarez make good their escape, and to the last prosecute their dishonest plans, even breaking in upon a wedding party, of which Joe and Belle Gordon are the central figures, in their determination to compass the death of the bridegroom. The faithful Ann Marbury, however, intercepts the bullet and is killed; and the villains eventually meet with well-merited punishment, while Maggie is discovered to be the sister of Belle, and nothing remains to interrupt a felicitous ending.

Many incidents of an enthralling description are added in the working out of the story, and are admirably treated by the members of Mr. Mark Blow and Miss Ida Molesworth's company. One scene in particular to be commended is that in which Maggie Mason arranges a match between Belle Gordon and Joe Mayfield. It was carried out charmingly by Mr. Mark Blow, who gave a perfect realisation in the part of Joe Mayfield of his description of "Nature's nobleman," delivering his lines with fervour and with earnestness, and establishing himself a firm favourite by the vigour with which he declaimed his lines. Miss Hope Maine as Belle assisted materially in the development of the sympathetic feature of the play by her comeliness and by her admirable delivery, the quiet reserve of which did not mar its effect. Miss Daisy Carlton added brightness to the piece as Maggie Mason, singing very well a coon solo, and joining in a duet about a crocodile with Reggie, "the Boston Boy," whose presence on the stage was ever an excuse for laughter, so drolly was he depicted by Mr. Will Hook. The unfortunate Ann Marbury was affectingly and none the less gracefully acted by Miss Marie Houseley, who imported the requisite fire into her passionate lines, and a well-spoken child was found in the Tatto of Little May Douglas. Mr. F. Vernon Travers put abundant malice into both word and deed as Martin Mason; Mr. C. Douglas Carlile affected the melodramatic mood strongly as the Mexican; and as the Indian, Warketah, Mr. Reginald Harley-West gave a finished portrait of the faithful savage. A "nigger" bar-tender named Ben White enters largely into the fun of the piece, and Mr. Albert Rogers made so much of him that every action was the signal for mirth. The play was well staged, and as the scenery is all carried, the success which it attained on Monday at Stratford gives promise of constant repetition.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 13, the Musical Piece, entitled
"THE DANDY DOCTOR."

Mr. Edward Marris and company are appearing this week at the Dalston Theatre in what is described as a "musical something to laugh at," and entitled *The Dandy Doctor*. This medico (Arthur Vandyke, M.D.), whose general appearance quite warrants his being called a dandy, finds a lively exponent in Mr. Cecil Clayton, and the character of his "intended," Ivy Pendred, is vivaciously played by Miss Mena Eckermann. Mr. Edward Marris reserves to himself the part of Melchisadek Brown, the "tinned meat millionaire." It is a character admirably suited to his style, which is beneficially bracing in the matter of implied energy, while his sense of humour is pronounced. Another distinctly funny individual, also of the breezy type, is Colonel Pendred, who has a vigorous representative in Mr. James Danvers. Mr. Walter Nugent, as Bertie Bolingbroke, of the genus dude, is quite a success, and as the Doctor's *locum tenens* he is especially busy in the second act, the surgery scene. Miss Florence Smithers, as Jane, general servant in Colonel Pendred's household, causes literally roars of laughter by her many eccentricities. The cast also includes Mr. J. P. Twist, who, as P.C. Quick, is most zealous for duty; Mr. Owen Dacroy, who represents one of the doctor's patients; and the Misses Norah Melton, Lillian Dacroy, Jessie V. Wray, Florence Allen, and Elsa Nicholson. Specialities are provided by Mr. James Danvers, as Paderewski up to date; the Dandy Belles, the Misses Ethel, Gertie, and Eva Ray; and Mr. Ben Rowe and Miss Holden, society cake walkers. A full chorus and troupe of dancers add to the general success, and the musical director is Mr. Hubert Bogetti.

EALING THEATRE.

On Monday, March 13, the Drama, in Four Acts, by F. Marriott-Watson, entitled
"WHAT A WOMAN DID."

Mr. Wm. A. Armour, with his excellent company, in *What a Woman Did*, is paying a visit here this week, and has been well received by appreciative audiences. The principal part of Conrad De l'Orme is played in fine style by Mr. Wm. A. Armour, who shows considerable ability. Mr. Percy E. Wright as the villain, Raffaelle Duroe, is quietly and effectively portrayed, and the kind-hearted Fritz Von Hoegitheim of Mr. Jim Woods is highly commendable, and wins applause. Mr. Fred Rignold creates much amusement by his depiction of the quack doctor, Perfect Pippin, and Pitou is ably undertaken by Mr. Frank Carlton. Mr. Vincent Hales has made a typical servant. The fascinating Miss Dora Price cleverly sustains the part of Elise De l'Orme, and the pretty and graceful Miss Alice Raymer, as La Papillion, must be complimented on her acting. The gay Miss Edna Hana shows experience and skill as Marie Brisson, and Miss Edith Marlow well fills the part of Terese Herve. Miss Louie Lonora sings with great taste, and is a capable Fanchon. The vivacious and lively Miss Norah Waylett highly distinguishes herself, and is an excellent exponent of the part of Nanetta. The minor parts are in good hands.

WEST LONDON.

On Monday, March 13, the Pantomimical Play, in Three Acts, by W. T. McClellan and H. Rousby, entitled
"LAUGHTER LAND."

As a vehicle for exploiting the wonderful acrobatic feats of the marvellous Craggs, this pantomimical absurdity serves its purpose well. In the second scene this clever troupe give an exhibition of skill and endurance, quite as fresh and amazing as when first the doings of the Craggs took London by storm. As Professor Sylvanus, Mr. Henry B. Lewis works with a will, and Mr. Harry Rousby, as Dick Marlow, is full of life and go, singing his songs in good style. Mr. Arthur E. Behan, as Squire Topsam, has met with a good reception, his topical ditty, "My Diary," hitting the tastes of the Maryleboners to a nicety. Mr. Victor C. Raymond is most successful as Archie Trentham, causing much merriment; Mr. Craigie Edwards has hit the mark as Alderman Trentham; and Mr. G. Westacott scores as Sir Vincent Marlow. As the Sisters Belgrave, Miss Cissie Dawes, Miss Kitty Lingard, and Miss Minnie Saunders are great favourites. They sing and dance in pleasing fashion, the coon number and cake walk meeting with uproarious recalls. Miss Amy Hastings, as Clarice Trentham, was a vision of loveliness and grace, and Miss Louise Millward scores as the love-lorn Clothilda. Others in the cast are Miss Doris Hanley (Miss Tudor), Miss Evie Daring (Miss De Vere), Miss Cecilia Hawthorne (Dinah), Miss Mary Leslie (Lulu), Mr. Leigh (Mr. Wilkins), Mr. Fred Leon (Mr. Kean), Mr. S. Bastick (Mr. Wingate), and Mr. Bert Muckle (Mr. Roland). The piece is light, wholesome, and cheery, and full of fun and liveliness.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, March 13, the Musical Comedy,
"THE PRINCE OF PILSEN."

Mr. George Musgrave's excellent company obtained a great success this week at the Kennington Theatre. Beautiful dresses, lovely scenery, splendid voices, and catchy songs, assisted by a large and well-trained chorus, are the chief delights of *The Prince of Pilsen*, the plot of which is obscured in a delightful dream of melody. Mr. Edwin Adeler, as the Cincinatti brewer, contrived to keep the audience amused the whole evening, his song, "It is the Dutch," being capital. Mr. John M. Hay gave a fine manly embodiment of Carl Otto, "the Prince," singing many nice songs. Of the ladies, Miss Beatrice Lamotte certainly deserves praise for her excellent singing and charming impersonation of Edith Adams, a Vassar girl. The duet, "In the Spring Time," with Lieutenant Tom Wagner, admirably played by Mr. Villiers Arnold, was a distinct hit. Nellie Wagner, afterwards Princess of Pilsen, was sweetly played by Miss Ruby Verdi. Mr. Alfred Selby was exceedingly nimble as François Concierge, of the Hotel Nationale, his queer antics and clever dancing delighting the audience. Miss Nell Emerald looked the French maid exactly, also dancing charmingly. The American idea of the titled snob was carried out to the letter by Mr. Laurence Wensley, as the Earl of Shrimpton, his song, "Artie," being well received. Mrs. Madison Crocker, a fascinating widow, was excellently represented by Miss Millicent Marsden; Miss Meg Hamylton took the part of Jimmie, a bell boy, with great spirit; Mr. D. O. Uglass doubled the rôles of Cook's Courier and Sergeant Bric, the gendarme.

THE BRIXTON.

On Monday, March 13, the new Comedy-Drama, by Walter Reynolds, entitled
"MR. SMITH."

The attraction here this week is the new comedy-drama, *Mr. Smith*, which had a very successful send-off last week. There is no need to repeat the story, as it was fully noticed in our columns. It is performed by a capable company, including that popular actor, Mr. Hamilton Stewart, who plays Mr. Smith. He is no doubt the right man in the right place, and has the audience with him throughout the three acts, and gives a capital impersonation of the engineer. Mr. E. Dagnall submits a fine character study of the Americanised-German millionaire, who has made his money in lager beer. The caddish Lord Angleland has a fine exponent in Mr. Lumsden Hare, and Mr. Sydney Blow does well as his friend, the Hon. Dudley Dysart. Mr. Arthur Burne makes the most of his opportunities in the part of Jack Berkeley, and the Earl of Oxted has a vigorous representative in Mr. Henry Latimer. As to the ladies, the place of honour must be given to Miss Olive Temple for her very winning manner and charming portrait of Lady Mary. Miss Phyllis Relph made an excellent impression by her performance of Ruth Anheuser, the millionaire's daughter. Miss Henrietta Cowen, as Mrs. Smith, supplies an admirable study of an uneducated but thoroughly business-like country woman. Miss Linda Ylderson is well placed as Benson, a maid. The play was evidently to the liking of the audience on Monday, as the applause at the termination was both prolonged and loud

SHAKESPEARE, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

On Monday, March 13, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, entitled
"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."

Sensationalism is the order of the day at the above theatre, and the audience show their appreciation of good, wholesome drama by giving excellent support. A play of human interest always appeals to the Battersea public, and crowded houses watch with delight this fine production. Mr. Frank Adair gives an easy and powerful interpretation of the character of Captain Caversham, and scores accordingly; Jack English is well portrayed by Mr. Wingold Lawrence; and Mr. Edwin Collins, as the Rev. R. Everton, puts a good deal of feeling into his part. Mr. Fraser Brunner gives a capital depiction of James Sutton, the repentant forger, and Mr. G. H. Asquin creates much amusement as Dick Punch. A very fine representation is that of Miss Ada Marius, as Molly Vernon, "the girl who lost her character," the second act giving her plenty of scope for fine dramatic work. Miss Marie McAulay scores as Marion Franklyn, the London Mystery, and Miss Ethel Bracewell makes a winsome Rose Seymour. Other parts are in the hands of Miss D. Maynard, Mr. F. Loyd, and Miss N. Brunton, and are well sustained.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, March 13, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Nita Rae, entitled
"HER FATAL PAST."

War is being waged with sensational effect this week between the forces of good and evil at the Terriss Theatre, where large audiences have been deeply moved by the enthralling scenes which are presented in *Her Fatal Past*. From beginning to end the excitement is kept alive, the first act culminating in a gallant rescue from drowning, in the course of which the sluice gates of a mill weir are opened, and real water pours out in torrents, while further stimulation of the nerves is provided in the abduction of a child, during which horse and motor car are brought into keen competition. The striking episodes of the drama have been made thoroughly prominent by Mr. T. Edward Ward's company. Miss Ward bears the weight of woe which rests on the lady of the title with profound pathos, and her picture of Honor Symes, whether in her passive moments or in her fierce scenes of invective, is one that draws tears of compassion from those who love to weep over the tribulations of the heroine. Miss Adeline Raby does double duty in the working out of the play, and while she invests with no little charm the character of the lovable Ruth Ferndale in the first act, her assumption in the later portions of the piece of a lady not so estimable is undoubtedly the work of an artist. Her venomous accents harmonise with the malicious glitter of the eye, and Bella De Lara, as depicted by Miss Raby, becomes the object of the most intense dislike with the audience, the warmth of whose reception it is impossible to express in cold print. Mr. T. Edward Ward is a pillar of humour in the part of Jonathan Buckstone Nobbs, raising at all times a whirlwind of mirth, and in this department is greatly assisted by the drolleries of Mr. Victor Mason, who, as the diminutive Dicky Bird, manages to score many laughs. Mr. Percy Brown bears himself gallantly as the noble-minded lover, Mark Desmond, delivering his lines in a fine ringing voice that goes home unfailingly. The brief appearances of Leonard Fernside are made effective by the dramatic skill of Mr. Bernard Dunstan, and as Gilbert, Mr. Charles H. Lester portrays with vivid colouring the fell designs of the villainous cousin. Kitty Springwell has a vivacious and pert exponent in Miss Amy Maitland, who misses no opportunity to put the sense of humour to the test, and Miss Marguerite Thorne makes a buxom and jovial Martha Springwell. The peculiarities of the postman are cleverly outlined by Mr. Arthur Paget; Little Holly Haslewood is pretty of speech and appearance as the boy Leonard; and characteristic assumptions of Sal Jenkins and Constable Smithers are given by Miss Kate Newman and Mr. Reginald South.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, March 13, the Musical Comedy, in Two Acts, entitled
"THE EARL AND THE GIRL."

For the first time at Holloway we have had an opportunity of witnessing Mr. William Greet's company in *The Earl and the Girl*, and the manner in which the representations have been given by the large and exceptionally efficient company has resulted in a very satisfactory engagement. Mr. William Stephens, as the central figure, Jim Cheese, a dog fancier, with his quaint and perfectly natural manner, has kept all sections of the audience in peals of laughter. He sings and dances well, and scores the most, perhaps, with "Satisfied with life." Mr. Percy Carr is particularly happy in his rendering of Dick Wargrave, and, having plenty of opportunities, makes good use of them. He sings various numbers very well, but proves himself the most finished artiste in his song, "The Cosy Corner Girl." Messrs. Fred Hill (Hon. Crewe Boodle), Mr. William Walshe (Bunker Bliss), Mr. Will Hindson (Downham), Mr. J. C. Graves (Talk), and Mr. T. Redmond (Hazell) are well suited to their parts. Miss Aimee Grey sustains the rôle of Elphin Haye, and proves herself an ideal exponent of the part. Miss Dot Carey is quite successful in the part of Liza Hoddam, and Miss Gladys Fontaine is very amusing as Mrs. Shimmering Black. Miss Florence Imeson's histrionic abilities and vocalisation have won her the hearty applause of this week's large audiences, her best effort being a song entitled "Freddie." Miss Helen Langton makes a success as Miss Virginia Bliss, and Lady Rosedale is in the competent hands of Miss Millicent Field. The chorus is to be specially commended for its work. The elaborate scenery, very gorgeous costumes, and every detail of the production are exceptional, and the orchestra is ably conducted by Mr. Evelyn Baker.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, March 13, 1905, the Comic Opera, entitled
"THE GEISHA."

At a time when Japan is the most talked about nation in the world, it was a happy inspiration for Mr. Mulholland to revive Owen Hall's popular Japanese opera, with its characteristic and melodious music, so delightfully composed by Sidney Jones. Needless to say, the opera met with a deservedly successful reception on Monday evening, when a large audience testified their ample appreciation by demands for encores of the songs and dances, and by happy laughter at the efforts of the talented company. Mr. Mouillot's artistes are new to London, but they display considerable ability. The O Mimosa San of Miss Violet Moore is excellent, both histrionically and vocally. Miss Violet Kenyon undertakes the part of O Juliette Diamento with real skill; Miss Aubrey Ashton makes an imposing and fascinating Lady Constance Wynne; Miss Florrie Saunders is decidedly good in her lively and charming presentation of Mollie Seymour. Very vivacious are Miss Florence Lake, Miss Lucy Egerton, and Miss Marie Gilbert, as Ethel Hurst, Marie Worthington, and Mabel Grant. The four tea-house girls, O Kiki San, O Hana San, O Kinkoto San, and Konuraski San, find bright representatives in Miss Edith Rimmington, Miss Laura Humphreys, Miss Daisy Browne, and Miss Lydia Bland. Mr. Arthur Cartwright could not be improved upon as Reggie Fairfax, his good looks and pleasant acting soon ensuring his popularity. Dick Cunningham is very capably enacted by Mr. Bay Russell, and Miss Blanche Browne proves herself a dashing Tom Stanley. Mr. J. Hornby is a manly Captain Takana. A humorous Wun Hi is Mr. Edward Carlton, whose antics are greatly to the satisfaction of the audience. The solidity of the Marquis Imari is exceedingly well brought out by Mr. Lionel Braham, who adds greatly to the success. The chorus is capital, and Mr. Frank Barrett ably directs the orchestra. The two scenes are artistically painted. The light opera, *A Greek Slave*, was announced for Friday.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, March 13, the Comedy, by Brandon Thomas, entitled
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."

An old friend is visiting us this week in the shape of *Charley's Aunt*, and the old lady "from Brazil, where the nuts come from," has evidently taken quite a new lease of life. In years to come, doubtless, we shall find that she is "still running." The present company is under the direction of the author, Mr. Brandon Thomas, which fact probably explains to some extent the excellence of the representation. Mr. Stanley Cooke appears as Lord Fancourt Babberley, and he is untiring in his efforts to amuse. He is the cause of endless merriment. Jack Chesney has a capital exponent in Mr. Arthur Soames, who plays in a natural and easy manner; and Mr. Richard B. Mason is in every way excellent as Charley Wykeham. Mr. Brandon Thomas himself appears as Sir Francis Chesney, and fills the rôle admirably. Mr. Simon Ord is very amusing as the peppery solicitor, Stephen Spettigue; Miss Lena McNaghten makes an imposing Donna Lucia; and Miss Dorrie Roberts is quite captivating as Ela Delahay. A very charming Kitty Verdun is found in Miss Violet Cooper; and Miss Geraldine Greville is equally fascinating as Amy Spettigue. Praise is due also to Mr. Sydney Compton for his neat sketch of the college scout, Brasset. The comedy is preceded by a one-act play, *Fourchette and Company*, of which Mr. Brandon Thomas is also the author, and in which Mr. Henry Adnes appears with much success as Count Monte. Miss Ruth Suffield and Mr. C. B. Keston also give valuable assistance in this little piece.

THE GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, March 13, the Musical Comedy,
"THE CINGALEE."

Mr. George Dance's company has been here this week with *The Cingalee*, giving a thoroughly good all-round representation of this popular musical comedy. Mr. Lauri de Frece was certainly the right man in the right place as Chambhuddy Ram, for his rendering of the Baboo lawyer, with his affectation of English manners and weird misapplication of English terms, was really life-like, for all its ludicrous exaggeration. Mr. de Frece was loyally assisted in his efforts to keep the house thoroughly amused, by Miss Mabel Sealby, a young artiste of much personal charm, who played Peggy Sabine with a lightness of touch and sang and danced with a grace and energy which should carry her far in the profession. Miss Nancy Freyne was very successful as Lady Patricia Vane, acting easily and naturally, and receiving several encores for her rendering of the songs entrusted to her. Miss Ethel Negretti gave a pleasing representation of Nanoya, and sang with expression and feeling. Mr. Kenneth Wynne was responsible for an entirely satisfactory representation of the Hon. Harry Vereker, acting in straightforward fashion, and managing his well-trained voice with good effect, his song, "Cingalee," being especially well received. Mr. Fred W. Pattrick was a great favourite as Boobhamba, several of his songs being loudly re-demanded; Mr. F. W. Ford was genuinely amusing as Sir Peter Loftus; and Mr. George Mudie, jun., was well suited as Bobby Warren. A noteworthy feature of the performance was the excellent singing of the chorus.

THE COUNTY, KINGSTON.

On Monday, March 13, the Play, by David Belasco, entitled
"THE DARLING OF THE GODS."

The attraction at the Kingston playhouse this week is *The Darling of the Gods*, which is being produced by the Ben Greet company, under the direction of Mr. J. Bannister-Howard, by arrangement with Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree. Good houses have been the rule, and the play, which visited Kingston for the first time, received a most favourable reception on Monday. The play was presented with all the accessories, in the shape of dresses, scenery, and effects almost identical with those employed at His Majesty's Theatre. The company, too, is a remarkably strong one, even in the minor characters. Mr. Alfred Goddard, who appears as the outlaw prince, Kara, and Miss Inez Bensusan, who impersonates Yo-San, display considerable ability in those parts. Other artistes appearing in the play, and who deserve special mention, are Mr. Edward A. Warburton (Zakkuri), Mr. A. P. Kaye (Prince Tagon), and Mr. S. S. Sinclair, as Inu; and a success is scored by Miss Mary Mannering in the part of Setsu. The remarkable scene that closes the play, "The first celestial heaven" (in the clouds), was most successfully reproduced, under the direction of Mr. C. Dodman, jun., the theatre's young electrician.

"OFF THE RANK."

Farce, in Three Acts, by Lawrence Sterner, played for the first time in England at the Strand Theatre, on Saturday, March 11.

Mr. Quayle	MR. WALTER BEAUMONT
Captain Philip Cathcart	MR. FARREN SOUTAR
Theodore Ponjab	MR. EDMUND GWENN
Joe Higgins	MR. HENRY J. FORD
William Hawkins	MR. EDWARD NAINBY
Police Inspector	MR. F. LACEBY
Watty Walker	MR. WILLIE EDOUIN
Lady Florence Harborough	MISS SUSIE VAUGHAN
Edna	MISS NORA LANCASTER
Cynthia Ponjab	MISS VIOLET LORRAINE
Mrs. Crop	MISS EUGENIE VERNIE
Cherry Smart	MISS RUTH SAVILE
Nellie	MISS MARIANNE STAYTON

It would be useless to apply the ordinary canons of criticism to *Off the Rank*, which was produced at the Strand Theatre on Saturday evening last. That it was received with hearty laughter should be sufficient to prove its practical suitability to the tastes of the patrons of this house. The Strand has a *clientèle* which is entirely its own; and who shall dispute the verdict of the people who, like the traditional Irish pig, "pay the rint." Mr. Lawrence Sterner's farce may be described as a "go-as-you-please" piece, with Mr. Willie Edouin in the principal, the all-important, part. Mr. Edouin has seldom had so many opportunities in one play. He appears in succession as a cabman, an inventor, a plumber, and a milliner; and in each of these characters he is "screamingly" funny.

What plan there is in *Off the Rank* is based upon the extravagances committed by two persons while in a state of intoxication. Captain Philip Cathcart has "gone on the spree" on the eve of his marriage with Edna, the daughter of Lady Florence Harborough, who is living in Cork-street with her relative, Mr. Quayle, a police magistrate. While "disguised in drink" the Captain put himself under the protection of a kindly cabman named Watty Walker, who soon shares the Captain's inebriety, so that what they have done overnight is unknown to them. Walker has come home with Cathcart to Cork-street, and the action opens with his awaking from his slumbers. To account for the cabman's presence in the house, Cathcart introduces him as Theodore Ponjab, an inventor, who is expected by Lady Florence to arrive from India. Walker shaves off his whiskers, dishevels his hair, and impersonates Ponjab extravagantly. He then takes charge of events, and, thenceforward, the piece becomes a mad revel, with Walker as its presiding genius. He may be likened to a rabbit pursued by the ferret Fortune from burrow to burrow. In order to escape recognition by Quayle, whom he has injured in a cab accident, Walker dresses up as a plumber, who is hanging about the premises. Matters are further complicated by the facts that the real Ponjab and Mrs. Ponjab come on the scene and have to be got rid of and deluded somehow. Still flying from his pursuing Nemesis, Walker assumes the attire of a milliner, trims a hat in sight of the audience, and measures Mrs. Ponjab for a dress, the operation permitting various little freedoms which are received with roars of laughter by the appreciative audience. In the character of the milliner, Walker presents himself to the magistrate as an old love of his, a certain "Little Nougât," and obtains from him damaging admissions of early frivolities. In the end, the truth comes out; but as it appears that, while under the influence of Bacchus the night before, Walker and Cathcart saved Ponjab from robbery and assault at the hands of some ruffians, peace is easily concluded between the parties.

As we have already noted, Mr. Willie Edouin had the lion's share of the "fat" of the piece; and he takes advantage of it with his usual quaint originality and droll humour. As the pretended inventor and the sham milliner, he was equally effective; and he bore the burden of the fun-making almost entirely on his own shoulders. The support he received from the rest of the company was very valuable. Mr. Walter Beaumont gave a smooth, sound, and urbane interpretation of the character of Mr. Quayle; and Mr. Farren Soutar was unobtrusively but actively excellent as Captain Philip Cathcart. Mr. Edmund Gwenn, well made up, realised the inventor, Ponjab, satisfactorily; and Mr. Henry J. Ford struggled valiantly with the rather tiresome part of a conventional mechanic, Mr. Edward Nainby hitting off neatly the peculiarities of a waiter. Mr. F. Laceby was efficient as a Police Inspector; and Miss Susie Vaughan, who had a cordial reception on her first appearance, made a pleasing and characteristic Lady Harborough. Miss Nora Lancaster was firm, yet flexible, as Edna, and gave due emphasis and expression to her performance of the rôle; and Miss Violet Lorraine's absolute naturalness lent increased point to the scenes in which she appeared. Miss Eugenie Vernie played a housekeeper prettily; and Miss Ruth Savile made the most of the little rôle of a blackmailing barmaid, Miss Marianne Stayton being commendable in a servant's part. *Off the Rank*, which had it first production in South Africa some time since, evoked hearty laughter, especially from the popular parts of the house. It was preceded by Mr. Lawrence Sterner's one-act piece, *The Water Cure*, which we noticed at its recent production at the Comedy. In this Mr. Charles Steuart was good as the lawyer, Miss Ruth Savile gave a creditable performance as Kitty Weedon, and Miss Maggie Bowman, as Dorothy Derry, deserved cordial praise.

THERE was an enthusiastic audience, which quite packed the house, at the last performance of *The Sleeping Beauty* at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, on Saturday, the principals being accorded demonstrative greetings as they respectively came upon the stage. At the close of the performance, Mr. Chute said it was with feelings of genuine regret that they celebrated the farewell performance of *The Sleeping Beauty*, the success of which he could only describe as remarkable. Mr. Hickory Wood, the author, had provided them with a version which gained immediate approbation, and he was fortunate in securing the services of the company, to whom he tendered very cordial thanks. He also expressed his deep sense of gratitude to his patrons for having accorded an unbroken allegiance for upwards of eleven weeks. His thanks were also due to the entire staff of the theatre, and to his able lieutenants, Mr. George Chapman, Mr. George Jackson, and Mr. Henry Turner. In sounding the sad note of farewell to their happy pantomime season, he would borrow the words used so frequently by Miss Lil Hawthorne, and say:

"But ere we part, let Britons do their duty,
And give a cheer for England, home, and beauty."

There followed a tremendous cheer, and the curtain was rung down with "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem. At the fall of the curtain, Miss Lil Hawthorne, on behalf of the principals of the company, presented to Mr. George Chapman, musical director, a turquoise and diamond pin; to Mr. Henry Turner, stage-manager, a piece of silver plate suitably engraved; and to Mr. David Miller, assistant stage-manager, a silver-mounted lizard skin wallet. Mr. Turner was also presented with a silver pencil case by Mr. W. H. Rawlins.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER has decided upon the title of *A Scrupulous Man* for the one-act adaptation by Max Hecht from Octave Mirbeau's *Scrupules*, which will be produced at the matinée for the unemployed at the St. James's Theatre on Thursday.

"EVERYBODY'S SECRET."

A Comedy, in Three Acts, adapted by Robert Marshall and Louis N. Parker, from Pierre Wolff's "Le Secret de Polichinelle"; produced at the Haymarket Theatre, on Tuesday, March 14.

Sir Michael Parkes, Bart.	MR. CYRIL MAUDE
Captain Pierrepoint, late R.N.	MR. EDMUND MAURICE
Lieut. Richard Parkes	MR. CHARLES BRYANT
Mickey	MISS I. HAWKINS
Smith	MR. F. PERCIVAL STEVENS
Lady Parkes	MISS CARLOTTA ADDISON
Mrs. Mellor	MISS HELEN FERRERS
Mrs. Wilmot Cooper	MISS ELISABETH KIRBY
Miss Wilmot Cooper	MISS DAGMAR WIEHE
Rebecca	MISS ADELA MEASOR
Nell	MISS JESSIE BATEMAN

The items of Messrs. Frederick Harrison and Cyril Maude's programme at the Haymarket Theatre are very effectively contrasted. For "first piece" they have chosen, with admirable judgment, *A Case of Arson*, an entertainment unique of its kind, and tragically strong and thrilling. This is followed by an amiable, amusing, and charming adaptation from the French. Messrs. Robert Marshall and Louis N. Parker have eliminated from the story of M. Pierre Wolff's piece, *Le Secret de Polichinelle*, all that could possibly be offensive to English taste, and made of it one of those "sugared" pieces which are scoffed at by the cynic, but have a way of running for considerable periods. There is really no more than this to be said concerning *Everybody's Secret*, which owes most of the favourable reception which it obtained at the Haymarket on Tuesday to the excellence of the acting.

An amiable old couple, Sir Michael and Lady Parkes, have a son, Richard, who is a lieutenant in the Guards. He falls in love with a young woman who is assistant in a flower shop, marries her, and conceals the fact for four years from his parents. There is a child, a boy named Mickey; and, the expenses of the ménage increasing, Richard asks his father to increase his allowance. This request is refused, with the suggestion that he should "make up to" a certain heiress, who has a good opinion of him. This leads to the confession by Richard of his being already wedded, and a sternly expressed refusal of his parents never to visit their son's wife.

The fun of the two remaining acts of the play consists in the relenting of the father and mother, both keeping secret the divergencies from their original decisions. In the second act, Sir Michael is seen at his son's flat, revelling in his grandfatherdom, and the willing slave of all little Mickey's caprices. The Lieutenant's brother, Captain Pierrepoint, has also been a frequent visitor to the flat; and eventually Lady Parkes even ventures to visit the young couple. On the arrival of Pierrepoint, Sir Michael conceals himself; but eventually he and Mickey's other uncle meet, and there is some amusing rivalry between them for the boy's affection. In the last act, after a certain amount of "beating about the bush," there is a general confession, and the piece ends with a complete reconciliation between the Lieutenant and his parents, and the reception of Mrs. Parkes and Mickey into the family circle.

As we have said, the excellent acting atoned for the weakness of the piece. Mr. Cyril Maude was "simply delightful" as the kindly and comical old Sir Michael, an excellent make-up having much to do with his complete success in the character. The absolute naturalness of his acting, its dry humour, and its marvellous ease and polish, carried conviction, and gave obvious satisfaction to the audience. Mr. Edmund Maurice was the bluffest and best-dressed ex-naval officer imaginable, and acted with a hearty jollity and vigorous good nature which were very effective. Mr. Charles Bryant's style as Lieutenant Richard Parkes was irreproachable, and he played a not too thankful part quite discreetly and decisively. Miss Carlotta Addison was charmingly sweet, timid, and gentle as Lady Parkes; and her performance was a worthy companion picture to Mr. Maude's Sir Michael. Miss Adela Measor was easily efficient as the garrulous servant, Rebecca; and Miss Jessie Bateman was as arch, winning, and simple as ever as Nell. The success of the evening, however, may be said to have been achieved by Miss I. Hawkins, whose Mickey was a wonderful piece of juvenile acting. Her laugh was absolutely spontaneous, and her performance was agreeably free from the false notes and artificiality so common in the acting of children on the stage. As for Miss Elisabeth Kirby and Miss Dagmar White, they looked so "nice" in their very becoming and "up-to-date" costumes, and acted with so much brightness and pleasantness, that one felt sorry they had not more opportunities. *Everybody's Secret* was preceded by the English version, by Howard Peacey, of Herman Heyermans' play,

"A CASE OF ARSON,"

John Arend	MR. HENRI DE VRIES
Ansing Arend	MR. HENRI DE VRIES
Thomas Blankert	MR. HENRI DE VRIES
Biesen	MR. HENRI DE VRIES
Putten	MR. HENRI DE VRIES
Post	MR. HENRI DE VRIES
Bik	MR. HENRI DE VRIES
A Magistrate	MR. H. VIBART
An Usher	MR. H. A. TONGE

A Case of Arson is interesting because it shows the favourable side of the foreign *juge d'instruction* system. The defects of the method may outweigh its merits; but it is evident that the ends of justice are often served by it. The danger of the system is that it leaves too much power in the hands of a single individual; and, as *The Arm of the Law*, at the Garrick, proved, a *juge d'instruction* may become a kind of professional fiend. The merit of Mr. Henri de Vries's impersonations is that they are studies, and not caricatures. We feel in witnessing them that there are being exhibited to us genuine Dutch types of character, observed with a keen and solicitous eye. The illusion this creates is very powerful; and when the climax approaches, when the quivering criminal is forced into confession by the relentless logic of the magistrate's deductions, the conviction which the whole performance carries is half the force of the piece. Mr. de Vries is a consummate artist; and in *A Case of Arson* he presents an entertainment which is so strong and original that no visitor to the Haymarket should miss seeing it, even at the cost of early arrival. It is only fair to Mr. H. Vibart, as the magistrate, to say that his embodiment is not in the least behind Mr. de Vries's in truth; and Mr. H. A. Tonge's usher is the acme of quiet and subordinate realism.

MR. MARSHALL B. HERN has discovered the possibility of improving the tone of the violin by means of his invention, which he calls "Resonatone," or flexible tail-piece, which has met with the complete approval of Mr. Herman Finck, musical director of the Palace Theatre, who after a thorough investigation has had the invention applied to a number of violins in his orchestra. Mr. Finck writes:—"I must admit that it has produced a marvellous effect. I consider that it will vastly improve the sweetness of tone and power of any stringed instrument, and I recommend it with confidence to every violinst, because of the extended test that I have caused to be made, and the unanimous opinion in our orchestra concerning it. I desire you to make immediate arrangements for fitting up the balance of the stringed instruments in the orchestra at the earliest moment, and we shall use it exclusively. Another advantage that I note in connection with the invention is that it does not change the appearance of the instrument in any way."

"VERONIQUE" AT THE APOLLO.

One need not sigh over the alleged decline of musical comedy, when its place can be taken by such a perfect comic opera as *Véronique*, which on Saturday registered its 300th performance at the Apollo. It was first introduced to the British public on May 5, 1903, by a French company at the Coronet Theatre, where it won such unrestricted praise that Mr. George Edwardes had the play adapted by Mr. Henry Hamilton, and produced on May 18, last year. The composer, M. André Messager, conducted the first performance, when the brightness and charm of the score, the happily conceived story, the strength of its comedy, and the excellence of the representation, all combined to secure a triumphant *première*, and this triumph was repeated on Saturday before an audience containing not a few of those who were present at the first production and were adding to the joy of life by repeating a delightful experience.

There have been many changes in the cast since the first night. Mr. George Graves, the original English representative of Coquenard, played at the Opera Comique by Regnard, had to take up a pantomime engagement, and his resignation let in Mr. John Le Hay, who has many a time and oft proved his value in elaborating the humorous element in musical comedy. Mr. Le Hay's generous interpretation of his responsibilities as the henpecked little florist make for the heartiest laughter, and though we shrewdly suspect that he says more than is set down for him, who would have it otherwise when the result is the greatest hilarity. Coquenard's snatches of polite French (à la Ollendorf) are deliciously funny, and the comedian's reputation is greatly enhanced by an impersonation that may claim to be one of the funniest in London.

Mr. Hayden Coffin, who recently took up the part of Florestan de Valiancourt in the place of Mr. Lawrence Rea, makes a fervent and irreproachable lover, and breathes into his musical numbers an impassioned sentiment that is truly characteristic of his style. He is buoyant in his opening solo, "Life is short, my dear friends"; but as a contrast to the gaiety of this number, we may instance the melancholy tenderness of his interpretation of the effective letter song in the second act.

Miss Ruth Vincent, who graduated in that best of schools—the Savoy opera—has but deepened her hold on public favour by her impersonation of Hélène de Solanges, who masquerades as Véronique. She takes the senses captive in the "Swing song" of the second act—a pretty melody indeed; and no comic opera heroine quite so charming has been seen since Miss Florence St. John made her triumphant appearance at the Strand, as Madame Favart. Her embodiment is sweetly girlish, and full of dainty refinement.

Miss Kitty Gordon, much to the advantage of the general representation, retains the character of Agatha, an arrant flirt, and gives just the necessary acidity to the character. By her impersonation, Miss Gordon gives us to understand that Madame Coquenard is a woman of spirit, fiercely jealous, and with a liking for taking the bit between her teeth. But she has her sentimental moods, too, and in one of these she sings, "One day 'neath an apple tree," with its pretty pizzicato accompaniment. Miss Gordon sings the melody in cultured style, and repetition has done much to sharpen the outlines of her capital character sketch.

Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald, who originally represented Séraphin, is now the M. Loustot, assigned on the first night to Mr. Fred Emney. Mr. Fitzgerald makes quite an amusing character of the bailiff, and in the second act is quite a jaunty ladykiller, his scene with Agatha causing much laughter. He also scores in his dialogue with Coquenard.

Mr. Ralph Nairn, as Séraphin, has his best chance in the second act, where the newly-married groom thanks his guests for their welcome. He has a charming partner in Miss Coralie Blythe, an excellent dancer, who makes a coquettish Denise. Miss Sybil Grey now plays the part of Ermerance Countess of Champ Azur, in succession to Miss Lottie Venne, who in her turn succeeded Miss Rosina Brandram in the part. Miss Grey has very slight responsibilities as a singer, but she is decidedly diverting in the protestations of the Countess to Coquenard concerning her accident. Miss Dorothy Dale is neat and effective in her embodiment of Aunt Benoit; Miss Jessie Broughton sings exceedingly well the solo, "Like the bee to the garden of roses," displaying the rich quality of her contralto voice to great advantage; and the parts of the florists have pretty and engaging representatives in Miss Valli-Valli, Miss Hilda Coral, Miss Tilly May, Miss Madge Vincent, Miss Irene Kay, and Miss Dorrien Hood; and Mr. William Ashdown, Mr. Blair Headsworth, Mr. Henri Adnes, and Mr. Blair Dudley also aid the success of the piece by their capable work in minor parts. The lovely wood scene in the second act, with its hawthorn and chestnut bloom, is from the brush of Mr. Joseph Harker, and Mr. Julian Hicks realises in his fine interior the stateliness of a reception room in the Tuileries. Mr. Arthur Wood's able conduct of the orchestra results in an excellent ensemble, and the exquisite stage pictures owe much to the lovely colour harmonies in Mr. Percy Anderson's dresses. *Véronique* is still at the height of its prosperity, and should run for many months to come.

"SIBERIA."

A Dramatic Sketch, in Three Acts, produced at the Surrey, on Monday, March 13.

Michael Janakoff	MR. JAMES C. AUBREY
Nichali Neigoff	MR. WILLIAM CLAYTON
Truesky	MR. EDWARD RANIER
Zara	MISS VIOLET CLAYTON
Marie	MISS GRACE JONES
Vera	MISS ALICE MAUDE

Anything appertaining to Russia, either social or political, is sure to engage the earnest attention of the whole world just now. The new production, *Siberia*, is a boiled-down version of the great spectacle which, under the same name, was the chief attraction at the London Hippodrome not so very long ago. But the story is of such absorbing interest that it will always prove an undeniable attraction wherever presented. The story opens in one of the Southern Provinces of Russia, whose new Governor, Michael Janakoff, bearing a bad reputation, forces his evil attentions on a young married Jewess flower seller, Zaza, whose husband is away. Finding his overtures scornfully rejected, he, with the aid of his spy and interpreter, causes a general massacre of the Jews, and in the melée kills Zaza's father. He is denounced by Zaza's sister, Marie, as the murderer of their father, and he in turn charges them with being Nihilists, and has them banished to Siberia. Marie's soldier lover, Nichali Neigoff, is a Nihilist, and easily gets a comrade and co-patriot to exchange papers with him, and forms one of the military escort to Siberia. The last scene opens in "The Wilds of Siberia," where we find the villain, Michael Janakoff, installed as Governor, and still persecuting both Zaza and Marie. He suggests to the latter that she should become his housekeeper. On her refusal he has her whipped, but she is still obdurate, and declares she prefers death to dishonour. Zaza's baby is dying for want of nourishment, and Nichali Neigoff suggests to Marie that she should help herself to a jar of cream, and give it to Zaza. This she does, but directly she hands it to Zaza, the guards search her, and finding it in Zaza's possession, the villain Michael orders her to be flogged. Nichali is so enraged that he gives the signal to his Nihilist friends to revolt, and amidst the confusion Michael's father, the Governor-General, comes on the scene, and pardons all the prisoners, and denouncing his son as a renegade and despot, sentences him to banishment for life in the mines of Siberia.

The climax is a very striking and effective stage picture, with the snow clad mountains in the distance, the pretty ponies and sledges, the crowd of soldiers and prancing horses, making it one of the most realistic scenes ever witnessed on a variety theatre stage, and reflecting the highest meed of credit on Mr. Frederic Baugh, who is responsible for the production.

For the company there is nothing but praise, all working so well together for the common good that assures success. As the villain, Michael Janakoff, Mr. James C. Aubrey manages to bring into prominence the sinister crafty nature of the man with ungovernable passions, and he creates the strongest feeling of abhorrence. Mr. William Clayton, as Nichali Neikoff, plays with a manly earnestness that is at once effective and convincing. The lighter and more amusing passages are capitally treated by Mr. Edward Ranier, as the love-sick idiot Truesky, and Miss Alice Maude, as the vivacious and pretty young flower girl Vera. As Zaza, Miss Violet Clayton imbues her part with a depth of pathos and feeling that easily wins the hearts of her audience. As Marie, Miss Grace Jones scores all the time, and is warmly to be congratulated on her excellent impersonation. Others who give a highly commendable performance are the Spy, the Prince, and the Old Jew; all the small parts are carefully filled and skilfully handled. In fact, *Siberia* is a very vivid and interesting twenty-five minutes' drama.

"EINE PALAST—REVOLUTION."

A Farcical Comedy, in Four Acts, by Richard Showronnek, produced at the Great Queen-street Theatre, on Monday, March 13

Weibrecht	RUDOLPH LEYRER
Eugenie	BETTY L'ARRONGE
Lilli	ROSIE GRAWZ
Alfred	HEINZ PABST
Florence Farber	CAMILLA DALBERG
Dr. Hans Neuland	HANS STOCK
Findeisen	JOHANNES KOERNER
Reiman	BRUNO WIBURGER
Chonheim	THILO ULRICH
Zernikow	ADOLPH WALTHER
Frau Eceline Schweiger	ADELE MEYSEL
Fräulein Neumann	GRETE LANGFRIED
Frau Bade	IDA WEISS
Auguste	LINA MARSCHALL
Redactionsdiener	ROLF YVERSEN
Fritz	F. STERN

For the closing nights of the season of German plays at the Great Queen-street Theatre, a farcical comedy has been selected, and much amusement has been derived by appreciative audiences from the four-act piece by Richard Showronnek, entitled *Eine Palast-Revolution*. In this are to be found some neat sketches of character, and the dialogue is bright and amusing. For a farcical comedy the piece is remarkably free from complications, nor does it bear any resemblance to those productions of French origin in which the principal characters engage in an exciting game of hide and seek.

A very ordinary love affair between two young people forms the pivot of the story. Lilli Weibrecht is the charming daughter of an eminent professor of literature, and she, it seems, is secretly engaged to Dr. Hans Neuland, who happens to be her father's greatest literary opponent, and is, moreover, the chief representative of the modern school of literature in Berlin, and co-editor of an up-to-date paper called *The Waage*. In this journal scathing articles, under the signature of Dr. Neuland, have appeared, in which the Professor's literary opinions have been treated with derision, though the Professor himself, an absent-minded, dreamy old bookworm, has taken but scant notice of them. Not so his wife, Frau Weibrecht, a strong-minded woman, who rules the household with a rod of iron, and is exceedingly angry with the writer of the articles. The Professor receives a letter from Hans Neuland, asking consent to his marriage with Lilli, and, doubtful where he has heard the name of the writer before, he hands the missive to his wife, who is furious at its contents, impressing upon the Professor that it is his duty to deal firmly with this impudent suitor. In the midst of the storm Dr. Neuland is announced, and the lovers plead their cause to Frau Weibrecht, but her reply is to send her daughter to her room, and to forbid Hans any further intercourse with Lilli. He is compelled to leave the house, but he vows that he will marry Lilli in the end, at any cost. The second act, the scene of which is the office of *The Waage* newspaper, does not advance the plot very much, but we make the acquaintance of Findeisen, an elderly journalist of a humorous turn of mind, who is a staunch friend and admirer of Hans Neuland, and an old college friend of his father's. In the next act, Lilli and her brother Alfred, who, contrary to his own wishes, but in accordance with his mother's, is being trained as a lawyer, make a united appeal to their father, begging him to stand up for them in opposition to their very severe mother. He promises to take their part, but when the formidable frau enters the Professor is quickly vanquished, and poor Lilli is compelled to accompany her mother to the railway station, en route for Dresden. Findeisen interviews his former friend, and they discuss matters over a glass of wine. The result of this is that on condition that Findeisen accompanies him as a "kind of moral support," the Professor agrees to follow his wife to Dresden, and assert his authority in favour of his daughter. The fourth and last act is devoted to bringing the story to a satisfactory conclusion. As one foresees, the hard heart of Frau Schweiger is touched at last, and she consents to her daughter marrying the man she loves. This change of attitude is partly brought about by Findeisen, who reminds her of her own youth, and her love for a certain poor journalist, no other than himself, whom her parents would not allow her to marry.

Herr Rudolf Leyrer deserves every praise for a carefully-studied portrait of the absend-minded, henpecked Professor. Herr Johannes Koerner is also very successful in his humorous embodiment of the old journalist, Findeisen. Fräulein Betty L'Arronge cleverly represents the despotic Frau Schweiger, and Fräulein Rosie Grawz plays with considerable charm the part of Lilli. Herr Heinz Pabst scores as Alfred, whose sweetheart, Florence Farber, an American, has a fascinating exponent in Fräulein Camilla Dalberg. Herr Hans Stock deserves praise for his easy and natural rendering of Dr. Hans Neuland. Fräulein Ida Weiss is well placed as the loquacious landlady, Frau Bade; and other minor rôles are carefully handled by Fräulein Adele Meysel, Fräulein Lina Marschall, Herrs Bruno Wiburger, Thilo Ulrich, Adolf Walther, Rolf Yversen, F. Stern, and others.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS hopes that his new theatre in Aldwych will be ready for opening on Boxing Day. A novel feature of the appointments will be an act-drop, painted by Mr. Hawes Craven, representing a green-room in which are grouped all the prominent actors who have graced the London stage since 1870, the year of Mr. Hicks's birth. A new fairy play will be the opening attraction, and in the evening the comedy by Mr. Hicks and Mr. Cosmo Hamilton, entitled *The Beauty of Bath*, will be produced, with Miss Ellaline Terriss in the title-rôle. Miss Terriss, who is now at Bournemouth, may be expected to resume her part in *The Catch of the Season* at the Vaudeville next month.

MR. ROBERT EVETT, having relinquished his engagement at the Lyric Theatre, will join Mr. George Edwardes's company for the new play at Daly's.—Miss Lytton, the daughter of two favourites of the Savoy, on Saturday afternoon undertook Miss Marie Studholme's part in *The Orchid*, at the Gaiety, playing and singing with such confidence that she won warm encores.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, MARCH 16.—It has become to some extent the fashion to exhume the antique here, and to modernise Socrates, Sophocles, and other ancient play-writers. In accordance with the mode, therefore, we witnessed an adaptation of *Œdipus* on Saturday at the Deutsches. It is the work of Herr Von Wilamowitz-Moellendorff, who, it must be confessed, has adapted the powerful tragedy admirably. For the general public, nevertheless, these ancient plays possess, I fear, but little interest, and it is usually a case of labour lost to stage them. The interpretation was good; Herr Albert Heine in the important rôle of the King, acted with much power and discretion, and was efficiently supported.

HERR LOTHAR SCHMIDT'S three-act comedy, *Der Leibalte*, has been revived at the Schiller Theatre. It was produced at the one-time Secessions-Bühne, some three or four years ago, and was then described in your columns. The reception accorded to it at the Schiller was most cordial, astonishingly so when the poorness of the piece is taken into consideration; probably the bright acting had something to do with it. Fräulein Freida Brock was particularly sympathetic and pleasing in a difficult part.

"DER FAMILIENTAG," Herr Kadelburg's latest farce, has reached its 100th almost consecutive performance at the Lustspielhaus, and is still attracting. Herr Schönfeld is still the star of greatest magnitude, his impersonation of Baron Ludolf Von Wollien being one of the most successful efforts of this genial actor.

AT the National Theatre, Mozart's *Don Juan* was given on Friday, before a crowded house. Unhappily, the cast was not all that could be desired, although a good deal of pains had been taken with it. The title-rôle was inadequately acted and sung by Herr Masano, and the rendering of Octavio by Herr Zeitschel was equally poor. The Zerline of Fräulein Saccur, and the Donna Anna of Fräulein Roxy King were capitally sung and acted, while Herr Mantler was a first-rate Leporello. Chorus, orchestra, and mounting, were all praiseworthy, and an indulgent audience closed one eye—as the Germans say—to the uneven cast.

"DAS VEILCHENMADEL," a farcical operetta, by MM. Krenn and C. Lindau, music by Josef Hellmesberger, is doing well at the Apollo. It is very Viennese in tone, the bright waltz-like melodies hailing unquestionably from the Austrian capital, and Herr Willi Bauer, a Viennese singer, is one of the chief attractions. The Berlin comic-song singer *par excellence*, Herr Robert Steidl, however, makes a very decided hit with some laughable couplets, and the whole is prettily staged.

A DRAMA by A. Trinius, entitled *Schiffbruch*, having been very successfully produced recently at the Court Theatre at Hamburg, is to come on to us within a short time. *Venus Amathusia*, Herr Max Dreyer's new play, is, on the other hand, postponed for production at the Schauspielhaus until next season.

FRAU NIEMANN-RAABE, an actress who, in her prime, was one of the first artistes in Germany, is rapidly recovering from her long nervous illness, and, we learn with gratification, will soon be able to return to public life.

NEW THEATRE AT GLOSSOP.

The new Theatre Royal at Glossop was opened on Monday under auspicious circumstances by Mr. Sydney Spenser, whose recent enterprise at Hucknall Torkard was cut short by the stoppage of the collieries. The theatre, which is elaborately furnished and fitted with electric light, was crowded with an audience which included members of the Glossop Town Council and magistrates of the district.

MR. SPENSER, who received a hearty ovation, in the course of a speech, thanked the audience for their presence and patronage, and hoped they were satisfied with the new venture. He felt assured that the success of the theatre, in a large measure, depended upon himself, and he was going to ask them to give him their support. The theatre would hold as many as 1,000 people. Now, what was one man against 1,000? He wished to take them all into his confidence, and make them all managers of the theatre. They were all equally responsible with himself for the well-being and the proper manner in which the theatre was conducted, because upon each one devolved the duty of behaving himself or herself. Personally, he intended to do his best, and he earnestly hoped they would support him, and it would be his endeavour to bring the very best companies that could possibly come to this town. Before he retired from the stage, he would like to read one or two little messages he had received from friends he had left behind, especially from one who was a prince in his profession—he referred to Sir Henry Irving. He was more than a prince, he was a king amongst actors, and he was sorry to say he was lying on a bed of sickness at the present time. But notwithstanding that fact, he did not forget such a little manager as himself (Mr. Spenser), and he sent him the following telegram:—

"Sydney Spenser, Theatre Royal, Glossop.
"I heartily wish success to your good enterprise, and hope the new Theatre Royal may become a place of wholesome recreation for the people of Glossop. "HENRY IRVING."

The reading of the telegram was received with loud applause. Continuing, Mr. Spenser said Mr. Arthur Collins, the manager of their national theatre, the Drury Lane Theatre, London, wired him as follows:—"Heartily wish prosperity to the new theatre." Mr. Beerbohm Tree had telegraphed: "You have my best wishes for your success with your new theatre." They would thus see, continued Mr. Spenser, amidst applause, that even the big managers sometimes had a thought in their minds for the struggling little chap who was just starting.

An overture was then played by the members of the Urban Electric Band, under the conductorship of Mr. J. M. Higginbottom, after which the musical comedy, *The New Mephisto*, was given by Mr. W. H. Kirby's company. Mr. Albert Weston, in the title-rôle, created abundant merriment, and the quaint humour of Mr. Willie H. Vernon was similarly effective in the part of Dick Pilgrim. Miss Marion Armitage was a charming Becky Pilgrim, and the other characters were admirably sustained.

"PRINCE CHARLIE; OR, KING OF THE HIGHLAND HEARTS," by Duncan Tovey and Sidney H. Sime, will be produced, for the first time, by members of the London Scottish Rifle Volunteers at the Great Queen-street Theatre on Thursday evening. The performance, which will be repeated on the 24th and 25th inst. and at a special matinée on the latter date, will be on behalf of the Queen Victoria School for the Sons of Scottish Sailors and Soldiers, and the funds of the regimental gazette.

MR. C. P. LEVILLY'S company with *La Poupée* is now in its eighth year of touring, and demonstrates the taste of the public for genuine comic opera. At the Lyceum, Sheffield, last week, the receipts were the largest ever taken in that town with the piece, though the visit was the seventh one with the same company, and again in Manchester the week previously record was again nearly reached. The success of the charming opera is justified by the elaborate nature of the production and the excellence of the company, which is considered to be the best that Mr. Levilly has yet sent out.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree, at the banquet at which he was entertained on Monday by the Oxford University Olympian Dramatic Club, stated that when he wanted to produce *Œdipus Rex*, the Lord Chamberlain had forbade the performance of the piece except in Greek. Mr. Redford, the Examiner of Plays, thinks Mr. Tree referred to the well-known French play, *Le Roi Œdipe*, which many years ago he thought of presenting in English. Mr. Redford then suggested that it would be better not to bring the play before the English public, as it might shock them. We should have had a worse fear—that it would bore them.

Sir Squire Bancroft and Miss Annie Hughes are organising a special benefit matinée for Mr. H. B. Conway, whose health has completely broken down. The performance will be given on Thursday, May 4. Mr. Frederick Harrison and Mr. Cyril Maude will lend the Haymarket Theatre, and contributions to the programme will be made by Mr. Tree, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Cyril Maude, Miss Winifred Emery, Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. Henry Kemble, Mr. G. P. Huntley, Mr. Huntley Wright, Mr. Maurice Farkoa, Mr. Hayden Coffin, Miss Evelyn Millard, Sir Charles Wyndham, Miss Mary Moore, and Miss Jessie Bateman, who will appear in a one-act piece of which Miss Hughes is the authoress.

Mr. J. L. Toole reached his seventy-fifth birthday at Brighton on Sunday, when a number of friends, including Mr. Thomas Thorne, dined with the veteran comedian in celebration of the event. Sir Henry Irving, true to a custom hallowed by many years, sent his old comrade a basket of the choicest blooms. "With dear love, dear friend, many happy returns of the day," he telegraphed in the morning, and in the evening came the message over the wires: "Love and good wishes. I drink your health." Mr. Lionel Brough, Mr. and Mrs. Weedon Grossmith, Mrs. John Billington, Mr. Sidney Brough, Mr. Charles Lowne, Mr. George Shelton, Mr. Harry Nichols, Mr. Ambrose Manning, Mr. Sidney Paxton, Mr. Joe Bracewell, and many others also sent congratulations to Mr. Toole.

A negress, accompanied by her daughter, recently purchased two tickets at the Circle Theatre, New York. After the women had taken their seats, they were asked to leave the theatre, and refused to do so. They were then told to go to the box office to have their tickets stamped. When they reached the box office the tickets were seized, and a $1 bill was thrown to them, with the remark, "No niggers are wanted here." The negress brought an action for damages against the manager, Mr. Percy Williams, and the jury gave her a verdict for $100. The case, in the opinion of several prominent lawyers, not only bears on the Civil Rights Law, but on the exclusion of James S. Metcalfe, the dramatic critic of *Life*, from various theatres. Jacob Newman, counsel for the negress, said that the suit was brought under the same enactment of the legislature as the action now contemplated against the managers who have excluded Mr. Metcalfe. Mr. A. H. Hummel, counsel for the Frohmans and nearly every prominent theatrical manager, said that a theatrical manager or proprietor of a theatre has an absolute, arbitrary right to exclude any person from his theatre without giving any reason therefor. An owner of a theatre could exclude the President of the United States or any other reputable person, simply because he wanted to do so, but if a negro was excluded, and the reason given was that of colour, the negro could recover on that ground alone.

Mr. George Edwardes has engaged Mr. Ambrose Manning for the part of Michu in the forthcoming production of *Two Little Girls* at Daly's Theatre. The rôle is that of a grocer, who is presented with the problem of deciding which of two babies who have been mixed up in their bath is his own, and which one a scion of nobility entrusted to his care, and Mr. Manning, whose invaluable work with the late Wilson Barrett's company is fresh in the memory, may be relied upon to make the very most of it.

Mr. Manning is a son of the late John Manning, who was well known in his time as actor and manager of the old Grecian Theatre in the City-road. It was there that Mr. Manning made his début, at the age of seven, in pantomime. At fourteen he retired, to study as an architect; but he eventually returned to the stage as prompter for Mr. E. A. Sothern, at the Haymarket. Mr. Manning was a member of Mr. Wilson Barrett's company for many years, making his biggest successes as Glabrio, in *The Sign of the Cross;* Cæsar Cregeen, in *The Manxman;* and as "the man in the Park," in *The Lights o' London.*

Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, who begin a week's engagement at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, on Monday, with *The Elder Miss Blossom*, will on Wednesday produce for the first time in London a one-act play, entitled *The Bird at the Neck*, in which both eminent artists will appear. The new piece will precede *Still Waters Run Deep*, which is the Wednesday attraction.

Miss Lena Ashwell, at the conclusion of the run of *Leah Kleschna*, will join Mr. William Greet in the management of a first-class West End theatre, for the business side of which Mr. Greet will be mainly responsible, while Miss Ashwell will control the stage. The plays selected will naturally afford special scope for Miss Ashwell's talents, but the new management will be fairly catholic in their choice of plays, and it may sometimes happen that Miss Ashwell will play a small effective part rather than the nominal leading one. Mr. McLellan, the author of *Leah Kleschna*, has accepted a commission to write a new play for Mr. Greet and Miss Ashwell, and one of their first productions will be Mr. Michael Morton's adaptation of Maurice Donnay's *Oiseaux de Passage*, which he has just finished.

The secretary of the Royal General Theatrical Fund acknowledges the receipt of a five-pound note from "C. E. T." "C. E. T." is hereby thanked for his donation, which he sent to the old address of the fund in Catherine-street, Strand. The secretary hopes this generous patron will, to avoid possible loss, make a note of the present address of the fund, which is at the Savoy House, Strand, W.C.

Mr. Otho Stuart's arrangements with regard to the revival of *Hamlet* at the Adelphi Theatre will necessitate the early disappearance of *The Taming of the Shrew* from the evening bill. It will therefore be withdrawn on Saturday, the 1st of April, and on the following Tuesday, April 4th, *Hamlet*, with Mr. H. B. Irving in the title-rôle, will be revived. The Wednesday matinées of *The Taming of the Shrew* will be continued. The public demand for seats being still very great, Saturdays only will be available for matinées of *Hamlet*.

Mr. Edward Terry is meeting with great success on his Canadian tour, under the management of Messrs. Liebler and Co., of New York. Crowded houses have been the record everywhere, and his visits have not sufficed to accommodate all who wished to see the popular comedian. On Saturday night last, when he appeared at Ottawa, the Governor-General of Canada, Lord Minto, with Lady Minto and suite, were present, and the Russell Theatre was packed to its utmost capacity.

Miss Grete Hahn, who is engaged for the part of Leontine in *The Thieves' Comedy*, to be produced at the Court Theatre, has already appeared in the original German version, *Der Biberpelz*.

Miss de Silva (Mrs. Martin Harvey), who is announced to play Ophelia in her husband's revival of *Hamlet* at the Lyric, has not only acted many boys' parts, but figured on play bills under the name of "Mr." Ferro. It was at the time of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey's long engagement at the Lyceum, when they toured, during the yearly vacation, with their own company. Miss de Silva's great part is Mimi, in *The Only Way*. She is the daughter of a Spaniard, the late Don Ramon de Silve Ferro, and possesses a name—as Mr. Harvey once said—"longer than her own small person—Angelita Helena de Silva."

Mr. H. B. Irving writes us to explain that, at the time at which he resumed the chairmanship of the Actors' Association, he informed Mr. Charles Cruikshanks, the secretary of the Association, by letter, that he—Mr. Irving—was interested in the formation of an Actors' Union; and stated in the same letter, a copy of which Mr. Irving has sent us, that he only again took office on the understanding that circumstances might arise which would make it expedient that he should resign his position.

Mr. E. Harcourt Williams, who has been playing Romeo at Manchester and hopes to resume the part in a few days, was obliged to take a short rest in consequence of the following strange and decidedly exciting accident. He was travelling to London in a sleeping car a few weeks ago, intending to spend Sunday in town, and dreamed that the train was on fire. So vivid was the impression that he must have leapt to his feet in a frantic desire to escape. The compartment was quite dark, but he dashed to the window, and sent his left forearm through it, smashing the glass and receiving some very severe cuts. The shock awakened him, and he rushed into the passage, where the car attendant and a gentleman occupying the next berth came to his assistance. As Mr. Harcourt Williams's arm was bleeding profusely, his unknown friend, with the aid of the attendant, laid him on his back and bound his hand to the rack above, and he had to remain in this uncomfortable position until the train reached Bletchley, where a doctor examined the wound, and recommended him to go to University Hospital directly he arrived in London. Fortunately, no after effects are anticipated, although the popular young actor's muscles were badly mauled and some tendons severed.

Mr. J. M. Barrie's new comedy, the title of which is at present a secret, is to be produced on Tuesday evening, April 5th, at the Prince of Wales's Theatre. Miss Ellen Terry and Miss Irene Vanbrugh will appear in two of the most important feminine rôles.

Mr. Hall Caine has determined upon a "happy ending" for the dramatic version of his novel, *The Prodigal Son*, which is to constitute Mr. Arthur Collins's autumn attraction at Drury-lane. Of the four acts which the piece contains, three are laid in Iceland, and one in the Riviera, and playgoers may confidently expect that Mr. Collins will take full advantage of the opportunities for scenic display which the localities afford.

Since the German police authorities have become so rigid in their precautions against fire in the Berlin theatres, the expenses of the managers have increased owing to the extra surveillance. To meet these expenses it has been proposed to levy a "fire-tax" upon all tickets issued, ranging from 20 pfennig to a mark, according to the seat. That the public are not in sympathy with this scheme it is hardly needless to state, and a comprehensive protest is in process, signed among others by Ludwig Fulda, Barnay, Joachim, Franz Von Liszt, and Friedrich Haase.

The Metropole Theatre, Snow Hill, Birmingham, was on Thursday sold by auction at the Grand Hotel, by order of the trustees of the late Mr. Andrew Melville and the late Mrs. Alice Jane Melville. The Metropole was in its early years a music hall, and was subsequently acquired by the late Mr. Andrew Melville. For many years, under its old name, the "Queen's," and later, as the "Metropole," it has been the recognised home of melodrama in the city. After Mr. Andrew Melville's death the theatre was let to Mr. Sounes, and when his lease ran out it passed again into the hands of the Melville family. There was a fairly large attendance of theatrical proprietors from London, Manchester, Swansea, and various parts of the country when Mr. Charles F. Redfern offered the building for competition. Bidding began at £3,500, and the theatre was eventually acquired for £5,400 by Mr. Andrew Melville Robbins, third son of the late proprietor.

Mr. "Happy" Attwood has just concluded a successful pantomime engagement with Messrs. Little and Darey. He has been secured by Mr. Milton Bode for 1905-6 and 1906-7, to play a principal comedy part.

"Peter Pan" will celebrate its 150th and last performance of this season on Saturday night, April 1. It is to be reproduced on December 14 for the Christmas season of 1905-6, and it speaks well for the reputation the play has already carned when one hears that seats have been already booked for the Boxing Night performance.

Mr. Ernest E. Norris has acquired the suburban and provincial rights of *Tommy Atkins*, which will form the Easter attraction at the Elephant and Castle Theatre, and will be sent on tour in the autumn.

Miss Tita Brand, in her revival of *Othello* at the Shaftesbury, on Saturday, April 8, will have the assistance of Mr. Henry Ainley, who, by permission of Mr. Charles Frohman, will play Cassio. Miss Charlotte Granville will enact Emilia, and Bianca will be in the care of Miss Lydia Busch.

Mr. Charles Frohman has secured the English and American rights of M. Pierre Berton's drama, *La Belle Marseillaise*, recently produced at the Ambigu, Paris. The piece, the title-rôle of which gives unlimited opportunities for comic acting, deals with the dilemma of a captivating Parisienne ordered by Napoleon to marry for the second time, while her husband, who has merited the Emperor's displeasure, and is supposed to be dead, is still in the land of the living.

Mr. Frank Curzon will next week put in rehearsal a new musical play by Mr. W. H. Risque, with music by Mr. Howard Talbot, which may be expected at one of Mr. Curzon's theatres about Easter.

The dresses worn by the fair members of Mr. George Musgrove's *Prince of Pilsen* company can only be described as sumptuous. Miss Beatrice Lamotte, as the Vassar Girl, on her first entrance is garbed in an exquisite "creation" from the Rue de la Paix, consisting of mauve satin cloak trimmed with soft foamy lace and tiny brilliants, revealing at intervals a satin skirt and lingérie in the same delicate tint, the whole surmounted by a coquettish little pill-box-shaped toque, with bird of paradise plumes. Later on she appears in a dainty white cloth riding habit lined with black satin, with which is worn a white beaver top hat. Her last gown, with which she carries a posy of scarlet poppies, is a daring but strikingly effective contrast in colours, the skirt being of turquoise blue satin, cut in Louis XI. style, embroidered in scarlet poppies with a *décolletage* of pale blue chiffon, and decorated with stripes of royal blue sequin embroidery, which falls in sash-like ends to the hem of the gown.

Miss Julie Herne, a daughter of the late James A. Herne, the American dramatist, has written a four-act play called *Richter's Wife*, which was recently submitted at a series of matinée performances at the Manhattan Theatre, New York. The authoress, a girl of twenty, and her elder sister, Miss Chrystal Herne, were both in the cast, their mother, Mrs. James A. Herne, superintending the production. The Misses Herne appeared in several of their father's plays during his lifetime. The younger daughter is anxious to make a name for herself as a dramatist, and the critics have found much to praise in her first effort, although the play has been styled a weak imitation of Ibsen. Richter's wife, Elsie, is a petulant, hysterical young woman, who is easily roused to jealousy. Richter is the leader of an orchestra, and he becomes interested in his wife's cousin, Helen Warner, who is visiting them, and who expects to become famous as a singer. Richter is a dreamy individual, with a constant longing for sympathy. His wife gives him none, and from mere professional interest in his pupil he passes into a sentimental regard for her. But the girl is frightened when he speaks to her of love, and decides to go away. She is on the eve of a great professional triumph, however, as Richter has given her the solo part in an oratorio which he is producing. He expresses his regret that his words have hurt the girl, promises to be silent on the subject in future, and persuades her to go on with her studies under his direction. On the night of the concert Helen breaks down. Her announcement of the fact upon her return home is received by Richter's wife with every manifestation of pleasure, as she has made no effort to conceal her hatred of her cousin. A little later, Richter returns home, and eventually Helen confesses to him that she has loved him all along. Richter suggests that they go away together, but to this the girl will not consent. Reminding him of his duty to his wife, she tells him that they must now part for ever. The wife surprises the pair whilst they are in each other's arms, but says nothing until the next day, when she summons Helen to her room. She tells the girl that she knows Richter is in love with her, and bids her be happy if she can. Then she drinks poison and dies. Miss Julie Herne, as Elsie, Miss Chrystal Herne, as Helen Warner, and Mr. John E. Kellerd, as Michael Richter, won praise for their impersonations.

Miss Victoria Bateman, an American actress, has been seriously injured in a fire which occurred at an hotel in Edwardsville, Ill., on the 6th inst. Miss Bateman was taking an afternoon nap in her room, when a member of the company playing at the local theatre, who had gone to summon her, saw smoke issuing from beneath the door. The proprietor broke in the door, crawled in on hands and knees, and encountered the form of the unconscious woman lying on the floor. She was dragged out. Medical attention was given her, and she now lies in a precarious condition.

Mrs. Langtry and her company paid a flying visit to the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on the 9th inst., and gave a very successful performance of *Mrs. Dering's Divorce* before a large audience. Mrs. Langtry's charming depiction of the lady of the title met with a flattering reception, and capital support was rendered by Mr. Leonard Boyne, as Captain Dering, other important parts being well played by Mr. Frank Hollins, Mr. Courtenay Thorpe, Miss Jean Morrison, and Miss Anne Mildmay.

Mr. A. B. Walkley, lecturing at the Midland Institute, Birmingham, on "Some Aspects of the Modern Stage," said the unreality of the drama arose from the fact that it could only give the illusion of reality by a system of conventions, or departures from reality which the spectator willingly agreed to accept as the price he paid for his pleasures or which were forced upon the dramatist as the price he had to pay before he could give pleasure to a large number of persons assembled together. In other words, the conventions of the drama were those imposed by its medium, and those imposed by the nature of its public. He deprecated the extravagant claims that were often made for the modern drama. Only such ideas could be dealt with as were capable of being conveyed in terms of emotion. Mr. Walkley stated that his faith in the future of the stage was based upon the hope of the development of a "new crowd" on a higher plane.

At the Grand Theatre, Islington, this week, a beauty competition has created great excitement amongst the fairer portion of the Islingtonians. The competition was run on very novel lines, viz., the first prize of two guineas going, as usual, to the lady receiving the greatest number of votes, but the second prize of one guinea being awarded to the lady receiving the least. Under the new management of Mr. James, of the Hammersmith and Croydon Theatres, every effort is being made to maintain and increase the attractiveness of this popular theatre, and next week *Ben-ma-Chree* will be played by Mr. Arnold Bell's company. Mr. Neuman Meurien, the new acting manager, is most assiduous in his courtesy and attention to all.

Miss Nellie Clyde, who is playing the title-rôle in *The Convict's Daughter*, met with a painful mishap last week at Grimsby. As she was crossing the road, she was knocked down by a motor car containing four people. The lady was for a short time insensible, but she recovered sufficiently to be assisted to the nearest doctor, where it was found that, although Miss Clyde sustained a very severe shaking, no bones were broken. She very pluckily appeared as usual in her part the same evening.

Mr. Frank Goldsmith, who has been playing in *Letty* with Mr. Chas. Frohman's company in America, has just been re-engaged by that management for another year, making his fourth with Mr. Chas. Frohman. Mr. Goldsmith hopes to spend a short vacation in England this summer.

Mr. F. R. Benson's season at the Coronet Theatre has been strikingly successful, the advance booking being unprecedentedly heavy. At every performance during the four weeks that Mr. Benson has been at the Coronet, there has not even been standing room.

Mr. Lilford Arthur has found it advisable to restore to the farce-comedy, *Jones's Jaunt*, its original title, *A Prodigal Father*. The piece is going well, and this week in Dublin, where Mr. Charles Collette is a great favourite, it has been received with enthusiasm.

The production of *The Prince of Pilsen* by Mr. George Musgrove's company at the King's, Hammersmith, last week, marked a red letter night in the annals of Mr. Mulholland's handsome theatre. Society, art, literature, and the drama, were well represented on the occasion; and looking round upon the brilliant audience, the casual spectator might have imagined himself assisting at some West End *première*. The principals were accorded hearty receptions, encores were the order of the evening, and the enthusiasm of the audience, which had commenced with the opening number, culminated in a demonstration of cheers and calls.

A Profit of £1.134 6s. 8d. was realised for the Actors' Orphanage Fund at the garden party held at the Botanic Gardens in July last.

During Miss Marion Terry's indisposition, her part in *Mollentrave on Women* at the St. James's was played by Miss Edyth Olive.

"Everybody's Secret," the comedy in three acts, produced on Tuesday night at the Haymarket Theatre, reveals some smart dresses which will be of special interest to the ladies as examples of the latest spring fashions. To Miss Carlotta Addison's share as Lady Parkes fall some handsome matronly toilettes, one of which is made of green shot taffetas, with a full skirt pleated upon the hips and a cross-over bodice draped over a vest of rich cream lace and gold embroidery, with an inner vest of white lace. Her very novel and smart green cloak is made of green chiffon velours decorated with sable, and she wears a stringless green bonnet prettily trimmed with clusters of grapes. In another scene Miss Addison wears a long velvet pelisse trimmed with sable gathered in at the waist, the revers and collar of which are edged with sable, which is exquisitely softened by a cravat of cream lace.

Miss Jessie Bateman to suit the exigencies of the play is robed throughout most simply but becomingly in the palest blue cloth, the full skirt of which is edged with tucks, to match which tucks are added to the bodice and sleeves. The waistband fastens at the back with a buckle, and the pretty collar and cuffs are made of muslin and lace; the former is worn above the black stock tie.

Miss Helen Ferrers, as Mrs. Mellor, a sister of Lady Parkes, wears the two most distinguished and fashionable frocks in the play. Her first appearance is made in a very attractive-looking gown. It is a toilette of orchid mauve chiffon with a full and flowing skirt flounced thrice, and a cross-over bodice of the same fabric. Over it is worn a very original and beautiful looking three-quarter-length transparency coat of the finest lace adorned with embroidery; it has short sleeves, and the puffs of the mauve elbow ones appear beneath them. A handsome muff and stole of moleskin lined with ermine, and a hat turned up at the side to show a bunch of ostrich feathers, complete the scheme.

Miss Ferrers's dress of the third act is a beautifully modelled Princess gown of champagne cloth, hanging full from the hips, and trimmed with enormous cloth buttons centred with steel. It has a high bolero drapery upon the bodice and very full sleeves, respectively trimmed with revers and cuffs of embroidered silk. The mauve chip hat is trimmed with lilac and roses, and gives an excellent touch of colour to the prevailing neutrality of the rest of the toilette.

Mr. Frank Curzon will reopen the Comedy Theatre shortly with an original comedy in four acts, entitled *Lady Ben*, by George Pleydell Bancroft, for the title-rôle of which Miss Darragh has been specially engaged. The cast will also include Mr. Frank Cooper, Mr. Charles Fulton, Mr. J. D. Beveridge, Mr. Charles Maude, Mr. Guy Cavy, Mr. W. F. Lloyd, Miss May Pardoe, Miss Dorothy Grimstone, Miss May Martin, Miss Fanny Coleman, and Miss Callish.

The Battison Hayes prize (composition) of the Royal Academy of Music, has been awarded to Montague F. Phillips, a native of London; Benjamin J. Dale being highly commended. The R.A.M. Club prize (composition) has been secured by Benjamin J. Dale, London; Stanley Marchant being commended. The examiners in each instance were Messrs. Eaton Faning, Edward German, and W. G. McNaught. The Goldberg prize (contralto) has been won by Constance Dugard, of London; Gladys Roberts, Ethel Mann, and Amy Dewhurst being highly commended. The examiners were Mr. S. Brereton, Madame Edith Hands, and Miss Margaret Hoare (in the chair). The Sterndale Bennett prize (female pianists) fell to Irene Scharrer, of London; Marie Letheby being commended. The examiners were Messrs. Fritz Read, Rud Zwintocher, and Ernest Fowles (chairman).

The twenty-first annual dinner of the Playgoers' Club will take place at the Hotel Cecil on Sunday, when the toast of the drama will be proposed by the President, Mr. I. Zangwill, and replied to by Mr. Lewis Waller. Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Mr. Alfred Sutro will respond for the visitors, whose health will be pledged by Mr. B. W. Findon

The old Theatre Royal, Bold Lane, Derby, which has for forty years been a Gospel hall, has had an interesting record. It was erected in 1773 by James Augustus Whiteley, and among the stars who appeared there were Charles Kemble, the elder Kean, Mrs. Siddons, the elder Mathews, Sheridan Knowles, Madame Vestris, Maria Foote (afterwards Countess of Harrington), Helen Tree (Mrs. Charles Kean), Charles Kean, Helen Faucit (Lady Theodore Martin), Macready, and Dibdin. In 1865 the old Theatre Royal was purchased by a missionary, and has since been used for religious purposes.

Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's company opened at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, on Monday, with *The Shop Girl*, and played to a packed house. Musical comedies are having a run at this theatre, for *A Runaway Girl*, *The Circus Girl*, and *An Artist's Model* follow on in immediate succession.

Miss Isa Bowman having relinquished the title-rôle in *Miss Mischief* for the leading part in Mr. Eade Montefiore's Edinburgh production of *A Trip to the Highlands*, Miss Ethel Beech, who has for some time been playing in *The Schoolgirl*, on tour, will, next week, undertake the part.

Miss Margaret Auglin is appearing in an emotional drama called *Zira*. The plot is founded on that of Wilkie Collins's novel *The New Magdalen*, and the piece is written by J. Hartley Manners and Henry Miller. The action opens in Pretoria just after its capture by the British troops, and ends in a fashionable London mansion.

The much-debated sketch question seems in a fair way to be settled at last. On Tuesday, at the House of Commons, Captain Jessell, the member for South St. Pancras, presided over a conference between representatives of the Theatrical Managers' Association and the London Entertainments Protection Association. We understand that the discussion dealt with points in the Entertainments Bill, concerning the length of sketches performed at music halls, and the number of principals and supers to be employed. It is confidently expected that a *modus vivendi* will be attained. There will be a general meeting of the Theatrical Managers' Association on April 4, when the matter will be again discussed.

The principal artistes at the Bristol Musical Festival, which begins on October 11, will include Mme. Albani, Mme. Melba, Miss Lucile Hill, Miss Muriel Foster, Miss Ada Crossley, Mme. Kirkby Lunn, Messrs. Ben Davies, John Coates, William Green, Andrew Black, Charles Knowles, and Ffrangcon Davies, the Misses Verne, and Herr Kriesler. Mr. George Riseley will conduct. The festival will open with Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. In the evening are to be performed the "Symphonie Fantastique" of Berlioz, and also its sequel, "Lelio." Mendelssohn's *Œdipus at Colonos* will form the second part of the programme. On Thursday morning will be given Richard Strauss's ballad for soloists and full orchestra, *Taillefer* (*The Battle of Hastings*), and the second part will comprise Sir E. Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*. In the evening there will be a miscellaneous concert, including *The Song of the Fates* (Brahms) On the Friday morning will be performed the Grand Mass in C minor of Mozart, followed by Beethoven's *Engedi*. At the evening performance *Lohengrin* is to be given, without cuts, and Handel's *Messiah* will conclude the festival.

Master Cyril Smith is, we are glad to hear, now so well on the road to health that he was, barring accident, to leave the Borough Hospital on Wednesday, and stay until his complete recovery is assured with Dr. Wilmot, who has attended him during his illness. He rejoins Sir Henry Irving in May.

Mr. William Gillette, in *Sherlock Holmes*, is the current attraction at the Empire Theatre, New York. It is announced that this is to be his last appearance in New York in the rôle of the famous detective. The play was first presented by Mr. Gillette, at the Garrick Theatre, on Nov. 6, 1899, and it was revived at the Knickerbocker Theatre, on Nov. 4, 1902. The present revival is attracting large audiences, Mr. Gillette's embodiment of the imperturbable Holmes proving as interesting and effective as ever. Mr. Ralph Delmore repeats his excellent impersonation of James Larrabee, and Mr. George W. Wessels, the original Professor Moriarty, gives a portrayal of the crafty criminal that could hardly be improved upon. Miss Hilda Spong appears with complete success as Madge Larrabee.

Signor Luigi Manzotti, the famous Milanese ballet master, died this week in his sixty-seventh year. Manzotti, some of whose productions won world-wide fame, was named the Moltke of the ballet, and his *Rolla* gained a prize from Pope Pius IX.; and after the success of *Sport* the people of Milan presented him with a bronze bust.

Mr. Frank Keenan, the American actor, has taken the little New York playhouse, which has been called by various names during the past year, and has lately reverted to its original title of the Berkeley Lyceum Theatre, his intention being to conduct it on the same plan as the Théâtre Antoine, in Paris. For the opening bill three short plays were presented. The first was a dramatic tabloid, by Jackson D. Hoag, entitled *At the Threshold*. It is the story of an elopement frustrated by a burglar, who reads a runaway wife and her tempter a moral lecture; and then, recounting his own experiences to drive the lesson home, discovers that the woman is his own daughter.

An entertainment will be given at 154, Holland-Park Avenue, on Monday evening, under the patronage of Lady Edmund Talbot, in aid of the funds to establish St. Martin's Convalescent Home for the literary, musical, and dramatic professions. Mr. Barton McGuckin, Signorina Paola Teodoras, Miss Elsie Southgate, Miss Florence Venning, Miss Sarah Berry, and other artistes will contribute to the concert, which will be under the direction of Mrs. Vermulen McDonnell, and St. Vincent's Orchestra will be conducted by the Very Rev. Monsignor Poyer.

A "Shakespeare Ball" will take place in aid of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, in the Empress Rooms of the Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington, on Thursday, May 4, under distinguished patronage, including that of Princess Christian and Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein, and many leading representatives of the dramatic and musical professions.

Mrs. J. W. Gordon, the manageress of the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Southampton, will be accorded a farewell benefit on Friday. Mrs. Gordon, who is relinquishing the management of the theatre on Saturday, after many years of arduous work, was for five years co-lessee with the late Mr. J. J. Ploughman, and on the latter's death in 1898 she undertook the responsibilities of the place alone. Many offers of assistance have been forthcoming for the benefit performance, which will include Mr. William Bourne's Co. in *Voices of London;* Mr. J. D. Hunter; and the first act of *My Sweetheart*, in which Mrs. Gordon will appear as Tina, and Mr. Fred Davenporte as Tony. Mr. Fred. Mouillot, who also runs the Grand Theatre, has secured a lease of the Prince's from the executors of the late Sefton Parry, and will open the house as a drama theatre on Easter Monday next.

Messrs. G. M. Polini and Lauderdale Maitland will tour during the autumn with *The Coal King*, the five-act drama by Edward Martin and Fewlass Llewellyn, which was produced at the Elephant and Castle last October. Mr. Polini is well known on the road, and his partner, a member of a well-known theatrical family, has toured in many leading parts in melodrama. Mr. Maitland will play the principal rôle in *The Coal King*, the business management of which will be in the hands of Mr. Polini.

In our summary in last week's issue of the case at Bow-street Police-court on the 6th inst., in which Mrs. Clement Scott was summoned by the trustees of the Neilson Fund to show cause why she should not deliver up certain books and documents relating to the fund, we stated that "there were a cash book and many letters and documents which the trustees were anxious to secure." Mr. Alfred A. Robinson, on behalf of Mrs. Scott, now informs us that no evidence was adduced in support of such statement. The assertion was taken from counsel's speech, and we inserted it merely as a part of our report. We regret that our reproduction of the counsel's statements should have given Mrs. Scott any offence or annoyance.

Miss Ellis Jeffreys made her first appearance before an American audience on the 6th inst. at the New Amsterdam Theatre, New York, and scored an instantaneous success as Queen Sonia in *The Prince Consort*, a comedy adapted from the French, by William Boosey and Cosmo Gordon Lennox. The play was produced in a very handsome manner by Messrs. Liebler and Co., and Miss Jeffreys was supported by an excellent company, including Miss Kate Phillips, Mr. Ben Webster, Mr. Henry E. Dixey, and Mr. William H. Thompson.

Miss Fanny Brough has been sustaining, in the United States, with great success the rôle of Mrs. Mulholland in that delightful comedy, *The Duke of Killicrankie*. At the Nixon Theatre, Pittsburg, recently, Mr. Charles Frohman's excellent company, with Mr. John Drew at its head, gave a finished representation of the piece. Mr. Drew, as the Duke, was ably assisted by Mr. Ferdinand Gottschalk, as Henry Pitt-Welby, M.P.

Mr. Robert Arthur has made arrangements with Madame Sarah Bernhardt by which she will appear at the Coronet Theatre in the coming June.

The first meeting of the Exhibition Finance Sub-committee (No. 3) of the Scenic Artists' Association, was held at the offices, 5, Robert-street, W.C., on Friday, 10th March. In the absence of the chairman (Mr. Walter Hann), Mr. William Raphael was elected to preside. There were also present:—Mr. G. R. Hemsley, Mr. W. T. Hemsley, and Mr. G. H. Wallis (auditor), and Mr. H. Lawrence Harris, secretary. The sub-committee made arrangements for the collecting of two or three remaining subscriptions to the Exhibition Guarantee Fund.

At the usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association, held last Tuesday, Walter Selby was nominated for election. The honorary solicitors reported they had advised several members, and were requested to consider certain matters in connection with the contracts handed to them for that purpose. Mr. A. H. Brewer, junior, M.R.C.S., &c., was elected as an hon. medical officer of the A.A.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS CLARA NICHOLLS.

MISS CLARA NICHOLLS made her first appearance under the management of Mr. John Hare, at the Court Theatre, walking on as one of the girls in *Olivia*. The following Christmas she spoke her first lines in the small part of a fairy in the Surrey Theatre pantomime, for which Mr. W. Holland engaged her. Mr. Henry Pettitt was Miss Nicholls' next manager, who entrusted her with a juvenile part in his piece entitled *Love and Money*, which had a tour of five months.

As the Princess, in the pantomime of *Aladdin*, produced by Mr. James Buchanan, Miss Nicholls scored a decided success. Following this was a re-engagement to tour as Josephs in *Never too Late to Mend*. Miss Maude Forester next engaged Miss Nicholls to play the rôle of Onezia in the well-known piece, *Maseppa*.

The Christmas of 1886 found Miss Nicholls as principal girl at the Theatre Royal, Preston, in the pantomime, entitled *Crusoe*, and there are many who will remember with pleasure the bright and dainty manner in which Polly Atkins was portrayed by the subject of this sketch. The following year Miss Nicholls accepted an engagement as Cinderella with Messrs. Roberts, Archer, and Bartlett.

Then came one of her longest engagements, touring, as she did, for over three years with the famous *Silver King*, playing Oliver Skinner, and understudying Nellie Denver. In 1891 Mr. P. Hardacre engaged her to play Barbara Hare in *East Lynne*. This was a tour of twelve months, including a stock season at the Comedy Theatre, Manchester, where Miss Nicholls played Mrs. O'Regan in the*Colleen Bawn*, Kate Nickleby in *Nicholas Nickleby*, and, again, one of the sons of Rob Roy.

At this time Miss Nicholls gave up the stage for a somewhat lengthened period. On her return to it, she played Dick Whittington at the old Clapham Theatre. This has always been one of her favourite parts, and one in which she made a decided success. Miss Nicholls' next engagement was one of quite a different character, for she was engaged by Mr. Julian Hartleagh to play Lady Marchant in the beautiful play, *A Bunch of Violets*, which rôle she sustained during two tours, starting in April, 1896.

Then followed a tour with the *Gaiety Girl* (December, 1896) as Lady Virginia Forest. Mr. Isaac Cohen next secured Miss Nicholls for the heavy part in *The Hue and Cry*, which he produced at the Pavilion Theatre in April, 1897. This engagement was the first of many others at the same place. As Madam Cobweb, in Mr. Leopold's *Frivolity* company, she had a part quite out of the ordinary, and the many acrobatic feats performed by her she can never forget, and even yet cannot quite realise.

In September, 1898, Miss Nicholls left London with the English Comedy Company, bound for Gib-

Photo. by Burton.

MISS CLARA NICHOLLS.

raltar and Malta. While on tour with this company, she played Donna Lucia, Mrs. Brindle in *The Dove Cote*, Margaret in *Dream Faces*, Mrs. Pinglet, and Mrs. Chadwick in her brother's piece, *Jane*. Following this came a short tour of *How London Lives*, when she joined Mr. Chattell to play Margaret Maitland in *Tommy Atkins*.

In August, 1901, Miss Nicholls was engaged by Mr. Maskell to play the part of Mrs. Callender in Mr. Hall Caine's famous play, *The Christian*. Another tour followed this engagement. Miss Romney in the *Strange Adventures of Miss Brown* was Miss Nicholls' next venture, and this was a long tour under the management of Miss Lydia Donovan.

When the above tour terminated, Mr. Wentworth Croke arranged with Miss Nicholls to play her old part of Mrs. Callender (Christmas, 1903-4), for which he re-engaged her for his autumn tour.

MR. CECIL KLEIN.

MR. CECIL KLEIN began his theatrical career some eight years ago, creating a juvenile heavy part in a new play. The following autumn he went on tour in *The Sign of the Cross*, playing Philodemus. He succeeded so well with this character that he received an offer for the spring from Mr. Charles Warner to play Rochefort in *The Three Musketeers*. Two days before the opening date of the tour Mr. Klein was laid up with a severe attack of influenza, which kept him a prisoner in his bed for nearly three months. Nothing daunted by this stroke of evil fortune, the next autumn found his active and energetic, and happily restored to health, playing Murat and stage managing in a tour of *A Royal Divorce*. After this he toured in a répertoire of society plays, acting such widely dissimilar parts as Pete in *The Professor's Love Story*, Dumby in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, and Lord Jura in *Moths*, &c. This engagement gave him practice in many and various rôles. Then came a tour in *The White Heather*, and upon his return to London Mr. Klein appeared in several special productions. His next move was an ambitious one, as Mr. Klein took out his own company in three of the St. James's Theatre successes, playing Lord Augustus Lorton in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, John Worthing in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and the Hon. Mandeville Hobbe in *His Little Dodge*. This first venture in management gave Mr. Klein enough confidence in his own powers to essay a tour with the Haymarket play, *The Red Lamp*, which was sufficiently successful to be prolonged for eight months, Mr. Klein making a conspicuous hit as Allan Villiers, the American journalist. In looking about for another suitable play, this enterprising young manager made a choice of William Gillette's fine American drama, *Secret Service*, in which he played the leading rôle. Though far from being the financial success it deserved, this tour stamped the young manager as an actor of strength and promise, for in Mr. Gillette's part of Captain Thorne he found the most congenial character he had yet played. It was during this tour that a new drama by Miss Chapin was produced, and with such satisfactory results that Mr. Klein will undoubtedly tour it in the near future. Returning to town, Mr. Klein became associated with Mr. George Dance as assistant-general manager at his offices in Shaftesbury-avenue, subsequently going on tour as business manager of *The Three Little Maids* company. Mr. Klein's ambitions, however, are to succeed as an actor, and the summer found him playing Captain Gavor Gilchrist in *Bootles' Baby* for several special weeks; a short engagement as juvenile lead in *The Biggest Scamp on Earth* followed. After this he joined the stock company of the Grand Theatre, Islington, playing juvenile and light comedy parts. Among the many rôles he has essayed under this management may be mentioned Surgeon O'Neil in *A Woman from Gaol*, Richard Carston in *Bleak House*, Harry Mayle in *Oliver Twist*, Dick Hare in *East Lynne*, Sir George Mcd-

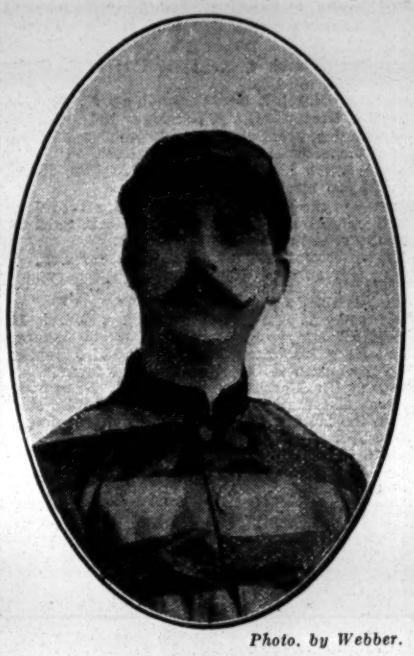

Photo. by Webber.

MR. CECIL KLEIN.

hurst in *After Dark*, Herbert Digby in *The Bridge of Sighs*, Hon. Dick Dowdeswell in *The Woman from Nowhere*, Matthew Brookfield in *The Bells of Haslemere*, and Kyrle Daly in *The Colleen Bawn*. Mr. Klein is still on the right side of thirty, and if hard work and persevering energy go for anything, should make for himself an honourable position in his profession.

MR. ARTHUR BAWTREE.

MR. ARTHUR BAWTREE'S first engagement was with Mr. Rutland Barrington, at the St. James's Theatre, in October, 1888, to "walk on" in a scene of *The Dean's Daughter*. In January of the following year he commenced his first touring engagement under the management of Mr. Chas. Harbury and Miss Helen Mathews, with their Shakespearean company. The répertoire consisted of *The Merchant of Venice*, *Othello*, and *The Tempest*, Mr. Bawtree's parts being Lorenzo, Montano, and Old Gonzalo. Then followed engagements with Messrs. Miller and Elliston, Cuthbert and Cobbe, and Chas. Dornton, during which he played the leading and juvenile leading parts. He then accepted an offer from Mr. Kyrle Bellew and Mrs. Brown Potter to accompany them on their tour to South Africa. The company opened in Cape Town on Jan. 25, 1892, but the season was brought to an abrupt termination on account of the theatre being destroyed by fire. The company returned to England, and Mr. Bawtree was re-engaged by Mr. Bellew for his production of *Hero and Leander* at the Shaftesbury Theatre. His next engagement was with Messrs. Cartwright and Tapping's *Idler* company, in which piece he played the part of Sir John Harding. Then two seasons on the Pier at Hastings with Mr. J. D. Hunter, and a tour with Mr. Wynn Miller's *Walker, London*, followed. Mr. Bawtree then accepted an offer from Mr. T. V. Twinning to join Mr. Bellew and Mrs. Brown-Potter on their tour to India and the Far East. The répertoire consisted of about twenty pieces. During this engagement he played, among other parts, Tybalt, Horatio, Bassanio, Beauseant, Mario Cavaradossi (*La Tosca*), Hastings, Marcellus (*Theodore*). The company visited Calcutta (season of five months), Singapore, Penang, Hong-Kong, and Canton. The tour altogether extended over ten months, and was by far the most enjoyable it has been Mr. Bawtree's lot to experience. A few days after his return to England, he received a cable from Mr. Bellew, offering him an engagement in America, which he accepted, and the tour lasted

Photo. by Burgess.

MR. ARTHUR BAWTREE.

over nine months, during which he played the juvenile and leading parts in *Charlotte Corday*, *Francillon*, and *Camille*. On his return to England he was engaged by Mr. Milton Bode for his tour of *Settling Day*. In the meantime, he signed an engagement with Mr. W. J. Holloway for his South African tour. They opened in Johannesburg on Boxing Night, 1895. The following week the memorable Jameson Raid took place, with disastrous effects to theatre business. However, matters were soon settled for the time being, and their season lasted over twenty weeks. *Trilby* had the record run of three weeks. They afterwards travelled down to Cape Town, playing there three or four weeks, and then returning home. On arriving home, Mr. Bawtree was re-engaged by Mr. Milton Bode for the part of Harold Wilson in *Tommy Atkins*, with which play he toured during the autumn of 1896 and the spring of 1897. Then followed engagements with Mr. Henry Dundas, Messrs. A. and S. Gatti (Adelphi), and Mr. C. J. Abud. He was re-engaged by Messrs. A. and S. Gatti for the autumn drama, *The Gipsy Earl* at the Adelphi, in which he played Lord Trevannion. Then followed engagements under the management of Messrs. Herbert Sleath (*The Mariners of England*), Leonard Boyne (*Sporting Life*), Lionel Rignold (*The Wrong Mr. Wright*), Wilfrid Franks and Julian Hartleigh (*The Span of Life*), J. F. Elliston (*The Absent-Minded Beggar*), and Henry Dundas (*The Ladder of Life*). In February, 1902, Mr. Bawtree accepted an offer to once more visit South Africa, on this occasion with Mr. Willie Edouin. The tour lasted about six months. In April, 1903, he joined M. Auguste Van Biene for his English and South African tours. They left England in June, and arrived home again on Boxing Day the same year. Mr. Bawtree accepted an offer of a re-engagement for the spring of last year, and the tour extended over twenty weeks, terminating at Douglas, Isle of Man. He was re-engaged for the autumn tour, which opened on Bank Holiday (August 1st), at the Lyceum, Sheffield, Mr. Bawtree playing the part of General Ivanoff. He is now on tour in Australia with the same play.

MISS VERA FORDYCE.

MISS VERA FORDYCE graduated at the late Miss Sarah Thorne's school at Margate, and, curiously enough, made her first appearance in a speaking part (a very small one—two lines only) in *The Lady of Lyons with* Mr. Cosmo Stuart (Claude Melnotte), in whose charming play, *The Marriage of Kitty*, she is now acting with such marked success. After she had finished her probation with Miss Thorne, that lady engaged her for second girl in her pantomime of *Robin Hood*. After that Mr. Dundas engaged her as understudy in *The Derby Winner*, and, being a very quick study, she was called upon to play the character of Mary Aylmer at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, at half an hour's notice, although the part had only been given to her the previous night. Then came two engagements in stock season at Brighton with Mr. Thomas Sidney, when she played such rôles as Mary Blenkarn (*The Middleman*), Hattie (*Niobe*), Ruth Rolt (*Sweet Lavender*), &c. Next Miss Fordyce was secured by Mr. Ben Greet for Berenis, in *The Sign of the Cross*, which she played with great success for two tours. In consequence of this, Miss Annie Hughes engaged her for Barbara, in her tour of *Sweet Nancy*. After this came a short engagement with the late C. W. Garthorne as Olive, in *The Colonel*, and a brief special engagement as May Edwards with Mr. A. E. Drinkwater. In August, 1900, Miss Fordyce was engaged by Mr. Frank Thornton for the part of Nora (the other Mrs. John Smith), for his tour of *Facing the Music*. After playing this

Photo by Talma.

MISS VERA FORDYCE.

character for two tours, with Mr. Thornton in the part of the other John Smith, and one tour with Mr. J. J. Dallas in the same rôle, Miss Fordyce was engaged by Mr. Thornton for entire lead in his comedy répertoire company, *Facing the Music*, *The Private Secretary*, *Charley's Aunt*, *A Little Ray of Sunshine*, *Sweet Lavender*, and *The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown*, throughout his tour in Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand. Returning in October last, Miss Fordyce created the part of Lily, in Mr. Walter Stephens's *A Trip to Margate* at the Crown Theatre, Peckham. Among other parts played by Miss Fordyce are Janet, in Mr. Charles Hannan's charming play *The Setting of the Sun*, in which she scored a great success, being very highly complimented by the author; Mrs. Sternhold, also Mrs. Mildmay, *Still Waters*; Mrs. Midhurst, *The Solicitor*; Kate Butterscotch, *The Guv'nor*; Violet, *Confusion*; Lucy, *Our Flat*; Lucy, *Jane*; Dorothy Hubbard, *The Romance of a Shopwalker*; and Jenny, *Sweethearts*.

MR. WINGOLD LAWRENCE.

A LONDONER by birth, and being a stage-struck youth, Mr. Wingold Lawrence started as a local amateur. He then drifted into the fit-ups, where he stayed three years, gaining good experience by hard work, and playing, among others, the following parts: Sir Leicester Dedlock (*Poor Joe*), George Peyton (*The Octoroon*), Timothy Clinker (*The Ring of Iron*), Hardress Cregan (*The Colleen Bawn*), Paul Fairweather (*The Streets of London*), Bob Brierley (*The Ticket-of-Leave Man*), Taffy (*Trilby*), Laburn Brood (*British Born*), Archibald Carlyle (*East Lynne*), and Tony (*My Sweetheart*). He also had a short fit-up tour of his own, playing Tony in *My Sweetheart*. He then wrote, stage-managed, and produced a pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, which was toured for six weeks by Mr. Ernest Raymond in fit-ups.

Mr. Lawrence then started in the theatres, being engaged by Mr. Matt. Wilkinson for Squire Lyndhurst, in *Sons of the Sea*. A few weeks afterwards he was offered by Mr. Wilkinson the eccentric comedy part of Adolphus Brown, in *Sons of the Sea*, which he played for over 300 nights, with songs and dances. He went to the Queen's, Birmingham, for seven weeks' stock season, in the summer of 1897, playing juveniles and comedy parts in *The Queen's Colours*, *A String of Pearls*, *The Golden Chance*, *Green Bushes*, *All that Glitters is not Gold*, *East Lynne*, &c. He was then re-engaged by Mr. Matt. Wilkinson for an autumn tour, to play George O'Kennedy in *The Green Bushes*. Altogether he toured with Mr. Wilkinson for three years—a most happy and comfortable engagement. In 1898 and 1899 Mr. Lawrence's services were secured for summer stock seasons at the Theatre Royal, Bristol, where he created the part of Nickey Nobbs on the production of *Saturday Night in London*, and also toured the play for a short time. Nickey Nobbs was a comedy coster part with songs and dances; and whilst playing it, he was under contract to Mr. John A. Atkin for juvenile lead. As an actor does not always get credit for versatility, Mr. Lawrence was afraid that if seen with close-cropped hair, and a broad East-End dialect and a mouth organ, looking anything but the romantic juvenile, the contract might be cancelled; but all ended well, and he duly opened in *The Grip of Iron*, playing Robert de Belfort. Two months later he was engaged for Paul Blanchard, in *The Grip of Iron*, and acted the same part for three tours. He was then engaged to play the heavy part in the production of *The World, the Flesh, and the Devil*, at the Surrey Theatre. He was next engaged for lead by Miss Marie Dagmar in *A Life's*

Photo by Allison

MR. WINGOLD LAWRENCE.

Revenge, and at the end of the tour was re-engaged, and stayed three tours. Then followed an engagement with Mrs. Langtry for her London season at the Imperial Theatre. He was engaged for Baron de Lomanie in *Mademoiselle Mars*, and re-engaged for *The Degenerates*, which followed. Mr. Frederick Melville then secured Mr. Lawrence for lead in *The Streets of London*, at the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, where Mr. Walter Melville saw him, and engaged him for lead in *The Worst Woman in London*. He also appeared as Jack Livingstone in *A Girl's Cross Roads*. Last July Mr. Lawrence was specially engaged by Miss Winifred Maude to create the leading part in her new drama, *The Sins of a City*; and in the autumn Mr. Melville re-engaged him for *A Girl's Cross Roads* at an increased salary. More recently he appeared as Jack England in *The Girl who Lost Her Character*, a part he is still playing on tour.

MR. DAN F. ROE.

MR. DAN F. ROE, although only twenty-seven years of age, has been on the stage for seventeen years, having started as a boy of ten with Mr. Montague Roby's famous Midget Minstrels, in the Jubilee year, 1887. Miss Louie Freear was a member of the company at that time, also Miss Mabel Allen (now Mrs. Alfred Hemming), Mr. Daley Cooper, and Mr. Roe's brother, Willie, who, during the South African war gained his captaincy, and was honourably mentioned in Lord Kitchener's dispatches. Other names Mr. Roe recalls are the Misses Nellie Merton, Clara Reid, and Annie Warner. Mr. Roe started with the Midgets as a boy singer, but was promoted after a very short time to be a "corner man," and after some years, in fact, at the age of seventeen, he became assistant stage-manager, and at eighteen was stage-manager of from 35 to 40 boys and girls. Mr. Roe almost from the beginning played some of the principal parts in the farces and small musical pieces produced, and he has a distinct recollection of one farce, wherein Louie Freear and himself sang a duet which always received two or three encores. Mr. Roe attributes his success to the admirable training and stage-management of Mr. B. Soane Roby ("The Guv'nor"). The company had to work hard, but the results were well worth it, and when it was over they were always well rewarded by the many outings and sports arranged for them. When Mr. Roe left Mr. Roby he went straight to the Leopolds to play Sammy, in *Frivolity* (no easy part for a youth of eighteen).

Photo. by Wright and Baker.

MR. DAN F. ROE.

After *Frivolity*, which, by the way, he was with for a twelvemonth, he went into drama, joining Mr. Wallace Davidson to play the low comedy part in *Sins of the Fathers*, remaining with this company for nine months. A tour of *My Sweetheart* followed. He then joined Mr. John F. Preston's *Secrets of the Harem* company, which, after a time, Mr. Roe toured himself for fourteen months, the tour coming to an abrupt conclusion at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham Junction, on the occasion of the licence being withdrawn by the Lord Chamberlain. A stock season at the Gaiety, Hastings, followed, and then Mr. Roe went into partnership with Mr. J. F. Preston with *The Bank of England*, in which he created the light comedy part. After that came a stock season at the Grand and Princess's, Glasgow. In the autumn he toured with the domestic drama, *Through the Divorce Court*, Mr. Roe being general-manager and playing Algy Fitzmaurice, a light comedy boy's part, which was specially written for him by the author, Mr. Max Goldberg. Mr. Roe next went into pantomime (playing the Ugly Sister in *Cinderella*), and the following spring he accepted an offer to act Lord Cyril Garston (Mr. James Welch's part) in the *New Clown*. He remained with this company throughout the year, and at Christmas, 1903, joined Mr. Lawrence Brough to play Dick Whortles in *The Lady of Ostend*, also playing Captain Joycelyn in *The Saucy Sally*. In the April following he created the part of Christopher Cash in Mr. Guy Boothby's new farce, *In Sunny Ceylon*, at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester. Mr. Roe's hobby is bulldogs, and he informs us that he has a most promising puppy with which he hopes to win some prizes later.

MISS MARY FULTON.

MISS MARY FULTON'S professional career has not been a very long one, as her first appearance was made at the Theatre Royal, Bournemouth, in the autumn of 1896. Praise and encouragement from critics and artists such as Howard Russell, Compton Coutts, Edith Garthorne, and others, when playing in amateur performances connected with her uncle's regiment at St. George's Hall, caused her to seek an engagement. This was fortunately secured with Messrs. Roberts, Archer, and Bartlett's Repertoire Co. She stayed two years with them, playing Beattie in *The Magistrate*, and Mary Melrose in *Our Boys*, in the autumn; but Christmas found her playing principal girl in these gentlemen's *Aladdin* pantomime. It was in this admirable school for ambitious young folk that her first chance of playing lead was obtained, for she continued with this firm all through 1897, playing such parts as Susan, in *Black-Eyed Susan*; Lady Isabel, in *East Lynne*; Louise, in *A Woman's Faith*; &c. This proved to be excellent experience for her, for soon afterwards she received two excellent offers, but was unable to accept either. One was a three years' engagement with Mrs. Bandmann Palmer, who, after hearing her recite, offered juvenile lead in her company; the other was the part of Mercia, in *The Sign of the Cross*. But previous contracts demanded her services, and no release could be effected. Then came an engagement with T. Edward Ward, and afterwards the Ogilwy Comedy Co. Ill-health supervened at this time, but soon recovering, she had an opportunity of proving herself a quick study by taking up at an hour's notice (through sudden illnes of her sister), the part of Miladi, at the Royal, Windsor. Then came an engagement with John Tiller, at the Palace, Newcastle, on the termination of which she joined Mr. John F. Preston for the dual rôle lead in *Soldiers of the Queen*. Her next offer was to play Lil Garth in *Honour the Father*, for Mr. Morton Powell, which proved a most happy engagement, and is one of her favourite parts. Another offer soon came from Mr. Preston to resume her old character in *Soldiers of the Queen*, and during this engagement she had

MISS MARY FULTON.

the unpleasant experience of being burnt out at the Lyceum, Sheffield. In the spring of 1900, she was selected by Mr. Preston to play lead in his new drama, *Rich and Poor*. From this she joined Mr. J. A. Campbell in *The Red Coat*, which proved to be an engagement in another way, for shortly afterwards she married Mr. Campbell. For her husband's next costume production of *A Bid for Fortune*, she designed and made every costume, and added not a little to the great success of this romantic play. Then Mr. Campbell wrote the play, entitled *The Sin of Her Childhood*, with an especially good part for his talented young wife, and this piece has met with really wonderful success. Miss Fulton's performance of Mary Haysel is considered to be the best thing she has ever done.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—I note in a par. in *The Era* of Saturday my name is mentioned as the author of *The New Barmaid*, whereas the piece was written in conjunction with Mr. Bowyer, and not alone by, yours faithfully, WILL. EDWARDES SPRANGE, Boswell Villa, Southend-on-Sea, March 13.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—In your notice of Coventry, in your current issue, you mention the part of Abdullah being played by Harry Delmar. It should have been, yours truly, ALFRED W. HARVEY, Theatre Royal, Bedford Leigh, Lanc.

PRESENTATION.—On Saturday last, at the termination of the successful pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Bristol, Mr. Ernest Carpenter, on behalf of the members of the *Robinson Crusoe* company, presented Mr. Trueman Towers with a magnificent silver-fitted dressing case. Mr. Carpenter thanked Mr. Towers for the good work he had done, and was pleased to tell them that he had re-engaged him for next year.

PRESENTATIONS.—At the final performance of Mr. Hart's very successful pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, on Saturday, Mr. J. E. Nightingale, on behalf of the company, presented Mr. T. F. Doyle, the general-manager and the producer of the pantomime, with a beautifully executed illuminated address conveying the good wishes and esteem of the company; and Mr. Carlton, on behalf of the members of the orchestra, handed to Mr. C. W. Chambers, the conductor, a silver-fitted dressing-case as a mark of regard.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Henry Johnston, the able acting-manager of the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, was on the 10th inst. presented with a cheque for a hundred pounds and an illuminated address. The presentation was made at the Olde Royal Hotel by Mr. Councillor Freeman, who, on behalf of the subscribers and himself, testified to the esteem in which Mr. Johnston is held.

MR. PERCY ELLIS FUND.

LIST OF FURTHER SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Amount already acknowledged	£54	14	0
Collected by T. Hills and E. Dittrich.	3	10	0
Mr. George Dance's *Cingalee* Co.	1	18	6
A few friends, per W. E. R.		10	0
G. W. W. and T. R.		1	0
E. G. W.		5	0
A. H. Harland	2	2	0
Weedon Grossmith	1	1	0
E. and T. Hardy	2	2	0
A. E. J. Parker		10	0
Per Hugh Fleming	4	2	6
Total	£70	16	0
Per Mr. Hugh Fleming (George Musgrove's *Prince of Pilsen* Co.):—			
Miss Beatrice Lamotte		5	0
Miss Millicent Marsden		5	0
Miss Ruby Verdi		5	0
Miss Meg Hamylton		2	6
Miss Nellie Emerald		2	6
Mr. C. Thorburn		2	6
Mr. Leonard Hornsey		2	6
Mr. Chas. A. Wenman		2	6
Mr. Hugh Fleming		5	0
Mr. Lawrence Wensley		2	6
Mr. C. J. Douglas		2	6
Mr. Frank Carlyon, King's Theatre, Hammersmith		2	6
Mr. Chas. Alfred Ringwood, Rose and Crown, Hammersmith		2	6
Mr. W. A. J. Silcock, Clarendon Hotel, Hammersmith		2	6
Mr. Ben Albert		5	0
Ethel Netherton		2	6
Reginald Warren, Mayfair		5	0
"Bill Adams"		5	0
Miles Hall, Coach and Horses, Notting Hill Gate		5	0
Charles Treadaway, Sun in Splendour, Notting Hill Gate		5	0
W. A. M., Notting Hill Gate		2	6
H. H. F., Notting Hill Gate		5	0
Fred Clay, White Bear, Kennington		2	6

THE SCENIC ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION.

The 21st meeting of the committee of the Scenic Artists' Association was held on Monday evening, with Mr. W. Hann in the chair. Messrs. Edmund G. Banks, Richard Douglass, G. R. Hemsley, W. T. Hemsley, R. C. McCleery, H. W. Owen, Harry Potts, W. Raphael, George Tweddell, H. Warner, and H. Woods, and Messrs. H. Mapleson and W. Telbin, and Mr. H. Lawrnece Harris, secretary, were present. The Chairman signed the minutes of the 20th meeting, held on the 27th of February, 1905, and also the minutes of the sub-committee meetings held as follows:—Entertainment Sub-committee, Tuesday, the 28th February; Invitation Sub-committee, Saturday, 4th March; and Selection Sub-committee, Tuesday, 7th March.

Mr. W. A. Lowe and Mr. Ernest R. Jones were elected members of the Association.

The committee considered an application for relief from the benevolent fund, and voted a gratuity to the applicant.

The secretary read letters from Mr. A. C. Rogers offering loan of oil painting by C. Sebastian Estelos, and some old Drury-lane day bills; from Mr. Frederick Smallfield, offering loan of "The Twa-Dogs," by the late M. Morgan; and from Miss Evelyn Clyde, offering black and white drawing of the interior of Westminster Abbey, by Mr. Hawes Craven. The secretary also read other letters in connection with the exhibition. It was unanimously resolved to ask Sir Henry Irving to open the exhibition.

The secretary presented the balance sheet of the 28th February, 1905, duly audited by Messrs. G. R. Hemsley and G. R. Wallace.

The second meeting of the Exhibition Selection Sub-committee, was held at their offices, Robert-street, Adelphi, on Tuesday. There were present, Mr. Richard Douglass (in the chair), Messrs. E. G. Banks, G. R. Hemsley, R. C. McCleery, Harry Potts, H. W. Owen, and H. Warner, and Mr. H. Lawrence Harris, secretary.

The secretary reported that up to the present time he had received promises from members to send to the exhibition at the Grafton Galleries in April next, 32 models, and 150 oil paintings, water-colour drawings, charcoal sketches, &c.

The sub-committee selected 86 representative works of famous deceased scene painters from the list prepared by the secretary of offers from members who would lend to the exhibition.

The Exhibition Entertainment Sub-committee held their second meeting at the offices, on Tuesday, when the chair was taken by Mr. Edmund G. Banks. There were also present, Messrs. Richard Douglass, G. R. Hemsley, R. C. McCleery, and H. W Owen, and Mr. H. Lawrence Harris, secretary.

The secretary having reported the offers he had received from members of the dramatic and musical profession of their services at the daily matinées of the exhibition of the Scenic Artists' Association at the Grafton Galleries the week of April 10th, the committee drew up the programme for Monday, April 10th, and instructed the secretary to prepare draft of programmes for the following five days of the week, and submit same for the approval at the next meeting of the Entertainment Sub-committee, which will be held at the office of the Association at 8 o'clock on Tuesday.

The Association will give their first annual exhibition of theatrical models and sketches by members and famous deceased scene painters at the Grafton Galleries, Bond-street, London, from Monday, April 10, to Saturday, April 15 (both inclusive). The committee are anxious to obtain specimens of the works of John Absolon, J. Williams Allen, of Bolena, William Beverley, Sam Bough, George Chambers, William Chambers, David Cox, R.A., Sidney Cooper, A. W. Calcott, Gates, John Grieve, Thomas Grieve, Hunt, Richard W. N. Keen, T. L. Leitch, R. P. Leitch, Loutherbourge, W. B. Laidlaw, Marinare, Charles Matthews, Mulready, R.A., Matt Morgan, Marshall, W. T. Muir, Nasmyth, Pitt, Dareth Roberts, Clarkson Stanfield, John O'Connor, Michael Angelo, Rooker, Robson, Charles Tomkins, W. Telbin, and other distinguished deceased scenic artists. Owners willing to lend to the exhibition are invited to communicate with the secretary, Mr. H. Lawrence Harris, at 5, Robert-street, Adelphi. Every afternoon during the exhibition, concerts will be given in the grand hall of the Grafton Galleries, and amongst the many artistes who have already volunteered their services are Messrs. George Alexander, Rutland Barrington, Dion Boucicault, Lionel Brough, Reginald Groom, Geo. W. Cockburn, Percy Colson (violin), Henry Derouette (the Belgian violoncellist), Frank Boor, Mervyn Dene, W. L. Barrett (flautist), H. Chevreau (violin), E. R. Welby (violin), and Mesdames Irene Vanburgh, Madge Crichton, Lottie Venne, Daphne De Rohan (mandolinist), T. C. Chevreau (harp), Pattie Upton (violin), Rose Yule, Ierne Fitzgerald, Elinor Foster, Nellie T. Brooke, Alma Evelyre, Eugenie Sassard, Byam Yates, Nellie Ganthony, and Mrs. Albert Barker.

At the Grand Theatre, Margate, on Tuesday, was produced, for copyright purposes, a play, in four acts, by Justin Huntly McCarthy, entitled *The Dryad*.

"Heart of Gold," recently produced at the Coronet Theatre, was written by Mr. Lawrence Grant, in collaboration with Miss De Burgh. It was Mr. Grant—not Mrs.—who played the principal part in *While the Cat's Away*, produced recently at Dublin.

MR. TREE AT OXFORD.

Mr. Tree's performance of *Hamlet* at the Town Hall, Oxford, on Monday afternoon, caused quite a sensation in theatrical circles there. He took down his company from His Majesty's Theatre, and although scenery was dispensed with, and the play progressed through its entirety against a background of draperies, a finer performance has never been witnessed. The entire fit up, electric stage lighting, and limes were supplied by Mr. Albany Ward, of the Empire Theatre, Oxford. Mr. Tree gave all the profits to the funds of the new University institution, the Olympian Dramatic Club, under whose auspices he played, and as the spacious hall was filled with an audience largely composed of University professors and heads of colleges and tutors and their families, the club should be placed on a fine histrionic basis by Mr. Tree's generosity. The Hamlet of Mr. Tree was the scholarly and intellectual rendering that was expected of him, and the "Alas! poor Yorick" was an especially fine example of tactful elocution, while "To be, or not to be" was delivered with wonderful effect. For Miss Beatrice Forbes-Robertson's Ophelia there was also universal praise; her acting in the mad scene was superb. Miss Frances Ivor was a dignified and quite satisfactory Queen; Mr. Henry Nevillo put his usual good work into the part of the King; Mr. William Haviland was most impressive as the Ghost; Messrs. B. Gill and J. L'Estrange did capital work as Horatio and Laertes; Mr. Fisher White delivered his lines with much point as Polonius; and Mr. Lionel Brough met with a big reception for his clever performance of the First Grave Digger. There was tremendous applause at the fall of the curtain, and Mr. Tree had to make a speech in which he said that seven years had elapsed since he played Hamlet, which he confessed was his favourite part. In the evening, Mr. Tree, with many other distinguished guests, dined with the Olympian Club, when, in response to the toast of "The Drama," he delivered the following speech: Gentlemen,—After listening to the vice-president's speech, I feel that I shall be more in touch with this convivial meeting if I do not address you in set phrase, or with a too learned disquisition on the abstruse questions of the sanity or insanity of Hamlet, or whether his commentators were really mad or only feigning madness. No, I will not force upon you the wormwood of criticism; I will only seek to extract honey from the flowers blown by the passing breeze of your president's eloquence. I take it that we have assembled to celebrate the birth of the Olympian Club, and to pour libations to its long life and usefulness. That you should have done me the honour to invite me to respond to this toast is a great joy to me, for nothing is so refreshing to him who is fighting the dusty, thirsty battle of life as to drink a deep draught at the crisped spring of youth, to take part in the joys of the younger generation, which is always knocking at our door, even if it sometimes runs away with the knocker—and I am told that even in austere Oxford this ancient sport is not unknown. It is the wisdom of middle age to seek the suffrages of the younger generation. A friend of mine who was visiting at a country house at which the late Lord Beaconsfield was a guest, told me that that great man was particularly kind and courteous to him, listening to all he had to say with great interest, and that he was indeed almost deferential to his hasty opinions. My friend was greatly touched by this tribute to himself, and when Lord Beaconsfield was leaving the house he thanked him, and ventured to ask him why he had been so kind to him. "Well," replied that venerable and wily politician, with a frankness which is the statesman's deepest subtlety, "Well, my boy, I always like to make friends of the younger generation." Well, I hope that this young society will do as good work in its own domain as the O.U.D.S. has done in its domain, for to the drama the older society has done great service. I remember witnessing here the performance of *Julius Cæsar* and of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and I remember being struck by the youthful art of Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Mr. H. B. Irving, both of whom are bright ornaments of our stage to-day; but, indeed, Oxford is well represented on the modern stage, for we have Mr. F. R. Benson, who is associated with a good many of the classical representations which have taken place here, and who has done so much to minister to that classical taste throughout the country. I remember appearing here with Mr. Benson many years ago, on which occasion I played Iago to his Othello. And I remember an incident which shows that even Shakespeare must adapt himself to the requirements of our modern civilisation. I had to catch a train that night in order to appear in London. Iago's last words are "From this time forth I never will speak word," but I had to leave the stage before my cue in order to catch the train, and so, giving a whispered good-bye to Othello, I hurried from the theatre, and as I was passing through the stage door, I heard Othello's voice ringing forth, "From this time forth *he* will never speak word." I understand that the new society will not confine itself to the purely classical lines which the older society has laid down. At the same time, I hope that Shakespeare, who touched the loftiest height of the drama, who lends splendour to the English language, who gives us the keenest insight into nature, who is the most modern because the most eternal of all dramatists, and who affords to the actors the best opportunities of exercising their art; I hope that Shakespeare will have a place of honour in your history. Mr. Rentoul has spoken of Racine and Moliere, and it might be well if the members of this society would occasionally give a scene from these classical works, for not only would they be of dramatic value, but the doing so would tend to a practical study of the French language, which even in these days of compulsory Greek is recognised to be an important factor in life. And what we study for pleasure makes a more lasting impression than what we study by pain. To show you how advisable it is that great attention should be given to the study of Greek, I wanted to present *Œdipus Rex* on my stage. I went to the Lord Chamberlain to ask his permission. "No," he replied, "certainly not." "But," I answered, "they do it at Oxford." "Yes," said he, "but they do it in Greek, and nobody understands it. You do it in Greek, and I will give you my permission." That was compulsory Greek, with a vengeance. But the merit of Shakespeare is that he preserves the strength of the English language. The charm of Shakespeare's English, the English of John Bunyan, the English of the Bible, is that it is strong, and broad, and virile. Its stately march had not then fallen into the mincing step of finicking gentility. The good form of the moment even among public men is to be careless and slipshod, and somewhat refined. Your society will do good work if it teaches people to speak with that strength which Shakespearean English demands. The greatest curse of the age is what I may term "refainment," as distinguished from refinement. And just as instinct is greater than knowledge, just as humour is greater than wit, just as intelligence is greater than intellect, so it seems to me, for the work of life, native vigour is greater than cultivated refinement. I would not be so silly or so impertinent as to belittle the culture of the mind, but I do venture to deprecate as dangerous the narrowing influence of that cult of "refainment" which is stifling to the elemental, the individual in man; and I have noticed in all the great men I have met in my life that they have been distinguished by simplicity and a detachment from the limitations imposed by what is for the moment thought to be good form. The man who affectedly talks about woe must, I imagine, find it difficult to realise what woe really is. The open vowel is essential to healthy English. Nobody can listen to the average pulpit or platform utterance without wishing that the speakers had had an early training in vigorous speech, and not in those accents which, according to the fashion of the day, are supposed to be gentlemanly or lady-like. This vigour the study of Shakespeare gives. And here I may say a word touching my lord Hamlet. I am fully aware that in presenting perhaps the greatest of all Shakespeare's plays with studious simplicity, as I here gave it to-day, I may seem to have outraged all the traditions of His Majesty's Theatre. But for any shortcomings which you felt, I must ask you to blame not me, but Sir Edward Clarke, at whose suggestion I ventured upon this original treatment. Any vote of censure which you may in your wisdom pass upon that presentation will, I trust, be connected with the distinguished name I have just mentioned. But, jesting apart, I consider myself under a debt of gratitude to your honoured guest and my learned friend for his suggestion, for I feel that Shakespeare's masterpiece loses nothing in being presented in such a way as to show the soul of that great creation unshadowed and unhindered by the accessories of the stage, for *Hamlet* is essentially a work of the imagination, and, indeed, the less the scenic treatment obtrudes itself on the retina of the physical eye, the more freedom is given to that other eye of the mind. Illusion is the very soul of the theatre; everything that tends to the creation of illusion is of necessity excusable. For my part, I can sympathise with the two extremes—either with that simple treatment, that sketch which leaves the imagination free to furnish the stage with its trappings, or I can sympathise with that other treatment, which gives to the spectator a finished picture of life, a picture so artistically complete that we do not dwell on the detail, but see it as a finished and satisfying whole. Many of Shakespeare's plays, notably such plays as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Tempest*, seem to me absolutely to demand elaborate treatment; indeed, their meaning cannot be fully brought home to an audience without the adjuncts of scenery, of costume and of atmosphere. It would be far better, indeed, to read them only in the study than to witness them amid the disturbing influences of a half-hearted attempt at stage illusion." If Shakespeare did not mount his plays in the same way as Charles Kean and Macready did, and Henry Irving and others do to-day, it was not because he would not, but because he could not, as he himself lamented. What I mean is, I cannot sympathise with any compromise between the two methods. It must be either the sketch or the finished picture; compromise, so dear to the British heart, is almost always a failure, at least, in the affairs of art. The man who drives in the middle of the road is apt to get caught in the traffic. Remember, too, that the theatre is for the multitude, and it is better to make Shakespeare clear and to play him to full houses than to make him obscure to empty ones. No. Compromise seems to be an over-rated element in the body politic. But I am wandering from the broad road of my speech into the by-ways of philosophic speculation. I will retrace my steps, and walk straight to my goal, and my goal is gratitude—gratitude for the honour you have done me to-day in asking me to sit down among you, the young spirits, and, I hope, the master-spirits of the coming age. I can wish you no better wish than that you should preserve that youthful spirit. To be young in heart, young in enthusiasm, young in scorn of worldliness—that is the secret of life. I drink to the younger generation and to the young Olympian Club, and I thank you again for the unforgettable privilege you have conferred on me to-night.

ELLEN TERRY AND THE GALLERYITES.

Miss Ellen Terry was the guest of the Gallery First Nighters' Club at Frascati's on Sunday evening, when the members extended hospitality to a number of actors and actresses, among whom were Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. Oscar Asche, Mr. and Mrs. James Welch, Miss Sydney Fairbrother, Miss Grace Lane, Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Irving, Mr. Farren Soutar, and Miss Edith Craig.

The loyal toasts having been honoured, the President, Mr. T. Brandon, who occupied the chair, in proposing Miss Terry's health, delivered a happy eulogy of her genius, and in reply the eminent actress, who was received with enthusiastic cheers, said:

Mr. Brandon and all Gallery First Nighters,—You who have perhaps seen me on the first night of a piece may have noticed that I am sometimes a little nervous, so I am sure you will sympathise with me when I tell you that no first night ever frightened me so much as a speech! If only you will not look upon it as a speech, but as an expression of my pleasure at meeting you all on the other side of the footlights, I should feel more at home in my part. I think, myself, that all speeches are a mistake unless they are written by Shakespeare; and my first idea, when it occurred to me that I ought to say something to you in return for all the kind and charming things that you would be sure to say about me, was that I would say it in Shakespeare's words. I still think a very good speech on any subject could be made by welding together quotations from different plays; but I tried, and found I was not the right person to do it! I was immediately discouraged, because on looking up "gallery" in my concordance I could find only two references to it in Shakespeare, and they didn't refer to the gallery of a theatre, but to the gallery of a house. One was, "Avoid the gallery!"—but please don't think Shakespeare would have said that of you. Had there been a gallery in the theatre in his day, I'm certain I should have found my concordance of more use. Shakespeare was not above writing for the playgoers who then sat on the ground, and answered more or less to our gallery. Had he written only for the Elizabethan stall public, his plays might have been different—how much more narrow their appeal, how much more precarious their hold upon our stage! The people themselves were Shakespeare's stage, and are so still. He knew how to amuse the groundlings, as he knew how to thrill them with pity and with terror. There is hardly a scene in Shakespeare which, if well acted, will not reach the gallery as easily as it reaches the stalls. Of some modern plays and some modern acting this cannot be said; but I doubt if the gallery loses as much as people who never see a play from the gallery assume. The best things "get there." I don't wonder at all that the intelligent playgoer prefers to see a play from the pit or gallery, even when, as sometimes happens, he could, if he chose, sit in the seats of the mighty diners-out. In the gallery and pit at the dear old Lyceum there used to be seen the faces of many men who had won, or were about to win, distinction in the world—the Burne-Joneses; the Justin McCarthys; Alfred Gilbert, the great sculptor; the late Oscar Wilde; the poet O'Shaughnessy; Walter Sickert, who founded the new English Art Club; the Forbes-Robertsons—all these and many such were gallery or pit enthusiasts at one time or another. On a first night I think all players feel that those who sit in the pit and gallery are their real audience. They have taken great trouble to get there; they come inspired by a true interest or a true enthusiasm; without you we should find a first night very dull. As this has not been a speech, you will not expect a peroration. Let me just say again that I am delighted to meet you all here to-night, and that I thank you for all the kind things you have said as much as for the warm and friendly greetings you have given me in the past when we have met in the theatre.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

Bekker.—On March 12, 1905, at Mrs. Martin's, 18, Charles-street, Bath, Mrs. Henri Bekker of a daughter. Both doing well.

Starr.—On March 1, 1905, Mrs. Harry Starr (Miss Ethel Danbury), of a daughter. Both well.

MARRIAGES.

Keen—Harvey.—At Brixton, by special licence, Walter Keen, of Keen and Waller, to Maggie Harvey, sister of the Harvey Boys.

McNeill—Benn.—March 4, 1905, at Falkirk, N.B., David Dewar McNeill, Holm, Orkney, to Jessie Benn, of Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers, Grand Theatre, Falkirk.

Mercanton—Beresford.—On March 14, at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, Louis Mercanton, of London, to Rhoda Beresford, of Nottingham.

DEATHS.

Beresford.—March 4, Hugh, brother of J. Cooke Beresford, aged 21.

Carswell.—March 7, Mrs. Carswell, aged 68, mother of Mrs. Greenwood, of Sheffield, and of Mr. J. A. Winstanley, proprietor of the Royal Opera House, and sole lessee of the Royal, Leicester.

Hayes.—March 9, at Bexley Heath Asylum, Henry J. Hayes, music-hall manager.

Hook.—On the 14th inst., at Bradford, after a long and painful illness, Rose Myers Hook, aged 17, youngest sister of Walter W. Hook.

"We cannot call one single day our own,
Nor yet one single hour;
For God can cut the strongest down,
And fade the fairest flower."

Macintosh.—At Vinegar-hill, Glasgow, March 14, 1905, Eleanor, the beloved daughter of Solomon and Mary Macintosh, age 7 years and 8 months. "For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Morgan.—On March 10, 1905, at 35, Brunswick-street, Cheetham, Manchester, Sarah Louise Morgan, the beloved wife of Clifford Morgan; deeply mourned.

Rousby.—March 4th, 1905, at 14, Foster-road, Portsmouth, Alfred Rousby, actor, aged 50, after several months of suffering. Deeply regretted by his sorrowing widow, Ada. He was a man, take him for all in all, We shall not look upon his like again. R.I.P.

Smith.—March 11, at 9, Upper Baker-street, Liverpool, Sarah Smith, aged 53 years, wife of Captain James Smith, of Liverpool, and dearly beloved mother of Florence Deighton.

"Her end was peace."

Wingett.—On March 11, at his residence, Sadlergate, Derby, suddenly, after seven weeks' illness, from dropsy, Edwin Wingett (better known as Harry Wingett, comic vocalist), aged 60. Deeply mourned by his broken-hearted wife and son (Harry Barker).

In Memoriam.

Bogan.—In loving memory of our darling baby, Samuel C. Bogan, who passed away March 15, 1904, aged 14 weeks. "For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Gillette.—Beloved wife of Harry Gillette (née Ada Watson), who fell asleep, March 18, 1904. Gone, but never forgotten, by her loving husband, father, and mother.

"Forget her—no, we never will,
We loved her here, we love her still;
Her memory is as fresh to-day
As in the hour she passed away."

Lupino.—In loving memory of George Lupino, sen., ever regretted by son Harry, and grandsons "Nipper" and "Wallace."

Lupino.—In loving memory of my dear father, George Lupino, sen., who died March 19, 1903. Never forgotten by his son, Arthur Lupino.

Spry.—In loving memory of Rosie Spry (Rosie Loftus Leyton), who died March 17th, 1902.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Amy St. John—Saturday, March 18.
Muriel Alleyn—Saturday, March 18.
Nellie Wallace—Saturday, March 18.
Joe Lawrence—Sunday, March 19.
Fred Daly—Sunday, March 19.
Bernard Armstrong—Sunday, March 19.
Alice Maple—Monday, March 20.
Henrik Ibsen—Monday, March 20.
Mrs. Bennett—Monday, March 20.
G. Ross-Carr—Monday, March 20.
Rosina Lupino—Monday, March 20.
Frank A. Gordyn—Monday, March 20.
Bella Pateman—Tuesday, March 21.
Lady Hallé—Tuesday, March 21.
Norman E. Partriège—Tuesday, March 21.
Harry Randall—Wednesday, March 22.
Harry Brett—Wednesday, March 22.
Tom Gilmore—Wednesday, March 22.
Mabel Lambert—Wednesday, March 22.
Martin Comstock—Sunday, March 19.
Marie Walford—Saturday, March 18.
Sir Charles Wyndham—Thursday, March 23.
Gilbert Hare—Thursday, March 23.
Sydney Grundy—Thursday, March 23.
Robson Paige—Thursday, March 23.
Alec Hurley—Friday, March 24.
Tom Maltby—Friday, March 24.
Maud Milton—Friday, March 24.

MISS JESSIE MORRISON'S CONCERT.

At Messrs. Brinsmeads' Galleries, Wigmore-street, on Saturday last, Miss Jessie Morrison gave a concert which was largely attended. The lady herself was most successful in Gounod's "Ave Maria," the obbligato for violin being charmingly played by Mr. Colnaur. Another of her successes was "If no one marries me." Some selections were given from an opera, *The Archers*, by Mr. Lansdowne Cottell, the first item being a song, "The Breezes," by Miss Edie Wynne. Mr. Clay Thomas also sang "Waiting for my love" from the same work, accompanied by the composer, who in the course of the evening rendered similar useful service for other performers. Mr. Carl Webb and Mr. Ernest Hoffstein were also to be credited with efficient assistance in the same department. Miss Jessie Morrison again won considerable applause in a song, "When Twilight Comes," by Stellar, Mr. Colnaur playing the violin obbligato skilfully. Other violin solos of great merit have to be referred to. Master Leopold Lustig was heard in a solo of Sarasate, executed with really remarkable talent, and Miss Maud Bryson, from the Royal College of Music, played with great delicacy and refinement a reverie of Dancla, of no great merit in itself, but rendered interesting by the talent of the player. Madame Lilith was successful in Arditi's "Il Bacio," and in Mr. Squire's genial song, "Three for Jacks," Mr. Clay Thomas was deservedly applauded. He has an excellent baritone voice, and we expect he will be heard of in the future. Miss Lilian Ingram sang Cowen's song, "The Swallows" with good expression. Mr. Eaton King sang "Patria" by Tito Mattei. "Under the Deodar," by Monckton, was rendered with much grace by Miss Florence Macphail, who was warmly applauded, and Miss Florence Julian was favourably greeted in "Crocuses upon the Green." The vocalists named were set down for other songs, and Master Leopold Lustig, the youthful violinist, displayed his skill in the Seventh Concerto of De Beriot, a brilliant composer for the violin who appears to have lost favour at the present day. The command of difficult passages by so youthful a performer was worthy of special commendation.

"The Era" can be obtained at any of Smith and Sons' bookstalls throughout the provinces.

ON THE ROAD, MARCH 20.

Amorelle.—Memorial Theatre, Chesterfield.
Armadale Repertoire.—Theatre Royal, Dover.
At War with the World.—Treherbert.
Austin, Miss Mary.—Grand T., Stalybridge.

Bandmann-Palmer.—T. R., Workington.
Beauty and the Barge.—Burton-on-Trent.
Belle of New York.—Middlesbrough.
Benson, Mr. F. R. (A).—R. T., Glasgow.
Benson, Mr. F. R. (B.)—Workington.
Best Must Win.—C. T., Spennymoor.
Biggest Scamp on Earth.—Alex. T., Sheffield.
Blanchard Diamonds.—T. R., Huddersfield.
Bound to Win.—Gateshead.
Bulmer, Mr.—Gaiety Theatre, Ayr.

Cardinal.—Theatre Royal, Portsmouth.
Chinese Honeymoon (M.)—Perth.
Chinese Honeymoon (Macdona) (S.).—Gravesend.
Christian.—Metropole Theatre, Devonport.
Cingalee.—Pavilion Theatre, E.
Compton Comedy Co.—Paisley T., Paisley.
Convict's Daughter.—T. R., Jarrow.
Country Girl (Dance) (M.).—Leicester.
Country Girl (Dance) (S.)—T. R., Dewsbury.
Country Girl (Dance) (N.)—Stratford.
Country Girl (Macdona) (S.).—Wellingboro'.
Country Mouse (N.)—Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.
Cousin Kate.—Opera House, Kilmarnock.

Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Aberdare.
Darling of the Gods.—Ealing.
Defending His Honour.—T. R., Darlington.
D'Oyly Carte.—Grand Theatre, Leeds.
Duchess of Dantzic (Dance).—Sunderland.
Duchess of Dantzic (Edwardes).—Manchester.
Duke of Killicrankie (Lovel).—Eccles.
Duke of Killicranke (Frohman).—Cheltenham.

Earl and the Girl.—Prince's Theatre, Bristol.
Earl and the Girl.—Grand Theatre, Halifax.
Eternal City.—Shakespeare Theatre, S.W.

Face at the Window.—Opera House, Kidderminster.
Facing the Music.—Cambridge.
Fatal Wedding (M.).—Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.
Fatal Wedding (N.).—G. T., Rawtenstall.
Fatal Wedding (S.).—Theatre Royal, Glossop.
Florodora (Callan).—T. R., Chesterfield.
Florodora (Davis).—Theatre Royal, Ashton.
Florodora (Howard).—Shrewsbury.
Frivolity.—H. M. T., Dundee.

Garden of Lies.—P. O. W. T., Grimsby.
Gay Parisienne.—Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, S.E.
Geisha and Greek Slave.—Marlborough T., N.
Gipsy Jack.—Mexboro'.
Girl from Bond Street.—T. R., Belfast.
Girl from Kay's (N.).—Liverpool.
Girl from Kay's (Dance) (S.).—Leamington.
Golden Ladder.—Empire Theatre, Oldham.
Go-Won-Go Mohawk.—Woolwich.
Grip of Iron.—Opera House, Doncaster.

Harvey, Martin.—King's Theatre, Glasgow.
Heart of a Hero.—Consett.
Her Fatal Past.—West London Theatre.
Hot Night.—Lyceum Theatre, Crewe.

I Defy the World.—King's Theatre, Gainsboro'.
Indian Mutiny.—Grand Theatre, Plymouth.

Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—K. T., Hammersmith.
King's Pardon.—Theatre Royal, Rotherham.

Ladder of Life.—Theatre Royal, South Shields.
Lady of Ostend.—Grand Theatre, Birmingham.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Chelmsford.
La Poupee.—Grand Theatre, Hull.
La Poupee (Howard).—Chatham.
Laughter Land.—Theatre Royal, Aldershot.
Lights o' London.—Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.
Little Mary.—Theatre Royal, Bradford.
London Actress.—Theatre Royal, Gloucester.
London Fireman.—Theatre Royal, Norwich.
Lucky Durham.—Theatre Royal, Manchester.

Manxman.—Irving Theatre, Seacombe.
Merely Mary Ann.—Theatre Royal, Plymouth.
Merely Mary Ann (Bright).—T. R., Belfast.
Message from Mars.—H. M. T., Walsall.
Midnight Mail.—Wigan.
Mockery of Marriage.—Athenæum, Lancaster.
Monsieur Beaucaire.—G. T., Wolverhampton.
Moody-Manners (A).—Theatre Royal, Glasgow.
Moody-Manners (B).—West Hartlepool.
Moody-Manners (C).—Leominster.

Napoleon the Great.—O. H., Southport.
New Mephisto.—Theatre Royal, York.
Norman V. Norman.—Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

Orchid (Edwardes).—Edinburgh.
Orchid (Dance).—Blackburn.
Otto the Outcast.—Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

Peggy Machree.—Camden Theatre, N.W.
Prince of Pilsen.—Coronet Theatre, W.
Prince of Rogues.—Sutton-in-Ashfield.
Proof.—Opera House, St. Helens.

Red Riding Hood (Eland).—G. T., Chorley.
Revenge.—Osborne Theatre, Manchester.
Royal Divorce.—Crown Theatre, Peckham.
Royal Revenge (Clyndes).—Dunfermline.

Sapho (Annie Bell).—St. James's T., Manchester.
Saturday to Monday.—Theatre Royal, Cardiff.
Scarlet Woman.—Theatre Royal, Weymouth.
School Girl (Macdona).—Greenock.
Sergeant Brue.—Lyceum Theatre, Newport.
Sherlock Holmes.—Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.
Sign of the Cross.—Grand Theatre, Swansea.
Silver King.—Theatre Royal, Coventry.
Sinbad the Sailor (Levaine).—Macclesfield.
Sin of Her Childhood.—K. T., Nottingham.
Sins of a City.—Saltley.
Slaves of Passion.—Worthing.
Sledge-Hammer.—Junction Theatre, Manchester.
Somebody's Sweetheart.—County T., Reading.
Standing Repertoire Co.—Tunbridge Wells.
Still Alarm.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
Sunday.—Prince's Theatre, Accrington.
Swiss Express.—Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

Three Little Maids (Macdona) (N.)—Worcester.
Three Little Maids (Macdona) (S.)—Hastings.
Traitor.—Queen's Theatre, Swindon.
Traitor Prince.—Grand Theatre, Blackpool.
Trip to Chinatown.—Royalty T., Chester.
Two Little Sailor Boys.—T. R., Leicester.

Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—Bilston.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Tully).—Abertillery.
Under Two Flags.—Grand Theatre, Croydon.

Veronique.—Birmingham.
Victim of Villainy.—Grand Theatre Nottingham.
Village Blacksmith.—Theatre Royal, Smethwick.

Warner, Grace.—Theatre Royal, Windsor.
Way of the World.—Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
When a Woman Hates.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Woman's Devotion.—Queen's Theatre, Longton.
Woman of Impulse.—Porth.
10.30 Down Express.—Llanelly.

We regret to hear that the father of Mendel, the blind pianist, died on Wednesday at his residence at Balham. The son is overwhelmed with grief, as the deceased gentleman acted as his cicerone, and did much to advance his career as a musical entertainer. The funeral takes place on Monday.

Presentation.—Mr. Fred Wood, of City Varieties, Leeds, presented Miss Vulcana with handsome gold and enamel medal, and with her name beautifully engraved thereon, in appreciation of her talents as an athlete and an artiste.

Signor Garcia, who attained his hundredth year on Friday, is not the only eminent musician who owes his being to the month of March. The celebrated violinist Sarasate was sixty-one on the 10th, and two days later Sir August Manns reached his eighty-first year. It was to Queen Isabella II. of Spain that Sarasate owed much of his musical education, while Manns prosecuted his earlier studies through the liberality of the burghers of his native city, to whom his gifts were apparent.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

NEW YORK, MARCH 1.—Miss Grace George began an engagement at the Savoy Theatre on the 21st ult., under the management of her husband, Mr. William A. Brady, appearing in a new play, called *Abigail*, a comedy of New York life, in four acts, by "Kellett Chalmers," this being the *nom de plume* used by Mr. Harrie K. Chambers, a brother of Mr. C. Haddon Chambers, the well-known dramatist. *Abigail* is said to be the first play from this author's pen that has seen the light, and if this be so he has certainly received every encouragement, both from the press and the public, to write another one. Abigail Stokes is a prim New England girl, who comes to New York to earn her living, and "locates" in Mrs. Mirabel's boarding house, the inmates of which are of the class known as Bohemian. Two of her fellow-lodgers are Sylvia McCann, an artist, and Theodora Robbins, a model. These young ladies play the piano on Sunday, and shock the straitlaced Abigail by their approval of a low-cut gown which Abigail's rich aunt has sent her. The aunt lives in the fashionable quarter, and, being afraid that some of her society friends may hear that she has a niece who works for her living, has asked Abigail to pay her a long visit, and sent her a suitable gown to wear. But Abigail declines the invitation, and gives the gown to Theodora, who has already inspected it on the sly, and offered to buy it at half-price. Miss Robbins and her friend, Miss McCann, initiate the unsophisticated Abigail into the mysteries of cooking a meal over the gas jet, this bit of boarding-house ingenuity being practised at the imminent risk of being discovered in the act and turned out of the house by an irate landlady, who has a good heart, but is strong on economy and propriety. Abigail finds herself in an unaccustomed atmosphere, but she gets used to it, and by-and-by she meets a young engineer named John Kent, and falls in love with him. Kent is infatuated with Theodora, and every day he sends her violets. But the friendly Sylvia places them on Abigail's dressing-table to remind her of the country, being all unconscious of the fact that concealed in one of the bunches is a tiny note bearing the magic legend, "I love you." Abigail discovers the missive, and in an ecstasy of delight confesses her love for Kent, who, after an agony of perplexity, tells her the brutal truth, and in the very act of telling it, discovers that Abigail is the one he really loves. He is on the point of saying so, when he learns that she has inherited a fortune, and believing that if he speaks now he will be looked upon as a fortune hunter, he takes a trip to South America. In the last act Abigail is staying at the house of her fashionable aunt, who has taken her up now that she is an heiress, and would like to see her married to the Duke of Gadsbrook. But Abigail gives society the go-by and visits the tenements, dispensing charity. She dismisses the Duke, and flies to the telephone to "ring up" John Kent at his hotel as soon as she hears that he has returned from South America. Then there is a delicious bit of love-making over the wire, and all ends happily, for Abigail takes care that there is no misunderstanding this time. "Afraid of being called a fortune hunter!" she cries. "That's a man's view. A woman doesn't care what they call her, as long as she gets the man she loves." Abigail is a rôle that is well suited to Miss George's personality. She depicted the frankness and honesty of a maiden unspoilt by the artificialities of city life in a delightful manner, and was generously applauded. Miss Louise Closser, as the artist, Theodora Robbins, contributed a clever characterisation, and Miss Selene Johnson gave a capital impersonation of the vapid and self-centred model, Sylvia McCann. Mr. Conway Tearle played John Kent in manly fashion, and Mr. Joseph Coyne gave a preposterous but amusing representation of the Duke of Gadsbrook. Mr. Chambers is to write a comedy for Mr. Coyne, who is always very funny when he represents an Englishman of the "silly ass" type. Next season he will "star" under Mr. Brady's management in the new piece, the title of which is to be *A Duke at Large*.

"WHO GOES THERE?" a farce in three acts, by H. A. Du Souchet, author of *My Friend from India* and *The Man from Mexico*, has made a hit at the Princess Theatre. The plot hinges on the efforts of Lieutenant George Washington Newman, familiarly known as "Toppy," to keep his brother officers out of trouble. He undertakes to look after their sweethearts when they run away from home to marry, and does so by passing off each one in turn as his wife. He also has to pose as Miss Samantha Lane, from Biddeford, Maine, and introduces the two young women as his nieces. On the trail of the elopers come an indignant father, and an equally angry guardian, while a rural constable and a gawky country girl of the Sis Hopkins variety also figure in the bewildering proceedings. At one time there are five rooms filled with persons who must not meet other persons in the house, and there is one man tucked away in the sofa. But the boarding-house where all this happens has more than the usual number of doors, and a French window, so the characters dodge each other successfully. Through posing as a "much married man" Toppy gets into trouble with his fiancée, but he satisfies her that he is still unattached, and the piece ends with the preparations for a triple wedding. Mr. Walter Perkins was very funny indeed as the bashful, blundering Toppy. Miss Gertrude Swiggett gave a clever impersonation of the country girl, and Mr. Wallace Hopper was very amusing as the constable.

MRS. FISKE has in reserve plays by Mr. J. Hartley Manners, the late Charles Coghlan, and other dramatists, but *Leah Kleschna* will undoubtedly occupy the stage of the Manhattan Theatre till the end of the season. Mr. McLellan's play has exceptional merit, and the chief parts in it are splendidly acted by Mrs. Fiske, Mr. Charles Cartwright, Mr. George Arliss, Mr. John Mason, and Mr. William Mack.

MR. WILLIAM GILLETTE will appear in a revival of *Sherlock Holmes*, at the Empire Theatre, on March 13, and will remain there for several weeks. Miss Hilda Spong will be seen as Madge Larrabee.

THE career of *The Forty Thieves* in Birmingham was brought to a close on Saturday, when a crowded audience was present at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, where a run of eleven weeks had been attained by the successful annual. Bouquets were bestowed on the leading artistes, and Mr. Graham heartily thanked his friends in front and those behind the footlights for the cordial way in which they had supported him. In the intervals Mr. Wilkie Bard conducted a sale of dolls for a charity, securing fancy prices for some dainty toys made by the lady artistes.

THE theatrical ball promoted by the pantomime artistes of the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, which took place on the 10th inst., proved very successful, Mr. Harry Randall and others journeying specially from London to be present.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ENQUIRER.—*We have no record, and as the place of entertainment mentioned is no longer in existence we do not know where you can obtain the information.*

B. T. KEYZOR.—(1) *The Countess of Orkney.* (2) *The Tythe House, Stowkley, Bucks.*

E. LENGEY.—*A Royal Divorce, by W. G. Wills, was produced at the Olympia Theatre on September 10, 1891. An American version of* Oliver Twist *was produced at the same house on December 21, 1891.*

H. E.—*An American version of* Quo Vadis *was produced at the Adelphi, London, May 5, 1900.*

C. A. P.—*His Majesty's Theatre.*

H. NEWMAN.—*No, his death occurred some years ago.*

BARITONE.—*St. James's Hall was opened with a musical performance for the benefit of the Middlesex Hospital, on March 25, 1856.*

MURIEL.—*The date of Miss Lydia Thompson's benefit was May 3, 1899. She appeared in several burlesques, including* Blue Beard, *and* The Field of the Cloth of Gold.

W. T.—*Address the Secretary, Green Room Club, Bedford-street, W.C.*

J. W. G.—*You, no doubt, mean the well-known comedian, John Liston, who died on March 22, 1846.*

H. E. V.—*You had better ask the people on what authority they seek to make the proposed change. They will no doubt inform you.*

W. N. SHONE.—*We do not know of any work specially devoted to the subject, but articles in defence of the stage have at various times appeared in the magazines. A study of some of Macaulay's Essays might assist you.*

E. HILL.—*We have no record.*

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars admitted to this List.

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Culpitt, Mr.
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Dagmar, Miss Victoria
Dagmar, Miss Vivianne
Dallas, Mr. H. J.
Danks, Miss Maud
Dare, Miss Phyllis
Deane, Mr. and Mrs.
Dempsey, Mr. W. T.
Dent, Mr. Fred
Denton, Mrs. H.
Dorrett, Miss Lilian
Dredge, Mr. R.
Dudley, Miss Gipsy
Dyson, Mr. J.
Eckart, Miss Kitty
Edwards, Miss Nancy
"E. G. B."
Elder, Miss Nellie
Elmo, Mr. Jack
Elster, Miss Marie
Elvey, Mr. Grave
Emery, Mr. Fred
Ely, Sisters
Esmond. Mr. H. V.
Fane, Mr. R. M.
Fealey, Miss M.
Ferrari, Mrs. M.
Finney, Miss Marie
Fisher, Mr. Harry
Fitzgerald, Miss B.
Ford, Mr. Ben
Fordham, Mr. Fred
Forrest Brothers
Fossett, Mr. Robt.
Fracey, Mr. Thorpe
Ginnett, Mr. Fred
Glasson, Mr. W. H.
Godwin, Miss B.
Grey, Mr. Harry
Gweney, Mr. Gerald
Halliday, Mr. F.
Hanbury, Mr. Allen
Hanbury, Miss Dolly
Handel, Mrs. Z.
Hansa, Mr. J.
Harcourt, Miss Dolly
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Hare, Miss W.
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Harvey, Miss Kate
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Hobart, Prof.
Hobson, Miss M.
Holles, Mrs. W.
Homewood, Mr. Talbot
Howard, Miss P. V.
Hughes, Miss Amy
Hutton, Mr. R.
Isherwood, Mrs. F.
Joel, Miss Elsa
Johnston, Musical
Jones, Mr. H. S.
Jullion, Mr. C.
Keen, Mr. Billy
Kent, Mr. Billy
Kidd, Mr. Henry W.
Klein, Miss Anna
Knowles, Mr. R. G.
Lambert and Butler
Leeson, Mr. M. P.
Le Clerq, Mr. P.
Leighton, Miss Q.
Le Roy, Mr. Servais
Leslie, Miss Rita
L'Estrange, Miss M.
Lewis, Miss M. J.
Lindo, Mr. F.
Lingard, Mr. Horace
Lisburn, Mr. Frank
Lomas, Mr. Jack
Lorenzo, Signor
Lowe, Miss Rachel
Lowther, Mr. Henry
Lynde, Miss Jennie
Lyons, Mr. Geo.
Majilton, Mr. Chas.
Maple, Mr. F.
Mathews, Mr. E. C.
McKane, Mr. M.
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Meyer, Mr. S.
Meynell, Mr. Clyde
Milburn, Mr. J. H.
Money, Mr. A.
Money, Mrs. Amy
Money, Dr. Angel
Moore, Mr. Billy
Moreau, Miss M.
Morgan, Mr. H. W.
Mozar, Mr. Ernest
Murphy, Mr. N. J.
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Nicoll, Miss Yetla
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Parker, Mr. Hayden
Pattison, Mr. James
Paul, Mr. Sam
Paul, Mr. Fred.
Pemberton, Mr. S.
Pike, Mr. E. L.
Pinaud, Mr. Reed
Plant, Mr. Harry
Powell and Connor
Preston, Mr. J. F.
Pringle, Mr. Wm.
Prinz, Mr. Chas
Rafferty, Mr. Pat
Randall, Mr. Douglas
Ranley, Madame
Rayner, Mr. Walter
Rice, Mrs. Ethel
Rickards, the Three
Rignold, Miss Bessie
Ringling, Mr. J.
Rice, Mrs. Ethel
Ritter, Mr. T.
Rosaire, Mr. Bob
Rose, Mr. Ike
Roxborough, Mr. Picton
Royd, Mr. Arthur
Ruge, Mr. Billy
Rutley, Mr. B. A.
Saker, Mrs. E.
Sami, Miss E.
Saunderson, Mr. G.
Scarth, Mr F.
Seaton, Dr. R G.
Sedger, Mr. Horace
Serle, Mr. Francis
Shields, Mr. W.
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Sleath, Mr Herbert
Stainer, Mr. Alan
Stanley, Miss Alma
Stellio, Mr. J.
Stewart, Miss Ruby
Stewart, Mr. B.
Sullivan, Mr. E. C.
Summers, Mr. Wilson
Sutcliffe, Mr. A.
Sydenham, Mr. G.
Tate, Mr. and Mrs. Jas
Thorne, Mr. Fred
Thornton, Mr.
Tokio Troupe
Toole, Mr. W.
Travers, Mr. Hyram
Tyndall, Mrs. E. L.
Upton, Mr. W. A.
Urk, Mr. George
Vasey and Ramsay
Vere, Ede
Vint, Mrs. L.
Vyner, Miss C.
Waite, Mr. Ted
Walker, Miss Ida
Walton, Mr. W. W.
Ward, Mr. Cecil
Warde and Wylie
Watkins, Mr. Bert D.
Watson, Mr. Dock
Watson, Mr. F. M.
White, Mr. C. H.
Whitehead, Mr. Arthur
Williams, Mr. Chas.
Wilson, Miss Nellie
Wilson, Mr. Joseph
Wilton, Mr. George
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Wynne, Miss M.
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Young, Mr. Fritz A.
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Once again "The Era" Almanack makes a welcome reappearance early in the New Year, and recounts all that has happened in the theatrical world during the past twelve months. The register of plays produced in 1904 at the principal theatres of London, Paris, and Berlin is as valuable a feature in this most conscientiously kept record as ever, and though works of great importance are seldom given for the first time in the provinces, the information supplied concerning these productions is useful to playwrights when considering the vexed question of title. To the 1905 annual Sir Henry Irving contributes an amusing reminiscence of the days in which Shakespearean productions were certainly not overloaded with superfluous detail, and Sydney Grundy gives a graphic account of the time when he was a critic. It is further embellished by a number of photographs of popular players, together with their autographs, and a specimen of their literary attainments, which are often considerable. A melancholy interest attaches to the portraits of the dramatic artists who have passed from the scene during 1904; a goodly company, headed by that large-hearted actor-manager, Wilson Barrett. On beholding a work somewhat similar to "The Era" Almanack, the late Mr. Gladstone remarked that he was surprised to find that so many people were professionally engaged in the theatre; and if one of our leading actors were to discover how many people are professionally engaged in politics he would, no doubt, be equally astonished.—Court Journal, Jan. 21, 1905.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1905.
"The Era" Annual, 1905, is with us once again, and is very welcome. The usual stock features which make this Annual so valuable for reference have been compiled with the usual care, and the "incidentals" will favourably bear comparison with those of any former issue. They range from "Dundee Reminiscences," by Sir Henry Irving, to an endeavour to lay the "Foundations of a National Drama," by Mr. Henry Arthur Jones.—Referee, Jan. 15, 1905.

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By A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (London), Solicitor.

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"Anywhere there will do" (Murray and Everard)	Frank Seeley
"A Warning to Single Men" (Bateman and Pether)	Arthur Reece
"Baby Mine" (Browne and Friedman)	MissClarisseHeney
"Boys of the Chelsea School" (Carter and Weston)	George Leyton
"'Come in!' said Widdy Malone" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Michael Nolan
"Conversations" (F. and W. Redmond)	Ambrose Thorne
"Delusions" (Phil Ray)	Phil Ray
"Doan' Cry, Little Coloured Coon" (S. F. Harrison and Neat)	Miss H. Vernon
"Don't Stand There —!" (Lawrance and Gifford)	Walter Stanley
"Farewell, my little Yo San" (Mills and B. Scott)	Tom Costello
"Frozen Meat" (T. W. Connor)	Alf Gibson
"Girls wouldn't be wanted at all" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	W. J. Churchill
"Have you seen my girl?" (Mills and Scott)	Walter Munroe
"He Kissed I Once" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Marie Loftus
"Here comes the foreigner!" (Barnes and Weston)	H. Bedford
"I would! I would!" (Stanhope and Cunliffe)	W. Cunliffe
"I want to be a Soldier" Gifford and Lawrance)	Hamilton Hill.
"I did enjoy myself last night" (Lawrence and M. Scott)	Will Johnson
"I don't mind if it amuses you!" (Leigh and Pether)	Ben Albert
"If all the stars were mine" (Smith and Stromberg)	Miss Lilian Doreen
"I'm Afraid—and Why?" (Wincott, Leighton, and Mayo)	Sam Mayo
"I'm a girl of Tennessee" (Eden and Byng)	Miss Lil Hawthorne
"I'm coming home to you" (Herbert Darnley)	Miss D. L. Clark
"I'm going to sea [see]" (Leamore and Collins)	Tom Leamore
"I'm round there to-night!" (Wincott and Leighton)	Dan Crawley
"Isn't that like a Man?" (Paul Mill)	Paul Mill
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"It's the Poor that help the Poor" (Mills and Castling)	Miss F. Gallimore
"I've been a Naughty Boy all Day" (Carter and Weston)	Miss G. Leonard
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"Julia" (Robson and Hyde)	Miss Gladys Marius
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"Ma Dusky Rose" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Florrie Robins
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"My Paleface Queen" (Harrington and Le Brunn)	Miss Amy Clevere
"My Fiddle is My Sweetheart" (Harry Hunter)	G. H. Chirgwin
"My Japanesy Girl" (Delmar and Parry)	Hal Forde
"My Lily of the Valley" (Frank Leo)	Miss Sadie Fern
"Oh, Nancy Lee" (T. W. Connor)	Miss Millie Hylton
"One Little Cottage all Our Own" (J. F. Lambe)	Miss Dolly Harmer
"Pussy had another Sardine" (Harris and Tate)	Miss Millie Lindon
"Revenges" (Dunlop and Pether) [Above also sung by Whit Cunliffe].	Wallis Arthur
"She must have known!" (David and Scott)	J. E. Coyle
She said, 'Baa! Baa! Baa!' (Harrington and H. Allen)	Miss Florrie Forde
"She taught him a thing or two, too" (Leigh and Le Brunn)	Miss E. Douglas
"Sit on 'em and keep 'em warm" (Wincott & Leighton)	Harry Champion
"Take this message to my sweetheart" (Mills and Castling)	Miss Marie Kendall
"That's him! That's him! That's him!" (Mills and Scott)	Harry Freeman
"The Boarding House Keeper" (Dickson and Randall)	Harry Randall.
"The New Insurance" (Arthurs and Lyle)	Ernest Shand
"The New Perjarma 'At" (T. W. Connor)	Gus Elen
"The Playground in the Sky" (Bateman and Pether)	Milner Veiren
"The Covent Garden Ball" (C. Cardow)	Chas. Cardow
"There goes my Soldier-Boy!" (Leigh and Savage)	Everybody.
"There was something on his mind" (Leigh and Le Brunn)	Miss Marie Lloyd
"The Saftest o' the Family" (Lauder and Beaton)	Harry Lauder
"The Seaside Sultan" (C. W. Murphy)	Miss Vesta Tilley
"The Statue in Trafalgar Square" (Arthurs and Lyle)	George Lashwood
"The Truth or a Lie?" (Barnes and Weston)	George D'Albert
"The Ugly Duckling" (Murphy and Lipton) [Above also sung by Park's Eton Boys, Miss Ella Dean, and Miss Phyllis Dare.]	Miss Edith Courtney
"The Workhouse Gate" (Shelley and Philpot)	Herbert Shelley
"Then She Started Tickle-ing" (Mills and Carter)	Pat Rafferty
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THE ERA
SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1905.

THE RUN ON "HAMLET."

By one of those curious coincidences which so often occur in theatrical history, quite a number of eminent actors seem to be struck just now with the idea that *Hamlet* is a fine play. The result is a list of forthcoming revivals of SHAKESPEARE'S tragedy, which are certain to be, in their different ways, interesting. Mr. BEERBOHM TREE, who presented the drama on Monday at Oxford, without scenery, will give one of his magnificent productions of it at His Majesty's in a week or so. At the beginning of April, Mr. OTHO STUART is going to revive the piece at the ADELPHI, with Mr. H. B. IRVING and Miss LILY BRAYTON as Hamlet and Ophelia; and Mr. MARTIN HARVEY, who has already essayed the rôle in the country, will appear as the melancholy Dane at the Lyric on May 17th next.

The popularity of *Hamlet* needs no explanation, except to those whose peculiarities make it useless to argue with them. As the late F. A. MARSHALL observed respecting the play, "for ordinary people, who have not emasculated their minds and passions, *Hamlet* has always had a strong interest. The extraordinary popularity of the piece as an acting play is full of instruction to two classes of persons; first, to those who are never tired of declaring that the taste of the present day necessitates a total separation between literature and the drama; secondly, to those who are always sneering, feebly and dyspeptically, at the actor's art—persons ravenously jealous of the applause which the actor receives, but which the public ungenerously withholds from them in any of their multifarious capacities.

"These latter may lay to heart the undoubted fact that *Hamlet*, the most poetic in some respects of any of SHAKESPEARE'S plays, could not have been written by anyone but a practised actor, familiar with the stage and all its ways; also this fact, scarcely less disputable, that all the reams of criticism which have been written on the character of Hamlet have not been able to bring home to the minds of men the real meaning of the character so clearly as a single performance of some great actor."

We frequently hear of entertainments on "floating palaces"; but one is hardly prepared to learn that one of the earliest and most interesting records of the performance of *Hamlet* is in the log-book of the ship "Dragon," on board of which, in 1607, the captain, whose name was not CUTTLE, but KEELING, had the "tragedie of *Hamlett*" performed to keep his crew from "idlenes and unlawfull games; or sleepe." PEPYS, who sometimes went very wrong indeed in his estimates of SHAKESPEAREAN productions, was delighted with BETTERTON'S Hamlet, and thought he "did the Prince's part beyond imagination." BETTERTON had the advantage of being coached in the rôle by Sir WILLIAM DAVENANT, who, according to DOWNES, got his "business" from a Mr. TAYLOR, of the Blackfriars' Company, who had been "rehearsed" by "the author, Mr. SHAKESPEARE." BETTERTON, by the way, acted Hamlet when he was over seventy. But, then, BETTERTON'S adherence to his profession was heroic—and fatal. Did he not plunge a gouty foot into cold water to enable him to get into a slipper and appear as Melantius in *The Maid's Tragedy*, thus driving the disease to his head, so that he was carried from the theatre to die? GEORGE III. complained of GARRICK that "he never could stand still—he was a great fidget"; and, somehow, one fancies that his Hamlet was not one of his very best parts. Both CHARLES LAMB and CHARLES MATHEWS liked JOHN PHILIP KEMBLE'S Hamlet immensely; what pleased them most about it being the ease with which the actor "assumed the relaxing levities" of the part. RICHARD SHARP, however, wrote that KEMBLE was, now and then, "as deliberate in his delivery as if he had been reading prayers, and was waiting for the responses"; and Sir WALTER SCOTT said the actor only expressed "the natural fixed melancholy" of the rôle. YOUNG was another exponent of the "mournful beauty" of the personage. EDMUND KEAN'S Hamlet was probably too unconventional and actual for the lovers of the pomp and ceremony of the earlier readings; and CHARLES FECHTER went to the extreme of freedom, and produced a very effectively theatrical performance, without the least dignity or distinction.

The popularity of the part of Hamlet with actors consists in the fact that it is a character into which it is possible to read a great many different meanings. It is a mirror in which the artist and the essayist reflect their own instincts. One of the most curious theories respecting the character of Hamlet was set forth in the *Popular Science Monthly* for May, 1880. The article was entitled "The Impediment of the Adipose"; and, according to the writer, the tragedy of the Prince's career might be summed up in the passage, "He's fat and scant of breath." By reason of these defects, it was urged, Hamlet lacked the energising temperament which should have fitted him for practical life. His procrastination was caused by the weight of "too, too solid flesh." His obesity, it was argued, was indicated in the speech of Ophelia:

> He raised a sigh, so piteous and profound,
> As it did seem to shatter all his *bulk*.

The fatal fatness of Hamlet is suggested, so said the author of the article, in the Queen's speeches: "Here, Hamlet, take my napkin, rub thy brows"; and "Come, let me wipe thy face." Can we not, says the originator of the Adipose Theory, as we read these lines, see the perspiration trickling down the broad, heavy cheeks? It was surely from experience that Hamlet spoke of "grunting and sweating" under the cares of life. Then, again, it is contended in the article how clearly is fatty degeneration indicated in the Prince's remark to Horatio: "Thou wouldst not think *how ill all's here about my heart*." The writer concludes:—"The fine spirit and the clear insight of the Prince of Denmark are hopelessly imprisoned in walls of adipose." In the days of pompous dignity, Hamlet became almost funereal in his gloom. He wore a customary suit of solemn black, he carried a skull as a plaything, and he habitually turned up his eyes and drew down the corners of his mouth. The ideal "heavy" Hamlet of that day reminds one of an undertaker's funeral, with velvet-robed stallions and nodding black ostrich-feathers. He was labelled "melancholy" in large letters; he had the typical Byronic sadness. We have, happily, "changed all that," and our modern Hamlets, whatever else they are, are human and comparatively cheerful. Hamlet is an individual of whom everything can be affirmed and everything denied. He is undoubtedly troubled with a trick of "thinking too precisely upon the event"; but, on the other hand, he is capable of leading a boarding party *à la* NELSON. He is nothing if not philosophic; but he is ambitious, proud, and revengeful—qualities quite unworthy of a philosopher. At one time he acts and talks with absolute sanity; at another he appears to be more than half the madman he is feigning to be. There have been many theories as to the real character of Hamlet, but none of them account for the affection which is universally felt for the Prince. By way of contributing to the general bewilderment, we add our explanation. We take it that the great charm of Hamlet is the inconsistency and imperfection of his character. He acts very much in the moody, uncertain, "impulse-of-the-moment" manner, in which nine men out of every ten conduct their lives. Most of SHAKESPEARE'S characters are either complete or unimportant. Hamlet is all-important, but not consistent—not "all of a piece." He is pitiably human; and that is, perhaps, the chief reason why he is beloved, not only by Horatio and Ophelia in the play, but by the pit, boxes, dress circle, and gallery in the playhouse.

"THE THREE DAUGHTERS OF M. DUPONT."

Comedy, in Four Acts, by Brieux, translated by St. John Hankin; produced at the National Sporting Club, on Monday, March 13.

Mme. Dupont	Miss KATE BISHOP
Courthezon	Mr. LEON M. LION
Caroline	Miss ITALIA CONTI
Julie	Miss ETHEL IRVING
M. Dupont	Mr. O. B. CLARENCE
Justine	Miss LOIS CRAMPTON
M. Mairaut	Mr. ARTHUR CHESNEY
Mme. Mairaut	Miss AGNES THOMAS
Antonin Mairaut	Mr. CHARLES V. FRANCE
Lignol	Mr. LEWIS CASSON
M. Pouchelet	Mr. G. M. GRAHAM
Mme. Pouchelet	Miss DORA BARTON
Françoise	Miss FLORENCE ADALE
Angèle	Miss GERTRUDE BURNETT

Of the power—the distressing, depressing, but undeniable power—of Mr. Brieux's domestic drama, which, in the form of a translation by St. John Hankin, was presented, under the auspices of the Stage Society, at the National Sporting Club, on Monday last, there can be no doubt whatever. Its strength is simply overwhelming. It takes hold of us by the throat with an iron grip about the beginning of the third act, and leaves us at the end of the fourth, limp, melancholy, and despairing. Its qualities render it admirably suited to production by the Stage Society, and decidedly unfitted for performance under the customary conditions. Nor is it only the subject matter which is strong. The piece is arranged in almost conventionally effective manner, with its great scene just in the right place, and its dénouement—a really dreadful and desolating dénouement—in the last. *The Three Daughters of M. Dupont* is a monument of pessimism and protest.

The doctrine preached by M. Brieux is that, as things go, a woman is bound to be a victim. Does she kick over the domestic traces, and take to fast life? Then she undergoes unutterable ignominy. Does she remain single, and earn her own living? Then, besides the slights which she has to endure when disposing of her labours at a low price, she is haunted by a sense of incompleteness and failure. And, if, in the desire to obtain a husband, she marries a man she does not love, she first discovers that it is utterly impossible to live with him; but, eventually, is induced, by comparing her fate with that of her suffering sisters who have adopted the other expedients of womanhood, to "make the best of a bad business," because even a loathsome marriage is better than a life of shame or a life of labour.

The mercenary marriage and the *dot* are severely satirised in the earlier acts of the play. M. Dupont has three daughters. One, Angèle, has "committed an indiscretion," and her father has promptly turned her out of his house. Another, Caroline, earns her living by painting on china; and, being a plain and unattractive girl, wastes her affections in a hopeless passion for an inventor who is living with a lady by whom he has two children. The third, Julie, is a girl of spirit and intelligence; and she has an equally bad time of it. She is sought in marriage, in the usual business-like French way, by young M. Antonin Mairaut, the son of a mean, grasping mother, who rules her little husband with a rod of iron. Julie is schooled by her parents in the methods of petty deception by which a husband may be "caught"; and, when she has been but five months married, she discovers that she is utterly miserable. Antonin is mean, tyrannical, and a ferocious egotist. Julie's detestation for him is worked up to a violent climax in the third act. One of Antonin's petty annoyances is ordering Julie, by way of assisting the success of his bank, to go to Mass, which she does not believe in There is a terrific "row" between the pair. Without any grossness of language, marital matters are discussed with absolute freedom; and the exact position of a wife who hates her husband, yet cohabits with him, is described with burning indignation. In the old times, says Julie, a wife was expected to be the housewife, and the mistress was kept separate. Now, a man expects the woman he marries to be a housewife and a mistress in one. The loathly Antonin, seeing the breach is growing too wide for his interests, tries cajolery, confesses his own defects, and taunts Julie with the deceptions she practised upon him before marriage. He succeeds in calming her to a certain extent; but her wrath blazes up again when he tells her that he has decided that they shall have no family. It was the hope of children, she cries, which chiefly made her get married. Never again, after this, can we live together as husband and wife." "We shall see," he says; and, in a fury, he seizes her and forces her backwards. We tremble for the proprieties; but he finally flings her on the ground, and rushes out.

In the last act Julie is at home, determined never to return to her husband. But Caroline and Angèle draw such painful pictures of what their sufferings have been in their respective careers that Julie is induced to reconsider her resolve. Antonin comes in with a formal apology, which the wife hopelessly accepts. "There, you see," says M. Dupont, "how well one gets on if one only does as everyone else does!" "Yes," says Julie, pensively, "but I wanted to do a little better."

There was a curious felicity in the way in which the piece was cast. Miss Ethel Irving was thrillingly real as Julie. The fact that, at the climax in the third act, she was completely carried away by her feelings only gave greater truth to her demonstrations; for the ultra-naturalness of the dialogue did not demand anything like conventional restraint. Miss Kate Bishop, as the amiable and obedient Madame Dupont, acted with her usual experienced ease, and played the part with consummate confidence and truth. Mr. Leon M. Lion gave a graphic little character sketch as the inventor, Courthezon; and Miss Italia Conti did not shrink, in the cause of art, from indicating the weakness, plainness, and general "dowdiness" of Caroline. Mr. O. B. Clarence's M. Dupont had all the necessary dry drollery and acid humour, and his performance was scathingly satirical. The exact type of the Duponts' servant was notably suggested by the demeanour of Miss Lois Crampton; and Mr. Arthur Chesney, as the hen-pecked Monsieur Mairaut, delivered his heroic little outburst in the last act with telling spirit and effect. Mr. Charles V. France was absolutely convincing as Antonin Mairaut, not over-doing the detestability of the mean bully, but giving a portraiture all the more impressive and incisive because of its moderation. Mr. Lewis Casson contributed a neat performance as Lignol; and the rôles of Mr. and Mrs. Pouchelet had excellent exponents in Mr. G. M. Graham and Miss Dora Barton. Miss Florence Adale was a smart servant; and Miss Gertrude Burnett spoke with terrible pathos the lines referring to Angèle's shameful sufferings. Very fortunately chosen was Miss Agnes Thomas, who, made up marvellously, acted with keen incisiveness as Madame Mairaut. If the production of *The Three Daughters of M. Dupont* has done nothing else, it has revealed the existence of an amount of hitherto hidden talent which was hardly suspected by the play-going public. For the piece to have a lasting effect upon the spectator, however, he must accept the idea which we have sketched at the commencement of this critique; and that is just what the majority of persons will decline to do. The three daughters of M. Dupont are not exceptional in their circumstances; but three young Englishwomen similarly tried would probably find another way out of their troubles than a cowardly and feeble acceptance of a pessimistic theory.

A GRUESOME GERMAN PIECE.

"SANNA."

Play, in Five Acts, by Hermann Bahr, produced at the Kleines, Berlin, March 10, 1905.

Der Statthalter	Herr NOLLET
Der General	Herr SAUERMANN
Furnian	Herr PAGAY
Frost	Herr VON WINTERSTEIN
Karoline	Fraulein WANGEL
Luise	Fraulein DURIEUX
Sanna	Fraulein HOFLICH
Hansi	Frau EYSOLDT
Nilius	Herr LICHO
Hascher	Herr EKERT
Fräulein Von Crippa	Fraulein KELLER
Die Baronin	Fraulein BRUCK
Dame	Fraulein WISMAR
Cenz	Fraulein HUCH
Ordner	Herr VON JACOBY
Pianist	Herr MANN
Alte Dame	Fraulein BLAU
Tobias	Herr HERZFELD
Zingerl	Herr STEINRUCK

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Herr Bahr is an Austrian, and one of the most esteemed authors and dramatists in Vienna. His plots are usually of more than common interest, his satirical wit is one of his best features, while his characters are for the most part true to life, or, at any rate, appear to be so. Unfortunately, to appease the ever-continuous cry for something new and to tickle the jaded palates of the satiated, Herr Bahr has this time overshot the mark, and has given us a play which is gloomy and frequently revolting. We cannot deny the talents employed, neither can we help wishing they had been employed to better purpose. The plot is simple enough; there is certainly not sufficient action for five lengthy acts, and the result is very frequently boredom. Herr Trost is a Civil Service clerk, who, with a wife and three daughters dependent on him, has the greatest difficulty in making both ends meet and keeping up a respectable appearance before the world. Consequently a wealthy uncle, Hofrath Furnian, who lives with them, is allowed to have matters all his own way, and a very bad way it is. Furnian is an old sinner of eighty, partly cynical, partly imbecile, wholly reprobate, who tyrannises over the entire family, and makes nocturnal visits to Hansi, his youngest niece, a forward minx of sixteen. The eldest girl, Luise, has lost her lover through the tyrant's machinations, and has become melancholy in consequence. She is a pathetic figure, who is given to sitting for hours at the piano, playing the same melody. It is now Sanna, the second girl's, turn for martyrdom. Sanna is engaged to an officer, a young lieutenant with limited means, whom she loves devotedly. Austrian and German officers are not permitted to marry until they are in possession of a certain income, and it would be an easy thing for Furnian—whose natural heirs the Trosts are—to advance his niece the small sum necessary. He declines; it is his pleasure to feel his power, and Sanna snaps her fingers at him. The girl has full confidence in Erwin, her lover, and believes he will find some means to wed her. When Erwin, too, fails her, and the engagement cannot take place, she becomes desperate, and takes her life by throwing herself from the third-floor window. The last act, which shows us the Trost family mourning over Sanna's dead body, is the best. The mother, who, although she loves her children dearly, and is in despair at the terrible catastrophe, does not lose sight of the honour done to them by the arrival of his Excellency the Statthalter to condole; indeed, her first thought was, on seeing her dead child, the consciousness of the "disgrace" in the eyes of the world. The hypocritical Furnian comes in to pray by the corpse, and the silent Luise finds voice to fling a reproach at the code of morals in which she and her sisters have been brought up. A horrible figure is that of Schubrath Zingerl, an elderly, well-to-do admirer of Sanna's, who finds unnatural pleasure in gazing at the dying and the dead. Hansi, the cheeky, good-hearted, but wanton child abovementioned, is the only character which brings anything like life into the morbid play, and the part was admirably acted by Frau Eysoldt. The cast was good throughout—too good for a piece of this unhealthy type. The reception was not very cordial, hisses being freely mixed with the applause, and only the good acting and mounting prevented a failure.

DEATH OF MRS. CARSWELL.

We regret to record the death of Mrs. Carswell, the mother of Mrs. Greenwood, of Sheffield, and of Mrs. J. A. Winstanley, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley, proprietor of the Royal Opera House and sole lessee of the Theatre Royal, Leicester, who passed away at the age of sixty-eight at her residence in Leicester on Wednesday, the 7th inst. The interment took place on Saturday last at Burngreave Cemetery, Sheffield. The staffs of the Royal Opera House and Theatre Royal assembled at the Great Central Station at Leicester to show a last tribute of respect to the deceased lady, who had greatly endeared herself to all with whom she came in contact. At the station a mortuary van and another compartment, filled with wreaths, were reserved, with saloons attached, which conveyed the mourners to Sheffield, and at Burngreave Cemetery the service was conducted by the Rev. L. D. Spencer, of Preston (nephew of Lieutenant-Colonel Winstanley), assisted by the Rev. Mr. Lenwood, of Sheffield. The grave was beautifully lined with violet and white draperies, and the arrangements for the obsequies were carried out under the direction of Mr. G. M. Slater, Colonel Winstanley's general-manager. Wreaths were received from the following:—Large broken column of violets, lilac, and orchids from "Her grandson, whom she loved so dearly, her disconsolate Willie," W. Monteith Winstanley; white cross of lilies and orchids, "Jack's last tribute to a good woman; heartfelt sympathy and love," from Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Winstanley; large harp, with broken string, composed of lilac, lilies of the valley, and orchids, "To one of the best and dearest of mothers, from her heart-broken daughter Annie," from Mrs. J. A. Winstanley; cross of roses and silver beech, "For Auld Lang Syne and loving friendship," from Mrs. L. Burton; large harp of red roses and white lilies, "With deep regret," from Mrs. Wortley; large harp of violets and white lilies, "In loving memory of our dear friend," from Mr. and Mrs. J. Noble; wreath of white lilies and pink roses, "A token of respect and esteem," from servants of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. A. Winstanley; cross of white lilies, "In memory of Mrs. Carswell, with sympathy and regard, *Requiescat in pace*," from Mr. and Mrs. George M. Slater; wreath of white lilies and orchids, "With sincere sympathy," from Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Leigh; everlasting wreath of white lilies and roses, "In affectionate remembrance," from Mrs. W. Peak; anchor of violets and snowdrops, "In loving memory of a dear old friend," from Mr. and Mrs. Beason and family; wreath of violets and lilies, "Heartfelt sympathy," from Mr. and Mrs. Spell; large wreath of pink carnations and white lilies, "With heartfelt sympathy and in remembrance of many kind acts," from Mrs. Smith, Maud Smith, and Mrs. King; from the staff of the Royal Opera House, cushion of white snowdrops and geraniums; wreath of roses, lilies of the valley, arum lilies, and orchids, "With deepest sympathy," from Mr. J. C. Candler, the staff, and management of the Theatre Royal; anchor of white lilies and heliotrope, "With deepest sympathy; rest in peace," from Dr. Turner; and wreath of white lilies and lilac, "With sincere sympathy," from Major and Mrs. Crisp. Floral tokens were also received from Mrs. Spafford, "With deepest sympathy," Mrs. Standall, Miss De Pledge, Mrs. Greenwood (of Sheffield) and family, Mrs. Potter, and numerous other friends.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, MARCH 16.—We have had a week of rest, without premières at either theatre or music hall. Yet it cannot be said that the week has been uneventful, for there have been a few amusing incidents, passed over in silence by the Paris Press, and, for this very reason, worth recording.

INCIDENT number one was a somewhat serious dispute in a private room in a restaurant in the Boulevard des Thaliens, between a well-known owner of racehorses and an actor of renown. You need not take the trouble to *chercher la femme*, because she was not only present at the quarrel, but the cause of it. The clubman insulted the actor, who thereupon insisted on settling the dispute at the "point of the sword." When the actor's friends called on the clubman to make the necessary arrangements for the "meeting," the latter acquiesced to everything, but made it a condition that no account of the duel should be sent to the papers. "I am willing to fight your man," he said; "but do not want to advertise myself, and, still less, my opponent." The seconds took this answer back to their principal, whose bloodthirstiness then cooled down, and the meeting never came off.

AT the Gymnase, *Le Retour de Jerusalem* will disappear from the bill in a few days, to make room for M. Pierre Wolff's new piece, *L'Age d'Aimer*, wherein Madame Réjane will play the principal rôle. The remainder of the cast will comprise M. Felix Huguenet, M. Dumeny, M. Magnier, M. Luguet, Mdlle. Dorziat, Mdlle. Felyne, and Mdlle. Lantelme.

IT will seem strange to us, who, for so many years, have applauded Madame Réjane at the Vaudeville, to see her in a rival playhouse. At the time, however, I must again contradict the rumour that from the Gymnase Madame Réjane will return to the Vaudeville. The family trouble between M. and Madame Porel has nothing to do with the case. Even if a reconciliation was ever effected between them, M. Porel would never re-engage Madame Réjane, because, as manager, he wants to retain his liberty of action. And it is for this same reason that he preferred to pay a good round sum to Madame Suzanne Desprès to cancel her engagement with the Vaudeville. In other words, M. Porel objects to "stars." Having found them expensive and intractable, he has pinned his faith on smaller luminaries.

M. MAX MAUREY, manager of the Guignol, has accepted M. Hugues Delorme's new one-act comedy, *Zénaïde ou les caprices du destin*.

AT Antoine's, M. Maindron's play is now in full rehearsal, and will soon replace *Les Avariés*, to which the public do not take readily.

"RESURRECTION" is still holding its own at the Porte-Saint-Martin. The management having discovered that the public feel more interested in "disturbances" than in Tolstoï, supply their patrons with the necessary article. And the guileless strangers flock to that playhouse, whence they return with a wonderful story of how they heard France's ally cheered and trampled upon by hostile factions.

M. ALFRED SAIVIR, having written a play called *En Mandchourie*, our censor has consented to its production only on condition of the author transforming his Russians and Japs into imaginary people.

MADAME DUSE has puzzled us. In reply to the question whether she would appear here in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, she said that when she impersonated Santuzza the rôle was like an echo from her own life, but that now she no longer feels in touch with the play. "And the *Doll's House?*" was the next question. "I have done with that, too." "And *Anthony and Cleopatra?*" "It also passed out of my life!" In other words, Santuzza, Nora, and Cleopatra have passed out of Madame Duse's life; and we ask ourselves in astonishment the meaning of this extraordinary statement. Surely Madame Duse cannot set up the impossible theory that an actress can only interpret rôles that she has lived. This would lead rather far, inasmuch as an artist impersonating a repentant Magdalen could not personify a Hetaira unless she also altered her morals to keep pace with the change of rôles. All this is very absurd; and we were sorry that Madame Duse, on whose sound judgment we always relied, should have launched such indefensible theories.

THE revival at the Variétés of *Miss Helyett* has proved anything but a success. Curiously enough, although much younger in years, Audran's work appeared much older than any of the productions by Offenbach, Hervé, or Lecocq, recently resuscitated at this theatre. Moreover, it was a mistake to have entrusted the rôle of Miss Helyett to Mdlle. Eve Lavallière, who can impersonate any rôle except that of an ingénue. And Miss Helyett is above all things an ingénue. She may look ridiculous, but her mind is simple and pure; and the great charm in the piece is the sudden transformation of this young girl, whose Puritan ideas disappear under the influence of love. Mdlle. Biana Duhamel, who created the rôle, was admirable therein; whilst all Mdlle. Lavallière's efforts tended towards speaking with an American accent, efforts that were not crowned with success.

THE next novelty to be brought out at the Variétés will be MM. Feydeau and Desvallières' *L'Age d'Or*, for which M. Varney is writing the music. This latter piece of information will surprise nobody. For all that, I can but repeat that it is precious hard on young French musicians that M. Varney should hold a kind of monopoly for the manufacture of music for MM. Feydeau, Decourcelle, Desvallières, and other well-known dramatic authors. There is plenty of young talent here; and it would be but right to give them a chance. It will no doubt come in time, for, even the strongest organisations and syndicates cannot last for ever.

THE Comédie-Française announces for the 17th prox. the première of *Le Duel*, by M. Henri Lavedan, wherein the rôle of Docteur Morey will be taken by M. Duplos.

"LE FILS DE GIBOYER" was revived with great success at the Comédie-Française. Augier's fine play still keeps its hold upon the public.

THE death is announced, at the age of sixty-one, of the French actor "Père Berthelot," the jeune premier of the Théâtre Montmartre, the home of melodrama in Paris. Berthelot had played juvenile lead there for nearly forty years, and during his career had mastered some six hundred parts, involving the committal to memory of several million lines. M. Huguenet, M. Lerand, and M. Delmas have in their time worked with the old stager, who was wont to declare: "I have my own public, I have my own art, and I will never desert them. I am poor, though had I now but one sou for every line I have spoken I should be a millionaire. But I will never desert my public and my art." At a late period of his career M. Berthelot was awarded the violet ribbon of the "Academic Palms."

SIR HENRY IRVING will be the President and Mr. Beerbohm Tree the hon. treasurer of a fund which is about to be started with the object of assisting the widow of Mr. John Hollingshead. The late impresario was well known for his generosity throughout his life, and the public will now have an opportunity of offering a practical tribute to his memory. Among the committee will be Sir Squire Bancroft, Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. J. L. Toole, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. George R. Sims, Mr. George Edwardes, Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. Sydney Grundy, and Mr. Edward Terry.

MUSIC HALL GOSSIP.

There is every probability of a compromise being arrived at on the sketch question, and a conference to that end took place on Tuesday at the House of Commons between representatives of the London Entertainment Protection Society and the Theatrical Managers' Association. The interests of the theatres were watched by Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. George Edwardes, and Mr. Birch (of Manchester), and those of the music halls by Mr. Henri Gros, Mr. Henry Tozer, and Mr. J. L. Graydon. Captain Jessel, the member for South St. Pancras, who is in charge of the Public Entertainment Bill now before the House of Commons, presided over the deliberations.

Certain proposals were formulated with a view of reaching a *modus vivendi* that will put an end to the differences now existing between the variety and theatrical professions. After some discussion it was decided that a formal interchange of views should take place, in the hope of arriving at an amicable settlement. Should an agreement be arrived at respecting certain modifications, the Bill will be re-modelled on the lines suggested, and in this way opposition will be disarmed. It is hoped that a happy issue will be found out of the *impasse* created by the vexed controversy between the two great bodies of public entertainers.

East Ham, Tottenham, Lewisham, and Putney are to have their variety palaces. At the riverside suburb the L.C.C. has agreed to let to Mr. G. Warren Cooper for a term of 99 years a site at the junction of Gardener's-lane and High-street, Putney. One of the local representatives opposed this proposition strongly, and moved an amendment, pointing out that some of the Putney residents feel very strongly on the matter, but the amendment was lost, after some considerable discussion, and the original proposition carried.

That energetic fighter for freedom in amusements, Mr. John Hollingshead—Practical John—has left his widow very slenderly provided for. A fund is being organised by a number of prominent theatrical managers. There should be contributions, too, from music hall directors and proprietors, for the late brilliant manager and journalist was always tilting with all the force of an ironical and keenly incisive humour against the numerous absurdities in our complex licensing system both for theatres and halls. To John Hollingshead more than to any other was due the abolition of the absurd law which kept the West End theatres and music halls shut on Ash Wednesday. The restriction did not apply to the South of London, where audiences attained carnival proportions on the first day of Lent.

The members of the Terriers' Association and their friends will hold their annual dinner and ball at the Horns, Kennington, on Sunday evening. Dancing will commence shortly after midnight, and will be kept up till the neighbouring chanticleers "crow salutation to the morn."

Mr. Bransby Williams has kindly consented to give one of his famous Dickens character entertainments, preceded by imitations of popular actors, at 2, Egerton-place, S.W., the residence of Mr. H. F. Dickens, the popular K.C., and his wife, on Wednesday next, in aid of the Westminster Hospital. Several grandchildren of the great novelist will be among the audience. The young actor's future plans include pantomime, and Mr. J. Hickory Wood is writing for him a special part—the Baron in *The Babes in the Wood* for Christmas.

Mr. Chirgwin, who has been enjoying some excellent trout fishing near Abergavenny, writes as follows: "A gentleman has sent me a request for my autograph, and with it six stamps for any fund I like. Now, if other autograph hunters would take a lesson by this and enclose a few stamps to all artists, I am sure it would greatly increase the M.H.B. Fund and the M. H. Home Fund." Quite so, Mr. Chirgwin; but surely your autograph is worth more than sixpence!

Their Majesties the King and Queen greatly enjoyed their recent visit to the Palace Theatre. The main feature of the performance was the new operetta, *The Knights of the Road*, which was conducted by the composer, Sir Alexander Mackenzie. Horace Goldin's "illusions" seemed to particularly fascinate both the Royal visitors, who, with the assistance of their opera glasses followed the conjurer's every movement. Their Majesties also watched the bioscope pictures with great interest, especially those showing the ceremony of the German Emperor at the opening of the new Berlin Cathedral and the recent Naval operations at Devonport. At the conclusion of the performance the King personally congratulated Mr. Alfred Butt on the excellence of his programme.

The statement appearing in a contemporary that, until his recent visit to the Palace, King Edward has refrained from visiting a variety theatre, is not distinguished by accuracy; for his Majesty a year or two since visited the Alhambra, when he laughed very heartily at the funny entertainment presented by the Brothers Egbert, "the happy dustmen."

St. Patrick's Day (yesterday) was particularly honoured at Collins's. At the hall on Islington Green, that broth of a Hibernian comedian, Mr. Michael Nolan, was put down for special Irish songs that reflect the romance and patriotism of the Green Isle of Erin. A special stock of Shamrock was ordered, so that everybody who went to the pay-box had a sprig for buttonhole or blouse.

Miss Nellie Wallace will reappear in London, at Easter, at the Tivoli and other halls in two new songs, from which she expects great things, and which afford excellent scope for the eccentric comedy for which she is famous. One of these, entitled "They walked for miles and miles," is written and composed by Messrs. John P. Harrington and George Le Brunn; while the other is a "screaming" absurdity written specially for her by Messrs. John P. Harrington and W. H. Liddy.

The instantaneous success of La Sylphe in the new ballet, *My Lady Nicotine*, having demonstrated so distinctly the public appreciation of the unconventional in the terpsichorean art, the management of the Alhambra will on Monday introduce to an English audience for the first time the beautiful and accomplished Spanish danseuse, Carmen de Faya, who, fresh from her conspicuous triumphs on the Continent, will present her fascinating and entirely novel act, supported by Senor Aragon. Carmen de Faya's dancing is both poetic and eloquent.

Mr. Charles Beecham, the popular resident-manager of the Paragon, by the kind permission of his directors will take his complimentary benefit there on Thursday, April 13, when a special entertainment of a very attractive character will be presented.

One of Mr. Alec. Hurley's assistants in *The Coster's Friendly Lead* is that veteran vocalist Victor Liston, who bears his sixty-eight years lightly. Many would be glad to hear the old artist sing again his once-famous song, "Encore! Encore! Encore!" and maybe Mr. Hurley could arrange for its inclusion in his forthcoming new scena.

Mr. Charles G. Rembges, who has been for many years with Mr. J. L. Graydon at the Middlesex, has been appointed manager of the Empire, Middlesbrough, in succession to the much-lamented Mr. J. W. Thorlborrow. Mr. Rambges has many friends on Tees-side, who are pleased to learn that he has become a permanent resident in Ironopolis.

Barney Armstrong, since his retirement from the management of the Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow, has been booked by Mr. G. A. Payne for seven dates at the Oxford and all other halls under that gentleman's control, also six dates for London, Collins's, &c. At present he is working four turns, and has quite settled down to the stage again.

The New Brompton Hippodrome, which has been most successfully run by Mr. T. G. Transfield for the past twelve months, has been purchased by a company, headed by Mr. Frederic Monti, the well-known sketch comedian, who, after extensive alterations and redecorations, will re-open the building on the 27th inst. The general manager will be Mr. W. J. Mackay.

The Brighton Town Council has done nothing yet in the matter of the Aquarium, in connection with which the Local Government Board refused sanction to borrow £16,000 in order that it might be repaired and let on lease. The institution is now closed. The Aquarium Committee recommends the Council to refuse the offer to purchase for £15,000. The Corporation acquired the Aquarium in 1901 for £30,000.

An unusual scene took place at the Grand Theatre, Bolton, at the Monday matinée, when the managing-director appeared behind the footlights to explain the advent on the stage of an extra turn, who was to follow. During his visit to a successful pantomime, Mr. Elliston, it appears, was struck by the volume and beauty of a voice in the pit leading the chorus of the principal boy's song. He discovered that the possessor of the clarion tones was a shipping clerk out of work, and immediately offered him an engagement. His success in "Whisper and I Shall Hear" was immediate and unqualified, and now Mr. Elliston is inviting suggestions for a stage name for the newcomer.

In his "Musical Life and Recollections" the late M. Jules Rivière recounts that he gave a series of promenade concerts at Manchester, in partnership with his old friend, Joseph Higham, the celebrated brass instrument maker in the town. This gentleman invented what he called the clear-bore cornet, which has been extensively copied by other makers, and was the uncle of Mr. Fred Higham, the well-known dramatic and variety agent. Mr. Higham's father, Thomas Higham, was also a manufacturer of instruments and an organ builder.

A matinée in aid of the funds of the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney-road, was given under distinguished patronage at the Hackney Empire on Thursday. A long and specially attractive programme was contributed to by a number of leading artistes. Mr. L. J. Stewart was the chairman and treasurer, and Messrs. J. H. Woolf and J. Christie acted as joint secretaries. The entire proceeds of the entertainment will be handed over to the treasurer of the hospital.

By kind permission of Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Percy Honri, the talented concertina player, and Mr. Frank Seeley, the smart comedian, who were last week performing at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, appeared at Professor Gough's fifth annual Bohemian concert, held at the Athenæum, Shepherd's Bush, on Friday evening, the 10th inst. Mr. E. H. Dobson, the popular manager of the local Empire, gracefully acted as chairman during part of the proceedings, a hearty vote of thanks being passed to him for his courtesy in arranging the two extra "turns" mentioned, and for his services in the chair.

At the conclusion of the successful run of *Mother Goose* at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, the charming and handsome second boy, Miss Margaret Radcliffe, will commence an engagement at the South Shields Empire, with Liverpool and Birmingham to follow, and after a week's rest will open at the Granville, Walham Green, and Palace, Camberwell. Mr. Fred Wyndham has already secured this smart young artiste for the next annual at the Shakespeare, Liverpool.

The ninth annual general meeting of the Warden, Limited, was held at the Palace Theatre of Varieties, Belfast, on the 9th inst., Mr. Hugh C. Kelly presiding, in the absence of the chairman, Mr. S. C. Allen. The report of the directors for the year ended January 28 last contained the following: The net profits for the year amount to £2,220 2s. 7d., to which is added the amount carried over from last account, £807 3s. 8d., making a total of £3,027 6s. 3d. Out of this there has been written off or provided for—outlay on scenery for the year, £194 11s. 8d.; transfer to furniture and fittings, renewal, and depreciation fund, £695 0s. 2d.; write down investments, £300—£1,189 11s. 10d.; leaving a balance of £1,837 14s. 5d., which the directors recommend should be disposed of as follows: Dividend on £35,000 preference shares, at 5 per cent. for the year ended January 31st, 1905, £1,750; carry forward to next account, £87 14s. 5d. During the earlier part of the year £2,442 7s. 2d. was expended in renovations, alterations, and for an extensive electric light installation, at the Theatre Royal. The report and statement of accounts were adopted.

Mr. William Henry George, of George's Minstrel Trio, died suddenly last week, aged 67, at his home, the Grantham Arms, Dyer-street, Leeds. Mr. George (whose proper name was Greenhough) was a native of Leeds, and in his early days he was money-taker at Hobson's Royal Casino, call-boy at the Princess's Theatre (now Tivoli), Leeds, and violinist in the orchestra of Gomersal's Old Theatre Royal. At various times he was proprietor in Hull of the Prince of Wales's Music Hall, and in partnership with Enderby Jackson at the Alhambra, his last managerial venture being the Gaiety Music Hall, Old Brompton, near Chatham. He toured a good deal as a negro comedian, and appeared in London at the Rotunda, the Winchester with Preece, the Mogul with Fox, and Cider Cellars with Paddy Green. He also toured with Paddock Jerome's "American War" Panorama, when he married Miss Marion Winter, and later, with her and their daughter, Miss Honor Bright, worked as George's Minstrel Trio, a combined black and white musical, vocal, and dance turn.

Harry Burns, the enterprising manager of the Empress Varieties, Hartlepool, has inaugurated a scheme in conjunction with the electric tramway people at Hartlepool, by which his West Hartlepool patrons may, by booking on the cars from West Hartlepool, and paying one penny more than the ordinary admission fee to the theatre, obtain a ticket which will take them by car to Hartlepool, admit them to the Empress, and take them back by car to West Hartlepool. The usual return fare between the 'Pools is fourpence. A saving of threepence is therefore made by those travelling. Mr. Burns says the scheme works quite satisfactorily.

Though Aberdare is in the heart of the country where the Welsh revival movement is rampant, excellent business is being done by Mr. Will Gregory at the Palace Theatre of Varieties in the town. Mr. Gregory puts on a good show, and people are turned away nightly.

Miss Marie Lloyd has now quite recovered from her serious illness, and desires to return thanks to her many friends, both among the public and the profession, for their kind inquiries. She has been deeply touched by many messages of sympathy.

Lovers of amateur theatricals have a treat in store in the shape of a musical playlet which Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter will shortly issue, and which is entitled *Trixie in Search of a Title*. The piece is in two short acts, divided into three scenes, which have been designed with a special eye to the resources of most private households. The "book" is by Mr. David Day, with lyrics by Mr. W. H. Phelan and Mr. Fred. Day, the latter being responsible also for the music.

The bright little work has been pronounced by critical experts well qualified to give an opinion to be a gem in its way. It is written for six characters, two of which are ladies, and with a little extraneous help or judicious doubling will be found easy of performance.

Mr. Ernest Cadle was announced to play Mr. Fred McAvoy, manager of the Euston, a game of billiards (25 up) in a den of Miss Ella's lions, on Friday evening, on the stage of the above-named theatre, at 10.30.

The secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received the sum of £7 14s. 7d. from Mr. Frank Weeks, the result of his further efforts with the pence box at the South London Palace during the past month. The President and committee fully recognise the continued endeavours of Mr. Weeks to benefit the fund, in which he is taking such a lively interest.

Mr. Joe Elvin, who has produced more comical sketches than any other variety comedian, has discovered another "winner" in *Out All Night*, which has all the necessary farcical complications to make it a success. It has been delighting large audiences at the Camberwell Palace during the week, and it is unnecessary to state, perhaps, that it gives the only Joe every opportunity for exploiting his Cockney humour, which is of the best brand.

The house of Witmark seems very fortunate in always having a big song hit. Their number of successes would be too long to enumerate, but it is noticeable that as soon as the song, "Good-bye, Little Girl, Good-bye," which is the popular craze, was taken off at the Coliseum, it was replaced with another "Witmarkian" effort, entitled "Rosa Anna," in the rendering of which Miss Madge Lessing reminds us of her first great London success, "Rosy Posy." "Rosa Anna," evidently of the same family, has been excellently staged, and furnishes a delightful stage picture.

Mr. Cayley Calvert's sketch company in *The Fellow that Looks Like Me*," has occupied a prominent position in the bill of the Bedford during the week, and has won great favour there from crowded audiences. Nor is this marked success in any way undeserved, for the sketch teems with laughter-compelling situations, illustrated by dialogue of sparkling brightness and humour. Peter and Paul, twin brothers, have not met from boyhood—Paul having gone to Australia to seek his fortune. At the opening of the sketch, both are grown up. Peter, besides, is married, and has a house in London. He is, moreover, given to leaving his wife a great deal at night, and family bickerings are the result. To this house, whilst the volatile Peter is absent on a midnight excursion, comes Paul, who climbs the balcony, and enters unceremoniously through an open window to escape from a street row.

The likeness between the newcomer and Peter is so great that Mrs. Peter takes him for her husband returned earlier than usual, and the most amusing misunderstandings arise. These are straightened out after the audience has had its fill of laughter. Every praise is due to Messrs. Sydney and Ralph Lynn, who portray "exact presentments" of the twins with most stimulating dash and go, and to Miss Geraldine Holker, who impersonates the bewildered wife with great energy and sense of humour. The sketch is one of the liveliest that has been seen for some time, and should soon have a wide circle of supporters.

Miss Emmie Ames, after several months' illness with sciatica, is quite her own bright and fascinating self again, and resumed business on Monday at the Granville, Walham Green, where she was highly complimented by the manager, Mr. Jesse Sparrow. Miss Ames, who goes to Croydon on Monday, has been the recipient of many kind letters.

Miss Rachel Lowe, who returned to the Tivoli on Monday, is still delighting her admirers with the happily conceived "Lucky Duck" song. Miss Lowe, during her fortnight in the provinces, produced another number, which will be a valuable addition to her list of novelty songs. It is entitled "That's why Liza loved him."

The death is announced of Mr. Henry J. Hayes, who at one time held the position of manager at the Forester's, previous to the Macnaghten régime, and later went to the Bow Palace. He was responsible for several dramatic sketches, written alone, or in collaboration, and was an excellent stage-manager. The last months of his life were clouded by dementia, and he died on the 9th inst. at Bexley Heath Asylum, and was buried on Wednesday at the local cemetery.

Mr. Herbert Shelley returns on Monday to the London Pavilion for the fourth time. He will appear in two new costume songs of his own writing and composing. The many years spent on the boards in old English comedy tells in Mr. Shelley's favour, and he wears his rich suits with a distinguished air that is entirely his own.

Mr. R. A. Roberts, the quick-change actor, has found the labour of playing Dick Turpin twice a day at the Coliseum too much for him, and is now suffering from nervous breakdown. He intends taking a short sea-trip, and hopes to be at work again in about three weeks' time.

The American Comedy Four have made a decided success at the London Coliseum. These vaudevillians are exceedingly quaint, and their comedy is rich and rare. Their latest production, *Ye Black Bull Inn*, is a decided novelty; in this they are assisted by Miss Cecilia Florence, one of America's smartest comediennes. Their business is in the hands of Alfred Saker and Co.

Considerable interest is being roused in metropolitan sporting circles by the near approach of the club swinging match for the Endurance Championship of the World, between Tom Burrows, of Australia, and Charley Spinch, of Stratford. Both men are possessed of fine records, Burrows having swung 11lb. clubs for 45 hours 8 mins. at the Canterbury recently, whilst Spinch has a 44-hours swing with 2lb. clubs standing to his credit in Africa. The contest is to take place at St. George's Hall, S.E., on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th inst., and both men are in strict training.

Mr. Walter Keen, of Keen and Waller, the clever acrobats, now playing at the Lyceum Theatre, was married on Thursday to Miss Maggie Harvey (not in the profession), elder sister of the Harvey Boys, and niece of Mr. Frank Folloy. We wish the young couple many happy days.

A matinée was given at Mr. Richard Thornton's Empire Palace Theatre, South Shields, on Wednesday, in appreciation of the services of Mr. Geo. F. Thompson, the courteous resident-manager, who has been over a year in office. The crowds which gathered long before the opening of the performance quickly filled the house, hundreds being unable to gain admittance. Included among the artistes were Mark Sheridan, Harry Tate and company, Five Delevines, James's Strolling Players, Margaret Ashton, W. J. Ashcroft, Jake Friedman, Imro Fox, Virto and Irene, Josh Dixon, Harland and Rollinson, and other twenty-one star artistes. The performance was thoroughly staged in every detail, and Mr. Thompson in a neat speech thanked the patrons for their generous support.

Mr. Oswald Stoll will present on Monday next, at the London Hippodrome, Kronau's great military spectacular sensation, *America's Lads in Blue*. This production is strictly military, illustrating the life, work, and habits of the American soldier. The forty young men in the production are members of a military regiment in the State of Indiana, and are surprisingly well drilled and instructed in every detail of artillery, infantry, and coast defence practice. The miniature warship used has two armour-clad revolving turrets, and heavy guns that fire automatically, while smoke emanates from the three smoke-stacks. The exhibition fully illustrates the life, work, and habits of the American soldier. The curtain rises on a fortification, and the boys in blue are followed through shifting scenes to the evening bugle call.

Later an enemy's warship heaves in sight, and begins bombarding the fort. Excitement rises to fever heat, as the boys in blue rush to their guns, and anon the attacking ship is blown out of the water by Yankee torpedoes. Mr. Frank Parker, the Hippodrome's famous producer and stage-director, will, jointly with Mr. Leo. Kronau, produce this stirring spectacle. In the cast is Miss Gussie Fraenkel, who has been the leading soprano of Heinrich Conreid's Irving Place Theatre, New York. Her voice has a marvellous range, and is superbly sweet. Miss Fraenkel assumes the character of a Red Cross nurse, and introduces a new song speciality, "The Robe of Grey," written for this production.

Mr. Tom Leamore was absent on Monday and during the week from Collins's, not through illness, as stated, but through being restrained by Mr. Oswald Stoll. We are pleased to hear that Mr. Leamore is far from ill, as he has just passed the doctor's examination for a £1,000 life assurance policy. After an absence of six years, the popular comedian has been specially engaged at the London Pavilion, where he was one of the old favourites, having played for forty-seven weeks off the reel. He opens on March 27, when no doubt there will be a big welcome awaiting him.

Mr. Walter Leaver, the much-respected chairman of the Royal Albert, Canning Town, was given a complimentary benefit on Thursday evening, when a crowded house and a crowded programme testified to the regard in which he is held by the local public and the variety profession. For twenty-six years Mr. Leaver has presided at the Royal Albert, and he is one of the most interesting personalities in the theatrical world. He is now seventy-four years of age, has been a chairman for forty years, and is as active as many a man half his age.

Mr. Leaver may fairly claim to be a jack of all trades, but to his credit be it said that whatever he has put his hand to has been done well. The handsome chair upon which he rightly sits enthroned in honour is his own handiwork, as are also his movable mirror, which depicts the doings of the artists, and a number of useful accessories upon his table. He showed us the other night a pipe and a cigar holder which he had carved out of coal. The figures and faces round the bowls were most elaborately and artistically executed. We have in our possesion a sample of his art. In a few seconds he sketched upon the back of a visiting card a child's head and face, the little picture being most neatly drawn. We wish the veteran chairman many years of continued health and usefulness.

Although not on the printed programme at the Westminster, Liverpool, but simply put on as an "extra," the Ross Clyde Combination is this week arousing hearty laughter with their merry trifle, *I Must Have It*, with which they are deputising in place of David Poole.

Miss Lily Burnand, after a most successful time on the Stoll tour, is returning to London to renew her popularity at the Camberwell Palace, with the principal London halls to follow.

Mr. W. F. Frame, the Scot, who, like St. Patrick, was born on the banks of the Clyde, reappears on Monday next at the Glasgow Empire.—Mr. Tom Fancourt and Miss Jennie Rubie are by way of producing on Monday next a new comedy sketch, *Our Liz*, at the People's Palace, Tottenham.—Mr. Charles Grantley, the refined mimic and comedian, is in the sixth month of a successful provincial tour.—Jean Kram, the latest arrival in the comic juggling line, is fast booking the best variety houses under the guidance of his energetic agent, George Aytoun.

At a meeting of master music printers, held at Queen's Hall on Tuesday evening, it was decided to ask Mr. Balfour to receive a deputation with reference to pirated music. In a letter to the Prime Minister it was stated: "For some time past the orders received by us for printing copyright music have shown a serious diminution, with the result that for a considerable part of the year we have been compelled to put our employees (legitimate trade union workmen) on short time, and in many cases to dismiss them, while the machinery has been at a standstill."

Mr. Hamilton Hill's newest song, "Which sailor boy do you want?" by Messrs. Lawrance and Gifford, has been secured by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter. The same house has acquired Mr. Charles Cardow's song, "The Covent Garden Ball," written and composed by himself.

Mr. Malcolm Scott will be heard shortly in a song by Medley Barrett, entitled, "Buck up, Boys!" and has commissioned further songs from the same pen.

Striking as has been the success of T. W. Thurban's "Brooklyn Cake Walk," its popularity is likely to be exceeded by his latest composition, an "Indian Intermezzo" entitled "Irrawady." Mr. David Day will shortly issue the morceau. Mr. Thurban it was who accompanied on the piano Mr. Norman French and Mr. Harry Tate at the Duchess of Marlborough's recent house-warming, when their Majesties the King and Queen were present.

Mr. Billy McClain was taken suddenly ill during his opening performance at the Ardwick Empire, but the prompt assistance of a clever doctor enabled him to continue his engagament, and he has now completely recovered.

Mr. Leo. West, of the Palace, Bow, who is collecting for the Music Hall Home Fund, writes:—"I have collected 38s. 6d. in one week, and I want to get 8s. more to fill the card. Will those that give kindly see their names in next week's *Era*?"

The Automobile Show at the Agricultural Hall, which will commence to-day, and continue during the following week, will offer a new departure in automobilism, and exhibit a series of living pictures devised by Mr. Alfred Dunhill, of the well-known firm of automobile outfitters, Dunhill's, Ltd., illustrative of the various incidents in and about a motor-car journey, *e.g.*, "Getting Ready," "Full Speed," "Exceeding the Limit," "His Licence Cancelled," "An Elopement," "The Honeymoon." This series of interesting pictures is produced and stage managed by Mr. G. Murray and Mr. Henry Austin.

"A Savage Encounter," a new farcical duologue, by C. Preston Wynn and Laurence Sterner, will be played by Mr. F. Lumsden Hare and Miss Frances Ruttledge at the Empire, New Cross, next week. Mr. Laurence Sterner is also the author of *Off the Rank* and *The Water Cure*, both now being played at the Strand Theatre, and *The Club Baby*, produced some time ago at the Avenue Theatre. The scene, which has been painted by Mr. Julian Hicks, is laid on a desert island.

Mr. F. Clifford Harris, the author of "The rain came pitter-patter down," "Fables," "So did Eve," and "The Story of a Clothes-line," is taking a trip to America for the purpose of gaining health and gleaning new ideas. Mr. Harris has been collaborating with Mr. James W. Tate for eighteen months.

The 397th meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Charles Edgar, vice-chairman of the committee, presiding. There were also present Messrs. Harry Freeman, Harry Wright, Jack Collinson, Will Edgar, Frank Gerald, George Gray, Charles Pastor, Bob Hutt, J. Finney, Paul Martinetti, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). A letter was read from Mr. F. Pedgrift declining the position of hon. treasurer pro tem., and it was decided to write and ask Messrs. J. W. Cragg and Joe Elvin, who are trustees of the Association, to act as hon. treasurers pro tem., until the annual general meeting. A letter was read from Mr. Douglas White, stating that he would hand over the books of the Association to any gentleman duly elected by the members of the Association. It was decided to write and ask Mr. White to hand over the books to Messrs. Cragg and Elvin should they accept. It was agreed not to appoint an agent in Salford. A letter was read from Mr. H. Griff resigning from the committee, and his resignation was accepted with regret.

A letter was read from Mr. Harry Mountford, and it was decided that the same should lie on the table indefinitely. The secretary was instructed to write and ask Mr. McCarthy, the accountant, to attend the next meeting in reference to the new books he recommended the committee to purchase. Mr. W. H. Clemart proposed that all the original members who now pay 2s. 6d. should be charged 5s. a year. After discussion, Mr. Clemart withdrew his proposition. Mr. Bob Hutt proposed that a general meeting of the members be called by the committee under Rule 27. Mr. Harry Wright seconded. The proposition was lost by eight votes against three. It was decided to send out the name of Mr. Wm. Lee for election as a member of the committee. On the proposition of Mr. Frank Gerald, Dr. Ryan, of Bradford, was appointed hon. medical officer to the Association. The secretary reported that 72 new members had joined since the last meeting, making a total number enrolled since the commencement of 11,490. The meeting was then terminated.

Mr. W. J. Churchill, doubtless emboldened by the sterling success he has achieved with his well-known song, "Girls wouldn't be wanted at all," by John P. Harrington and George Le Brunn, has this week purchased from the same busy firm two new songs, which he will produce at an early date. They are entitled: "Would you be down-hearted? No!" and "In the springtime of the year."

Messrs. C. W. Murphy and Dan Lipton have sold the publishing rights of Mr. Morny Cash's successful song, "Beautiful, beautiful bed," to Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter. The song will doubtless be in great demand for next season's pantomimes.

Miss Agnes Molteno, the well-known soprano vocalist, appeared at Collins's on Tuesday evening in a song scena, *The Daughter of the Regiment*. This artiste has had considerable experience in operatic work, and her excellent voice was heard to advantage in the familiar melody. She also sang the popular song, "The Dream River," with charming effect.

Mdlle. Adeline Antonio, a high diver, narrowly escaped death recently at Coney Island, when she leaped from the summit of the Luna Park tower. The net broke, and the diver fell into an awning, and thence to the ground. The two obstructions broke the fall, and probably saved her life. As it was, her left leg was broken, and she was injured internally. The net was the one in which her partner, Meyer Antonio, met his death whilst performing in Calcutta last summer.

Mr. Frederick Bingham has organised a company for the performance of his playlet, *Counsel's Opinion*, at the variety theatres. This "legal episode," which was first presented in London on the occasion of the memorable Savage Club hospital performance at His Majesty's Theatre, commences its career on the halls at the Richmond Theatre, April 10. The principal characters will be played by Mr. Robert Ganthony and that promising young actress, Miss Clarisse Heney.

In consequence of several long-standing engagements, including that of Signorina Guerrero, who will make her first appearance at the Palace on Monday, the 27th, Mr. Butt has reluctantly found it necessary to shortly withdraw *The Knights of the Road*, but his experiment in the direction of operetta has been so encouraging that he is making arrangements for other productions of a similar character in the near future. The Palace Girls, who return to their London home on Monday, besides appearing in some entirely new songs and dances, will in another turn act as chorus to Miss Millie Lindon in an original topical song. The new features of Mr. Alfred Butt's next week's programme will also include the Yamamoto Bros. in their remarkable performance on the wire, which will be given for the first time in England, and O. K. Sato, the comic juggler.

An action was heard at the Westminster County Court, on March 10, when Mr. J. Laurie Graydon sued the Six Brothers Luck to recover £57, the balance of commission due. Mr. Walter Payne, instructed by Messrs. Amery-Parkes and Powell, appeared for the plaintiff, and Messrs. Noon and Clarke for the defendants. The plaintiff was instrumental in obtaining an engagement for the defendants to perform at the Palace, Manchester. The defendants signed a commission note to pay 10 per cent. on their salary, and, having paid 5 per cent., disputed the balance, it being alleged that at the time of signing the contract the plaintiff's manager stated that 5 per cent. had to be paid to the management of the hall. It was afterwards discovered that this was not the case, and that had it not been for this statement they would not have signed for 10 per cent. They also contended that 5 per cent. only was customary to be paid on contracts of large salaries. The plaintiffs denied any such statement as alleged, and also submitted there was no such custom. His Honour ultimately found for the plaintiff, and entered for the amount claimed, with costs.

THE LONDON MUSIC HALLS.

LONDON PAVILION.

The Brothers Zachs, who are fulfilling an interesting turn in Mr. Frank Glenister's scheme of amusement at the Piccadilly-circus pleasure resort, might well say with the poet: "Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage." In the presence of a committee, one of them is manacled, hands and feet, and placed in a square barred receptacle, which seems to be as strong and rigid as iron can make it. Previous to concealing this cage in a curtained cabinet, tapes are tied round portions of it, and the ends sealed. While Zachs, jun., is securing his freedom in the privacy of the cabinet, his partner fills up what would be a wait by giving some imitations—such as a cackling hen, a bull, the Russian bear, sawing wood, and other sounds more or less familiar. The performer in the cabinet having freed himself from handcuffs and anklets, comes boldly forth to face the astonished committee, and when the cage is wheeled again into view, it is discovered that the tapes and seals are intact. The brothers offer £50 to any person finding his way out of their "magic cage"—which is on view daily from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the pit entrance of the London Pavilion—without damaging it. The current bill is strong in dialect comedians. Messrs. Jordan and Harvey interest us in the absurdities of a couple of Hebraic gentlemen, who propound many amusing posers to each other. The great thing in stage conversations such as this pair indulge in, is for one to "get the bulge" on the other. This does not seem to happen to Jordan or to Harvey; and at the conclusion of their wrestling bout with the English language, honours are easy.

Neil Kenyon is another "dialectic"—if we may venture to use such a word in description of a laddie who hails from the north of the Tweed. Both the matter and the manner of his speech are exceedingly funny. He breaks his anecdotes gently, as it were, to his audience, who express their delight at his skit on the Scotch packman, and respond with whole-hearted laughter to his fund of whimsical stories. He concludes with a most amusing burlesque of the drama, with special musical and limelight effects. Mr. Kenyon has not too much accent, but just enough, and is a most acceptable droll, who knows how to advance a reputation which is already well established at the London Pavilion. It is a liberal education in the art of repartee to listen to the happily devised polite conversation of Foreman and Fannan, who return time after time to renew their favouritism in Piccadilly-circus; and Mr. Phil Ray fools around in his own inimitable way, both in burlesque recitation and patter. His abbreviated form of addressing his very kind friends in front has an informality that roots it in favour; and one's education in the art of polite conversation is not seemingly complete unless one is versed in Ray's modern, save-time methods. More talk of a most entertaining kind is heard when Mr. Arthur Prince arrives with his cabin-boy, Jim, and manages, as a smart naval officer, to completely mystify us by his remarkable ventriloquial powers. One does not detect any lip movement whatever, and the impassive expression of the features whilst Mr. Prince is voicing the figure is wonderfully preserved. Even more remarkable still is the way the young polyphonist talks whilst drinking and smoking.

A most agreeable novelty of the bill is the musical comedy skit, *The Bazaar Girl*, which is presented by that excellent comedian, Mr. J. J. Dallas, and pretty Miss Bessie Allayne. As a husband who is "going it" at a fancy bazaar without the knowledge of his jealous young wife, Mr. Dallas is amusingly alert and unctuous. He sings a capital song, "In his mind." Miss Bessie Allayne, as the young wife, who gets even with her gay Lothario of a husband by assuming the rôle of a gipsy fortune-teller, is well grounded in the art of musical comedy, and possesses much charm and a sweet and well-cultured voice. *The Bazaar Girl* is an airy trifle that should be an acquisition to any programme. Early in the evening Mr. Walter George entertains at the piano with "A funny world," which includes an elderly lady given to gushing songs of the question type; Mr. Will English dances in very quaint style; and the Three Cape Girls are long-boot dancers of a very lively pattern. The juggling act of Francis is exceedingly clever, as he toys both with light and heavy weights, and succeeds for a time in keeping going no less than seven tennis balls. He makes a feature of catching a heavy lead spheroid on the back of his neck, and takes himself quite seriously—an attitude that is completely justified by the real comicality of his assistant, who plays many fantastic tricks. The Lupino Brothers, as the poodle and the sailor, are responsible for laughter; and a youngster of the same clever family—Nipper L. Lane, to wit—is very smart indeed in his jodelling and dancing. La Belle Nello, contortionist, justifies her description, being both graceful and pretty; the Three Laurels have an original speciality on the ping-pong table, which is full of acrobatic surprises; Shawlene, a tuneful siffleur, is equal to the performance of a whole opera or a ballad; and other turns in the bill are submitted by Mr. A. Aldridge, tenor; Mr. Will Edwards, comedian; Miss Lily Seville; and the Eight Lancashire Lads. Mr. Bond Sayers directs an excellent orchestra here; and Mr. William Cobbett loyally assists his chief in front.

THE COLISEUM.

Mr. Oswald Stoll seems to be always ready with new scenas, and his double scheme of amusement at the Coliseum contains several novelties that were presented for the first time on Monday afternoon. The vocal and histrionic talents of Miss Winifred Hare, a distinguished member of the musical comedy sisterhood, are utilised to very great advantage in *Japanese Rejoicings*. The scene is a street in Tokio, and Mr. Cecil E. Hicks has designed a pretty street scene—one that breathes the spirit of romance. It is a veritable feast of lanterns, and the pretty toy houses, with their occupants at the upper windows, add to the vraisemblance of the spectacle. Miss Hare, as a young-looking Japanese mother, sings from an upper storey a lullaby, written by A. G. Hales and Hannan Swaffer, and composed by H. E. Darewski, jun. It is a pretty melody, and a dreamy, restful effect is produced by the music, which is admirably rendered both by the soloist and the choir. For the display of her voice, perhaps, Miss Hare has a greater opportunity in the song, "Banish sorrow," by the late Frederick Clay, which she introduces into "an incident in the days of Sweet Nell." At the opening of the scene, the locale of which we may suppose is St. James's Palace, the ladies and gentlemen of the Court of the "Merry Monarch" are dancing a minuet to the famous measure composed by Boccherini. Miss Hare, looking very much like the accepted portraits of the famous actress, sings the bravura air with great spirit and entrain, and the success of the scena is much enhanced by the dance and stage business so cleverly arranged by Mr. Will Bishop.

Miss Madge Lessing's ability finds an excellent outlet in a stirring military song scena, entitled *A Little Boy Called Taps*. The hero is a bugler of the C.I.V.'s, and the scene is outside Johannesburg, on the night before the battle. The *reveillé* is sounded, and a detachment of the British Army reserves strikes camp, and marches off to the strains of a military fife and drum band, in a way that shows very careful attention to martial details. Miss Madge Lessing cuts a gallant figure as the boy bugler; and the scena begets the heartiest enthusiasm. It is followed by "Rosa Anna," a lady of American origin, who has the daintiest of homes in a "bower of the purples." This is a "nocturne" in heliotrope. Sixteen dancers dressed in exquisite shades of the colour animate the scene with their harmonious movements, and open flower-bedecked parasols. Flitting hither and thither in the dim, religious light, they make up a tone picture of great beauty. As the heroine of the scena, Miss Lessing dances and sings delightfully.

Madame Alice Esty's engagement for excerpts from grand opera has proved such a complete success that her services have been retained in a scene from Mascagni's famous opera, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, which established the reputation of its composer as a worthy disciple of the modern Italian school. The scene chosen is the highly dramatic one where the peasant girl, Santuzza, seeks Turiddu at his mother's cottage, and, not finding him, tells the old lady of his unfaithfulness. A fine dramatic effect is produced when the solemn music of the Easter hymn, sung by the villagers, breaks in upon Santuzza's passionate outburst. Madame Esty, who has played the part of Santuzza some three hundred times, throws herself with great dramatic fervour into the character, and her fine voice completely fills the house. She is assisted by Miss Ambrose, who sings the few phrases incidental to the rôle of Mother Lucia, and the Coliseum choir and orchestra do excellent work under the direction of Mr. Walter Slaughter, the musical forces being heard to special advantage in the famous Intermezzo. It is quite certain that grand opera is a much appreciated feature of the Coliseum entertainments.

The incidentals of the bill include Mr. John Terry and Miss Mabel Lambert, who are responsible for a most entertaining musical comedy sketch, in which domestic differences, funny in their exploitation, are smoothed out in a harmonious arrangement of "Sally in our Ally." The Marlo and Dunham Trio are responsible for a fine exhibition of athletic skill on the horizontal bars, and nothing funnier could be imagined than the behaviour of the comic man in the trio of admirable acrobats, known as Keno, Welch, and Montrose. Roars of laughter are evoked also by the antics of the male partner of the clever couple, known as Barton and Ashley, who finish up with a humorous cake walk. Other items in programme No. 2 include the celebrated Derby spectacle; the scena, *Miss Extravaganza*; Mr. Walter Slaughter's tuneful song, "The Dear Homeland," tunefully rendered by Miss Mary Ambrose and choir; Professor Duncan's Royal Scotch Collies, who play "The Blue Bells of Scotland"; and Bella and Bijou, the smart society entertainers, in their latest entracte, *Divorce*.

COLLINS'S.

Amongst the well-known artists announced to appear this week at Collins's is Mr. Tom Leamore, but that popular comedian was absent on Monday evening, owing, we understand, to the operation of the all-important barring clause. Another absentee was Miss Marie Kendall, the cause of her non-appearance being, unfortunately, indisposition. The gaps thus caused were filled by special turns. One of these was a troop of a dozen boys and girls, who recently appeared in Mr. Tree's production of *The Tempest* at His Majesty's Theatre. The girls brought their dolls with them, and it was at once made evident that they had received an excellent training as vocalists. They sang several chorus songs with the most charming effect, and one of the girls, possessing a very good voice, gave with feeling the ballad entitled "Daddie"; which was greeted with much applause. Then another of the young ladies sang "Sammy"—a part that was taken by one of the lads, who assumed a shy, awkward attitude as the girls joined in the chorus, with fingers pointed at the much-adored youth. A coon song and dance were also included in the young people's programme, and a mild form of comic relief was introduced by the eldest member of the troop, who wore a page's suit, and pretended to be overcome by the words of a pathetic ballad. Altogether, the boys and girls gave a very good show, and at the conclusion they were recalled several times. Another special turn was that of Mr. Fred Lester, whose Chinese ditty was admirably rendered. He also contributed another song with successful results. Amongst Irish comedians Mr. Michael Nolan holds a high rank; and he shows a commendable discretion in his choice of songs. "The five pound which I never found" is a good specimen, but still more amusing is the ditty concerning Burke and the ineffectual efforts made to get him to do a day's work. The amusing complications arising from people being remarkably alike in form and feature have formed the basis of numerous plays, from Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* down to a modern farcical comedy, and in the sketch, *Three of a Kind*, which is being played at Collins's this week, the fun arises from the fact that three of the male characters bear a close personal resemblance, and are being constantly mistaken for one another. When it is stated that one is married, and the other two are not, but are engaged, the confusion which arises may be readily imagined. An irascible elderly gentleman takes a prominent part in the imbroglio, and causes additional laughter by his comic perplexity and confusion after successive interviews with the three men who are so wonderfully alike. This part is well played by Mr. George Abel, and the part of the wife of one of the three younger men is capitally embodied by Miss Ethel Arden. The other characters are smartly represented by the remainder of the excellent company. Mr. Edwin Brett and Miss Emmeline Orford also do well in their little musical duologue, called *Two Love Birds*, in which they introduce their very effective duet, "Sweethearts Still," and play the parts of the young lovers and the old man and woman whose affection for each other is just as warm as ever. Happy Fanny Fields' impersonation of a little Dutch girl wins for her general popularity; and Mr. W. J. Churchill, comedian, has some good songs. The Zenary Brothers, who appear in evening dress, greatly distinguish themselves as acrobats, performing some extraordinary feats. This week's bill also includes Miss Amy Bellwood, serio; Mr. Chas. Whittle, comedian; Harrigan and Holt; Miss Rosie Elliott, comedienne; Mr. Chas. Austin; and Professor Duncan's performing collies; and the Imperial Bioscope is also an attraction. In the management of this hall, Mr. Charles Hector is ably assisted by Mr. Harry Lyons.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

The sight of a dozen attractive young ladies "scroming" up as many swinging poles, and wrestling to force one another to terra firma is a remarkable one, and the audience get as much excited as if they were witnessing a great boxing contest or a football match. We are assured by the gentleman who introduces the fair contestants that six of them are the "original American wrestlers," and the others—well, they are the new English team. Anyhow, the struggle in mid-air is a keenly-fought affair, and the "blues" and the "reds" work like Trojans, to get the best of each other. Taken all round, honours seem to be fairly equally divided. The match is certainly of a novel character—rather, we should say, the way it is conducted is novel. The wrestlers, it should be added, are Madame Roma's troupe of aerial gymnasts. It is not often that one sees a lady playing the bagpipes, and, moreover, playing them well, as does the lady partner in the act of Boyd and Gilfain. Together they burlesque the old-fashioned drama, as well as other departments of stage work, their amusing remarks and attitudes being greeted with roars of laughter. Mr. Boyd has a fine tenor voice, and Miss Gilfain sings in pretty style, "When I was a waitress at a French café." Jimson's comedy animal act is one of the most entertaining dog shows we have yet had the good fortune to witness. We congratulate Mr. Jimson upon being the lucky possessor of a delightfully talented canine, and we congratulate the canine upon having a master who has trained him so well. Mr. Leo Dryden makes his last appearance here before leaving England for Australia. In very sympathetic strain he tells the story of the saddest part that David Garrick had to play—the part of a drunken man, which the famous actor is made to assume. Mr. Dryden exhibits high ability as an actor, and he knows, too, how to sing nicely. He puts a good deal of force and character into his rendering of the singing parts of "An actor and a man," as well as in his stirring song, "For Freedom and Japan." Brown and Robinson, who come on the stage dressed as working men, sing a couple of duets in quite concert platform style. Both of them have magnificent voices, their performance of "The Lost Chord" and "Genevieve" being a striking demonstration of their powers. In place of Miss Bessie Featherstone, whom illness has prevented from fulfilling her engagement at the Empress this week, Miss Gladys Huxley sang a couple of songs with a charm that won its way into the hearts of the audience, her "Lulu" being an especial favourite. Mr. Michael Nolan, the Irish comedian, treated us to a number of quaint stories relative to the doings of one O'Reilly, and Mr. Nolan's mannerisms greatly enhanced the subject matter of his remarks. Some comical pantomime business which takes place in a farmyard is what the Lyons Trio have to present. It is a cleverly worked out dumb show, in which an artist who is engaged in sketching a rural scene is made the butt of the eccentricities and practical jokes of a couple of yokels. This little sketch without words is highly diverting throughout. The Andreassen Brothers submit a variety of clever and neat acrobatic feats, and Datas, "the walking encyclopædia," refreshes our memories on the score of half-forgotten things, and tells us other things we had never heard of before. Lotto, Lilo, and Otto cause general amazement by their daring bicycle act, and graceful and pretty dancing is indulged in by the Glenroy Troupe. A delightful and interesting instrumental entertainment is offered by the Fenwick Brothers, and the Imperial Quartette present a first-rate demonstration of vocalism and dancing; while Mr. Will Musgrove's comicalities arouse enthusiasm throughout the house.

ROYAL ALBERT.

Anyone who paid his first visit to Canning Town would almost expect to find that the music hall habitués of that neighbourhood were not a very tractable lot of people. On the contrary, the frequenters of the Royal Albert Music Hall are most orderly, and would not discredit any variety theatre in London. Perhaps it is that our old friend, Mr. Walter Leaver, the esteemed chairman, sits facing his audience throughout the show, and the conduct of the "boys" is under his observation at the same time as the doings of the artists are depicted in the mirror confronting him. And everybody in Canning Town respects Mr. Leaver, and on Thursday night, when his benefit took place, folk turned up in their numbers to show that respect. There is much of interest in the ordinary programme this week. Mr. Harry Anderson has not lost his ancient power to entertain. This is proved by his singing of three popular songs, "Like the ivy that is clinging to the wall," "Let's have a holiday to-day," and "May you have the best of friends." In place of the Two Gems, who had been unable to turn up, Miss Daisy Silcott sings in delightful strain, "If that's what men call love" and "I let it alone," both of which win her distinction as a comedienne. Mr. Dudman Bromwich and company present a melodramatic sketch, entitled *The Detective; or Trust to Luck*, written by Harold Whyte. Miss Kate Neville is intensely comical as Sally Slapdash, the slavey, and her impudent whimsicalities bring forth roars of laughter. Mr. J. C. Aubrey makes a fine manly character of the hero-detective, and the playlet is well acted throughout. Miss Winnie Derson charms everybody with her rendering of "I know a coon," while her "Good old Irish jig" gives evidence of considerable versatility. Evered and Vaughan take part in a musical comedy sketch, bearing the name of *Romance and Reality*. It tells the story of a lady who has yearnings in the direction of the stage, and whose husband has yearnings which are quite contrary to his wife's desires. He disguises himself in a ridiculous make-up, pretending for the nonce to be a theatrical manager. His opinion of the aspirant's talents is expressively indicated by the word "Rotten!" and after a good deal of laughable by-play, he persuades the lady that she has no ability whatever. Very cleverly does one of the artists play the part of the woman, and the audience does not quite realise until, when leaving the stage, madame throws off "her" wig, that they have been deceived. Messrs. Evered and Vaughan are to be congratulated upon the funny situations they place before the house in their sketch. The Loma Trio have much that is agreeable, and at times exciting, to offer in the gymnastic line. Their beautifully electrically illuminated and adorned apparati afford a pretty spectacle in themselves, while the evolutions and feats they perform should give them a place of honour among their aerial confreres. Miss Edith Manley discourses in a pleasant manner about the doings and philosophy of a cabby—a rôle she assumes for the time being, giving colour to the character by wearing a long Newmarket overcoat and police badge. Then she invites her hearers to test her qualifications as an extempore vocalist, and Chamberlain, Buller, and other notabilities are put into rhyme, in addition to several old variety favourites, who have made their final exit from an earthly stage. Sport of the most rollicking order is well provided, while Ashley's American Circus occupies the boards. The unrideable mule and the spinning table again call forth merriment both spontaneous and demonstrative, and the prizes that are offered to local youths ensure zest in the competitions. Miss Daisy Byrnes submits a couple of songs, "Welcome home" and "Don't make those eyes at me," which are highly relished; and Alf. Davis is responsible for some enjoyable descriptive and character vocalisation.

CHELSEA PALACE.

"The stars are angel faces" sings Miss Florrie Cooper, and although astronomers may not altogether agree with that pronouncement, the idea is certainly a pretty one. And Miss Cooper sings the song in a pretty way. For the time being she is a little child who has lost her mother, and as she believes that the stars are angel faces, she pathetically asks her father to tell her which of the stars is her mother. The hearts of the audience are quite taken by storm with the sympathetic burden of the verses and the equally sympathetic treatment they receive in Miss Cooper's vocalisation. Her second song tells the story of two brothers, the elder of whom begs the other to go with him to a distant land to seek fortune. The younger man, however, decides to remain by the side of his aged parents, and wishes his brother God-speed in the quest for gold, which will ensure greater happiness and comfort to themselves and to the old folks. Miss Cooper renders the lines with suitable feeling, her efforts receiving marked approval at the hands of the audience. Mr. Dutch Daly is a great favourite down Chelsea way, as as he is down other ways, and his amusing remarks are followed with the keenest relish. He is a past master in the difficult art of entertaining, and, apart from that, his concertina playing is always worth listening to. A combination of whistling and singing is what Mr. E. J. Sheldon delights in, and in that delight he is joined by everybody in the auditorium. Mr. Sheldon knows how to explain sentiments by a whistle almost as well as by speech or singing. Upon his second appearance he dilates humorously upon the different constructions to which the word "changes" is applicable. Miss Fanny Robina gives utterance to a sweet childish appeal in her song, "Don't go away, Robin." It is Christmas time, and the redbreast has popped in at the window, and the little girl, who feeds him, beseeches him to stay. The theme is a tender one, and with exquisite tenderness is it presented by the charming vocalist. "I'm not tired of England" is Miss Robina's second number, and it seems that the raison d'etre of the title is that the "King of the castle is the baby." Grace and style characterise Miss Robina's performance of the song, a verse in which, in addition to the chorus, is sung from the gallery by a talented boy-singer. Mr. Neil Kenyon, the Scotch comedian, goes far towards repudiating the slur which has for generations been cast upon his fellow-countrymen because of their lack of the sense of humour. In his entertainment, which he describes as "The Scotsman and His Pack," we get many really witty phrases. Heads are seen shaking all over the house as he tells of the eccentricities of a Scotsman "whose presence of mind in danger was only excelled by his absence of body." Extremely laughable is his "Charge of the Light Brigade," as sung respectively by a London "johnny," a Walworth "bruiser," a Kilmarnock man, and a Jew. Truly, Mr. Kenyon's is a merry "pack." A cat of a very whimsical kind is Mr. Johnny Fuller, and that gentleman exhibits marvellous agility in the rôle of a feline, the little tricks he gets up to causing general merriment. Music and mirth is the stock-in-trade of Mr. Will Van Allen, whose professional storehouse—if we may use such a word—is excellently provisioned both as to quality and quantity. We cannot help thinking that Mr. Van Allen would feel quite at home if he were cast upon an uninhabited island, for his inventive faculty appears to be developed to a large extent, as is proved by the fact that he can extract "melody divine" out of dinner-table articles. Miss Grace Hawthorne and company appear in an interesting Dickens sketch entitled *Poor Nance*, in which Bill Sikes and Fagin figure, the little piece being splendidly played by the different artistes. Spry and Monti, in their now famous combination of wit and humour, and the Avrignys, Japanese jugglers, complete an admirable programme.

BATTERSEA EMPIRE.

The Wednesday matinées which have been instituted by Mr. Lennox Barry, the popular manager, still continue to be of a most successful order. So, too, with the evening shows. Each night the hall is packed, and the audience leave no doubt of their appreciation of the fare provided. The Motramos, musical speciality artistes, are one of the leading turns this week, and cause much fun with their whimsicalities. Herbert le Martine is an old favourite, and scores with his bâton manipulation. Talberto and Douglas provoke much laughter with their comedy acrobatic turn, the comedy part being more in evidence than the acrobatic. The Brothers Edgar receive a warm welcome with their clever cross patter, and the Lynchs, in their champion shooting act, are warmly applauded. Miss Rosie Cass is well received for her rendering of "Violets," the chorus of which is taken up in all parts of the house. Miss Ethel Dove gives a striking representation of a South American singing coon, and the bioscope, with some good pictures, completes a most varied and attractive programme.

"OUT ALL NIGHT."

Sketch, in One Scene, by Wal Pink, produced for the First Time at the Camberwell Palace, on Monday, March 13.

Jimmy Marble	JOE ELVIN
Ada	MISS FLORENCE HARCOURT
Bill Wuzzy	HARRY LOW
Police-Constable Notkins	KENNETH ALTAMONT
Police-Constable Potkins	HARRY GREGORY
Police-Constable Watkins	GEORGE BUDD

All that Mr. Joe Elvin touches turns to merriment. His admirers are ever prepared to laugh at anything he says or does, and when, as in the case of his newest production, he has excellent material to deal with, the result is laughter of the most spontaneous and lasting kind. Such is the effect of *Out All Night*, a new sketch with which Mr. Elvin has been entertaining Camberwellians this week, and in which he appears as a retired bookmaker, named Jimmy Marble, who, having spent two whole nights at his club, returns home, to find a burglar asleep in the chair. Mistaking him for his expected father-in-law, whom he has not yet seen, Jimmy is delighted with the way his relation partakes of the cigars and drinks which he offers him, and feeling sure he is a fellow "sport," displays a roll of banknotes, which constitute his winnings at the club. He places them in his overcoat pocket, which he hangs up at the side, and fearing his wife's wrath, goes out to arrange an elaborate plan with a police-constable, by which the latter is to pretend to arrest him, and so harrow the feelings of his better half that she will forgive and forget. The policeman duly makes his appearance, and prepares to take Jimmy prisoner. The wife, on the advice of her apparently terrified husband, gives the "peeler" a half-sovereign to depart. The constable, however, imparts his good fortune to his comrade, with the result that the performance is repeated by two other "bobbies." All would be well but for the fact that the three half-sovereigns which had been abstracted by Mrs. Marble from her husband's coat were all bad, and the limbs of the law return breathing threats against Jimmy and covering him with ignominy, while the burglar, who has been in hiding, stalks out disguised in the silk hat of the master of the house, and carrying in his pocket Jimmy's winnings at the club. Mr. Elvin has seldom had a part more fitted to his style than that of the retired bookmaker, and he brought all the wealth of his comic resource to bear upon it. The drolleries of dismay and the eccentricities of exultation were contrasted with ever-increasing effect, and the audience fell willing victims to the clever comedian's influence. Miss Florence Harcourt made a bright and charming young wife; the burglar was strikingly played by Mr. Harry Low; and the peculiarities of the force were admirably depicted by Messrs. K. Altamont, H. Gregory, and G. Budd. An excellent set scene of the interior of a room has been provided by Mr. Syd Cook. Mr. Geo. Le Brunn has furnished the music for the sketch, at the conclusion of which Mr. Elvin was enthusiastically recalled.

THE annual ladies' night of the Playgoers' Lodge of Freemasonry, which took place on Saturday at the Hotel Cecil, was successful in every degree. The health of Worshipful Master Mr. Louis Harfeld, who presided, was proposed by Mr. Isaac Cohen, I.P.M., and a most enjoyable concert formed part of the proceedings.

ELEONORA DUSE, now playing in Paris, has, for the encouragement of Italian playwrights, offered £240 for a piece, the same amount being added by Signor Chiarella, the owner of several theatres. The competition will remain open until the end of January next, when a jury will make a selection of the plays sent in, which Signora Duse will produce at Turin, and the piece which pleases the public most will gain the prize.

MISS BERTHA DUCKETT has been scoring a big hit at the Pier Pavilion, Southport, in a new and original song written and composed specially for her by Mr. Fred D'Albert, entitled "The Tobacco Girl."

"THE ERA" SHILLING FUND FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD'S APPEAL.

Total to date, 3940.

SUMS SINCE RECEIVED.

	Shillings.
John Hyman	105
Dr. Walford Bodie	100
Walter Stanton	21
Syd May	10½
Florence Schuberth	10
Two Bostons	5

Collected by Mr. Harry Ford, 15s.

	S.		S.
Harry Bailey	1	H. Alaskas	1
Farley and Rennie	1	H. Comerford	1
Harry Ford	1	H. Ford	1
Mrs. Ford	1	H. Ford	1
Rosie Ford	1	H. Boden	1
Harry Ford	1	W. Walsh	1
Charles Danton	1	W. Shorter	1
Bert Brantford	1		

Collected by "Stave," 11s.

Harry Barnard	2	Wal. Douglas	1
Fred Higham	1	A. T. Selby	1
E. Peter	1	J. Spurn	1
J. Sharpy	1	Henry Clarke	1
A. Kerbey	1	John Benton	1

Collected by Mr. E. Bridgen Granville, £1 10s.

Kittee Bell	1	Sibb and Sibb	1
J. Shingleton	1	W. Van Allen	1
Jack Pleasants	1	Rose Waller	1
Frank Hardie	1	Scott and Pearce	1
Ida Brophy	1	L. Barry	1
W. Benn	1	Beattie Herbert	1
F. Le Bois	1	Tom Leamore	1
Hubert Bartlett	1	The Two Graces	1
Princess Pauline	1	Leslie Reed	1
Harry Grey	1	Charlie Bayman	1
Arthur Verne	1	Condon and Preston	1
Nelson and Thomas	1	Geo. Newburn	1
Blanche Gerald	1	Dora Clements	1
Billy Farrell	1	"Pimple," T. W. A.	1
Mozandos	1	A. Rudd	1

Collected by Mr. Tom Shaw, £1 6s.

Tom Shaw	10	J. M. Breuthell	2
Stelling and Revell	5	W. L. Stephens	2
C. Henderson	2	R. Carr	1
Sinclair and Whiteford	2	Albert Masters	1
		K. L. S.	1

Collected by Mr. W. H. Boardman, 13s.

Wm. H. Boardman	1	D. R. I. N. K.	1
Evans	1	C. Campbell	1
F. W.	1	Wm. H. Boardman	1
S. W. O.	1	Wm. H. Boardman	1
H. O. P.	1	Wm. H. Boardman	1

Collected by Mr. Bernard Stavordale, 5s.

Bernard Stavordale	1	Beatrice Stavordale	1
Amy Denton	1	R. Dagmar	1
Guy Stavordale	1		

Collected by Mr. G. H. Smythson, 5s

Barton and Franklin	2	E. J. Wilkes	1
Mr. Jones (New York Quartette)	1	Geo. H. Smythson	1

Collected by the Bros. Griffiths, £1.

Fred Griffiths	5	C. St. John Medley	1
Fred Griffiths, jun.	3	Marcelle Chevalier	1
Mrs. Griffiths	2½	Marion Adams	1
Miss L. Griffiths	2½	George Buckwood	1
Percy Clifton	1	W. Benson	1
Henry Claft	1		

Collected by Mr. A. Young, 13s. 6d.

Mr. A. Young	10	Andie Caine	2½
Mrs. A. Young	10	Mr. G. Hunt	1

Collected by Millie Harris, £1 12s. 0d.

Millie Harris	1	Hettie De Val	1
Eric Graham	1	Bert Osborne	1
H. O. Wills	1	G. Dickenson	1
Heath and Holmes	1	F. Newbold	1
C. Bluett	1	L. Burgess	1
Jess Verno	1	Two Brothers	1
Alf. Wallis	1	The Longfellow	1
Geo. Brockbank	1	J. Darlington	1
G. T. Cain	1	C. Lowe	1
F. O'Toole	1	Will Lynam	1
Percy Boucher	1	W.	1
W. E. Redmond	1	The Dainton Girls	1
D. Barnard	1	W. H. Moore	1
F. Sheard	1	O. Morris	1
E. M. Whitehead	1	Two Heads	1
G. Anton	1	Two Tails	1

Collected by Eric Graham, 12s.

Harrison Butler	1	William Augustus Bailey	1
William Dyson	1		
Mat Montgomery	1	Gerald Montgomery	1
Fred Land	1	G. Parry	1
George Jones	1	Old Salt	1
Herbert Williams	1	Slim Jim	1
P. Stevenson	1		

Will the Collectors for Mr Thomas Barrasford's appeal for the Music Hall Home Fund kindly send in their lists to *The Era* Office to the hon. treasurer, Mr F. H. Pedgrift. They will be duly announced in our next issue.

THE MUSIC HALL BENEVOLENT FUND.

MR. JOSEPH LYONS' CHRISTMAS APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION.

Donations already announced, £203 18s.

	£	s.	d.
G. A. Payne	10	10	0
Walter Stanton	1	1	0
Musical Silvo	0	5	0

Collected by Harry Randall, Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

Harry Randall	2	2	0
Tom Hearn	1	1	0
Tom Woottwell	1	1	0
Queenie Leighton	1	1	0
Fred Eastman	0	10	6
Hugh J. Ward	0	10	6
T. G. Hales	0	10	6
Queen and Le Brun	0	5	0
Walter Gasco	0	5	0
Harry Kirk	0	2	6

The President has collected among his private friends about £300 in addition to the above.

The President wishes it to be known that the funds have almost given out, and that immediate help is required.

The Secretary will be obliged if the ladies and gentlemen having collecting sheets will now forward them to the office.

Secretary, HORACE MARRIOTT.
Offices, 18, Adam-street, Strand.

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MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, chaps, irritation tan, &c., and KEEPS the SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION. DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING and REFRESHING after dancing, cycling, motoring, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists. M. BEETHAM and SON, Cheltenham.—[ADVT.]

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

For the benefit of our showmen readers, now that the business season begins, we will deal with the vexed question of restrictive bye-laws. First of all, we would have it clearly understood that no local authorities other than Counties, Cities, or Boroughs have power to make bye-laws. For example, no Parish Council, Urban District Council, or Local Board has any power to make or administer bye-laws touching show or fairground entertainers. All that these small local authorities can do is to bring the County Bye-laws into operation, where such laws exist, by the co-operation of the County Police.

We advise every showman when working small towns to firmly insist on seeing the bye-laws, and also testing the authority of any official, or officious person, other than an officer of the county authorities. Such persons as the Clerk to the District Council, the Surveyor, and even the Rate Collector are all too ready to assume an authority that the law does not allow them, and it will do some of these would-be important officials good to point out the limitations of their office. The County Police has the duty of administering the County Bye-laws, and not any self-elected person.

One more point of importance with regard to these small authorities, and we have done. The county has no power to delegate any of its administrative work to Local Boards, Parish Councils, or Urban District Councils. For example, if a Parish Council makes its own bye-laws, and says that the County Council has sanctioned the local regulations, all such bye-laws are illegal, and to be resisted.

Now to show at a glance where bye-laws do exist, and their nature, will be good work done for the travelling showmen. For the whole of London, Birmingham, and the County Borough of Bootle (Liverpool), also in the counties of Derby, Cornwall, Devonshire, Worcestershire, Kent, and East Sussex, the following is the bye-law, governing, as will be seen, private as well as fair business:—"(a) No person shall in any street or on any land adjoining or near thereto, use or play, or cause to be used or played, any steam organ or other musical instrument worked by mechanical means, to the annoyance or disturbance of residents or passengers. (b) No person shall in any street or on any land adjoining or near thereto, keep or manage, or cause to be kept or managed, a shooting gallery, swing-boat, roundabout, or any other construction of a like character, so as to cause obstruction or danger to the traffic in such street." Showmen carrying on their business in these towns and counties must remember that the local authorities have these drastic powers at their command. Since the year 1898, when the Showmen's Guild took up the work of opposing unjust bye-law proposals, no such bye-law has been sanctioned by the Home Office or the Local Government Board. In every case that the Guild has taken in hand the local authority has had to alter its proposals, and to make the bye-laws just and equitable.

So great is the advance in public opinion since this necessary work began, that the Cumberland County Council is now seeking to modify its unjust bye-law by adding a special saving clause concerning fairs, fêtes, and all public holidays. Will our readers remember to send at once copies of the local papers to the Guild Secretary, care of *The Era*, whenever they get information of bye-law proposals by local bodies?

Our second list of places includes the Cities, Boroughs, and Counties having bye-laws with the fully saving clause, making the time of the fairs, feasts, and wakes exempt from its operation. This is the bye-law: "No person shall, to the annoyance, disturbance, obstruction, or danger of the residents or passengers in any street, keep or manage, or use or permit to be used, a shooting gallery, steam roundabout, steam organ, or other like thing, *provided always that this bye-law shall not apply to any fair or feast lawfully held.*" This is the list of places it governs: Bedfordshire, Isle of Wight, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Leicester (Borough), Lincoln, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Staffordshire, Surrey, Warwickshire, Yorkshire, Croydon, and Norwich.

In Manchester fairs are entirely abolished in the area covered by one mile in every direction from the Town Hall. No other bye-law is in existence. Northampton has a regulation requiring permission of the authorities before exhibiting wild animals. Exeter city has a bye-law enacting that twelve hours' notice be given in writing to the Chief Constable previous to any procession of circus, wild beast, or other exhibition. Liverpool has bye-laws relating only to roundabouts, and Birkenhead the same. Middlesbrough has bye-laws under an old Statute, making it necessary to obtain the permission of the proper authorities before opening.

The following Counties, Cities, and Boroughs have no bye-laws affecting fair ground business:—Anglesey, Barrow-in-Furness, Bath, Berkshire, Breconshire, Bolton, Blackburn, Bristol, Burnley, Cardiganshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cardiff, Durham county, Dorsetshire, Denbighshire, Gateshead, Gloucester, Herefordshire, Hull, Huddersfield, Halifax, Lincoln (parts of Lindsey), Merionethshire, Montgomeryshire, Monmouthshire, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Oldham, Pembrokeshire, Shropshire, Somerset, Sunderland, Swansea, West Sussex, Westmorland, Wolverhampton, Sheffield, and North and East Yorkshire.

In this list without bye-laws will be found the important towns of Chester, Coventry, Dudley, Hanley, Ipswich, Gloucester, Grimsby, Lincoln, Reading, Rochdale, South Shields, Southampton, Stockport, St. Helens, Walsall, Wigan, and Great Yarmouth.

Mr. W. J. Humber, of waxwork fame, has opened large premises in George-street, Aberdeen. The place is elaborately fitted up with fine groups and tableaux, including all the prominent people of the present century. The Royal Family, in their gorgeous costumes, form a distinguished crowd. A great feature of the exhibition is Eagle Davis and Wild Bess, the great Mexican knife and tomahawk throwers, who are giving their performance with great success. A large stage is specially constructed for the exhibition of freaks and novelties.

Arthur Burgess, of Smart's-place, Upper Edmonton, was recently summoned by the Edmonton District Council for erecting certain temporary buildings before applying to the Edmonton Council for permission to do so. Mr. Jas. Edmondson, assistant in the clerks' department, said that he visited the land on 18th Feb., and saw some wooden and canvas structures—one was a shooting gallery and one a sort of peep-show. The buildings remained there until the 3rd March, and two had since been removed. Defendant called at the offices on Feb. 20, and asked for a copy of the bye-laws, which was given to him. Mr. Eachus, engineer, said no plans of the structures had been deposited, as required. Mr. Burgess called on him with respect to the erections on the 20th, and was referred to the section of the bye-laws governing the case. Mr. Butland, sanitary inspector, said the defendant admitted to him that he was the proprietor of the shows.—The defendant argued that he was not the proprietor of the structures; he was only the proprietor of the land, for which he paid rent and sublet it to another person named Bailey, who erected the structures upon it. He further said the shooting gallery consisted of a van on four wheels, and from which a cover was run out on a wooden framework. The other structure was a similar contrivance. The Bench held the defendant liable, and imposed a fine of 20s. and costs or seven days.

The above case is an example of the way in which local authorities turn and twist building bye-laws, quite necessary and just in their original intention, into a weapon of persecution against travelling amusement caterers. There can be no doubt that, as originally sanctioned by the Local Government Board, shows and temporary erections of a similar nature were never meant to be brought within their scope and operation. We are strongly of opinion that Mr. Burgess would have been well advised if he had asked the Magistrates to state a case for a higher Court. It is intolerable that building bye-laws, framed in the public interest to secure safe and sanitary buildings of a more or less permanent character, should be applied to the business apparatus of the travelling showman.

In our report in our last issue of the benefit performance, under distinguished local patronage, at Salford for the funds of the Showman's Guild, we did not make it clear that the chief organiser of the benefit was Mr. Edwin Clegg, of the showmen's headquarters for Manchester and district, the Black Lion Hotel. We make this amendment more readily because of the unfailing generosity, kindness, and courtesy of both Mr. and Mrs. Clegg.

Ashington's Marionette and Variety Theatre is still at West Melton, Yorks, and continues to draw crowded houses nightly.

The Great Town Moor Fairground at Newcastle-on-Tyne, the ground of the Tynesiders' great fair, was let by tender to Mr. Grant, of Glasgow, for the sum of £675, a reduction on the sum paid for it last year of £150. £675 is quite too much too pay for it, when we take into consideration the speculative elements involved in the show business. One wet day will so affect the takings all round as to make high rents commercially unsound and eminently unjust.

Many of our readers will tender, with us, sincere condolence to the bereaved family of that estimable fairground caterer and roundabout proprietor, John Greatorex, of Wrexham. He died on Saturday last, and was interred at Wrexham, where the Greatorexes are highly respected. The funeral was accompanied by many tokens of public sympathy. Amongst the showmen at the graveside were Messrs. Simon, John Fossett, and John Cordwell, old business colleagues of the deceased.

At Carter's Wonderland, Belfast, we have this week Galatea Illusion, introduced by Zarmo; W. C. Ugo, in Mirthful Mystery; Prof. Dempster, Scottish orator; Sylvia Vigor, Mexican armless queen; Grapho, lightning sketch artist; Frisco, tattoo artist; and Prof. Buckley, phrenologist. Business is good.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

Tickets for the third annual dinner of the Heads of Departments Association are now ready, and may be obtained from members of the Association and from the honorary secretaries, Messrs. Wm. Barbour and Wm. Johnson, 29, Wellington-street, Strand. Among those who have promised to be present to support Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, who will preside, are Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Charles Cruikshanks, Mr. William Telbin, and Mr. Cecil King. The dinner will take place on Sunday evening, April 2, in the Hotel Cecil. Mr. H. R. Kimpton is arranging a programme of music for the evening.

The Good Friday Concert Committee announce that tickets will be ready in a few days. Among those who have already consented to contribute to the programme are The Two Kings, Mr. Harry Helmsley, Miss Augusta Page, Mr. Harry Huntley, Miss Ethel Walker, and Mr. Chris. Hylton.

Mr. J. Johnstone has been appointed master carpenter to *The Tempest* company from His Majesty's Theatre, which opens at the Theatre Royal, Hull, to-night. Mr. S. Linnett is the property master with the company. A duplicate of the ship used at His Majesty's Theatre, 31ft. long and 9ft. beam, is carried. It has been made by Mr. Ashburner, master carpenter of the Broadway Theatre, Deptford.

At a meeting of the Newcastle branch of the N.U.T.S.E., the following nominations were approved for the general officers of the Society:—President, Mr. James Cullen; vice-president, Mr. G. H. Dyball; general secretary, Mr. Wm. Johnson; trustees, Messrs. C. Thorogood and Wm. Barbour.

The Glasgow branch of the National Society are making every effort to establish an institute. The formation of a club and institute has often been alluded to in these notes, and we can well believe that a club in every theatrical centre would offer many advantages to the local and travelling members of the working staff. If, as is to be hoped, the Glasgow stage employees succeed, London men may be encouraged to give the matter more attention than they have done so far. It may be mentioned that Mr. George Alexander has offered to furnish the first room of such an institute for London, where, it cannot be doubted, it is greatly needed. We recommend the Glasgow proposal to the consideration and help of the working staff generally.

The special matinée to be given at the St. James's Theatre, in aid of the Mansion House Fund for the unemployed, will, we assume, receive the support of members of the working staff, so far as their gratuitous services can be utilised. Considering all the circumstances, there should be no difficulty in getting volunteers from various theatres, if necessary. The stage managers at the theatres to be represented at the matinée may possibly afford facilities for members of their staff to help in any way their services may be needed at the St. James's Theatre. We have reason to believe that many members of the working staff would be glad to help in such a cause, and out of regard for Mr. George Alexander.

Mr. A. W. Matcham, manager of the Empire, Birmingham, gave on Sunday an excellent concert in aid of a local charity, for which over £30 was realised. The City of Birmingham Military Band, under Mr. J. H. Whittaker, conductor of the Empire orchestra, gave selections, and all the items of the programme were greatly enjoyed.

Mr. Eugene Woodhams, the American baritone, who is giving his first London concert at the Steinway Hall, on March 29, was born in Michigan, in 1876, his parents being English. At the early age of 15 he became organist at a church in Michigan, and later, after studying singing, toured the U.S.A. in opera, afterwards appearing in Australia for two years.

The great attraction this week at the Tunbridge Wells Opera House (Mr. F. E. Manton), has been the flying matinée of Mr. George Alexander and concert party. The evening bill has been filled by Mr. J. D. Hunter's pantomime company in *Aladdin*, the title-rôle having a charming representative in Miss M. Sadie, while Mr. Hunter was a most amusing Widow Twankey. Among the specialities Mdlle. Bartenelli, the clever contortionist, was cordially received.

CHAT WITH MR. ST. JOHN DENTON.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

If there were really no serious business to transact, what an amusing time a dramatic agent would have! Mr. St. John Denton, for instance, has no need to visit a theatre for the purpose of entertainment. Every day in the week he gets a diverting musical comedy in his offices at Maiden-lane. The music is supplied by the aspiring young ladies and gentlemen who are certain they ought to go upon the stage, and who prove it—to their own satisfaction, be it whispered—by strumming upon Mr. Denton's piano. As to the comedy—well, that comes from the same source, but it is of the unconscious order, and finds expression in imbecile remarks and long, imploring letters. Of course, not all the aspirants are gifted that way. Some have pronounced ability, and no one knows better how to weed out the chaff from the grain than Mr. Denton.

200 CALLERS DAILY.

It has long been the complaint of the honest, hard-working members of the theatrical profession that the stage is regarded as a sort of accommodating waste-paper basket for the doubtful element in all grades of society. Does the Honourable Adolphus run through his patrimony, he goes on the stage. Does Mary Jane weary of her house flannel and pail, she goes on the stage. Does a lady of reputation yearn to show her diamonds, she goes on the stage. To put the matter in Mr. Denton's own words, "If a man or woman fail in everything he or she touches, the stage is looked upon as a last resource. I reckon to interview some two hundred people daily, and I think I am in a position to speak on this subject.

PANTOMIME THE DECEIVER.

"Every pantomime season," says Mr. Denton, "brings one thousand fresh people into the business. At least three-quarters of them ought never to go upon the stage. The deception of pantomime lies in the fact that no girl's voice is trained for the chorus, and when the pantomime comes to an end the girl imagines that she can easily get an engagement in musical comedy or otherwise. At Christmas there is always a great demand for decent-looking girls, histrionic talent and good voices being quite a secondary consideration. Pantomime, however, is becoming more and more like musical comedy, and possibly that may lead to a better condition of things in the former class of entertainment. Now, there is always a call for young and pretty girls who can sing and dance, and there is also an opening for comedians. In spite of what I may describe as the comparatively easy conditions of stage life to-day, the demand for suitable people

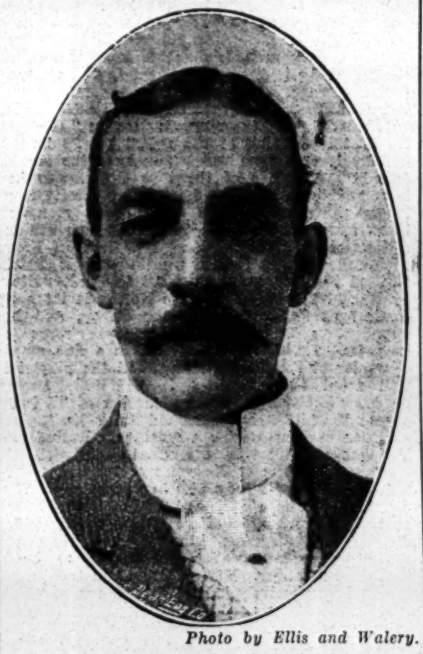

Photo by Ellis and Walery.

MR. ST. JOHN DENTON.

far exceeds the supply. These remarks do not apply to melodrama, in which, with a few notable exceptions, there is a big slump. Drama does not draw the crowds it used to do, and people nowadays only laugh at sensational posters. Yet, in spite of that, a few of the good old pieces are still doing good business.

"I make a rule of testing the abilities of every applicant for histrionic honours," resumed Mr. Denton. "I give all the attention I can to my callers, yet for all that I find that there is a great dearth of real talent.

DEARTH OF TALENT.

"Yes," resumed the interviewee, reflectively, "the stage is certainly not overcrowded with talent, because the latter commodity is most difficult to find. This statement applies more to musical work than to anything else. We want good voices, both male and female. We want clever, bright girls, who can sing and dance, and possess the necessary youth and appearance. And we want brainy comedians. I can practically guarantee to find engagements for suitable people, and I tell you candidly that I consider myself lucky if I chance upon one decent singer and dancer among a hundred applicants willing to enter the profession. So far as the provinces are concerned, I should say this spring is about the worst ever known. At the same time, I think that things look more hopeful for the autumn, more specially as regards musical comedy. I have already on my books vacancies for any number of people for principal parts in all lines of musical comedy, the difficulty being to find the suitable people.

"I think the stage gets over-flooded with young men and women who answer miscellaneous advertisements inserted by people who offer tuition and an appearance in return for a sum of money. Ninety-nine per cent. of these offers are a delusion and a snare.

"The tendency of the British play-going public—except in the case of big stars and well-known musical comedies—is to patronise the cheaper forms of entertainment, where they can smoke and see a musical comedy, a sketch, and a variety show in one evening for half the money they would be called upon to pay for admission to a legitimate theatre."

ENTER—AN ASPIRANT.

"Wait a bit," he said, as the message was brought in for the third time that a young lady in the adjoining room was impatiently demanding an interview.

"And you've come all the way from Wales to go upon the stage?" remarked Mr. Denton to the fair aspirant, as she was shown into his presence.

The girl smiled assent, and proceeded in a business-like manner to remove her cloak and fur boa, while the young lady who accompanied her extracted a few sheets from a music-case and placed them upon the piano rack. Six stern male eyes could not help admiring the utter *sangfroid* of the aspirant as she coolly adjusted a few wavy strands of golden hair and perched upon the piano stool with a determination and pertness which inspired in the minds of the three mere men the patriotic reflection, "Gallant little Wales!" Then she sang a verse of a song, what time she played her own accompaniment. "That will do," remarked Mr. Denton, with that persuasive gentleness which he has acquired by long association with amateurs. One admired his charitableness for withholding the brutal truth from the young lady. He merely contented himself with asking for her name and address and telling her he had nothing to offer her for the moment.

"When will you have something?" asked the damsel, confidence gleaming from her eyes.

"Not until the autumn," came the reply.

"Well, suppose you just write to me when you're ready, and if I've nothing else on at the time, I daresay I might consider an offer." Even the lady's companion smiled at the hauteur and refreshing sauciness of this self-considered prima donna.

Mr. Denton quietly suggested that the girl should communicate with him later—if she cared to do so.

Exit "Gallant little Wales."

MR. DENTON'S CAREER.

Mr. Denton started life as a solicitor, but never practising. Turning his attention to the boards, he became an actor, appearing with the late Mr. Wilson Barrett in *Claudian*. Two years at the Adelphi Theatre in *Harbour Lights* followed, Mr. Denton taking small parts; then afterwards at the Globe, in *The Doctor*. For a time he acted as private secretary to Miss Cissie Grahame at Terry's Theatre, during the run of *Lamps Grow Old*. Later he became assistant manager at the old Olympic, when Messrs. Yorke Stephens and E. S. Willard produced *Christina*. His last experience with the footlights was at the Pavilion, Mile-end-road, where for a couple of years he appeared in all manner of characters. Then began his connection with the agency business. For a year he was with Blackmore's, for a similar period at a branch of Didcot's in Garrick-street, and some fourteen years ago commenced business on his own account. Since he has been an agent, Mr. Denton has produced and run on his own responsibility over forty pantomimes in different parts of the country, as well as in London.

Mr. Denton thinks that theatrical artistes are the pluckiest lot of workers in London. There are no grumblings, no complaints, as week after week they hear the same answer—nothing to do. "Well, better luck to-morrow—don't forget me," is their only comment, and, needless to say, Mr. Denton does not forget them. Many an artiste in a big position on the stage to-day has to thank the subject of this interview for their first leg-up. So far from discouraging artistes, it is the aim of every agent to discover real talent. There are plenty of instances, more especially in pantomime, where a performer has risen from practically nothing to a high position in a short space of time.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

(SPECIALLY REPORTED FOR "THE ERA.")

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, &c.

Mr. E. A. Cornwall was, on the motion of Lord Welby, seconded by Sir W. Collins, elected chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. Mr. Evan Spicer was elected vice-chairman, and Colonel Probyn, deputy chairman.

THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS COMMITTEE.

The following were appointed members of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee for the ensuing year:—Sir W. J. Bell, Right Hon. Sir A. E. West, Lieut.-Colonel A. Rotton, and Messrs. J. Brandon, T. Davies, H. J. Greenwood, I. H. Mitchell, B. S. Straus, A. M. Torrance, D. S. Waterlow, Howell Williams, W. B. Yates (chairman), and F. P. Alliston, ex-officio.

LEWISHAM PALACE OF VARIETIES.

The following report was received from the Theatres and Music Halls Committee:—The Council, on 8th November, 1904, approved plans, subject to certain conditions, of a music hall proposed to be erected at the corner of High-street and Limes-grove, Lewisham. One of the conditions imposed by the Council was that Limes-grove, which is a cul-de-sac, should be converted into a thoroughfare by being continued through to Clarendon-road. It having been found impossible to comply with this condition, amended plans have been submitted by Messrs. Owen and Ward. The amended plans show the music hall as to be erected upon the same site as that shown on the original plans, but instead of continuing Limes-grove through to Clarendon-road, it is now proposed to form a footway, 20 feet in width, on two sides of the music hall. The formation of this footway was sanctioned by the Council under the London Building Act, 1894, on Jan. 24, 1905. The premises will accommodate a seated audience of 1,637, and ample means of exit is shown to be provided for this number. The plans comply with the Council's regulations, and we recommend:—That Messrs. Owen and Ward be informed that, provided the works shown on the eight plans submitted by them with regard to a building to be known as the Lewisham Palace of Varieties, and to be erected at the corner of High-street and Limes-grove, Lewisham, are commenced within six months, the Council will be prepared to grant a certificate under section 12 of 41 and 42 Vict., cap. 32, to the owner of such building, on being satisfied that the premises have been completed in accordance with the plans referred to and the regulations of the Council, and that the following conditions have been complied with:—(1) That the seats in the back row of the stalls be made to tip up automatically, and be so placed as to leave a gangway 3ft. 6in. in width. (2) That the system of ventilation be arranged in all respects to the satisfaction of the Council. (3) That drawings be submitted to, and approved by, the Council with regard to the construction of the fire-resisting curtain. (4) That all doors, other than exit doors, leading from the auditorium and exit-ways, be made to correspond exactly in colour and decoration with the adjoining walls, and be made self-closing. (5) That each of the hydrants in the flies be mounted upon a 2-inch pipe carried up from the stage level, and that the outlets of such hydrants be 1½ inches in diameter. (6) That all hydrants be of the L.F.B. pattern, and that bib-cocks for filling buckets be fitted in connection with all hydrants, except those in the flies. (7) That three buckets filled with water, or their equivalent, be hung clear of the headline near each hydrant. (8) That all hydrants, including the fittings and hose in connection therewith, and all small fire appliances, be completely recessed. (9) That the hydrant shown in the 9-inch wall of the exit staircases from the back of the pit to Limes-grove be fixed in the angle next the store on the prompt side in the position marked upon the plan. (10) That the heating and electric lighting arrangements be made to comply with the Council's regulations. (11) That, in connection with the proposed drainage arrangements, any floors below the level of the crown of the sewer be provided with horizontal and vertical damp courses of asphalte. That the attention of Messrs. Owen and Ward be drawn to the necessity for complying with the by-laws made under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, in the provision of lavatory accommodation at the theatre, and that they be further informed that this intimation must not be deemed as in any way derogating from the Council's powers, under any Act of Parliament or otherwise, or from the powers of the district surveyor, or of the local authority, or of any other authority to deal with the building under any powers by statute or otherwise vested in them; and, further, that it will not preclude the Council from considering on its merits any application which may hereafter be made with reference to the licensing of the building for public entertainments.—The recommendations were agreed to.

LONDON EXHIBITIONS.

The Committee had considered a plan submitted by Mr. A. O. Collard showing the arrangements in connection with a photographic and picture postcard exhibition proposed to be held at the Princes' and Ducal Halls at the London Exhibitions, from the 16th to the 30th March, and they recommended that Mr. Collard be informed that the Council had no objection to the arrangements.—Approved.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

The Committee recommended that Messrs. Oldroyd and Co., Limited, be informed that the Council had no objection to the arrangements shown on the plan submitted by them with regard to the additional rollers proposed to be fixed to the frame of the fireproof curtain at the Lyceum Theatre.—Adopted.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS'S THEATRE.

The Committee reported:—The Council, on March 29, 1904, approved plans submitted by Mr. W. G. R. Sprague, on behalf of Mr. Murray Carson, of a theatre proposed to be erected on a site at the corner of Aldwych and Drury-lane. Mr. Sprague has since submitted to us, on behalf of Mr. Seymour Hicks, amended plans showing a theatre on the same site. The total number of persons for whom seating accommodation is proposed to be provided is 1,178 persons, and for this number the means of exit shown on the plans submitted are quite sufficient. The Council, on March 7, 1905, on the recommendation of the Improvements Committee, approved of the design for the elevation of the building. The arrangements shown on the plans submitted appear to be satisfactory, and we recommend:—That Mr. Sprague be informed that, provided the works shown on the thirteen plans submitted by him with regard to a building to be erected at the corner of Aldwych and Drury-lane are commenced within six months, the Council will be prepared to grant a certificate under section 12 of 41 and 42 Vict., cap. 32, to the owner of such building, on being satisfied that the premises have been completed in accordance with the plans referred to and the regulations of the Council, and that the following conditions have been complied with:—(1) That before the work of erecting the fire-resisting curtain is put in hand, plans and particulars of the proposed arrangements be submitted to, and approved by, the Council. (2) That all doors, other than exit doors, leading from the auditorium and exit ways, be made to correspond in colour and decoration with the walls in which they occur, and be made self-closing. (3) That openings 3ft. 6in. wide be formed in the barrier between the stalls and pit and be hung with gates opening towards the pit. (4) That the hydrants in the flies be each mounted upon a 2-inch pipe connected up from the stage level, and that the outlets of such hydrants be 1½ inches in diameter. (5) That all hydrants be of the L.F.B. pattern, and that bib-cocks for filling buckets be provided in connection with all hydrants, except those in the flies. (6) That three buckets filled with water or their equivalent be hung clear of the headline near each hydrant. (7) That all hydrants, including the fittings, and hose in connection therewith, and all small fire appliances, be completely recessed. (8) That the heating and electric lighting arrangements be made to comply with the Council's regulations, and that plans showing the proposed arrangements be submitted to, and approved by, the Council.—Agreed to.

WALDORF THEATRE.

The Committee had considered a plan, submitted by Mr. W. G. R. Sprague, showing the fire-resisting curtain proposed to be provided at the Waldorf Theatre, Aldwych. Subject to the provision of an arrangement for pouring water on the surface of the curtain, they considered the proposal satisfactory, and recommended that Mr. Sprague be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the plan submitted by him with regard to the proposed fire-resisting curtain at the Waldorf Theatre, provided the undermentioned conditions be complied with:—(1) That an arrangement be provided for pouring water on the surface of the fire-resisting curtain next the stage; that the gearing in connection therewith be in duplicate; that one set of gearing be fixed on the proscenium wall, in close proximity to the releasing gear to the fire-resisting curtain, and that the other set be operated from the stage doorkeeper's office; that the sprinkler be provided with stop and drain cocks, and that the stopcock be sealed open. (2) That the gearing to the fire-resisting curtain and sprinkler be suitably protected, and that indicating plates be provided.—Approved.

VOTES OF THANKS.

The Committee reported that they had passed cordial votes of thanks to their chairman, Mr. Walter B. Yates, and their vice-chairman, Mr. H. J. Greenwood, for their services during the past year.

THE ACCIDENT AT THE WALDORF.

The Building Act Committee reported as follows:—Our attention has been drawn to the collapse on March 1, 1905, of an electric derrick crane used in the erection of the Waldorf Hotel and Theatre, on the west side of Aldwych, at the corner of Catherine-street, Strand. The crane, which was supported on a lofty timber gantry within the outer walls of the building, at present about fifty feet high, and was designed to carry three tons, was being used to hoist a block of Portland stone, weighing about two tons, from a van in Catherine-street, when the base of the vertical mast was wrenched from its bed, causing the jib to fall outwards towards the street, with the result that the block of stone fell into the roadway and the jib was broken across the top of the scaffolding, the head being only held in position by the hoisting tackle. The damage done to the building and scaffolding appears to have been slight, but one of the workmen employed on the building was injured. The accident may form the subject of legal proceedings, and we do not therefore think it advisable to say anything at the present time as to the probable cause. We would, however, point out that there is no provision in the London Building Act, 1894, for the inspection of building plant or scaffolding by any public authority, but that Clause 173 of the London Building Acts (Amendment) Bill, would, if the Bill were passed, give the Council power to appoint inspectors, and to require the removal of such plant as might be likely to be a source of danger, and it is probable that such a provision would reduce the number of accidents of the kind now under consideration.

Mr. Cecil Kingsley has been specially engaged by Mr. Charles Macdona to play Edgar Verney, the artist, in his company of *The School Girl*.

Brown's Bronchial Troches.—All suffering from irritation of the throat and hoarseness will be agreeably surprised at the almost immediate relief afforded by the use of Brown's Bronchial Troches. People troubled with a hacking cough, slight cold, or bronchial affections cannot try them too soon, as similar troubles, if allowed to progress, result in serious pulmonary and asthmatic affections. See that the words "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are on the Government stamp around each box. Sold by Chemists everywhere, 1s. 1½d. per Box.—[Advt.]

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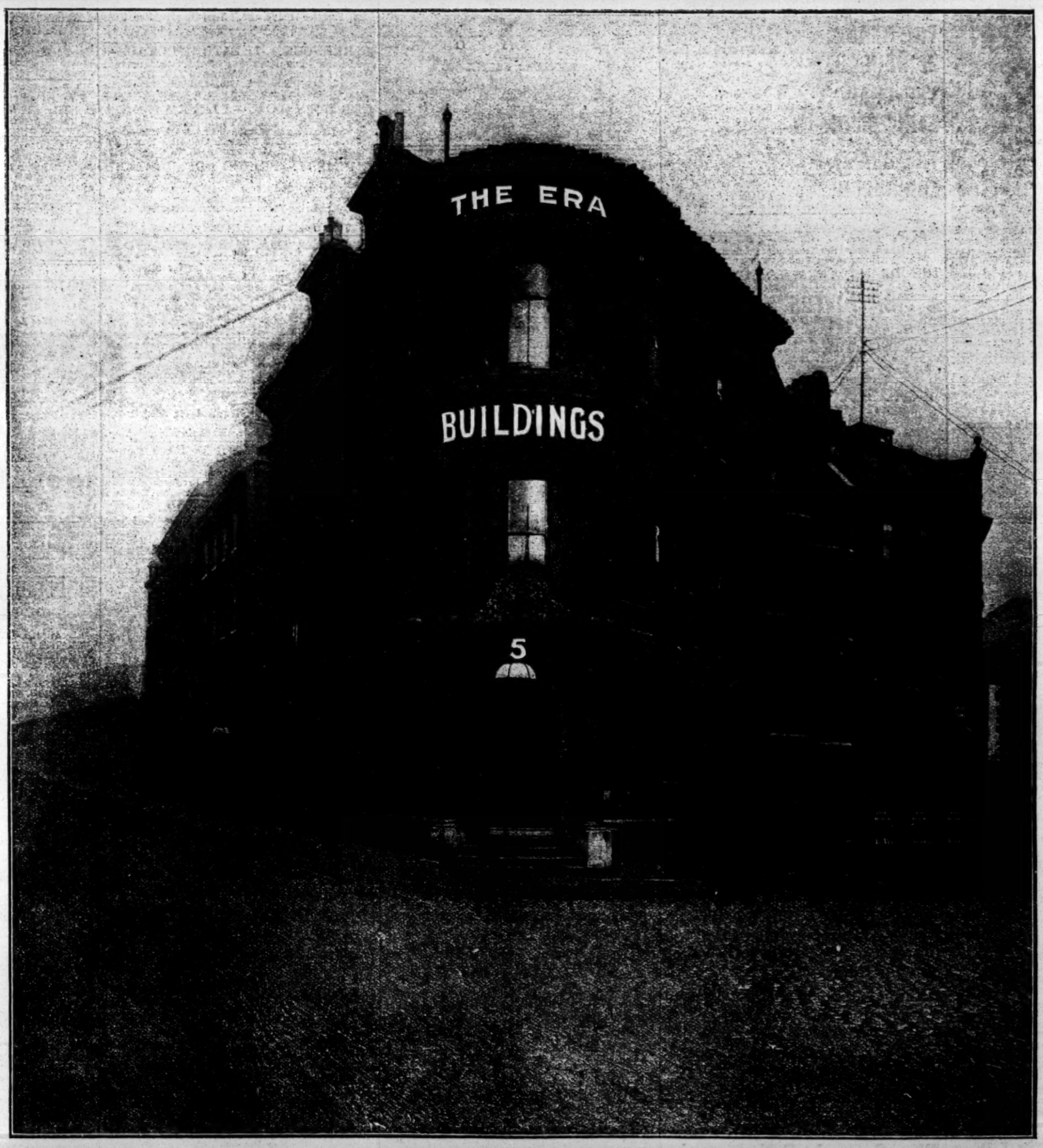

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AMUSEMENTS IN PITTSBURG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PITTSBURG, PA., 4TH MARCH, 1905.—Mr. Robert Mantell, supported by Harry Davis's stock company, produced *Othello* at the New Alvin Theatre during the week, and scored a great success in the title-rôle. Although his cruel Richard III., and his crafty Richelieu were much admired, his reading of the part of the Moor far surpassed them. Encouraged by the flattering reception given to his performance, Mr. Mantell has decided to produce *Hamlet* next week. Mr. Robert Haines's Iago was a conscientious piece of work. Miss Marie Booth Russell was seen to great advantage in the rôle of Desdemona.

THE Gaiety Theatre was occupied by Williams and Walker's company in the second week engagement of *In Dahomey*. The visit was a success in every sense, the house being crowded every night of the week by an enthusiastic audience.

"PEGGY FROM PARIS," a musical comedy written by George Ade, music by William Loraine, was the Duquesne Theatre's offering. The plot deals with the doings of a lively Illinois girl, who returns from Paris and passes herself off as a Parisian, thereby captivating the hearts of all the rich men of the place. When she has at last succeeded in winning the right man's heart, she makes her little device known to the people she has cajoled; then it is too late to talk of revenge, and she is readily forgiven. The comedy abounds in amusing situations, clever dialogue, catchy songs, and good jokes. Peggy Plummer was played with nerve and esprit by Miss Grace Belmont, while Mr. E. H. O'Connor took the opposite lead.

A MUSICAL comedy, founded on the *quid-pro-quos* arising out of the doings of two cousins, who resemble each other like the Siamese twins, and bearing the suggestive title of *Two Johns*, amused the Empire Theatre habitues during the week. A good company under Mr. C. G. Allen's direction handled the play with knowledge, and extracted all the fun from it that it contained. The two Johns were cleverly played by Messrs. Edward Begley and Albert Rice, a well-matched pair of 200-pounders.

"THE QUEEN OF THE WHITE SLAVES," a four act melodrama by Arthur J. Lamb, has proved a great attraction to the Bijou Theatre playgoers. The play tells of the struggle between a clever detective and a band of San Francisco Highbinders, known as "The Terrible Nine," who make it their business to abduct attractive girls and sell them to libertines. There are several thrilling scenes in the play, one being a collapsing steel chamber, in which the victim is to be crushed to death, and another the cutting adrift of a man upon a raft in mid-ocean; both remarkable for their mechanical ingenuity and verisimilitude. Mr. Al. Phillips made a Sherlock-Holmes-like detective, while Miss Aileen May made a desirable Queen of the White Slaves.

THE chief attraction at the Grand Opera House was Herbert Kelcey and Effie Shanon in that dainty one-act comedy entitled *Journeys End in Lovers' Meeting*, written by John Oliver Hobbes and George Moore. The artists have received a very warm reception for their finished and refined performance. Miss Shanon was a very attractive Lady Carew, and Mr. Kelcey's Sir Philip was excellent. Mr. David Proctor handled his small part as Major Armstrong with taste and moderation. Miss Grace Cameron, a dainty comedienne, sang, among other things a "catchy" song, entitled "Dolly Dimples." Miss Lloyd's troupe of Siberian wolf hounds were much admired; Trovollo, ventriloquist, manipulated six different dummies very skilfully, giving clever imitations in speech and song; Geo. H. Wood's patter was entertaining; the Attros Family did some novel acrobatic and juggling work; the flying banjo act, presented by Howard Bros., came in for much applause, and they also gave a good imitation of a phonograph in operation that was decidedly 'cute.

T. W. DINKINS'S Utopians, on their re-appearance at Harry Williams's Academy, played two comedies, *Broke and Broken* and *The Yellow Dog*, as well as their vaudeville acts, which were much enjoyed and applauded.

FOOTBALL.

BRISTOL X.L.C.R. 2ND AND ST. MICHAEL'S RESERVES V. JACK LEONARD'S ELEVEN.

Played near Bristol, on Saturday, Feb. 18. Miss Gracie Leonard kicked off. In the evening an enjoyable smoking concert was arranged by Messrs. Jack Leonard and Harry Hare, the following contributing to the programme:—Miss Gracie Leonard, Teddy Austin (fairy bells), Arthur English (banjo solos), Harry Hare (piano solos), Alf. Mattock ('cello solos), Harry Slade, Teddy Poole, Alf. Norman, Bert. Davis, Jack Leonard, Bertie Green, Leslie Clayton, Harry Clarke, Teddy Escott, Sam Coombes, and George Osborne. Harry Hare presided at the piano. In the match the following were the teams:—

Bristol X.L.C.R. 2nd and St. Michael's Reserves.—Harry Clarke, goal; Teddy Escott and Will Austin, backs; George Osborne (captain), Alf. Mattock, and Teddy Austin, half-backs; Alf. Norman, Leslie Clayton, Arthur English, Will. Hallett, and Bert. Humphries, forwards.

Jack Leonard's Eleven.—Mervyn Leonard, goal; Walter Taylor and Tom Ferris, backs; Sam Coombes, George Wilson, and Freddy Lewis, half-backs; Tom Alway, Jack Leonard (captain), Charlie Worth, Fred Foley, and Will Stevens, forwards.

Referee, Harry Hare (Bristol X.L.C.R. Athletic Club); linesmen, Harry Slade and Bert Davis. Result:—Bristol X.L.C.R. 2nd and St. Michael's Reserves, one goal; Jack Leonard's Eleven, four goals. Arthur English, Sam Coombes, Tom Alway, Tom Ferris, and Fred Foley scored the goals for their respective sides.

BRISTOL X.L.C.R. AND HARRY HARE'S ORCHESTRAL BAND ATHLETIC CLUBS V. MUSIC HALLS A.F.C.

Played on Clifton Downs, on Feb. 18. The following were the teams:—

Bristol X.L.C.R. and Harry Hare's Orchestral Band Athletic Clubs.—Harry Belding, goal; Archie Hamlin (captain) and Jack Lewis, backs; Walter Miller, Frank Stevens, and Arthur E. Bailey, half-backs; Eddie Bowman, Harry Edwards, Jack Aubrey, Percy Hewlett, and Harry Clements, forwards.

Music Halls A.F.C.—Fred. B. Nicholls, goal; Johnny Stuart and Jack Tyley, backs; Joe Lacy, Tom Neagle (captain), and Will Hinder, half-backs; Bob Cullen, Frank Hansford, Will Meadows, Patrick Reardon, and Frank Boyce, forwards.

Referee, Frank Thorne (captain, Bristol X.L.C.R. 2nd XI.); linesmen, Syd Carter and Harry C. Douglas. Result:—Bristol X.L.C.R. and Harry Hare's Orchestral Band Athletic Clubs, one goal; Music Halls A.F.C., one goal. Harry Clements and Joe Lacey scored the goals.

BRISTOL X.L.C.R. AND HARRY HARE'S ORCHESTRAL BAND ATHLETIC CLUBS V. MUSIC HALLS A.F.C.

Played on Clifton Downs, on Feb. 25. The following were the teams:—

Bristol X.L.C.R.—H. Belding (captain), goal; A. Hamlin and A. Cox, backs; H. Slade, F. Stevens, and A. Mattock, half-backs; E. Belding, J. Aubrey, H. Edwards, H. Clements, and E. Bowman, forwards.

Music Halls A.F.C.—F. B. Nicholls, goal; J. Tyley and B. Davis (of Bristol X.L.C.R. 2nd A.F.C.), backs; J. Lacey, T. Neagle (captain), and D. O'Connor, half-backs; W. Hinder, F. Hansford, F. Boyce, P. Reardon, and B. Cullen (forwards).

Referee, W. Meadows (Music Halls A.F.C.); linesmen, Syd Carter and Jack Lewis. Result.—Bristol X.L.C.R., two goals; Music Halls A.F.C., one goal. J. Aubrey (2) and J. Lacey scored the goals for their respective sides.

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NOTE.—"ROB ROY" is postponed, as another Management had already made arrangements for a Production, and the Grand Theatre Company, as newcomers, have withdrawn.

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THE GRAND, EDINBURGH. First Pantomime, "CINDERELLA," played in six weeks to **£2,918.**

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THE GRAND, EDINBURGH. March 6, 2nd Saturday's return, **£94.** March 13, "DICK WHITTINGTON."

THE GRAND, EDINBURGH. March 20, "THE BELLS OF HASLEMERE." March 27, "IN OLD KENTUCKY."

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Scene II.—OBAN. Act II.—BRAEMAR.

Characters.

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The Hon. Frederick Lackington (his son), Mr. SAM WALSH,
From "The Toreador."
Sir Septimus Brown-Windsor, Knt., Mr. HARRY FISCHER,
From "My Lady Molly."
Miss Araminta Brown-Windsor (his sister), Miss NELLY COZENS,
From "Kitty Grey" and "A Country Girl."
Miss Winnie Brown-Windsor (dis daughter), Miss ISA BOWMAN,
From the London Theatres.
Fanny Flounce (her maid), Miss LULU EVANS,
From the D'Oyly Carte Opera Co. and Savoy Theatre.
The Macmutchkin o' that Ilk, Mr. WAL CROFT,
From "The Little Minister."
Flora (his wife), Miss FLORENCE MOORE,
From "His Majesty's Guests."
Charley Chatterton, Miss FANNY WRIGHT,
From "The Chinese Honeymoon," London.
Miss Lottie Langley, Miss MURIEL GEORGE,
From "San Toy" and "The Follies."
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&c., &c., &c., &c.

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Manager, Charles P. Cooke.
Vacant June 5, 26, July 3, and Aug. 14,
First-class Attraction only.
Silence a Courteous Negative.

OLDHAM, EMPIRE THEATRE,
The Premier Theatre. Holding Capacity £200.
Vacant for Principal Attractions Only.
Several in June and July, and August.
Can Entertain First-class Pantomimes, Christmas onwards. Brilliant Productions Only.
All Communications to ERNEST DOTTRIDGE.

PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

OLDHAM. — GAIETY THEATRE.
This well-established Variety Theatre is to let from May 1 next. Offers for rental (lease or yearly tenancy) may be sent to the Oldham Empire Theatre of Varieties Co., Ltd., Waterloo-st., Oldham.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managers of First-class Companies are invited to apply for Dates to Mr. THOMAS LUCAS, J.P., Managing-Director.
Silence a polite negative.

PLYMOUTH.—GRAND THEATRE.—Centrally situated in the midst of over 200,000 Inhabitants. The Most Popular Theatre in Plymouth. Playing to Record Business, and now in the Flood Tide of Success. First-class Attractions only. For Dates, apply, Mr. C. F. WILLIAMS.
Grand Theatre, Plymouth.

PORTSMOUTH, NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. BOUGHTON.
Open throughout the Year.
First-class Companies. Weekly Matinées.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Enormous Success under Jas. Kiernan's Management.
A week's takings over £600.
Fast Booking for the Fall of this Year.
First-class Attractions, write in to JAMES KIERNAN, Proprietor and Manager.

SOUTHEND - ON - SEA. — EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, W. MARLOW.
The Prettiest and most Popular Place of Amusement on the South-east Coast.
All the principal Attractions Booked.
First-class Companies Required for March 27, April 6 (three nights), 10, 17.
Managers please address all communications to W. MARLOW, jun., Manager, as above.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—PIER PAVILION.—Under New Management. Redecorated. Extra Dressing-rooms added. Electric Light, &c. Now Booking 1905. First-class Companies, Artistes, Bands, &c., communicate MANAGER.

SWANSEA. — GRAND THEATRE.
Lessees and Managers, BROOKS & WOODBRIDGE.
Resident Partner, E. OSWALD BROOKS.
Immense Success under New, Up-to-Date Management.
None but Best Companies entertained.
Now Booking Spring, 1906.
Few Autumn Dates being Held for Best Attractions Only.
Open throughout the Year. Good Summer Season. Vacant May 29, June 12, 19, July 24, Aug. 21, Sept. 25.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS OPERA HOUSE
Lessee, CHARLES CAREY.
Vacant March 27 (week), May 1 (3 nights), May 15 and 22, June 5 (weeks), July 10 and 17 (cricket weeks).

WAKEFIELD OPERA HOUSE.—Vacant April 3, Share or certainty, and onwards, with exceptions. Silence in all cases a polite negative for date quoted.
SHERWOOD and COMPANY, Opera House, Wakefield.

WEST BROMWICH THEATRE.
This Week, "The Country Girl." Next, Pardoe's "Cinderella" (return). No Vacant Dates whatever prior to August. Powerful Dramas, well produced, shall have dates. Vacant dates August, and Spring of 1906. JAMES P. MOORE, W. Bromwich.

WEST BROMWICH, THEATRE ROYAL.—Open All the Year Round.
Cosy, Popular, and Prosperous Theatre.
Success assured by energetic personal management.
All communications to J. P. MOORE, on the Spot.

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Five Lines, TWO and SIXPENCE.
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BRIDLINGTON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, on the Premises,

On WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1905, at Four o'clock in the afternoon precisely, by Mr. J. MAJOR WILSON, Auctioneer, Bridlington, The WHOLE of the VALUABLE FREEHOLD ESTATE of the

BRIDLINGTON PEOPLE'S PALACE COMPANY, Ltd.

Situate in Quay Road, Prospect Street, and Palace Avenue, Bridlington, and consisting of
BEAUTIFUL LARGE CONCERT HALL or THEATRE (Licensed), good stage, 29ft. opening, 20ft. deep and 20ft. high, with large gallery. Seating capacity for about 1,500 people.
LARGE REFRESHMENT ROOM (Fully Licensed), 50ft. long, 30ft. wide, 22ft. high, with two good Tea Rooms attached, each being 24ft. long and 18ft. wide. Boiler, heating apparatus, and lift to kitchen. Good cellarage.
SPLENDID BALL ROOM in basement, 90ft. by 50ft., large room adjoining, 50ft. by 30ft., used at present as Shooting Gallery. Lavatories and W.C.'s.
GOOD BOWLING GREEN in Palace Grounds.
TEN THOUSAND YARDS or thereabouts of LAND surrounding the Palace. Very valuable for building purposes.
FOUR GOOD LOCK-UP SHOPS front of the Palace, recently built and well-let.
THREE SHOPS IN PROSPECT STREET, adjoining the Palace Grounds, with commodious Dwelling House attached.
ELEVEN GOOD HOUSES IN PALACE AVENUE, nearly new.
The property has a frontage to the main street from the Railway Station to the Sea of about 125 yards.
The gross Annual Rental of the Houses and Shops, all of which have been recently reduced, is £428, and £12 per annum is also received from advertising panels on wall in front of the Palace.
These rents are quite exclusive of the Palace itself, the Grounds and Excise Licence, so that it is capable of producing more than double the amounts above mentioned.
All the properties are Freehold and in the very centre of the Town (which is rapidly rising in popularity), and would form a very desirable investment.
For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, Mr. WILSON, Marshall Avenue; Messrs. RICHARDSON & SON, Solicitors, Bridlington; Miss MORGAN, The Palace, Bridlington, or to W. KITCHINGMAN, Secretary, Aquarium, Scarborough.

To Brewers, Publicans, Music Hall Proprietors, and Speculators.
Practically without Reserve.
Sale of Valuable Licensed Premises and Music Hall, with Possession.

Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK, & RUTLEY will SELL by AUCTION, at the Mart, Tokenhouse-yard, E.C., on Wednesday, April 12, 1905, at One o'clock precisely, the Important Property known as the

ROYAL VICTOR HOTEL & MUSIC HALL,

234, OLD FORD-ROAD, N.E.,

situate facing one of the entrances to Victoria Park, adjoining the Regent's Canal, and in the centre of a large and populous neighbourhood. The Property is of an imposing elevation, and has a frontage of 66ft. to the Old Ford-road, and is held for an unexpired term of 35 years at a ground rent of £130 per annum.

Full particulars from Messrs. JENNINGS, SON, and ALLEN, Solicitors, 69, Leadenhall-street, E.C.; or from the Auctioneers, 9, Conduit-street, W.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTES, ARTISTES WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

THREE LINES, ONE SHILLING.
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THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4,747, Central.

COMPANIES WANTED.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, Companies for
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
May 15, June 12, 19, July 10, 17, 24, Aug. 21, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
April 10, June 5, 12, 26, Aug. 21, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
April 24, May 22, June 5, 12, 19, 26, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
May 8, 29, June 5, 12, Aug. 14, 21, on.
CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
Vacant, May 8, 29, June 5, 12.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
May 22, June 12, 19, 26, Aug. 7, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
Vacant,
April 24, June 12, 19, 26, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Vacant,
April 10, 17, 24, May 4, 22, 29, June 5, 12.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

MELVILLE'S THEATRES and COMPANIES.
WANTED, Important Attractions, for
STANDARD THEATRE,
Vacant, May 1, 15, June 5.
TERRISS THEATRE,
April 17, May 1, 22.
METROPOLE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM,
Important Attractions for May 1, 8, 29, June 5.
Address, WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE,
April 10, 24, May 15, on.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
April 17, May 1, 22.
THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKTON,
April 3 (wire), 17, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL,
May 8, on.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Companies, for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Vacant April 17 (5 nights), 24, August 7, onwards, with exceptions.
Fast Booking Autumn.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Vacant April 6, 13, May 4, 11, onwards, with exceptions.
Address, E. GRAHAM-FALCON,
County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Company,
April 17 (5 nights).
E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, for Bedford and Canterbury, on Sharing Terms, First-Class Sacred Concert, Party or Band for Good Friday, two performances.
E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, for Corn Exchange, Bedford, Easter Monday only, on Sharing Terms, Minstrel Troupe or other First-Class entertainment.
E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Dramas, June 5-12.
Address, HERBERT VERE.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for April 17,
May 8, 15, 22, 29,
June 5, and Whit Week.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24a, Regent-street, S.W.

HOWARD and WYNDHAM, LTD.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for April 17th, Glasgow.
Address, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

THEATRE ROYAL, PRESTON.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for May 8, 29, and June 5.
Open to arrange for Production of really good Pantomime next Christmas.
Address communications to
STEPHEN PRITT,
Silence a polite negative.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, High-Class Attractions, May 1, 22, 29, June 5, and Whit Week.

Address, HARRY YORKE.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, May 8, June 12 (Whit Week), 19, 26, and onwards, with Exceptions.
Address,
T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

NEW THEATRE, LOUGHBOROUGH.
WANTED, Companies, May 15 and June 5.
Now Booking Autumn.
GEO. ROBERTSON,
Loughborough.

LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
WANTED, First-class Attraction for April 24 (Spring Holiday date), unexpectedly vacant through transfer. Address, RICH. WALDON.

THEATRE ROYAL, MARGATE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. MACKNIGHT.
Business Manager, CHARLES E. HARDY.
WANTED, Companies, March 27, and onwards, with exceptions.

PALACE THEATRE, ABERDARE.
WANTED, Easter, onwards, Good Dramatic Comedy and Musical Comedy Companies, Holding Capacity 1,200, Good Terms to Suitable Attractions. WILL GREGORY, General Manager.

DUMFRIES and DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Dumfries, April 10, and on; Dunfermline, April 24, and on. Address, W. E. POTTS, T. R., Dunfermline.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, April 3, 10, and 17.
Apply, MANAGING DIRECTOR, Theatre Royal, Exeter.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.
WANTED, Companies.—The Directors are prepared to Lease the above Magnificent Theatre for a Summer Season of from Two to Three Months, at a Fixed Weekly Rental, with the Use of all Scenery, Properties, and Appointments. Population of Leith, 80,000; whilst its close proximity to Edinburgh enables any special attraction to draw from the capital. Applications to Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN, Managing Director, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, April 24 and May 4 (Three Nights Each).
J. W. BUTLER, St. George's Theatre, Kendal.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Peterborough, Good Companies, May 8, 15, 22, and Whit. Write or Wire, A. D. VERNON.

Vacant.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only.
GRAND THEATRE, HULL, April 17.
LYCEUM T., SHEFFIELD, April 24 (Easter).
Musical Piece preferred.
Apply, JOHN HART, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

COMPANIES WANTED.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.

Managing Director, Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN.
The Leading Northern Theatre Tour.
Capital, £155,000.
WANTED, Wanted, Companies,
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
NEW CENTURY THEATRE, MOTHERWELL
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, AYR.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, LEITH.
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.
GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, FALKIRK.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, GREENOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
KING'S THEATRE, KIRKCALDY.

The Bookings include all the Principal Drama, Musical, and Comedy Attractions.
Important.
Managers doing business with us at New Gaiety Theatre, Leith, please note that Stockbridge is barred. The Tivoli, re-christened "The Grand," is in Stockbridge.

Address all communications to
R. C. BUCHANAN,
General Office, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.
Telegraphic address, "Bookings, Glasgow."

THE NORTHERN THEATRES CO., LTD.
WANTED, First-Class Companies,
THEATRE ROYAL, BURY,
April 3, 24, May 8, 29, June 26, Aug. 7, 21, 28, Sept. 4, 25.
THEATRE ROYAL, ROCHDALE,
June 26, Aug. 7, 14, Sept. 11, 18.
THEATRE ROYAL, DEWSBURY,
April 17, May 15, June 5, 12, Aug. 14, Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9.
NEW THEATRE ROYAL, HALIFAX
(one of the finest theatres in the Kingdom),
Sept. 4, Oct. 9, 23.
Pantomime, Pantomime,
Wanted, Brilliant Production,
Christmas, New Theatre, Halifax;
also Pantomimes in Jan. and Feb.,
for all the Towns.
Now booking No. 1 Companies for 1906.
Address,
OTTO C. CULLING, Theatre, Bury.

QUEEN'S THEATRE,
KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions,
May 8, 22,
June 5 and 12,

Share or Certainty,

Apply,
L. CARSON.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for Two Nights. Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies for March 27, April 10, 17, May 1, and on. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, Good Attractions, Drama or Comedy, April 10 and 24, May, on.
E. H. PAGE.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, through obliging, First-Class Attraction (musical preferred) for April 24; also May 15, August 21, on.
Address, FRANK KING.

ROYALTY THEATRE, LLANELLY.
Booked in Conjunction with the
NEW GRAND THEATRE, ABERAVON.
WANTED, Companies, March 27, onwards.
Address,
JOHN TULLY, Metropole Theatre, Abertillery.

THEATRE ROYAL, SOUTH SHIELDS.
WANTED, Company for April 10, through cancelling.
Address, J. and F. COULSON.

LYCEUM THEATRE, STAFFORD.
WANTED, Good Attraction. Vacant March 27 and on., including Easter.
Address, JAMES ELPHINSTONE.

WANTED, Attractions, April 6 (3 nights), 10 (6 nights), 17 (3 nights), and on. FRED L. CONNYNGHAME, Theatre Royal, Windsor.

COURT THEATRE, GALWAY.
WANTED, First-class Companies, April 24, Easter, and onwards, with Exceptions. For Terms, P. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Proprietor.

WANTED, Big Attractions, April 10 (?), 17, 24 (Big Holiday), Grand, Radcliffe; also April 17, 24, Chorley. Address, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

THEATRE ROYAL, NORWICH.
WANTED, Company, March 27, March 27, March 27, March 27.
FRED MORGAN,
Manager.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
P.O.W., NUNEATON,
May 1, 8, June 5, 12, 19, and a few Autumn. Now Booking Spring, 1906. Capacity at Ordinary Prices, £135. A. F. CROSS.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
T. R., RUGBY,
May 1, 8, 15, June 5, 12, 19, 26, August 7, 14, Sept 4, 18. Spring Bookings include "Chinese Honeymoon," "Country Girl," "Floradora," "La Poupée," &c. A. F. CROSS, Nuneaton.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Strong Dramatic Attraction, April 17 (5 nights). Apply, T. W. ROWE.

WANTED, Companies for New Grand T., Rawtenstall, March 27, April 10, on.
J. POTTER, Royal Court Theatre, Warrington.

THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
First-class Attractions for Weeks of May 1 and 8. Wire, To-day, KELLY, T. R., Dewsbury.
Next week, CROWN THEATRE, PECKHAM.

WANTED, Good Companies, Victoria Theatre, Mansfield, April 13, 17, Easter, and on (3 Nights each Week).

VICTORIA THEATRE, BROUGHTON, MANCHESTER.
WANTED, April 17, May 22, and Whit Week, Aug. 7, and onwards (with exceptions), for First-class Musical Comedies, or Strong Drama. Address, HAWORTH, Victoria Theatre, Broughton, Manchester.

EMPIRE THEATRE, OXFORD.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 27, and April 3, May 1, and on. Wire, ALBANY WARD.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, May 1, 8, also April 24. Lyceum, Govan.

Terms to RICH. WALDON.

THEATRE ROYAL, BOLTON.
Vacant April 10, through Cancelling Richard Flanagan's Magnificent Production, "Romeo and Juliet," to allow him to Continue the Run in Manchester.
WANTED, First-class Companies, to Communicate with J. F. ELLISTON, Bolton.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER,
An Elegant Theatre,
the only Place of Entertainment Open in the Town.
WANTED, Companies, May 1 and 22, Various, onward, from August. Address, JAMES P. MOORE, West Bromwich.

WANTED, for Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham, First-rate Companies, April 10, 17. Easter and Whit-Week Vacant. Bookings include "Silver King," "Fatal Wedding," "Life's Revenge," &c. Good terms given. Apply, DAVID WILLIAMS.

FOLKESTONE.
PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.
WANTED, High-Class Companies,
June 5, 19,
July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,
October 26 (3 nights), 30, on, with exceptions.
Silence polite negative.
H. W. ROWLAND, Manager.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies for April 10, 17, 24.
Required, Big Musical Attraction for Easter Week.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.
ARTHUR CARLTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies.

EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
EALING THEATRE, LONDON, W.
Vacant May 8, 15, June 12, 19, 26, July 3.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
Vacant April 17, May 1, 8, 22, June 5.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant May 1 (3 nights), May 15 (3 nights), 22, June 12.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Vacant April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15.

METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
METROPOLE THEATRE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant May 27, May 29, June 19, July 31.

GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
GRAND THEATRE, STALYBRIDGE.
Vacant May 8, June 5, 12, 19, 26, July 3.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
April 3 (3 nights), 10 (3 or 6 nights).

GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
GARRICK THEATRE, HEREFORD.
March 20 (3 or 6 nights),
17 (3 or 6), 24 (3 or 6), May 1 (3 or 6).

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant March 27, April 3 (3 nights), May 8, 15, 22.

KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
KING'S THEATRE, EBBW VALE.
Vacant,
March 30 (3 nights), April 17, 24.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant May 27, April 6 (3 nights), May 8, 22, 29.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant March 23 (3 nights), 27 (3 nights), April 3, 17.

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.

All communications to
ARTHUR CARLTON,
Manor House, Hayes, Middlesex.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Companies for
QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
April 24, May 8, 15, 22, 29,

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
Musical Attractions,
May 15, 29, June 5, 12,

STAR THEATRE, SWANSEA,
Best Dramas only,
April 24, May 1, 15, 22, 29.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

OLYMPIA THEATRE,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Proprietor, Mr. RICHARD THORNTON.
WANTED, Good-class Drama for
March 27,
March 27,
March 27,
(unexpectedly vacant),
to follow "Pair of Spectacles."
Wire, R. THORNTON, Empire T., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Can also arrange for April 10.

Notice.
WANTED, Known, the Theatre Metropole, Birkenhead, is now Closed for Extensive Alterations, Enlargement, and Re-decorations. Under New Management. When Finished, the Theatre will Compare with any High-class Theatre in the Country in every respect.
For Autumn Dates,
First-class Companies only.
Apply to
MANAGER, as above.

QUEEN'S THEATRE,
LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Special Attraction, Easter Week. N.B.—The Queen's is still playing to Phenomenal Business.
FRED. GRANVILLE.

QUEEN'S OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
Lessee and Manager, STANLEY ROGERS.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, April 17, May 1, May 15, onward.
STANLEY ROGERS, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for MARGATE, May 1 (?), 8, 22, and 29; SOUTHAMPTON, PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, Wanted, First-class Dramatic Attractions, from May 22, and on.
Apply, FREDK. MOUILLOT, 4, Broad-court-chambers, Bow-street, W.C.
Telegrams, "Lutanist, London."

THEATRE ROYAL, PETERBORO'.
THEATRE ROYAL, GRANTHAM.
WANTED, Sound Attractions for remaining Spring dates. First 3 nights Peterboro', last 3 Grantham. Fare, 1s. 10d. Last 3 nights Mar. 27, week. Open Grantham, also Easter.
EDWARD MARRIS, To-day, Dalston; Next, Reading.

WANTED, for Easter Week, First-class Company of Society Entertainers.
Apply, MANAGER, Palace, Rhyl.

WANTED, Company, for Week of April 3, New Theatre, Consett.
Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, Jarrow.

PARDOE'S THEATRE, MIDDLETON, LANCS
WANTED, March 20 and 27, and on, with exceptions, First-Class Companies. Wire, PARDOE, G. Nelson.
Next, ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH.

GRAND PAVILION, VENTNOR.
WANTED, Good Company, Whit Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
Also Same Dates at NEW ROYAL, LYNN.
J. BANNISTER HOWARD, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, Company, for April 17, May 1, 22, 29, June 19, July 3.
JENNINGS, Theatre, Darlington.

RAMSGATE
SANGEN'S AMPHITHEATRE.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic or Variety Co., March 27. Address, HENRY BOWMAN, Manager.

WANTED, First-class Companies for Leeds and Oldham, June 5, onwards.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire Theatre, Oldham.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies for T. R., Leamington, April 10, 24; Reading, April 10, June 5; Easter Week Vacant at Chester, Northampton, and Leamington.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WORTHING THEATRE ROYAL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Three Nights and One Matinée, March 23, 27, 30, April 3, 6, and Holy Week. Booking include all the Latest Attractions. Large Stage, Electric Lights, Splendid Orchestra, and everything done to Ensure Good Business. Wire for March 23. SEEBOLD, Worthing.

HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Companies, May 1, 15, and 22. Applications, with Full Particulars, to JNO. R. HUDDLESTONE, General Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

THE PIER, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Company, Musical or Farcical Comedy preferred, either Certainty or Share, for the week, April 17.
Address, G. HAYES, Manager.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Proprietors, The WALSALL THEATRES Co., Ltd.
Secretary and Manager, W. H. WESTWOOD.
Holds £180. Circle, 3s.; Stalls, 2s.; Family Circle, 2s.; Pit Stalls, 1s. 6d.; Pit, 1s.; Amphitheatre, 9d.; Gallery, 6d.
WANTED, First-Class Companies.
First Vacant Dates, May 15, 22, and 29, June 5 and 12, August 7, 14, 28.

TOWN HALL, WHITLAND, SOUTH WALES.
WANTED, Known, Vacant Dates now being Booked for Dramatic and Variety Companies, &c. Good opportunity and every convenience. Situate Junction, Pembroke, Tenby, Milford, and Cardigan Railways. Apply PROPRIETOR, Whitland.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, April 17, May 8.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 7, Oct. 16, 23, Nov. 6.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"A DISGRACE TO HER SEX."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, May 1, 8, 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Aug. 14.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
WANTED, March 27, April 17, May 29, June 12, and on.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
Frederick Melville's New Production.
WANTED, April 10, 24, and on, with exceptions.
FREDK. MELVILLE, Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Important Theatres, April 10, 17, June 5; gross receipts last two weeks total £1,000 DOUGLAS BRUCE, Standard T., London, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, April 17, May 1 (?), Manchester District Preferred, August 7, 14, Sept. 18, on, with exceptions.
TOM H. TAYLOR, Standard Theatre, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Weeks of June 19 and July 10,
for this Powerful Attraction.
Wire, To-day,
KELLY, Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.
Next week, CROWN THEATRE, PECKHAM.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, July, Autumn.
Now Booking 1906. The Most Perfect Production of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" seen in this Country. CHARLES HARRINGTON, T. R., Bilston.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S TOUR.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
Nov 13. and 27 Open, Only Vacant Dates this Year.
WANTED, Big Theatres Only, then and on.
Princess's, Glasgow;
Next, New Theatre, Hawick.

Lyttleton's "AT WAR WITH THE WORLD."
WANTED, April 10, 17, Easter, onwards, with exceptions.
Everything Reliable. Printing Always Ready.
GEO. LYTTLETON, Porth; Next, Treherbert.

MR. CHAS. MACDONA'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, May 1 ("Three Little Maids"), Easter ("Are You a Mason?"), May 15 (?), 22 (?), and June 5 ("Gay Parisienne"), (Special Suburban Company), and May, 1, 2, 3 ("Monsieur Beaucaire").
17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER'S COMPANY
in
"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."
WANTED, Leading Theatres for April 24 (Easter),
May 1.
Address,
Mr. SILVANUS DAUNCEY, 22, Charing Cross, S.W.

"WHAT BECAME OF MRS. RACKET?"
"MY SWEETHEART."
WANTED, April 17 (Wales), May 22, to follow Limerick, Whit Week, to precede Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, July 3, to follow Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.
STONE, Paisley Theatre, Paisley.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Big Theatres, May 15 and 22, to follow Stockport and Ashton; also Sept. 11, 18, and 25.
Address,
C. M. JULIAN, King's, Gainsborough.

"THE SLEDGE-HAMMER," by Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Theatres. First Vacancy Sept. 4.
W. V. GARROD, Junction T., Manchester.

WANTED, May 15, 22, 29, Whit Week.
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
FRED BULMER, Gaiety Theatre, Ayr, N.B.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEO. KIRK'S
"JUDY" COMPANY.
WANTED, August Bank Holiday; also Sept. 4, to follow Prince's, Bradford (Third Visit); Oct. 16, to follow Prince's, Portsmouth (Return).
Address, GEORGE KIRK, King's Theatre, Cardiff.

WANTED, "Why Men Love Women," Theatres, July 31, London or South; Aug. 21, London or South; Sept. 4, London or South; Sept. 18, London or Midlands; Oct. 2, Midlands, Lancs., or Yorks. PAUMIER, T. R., Ton-y-Pandy.

"BETRAYED; or, What Men call Love."
WANTED, May 1, June 5 and 12. Refer Lester Collingwood, Esq.
CECIL DU GUE, Standard Theatre, E.

WANTED, Easter Week, for "Bonnie Boy Blue" or "Little Red Riding Hood." G. BRYDON-PHILLIPS, 120, Chevening-rd., Brondesbury-park, N.W.

WANTED, Christmas (Permanency), for Pantomime. G. BRYDON-PHILLIPS, Chantrey, 120, Chevening-road, Brondesbury-park, N.W.

"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
WANTED, Theatre, April 24.
FRANK WILSON, 26, Mornington-crescent, N.W.

MR. BERT COOTE'S COMPANIES.
"THE FATAL WEDDING."
WANTED, Easter Week, April 24,

July 31—Aug. 7.

Address, CECIL BARTH, General Manager,
150, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, April 10, 24 (Big Theatre), "No Escape," or "Money Makes," Splendid Scenery, Printing, Company. COLEMAN DAVIES, Aquarium, Scarboro'.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, April 3, May 1. Wire, to-day, LIVESEY, Junction Theatre, Manchester.
Letters, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

THEATRES WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
"A MODERN ADVENTURESS,"
May 22, 29, June 5, Aug. 7, 28, and onwards.

Apply,
L. CARSON, Keighley.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
"HEART OF A HERO,"
Sept. 25, and onwards.

Apply,
L. CARSON, Keighley.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
"DRAMA OF LIFE,"
May 29, June 5 and 12, Aug. 7, and Oct. 16.

Apply,
L. CARSON, Keighley.

"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."
WANTED, April 24, August 14, enormous business. Everywhere visited.
Admitted by Press and Public, to be the most popular version on the Stage.

Read what the Swansea Daily Leader says:—
"SAPHO" at the GRAND.
Fine Acting of Daudet's famous work.
"Sapho," although previously seen here, has never been produced with greater truthfulness or finish. With Miss Bell, a charming and powerful actress, in the title-rôle, and Mr. Frederick Ross, a gifted young actor, as the lover, Jean Causin, the audience were afforded an histrionic treat which they heartily enjoyed; whilst the support forthcoming from the other members of the company was of the strongest possible description.

Wire for April 24.
Wire,
JAMES BELL,
St. James's Theatre, Manchester.

The Melodramatic Masterpiece.
The Melodramatic Masterpiece.

"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS."
WANTED, May 1, 8 (South), Autumn.

ROBERT PERRIS,
Gaiety Theatre,
Leith.

"THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE."
"THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE."
"THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE."
Max Goldberg's Triumph.
An Artistic and Financial Success.
DAN F. ROE and F. B. WOULFE'S COMPANY.
WANTED, EasterWeek (April 24), May 1, 29 (?), June 5, best dates only, now booking Autumn. Bookings include, Star (return) and Rotunda, Liverpool; Prince's, Bradford; Royal, Sheffield; Victoria, Broughton; Chester, Huddersfield; Aston, Smethwick, Palace and Grand, Newcastle, Bolton, Gateshead, Dalston, London, &c., &c. Re dates, ROE and WOULFE, Grand T., Newcastle-Tyne.

WANTED, May 8, 15, and 22, "The Conscript."
MITCHELL and BELTON, Prince's Theatre, Preston.

"QUEEN OF THE NIGHT."
WANTED, May 15 and 22, Whit, Aug. 7, Oct. 9.
JAMES STILLWELL, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

MISS NETTIE WARE'S TOURS,
"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL."
WANTED, August Bank Holiday, and onwards, with Exceptions. "When Woman Hates," Vacant, August Bank Holiday, and onwards, with Exceptions. First-class Productions.
JOHN B. SHINTON, T. R., Middlesbrough.

"THE DAYS OF CROMWELL."
An elaborate revival.
WANTED, Aug. 14, on.
BEAUDYN and LIVESEY,
Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

WANTED, for "Life that Kills," May 1, 29, June 5 and 12, Sept. 11, and on.
"Grip of Law," June 12, 19, 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24.
"Bigamy," May 1, and few Spring and Autumn.
FRED MOULE, Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.

"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH."
F. A. Scudamore's Masterpiece. Miss Frances Delaval's splendid company, 21st month of tour.
WANTED, May 8, 29, June 12.
Wire, Alex., Hull; next, Alex., Sheffield.

"THE GRIP OF IRON."
In Consequence of the Success of the Present Tour, it will be Extended from Easter to Whit Week.
WANTED, May 1, 8, 15, 22, and Whit Week, must be Suburban Theatres, or near London.
GEORGE DENHAM, This, Albert, Brighouse; Next, Grand, Doncaster.

"THE LIFE OF A SHOWMAN."
WANTED, Theatres for this Great Novelty. Read what Manager Masterman says:—"Theatre Royal, Castleford. Dear Mr. Sante,—I am taking an early opportunity of stating that your drama 'The Life of a Showman' has undoubtedly made a big impression on our patrons. What with your excellent cast and your lavish mounting of the piece, I can only say, as my people say, 'I am delighted.' There can be no two opinions about you having a success. I am certain of it, and shall be delighted to see you back here again. Wishing you the best of luck, Yours truly, H. Masterman." Vacant May 1, Whit, and August, on. SANTE, this, Castleford; next, Darlington.

MISS OSWALD'S "EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, May 22, 29, June 12 (follow Oldham, return), June 19 (precede Birmingham), and on.; now booking Spring. This is the finest version ever toured. The company are exceptionally powerful, and the magnificent pictorials are far ahead of anything previously used. Advance agent toured. Books of "East Lynne" photos, souvenirs given away. Wires, HUBERT BARRS, Theatre, Nuneaton. Monday, Tamworth.

"A WOMAN'S REVENGE."
WANTED, good Theatres, March 27, April 10, 17. Wire for March 27, OSMOND, New T., Altrincham; next, Wednesbury.

WANTED, to Oblige Managers, May 29, Lancs. or Yorks; also few Autumn Dates, Big Theatres only, for "Her Fatal Past," the Greatest of all Moral Dramas. Add., WARD, Royal West London Theatre.

"TOMMY ATKINS."
the Greatest of all Military Dramas.
WANTED, May 15, Whit Week, in or near London.
Also Autumn Dates.
No. 1 Theatres only.
Magnificent uniforms &c., by John Hyman and Co.
ERNEST E. NORRISS, T. R., Elephant and Castle, S.E.

"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
WANTED, Theatre, May 22.
FRANK WILSON, 26, Mornington-crescent, N.W.

"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
"THE GIRL FROM JAPAN."
WANTED, Easter Week, April 24, unexpectedly vacant through obliging.
Managers of First-Class Theatres only, between Birmingham and Sunderland, kindly address,
FREDERICK PHILPOTT, Theatre Royal, Bournemouth.

"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."

WANTED, for this Special Attraction, Aug. 28. Without doubt the Most Successful Show that has been Produced for Years.
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"A LONDON ACTRESS."
WANTED, April 10, Three Nights, for Miss Emma Litchfield's Success, "A London Actress"; also Vacant May 15 and 22, June 5. Thanks Richard Flanagan, Esq., M. Montgomery, Esq., C. W. Poole, Esq., Maurice Clement, Esq., Edward Gray, Esq., and Charles Barnard, Esq., for Contracts to Hand. Aug. Bank Holiday Open for Good Theatre. Add., STUART CLEVELAND, T. R., Gloucester.

WANTED, April 3, between Croydon and Hammersmith, for "If I Were King."
FRANK FENTON, New Theatre, Oxford.

"THE COAL KING."
WANTED, Autumn Dates, for Messrs. G. M. Polini and Lauderdale Maitland's London Company, with the intensely Human Drama, "The Coal King." Address, POLINI, 93, Penge-road, Anerley, London, S.E.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates for "A WOMAN'S DEVOTION," July 31, Aug. 7, Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2.
Morton Powell, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES
WANTED, Wanted, Dates for "GREED OF GOLD," Aug. 7, 14, 21, Oct. 2, 9, 16.
Morton Powell, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates for "HONOUR THY FATHER," April 10, 17, 24, June 12, July 31, Aug. 7, 21, Nov. 27.
Morton Powell, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
"A ROYAL REVENGE."
WANTED, May 1, 8, and 29, for this Remarkable Attraction, onwards, with exceptions, Summer and Autumn dates are now being booked. J. H. Clyndes, Opera House, Dunfermline.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY, "WHAT A WOMAN DID."
Seventy-first week of continuous successful tour. Enormous success at Ealing Theatre this week. Refer to Fred S. Jennings, Esq.
WANTED, April 17 (follow Opera House, Coventry), May 1 and 8 (Midlands or South), and onwards, with exceptions.
William A. Armour, To-day, Ealing Theatre, W.; next, T. R., Lincoln.

MRS. BANDMANN-PALMER'S TOUR.
WANTED, April 3 and 10. Address, Saturday, Bishop Auckland; Mon., T. R., Workington.

"THE GUILTY MAN."
"THE GUILTY MAN."
"THE GUILTY MAN."
WANTED, April 17, May 15, June 19 and 26. Everything Carried.
James Hare, 66, Regent-street, Loughboro.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, April 3, Scotland, or N. of England. Fred Bulmer, Gaiety Theatre, Ayr, N.B.

MR. ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN,"
"THE MANXMAN,"
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, for this Sterling Attraction, June 19 (between Jersey and London), July 17, Aug. 7 and 21, fourth year of tour; new plant of printing. Best theatres booked and re-booked. Irving Theatre, Seacombe (return), March 20.

MISS WINIFRED MAUDE AND COMPANY, "THE SINS OF A CITY,"
By Nita Rae.
WANTED, Wanted Wanted, April 10 (to follow T.R., Lincoln), April 24, May 1,
Thirty-fourth week of present tour.
Special Scenery by Francis H. Bull, London. First-Class Company. Refer any manager visited. Thanks, Isaac Cohen, Esq., for contracts Pavilion, London.
General Manager, Mr. Victor du Cane, March 20, Carlton Theatre, Birmingham.

A. HAMILTON WARDEN'S TOUR.
The new and original realistic Drama of Life, "THE CITY OF MILLIONS," presented by a perfect cast, including Eric Hudson and Nellie Thearle, Fowler Thatcher, Sam Wilkinson, May Dallas, &c. Entire scenic effects travelled. Magnificent plant of printing by Allens.
WANTED, April 10, 17, 24 (Easter), July 3, 17, onwards
Address, Ealing Theatre, W.

"THE TRAITOR."
WANTED, through transfer, Nov. 20, in Scotland.
E. Hill-Mitchelson, Palace T., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

"THE TRAITOR."
Messrs. Mitchelson and Fineberg's magnificent Production.
WANTED, Oct. 9, 16. E. Hill-Mitchelson, Palace Theatre, Newcastle.

WANTED, for "My Sweetheart," Lizzie Boone and Fred Hammond's Company, April 10, 17, 24 (Easter), and on.
Address,
Boone and Hammond, T. R., Darwen.

"SAILORS OF THE KING."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 4, Oct. 9, 23, Nov. 20. Bookings, Cardiff, Swansea, Bristol, West London, Yarmouth, Norwich, Leicester.
Charles Harrington, Theatre Royal, Bilston.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, April 10 (only Vacant Date this Year), all Scenery Carried, Powerful Co., Racehorses Toured and Paraded Each Day, with Jockeys in Colours. F. G. Kimberley, Victoria Rooms: Next, Queen's, Gateshead.

"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
WANTED, Theatre, June 12. Frank Wilson, 26, Mornington-crescent, N.W.

WANTED, April 3 (South) and Various Autumn Dates for
"HEARTS ADRIFT,"
A stirring drama of the true Drury Lane stamp.—London Express.
1,000 paid for admission at Pavilion, E., Saturday night; nearly 1,000 by early door.
Bertram, 5, Gilmore-road, Lewisham, S.E.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant May 15, 22, June 9, 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24. Aug. 21, Sept. 4,, 11, and 18.
Address, J. W. Cordiner, March 20, New Theatre, Aberdare.

"THE DARLING OF THE GODS."
WANTED, Good Theatres, April 3 and 10.
J. Bannister Howard, 3, Bedford-street, Strand.

"THE MAJOR."
WANTED, Good Theatres, March 27, Easter, and onward, for above Musical Absurdity, Ada Wallis. This, New Theatre, West Stanley (return.) Next, Theatre, Bacup.

"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY" CO.
WANTED, Theatre, for Whit Week (June 12).
Walter Howe, G., Nottingham (Six Nights).

WANTED, by Hill-Mitchelson and Harris Fineberg's Star Theatre, Liverpool, Stock Company, Three Consecutive Weeks, May 15, 22, and 29, owing to Companies being Booked for those Dates. E. Hill-Mitchelson, T. R., Barnsley.

WANTED, May 15, May 29, and Whit, for the Great Play, "DIVORCED."
Address,
Reginald P. Rutter, 84, Barkham-terrace, S.E.

WANTED, Known, any Manager Disappointed at the Last Minute, Cannot do Better than Wire or Ring Up, Harry Burns's Agency, Empress Theatre of Varieties, Hartlepool. Telephone, 0231. Telegrams, "Burns, Empress." Also at London, 87, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.; Manchester, 344, Bury New-road. Can Place You Variety Programme at a Minute's Notice.

ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, for Autumn Tours of Musical Comedies, Ladies, for Principal Parts, all must be young and pretty, and able to sing; also Solo Dancers, Character and Light Comedians, Stage-Managers, and Baritone Vocalists, latter must be young and of good appearance; also Chorus Ladies, young and pretty. Appointment by application to C. St. John Denton, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

THE HIPPODROME, NEW BROMPTON.
Sole Proprietors, Frederic Monti and Co.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Artistes, for above, Stock Season.
Fullest Particulars to W. J. Mackay, The Hippodrome, New Brompton.

ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, Artistes for Musical Comedy, Town and Tour. Must be Young, of Good Appearance, and Good Voice. Send full particulars to Kelson Trueman, Regent House, 233A, Regent-st, W.

Arthur Carlton's Summer Stock Season.
WANTED, Artistes. Send Photographs, Lowest Salary, Last Two References. Arthur Carlton, Manor House, Hayes, Middlesex. (Mark envelopes "Stock Season.")

WANTED, to Rehearse, March 28, tall Leading Lady, Juvenile Gentleman, and Character Actor, for Jew; must dress parts well. Photos, Lowest terms, and references, C. Rean, Aquarium Theatre, Yarmouth.

WANTED, at once, two pretty Child Actresses, or petite Chambermaid, for Cinématograph work. Apply, 38, Victoria-mansions, South Lambeth-road, London.

WANTED, Count and Captain, "Fun on the Bristol," those having played part before preferred. Maurice Love, Post Office, Mauchline, N.B.

WANTED, for stock musical company, from May 1, Artistes who can sing and dance, stage manager, chorus ladies, and dancers to form quartette, opening piece "Gentleman Joe." State age, height, two recent references, parts played, &c. Interviews Lon. E. Graham-Falcon, C. T., Bedford.

WANTED, Clever, Ambitious Young Lady, for Small Parts, and look after Wardrobe. Full Particulars, Photo., to Harry Starr, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, for May 1, to complete stock company, opening piece "The Harbour Lights," leading, heavy, character, old man, juvenile, and responsible gentlemen, low comedian and chamber-maid (must sing and dance), stage manager, who is conversant with the Adelphi and Drury Lane plays. State age, height, two recent references, parts played, &c. Interviews London.
E. Graham-Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, for Geoffrey De Mowbray's Tour, with "The Bank of England," First-class Juvenile Lady. Terms to 114, Daiston-lane, London.

WANTED, an Experienced Pretty Child Actress for Tour, who can Sing. Full Particulars and Lowest Terms, Box 1,349, "The Era."

WANTED, Gentleman, for Bartlett, "My Sweetheart," Rehearse Tuesday next. Add., with Lowest Terms and Photo., Boone and Hammond, T. R., Darwen.

WANTED, First-Class Juvenile Leading Man; also good responsible Man, to open Easter; both must be young, tall, and thoroughly experienced. Terms, and references from last two managers. Miller, Queen's T., Dublin.

WANTED, Young Actor, to Create Star Part in new Musical Romance (performance at West-End Theatre for Charity), Good Opening, must Sing and Dance, Experienced. Interview. Lowest Terms to Box 1,352, "The Era."

WANTED, tall character actor, for assistant stage-management. State references, height, terms. Rehearse Monday. Blow, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, London.

WANTED, Character, Eccentric, and Light Comedian; also Light Comedienne (sing and play piano), special week, April 3, for production of Sketch near Town.

Terms, references, &c. (by letter only), to
J. P. Ross, 41, College-court, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, Clever, Ambitious Young Lady, for Small Parts, and look after Wardrobe. Full Particulars, Harry Starr, Queen's T., Gateshead.

WANTED, Immediately, Gentleman, for Important Parts, one who can Introduce Good Songs, and Assist Management Preferred. Photos., Lowest Terms, &c., Thespis, 14, Greaves-st., Oldham.

WANTED, Tenor Choristers for Musical Comedy Tour, must be tall.
Apply between 12 and 1, to-day,
W. Penrhyn Forster, 11, Buckingham-st., Strand.

WANTED, several Ladies and Gentlemen, to walk on in London Theatre; must give services. Address, Howard Ashley, T. R., Sheffield.

WANTED, Amateurs, Comedians, for Refined Seaside Resort, Youth, Good Appearance Essential. Good Experience for Beginners. Sketches and Pantomimes Played. Commence June. Premium required, returned in Salary. Age, height, répertoire of Songs, Box 1,329, "The Era."

WANTED, Amateur Lady or Gentleman, for Dramatic Tour; excellent opportunity for Tuition. Premium required. Salary paid from commencement. Mildred Vaughan, 36, Kenninghall-road, Clapton, London, N.E.

WANTED, First-class Contralto, Tenor, and Bass, for Sacred Concerts, Good Friday. Terms &c., Manager, 53, Grosvenor-park-rd., Walthamstow.

WANTED, Young Girl Singer, Tour; Live in. Small premium, or give time.
Clunn Lewis, Crown, Marnhull, Dorset.

WANTED, Artistes, Refined Weekly Entertainments, Sundays; Pianists, Duxbury's Recitals, St. Bride Institute, March 23, 8.0. "Amusement" Office, 7, Whitefriars-street.

WANTED, Dramatic Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with The Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, by Miss Madge Carlyle, Vocalist (and pianist), Soprano, Summer Engagement; good répertoire. Disengaged. 4, Wymond-st, Putney.

WANTED, at Once, Well-known Society Entertainer, Vocalist, Accompanist, Engagement in High-class Concert Company, Tour or Town Good References and Répertoire; also Lady (Soprano). Add., R., 21, Alford-rd., Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements, by George S. Adam Tenor, Scotland's Favourite Vocalist, at Liberty from June 5, onwards, Tour or Otherwise. All communications, 10, Blyth-place, Dundee.

WANTED, Known, Tenor Vocalist, Disengaged Easter; can also accept Summer Engagement, Opera, Oratorio. Box 1,292, "The Era."

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

THE HIPPODROME, NEW BROMPTON.
Sole Proprietors, Frederic Monti and Co.
WANTED, Good, Quick Scenic Artist, with own Brushes; also Reliable Carpenter, for above. Permanency. References, &c., W. J. Mackay, Hippo., New Brompton.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Best Work. Models and Estimates by Return. Dry Storage, 1/6. F. Fissi, 40, Hamlet-road, Southend.

WANTED, Contracts, fo rthe Carlyle Scenic Studio. Brilliant scenes. Lowest prices. W. B. Robinson, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, for Scenery for Drama or Variety, Roberts and Co., Studio, Blucher-street, Liverpool-street, Salford, Manchester.

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WANTED, to Sell, Scenery. The whole of the Scenery used in the above Productions, at Daly's Theatre, for Sale.
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WANTED, to Sell, scenery, in splendid condition, two new street cloths, 20 by 28, chamber sets, garden sets, docks set, office cloths, interiors, exteriors, flats, 16 by 6, all nearly new and fit for immediate use. Address, Williams, 536, Wandsworth-road, London, S.W.

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WANTED, Known, Charles G. Cooke, Scenic Artist and Property Maker.
Melrose, Hurst-grove, Walton-on-Thames.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, a Resident Manager for the New Century Theatre, Motherwell, to open immediately. Address, stating age and terms, with photograph and copies of latest references, R. C. Buchanan, General Office, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Smart Acting-Manager, for small Music Hall in the Provinces. State experience and lowest salary required.
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WANTED, Working Manager, at once, Good Wages to Suitable Man. House, Gas, and Coal Found. Refs., to Billposting Co., Loughboro'.

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WANTED, Known, Mr. Frank Egerton, Manager to Mr. Patrick Collins, "Collins' Hippodrome," Stoke-on-Trent, can negotiate for a similar position to commence on or after April 10 next, or could accept the management of Winter Gardens, Pier, Pleasure Grounds, Aquarium, or First-Class in or outdoor Entertainment, and open to share in any such latter enterprise. Highest credentials as to success in all ventures. Twenty years practical experience; best possible address and appearance. Communications, Frank Egerton, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, Known, Eustace H. Jay, Seventh Year, Resident General-Manager, National Palace of Varieties, Croydon, wishes to thank proprietors and managers for kind enquiries.

WANTED, Known, Geo. Lake-Grange, at Liberty, for Stage or General Manager, for any good show; up-to-date and reliable in any branch of the business.
Address, care of "The Era" Office.

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WANTED, by Advertiser, till Recently Cashier and Foreign Correspondent with Well-known Variety Combine, Similar Position, thorough Knowledge of the Variety Business, also German and French; some Capital at Disposal. Address, Box 1,331, "The Era."

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WANTED, by thoroughly Experienced Man, Management of any Class of Entertainment. Pier, Music Hall, Hippodrome, &c., or Advance. Class References.
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WANTED, E. Walpole, Advance Agent, at Liberty to Boom any class of Entertainment. Experienced. Refs. Wire, 253, Vauxhall Bridge-rd.

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THE HIPPODROME, NEW BROMPTON.
WANTED, Musical Director and Full Band for above.
Fullest Particulars to W. J. Mackay.

WANTED, Solo Cornet or Good Bombardon Player, as an Attendant in a County Asylum. Salary Commencing £34, Increasing to £48, Extra if Promoted, all Found, Single Man. Apply, with Testimonials as to Character and Abilities,
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WANTED, First-class Cornet. Apply to Musical Director, Broadway Theatre, New Cross, S.E.

WANTED, South Coast, Three Months, from July 1, Horns, Trombones, Drums (Pedal System Preferred), Two Concerts Daily (Sunday Excepted). Terms and References to Conductor, Box 1,341, "The Era."

WANTED, Harpist, Lady or Gentleman, must thoroughly understand Variety Business. Lowest terms for Permanency, stating Age and References.
J. Whitelock, Palace, Halifax.

SOUTHPORT CORPORATION MILITARY BAND
WANTED, an Experienced Flute and Piccolo Player, must have the Necessary Instruments. Address, with References, Messrs. Bartle and Rimmer, Belmont-street, Southport.

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WANTED, for Pier (Summer Season), Pianist (Double-handed Preferred), and Drawing-room Humorist, Strict Refinement Essential. Lowest Terms, Age, Particulars, R. Lloyd Morgan, 30, Richmond-gardens, Shepherd's Bush, W. Telephone, 1938 Western.

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WANTED, Ex-Army Bandsmen, for P. Staff, Durham R. G. A. (M), must be under 30, Extra Band Pay, and Every Opportunity for Attending Private Engagements, Former Service Arranged to Count towards Pension. Apply, Bandmaster, Barracks, Sunderland.

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WANTED, small band, for four or five performances, commencing 22nd. A. G. Pugh, Llewellyn-chambers, Llandudno.

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"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
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WANTED, by Violin, Summer Engagement. At Liberty March 15. J. H. Read, Leader Moody-Manners A Opera Co., T. R., Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Violin Soloist, at Liberty, Easter, could Supply First-class Quartette or Trio. Violiniste, 74, Abingdon-villas, Kensington, W.

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WANTED, by Bassoon, Summer Engagement. Blake, Carl Rosa Company, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement, or Deputising. Apply, Bassist, 1, Honeybrook-road, Clapham-park, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement by Good Double Bass Player, Good References, for 27th inst. Add., John Nation, 68, Swimbrook-rd., Kensington.

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T. Sparano, Moody Manners Op. Co., Glasgow.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Oboe, combine Cor Anglais, Two French Horns, May to September. Peter, Lyceum, Eccles.

WANTED, Summer Engagement by Oboe, Cor Anglais. Date of liberty, June 1. Leon Dandois, Carl Rosa Opera, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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WANTED, by Double Drummer, all Effects, Engagement, Theatre of Music Hall. F. M'Crohan, 31, De Laune-st., Kennington-pk.-rd., S.E.

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WANTED, by Double Drummer, Engagement, with Effects, Play Sight. Highest References. P. Sandland, 10, Laleham-road, Catford.

Brilliancy, Tone, Colour, Ensemble, and Originality.
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From Eight to Twenty Performers.
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Personally Complimented by Royalty.
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A Remarkable Success.
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Special Arrangements at a Distinctly Low Fee can be made.
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WANTED, by Rosabel Ladies' Orchestra, (Conductress Miss Rose Telfer), Summer Season Engagement. 10, German-place, Brighton.

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THEATRE ROYAL, NOTTINGHAM.
WANTED, Known, the following members of the above orchestra are open to receive combined or individual engagement for the Summer Season: Violins (Leader), First, Second; Viola, 'Cello, Bass, Cornet, Trombone and Euphonium, and Drums.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by Orchestra, Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool, any Business. Together or sep. Add., SECRETARY, Orchestra.

WANTED, Known, the A.M.U. National Musical Agency, Incorporated with the British Imperial Bands Company, can supply Musicians, Orchestral and Military Bands, on the shortest notice. Write for Booklet to either of the following:—J. B. WILLIAMS, 135, Moss-lane, Manchester; Tel. address, "Amuse, Manchester;" Telephone, 5,489, Manchester. C. JESSON, 96, Long-acre, W.C.; Tel. address, "Amusologia, London;" 'Phone, 9,827, Central. F. J. LEES, 104, Crompton-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. J. BARTLEY, 9, Seamore-st., Glasgow. Tel., 208 Y6, Charing-cross.

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KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS, BOLTON.
WANTED, at Once, and Future Dates, Grand Sensation, New Novelties, Big Stars, and Useful Circus Performers, in all Lines, anything and everything that can be done in a Circus Ring; a Big Act Required for March 20. Share or Salary. Note.—All Engaged at this Circus will have the Offer of Season at a Seaside Resort. Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's Circus, Bolton.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS, MARKET-PLACE, BOLTON.
WANTED, Big Star Turns, new Sensations, and Great Novelties in all Lines, from March 27; also useful Circus Turns at once, and for future dates. Note.—All engaged can have the offer for the Summer Season at a Seaside Resort. Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's Grand Circus, Bolton.

ALGIE'S HIPPODROME, CARLISLE.
WANTED, for March 27, Specialities of every description. State when last appeared in Carlisle. — N.B.—No fares advanced, had some, been bitten.

THE HIPPODROME, NEW BROMPTON.
Sole Owners, FREDERIC MONTI and Co.
General Manager, W. J. MACKAY.
WANTED, for March 27, and on, Variety Talent, of Every Description (Acrobats, Gymnasts, and Animal Turns Excepted),
Good Double Singing Turns, Doing Singles, Cinématograph Operator, with own Machine, Capable of Giving Complete Change of Pictures Weekly. State when last appeared in Chatham. No Commission Stopped. All Communications to W. J. MACKAY, as above. Telephone, 052.

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Apply, MANAGER, Victoria Hall, Newtown, N. Wales.

WANTED, a Smart Boy Juggler, to Join me in a Comedy Juggling Act; must be able to do a few Tricks in Juggling, and must be from Fifteen to Sixteen Years of Age. State in first letter your Exact Age, Height, and Full Particulars as to what you can do, also if you are an Amateur, or whether you have ever worked in the Profession. The right boy can have a Good Position, Earn a Decent Salary, and Play the Best Houses in England and on the Continent. Send Photograph, if possible, and give your Permanent Address. HARRY BLEWETT, Hotel Franklin, 19, Rue Buffault, Paris, France.

WANTED, smart Young Girl, with knowledge of trick cycling, to join well-known troupe. Apply, stating trick, to
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WANTED, a Good Comedian, able to Tumble, for a First-clas Act. Write, with all Details, Box 1,340, "The Era."

WANTED, for Mr. John Leopold's "NEW FRIVOLITY" COMPANY,
a Good Tumbler.
Also Top Mount.
Apply, JOHN ELLERY, H. M. T., Dundee.

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WANTED, Young Man, or Smart Lad, that can Hand-balance, and Tumble a little, by Well-known Performer. Box 1,321, "The Era."

WANTED, a Really Smart Circus Man, with good appearance, age not more than 35, must be able to introduce Pony Act, and perform same, and capable of addressing an audience for a challenge, &c., and patter with clown; also a good Clown or Agouste, for knockabout business with donkey, &c. One used to etage business preferred.
Address, with full particulars, to
CLIFFE BERZAC, Ardwick Empire, Manchester.

WANTED, Circus Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Best Existing Lion Show. Vacant March 20, May 8, 15, 29, and June 12 (Whit Week), only Vacancies till Oct. 16, 1905. A Sure Draw, always Playing to Crowded Houses. Communications,
2, Beck-rd., Hackney London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Gingero, with his Marvellous Troupe of Performing Bulls, Goats, Sheep, and Dogs, will be at liberty March 27; also my Cake-walking Bull, a big success, Circus, Hull. GINGERO, Circus, Hull.

WANTED.—Mrs. Dudley Smith, with "Dainty Lass," Winner of 243 Prizes, at Liberty, Grand Exhibition of High Leaping, Ring or Stage. Address, 21, Wood-street, Bolton.

WANTED.—Neddy Vokes, Musical Talking Knockabout Clown, Lib. March 27, April 3, and onward. Address, Circus, Hull. Wire.

WANTED, Two Dominos. Liberty 27, April 3. Clown and Donkey. Want to purchase revolving table for small pony.

WANTED, Known, Little Bishop, Clown and Agouste, with Trick, and Comic Entrées, at Liberty for Monday, through sudden Closing of Circus. Address, 48, Millgate. Stockport.

WANTED, Known, Pat Fraynor, at Liberty, Agent in Advance, or Singing Clown, One who Knows the Country. PAT FRAYNOR, 21, Wine-tavern-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Comical Walker, Talking Clown, with good entrees; also Tenting; Vacant Monday. Address, 10, Dynevor-pl., Swansea.

WANTED, Known, Handy Andy, Talking, Tumbling, and Knockabout Clown, Entrées, &c., Lib. Monday, 2 weeks. 41, Lavan-st., L'pool.

WANTED, Known, Eleonora, Lady Gymnast, and the Beautiful Vanda, in her Great Juggling Speciality on the Revolving Globe; also La Belle Tosca, Charming Wire Expert, Vacant March 27 and April; also Galas. Big Success last Year at Peel Park, Bradford, and York Gala, &c., Three Distinct Specialities. Address, Pier Pavilion, Southport.

WANTED, Monday next, by Alec Aubrey, finest of Silver Chain Gymnasts.
Wires, Gaiety Theatre, Oldham.

WANTED, Known, Flora Steckel, Graceful Gymnast and Slack Wire Expert, Liberty April 10, 17, 24. Address, G.P.O., Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Seltina Troupe Lady and Gentlemen Acrobats, Bros. Levett, Vaulting Act, Lib. Mon. Coliseum, Sheerness.

CIRCUS ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday Next, and March 27, by Three Novells, Refined Acrobats, Wire, Tivoli, South Shields, till Saturday night; after, 66, King-street, Southport.

WANTED, Known, Hector, the Incomparable Tight Wire Artiste, and Expert Hoop Manipulator, unexpectedly Vacant One Week, April 3, Lancashire or District; also Free Whit Week and August Bank Holiday. Success an Absolute Certainty. Wire or Write, HECTOR, Town Hall, Falkirk, N.B.

WANTED, Known, Three Dagmars, Three, Tom, Dick, and Harry, in their New Act. We are the Original Pupils of the late Mr. F. Dagmar,
Can Accept Offers for March 27 and April 3. For Address, See Music Hall Cards.

WANTED, by Brothers Lloddge, Silver Chain Acrobats, Liberty Monday, also 27. Wire, quick. 55, King Cross-street, Halifax.

WANTED, by Houpla and Hecla, equilibrists and acrobats, March 20, 27.
Wire, THORNE, Doncaster.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, for Tenting, Joe Hastings, the Famous Jumper and Eminent Ringmaster. Address, 102, Dale-road, Bournbrook, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Amateur, with Capital, to Travel as Improver, with Strength Act, or Partnership, with Smart Young Artiste.
Particulars to
LORENZ, Brighton, G.P.O

WANTED, Known, Comedy Tumbler and Posturer would Join Comedy Act that is Well Booked.
Box 1,328,
"The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Groom, England or Abroad. First-class References. Box 1,355, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagements, Balloon Ascents, Parachute Descents, Airship Flights, &c. SPENCER BROS., LTD., 45B, Aberdeen-pk., Highbury.

WANTED, Situation in Circus or Travelling Show, by Young Man, 30, used to Horses and Animals, good four-horse coachman. Excellent references. Disengaged. DAVIDSON, 10, Caledonian-road, Brighton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

ABERDEEN and DUNDEE.
PALACE VARIETY THEATRES.
Booked in Conjunction with Plymouth, Bristol, and Sunderland.
WANTED, Artistes Engaged to forward Bill Matter Two Clear Weeks in advance.
Always Vacancies for Star Turns.
ERNEST SHELDON, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Variety Artistes, all Lines, for Provinces, Nothing too Big. Wm. Lovell Hurt (late Tivoli, Bristol, and Palace, Swansea) is Desirous of Representing a few Good Acts. All Acts Personally Known to me Send their Perm. Address, This and Next Week, 15, Albert-square, Clapham; 27th, G. P. O., Warrington.

WANTED, Variety Artistes, Lecturer, and Pianist, must be Refined and Versatile, Joint Preferred; also Picture Worker. Apply, Photo., &c., to A. P., Post Office, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, Late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c. Letters, Next Week, 1, Fairbourne-rd., Levenshulme, Manchester. Variety Artistes Wanted, April 20 to 27, inclusive, for Watering Place, North. Lowest Terms Silence Respectful Negative.

WANTED, Artistes, in all Lines, Immediate and Future Dates, Nothing too Big, Artistes Booked this Week include J. G. Johnson and Co., The Denmark Pair, The Camerons, Three Sisters Le Graham, Fred S. Peake and Co., The Windermer's, Frank Hardie and Co., Pat Carey, Bowery Boys, Arion Bros., Sisters Hula, Wright and Elton, Edie Anderson, The Arundels, Fred W. Mussett and Co., Tom Collins, Beatie Kent, Chas Lloyd, Harry Benet, &c. Star Turns with Odd Weeks Out, write. Send Lowest; I can Book you. FRED DURHAM'S Agency. Telephone, 15 Brixton. 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

BIJOU EMPIRE, HULL.
WANTED, Artistes, of all Descriptions, from April 10.
Novelties can always Obtain an Engagement. State, in first case, Lowest Terms, and where and when last in Hull
General Manager,
FRED THORNE.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Immediate and Future Dates. Lessee and Manager, WM. MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, GREENOCK.
Lessee and Manager,
H. L. SKIVINGTON.
WANTED, Comedy Star Artistes for Immediate Dates. Nothing too Big.

WANTED, Artistes, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Mar. 27, April 10 and 24. Good Living Freak wanted April 3. Lowest terms. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Music Hall, Dublin.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes all Lines, Big Stars for Easter Week, Big Stars for Easter Week, near Manchester. Terms, Lithos, particulars EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, now and onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, also Good Animated Pictures, March 27, onwards. Lowest terms, T. KNIGHTALL, Queen's Varieties, Ilkeston.

Al Fresco Pavilions, Summer, 1905.
WANTED, Good Comedy Artistes, Tenors, Soubrettes, Comedians, and Novelties. State lowest terms for two and four weeks. Also open dates. Photos if possible Address, LESLIE AGENCY Manchester, S.E. Fannie Newman, Bert Dansen, Guy Drury, please write.

WANTED, Artistes, Sisters, Serios, Comedians, Small Sketch Companies, March 27 and April 3. REYMOND, New Palace, Sheerness. Quote Lowest; Hall small.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, on Sharing Terms, for March 27 and on.
HUGH DEMPSEY, T. R., Rugby.

WANTED, First-Class Artistes and Performances, Aerial Shows, Novelties, Whit and August Bank Holiday weeks. Sample lithos and best terms to
W. and J. WILDER, 29, Gt. Francis-st., Birmingham.

WANTED, Artistes in all Lines, Nothing too Big. Send Full List of Bookings and Lowest Terms to Barnard and Deetrich, Continental Hustlers. Representative for America, Al. Lawrence, American Hustler.
Add., BARNARD & DEETRICH, 7, Clayton-sq., L'pool.

WANTED, Artistes all Lines, new to Nelson, April 22, seven nights; also May 1 and 8, near Newcastle. Address, WILL ONDA, Kenwyn Villa, Penwortham, Preston.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
WANTED, Artistes, in all Lines, Rehearsal Monday next, 2 o'clock, for Oscardo and Albert, The Fordyces, Jack Heath, Daisy Silcott, Bioscope, Wragg and Wragg, Gracie Logan, Les Valdos. Letters, S. L. LEE.

WANTED, Artistes, all Lines, Easter Monday night, Twickenham,
Box 1,355, "The Era."

PALACE THEATRE, ABERDARE.
WANTED, March 27, onward, Artistes, all Lines, Big Tops and Bottoms of Bills, &c.
WILL GREGORY, General Manager.

WANTED, Immediate and Future Dates, Artistes, of Every Description, for Seaside and Towns, of Note. Must be Good, and of the Best, only First-class Acts Represented. Send Lowest Terms, List of Bookings, Permanent Address, YATES' Agency. 3, Oxford-grove, Manchester, S.W.

WANTED, First-class Ventriloquist, Young, Gentlemanly, Whit to Sept. 30.
DURAND, 16, Montpelier-street, Brighton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

EMPRESS THEATRE OF VARIETIES. HARTLEPOOL.
Proprietors, Councillor EVERTON and CRAGG.
Proprietors, Councillor HALL and SWEENEY.
All communications to Burns's Agency only.
WANTED, Known, Call Monday, March 20, Mdlle. Luba de Sarema, Kit Keen, Grace Merton, Sisters Russell, Burns' Bioscope, T. B. Fayne, "Hiawatha," by the Two Bees, and Ike Scott and Son. Signed, H. BURNS, General Manager. Telegrams, "Burns, Empress." Telephone, 0231.

TIVOLI MUSIC HALL, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Proprietors, Councillors HALL and SWEENEY.
Business Manager, HARRY BURNS.
WANTED, Known, all communications, including Bill Matter, Engagements, &c., to be addressed to Harry Burns only, Burns' Agency, Empress, Hartlepool. Telegrams, "Burns, Empress." Telephone, 0,231. Open weekly with the highest class of talent obtainable. Booked in conjunction with North Tour. Bill matter 14 clear days imperative, as per Clause 6. Signed, H. BURNS, Business Manager.

WANTED, Clients to keep me posted, Bookings and Offers last two weeks include Musical Korries, Kisby, Ko-Kee, Valvo, Gulliver, Heffron, Prof. Wallace, Redfern Girls, Harland and Robinson, Pulo, Holgar, and others. Address, MCASKELL, Alexandra Hall, Blyth.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession.
Acts New in Dublin for the above, the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland.
Direct or through Agents.
All Communications to WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09,144.

WANTED, Stars, all Lines, at Once, also Tops and Bottoms, for Seaside, July 3, 10, 17.

GEO. AYTOUN, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E. Wires, "Antics, London." 'Phone 1949 Hop.

Take Notice.
No one has authority to collect commission.

WANTED, Variety and Circus Stars, &c., England, Continent. Lithos, Booking Lists. FRANK WARD, 324, Kennington-road. 2,787, Hop.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Terms and Particulars to BROOKS, Agent, 36, Shaftesbury-av., W.

WANTED, Big Stars, Novelties, and Specialities, March 20 and 27, onwards.
State lowest terms, bookings, &c.,
I can place you.
JESS VERNO'S AGENCY, 61, West Derby-st., Liverpool Telegrams, "Merriment"; Telephone, 2,076, Royal Representative, Jess Burton, Esq.

WANTED, March 27, April 3, 10,
Stars, in all Lines.
Stars, in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
Cadle's Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, the biggest Stars in the Profession to send in for immediate dates.

Lowest terms to
A. E. JOHNSON'S Agency,
4, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, High-class Stars and Novel Acts March 27, onward. New Acts to Scotland write. Those on my Book, keep me Posted. Send List of Bookings and Vacancies, and Terms, to Mr. FRED NEIMAN, Variety Agent, Station Hotel Buchanan-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-Class Variety Turns, for Café Chantant, March 27, and onward. Apply by letter only, H. E. BRAMMALL, Crystal Palace.

WANTED, March 27, on, Stars in all Lines.

Lowest, and list of bookings, to

W. FORD, 171, Friargate, Preston.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted
for
March and April,
and all Dates through Summer of 1905,
Star Turns, Tops of Bills,
all the Finest and Biggest Acts Required.
Price no object, for
Manchester,
Salford,
Ashton,
Bury,
Preston,
Liverpool,
Oldham,
Rochdale,
Blackpool,
Morecambe,
Barrow,
Glasgow,
Dundee,
Aberdeen,
Belfast,
Dublin,
Newcastle,
Hull,
Leeds,
Brighton,
Bristol,
Birmingham.
Bolton,
Middlesbrough, &c.
New and Novel Acts can have Six Months' Solid Engagements. Send immediately. Terms, Photos Lithos, &c., to
Will Sley, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09,144 Manchester.

WANTED, First-class Variety Turns, for the Café Chantant, March 27, and onward. Apply by letter only, H. E. BRAMMALL, Crystal Palace.

WANTED, for Whitsun and Summer Fêtes, good showy turns, Astella please write. SULLINGS, Pyrotechnist, Ann-street, Ipswich.

WANTED, good Refined Turns, all Lines. Vac. dates and lowest terms.
BERT WILLIAMS, M.D., Queen's-park, Manchester.

WANTED, Speciality Turns, also Bioscope March 20, for Victoria Theatre, West Stanley. Wire, absolute lowest. TUSTIN, Raby Hotel, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Telephone 288.
Telegraphic Address, "Zalva, Scarboro'."
GEORGE ZALVA'S AGENCY,
HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, for Immediate Dates, Specialities, and Variety Artistes, of every Description. Artistes Specially Wanted for the Leading Watering Places during the Summer Months, Commencing June 12, and onwards. Give Full List of Bookings and Lowest Terms in First Letter. This will save useless correspondence. Keep us Posted Weekly.

WANTED, only First-class Talent, for Scotland. Note, my Bookings this week, Sixty-three Turns. Wanted, First-class Cinématograph, week's engagement, and will Buy Machine if suitable. DREW BAYLEY, Agent, Office, 109, Eglinton-street, Glasgow. Sammy Shields, wire at once.

THE GLASGOW SYNDICATE HALLS.
TIVOLI AND QUEEN'S VARIETY THEATRES. GLASGOW.
One Performance Nightly at Both Houses.
WANTED, First-class Funny Acts of all Kinds. Good Singing Turns, Sensational Novelties, and Brilliant Stars for Tops. Future Bookings will be made for One Week Only at a time, and none but those Turns capable of Working both Theatres the same night can be entertained.
Bill Matter Two Weeks in advance is imperative.
S. KING ALEXANDER, General Manager,
Head Office, Tivoli Palace Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-Class Novelty Acts, suitable for Fêtes, June 12 and 13, onwards. Forward specimen posters. Terms per day and full particulars. W. F. JURY, 49, Peckham Park-road, London. Will Hurst and Horton and Linder send address, immediate.

WANTED, Startling Attractions for Fêtes, Whit Monday and onwards. Send specimen picture poster, terms daily, fares paid, permanent address, to MONTGOMERY, 51, Cornwallis-road, Upper Holloway, London, N.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES WANTED.

WANTED, the Biggest Drawing Numbers in the Profession for Immediate Dates, Onwards. Those Big Artistes Getting Barred all over the Country Write or Wire Immediately, Can Fix you Towns Barred by no one. Kindly Remember Send Absolute Lowest, First Instance, or no Notice Taken of Application.
Artistes Required to Send Full List of Bookings, and Those Already on Books Please Forward their Permanent Addresses, and Keep Us Posted Weekly.
HARRY BURNS'S Agency,
Empress Theatre of Varieties, Hartlepool.
Telephone, 0231. Telegrams, "Burns, Empress."
Manager. C. FERRIER. Secretary, F. H. CORNFORTH.
Touring Representatives, LEO FRITZ, L. HOCHSCHILD; also at London and Manchester.
Great Wieland, J. P. Carroll, Manningoes, Mamello and Mamitz Troupe, Massona, and Four Vindobonos—Wire Addresses.

KING'S THEATRE, CARDIFF.
WANTED, April 3. Wire. April 3. Wire. Best Draws, must be New to Cardiff. F. BATEMAN.

WANTED, Big Gala Acts, for August Bank Holiday. Lowest Terms to C. HAMILTON, Brookfield House, Brookfield-street, Hunslet, Leeds.

WANTED, High-class Concert Parties, Entertainers, &c. (Leslie Harris, Write); also Bioscope, for Season, with Three Changes of Pictures Weekly. Full Particulars, Specimen Programmes, MANAGER, Pav., Kingstown, Ireland.

WANTED, for Acrobatic Sketch, Three Smart Young Girls, Age 15 to 17. Must have Good Voices, Good Dancers, Splits, &c. Those who can Tumble a little preferred, and willing to Learn. Long and Comfortable Engagement, Everything Found. State Full Particulars, Salary Expected, and Join, to Box 1,323, "The Era."
Wanted, also, Young Man,
must be a Smart Tumbler and Buck Dancer.
Particulars,
Same as Above.
P.S.—Silence a Polite Negative.

T. ALLAN EDWARDES' VARIETY THEATRES.
WANTED, for week of April 17, Refined Vocalists and Musical and Speciality Acts, suitable for Sacred Concerts, Good Friday night. Terms and particulars, T. A. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, good Dashing Serio, Young and Good Appearance, Photos imperative (which will be returned); open Monday, long tour. Absolute lowest to ANDREWS' ANIMATED PICTURE CO., Town Hall, Lymington, Hants.

CATLIN'S PIERROTS,
Scarboro', Whitley, Aberdeen, and Withernsea.
WANTED, Young, Refined Comedians, with Good Voice, and Large Répertoire. State Age, Height, Single or Married, Wages Required W. CATLIN, 37, Halkin-st., Leicester.

WANTED, good Minstrel End Man, with Musical or other Speciality for six or seven weeks, commencing Easter. Lowest terms. HARRY REYNOLDS, 104, Great Dover-street, London, S.E.

WANTED, Mesmerism, Hypnotic Subjects. Apply (letter in first instance) to ALMA 5, Holywell-row, Worship-street, Finsbury.

WANTED, Man, with own Lantern and good slides, for Sacred Concerts, to join Variety company on Tour immediately. Wire or write lowest terms to Mr. J. EXLO, Coronation Hall, Gainford, Darlington.

WANTED, Music Hall Artistes who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, March 20, 27, by Baby Lloyd, Vocal Wonder; also Nellie Vann, Serio. Wire, B. 158, Witton-road, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Nellie Lovell, the Favourite Male Impersonator, Liberty, one or two weeks, March 27. Offers. Wire, P., Plymouth.

WANTED, April 17, by Ella Rose, Vocalist, splendid répertoire for Sacred Concerts, great success Barrasford Tour, second time in seven months; also disengaged, May 1 and 8, only vacant dates till October. This, Hippodrome, Liverpool; next, Alhambra, Hull.

WANTED, March 20, 27, by Ivy Graham, Comedienne, Great Success Everywhere. Wire, up to Saturday Night, Tivoli, Glasgow; after, 16, Grosvenor-square, Broughton, Manchester; or Yates.

WANTED, Known, Three Sisters Adrienne, Vocalists, Dancers. This, King's, Gainsboro'. Vacant March 27. Next, Palace, Swansea.

WANTED, Dates by Dolly Moore, Miniature Male Impersonator.
Hare and Hounds, Witton, Birmingham.

WANTED, Kardoc, the Handcuff King, who Challenges the World, and the People in it Free April 3, 24, on, with Exceptions, the Act that can Draw, Playing to Record Houses, Empire Kilburn. Refer to Brian McClough, Esq. All Letters and Wires to 320, High-road, Chiswick. W.

WANTED, Known, Parlato, Chapeau, Handcuff, and Trunk Expert, assisted by his Clever Dog, Trunk Manipulator. Vacant, March 27 (through hall closing), April 10 onwards, with exceptions. Wire or write, PARLATO, Spa, Bridlington, Yorks.

WANTED.—Neddy Vokes, Funny Musical Comedian, Liberty March 27, April 3. Re-engaged one week longer. Address, Circus, Hull.

WANTED, March 27, on, Cambo, the Musical Monkey, great novelty show, enormous success, Scotch Concerts, can do another number if required.
Address, 59, Urquhart-road, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Known, Len Lever, the Coffee-coloured Coon and Record Sand Dancer, requires Mon. next (North). Wire, PAV., Leicester.

WANTED, Known, a Good Reliable Turn will be found by Booking the Lancashire Collier Lad. Lib. Monday. MAYO, Carmen-street, Ardwick, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Richardson Taylor, Entertainer, has a few Vacant Weeks previous to May 29. Letters to Clitheroe.

WANTED, by Tom E. Odlin, Character Comedian, Monday, also 27th. At Lib. for Summer. 47, Teneriffe-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, Will Saunders, Special Funny Comedian and Dancer.
King's Theatre, Gainsborough.

WANTED, Monday next and March 27, by Arthur Moss, the Favourite Baritone. Good Songs. Sure Success. Also Liberty for Summer. 144, Bloxwich-road, Walsall.

WANTED, by J. F. Donley, the Famous Versatile Negro Comedian, Monday next, 20th or 27th. Wire, 406, Mill-street, Openshaw, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Witty Will Pearce, Funny Character Comedian and Musical Mimic, wants Monday next. Aquarium T., Scarboro'.

WANTED, March 20, April 3, 10, 17, Bandoni, the original Concertina King, One Man Band; splendid stage setting. Wire, 70, Trinity-street, Gainsborough.

WANTED, March 27, April 3, and 17, by Bob Pearson, the Well-known Vocal Comedy Humorist; also Lily Pender, the Great Speciality Comedienne; Two Big, Refined Numbers, Brilliant Success this week, Pier Pavilion, Southport, Each Turn Recalled Again and Again. Monday, Starring Pavilion Theatre, Altrincham. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Harry Jennings, Comedian, Dancer, Liberty, March 27, onwards; also Yorkshire Tom, Mimic of Animals, at Liberty, April 10, 17, onwards; guarantee big business. Offer to Manhattan, Ballybough-road, Dublin; or Permanent, 56, Buccleuch-street, Glasgow. Good agents please note.

WANTED, Next Week, by Fred Casburn, Quaint Comedian, in a Dress Suit. Wire, Tivoli, Glasgow; after Sat., Hertford-st., Hunslet, Leeds.

WANTED, March 27, Cambo, the Musical Monkey. Big Novelty for Ring.
Address, 59, Urquhart-rd., Aberdeen.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, April 3 and 17, Ernie Leech, Premier Singing Ventriloquist. Monday, Empire, York. Agent, VERNO, the Hustler.

WANTED, by Joe Graham, Ventriloquist, Mimic, March 27 and April 3; also Open Summer, for Al Fresco. Com., 23, White-street, Seedley, Manchester.

WANTED, by Vosper, the Master Necromancer and Mimic, Monday next, also March 27. Address, Myrtle Cottage, Awsworth, Notts.

WANTED, Known, Loudoun Cameron, the Celebrated Conjurer, Big Show, Vacant March 27, April 3, 10. March 13, Lyric, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Arthur Buckle, Conjuror, Monday next, also April 3, 10, 24. 114, Lower Moss-lane, Manchester.

WANTED, by Henri Bekker, Comedy Conjuror, Monday Next, Sure Success, Terrific Hit. This Week, Wire, Palace, Bath.

WANTED, Known, Mersano, named by Moss and Stoll, a Coin and Card Marvel, engaged for tour after first appearance, has joined Sicard, the famous French Dwarf Clown, late of Leonard and Francois, of Moss and Stoll and Barrasford tour, the world's greatest laughmakers; Vacant through obliging, Monday Feb. 20. Wire, Manor Farm, Long Eaton.

WANTED, by R. J. Golding, Vent. Jokist and Romano Conjurer, Easter, &c.
32, Courtenay-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Monday Next, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist, also March 27 and April 3, Magnificent Act, Superbly Dressed, and thoroughly Refined, Just Returned from most Successful Colonial Tour. Address,
46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, April 3, 10, April 3, 10, by the Great Kyoto, the Original Kyoto, a Contortionist, a Comedy Juggler, a Comedy Conjurer, absolute laughing and applauding hit; also Miss May Geraldine, a Chic Comedienne and Dancer. Monday, Palace, Dundee. Wire.

WANTED, by Houston and Mdlle Helene Reske, May 8 to July 31. Extraordinary Chinese Magic, including Production of Stageful of Pigeons, Rabbits, Doves, Ducks, and Roosters. Now in the Sixty-second Week, Enormous Success, Poole's Myriorama. Address, G.P.O., Coventry.

WANTED, April 3 and 10, Tom Hulme, Comedian; also Elsie Kedwards, Comedienne and All-round Dancer. Great Success as Cinders and Baron, Pardoe's "Cinderella." This Week, Grand, Nelson; Next, Royal, West Bromwich.

WANTED, Monday next and week after, by The Hanlons (Geo. and Nellie), "Walham Green." 36, Brighton-terrace, Brixton-road.

WANTED, March 20, by Wallace Whitney, Comedian, and Beatie Foster, Comedienne. Success. Wire, one or both, Hippo., Wakefield.

WANTED, Monday next, Arthur Richards, Comedian, Renee Walon, Comedienne and Dancer. One or both. 29, Myatt-rd., Brixton, Lon.

WANTED, by The Pattinsons (Belle and Andrew), March 20 and 27, Celebrated Musical and Vocal Entertainers, with the Greatest Novelty Piano Act in the World (Patent Protected).
24, Paterson-street, S. S., Glasgow.

WANTED, offers (Al Fresco), by the Two Plants, last four seasons Perry's Minstrels, Llandudno; Vocal and Musical Act, and Singles. Offers, T. R., Houghton-le-Spring.

WANTED, 20th and 27th, by Doyle and Massey, Eccentric Knockabouts, Patterers, Dancers, and Burlesque Boxers. Gaiety, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Reed and Lerne, Vacant Monday and 27th, through disappointment. Wire, Circus, Rochdale.

WANTED, Known, Kydd and Kydd, Comedians and Dancers, Conclude Paddington, Liverpool, to-night. Vacant Mon., also 27th, Apr. 3.

WANTED, Mon. next, and Mar. 27, by the Carcassi Duo, Great Refined Musical Speciality. Wire, 8, Dorset-st., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Duncan and Morton, Refined Comedians, Liberty Monday.
Wire, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, Monday next, by Deller and Oxford, Refined Comedy Duettists, Patterers, Dancers. Wire, DELLER, Tivoli, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, by Demi and Semi, Musical Act, Patter, and Dancing.
Wire, 105, Great Mersey-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, May 1, 8, and 15, by Dale and D'Argan, Comedy Acrobatic Conjurers.
Lyceum, Stafford.

WANTED, by Chant and Chant, Vocalists, Patterers, Monday next, also 27th. Tremendous Success, Albert Hall, Jarrow, Complimented by Manager. Wire for Monday.

WANTED, Known, the Valmores, the Laughter-makers, Enormous Success again, Thank T. Hargreaves for 1906 Contracts. Vacant Monday. Wire, P. Hall, Barnsley.

WANTED, Known, Rex and Ford, Eccentric Comedians and Musical Act, two distinct acts. Liberty, Monday. Wire, Queen's T., Longton, Staffs.

WANTED, Known, Huntley and Palmer, Comedians, Original Comic Sketch, "Farmer's First Riding Lesson," introducing the famous performing and wrestling Donkey; also Acrobatic and High Leaping Goat, big speciality for Fêtes and Galas, Stage or Ring. Liberty Monday. Permanent address, 42, Milbourne-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, immediate dates for Madame Lloyd's International Potpourri, "L'Harmonie," Three ladies, two gentlemen, Gorgeous Costumes, Special Scenic Effects.
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WANTED, Monday, March 20 and 27, by the Tokio Trio (Musical Japs), introducing our Wonderful Illumaphone, a Real Novelty. Success Guaranteed. Wire, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, April 10, by The Boultons and Mdlle. Bartenelli, Two First-class Acts. Address, Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Known, Les Valdos Conclude, To-night, Twelve Weeks' Pantomime Season,
Theatre Royal, Manchester.
Next, Return, Hippodrome, Rochdale.

WANTED, Comical Walker, Local Nippers, Mons. Reklaw, Globe Performer, two good turns, Vacant Monday. Wire, 10, Dynevor-place, Swansea.

WANTED, Known, the Tower Sketch Co., in "Our Wedding Day," April 3, and onwards, Mr. Alfred Fisher, Miss Frances Vibart, and Miss May Rosine. Managers compare. Write, wire, TOWER, 34, Stokenchurch-street, Fulham.

WANTED, March 27, April 3, to precede Swansea, "Chamber of Horrors" sketch, a screamer, three people, including real coon. Address, Mdlle. EMILIE LA TOSCA, Hippo., Carlisle.

WANTED, Known, the Portsmouth Evening News says:—Lieut. Albini has a new and clever Illusion, the Mysterious Lady in Black. Norwich Hippodrome (2 weeks).

WANTED, Known, Joe Pauletti, Acrobatic Staircase Cyclist, Twelfth Week of Tour, Vacant July 6, Aug. Galas, Two First-class Acts. A. T., Brighouse.

WANTED, Known, Mdlle. Roza's Great Canine Hippodrome, the largest and smartest lady's Troupe in Europe. Great Electric Spectacle, including the Masterpiece of Training, "The Goalkeeper."
Applause, Roars, Yells. Encored again and again. Grand Finale. Electrically Illuminated Spectacle, "Over the Garden Wall."
Costumes, Accessories, Staging, and Printing Unsurpassed. Few Early and onward Dates.
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WANTED, Known, Alice Fontainbleau, with Great Troupe of Trick and Leaping Dogs, and Speciality Rolling Globe Act, now Booking for Fêtes and Galas. June 12, 13, and 14 fixed. Permanent, Marquis of Granby Hotel, Lincoln.

WANTED, immediate dates, Dahomey Amazon Warriors, best show in England. MANAGING DIRECTOR, Northern Star Agency, Kendal.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTES' WANTS.

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WANTED, 4 weeks, June 19, 26, July 3 and 10 (only vacant dates), for Kitty Woodford's Canine Circus and Orchestra, a Novel and Smart Turn, good dresses and properties, sure success. Address Temperance Hall, Merthyr.

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WANTED, Few Immediate Dates, Chard's Dog Circus. 18, Springfield, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Mystic Kettle. Brandon Medland's is not a dull Lecture, but a Wonderful, Amusing, Interesting Demonstration, with Pure Liquid Air. Free 27th, onwards. 44, Lorrimore-road, Kennington, S.E.

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1d Car from Black Lion Hotel to Sussex-street.

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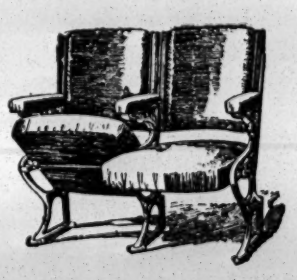

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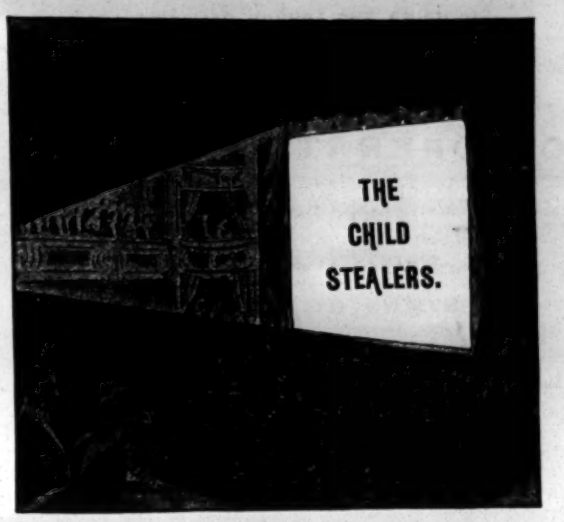

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PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.

Rehearsal at 1, for
Chung Ling Soo, Maud Ross, Bros. Obo, Will Mitcham, Les Voces, Cyclo, Fred E. Terry, O'Brien Bros.

EMPIRE PALACE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1, for
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Rehearsal at 1, for
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Rehearsal at 3, for
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PALACE THEATRE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30, for
Kieffer Co., Ryder Slone, Basalari, Norman Leonard Trio, Frank Leslie, Eugene Marrder, Rosie Archer, Cruikshank, Bioscope, Sydney James, Lingard Pike.

EMPIRE THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 3, for
Russell Wallett, Nina Martino, Geo. Tacius, Ryan and Hall, Three Fortune Bros., The Astleys, Swan and Bambard, Two Butterflies, Prince Kokin, Will H. Fox, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY, LONDON, N.

Rehearsal at 1, for
Hermann Meloi, Three Sisters Chester, Jack Camp, Lios Alfa Sisters, Sinon and Paris Lily Tiso, Trevally-Harley Trio, Berthe Palliser, Franco Piper, Tom Edwards.

EMPIRE, NEW-CROSS, LONDON, S.E.

Rehearsal at 1, for
Kate Carney and Co., Georgina Leonard, Orpheus, Two Graces, Tourbillon Troupe, Kreegers, Dora Martini, Mountford and Walsh, Manning's Entertainers, Lumsden Hare, and Florence Routledge.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD, LONDON, E.

Rehearsal at 1, for
Woodward's Seals, Celeste, Grisse Bros., The Mezzettis, Preston and Balmaine, Barton and Franklyn, The Debreans, Payne's Vagabonds, Ferry Corwey. Klein Family.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 2, for
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Rumbo Austin, Clown Herford, Marie Collins, Ida Heath, Rosie Lloyd, Ernest Heathcote, Bioscope, Bros. Luck.

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EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal at 1, for
The Boissetts in "Wild West," Fred Lincoln, Jagos, Albert Le Fre, Sisters St. Julian, Harry Clifford, Helen Martin, Harry Grey.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2, for
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IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the Stage Department, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS PREVIOUS TO OPENING, with Assignments for same, which will be returned.

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DEDIO, Empire, Johannesburg. South Africa.

DE HENAU and MDLLE. ALADINA, Extraordinarily Rapid Painter with his Toes, Wonderful Cockatoos. Hippodrome, Liverpool.

DELAMERE TRIO, Comedy Equilibrists. Vacant April 24. Communications, 37, Alfred-street, Preston, Lancs.

DELEVINES, FIVE, New Act, "Flirtation," Empire, South Shields.

DELOME'S, MISS DAISY, Challenge to the World. She will dance any Lady for £50 to £150 a-side. Alhambra, Sandgate, next.

DENBY and DENT, thanks W. F. Warden, Esq., Belfast, for offer Easter Panto. Parthenon Var., Liverpool.

DE ROSE, MDLLE. J. H. HAWTREY, The Lady Foli. Actor Vocalist. Hippodrome, Bury.

DERRICK, FRED, Equestrian, Re-engaged with Barnum and Bailey's Greatest Show on Earth, Fifth Season, U.S.A.

DE VOYE, JAMES, and BILL, his Educated Pony. Success Everywhere. Lyceum, London.

DICK and DOROTHY, Juvenile Artistes. This, Pav., Leicester; next, Palace, Bath. All engagements by Day's Agency.

DIXON, CHARLEY, KATE LYND, "The Irish-Yorkshire-Scotch Lad from Lancashire." Written long since. Mon., Pav., Leic.

DOLF, SIDNEY, DOLF, The Original "Vocal Trickster." Brilliant Success at Standard, Pimlico.

DOLLY, AGNES, and MAUD, Singing Box-makers. Great Success, Palace, West Hartlepool. Mon., Palace, Halifax. Vacant May 8.

DOMINOS, TWO (Clown and Donkey), Comic Act. Different, and can follow all other similar Acts. Re-engaged, Circus, Hull.

DOODY and WRIGHT, March 20. Palace, Blackpool.

DORMER, DAISY, March 20, Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow. Booked at Palace (Shaftesbury-avenue), Tivoli, Oxford, &c.

DORRETTA, LITTLE, A Dainty Little Acrobatic Song and Dance Artiste. Touring C. W. Poole's Myriorama.

DORRIS, MISS RUTH, The Dainty Singing Maiden, Full of Vivacity and Animation.

DOVE, MISS ETHEL, Empire, Battersea. Panto. Settled.

DRYDEN, CISSIE, Vocal Character Actress. Communications to Fred Higham, York-rd., London.

DUCKETT, BERTHA, Charming Young Vocalist and Graceful Dancer. All com., 11, Arnold-street, Liverpool.

DUDLEY, LYDIA, Comedy Artiste. Address till further notice, 18, Springfield, Liverpool.

DUNCAN, Club Manipulator and Juggler; OSWALD, Staircase Performer, Hand Jumper, &c., at Liberty. Pier, Southport.

DUNMORE, TOM, the Essence of Quaintness. Produced another success this week ("He's Gone, Poor Fellow"). Ag., E. De Vere.

DUNNING and KAHN and KAHN, Always a Hit. Always Up-to-Date. Monday, Hippodrome, Wigan.

DURHAM'S FRED, Variety Agency. Telephone, 15, Brixton. 1a, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

DU ROCHE, MDLLE., This Week, Gatti's. Next Week, March 20, Gatti's and Bedford.

EDWARDS, TWIN SISTERS. Panto. settled with Clarence Sounes, Esq., 1905-6, 1906-7. March 20, Northampton. Vac. 27, Ap. 3.

EILEEN and MAYNIE, Sisters, Musical Dancing Dots. Few Summer Dates Open. Park Hall, Cardiff.

ELEONORA, Lady Gymnast, also LA BELLE TOSCA, Two or Three Acts. Vacant, Mar. 27 and April. Mon., Pier Pavilion, Southport.

ELLA'S, MISS, best existing Lion Show. Address, 2, Beck-road, Hackney, N.E.

ELLERTON, ALF, Songs, &c., Latest for Dunville, Leamore, Albert, Leonards, Mayne, &c. 19, Pulross-road, Brixton, S.W.

ELLIOTTS and SAVONAS, Musicians, Cyclists, &c. Address, Empire Theatre, Rochdale (Second Week).

ELVEY, ARTHUR, Character Comedian.

ENGIST and ORSA, Comedians and Instrumentalists. Free for Immediate Dates, 17, Berwick-street, Manchester.

ERICK, FRED, Comedian, On Tour, 13th week. At Liberty, Whit week, on. Coms., 428, Liverpool-street, Seedley, Manchester.

ESCALADERS, THREE, Hand Balancers and Double Ladder Experts. Com., 15, Harford-street, St. James's, Bristol.

ESDALE BROS., Comedy Artistes, Vacant April 3. This, Palace, Bradford. Next, Tivoli, Glasgow.

FAME, PEGGY, An Instantaneous Success Everywhere. Low Comedy and High Class Terpsichorean Marvel. Mon., Palace, Croydon.

FANNING'S FANTOCHES, On Tour with C. W. Poole's No. 1 Myriorama. Address, Town Hall, Bridgwater.

FARRIMOND, PERCY, The Great Lancashire Singing Collier. This week, G., Stockton; Mar. 20, Lyceum, Ipswich.

FIELDING, ANNIE, and BERT HULL, "An Officer's Flirtation," March 20, Chelsea, Cambridge, and Middlesex.

FIELDS and ACRES, Comedy Park Keepers. The Keepers of Novelty in the Park of Originality. Mon., Pavilion, Altrincham.

FINDEN, MR. and MRS., Palace, Hartlepool. Agent, Geo. Barclay.

FIONI'S, JAMES, AGENCY, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." 'Phone, 1,686 Royal.

FITZROYS, Society Gymnasts. Lib. March 27, April 3. 95, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

FLAHERTY, the Talking and Knockabout Irish Clown. Now at Liberty. Robin Hood, Newgate-street, Worksop, Notts.

FLORADORA GIRLS, Usual Success, Grand, Bolton. Monday, Tivoli, Leeds. Liberty Panto. Good offers invited.

FORD, MISS RAY, Chic Comedienne, Empire, Rochdale.

FORD and HANSON, American Musical Millionaires. Hippodrome, Preston, or Midland Hotel, Hull.

FORDYCES, THE, Nimble Nippers, Terrific Success, Empress, Hartlepool, Third Return. Mon., Fourth Return, Circus, Rochdale.

FORREST'S, EDGAR, Comedy Company, Empire, Hull. Mon., Hippo., Coventry. Vacant, March 27 and April 3.

FORTUNE and GRANVILLE, Savoy House, 115, Strand, London, W.C. Telegrams, "Waggishly." 'Phone, 1,309, Gerrard.

FRANCISCO, Juggler, and MAY MOODIE, Piccolo Soloist. Empire, Portsmouth. Next week, Hippo., Hastings. Vacant, Mar. 27.

FREDRICKS, CARL, and YA PYN, KETO FAMILY, Concluding Successful Week, Cheltenham; People's P., Portsmouth.

FREELAND, Theatre Royal, Whitehaven. "Got to Have it."

FRENCH'S, GEORGE, TROUPE, and the SNOW FAMILY, on Tour. For Vacant Dates, address, 14, Second-av., Queen's-pk., Ldn., W.

FRIDKIN'S, BORIS, COSSACK TROUPE, Operatic Singers, and Acrobatic Dancers. March 20, Metropole, Gateshead.

GANNON, NELLIE, Monday, Palace, Croydon. HARRY WRIGHT, ditto. New Songs by both these Smart Performers.

GARRICK, MR. GUS, Hippo., Wigan.

GELDER, VAN, and LI-LI, Humorous Wonder Workers. Vacant Monday; also 27th. Wire, 27, Clarence-street, Leicester.

GEORGE, WALTER, and the Smart Set Entertainers. 36, Marquess-road, Canonbury, N.

GERALDOS, THE JUGGLING, This week, Palace, Blackpool. Next week, Palace, Camberwell.

GERTRELLA, Dancer-Gymnast. New Act, "In Cupid's Garden." Continental Tour.

GILLIN, Unique Ventriloquial Humorist, "Me Hats Off." Mon., Park Pavilion, Liverpool.

GILMORE, ROBB, The Talented Grotesque Comedian. The Man with the Laugh. Pier Pavilion, Southport.

GOLD, JOE, and DOROTHY STERLING, Operatic Vocalists, Ballads, Duets. Lib. Monday. Wire, Gold, Palace, North Shields.

GOLIATH, The Boy Athlete. A Few Vacancies. This, Batley; next, P. O. W., Nuneaton.

GRAHAM, ERIC, MILLIE HARRIS. Westminster, Liverpool. Permanent Address, 16, West Wynford-street, Weaste, Manchester.

GRANADAS, LOS, Electrifying Bounders, Permanent, 238, Victoria-road, Aston, Birmingham.

GRANT, JAMES, March 20, Empire, Paisley.

GRANTLEY, CHARLES, Comedian and Mimic of Stars. Vacant Monday; also 27th. See other Ad. 47, Teneriffe-st., Manchester.

GRAY, MR. GEORGE. "The Fighting Parson." Address, care of "The Era" Office.

GREGORY, WILL, General Manager, Palace T., Aberdare. Can always book good numbers.

GROSVENOR SISTERS (THREE), Operatic Vocalists, "Dick Whittington" Panto. Booked by E. Warner. T. R., Barnsley.

GUYONS, THE, Sketch "His One Great Sin." Vacant May 22, 29, and on, with exceptions. Address, Theatre Royal, Middlesboro'.

HAIG and NOVEL, Great Success, Oxford, Middlesboro. Monday, Hip., Manchester. Royal, Oldham, to follow.

HALL, CLIFTON, Versatile Comedian, The man with a voice. Lib., April 3. Coms., 156, Gaythorpe-street, Moss Side, Manchester.

HAMPSON BROS., the Refined Patter Vocalists, Will Always Buy Good Original Com. Business. 3, Gloucester-ter., Newcastle.

HANDEL and LEE, Comedy Instrumentalists, Bottom of Bill Central Palace, North Shields. Free April 3.

HARCOURT, FRED, March 20th, Hippodrome, Grimsby.

HARDY, the American Blondin, "King of the High Rope." Address, Niagara Villa, Doggett-rd., Catford, S.E.

HARMONIC ENTERTAINERS, Two Hours' Varied, Humorous Show. Easter Monday, Vac. 65, Fortess-road, N.W.

HARMONY FOUR, THE (T. C. Bergeron, F. M. Barrett, Edw. Hughes, Alex. Ferguson). Address, Lyceum, London.

HARRIS and WORTH, Big Success, Pavilion, Glasgow. Monday, Tivoli, Barrow. Day's Agency.

HARROW, BERT, "That's Me." The Rum Comedian. March 20, Salisbury.

HART and CO. Dramatic and Variety Agents. 7, Lancaster-house, Ardville-rd., Brixton, S.W. Tele., 116, Brixton.

HASTINGS, JOE, Famous Jumper and Eminent Ringmaster, Fossett's Circus, on Tour. Ad., 102, Dale-rd., Bournbrook, Birmingham.

HASTINGS, MISS CLARA, Refined Descriptive Vocalist, at Lib. Mar. 27. Address, 62, Monument-road, Birmingham.

HAYDEE'S, MDLLE., Electric Mannikin Theatre. March 20, Hippo., Brighton.

HENDERSON, FAMOUS, Blind Musical Genius and Concertina Soloist. Usual success P., West Hartlepool. Mon., R. A. Hall, Jarrow.

HENDERSON and STANLEY QUARTETTE, Eccentric and Acrobatic Mus. Act, at Liberty. 50, Shepherd-street, Bury, Lancs.

HERALD COMEDY FOUR, Address, 1, Summer-road, Croydon.

HERBERT, FRED, Premier Topical Vocalist. Theatre Royal, Oldham. R. Warner.

HESS and LISBON, Specially Engaged, Monday, Theatre Royal, Barnsley.

HILL, BARRY, and LANG, Knockabout Comedians. Monday, Albert H., Jarrow, to Follow, P., Oldham.

HILL, ROWLAND, "Ye Dame" (thirteenth week). Victoria Theatre, Broughton, Manchester.

HILTON, FLORENCE, London's Star Male Impersonator. Big Success this week, Circus, Bury. Vacant, Monday. Wire quick.

HILTON, W. E., The Scottish Valentine Vox This, Bedford, London; next, Barnard's, Chatham.

HILTON and HILTON, Comedy Bar Performers. Monday, Oxford, Middlesbro'.

HOOK, WALTER W., 1477th Consecutive Show, New Century Pictures. Next, Vic. Hall, Sunderland.

HOPE, F., Sensational Trick Cyclist. Monday, Theatre, Widnes. Vacant, March 27, April 10.

HOUSTON, HENRY, and HELENE RESKE, Chinese Magic. 62nd week Poole's Myrio. Lib. May 8 to July 31. G.P.O., Coventry.

HOWARD, WILSON, and CARLOTTA ANSON. "My Military Mash." Comedy Duologue. Empire, Oxford.

HOWARDS, THE (RALPH and NELLIE), Palace Theatre, Hull.

HULA, SISTERS, Vocalists and Expert Dancers. Vac. Mon., also 27th, and April 3. 2, Altop-road, Roehampton, London.

HULBERT, Ventriloquist; and DE LIL, Illusionist. Two First-class Acts. Vacant Apr. 17, May 1, 15. Letters. 5, Union-rd., Macclesfield.

HULME, TOM, Comedian; also ELSIE KEDWARDS, Comedienne and Dancer. Next, R. W., Bromwich. Liberty April.

HUMBER, FANNIE, April 20, Park Palace, Liverpool. Paddington, Belfast, Dublin, and more to follow.

HUNTER, G. W., Comedian and Raconteur. Address, care of "The Era."

HUR, BEN, Acme of Athletes, King of Muscle. Vacant through hall closing March 20, 27. Wire 687, Commercial-road, London, E.

HUXTER, THREE BROTHERS, Acrobatic Speciality Artistes. Next, S. Shields. Perm., 10, Middle-st., Worcester.

HYAM, GEORGE, and NELLIE ROSE, Twelfth Week Pardoe's Panto, and Still Running. Grand, Nelson; Monday, West Bromwich.

IRIS, MISS LILY, Just finished 12 weeks' panto. as Robin Hood, T. R., Birmingham. Letters, "The Era" Office.

JACKAWAY, the Drollest of the Droll, Liberty Monday, March 20. Address, 12, Naylor-street, Newton, Oldham-road, Manchester.

JACKSON, LILY, after Pantomime will be known as VESTA FAY. See back page.

JOHNSON, T. W., The Dusky Dandy, Empire, Dudley. Vacant, Monday. Easter Panto., Aberdeen.

JONES, THEODORE, Jack, "Jack Sheppard" Sketch, by Albert Voyce, Esq. Communications, 23, Barmeston-road, Catford.

JUAN and McQUE, Comedians, People's Palace, Sunderland. Monday next, Palace, Bristol.

JUDGE, SISTERS, With Their Marvellous Performing Cockatoos, Parrots, and Macaws, Paris. 6, Ashbrook-rd., Up. Holloway, N.

KARDOC, King of all Handcuff Kings, This week, Empire, Kilburn. Playing to Record Business. See "Wants." Write or Wire.

KATOS, THE, Komical Kidgets, Empire, Cardiff.

KAVANAGH, J. H., Star Singing Comedian, always a Hit. Concludes To-night. T. R., Tyldesley. Vacant, Monday. Wire.

KEENE, BILLY, and JESSIE ADAMS, Comedy Entertainers, in Refined Duets. Enormous success, Hippodrome, Bury.

KEITH and MERSON, "The Meet." Broadhead's Hippodrome, Manchester.

KEMBLE, HENRY, General Manager, Palace Theatre, Cork.

KENDAL, BEATTIE, Dashing Character Vocalist. The Latest Manchester Success.

KESSTOR, MISS MABEL, Soprano Vocalist. Cornet, Post Horn, and Bugle. Vacant Mar. 20. 59, Boathen-road, Stoke.

KIMBERLEY BOYS, This Week, Hippodrome, St. Helens. Next Week, Haymarket, Liverpool.

KING and DELANE (GEO. and TOM), Vocal Comedy Act, "At the Club." This Week, Circus, Bury; Next, Gaiety, Oldham.

KIOTO, N. T., Original Japanese Equilibrist. Victoria, Broughton.

KIRK and EVERSLEIGH, Comedy Duologue Artistes. Vacant April 17. H. Towers, R. C. T., London.

KISBEY, "The Call Boy," Metropole, Openshaw, Manchester. This Act Registered and Protected.

KLOET, MDLLE., Barrasford's Tour, Hippo., Liverpool. Monday, Hippodrome, Glasgow.

KLOOF and RAMSAY, Conclude Star, Bermondsey. Vacant for Panto., Comedy, and Singing Parts, Palace, Tottenham, N.

KNICK-KNACKS, THE, This, Empire, South Shields. March 20th, Empire, Edinburgh.

KYASYAS, THE, Sensational Teeth and Hair Novelty. Coms., 233, Katherine-street, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs.

KYDD and KYDD Require Monday, 20th, 27th, Ap. 3. Also Good Al Fresco Offers. After Sunday, 11, Woodsley-gr., Leeds.

KYOTO, the Original One, KYOTO, also MAY GERALDINE. Tivoli, Barrow. Mon., Palace, Dundee, to follow Palace, Aberdeen.

LAKE, LEW, "Bloomsbury Burglars." Pavilion, Leicester.

LA MARA, CHUMMIE, WILL SERGEANT, The Palace, Dundee.

LANCASHIRE COLLIER LAD, A., Success. Liberty, Monday. Permanent Address, Mayo, Carmen-street, Ardwick, Manchester.

LANG, GENTLE BROTHERS. March 20, Lyric, Liverpool. Lithographs by David Allen and Sons.

LANG, REM, Original Comedy Act, Big Success, Broadhead Tour. Address, 106, Palmerston-st., Beswick, Manchester.

LANTON and LANE, Naval Experts. Manœuvring, Foresters', London.

LAROLA and ROSE CABANI, In Town. Agent, Geo. Barclay and Co.

LASSAH, LILLIE, This Week, Granville, Walham Green. Next Week, March 20, Hippodrome, Maidstone.

LATOSTIA, The Mandoline Girl. Absolutely Unrivalled.

LAURELS, THE THREE, on the Ping-Pong Table. Pavilion and Metropolitan. Agents, Papa Brown, Pacey and Reeves.

LAVELLE BROS., Quaint Comedy Acrobats. March 20, Hippodrome, Birmingham.

LEA and LOVELL, American Song Illustrators. March 27, T. R., Warrington. 15, Albert-square, Clapham-rd., S.W.

LEADER, HARRY, Nearest approach to late Dan Leno, Wants Mar. 27, to follow Tivoli and Queen's, Glasgow.

LEAFE, IVY, The Boston Belle, Pardoe's Panto. Vacant, Ap. 3. This, G., Nelson; Next, T. R., West Bromwich.

LEARTO and Clever Dog Babs, Original Musical Eccentrics. Next week, Hippodrome, Norwich.

LEATON, HARRY, Refined Comedian and Vocalist, who can Sing. This, Palace, Aberdare; Next, Palace, Swansea.

LE BLANCHE, KATIE, and LA BELLE SYLVIA, King's T., Gainsboro.' Liberty Monday, 20th. 3, Southolme-terrace, Gainsboro'.

LEE, THE Original THREE SISTERS, Acrobats. Always a Success. At Lib., Monday. Address, 17, Newlands-street, Everton, Liverpool.

LEE, PETE and MINNIE, Terrific Success, eight months Scotch Concerts. Thanks Mr. Sheldon and Mr. King Alexander for Contracts.

LE FRE, ALBERT, Empire Theatre, Belfast.